

Collaborative Editing: Shock to the System

Format: Story VO

[Video]

This was written primarily by the comic book author, Leon Chills, and edited by me for brevity and mechanical consideration. I lightly edited Static (Milestone character, his expertise) and more heavily edited DeSaad (DC character, my expertise).

I was definitely more conscious of story efficiency, but I was happy to let Chills get a little wordy after players can leave the instance.

I made sure to give him a shout-out in my interview with [FandomWire!](#)

| Unedited Dialogue | Edited Dialogue | Notes |
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| Cutscene (The monster Parasite is locked up.) (Major Force enters.) | | |
| Major Force: How dare you interfere with our plans! | Major Force: Not one step closer to the Boom Tube portal to Apokolips! | |
| Static: Uh... you don't look like the mayor... | Static: The what to the where? | +Used "Confused Static" banter to reassure players that it's OK to be confused, just listen for these keywords (we'll revisit them later). +"the mayor" wasn't really a character, so I cut him. |
| Major Force: Prepare to suffer an agonizing death! I release Parasite! On all you powered freaks! | Major Force: Before DeSaad started paying good money for test subjects, this facility was full of parasites draining society! | +Introducing some plot points here helped avoid an infodump at the end. |
| | Static: De-who now? Slow down there, pinky! | +Echoing previous confusion to continue reassuring players. |
| | Major Force: But I kept one Parasite for myself. This'll stop all you powered freaks! | +Directly connected Major Force's villainy to "Parasite." |
| (Major Force releases Parasite.) | | |
| Parasite: Feed me! Feed me! Feed me your energy... | Parasite: FEED ME! | +Picked a shorter line to make a shorter cutscene. |

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| Free Moving | | |
| Static: Parasite, huh? So you literally suck. Bring it! | Static: Parasite, huh? So you literally suck. Bring it! | |
| (Players defeat Parasite) | | |
| Static: We call that, messin' around and finding out. | Parasite: How is this possible...? | +Designers wanted a Parasite death line. |
| | Static: We call that, messin' around and finding out. | |
| Cutscene (A group of Parademons herd imprisoned Bang Babies into the portal. Major Force positions himself in front of the portal.) | | |
| Major Force: I will not let you destroy the portal to Apokolips! | Major Force: It falls on me to be the last defender of society, of decency. | +Introduction of "decency" sets up fun replies. |
| Static: Apoko-who?! | Static: Bro, if you think it's 'decent' to kidnap citizens and send them to a place called Apokolips to be test subjects, you are Major Screwed Up! | +The original "Confused Static" that I repurposed to introduce earlier. Great tactic from him! +Voice Actor actually improvised his own change to this line ("...you are Major Goofy!"), so we re-approved and kept it. |
| Major Force: Die! | Major Force: I love it when they don't surrender! | +Added some personal sadism. |
| Free Moving (Players defeat Major Force.) | | |
| Major Force: Desaad, I have failed you... The passage to Apokolips is theirs. | Static: At least he has the decency to know when he's been beaten, damn! | +Repeated beat of "decency" made for really great Static banter. |
| Static: Who are you talking about, and where have you been taking the Bang Babies?! | | |
| Cutscene (Agents of Apokolips teleport a group of Bang Babies out.) (DeSaad teleports in.) | | |
| DeSaad: It is I, Desaad, the greatest experimenter and torture-master alive. Here to | DeSaad: I'd complain about wasting Earth money, but my investment is paying off after all. | +My character expertise: DeSaad should be more devious, less bombastic. |

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| commit cruelty at every turn, and you have provided a perfect source for finding new ways to cause pain. Well worth the price. | The data I would get from experimenting on you [gestures at Player1] would be exquisite. | +Players always love being included! |
| | DeSaad (<i>cuttable</i>): My current test subjects tolerate so little pain, and where's the fun in that? | +Separating this line to make cutscene length more flexible. |
| Static : Hold up, hold up, hold up. Let get me this straight. You're buying them from the mayor just so you can hurt them for fun?! Not all Bang Babies are good, but no one deserves that... | Static : Hold up. You're buyin' Bang Babies just so you can hurt them for fun?! Not even Ebon deserves that... | +Shortened for the cutscene. +Fun dig against Static's rival. |
| DeSaad : It is not about what they deserve, but what I so choose. Please, step into the portal and join me here. I love having new toys to play with. | DeSaad : It's not about deserve. It's about science. | +Short and simple to really drive home the horror! |
| Free Moving (<i>Rocket arrives.</i>) | | |
| Rocket : How about I let your grill play with my foot after it hits your face! | Desaad : Step into the portal. Try to rescue them. I want to feel your anguish when you fail. | +Moved some of the lines out of the cutscene to give players even more agency. |
| | Rocket : How about I let you feel my foot to your face! | |
| DeSaad : Ha, ha, ha. Yes. Come, come. I'll be waiting... | Desaad : Ha, ha, ha. Yes. Come, come. I'll be waiting... | |
| (Desaad Boom Tube teleports away.) (Instance Exit appears.) | | +Since players can leave, Chills was freer to explore a longer conversation. Minimal editing here. |
| Static : Rocket?! What are you doing here?! | Static : Aw man, if you had been here like a minute earlier, he'd be on the floor for sure! | +Edit from Chills in response to other changes. Love it! |
| Rocket : The same thing you are. Going to Apokolips and getting those Bang Babies back. You only beat me here cause me and Icon | Rocket : Well, me and Icon were busy helping out somewhere else. | +Here's where we avoid the last-minute infodump by mentioning these plot points earlier. |

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| were busy helping out somewhere else. | | |
| Static: He's coming, too?! | Static: He's coming, too?! | |
| Icon [comm]: It's <i>Icon</i> and I, Rocket. I appreciate the enthusiasm young man, and that's a great question. However, I believe this is a great opportunity for the three of you to test your mettle. To reach new levels as heroes. | Icon [comm]: It's <i>Icon</i> and I, Rocket. I appreciate the enthusiasm young man, and that's a great question. However, a greater task demands my attention. Consider this challenge as an opportunity for you to test your mettle. | +Chills having Icon correct Rocket's grammar was such a great character moment. |
| Rocket: Yeah, yeah. Save us the pull yourself up by your bootstraps B.S. Just say you're too busy. | Rocket: Yeah, yeah. Save us the pull yourself up by your bootstraps B.S. Leave it at 'you're too busy.' | |
| Static: Welp, I bet you'll be easier to work with than Ebon. | Static: Welp, I bet you'll be easier to work with than Ebon. | +More great character moments from Chills. I loved letting his expertise shine! |
| Rocket: You hitting on me? Watch it nerd... | Rocket: You hitting on me? Watch it, nerd... | |