
Episode 223 – It's the end of Delta as we know it, and I feel fine.

It was the roof of an apartment building, one overlooking a vast, strangely futuristic metropolis made up of massive buildings. The roof itself was set up for recreation, featuring a pool with a small stage, a barbecue, a table and several benches around it. At present, they were decked out with a mixture of food and assorted bottles. A massive screen hung off one wall, currently cycling through footage of cheesy movie monster battles, while speakers were playing a mish-mash of different songs.

Rick, Dan and Rebecca sat on one of the benches, each with drinks in hand. Tsuneo was standing on the stage, shuffling through several cards.

"Next one." He spoke, glancing at a card. "In chapters one through twelve inclusive, how many Invadors were destroyed? That's not including off-cameras casualties or those incinerated with planet DELTA."

"Hmm... you including Xanax, Tyenol and whatsisname?" Rick asked.

"Yes, but not Justice itself." He nodded back in reply.

"Hmm... in that case, I'm going to say twenty-five." Rick replied.

"You're shooting too low, man." Dan shook his head. "With the bloodbath that is Delta Invasion, it has to be a bare minimum of thirty, probably closer to thirty-five." He took a swig from his bottle as he waited for a response.

"And you're both underestimating its sheer macho swaggering and mindlessness." Rebecca countered. "I'm going to say fourty, for an average of just over three per chapter."

"Now you're being silly." Dan argued.

"We'll see."

"Actually, none of you are right." Tsuneo spoke up. "The total was fifty-three Invadors destroyed via various means. As well as a single angel in the form of Justice, EVA-14, the mass-production Evangelions, Keel Lorenz, Jeff Garyn, Matt Yazama and, if you want to count flashbacks, Tom's father and Uncle. Oh, and a Dwarf Planet as well"

"Well there you have it." Rebecca shook her head. "Delta Invasion was even more goofily violent then I thought it was."

"Wait, didn't John die?" Rick asked.

"He's in a coma, but given that it's John, I don't blame you for making the mistake." Tsuneo concluded, which bought about a round of laughs.

"So give us another one, buddy." Dan called out.

"You haven't gotten one of them right so far." Rebecca noted.

"Can't hurt to try. Besides, this is fun."

"Okay then..." Tsuneo drew out another card. "Speaking of, what is the average number of lines that John Barren gets per chapter, starting at chapter six with his introduction and ending at chapter twelve with him being knocked into a coma."

"Ooh, that is hard." Rick began. "I'd imagine it's about fifteen or so."

Rebecca tapped her artificial arm, as if looking at something. "I would say ten to twelve myself"

"It's John. Not like I was paying attention." Dan admitted, then took another swig from his beer.

"Well, none of you got it." Tsuneo concluded. "On average, he gets a mere eight lines per chapter. The most he gets is twenty-four in six, which is his introduction. The least are seven and eleven, when he gets none at all."

Rebecca whistled. "Our hero, the forgettable boy."

"And if you took away his conversations with Charles, it'd be... bummer all." Rick concluded. "It's like he was surgically removed from the plot."

"And for comparison, across his three chapters, Charles gets an average of nine lines; furthermore, he never goes a single chapter without speaking." Tsuneo noted. "So yes, he does effectively talk more than John does."

"Wow. Charles really is more interesting than John." Rebecca noted. "Though the same could be said for office furniture and most rocks."

"So give us another one!" Rick spoke up. "These are good!"

"Hi all, and... what are you doing?" The Voice cut in, coming from seemingly nowhere as always. "Shouldn't you be downstairs? And what's all this?"

"Well poopie." Rebecca spat. "Brain Guy showed up to ruin the fun."

"So we figured that the next time the four of us were together, we'd be doing chapter thirteen of Delta Invasion." Rick began.

"Which meant that we'd be doing the last part of Delta." Dan continued.

"Which meant that after we finished it, Delta can never ever hurt us again." Tsuneo concluded. "So we decided to throw ourselves a 'farewell to Delta' party to celebrate."

"And each of us has put together a little piece to celebrate Delta." Rick added. "Like Tsuneo's trivia there. Revealed a lot of things about that fic that I'd never considered, or wanted to know for that matter."

"Of course, you could just skip the fic altogether and we just pretend we saw it and say how much we hate it." Rebecca commented. "Just saying."

"Fortunately, today's fic will be the last chapter of Delta Invasion." The Voice confirmed. "So your party is

well-planned."

"No such luck." Rebecca shook her head.

"Worth a try," Tsuneo admitted as he stepped off the stage to join the others.

"Though since we're up here, Voice, do you think you can run us the fic on the screen here?" Rick asked.

Dan nodded his agreement. "Yeah, I'd hate to have to haul all this back down there again."

"Should be easy enough," The voice said. Their running mash-up of Delta clips vanished from the screen.

"Actually, I've got another request," Rick butted in.

"Am I going to regret this? The voice asked.

"Naw. See, we've still got a few more presentations to go, so I was wondering if you could pause the fic for us to do them?" Rick asked.

There was silence for a few moments as the Voice pondered the request. "I suppose it couldn't hurt."

"Well it's better than us tearing up the apartment," Dan butted in.

"And at the very least, it's nice to be out here in the open rather than in there." Rick added as he sat. "Change of pace for the crap and all."

"Hopefully, that Monk can't get me here." Tsuneo joked as he sat. "I mean, you didn't bring it up there, right?" Dan shot a glance at Rebecca, who shrugged as she sat. "Oh dear." The big screen turned on, switching the world to script format.

> Final Genesis : After War Comes Peace/At Last A Real Life

> June 4th, 2018...

Tsuneo: A month had passed since Justice was destroyed and Tom still won't shut up about how hard the fight was.

> Tom was checking out a file that he would definitely keep for himself...

Dan: Gendo's collection of panty shots.

> Tom read on... on the cover of the file,

Dan: Do computer files generally have covers, anyway?

> it said : Yazama Matt.

Rick: It's the file on That Guy!

Rebecca: I remember That Guy!

> "Born : 05/29/2001 Death : 06/02/2018

> Father : Yazama Ki Mother : Yazama Akane

> History :

Dan: Another subject I flunked.

> Matt was born in Kyoto.

Rick: So if he was born in Japan to Japanese parents, how did he end up with a name like Matt?

> His mother died as soon as Matt was born.

Rebecca: She died of plot complications.

> And Matt's dad stopped living after his mother's death.

Tsuneo: But how did his wife's death affect him?

> He didn't care about Matt anymore

Rebecca: Which is fair, since we never did.

> and he started drinking and taking drugs.

Rick: Sounds like a Generic Tragic Background to me.

> Matt couldn't stand it,

Dan: Dad was stealing his stash

> so he left home when he was 5. He ran away as far as he could,

Rebecca: Which with him being five, probably meant 'to the end of the street'

> only to be found by the man we call Keel Lorenz,

Rick: But many others call Bob

> in Tokyo-2 while he was looking for a pilot of the Eva

Tsuneo: As opposed to the massive conspiracy that they already have to do this for them

Rebecca: He wanted this one to be off the books for tax reasons.

> that SEELE was building because Eva-01 was now in hands of Nerv.

Tsuneo: Except EVA-01 didn't exist at this point.

Dan: Call it an insurance policy.

> Lilith's cells were brought inside that Eva,

Rebecca: In a secure case for transportation.

Rick: I believe that everything has Lilith's cells by this point in the fic.

> as they started building it in the same time as Eva-01.

Dan: But it took ages to finish and went way over-budget.

> It was only completed after the completion of Eva-05 through 13 which's datas
> were stocked inside Eva-14.

Rebecca: English! Learn how to use it!

> Matt lived most his life as a SEELE officer

Tsuneo: Most of his life? He was only seventeen. What, did he go through officer training at six?

Rick: As opposed to being a sixteen year old Air Force fighter pilot?

Tsuneo: ...I retract that question.

> as he was a very good soldier.

Dan: But as an Evangelion pilot, he kinda sucked.

Rick: He was a good soldier and a mediocre fry cook.

> But unfortunately, he tried to start 3rd Impact from Nerv HQ

Rebecca: Silly boy. Everybody knows that you start Third Impact in your own home.

> and found death against Eva-01..."

Rick: He found discomfort against EVA-02, mild boredom against EVA-04 and a kind of embarrassing rash against EVA-03.

> Tom read the story and suddenly felt bad for poor Matt...

Tsuneo: Why? He had no purpose in the story aside from providing Tom and Shinji with another boss monster to fight.

Rick: That he is like them adds pathos or something. Emphasis something.

> June 6th, 2018

Rebecca: I'm assuming that Tom's figured that the others don't need to know about Matt.

Dan: Yeah. He's one of those jerks who likes to let people know that he knows something they don't
[Glares at Rebecca]

Rebecca: I have no idea what you mean.

> Misato's apartment...

Rick: The seat of all evil.

> All the Children were celebrating Shinji's birthday.

Rebecca: Gendo had sent Shinji a gift voucher to show how much he cared. It was expired.

> John,

Dan: Wait, they actually included John in something? That's amazing.

Tsuneo: It's doubly so given that he's in a coma.

> Ritsuko, Tom, Rei, Asuka, Kensuke,

Rick: While we're at it, here's a thought: What has Kensuke actually done for the fic besides being a member of the new DoD for a while?

> Toji,

Dan: Screw that, where's Hikari been all this time?

[Pause]

Dan: Yean, I got nothing either.

> Misato and Kaji, everyone was just partying.

Rebecca: Fuyutski is the life of any party.

> Shinji was now 17. School was over and the Children were on vacation.

Rick: The city had been leveled, which eases things along.

> All Invadors had been defeated

Tsuneo: Given that they didn't stop coming for months after the destruction of planet DELTA, can you be sure of that?

Rick: Justice was the final boss. Ergo, no more Invadors.

Tsuneo: That makes an annoying amount of sense.

> and everything's all right.

Rebecca: Except for the kitchen being on fire.

> "This is life!!!" yelled Shinji.

> "Woohoo!!!" screamed Tom.

Dan: Actually more coherent than most of Tom's dialogue.

> "Oh hell yeah!!!" said Asuka.

> "Finally, we can live a normal life!!!" said Rei.

Rebecca: That just sounds wrong coming from her.

Tsuneo: What, the "normal" bit or the two exclamation marks?

> They kept on partying that day. Misato and Kaji walked up to make a statement.

Rick [Kaji]: I was never there. That looked nothing like me. Besides, only amateurs make that much noise.

> "Ahem..." said Misato as everyone stopped talking to listen to Kaji and Misato.

Rebecca: Great. They're both drunk again. Get ready to smile and try not to cringe.

> "We have an important statement to make!" added Kaji.

Tsuneo: [Kaji] I'm meant to be dead, and nobody noticed.

> "Me and Kaji are getting married!!!" said Misato.

Rick: In a ceremony that will doubtless be officiated by an Elvis impersonator.

> Everyone starred surprised and Tom said :

> "Congratulations!!!" as everyone partied again.

Tsuneo: Nobody else said anything of note.

Rick: Tom was the only one not sober enough to panic at the news.

> They soon learned that the wedding was going to happen July 1st.

Rebecca: Not rushing into it at all.

Dan: Misato wants to be married before the bump begins showing

> June 29th, 2018

Rick: [Tom] 25 days without Invador Alert. How I miss those mix and match creatures. Did they have three fingers, or four? Some days I can't remember, and it frightens me.

