EXT. BURNT HILL CIRCLE – NIGHT A

A stone circle, ancient and huge.

FX SHOT: The circle against a fabulous star-filled sky.

Two figures in robes, ROBERT FRANCE (40s) and 13 year old son MARK, new to this, eyes big with wonder, assisting.

ROBERT
By the Fire of the Sun, the Rage of
the Sea, the Fury of the Wind...

MARK
Now, dad?

ROBERT
Yes, now, Mark. Now.

Mark, nervous, casts powder into a burner carved into the rock on the circle’s altar stone. There’s a burst of red PRAC SMOKE. Robert raises an elaborately decorated RING above his head.

ROBERT (CONT’D)
I call upon the Eye of Questoroth
to look upon this Ring of Healing
and give it the power to cure.

FX SHOT: The stones start to GLOW. Energy building. Magical script appears on them as they glow.

MARK
The stones! They – they’re glowing!

Robert enjoys his son’s wonder for a moment.

ROBERT
You never forget the first time you see the Power of Magic.

FX SHOT: Energy leaps stone to stone like magical lightning.

ROBERT (CONT’D)
Now be quiet, wizardry is ten per cent invocation and ninety per cent concentration.

As PRAC WIND blows around them Robert raises his arms.

ROBERT (CONT’D)
Questoroth come to me! Questoroth,
I summon thee!

As Mark searches the sky - and suddenly sees something -

(CONTINUED)
MARK
There!

ROBERT
It’s coming! The Eye of Questoroth!

FX SHOT: A shooting star - heading for the circle.

MARK
Dad, are you sure that’s the Eye of Questoroth?

ROBERT
Of course. What else could it be?

Robert bows his head.

ROBERT (CONT’D)
Oh, Questoroth!

FX SHOT: The light gets bigger. And it’s REVOLVING!

MARK
It - it looks like a spaceship!

ROBERT
What do you mean, a spaceship?

MARK
An alien spaceship.

ROBERT
Don’t be ridiculous. There are no such things as aliens!

MARK
Try telling them that!

ROBERT
For the last time, there are no -

And he looks up, sees -

FX SHOT: A SPACECRAFT! Flying saucer-style. Awesome!

ROBERT (CONT’D)
... It’s impossible...

FX SHOT: The spacecraft hovers over the circle. Huge.

FX SHOT: Blinding LIGHT bursts out from beneath it.

Robert drops the ring, as they are bathed in PRAC LIGHT.

MARK
Dad!

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

FX SHOT: They vanish into the blinding light.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. ARRIVAL CHAMBER – NIGHT

ROBERT and MARK open their eyes – come face to face with –
An alien creature – a NEKROSS. VARG – In its hand is a gun –
hard-core yet strange tech. It’s very alien and deadly.

VARG
Earthlings. Welcome to the starship
Zarantulus.

ROBERT
What – what do you want?

Varg’s head trunks twitch and react to the wizards.

VARG
Magic!

Varg closes. Robert and Mark scream!

CUT TO:

TITLES

EXT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. FOOTBALL FIELD – DAY

A school football match. King’s Park against Darwin High.
KIDS screaming support from the sidelines.

TOM CLARKE (16) good-looking, athletic. Near the penalty box.

TOM
Quinn! To me!

QUINN CHRISTOPHER passes the ball –

KATIE LORD (16) screams support with the other spectators –

KATIE
Go, Tom!

Close to Katie, BENNY SHERWOOD (16) bit of a geek –

BENNY
Come on, King’s Park

- A DEFENDER tackles Tom – the ball is kicked out. Narrowly
misses Benny.

A teacher on the sidelines, MISS WEBSTER, yells.

(CONTINUED)
MISS WEBSTER
King’s Park! We need a winner!

Quinn gets ready to take the throw-in.

Benny checks his watch — it’s a mass of dials and things.

BENNY
Time’s almost up! Come on!

Quinn throws to Tom — who takes the ball up the wing —

SPECTATORS
Go on, Tom!... Get in there, Tom!... Come on, Tom!

MICHAEL CLARKE (42), a good looking and capable man, shouts encouragement.

MICHAEL
Make it count, Tom!

Tom shoots — kicks high. As the keeper prepares to save, everyone’s eyes are on the ball sailing through the air —

TOM
(whispers)
Maah-gann dah!

FX SHOT: MAGICAL ENERGY around Tom’s fingers as he CLICKS
FX SHOT: It SWERVES mid-air from the keeper into the net!

