



Rebirth

Story by Jim Caswell

Audioplay by Jim Caswell and Doug Zeitlin

Episode Summary

When the Green Hornet is accused of killing members of the Reid family, it is up to a new generation to assume the role and bring justice back to the city.

Starring

Dan Reid III / Green Hornet
Kanō Reid

Ken Hallaron
Matt Hallaron

and Featuring

Sales Rep
Barry Wilkinson
Doctor
Mishi Kato
Reporters

Erick Greeva
Steve Cain
Lee Sands
Joan Hallaron
Roger Kelley
Mick Mize
Ryan Gilbert
Louise Francis
Doug Zeitlin
April Sadowski
Pete Nottit

Michelle Axford
Doorman
Madam
The Exterminator

PROLOGUE

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: *Toyota American Offices – New York City*

SOUND: A conference room in an office building. Background conversations.

DAN REID

Konichiwa, Ohayou Gozaimasu.

SOUND: Conversation dies off.

DAN REID

First, allow me to thank you for meeting with me this morning. I'm sure that your company will find the advertising opportunities available through SentinelCorp well worth the early hour of the day.

SALES REP (Japanese accent)

Thank you, Mr. Reid, for making the trip out to see us. We appreciate you adjusting your schedule to meet with our executive board here in our American offices.

DAN REID

No problem, gentlemen. I think you'll find that this will be a mutually-beneficial arrangement. My associate and I will present a five-point system of promotion that will cover print, radio, television and internet media. The first level of advertising is based in the flagship of SentinelCorp, our newspaper, the Daily Sentinel, which has a daily circulation of over one-hundred thousand...

SOUND: A cellphone ringing cuts him off and continues to ring.

DAN REID

My deepest apologies, gentlemen. I left word that no one was supposed to contact me unless there was an emergency.

SALES REP

Please make it quick, Mr. Reid. As you know, time is money.

DAN REID

Thank you.

SOUND: Cellphone opened, causing the ringing to stop.

DAN REID

Reid.

WILKINSON

Dan, its Barry. I'm sorry to have to disturb your meeting, especially for this.

DAN REID

What's up, Barry?

WILKINSON

It's your cousins. We just got word that they've been found. Listen, there's no nice way to put this, so I'm just going to be blunt. They've been found out on old highway ninety-six, along the seventy-mile marker. They appear to have been attacked – mugged maybe.

DAN REID

Are they ok?

WILKINSON

No, Dan. Paul was... Paul was killed. I'm sorry, Dan.

DAN REID (distraught)

And Mishi?

WILKINSON

She's in critical condition at County General.

DAN REID (distraught)

What about their son?

WILKINSON

Not at the scene. I've sent Michelle out to find him.

DAN REID (distraught)

Have her check with Alex Torres' family. He's his best friend.

WILKINSON

Will do.

DAN REID (recovering)

Do we know what happened?

WILKINSON

The police have a strong lead, but you're not going to like it.

DAN REID

Out with it, Barry.

WILKINSON

It looks like the Green Hornet is back in town.

DAN REID (nervous)

What do you mean? How do they know?

WILKINSON

They found his mask on the scene. It looks like the Green Hornet attacked the Reid's.

DAN REID

Understood. I'm on my way back now.

SOUND: Cellphone closes.

DAN REID

My apologies, gentlemen. There has been an emergency.

SALES REP

Please, go be with your family.

DAN REID

My associate will take over the presentation. Thank you for understanding.

SOUND: Cue Intro music.

ACT I

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: *Country General Hospital Hallway*

SOUND: Medical sensors and equipment in the background. People moving around quietly.

DAN REID

Excuse me, doctor. I was told that you were primary care for Mishi Reid. Is that correct?

DOCTOR (air of superiority)

Yes. And you are?

DAN REID

Dan Reid, her cousin.

DOCTOR (snooty)

Ah, yes Mister Reid. What can I do for you?

DAN REID

What's her prognosis, doctor? Is she going to be OK?

DOCTOR (snide)

I'm sorry, Mister Reid, but I can only give that information to immediate family.

DAN REID (irritated)

Right now, doc, I'm about as close to immediate family as she's got.

DOCTOR (snide)

I'm sorry, but hospital policy is that we only...

DAN REID (irritated)

Her husband *died* in the same accident that brought her here. Her parents are deceased. Her brothers live in Switzerland and Japan. Aside from her son, I'm the closest...

DOCTOR

He's here.

DAN REID

Who's here?

DOCTOR (snide)

Their son. He's in with her now. A reporter from the Daily Sentinel brought him here a half hour ago. She tried to force me to give her information as well, and I told her the same thing: immediate family only.

DAN REID

Did you fill Kanō in on her condition?

DOCTOR

Kanō?

DAN REID

Her son.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry, I couldn't. He's still a minor.

DAN REID

He's seventeen, going to be eighteen in a month! You won't tell her son because he's too young, and you won't tell me because I'm not close enough family. Who can you tell?

DOCTOR (irritated)

Please control yourself Mister Reid. It's hospital policy.

DAN REID (calmed, but intimidating)

Fine. I'm going in to see her now. When I come out, I will want to be speaking to your chief of staff about "hospital policy," and depending on how that conversation goes, I'll be returning to my office to write an editorial for today's edition *and* our website. It will be very timely with our coverage of their brutal attack.