> At Ritsuko's place...

Rebecca: I wonder if Charles is there. Or Charles, for that matter. Haven't seen them in ages.

Rick: I bet that if Charles had been there, he would have been able to take out Justice all on his own.

Rebecca: I'd like to say that you're being silly, but the evidence agrees with you.

> Tom had visited John the day he got out of his coma sooner than expected at

> Ritsuko's apartment.

Tsuneo: Hang on, he was in the party scene just above!

Rebecca: Wow, a comatose John must have really been the life of the party.

Dan: Only slightly less so than normal. Slightly.

> He had asked to go alone. Ritsuko and John's brother

Rick: Which brother? Was it Charles, or Charles or even... Sean?

Dan: Sean's dead. Deal with it.

> were out until the next day

Rick: Buying games from defunct companies.

Dan: No, no, they were competing in random fighting tournaments!

Rick: They were ordering Italian really slowly!

Dan: I've got it, they were recording instant bestselling records!

Rick: Oooh, good one.

> for some reason Tom couldn't remember.

Tsuneo: If you don't need to explain something, then don't. You're only making it worse, fic.

> Tom was going to spend the night.

Rebecca: Tom strikes me as the type who invites himself over and eats all your food.

Dan: And there's something wrong with that?

> "Yo, John, I'm hella glad to see ya back on track!" said Tom.

Rick: So how's that whole 'special' thing working out for you?

> "Thanks, Tom, I'm glad you beat Justice!" answered John.

Dan: [Tom] He was hella hard!

Rebecca: So Tom barges into someone's house to go on about how hard he is. Makes sense.

> "If I hadn't done it, I woulda been so pissed, but actually, I would be dead!"

Rick: Kind of a lose-lose situation there.

> "Yeah, I know you would be!"

Dan: So in other words, John would have been the lucky one.

> "Dude, you missed Shinji's birthday and shit, what ya gonna do about it?"

Tsuneo: He was in a coma! What was he meant to do?

Rebecca: No excuses. Tom's buddy supersedes all.

> "Well, I'm gonna buy him a present tomorrow first thing..."

Rick: After you brow-beat him into it.

Dan: I thought he was there! It said he was there!

Rebecca: Delta Invasion's editing is truly impressive

> finally we beat the Invadors, but someone like us had to die..."

Tsuneo: The thousands of civilians in Tokyo-3? The legions of SEELE soldiers you gunned down?

> "Matt Yazama..."

Tsuneo: Silly me, the rest of them don't matter.

Dan: Well, he did try and kill you all and start the Third Impact and all that sorta thing. Hard to have much sympathy for him.

> "Yeah, him!"

Rick: That Guy!

Dan: Didn't Matt kill a whole pile of Nerv staff?

Tsuneo: Well yes, but they don't matter since they don't have names.

> "And you lost your father in this whole thing!"

Tsuneo: And by "lost" we mean "he was killed by Tom"

> "When he died I didn't even know he was my father,

Rick: The court-ordered paternity tests were still pending.

> and how can you call such a

> motherfuckin' asshole like that a father anyway???"

Rebecca: DNA is how.

> "I know how you feel, but look at Ikari, look at how he can think about his father too!

Dan: [Gendo] I'm sexy and I know it.

> I just feel bad for him, you know..."

Rebecca: John is in a scene and yet he is superfluous to it. That's his existence in a nutshell.

> The night went on like that as John and Tom continued talking.

Tsuneo: Delta Invasion: Not afraid to start a scene, even if it doesn't know how to end it.

> They laughed a lot and went out for dinner.

Dan [Tom]: Hey John, I've got a whole hundred yens! I'm buying!

Rebecca: John was never seen again.

> About a month later, July 1st...

Rick: So what, June 30 lasts a whole month now?

> Tom was designed to be the wedding singer.

Dan: But then he had to be recalled to the factory due to defects

> Asuka was the flower girl

Rebecca: Asuka will ensure that everyone has a happy wedding. Or else.

> while Shinji was the best man and Rei was the bride's maid.

Dan: Because of course, Misato and Kaji don't have any adult friends.

Rebecca [Ritsuko]: Hello? What about me, your best buddy Ritsuko? College room-mate, only friend and

confidant, shares your taste in regrettable exes... hello?

> "Well, see, it's cool 'cause I don't have to wear no fuckin' tie or anything
> when I'm the wedding singer, so whoohoo!!!" said Tom.

Tsuneo: Tom's decision to turn up wearing a stained t-shirt, kilt and army boots puzzled many. But at least he didn't have a tie.

> "Lucky..." said Asuka, Shinji and Rei.

Rebecca: So Asuka and Rei are wearing ties then? Misato was completely drunk off her face when she planned this, wasn't she?

> The 3rd Children went to check on Kaji who was getting ready.

Rick: He had his helmet and gloves on and his pit crew were just doing last-minute checks on the car.

> "So, Kaji, you ready for the big thing???" asked Shinji.

Rebecca: I thought Kaji was the self-professed 'big thing'

> "Yeah, it's gonna be great!!" answered Kaji.

Dan [Kaji]: We can look forward to years of sitting on the couch, staring at each other, wondering where we went wrong and accusing each other of turning into their father.

> "I have to admit something to you..."

Rebecca [Shinji]: Tom and I are considering making it legal.

> "What is that?"

> "I'm really planning on marrying Rei sooner or later. I really love her!"

Tsuneo: You're also both seventeen years old and dubiously related. Have you considered that this may not be the best plan?

> "That's great Shinji!"

Rick: [Kaji] As a responsible adult, I encourage two teenagers with no formal qualifications or future plans to marry.

Dan: Being fair, this is Kaji.

Rick: So scratch 'responsible,' then.

> "Yeah, I'll wait until she's ready,

Rick: Thirty years later...

> I really want to marry Rei..."

Rebecca: I think they'd only recognise it in Alabama though.

> "I understand, well today, my name is becoming Katsuragi Kaji!!!" said Kaji,

Dan: Okay, so why is Kaji taking Misato's family name? I thought it would be the other way around.

Tsuneo: Normally, yes. But I'm guessing the authour's sum total knowledge of Japanese naming conventions comes from the precedent of Gendo taking Yui's family name, as established in the actual show.

Rebecca: He paid attention? Wow.

Dan: But that's not the normal way around, right?

Tsuneo: Right. It was brought up in the flashback to show the nature of their relationship.

Dan: What, that Gendo's the bitch?

Tsuneo: ...yeah, let's go with that.

> "Damn, I love this so much!!!"

Tsuneo: Awkward and forced conversations are fun!

> They both continued talking as Tom started playing the guitar,

Rebecca: Drowning out any intelligent conversation - or shred of intelligence, really.

> and the rest of DOD was playing except Shinji because of the fact that he was the best man.

Rebecca: Shinji just needs to learn to multi-task.

Rick: They got the first Charles they could find to substitute.

> Tom started with "Hells Bells" of AC/DC.

Dan: When I think 'Japanese Wedding', I always think of eighties Australian rock.

Rick: Don't we all?

> Everybody at the wedding was dancing and cheering for Tom

Dan [Gendo]: Tom rocks my world.

Rick [Fuyutski]: Yes.

> who was getting crazy on his guitar

Rebecca: Please, Tom, there are children watching.

> and singing.

Tsuneo: Wow, that's great. Say, isn't this meant to be Misato and Kaji's big day?

> Then, came the moment to start the wedding.

Rick: Aww gee, do we have to?

> Asuka walked in throwing flowers around.

Rebecca: Many died from the horrible injuries they sustained.

> Then,
> Misato, accompanied by Rei, and Kaji accompanied by Shinji walked down the aisle
> where the preacher was waiting.

Dan: [Jesse Custer] Hold up a second folks, just gotta mutilate some rednecks first.

> The ceremony went on as Misato and Kaji got married.

Tsuneo: Little details that we don't need.

Rebecca: I for one am grateful to be spared the authour's bumbling attempt at wedding vows.

> Tom yelled "WAY TO GO, KAJI!!!!!"

Dan: You know what's the worst part of being the best man at Kaji's wedding? What kind of story are you meant to tell that would embarrass him?

Rebecca [Shinji]: Well there was the time Misato shot him dead, but fortunately their relationship's gotten better.

> About three months later...

Rick: Folks at NERV were beginning to wonder why they still came in each morning.

> The phone rang in Tom's apartment.

Dan: Um, um... [Deep] The Show must Go On?

> Tom ran to get the phone and answered.

Tsuneo: Ah, Delta Invasion's pointless phone conversations. Nice to see that something will be with us to the end.

Rick: Hopefully it'll be calling about an Invador Alert. I could go for one about now.

Dan: Got you there, buddy. I don't want the chapter to be full of nothing but weddings and crap.

> "Hello?"

> "Hello, Tom, it's Misato!"

Rebecca: You know, the person who's apartment you live in and all.

> "Oh, hey, what's up??"

> "Well, I have great news, I'm pregnant!!!" said Misato.

Rebecca: Both Kaji and Pen-Pen were sitting outside the doctor's room, both looking equally nervous.

> "Holy shit! That's great, congratulations to you two!" said Tom.

> "Thanks!"

Tsuneo: Tom's reaction to Misato's pregnancy? The same reaction as to anything else.

> They continued talking and Tom hang up.

Dan: This was another file he would definitely keep to himself.

> Nine months later, July 7th, 2019.

Dan: And in the intervening nine months...

Rick: NERV's stocks collapsed with daily questions of its continuing usefulness, Aoba, Hyuga and Maya went on to successful careers in the computer games industry - working for long defunct companies - Rei started work on her law degree and Ritsuko began drawing up plans to destroy other planets.

> Tom rushed with the four other Children to the hospital where Misato was going to have a baby.

Dan: [Slowly counts off fingers] Oh yeah, John.

> As they walked in the room, Misato had just gotten the baby.

Rebecca: But she wasn't that happy with it, and exchanged it for another.

> Kaji was scared as hell.

Tsuneo [Kaji]: Why am I doing this? Neither of us are going to be any good as parents. Both of us drink to excess and smoke, she's a slob, I'm a slacker and a leech and above all else, I'm dead and she shot me.

Rick: It's the little things that you worry about.

> Tom busted the hell in and asked :

Dan [Tom]: Does it look like me? Please tell me it doesn't look like me.

> "It's a boy or girl??"

Rick [John Cleese]: I think it's a bit too early to start imposing roles, don't you?

> "It's a girl!!!" said Kaji.

> "What's her name?" asked Asuka.

Tsuneo: Following the naming scheme of the fic's original Japanese characters born in Japan to Japanese parents, I'm guessing it'll be something traditional like Mary or Fred.

> "Mana!" said Misato.

Dan: Do you think that's a clever side-reference to Girlfriend of Steel?

Rick: Nah, probably just a coincidence.

Rebecca: Besides, that would mean admitting to owning a Sega Saturn. No-one in the universe owned a Sega Saturn.

> "Katsuragi Mana..."

Rick: What sort of lands do you need to get Katsuragi Mana?

> said Tom, "Nice name!!!"

Dan: Says the guy who has an uncle called Tom's Uncle.

Tsuneo: I don't think that's his actual name.

Dan: It isn't?

> They all looked at the baby.

Rick: It was busy deciding which one of them to throw up on first.

> "She's so cute..." said Asuka.

Rebecca: She even has her first beer in hand already.

> Rei and Shinji held hands and slowly

Rick: Rose into the air above mortal concerns.

