

SON OF ZORN

Pilot

Written by

Reed Agnew & Eli Jorné

NETWORK DRAFT 11-6-15

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. COPYRIGHT © 2015 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION. NO PORTION OF THIS SCRIPT MAY BE PERFORMED, PUBLISHED, REPRODUCED, SOLD, OR DISTRIBUTED BY ANY MEANS OR QUOTED OR PUBLISHED IN ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING ANY WEB SITE, WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION. DISPOSAL OF THIS SCRIPT COPY DOES NOT ALTER ANY OF THE RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH ABOVE.

COLD OPEN

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

An airplane lands.

INT. AIRPLANE - SAME

We PAN ACROSS the rows of passengers pulling out their phones upon landing. We eventually arrive at ZORN in a cramped middle seat, bigger than everyone else. He reaches into the back of his furry underwear and gets out his phone. It's a **live-action** smart phone. He texts someone: "JUST LANDED."

INT. AIRPORT - LATER

Zorn stands on a moving walkway.

INT. AIRPORT - BAGGAGE CLAIM - LATER

TIGHT ON: A suitcase emerging from the feeder onto the rotating belt. Another one comes out, followed by an **animated** sword. The blade is wrapped in live-action bubble-wrap.

REVEAL: Zorn waiting with a crowd around the rotating belt. He struggles through the crowd to get to his sword.

ZORN

Sorry, that's mine right there.
Excuse me.

EXT. AIRPORT - LATER

Zorn, now wearing the sword, is waiting on the curb with a group. Three Japanese businessman are smoking beside him. He waves the smoke away from his face. A Super Shuttle pulls up.

INT. SUPER SHUTTLE - LATER

Zorn is sitting at the back of the van beside a BUSINESSMAN wearing headphones and watching something on his tablet. The two of them make eye contact, smile perfunctorily then look away. Zorn makes bored-sounding CLICKS and POPS for a beat.

ZORN

I'm, uh, on my way to Orange County
to see my wife and kid.

BUSINESSMAN
(taking out earbuds)
Hmm?

ZORN
Just saying I'm on my way to Orange
County to visit my wife and kid.

BUSINESSMAN
That's nice.

ZORN
Well, technically she's my ex-wife.
Got hit with the big D. But there's
still some hot embers in that fire,
if you know what I'm saying.

Zorn chuckles. The businessman smiles uncomfortably.

ZORN (CONT'D)
What else? What else can I tell
you? I'm in town for my son's
birthday. The big one-seven. Can't
wait to see him. My little bone-
crusher. That's what I call him.

BUSINESSMAN
Mmm, hmm.

ZORN
By the way, I'm Zorn, defender of
Zephyria, conqueror of the tribes
of Agon, decapitator of the dark
herdsmen of Gr--

Zorn turns to see that the businessman is back to watching
his tablet. After a beat, Zorn flips him off (PIXILATED).

ZORN (CONT'D)
[BLEEP]

SMASH CUT TO:

TITLE CARD: "SON OF ZORN 'RETURN TO ORANGE COUNTY'"

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT./EXT. EDIE'S KITCHEN - DAY

TIGHT ON: EDIE lifting up a bottle of rum. She eyes how much is left then begins pouring it into what seems like a glass.

REVEAL: The glass is a measuring cup. She pours the rum into a bowl of muffin mix, flour and eggs and begins beating it. Her tablet is propped up on the counter displaying a recipe that says, "RUM-RAISIN MUFFINS."

She hears a car door SLAM and looks out the window to see Zorn and his driver exiting the shuttle. The driver walks to the trunk and pulls out Zorn's "suitcase:" several scaly, furry, **animated** animal skins, including the pig-like face of one of the animals, stitched together into the shape of a duffel bag. The driver lifts the bag by the handle, carries it over to the sidewalk, then retrieves a **live-action** tennis racquet case from the trunk and leans it against the bag.

Eddie takes in and releases a deep breath, as if trying to compose herself for this encounter.

INT. EDIE'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

TIGHT ON: A photo on a shelf of Edie and a YOUNG ALAN. In the photo, Zorn's arm is barely visible around Edie's shoulder, the rest of him having been cut out of the photo.

EDIE (O.S.)
And the flight was okay?

