

EXT. BOARDWALK - OVERCAST

On this peculiar day, the beach and boardwalk are devoid of any humans.

The Bug Rangers - Cosmo, Flutter and Squiggz - are the only ones on the beach on their patrol. Squiggz leads them.

The three move their heads up and down the boardwalk.

Flutter runs up to Squiggz and the two stop. Cosmo is completely lost in thought and keeps walking.

1 FLUTTER

How're we supposed to help people when there's no one to help?

2 SQUIGGZ

I know, right? Maybe we should just head back.

3 FLUTTER

We don't have to.

4 SQUIGGZ

It's just so boring!

Flutter raises her hand with excitement.

5 FLUTTER

I vote then we go home! What about you, Cos?

As Flutter and Squiggz turn back, Cosmo speed walks past them.

6 SQUIGGZ

(to Flutter)

Come on!

The two hurry after Cosmo.

CROSS DISSOLVE:

EXT. BOARDWALK - MOMENTS LATER

Squiggz and Flutter catch up to him but then Cosmo runs O.S., leaving Squiggz and Flutter behind.

7 SQUIGGZ

Hey Cos, forgetting something? Like your best friends?

7A SQUIGGZ  
(focused on Flutter)  
I'm gonna tie his antennae in a  
knot.

8 FLUTTER  
Well, he's right there.

Squiggz and Flutter look over as CAMERA PANS to Cosmo who is  
stuck in a fugue state.

Squiggz and Flutter enter scene.

Cosmo's quiet murmurs are inaudible to Squiggz and Flutter.

COSMO  
<MURMURS>

Squiggz waves his hand in front of Cosmo.

9 SQUIGGZ  
Helllllllooooo? Cosmooooooooo?

Flutter grabs Cosmo's hand.

10 FLUTTER  
Come on, Squiggz. Let's just walk  
him down to the boardwalk.

Squiggz agrees and they walk Cosmo down the pier.

As they leave, we see that a sign: "Pier CLOSED - Storm  
Warning" sign is placed out of their sight.

EXT. BOARDWALK - HOT DOG CART - OVERCAST

Basher is enjoying himself on this human-free boardwalk. He's  
sitting on a box of popcorn next to the hot dog cart.

He takes turns eating between the sauerkraut in one hand and  
popcorn in the other. He takes bites from pink cotton candy  
on his head.

11 BASHER  
<BITES, CHEWING, SATISFIED NOISE>

He wears it like a wig.

Basher lazily kicks an empty glass jar of sauerkraut and it  
rolls to another empty jar of sauerkraut to another pile of  
sauerkraut jars.

EXT. BOARDWALK - OVERCAST

Once again, the Bug Rangers resume their patrol on the boardwalk and Cosmo has returned to normal.

They shoot each other confused looks as they, in unison, look at the empty food stands, rides and arcade.

Flutter shivers.

12 FLUTTER

<SHIVERS> It's weird seeing no one on the beach.

Cosmo trails off from the group and starts lifting pieces of trash and examining them more closely.

13 SQUIGGZ

What'd you find? Where're all the people?

14 COSMO

I...don't...know.

15 SQUIGGZ

What? I don't believe it!

Cosmo begins pacing back and forth.

16 COSMO

Well, I don't want to come to any conclusions that aren't supported by evidence.

Flutter and Squiggz stand back and smile as Cosmo gets going.

16A COSMO

We know that people were here yesterday.

17 SQUIGGZ/FLUTTER

Okay/Uh-huh.

18 COSMO

And that we - The Bug Rangers - are still here.

Squiggz and Flutter's excitement goes down a peg.

19 SQUIGGZ/FLUTTER

Right.

20 COSMO

So this must be the work of a portal that sucked the humans up to the fifth dimension - beyond the known realms of time and space!

21 FLUTTER

Uh...how'd you come to that?

22 COSMO

<LAUGHS NERVOUSLY> Just kidding but I need to look into this further.

