

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. SCIENCE CLASS -- DAY

PROFESSOR Z walks the class, collecting finished TEST PAPERS from the STUDENTS. Shirt buttoned, tie on. He's very excited, in his "Z" sort of way. All of our "Black Hole High" kids are present: JOSIE, CORRINE, LUCAS, MARSHALL, and VAUGHN.

PROFESSOR Z

In 1854, the disease "cholera" broke out in London, England. One man...a personal hero of mine...Dr. John Snow, had a theory that the disease was being spread through contaminated water, so he made a map of the affected neighborhood to chart where and how badly people were getting sick. He discovered that the worst cases were all around a water pump on Broad Street. He removed the handle on the pump so people couldn't use it to pump the contaminated water and voila! People stopped getting sick. And with that, the modern science of epidemiology was born.

(takes a breath)

Now, I suppose you're wondering why I'm telling you this.

Lucas raises his hand quickly.

LUCAS

Because they pay you?

PROFESSOR Z

Excellent, Lucas. No. Because...

(points to Marshall)

...this man here, is the poster child for disease transmission.

The CAMERA WHIP PANS to Marshall at his desk. He sneezes. He looks awful. There's a stack of tissues on his desk. His nose is red and his eyes are watery.

PROFESSOR Z (CONT'D)

Marshall, you should be in bed, not running around school or coming to class.

BRIIING!! The bell goes, students pack up/file out.

MARSHALL

I don't have time to be sick. I'm behind schedule.

PROFESSOR Z

On what?

JOSIE

Marshall's installing wireless network cards into kids' computers so they can surf the net.

CORRINE

For a fee, of course.

LUCAS

He's not charging me because we're roommates.

Marshall sniffs. Speaks like this has been an ongoing topic of discussion between him and Lucas.

MARSHALL

I never said that.

Lucas snaps his fingers. Nuts...almost had him.

PROFESSOR Z

Well Marshall, if you keep running around, not only will you not be able to finish your network, but you'll make yourself more sick and increase the chance of sharing your germs with others.

MARSHALL

(stuffy, cranky)

Isn't it nice to share?...

Marshall sneezes. Everyone sitting around him moves their desks away.

PROFESSOR Z

Dr. Snow would have had a field day with you.

EXT. BLAKE HOLSEY HIGH - TO ESTABLISH -- NIGHT

All's quiet, except a light shining through a lone window on the second floor indicates someone's burning the midnight oil.

INT. UPPER HALLWAY -- MOVING

CAMERA SWOOPS THROUGH THE HALL until we discover computer network "Air-Ports" installed in key spots, attached by wires that lead to one room. Light leaks out from under that door.

INT. LUCAS'S & MARSHALL'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Marshall snuffles as he works on an open computer. Lucas is asleep on his side of the room. Marshall sneezes.

LUCAS

Marshall...Listen to Z before you get sicker.

MARSHALL

(cranky)

Okay, 'mom'. Go back to sleep.

Lucas turns over. Marshall blows his nose and tosses the tissue into an overflowing wastebasket.

Marshall installs a wireless network card into the computer. Big Wireless Network Broadcast HUB connected to the server. Has his hands full. Suddenly, he sneezes. Does NOT cover his mouth. He sneezes right into the guts of the computer, all over the hard drive. As he turns to blow his nose again, we see a burst of BLACK HOLE ENERGY spark and zap the computer.

CSI DRILL-DOWN -

as we race around the hard drive. Marshall's sneeze droplets blast around the edges of the disc. Sizzle with black hole energy. Launch out of the computer, along the power cord and into the wall outlet...

INT. BASEMENT -- DAY

...out another wall outlet and into an electrical thermostat. The CAMERA PULLS BACK to REVEAL that this thermostat is attached to the school's furnace. It looks spooky. Alive. Begins to glow red. Starts to make a bizarre HACKING SOUND.

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. MAIN HALLWAY -- DAY

Marshall walks with Josie, Corrine, Lucas, and Vaughn. Josie turns to Lucas.

JOSIE

What was up with you in math?

CORRINE

You looked like you were ready to fall asleep.

LUCAS

Marshall kept me up all night with his sneezing.