> said :

> "Guys, we have something to tell you..." said Rei.

Rebecca [Rei]: We've reached the conclusion that our relationship is wrong on so many levels.

> "What is it??" said Tom.

Rick: [Shinji] We've had enough of the lot of you, and are running away.

> "We are going to get married in February.

Dan: The twenty-ninth.

> On Rei's birthday..." said Shinji.

Rick: That way he can skimp on birthday and anniversary presents and just combine them into a single underwhelming gift.

> "Whoa, that kicks ass!!" said Tom.

Tsuneo [Shinji]: And you're not invited.

Dan [Tom]: Whoa, that kicks ass!

Tsuneo [Shinji]: And Asuka's been sleeping with me all along

Dan [Tom]: Whoa, that kicks ass!

Tsuneo [Shinji]: And none of us even like you

Dan [Tom]: Whoa, that kicks ass!

Tsuneo [Shinji]: And your hair is on fire.

Dan [Tom]: Whoa, that kicks ass!

> "And you're the best man, Tom..." said Rei.

Rebecca: Shinji wanted someone close to him, someone who was an important friend and who had shared the same experiences. However, since Akito Tenkawa was busy, Tom would have to do.

> "What da???" said the 6th Children in surprise.

Rick: Tom? Do we need to explain the “best man” concept to you? Will pictures help?

> "And you're the bride's maid, Asuka!" said Shinji.

> "Great!" answered Asuka.

Rebecca: [Asuka] Or you could *ask* me like you're *meant* to!

> Tom looked down telling himself "Crap, I look like a penguin in a suit.

Dan: [Tom] With the flippers and the fins and that big beak...

> Oh god damn, why me?? Why me???"

Tsuneo: Yes, it's tragic, Tom, You'll have to wear a suit for your best friend's wedding. How horrible your life must be.

> But Tom got over it as they got back to the apartment.

Tsuneo: Rick? I think I could go for an Invador Alert about now as well.

Rebecca: Speaking of which, I'd like to present my piece on Delta Invasion. Voice?

Voice: Sure.

The fic paused, switching the world back to prose format for the moment.

“So here's my idea.” Rebecca began. “Live-action adaptations are currently all the rage for overblown film projects. And what's more overblown then Delta Invasion?”

“Very little.” Tsuneo nodded.

“Right.” Rebecca continued. “So I tried to visualize what a live-action Delta Invasion would look like.”

“Can I go for ‘box-office bomb’?” Dan offered.

“Probably. But in the meantime... Enjoy the Delta Invasion live-action trailer.” She tapped a button on her arm, the big screen going blank before being replaced with a generic ratings advisory screen, switching the world back to script format.

[Stock footage of various monsters from 60s and 70s Kaiju movies]

Voice-Over: The earth has been attacked.

[Footage of exploding model buildings and fleeing crowds from the same movies]

Voice-Over: Mankind is on the brink of extinction

[Poor-quality footage of EVA-03 from original series]

Voice-Over: And only one man can save the world.

[Some random pro-wrestling match]

Voice-Over: No matter the challenge

[Grainy footage of troops from WWII]

Voice-Over: No matter the enemy

[Footage of Battlestar Galactica that was stolen for Space Mutiny]

Voice-Over: No matter the voyage

[Vague glimpses of the monster from Cloverfield]

Voice-Over: No matter what

[Shot of Channing Tatum from 21 Jump Street outside a school building]

Voice-Over: Starring Channing Tatum as Tom Dyrton

Teacher: When did you go through puberty? At seven or something?

[Shot of Shia LeBeouf flailing from any movie he's in]

Voice-Over: With Shia LeBeouf as Shinji

Shia: What what what wait what no no no no no no no!

[Shot of Alan Baugh on the beach from Birdemic]

Voice-Over: And Alan Baugh as John Barren

Alan [Long pause]: Great!

[Crude-looking title screen announcing 'Delta Invasion']

Voice-Over: Delta Invasion. Coming this indeterminate time period.

The screen switched back to the paused fic. "So what do you think, guys?" Rebecca asked.

"I'd watch that." Rick commented. "In fact, I'd rather watch that than this."

"I think you captured the essence of Delta Invasion." Tsuneo agreed. "In so far as it's a disjointed mess."

"I just want to know who you'd get to play Charles and Charles." Dan finished.

Rebecca rubbed her chin a moment in consideration. "Difficult; maybe Simon Pegg and Nick Frost?" She suggested as the fic resumed, bumping the world back to script format.

> February 14th, 2020...

Dan: And in the intervening six months:

Rick: Ritsuko had relocated to her own private space lab in space, Fuyutski was appointed director of

NERV's American branch - and nobody noticed - while Gendo's tell-all autobiography "The Man Who sued God" was a bestseller.

> Tom was in a suit and yelled :

Dan: [Shouting] I Batman villain now!

Rebecca: You realise that could be your last Shouting Tom?

Dan: Not if I can help it.

> "Look at me, Shinji, I look like a mothafuckin' penguin!!!" yelled Tom.

Rebecca: And Pen-Pen's giving you suggestive glances.

> "No you don't, you look great!" responded Shinji.

Rick [Shinji]: You look like... A really big penguin.

> "Yeah, my ass I do!"

Dan: Fine, your arse looks like a penguin. Happy now?

> "Come on, you're overreacting, dude!!!"

Tsuneo: Tom is permanently set to 'overreact.'

> "No I ain't, this is bad!! I mean really bad!"

Rick [Tom]: Game over man, game over! They're coming out of the god-damn walls!

> "Come on, it's my wedding, don't give me that shit!"

Tsuneo: Yeah, Tom. Consider how someone else might feel for once in your miserable life.

> "O.K. just for you, Shinji!"

> "Thanks, Tom!"

Rebecca: Cue the pair of them looking wistfully into each-other's eyes.

> "But I still think I look like crap in this outfit!!!"

Rick: Not everybody can pull off bright yellow spandex, after all

> concluded Tom as there was about two hours left before the real thing started.

Dan: Time enough for everyone involved to have hysterical fits, last-minute doubts, a quickie with the one of the bridesmaids and to lose the ring at least once.

> Tom went out to see John with his new girlfriend.

Tsuneo: John has a girlfriend? With how the female characters are depicted in this fic, it'd be a challenge to see who's the shallower character.

> She had blond hair, green eyes, and was wearing a usual dress.

Dan: Say, what is a usual dress?

Rick: The opposite of an unusual dress, I guess.

> "Hey Tom!" said John.

> "Yo, John!" answered Tom.

Rebecca: Hello protagonist!

Rick: Greetings extra!

> "Meet my new girlfriend, Jeynna Karyla, she's american too, she's moving here

> with her father!"

Rebecca: Okay, so what are the chances that Tom's ex just happens to move to Japan and just happens to hitch up with the single most boring guy on the planet, who also just happens to be Tom's number two punching bag?

Dan: Getting better all the time.

Rick: Needlessly forced coincidences are a vital narrative tool!

> "Jeynna Karyla..." said Tom remembering who she was.

Rick: She's Bruce Banner's cousin, the one who turns into the She-Hulk, right?

Dan: That's Jennifer Walters.

Rick: So she's the daughter of Lord and Lady Westerling who nursed Robb Stark back to health?

Dan: That's Jeyne Westerling, but you get points for using a character not in the HBO series.

Rick: Right. So she's a folkloric German character, falsely accused of adultery and forced to live in a cave for six years?

Dan: That's Genevieve of Brabant, and I'd ask how the hell you came up with that one.

Rick: Of course. So she's an English writer who created an incredibly popular and influential series young adult novels about a boy who discovers that he's a wizard.

Dan: That's J. K. Rowling, and it's not even like the "J" stands for Jeynna

Rick: Gotcha. So she's an eighties anime series about insectoid aliens that conquer the Earth.

Dan: That's Genesis Climber Mospeada, and now you're not even trying.

> They looked in each other's eyes and understood.

Rebecca: You know this because you are psychic.

> "I gotta go to the bathroom..." said Tom as he walked away.

Tsuneo: Over the horizon, never to be seen again. The end.

> He sat down and drank a beer.

Tsuneo: I'm sure that Shinji won't have any problems with his best man showing up drunk.

Dan: It's Tom; you'd probably expect it.

> He watched as the new girl sat down next to Tom.

Rick: Must have been an out-of-body experience.

> "So you remember, Tom Dyron..."

Rebecca: Oh I remember Tom, no matter how hard I try.

> Jeynna said.

> "Of course I do, what the hell do you think??" said Tom.

Dan [Tom]: Who the hell do you think I am?

Rebecca: An overbearing, obnoxious, self-important control freak with an anal fixation, but that's not important right now.

> "Yeah, I could have guessed.

Tsuneo: [Jeynna] In fact I did just guess. At the start of the scene. Leading us here.

> Anyway, you still pissed?"

Rick: Not at all., You can tell that by the way he's bearing down on her.

> "Why would I be? I got a loving girl! Soryu Asuka Langley, the girl of my life!"

Rebecca: It's the touching story of one man and his love for an imaginary animated woman

> "If you say so, I found a new guy, John, and I love him!"

Dan: In a *special* kind of a way.

> "That's what you used to say with me! And Mike..."

Rebecca: Jeynna always was jealous of what Tom and Mike had.

> "He told you? God damnit!"

Tsuneo: [Jeynna] I couldn't have possibly expected your best friend to tell you anything.

> "And about how you acted like a slut and found another guy right after, I hear

> real nice stories about you!"

Rebecca: Oh gee, just because she dumped you and your homie, that automatically makes her a slut? Since you hitched up with Asuka long before you knew she'd left you, what does that make you then? Beyond a flaming hypocrite, that is.

Tsuneo: So he forgives Matt for killing hundreds of innocents and trying to destroy the world, but he can't forgive one girl for dumping him. Real mature there.

> "Argh!!! Look, when you left to Japan, Mike was being really nice to me telling

> me not to worry and all, I couldn't resist...

Tsuneo: Doubtless Mike is beyond reproach in all this.

> "That's great, Jeynna, I'm gonna write a book called "The 1001 Slutty Ways Of

> Jeynna Karyla". It would be sold a lot, I think!"

Rick: So in short, he's not upset at all.

Dan: Gods no.

> "Shut up, Tom, god damnit, I'm sorry!"

Rebecca [Jeynna]: I'm so sorry that you're an overbearing jerkarse who can't get over the fact that I left you and decided to get on with my life rather than remaining hung up on it for years afterwards.

> "Like I still care,

Dan: So why's he making such an issue of it?

Tsuneo: So he can prove what a man he is by emotionally beating down on a girl

> I'm afraid of whatever bitchy thing you might do to him,

Tsuneo: [Tom] Like being distraught when he abandons you to fly across the world.

> he's such a sweet guy, damnit,

Rick: He's special, you know.

Tsuneo: He's sweet in the way that he's never displayed a shred of emotion. Just take our word for it.

> I wonder what the fuck you might do to him!"

Rebecca: She's going to pay attention to John and treat him like a human being. Oh, it's horrible!

> "Look, I love John and I won't do anything to hurt him, do you fucking understand that, Tom Dyron????"

Tsuneo: Another person said it, so um... No.

> "Yeah, I understand that you're full of shit..."

Rebecca: I'm still convinced this girl is a real person the authour knows who dumped him for being such a jerk. There's far too much hate here for a fictional construct.

