

INVADER ZIM  
#31A  
"The Return of Keef"  
By  
Danielle Koenig

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Record Draft, Rev. 1

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EXT. SKOOL PLAYGROUND - DAY

Hiding behind a tree, Dib takes notes as he watches an odd-looking child play on the monkey bars.

DIB

Subject Woozly: possible werewolf or-  
HEY!!

Dib is suddenly splashed with a blue liquid. He turns to see a beaming ZIM holding an empty container.

ZIM

HAH! Prepare for the end, Dib! You've just been splashed with my most diabolical creation EVER!

DIB (TERRIFIED)

AAARGH!! IT BURNS!! I'M MELTING!

ZIM (CONFUSED)

Wait...that's not what it does.

DIB (NOT TERRIFIED)

Oh, oh yeah. So what DOES it do?

ZIM (GLEEFULLY EVIL AGAIN)

It causes anyone who gets happy to blow up! MUAHAHAHAHAHAH!!

DIB

But I'm NEVER that happy, especially when I'm covered in goo.

ZIM looks at his empty bucket and looks back at Dib.

ZIM

You may have won the war, Dib, but you have not won the...the thing bigger than war. I will create more happy popping juice and sneak up on you when you're happy!

\*

DIB

I won't be happy until you're destroyed!

ZIM (FLUSTERED)

NEVER!! NEVERRR!!! AAAAGH!!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZIM storms off. Dib looks after him, smug. When Dib turns to walk away, he sees KEEF standing just an inch away from him.

KEEF

Wow, Dib you're so lucky to be friends with ZIM! I was friends with ZIM once. Those were the best days of my life!

DIB

Friends? Um, actually-

KEEF (DREAMY)

Isn't he just the best?!

DIB

Look Keef-

(getting an idea)

You know what, ZIM is the best. And I have something that'll make him really happy. Wanna help?

KEEF

Boy, DO I!? If I make him happy, ZIM might even let me come near him again without taking my organs out! YAY!

DIB

Great, here's all you have to do! Just take this BRAIN ROTTER, and put it on ZIM's head! Easy! ZIM loves these.

Keef lets out a shrill squeal of joy and takes the BRAIN ROTTER. He runs toward ZIM. Dib smiles.

Keef, in his wild enthusiasm, runs into ZIM, accidentally attaching the Brain Rotter to ZIM's ass.

KEEF (cont'd)

Hey buddy! It sure has been awhile, huh?

ZIM plucks the device off and glares at KEEF, who just smiles. ZIM sees Dib hiding in the distance.

Still **hiding**, Dib is surprised when KEEF slides in on his face, having been tossed by ZIM. As soon as Dib looks for where ZIM went, ZIM, out of nowhere, clamps the device on Dib's head. Dib runs around, screaming.

DIB

ARGH! BRAINS...MELTING!

ZIM laughs and walks off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KEEF

WOW, look! He really IS happy!

Keef drags Dib off.

INT. DIB'S HOUSE - LATER THAT DAY

Dib enters, a bandage around his head. He stops short when he sees Gaz, Membrane and Keef watching TV. Only Keef notices Dib.

KEEF

Heya, pal!

(to Gaz)

That's my friend Dib.

Gaz growls. Dib pulls Keef aside.

DIB

KEEF?! Um...I don't think us being friends is gonna work out. Go home.

KEEF

Oh, okay Dib. I gotcha.

Dib breathes a sigh of relief and heads to his room.

INT. DIB'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dib flicks on the light and is shocked to see Keef sitting on a new, second bed across from Dib's own. Dib's room has been converted into a cheery happy place. Keef sits on HIS bed and reads comics. Dib gasps.

KEEF

Welcome to your room Dib! All that dark, spooky stuff was making you sad.

DIB

WHAT THE?!! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!!

KEEF

Aww..SOMEONE I know is GRUUUM-PEE! You get some rest so we can play with ZIM some more tomorrow.

DIB

ZIM and I are not friends Keef! I wouldn't be friends with him if he were the last person on Earth! And he's not even a person!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dib throws Keef out of his window and buries him in all of his happy KEEF posters and such..

EXT. MEMBRANE'S FRONT YARD

KEEF (SHOCKED)

Weeeee! ZIM and Dib aren't friends? I'm going to make them friends, and they'll be so happy, they'll like me even more!