Squiggz crosses his arms and is visibly annoyed at Cosmo.

23 SQUIGGZ

Come on, Cos. There's no one here so I'm calling the Bug Ranger patrol off.

24 COSMO

No thank you. The lack of humans has proven to be an interesting puzzle.

25 SQUIGGZ

Are you serious?

Flutter approaches Cosmo and puts her hand on his back with comfort.

26 FLUTTER

Come on, Cosmo. No Bug Ranger gets left behind.

27 COSMO

You guys go on ahead. I'm just focused on my work...

Cosmo pulls out a comically large magnifying glass.

Squiggz and Flutter roll their eyes but stick around.

Cosmo goes back and forth, looking at the ground, and comes across a gray piece of sauerkraut. He pulls out a pair of mini-tweezers and picks up the sauerkraut.

27A COSMO

Just as I thought.

Squiggz and Flutter run over and Cosmo shoves the gray sauerkraut in their face.

27B COSMO

Look at this!

28 FLUTTER

It just looks like an old piece of moldy sauerkraut. <SMACKS HER LIPS>  
*Tasty!*

Cosmo whips it around to give it a closer look.

29 COSMO

Maybe to the *untrained, unscientific* eye this looks like...  
(mockingly)  
"just another piece of old sauerkraut."

EXT. BOARDWALK - HOT DOG CART - OVERCAST

Basher wakes up from his food coma and overhears the Bug Ranger's converse.

30 BASHER

Huh. Just when I was beginning to enjoy myself, those Bug Losers pop up like a bad rash.

Basher carefully approaches the corner and peeks around the hot dog stand and watches.

EXT. BOARDWALK - OVERCAST

31 SQUIGGZ

I don't want to stand here all day and miss out on an adventure somewhere else.

Cosmo shoves the sauerkraut in Squiggz's face again and Squiggz lightly pushes it out of his face.

32 COSMO

This IS an adventure, Squiggz.

Cosmo examines the sauerkraut and looks up "bug-eyed" in shock and bolts behind a nearby trash can.

Squiggz is about to leave but Flutter grabs his arm and holds him in place.

Squiggz - angry at Cosmo - holds up his hand and making a "this close" gesture with his fore finger and thumb just barely touching.

Cosmo comes running back with a makeshift gas mask on his face and two more in his hands.

32A COSMO  
Put these on! Please!

Squiggz and Flutter look at the masks.

33 SQUIGGZ  
Why are we putting these on?

34 COSMO  
Because there's only one logical conclusion to draw from the evidence.

Squiggz and Flutter await in annoyed anticipation.

34A COSMO  
Infection!

EXT. BOARDWALK - HOT DOG CART - OVERCAST

Basher hears the word "infection" and begins to show concern.

He looks back to the pile of jars of sauerkraut and begins holding his stomach.

35 BASHER  
Oh man, I don't feel too hot.

EXT. BOARDWALK - OVERCAST

Cosmo is holding the gas masks out but no one is taking them.

36 SQUIGGZ  
I'm not wearing that. It looks stupid. What if someone sees me in that?

37 FLUTTER  
And I can breathe fine on my own, thanks.

38 COSMO  
Guys. I don't know how far the infection has traveled into your esophagus.

Flutter and Squiggz stand their dumbstruck with their gaping mouths.

Cosmo furrows his brow and approaches the hot dog cart on the opposite end that Basher is on.

He begins construction on a makeshift workbench.

38A COSMO

I'm going to continue running more tests on the sauerkraut. You are more than welcome to stay and join.

39 SQUIGGZ

Thanks but no thanks.

Squiggz walks O.S.

40 FLUTTER

Are we only wearing a mask? Or should it be a suit?

41 COSMO

Ah! Good thinking, Flutter! I should design a suit to completely cover ourselves and protect us.

42 FLUTTER

We were on the pier for a while, Cosmo. You're probably infected too.

43 COSMO

I know that. I'm trying to prevent further infection and find a cure.

