

THE SCHMUCKS
THE CHU-CHU TRAIN

Written by
Isaac M. Katz

Address: katzsoul@hotmail.com
Phone Number: +55(21)994119959

THE SCHMUCKS

Ep. 2- The novelist's chu-chu train

Written by Isaac M. Katz

E-MAIL: KATZSOUL@HOTMAIL.COM

PHONE NUMBER: 5521 994119959

1 FADE IN: 1
INT. STUDY ROOM. APARTMENT. DAY.

We see a writer, EVERALDO GOMES, black, mid 50's, reasonably Strong, practically bald, typing frantically in his laptop on his desk. He stops typing, gets up, walks a little around the Room and sits back again.

He caresses a wooden chu-chu train toy, holds it near his face and puts it back with extreme care in its central place.

On the screen of his laptop we read in black Caps Lock letters: NEW 9' O'CLOCK SOAP OPERA.

2 INT. HOSTEL. DAY. 2

Nin, Block and Saulo are sit on the table. Nin and Block watch seriously Saulo drinking his coffee. They continue watching him with scientific eyes as he passes butter on a home-made toast.

BLOCK
Didn't you say that he was never going to return?

NIN
Yes, I said it. But his need for food made him change his mind.

BLOCK
They need food to maintain themselves?

NIN
Yes. Didn't you notice that we're dealing with a primitive species?

This last commentary made Saulo break the toast while passing butter in it. He's obviously irritated.

SAULO
Primitive, me? Right... May I know how the superior beings over there do to feed themselves?

NIN
Block here has a battery that lasts 10 thousand years. And, talking about my species, we basically feed ourselves from energy pills.

SAULO
Energy pills?

NIN

Yeah. That way, it's easier to control our metabolism.

Saulo stays in silence for a moment. He seems to digest the weight of this information. Meanwhile, Block grabs one french bread with bacon from Saulo's hand and smells it close to his nose.

BLOCK

This is not healthy.

SAULO

All right, enough! I want to know what's the next target. Or the master race of the universe just came to this planet to mock the humans that live in it?

BLOCK

We're mocking you? I thought that we were collecting data.

NIN

We have something more interesting. Share with him, Block.

Block snaps his fingers. Right away, the whole wall turns into one big plasma TV screen. We watch the soap opera author, sit at his desk, caressing gently his wooden chu-chu train.

BLOCK

This is Everaldo Gomes, one of the greatest soap opera writers of the country. His last soap opera paralyzed the country at the last chapter. What people don't know is that he's completely unable to write a single sentence if his wooden chu-chu train is not by his side. It was the last gift he received from his mother, who died in a public hospital. That chu-chu train is more than just an amulet. It's his source of inspiration.

SAULO

You mean that, without this little toy, he is completely unable to write the soap opera?

BLOCK
Exactly.

SAULO
What a wacko.

NIN
No... It's human nature.

SAULO
Yeah... Well, what's the plan?

Block looks gravely at Nin. She looks back at the blond android and lets out a smile. Block stays serious.

3 INT. EVERALDO'S APARTMENT. STUDY ROOM. DAY. 3

Everaldo, stuck on his swivel chair, types non-stop in his laptop. The wooden chu-chu train is right in front of him. We hear persistent LOW SOUND KNOCKS on the door.

ALZIRA, the maid, in her 50's, dark skin, weary face, appears behind the doorstep. She's evidently fearsome of entering the writer's sanctuary.

EVERALDO
Yes, Alzira?

ALZIRA
The man who came to fix the bathroom's heater is waiting down there.

EVERALDO
I didn't know that the heater was broken.

ALZIRA
It seems that it's a problem affecting all the apartments, sir.

EVERALDO
OK, you can send him upstairs.

Alzira vanishes immediately from Everaldo's presence.

4 INT. EVERALDO'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN. DAY. 4

Alzira grabs the phone hook glued to the wall and presses number 1.

ALZIRA

OK, boy, you can come up.

Alzira returns the phone hook to its piece on the wall and goes back to the sink, full of dirty dishes to be cleaned.

Right behind her, we see JUNINHO, a child, no more than 6 years-old, cute and playing on the floor with a plastic train. Alzira looks dead serious at the kid, who is clearly imitating the SOUND OF A TRAIN gathering speed.

