

Petropolis Season 1 presents:

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE-FREEZE!

Written by

Sita Dally

INT. DR. BARKMAN'S LAB- DAY

DR. BARKMAN (M) presses his paws, curled into twin fists, on his desk, landing them on the MIND CONTROL MACHINE BLUEPRINTS, crinkling them in the process.

Across the desk, a near complete MIND CONTROL MACHINE sits on the floor.

PEEP (4 M), CLAW (F), and SLEDGEHAMMER (M) enter.

PEEP
Doctor Barkman. I see the Mind
Control Machine is almost
completed.

DR BARKMAN
(tired)
Yes, Peep.

Peep hisses.

PEEP
Professor Peep, Doctor. Professor!

Dr. Barkman shrugs, slumps onto the desk.

CLAW
Answer him!

DR. BARKMAN
Yes, Professor Peep, sir.

Peep purrs, walks toward the MIND CONTROL MACHINE.

PEEP
Doctor, what else is left?

Dr. Barkman lifts his head up, stares at Peep.

DR. BARKMAN
I have no idea.

CLAW
No idea?! This is an outrage! An
outrage!

Sledgehammer grunts. Peep glares at Dr. Barkman, takes a breath.

PEEP

We are two days ahead of schedule.
This could be complete today, and
the state of Middle Dakota will all
be mine! MWA HA HA HA HA!

Dr. Barkman stares at him.

DR. BARKMAN

Are you done yet, sir? I have work
to do.

Claw and Sledgehammer drop their mouths wide open.

CLAW

Sire! Are you not going to do
anything?! This level of disrespect
shall not be tolerated!

Peep places a claw on his beard.

PEEP

Very well, Doctor. I will give you
the rest of the day to figure
out... *whatever* it is you have to
do.

Dr. Barkman exhales.

PEEP (CONT'D)

However, if you don't figure it out
by the end of the day, you will be
punished. *Severely*.

Peep turns to Claw and Sledgehammer. They all exit together.
Claw glares at Dr. Barkman on the way out.

The lab door closes. Dr. Barkman continues staring at the
blueprints.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM- DAY

Clutter is sprawled everywhere, unwashed clothes spill out of
a hamper, a large ceiling fan blows out air at maximum speed.
The door to the bedroom is left wide open.

ALEX (12 F) throws herself onto her bed. She places a sweaty
hand to her face.

ALEX

It's so hot! I'm melting!

ELLA (O.S.)
Benji, I've told you this before.
No shoes in the house.

Alex jumps up from her bed and skedaddles to her bedroom door.

ALEX'S POV: BENJI (13 M), clad with his trusty backpack, several layers of sun protection, and a pair of clean sneakers on him, walks around the hallway. Following him is their mother ELLA (40s F), barefoot, with a cellphone in her hand.

INT. CAMPBELL HALLWAY- DAY

Benji turns to Ella.

BENJI
Amma! I'm just being careful. You
never know what could happen.

Ella catches up to Benji, places her hand on his cheek.

ELLA
Aiyo! Benji, you think too much.
Our home is perfectly safe.

BENJI
But- but, Amma! I can't!

Ella hugs him.

ELLA
It's okay.

Benji sighs.

BENJI
Okay.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM- DAY

ALEX'S POV: Benji takes off his shoes. Ella looks in Alex's direction.

ALEX
(muttering)
Shoot!

Ella and Benji walk toward Alex.

ELLA
Alex, is there something wrong?

Alex looks around and groans.

ALEX
Amma, it's like a million degrees
in here.

Ella hums. She looks over Alex's shoulder, sees the absolute mess that Alex's room is in. Her cheeks turn beet red.

ELLA
Alexis! Your room is a pigsty! Did
a tornado go all over your room?

ALEX
(whines)
Amma! It's not that big of a deal!

ELLA
(raises her voice)
Not that big of a deal? NOT THAT
BIG OF A DEAL?!

ALEX
(whispers)
Uh oh.

BENJI
Ha ha.

Alex sees him, glares.

Ella turns her head at him. Benji gulps and leaves the hallway.

Ella turns her head back to Alex.

ELLA
Young lady, I do not want you to do
anything until this room is
spotless.

ALEX
But-

ELLA
No buts.

Alex exhales, looks down at the floor.