Dan: What, and this part of the fic is just him taking out his anger on her?

Rebecca: In a kind of passive-aggressive, 'I'm angry but don't have the balls to actually confront them over it' way.

> Jessica slapped Tom.

Rick: Who's this Jessica person and why is she slapping Tom?

Rebecca: I don't know, but I want to applaud her.

> "You know, I don't really give a crap, so calm down!"

Tsuneo: Despite all evidence to the contrary.

Rick: So this whole piece is him saying "I'm still hung up about it two and a half years later."

> I don't know what's wrong with you, Jeynna.

Dan: Says the guy shouting at her.

> What happened to the cool girl I once knew?"

> "She changed, she became more mature and she..."

Rebecca: -went to university, got a degree and now has a successful and rewarding career as a financial systems manager.

> said Jeynna as Tom interrupted her with an eye contact.

Rick: Laser beam eyes! Pew pew!

> "You became dirty whore, a ho, nothing less to say.

Rebecca: That's right, her entire worth in life is based on a single teenage relationship.

> You still look as good, but you have a bad attitude."

Rick: And a matching black GMC panel van.

> "Tom, can you just stop this???"

All: Please?

> said Jeynna as she stood and looked at Tom straight in the eyes with a begging look.

> "Jeynna, I forgive you for what you've done to me, but what you did to Mike... I just can't.

Rick: How dare you dump him for some unspecified reason.

> Give me some time..."

Tsuneo: Like say, the last two years?

Rick: Being fair, those were timeskips, and apparently nothing actually happened during them.

> "God, you changed too, Tom!"

Dan: And about time too. That stupid 'Rollerbladers Suck' shirt was getting pretty rank.

> "Yeah, I became famous as a singer

Dan: I note that we haven't heard from Dragons of Doom in the last two years. I'm guessing the re-launch of the band didn't take off that well.

Rebecca: They now play at shopping mall openings, bowling clubs... anywhere that will pay them, really.

> and I'm the only champion of the "No Holds Barred Tournament"

Rick: The only champion? So did they never hold it again?

Tsuneo: There was an investigation after it was discovered that they'd let a known wanted serial killer into the tournament. Found out that members of the organizing committee had been taking huge payoffs for

years to let people enter without background checks. As a result, it was shut down.

> so, hell yeah I changed!"

Rebecca: You've become a bigger dickhead than you were before.

> "Not in that way, you're more sincere, and you don't care about what you say to
> girls, now, that's what I meant."

Tsuneo: He's verbally abusing her and it's a good thing.

> "Get used to the new Tom, the one that got what he wanted in life

Rebecca: [Tom] I've got all the adulation from fictional characters I could ever want.

> and that doesn't wanna change anymore..."

Dan: And how's that any different to how he was before.

> "Hmm... you're right, but you're not the same to me."

Rebecca: Didn't we just say that?

> "Oh, I'm not?? Well guess what? I don't give a rat's ass!"
> "I know, you changed..."

Dan: [Shouting] I change to be the same!

> The conversation ended on this last sentence.

Dan: Hey Rebecca?

Rebecca: Yeah, what's up?

Dan: I know I can be a bit of a tool sometimes, but I'm pretty sure I'm not that much of a jerk.

Rebecca: Dan... And I can't believe I'm saying this, but... Tom makes you look good.

Dan: Thanks. That means a lot.

> Same time...

Rick: Well this is sweet. Remind me who's special day this is?

> Rei and Asuka were talking...

Tsuneo: In an elevator without looking at each other.

> "Look, Rei, you know,

Rebecca: [Asuka] This is the first time we've actually spoken to each other all fic, isn't it?

> for all times I acted like a bitch to you?" said Asuka.
> "You never did..." responded Rei.

Dan [Asuka]: Okay, all the times I acted like that to the last Rei.
Rebecca [Rei]: That's different.

> "I did, and I know it, so I'd like to apologize for all of those, O.K.?"
> "Accorded. I had forgotten about those anyway, Asuka!"

Rick: It's a clone thing; you just learn to get used to it. That and the navel in the back of your neck.

> "Good, now, congratulations about you and Shinji, I'm happy for the both of you!"

Rebecca [Asuka]: And about how you can move out of the apartment and we never see you again.

> "Thank you, Asuka, thank you very much!"

Tsuneo: Spoken with all the sincerity of a used car salesman

> Tom was drinking another beer as he lighted a cigarette.

Dan: Tom's wedding photos look more or less the same as his mugshots.

> When he was done,

Tsuneo: He knocked back some bourbon, did some vodka shots and finished it all off with a bottle of tequila.

> he got ready because the wedding was now about to start.

Rick: They'd run out of excuses and finally found Asuka. She was hiding in the ladies, sobbing uncontrollably as she devoured a box of chocolates.

> Tom and Shinji stood on one altar, and Asuka and Rei stood on the other.

Dan: Um, you guys? Together? In the middle?

> The four of them slowly walked down the aisle. The ceremony was going fine

Dan [Gendo]: I always cry at weddings.
Rick [Fuyutski]: Yes.

> except that Tom felt humiliated to be shown to everyone in a suit.

Rebecca: Jeynna was videoing it all on her phone. She was going to upload all her footage of Tom adjusting himself and scratching his bum to Youtube afterwards

> When the ceremony was over

Dan: I forget, whose wedding are we at anyway?
Rick: Does it matter? They're all the same.

> and that Rei and Shinji were done kissing,

Rick: Geez, don't you guys ever breathe?

Tsuneo: This is wrong on so many levels.

Rebecca: And yet, Gendo finds the sight of his son making out with a clone of his wife strangely fascinating [Tsuneo hits her with a cushion]

> Tom ran to change yelling "I HATE THOSE GODDAMN SUITS!!!!"

Rebecca: And yet he has no problems with wearing form-fitting rubber. Make of this what you will.

> Rei soon told everyone that she was pregnant...

Dan: It must have been one hell of a reception. Shinji's family on one side, Rei's family in test tubes...

Rick [Gendo]: I'd like to just remind the young bride and groom that I do run an omnipotent evil conspiracy and that I can and will make people 'disappear' as I see fit.

> About nine months later, October 26th, 2020...

Dan: And in the meantime...

Rick: Rei took the Bar in record time, Toji and Kensuke split off to form their own band "Giant Robot Car," Pen-Pen laid a clutch of eggs and Ritsuko began construction on her brainchild, the Star Eva II

> Tom rushed with Asuka to the hospital where Rei had probably just gave birth to her child.

Rebecca: Probably? This is one of those things that you're certain about, one way or the other.

Rick: Retcons permitting.

> Tom suddenly busted the hell in with Asuka

Rick: Ironically, right under the "No busting the hell in" sign.

> to see Shinji stressed out as hell as he held the baby up.

Dan: On top of the rock while all the animals bowed and Elton John played in the background.

> John soon rushed in too.

Tsuneo: He'd mistaken the maternity ward for a nearby bar. Again.

> "Boy or girl, ol' pal??" said Tom.

Rick: [Shinji] I don't know, I slept through biology.

> "It's a boy!" said Shinji, "A new Ayanami!"

Tsuneo: As opposed to Gendo's method of making new Ayanamis, I suppose.

Rebecca: Right now, Rei would prefer that method.

> "What's his name??" asked Tom.

> "Lyn, Ayanami Lyn..." said Rei.

> "Lyn? What a beautiful name!!!"

Rebecca: With a name like that, the kid's going to get tormented for life.

Rick: His only friend? The boy named Susan.

> said Asuka as she congratulated both Shinji and Rei.

Tsuneo: While also suggesting to Tom just how she'd kill him if he put her through the same thing.

> Tom was clapping repeating "Dat's my boy, Shinji, way to go!!!!"

Dan [Tom]: I gotta get me one of them things. How'd you guys make it?

> The same year, at Nerv HQ,

Rebecca: We're losing track of the timeline here, folks.

Dan: Wanna go for another timeskip round?

Rick: Nah, wait until we have a specific break.

> Gendo was standing alone in front of Eva-01...

Rick [Gendo]: We never talk any more, dear.

> "I am sorry for what happened to you, Yui.

Rebecca: Still, science.

> You know I always truly loved you

Dan [Gendo]: All those other women meant nothing to me. Especially not the cheap, ugly hookers.

Tsuneo: Surprisingly, that's the case. Except the hookers.

Dan: It is? Awesome.

> and my work since 2004 was to see you again...

Rebecca: Even if Yui's lawyers said otherwise.

> I completed the Instrumentality

Rick: I assembled flat-packed furniture.

Rebecca: I re-heated frozen waffles.

Dan: I organized my sock drawer.

Tsuneo: And nothing bought you back.

> and Shinji was completed,

Rick: Well, when he said completed he meant 'there were a few bits left over'. He had more luck with the flat-pack furniture.

> but I will never do it again

Dan: There are only so many times you can wipe out humanity.

> with the other Children.

Tsuneo [Gendo]: At least, nobody I know or care about.

> Since the attack made by Matt Yazama, I figured out that Evas were too dangerous

Rick: It took him two years to reach this conclusion?

Rebecca: He had other things on his mind. Mainly shagging Ritsuko silly.

> and were to be kept from moving crucified like Lilith on her cross in Terminal
> Dogma. All Evas will take her place. I know that the Eva will feel pain, but you
> won't. I know that inside you are kept with Lilith's soul which made some of
> Eva-01's berserk states uncontrollable, and I am sorry..."

Tsuneo: I'd say that this makes no sense whatsoever and runs contrary to, well, everything in the series, but after chapter eleven it's rather minor. That and I don't want to find out if the Monk's up here.

> Gendo looked straight through the Eva's eyes wondering

Dan: What happened to the colour.

> if Yui would give him a response.

Rick: Answer unclear, ask again later.

> Gendo looked back down and continued :

Tsuneo: [Gendo] Mostly I'm just rambling. Kinda mismatched thoughts about the way things messed up. I dunno. You got anything, dear?

> "When I think that Misato believed that Kaji didn't die... and that Kaji thinks he didn't either...

Rick: He just got continuity rebooted.

> We recreated his memory, we recloned Kaji because, not only we needed him
> but we did a favor to Misato's great work.

Rebecca: Of course, since you seem to have a fully aware clone of an enemy agent, you doubtless could put him to far better use than just as Misato's feel-good. Every time this fic tries to explain something, it just gets dumber.

> Destroying Lilith, I went against all Angels and SEELE.

Tsuneo: But as the majority shareholder, Gendo got to make the call.

> Destroying Adam, I did the same...

Rick: [Gendo] I've got a whole list here of things I did against them. You got an hour?

> but I decided to let go on the idea of the Third Impact knowing it was too dangerous.

Dan [Gendo]: That and I don't like Tang.

> SEELE got what they deserve.

Rick: A basket of consolatory cheeses.

> But what happened to you just makes me sick...

Rebecca [Gendo]: I mean, having sex with a giant robot? It's uncomfortable and awkward [Tsuneo hits her with a cushion] You can't say he hasn't tried it.

Tsuneo: Well, no...

> now that our son has married Ayanami Rei, he can be happy.

Dan: Pressing out freakish malformed babies.

> I hope that he does not hate me forever though...

Rick: Just wait till Shinji's autobiography comes out, Gendo. Then you're in trouble.

> Justice was beaten, but it was really close,

Rebecca: The betting was going insane in the last moments. Fortunes were won and lost that day.

> but all Angels are defeated now..."

Rick: Or are they!