Cosmo, still engrossed in his work, doesn't notice Flutter baby-stepping towards him.

44 FLUTTER

(defeated)

We're going to go back to the roach house. We'll see you later, Cosmo.

45 COSMO

I hope that you guys feel okay.

Flutter catches up to Squiggz.

46 SQUIGGZ

Good riddance! We almost wasted the whole day.

47 FLUTTER

You're too hard on Cosmo.

48 SQUIGGZ

Only when he gets like this.

Cosmo continues working on the workbench with an intense level of focus.

A shadow appears behind and over Cosmo and he has only a split-second to react until Basher crowds him against the workbench.

49 COSMO

What're you doing here, Basher?

50 BASHER

Oh, I was just in the neighborhood and heard some Bug Wieners and...

Basher points to the hot dog cart.

50A BASHER

...you guys were right around the corner.

Basher grabs the hose part of the mask and pulls down on it. It slightly comes off and Cosmo quickly fixes it.

51 COSMO

I'm not even going to entertain your immature antics this time, Basher. I have important work to do!

52 BASHER

What science-y thing are you doing? Building a phone to call your space friends?

Cosmo pays no attention to Basher.

52A BASHER

So what's with the goofy mask and where can I get one <LAUGHS>?

Cosmo looks back at him with incredulity.

53 COSMO

Did you eat the sauerkraut? The perspiration on your forehead seems to suggest an unnatural rise in your body temperature.

Basher starts sweating bullets. He knows that there's not much time left.

54 BASHER

Okay! I did it! I ate the jars of sauerkraut! Now give me the mask!

Cosmo hands him a gas mask. Basher looks at the with pure happiness.

As Cosmo continues his experiments on the workbench, he looks over to see Basher struggling to put the mask on.

54A BASHER

(muffled)

Ugh! Help me get this thing on!

Cosmo SIGHS and tries to fix the mask but Basher is flailing and makes it hard for Cosmo.

Cosmo jumps onto his back and the two gallop O.S.

Basher turns into a bull and Cosmo the cowboy as they go from left to right.

As Cosmo rides Basher, he sees the "PIER CLOSED - STORM WARNING" sign. Cosmo eventually fixes the mask and puts it on Basher.

As Basher tries to breathe heavy...

54B BASHER

<BREATHING HEAVY>

But then normally in the mask, Cosmo goes over to his workbench and smiles. Basher begins to walk away from Cosmo

54C BASHER

See you later, Cos-Blow! <LAUGHS>

55 COSMO

Basher, these masks only prevent airborne viruses.

56 BASHER

Huh?

57 COSMO

If you ate the sauerkraut well then I'm sorry...I don't know how long you have.

Basher runs back to Cosmo and gets on his knees and puts his hands on Cosmo's shoulders.

58 BASHER

How long do I have, Cosmo?

59 COSMO

Hmmm.

Cosmo takes out a piece of measuring tape and begins measuring a confused Basher.

59A COSMO

Well allow me to calculate...what's your weight?

60 BASHER

Well...it's... uh...I don't wanna say... but it's 3 grams but it's all muscle!

Cosmo starts to snicker but stops when Basher gives him a scowl.

61 COSMO

<SNICKERS>

Cosmo holds up a finger to his head.

61A COSMO

Body weight plus the current temperature and the amount of sauerkraut...

Basher waits with bated breath.

61B COSMO

You have approximately 33.2 to 43.5 minutes.

Basher begins to moan and groan like a drama queen.

61C COSMO

You'll get aches in your tummy...

Basher grabs his stomach.

BASHER

<GROANS>

61D COSMO

A fever...

Basher holds his hand up to his head.

BASHER

<LIGHTHEADED UGHS>

61E COSMO

And a loss of balance.

BASHER

Whoa!

Basher falls on his butt.

Cosmo tries to hold back his laughter.