DOCTOR (cow-tailed)

Yes Mister Reid. I'll see to it personally.

DAN REID

Thank you.

SOUND: Footfalls cross to hospital room door.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO INT.: Mishi Reid's Hospital Room

SOUND: One set stops and pushes open a door. Heart monitor is heard in background. Footfalls cross to bed.

DAN REID

Its ok, Mishi. I'm here.

KANO (relieved)

Dan!

DAN REID

Hey, cuz. How you holding up?

KANO

I don't know, Dan. I don't understand what's going on.

DAN REID

I know. I'm working on finding out how she's doing.

KANO

One of the nurses told me that she was shot multiple times. One of the bullets hit her spine and they don't think she'll be able to walk again.

DAN REID

I know it sounds bad, buddy, but your mom's a fighter.

KANO (frustrated)

But why?

DAN REID

I don't know yet, but I promise I'll find out.

KANO (even more frustrated)

Not why did this happen, but why were they out there? Why were they involved?

DAN REID (confused)

I'm not sure I understand what you're asking.

KANO (more frustrated still)

Never mind. You wouldn't understand. Nobody understands!

SOUND: Chair slides as he stands suddenly. Footfalls run to the door, open it and run out.

DAN REID (still confused)

Kanō!

SOUND: The door slowly shuts.

MISHI (drowsy and drugged)

Kanō?

DAN REID (concerned)

He just stepped out, Mishi. He'll be back later.

MISHI (drowsy and drugged)

Dan?

DAN REID

Yeah, it's me. How are you feeling?

MISHI (drowsy and drugged)

I don't feel... much of anything.

DAN REID

That's probably the painkillers. It's a good thing.

MISHI (drowsy and drugged)

Paul?

DAN REID (concerned)

We'll talk about Paul later, when you're stronger.

MISHI (drowsy and drugged)

I know... I know that Paul's... dead. Is his secret... safe?

DAN REID

The police think you were attacked by the Green Hornet. They found his mask laying beside you.

MISHI (drowsy and drugged)

Good. I had to... crawl over... to remove... his coat and mask.

DAN REID

I'll do what I can to recover the mask from the police.

MISHI (drowsy and drugged, struggling)

Don't worry.... The adhesive... and filters... are treated... to destroy... any DNA evidence.

DAN REID (smiling)

You always were two steps ahead, Mishi.

MISHI (drowsy and drugged, struggling)

Until... last night. We... we got a tip. Crime has... has been on the... rise. We were told... told were to go to meet....

DAN REID (trying to help)

Meet the new crime boss?

MISHI (drowsy and drugged)

Yes.

DAN REID (trying to help)

Were they waiting in ambush?

MISHI (drowsy and drugged, struggling, pain beginning to return)

At least... thirty of them. All with... machine guns.

DAN REID

OK. I'll find out what happened. You get some rest and get better.

SOUND: Morphine button is pushed, with the machine beeping in response.

MISHI (drowsy and drugged)

Kanō?

DAN REID

I'll look after him until you're better.

MISHI (drowsy and drugged)

Thank you... Dan.

DAN REID

Get some rest. I'll see you soon.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 3 – CUT TO INT.: Daily Sentinel Pressroom

SOUND: Newsroom background, with computers running and people mulling around. Door opens. The crowd inside grow excited as footfalls enter and close door.

REPORTER #1

Welcome back, boss.

REPORTER #2

Our condolences, Mr. Reid.

REPORTER #3

Anything we can do, Mr. Reid.

REPORTER #2

How are you holding up?

AXFORD

How's Mishi, Mr. Reid?

SOUND: Footfalls approach from opposite direction.

WILKINSON

OK, everybody, back to work. We have a paper to get out.

DAN REID

Stick around, Axford.

AXFORD

OK boss.

SOUND: Footfalls spread out and noise returns to standard pressroom.

DAN REID

Thanks for taking care of getting Kanō to the hospital.

AXFORD

It's the least I could do. Did you learn anything new about her condition?

DAN REID

It's not good, but the doctors have high hopes that she'll make it. They say that she'll most likely be paralyzed from the waist down due to the attack. She's got a bullet lodged in her spinal column and they want to make sure she's stabilized before they decide whether it will be safe to remove it. They were able to remove the shrapnel though and patch up the wounds to her lung, spleen and kidney. Luckily, they didn't have to remove any of the organs, though, and they are watching for any type of failure.

AXFORD

One of my sources at the hospital said that both she and Paul were wearing some sort of Kevlar, and that they would have been far worse off if they hadn't. Why were they wearing bulletproof vests?

DAN REID

Paul had received a death threat a few days ago. While they weren't going to let it control their lifestyle, and honestly didn't take it seriously enough to report it, they took some extra precautions.

AXFORD

While it didn't help Paul, it probably saved Mishi's life.
<self-abashing> Sorry, Mr. Reid. I didn't mean to be so flippant.

DAN REID

I understand, Axford. Do me a favor and keep the death threat and Kevlar out of the report. We'll keep that as info for police use only.

AXFORD

Gotcha. Names, date and place.

DAN REID

While we're at it, let's not mention the location either. Keep it vague, just in case they weren't the ones who made the threats and the thugs from last night don't know who they got.