The whistle! King’s Park go wild. The TEAM swamps Tom.

As the keeper looks at the ball — bemused — what happened?!

QUINN
Mate, that was magic!

TOM
(grins)
Well, that’s me, isn’t it?!

As the team surrounds Tom in celebration.

TEAM
Tom! Tom! Tom!

But Tom feels Michael’s eyes on him — his dad isn’t happy.

CUT TO:
EXT. CLARKE HOUSE - DAY 1

APRIL AVENUE. A nice place to live. As Michael’s 4x4 parks at No. 23. MICHAEL and TOM jump out, Tom bouncing a football. Michael with a bag marked ‘VET’ from the back seat, not happy.

MICHAEL
You know the rule - no spells outside home.

TOM
Dad, we got through to the final.

MICHAEL
By using Magic - it wasn’t fair.

TOM
I just gave it a nudge.

MICHAEL
Was there a wizard on the other team?

TOM
No. Course not.

MICHAEL
So it was unfair. You cheated.

As Michael leads Tom into the house.

CUT TO:

INT. CLARKE HOUSE. KITCHEN/LOBBY - DAY 1

MICHAEL dumps his medical bag and pulls a bottle of cola from the fridge, still lecturing TOM.

MICHAEL
You have to be more careful, son. Magic isn’t for cheating at football or for doing your chores around the house.

As URSULA (a 64 year old firework with reading glasses perched on her head) walks in. Gives Tom a friendly wink.

URSULA
Well that’s fine coming from an Unenchanted with no Magic. What have you been up to, Tom.

(CONTINUED)
TOM
I used a spell. To help score a
goal. It got us through to the cup
final, Gran.

As Michael hunts without success for the bottle opener.

MICHAEL
The point is, what happens if
someone sees, Tom? If they find out
what you are?

TOM
So what’s the point of magic if you
can’t have a laugh with it?

URSULA
That’s a very good question. The
trick is to be careful where you
have the fun.

Michael is still hunting for the bottle opener.

MICHAEL
...And what’s happened to the
bottle opener?

URSULA
Unenchanteds, you’re so helpless!

She raps her cane -

URSULA (CONT’D)
Mass-fan-wann dah!

PRAC EFFECT: The bottle top pops off the cola.

PRAC EFFECT: More bottle tops around the kitchen pop off,
spraying contents everywhere.

Ursula, Michael and Tom take in the devastation.

PRAC EFFECT: One more bottle top pops off.

URSULA (CONT’D)
Oops. I think I have things I
should be doing in the Chamber.

She heads for the lobby, smiling Tom follows as she opens the
downstairs toilet door – just checking.

URSULA (CONT’D)
Nobody in there?

TOM
No. We’re all here, Gran.
URSULA
It’s only polite to check, Thomas.

And she closes the door and raps on it twice with the cane.

URSULA (CONT’D)
Chamber of Crowe open to me, reveal yourself on the knock of three.

She raps on the door once more. And it opens by itself - on to a dark, stone passageway lit by lanterns. There’s a distant cry from along the passageway - a bird crossed with a lizard.

Tom gazes, fascinated, though he’s seen this so often before -

TOM
Maybe I could come and help... with whatever you’ve got to do down there.

But Michael is in the kitchen doorway now.

MICHAEL
You’re a long way off ready for the Chamber of Mysteries, Tom.

TOM
But that’s where the big magic is.

MICHAEL
Maybe when you stop using magic to score goals you’ll be responsible enough for what’s in there.

Michael holds Tom’s stare. Part of Tom knows he is right.

URSULA
One day, Tom. Besides, it’s your mum’s birthday, and I think there’s something important you have to do.

Ursula gives him a sad smile-

URSULA (CONT’D)
Give her my love.

She enters the passageway and closes the door after her.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY 1

TOM
Happy birthday, mum.

MICHAEL
Happy birthday, honey.

But Tom is gazing at the headstone, deep in thought.

MICHAEL (CONT’D)
Are you all right, son?

TOM
You say Magic’s this great big thing. A gift. And I shouldn’t mess around with it. But what’s the point? Mum had Magic, but she still had to die.

Michael has asked himself the same question.

MICHAEL
There are some things Magic isn’t supposed to fix. That’s what your Gran told me back then. There are lines that wizards just can’t cross. Even for someone they love.

Tom looks back at the gravestone.

