

# TEEN

"Pilot"

Written by

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Based on the "Milestone Comics" and characters  
Created  
by  
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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

SUPERIMPOSE: "1839"

A large STARLINER cruises past the SUN, MOON, STARS AND PLANETS as it has done thousands of times before.

INT. STARLINER

An ALIEN that resembles Kermit the Frog, if the lovable Muppet was 6'6" tall and built like a Greek God, mans the ship. This is ARNUS, a native of the planet TERMINUS of the Cooperative.

The flight is going smooth as normal.

All of a sudden, SPARKS shoot out the CONTROL PANEL. Arnus and his fellow alien CO-PILOT are caught off guard.

The ship is malfunctioning. A distress ALERT sounds off.

Several fiery EXPLOSIONS rip through the ship. The sounds of METAL BUSTING drowns out the SCREAMS of PASSENGERS panicking.

Arnus scrambles to figure out what's going on.

After a few attempts he gives up. He jumps into action and helps several TERMIAN PASSENGERS into ESCAPE PODS.

DMZ, a futuristic looking dude dressed in a full red leather suit, silver trim complete with hundreds of light up buttons and a robot helmet with a LED screen in place of eyes, approaches him. He looks like he's in the group *Daft Punk*.

He helps Arnus board several fellow Aliens into ESCAPE PODS. They send the passengers off to safety when FLAMES from the EXPLOSIONS overcome the ship.

Arnus and DMZ exchange words in their LANGUAGE. It sounds like an old internet dial-up.

The two of them quickly jump into separate escape pods.

INT. ESCAPE POD - CONTINUOUS

Arnus jettisons off right before the entire ship EXPLODES into several pieces.

He laments as he watches the ship disintegrate with many Termians still on board through the pod window.

Arnus' Pod shoots towards EARTH like a falling star.

As it breaks Earth's Atmosphere it catches fire.

The Pod malfunctions and begins to spiral out of control.

Arnus frantically tries to steer it as it plummets at breakneck speed.

EXT. PLANTATION - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: "CENTRAL GEORGIA"

Middle of the night. Quiet, except the rhythmic chirps of crickets.

A typical southern PLANTATION. Big white MANSION on the hill.

Yards and yards away are several SHANTY HOMES for the Slaves. But close enough to keep an eye on anyone trying to escape.

There are large COTTON, TOBACCO, SUGAR and RICE FIELDS and VEGETABLE GARDENS stretching as far as the eyes can see.

Arnus' escape POD streaks across the sky on fire, falling like a meteor toward the Plantation.

INT. SLAVE QUARTERS - SAME TIME

An African-American Slave woman, MIRIAM (40's), wholesome, physically, emotionally and mentally worn, kneels at the foot of her bed. She prays while other Slaves are sound asleep.

MIRIAM

Lord, I don't know how much more of this we can take. They beatin' and killin' us. We need a way out, heavenly Father. We need hope. Send us some help, please.

Just then, she hears a SONIC BOOM thunder clap overhead.

The fiery tail from Arnus' pod, splashes through the window like a spotlight, almost blinding her.

She jumps up and peeks outside.

She watches the POD crash land into the woods near the cotton field. The sound of metal crushing ECHOES in the night's sky.

She grabs her scarf and runs out to investigate.

INT./EXT. ESCAPE POD - SAME TIME

Arnus checks himself to make sure he's still alive. He exhales when he realizes he's okay.

Through the Pod one-way window he looks around and sees the endless fields of cotton, fruits and vegetable plants.

All of a sudden he sees Miriam timidly approach.

He watches her like a hawk, not knowing what to do next.

She places her hand on the window. Only her reflection stares back at her.

An intense beat.

The Pod door slowly opens. She jumps back, startled.

In the captain's seat is a crying, naked, African-American baby boy. Miriam is pleasantly surprised.

She picks up the baby and wraps him in her scarf.

She holds him close and gently rocks him until he stops crying.

Then, she looks to the Heavens in awe with a grateful smile.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CITYSCAPE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: "DAKOTA CITY, 1993"

The sun rises over DAKOTA CITY, a thriving Midwestern metropolis located on the banks of the DAKOTA RIVER.

A couple small islands, connected to downtown by hybrid stayed cable and suspension bridges, surround the city.

There's a buzz in the air as citizens hustle on their way to work, school and other daily routines.

INT. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

RAQUEL ERVIN (18), sharp-tongue, quick-witted, highly intelligent and driven, sleeps with her head on the desk.

