## BEAT CITY PILOT EPISODE "TAAG YOU'RE IT" A KIDS ANIMATED TELEVISION SERIES

Written by

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EXT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - MORNING

The sun rises on an urban street crowded with brick townhouses.

Faint hip-hop music floats through the air and materializes into music notes. The music notes travel into the Sneak Attack Crew's townhouse.

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - JO'S ROOM - MORNING

The music notes wind themselves around JO (10, Asian-American girl) who is sitting cross-legged on the floor in meditation. The music notes release a CHIME.

Jo opens her eyes and grins when she sees the music notes. She flips into a standing position, dancing to the beat as she suits up in her favorite breakdancing outfit and pulls on customized hi-tops.

She fist bumps the notes, and they disappear in a poof but the music remains.

As Jo races out of her room, she slaps a large button labeled "Practice." It's right next to another button that says "Battle."

An alarm clock rings throughout the townhouse.

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - TORY'S ROOM - MORNING

BEEP BEEP BEEP

TORY (10, African-American boy) jolts upright in bed and frantically searches the bedspread until he finds his golden wireless microphone. He darts out of the room.

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - THE TWINS' ROOM - MORNING

BEEP BEEP BEEP

KARLA (8, Hispanic girl) falls out of the top bunk of their basketball-themed bunk bed. THUNK.

KARL, her twin brother (but younger by a minute), wakes up on the bottom bunk in time to see her fall.

KARL

Hahah!

Karla sticks out her tongue.

Karl climbs up to the top bunk and mimics Karla falling as he goes down the bunk bed's slide.

Karla grabs the basketball that's near her and does an effortless lay-up into the basketball hoop on the side of the bed. She passes to Karl - Karl dunks. They high five and run out the door.

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - PAT'S ROOM - MORNING

BEEP BEEP BEEP

PAT (9, a large Caucasion boy) pulls the covers over his head. His door crashes open. Karla and Karl tumble through, jump on his bed, pull off his sheets-

KARLA

KARL

Wake up! We're late!

Oh no oh no oh no!

-and run back out through the door.

Pat groans, hands failing to find the covers that were dumped on the floor. Tory pokes his head in, his hand holding his golden mic.

TORY

(raps)

C'mon boy / Get up out of bed / If we're not on time / Jo's gonna have our heads!

Tory dashes away. Pat sighs, gets up, and moves slowly, gracefully toward the door.

EXT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - BACKYARD - MORNING

Pat is the last to stumble into the backyard. A polished wooden floor takes up most of the fenced-in area. Tory pulls Pat into line. Tory, Pat, Karl, and Karla stand up a bit straighter as Jo looks them over.

PAT

(under his breath)
Whoa. Is that DJ Zoey?

DJ Zoey (black and white cat, female) stands at a blinged-out DJ booth, wearing pitch black sunglasses and a pair of catear headphones around her neck. She throws a record on and samples the phrase "You're late" against the alarm clock sound while glaring at the latecomers.

Jo nods at DJ Zoey. The music stops.

JO

You've been picked by DJ Zoey to join the Sneak Attack crew.

DJ ZOEY

Meow.

Karla and Karl cheer. Tory grins nervously. Pat smiles.

JO

But you're not in yet. I'm the one who's gonna have to train you. I'm not training anyone who doesn't put in the work.

Kids gonna look at you, at your kicks, at your moves. Every time you step out of our house, ask yourself: are you reppin' your crew?

The kids look down at their hastily put-on clothes, embarrassed.

JO (CONT'D)

I will make Sneak Attack the best crew Beat City has ever seen! But y'all don't got the right to be sloppy while I do it.

Jo nods again to DJ Zoey. DJ Zoey lays down an awesome beat. Tory immediately begins beat-boxing under his breath.

JO (CONT'D)

You know who I am - Jo, an Ultimate breaker, graduate of FLOW Academy, and the leader of the Sneak Attack crew. Pat, Tory, Karl, Karla - time to show me what you got.

Karla and Karl rush onto the dance floor. Pat ambles behind them. Tory hangs back, muttering bars into cupped hands.

Dust pops from the floor as Karla JUMPS, lands, and moves forward in the uber-aggressive KRUMPING style. Karl VOGUES after her, his arms whipping fluidly to always frame his face while he struts behind her.

Pat FLOATS from step to step, his body wiggling like he doesn't have bones. He MOONWALKS behind Karl's and Karla's routine.

Karl and Karla strike a POSE in front of Jo. Their bodies emit a visible red aura - this is their GLOW.