TOM
But you would’ve done, wouldn’t you? No matter what the rules said. If you’d been a wizard.

Michael regards his son, this isn’t easy...

MICHAEL
I loved your mum. She had a magic that had nothing to do with wizards. I’d have done anything to save her. But I don’t have Magic. And I can’t teach you everything you need to know. Things your mum could have taught you. About how to be what you are. What she was.

TOM
(smiles)
There’s Gran.

MICHAEL
(smiles)
Do you really want to turn yourself into a frog when you’re trying to cast a protection spell?

(CONTINUED)
They laugh together. But it doesn’t last long. Michael takes Tom’s shoulder.

MICHAEL (CONT’D)
Listen, Tom, there are more things to life than Magic. I’m an Unenchanted. I can’t teach you how to be a wizard, but maybe I can teach you the one thing that’s more important. How to be a good man.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE. THE MOON – DAY 1

FX SHOT: The MOON. As the CAMERA moves around it to the dark side – hanging in orbit: The NEKROSS SHIP.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK/DETENTION CELLS – DAY 1

VARG is at a control panel – graphics indicate the ship’s position behind the moon.

VARG
Maintaining geostationary orbit behind Earth’s Moon. It is a pitiful rock, but will hide our presence from the humans.

As a female Nekross, LEXI watches a video screen – on it ROBERT, alone in a wire cell, scared and angry.

ROBERT
What have you done with my son?!

VARG joins his sister LEXI.

LEXI
The human cries for its offspring like a Loogovian sea-cow.

VARG
Wizards are seldom physically impressive. But they have Magic.

As NEKROSS GUARDS bring in struggling MARK.

LEXI
Put the wizard into the Extractor.

Mark is dragged towards a capsule connected to a network of transparent piping, the EXTRACTOR.

(CONTINUED)
MARK
Get off me! Let me go!

LEXI
Struggle all you wish, wizard. It will add spice to the nourishment.

As the Guards load him into the capsule.

MARK
No! No!

VARG
Extract the Magic!

Mark is immobilized as a light shines on him. Lexi pulls on a lever. The Extractor comes to life. The machine HUMS.

FX SHOT: The pipes fill with swirling MAGICAL ESSENCE.

And from behind large closed doors, the NEKROSS KING -

NEKROSS KING (O.S.)
Feed me the Magic.

Varg and Lexi bow towards the closed doors.

VARG
As the King commands, so it is done.

Varg turns a handle -

FX SHOT: The MAGIC is piped behind the closed doors.

The Extractor shuts down. Mark, aged into OLD MARK, exhausted and very old.

LEXI
The wizard is drained.

OLD MARK
(meekly)
Dad?!?

He catches sight of his reflection in a monitor screen.

OLD MARK (CONT’D)
What have you monsters done to me?

And from behind the closed doors - GLUG! GLUG! GLUG! - The horrible sound of the unseen King feeding.

VARG
Is our father satisfied?

(CONTINUED)
NEKROSS KING (O.S.)
The Magic is good. We will find every wizard on this planet. And the Nekross shall feast!

CUT TO:

INT. CLARKE HOUSE. TOM’S BEDROOM – DAY 2

Typical 16 year old boy’s room – PC, dumped books, band posters, abandoned clothes. TOM still in bed as his alarm goes off. He mutters under the covers. His hand appears.

FX SHOT: Tom’s fingers click – MAGICAL ENERGY.

PRAC EFFECT: The clock flies at the wall.

Tom shrugs off his sheets – sees unfinished homework on his desk. Winces. Then grins.

CLOSE ON: Tom clicks his fingers.

TOM heads to the bathroom – the history books are open, the pages turning by themselves.

FX SHOT: His exercise book is magically filling with writing.

CUT TO:

EXT. HERITAGE SITE CAR PARK – DAY 2

MISS WEBSTER steps out of a SCHOOL BUS followed by kids, including TOM, BENNY, QUINN and KATIE. They all have clipboards. She’s in History Teacher Mode –

MISS WEBSTER
Remember, the Burnt Hill Stone Circle is a heritage monument.

QUINN
Yawn.

MISS WEBSTER
...It is neither a climbing frame, nor a Neolithic chalkboard.

(CONTINUED)
QUINN
No. It’s just a bunch of grimy old rocks.

TOM
Still better than being stuck in class.

BENNY
Actually, the stone circle is a neolithic observatory.