ZORN (O.S.)
Yeah, yeah. I mean, long, but...
You look great, by the way.

REVEAL: Zorn following Edie into the house.

EDIE
You, too. You got bangs.

ZORN
Yeah, I don't know. I'm still
getting used to them.

EDIE
No, no, they look good.

ZORN
(fluffing his bangs)
Really? You think so?

EDIE

Yeah, I like them.

Zorn places his sword into an umbrella holder. He notices the layout of the living room for the first time.

ZORN

Well, this is different.

EDIE

I did some redecorating.

ZORN

What is this, West Elm?

EDIE

Right, good eye. I feel like it really brightens things up.

ZORN

Wait, where's the pit?

EDIE

I put in laminate floors.

ZORN

When?

EDIE

I don't know. A year ago.

ZORN

It's just, when I was here at Christmas, the pit was still here.

EDIE

Zorn, that was two Christmases ago.

ZORN

No, I'm just saying, it was a nice pit. But, uh... it's your house.

They move into the kitchen, and Edie pours them some water, trying to keep things cheery and cordial.

EDIE

So how's everything going in Zephyria?

ZORN

You know, same old. Still battling Vulchazor and his evil legions. He attacks us, we attack him. Ups and downs. What's going on with you?

EDIE

Remember how Janette and I were selling our candles online? Well, we just opened up a store on--

ZORN

Oh, get this. The other day, Vulchazor sends a bunch of ice-bats to attack the palace.

EDIE

Mmm, hmm.

ZORN

Next thing you know, ol' Vulchy boy's standing on a volcano, yelling, "The Staff of Quiv is mine!" Yeah, for about five seconds, before Headbutt-Man and I roll up on his ass in our invisibility cloaks--

Zorn opens the freezer door and searches the contents. Edie is a little irked that he would have the gall to just go into her fridge, but she maintains her composure.

EDIE

Um, can I get you something?

ZORN

I was just gonna make a Hot Pocket.

EDIE

(slightly put off)
A Hot Pocket?

ZORN

Yeah. I love Hot Pockets. You know that. I can't get them where I'm from.

EDIE

(polite)
Well, we don't have any Hot Pockets. Sorry.

ZORN

What? Who doesn't have Hot Pockets?

Zorn shuts the freezer door.

EDIE

Listen, we should probably talk about my--

ZORN

So where's Alangulon? I thought you said my little psycho would be home by three.

EDIE

His bus is running late. But I--

ZORN

I was planning on taking him out for his birthday tonight. He likes brothels, right?

CRAIG (O.S.)

Edie, have you seen the brush for my Just For Men gel?

ZORN

(to himself)

What the hell?

CRAIG enters from another room.

CRAIG

I can't find it any--
(notices Zorn)
Heyyy.

ZORN

Hi.

CRAIG

Wow. You must be Zorn.
(offers hand)
It's a pleasure to finally meet you.

Zorn looks to Edie for an explanation. She struggles with how to put it. This isn't easy for her.

EDIE

Zorn, this is Craig... My fiancé.

ZORN

Fiancé?

An uncomfortable beat, as Zorn absorbs this.

ZORN (CONT'D)

Right. Okay.
(takes Craig's hand)
Well, it's really, uh, just really great to meet you. Really great.

Zorn begins squeezing Craig's hand.

CRAIG

Zorn, it's obvious that you're applying way too much pressure to my hand right now, and--

ZORN

Uh, huh.

CRAIG

--actually, it hurts.

ZORN

It does?

CRAIG

It really does.

ZORN

Oh.

CRAIG

In addition to that, you're emasculating me in front of my fiancé.

EDIE

Craig is a professor of psychology.

ZORN

Oh. Okay.

Zorn releases Craig's hand. Edie checks her watch.

EDIE

Don't you have a lecture at three thirty?

CRAIG

Oh, yes.

EDIE

Shouldn't you be logging on?

ZORN

What do you mean "logging on"?

EDIE

Craig teaches at an online college.

ZORN

Yeah, but you said "lecture."

CRAIG

Okay, I can see where this is going, and let's just stop it right here. Yes, I teach online. Does that make me less of a man than any professor out there?

Zorn opens his mouth to speak but isn't sure how to respond. He has no idea how to fight this "battle."