ALZIRA (CONT'D)

Juninho, don't make any noise! No way mommy can lose this job! Understand, sweetie?

Juninho smiles broadly to his mother. He then returns to play on the kitchen floor with his plastic train. Only now he makes no sound at all. Smart kid.

5

INT. APARTMENT. STUDY ROOM. DAY. DAY.

5

Everaldo is stuck on his chair, typing frantically in his laptop. We see Saulo appearing at the threshold of his door, with a blue uniform and holding a box of tools. He gazes upon the novelist and, obviously, the wooden train.

Everaldo feels he's being observed and stops typing. He looks fixedly back at Saulo.

SAULO

Sorry to bother you, Sir, but I need to know where the bathroom is.

EVERALDO

First door on the right.

SAULO

Thank you, sir. By the way, I'm a big fan of your work.

Everaldo doesn't answer. He just lets out a wry smile. He simply isn't interested in small talk. Saulo vanishes from his view.

6

INT. APT. BATHROOM. DAY.

6

Saulo enters the bathroom and closes the door behind him. He plucks off a cell phone from his uniform pocket and activates a call.

SAULO

Hello, Nin and Block? I'm here.
And more importantly: I tracked
down the target. You may proceed
with the plan.

7 INT. APT. STUDY ROOM. DAY 7

Everaldo is concentrated in his desk, typing non stop in his laptop, as usual. Alzira appears again at the threshold of the door. She looks more nervous than usual.

EVERALDO

What now, Alzira?

ALZIRA

Mr. Everaldo, the doorman just
phoned us here. He says that you
need to get down urgently. There's
a problem at the garage.

EVERALDO

What?

8 INT. APT. KITCHEN. DAY. 8

Everaldo grabs the intercom and types a number. He listens to the doorman's explanation about something. Everaldo face gets reddish. This guy is about to explode.

EVERALDO

What? They did what? I'm coming
down right away!

Everaldo hangs up the intercom. Super irritated, he opens the door and closes it with a strong bang. We see Juninho playing with his plastic train. He bangs the toy hard on the wall.

9 INT. GARAGE SPACE. DAY. DAY. 9

Everaldo arrives at the garage, full of cars parked there. He treads until the end, where a black luxury car is parked. What happened is that an old gray car crashed and trashed the back of the modern vehicle, including the tail lights.

ANTONIO, the DOORMAN, early forties, short, black hair and round face, is in his black and white uniform talking to Nin and BLOCK in front of the accident site.

Everaldo finally arrives. Immediately, all the glances turn to him.

EVERALDO

So, Antonio, these two are the responsible for this?

ANTÔNIO

Yes, sir.

BLOCK

It was a huge unfortunate event. I was just making a comment with my colleague here about the great honor of making an interview with Everaldo Gomes, the most elegant soap opera author of this country, when, suddenly, TUUMM!! My friend here hit the brakes, but there was no time to avoid the crash..

NIN lets out a wry smile. BLOCK gets closer to Everaldo's ear and whispers using that famous shell-shaped hand gesture.

BLOCK (CONT'D)

You know how it is, women on the wheel are a constant danger.

NIN

This garage is very dark.

BLOCK

Yeah, right, sure.

NIN

It is. Honestly, and the lights here are not exactly bright.

EVERALDO

I'm not interested in any of this. I want your names and cell phone numbers. I demand a restitution for the damages.

BLOCK

And what about our interview?

EVERALDO

Simple. I'll grant it after you've paid the damages.

NIN

Please Mr. Gomes, don't do it. We have a deadline to comply.

EVERALDO

Funny you mention it, I have one too. Now, get out of here, both of you. Get out, now!

BLOCK

And what about your fame of being the most elegant novelist of the country?

EVERALDO

Get out of here! Now!!

10 INT. APT. KITCHEN. DAY.

10

EVERALDO treads furiously, with large steps, through the kitchen space. Alzira is in front of the oven, preparing lunch.

ALZIRA

The heater technician is already gone. He said that everything is in order.

EVERALDO

Alzira, I don't want to answer any phone call or intercom call for the rest of the day. Even if my dead mother calls me, I'm not going to be disturbed, OK? You got it?

ALZIRA

Yes, sir.