Pat GLIDES in front of Karl and Karla, his smile turning sinister as he curves his arms around his back and above his head in an unhuman manner. Pat GLOWS pink.

Karl shrieks. Tory winces and holds his arms. Karla grins.

JO (CONT'D)

Tory - c'mon.

Tory takes a deep breath, then steps confidently onto the dance floor.

TORY

(raps)

All kids got the glow / Gotta train to let it show / Beat City is where we jam / To become the best we can / Only in this city will the glow show / Outside the city we don't glow no mo'.

Tory GLOWS yellow.

JO

Now for the fun part. All of you against me. Dance battle.

Jo grins wide.

Her crew's protests are drowned out as DJ Zoey mixes a new track.

Jo immediately drops to the floor and starts spinning in the BBOY style. Her purple GLOW forms immediately.

Karla and Karl attack. They RELEASE their GLOWS, Karla's red glow turning into SHOCKWAVES that travel across the floor while Karl throws red SCYTHES through the air.

Pat realizes he's in front of Karla's and Karl's attacks, and throws his body to the side and lands with an ungraceful THUMP.

Jo easily dodges their attacks. She flips to her feet, does a quick TOP ROCK and transitions into AIRFLARES. Her legs release her purple GLOW as FIREBALLS that hurtle toward each kid.

Tory releases an amazing beat-boxing sequence into his mic. His yellow GLOW shapes itself into music notes, bars, and bulging words like "BSH" and "TS" that slide in front of Pat, Karl, and Karla. Jo's fireballs SLAM into Tory's shields and disappear.

DJ Zoey cuts the music. Pat, Karl, Karla, and Tory are dripping sweat. Jo looks pristine.

JO (CONT'D)

Not a bad place to start.

TORY

(raps)

Ultimates are the toughest / Of course she'd rough us.

JO

Ok, I see what DJ Zoey sees.

But first: the Sneak Attack crew is a family. We will be the first crew to get into FLOW Academy to become a true crew of Ultimate breakers. This has never been done before. It will be the hardest thing you'll ever do. And you can't do it alone. Family first, always. As family, no matter what, we got each others' backs. On the floor and off of it.

Sneak Attack reps by helping our community, helpin' other kids, and lookin' sleek. If y'all are not on this page with me, this is your chance to leave.

Silence. Karl looks starry-eyed at Jo. Jo waits.

Jo's stern look transform into a huge grin.

JO (CONT'D)

Welcome to the Sneak Attack crew! Training begins on Monday. Now, time for the weekend!

The kids cheer.

INSERT: MAIN TITLE SEQUENCE

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - HALLWAY - NEXT MORNING Voices float up the stairs.

WILFRED WU (0.S.)
My wonderful noodle dishes! All
ruined!

Karl and Karla poke their heads out into the hallway and gasp.

KARL

No, not the noodles!

The twins run the stairs. Pat peeks out of his room.

SANTIAGO HERNANDEZ (O.S.)

They destroyed all the video games!

TEVI BLACK (O.S.)

My precious record player.

Pat barrels out of his room and collides with Tory, who's come out at the mention of the record player. They chaotically tumble down the stairs-

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - LIVING ROOM

And into the living room. The noodle restaurant owner WILFRED WU (Asian, adult), the video game store owner SANTIAGO HERNANDEZ (Hispanic, adult), and the record store owner TEVI BLACK (African-American, adult) are gesturing frantically to DJ Zoey and Jo.

DJ Zoey is taking notes in a notepad.

PAT

Santi, what about today's release...

Santiago shakes his head.

JO

So, Wilfred, Santi, Tevi - what you're saying is-

WILFRED WU / SANTIAGO HERNANDEZ / TEVI BLACK

Our shops were attacked!

Wilfred collapses on a nearby couch.

JO

Why are you coming to Sneak Attack? Isn't this something you can handle on your own? You're adults after all.

The shopkeepers trade a glance.

WILFRED WU

We think it's a glow thing.

TEVI BLACK

Yeah Jo. We came to you cause you an Ultimate. Even if the rest of your crew isn't.

SANTIAGO HERNANDEZ

It's grafitti that moves on its own! When I tried to open the door, it transformed and attacked me.

WILFRED WU

That kid has to be the one who did it! Always sneaking and loitering around.

Jo frowns.

JO

Do you know this kid's name?

The shopkeepers shake their heads.

Jo turns to her crew.