On cue, Marshall sneezes.

VAUGHN

Marshall, please. Go to your room. You're going to get us all sick.

TYLER (O.S.)

(smarmy)

Oh...Wheeler?!

Heads turn. Marshall is approached by TYLER. Very preppy. Tyler's mad about something...and when he gets mad he gets oily. Speaks like the spider to the fly.

TYLER (CONT'D)

You know that wireless network you sold me? The one that you said I would absolutely love? I don't. It's a piece of junk. It doesn't work.

MARSHALL

It was working when I gave it to you.

TYLER

Are you saying I don't know how to use my own computer? I want my money back.

MARSHALL

Wait. I'll fix it. No, I will. I will!

TYLER

Are you begging me?

MARSHALL

Yes, I'm begging.

Tyler smiles benignly.

TYLER

I like that.

Marshall sneezes.

MARSHALL
(sniffing)
Is it warm in here?

Corrine looks at Marshall.

CORRINE
You look like you've got a fever.

MARSHALL
I feel like I've got a fever.

Marshall sneezes again, this time into the open can of potato chips that Lucas is eating.

LUCAS
Hey!

CORRINE
That's it. You're going straight to
your room and getting into bed.

Josie grabs Marshall by the arm.

JOSIE
Vaughn, help me out here?

VAUGHN
I'm not touching him.

JOSIE
Don't be a baby. Just don't breathe
next to him and wash your hands and
fingertips after you touch him.

LUCAS
(eagerly)
I'll help you.

Josie takes the bandanna that she's wearing in her belt and wraps it around her face like a surgical mask.

CORRINE
You realize that that's a very
inefficient surgical mask.

JOSIE
But a very strong fashion statement.

Lucas pulls the neck of his t-shirt up to cover his mouth and nose as well. He looks ridiculous.

LUCAS
 (explains, to Corrine)
 Fashion statement.

He grabs Marshall's other arm.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
 Just don't sneeze on me.

As they go, passing Tyler...

TYLER
 Hey, Wheeler...be sick after you fix
 my computer.

MARSHALL
 (over his shoulder;
 cranky)
 I'll get to it.

TYLER
 What did you say?

MARSHALL
 Bring it by my room and I'll get
 right on it.

TYLER
 Good, otherwise I see you suffering
 a big drop in sales. Understand?

As Lucas and Josie help Marshall away we hear ANOTHER SNEEZE.
 Similar to Marshall but deeper. Creepier. We TILT DOWN to a
 heating vent. We hear the same sneeze again, hollow and
 echoing and coming from the vent.

INT. PROFESSOR Z'S OFFICE -- DAY

Z sweats as he grades tests in his office. Collar open,
 sleeves rolled up.

PROFESSOR Z
 (to himself)
 Corrine...I'm shocked! Only a 99?

He dabs at his forehead with a tissue. Frowns.

PROFESSOR Z (CONT'D)
 There's no reason why my office should
 be this hot.

Stands and inspects the thermostat on the wall. It's turned
 all the way down. Then a SOUND is heard. Short. Abrupt.
 Like some kind of deep-throated cough. Z looks around. The
 SOUND happens again.

INT. HALLWAY -- DAY

Z pokes his head outside his office. Standing outside his office is DURST in a heavy coat, talking with the JANITOR.

DURST

I'm telling you, I can store meat in my office, it's that cold. You've got to do something about it.

Z walks over.

PROFESSOR Z

Excuse me, Principal Durst? Did I hear you say that your office is...cold?

DURST

Like an igloo. Have you been working out in your shirt and tie? Again?

PROFESSOR Z

It's my office...I could fry an egg on my desk.

The Janitor looks at Z who is sweating and Durst who is freezing. Curious. He walks off.

INT. LUCAS'S & MARSHALL'S ROOM -- DAY

Lucas enters the room, backpack slung over his shoulder.

LUCAS

Hey, Marshall. How're you...?

Lucas elbows past a STUDENT who drops a computer off in the center of the room. There are already three other systems there. Marshall sits up in bed, bundled in a blanket. He shivers as he talks to the student.