11 INT. APT. STUDY ROOM. DAY.

11

Everaldo comes, sits at his desk and lights up the lamp. He opens the laptop and returns his fast-driven and deft typing.

After a few seconds, he raises his eyes. The wooden chu-chu train is not where it's supposed to be. Novelist passes his head feverishly on his forehead.

He examines frantically the surface of the desk, in search of the toy. He opens drawers, closes drawers, gets on his knees and examines the floor. He gets up fast, opens the closet and many drawers. Nothing.

EVERALDO

NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

12 INT. TRASHED NIN'S CAR. DAY. 12

Saulo drives the gray car in silence. Beside him is Nin, also silent. At the back seat we find BLOCK, examining the wooden chu-chu train with his acute clinical eyes.

BLOCK

This is truly a work of Art. I've never seen anything like it before.

13 INT. NIN'S HOUSE. DAY. 13

We see a hand pushing a button on the black boomerang, I mean, the vector VIP device. Immediately, the wooden toy train beside it starts to emit a blue incandescent light. And vanishes from our sight right away.

Saulo, Nin and Block prepare to make a toast with tall thin glasses.

NIN

Now, remain only six components!

They drink the black bubbling liquid. This time, the android does not turn off. Instead, he begins to feel extreme gastrointestinal pains and falls hard on the floor.

He's immediately tended by Nin, who kneels beside the android with a super worried face.

NIN (CONT'D)

What did you give us to drink?

SAULO

Nothing. Just a soft drink.

NIN

You irresponsible creature! This is poison to him ! It can erode his positronic circuits!

SAULO

How was I supposed to know that?

Nin opens the silver gray case with the colored band-aids. She yanks out a red band-aid and glues it at BLOCK's forehead. The blond android reacts with an indistinct murmur.

SAULO (CONT'D)

Is he going to be OK?

NIN

I have to reinstall his whole
psychic configuration. That may
take some time. It would be better
if you left us alone tonight.

Perplexed and scared, Saulo goes to the front door. Before he
leaves, he watches closely Nin caressing BLOCK's blond hair.
After that, he leaves.

14

EXT. STREET. NIGHT.

14

Saulo walks on the sidewalk, his head down. He stops at the
red sign and lights a cigarette. He inhales it and looks
around. Beside him is the detective BANDEIRA, late forties,
short stature, strong face, piercing brown eyes.

The cigarette smoke goes directly at the detective's face.
Bandeira remains still, solid as a rock. They face each
other, and not in a cool way.

BANDEIRA

Enjoying a night walk, Saulo?

SAULO

Yeah... relaxing after a day filled
with stress.

BANDEIRA

Stress is what you provoke at the
honest citizens of this city.

SAULO

I don't do it anymore. Besides
that, I paid my debt with society.

BANDEIRA

Bullshit. Once a bad seed, always a
bad seed.

Saulo throws a cigarette butt on the floor and steps gently
on it, flattening the substance. Evidently pissed off, he
motions his body to leave. Detective Bandeira holds his arm,
forcing him to stop.

BANDEIRA (CONT'D)

You heard about the theft of Mr.
Crumb's digital watch?

SAULO

Yeah, a real tragedy.

BANDEIRA

I don't know what's going on, but I'm praying that you're involved, so I can step in and destroy you and your friends.

SAULO

I don't see why. I don't steal anymore. Unless we're talking about plastic women.

BANDEIRA

I'm going to put you behind bars, a place that you've never should have left.

SAULO

Good luck, detective. Or should I say, ex-detective.

Saulo gets rid of Bandeira's hand with a swift and precise movement from his arm. He walks away. Bandeira stands still, looking at the ex-con for some time. Then he turns and walks the opposite direction.

15

INT. NIN'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

15

Saulo enters the living room and finds Block and Nin obediently sit at the sofa looking fixedly at the vector's vip device, put on the small table in front of them.

BLOCK's face is slightly reddish, like if he had undergone a moderate sun burnt.

SAULO

We can't stay here anymore. The cop that arrested me is again in my tail. I know him. He's not going to give up.

They don't answer. They're completely hypnotized by the tiny liquid crystal display.

SAULO (CONT'D)

Did you hear what I said? We can't stay here anymore!

NIN

We heard you. But we have more urgent priorities right now.

SAULO

What happened?