JO (CONT'D)

Sneak Attack crew - your first mission starts today.

KARL

KARLA

But it's Saturday!

Nooooo!

PAT

Cool!

TORY

(raps)

C'mon crew/ Think for a few / It's the weekend and the stores are closed / All the bored kids got nowhere to go!

JO

Breakfast is in the kitchen. Make sure y'all look fresh. Outside in ten. Wear your best kicks.

DJ Zoey grabs her blinged-out briefcase from behind the cat tree. The kids rush to the kitchen.

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - TORY'S ROOM

Tory throws his closet open to reveal several gleaming mics and pristine sneakers. He picks a gold pair of sneaks to match his mic.

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - PAT'S ROOM

Pat walks through the air, grabbing a few black pieces of clothing from the closet suspended from the ceiling.

He reaches into a secret place in the closet and pulls out a pair of bold, bright pink hi-tops.

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - TWINS' ROOM

Karla and Karl are bouncing frenetically around the room, trying on several different outfits.

KARLA

You got syrup on my shoes!

KARL

That was from your own pancake!

They're about to dash out of the room. Karla stops Karl.

KARLA

Karl, pants!

KARL

Uh, that was a choice.

Karl pulls on dark red skinny jeans.

EXT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - MINUTES LATER

The Sneak Attack crew walk outside of their home in a slow motion hero shot.

Jo leads, dressed to the epitome of breakdancing fashion complete with baseball cap and customized sneakers.

DJ Zoey is at her right-hand side, walking on her hind paws and carrying her dazzling suitcase. Her cat-ear headphones rest around her neck.

Tory, Pat, Karl, and Karla flank them.

Tory shines unapologetically in gold and Pat's pink shoes pop against his tasteful black outfit.

The Twins are dressed in red and white. Karl's clothes fit tightly to his body, with red skinny jeans and a white top that looks like it was pulled from a fashion show. Karla has on billowing white joggers and an oversized hoodie, making her small stature into a hulking, menacing figure.

INSERT GRAPHIC: The Sneak Attack Crew

EXT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

A huge farting butt has been spray painted onto their building.

KARLA

Gross!

Karl is laughing hysterically.

PAT

So ugly! The hairs!

DJ ZOEY

(in agreement)

Meow.

JO

We're not only gonna take this kid down, we're gonna make him take that down. C'mon.

EXT. BEAT CITY STREET - SHOPS - LATE MORNING

Storefronts crowd the clean, urban street.

The store windows of PHÓNOMENAL (noodle shop), GAMER PWNED (video game store), and HOUSE OF BLACK (record store) are covered in black spray paint.

Words like "SUCKAAA!" and "TAAG YOUR LIT" are sprawled in ugly spray paint across the storefronts. Phrases like "Taag You Rule!" "Taag is King!" are everywhere in bubble letters.

Karl pushes his face up against the glass of Phónomenal.

KART

Come here noodles!

Jo tries the handle of Gamer Pwned. It opens slightly but stops, as if there's something behind keeping her from entering.

JO

Be on your guard. The adults don't come to us when they can handle it on their own.

TORY

(raps)

Bad art all around / hurtin' us on the ground / city got bombed / and 'your' is spelled wrong!

The black spray paint bunches up, as if it's about to pounce. Karl sees it too late.

KARL

It's-

Pat turns to Karl.

The darkness explodes from the window and Karl is THROWN backwards. Pat dives and catches Karl, keeping him from hitting the concrete. Karl's unhurt.

Jo immediately flips onto her hands in a handstand and helicopters her legs in the air in several AIR FLARES.

Glass detonates around them as the remaining black spray paint launches off the windows to pool onto the ground.

A purple GLOW emanates from Jo's legs and morphs into a shield around the Sneak Attack crew. Broken glass tinkles off the barrier.

JO

DJ Zoey!

DJ ZOEY

Meow!

DJ Zoey flips the briefcase up into the air, throws her headphones on, and already has a record in each paw as her briefcase unfolds into a customized and highly bejeweled DJ booth around her.

The darkness SPLITS, forming into gigantic spiders streaked with red. They have huge, clashing jaws and they SKITTER to surround the Sneak Attack crew.

The remaining darkness turns into floating eyeballs, each trailing a thorny optic nerve tendril at the back of it.

Jo flips upright. The shield disappears.

JO

Everyone ok?

Karl nods shakily.

JO (CONT'D)

Hit it.

The DANCE BATTLE starts.

DJ Zoey drops the records in place, and DANCE MUSIC fills the air.