ALEX
Yes, Amma.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM- DAY

Alex pulls out unfinished homework assignments from under her bed. She sees children playing from outside her window, drops the assignments to the ground. She goes to her window and places her cheek on it, sighs.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK- DAY

Sledgehammer, in an ice cream truck employee uniform, drives the truck. Claw, Peep, and WALLACE (M) sit in the passenger seats.

THUD! The truck hits a curb.

Claw and Peep swerve in their seats. Wallace's face is green.

WALLACE
Watch the road mutt!

Claw and Peep glare at him.

CLAW
Only we get to call him that,
earthworm.

Wallace sinks into his seat.

Claw climbs out of her chair and hops onto Peep's. They whisper to each other

CLAW (CONT'D)
Sire, why is Wallace here?

Peep grits his teeth.

PEEP
Claw, we've been over this. We sell the ice cream to the humans to get them used to the cold. So when we use the freeze ray on Middle Dakota, the humans will be easier to control!

Claw hesitates.

CLAW
Yes, sire. I understand that, but this plan just seems so *random*. We need to focus on getting that ungrateful doctor to hurry up on finishing the mind control machine!

PEEP

Dearest Claw, I understand your frustrations. Unfortunately, I cannot make that doctor hurry up any faster. This is... Plan B.

Claw clasps her front feet together.

CLAW

Understood, sire. However, I still do not understand why *Wallace* is here?

Peep shrugs.

PEEP

Easy, Wallace is quite a rich fellow.

Claw looks back and forth between Peep and Wallace. She nods her head.

SLEDGEHAMMER (O.S.)

Hmph.

The truck stops.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD- IMMEDIATELY AFTER

Groups of children flock toward the ice cream truck.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK- DAY

Peep, Wallace, and Claw stack on top of one another- disguising themselves as an ice cream scooper. All three take on the hordes of customers.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM- SAME TIME

Alex's POV: MUSIC blares outside. An ICE CREAM TRUCK pulls up in front of her neighbor's house. Groups of kids flock to the truck.

GRR- Alex's stomach growls, she clutches it.

ALEX

So hungry.

She looks around at her continually messy room.

ALEX (CONT'D)
How did it get worse?!

KNOCK-KNOCK! Benji stands under the doorframe, places his left hand on it. He grimaces.

BENJI
What happened?

Alex pinches the bridge of her nose.

ALEX
Don't ask.

BENJI
Do you want any ice cream?

Alex stares at him and grins, shakes her head up and down.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM- CONTINUOUS

Benji and Alex begin to leave the room. Out of the corner of Alex's eye, she sees:

INSERT: CLAW'S HAND GIVING ICE CREAM TO A CHILD

ALEX
Claw. Come on, we have to stop her!

Alex runs out of the room.

BENJI
Oh, man!

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD- DAY

Benji and Alex run toward the ice cream truck.

ALEX
STOP!

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK- DAY

Wallace sees Alex.

WALLACE
Sorry folks, but we're closed now.

Ah man.
KID #1

Phooey.
KID #2

The groups of kids disperse from the ice cream truck.

CLAW
Earth Worm! What is the meaning of
this?

WALLACE
Campbell humans incoming.

Peep's eyes widen.

PEEP
Quick! Close the window. Now!

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD- SAME

Alex and Benji continue running toward the ice cream truck.

ALEX
Peep, Claw! We won't let you get
away with this!

She gets closer to the truck window.

INT. ICE CREAM TRUCK- DAY

PEEP
Hurry, you imbeciles!

Claw shuts the window just as Alex stops in front of it.

Wallace slithers to Sledgehammer.

WALLACE
Drive!

Sledgehammer ignores him. Peep runs over to Sledgehammer.

PEEP
Drive Sledgehammer!

Sledgehammer grunts, speeds the car out.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD- DAY

Alex continues chasing after the car, but it speeds away too fast. Benji catches up to her, panting.

ALEX
Come on! Let's go!

BENJI
(in between panting)
Wait, Alex. Give me a second.

Alex counts to one.

ALEX
Okay, now let's go!

BENJI
Alex, aren't you supposed to be
cleaning your room for Mom?

Alex flicks her wrist.

ALEX
That'll have to wait.

They run off.