NIN

Block, now.

Block crouches and presses two buttons below the vector vip's small display screen. Immediately, the image of Drek Master materializes in the white wall in front of them. The look on his face is far from sympathetic.

DREK MASTER

... And that's why the objects's validity fell drastically during the last hours. It's up to you, Nin, to regain the original validity within 24 hours, or the artifact will be considered void. And you will face the consequences. That's all.

Drek Master' image vanishes from the wall. Nin, however, keeps looking at it nonetheless.

SAULO

He didn't say what the consequences are going to be if you don't succeed in 24 hours.

NIN

He doesn't have to. It's implicit in his words.

SAULO

And that would be...

NIN

Permanent exile.

Block gets up and stays between those two. He presses his forearm in different places. A light appears in his wrist.

BLOCK

I discovered the root of the problem. The novelist entered an acute depression that affected the purity level of the object.

NIN

Where is he at the moment?

BLOCK

At the hospital. He refuses to be fed. The doctors are losing hope.

NIN

Good. We already know our mission.
To recover the self-esteem of this
man.

SAULO

Can't we just give back his chu-chu
train?

NIN

Impossible. Once it entered the
intergalactic zone, it can't be
returned to its original shape.

BLOCK

I just made up a plan.

SAULO

That's what I was afraid to hear.

16

INT. RESTAURANT. BAR. DAY.

16

Detective Bandeira is having lunch in his dimly lit table.
He drinks a beer in a tall glass. While drinking, the tv set,
hung on the wall opposite him, is broadcasting the local
news.

Bandeira plays with a toothstick, moving it between his
teeth. He keeps his head down, completely absorbed in his
thoughts.

At the tv set, a reporter in a suit appears in front of a
well known hospital.

REPORTER ON TV

... Everaldo Gomes, the author of
the current nine o'clock soap
opera, is hospitalized in a very
serious state, after a robbery in
his residency. He's in the
emergency unit, under extreme
medical care. The police has
released a sketch of the alleged
criminal.

The TV shows a drawn sketch made by the police department.
It's a drawing very similar to the face of Saulo. At this
moment, Bandeira looks up at the tv. His face acquires a
seriousness and his eyes stare at the drawing with intense
scrutiny.

Bandeira drops the toothpick on the floor.

17 BANDEIRA HASTILY REMOVES A NOTE FROM HIS WALLET AND PLACES IT
ON THE TABLE. HE GETS UP AND LEAVES AS FAST AS HE CAN,
LEAVING A LARGE AMOUNT OF BEER AT HIS GLASS.

18 INT. EMERGENCY UNIT. HOSPITAL ROOM. DAY. 18

Everaldo lies in his medical bed, apparently resting, with his eyes closed. A needle, stuck in his arm, is connected to a metal rod. At the top of it, a liquid in a plastic bag.

Beside him, sit in a sofa, is MARTA, 30 year old, round face and heavy make-up, wearing an elegant suit. She reads a report in her cell phone. Her expression denotes extreme concern. She drops her cell phone.

Marta picks up her cell phone from the floor. Everaldo opens his eyes. She stops immediately and looks with deep relief at Everaldo.

MARTA

Oh, thank God. But you have to know sir... Situation is critical.

EVERALDO

It's not that bad, Marta.

MARTA

Yes, it is. Since you stopped writing the soap opera, the ratings fell 15 percent and we lost 20% of market share. A tragedy.

EVERALDO

Nice to see you too, Marta.

MARTA

Likewise, sir. But the situation is critical.

EVERALDO

I can't write anymore. I lost all motivation.

MARTA

Why? What happened? The paychecks are not arriving on time?

Everaldo does not answer. He knows she wouldn't understand.

Marta's cell phone falls on the ground again. She crouches to get it. At this moment, Nin and Saulo enter the room, dressed with white doctor's coat and the heart auscultation device dangling on their necks.

Nin is wearing a blond wig and black-rimmed glasses. Saulo uses a fake beard and a super thick fake moustache. Nin approaches Everaldo. Saulo positions himself a step behind Nin.

NIN

Hi. I'm doctor Futterman and this behind me is doctor Philipson. We bring you good news. Your exams show absolutely zero anomalies. Clinically, you're in perfect shape.