TORY

(raps)

Tory in the streets! / And I got this dope beat / outta courtesy of the DJ / Zoey uh huh / uh huh

Tory accidentally jostles Karl and Karla as they step forward. He shoots them an apologetic glance.

TORY (CONT'D)

(raps)

Comin' down the block / they'll shake the lot / Kruuuumpin' Karla and Kikiiiiiii Karl!

Karla shakes the ground as she KRUMPS and GLOWS red.

Karl VOGUES at the same time, and as he VOGUES faster, his GLOW grows.

At an exact, choreographed moment the twins strike a POSE.

Karla's GLOW ripples and rises through the concrete like a wave, taking out a bunch of spiders. Tory and Pat have trouble keeping their balance on the rippling ground.

Karl's red GLOW scythes through the air, pulsing red as it cuts through the eyeballs. Jo neatly dodges a roque scythe.

The spiders and eyeballs POOF into empty spray cans that CLATTER to the ground.

KARLA KARL

Yeah! Take that! Eat it!

The remaining spiders shoot multi-colored webs at Karla and Karl. The twins dodge out of the way. Revealed behind them is Pat. Pat's down!

Karl and Karla rush to him and rip the webs from Pat just in time. The webs SIZZLE with poisonous acid as they hit the concrete.

KARL (CONT'D)

l wO

Karl shakes the poison off of his burned hand.

The spiders lope forward to strike at the twins. Tory's beatboxing forms a barrier in front of Karl and Karla. The spiders slam their bodies against Tory's GLOW, trying to break his shield.

Jo hurls her body forward in multiple front handsprings, ending with a front flip. At each landing she SPLATS a spider.

KARL (CONT'D)

Gross.

KARLA

Effective.

The eyeballs RUSH Jo and SHOOT paint at her. Jo's blinded. They raise their spiked tails to hit her when-

TORY

(raps)

Gravity don't touch him / He bustin in / Pocketttt Pat!

Tory's raps form a yellow shield around Jo. Pat, hurt but functioning, GLOWS pink as he MOONWALKS into the air until he locks eyes with the eyeballs.

Pat locks his fingers in front of him then twists his arms ninety degrees to his side - CRACK - around his back - CRACK - back to the front - CRACK.

Jo wipes the paint from her eyes and tries to do a POWER MOVE, but it hits Tory's shield.

JO

Tory! Take this thing down!

Tory closes his eyes, concentrating. A floating eyeball rushes him and tackles him to the ground.

Tory's GLOW and shields disappear.

Pat executes a dramatic DEATH DROP back to Earth. When he hits the ground, his GLOW turns into a ROCKET and BLOWS UP the attacking eyeballs.

The eyeball over Tory splinters into spray cans that rain down on him.

TORY

Oof.

PAT

Boo-yah!

Jo scans her crew - the kids are hurt but they're ok.

JO

Time to finish this. Tory, you good?

Tory flips to his feet, mic in hand.

TORY

(raps)

And the last of us / and the best of us / the leader of the show / Joooooooo!

DJ Zoey SCRITCHES and SCRATCHES, backing up Tory as he beatboxes through the finishing moves. Tory's GLOW starts to build up again.

Jo is a world-class BGIRL, and it shows in her flawless POWER MOVES. Her customized sneakers FLASH in the light as she drops her entire body weight onto her hands and elbows, kicking her feet through different POSES in the air to create an EPIC STYLE FLOW.

Her enemies draw back in fear - too late! Jo kicks balls of her purple GLOW at the remaining spiders and eye monsters. They disintegrate into the air. The Sneak Attack crew won!

SNEAK ATTACK CREW

That was so cool! / Jo, you're insane! / Splat splat splat splat! / That flow though!

JO

Not bad for our first battle.

DJ Zoey has cut the music and presses a button that folds the booth back into its suitcase shape. She immediately whips out a first aid kid and applies burn cream to Karl and bandages to Pat.

Jo is dripping sweat. Everyone is exhausted.

The quiet HISS of a spray can goes unnoticed. DJ Zoey's ears twitch.

Pat sees a flash of movement behind the record shop.

PAT

What was that?

The Grafitti Monster stomps out from behind the record shop. It looks like a highly stylized urban Sully from Monsters Inc.

KARLA KARL

So fluffy!

Cute!

The Grafitti Monster ROARS, exposing huge rows of jagged teeth.

KARLA + KARL

Ahhhhh!

It charges. There's no time to move.