CRAIG (CONT'D)

I'd say no. Am I an embarrassment to my family? Yes. I'm an embarrassment to my father, to a lesser extent my mother, to several brothers and sist--

EDIE

Honey?

CRAIG

Hmm?

EDIE

I think I put your beard dye brush in with the toothbrushes.

CRAIG

Ah, the beard dye brush is with the toothbrushes. Well, Zorn, I should be off. I just wanna say thank you so much for coming and visiting. I'm gonna go...
(pointing to other room)
...in there.

EDIE

(forces laugh)
Okay.

CRAIG

Toodle-oo.

Craig exits. Zorn sits down on the couch.

ZORN

Wow. So you're getting married. I loved finding out like that.

EDIE

(sitting down with him)
Hey, I told you all about him.

ZORN

When?

EDIE

I emailed you months ago.

ZORN

To what address?

EDIE

BananaHammock15@yahoo.

ZORN

I never check that account. I'm
Zorn@me.com now.

EDIE

Well, okay, fine. I'm sorry you had
to find out like that.

(trying to be delicate)

But I mean, come on, we were both
gonna move on at some point, don't
you think?

ZORN

Yeah, but not this fast.

EDIE

We've been divorced for seven
years, Zorn.

ZORN

And now it's gonna be weird with me
staying here, I bet.

EDIE

Yeah, well, that might not be the
best idea.

ZORN

(pointing to other room)

Him, though? Seriously? He's the
guy you wanna spend the rest of
your life with?

EDIE

Craig is kind and thoughtful.

ZORN

(mocking)

Oooooo!

EDIE

Only a Zephyrian would think of kindness as a bad quality.

ZORN

Edie, come on. Look, I know you. Remember that time we had that fivesome with those mountain trolls? Remember that?

EDIE

(slightly drawn in)

Okay, yes. That was the old me, sex with the mountain trolls.

ZORN

Lotta fun.

EDIE

Well, I'm with Craig now. And he's just a great person.

ZORN

That's interesting. Because while you were saying that, you were staring at my quadriceps.

EDIE

(she was)

No, I wasn't.

Zorn flexes his thigh muscles. Edie can't help but glance at them then quickly gets up.

EDIE (CONT'D)

I have to check on my muffins.

As Edie squeezes past him, Zorn checks out her ass.

ZORN

Mmm.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL BUS/EXT. EDIE'S HOUSE - LATER

The bus is jam-packed with 14-year-old kids yelling, laughing, chattering, playing video games, etc. ALAN, by far the oldest kid, is trying to be as inconspicuous as possible. He gets a text from Edie: "YOUR FATHER'S HERE." Alan gets an anxious look. Another text pops up: "HE LOOKS SO HOT."

ALAN

(to himself)

What?

Yet another text pops up: "HAHA! IT'S DAD! STOLE MOM'S PHONE. LOLZ". The message is followed by another message of eight emoji faces that are laughing so hard they're crying.

FAT KID (O.S.)

Hey.

Alan turns to see a FAT KID, 14, sitting across from him.

FAT KID (CONT'D)

Why do you ride our bus?

ALAN

What are you talking about?

FAT KID

You're a senior.

ALAN

Yeah. This is a bus for high school kids. Eat a fart, Dunkelmeier.

FAT KID

Dude, you need to fix your life.

ALAN

Well, I'm getting my mom's Honda after I graduate, so...

FAT KID

Mom's Honda, wow. That'll make everyone horny.

ALAN

I don't see you driving anything--

FAT KID

'Cause I'm 14, you butt.

The bus stops, and the driver opens the doors. Alan grabs his backpack to go and starts to get up.

ZORN (O.S.)

ALANGULON!!!!

Everyone quiets down and looks out the window to see Zorn on Edie's lawn across the street, his fists raised in salutation. Alan quickly ducks down in his seat. Observing from the kitchen window, Edie looks concerned.

Out on the lawn, Zorn spots Alan in the window of the bus. He raises his fists again. This time, there is a thunderous, echoey quality to his voice.

ZORN (CONT'D)
ALANGULON, SON OF ZORN!!!

FAT KID
Whoa, that dude's loud.

Alan tries to cover his face with his hand, but Zorn continues to stare at him. The bus driver realizes no one is exiting, shuts the doors and begins driving away.

ZORN
Uh, Alangulon?