Dan: No, I'm pretty sure they are.

Rick: Well okay then. Carry on.

> finished Gendo.

Rick: [Gendo] You're getting all this right? I mean, I'd feel pretty stupid just standing here talking to the cage otherwise...

> But suddenly, he heard step sounds coming from behind him.

Rebecca: Its moments like these that Gendo's glad he always carries a concealed gun.

> When he turned around, he saw Shinji, Ayanami Shinji now looking at him.

Rebecca: Very glad indeed.

> "Father, we need to have a talk, a talk that has to settle it all..."

Rebecca: [Shinji] You know, you're very mean.

Rick: [Gendo] I am?

Rebecca: [Shinji] Yes, you are.

Rick: [Gendo] I am?

Rebecca: [Shinji] Yes, you are.

Rick: [Gendo] I am?

Rebecca: [Shinji] Yes, you are.

Rick: [Gendo] Well, I am what I am.

> "I know, Shinji. I know that you deeply hate me for everything I've done to you,

Dan: Including things imagined or that you made up to fill space on your Livejournal.

> but you have to underst..." tried to say Gendo as Shinji interrupted him.

Rick: To apologise for interrupting him.

> "Father, I don't hate you,

Dan: Still going to chop his hand off with a lightsaber though.

Tsuneo: Not sure where in the fic Shinji had this major turnaround.

Rebecca: He hasn't so much had character development as a character lobotomy.

> I just don't understand why you did all this to me... why you left your only son!"

Rick: He should write a university paper on the matter.

Tsuneo: ...okay, you got me there.

> "Shinji, the day your mother died... everything changed for me.

Dan [Gendo]: She was the only one who knew where my car keys were.

> I really loved her, and she was gone.

Rebecca: It turns out that everything Gendo's done; building the Evangelions, the Human Instrumentality project, abandoning Shinji and fighting the angels was to cover the fact that Yui actually ran off to Arizona with a minor league baseball player.

> There was Rei, your wife that I was taking care of too...

Tsuneo: He ran a side-business of selling Rei merchandise. Helped fund NERV in the early years.

> When I abandoned you when you were 11,

Dan [Gendo]: It was the happiest day of my life.

> I didn't know what I was doing,

Rick: He honestly thought that Shinji had gotten back in the car before he drove off. Wasn't for hours later that he noticed.

Rebecca: And by that point, he was also beyond caring.

> as I said you ran away while you knew the truth, I had left you..."

Dan: On the upside, it meant Gendo got more 'me' time.

Rebecca: He converted his basement into a pool room and had his friends around every Friday. They'd drink and smoke all night and love every moment of it.

> "I never had the chance to actually know my mother well... I barely remember her..."

Rick: [Shinji] I vaguely remember a cupboard under the stairs...

> "I know, Shinji, know that I'm sorry about everything I've ever done to you or
> any of your friends, please accept that apology..."

Rebecca: He had his fingers crossed behind his back, the jerk.

> Shinji was surprised as he saw mercy and compassion in his father's eyes.

Dan: And eye boogers.

> Shinji and Gendo looked down a long time,

Rick: [Gendo] So...

Rebecca: [Shinji] So...

Rick: [Gendo] You want to go play ball, son?

Rebecca: Insert touching montage of father-son bonding here.

> then looked at Eva-01, and then straightly in each other's eyes.

Dan [Gendo]: So what say we go merchandise the living crap out of your giant root mum?

> Gendo had a sorry look while Shinji didn't know what to think or say.

Rick: Dull surprise!

> "I forgive you, father..." said Shinji as suddenly, Gendo hugged Shinji like the
> hug of a father's love for a son.

Tsuneo: Shinji showed his love for his father by showing his love for his father like a son would show his love for his father.

Rebecca: That's touching. I may pretend to weep openly.

> Gendo then told Shinji his plan about

> crucifying all Evas in Terminal Dogma as the 3rd Children approved.

Rick: His options were otherwise limited to 'smile and nod' and 'back away slowly'.

Dan: Hey Voice? Can we run my skit now?

Voice: Sure thing!

The fic paused, temporarily changing the world back to prose format. "So I decided to do a quick summary of the fic." Dan explained. "Sort of a 'Delta Invasion in five minutes' thing." He handed around a few sheets of paper. "I've even improvised a chapter thirteen based on what we have so far."

"So what do we do?" Rick asked.

"Just read off your parts." Dan explained. "I'm Tom. Rick, you'll be Shinji, and Tsuneo, you'll handle the rest of the parts. Rebecca, since there are no female characters in the fic, you'll be the narrator."

"It's true." Rebecca casually admitted as she looked over the sheet.

"We ready?" Dan asked, receiving a round of nods in reply. "Ladies and Gentlemen, disembodied voices, I present to you, Delta Invasion in five minutes!" The world momentarily switched back to script format to accommodate.

Rebecca: Chapter one.

Dan [Tom]: I'm helluva awesome!

Rick [Shinji]: Damn straight!

Dan [Tom]: Hells yeah!

Rebecca: Chapter two.

Dan [Tom]: I'm going to an Italian restaurant to order things.

Rick [Shinji]: Invadors are from space.

Rebecca: Chapter three.

Dan [Tom]: I'm in love with Asuka.

Rick [Shinji]: I'm in love with Rei.

Dan [Tom]: Hells yeah!

Rick [Shinji]: Damn straight!

Rebecca: Chapter four.

Dan [Tom]: I want revenge on the man who killed my father and my uncle, Tom's uncle!

Rick [Jeff]: I want no witnesses!

[They fight with foam bats]

Rebecca: Chapter five.

Dan [Tom]: The Seventh children is coming. I should form a band.

Rick [Shinji]: I have previously undiscovered musical talents!

Rebecca: Chapter six.

Tsuneo [John]: I'm special.

Dan [Tom]: He's special.

Rick [Shinji]: He's special.

Rebecca: Chapter seven.

Tsuneo [Invador]: Now that we've captured you, we'll tell you all our plans and then go to sleep.

Dan [Tom]: Kay.

Tsuneo [Invador]: How did he escape?

Rebecca: Chapter eight.

Dan [Tom]: I found a plot device. Now we fight more Invadors.

Rebecca: Chapter nine.

Dan [Tom]: I'm going into space to blow up a planet! [kicks a beachball away]

Rick [Charles]: I'm Charles, and I'm Charles.

Rebecca: Chapter ten.

Rick [Charles]: Eat hot lead everything in the general vicinity!

Rebecca: Chapter eleven.

Dan [Tom]: I know everything.

Rick [Shinji]: The half alien clone of my mum is only half my mum. That makes it okay.

Rebecca: Chapter twelve.

Dan and Rick: AND THEN THEY FIGHT! [The fight with foam bats]

Tsuneo [John]: I'm in a coma.

Rebecca: Chapter thirteen.

Rick [Shinji]: Weddings for everybody!

Dan [Exhausted]: Four hundred babies...

Tsuneo: The end.

"Well." Rebecca admitted. "That was... a lot better than the actual fic."

Tsuneo nodded. "And a frighteningly accurate encapsulation of it as well."

"Once again, I'd rather be watching that than this." Rick concluded. "How's about it, Voice?"

"Sorry, but you still have the rest of the chapter to go." The Voice admitted. A round of disappointed 'awwws' came from the four of them as the world switched back to script format.

> About three days later...

Dan: More or less. Closer to two, actually.

> Nerv HQ...

Rick: Formerly the Really Big Room, now the Really Empty Room That We're Not Sure What We're Doing With Anymore.

> "You're gonna what???" said Tom.

Tsuneo: That's pretty much my reaction too.

> "You heard us, crucify all Evas in Terminal Dogma, they represent too much of a
> danger!" said Dr. Akagi.

Rebecca: They've gone well beyond even the 'put them in rusty barrels in a lead-lined bunker for ten thousand years' stage.

Rick: Just banish them to the Negative Zone then. That'll work.

> "But, I like my god damn Eva!!!!" said Tom,

Dan: [Tom] It's got the boss decals and those sweet grenades. I put spinning rims on it and everything!

> "God damnit, this isn't cool!

Tsuneo: All the other kids will laugh at him because he doesn't have a giant robot like they do.

Rick: Even Shin Asuka?

Dan: Yeah, but nobody cares about him

> But it is true that Evas are very dangerous..."

Rebecca: I heard that reports of Evangelion attacks have been greatly exaggerated by media hype and sensationalism. Most Evangelions are shy and retiring and afraid to approach humans in the wild.

> "O.K. now we're going to explain you what we're going to do...

Tsuneo: And please try not to laugh.

> First we all of you to go to Terminal Dogma with all your Evas.."

Dan: Form an orderly queue in front of the symbolic structure.

> explained Ritsuko. "You're going to grab the Lance of Longinus,

Tsuneo: And remind everyone it's in this fic.

> and fix it right in the middle of the huge pentagram that we made in Terminal Dogma.

Rebecca: The inspiration for this ritual? Every metal album cover ever.

Rick: Right. But when the demonic hellbeasts from the Negative X dimension erupt through it, don't say that I didn't warn you.

> Since we repaired Eva-04 so that we could accomplish the plan.

Tsuneo: I'd point out that EVA-04 was "completely blown up", but the same happened to EVA-14 and it was fine later.

Rick: They used the power of Fixes.

> Each Eva is going to be on one edge of the pentagram.

Rebecca: I suspect that he meant 'point', unless they're lying down or something.

Dan: I think this is the point that you just surrender to the inevitable and accept and embrace the stupid.

Rebecca: I'm afraid so.

> Eva-01 at the peak, Eva-03 right at its right, Eva-00 at its left, Eva-02 down left and Eva-04 in front of it.

Rick: Intense Geometrical Action!

> At its edge, a cross with the color of the Eva lies.

Dan: Is EVA-04's cross white or silver? We need to know this!

> Each Eva will be crucified on it and maintained in position by the Lance of Longinus.

Tsuneo: In all five Evangelions at once. Or something.

> When all Evas will have put the Lance in place and taken their

> places, the entry plug will be ejected and taken out while we use all of our

> carrying machines to crucify each Eva with nails made of the same material as an

> Eva's armor so that they can contain the AT Field of the Lance of Longinus and

> paralyse the Evas.

Tsuneo: I'll just pretend that made some sense to someone and then smile and nod.

> Each edge of the pentagram represents one of the barons of

> darkness(Evas) : the peak, The Baron of Hell(Eva-01),

> down right, The Baron of Destruction(Eva-03),

> to the left, The Baron of Hatred(Eva-00), down left, the Baron of Terror(Eva-02)

> and to the right, the Baron of Sins (Eva-04).

Dan: Theology cribbed from the first edition Monster Manual.

Rick: It's an entirely eighties rock version of hell.

> But before the main room of Terminal Dogma where all Evas will be crucified,

Rebecca: They put in a Starbucks. It folded in minutes.

> there is a small room with a red floor where a gold atlar lies.

Tsuneo: That's where they'll be holding the reception. Catering staff enter through the back.

> There will be put the Blade of Souls, just like Excalibur in its rock.

Rebecca: Symbolism! Pointless and unconnected to anything above! But still, Symbolism!

> Tom will take care of that.

Dan: I wouldn't let Tom handle safety scissors. I certainly wouldn't let him loose with a powerful artifact weapon.

Tsuneo: I guess he still has to stab something in this last chapter.

> Children, let's go!!!" finished Ritsuko.