AXFORD

You're the boss. How's Kanō holding up? He was extremely quiet when I found him. I followed him over to the hospital, but he kept to himself the whole time I was there.

DAN REID

He's taking it hard. These are his parents, after all. When I'm done here, I'll go find him and try to talk to him again.

WILKINSON

We're going to run this on the front page, and it's already on the website with updates going up every fifteen minutes. Speaking of which, you've got another update coming up, Michelle.

AXFORD

Gotcha chief. And don't worry, we'll get that green bastard this time around. If you need anything...

DAN REID

Thanks, Michelle. I'll keep that in mind.

SOUND: Footfalls walk away.

WILKINSON

We've been working with the police from the beginning and they've agreed to share all of their information with us. I've been in regular contact with Boswell over on the DSTV side and they're putting together a retrospective and an investigative team that will work closely with Axford. A special taskforce is being put together this time around and the District Attorney is petitioning the governor to put a reward out for the Hornet's capture, and I've offered the Sentinel to split the cost.

DAN REID

That may be going overboard, Barry.

WILKINSON

How can you say that, Dan? It's your family.

DAN REID

That's right. They're my family, but this is also our city. The last thing we need is for a bunch of mercenaries and bounty hunters swarming into town, putting its citizens in the crossfire. I have faith in the local authorities to be able to handle this situation on their own without outside interference.

WILKINSON

They haven't been able to in the past.

DAN REID

A new generation of officers with a new generation of technology.

WILKINSON

Accompanied by a new generation of corruption, if you ask me.

DAN REID

We'll cross that bridge when we can prove it exists.

WILKINSON

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Facts first, not rumors and opinion. You know that's an old-fashioned form of journalism that's no longer used, right?

DAN REID

I know, and I know that you taught me everything I know. The Sentinel has been the pinnacle of journalism standard for seventy years; we're not going to let it slip now.

WILKINSON

Good to see you still have the standards, Dan, even in the tough times. Go home. Find your cousin. Get yourself settled back in. We've got it covered for now and we'll call if we need anything.

DAN REID

Thanks Barry. Call me every hour with updates, even if there aren't any.

WILKINSON

Will do, and don't worry. Like Michelle said, the Green Hornet is going to pay.

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT II

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Reid Condominium - Entryway

SOUND: A quiet apartment. Keys jingle as they unlock the door.

DAN REID

Kanō?

SOUND: Silence. Footfalls walk across the room.

DAN REID

Kanō? <*beat*> His car's here. Where is he?

SOUND: Footfalls move across to a door and opens it.

DAN REID

Not in the study either. Maybe in the garage?

SOUND: Door closes. Footfalls move across room, down a small flight of stairs, to a sliding door.

ENTER INT.: Reid Condominium – Kitchen

SOUND: Open door. Walks in. The car flipper can be heard in the distance.

DAN REID

Kanō? <*beat*> Why is that running?

SOUND: Walking across kitchen. The car flipper grows in volume as he approaches. Finish sliding open a sliding door.

ENTER INT.: Reid Condominium – Garage

DAN REID

Kanō. What are you doing? How did you know about that?

KANO (upset)

So you knew that the cars could be flipped? Did you know all of it?
Did you know that dad was the Green Hornet?

DAN REID

Let me explain.

KANO (more upset)

Did you know? Did you know!

DAN REID

Yes.

KANO (upset)

How long?

DAN REID

How long have I known, or how long has he been the Hornet?
Nevermind, it's the same answer; since I was a kid.

KANO (upset)

How?

DAN REID

You're going to need to be more specific with your questions. I'm willing to tell you everything, but if you want answers, you're going to have to calm down and listen.

KANO (trying to calm down)

How did my dad, a concert pianist, become this city's public enemy number one?

DAN REID

In some ways, it goes back to the days of the old west with your great, great, great granduncle, but I'll save that story for a different time. Instead I'll start with Britt Reid Senior, your great-granduncle. He had returned from traveling the world to find this city not only trying to recover from the Great Depression and facing a second World War, but also overflowing with crime and corruption. He was a very good and decent man who couldn't stand idly by and watch as criminals ruled the streets while corrupt politicians and police stood by and did nothing. So he decided that he would fight the villainy that overflowed in the city, creating a persona that would be feared by everyone, taking apart criminal organizations from the inside. He was the first Green Hornet.

KANO

You want me to believe that there wasn't any other way to get justice? He had to create an outlaw?

DAN REID

Like I said, a lot of the politicians and police officers were on the take. It was hard to know who to trust. He did find one man, the police commissioner that he could trust and work with.

KANO

So he did have the law on his side.

DAN REID

Sort of, yes. Anyway, he worked very hard to clean up the city, aided by Ikano Kato.

KANO

Grandpa Kato was involved in this too? But.... but mom always talked about how honorable he was; like a samurai of old.

DAN REID

His helping Britt Senior was the pinnacle of honor. The two had met during Britt's travels and had become friends, and when it was decided that the Green Hornet was needed, Kato stood by his side. They did this through the days of the war and finally succeeded in rooting out the evil in the city. At that point, they both settled down, got married and had families, leaving the Green Hornet behind them.

KANO

How does this explain my father?