MARSHALL

Gimme a few hours and I'm sure I'll have it up and running again.

The Student doesn't say anything. He just glares at Marshall for a moment and then leaves the room.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

That's the fourth system down. Tyler's spreading the word I'm putting out inferior product. If I don't get these fixed I'm going to have to...I can't say it.

LUCAS
Refund people their money?

MARSHALL
(wincing)
Never use the "R" word in front of
me.

Marshall looks up as an angry-looking FEMALE STUDENT stands in the doorway of the room. She's holding a computer case.

LUCAS
Make that five systems down.

Marshall sneezes. Lucas quickly pulls the neck of his t-shirt back up to cover his mouth and nose again and backs out of the room.

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Bless you.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY / OUTSIDE DINING ROOM -- DAY

Corrine and Josie peek out the door of the dining room. Josie holds a tray of food. They look around, conspiratorially.

JOSIE
Can't we just tell the school nurse
and have her bring Marshall some
food?

CORRINE
Marshall's not going to get well
eating infirmary food.

JOSIE
Like the cafeteria food is any better?

Before Corrine and Josie can get two steps away from the door, a loud Ka-WHOOSH SOUND is heard. A DOOR across the hall from the dining room blows open and the lunch tray is blown out of Josie's hands. SPLATT! Right back into the dining room. From OFF CAMERA we HEAR...

DINING ROOM STUDENT #1 (O.S.)
Hey!

DINING ROOM STUDENT #2 (O.S.)
Who threw that?!

Josie closes the door to the dining room. Corrine can't believe what she just saw.

CORRINE

What just happened to your tray of food?

JOSIE

It got blown out of my hands.

Corrine and Josie turn in time to hear a cacophony of eerie Ka-WHOOSHES. They look down the length of the hallway and see, with every Ka-WHOOSH, another door blow open.

CORRINE

Did you just see that?

JOSIE

I'm standing here, aren't I?

Principal Durst comes hurrying down the hallway.

DURST

Will someone tell me what's going on?

Another Ka-WHOOSH, and another classroom door blows open. Nearby is a closed door. Durst looks at it.

DURST (CONT'D)

Okay...who's doing that? Come out of there!

Durst opens it and steps inside. A loud Ka-WHOOSH is heard and some sort of gross, greenish "goo" comes flying out of the room. There is a pause and Durst comes out completely covered in this muck. She retains her dignity, despite the sliming.

CORRINE

Eewwww.

JOSIE

Principal Durst...you got slimed.

Durst glances accusingly at Josie and Corrine.

CORRINE

We didn't do it.

DURST

Well then, who did?

JOSIE

Uh... We'll get back to you!

Before Durst can call them back, Josie and Corrine RUN OFF. The CAMERA STAYS with them.

CORRINE

That was the most disgusting thing
I've ever seen. What's going on?

JOSIE

I'm not 100%, but I've got a hunch.

Josie and Corrine hear STUDENTS SCREAMING in the distance.

CORRINE

That came from upstairs!

Josie and Corrine take off, running.

INT. STAIRWELL -- DAY

Josie and Corrine race upstairs and are met by HALF A DOZEN
GROSSED-OUT STUDENTS coming down the stairwell, all covered
in green goo. Madison is in the lead, hair dripping.

MADISON

Gross! I'm going to be sick!

INT. UPPER HALLWAY -- DAY

Josie and Corrine race around the corner and see THE ENTIRE
UPPER HALLWAY DRIPPING WITH GOO. It comes out of the air
ducts, drips from wall sconces, collects in puddles on the
floor. Gross!

CORRINE

I was wrong. This is the most
disgusting thing I've ever seen.
You've got a hunch about this?

JOSIE

Come on!

Josie leads Corrine as they side-step and hop around the oozing
puddles. They pass the Janitor who is standing with a little
mop and bucket. Josie and Corrine throw open Marshall's door.

INT. LUCAS'S & MARSHALL'S ROOM -- DAY

Marshall sits on his bed with a tissue to his face. Looks at
Corrine and Josie.

MARSHALL

Thanks guys, but I don't know if I'm
hungry anymore. Besides, my nose is
dripping like a faucet.

