

# BUGOLOGICAL WARFARE:

*a luv tale and a shred of hope for 2011 by johnmichael rossi*

1. GENRE: 24-Hour News
2. SUCKERS: Bedbugs, Kids Who Believe in Santa and [a news anchor reminiscent of] Glenn Beck
3. PROPS: Oil-Soaked Pelican, iPad and Leo's Totem from *Inception*

## CHARACTERS:

ANKORMAN

LITTLE GIRL

BED-BUG KING

## SETTING:

Conflicting reports... But somewhere between Christmas and New Year's Day.

## BREAKING NEWS

*ANKORMAN is covered in saran-wrap in a deep hole with his camera. We hear the hook from Michael Jackson's 'Breaking News.'*

ANKORMAN

This is your favorite FluxNews anchor bringing you your overwhelming overdose of Fear-Im-Balanced news 24-7, 3-6-5, reporting to you live from the depth of the Copiapo mine in Chile. If you're watching, then you are one of the few that have survived. Congratulations, and welcome to the club! You my friends, have survived the Great Christmas Attack of 2010. We're the only ones left.

BED-BUG KING

(off-stage)

Ho. Ho... HO!

NOTE: *These "Ho's" sound peculiar and very un-Santa-like.*

(a perplexing pause)

ANKORMAN

We broke the news first here at FluxNews. And now, I am the only survivor from my newsteam.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANKORMAN (CONT'D)

Bedbugs, spread across the nation,  
 infesting our precious homes.  
 As you can see, I have isolated  
 myself, miles and miles  
 underground, far far away from a  
 bed of any sort, here in Chile. In  
 the mine. For extra protection, I  
 have wrapped myself in saran-wrap  
 to ward off the blood-sucking  
 insects that have turned our  
 Holiday cheer upside down.

BED-BUG KING

Ho...  
 (a concerned pause)

ANKORMAN

And I am now reporting to you with  
 confirmation, that the nation-wide  
 bed bug infestation is, was, is an  
 act of war declared by an Islamic  
 fundamentalist group based in  
 Yemen, known as *Al Bugya*.

BED-BUG KING

(off-stage)  
 Ho.  
 HoooOO!

ANKORMAN

Did you hear that?  
 Impossible. Damn bugs are gettin'  
 in my psyche. There can't be anyone  
 else down here. I'm the only one  
 down here. Where was I? Oh! The  
 attack. What those A-Rabs don't  
 realize, is that they actually did  
 us Americans a big favor. I always  
 like to say, "Only the strong  
 survive." "Survival of the  
 fittest." These are my morning  
 mottos.  
 Get this. Their little attack  
 helped us cleanse our country of  
 all of the weaklings. This is our  
 opportunity to rebuild the nation  
 on the true ideals of this blessed  
 country.

BED-BUG KING

HO HO, HO!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANKORMAN

That's it! Someone or something is down here.

Excuse me.

(steps out of frame)

I'm getting to the bottom of this.

(a moment or two, or three)

LITTLE GIRL

(enters wearing '2011 glasses,' carrying an oil-soaked pelican, an iPad and a package)

Hello?! Santa?

Of course he's not down here.

Alone again. All alone.

I found this pelican today.

(to an audience member)

I'm laying it at your feet.

One day soon I shall find myself the way I found this pelican.

Washed up. Soaked in oil. A victim of greed, incompetence, and total disregard for the grand design.

ANKORMAN

Come out come out wherever you are?

LITTLE GIRL

Did you hear that?

Santa?

No, that's definitely not Santa.

ANKORMAN

AHHH! What are you- How did you get in here?

LITTLE GIRL

I crawled. I'm-

ANKORMAN

Stay back! Don't come near me!

LITTLE GIRL

I'm looking for Santa Claus.

ANKORMAN

Don't take another step. Stay back! I've got very potent pesticide. I will spray!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LITTLE GIRL

Have you seen Santa down here?

ANKORMAN

I said not to come near me! You might be infested.

LITTLE GIRL

In who?

(into the camera)

If anybody out there is watching, I'm looking for Santa Claus. Santa, if you're watching-

ANKORMAN

Little girl. I don't know how you got in here but... You need to stay there, away from my camera, get up against that wall. How did you find me down here anyhow? This is an undisclosed location.