DAN REID

I'm getting there. The late sixties rolled around and my father, Britt Reid Junior, came to town to learn the family business. He was Britt Senior's nephew, but the two of them were more like father and son. The two of them realized that crime had slowly crept back into the city, regaining its former power. It was then that dad decided to fully follow in his uncle's footsteps and took over the role of Green Hornet. Your uncle Hayashi was sent to America to help as his father had, upholding the Kato family oath to always be there for the Reids. They re-cleaned the city and, when they were done, also retired and moved on with their life, until the 1980's.

KANO

Dad?

DAN REID

After your uncle Alan, yes. He was killed on his first outing as the Hornet.

KANO

And dad wanted to avenge his brother's death.

DAN REID

Sort of. It was a cross between that and feeling an obligation to the family. Out of all of the Reid men, he was the most reluctant to take on the role, but he also saw the need that the Green Hornet filled in the city.

KANO

Mom was sent as his Kato.

DAN REID

Yeah, though the two of them really couldn't stand each other at first. Then they fell for each other, and a couple of years later recognized the fact that they had fallen for each other and actually became involved. They did their part to bring the city back from the edge again, retired, got married and had you.

KANO

So what happened? What brought them out of retirement?

DAN REID

I don't know, but I promise I'm going to find out. Now it's your turn; when did you learn about the rotating car and the family secret?

KANO

Last night. Mom and dad have been acting funny the past few days, and yesterday morning they told me to set up with Alex to stay the night, which is odd; we haven't done sleepovers in years. I mean, I'm seventeen for Pete's sake. I should have seen the signs a lot earlier: the way they were always secretive about the way they fell in love, the fact that we are the only ones that have access to the patio area...

DAN REID

There's no reason why any of those things should have made you think, "Oh, my dad must be the Green Hornet." And seeing as the Reid family owns the whole complex, it's easier to have all of the other Hornet additions.

KANO

Besides the flipping carport?

DAN REID

Actually, there's another whole garage down there. We call it the Beauty's Lair, though your mother laid ownership to it years ago. But, then again, the Kato's have always laid claim to the Black Beauty.

KANO (saddened)

If she ever gets out of the hospital, she'll probably want to put in an elevator.

DAN REID

To the lair? She'll demand one. And she'll definitely be wanting one, because she's going to pull through this. But I don't want her to be worrying about taking care of this new uprising. That's why I've got to get to work.

KANO

Wait. So you're going to take over? Become the new Green Hornet, even after seeing what it did to dad and Uncle Alan?

DAN REID

If things have gotten so bad that they are ambushing people on highways, then I think it's time for the Hornet's return. I just wish they had let me know things had gotten this far out of control. If I hadn't been out of town last night, I might have been able to go in their stead.

KANO

And die in their place? Dad wouldn't have been able to live with himself, especially after what you've said about his brother.

DAN REID

Well, I want you to know that, if there had been anything I could have done to avoid this, I would have.

KANO

If wishes were money, we'd all be rich. Don't worry, Dan, I don't blame you; no one could and if you're only doing this out of "family responsibility," then don't. We'll find another way.

DAN REID

Let's take it one step at a time. The first thing I need to do is locate the Black Beauty. The police haven't found her yet, but if they do, it could lead to more trouble.

KANO

Where would it be?

DAN REID

I'll go to the crime scene and search the area. Usually they would hide the car in the vicinity so they could get to it fast if needed, but well concealed so as to not tip people off.

KANO

Oh, OK, sounds like a plan. Let's go.

DAN REID

No, Kanō. I'll take care of this. You need to stay here.

KANO

And do what; mope around, feeling sorry for myself and my parents? Worry about what's happening to you? Let me be useful. If nothing else, it'll give you a second set of eyes.

DAN REID

If I let you come, do you promise to follow orders? If I tell you to take off, you'll do it with no arguments. Understood?

KANO

Sure, whatever. Let's go already, before the cops, or someone worse, finds it.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO EXT.: *Old Highway 96 – Seventy Mile Marker*

SOUND: Old road background noise. Traffic can be heard in the distance. A car rolls forward on a dirt road, pulls to a stop, parks and shuts off the engine. Two doors open and men step out.

DAN REID

The police finished with the scene about a half hour ago, but there are going to be patrols rolling by on a regular basis, so we need to be quick.

KANO

Mmmhmm <an affirmative grunt>.

DAN REID

Are you ok? You've been very quiet since we left the condo.

KANO (short)

I'm fine. You go left, I'll go right.

SOUND: Footsteps start moving in opposite directions.

KANO (short)

Were they still using the large, black sedan?

DAN REID

Yeah. The green speedster your mother originally built got blown up, so she renovated dad's car.

KANO (short)

I'm surprised she didn't do a custom lowjack on it.

DAN REID

It would have been too dangerous. If one of their enemies had learned the frequency, they could have learned where the Beauty was stored or when they were coming.

KANO (short)

By enemies, do you mean the other mobsters, or the cops?

SOUND: Kano's footsteps stop.

DAN REID

In this case, either would have been problematic.

SOUND: Dan's footsteps stop.

DAN REID

Are you sure you're OK? If you want to talk about it, I know what you're going through. When my dad was diagnosed in the final stages of lung cancer a few years ago....