Tory lays down a BEATBOXING STREAM as Jo scrambles to go directly into a BACKSPIN.

Tory's word barriers surround the kids as Jo creates the purple barrier behind it.

JO

Brace yourselves!

The Grafitti Monster rushes the barrier, and it holds - for a second. Tory's yellow barrier breaks into pieces as Tory doubles over.

Jo lets out a yell as she spins faster and faster. She uses her ULTIMATE power and MERGES the broken barrier pieces with her purple shield to create a purple dome reinforced by yellow framework.

The Graffiti Monster ROARS again and charges the perimeter. He strains against the new shield. Part of his paws start to creep through the barrier.

Jo ROARS back at the Grafitti Monster and FLINGS it back. It crashes into a nearby building.

Jo blacks out as the Sneak Attack crew crowds around her.

PAT

(faint)

DJ Zoey, can you do anything?

From Jo's point of view on the ground, she sees a boy appear next to the Grafitti Monster and hustle it away. Is the boy scolding the monster? She can't tell. Hissing fills her ears as Jo blacks out.

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jo wakes up on the couch to the twins staring intently at her.

KARL

(to Jo)

I thought you were dead!

KARLA

(to Karl)

Told you she was fine!

Karla and Karl spring back. DJ Zoey shines a penlight into Jo's eyes.

Pat and Tory are asleep on nearby couches, looking battered but patched up thanks to DJ Zoey.

Everyone is covered in bandages and spray paint.

JO

What happened?

KARLA

After the shield busted, Tory fainted and we had to carry you both back! The guys look pretty bad.

DJ Zoey is fussing over Tory and Pat.

Jo sits up gingerly to find Karl and Karla looming over Pat and Tory, staring intently.

KARL

I bet Pat is gonna wake up... now!
....Now!

KARLA

Tory's gonna wake up first.

KARL

Now!

Jo's stomach rumbles. Karl's and Karla's respond similarly.

JO

Let's make something to eat.

KARLA/KARL

Ok!

The twins rush into the kitchen, immediately arguing over what to make.

JO

Thanks DJ Zoey.

DJ ZOEY

(waves her off)

Meow.

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The kitchen looks like a hurricane blew through it.

A feast is spread out on the dining table. Jo, Karl, and Karla sit, waiting expectantly as the smoke drifts from the kitchen table-

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Into the living room and up the nostrils of Pat and Tory. DJ Zoey has fallen asleep in her cat tower. The smell wafts by her.

Their eyes fly open.

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tory pops his head into the kitchen.

Pat pops his head into the kitchen.

They dash to the table, chowing down.

DJ Zoey wanders into the kitchen and sits at the table.

Jo, Karla, and Karl cheer.

DJ ZOEY

Meow.

DJ Zoey smashes her face into a can of tuna, eating happily.

INT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT - LATER

The feast is demolished - only bones are left. The Sneak Attack crew sits back in their chairs and burp as one.

Karl and Karla are competing to see who has the best mashed potato gravy volcano.

TORY

(raps)

This kid / crazy strong / and he knew it all along / when he got in it he didn't quit it / and then we ate it no debating it.

DJ Zoey accompanies Tory with silverware.

JO

His name has to be Taag. It was everywhere at the shops.

PAT

(sadly)

I can't believe I let my guard down! Spiderwebs are gross.

KARL

We went ker-splat!

Karl smashes his hand into his volcano and it ends up all over his face.

KARLA

No, we went ka-boosh!

Karla throws her food into the air to mimic an explosion. It mostly lands on Karl. He licks the food off his face.

JO

Before I passed out... I think I saw him! Taag. All the grafitti kids have their own symbols and signatures they leave around - we'll find a lead when we look around the city tomorrow.

PAT

The next time I see him I'm gonna moonwalk all over his body! That'll teach him.

Jo nods and puts down her fork.

JO

I have a plan on how to beat this kid Taag. But we got to work better together. Pat wouldn't have gotten hit with those webs if we were all watching out.

(MORE)

JO (CONT'D)

Tory, we gotta get your barriers under control. Karl and Karla, your GLOWS woulda hit us if we hadn't jumped out of the way.

As an Ultimate, I can take all your GLOWS and combine them together in different attacks. But we gotta be so smooth for that to work. You saw what happened when I brought Tory's barriers and my shield together. I can't be passing out every battle and have y'all watching over my body. Besides, that hurt.

I should've made sure y'all knew proper formation on how to look out for each other before heading in there. After dinner, we're gonna do a light practice session and work on that a bit. We'll get this grafitti kid!

