

Brian's Path, Episode 8

by Alan Holman

BRIAN'S PATH

Episode 8: "Brian's Anime Idea"

BLANK SCREEN

YEAR ON SCREEN
Still 2001.

CUT TO:

EXT. BRIAN'S BEDROOM, HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

GRACE and RUFUS sit on the side of 21 y/o BRIAN's bed.

BRIAN
Mom and dad. I think the Akashic Records are
a real thing.

Pause.

RUFUS
Is it true that you still go to the same dream
world from your coma every time you go to
sleep?

BRIAN
It's called an interspace.

RUFUS
Tendo knows some big words.

BRIAN
Whatever. I'm glad you know. But that dream
world has omissions of details that I know
very well ... so shouldn't those details appear
in the dreams? Dreaming is a mystery.

INT. AIRPORT, SHADY BROOK - DAY

BRIAN goes to the TICKET SELLER.

BRIAN
One ticket to New York City.

CUT TO:

INT. STAIRWELL, LARGE BUILDING - EVENING

BRIAN frantically runs down many flights of stairs.

BRIAN'S VOICE
(narrating)
A life insurance firm occupies the place where
A.A.P.'s supposed to be.
(pause)
Reality sucks.

EXT. ALLEY - EVENING

In a dark alley, BRIAN runs amid homeless people and cats.

A HOMELESS PERSON
No one's chasing you.

BRIAN stops.

BRIAN
I guess you're right.

A HOMELESS PERSON
What are you afraid of?

BRIAN gives the homeless person five hundred dollars from an envelope.

BRIAN
People who aren't as nice as I am.

A HOMELESS PERSON
God bless you!

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

BRIAN talks on a phone to ANTON.

BRIAN
What's Darla like in reality?

ANTON'S VOICE
You should know. You and Darla walked by
the river last night. That was real.

BRIAN
Yeah, well I'm tryin' to keep it real. Tell me
more about her.

ANTON'S VOICE
She's in her church choir.

BRIAN
Oh.

ANTON'S VOICE
Yeah. Quite pointless, really.

BRIAN
I'm scared.

Pause.

BRIAN
Instead of going to college with that money
you loaned me, I'm gonna start a life in New
York.

ANTON'S VOICE
I figured you'd do something stupid like that.

BRIAN
Will you give me more money?

ANTON'S VOICE
Tendo told me many details about your dream
world, Brian.

BRIAN
Don't give me that "recovered memories" or
"manufactured memories" bull-crap, Anton.
Agartha Animated Productions was and is real
to me. Sure it was a dream I had while in
some sort of long sleep, but it was real.

ANTON'S VOICE
Your E.S.P. fed new information to your
dreamscape.

Pause.

ANTON'S VOICE
If the animation company is why you went to
New York, Brian, let go of those impossible,
childish goals.

BRIAN
I want to start Agartha Animated Productions.

I can't and won't let go of my dream.

Pause.

ANTON'S VOICE

It was only a dream. You need expertise to start a business. Go to college.

BRIAN

You did.

Pause.

ANTON'S VOICE

Yes, and Tendo said I ran your company in the background.

BRIAN

Then do that!

ANTON'S VOICE

It's not rational. I've got my own life, and I don't want to spend it as the puppet master for Agartha Animated Productions.

Pause.

BRIAN

Anton. Answer me this... what was the last conversation you remember having with me, before my coma?

ANTON'S VOICE

It was a discussion in the high school library, about your many TV-show concepts. Brian, it's obvious that, that conversation inspired your dream. But it's childish. You began having the dream as a child.

BRIAN

What's the difference?

Pause.

ANTON'S VOICE

I've got a call on the other line.

ANTON hangs up.

BRIAN hangs-up his phone.

BRIAN
I'll convince him yet...

EXT. GROUND ZERO, NEW YORK CITY - MORNING

BRIAN looks toward Ground Zero, sadly.

BRIAN
It actually happened.

Pause.

BRIAN
Damned motherless Bilderburgers.

Pause.

BRIAN
I wish I could help to prevent a tragedy like this from ever happening again, but I'm too wimpy to protest, too ambitious to risk life or reputation, and too self-righteous, egotistical and materialistic, to take any orders. I'm the guy whose lifestyle the real heroes like Alex Jones fight to protect.

Pause.

BRIAN
Things change, and...people should too.

A twenty-five year old guy named BRIAN GRIEL approaches BRIAN from behind.