MARTA

This is great, doctor. So, he can return to work right away?

EVERALDO

I don't feel well. This is not a physical problem.

NIN

So, what is it? If you don't speak up, I can't help you.

Everaldo does not answer. This man trusts no one. Saulo gives a step forward and stands beside Joanna. He stares at Everaldo straight in his eyes. The soap opera author does not recognize him.

SAULO

I know what your problem is. I've been through it before.

Everaldo looks at Saulo with utter distrust.

SAULO (CONT'D)

Let me tell you a story: When I was a kid, my old man gave me a little robot that walked in all directions. I put a couple of batteries in his feet and it started to move like crazy. I loved that robot. I took it wherever I went. The robot and I were practically one. One day, I put it on Dad's bed.

(MORE)

SAULO (CONT'D)

The little robot lost his balance and fell hard on the floor. And broke completely. I was completely desperate.

Everaldo gives Saulo an astonishing look. He realizes Saulo's association.

MARTA

How sad! Your dad beat you up when he got home, right?

SAULO

When my dad came home and saw me sad with the broken robot by my side, he took me to the bathroom, washed up my face with water and soap and told me something that I never forgot.

MARTA

You owe me twenty bucks, kid.

SAULO

No... he said: My gift broke, son, but what it represents will never be destroyed.

Everaldo's eyes are red. He's visibly shaken.

EVERALDO

How do you know? I never told anyone!

SAULO

I'm a doctor. It's my duty to know these things.

MARTA

What a lovely story! If I were a soap opera writer, I'd get up and write a whole new chapter!

Marta drops her cell phone at this moment. Again. Saulo gets down at the same time to retrieve the device. They bump at each other's head.

This incident causes Saulo's fake moustache to fall from his face. He tries to glue it back immediately, but Everaldo sees everything and jumps from his bed.

EVERALDO

(exalted)

You! The guy who stole my wooden
train! Police! Help! Police!!

Everaldo tries to take hold of Saulo's white coat. He grabs Saulo's neck with both hands and bangs it against the metal arm of his bed. Saulo is unable to get rid of his hands.

Nin takes Saulo by his arm and pulls him from Everaldo's firm grip. They escape hastily from the room. Marta makes a face typical of those who don't understand what's going on.

19

INT. HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR. DAY.

19

Nin and Saulo run like crazy in the hospital corridor.

NIN

You screwed the plan with your
stupid story!

SAULO

I screwed the plan? And what was
the plan, anyway?

NIN

I was going to hypnotize him and
solve his depression problem.

SAULO

You're right. I screwed the plan.

The main elevator arrives on their floor and opens the door. Both enter at the same time. Luckily for them, no one is there.

20

INT. HOSPITAL. ENTRANCE HALL. DAY.

20

Block is in the entrance foyer. He's slouched on a sofa, watching Everaldo's soap opera in a smart tv glued to the wall. His eyes are fixed and his jaws wide open.

21

INT. TV SCREEN. DAY.

21

ACTOR, 45, dark hair, extremely beautiful and ACTRESS, 30, long hair, extremely attractive, are having a discussion in a room.

ACTOR

I can't live without you, Ellen.

ACTRESS

I'm engaged to your partner, Luis Gustavo. If you lose this partnership, you're nothing. And you know it.

ACTOR

I don't care. The reasons of the heart are stronger than anything.

ACTRESS

You're crazy, Luis Gustavo.

ACTOR

Yes. Crazy for you.

Actor grabs the Actress and kisses her ardently. She kisses him back.

22 INT. HOSPITAL. ENTRANCE HALL. DAY. 22

Block's face shows extreme perplexity.

The hospital front door is opened. Detective Bandeira and his assistant Silva come in. They pass through Block, going straight to where the elevators are.

Bandeira pushes the elevator button. Both are waiting impatiently. Block recognizes them immediately. He types something rapidly in his wrist.

23 INT. SOCIAL ELEVATOR. DAY. 23

Nin and Saulo are on the elevator going down to the entrance hall. Nin moves her index finger to her right ear and touches it lightly.

NIN

Yes... Block? What? At the entrance hall? OK, I got it. Good work..

Nin touches lightly her ear again. She throws a dead serious look at Saulo.

SAULO

What now?

NIN

Your ufologist friend and his assistant are waiting for us at the foyer.