Alan stares out the back window at Zorn as he gets farther and farther away. On the lawn, Zorn watches the bus disappearing. Confused, he slowly lowers his fists.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. EDIE'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

Edie is on the back porch, talking on her cell phone. Craig, in a bathing suit and goggles, is at the edge of the pool.

EDIE
(into phone)
No, Dad, of course I didn't text you that. Why would I send you a photo of my ex-husband's penis?

Craig dives in. Edie hears someone enter the house.

EDIE (CONT'D)
(into phone)
I gotta go, Dad.

Edie hangs up and calls into the house.

EDIE (CONT'D)
Alan?

Alan appears in the doorway.

ALAN
Hey, Mom. I already had dinner, so I'm just gonna--

EDIE
Alan, where have you been?

ALAN
I was over at Jeff's. He got a new skink. I was helping him set up the terrarium.

EDIE
I called you. I texted.

ALAN
My phone died.

Alan turns to go back inside.

EDIE
Alan, you knew your dad was coming today. He waited here for five hours. He left you a birthday present.

ALAN
My birthday was three weeks ago.

EDIE

I know.

Eddie hands Alan a gift box. He opens it and pulls out an **animated**, vicious-looking, two-bladed, handheld tool. The price tag is still on it.

ALAN

What is this?

EDIE

He said it was a brain gouger.

ALAN

Great. Now I can get started on all those brains I've been meaning to gouge.

Dripping wet and out of breath, Craig walks up and dumps a handful of wet pennies onto the deck table. It's clear now that he was playing the penny game in the pool.

CRAIG

Got 'em all.

He starts toweling off.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Alan, I imagine you're feeling some resentment towards your father right now. When I was a teenager, my relationship with my own father was strained. He once threw a spatula at me. And he, uh...

Craig stares down and pauses for a beat, as if choosing his words carefully.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

(re: pennies)

I didn't get 'em all. Damn. There's still one down there.

Frustrated, Craig heads towards the pool. Alan turns to go.

EDIE

So do you wanna call your dad or--

ALAN

Maybe later.

EDIE

Or if you don't, that's-- that's fine, too, sweetie.

ALAN

Mom, it's no big deal. If I miss him, I'll just, you know, see him in another year or two.

Alan goes into the house. Edie watches him leave, pained.

CRAIG

(looking into the pool)
I see it.

Craig dives into the pool.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Zorn has constructed a lean-to out of sticks and a tarp. He is roasting a dead pigeon over an open fire. His tennis racquet case is leaning against a tree. A few more dead pigeons are hanging from a branch. Zorn is on his cell phone, leaving a voice mail.

ZORN

(into phone)
Hey Alangulon, it's Dad again. Not sure you're getting these messages. Anyway, your mom knows where I'm staying. So please, you know...
(melody of *Give It Away*)
*"Call-a me back! Call-a me back!
Call-a me back now! I can't tubba
I'm a pig pen mama papa!"*

Zorn goes to hang up, then feels the need to explain.

ZORN (CONT'D)

(into phone)
Chili Peps.

He hangs up. He stares at his phone, puzzled by Alan's radio silence. A NOISE startles him, a BOOM. He gets out his sword, creeps through the trees and pulls back branches to see...

...a loading dock where an employee is dropping trash into a dumpster. Zorn's encampment is not deep in the woods but rather directly behind a strip mall.

EDIE (O.S.)

Zorn.

Zorn whips around to discover Edie holding shopping bags.

EXT. WOODS - ZORN'S ENCAMPMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Zorn is riffling through the bags, pulling out groceries.

ZORN

This is, like, above and beyond.

EDIE

Well, I thought you might be hungry.

ZORN

You even got Lactaid. You remembered.

He pulls out a box of Hot Pockets.

ZORN (CONT'D)

Hot Pockets!

(reads box, disappointed)

Oh, they didn't have the "Bacon Cheddar Cheese Melt" flavor?

EDIE

I don't know, Zorn.

ZORN

No, no, it's good. Thank you. Just gonna toss 'em over here, save 'em for later. I had a squirrel right before you got here. So, uh... what's with Alangulon? I left him a bunch of messages. I mean, my flight leaves Saturday. Is he not gonna see me before I go?

EDIE

Well...

ZORN

What?

EDIE

Maybe he's a little upset.

