

a taste of...

SOUP KNIGHT!

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EXT. MAGGIE'S BACKYARD - DAY

AUSH hangs onto SOUP KNIGHT for dear life!

He's riding on their shoulders, arms wrapped around Soup Knight's stainless steel HEAD POT.

Soup Knight is running as fast as they can, but they and Aush both know it's only a matter of time before-- Soup Knight instinctively LEAPS into the air!

SOUP KNIGHT
HEEEEEEEYUP!

THORNY VINES tear through the ground where they just were, grabbing at thin air, but only nearly missing Soup Knight's legs.

Aush struggles to hang on with one arm. His other arm is keeping the LID on Soup Knight's head pot from coming off.

AUSH
(Yelling)
What did I say about warning me first?!

The source of the vines is TERRA, a massive planter box with spider-like legs. They have the power to burrow their thorny vines through the ground and have them pop up wherever they choose.

As soon as Soup Knight lands, they start running again, now in the direction of Terra. Aush is startled, but holds on.

SOUP KNIGHT
I'm running again, this time right at Terra!

Soup Knight draws their SWORD.

AUSH
(sarcastic)
Amazing! Thanks for the warning!

A WALL OF VINES spring up from the ground in front of Soup Knight. They attempt to SLASH it with their sword... but the Sword gets STUCK in the vines.

Soup Knight is about to be GRABBED, but they kick themselves off of the wall of vines just in time. Soup Knight does a BACKFLIP and Aush holds on desperately, like a kid on a cheap carnival roller coaster.

AUSH
AHHHHHH!

He keeps Soup Knight's lid CLOSED with all his might.

Soup Knight lands out of reach and Aush is whipped into an upright position, dazed.

Then, the vines SPIT BACK Soup Knight's sword onto the ground.

MAGGIE (O.S.)
You gotta think, Aush!

That's when we see MAGGIE on the sidelines, calm and collected.

MAGGIE
Terra's vines are tough and quick,
whatever soup is in there isn't
gonna cut it!

Soup Knight picks their sword up. Aush is panting, sweating, on Soup Knight's shoulders.

MAGGIE
Everything, about Soup Knight can
change with a different soup!

SOUP KNIGHT
(to Aush)
I suppose I'm capable of change,
but you shouldn't change, Aush.
You're wonderful just the way you
are.

AUSH
(To Soup Knight)
Thank you, Soup Knight.

MAGGIE
C'mon, Terra and I are practicing
for you!

AUSH
(Back to Maggie)
I guess Soup Knight needs to swing
their sword harder.

SOUP KNIGHT
I am strong, I am beautiful, I am
lovable.

Aush takes the lid off of Soup Knight's head. Inside is a hot, steamy FRENCH ONION SOUP. Aush looks at it and thinks.

MAGGIE
Why did you choose French Onion?

AUSH

French Onion is confident and I thought... I don't feel very confident against you and Terra.

MAGGIE

...What about French Onion is confident?

AUSH

It has purposely soggy bread. The French are like, here's a waterlogged baguette: bon appetit, it's delicious. And they're right! That's confidence.

SOUP KNIGHT

Mange la soupe ou va ailleurs!

Maggie pulls up a LAWN CHAIR. She sits down and throws her head back.

MAGGIE

Okay, so I don't know a lot about Soup, but like... what could you do to make that French Onion stronger? More onions? More garlic? Does stinky equal stronger?

Aush contemplates this.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Your Grandma made some pretty stinky soups. Then again I grew some pretty stinky garlic.

He gets an IDEA!

AUSH

--I've got it!

Aush opens up his ARMTECH. Sort of like a Duel Disk from Yu-Gi-Oh, it's an arm mounted container that houses his ingredients. He digs around for a second before pulling out a small cube of CHEESE... but after only a moment, it magically GROWS in size, like when a Pokéball is pulled out of storage.

MAGGIE

Stinky cheese? I like where your heads at! Fun fact, garlic doesn't stink until you cut it up!

Aush rips it into many tiny pieces and sprinkles it on top of the pot of soup. They quickly melt.

Soup Knight gets a shiver down their non-existent spine, then shakes out their arms and legs until they are straight as arrows.

SOUP KNIGHT
I smell incredible. I am
incredible.

Soup Knight readies their sword. Maggie shrugs her shoulders before--

MAGGIE
Get em' Terra!

Soup Knight again LEAPS off the ground, just milliseconds ahead of Terra's vines that almost grab them once again.

Soup Knight flies through the air right towards Terra. Their sword is pointed straight ahead... but it now has a faint YELLOW GLOW.

MAGGIE
Let's see what you got, S.K.!

AUSH
(To Soup Knight)
You're powerful, you're talented,
you're one in a million.

SOUP KNIGHT
I know.

Aush smiles.

Terra's VINE WALL goes up right between them and Soup Knight.

But Soup Knight doesn't even flinch-- doesn't even swing their sword-- they just easily SLICE THROUGH THE VINE WALL with only their momentum.

Maggie's eyes WIDEN.

And when the dust settles, Soup Knight has their sword just inches from Terra's body-- showing restraint in this scrimmage.

MAGGIE
That was amazing!

Maggie runs over.

MAGGIE
I didn't think one ingredient
could make Soup Knight that much
stronger!

Aush leaps off of Soup Knights shoulders. Maggie and Soup Knight exchange a high-five.

AUSH

It didn't make Soup Knight that much stronger... but it made the sword much *sharper*. It was **extra-sharp** Cheddar!

Soup Knight flicks his sword before sheathing it. It makes a *THWING!*

Aush stands proud.

MAGGIE

That's the kind of thinking your Grandma would be proud of. I mean, I'm proud too. A tinge jealous, but overall proud.

AUSH

Can't tell you how it tastes though.

Soup Knight kneels for them.

Aush pulls out a COUPLE OF SPOONS from his pocket and dusts them off on his shirt before handing one to Maggie.

Aush pulls off Soup Knight's lid and they each take a spoonful.

MAGGIE & AUSH

Cheers!

They taste it. They think about it for a second.

MAGGIE

Nah...

AUSH

Something's not right.

SOUP KNIGHT

Swiss and Gruyere are usually on French Onion.

AUSH

Swiss cheese would make you too... Switzerland-y.

MAGGIE

What's Switzerland?

AUSH

I'm not really sure.

END.