KANO (freaking out)

You don't know how I feel! How can you possibly know what this feels like!

DAN REID (worried)

Kanō? <beat> Oh, God. Get away from there.

KANO (edgy)

That's his blood, isn't it? And that's... that's...

DAN REID

Don't look at it Kanō. Just walk away. Concentrate on something else. Remember that you're mom is still with us and...

KANO

They shot him in the head!

DAN REID

No one said it directly, but I figured that had to be the case. Come on, Kanō. Come back to the car and I'll take you home. I shouldn't have brought you out here.

KANO (forcibly calming himself down)

No. No, I can handle it. We've got to find the Beauty.

DAN REID

Are you sure?

SOUND: Kano's footsteps resume.

KANO

Yeah.

SOUND: Dan's footsteps turn back and run to catch up with Kano.

DAN REID

There's some tall grass about fifty meters ahead. Let's go check it out.

SOUND: The two footfalls match pace with each other.

KANO

Why did you guess that he was...

DAN REID

There's this material called Spectra. It's an ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene fiber that's stronger than Kevlar. Your dad's coat and suit were lined with the stuff. So were your mother's leathers. Even his hat was lined with the stuff, but if he lost his fedora in the fight...

KANO

It became his weak spot. Is that what saved mom's life?

DAN REID

More than likely. The damage that she did take was probably from all the shots hitting her back. Its armor, but it can only take so much.

KANO

So what you're trying to tell me is that they tried to take precautions.

DAN REID

As best they could, yes, but even police officers take a chance every time they hit the streets. They wear bulletproof vests, but bulletproof is a misnomer. They know that they are putting their lives on the line every time they go out. And the Green Hornet makes every effort to make it safe for everyone involved. They never used deadly force, always leaving the crooks unconscious for good cops to take into custody. Yes, they would use weapons like throwing darts, nunchaku and such, but only to stop, not to kill. And of course they had the gas gun and Hornet's Sting.

KANO

A whole lot of good that did them. Maybe if they had used a bit more lethal force, the bad guys wouldn't keep coming back.

SOUND: Footsteps stop.

DAN REID

Don't ever allow yourself to think that way. While the common public may not be able to tell the difference between the Green Hornet and the scum out there, we can never let the line blur. If we start justifying things like murder, then the line disappears and we truly become no better than they are.

SOUND: Footsteps start moving again.

KANO

You've given this a lot of thought, haven't you?

DAN REID

When I was a kid and Paul first started as the Green Hornet, I dreamed of someday becoming the Hornet myself. But as I grew up, I realized what it meant for society if I needed to put on the green, and I learned that it wasn't a game; it was a choice to lay down my life for the greater good. You're dad learned that as well. I'm just sorry that it came to him doing that.

KANO

I get that, I really do.

SOUND: Footsteps stop.

KANO

That's why I'm going to help you.

DAN REID

You already are, buddy.

KANO

No. I don't mean hunting down the Black Beauty. I mean I'm going to be going out with you. I'm going to be your Kato.

DAN REID

No, you're not.

KANO

You can't do it by yourself.

DAN REID

No, I can't, but I'll call Hayashi. He and Diana can come home for a while until we get this...

KANO

No. No. Bringing these guys to justice is my right – my responsibility.

DAN REID

I get that, but you're too young. If the need ever arises, God forbid, when you're older for the Green Hornet to return, then it's your birthright as a Reid to take up the mantle. But not now.

KANO

Remember, I have two birthrights in this. The Kato blood is also in my veins, and you need someone to help you now, not in a few weeks, which is how long it would take for them to get back.

DAN REID

I don't think...

KANO

Dan, I'm not going to argue with you on this. I'm as capable of doing this as you are. I've studied automotive engineering with mom since I was big enough to pick up a socket wrench, and I've been learning martial arts from her as long as you have. We can work together, or I can do this on my own, but either way, I'm helping.

SOUND: Silence – 2 beats.

DAN REID

God, you do have a lot of your mother in you, don't you.

KANO

I guess so.

SOUND: Footsteps start moving again.

DAN REID

OK. For now. We'll see how things go, but if it looks like things are going to get too rough, then we'll get some more help. And you can't let your grades slip either. The Hornet can't become your obsession.

KANO

Agreed. Now, let's get the Black Beauty and get home.

DAN REID

OK. You'll drive my car back and I'll...

KANO

Nuh-uh <a negative grunt>. You can drive your own car. The Black Beauty is always driven by a Kato.

SOUND: Transition music.

ACT III

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Reid Condominium - Garage

SOUND: A toggle is switched, opening the car doors. Footfalls move over to the car.

DAN REID

Your uncle's uniform fits you pretty well.

KANO

Not really. It's too tight in the butt and too loose in the abs. I'm afraid that, if I have to do a high side kick, I'm either going to moon someone or split out the seat.

DAN REID

As far as I can tell, the tight pants were the style back then and Hayashi was extremely muscular for a man his size.

KANO

And don't get too used to the chauffeur's hat. As soon as I can come up with something better, it's gone.

DAN REID

Just be careful tonight. They didn't have Spectra in their uniforms. They relied on good old-fashioned silk and nylon blend. It'll probably deflect a blade, but a big gun is going to tear right through.