He has his phone pointing to the sky - using a stargazing app to check out the night-time sky.

BENNY (CONT’D)
Look at the star-scape you get from up here. It’s brilliant.

Quinn grabs Benny’s phone.

QUINN
You don’t need the stars to see your future, Benzoid. I can tell you. You’re going to be spending a long time hunting for your phone in those bushes.

Quinn makes as if to throw the phone away –

BENNY
Hey!

KATIE
Don’t tease him!

And Tom grabs the phone from Quinn - tosses it back to Benny.

TOM
Now geek off, Benny.

Benny tries for indignant, not victimized.

BENNY
Actually this is astronomy. That’s science. Not astrology - which is just plain sad.

As Miss Webster heads off.

MISS WEBSTER
This way! And I’ll be wanting detailed notes!

The kids follow her.
TOM
Hurry up, Benny. Miss Webster will be lonely without her pet.

Benny carries on, just ahead of Tom, Quinn and Katie. But making it clear he’s not running after the teacher.

KATIE
Any way, I thought standing stones were put up by Druids. People like that. For magical ceremonies. I mean, an observatory? How boring is that? But magic, now that’s cool.

Tom grins - he really likes Katie.

TOM
You think so?

Katie’s smile twinkles.

KATIE
Yeah. Course it is.

As BENNY interrupts -

BENNY
Magic’s a load of old Hogwarts.

TOM
Are you still here?

BENNY
I’m talking about science, Katie. Which, in case you missed chemistry this week, is real.

TOM
Couldn’t miss it, Benny, you nearly blew the class up. Again.

Tom, Quinn and Katie laughing at Benny as they carry on along the path.

CUT TO:

OMITTED

OMITTED

OMITTED
EXT. BURNT HILL CIRCLE. DAY 2

The STUDENTS come along the footpath – TOM with KATIE, QUINN and BENNY. As they get closer to the STONE CIRCLE, Tom stops –

FLASHBACK - Sc 1, ROBERT and MARK working Magic there.

KATIE sees Tom –

    KATIE
    Tom? Are you all right?

But it’s as if she’s in another world. Tom is transfixed.

FLASHBACK - Sc 1 - the energy build-up between the stones.

    TOM
    (dazed)
    Something happened here.

    QUINN
    What are you talking about?

    BENNY
    What’s going on?

(CONTINUED)
KATIE
He just went a bit... weird.
(to Tom)
You said something happened here?

On Tom again.

FLASHBACK: ROBERT and MARK staring upwards in horror.

Tom shakes the images in his head, tries to get a grip.

TOM
I mean in the past. I bet.

Quinn looks at Benny -

QUINN
Like human sacrifice. I knew there was a reason we brought Benny!

As MISS WEBSTER, at the stones with the others -

MISS WEBSTER
You four! Are you waiting for the stones to come to you?

As they join MISS WEBSTER and the rest of the group.

MISS WEBSTER (CONT’D)
Now, the purpose of the Circle, like Stonehenge, is unclear.

TOM
(whispers to Benny)
See. They don’t know what it is.

BENNY
(whispers to Tom)
Okay, well some people say they’re landing pads for alien spacecraft. How’s that for an explanation?

TOM
There’s no such thing as aliens.

On Tom.

FLASHBACK - Sc 1 - ROBERT and MARK vanish in the light.

(CONTINUED)

14.
TOM reels. Still not sure what he’s seeing, but freaked.

MISS WEBSTER
I want measurements and sketches.
Teams of two. Get on with it!

Tom looks around him; sees Katie is paired up with Quinn – it’s just him and Benny. Great (not)!

BENNY
Looks like we’re a team. So no messing about. Just because you don’t care about your grades doesn’t mean I have to miss out.

TOM
Being stuck with you is so totally * lame.

And the kids get to work. Grudgingly, Tom is with Benny –

BENNY
Don’t worry about it. Like I want anyone to think we’re mates. No way.

Tom bites his tongue – and unseen by Benny, Tom – finds the RING OF HEALING in the grass. As he picks it up it GLOWS with a PRAC light.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK. – DAY 2

Alarms! Lights flashing! Scanners activate on a console. LEXI reacts with excitement. VARG looking on.

LEXI
Scanners indicate a peak in Magical Energy at Target Zone Veta.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURNT HILL CIRCLE – DAY 2

And BENNY sees the PRAC glowing ring in Tom’s hand.

BENNY
Wow! Look at that!