ZORN

"Upset"? That brain gouger wasn't cheap.

EDIE

You haven't exactly been around much, Zorn. You come to visit every few months, every few years. How do you think that makes him feel?

ZORN

Well, I'm still his dad. I paid for his braces.

EDIE

You paid for half his braces. But that's beside the--

ZORN

Well, I'm sorry if I've been busy, you know, fighting for my homeland and making sure Vulchazor doesn't get his hands on the Staff of Quiv.

EDIE

The Staff of Quiv is just a stick. A stick, Zorn.

ZORN

Yeah, but it's our stick.

EDIE

We're talking about your son.

ZORN

The situation in Zephyria is not just some silly game--

EDIE

It's like you see everything through your Zephyrian lens. Even when we were married--

ZORN

Hey, I'm proud to be Zephyrian. Best country on Earth. We got the mountains, beaches, great night life, cool music scene--

Eddie rolls her eyes, more exasperated than upset.

EDIE

You always defend Zephyria.

ZORN

Yeah, 'cause my name's Zorn, defender of Zephyria, conqueror of the tribes of Agon, decapitator of the dark herdsman of Grith--

EDIE

I know, Zorn. It was my last name, too.

(beat)

(MORE)

EDIE (CONT'D)

I'm just saying, if your son means more to you than some pointless battle, then you need to be here. Permanently.

Zorn absorbs what Edie is saying.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY

ZORN'S POV: We are looking down at random people on a sidewalk, aiming an **animated** crossbow at them.

LANDLORD (O.S.)

It's \$750 a month, plus utilities.

REVEAL: Zorn standing at a window holding the cross bow, as if gauging whether or not the window could serve as a proper battlement. A sleazy LANDLORD looks on.

ZORN

I'll take it.

LANDLORD

Great. Couple things you should know. The girls in 6B are gonna tell you I spy on them and that I put a camera behind their bathroom mirror. They're liars, and they're sluts. Also, I'll need the first two months rent up front.

Zorn pulls a severed, **animated** hand covered in gem-encrusted jewelry out of a satchel and tosses it onto the floor.

ZORN

That should cover it.

LANDLORD

(looks away)

Okay, I'm gonna pretend I didn't see that. I'll take cash or a check. And I'll need to see your last three pay stubs.

(off Zorn's silence)

I assume you've got a job. I can't rent to someone who doesn't have a job.

INT. SANITATION SOLUTIONS - LINDA'S OFFICE - DAY

Zorn is sitting across from LINDA at her desk. She sits there looking over Zorn's résumé for a long beat.

LINDA

It says here you spent four years working as an "overlord of pain."

ZORN

I was just, um, really good at, like, pain and stuff. Being the cause of suffering. Torment.

LINDA

Uh, huh.

ZORN

(seeing he's losing her)
I actually managed a whole team of mutilators. And I, uh, coordinated the sharing of intelligence between my department and The Fanged One.

LINDA

So you were a coordinator.

ZORN

Well, that wasn't my actual title. But I was basically doing the coordinator's job.

(sotto)

The guy was an alcoholic.

LINDA

You do realize you're applying for an entry-level sales position. You'd be selling industrial soap dispensers.

ZORN

Definitely. Back in Zephyria--

LINDA

Zephyria?

ZORN

Uh, the island nation of Zephyria? Yeah, I always found the dispensing of soap to be a very, um... important, um...

Linda glances down at Zorn's résumé again. We now see that someone has written the words "DIVERSITY" and "HIRE" (double-underlined) on it.

LINDA

Do you own a shirt?

ZORN

Does a Grithian herdsman have nine
anuses?

LINDA

(disturbed)

What?

INT. EDIE'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

Craig and Edie are getting dinner ready.

CRAIG

Oh, did I tell you? I ran into one
of my students today. It was that
awkward thing where the student
can't even fathom the idea that his
professor has a life outside the
classroom.

EDIE

Where'd you run into him?

CRAIG

In the comments under a video
called, "Pig Saves Cat."

Craig notices how distracted Edie is.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Hey, hey. Alan's gonna be fine.

EDIE

You don't think I pressured him
into it?

CRAIG

It's just an evening with Zorn.

EDIE

Maybe I should call. Check in?