> "Hai!" answered all Children.

Dan: Here's a thought. Why not just blow them up?

Rebecca: I'm sure the fic has a perfectly good reason.

Dan: Well does the fic feel like sharing?

> All of the Children got in their Evas as they were brought down to Terminal Dogma.

Rebecca: Three Evangelions were deployed to Terminal Dogma in eight minutes.

Rick: Man, the Random Delta Invasion Episode Generator wasn't ready for this.

Tsuneo: None of us were ready for this.

> Tom grabbed the Blade of Souls and watched the other Evas get in the main
> room. Eva-03 walked up to the gold atlar and swang the Blade over his head

Rick: The good old swang. Glad to see it back here one last time.

> and violently slammed it into the atlar

Rick: Probably all the action we'll get in this chapter.

> making the Blade of Souls piercing through in a perfect right angle.

Tsuneo: Geometry! What does it have to do with the rest of this crap? Not a clue.

> Tom watched as the sword glew

Rick: Glew, joining his good buddy swang for one last hurrah.

> with red light and then stopped.

Dan: That means your toast's done.

> Tom walked in the main room with the others and saw a huge pentagram on
> the floor made with blackrock.

Rick: Blackrock? So it's a-

Dan: No it's not. Nor is it Florence Nightingale, Roy the Nexus Six Replicant, Steve Buscemi or the Anti-Life Equation.

Rick: Huh. There you go.

> At each edge, he saw a huge cross with the size of an Eva and its color.

Rick: The colour of dirt?

> "Well, I guess this is our last Eva mission, I liked those machines but well, see ya Eva-03..." said Tom.

Dan: [Shinji] He's talking to the robot again, mum...

> "Yeah, the last time we're in an Eva now..." said Shinji

Rebecca: It's your last chance to have your mind and soul stretched, tortured and mutilated beyond all recognition, Shinji. Treasure it.

> as they went to grab the Lance of Longinus on the far right.

Tsuneo: I have no idea what the author thinks the Lance of Longinus is in an Evangelion context, but this is certainly not it.

> They brought it in the middle of the pentagram and slammed it by its edge(not the blade)

Rick: He's completely missing the point.

Dan: But he's making a stab at it.

> in the middle of the

> pentagram. The AT Field of the Lance made it bounce up and let it float straight

> on top of the pentagram.

Rebecca: At this point, we've moved well past any semblance of logic and right into "yeah, whatever" territory.

Dan: Sounds like where I live.

> "Perfect..." said Gendo.

Dan: Rick, you're the expert. Was that an "At long last" perfect, or more of an "All part of the plan" one?

Rick: I'd say it's most likely the classic "The fools have served me well" kind.

Dan: Sweet.

> All Evas walked back and got in the exact position the Evas were supposed to

> take on each cross.

Rick: Then Rei and Asuka wanted to change places and got into a fight over it.

> Their entry plugs were ejected and taken out as carrying flying machines

Rebecca: "Carrying flying machines". Wow, we are being vague, aren't we?

> came near each Eva piercing each Eva's hand, and pierced both
> legs together just like Jesus Christ on his cross,

Dan: You know, this whole thing reminds me of something, but I can't remember what.

Tsuneo: Come on, Dan. It's obvious what this is meant to be.

Dan: Oh yeah. Life of Brian.

> and one nail was pierced right into each Eva's Core.

Rick: Ow! Stings a bit.

> They all got in a safe position as the Lance glew to a bright light

Rick: First swang and now another glew? They pulled out all the stops for this finale.

> and all the energy flew into the nails making each Eva glow and
> as the souls of each Eva flew into the Lance.

Rebecca: That thing really sucks the life out of a get-together.

> The whole room was now covered by the AT light as everything went back to normal

Tsuneo: Nothing is normal about this.

> except that every Eva and the Lance were now glowing of a bright white light.

Rick: And at the middle of it? Sinestro.

> On the gold circle around the
> pentagram, a circular light going up to the roof was lighting around all Evas
> and the Lance.

Rebecca: Gendo's planning on turning Terminal Dogma into a disco. Got the lighting installed already.

> All Children stared at it a long time

Dan: Duh, pretty...

> before going back up to Central Dogma.
> Once up there...

Rebecca: Now the really smart thing to do would be to then fill all that in with concrete to provide a physical barrier in addition to the metaphysical one.

Tsuneo: Don't think soul-sucking artifacts are enough?

Rebecca: I prefer security measures that I can poke.

> "Well, I guess it's over for all Evas..." said Tom as he looked down then up and

> said : "But no more muthafuckin' Invadors or Angels!!!!" as everyone cheered.

Rick: W-wait... but if they crucified the Evangelions...

Tsuneo: Something wrong?

Rick: What will they do when the inevitable Invador alert occurs?

Tsuneo: Are you sure there's even going to be one. I mean-

Rick: There has to be! [Grabs Tsuneo by the shirt front] I mean, it's going to be a last-minute twist or something, like nobody saw it coming and then the Invadors drop from the sky. And then they have to use fixes to get the Evangelions back in action in a desperate race against time to stop the last charge of the Invador swarm.

Tsuneo: I just don't think it's going to happen.

Rick: No, it has to! I just can't accept that the last chapter of Delta Invasion is going to be nothing but weddings and babies and babies and weddings and four hundred babies! There has to be more to it! There has to be more to life!

Dan: Dude, it's just a crappy fanfic. No point in getting worked up over it.

Rick: Oh yeah [Lets Tsuneo go and sits down]

> About two years later...

Dan: In the meantime...

Rick: Ritsuko's masterpiece left the Earth Sphere on a mission to scour the solar system of remnant Invadors, Gendo's follow up book "The World In Tang" hit the stands to mixed success and Rei won a landmark case granting all her clones individual human rights and identities.

> September 13th, 2022...

Rebecca: Tom finally learned how to put on pants.

> Tom was wearing a suit again and yelled :

Dan: [Shouting] It wedding scene time now!

> "God damnit!!! A suit again!!! Fuckin' shit!!!"

Tsuneo: It was really killing the mood at the funeral.

> "Yeah, but this time, Tom, it's for your own wedding..." said Shinji.

Rebecca: I'd have thought that Tom would have gone for some sort of nonsense theme wedding, like everyone coming dressed as a pirate or eighties rockers or the like.

Tsuneo: Maybe he wanted to, but Asuka over-rode him.

Rebecca: You're really funny sometimes, you know that?

> "Oh... yeah..." responded Tom.

Rick: To be fair to Tom, he was so hung over right now that he barely remembered his own name.

> "Look, Tom, it ain't that bad!!!" said Shinji

Dan: You could be wearing a dress.

Rebecca: Again, form-fitting rubber that likely pinches in awkward places.

> as Rei and Asuka walked in.

Dan: With O-Ren, Elle Driver and Bill.

> Rei was carrying the two year old Lyn on her back.

Dan: Two men enter! One man leaves!

Rick: Dan, can't you just get beyond Thunderdome?

> He had brown hair and brown eyes,

> just like Shinji's mother but he had the face of Rei.

Tsuneo: Guest appearance by a young Yushiro Gowa.

> "Such a cute baby..." said Asuka as the baby held one of her fingers.

Rebecca: He tried to start third impact in his crib. He's so adorable.

> "Thanks, Asuka!!" said Rei as Misato and Kaji walked in.

Rick: Kaji had already begun pilfering food from the buffet table.

> Three year old Mana was walking near her.

Rebecca: She can already say "hangover" and "rehab."

> "Whoa, the baby has grown up!"

Dan [Tom]: Babies do that, right?

Others: Yes, Tom.

> said Tom as he kneeled near Mana, "Hey, what's up?"

Rebecca [Mana]: My mum says you're a bum.

> "Hi, Mr. Dyron..." said the girl.

Rick: I'm surprised she recongised him. Most pics of Tom have his face blurred out, as well as those of the cops leading him off. They also have to blur out some other things on occasion

> "Mr. Dyron???" said Tom as Shinji and Kaji laughed. "Call me Tom!"

Tsuneo: [Mana] Goodnight, Uncle Tom.

> "Yes, Mr. Tom Dyron, sir..." said Mana. '

Dan: [Mana] Mama says don't talk to strangers and you're strange as they come.

> "Huh..." said Tom.

> "O.K. Tom!" said Mana.

Tsuneo: So here's a question. If we're on the last chapter, why is it made up of filler?

Rick: Because the author only now realized that he ran out of plot when they killed Justice.

> "That's better!!!" responded Tom as heard Rei's baby say "T... Tom...".

> "Whoa! Can your baby talk, Rei??" asked Asuka.

Rebecca: Talk and differentiate first-order polynomials. He's a fast learner.

> "Yeah, kinda..." said Rei as she let the baby down.

Rick: [Rei] Now show Uncle Tom your Dim Mak. He's been working hard on it.

> "Hell... hello..." said the baby. Tom mumbled "He said hell..." as Asuka punched Tom

> on top of the head.

Dan: Asuka was hoping that a concussion would make Tom more pliable.

> "Itai!!" said Tom loudly.

Tsuneo: Which roughly translates as "Hopeless fanboy."

> "My name is Asuka." said Tom's bride as she walked near the baby.

Rebecca [Lyn]: Hello, old hag.

> "As... Asuka..." said Lyn.

Tsuneo: For such supposedly close friends, you'd think they would have met each other's kids by now.

Rick: Actually, they've been trying to keep the kids away from Tom but finally realised the futility.

> Tom, Shinji and Kaji in their corner.

Tsuneo: Each with their dunce caps, no doubt.

> "God damn, that's having kids!! Holy crap!" said Tom.

> "You know, it ain't that bad!" said Kaji.

Rebecca: Not bad for the father. All he has to do is grunt for a few minutes and that's his end of the deal out of the way.

> "If you say so!" responded Tom thinking Kaji was bullshitting him.

Rick: How much time do you reckon Kaji actually spends looking after his kid? Be honest.

> Now was the wedding time...

Dan: And time for some zany comedy antics!

> Asuka and Tom walked down the aisle accompanied by Shinji and Rei.

Tsuneo: And Tom's personal bodyguard team for clobbering unwanted paparazzi.

Dan: You know, Queen actually performed a wedding march for the Flash Gordon soundtrack.

Rick: Seriously? What brings that to mind?

Dan: Just that it'd be way too classy for this wedding.

> Once they got there, Tom fell asleep thinking the ceremony was totally boring.

Rebecca: Who's to bet that Tom's involvement with the planning largely amounted to pretending to listen to Asuka while drinking?

> Shinji smacked him hard as Tom woke up.

Dan: [Shinji] You missed it. We're onto the divorce proceedings.

> "Wha???" mumbled Tom. "Oh, right, my wedding, whatever you say Mr. Priest, I agree!!!"

Tsuneo: Tom, you just married a goat. Well done.

> Tom waited for the preacher to be done as he kissed Asuka before the preacher

> was done saying "You may kiss the bride." Tom yelled again "SUITS TIGHTEN THE

> DAMN BALLS, I AM SUEING WHOEVER CREATED SUITS!!!"

Rick [Asuka]: What?! You dare ruin the great Asuka's wedding?! WA-TAK! I want a divorce!

[Pause]

Dan: Dude. I think you just nailed that sound effect!

Rick: I did? Awesome!

> About two months later, Asuka said that she was pregnant.

Rick: Tom was caught at the airport trying to flee to Brazil under an assumed name.