BEGIN MONTAGE

INT. CAMPBELL GARAGE- DAY

Alex grabs her skateboard and Benji grabs his bike. They
chase after the ice cream truck.

EXT. MIDDLE DAKOTA MAIN ROADS- DAY

- Sledgehammer drives the ice cream truck at a rapid speed.
Peep, Wallace, and Claw continue giving ice cream to Middle
Dakota residents.

- Alex and Benji try catching up to the truck, but keep
missing it.

- Alex and Benji run into MARCO (26 M) and EDDIE JUNIOR (F)
messing with a gadget.

PAUSE MONTAGE

EXT. MAIN ROADS- CONTINUOUS

ALEX
Marco, Junior! I'm so glad to see
you!

JUNIOR
Hi, y'all! Marco and I are just
testin' out his newest doo-hickey.
A... uh-

Marco grins.

MARCO
A Small Bigfoot Treasure Hunting
Magnet! Great idea, isn't it?

Benji and Alex exchange looks. Benji moves his hand,
hesitates.

BENJI
It's certainly an intriguing one.

Alex throws her hands up.

ALEX
We don't have time for this! Peep,
Claw, and who knows how many other
W.H.I.S.K.E.R.S. agents are all in
an ice cream truck, and we have to
stop them!

Junior raises a front foot.

JUNIOR
Stop them from doing what, pardner?

ALEX
I don't know.

RING RING. Benji rings his bike's bell.

BENJI
Time to go guys!

Alex, Junior, and Marco nod. The four ride off.

RESUME MONTAGE

EXT. MAIN ROADS- LATER

- Sledgehammer drives the truck further through the town.
- Marco, Benji, Alex, and Junior ride through various streets until they see the ice cream truck again.
- Peep, Wallace, and Claw sell more ice cream to town residents.
- Alex tries warning everyone about the ice cream, but everyone ignores her.
- Benji sees Steph at a bookstore, almost goes in. Junior, now on his shoulder, bites his hand.

BENJI

Ow!

JUNIOR

Sorry pardner.

Benji nods, continues biking after Alex.

- The sun begins to set.

- Sledgehammer drives toward the center of town. Parks the truck.

- Alex, Benji, Marco, and Junior catch up. All stop in front of the truck.

END MONTAGE

EXT. TOWN CENTER- SUNSET

Peep, Claw, Sledgehammer, and Wallace all step out of the ice cream truck.

CLAW

Alexis, so we meet again.

ALEX

(grits teeth)

It's Alex.

WALLACE

Now I see where sire gets his temperament from.

ALEX

Shut up Wallace!

PEEP

Shut up Wallace!

Claw walks toward them. Marco squeaks. Junior places her front paw on Marco.

BENJI

Peep-

PEEP

Professor Peep.

BENJI

- what are you even doing with an ice cream truck?

Peep strokes his beard.

PEEP

Why would I tell you that, human?

Wallace slithers in between Peep and Benji.

WALLACE

Yeah, *human*. What makes you think
that you are worthy of the
knowledge of our great leader Peep?
The greatest genius of our-

Claw whacks him with her fist.

CLAW

Oh, enough of this already. Sledge,
seize them!

EXT. TOWN CENTER- SUNSET

Sledgehammer charges toward Benji, Alex, Marco, and Junior.

Marco and Junior jump one way, Alex and Benji jump the other.

Peep chases after Alex, Sledgehammer after Benji, Claw after
Marco, and Wallace after Junior.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - LATER

In section 1:

Sledgehammer charges after Benji. Benji runs and dodges him.
He tries pulling out different items from his backpack, but
Sledgehammer catches up to him too quickly.

EXT. TOWN CENTER- SUNSET

In section 2:

Claw jumps onto Marco's face.

MARCO

AAAAAHHHH!

He stumbles backward.

EXT. TOWN CENTER- SAME

In section 3:

DAYDREAM-

TUMBLEWEED RUMBLES. WILD WEST MUSIC PLAYS.

Junior, brandished with a cowboy hat and lasso, stares down at Wallace.

Wallace, in a darker cowboy hat, trembles across her.

Junior, looking down, tilts her head up. She smirks.

BACK TO REALITY

Junior runs to Wallace with her lasso.

WALLACE
(shrieks)
No! Please! I concede! I concede!