CRAIG

Zorn's taken some big steps in the
last two weeks. I think we owe it
to both him and Alan to give them
some space.

EDIE

No, you're right.

CRAIG

Don't worry. Alan's strong and mature. And that's in large part thanks to you. You're a wonderful mother, Edie.

Edie smiles, touched. She goes to kiss Craig. He backs away.

CRAIG (CONT'D)

Uh-uh!

(points to mouth)

Canker sores. Four of them.

EXT. BATTING CAGES - EARLY EVENING

Zorn is in a batting cage, holding his sword like a baseball bat. The machine pitches balls to him, and he slices them perfectly in half. Alan is on a bench outside of the cage, wearing a helmet. He looks like he does not want to be here.

ALAN

So... Mom says you got a job in town at some place called--

ZORN

Sanitation Solutions.

ALAN

Okay.

ZORN

Oh, hey, son, you wanna hear something funny? At work, my boss looks and talks exactly like a woman. Literally. Like, he wears skirts, he carries a purse, he uses tampons. Has tampons in his purse.

ALAN

What you're describing is a woman.

Zorn turns around to face Alan. The balls continue to come, but they hit Zorn in the back. He doesn't seem to notice.

ZORN

No, no, son, you're not listening. He's my superior.

ALAN

Cool. Yeah.

ZORN
(under his breath)
Okay, so you don't get what I'm
saying at all here.

Zorn approaches Alan and offers him his sword.

ZORN (CONT'D)
All right, your turn.

ALAN
Hey, listen, I feel like neither of
us really wants to be here right
now. So if you wanna take off, I
don't care. It's cool. I'll just
tell Mom we talked.

ZORN
Look, I know this is tough for you,
okay? I haven't been around much.
And there's a lot that I've missed.
But I've got an apartment. I've got
a job. The point is, I'm here now.
And that... erases everything bad I
did.

Alan is flabbergasted.

ALAN
Wait, for real? You're just gonna--

ZORN
Come on, let's grab some food.
Birthday dinner. On me.

Zorn puts his sword away, just now noticing Alan's helmet.

ZORN (CONT'D)
What the hell's that thing on your
head?

EXT. CAFÉ - NIGHT

Zorn and Alan are at a table. Zorn is looking at a menu.

ZORN
Okay, I know what I want.
(flagging down waitress)
Food whore! Waitress!

NANCY, 17, a cute waitress, walks up.

NANCY

You guys ready?

ZORN

(looks at menu)

Yeah, we're gonna both have the rib-eye.

NANCY

And how would you like that cooked?

ZORN

Uh, not, I think.

(to Alan)

Not, right?

(to Nancy)

Two rib-eyes, both not.

ALAN

Actually, I'll have the veggie wrap, please?

NANCY

Oh, that's awesome.

ALAN

Yeah, no rib-eye.

NANCY

Great choice. I love the veggie wrap.

ZORN

(looks at menu)

One second. You're confused, Alangulon. It says here the veggie wrap is only vegetables.

ALAN

Yeah, I'm a vegetarian. Maybe 'cause I'm, like, informed and stuff?

NANCY

Oh, you should try the carrot-ginger-kale juice.

ALAN

Really? I'm all about ginger.

NANCY

Oh, my god.

ALAN

Yeah, bring on the ginj.

NANCY

(chuckling)

"Bringing on the ginj."

ZORN

(to himself)

What the hell is happening?

ALAN

Double-shot, no problem.

NANCY

Ginger is actually really--

ZORN

You know what I drink? The blood of my fallen enemies out of the skulls of their children.

Awkward pause.

ZORN (CONT'D)

Yeah.

NANCY

Hey, you're Alan, right? I'm Nancy. I think I live in your neighborhood.

ALAN

Oh.

NANCY

I drive past you sometimes at the bus stop.

ALAN

Oh, I don't think that's-- that's probably not me. I don't take the bus, so--

ZORN

Yeah, you do. Just the other day your mother was telling me how you take the bus.

(to Nancy)

No, he definitely takes the bus.

(to Alan)

Why are you telling her you're not taking the bus?

(to Nancy)

(MORE)

ZORN (CONT'D)

No, he's lying. This guy? He's a liar, and he's a bus taker.

(to Alan, sotto)

What? You take the bus. What'd I do? Just tell me. What happened?