Tom knows what it is – and Benny seeing it is bad news.

(CONTINUED)
It was in the grass.

Tom can't stop Benny taking it - instantly the glow dies.

What happened? It just stopped.

Tom is edgy.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK. - DAY 2

The alarms cut out. LEXI is confused as VARG joins her.

We have lost the trace.

From the behind the closed doors, the unseen NEKROSS KING - as he speaks the lit Nekross symbol on the doors flickers.

Varg, investigate this reading.

As the King commands, so it is done.

But, Father, I found the Magic...

And Varg is my first-born. He will be King. And you, Lexi, will not.

Varg smiles, Lexi simmers.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURNT HILL CIRCLE - DAY 2

TOM looks on uneasily as BENNY examines the ring.

It's just a piece of junk.

Benny pulls a magnifying glass from his bag.

No, this is freaky. It was glowing.

Trick of the light. Chuck it.

(CONTINUED)
As MISS WEBSTER’s phone goes; she gets it -

MISS WEBSTER
Hello? Hang on, reception is bad -

As she moves off and is lost to sight behind a stone.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK. - DAY 2

VARG at a console. LEXI watching.

VARG
I have locked on to a radio micro-wave transmission, Father.

NEKROSS KING (O.S.)
Despatch the Voolox.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURNT HILL CIRCLE - DAY 2

MISS WEBSTER - out of sight of the others, on her phone.

MISS WEBSTER
I’ll buy another sink plunger on the way home. How anybody can lose so many sink plungers I don’t know.

And there’s a weird electronic noise down the line.

MISS WEBSTER (CONT’D)
Can’t hear you. Speak up!

FX SHOT: A glow around MISS WEBSTER. Something materializing on her back - back pack-size, robotic. Gripping her shoulders and chest. A VOOLOX.

MISS WEBSTER reacts with shock, dropping her phone -

The Voolox locks on to her skull with a sucker. And it’s like she’s been turned off. Her eyes closed.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK - DAY 2

VARG at his console. LEXI beside him.

VARG
The human has been acquired.

(CONTINUED)
LEXI
Engaging invisibility mode.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURNT HILL CIRCLE - DAY 2
FX SHOT: The Voolox on MISS WEBSTER’s back turns invisible.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK. - DAY 2
VARG steps away from the console, on to a small platform.

VARG
Initiate Voolox control system.
LEXI hits a button and Varg is caught in a bright beam of PRAC light from above as the rest of the room darkens.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURNT HILL CIRCLE - DAY 2
MISS WEBSTER’s eyes open. Staring, vacant.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK - DAY 2
VARG in the beam of light.

VARG
Look to the left.
As Varg turns his head to the left -

CUT TO:

EXT. BURNT HILL CIRCLE - DAY 2
MISS WEBSTER turns her head, like an automaton, to the left.

CUT TO:
INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK - DAY 2
VARG
Look to the right.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURNT HILL CIRCLE - DAY 2
MISS WEBSTER turns her head to the right.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK. - DAY 2
VARG
I have control.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK. - DAY 2
MISS WEBSTER walks, assured, sinister. She rejoins the schoolkids, her head sweeping from side to side, searching...
As BENNY examines the ring with a magnifier from his bag -
BENNY
What sort of metal is that?
TOM
Tin? Come on, give it back.
BENNY
I thought you said it was junk?
TOM
Yeah - but I found it.
BENNY
I want to take it back to the lab. I can run some tests.
TOM
Tests? What sort of tests?
BENNY
I can get in there after school. Come, if you want.
TOM
I've got football.

Benny puts the ring in his pocket.

(CONTINUED)
BENNY

Up to you.

Tom is frustrated and concerned.

As Miss Webster continues to search...

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK. - DAY 2

VARG still in the light beam. LEXI watching.

VARG

These humans are disgusting, they smell of sweat and meat.

LEXI

Concentrate. Continue your scan.

CUT TO:

EXT. BURNT HILL CIRCLE - DAY 2

MISS WEBSTER’s POV - But seeing the kids as if through a thermal imaging camera. As two kids approach -

KATIE

Miss, we’re finished.

- Among the stones. MISS WEBSTER looking, uncomprehending, at KATIE and QUINN. She speaks with the Nekross voice.

MISS WEBSTER

Finished?

KATIE

Should we be off back to school?

Miss Webster clears her throat. Uncomfortable. Gets Miss Webster’s voice.