\*

EXT. ZIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

GIR is sitting in the yard, holding a fishing rod. KEEF walks up and sees GIR.

KEEF

Hey, GIR!

GIR's eyes light up, and he just points at KEEF, letting out a joyous squeal of recognition.

KEEF

I missed you too! I need you to do something very important. You need to tell ZIM to invite Dib over for dinner.

GIR holds his head in his hands, shocked. He makes a joyous, shocked squeal of insanity.

KEEF

But GIR, it will make ZIM happy and you want him to be happy, right?

GIR bounces happily, and squeals like never before. HE gives KEEF a lunatic thumbs up and runs into his house.

INT. ZIM'S LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

ZIM berates GIR.

ZIM

Invite my filthy nemesis to sup at ZIM's base?! Into MY base for foodening?!

\*

GIR

But he so nice. You just gotta give him a chance, and open up his head and sleep in it like a squishy little bed.

ZIM

WHAT? Look, NO. Invite Dib over...that's insane, even for YOU.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIR shrugs and walks away. ZIM watches him, suspiciously.

EXT. ZIM'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Keef has been looking in the window.

KEEF

Hmm...I'll just have to think of something else.

MONTAGE

- EXT. ZIM'S HOUSE

Keef, holding a bunch of balloons, rings ZIM's doorbell. ZIM opens the door and sees the tag reads "TO ZIM FROM DIB." ZIM grabs a vacuum pump, sucks up all the air from the balloons and uses it to blow Keef off his property.

- INT. MEMBRANE FAMILY BATHROOM

A messy, just awaked Dib walks into the bathroom to brush his teeth and is startled to see ZIM behind him in the mirror. Dib trips and falls in the toilet. It turns out to be a cutout of ZIM, with a word balloon that reads " I sure do like you!" Dib looks out the bathroom window and sees giggling, sneaky Keef running away from Dib's house.

- INT. SKOOL HALLWAY - THE NEXT DAY

ZIM and Dib eye each other as they walk in opposite directions down the hallway. Suddenly, they are inexplicably drawn to each other and collide with a sick thud. They are stuck together as kids laugh at them. Keef walks by and smiles. Dib and ZIM look in their backpacks and find them loaded with magnets. They look at each other confused and then, with anger, turn their collective gaze down the hall toward Keef. They then struggle to detach themselves.

EXT. DIB'S ROOF - NIGHT

Dib looks through a telescope. Through a telescope's POV, we see a beautifully calm distant planet. The telescope view pans down to see KEEF (accompanied by scary music) merrily approaching Dib's house. Dib panics and goes to his laptop.

DIB

(to himself)

Oh no Keef, you're not getting anywhere near my house. The security system is on and-

\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He turns to see Keef down below holding a megaphone (but still screaming as though he weren't).

DIB (cont'd)

Ahhh!

KEEF

Hi, BUDDY! I've got news for you Dib.  
(loud whisper)  
Top secret news.

DIB

Don't your parents wonder where you are?

KEEF

Yeah. Anyhow, my news is about ZIM.

DIB

Yeah, yeah he's a great guy, I know.

KEEF (OBVIOUSLY BEING SNEAKY)

That's true, but the news is he's ready to talk to you. He wants to admit to being a ghost or whatever.

DIB (NOT BUYING IT)

Oh he does, does he?

KEEF

He sure does. He's just bursting with wanting-to-tell-you-ness. Are you bursting with wanting-to-hear-it-ness?

DIB

(flat)  
Yes. Yes, I am.

KEEF

Great. ZIM will meet you tomorrow night at 7:00 at McMeaties.

DIB

The McMeaties on Maple?

KEEF

No. \*

DIB

The one on Haverford? \*

KEEF

Uh-uh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DIB  
The Greenbush one?

KEEF  
No. This is fun!

DIB (LOSING IT)  
No it isn't Keef! It isn't fun at all!  
Which McMeaties?!

KEEF  
The other one on Maple.

DIB  
Fine.

Dib goes back to his laptop and presses some more buttons. Down below, a giant scoop-like mechanism picks Keef up and tosses him across the city.