61F COSMO

<RESTRAINED LAUGHTER>

62 BASHER

Oh man. There's so much I'm gonna miss out on.

Beat.

62A BASHER

I always wanted to climb the Great Garbage Wall of Cincinnati.

Basher points to the burger sign on the pier.

62B BASHER

And I always wanted to bungee jump off the burger sign.

Cosmo's interest piques.

62C BASHER

I wish I was better friends with you guys.

Cosmo pats Basher on the back.

62D BASHER

Since I won't need it, I want to leave you my scooter. You know about mechanical...er...stuff.

Cosmo's eyes light up.

63 COSMO

With that scooter, I'd be the baddest bug...in a 20 mile radius.

Basher gets choked up and tries to hold in his emotions.

63A COSMO

Basher...there's something I have to tell--

64 BASHER

Forget that. Where's Lucha?

65 COSMO  
<STUTTERS> Ah...well.

Basher scowls at Cosmo until his attention is caught by Flutter and Squiggz return to the boardwalk.

EXT. BOARDWALK STEPS - OVERCAST

Basher runs over to Flutter and Squiggz and gives them both a bear hug.

Flutter welcomes the hug while Squiggz is taken aback by Basher's sudden good nature.

66 BASHER  
I'll miss you guys...I think.

67 SQUIGGZ  
We'll...uh...miss you too, Basher?

They look to the side and past Basher to see Cosmo collecting himself.

68 BASHER  
Do you guys know where Lucha is?

69 FLUTTER  
Sure! She's right behind us.

Basher awaits Lucha's arrival and Flutter and Squiggz walk over to Cosmo.

70 SQUIGGZ  
So what'd you do to Basher to make him so nice?

71 FLUTTER  
And can you keep doing it?

Cosmo grabs them both and puts them into a "Bug Huddle."

72 COSMO  
I didn't do anything to Basher. I let him think that he was infected.

73 FLUTTER  
You seemed so sure we all were.

Cosmo points to the "Storm Warning" sign.

74 COSMO  
I didn't have all the data.

Squiggz fist bumps Cosmo.

75 SQUIGGZ

Nice, Cos.

76 FLUTTER

(to Cosmo)

You shouldn't have lied even if it was Basher. We should tell him.

77 SQUIGGZ

Let's see what we can get out of him first.

Flutter lightly punches him.

78 SQUIGGZ

<YELPS>

Squiggz rubs the hit arm.

79 LUCHA O.S.

Aiiyyyy.

EXT. BOARDWALK STEPS - OVERCAST

The Bug Rangers look to the noise source and Basher is struggling to put an extra mask on Lucha.

80 BASHER

Come on! You just have to pull the strap a little tighter.

81 LUCHA

<STRUGGLING> Get off me, Basher!

The Bug Rangers run over and jump on Basher to get him off of Lucha.

They finally succeed but Basher is confused.

82 BASHER

(defeated; to Lucha)

I was only trying to save you.

Lucha turns to the Bug Rangers.

83 LUCHA

Que Paso?

Squiggz and Flutter turn to Cosmo and eventually all three are staring him down.

84 COSMO

(sheepish)

Well I might've told Basher that...  
there was an infection.

85 LUCHA

Carumba! So you played a trick on  
him?

86 SQUIGGZ

I tried to stop him, Lucha.

Flutter rolls her eyes at Squiggz.

87 LUCHA

(to Cosmo)

This is something Basher would do.  
You're going to have to be the one  
to tell him.

88 COSMO

I know. I was already going to  
until--

89 FLUTTER

Uh guys, where *is* Basher?

They all turn around and survey the area and find no trace of  
Basher.

Cosmo takes off his gas mask.

90 LUCHA

Alright, we have to find him  
pronto...

(points to the storm)

Or...or we're going to be soaked.

EXT. BOARDWALK - OVERCAST

The wind starts to pick up and the Bug Rangers and Lucha are  
all looking over every inch of the boardwalk.