MISS WEBSTER

School?

QUINN

Are you all right, miss?

MISS WEBSTER

School. A sensible strategy.

(calls)

Everybody. Back to school.

As TOM and BENNY head for the bus.

(CONTINUED)
TOM
So when you’ve finished
“experimenting” you are going to
give it back to me, right?

BENNY
You said it was junk.

And as they pass by Miss Webster -

FX SHOT: Thermal imaging POV - the ring in Benny’s pocket.

And Miss Webster’s eyes narrow as they follow Benny.

CUT TO:

29A

EXT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. DAY 2

The BELL sounds for the end of the day. BENNY walks into the school as a flood of SCHOOLKIDS passes him.

30

INT. CLARKE HOUSE. LOBBY/KITCHEN/ KING’S PARK. BOYS’ CHANGING ROOMS - DAY 2

URSULA emerges from the toilet as the bird-lizard cries from the dark passageway. She has a feather duster and dusts cobwebs off herself as the kitchen phone goes. She gets it.

URSULA
Hello?

It’s TOM - looking on edge, alone in the boys’ changing room, and still in his school uniform.

TOM
Gran?

URSULA
Oh, Tom. I’m spring cleaning the Chamber. I don’t think it’s been done in five hundred years!

TOM
Yes, Gran... Listen, I’ve found a ring charged with magic.

URSULA
(bad news)

Oh.

CUT TO:
INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. CORRIDORS. – DAY 2
After school. BENNY slips into one of the science labs.

CUT TO:

INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. SCIENCE LAB – CONTINUOUS – DAY 2
BENNY takes the ring out and studies it.

CUT TO:

INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. CORRIDORS. – DAY 2
MISS WEBSTER steps into view. Sinister. Closing on the lab.

CUT TO:

INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. BOYS’ CHANGING ROOMS/CLARKE HOUSE. KITCHEN – DAY 2
TOM is still on the phone to worried URSULA.

URSULA
Oh, this isn’t good. A wizard losing a magic ring. Then another one giving it to an Unenchanted.

TOM
I didn’t give it to him –

URSULA
I’ll be there in a jiffy!

TOM
What? No! I didn’t mean–

But she’s hung up. Tom rolls his eyes – now he’s in trouble!

CUT TO:

INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. SCIENCE LAB – DAY 2
BENNY has attached electrodes to the ring. Is watching a read-out on a screen, taking notes.

As MISS WEBSTER walks in. Benny feels caught red-handed.

BENNY
Miss. I - I wasn’t going to blow anything up. This time. Honest.

(CONTINUED)
MISS WEBSTER
Give it to me.

BENNY
Miss?

MISS WEBSTER
The energy source.

Benny’s getting a little nervous.

BENNY
What? You mean this?

As her eyes fall on the ring the read-out goes mad.

BENNY (CONT’D)
How is that happening?

Benny grabs the ring. Backs off. MISS WEBSTER stiffens. Tries to play the role.

MISS WEBSTER
I am your superior. You will do as I say. Hand it to me, halfling.

BENNY
Halfling?

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK. - CONTINUOUS - DAY 2

VARG is still in the light beam. LEXI is skimming through a video-screen - a Nekross to English translator.

LEXI
No, brother. The humans address their halflings as “children”.

Varg extends his hand -

VARG
Give it to me, children.

Lexi shakes her head slowly, despairing.

CUT TO:

INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. SCIENCE LAB - CONTINUOUS - DAY 2

MISS WEBSTER - her hand extended. BENNY confused and worried.

BENNY
“Children”? Are you okay, miss?

(CONTINUED)
MISS WEBSTER (Nekross voice) Give it to me. Or be disintegrated.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK - CONTINUOUS - DAY 2

VARQ Voolox to full attack mode.

CUT TO:

INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. SCIENCE LAB - CONTINUOUS - DAY 2

FX SHOT: The Voolox becomes visible. It’s two lasers aimed over Webster’s shoulders. At Benny. He takes a stumbling step backwards -

BENNY Oh boy.

- Benny dives for cover behind a lab bench.
- FX SHOT: The Voolox fires.
- PRAC DETONATION!
- Benny crawls under the desks, runs for the door. Escapes.

CUT TO:

INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. CORRIDORS/ TOP OF STAIRS - DAY 2

BENNY runs through the corridors. MISS WEBSTER pursues.

And Benny turns a corner - and runs smack into TOM.