SAULO
Bandeira?

In a sudden move, Nin pushes the emergency button. The elevator halts immediately. Saulo comes towards the panel and tries to push the emergency button again. Nin senses it and holds his hand before he can do it.

NIN
What's the matter with you? Are you nuts? This guy is going to arrest us! I know the type... Hypnosis is not going to work with him.

SAULO
We have an opportunity here.

NIN
Of what? Going to jail?

SAULO
If we deceive Bandeira, the purity level of the object may grow exponentially. I can feel it. And, if that happens, it will be considered a valid part of the artifact. Can't you see? It's our best shot!

NIN
You want to risk my life because you have a feeling?

SAULO
Sometimes it's all we got.

Nin lets out a nervous smile. She shakes her head negatively a couple of times.

NIN
This is insane.

SAULO
I know. I know that you consider us humans to be corrupt. I know it's hard for you, but please trust me. You can look deep in my eyes and tell me if I'm lying. But I'M NOT...

Nin looks deeply at Saulo's eyes. She scratches her hair, as if that helped her to think properly.

NIN

All right... I believe you.

Saulo smiles. What happens next is unbelievable: Nin removes her right ear and hands it to Saulo. He gives her a befuddled look.

Nin simply points to her ear, now in Saulo's hands. He finally understands and moves the ear closer to his mouth.

SAULO

Block? Plan B2... Thanks. I need you to take off your white coat, Nin. And I need to borrow your silver case as well.

Nin removes hastily her white coat, throwing it on the floor. She removes the silver case from her trouser's pocket and hands it silently to Saulo.

He opens it and looks at the various colored band-aids. Saulo points at the red band-aid. Nin shakes her head negatively. He, then, points at the green band-aid. Nin nods positively.

SAULO

Do you trust me?

NIN

Do I have a choice?

SAULO

Not really.

Saulo puts Nin's right ear in his coat's pocket. He puts back his fake moustache and beard. The elevator button that displays the entrance hall becomes bright. Saulo applies the green band-aid at Nin's neck.

24

INT. FOYER. ENTRANCE HALL. HOSPITAL DAY.

24

The elevator door opens up. Saulo appears carrying Nin, with her arms around his shoulder. And then she falls on the floor. Bandeira and Silva are spectators of a bizarre scene: Nin, on the floor, moving crazily. Head and body in an out-of-control seizure attack.

Block runs towards them and gets closer to assist Nin, but Saulo makes a dramatic hand gesture in front of him. Block stops right away and stares at him.

SAULO
Don't get closer! Any sudden
movement can be fatal!

BLOCK
What's the matter with her?

SAULO
She's having a seizure, category 5.

BLOCK
Category 5? Wow, it must be
serious.

SAULO
Hurry! Bring the board!

Block runs away from them and enters a sideway door. Bandeira and Silva look at them completely bewildered. Nin continues on the floor, moving frantically.

Block returns in no time, carrying one of those yellow immobilization boards. Saulo tries to grab Nin's arms, but she punches him on the stomach. Saulo feels the punch and crouches.

Bandeira watches Nin attack Saulo's ears like a beast. Saulo lets out a primal scream.

SAULO (CONT'D)
My ear! My ear!

Saulo shows Bandeira and his assistant an ear, while closing his ear with his hand in a shell. When Silva sees it, he pukes at Bandeira.

BANDEIRA
Shit!

SAULO
Sir, please, help us!

BANDEIRA
Who, me?

SAULO
Yes, please! I need someone strong
enough to help us put her on that
board.

Extremely uncomfortable, Bandeira closes in. Very carefully, he manages to hold Nin's arms. She reacts, turning her head and puking violently at Bandeira's face.

BANDEIRA

Shit!!

BLOCK

Easy, sir! We're almost there!

With extreme effort, Saulo and Block manage to put Nin on the board and strap her in. They leave the area and disappear through the entrance hall large door.. Bandeira stands still, with his face full of vomit.

SILVA

Wow, sir. You're a hero.

25

EXT. HOSPITAL. DAY.

25

Saulo and Block are on the street carrying the yellow springboard. A CAR arrives at the exact spot in front of them. Saulo opens the door. He goes to the wheel. Block comes from behind and immediately grabs the car key from the hands of Cristina, who was about to enter the car.

