

"MONSTER TRUCK BLUES"

By

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FADE IN:

INT. WACHOWSKI HOUSE - MORNING

SHERIFF TOM WACHOWSKI and his wife MADDIE are lounging on the couch together, each armed with a coffee tumbler, watching TV.

MADDIE

(whispering)
It's so quiet. You think he's still asleep?

A nearby BOOM shakes the house, but neither of them seem distressed by this. A second later the front door opens and SONIC THE HEDGEHOG walks in carrying a bright pink box.

TOM

Speak of the devil...

Sonic nearly drops the box as OZZIE THE DOG barks loudly and bounds towards him, licking his face.

SONIC

(in overly sweet babytalk)
Hey! Did you hear that, Ozzie? He called me a devil! Do you think I'm a devil?

Sonic holds the box up out of reach from Ozzie and uses his free hand to pet him.

SONIC

(continuing)
What's that, boy?
(gasps)
He said I'm a perfect little angel!
Wow, you really are a hedgehog's best friend.

TOM

I know you can't actually talk to him.

SONIC

(smirking playfully)
You'll never prove it.

MADDIE

What's in the box?

Sonic zips over to the couch and kneels down, presenting the box to Tom like a crown to a king.

SONIC

(imitating a pompous noble)
I bring an offering for the mighty Donut Lord.

Tom accepts the pink box and opens it, discovering a dozen of his favorite donuts.

TOM

Hold on, where did you get these donuts exactly?

SONIC

Uh, hello? Jellee Donut Shop. The only donut shop in Green Hills... Unless, you're holding out on me! You're not holding out on me, are you?

TOM

No, I meant how did you buy these?
(beat)
You didn't steal them, did you?

MADDIE

Tom!

SONIC

No way! I earned them - fair and square. I did a few deliveries for Lacey today. She says hi - by the way.

Tom is about to say something more but Maddie elbows him.

MADDIE

(mouths)
Apologize.

TOM

(sighs)
Sorry, Sonic.

SONIC

(he shrugs it off)
It's cool.

TOM

So, what's the occasion?

SONIC

(very sweetly)
Do I need an occasion to spoil my best
friend in the whole world?

It's clear from Tom's expression that he knows Sonic is
trying to butter him up for something.

TOM

Call it a hunch, but I have a feeling you do.
Now, what is it you want?

Sonic races around, pulling all the curtains shut and
blocking out nearly all light by hanging up blankets,
except for one floor lamp, which he uses to cast a
spotlight on himself as he stands before the TV. He's
holding a universal remote.

Sonic presses a button on the remote. The soundtrack from
DAYS OF THUNDER begins to play on their stereo.

SONIC

Can you picture it?

Sonic is impossibly standing next to him, arm around his shoulder, with the spotlight somehow managing to follow him as he walks towards the TV.

SONIC

A family road trip the likes of which no Wachowski has seen before. An epic journey of unimaginable proportions!

SONIC

What will their final destination be?

TOM

Sonic, what are you--

The lights go out again and the stereo halts, but only briefly, as the TV suddenly switches on. Tom and Maddie cover their ears as a MONSTER TRUCK COMMERCIAL plays at max volume. Ozzie whines, running out of the room.

MONSTER TRUCK NARRATOR

Witness as 20 of the Greatest Monster Trucks of All-Time face off in a fearsome battle royale! Last truck standing wins!

TOM

Sonic! Turn it down!

Sonic twirls handfuls of freshly snapped glowsticks from different locations, seemingly at the same time.

MONSTER TRUCK NARRATOR

Be there this Sunday night only at Magic City Arena for the Monster Truck Event of a Lifetime: Monster Brawl 2020! Call now or go online to reserve your VIP tickets to win a chance to ride your favorite

monster truck! This is the brawl to end
them all! Monster Brawl 2020!

Sonic rips off the blankets and opens the curtains,
blinding them with sudden daylight. He strikes one final
epic pose, throwing up a handful of confetti as the
commercial ends.

SONIC

Ta-da!

Sonic continues to hold the pose, looking between Tom and
Maddie as the confetti settles around them. They are
holding each other and shielding their eyes from the light.

MADDIE

Is it over?

TOM

I think so.

SONIC

(eagerly)

So, who's ready for our first family road trip?

Tom and Maddie exchange a sad but knowing look with
each other. Who's going to let him down?

TOM

(very gently)

You do realize that monster truck show is
tomorrow night, right?

SONIC

(still enthused)

I know! Isn't it great?

MADDIE

Magic City Arena is in Billings. That's a
three-hour drive from here, not counting

the three hours back the other direction.
That's a long day of driving.

SONIC

Alright! How about... We stay the night there!
Drive back on Monday morning?

MADDIE

Tom and I have work on Monday, and you
have school.

SONIC

Then I'll just run there by myself.

TOM

(firm)

No.

SONIC

(pleading)

Aw, c'mon! You guys never let me go anywhere
outside of Green Hills!

MADDIE

That's because you're safe here.

SONIC

Safe from what!? Robotnik's gone!

TOM

It's a miracle the government hasn't sent
any other maniacal scientists here looking
for you...

SONIC

But--

TOM

(interrupting)

I promise I'll take you to the monster truck show
next year.

SONIC

Next year!? I can't wait that long!
Please, I really want to go.

MADDIE

You can't always get what you want.
Sonic's irises begin to glow blue.

SONIC

Oh yeah? What are you gonna do, stop me?

MADDIE

Excuse me!?

TOM

Hey! Lose that bad attitude right now.

SONIC

Or what?
The blue light brightens as a few sparks of blue
energy run down his back.
Tom stands up, towering over Sonic.

TOM

Okay. You're grounded. Go to your cave.

SONIC

What?! What is grounded!?
Maddie stands beside Tom.

MADDIE

It means you're in big trouble. You're
spending the rest of today in your cave.
Sonic tries to hold down his emotions, but his eyes are
glowing brighter.

SONIC

What? That's ridiculous!

TOM

Okay then. Now you're grounded for the rest of the weekend.

SONIC

What?!

TOM

If you don't want more, then go upstairs.

SONIC

You can't tell me what to do!

Sonic stomps his foot, and Tom pulls Maddie behind him as a spark of electricity arcs, barely missing them.

Tom steps forward, glaring down at him.

TOM

When you live under my roof, yes, I can tell you what to do.

Sonic steps back, looking between Tom and Maddie, but they stand their ground. He realizes he's lost this battle.

SONIC

Then maybe I don't want to live under your roof anymore!

Tom and Maddie are blown back onto the couch by the force of Sonic's speed, the front door slamming loudly behind him, rattling the entire house, causing a bunch of picture frames to fall, one of them cracking as it hits the floor. It is a picture of all of them together.

MADDIE

You okay?

Maddie helps him up.

TOM

What on Earth possessed me to take in a
super-powered teenager from another
planet?

MADDIE

Because you love him.

She pulls him into a tight hug. He sighs.

MADDIE

(continuing)

And I do too. He's just got some growing
up to do. He's had to take care of himself
for the last ten years.

TOM

I know. I'll go after him.

MADDIE

Do you want me to come?

TOM

No, stay here - in case he comes back.

MADDIE

I'll call you if he does.

FADE OUT:

END SCENE