KANO

Done trying to scare me off?

DAN REID

Didn't work, did it.

KANO

Nope. Do I want to know whose spare suit you're wearing?

DAN REID

Probably not. We'll work on getting our own clothes when we can.

KANO

Deal.

SOUND: Two bodies get into car. Doors close. Engine starts.

KANO

You ready?

DAN REID

Hornet gun...

SOUND: A clip is put into the gun.

DAN REID

Check. Hornet Sting...

SOUND: Sting is switched on and off.

DAN REID

Check. Let's roll, Kanō.

KANO

You just couldn't help yourself, could you?

DAN REID

Nope.

SOUND: Transition music.

SCENE 2 – CUT TO EXT.: *Back Alley – Warehouse District*

SOUND: A "silent" car rolls into a quiet alley. The car parks and two doors open. Two step out and doors shut.

KANO

Where are we?

DAN REID

You drove us here.

KANO

You know what I mean. What is this place?

DAN REID

It was a storehouse for one of the chain bookstores until a year ago. Then the recession hit and the chain went belly-up. According to some of the rumors floating about, it was taken over by a crew who has turned it into an underground casino.

KANO

How are they connected to the people who attacked mom and dad?

DAN REID

I'm not sure they are, but its money flowing into the criminal community and it's bound to get noticed.

KANO

Cool. What are we waiting for?

DAN REID

An engraved invitation.... or for us to kick the door down and start smacking people around, whichever comes first.

KANO

After you.

DAN REID

No, no. I insist. After you.

SOUND: Footfalls run forward, kicking down the door, transitioning into music.

SCENE 3 – CUT TO EXT.: *Street Corner – Lower East Side Neighborhood*

SOUND: Light traffic in a residential neighborhood.

KANO (whispers)

A drug dealer?

DAN REID (whispers)

Follow the money. The mob is using gambling, drugs and prostitution to build up enough funds to get into higher-stakes like racketeering and gun-running, as well as paying off cops, lawyers and judges. If we can cut off that cash supply, and make them believe that the Hornet has taken them over, it will not only put the hurt on them, but also make them want to meet with us.

KANO (whispers)

Or kill us.

DAN REID (whispers)

In this world, there often isn't a difference.

KANO (whispers)

So let's go roll us a dealer.

DAN REID (whispers)

Hang loose for just a few more minutes.

KANO (whispers)

What are we waiting for?

SOUND: A car slowly approaches and squeaks to a stop.

DAN REID (whispers)

That.

KANO (whispers)

His supplier?

DAN REID (whispers)

Yep. You got that tracking device?

KANO (whispers)

Right here.

DAN REID (whispers)

Good. While I distract the dealers, you slip around and put it on the car. Then we'll follow them back to their lab and be able to shut down the branch.

KANO (whispers)

Why do you get to distract the dealers?

DAN REID

A, I have the bulletproof jacket, just in case. B, I don't want to let you have all the fun. Let's go.

SOUND: Running footfalls transition into music.

SCENE 4 – CUT TO EXT.: *Brothel Foyer – North End Neighborhood*

SOUND: A standard house with a large crowd of party attendees, heavy on female attendance.

A knock is heard at the front door. Footsteps move over to door.

DOORMAN

Password?

KANO (yelling from other side of door)
Kiii-Yah!

SOUND: Door is kicked in and falls. DOORMAN “oof”s and is knocked down. The noise gets the attention of those in the house. A few women scream in surprise.

GREEN HORNET
Who’s in charge here?

SOUND: Footfalls start running toward doorway. Gas gun is fired, causing the men to cough, then pass out.

GREEN HORNET
I hope it was none of them.

SOUND: Female footfalls step forward.

MADAM
This is my house. You have no right to be here.

GREEN HORNET
I have all the right in the world. You’re under new management, effective immediately.

MADAM
Who do you think you are?

GREEN HORNET
What, the green ensemble and mask isn’t a giveaway?

MADAM
We were told that the Green Hornet was dead.

GREEN HORNET
It appears the reports of my demise have been greatly exaggerated. And in case you didn’t know, *this* city belongs to the Hornet. Nothing goes down without my consent. So this place is closed until I reopen it.

MADAM
The Exterminator isn’t going to be happy about this.

GREEN HORNET

Is that what he's calling himself. Well, you get word back to your boss that the new-slash-old boss wants a meet, and that he better hope and pray that all I ask for is twenty percent. You don't cross the Green Hornet and get away with it! Now everybody out! This whorehouse is closed for renovation!

SOUND: The Hornet's Sting is activated, causing things to shake. People start running in a panic, transitioning into music.

SCENE 5 – CUT TO INT.: *Inside the Black Beauty – Highway 73*

SOUND: A muted engine runs in the background.

KANO

Three crime industries in one night. At this pace, we should have the city back on track in a couple of weeks.

DAN REID

It's going to get worse before it gets better.

KANO

They always say that.

DAN REID

That's because people will always think "that was easy" and get overconfident. Then, when the opposition strikes back, they get clobbered.

KANO

Are you saying that's what happened to my parents?

DAN REID

To a certain extent. I think things were far worse – more organized – than they were expecting. They thought it was small and they went in expecting small, only to find a much bigger problem. It wasn't their fault; they just weren't as prepared as they thought they were.