KEEF (cont'd) (O.S.)  
(flying)  
See ya buddy!

\*

Dib uses his laptop to dial a number. It rings.

INT. MCMEATY'S - THE NEXT NIGHT

Dib enters and sees ZIM, none-too-pleased, sitting at a booth. Dib walks up to him. GIR, sitting on ZIM's shoulder, eats his food from the top of ZIM's head. Dib sits down. The scene rivals the diner scene in Heat- sort of. Dib and ZIM speak awkwardly as their eyes dart around, aware of being watched. GIR's chewing can be heard throughout.

ZIM  
So, uh, here we are.

DIB  
Yep. Keef says you wanted to tell me something.

ZIM  
Yes, yes. I sure do.

\*

DIB  
Isn't Keef just great?

\*

ZIM  
Boy oh boy, yes...So, I'm an alien.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

DIB

Hmm..I thought so. Well thanks for letting me know. Now we can be friends forever.

\*

The two squirm and wince as they shake hands. Keef jumps in from out of nowhere, excited and beaming!

KEEF

I DID IT! You guys are friends now! YAY!

DIB (MUTTERING)

That's right.

ZIM (MUTTERING)

We sure are.

KEEF

I knew it! Now we can ALL be best friends, and hang out all the time, and we can rent an apartment in the city, and get a car with three steering wheels and buy footy pajamas and-

DIB (SUDDENLY FRANTIC)

Oh no! Footy pajamas! ZIM! THE PLAN! NOW!!

\*

ZIM pulls out another container of the happiness goo, the very same he used on Dib earlier.

ZIM

AHAAA!!

ZIM splashes Keef with the blue liquid. Nothing happens.

KEEF

-and we'll spin around and get sick, because that's just so fun, and we'll get jobs fixing copier machines, and oh, it'll be- (extended dialogue)

\*

\*

DIB (THROUGH GRITTED TEETH)

Nothing seems to be happening.

ZIM (TEETH EQUALLY GRITTED)

He must not be happy enough. We're gonna have to make him happier.

DIB (DREAD AND DISGUST)

You mean...?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ZIM (MUCH DISGUST AND HATE)

Yes....

ZIM reluctantly stands up. Dib starts a weak game of paddy cake with him. Their hands are all over the place and they're mumbling different words. (overlapping extended dialogue) It's pathetic.

\*  
\*

KEEF

OH WOW! LOOKIT THAT! You're even better friends than I thought! WOW!!

DIB (STRAINED)

He's still not popping.

ZIM (HURTING)

We'll have to do more.

ZIM angrily begins an awkward jig. Dib locks his arm with ZIM's and jigs right along with him.

KEEF

YAAAY! SO HAPPY!! SO HAPPEEE!!!

DIB

I think he's almost there.

(loudly)

ZIM, you are the best friend a guy could have. What with your smart...arms and nice sense of... evil.

ZIM

Thank you, good friend Dib. You too are a pile of friendship and a wonderful display of human boy...nice.

Keef, smiling huge, starts to shake but will not pop. In slo-mo, Dib and ZIM move toward a hug. This is intercut with Keef's increasing shaking. Finally, ZIM and Dib hug.

Back to real time, ZIM and Dib watch slack-jawed as the insanely happy KEEF pops like a balloon. The crowd in the restaurant gasps, until KEEF reforms looking woozy.

KEEF

It's okay everybody. I'm alright.

KEEF passes out.

ZIM and Dib, still hugging, realize what they're doing, kick at each other and separate, looking sick.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ZIM

Ahem...He'll be out for a few weeks, so I  
guess that's that.

ZIM and Dib head out of the restaurant. GIR still sits on  
ZIM's head.

EXT. MCMEATYS - CONTINUOUS

DIB

Hey, you admitted to being an alien!

ZIM

That was just part of the act.

Dib pulls out a little minicamera.

DIB (SUDDENLY EVIL)

But I videotaped it!

ZIM

AGH! Is that hug on there as well? \*

DIB

Huh? Huh? Ahhhh! \*

Dib looks at the camera horrified. He shrieks and smashes  
the camera on the floor. ZIM takes the opportunity to kick  
Dib on the butt, knocking him to the floor. ZIM runs off,  
and Dib, furious, chases him. \*

END.