The English teacher, MISTER NAGY, notices. He's annoyed.

MISTER NAGY  
Raquel! Raquel Ervin!

She SNORES. The rest of her classmates GIGGLE.

Mister Nagy approaches her desk with his stapler.

He drops the stapler. It BANGS on the floor near her. She leaps out of her seat.

RAQUEL  
What happened?

The entire Class erupts in laughter.

MISTER NAGY  
You've fallen asleep in my class  
for the third time this week.

RAQUEL  
Sorry. I don't know what's wrong.

MISTER NAGY  
Am I that boring?

Raquel doesn't know what to say.

The BELL RINGS. She's saved. She and the rest of the students quickly grab their things to exit.

Mister Nagy blocks her path.

MISTER NAGY (CONT'D)  
(deeply concerned)  
What's going on? This isn't like  
you.

RAQUEL  
Maybe I'm working too hard getting  
ready for track season. Whatever it  
is, it's ruining my creativity too.  
I haven't been able to come up with  
any good story ideas to write for  
my book.

He looks deep into her eyes. Something gets his attention. He turns compassionate and sympathetic.

MISTER NAGY

Look, you're my best student and my favorite. I want to see you realize your dreams of going to college and becoming the next Toni Morrison.

Raquel smiles, big and proud.

INT. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - SAME

Raquel weaves through fellow students as she makes her way to her next class.

NOBLE (18), troublesome and misguided, sneaks up behind her. He gently covers her eyes and kisses her on the cheek.

She smiles ear to ear. She knows exactly who it is.

They're one of those high school couples that acts like they're already married. That first love you'll remember Fifty years from now.

RAQUEL

Whew! If only my boyfriend kissed me like that.

Noble scowls and takes his hands off her eyes.

She turns and winks at him.

RAQUEL (CONT'D)

I'm just playing, babe.

She wraps her arms around him and kisses him, passionately.

NOBLE

Whatever!

(then)

What are you doing after track practice?

RAQUEL

I was going to go to a coffee shop and brainstorm ideas for my book.

NOBLE

Deke, Lenny and I are going to hop in my ride and see what's going on in the burbs. Maybe hit the mall.

She rolls her eyes.

RAQUEL

Boy, that doesn't sound like trouble at all.

NOBLE

It's not. We just want to get out of Paris Island. There's supposed to be a big gang fight tonight and I ain't trying to be around to see what happens if it goes down.

She thinks about that a moment.

RAQUEL

In that case, I'll go. You three need a chaperone. Plus, maybe we'll have an adventure I can write about... Pick me up on the front steps of the school at six.

She hugs and kisses him and goes on her way.

INT. DAKOTA CITY COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM 335 - DAY

The JUDGE is seated on the bench. The JURY in their box. The GALLERY is packed.

The DEFENDANT, a 20 year old black man, sweats as he awaits his fate. His Defense Attorney tries to calm him.

AUGUSTUS FREEMAN IV (40s), an astute, highly intelligent, but stiff and aloof black man, sits at the Plaintiff's table.

JUDGE

Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury,  
have you reached a verdict?

The JURY FOREPERSON stands and faces the Judge.

JURY FOREPERSON

Yes, your Honor.

JUDGE

May the Defendant please rise.

The Defendant and his Attorney stand and face the Jury.

The Judge motions for the FOREPERSON to deliver the verdict.

## JURY FOREPERSON

We the Jury, find the defendant guilty on all charges of aggravated assault, and attempted robbery with a lethal weapon.

The reaction from the Gallery is split. Some shout OBSCENITIES and others CRY tears of joy.

The judge BANGS her GAVEL to regain order.

## JUDGE

Order! Order in the court!

Augustus smiles, proudly, at the verdict.

The Defendant glares at Augustus.

## DEFENDANT

You supposed to be helping people like me. Not helping them throw us in jail for something I didn't do.

## AUGUSTUS

(matter-of-fact)

I am helping you. Maybe some time away will give you time to think about the changes you need to make in your life.

The Defendant is offended and stung.

## DEFENDANT

You're an "UNCLE TOM"! You let them "WHITEWASH" you. This whole system is against US! They're using you to hold us down. You crab in a bucket!

The Bailiff and two DAKOTA CITY OFFICERS quickly detain him.

## DEFENDANT.

You're a "SELL OUT"! Nothing but a coon! What do you stand for?

The Bailiff and Officers drag him out kicking and screaming.

Augustus' scowls at the Defendant as he takes this in.

END OF TEASER