> August 09th, 2023...

Dan: In the meantime...

Rick: Rei's clones founded a democratic nation on an uninhabited Pacific island and isolated themselves from the world at large, Fuyutsuki was impeached for embezzling massive funds - which were never found - through NERV's continuing operations, the Star Eva II obliterated Phobos and Deimos on "suspicion of being there" and Gendo retired to a previously uninhabited Pacific island with a massive fortune from an unknown source.

Rebecca: Oh, and John was special.

Rick: Yeah, where is John in all this?

> Shinji and Rei busted in the room with John

Rick: Oh, there you go.

Dan: Poor bastard's been demoted to scene filler.

> as soon as they heard the good news.

Rick: They'd finally found a plot point for this chapter?

Rebecca: No such luck.

> Kaji and Misato soon got in. Tom looked like a dead man

Tsuneo: Brains... brains...

> with the terrible look on his face.

Rick: He'd just realized that his musical career had amounted to little more than doing covers of old KISS numbers. And not even terribly good covers.

> But then he held the baby.

Dan [Tom]: Dude, what's this horrible screaming pink thing anyway?

> "It's a boy!!!!" screamed Tom.

Dan: [Tom] Hold on, let me double check... Um... What's that down there again? Er... It's a girl!

> "Yeah, our baby boy..." said Asuka.

> "What's his name??" asked John, Rei and Shinji.

Rick: [Tom] I named him for the greatest inspiration in my life, Kool-Aid Man!

> "I thought a long time about this,

Rebecca [Tom]: I drank a lot, scratched myself, then drank some more.

> and since I'm a hard rock singer and that's the way I live

Rick: Yeah, Tom. You live such a hard rock lifestyle, what with your shared apartment in the Tokyo suburbs.

> and that Trent Reznor started my career,

Tsuneo: He's still got that signed album. Let's see, it says... "Dear Tom, never ever for the love of God play again, signed Trent Reznor."

> his name is Trent, Trent Dyrone!" said Tom.

Rick [Asuka]: Excuse me! What about me? Don't *I* get a say in his name? WA-TAK!

Rebecca: I think it's really working for you

> The baby had piercing blue eyes like his mother but black as night hair like his father.

Tsuneo: And thus Tom's baby is better described than Matt Yazama or Charles. Nice going, fic.

> "Congratulations!!!" said Kaji and Misato.

Dan: Babies for everyone!

Rick: Four hundred babies!

> A few days later...
> At Tom's apartment...

Rick: His hard rock lifestyle apartment.

> Shinji, Asuka, Rei and Tom were sitting on a coach,

Dan: Is that some kind of gimmick couch made to look like a tour bus?

Rick: No, it's an actual bus he crashed into the place.

> the two babies were sleeping...

Rebecca: Lyn Ayanami is nearly three years old. That's beyond baby.

> "God damn..." said Tom, " What a life, I'm 22 now, whoohoo!!!"

Rick: So get out of your apartment and get a real job.

Dan: Never!

> "So are we all, except Asuka!!" said Shinji.

Rebecca: Since that matters so much right now!

> "I know, but just gotta wait for four months!" said Asuka.

> "Who cares anyways who's oldest since I am!" said Tom,

Tsuneo: Tom can't admit that anyone is better than him in any way, can he? No matter how minor, how petty or how banal, he has to be best at everything.

Rick: You should see his score on Dance Dance Revolution.

> "but we beat the Invadors and Angels so, it's great.

Tsuneo: Five years, two months and five days later, he's STILL going on about how hard Justice was.

Rebecca: You counted?

Tsuneo: Nothing else to do in this chapter.

> We're all married and have kids.

Dan: In case you missed the last twenty pages. And the twelve chapters before that.

> John is still with Jeynna

Dan: And I heard that Jessica hooked up with Charles. Or was that Charles?

Rick: What about Sean, Shauna and Shaundi? [Tsuneo raps him on the head] Yeah, I deserved that.

> and I wonder when he's gettin' the ring around his ringfinger..."

Dan: Because dammit, everyone in the civilized world gets married to their first girlfriend.

Rebecca: Bitter, Dan?

Dan: Yeah, right.

> "I wonder too, it's been years that they've been together..." said Rei.

Rebecca: She's just doing it to spite you, Tom.

Rick: Nah, she just wants to be special too.

> "Anyways, it's his life!" said Tom.

Tsuneo: What, the one you tried to mess up by chasing off his girlfriend?

> "Yeah, you're right, Tom!" said Shinji,

Tsuneo: He's never had a life of his own before. It's a novel experience.

> "Remember when we were just 16, Tom?"

Rebecca: [Shinji] When you were just an incoherent, overbearing idiot?

Dan: [Shouting] I all real grew up now!

Rebecca: [Shinji] Never mind.

> "Yeah, I remember the day I met all of you guys and that you bumped into me when

> I was skating.

Rick: [Tom] When I ran over your dog?

> Nice way to meet, huh?" said Tom.

All: No.

> "Yeah... and then, I met Tom at Nerv HQ for his synchro tests..." said Rei.

Tsuneo: It's flashing back to the start of the fanfic! Help!

> "And when we all met when we were 14..." said Shinji,

Tsuneo: [Shinji] My life was a series of pyrrhic victories and soul-crushing tragedies, but I was happier because I didn't have Tom.

> "But Tom wasn't here so that we could form the Brady Bunch..." as everyone laughed.

Rick: Notice how they don't mention meeting John.

> "What a life we had..." said Tom, "But finally we have a normal one!"

Dan: That's right, getting married to a half-clone of your mother and having kids while you're still both teenagers is normal!

> "I don't know why, but I think we should go at the cliff, like good ol' days!" said Tom.

Rebecca: No, this doesn't sound like a needlessly forced way of drawing a conclusion at all.

> "Yeah, I think that would be great...

Rick: Remember all the great times we had up there? Drinking, swearing, shouting drunkenly into the sky at God, killing Jeff and throwing his corpse over the edge... good times.

> let's hope the babies don't wake up!" said Shinji.

> "Whatever, yours is three, Shinji, mine is only eight days old... but anyways, nothing will happen!"

Rebecca: And if it does, well, you can just shrug your responsibilities off and dump it on the girls.

Rick: Say, what are Rei and Asuka up to during all this?

Rebecca: Asuka had her big break thanks to that talent scout, and they decided to stay in Hollywood and forge new careers. Rei is known for her bizarre arthouse projects, while Asuka is singlehandedly redefining the female action lead.

> "Yeah, I know, we just worry too much!" said Shinji.

Tsuneo: Parenting, ladies and gentlemen.

Rick: Didn't your folks have your whole education and career planned out for you?

Tsuneo: And reading this make me appreciate them a whole lot more.

> They took their motorcycles like "ol" days and rushed to the cliff.

Tsuneo: And if you look, you can still see Jeff's decomposing carcass.

> There, which didn't surprise Tom and Shinji at all, they saw John smoking a cigarette.

Rick: John smokes. We now know two things about him.

> As they all walked up silently and sat next to him...

> "Hey guys..." said John.

Dan: [John] I'm in the fic. Yup. Still here, being special.

> "Where's yo' woman??" asked Tom.

> "She stayed home, and I wanted to go for a while anyways..." answered John.

> "Oh..." said Asuka.

Rebecca: Wait, if Asuka's here, then who's looking after the kids?

> "You gonna get married with her?" asked Tom.

Rick [John]: Don't worry; I'm not going to suddenly up and move across the pacific without a moment's notice to hook up with another girl. I'm special to her.

> "I might, still thinking about it..." responded John as those were his last words

> that night. All he did was starring at the stars.

Rebecca [John]: Go on, have your big scene. It's not like I'm important or anything.

Dan: Do you ever get the feeling they just don't like him?

> "When I think about all we went through... Angels, Invadors, fighting Evas,

Rebecca: Flying into space.

Dan: Blowing up a planet.

> not being normal teenagers,

Rick: The strangest teenagers of all! Just check out the yellow and blue plug-suits.

> god, it's terrible!" said Asuka.

> "Yeah, I know..." said Rei.

Tsuneo: In case you had missed it the first thousand times this chapter: they can now live normal lives.

> "It's the way life is!" said Shinji.

Dan: Wasn't that an 80's ballad?

Rick: I think this whole chapter was.

> "Everybody has a different life, we were born to save the world from those god

> damn monsters that are just like us, though!" said Tom.

Rebecca: In what way are they 'just like you', Tom?

Dan [Tom]: You know... stuff. Like that.

> "Guys, do you think we'll always live in peace from now on??" asked Rei and Asuka.

Rick: Until the inevitable sequel comes around. In which at least one of you will be dropped with no adequate explanation given.

> Tom and Shinji looked at each other then said :

Rebecca [Tom]: I wish I knew how to quit you

> "Only time will tell..." That sentence could end any kind of talk...

Tsuneo: Much like anything else in Delta Invasion, really.

> Tom had learned that. In this world,

Rick: This world, not of sight or sound, but of Delta.

> all that matters is living and having something to live for.

Rebecca: And having lots of stuff too.

> Having someone to love, to live with and to depend on

Dan: And mooch off.

> are the best reasons to live happy and to have nothing to worry about.

Rick [Max the Bunny]: That's touching. I may weep openly.

> Now that the Angels were gone,

Rebecca: [Faint] I'm not dead yet!

> all the Children that were now married could rest in peace... for now!

Rick: Not noticing the small black object floating towards the base of the cliff.

Dan [Ominous]: Flesh... Jeff Garryn of Earth... rise!

> End of Final Genesis(Genesis 0:26) and End of : Neon Genesis Evangelion II : D.E.L.T.A. Invasion

Dan: Or is it!

Rebecca: No, I actually think it is.

Dan: Well, okay then. Never mind.

Rick: Cue closing theme by currently popular yet eminently forgettable band. Roll credits.

The big screen turned off, switching the world back to prose format and leaving a something of a stunned silence in its wake.

"So." Rebecca finally spoke up. "Of all the ways that I'd expected Delta Invasion to end, this was not one of them."

"Right." Dan nodded. "Delta Invasion, a silly, incoherent, over-the top action fic should end with, well, a big-arse fight or huge explosion or some sort of ultimate battle or something."

"Certainly not babies and weddings for twenty pages." Rick nodded. "I mean, it's a total break in style that really doesn't make any sense. Certainly killed the excitement at the end of chapter twelve as well as the momentum that the fight with Justice had built up."

"And what do we get? A mountain of glurge." Tsuneo finished. "And really ham-fisted, awkward, badly-written glurge at that."

"It's like I said about the filler and the imaginary wordcount." Rick nodded. "And in this case, the author realised that he'd come up one whole chapter short and had to improvise. Except his brain farted and all he could come up with was 'babies!'"

"What got me is the timespan in all that," Tsuneo added. "Five years and there's no real indication anything's changed beyond weddings and babies. For all we know they still could be living at Misato's apartment and doing weekly synchro tests."

Rick nodded his agreement. "I know what you mean. The focus is on Tom and his homies more than in any other chapter."

"A really exclusive focus," Rebecca corrected him. "Though we see the weddings, each time the scene is all about Tom. And while Shinji gets his big confrontation with Gendo, beyond that none of the other characters get any resolution. Asuka and Rei get a brief chat about overlooking their actual characterisation, and that's it. Heck, poor John gets less airtime than his instant girlfriend."

"Story of his life," Dan finished.

