

INT. RUBY MONROE'S HOUSE - DAY

RUBY throws her arms around BROWNIE'S neck.

RUBY

Gee, Brownie -- you're like my hero.

BROWNIE

Now, Ruby -- don't you go get my blood
all a boiling with your female
ministrations, you hear?

DONALD

Uh, Brownie -- I believe that's going to
happen about once a month whether you
like it or not partner.

RUBY

So just what the heck is this thing,
Brownie?

BROWNIE

(sideways glance at Donald)
Sorry, Ruby -- I'm afraid you're supposed
to call me Deputy Blatz.

RUBY

Gee, really? Well, okay then.

DONALD

Now, law enforcement protocol does
dictate that all sworn peace officers
should be addressed by their title and
appropriate surname.

RUBY

Gosh, I'm sure sorry, Brow -- I mean
Deputy Blatz.

DONALD

But, umm, well seeing as Deputy Blatz
here did save your life and all... well I
guess it wouldn't be too out of line for
you to call him Brownie.

RUBY

He's not just Brownie. He's my Brownie.

BROWNIE

Gosh, Ruby... I'm still on duty you know.

INT. SQUAD CAR - LATER

DONALD

I know what you're thinking. (OFF HIS LOOK) You're wondering if Ruby's gonna be safe. Well, you can rest easy little brother. Shady Glen rest home is on about the highest ridge around. They'll have no problem spotting any vile alien incursion well in advance. And we're just a phone call away.

BROWNIE

Or walkie-talkie.

DONALD

Hmm?

BROWNIE

I left a walkie-talkie with Ruby. You know -- in case the alien's have some advanced technological wizardry and can somehow disable our phone systems.

DONALD

I gotta say.

BROWNIE

Yeah?

DONALD

I'm impressed. That's the type of tactical thinking that makes for a grade A G-man, little brother.

BROWNIE

Thanks, Donald.

DONALD

No thanks necessary. You earned that recognition.

BROWNIE

You do remember though that I'm technically older than you. Right? I mean by like 3 years.

DONALD

Yeah I'm not sure that's ever been proven.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - DAY

A scientist, ERNEST SCHOCH, reviews some of the creature's remaining body parts on an exam table as Brownie and Donald look on.

SCHOCH

And you say this was part of the creature's body?

BROWNIE

That's right. We scooped up as much of it as we could fit in the trunk of my cruiser, Doc.

SCHOCH

Please. Although I do have PhD's in both Nuclear Biology and Astrophysics, I'll leave the "doctor" title to anyone brave enough to handle the scariest thing on the planet.

DONALD

What's scarier than this?

SCHOCH

Your hand.

DONALD

Well, I understand your concerns, Doc. And don't think I didn't offer the Sheriff the chance to register my hands as deadly weapons. But you can rest assured -- I'm on the side of righteousness.

SCHOCH

Yes. No, I simply mean that if you touch your face or mouth before you wash your hand you'll doubtless come down with the same bug my assistant has.

Schoch throws a glance toward a side wall. Donald and Brownie follow his look and see the ASSISTANT sitting on the other side of a glass wall. Holding a box of tissues, the Assistant blows their nose with great vigor.

SCHOCH (CONT'D)

He's touched all of the door handles in this place. Repeatedly. Including the one you two came through.

Donald and Brownie react accordingly and both clamor to a nearby sink to wash their hands.

BROWNIE

Uh, a little heads up would'a been nice,
Doc.

SCHOCH

(distracted)

Yes. Yes.

Schoch lifts a portion of the creature's skin away as he continues his inspection.

BROWNIE

Well, no offense, Doc. But I've had the
flu before. And it was no picnic, but I
got over it. Don't think I would have
gotten over being turned into a puddle of
slime by that thing.

SCHOCH

I understand you had quite the fright
officer. But imagine if this creature had
the capability to replicate itself
literally millions of times within a
single day. And it could attack you
without you even knowing it. And your
chance of death was as high as 1 in 3.

DONALD

Hang on, Doc. Brownie here isn't so good
with math. Is that, uh, trigonometry
you're using there?

SCHOCH

Gentlemen, let me put it this way. If
your creature was as deadly as some of
the organisms I've studied -- well, I'm
afraid one of us wouldn't be walking out
of here.