KANO

Do you really believe that?

DAN REID

I have to.

KANO

In that case, you won't think that I'm being paranoid if I tell you that there's a car coming up fast behind us.

SOUND: Movement in rear seat. A car starts catching up from a distance.

DAN REID

The one with the... are those lights along the running boards I'm seeing?

KANO (slightly worried)

It looks like it. Purple running lights on a black and gold-trimmed SUV.

DAN REID

What's wrong?

KANO

Black and Purple are gang colors – the Kongs. It's a street gang out of Little Vietnam.

DAN REID

Do you think that's them?

KANO

If it's the SUV I think it is, then I know it's them. I see the gaudy thing every day in the school parking lot.

DAN REID

I'm not sure what they want, but I don't want to fight teenagers tonight if we don't have to. Can you lose them?

KANO

I should be able to.

SOUND: Engine accelerates. A few beats later, the other engine accelerates and catches up quickly.

DAN REID

How are they catching up to the Black Beauty?

KANO

If I had to guess, they're using nitrous.

DAN REID

Are we?

KANO

Not yet.

SOUND: Gunshots are fired from the SUV, bouncing off the bulletproof windows and doors.

DAN REID

Well, we must have done something to piss them off.

KANO

Maybe they're trying to make names for themselves by taking on the Hornet.

SOUND: Gunshots are fired from the SUV, bouncing off the bulletproof windows and doors.

DAN REID

Great, just what we need, a bunch of punk kids trying to get street cred.

SOUND: Gunshots are fired from the SUV, bouncing off the bulletproof windows and doors.

KANO

I know these guys. We can outrun them, especially now that they've used up their nitrous, but they're just gonna go cause trouble someplace else, then brag in the morning that they chased off the Green Hornet.

SOUND: Two sets of tires squeal in a turn.

DAN REID

You have something against these guys?

KANO

Beside the fact that they're shooting at us? Yeah. They broke my buddy Charlie's arm because his name was Charlie. The school couldn't do anything because it happened off school grounds; the cops said that there wasn't any proof.

DAN REID

While we're not here to pursue personal vendettas, it does sound like they're contributing to the problem. Let's take them down and see if there's anything the police can prosecute them for.

SOUND: Another squealing turn.

KANO

The Beauty has low-yield rockets. You want to put one under their undercarriage and give them a flip?

DAN REID

Remember, non-lethal. Blowing their car into the air may violate that. We can get the same effect – stopping them – by using the oil slick.

SOUND: Nozzle opens and sprays oil. The SUV starts to slip and slides off the road into the ditch. The Black Beauty breaks to a stop.

DAN REID

See? A lot less fuss. Shall we go finish cleaning up?

KANO

Lets.

SOUND: The car pulls forward and stops. The engine is shut off. More bullets are fired, bouncing off the car until the clips are empty.

KANO

God, I love bulletproofing.

DAN REID

Misnomer: bullet resistant. Just watch yourself out there. They may have extra clips.

KANO

Then let's get out there before they can reload.

SOUND: Car doors open and two bodies get out.

SCENE 6 – CUT TO EXT.: *Side of Road – Highway 73*

SOUND: Nighttime sounds along a highway. Two sets of footfalls run across pavement. Throwing darts wiz through the air, sinking into flesh as gangbangers yelp in pain. The gas gun is fired, causing gang members to cough and fall over. When the gap close, kicks and punches finish off the thugs quickly and they fall to the ground.

KANO

I wish I had one of those Staples buttons.

GREEN HORNET

Why?

KANO

So it would say, "That was easy."

EXTERMINATOR (over a cell phone speaker left on in the SUV)

Ling, what's happening?

SOUND: One set of footsteps move closer to the SUV.

GREEN HORNET

I'm sorry. Ling can't take your call right now. He's unconscious, but if you leave your name and number, he may get back to you in ten to twenty.

EXTERMINATOR

I'll assume that I'm talking to the new Hornet.

GREEN HORNET

You're talking to The Green Hornet. Who is this?

EXTERMINATOR

Well, considering the fact I kill your predecessor, you can call me the Exterminator. I specialize in getting rid of buzzing little insects like you.

KANO (venomous)

You son of a bitch!

EXTERMINATOR

Ah, and I hear you've already found a replacement sidekick. Does this one jump around, flinging his legs in the air like a little grasshopper too? I hope that means I'm two for two. <mock concern> I wasn't sure, and we had to leave in such a hurry, though some of my men really wanted to stick around and have some more fun.

GREEN HORNET

Well, if we're keeping score, then I'd say we're currently in the lead with four.

EXTERMINATOR

Please. The damage you've done tonight will be made up for before the sun rises. The bullets I put into the other two cost me more than what you've done tonight.

GREEN HORNET

This is my city, Exterminator. If you want to operate here, you'll have to deal with me.

EXTERMINATOR

I don't think so. If you were truly what you made yourself out to be, I wouldn't have been able to get as far as I have. The fact of the matter is that your group has gotten sloppy and relaxed. You thought you had gotten rid of the criminal element in the city, but instead it went underground. It took some digging, but I've managed to find it all again and bring it back to the surface, stronger than before. And do you want to know the funniest part? We all know you aren't the criminal mastermind now. Your secret is out, Hornet: you're one of the good guys, and you have to play by the good guy rules. In spite of the reputation your predecessors built, we know that you won't kill. With your little gas guns and sonic sticks and throwing darts, you won't cross that line.