Trying to defuse things, Nancy points to Alan's bracelet.

NANCY

I like your bracelet.

ZORN

Oh, you a big bracelet nut? Check this one out.

Zorn presses a button on one of his iron wristbands, and a huge blade pops out of it.

ZORN (CONT'D)

Hey, look at that. Giant blade's coming out of a bracelet.

ALAN

Will you put that away? That's ridiculous.

ZORN

Please tell me you're joking.

NANCY

You can't be in here with that.

ZORN

Yeah, why? 'Cause I'm gonna kill you with it?

Zorn playfully swipes his blade at Nancy.

ZORN (CONT'D)

C'mere, you! I'm gonna kill you!

ALAN

Don't murder her!

NANCY

Tom!

TOM, the manager, quickly marches over.

ZORN

What? No, no, I was joking.

TOM

Gone! You're gone! Put that away or
you're gone.

ZORN

Yeah, yeah. Okay.

TOM

So gone. Put that away.

ZORN

Yes, sir, absolutely.

Alan glares at Zorn's blade.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. SANITATION SOLUTIONS - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Zorn, wearing an **animated** button-down shirt and tie with the sword still on his back, is pouring coffee from a full pot into a giant, metal goblet, venting out loud to himself.

ZORN

It's just like, I don't get it.
I've done everything I can.

REVEAL: Zorn is not venting to himself but rather to a meek-looking coworker waiting for coffee, holding a "WORLD'S GREATEST DAD" mug. As Zorn speaks, he obviously pours the entire pot into his goblet.

ZORN (CONT'D)

I got my own place. A job. I bought him dinner. A brain gouger. And the kid still acts like he hates me.

Zorn turns around to face the coworker.

ZORN (CONT'D)

I mean, you're the world's greatest dad. What do you think I should do?

LINDA (O.S.)

Zorn?

Zorn turns to see Linda in the doorway.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Can I speak to you for a second?

INT. SANITATION SOLUTIONS - CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Linda and Zorn are standing in front of a huge conference table that has been chopped in half.

LINDA

Looks to me like it was done with a giant sword. Do you know anyone in the office who would do something like this?

ZORN

Um, first thought? Margie in HR.

LINDA

There is no one named Margie who works in this office.

ZORN

Well, you know, sometimes tables will just do this on their own if the temperature reaches a certain--

LINDA

You know what, Zorn? Take a seat.

Zorn sits down in a small chair at the broken conference room table. Linda sits down across from him.

ZORN

Look, I'm sorry. It'll never happen again. I just really need this job. I'm trying to make things right with my son, and he's just not getting it. And then my ex-wife, she's with someone new now, and that's-- I was living in an encampment behind a Quizno's, and I--

LINDA

Zorn.

(beat)

I didn't bring you in here to fire you. You don't think I wanna smash a table sometimes? You don't think I wanna box the ears of that gum-snapping receptionist like you did?

ZORN

Oh, no, no, no, she's the worst. I almost chopped her in half.

LINDA

You know what you got? You got passion. You got a fire in you.

ZORN

I'd love to grab her by the mandible and just shake her around the room.

LINDA

A fire that you gotta rein in.

ZORN

You gotta rein in that fire. Exactly.

LINDA

Just try to get along with people. Be considerate.

(MORE)

LINDA (CONT'D)

You know what that means? That you're considering the feelings of other people.

ZORN

Oh, no, I never heard that word. That is good.

LINDA

Like, when you finish the coffee, you make a new pot.

ZORN

See, this is exactly what I needed to hear.

LINDA

(getting up to go)
Good.

ZORN

Thanks.
(beat)
Hey. You're a good guy.

Linda gives him a weirded-out look then exits.

ZORN (CONT'D)

(to himself)
"Considerate"... "Considerate."
(realizing)
Zorn, you son of a gun. You figured it out.

EXT. EDIE'S HOUSE - DAY

Alan exits the house to see an **animated**, giant bird creature in the driveway. Zorn is standing beside it, smiling proudly.

ZORN

Happy birthday, son. What do you think? It's all yours.

ALAN

Wait, this is for me? This is mine?

ZORN

Yeah. No more waiting at the bus stop for my son.

ALAN

You paid attention to something I said?

ZORN
You know it.

ALAN
You did?