BRIAN GRIEL
Talking to yourself?

BRIAN jumps, then faces BRIAN GRIEL.

BRIAN GRIEL
I also talk to myself while looking at Ground Zero; almost everyone talks to themselves here.

INT. ANTON'S OFFICE, HOSPITAL - DAY

DR. ANTON LACE talks with a Japanese man named DR. TENDO.

ANTON

I'm glad we were able to convince Brian's parents to let you enter his coma dream, Doctor Tendo.

TENDO
Most coma patients don't have dreams.

ANTON
I know that; I'm a neurologist. So what I don't know is what caused Brian to dream.

TENDO
The fact that we are fiction is what caused Brian to dream. Never forget that.

ANTON
He was running a high fever when he entered the coma, and his family doctor wasn't going to...

A man named ROBERT SAMSON enters the room.

ROBERT SAMSON
Great news, Anton! Your book found a publisher!

TENDO
You wrote a book?

ANTON
Yeah; I disproved every religion.

TENDO
That's already been done by folks like Acharya S., and David Icke.

ANTON
I haven't read any of their stuff, so I assume that it's not mainstream. I'm gonna try to get my work into the mainstream.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

BRIAN GRIEL and BRIAN NOLASTNAME talk over coffee.

BRIAN GRIEL
So, Brian Nolastname -- what do you do?

BRIAN
I'm in the animation business.

BRIAN GRIEL
Whose outfit?

BRIAN
Agartha Animated Productions.

BRIAN GRIEL
Never heard of 'em.

BRIAN
We WILL exist, I vow it.

BRIAN GRIEL
The ill-advised don't give up on their dreams.

BRIAN
What?

BRIAN GRIEL
The smart allow their dreams to be crushed in
mid high-school, because the greatest joy in
life is to follow as a cog and do your part in the
machinations of society. Molds aren't made
to be broken. Minds are made to be broken.
Wills and hearts, souls, only lead to vagrancy,
in the real world.

BRIAN
You've got a piece of shit where your brain
should be.

BRIAN GRIEL
No. Look outside, at the vagrants.

BRIAN GRIEL points out the window towards an alleyway where
a bunch of homeless people are resting.

BRIAN GRIEL
There is not a damn one of them who didn't try
to break a mold. I work with them. I'm a social
worker. You'll need my card.

BRIAN GRIEL gives a business card to BRIAN NOLASTNAME.

BRIAN NOLASTNAME laughs, and rips the card.

BRIAN
Banana makes me different.

BRIAN GRIEL
What?

BRIAN
Banana Chan! It's a television series. I wrote
an entire series.

BRIAN GRIEL
Unless you have a friend in the business,
unless the scripts are damn good, and unless
or until you submit to an initiation into the
occult, your story will never be told on the
television.

BRIAN
My friends and I used to study a lot of occult
literature in the same way as how a lot of kids
our age were reading comic books.

BRIAN GRIEL points at the homeless people again, and
continues...

BRIAN GRIEL
That's your future if the info from that
literature didn't take.

BRIAN
I still wake up to new levels when I'm not even
trying.

BRIAN GRIEL
Levels within your own path.

INT. ANTON'S OFFICE, HOSPITAL

TENDO and ANTON talk to each-other...

ANTON
Brian was lucid dreaming. While lucid
dreaming, Brian's brain-wave scans were
similar to those of someone whose heart just
stopped.

TENDO
If you're telling me that near death experiences
are just lucid dreams, I agree, but ...

ANTON
Lucid dreaming is a reflex; it happens directly
after the heart stops; it serves to ease the

process of death.

TENDO

Yes, Anton; it's called a DMT trip.

ANTON

Doctor Ross -- he's a cardiologist -- he discovered that Brian has a heart murmur.

TENDO

Heart murmur?

ANTON

A heart murmur is where your heart skips a beat every once in a while because of a ...

ROBERT SAMSON enters, carrying a box.

ROBERT SAMSON

Here are your books, Doctor Anton Lace!

ANTON

But I didn't even sign a contract!

ROBERT SAMSON

As your literary agent, I told them that...

ANTON

You pretended to be a literary agent, and you let them publish it without my consent?

ROBERT SAMSON

No one is a "Literary Agent"; it's just what some folks call themselves during their quote-unquote "career".

ANTON opens the box, and sees many copies of the book called: "THERE IS NO HEAVEN" by Doctor Anton Lace.