Junior pauses.

JUNIOR
(frowns)
Really?

WALLACE
(crying)
Yes! Please, spare me!

Junior blinks.

JUNIOR
Okay.

She runs off.

Wallace exhales.

EXT. TOWN CENTER- SUNSET

In section 4:

Peep and Alex walk around in circles.

ALEX
Peep, you have to stop this!

PEEP
Never, my dear Alex.

A beat.

ALEX
Alright, I guess I'm just going to
have to do this the hard way.

She approaches Peep.

PEEP
No! No! Please!

Alex continues walking toward him. Peep squeals.

EXT. TOWN CENTER- LATER

Back in section 1...

Benji places his hand on a table.

BENJI
That crazy dog won't stop.

He pants heavily, sweat drips down his face. He takes off his backpack, looks inside.

INSERT: TENNIS BALL

Benji grabs the ball.

Sledgehammer runs toward him.

Benji climbs onto the table, closes his eyes.

As Sledgehammer is running toward him, he slowly raises his arm with the tennis ball in hand.

Sledgehammer, now at the foot of the table, begins to crawl up.

Benji opens his eyes.

BENJI (CONT'D)
(prepares for the throw)
Here boy! Let's play-

A beat.

BENJI (CONT'D)
-ball!

The tennis ball flies out of his hand. Sledgehammer sprints toward the ball.

Benji grabs his backpack and slips away.

EXT. TOWN CENTER- SAME

Meanwhile, in section 2...

Claw continues attacking Marco.

MARCO
(as he's getting attacked)
Agh. Ow. Ugh!

Claw hisses.

Marco uses his hands to try and pull her away from him.

MARCO (CONT'D)
(to himself)
How can something so tiny be so
evil?

Claw proceeds in her attacks against Marco.

CLAW (V.O.)
Why am I always stuck with the
idiot?

	BENJI (O.S.)		JUNIOR (O.S.)
Marco!		Marco!	

Marco looks up to see-

BAM! Junior kicks Claw away from Marco.

Benji rushes over to him.

BENJI (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

Marco nods.

MARCO
Thanks, Junior!

Junior ties Claw to a tree, walks back to Marco and Benji.

JUNIOR
No problem, pardner.

MARCO
What happened to Wallace?

Junior shudders.

BENJI
Don't ask.

MARCO
Noted.

EXT. TOWN CENTER- SUNSET

Section 4:

Alex rubs Peep behind his ears. He purrs loudly.

PEEP
(between purrs)
Stop that! Stop that this instant!

ALEX
Not until you tell me what you were
planning to do.

He purrs.

PEEP
Never!

Alex continues rubbing behind his ears.

Benji, Marco, and Junior walk over to Alex.

MARCO
(whispers to Junior)
I guess she didn't need us after
all.

JUNIOR
(also whispering)
Her way with animals never fails to
impress me.

Peep slips away from Alex's grasp, pulls a machine out of his beard.

PEEP
You have fallen into my trap!

ALEX
I knew you were up to something!

PEEP
Of course my dear Alex, the ice
cream was merely a ploy. All to get
you humans to get used to the cold,
before I turn Middle Dakota into a
great frozen tundra!

Peep laughs maniacally.

Benji, Marco, and Junior hold on to each other and
simultaneously gulp.

Peep presses a button.

Alex, Junior, Benji, and Marco all flinch.

pop!

A small ice cube.

Peep growls.

PEEP (CONT'D)
An ice cube?! That's it?!

Alex, Benji, Marco, and Junior all slip away as Peep continues rambling.

FADE TO:

END CREDITS

INT. DR. BARKMAN'S LAB- NIGHT

The floor is littered with wadded paper balls. Dr. Barkman grazes his paw up his face.

DR. BARKMAN
What does it mean?

He throws another wad of paper onto the floor. He stares at the MIND CONTROL MACHINE.

He darts his eyes around the room when he sees:

INSERT: A CORKSCREW.

Dr. Barkman smirks.

DR. BARKMAN (CONT'D)
This is it!

He walks to the shelf, grabs the corkscrew, and puts it into the mind control machine.

The machine ILLUMINATES.

DR. BARKMAN (CONT'D)
(singsong)
Lightbulb!

FADE TO BLACK.