"Thanks for that." The Voice nodded. "Now what I'd like next is to hear your thoughts on the fic as a whole. Tell me about Delta Invasion."

"Tom Dyron," Dan stated flatly.

"Yeah, Tom what?" Rick asked.

"Tom everything. Tom's the whole point and center of the fic, and that's its biggest problem. You've got a downright unlikeable jerk as the lead, suddenly showing up and taking all the attention and airtime. And I mean all of it. The only real scenes you get without Tom are ham-handed exposition, or little bits of dialogue that wind up being about Tom or Shinji anyway. And when he is there, he's dominating everything to a ridiculous degree. He does everything well, everyone's cheering for him and telling him how great he is, she's showing off ridiculous skills or telling people stuff they should know... I mean, even if Tom was a good or likeable character, it would still be smothering."

"But since he's not, the whole fic is about choking on him," Rick finished.

"Yeah. The only upside is that it's all so clumsy and poorly handled; you know, it should be offensive but it's downright funny."

"It's the writing that I have a problem with," Tsuneo began. "I know I went on about how the author had messed up Evangelion's themes and message—"

"More than just a little," Rick butted in.

"That's what the monk's there for," Rebecca added, surprisingly sweetly.

"Yeah..." Tsuneo rubbed his head slightly before continuing. "But it really is a big issue. Evangelion garnered as much attention as it did precisely for its radical new take on traditional giant robot anime, but Delta Invasion seems almost designed to turn it on its head and make it exactly what it was a deconstruction of in the first place. The awkward and weak lead is replaced with an all-powerful hero, the technical and strategic fights are replaced with insipid brawling and shouting catchphrases, and the obscure and complex mythology just becomes a reason for one dumb fight after another."

"You can almost ask 'Why Evangelion in the first place,' right?" Dan asked.

Tsuneo nodded. "Because it was popular at the time, even if the author didn't understand why."

"Which is pretty much the story of Evangelion fandom right there and then." Rebecca cut in. "Nobody got the show, even if they pretended they did. The author just happened to write a fanfic about how little he 'got' it."

"So what did you think then?" Rick asked.

"Dan and Tsuneo made a few good points there about the characterization of Tom as the omnipotent hero and Shinji as the hot-blooded heroic pilot he was meant to be deconstructing, but the secondary characters deserve some note as well." Rebecca began. "Outside of Tom and Shinji, the characterization is virtually non-existent. Ritsuko expounds on science stuff, Misato gives orders and so on. There's no attempt to depict them as anything other than one-note wonders, but even then there are two stand-outs."

"The first is Asuka." Rebecca explained. "While like the rest of the cast she was stripped of any

individuality and personality, for her it went further. As Tom's love interest, she was little more than a prop; she existed only to make him look better, being rendered helpless at every turn and doing nothing but parroting his thoughts."

"The other one is, of course, John Barren." She continued. "Who, yes, is special. And that's it. He has no personality at all. At best, he has a few basic conversations that could be swapped for any other conversation without any real change. All there is to say about him is how special he is, and even then, that's other people talking about it. It's never once demonstrated what 'special' is, to the point that John could have been excised from the fic and the plot would be no different."

"Thing is, John was a part of what got me the most about Delta." Rick concluded. "See, for me, Delta is goofy. It doesn't intend to be; in fact, I can see that the author had intended this grim, dark and bloody story of warfare against the unknown and stuff."

"I also see him as being the type who shouts 'this is serious business' on any fan forum." Rebecca noted.

"Also true." Rick nodded. "But instead, it's silly. The Invadors are these crazy mix-and-match critters that seem to have been built from a random roll table, and the fights themselves read more like kaiju silliness crossed with pro-wrestling. Throw in rubber science, looping conversations that abruptly end, strangely duplicating siblings, the constant inference that John is special without proving it... its silly. And it's impossible to take seriously but very easy to laugh at."

"Thanks all of you for that." The Voice spoke up. "This has been rather interesting for me, and I'm glad to see that you all got something out of the fic. I only hope that the next major series undertaking is as enjoyable as Delta Invasion was."

"I can hardly wait." Tsuneo muttered without a hint of enthusiasm.

"So I've been thinking about something you said, Tsuneo," Dan added.

"You've been doing that a lot," Rebecca commented dryly. "It's a dangerous habit."

Dan waved her off and continued. "Way back when we started this pile, you asked what version of Evangelion it was, right?" Tsuneo nodded, and he continued. "So I've been thinking; what would this fic be like if it was based on the Rebuild movies, not the series?"

"That's... a good question," Tsuneo began. "I figure it would pick up at the very end of the second Rebuild of Evangelion movie."

"How come?" Rick asked.

"Partly because there's still some resemblance to the series at that point, and partly because Delta reads like it was started half way through the TV series anyway," Tsuneo replied.

Rick nodded. "Check. So what, right after the angel attack, Unit 06 coming down from the sky and everything?"

"Pretty much," Tsuneo agreed. "So here's what I figure. Ritsuko suddenly announces that there's movement in the base. Tom, who was flown here from America offscreen, busts out in a freshly repaired EVA-03 to face down Kaoru and 'save' Shinji from him."

"Cue a one-sided beatdown of dumb wrestling moves ending in a cheap headshot," Dan added.

Tsuneo nodded his agreement. "Kaoru's disposed of and never mentioned again. Tom hacks into Unit 01 and rescues Shinji and Rei, who immediately become his buddies. He then tells everyone that he knows SEELE are sending Angels from the moon."

"How does he know this?" Dan asked.

Rather than answer, Tsuneo pressed straight on. "They have a chapter of everyone congratulating Tom while Invadors start showing up and Ritsuko builds the Star Eva. Cue lunar mission, which is suddenly to recover SEELE's secret human project, John Barren."

"And once they find him, he fades into the background," Rebecca added. "Save for the odd reassurance that he's special and maybe the pointless interjection of his brother who may or may not be called Charles."

"Of course, Rei and Asuka are here in their Evangelions, despite one being wrecked and the other eaten," Rick said.

"This is Tom we're talking about," Rebecca told him.

"What about Mari then?" Dan asked.

"About halfway through, Tom finds out about the third movie," Tsuneo continued, once again passing Dan's question. "There's a couple of clumsy retcons about Asuka's eye patch and the repairs to Unit 02-

"You mean Fixes", Dan interjected.

"- then everyone shows up in their new plugsuits for no real reason. Units 08, 09 and 13 get to show up as boss monsters, with the Angels all but forgotten."

"And then in the middle of the fight, Matt Yazama shows up." Rebecca cut in. "Which leads to a fight with EVA-14-

"The Golden Evangelion which is an Evangelion coloured Gold." Rick noted.

"-while they find out that the Invadors are coming from the moon which is actually the planet DELTA." She continued. "Cut to an epic battle on the surface of the moon against EVA-14 and Justice which ends with John in a coma and the moon blowing up... and absolutely no consequences of it whatsoever."

"Which would be very Delta." Tsuneo agreed.

"For all that though, I kind of imagine the ending is just like this chapter," Rick said.

"Remarkably so," Tsuneo agreed. "Except John gets paired up with Mari - who's barely appeared - who just says 'He smells special.'"

"Nice one," Dan replied. "So same mess, different package."

"I'd love to argue, but I can't," Rebecca added.

"So that just leaves my thing to do." Rick spoke up. "And I put together a little number with our friends."

He turned back to the stage which, at some point, a band had set up on.

Natasha walked in, wearing a 'Spastic Rhesus Monkeys' tee-shirt and holding a battered guitar in hand. "Thanks Rick. I really appreciate the work." She gave a small grin. "Really, really appreciate it."

Matt, Celena and Maya followed her on stage, taking up places at the various instruments. Matt and Celena looked surprisingly incongruous in their normal attire, while Maya seemed to have made herself over to look like an eighties rocker, complete with big hair. "I didn't realize that the B-Team were your band." Dan commented.

"They're not normally." Natasha replied as she plugged in her amp. "But they couldn't make it. Fortunately, I discovered that my friends all had previously undiscovered musical talents."

"Well there you have it." Dan shrugged.

Natasha nodded to the band, before turning back to the mic. "All right everybody up here on this roof! I am Natasha Isavia, we are Spastic Rhesus Monkey, and this is Delta Invasion Theme Song!" The big screen switched back on behind them with a montage of footage from various Delta Invasion moments as the band started up.

Delta Invasion Theme Song

(With apologies to Barry Harman, Ford Kinder and Spencer Michlin)

Crashing through the sky
Comes a fear full cry
Invador! Invador!
Armies of the night
Evil taking flight
Invador! Invador!
Nowhere to run
Nowhere to hide
Panic spreading far and wide
Who can turn the tide?

Tom Dyron! A self-insterted hero!
Tom Dyron is there

Tom Dyron! An odious sort of hero!
Tom Dyron is there
Ordering Italian
Wherever there's trouble
over land and sea and air
Tom Dyron is there

Can the NERV oppose
The deadliest of foes?
Invador! Invador!
Tom will risk it all
To end the evil call of
Invador! Invador!
He never gives up
He never says die

Walking tall with guitars high
He sounds the battle cry-
Damn straight!

Tom Dyron - A monkey-boy hero
Tom Dyron will dare
Tom Dyron - A drunken bum hero
Tom Dyron is there

Sitting on the couch
Wherever there's trouble
over land and sea and air
Tom Dyron is there

Tom Dyron- A self-appointed hero
Tom Dyron will dare
Tom Dyron- A I guess that he's the hero
Tom Dyron is there
Watching pro-wrestling
Wherever there's trouble
over land and sea and air
Tom Dyron is there

Tom Dyron- Some sort of hero
Tom Dyron is there

I'm special!

It was a nice apartment, well-lit, spacious and well furnished. A pair of nice, plush leather couches set the scene, arranged in a neat L-shape, with a small coffee table between them. What dominated the room, however, was the massive flat-screen against one wall, so big as to loom over all else around it. By comparison, the broad windows with views out over a strangely futuristic metropolis and the other doorways leading away to gods alone knew where seemed like afterthoughts.

On the coffee table was a single disk inside a sleeve, a label clearly visible on its top.

"Neon Genesis Evangelion II: The Gates Of Oblivion"

Author's notes:

Of all the likely outcomes for Delta Invasion, a tidal wave of weddings, babies and general WAFFy-ness was probably the least expected. It's so at odds with the rest of the fic that it's almost shocking. True, it manages its moments of silliness like the Evangelion Crucifixion ceremony, but as a whole, the chapter is so jarringly off-kilter for the series to be jarring.

Even then, however, it does manage to flush any good-will towards the series that it might have built up. The scene with Tom verbally berating Jenya is not only uncomfortable, but it seems to be just a little too angry for something aimed at a purely fictional construct.

Regardless, that's it for the Rebuild of Delta, but not all we have planned by a long way.

Evangelion created by Gainax

Evangelion II: DELTA Invasion created by "Tom Dyron". You know who you are. Thanks for the laughs!

Rebecca Bartley and Rick R. Mortis created by Rick R. (natch)
Tsuneo Tateo and Dan created by Zogster

Questions? Comments? Complaints? Weddings and Babies and Babies and Weddings? Email us at elmerstudios00 (at) gmail.com and register your Jeff.

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<http://www.heavens-feel.com/elmer/>
All of Elmer Studios' MSTings, random DELTA Invasion Episode Generator and other stuff in one spot

> "Finally, we can live a normal life!!!" said Rei.