ZORN
That's right. Because I'm
considerate, my sweet, little boy.

ALAN
(gesturing to bird)
That's almost cooler than this.

ZORN
Oh, I don't know about that. Go
ahead. Take it for a spin.

Zorn tosses Alan an **animated** whip. Alan cringes, and the whip
hits him and falls to the ground.

ZORN (CONT'D)
Uh, oh!

ALAN
Sorry. You never taught me how to
catch, so...

Alan picks up the whip and approaches the bird.

ZORN
Now look, it's an older model, so
it's gonna have some parasites
living in its flesh. But the talons
are still razor-sharp, and it
handles great on murder-swoops.

Edie and Craig exit the house and see the bird.

EDIE
No, no, no. That is going right
back where it came from.

ALAN
But Mom, it can fly.

EDIE
I don't care if it can spit flesh-
eating slime out of its beak.

ZORN
Which it can.

EDIE

I want it out of my driveway.

ZORN

Oh, come on. Don't act like you never rode a death hawk, Edie.

EDIE

I was nineteen. I was coked out of my mind. Don't try to change the subject. This is what you do, Zorn--

ZORN

Oh, oh, okay, tell me everything about me.

EDIE

--You're gonna come in here, make a big mess, and who's left to clean it up?

The bird SHRIEKS.

CRAIG

Look at that thing. It stinks. It's huge. And he doesn't have a helmet.

ZORN

Maybe if Alangulon were the fruit of your loins, Craig, your opinion would actually matter here. But he's not, so it doesn't. Shut up.

Craig lifts his phone and speak into the front-facing camera.

CRAIG

Okay, class? Well, I've been emasculated again. So we're gonna cut this class short.

Eddie notices that Alan is now sitting on the bird creature, fake-whipping it.

EDIE

Alan, I said no!

ALAN

What?! Why?!

ZORN

Fly, son! Fly away!

EDIE

Zorn, if you don't get rid of this thing right now, I'm calling animal control.

ZORN

Oh, no, no, this bird would kill animal control, if it wasn't so heavily sedated as it is right now.

EDIE

Zorn, I'm not kidding. I want it out. Now.

Alan reluctantly climbs down off the bird.

ZORN

Fiiiiiiine.

(approaches the bird)

Jeez. Guy tries to bring a gift to his son and just be considerate of his feelings and his emotions, next thing you know, he's the bad guy here. It's like, gimme a freakin' break.

Zorn swiftly and casually uses his sword to puncture the neck of the bird. The bird slumps lifelessly to the ground.

ALAN

What the hell? That's a living thing! What are you doing?

ZORN

What? It was painless. It went right through its spinal cord, didn't feel a thing. I've done this a billion--

Suddenly, the bird flaps back to life. Everyone jumps.

ZORN (CONT'D)

Uh, oh, here we go!

Zorn hacks at the bird over and over. Everyone winces.

ALAN

Stop. Stop it. Stop. Stop.

EDIE

(walking off)

I'll get the hose.

CRAIG
Edie, the drought.

ZORN
(to bird)
Die! Die! Die! Die!

Nancy drives by and sees what's going on. Zorn is now straddling the bird and stabbing it with his wrist-blades. Alan makes eye contact with Nancy and looks mortified.

ZORN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
This is the problem with an older model. They don't wanna die, so they just won't.

Alan starts for the house, as Zorn rapidly stabs the bird.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. EDIE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM/HALLWAY - NIGHT

TIGHT ON: Alan brushing his teeth. There's a KNOCK.

EDIE (O.S.)

Alan?

ALAN

Yeah?

REVEAL: Edie standing outside of the bathroom.

EDIE

I just wanted to make sure that you're okay. After what happened with the bird.

ALAN

I'm fine.

EDIE

Your dad, he's... trying. He really loves you. He's just having a hard time realizing that you're not like him.

ALAN

I know. You're right. I'm nothing like him.

EDIE

All right. Good night, sweetie.

ALAN

Good night, Mom.

Alan resumes brushing his teeth. PULL OUT TO REVEAL: His legs are regular-sized, **animated** versions of Zorn's legs.

OVER CREDITS:

EXT. EDIE'S HOUSE - DAY

The garbage cans are stuffed with the remains of the bird. Craig is hosing the **animated** blood off the driveway.