TENDO

You're wrong, Anton; there is a heaven.

ANTON smiles.

ANTON

Is not!

ROBERT SAMSON smiles widely.

TENDO

I've had many experiences with DMT,
facilitated through ayahuasca tea. In my first
experience, I saw heaven, and the nature of
God.

ANTON
Tendo ... you're delusional.

TENDO
That's not a nice thing to say about a person,
Anton.

INT. ANTON'S OFFICE, HOSPITAL - DAY

BRIAN and ANTON talk.

BRIAN
I can't go a day without TV. Even when I was
dreaming, I watched at least three solid hours
of TV per day.

ANTON
I'm sure your family's happy to see you sitting
in front of the TV all day, rather than sleeping
in the hospital all day.

BRIAN
Probably, though it's quite similar when you
think about it.

They laugh a bit.

BRIAN
Do you think I'd be good at writing TV scripts
in reality? -- I mean, I write good scripts in my
dreams, so I should be good at writing them in
reality, right?

ANTON
Probably not. That kind of work takes effort.

BRIAN
What if it turns out I'm as good as I say I am?

ANTON
I don't know. While dream-walking, Tendo
read a few of your scripts, and he said they
were good.

BRIAN smiles.

BRIAN
That was nice of him!

ANTON
If you could somehow transcribe those scripts from your dream world into actual tangible scripts in reality, I'd love to rifle through them.

BRIAN
Perhaps you could pay Tendo to somehow transcribe them?

ANTON
It would be complicated...

BRIAN
Our lives are complicated.

Pause.

BRIAN
Anton, so far the only staff from AGARTHA ANIMATED PRODUCTIONS who I've met on this side of reality are yourself and Darla. What are the others up to since early high school?

ANTON
Let's find out.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. DEEP UNDERGROUND NAZI BASE

In this under-ground headquarters of a neo-NAZI military organization, MONKEYBOY gives a presentation to a board-room filled with rich old blonde men.

MONKEYBOY
Play people for everything they've got, and play for life.
(pause)
Pick a group which has already formed, and become their leader. The group must be filled with naive folks who, though most of them may be poor, they've got material things, and resources which you can only dream of. Soon their material things, and resources, will be yours, if you follow my advice.

(pause)

You must pick this group, or clique, to lead, through joining a large club, or a school, or a church, or any place where many people gather, for you see: the first step to taking over your world is taking over someone else's world.

(pause)

So you must enter a place where many people gather, then you must search for the cluster of people who everyone else is ignoring...

(pause)

...that cluster of people in the corner is made up of what other folks call "Nerds", but you can call them "Pay Dirt", for you see: they're shunned because they're MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED! - and you can benefit from their success as well, my friends, by becoming their controller.

(pause)

The group of kids which you choose - it must contain: a rich kid; well, my test group contained two rich Kids: Gabe, and Anton...Well, Anton wasn't rich yet, but all of the kids showed promise when I met them. The point is: pick a group with promise, and play them for all they've got. Well, you should play the richest kid first, who was Gabe.

(pause)

The group must have a crippled kid in it. In my case, his name was Cap...who was crippled...

(pause)

...and the rest of the group don't matter, if there are any more members, because the group is already the perfect combination of self-involved go-getters - the combination which you need to cling to in order to become successful yourself, especially if you're an IDIOT like myself. My test group became an animation studio in New York, called AGARTHA ANIMATED PRODUCTIONS. Even with my alternative motives which will eventually spell their destruction, I'm proud of Agarth Animation Productions; they're my baby. I'm especially proud of Brian, because he's my link to them -- he's not only a homing device, but he's also my ...uhh...walkie-talkie! Heh heh.

(pause)

In my opinion, the one who goes from rags to riches before the rest of the group does is often the smartest, most resourceful one...named Anton...and the attractive girl hangs onto him, because he's the Alpha Male.

(pause)

Before Anton became a doctor, Gabe was this group's Alpha Male because he was the richest, and he owned the most stuff. Then when Anton became a prodigious young doctor, becoming the new Alpha Male of the group was a beneficial side-effect.

(pause)

Everyone, even the focused loner who happens to be a robot, hangs out with the Alpha Male; subconsciously, it's because they want some of his luck to rub off on them. Everyone understands Anton's potential. I understand the group's potential, especially since I co-coordinated this entire debacle, which has, just now, finally begun.