91 SQUIGGZ/FLUTTER/LUCHA/COSMO

Basher!/Basher! Basher! Where are  
you?/Basher!

Beat.

92 SQUIGGZ

We're never going to find Basher.  
If only he'd give us a sign.

Upon hearing Squiggz's comment, Cosmo rushes O.S.

92A SQUIGGZ

Again?

93 FLUTTER

Cosmo, where are you going?

94 COSMO (O.S.)

I *know* where Basher is!

The group runs after him toward the...

EXT. BURGER SHACK - OVERCAST

Flutter, Squiggz and Lucha arrive at the scene but Cosmo is already climbing up to the top.

C.U. on Cosmo: The wind pushes Cosmo but he holds on with all of his bug strength.

95 LUCHA

He's muy valiente!

EXT. TOP OF BURGER SHACK SIGN - OVERCAST

Cosmo finally reaches the top and Basher is sitting on the edge of the Burger Shack sign.

Basher has a piece of gum attached to his feet.

96 COSMO

Basher! We need to descend immediately.

97 BASHER

I blew it with Lucha. Might as well cross off something else I wanted to do.

98 COSMO

Basher... there is no infection! There never was!

99 BASHER

What?

A strong gust of wind knocks Cosmo off the side of the Burger Shack sign. He grabs the ledge at the last second.

EXT. BURGER SHACK SIGN - OVERCAST

Flutter, Squiggz and Lucha look up and see Cosmo hanging with Basher reaching for him.

Lucha grabs a napkin blowing by in a gust of wind.

They hold it taught at the corners and move around trying to get under Cosmo and Basher

EXT. TOP OF BURGER SHACK SIGN - OVERCAST

Basher reaches down to give Cosmo a hand. Cosmo grabs his hand but Basher is hit with a gust of wind and the two fall off together.

Cosmo and Basher scream and swirl around each other as they fall.

100 COSMO/BASHER

<SCREAMS>

The two land in the napkin and fall through.

101 FLUTTER

Come on, guys. We gotta get outta the storm.

INT. ROACH HOUSE - NIGHT

The Bug Rangers, Basher and Lucha are all crowded around the fire. Grandpa Lou is in his easy chair while Grandma Nan makes her rounds distributing hot cocoa.

Lucha delicately sips on her drink and gives a content <SIGH>

102 LUCHA

So, Basher. Why were you up on the burger sign?

Basher burns his tongue on the hot drink.

103 BASHER

(tongue-out)

Well, I had to test to see if Cos-  
Blow--

104 GRANDMA NAN

Uh-uh. Watch your mouth, young bug.

105 BASHER  
--if Cosmo was a Big Bug yet. He  
passed only with *my* help.

106 SQUIGGZ  
Cosmo got you pretty good, Basher.

107 BASHER  
(tongue-out)  
No way! I knew it was a prank all  
along.

Squiggz chokes up on his cocoa.

108 SQUIGGZ  
<CHOKES ON DRINK> Sure you did.

109 COSMO  
So I guess now I *don't* get your  
scooter?

110 BASHER  
<LAUGHS UPROARIOUSLY>

110A BASHER  
(tongue-out)  
You're even more gullible for  
believing that, Cos-

Grandma Nan shoots him an evil eye.

110B BASHER  
(tongue-out)  
Mo.

The Bug Rangers and Lucha start laugh to one another.

111 BUG RANGERS & LUCHA  
<LAUGHS>

112 GRANDPA LOU  
I'm glad that you all came together  
during this storm. Reminds me alot  
of the 1942 storm.

113 GRANDMA NAN  
Lou, that was the '46 storm and you  
spent it inside by the fire.

Grandpa Lou looks sheepish.

114 COSMO

If I recall correctly, it was 1943  
the last time Grandpa Lou told the  
story.

EXT. ROACH HOUSE - DAY

All of the bugs start to laugh and the sun rays pierce  
through the clouds.

115 ALL BUGS

<LAUGHS>

THE END