Josie and Corrine look at each other. Josie nods her head.
Corrine begins to understand. There's a VERY LOUD Achoooo!
from deep in the school. The BUILDING SHAKES ever so slightly.

Josie, Corrine and Marshall share a look.

INT. MAIN HALLWAY -- DAY

Z walks with Lucas, Josie, Corrine and Vaughn.

JOSIE

We all felt it.

PROFESSOR Z

(incredulous)

Blake Holsey High has caught
Marshall's cold?

JOSIE

We go to the only boarding school
with a hyper-dimensional vortex in
the basement?

PROFESSOR Z

Good point.

(now excited)

But how? Most illnesses don't even
jump from one species to another,
never mind jumping from a person to
a building. Buildings don't catch
colds.

CORRINE

But look at the evidence: fever,
chills...

VAUGHN

Sneezing...coughing...

JOSIE

Drippy nose...watery eyes...

LUCAS

Whatever symptoms Marshall gets, the
school gets too.

VAUGHN

Hey, wait a minute.

JOSIE

What?

VAUGHN

Didn't Marshall say he thought his
fever's getting worse?

LUCAS

If there is a connection between
Marshall and Blake Holsey High...what
could that mean for the school?

Nobody has an answer to this, however...

INT. BASEMENT -- DAY

...in the basement the furnace rumbles and Ka-WHOOSHES. A tremor ripples through the basement, this one perceptibly more powerful than the last. A light shower of grit and plaster dust shakes down from the ceiling THROUGH FRAME.

IN CLOSE UP we see the needles on the side-by-side Temperature and Pressure gauges ominously rise towards the far side...the red zone marked "DANGER."

WE PUSH IN. The glass on the gauge marked "Temperature" CRACKS. Goo starts to drip out. Lots of it.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SCIENCE CLASS -- DAY

Lucas enters to find Corrine, Josie and Vaughn are with Z. Z's got a rolled up chart under his arm.

LUCAS
Bad news. Marshall's temperature is
still going up...

Suddenly a LOUD SOUND is heard. This time it rattles the windows. Knocks a few things off of shelves. Sounds like the building "coughed."

LUCAS (CONT'D)
...And he still has a bad cough.

Z unrolls the chart. It's a two foot by three foot copy of an antique map of several city blocks.

PROFESSOR Z
I got this off the Internet. It's
an enlarged copy of the map that Dr.
John Snow made in 1854.

Z points at different sections of the map which we see in EXTREME CLOSE UP as he talks.

PROFESSOR Z (CONT'D)
(points)
Dr. Snow made these little marks on
the map wherever there were people
sick. As you can see, he mapped
what he called a "chain of infection".

The kids lean in close and look. They understand.

JOSIE
So that's when he got the idea to
take the handle off the pump so people
couldn't drink water from it?

PROFESSOR Z
Exactly. Once Dr. Snow isolated and
removed the cause of the disease
from the system, the system recovered.
He saved thousands of lives.

The DEEP COUGHING SOUND is heard again, rattling glass.

PROFESSOR Z (CONT'D)

Of course he had the luxury of one thing we seem not to. Time.

CORRINE

Okay, so let's split up, each one of us takes a map of the school and then we interview everyone to see which parts of the school got sick...

LUCAS

...and when...

CORRINE

(nodding)

...and when, and write it all down on our map. That should lead us to our own "contaminated pump."

Z notices Lucas lost in thought.

PROFESSOR Z

Lucas?

LUCAS

I was just thinking...you know how the school's cold matches Marshall's cold?

VAUGHN

Yeah?

Another DEEP BUILDING COUGH is heard. Everything shakes. A picture falls off the wall.

LUCAS

Well, everybody knows that you can't cure a cold, but you can treat the symptoms. You can also do things to help your body fight the illness which can make you better faster.

VAUGHN

You mean like get plenty of rest, take medicine...things like that?

JOSIE

Max out your body's ability to fight the virus.

CORRINE

Okay, so how about Vaughn and I map the chain of infection. Lucas and Josie see if you can make Marshall feel better.

As they exit, Durst arrives in the door. A LOUD KA-WOOSH rattles the school. Durst braces on the door jamb.