KANO (venomous)

For you, I'll make an exception.

EXTERMINATOR

Oooh, the new one's got some fire in his belly. Maybe, once I've finished flushing all the Hornets out of the nest, I'll take him on as my bodyguard. Teach him to harness that hatred for profit.

GREEN HORNET

Over my dead body.

EXTERMINATOR

That is the general idea. Tell me, how many more Hornets am I going to have to swat? And how many good flunkies am I going to have to waste in the process?

GREEN HORNET

Run!

SOUND: footfalls start to move away, but the sound is interrupted by the SUV exploding.

EPILOGUE

SCENE 1 – ENTER INT.: Reid Condominium – Living Room

SOUND: Transition music fades into a living room background noise. KANO winces.

DAN REID

Is that too tight?

KANO

No. It's fine. All that fire and smoke and shrapnel, and I get bruised ribs from slamming into the Black Beauty.

DAN REID

Well, it didn't help that the concussive blast from the SUV exploding was what threw you there.

KANO

OK, I'm patched up. Let's take a look at you.

SOUND: A body stands up from the couch and moves around to stand on other side.

DAN REID

I was in a similar boat. I dislocated my shoulder, but I popped it back in at the scene. It hurts like crazy and I'll have to take it easy with it for a while, but I'll be fine.

KANO

That's not all it did. You've got a cut along... along the base of your skull. *<getting more somber and struggling>* The bleeding's stopped, but we need to get it cleaned up... *<breaking down>* cleaned up before...

DAN REID

I know, buddy. I know. Let it out.

SOUND: KANO cries quietly for about ten seconds before forcing himself to stop. Dan stands and moves next to him while he does.

KANO

I'm sorry.

DAN REID

For what? For being human? You've been through so much in the past forty-eight hours. I was beginning to worry about the fact that you hadn't broken down yet.

KANO (working on recovering)

Superheroes don't cry.

DAN REID

Superheroes don't do a lot of things, but I think crying when needed is allowed.

SOUND: KANO takes a few seconds to finish composing himself.

KANO

How did you know?

DAN REID

That the SUV was rigged to explode? I'm not sure. It was gut instinct. It may have been because this guy has shown himself willing to do surprise attacks. It may have been the way he was flaunting, like he knew he already had the fight won. And the fact that Alan was killed in an explosion was probably on my mind as well.

KANO

I'm just sorry we didn't have the time to save the Kongs too. I mean, he was willing to sacrifice his own guys just to get us.

DAN REID

Planned on sacrificing those boys. The SUV was rigged for explosives long before we got them pulled over. It was probably a back-up plan: if they had told him that they were next to us but couldn't stop us, he would have blown them up, hoping to catch us in the blast.

KANO

How do you get to that point? Willing to kill people that work for you?

DAN REID

I hope we can never understand it.

KANO (slightly defensive)

You're not taking him seriously, are you? I'd never go over to the dark side.

DAN REID

I don't think you ever would either, but this stuff is a slippery slope. You can't tell me that, if he had been standing in front of us tonight, you wouldn't have done everything in your power to kill him. I saw it in your eyes.

KANO (defensive)

He killed my father! He's crippled my mother! Yeah, I want him dead...

DAN REID

And you're going to have to let the law handle it. We're not judge, jury and executioner. *<beat>* Maybe I should go ahead and call Hayashi.

KANO

No. You're right. I can do this. Justice, not vengeance, but I need to be involved. I *need* to help.

SOUND: Silence – 1 beat.

DAN REID

OK, but the deal still applies. If it starts to affect your schoolwork, you're done. And we're going to get you a different uniform; the best body armor we can get to protect you.

KANO

You're the boss. Whatever you say, just so long as your suit is made of the same stuff. And we're going to modify it to cover the back of your head.

DAN REID

Deal. Now go get some rest. We're going to see your mother in the morning.

CUT: Ending music and credits.

© Copyright 2010, 2012 – Green Hornet Inc, 20th Century Fox, Now Comics, TimeWell Productions

A TimeWell Electronic Recording Production (TWERP) Online presentation.

Ending Credits

You have been listening to the New Adventures of The Green Hornet – Episode 1: Rebirth, starring (in order of appearance) Ken Hallaron as The Green Hornet and Matt Hallaron as Kano.

This presentation also featured Erick Greeva as the Sales Rep, Steve Cain as Barry Wilkinson, Lee Sands as the Doctor, Joan Hallaron as Mishi Kato, Roger Kelley, Mick Mize and Ryan Gilbert as the Reporters, Louise Francis as Michelle Axford, Doug Zeitlin as the Doorman, April Sadowski as the Madame and Pete Nottit as The Exterminator.

The New Green Hornet is a production of TimeWell Electronic Recording Productions, with The Green Hornet being the property of Green Hornet Incorporated and 20th Century Fox; copyright 2012. Rebirth was written and mixed by Jim Caswell and edited by John Born. Music was composed and produced by Paul Mitchell. This has been a TWERPs Online Presentation.