TOM I was coming after you.

BENNY Miss Webster! She’s been taken over! By aliens!

TOM Benny, what are you on?

BENNY They’ve turned her into some sort of alien cyborg slave!

TOM Look, just give me the ring.

(Continued)

W vs A S1 © BBC 2012 Confidential Ep 1 Shooting (BLUES) 17/04/12 24.
BENNY

That’s what she’s after.

FX SHOT: ZAP!

PRAC EXPLOSION!

Tom spins around - sees MISS WEBSTER heading for them - the Voolox on her back, the lasers aimed.

FX SHOT: The Voolox fires again.

It blasts a hole in a steel girder- PRAC EXPLOSION!

TOM

Run!

Tom and Benny run for it.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK/ SCHOOL CORRIDOR/TOP OF STAIRS – DAY 2

The video screen - LEXI watching Webster’s POV as TOM and BENNY run away down the corridor.

LEXI

Do not let them escape, Varg.

CUT TO:

INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. DRAMA CORRIDOR. – DAY 2

TOM and BENNY turn a corner. Catch their breath.

BENNY

I told you - she’s an alien cyborg slave!

TOM

There’s no such thing as aliens.

BENNY

That thing on her back? It’s controlling her. And firing lasers. No way is that Earth technology.

Angry and frustrated, Benny waves the ring at Tom.

BENNY (CONT’D)

And what about this? It glowed, remember? And that’s what she’s after. I bet this is alien, too!

(CONTINUED)
Without thinking, Tom grabs the ring.

**TOM**
I’m telling you, this isn’t from outer-space.

The ring lights up in Tom’s hand – Benny horrified.

**BENNY**
You’re one of them! You’re an alien, too!

As MISS WEBSTER appears – and the lasers lock on them – they run through a set of double doors.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK. – DAY 2**

VARG in control.

**VARG**
The halflings are irrelevant. I will destroy them!

**CUT TO:**

**INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. GYM – DAY 2**

BENNY and TOM burst into the gym looking for an exit – there isn’t one.

**TOM**
We’re trapped!

– as MISS WEBSTER enters and the Voolox lasers power up.

Voolox PoV of Tom and Benny in the crosshairs with a power-up bar showing the charging lasers.

**BENNY**
We’re going to die!

And Tom makes a big decision –

**TOM**
Not while I’m here!

He steps forward, brave, magnificent – a warrior wizard.

A hero.

Eyes burning with concentration, Tom raises one hand, palm out. And CLICKS the fingers of his other hand.

(CONTINUED)
TOM (CONT’D)
Kadra-dach dah!

FX SHOT: The Voolox FIRES!

FX SHOT: A beautiful fiery rainbow SHIELD OF LIGHT spreads from Tom’s hands – deflecting the laser fire.

Benny’s eyes pop.

BENNY
How did you do that?!

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK. – DAY 2

VARG
Another wizard!

And from behind the doors –

NEKROSS KING (O.S.)
The Magic! I must have it! The Nekross shall feast!

LEXI smiles. Bows.

LEXI
As the King commands, so it is done. This is no work for a Voolox.

She hits a button and the light goes off around VARG.

CUT TO:

INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. GYM – DAY 2

FX SHOT: The Voolox glows and vanishes.

MISS WEBSTER collapses. And groans, recovering consciousness.

TOM and BENNY run past Miss Webster and out of the gym.

CUT TO:

INT. KING’S PARK SCHOOL. LOCKERS CORRIDOR – DAY 2

TOM and BENNY dash into the lockers corridor, which is cluttered with sports equipment.

BENNY
What did you just do!?

(CONTINUED)
Tom is exposed – Benny has seen his secret.

TOM
Benny, don’t be scared.

BENNY
I’m not scared. But I’ve known you since Year Seven, how did you do what I just saw?

TOM
Forget what you just saw.

BENNY
Forget it? How did you do that?

Tom pulls a breath.

TOM
It was Magic, Benny – I’m a wizard.


BENNY
Oh, you have got to be an alien. No way would anyone but an alien think I’d fall for something that stupid! A wizard? Yeah, right!

TOM
Yeah. Right.

BENNY
There is no such thing as magic.

TOM
Okay. It’s better if you don’t believe me. But I’m not from another planet.

And from behind them –

LEXI
No. That would be me.

The boys turn – LEXI with her blaster aimed at them.