DURST
Professor Zachary. I need a word.
In my office.

Durst leaves. Z looks at the kids.

PROFESSOR Z
You all have your missions...I'll
stall Durst.

INT. BASEMENT -- DAY

The furnace is really rattling and WHEEZING. A LOUD COUGH is heard, the furnace shakes. A RIVET pops and steam shoots out!

I/E. SCHOOL / VARIOUS / MONTAGE -- DAY

A. THE DINING ROOM -- Corrine and Vaughn talk to the LUNCH LADY who shows them a sink, all stopped up with green goo which seems to bubble up out of the sink. They place a green sticker on their map of the school and log the time.

B. DURST'S OFFICE -- Blue-cast to the light like being inside an ice castle. Z is shivering as he sits on the other side of the desk from Durst who wears a parka.

PROFESSOR Z
Honestly, Principal Durst...I don't
think evacuating the school is called
for.

DURST
I don't see as how I have any choice!
I can't endanger students.

PROFESSOR Z
Things around here really aren't
that far outside normal parameters...

A loud KA-WOOSH rattles Durst's Office.

DURST
Really? You call that normal?

C. LUCAS'S & MARSHALL'S ROOM -- Marshall's fixing one of the broken computers. Looks up as Josie and Lucas come in wheeling an A/V cart filled with bottles, bowls, and thermos's. A worried look comes to Marshall's face as Josie picks up a turkey baster and sucks soup out of a tureen.

D. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY -- The Janitor looks at the puddles of goo on the floor. The puddles are now so large, some of the smaller students have to turn back. The Janitor looks at his mop. Reaches OUT OF FRAME and comes back with a much bigger mop. MUCH bigger.

E. DURST'S OFFICE -- Durst has a look of disbelief on her face as she reacts to something Z just told her.

DURST (CONT'D)

"Sick Building Syndrome?"

PROFESSOR Z

Right. "S.B.S." It's a common problem in new buildings.

DURST

This building's over 150 years old!

PROFESSOR Z

Yes...but when it was built it was new.

F. LUCAS'S & MARSHALL'S ROOM -- Josie and Lucas force a resistant Marshall to drink a baster full of chicken soup.

G. STUDENT LOUNGE -- Corrine and Vaughn talk to some students. The building SHAKES. The students fearfully answer the question and Vaughn and Corrine put another sticker on the map.

H. DURST'S OFFICE -- Durst reacts to the next thing Z has told her.

DURST

Poltergeists?! That's your other theory?! That's science-fiction!

PROFESSOR Z

Which has the word "science" in it. All I'm saying is, that I'm sure there's going to be a reasonable explanation once we complete our investigation.

Another Ka-WHOOOSH is heard, pictures rattle.

DURST

(stone-faced)

You've got one hour, or I have no choice but to begin evacuating.

I. LUCAS'S & MARSHALL'S ROOM -- Marshall has his head under a towel, leaning over a bowl of steaming hot menthol-laced water between sucks of a concoction from the turkey baster.

MONTAGE ENDS

INT. SCIENCE CLASS -- DAY

Corrine and Vaughn tape their map to the board. They review it with Z in rapid fire problem solving mode.

CORRINE

There's a cluster of events around the second floor. Cold and hot rooms, slime, strange noises - and other students are starting to get sick...

VAUGHN

...plus a number of their computers stopped working all within a few minutes of each other.

PROFESSOR Z

Computers?

CORRINE

By comparing the reported incidents we found that everything started around Lucas and Marshall's room and spread outwards to the rest of the school.

PROFESSOR Z

That makes Lucas's and Marshall's room ground zero. Something in that room is like Dr. Snow's water pump.

INT. LUCAS'S & MARSHALL'S ROOM -- DAY

Josie and Lucas have Marshall wrapped in a blanket, feeding him yet more cayenne pepper.

Corrine, Vaughn, and Z burst into the room.

CORRINE

It's here...somewhere...

JOSIE

What?

VAUGHN

The "pump." The thing that's making the school sick.

CORRINE

Marshall...Lucas...have either of you noticed anything strange in here over the past few days? Anything that looked like it was sick?