BLOCK

I'm sorry, but this is an emergency.

Block unties Nin from the springboard. He helps her to enter the car. He looks at Cristina, gives one step and displays a pen-drive in front of her face.

BLOCK (CONT'D)

This is from Mr. Gomes. It's very important.

CRISTINA

Really? It's the new chapter? Oh, thank you so much... What's your name?

Saulo honks furiously. He throws Block an angry look.

BLOCK

Maybe later.

And, after that, he enters the car himself. Saulo starts the engine and off they go. Cristina looks at them, awe-struck.

26

INT. CAR. DAY.

26

Block sits up and removes the band-aid from Nin's neck. Immediately, the seizure stops. She's back to normal. Saulo keeps driving silently.

Block consults his wristwatch. Numbers appears on it. He smiles and shows it to Nin. She doesn't smile.

Nin taps Saulo's shoulder.

NIN
give back my ear.

Saulo keeps driving with one hand. With the other, he removes her ear from his coat's pocket and hands it to her. Nin grabs it and attaches it back at the ear spot. It fits perfectly.

NIN (CONT'D)
Block, the vip numbers are great,
but if the novelist is still
depressed, it's of no use.

SAULO
You mean all this nonsense that we
just went through was for nothing?

NIN
Not exactly. We needed it to keep
it going, but we haven't solved the
main problem... We have to get back
to the novelist's room. There's no
other way.

SAULO
What? Forget it. Bandeira and his
assistant must be watching the room
24 hours.

NIN
(Covers her face with her
hands)
I don't know what to do.

BLOCK
I do. In fact, it's already done.
I've taken all the necessary
measures.

Nin and Saulo look seriously at Block. He faces Nin with his typical expressionless look.

BLOCK (CONT'D)
Saulo asked you to trust him? Now
it's time for you grant me that
favor.

NIN
Do I have a choice?

BLOCK

My sensors tell me that... Not really.

SAULO

I thought you didn't know what humour is.

Block smiles. Nin gives him a quizzical look.

27

INT. EVERALDO'S ROOM. HOSPITAL. DAY.

27

Alzira and Juninho enter the room. Alzira holds Juninho's hand. The boy holds his plastic train in his other hand.

Everaldo is uncomfortable with their presence. He tries to smile, but his closed mouth produces a feeble attempt.. Alzira sits on the guest sofa.

EVERALDO

Thank you for coming Alzira, but, really, you didn't have to.

ALZIRA

Sorry, sir. But we got a call from your doctor. He asked us to come right away. He explained the situation and even asked me if I could bring my child. Not only that, but he specifically asked Juninho to bring his toy with him.. He said it could help.

EVERALDO

Doctor? What doctor?

ALZIRA

A blond man. Very strong, sir.

At this moment, Juninho manages to set his hand free from his mother firm grip. He runs towards Everaldo's medical bed. The boy stands next to Everaldo's crestfallen face.

ALZIRA (CONT'D)

Juninho!

JUNINHO

Is it true that they stole your chu-chu train?

ALZIRA

Juninho! Come here now!

EVERALDO

(Making a hand gesture)
It's all right Alzira... Yes, it's true, Juninho. Who told you?

JUNINHO

The blond doctor that talked to my mom.

Everaldo is dumbfound. He's trying to understand what's going on.

JUNINHO (CONT'D)

Why don't you buy a new train?

EVERALDO

Because that one was special. It was the only gift that I have from my mom.

JUNINHO

My train, too. It is the only gift that my Dad gave to me. Before the bad men killed him.

Alzira gets up and is about to cry. Juninho puts his plastic toy on the medical bed, beside Everaldo's hand.

JUNINHO (CONT'D)

Take it.. I'm giving it to you.

EVERALDO

I can't accept it. It's your train, Juninho.

JUNINHO

No, no. It's yours now. You need it more than me.

It's done. Alzira starts to cry. Everaldo grabs the plastic train and caresses it. He starts to cry too. He makes a hand gesture for the boy to get closer. The boy obeys. Everaldo hugs him with all his strength.

Looking closer at the plastic train, we realize that it's identical to the novelist wooden toy. Only that it's made of plastic.

28

INT. NIN'S HOUSE. DAY.