BENNY
Now that is definitely an alien.

LEXI
We are the Nekross. From the planet Nekron. In the Korbol Galaxy.

TOM
The planet...? The Korbol...? You really are... You’re an alien?

(CONTINUED)
LEXI
And we have come for Magic!

Tom is ready for a fight -

TOM
Well, have this on me! Ava-shen dah!

He clicks his fingers - and nothing happens.

Clicks again.

BENNY
... And?

TOM
No! No way! I’ve used up my spells.

On Tom.

FLASHBACK MONTAGE: Rapid-fire - Tom clicks to stop the alarm; clicks to finish his homework; clicks to save Benny.

TOM (CONT’D)
We only get three spells, sunrise to sunrise. I’ve used them. Wasted them.

BENNY
What kind of cut-price wizard are you?

Lexi leers.

LEXI
A tasty one - and quite defenceless.

Tom grabs one of a bunch of footballs on the floor - ready to throw it at Lexi, as -

The doors behind Tom burst open - URSULA! Pulling herself up to her full height. Doing her best to look threatening. Dramatic.

URNSULA
No-one threatens my grandson!

TOM
Gran! No! It’s an alien!

URNSULA
Don’t be ridiculous. There are no such things as aliens.

(CONTINUED)
BENNY
Errr - maybe you should take a closer look.

Lexi takes Ursula in and grins.

LEXI
You are the aliens to us, and you disgust me.

But Ursula, determined to protect Tom, steps between him and Lexi. Summoning all her courage, all her steel.

URSULA
Whatever you are, I may look like a foolish old crone, but I have the blood of warrior wizards in my veins.

BENNY
(to Tom)
So she's like Gandalfina, or someone?

TOM
... Not exactly.

Ursula strikes the floor with her cane -

URSULA
I am Ursula...

The amber stone on the head of the cane glows -

URSULA (CONT'D)
... seventh daughter of a seventh daughter of the Magical Line of Crowe. My family have slain demons and destroyed armies of the Neverside. Whatever world you come from, beware.

But Lexi just smiles.

LEXI
More Magic. I shall take you both!

TOM
What?!

Lexi presses a button on her wrist device -

FX SHOT: Ursula, Tom and Lexi glow - and are gone!

Benny’s eyes bulge with shock -
BENNY
She beamed them up!

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. ARRIVAL CHAMBER. – DAY 2

FX SHOT: TOM and URSULA burst out of a PRAC column of light.
(NOTE: Tom still has the football.)

URSULA
What - what happened? Where are we?

FX SHOT: At the window - the MOON, and beyond it - not quite fully in view - the distant EARTH.

TOM
... I think we’re in space.

Despite everything – a moment of wonder for both of them.

URSULA
It’s so beautiful.

LEXI interrupts their wonder. Covering them with her blaster. Behind her – NEKROSS GUARDS.

LEXI
Earth looks so small. So far away. Say goodbye to it, wizards.

And Lexi throws a lever on a control panel – The transporter PRAC light beam goes off.

LEXI (CONT’D)
Welcome to the Zarantulus. It’s time to meet my father.

CUT TO:

INT. NEKROSS SHIP. FLIGHT DECK. – DAY 2

Led by NEKROSS GUARDS and LEXI, TOM and URSULA enter. VARG is waiting. The King’s Chamber is flanked by TWO NEKROSS GUARDS.

VARG
Bow wizards, before the Nekross King!

TOM
I’m not bowing! Let us go!

From behind the closed King’s Chamber doors –

(CONTINUED)
NEKROSS KING (O.S.)
You defy me, wizard? I who have
bestrode the stars?

URSULA
Maybe you shouldn’t upset him, Tom.

TOM
If you’re such a big deal, how come
you don’t show your face?

NEKROSS KING
You would look on the face of the
King?

LEXI
Behold the King!

And with a strange fanfare and a huge burst of gas the doors
of the King’s Chamber part.

VARG/ LEXI
Hail the might of Nekron!

Big Reveal! The KING for the first time, as TOM and URSULA
lay astonished eyes on him - gigantic, bloated, slimy mass of
alien blubber. He is the size of a wall. There’s bubbling
liquid and belching gas. Pipes and tubes run into him, it’s
like he’s plumbed into the ship. It’s gross.

The King looks at them -

NEKROSS KING
I shall devour you and all your
kind, wizardblood. The Nekross
shall feast!

CUT TO:

END OF EPISODE