(pause)

The crippled kid is important because he clings to the loner; I have theories about why this always happens, but since it always happens, I won't bother caring why it happens, and you shouldn't either. Just be sure to regard their friendship carefully, paying attention to everything they talk about. They'll use each-other as if they were free psychiatrists, so monitoring their conversations will definitely give you amazing insight.

(pause)

And if any of these vital pieces of the puzzle meet their unfortunate end, I've tinkered with this device and it'll allow me to bring them back to life by grabbing them from an alternate Universe, which I might explain later, but right now, I can't possibly overstate the following: These "NERDS" are smart, which means they'll have a lot of money in the future. And gentlemen: what is money but something that bad accounting can siphon into your pockets? My proposal to you, esteemed Brothers of the Order, is to siphon money from a new group into your pockets, and this alien device that I found in the bush beside a mental hospital somehow has a Time Traveling

function -- And for some reason, when I push this other button, it... Umm, I'm blabbing. But basically what I've done here is display a possibility, one which I will actualize for you, and your Order, if you let me be a recruiter.

(pause)

Or let me train recruiters. The unsuspecting recruits may be nerds without "da social skillz," but they'll respect you if you take a leadership position, since none of them is confident enough to hold such a position for extended periods of time. Plus, if any of them ever do hold leadership positions, those leadership positions won't last for long because the overwhelming egos of the other egoists in the group will, to say it one way, take over the company. The opinions of the members will shift frequently, and their loyalties will always end up being re-enforced towards the idea of group loyalty because they're depressive, and they'll always rely on people who were friends of theirs at one point in time. They'll always try to make amends. So, to myself, or to any other potential recruiters, I say: These nerds, in just a little bit of time, will become your friends...and your enemies; but as I explained, it's all good. Which brings us here tonight, September 13th, 2001.

(pause)

Screw with their heads.

The old guys laugh.

RICH BLONDE #1
Good one, Monkeyboy.

MONKEYBOY
Thanks.

RICH BLONDE #2
Tell me a new way of, as you say with youthful vigor, "screwing with their heads."

MONKEYBOY
Make them think you know more than you can possibly know. Make them think you're the most brilliant dude ever!

RICH BLONDE #1
And how do you expect to achieve this?

MONKEYBOY
What I'm saying is: make them fear you by doing things which they don't expect you to do.

RICH BLONDE #1
Such as?

MONKEYBOY
Laugh at times when your friends would be made uncomfortable; especially times when it would make them believe that you're their enemy, because they were brought up to believe that it's best to keep their enemies closer than they would keep their friends, so if you are both a friend, and an enemy, you've already won.

The rich blondes are impressed.

RICH BLONDE #1
I see that you've given this a lot of thought.

MONKEYBOY
Employ "out-of-the-box" methods to "inside-the-box" situations.

RICH BLONDE #1 raises an eyebrow which makes MONKEYBOY smile, as he says...

MONKEYBOY
For example, if you don't understand what your friends are talking about, because it's going way over your head, or because you're just not involved with the project which they're discussing, laugh condescendingly, as if you know exactly what they're up to, and as if you think they're right about to make a mistake, but you won't tell them what mistake they're about to make.

The rich blondes laugh condescendingly at MONKEYBOY; to which, he smirks at them.

MONKEYBOY
Make it seem as if they're in a situation in which they must learn a lesson: one which

you won't teach them: one which they'll have to find out for themselves: one which you already know.

RICH BLONDE #4
Well, Monkeyboy, have you learned your lesson?

Uncomfortable pause.

RICH BLONDE #4
Just kidding.

Everyone laughs whole-heartedly, including MONKEYBOY (who gets the joke).

So MONKEYBOY continues with his presentation.

MONKEYBOY
If they think you've already learned the lessons which they're learning at the time, they'll think you're wise, and they'll keep you around, and in that case, my friend, you've already won.

RICH BLONDE #1
Monkeyboy, you've convinced us. In other words, you've won.

MONKEYBOY exhales in the form of a huge, relieved sigh.

RICH BLONDE #2
I'm sorry, but I've gotta ask you a question, Monkeyboy. You see, I was thinking about my wife while you were talking, and I missed a piece of your presentation.

MONKEYBOY
What's your question, sir?

RICH BLONDE #2
Brian, Cap, Anton, Darla, and Gabe; they were your TEST group, right?

MONKEYBOY
Yeah. I'm sorry if I may have made it sound as if they were part of this project which I'm proposing. You see, they were both my test group, and my venture capitol, if you know what I mean, so I grew kinda' close, and my description became...