28

Saulo, Nin and Block are sit on the sofa. Block gets up and presses the vector vip on the low table. Immediately, Drek Master's frozen face appears on the wall.

Along with his well-trimmed white beard. Nin gets up immediately. Block presses another button. The picture becomes a video.

DREK MASTER

Congratulations, Nin. Our technicians have analyzed the new purity level. It fits perfectly the artifact. Actually, it exceeds its initial value. We're one step closer to saving our planet. Thanks to you.

NIN

Thank you, Drek Master.. But the merit is not all mine.

DREK MASTER

I know. The earthling helped you. We consider it a lesser evil. But Block's final measure was decisive here. Well, that's all. We'll have soon an update on the artifact structure.

Drek Master's image vanishes. Block and Nin remain standing. Saulo gets up from the sofa with an unfriendly look.

SAULO

So, I'm a lesser evil for you guys.

NIN

It's better to be called this than to be useless.

SAULO

You people consider yourselves a superior race, right?

NIN

We're not a single race. We're a confluence of mentally evolved races. We're not dominated by the quest for power. Our interests are more elevated. Does it make us superiors? I'm sorry if the answer is yes. But that's the reality.

SAULO

And yet you need primitive beings like me to save your fucking planet? Can't you see the contradiction?

NIN

Yes, I can. It seems that Human stupidity has contaminated the whole galaxy. It's my job to prevent it of destroying it.

Saulo becomes extremely irritated with Nin's last statement. He opens the door and leaves, slamming the door violently.

BLOCK

I feel a pattern forming here.

NIN

He's coming back... Well, I'm curious: What were your necessary measures that were decisive for the artifact?

BLOCK

I contacted the author's marketing analyst and sent her a rewritten chapter of the famous soap opera.

NIN

And she accepted it?

BLOCK

(imitates Everaldo's voice)

She accepted when I told her that I was going to quit the soap opera if the chapter was not on air tonight.

Nin smiles. Block presses his wrist. A frozen image of the main couple from the famous soap opera appear on the wall. Block rushes to the sofa to sit at its center. Nin sits next to him. Block presses his wrist again. The scene starts.

ACTOR

We have to stop seeing each other. I'm a quantum person and you're a general relativist in essence.

ACTRESS

But our love was always so... sub-atomic.

ACTOR

You're right. There is another reason.

ACTRESS

What reason?

ACTOR

I don't believe in the string's theory.

ACTRESS

Nooooooooo!!! Why are you doing this to me? Just because I discovered the Bosom of Higgins!!!

The image on the wall freezes again. Block and Nin get up from the sofa and both CLAP their HANDS ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

BLOCK

That's what I call dramaturgy.

NIN

It's the first time that I feel at home in this planet.

Block nods enthusiastically.

29

INT. EVERALDO'S APARTMENT. KITCHEN. DAY.

29

We see the intercom device ringing non-stop. Alzira appears and picks it up.

ALZIRA

Hello... Hum... OK, send him up.

ALZIRA hangs up the intercom. She goes to the corridor. We see Juninho, AGAIN ON THE FLOOR, playing with a new toy. It's a brand new electronic train, not only more expensive but much noisier than the previous one. This kid's i heaven.

30

INT. EVERALDO'S STUDY. DAY.

30

Everaldo is back on the game, writing non-stop on his laptop, feverish with inspiration. Alzira appears on the threshold of the door. Everaldo stops writing right away.

EVERALDO

Yes, Alzira?

ALZIRA

The mechanic is coming up to fix the heater in the bathroom, sir.

EVERALDO

Are you sure that he's a mechanic, Alzira?

ALZIRA

Yes, sir. This time, I'm sure.

Everaldo smiles. He nods. Alzira goes back to the kitchen. He returns to type furiously on his laptop.

Beside the computer, we notice for the first time, at the spot where her mom's precious gift used to be, Juninho's plastic train.

31	31
32	32
33	33
34	34
35	35
36	36
37	37
38	38
39	39
40	40
41	41

42

42

43

43

44

44

45

45

46

46

47

47

48

48

49

49

50

50

51

51

52

52

53

53

54

54

55

55

56

56

57

57

58

58

59

59

60

60

61

61

62

62

63

63

64

64

65

65

66

66

67

67

68

68