LUCAS

Nothing. Well, other than Marshall.

Marshall taps a computer case on the desk; the same one he was working on in the TEASER.

MARSHALL

I've spent a lot of time in here working on the wireless network. But I haven't noticed anything. I think you're in the wrong place.

Corrine looks from the trash bin over-flowing with tissues, to the stack of broken computers on the floor. An idea forms.

CORRINE

Did you work on the network while you were sick?

MARSHALL

Maybe...

LUCAS

You were working on it last night.

MARSHALL

I guess...

JOSIE

Is that the network server?

Marshall nods.

LUCAS

Step aside a second, Marshall.

Marshall stands his ground...

MARSHALL

(protectively)

What are you going to do to it?

Lucas steps around Marshall and opens the computer case. A river of green goo spills out, off the desk, and onto the floor.

PROFESSOR Z

Welcome to the "Hot Zone."

LUCAS
(to Marshall)
You didn't notice that?!

MARSHALL
(shocked)
It wasn't like that yesterday.

VAUGHN
But how did it get into the whole
school?

PROFESSOR Z
Excellent question, Vaughn. The
server is the water pump. So...we
need to find the "pump handle."

CORRINE
(finishing the thought)
The thing that's taking the illness
from the computer and pumping it
into the school.

VAUGHN
Uh...yeah. Exactly.

PROFESSOR Z
Okay everyone...we don't know what
we're dealing with here, so proper
disease prevention protocol from
this point on.

Suddenly the LOUDEST KA-WHOOSH yet is heard. It rattles the
walls and blows dust out of the vent returns in the
floor/walls.

JOSIE
That came from the basement.

PROFESSOR Z
Corrine, Vaughn...why don't you come
with me to check out the basement?
Josie and Lucas, go down to the lab,
get rubber gloves and anything else
you think you need to protect
yourselves and start checking out
the server.

LUCAS
You're loving this, aren't you?

PROFESSOR Z
(business-like)
I'm in my happy place. Let's move.

INT. BASEMENT -- DAY

Z, Corrine, and Vaughn walk through the hyper-creepy basement. Dark corners. Strange pieces of equipment. And...THE FURNACE! It sits in the corner and casts a strange red glow around the basement.

VAUGHN

Does that look normal?

They approach the furnace which is making awful, WHEEZING SOUNDS. A LOUD KA-WHOOSH rattles the basement. Once it subsides, Z leans in for a closer look.

THE TEMPERATURE AND PRESSURE GAUGES --

as Z points to them.

PROFESSOR Z

Temperature...this is way too high.

The temperature gauge -- GLASS BROKEN AND OOZING GOO -- hits the red. The furnace shudders and then a pressure release valve blows. Corrine, Vaughn and Z jump back.

PROFESSOR Z (CONT'D)

(over the escaping
steam)

If the pressure gauge goes red, the
whole furnace is going to blow!

INT. LUCAS'S & MARSHALL'S ROOM -- DAY

Lucas and Josie wear bio-hazard suits made up of clear face protectors, rubber gloves, and surgical booties.

Using large insulated rubber gloves, etc., Josie reaches towards the server's power plug. The entire cord is dripping green with goo. Professor Z enters out of breath.

PROFESSOR Z

We don't have much time.

LUCAS

Are you sure that this is going to
work?

JOSIE

Unplugging it should disconnect it
from the "chain of infection."

MARSHALL

But...after things go back to normal
I can plug the server back in, right?

Josie shoots Marshall an 'are you kidding' look.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

Guys - this is my business we're talking about here!

LUCAS

Get a grip Marshall! You're making people sick!

Marshall closes his eyes in pain. Josie reaches for the power cord. Grabs it. Pulls it out of the wall.

JOSIE

That should do it.

Lucas gets on a walkie-talkie.

LUCAS

Vaughn? Come in, Vaughn. We did it. How's it looking down there?

INT. BASEMENT -- DAY

Vaughn and Corrine are by the furnace. Vaughn examines it.

VAUGHN

No good! The pressure gauge is still rising.

INT. LUCAS'S & MARSHALL'S ROOM -- DAY

Lucas, Josie, Marshall and Z look at each other.