The Sneak Attack kids cheer.

JO (CONT'D)

But first, dishes.

The Sneak Attack kids groan.

EXT. SNEAK ATTACK CREW'S HOME - BACKYARD

The backyard explodes with light from the kids' GLOWS, punctuated by a throbbing bass beat and faint beatboxing.

EXT. RUNDOWN NEIGHBORHOOD - NEXT DAY

The Sneak Attack team follow a spray paint trail, surrounded by boarded-up houses and garbage.

PAT

That monster must've gotten hurt by Jo's last attack.

DJ Zoey pounces on a spray can and plays with it.

JO

Stay close.

DJ Zoey chases the runaway spray can.

PAT

Not that close! Get off me!

Pat turns around to reveal Karl and Karla clinging to his back.

TORY

(raps)

This block / is run-down / like those all over town / even tho' Beat City got the cool locked-in / some parts ain't winning / not this game yo.

JO

We got company. Keep your eyes peeled for any paint blobs.

KIDS are watching silently from the windows.

JO (CONT'D)

(calls out)

We're looking for Taag!

Silence. The kids disappear into their homes. One kid lingers behind and points at a wall. The kid disappears.

DJ Zoey stops in front of the wall and points a paw at the grafitti art on the wall.

DJ ZOEY

Meow.

PAT

Huh, look at this.

Pat is peering at the grafitti on one of the houses.

KARLA

That's the grafitti monster!

JO

'Free Art This Way.' I wonder if this leads us to where Taag is?

KARL

How'd it get so tiny?

Karl picks up one of the spray cans and tries to draw with it.

KARLA

Whoa, that's uglier than your face!

TORY

Listen up / we got a perp to catch / ain't no more / lookin' back / so pay attention / let's get this kid / and get on home to our crib.

JO

Let's follow Taag's tags.

The crew spreads out. Pat helps Karl and Karla look in hard to reach places - a bridge, a rooftop. Tory and Jo fan out.

KARL

There's one here!

KARLA

I've found four!

JO

This way!

The crew follows the grafitti further into the neighborhood.

EXT. TAAG'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Pat points to a building with wooden boards covering the door. It's covered in great grafitti, with variations of the Grafitti Monster saying, 'Get out!' 'Go Away!'.

JC

You'd think he want to be found.

PAT

Don't all artists want to be found?

KARL

Look! We can fit through there!

The crew looks.

JO

Wait!

Karl and Karla are scrambling through an open basement window.

PAT

(confidently)

They've done this a bunch of times before.

Jo sighs.

KARLA/KARL (O.S.)

Ahhhhhh! / Help! / This was a bad idea! / This was your bad idea!

Jo, Pat and Tory immediately throw their bodies against the boarded-up doorway and break through. DJ Zoey follows after with her briefcase.

Their legs pump air! There's a huge hole in the floor!

JO/PAT/TORY

Ahhhhh!

DJ ZOEY

Meow!

They drop.

INT. TAAG'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Jo, Pat, and Tory CRASH into the basement.

DJ Zoey lands on her feet on top of Jo, Pat and Tory.

Karl and Karla appear in front of them, supposedly standing upright.

KARL

Um, so-

KARLA

The main thing to keep in mind is that it's not our fault.

JO

Are you two ok?

As Jo, Pat, and Tory stand up, the room FLIPS right-side up.

Karla and Karl are now upside down. They point up. The Grafitti Monster has them by their feet.

TORY

(raps)
WHOA! / NO!

Taag (10, boy) steps out from behind the Grafitti Monster. He's dressed in loose, baggy jeans and his shirt has holes in it. He also has an ammo belt slung from his shoulder to his hip, full of spray cans.

The Grafitti Monster roars.

JO

Put them down!

The crew gets ready to fight.

TAAG

This is breaking and entering!

PAT

You vandalized those shops! It's where we hang!

TORY

(raps)

Yo man / what's your game / Taggin' our hangs and our home was lame / Now you gonna fix your trouble / help us out on the double!

TAAG

Not me. They never let me into those shops! So I showed them my pieces were better than anything they had. (beat) Get out! Or I'll throw you out!

The Grafitti Monster shakes Karla and Karl by their ankles. Karla clasps her hands over her mouth. Karl notices.

Karla and Karl make eye contact, communicating a plan.

Taag notices their sneakers are customized and super fresh.

TAAG (CONT'D)

You're Sneak Attack! Get out! (to DJ Zoey)

Your music sucks!