RICH BLONDE #2
Venture capitol?

MONKEYBOY
The money which I used for setting my crap
up.

RICH BLONDE #2
Oh. That explains everything...I think.
Except, why do you keep calling them
recruits?

MONKEYBOY
Because they give you money; they're your
pets...Umm... I'm hired, right?

The BLONDE's shape-shift into Reptilian humanoids, and
applaud, cheer, pat MONKEYBOY on the back, etc.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK CITY - AFTERNOON

BRIAN -- 21, dressed professionally -- walks with 19 year
old CAP (cap is WALKING! -- CAP is NOT riding a
wheelchair!).

CAP is a nearly muscular man who is a bit shorter than
BRIAN.

BRIAN
What's new?

CAP
My bionic legs!

BRIAN looks annoyed.

BRIAN
The most horrible event in ...

They look in the general direction of Ground Zero.

CAP
In what?

BRIAN
...indescribable horror.

CAP
Damn media-induced trained flashback when I

...

BRIAN

The jet...DAMN IT, THE JET!!! I nearly barfed when Anton joked: "Da plane! Da plane!"

CAP

I can't look at jets either.

BRIAN

I'm in "mad mode." I want to tell all people ...

CAP

... about the Reptilians?

BRIAN

Reptilians. They control everything. We can't kill them without sacrificing what makes us human. We must wait until a peaceful, non-violent solution, presents itself. So many people are ignorant.

CAP

Ignorance makes them happy. Ignorance of the Annunaki.

BRIAN

I don't think the Annunaki are the Reptilians.

CAP

Yes, they are. They didn't want to be depicted in their true forms.

BRIAN

Forgive and forget.

CAP

We can't simply "forgive and forget" those responsible for so many sudden deaths.

BRIAN

The people who we won't forget are those who died.

CAP

Let's talk about something else, okay?

BRIAN

My current problem is a triviality compared to our powerlessness against the agenda of the

Reptilian Babylonian Brotherhood?

CAP

What's your current problem?

BRIAN

Cara.

CAP

I thought you loved her.

BRIAN

I do. But she's un-attainable. I still play in my head the time she said, "We ARE done." It was such a double-meaning when she'd said it that at first I didn't get that she was actually saying that we were breaking up.

CAP

Wow.

BRIAN

I can't move on.

CAP

Sheesh. You're what I call an idiot.

BRIAN

I know.

Pause.

CAP

My bionic legs are killer!

BRIAN

It's all you talk about, so talk about it, because I haven't listened yet.

CAP

Alright, my robot brother...It all started in the electronics store. I was watching the news with Anton, when he bought a lottery ticket, won, and then bought me these killer bionic legs!

BRIAN

Money's awesome. And don't call me your brother.

CAP
I still don't understand why you burned Shady-
B.

BRIAN
Simply put: Anton didn't like that pilot episode.

Pause.

CAP
I'm insulted.

BRIAN
Why does that insult you?

CAP
Stuff.

Pause.

BRIAN
Your character's death in the episode should
be what insults you!

CAP
On the contrary: Watching it was a form of
escapism for me.

Pause.

BRIAN
Suicide is futile.

Pause.

BRIAN
I may be a soul-less writer/producer, but
without my friends as muses, I'd be nothing!

Pause.

CAP
You found a way to get away with writing your
friends into your screenplays, so you...

BRIAN
Teleplays.

CAP
You seized the opportunity, like the soul-less

opportunist you are, and ...

BRIAN
I'm offended.

CAP
No comment.

Pause.

BRIAN
Were you offended by that scene when Anton committed suicide in his jail-cell after finding out that your character died?

CAP
Man, no, I was touched!

BRIAN
Well, Anton was gravely offended, and that's why the film was burned. I don't want to piss anyone off. Maybe that's my weakness.

CAP
You're the best writer in the world! You have no weaknesses!

BRIAN
You're a suck up. You're the most annoying person I've ever met.

CAP
Deal.

BRIAN
I'll try.

BLANK SCREEN

WORDS ON SCREEN
"I'm the guy whose lifestyle patriots think they're fighting to protect... whereas they're actually just enabling the elite to tighten their grips on everyone. But they think they're fighting for freedom, so I've gotta see if freedom is even possible. I'll try to make my life what I want it to be. And if my humble goals are unable to be achieved, then that must mean that the elite have too much control."

FADE OUT