JOSIE

I don't understand. It's unplugged. That should have disconnected it from the school.

MARSHALL

(realizing)

That's not what's doing it.

Heads turn.

MARSHALL (CONT'D)

The server's got it's own back-up battery. It must still be transmitting the infection like a computer virus over the wireless network I put in the school. You were right...I should have been more careful about my cold.

LUCAS

So now what do we do?

JOSIE

If we sterilize the server, would that stop the disease from spreading?

PROFESSOR Z

Sterilization is exactly what Dr. Snow tried to do to the contaminated water! He just didn't have the resources to accomplish it as well as he wanted.

LUCAS

What resources?

PROFESSOR Z

Well, things like filters, chemicals...even high heat would have worked.

Josie and Lucas look at each other and reach the same conclusion.

JOSIE & LUCAS

Heat!

Being careful to touch it only with their rubber gloves, Josie and Lucas grab the server.

JOSIE

Professor! Clear a path for us.

PROFESSOR Z

Got it.

MARSHALL

I know what you're thinking. I'm begging you...I can still fix this!

PROFESSOR Z

If I felt we could save it, we would never do what we are about to--
(calling out)
Dirty server coming through!

Durst appears in the doorway as Josie and Lucas race past her out of the room with the server.

DURST

You're out of time, Professor Zachary.
(and then)
What are they doing?

PROFESSOR Z
Epidemiology experiment...
(sniffs slightly)
...pretty standard stuff, really.

He takes off after them.

PROFESSOR Z (CONT'D)
Clear a path, please. Unclean!
Unclean!

Durst looks at Marshall. She feels his forehead.

DURST
Your fever's going down.

MARSHALL
I actually think I'm feeling a bit
better.

INT. BASEMENT -- DAY

Josie, Lucas, and Z race into the basement.

JOSIE
Vaughn! Open up the furnace!

Putting on a thick, fire-proof glove, Vaughn swings open the door to the WHEEZING, COUGHING furnace.

LUCAS
Stand back!

Josie and Lucas throw the server in. A great BLACK HOLE EXPLOSION OF LIGHT shoots out of every opening on the furnace.

The basement sparkles and shimmers and slowly fades back to normal. The furnace no longer looks ominous or glows red. Corrine checks the gauges.

JOSIE
Well?

CORRINE
They're both going back down. It worked!

High fives all around. Professor Z smiles.

PROFESSOR Z
Dr. Snow would've been proud.

JOSIE
Thanks, Z.

LUCAS

We should go check on Marshall. See how he's doing.

CORRINE

I'm guessing that if the school is doing better, Marshall's doing better too.

The kids leave the basement as the Janitor arrives. He taps the broken gauges. Looks at the furnace with a puddle of goo around the base. Shakes his head, and then reaches OUT OF FRAME and brings back INTO FRAME the biggest mop yet. He gets to work cleaning.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. SCIENCE CLASS -- DAY

Josie, Corrine, Lucas and Vaughn sit around with Z, all sharing a laugh. Marshall enters wearing an improv bio-hazard "suit".

VAUGHN

Marshall...almost done cleaning up
the second floor?

Everyone laughs. Marshall takes off the face guard.

MARSHALL

I'm glad you all think this is funny.
Next time Durst gives me a choice
between mopping up goo and a month
of detention, I'm taking the
detention.

LUCAS

Oh, by the way, I'm still waiting
for my refund on the wireless network.

MARSHALL

Sure. Here...

Marshall reaches into his pocket and offers Lucas some goo-covered dollar bills. Lucas isn't amused.

LUCAS

Nice...

TYLER (O.S.)

Wheeler!

Marshall turns to find Tyler and a line of students with hands outstretched. A pained look on his face. It's refund time.

INT. BASEMENT -- DAY

The Janitor sits at a small table, reading. Suddenly there is a soft KA-WHOOSH NOISE and the door on the furnace blows open. The Janitor gets up from his chair. Walks to the furnace.

JANITOR

Bless you.

He closes the furnace door and goes back to his reading.

FADE OUT:

COLD — BLUE REVISION.

26.

END OF SHOW