DJ Zoey hisses at Taag as he catches her in the middle of setting up her DJ booth.

JO

You're coming back with us to fix the mess you made.

TAAG

Make me!

Karla and Karl barf all over the Grafitti Monster, Taag, and themselves. They slip out of the Grafitti Monster's grasp.

TAAG (CONT'D)

Gross!

PAT

(admiringly)

Disgusting.

TAAG

My black book!

Taag takes a thick art book out of his pocket and shakes the vomit off of it.

TAAG (CONT'D)

You'll pay for that.

Taag takes a spray can out of his belt and DRAWS water droplets into the air. They materialize into a shower that washes the puke from him and the Grafitti Monster.

JO

We're not leaving until you agree to clean up your mess!

Jo nods to DJ Zoey and Tory.

TAAG

(to the Grafitti Monster)

Run! I got this!

The Grafitti Monster runs out of the room.

DJ ZOEY

(a battle cry)

Meow!

The bass drops.

Tory immediately lays a dope BEATBOXING STREAM over it that continues throughout the fight.

Taag tears a page from his notebook and sends it flying in the face of the Sneak Attack crew. A WOLF springs from the page.

KARL

That's cheating!

KARLA

I'll get him this time!

Karla KRUMPS as Karl, Jo, and Pat fan out around her. The basement concrete cracks where Karla's feet slam down.

JO

Remember the plan!

Karla's GLOW rips up chunks of the floor that bulldoze into the enemy.

A WOLF grabs a concrete block in its mouth and crunches down easily.

KARLA

Eek!

The wolf charges Karla at the front of the crew.

PAT

(at the wolf)

Your dentist hates you!

Pat FLOATS over to the wolf, doing another series of intimidating BONE-BREAKING moves. The wolf LUNGES at Pat but Pat grabs the wolf and slings him at the concrete wall. The wolf sits, stunned.

Pat GLOWS. He reaches out and touches the wolf with a delicate, pulsing finger and it immediately POPS into a bunch of spray paint cans.

A TRAIN WHISTLE splits the air as Taag hastily finishes drawing a SUBWAY CAR.

JO

Watch out!

The kids dive out of the way of a speeding subway car. The subway cars POOF into smoke before it hits the far wall.

KARL

How is he DOING that?

TAAG

You think breakdancers were the only ones who glow? Ain't so special, you all.

Taag pulls out another page and throws it in the air. This time the basement is filled with an enormous, vicious VENUS FLY-TRAP.

Tory's beatboxing is cut off as he gets bit by the flower.

JO

Tory! DJ Zoey, back me up!

DJ Zoey is dripping with sweat at the DJ booth, switching records out at an incredible pace as she covers for Tory.

Jo FLIPS forward onto her shoulder and BOUNCES up to her hands. Her legs WINDMILL, then AIR FLARE, her GLOW growing along with her momentum

She flings her GLOW at the Venus Fly-Trap. It recoils from each hit, lets go of Tory, and SCREECHES in frustration.

JO (CONT'D)

Pat, keep them safe!

PAT

Yeah boss!

Pat stands in front of Tory and DJ Zoey, protecting them by deflecting the POISON DARTS the Venus Fly-Trap is spitting. Tory picks up his mic and BEATBOXES.

TORY

(raps with effort)
Dat black book / with all the pages
/ grab it before we / get faded.

JO

Karl! Karla!

KARLA/KARL

Chaaarge! / On it!

Karla and Karl weave through the chaos as Jo provides cover with her BREAKDANCING moves and Tory's beats shield them from attacks.

Taag sees the incoming twins and immediately starts painting the air. Right before the twins get to him a BRICK WALL materializes - SPLAT! The twins crash into the wall and bounce off.

Jo sees an opening.

JO

Pat! Now! The plan! Throw me!

Pat charges to Jo, picks her up, and THROWS her at the brick wall. Time slows down.

Part of Pat's GLOW transfer to her.

Tory's BEATBOXING and DJ Zoey's music WRAP themselves around Jo.

Jo rocks the BBOY dance style in mid-air as her GLOW intensifies.

The twins stagger upright, see Jo, and immediately know what's going on. They wait for the right moment as they reactivate their GLOWS, then jump into the air to form a THREE-PERSON FREEZE.

## EXPLOSION!

Taag's brick wall crumbles and all the monsters POP back into spray cans. The spray cans tumble down on top of Taag's prone figure.

Karl dashes in and grabs the black book that Taag had.

KARL

I got it!

Karla snatches it from Karl, riffling through it.

KARLA

Whoa! So cool!

Taag groans. The Sneak Attack crew gathers around him.

JO

You're coming with us.

Jo grabs Taag by the shoulder and drags him up the stairs.

EXT. BEAT CITY STREET - SHOPS - LATE MORNING

Taag has a mop, bucket, and broom and is cleaning up the ruined storefronts.

DJ Zoey is sleeping in a patch of sunshine.

WILFRED WU

Thank goodness you caught him!

TEVI BLACK

How can we thank you?

SANTIAGO HERNANDEZ

A party! A LAN party!

Jo and Pat cheer. They are the only ones.

TEVI BLACK

Or just a regular party.

WILFRED WU

Noodles for everyone!

Everyone cheers.

TEVI BLACK

I'll get some records from my shop.

JO

Hey, wait - Taag said you wouldn't
let him in.

The shopkeepers look guilty.

WILFRED WU

He looked scary.

PAT

All kids have to be allowed. Period.

TORY

(raps)

Kid / down on his luck / now on the street cause of our dope beats / his suffering ain't worth it we gotta show life's worth it / Beating villains down / beating them up / ain't no use if they keep hating on us.

WILFRED WU

You're right.

TEVI BLACK

Our bad.

SANTIAGO HERNANDEZ

We shouldn't have judged him. We just didn't want that monster messing up our shops!

JO

Monster?

SANTIAGO HERNANDEZ

Right there!

The Grafitti Monster is standing next to Taag happily tagging a section Taag's just washed clean. Taag desperately tries to shoo him away. Too late!

The Sneak Attack crew get into battle positions. DJ Zoey scrambles out from her nap.

KARL + KARLA

Monster! Ahh!

Taag waves his hands frantically 'No!'.

TAAG

Wait! He's harmless!

Too late. The Grafitti Monster starts crying huge tears. The Sneak Attak crew inch closer cautiously.

JO

Oh, no, it's okay grafitti monster!

The Grafitti Monster cries harder.

TAAG

Stop calling him that! His name is Sho.

**EVERYONE** 

Sho?!

SHO

(sniffles)

Fo' sho.

Jo looks at Taag.

JO

Was Sho taggin' everything?

Taaq nods miserably.

TAAG

He didn't know! It was an accident, I created him like two days ago and he just got so excited. He doesn't know where to throw up his pieces yet. (beat) Also, my pieces are like, masterpieces. Sho's gotta long way to go.

Karl tentatively holds out his hand for a fistbump. Sho bumps it.

KARL

This.. Is... SO COOL!!!

Karl launches himself at Sho and hugs him. Karla tentatively walks up to Sho.

KARLA

Your fur is.. So soft!

Karla's eyes go huge. She's entranced.

JO

(to Taag)

This can't happen again.

TAAG

It won't. I'm getting the hang of teachin' Sho, fo' sho!

Taag and Jo do an awesome handshake.

JO

Oh, you can have your book back. And, uh, I talked to the adults. They ain't gonna mess with you that way again. You welcome in any place in Beat City.

Jo signals to Karla. Karla tosses it to Taag. Taag catches it.

TAAG

Awesome! Thanks.

JO

(to the crew)

C'mon, let's help clean this mess up.

**EVERYONE** 

Yeah!

EXT. BEAT CITY STREET - SHOPS - EARLY EVENING

The Sneak Attack crew, the shopkeepers, Taag, and Sho stand back from the shops, admiring Taag's handiwork. The shops are completely renovated and have cool new artwork on them.

SANTIAGO HERNANDEZ

Muy bueno!

TEVI BLACK

Yo that's lit.

WILFRED WU

There will be so many more customers!

JO

Taag, this is... amazing.

Taag grins.

TAAG

Told ya.

Wilfred dashes into his shop and comes out with bowls of steaming noodles.

WILFRED WU

Time to eat!

The kids cheer.

TEVI BLACK

DJ Zoey, Tory, wanna hear some dope beats?

SANTIAGO HERNANDEZ

I'll setup a gaming station.

JO

Party time!

DJ Zoey breaks out her portable DJ booth. Tevi is over DJ Zoey's shoulder, checking out her records and bobbing her head.

Santiago is playing video games with Pat and Jo.

Karl, Karla, and Sho are dancing on a piece of cardboard. Taag creates special effects around them, sending SHOOTING STARS, FIREWORKS, and LASERS into the air in celebration.

END.