LITTLE GIRL

I tracked your newsfeed on my ipad. It was a little strange because you keep tweeting about being in a mine in Chile, but when I reverse 4-squared you and GPS-ed it, it brought me here to the basement of the Ground Zero Mosque-

ANKORMAN

SHHHHHSHHS!!! Stupid little girl.

(whispering)

The mine bit is a deterrant, in case anyone wanted to follow me to safety.

LITTLE GIRL

You're kind of strange. Who would follow you into a Chilean mine?

ANKORMAN

Survivors. Looking for safety.

LITTLE GIRL

Oh, you mean from the whole bed bug thing. There are tons of survivors.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LITTLE GIRL (CONT'D)

They just won't associate with one another. Everyone's afraid the other has bed bugs. They just stay in their homes and shout at each other from their windows, warning their neighbors to stay off their property. Things actually aren't much different. The streets are empty though. It's kind of nice. I'm looking for Santa Claus. Have you seen him?

ANKORMAN

There's no such thing as Santa Claus.  
What is that in your hand.  
Is that a suspicious package?

LITTLE GIRL

This package came to my house addressed to Santa Claus. They must of wrote down the wrong address.

ANKORMAN

What's in it?

LITTLE GIRL

I don't know.

ANKORMAN

Open it. NO! Don't open it.

LITTLE GIRL

I can't open someone else's mail.  
That's a federal offense.

ANKORMAN

Let me get this straight. A package came to your house addressed to Santa, and you have traveled to  
(looking into the camera)  
Chile-

LITTLE GIRL

Downtown Manhattan.

ANKORMAN

Shut Up!  
You're telling me that you came all the way down here to deliver this package to Santa Claus. Gosh- we are going straight to hell in a handbag if this is our youth.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ANKORMAN (CONT'D)

Little girl, wake up! Don't be so dumb.

LITTLE GIRL

I'm not dumb. Just neighborly.

ANKORMAN

There is no such thing as Santa Claus. And never mind that, but we are in the middle of a national crisis. Bugological Warfare has been declared on the western world. And you're wandering around the infested world, helping to spread the enemy. Not very neighborly of you to bring them down here to my undisclosed location. Just to look for a big fat bearded communist that doesn't even exist.

LITTLE GIRL

He does too exist. And he's not a communist!

ANKORMAN

Dons a beard, wears a red suit and 'spreads the wealth' with alleged Christmas joy.

LITTLE GIRL

And so what if he's communist? I don't even know what a communist is. I am too young to care about such hoo-ha. I am looking for Santa, and I will find him. I will deliver this package before the end of 2010.

BED-BUG KING

(enters wearing a Santa suit)

Ha ha ha!  
Happy New Year!

ANKORMAN

Oh my god, look what you did! You brought them down here. Stay away from me, the both of you!

LITTLE GIRL

You're not Santa.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

BED-BUG KING

Never said I was. But don't I look good in red?

ANKORMAN

I have pesticides.

BED-BUG KING

Yum!

ANKORMAN

Stay away! You can't have my precious blood. I will prevail.

BED-BUG KING

Shut up! I have had enough of you people and your squawking. A whole lot of noise you people make. Can't a bed bug get a place to sleep in peace?

ANKORMAN

What is it that you want?

BED-BUG KING

What do I want?

(an infesting pause)

What do I want?

I want this godawful year to come to a close. 2010. Plain sucked. The Big Suck-Off of 2010.

ANKORMAN

Hey, we humans didn't have such a good year either. Unemployment, budget cuts, rise in crime-

LITTLE GIRL

Gary Coleman.

BED-BUG KING

Shut up! This isn't about you and your people. Buncha crybabies. Wah wah wah I've got bed bugs. Wah wah wah I don't have this, I don't have that, wah wah wah, Obama promised me hope and all I got was this pink slip, wah wah wah.

LITTLE GIRL

I don't have health insurance. I'm still smiling.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

ANKORMAN

We are reporting to you live from the Copiago mine in Chile, where we have an exclusive interview with the mastermind behind the terrorist-

BED-BUG KING

(walks towards ANKORMAN and unplugs him)  
Hate the fuckin' media.

LITTLE GIRL

How did you do that?

BED-BUG KING

Simple. Just un-plugged him. Robots. People like him are programmed to say and do stupid things. All you got to do with people like him, is unplug them. Turn em off. They just spout clutterous thoughts and misinformation. One big headache.

LITTLE GIRL

Do you believe in Santa?

BED-BUG KING

Sweetie, there's not much that I believe in. Especially not after this year.

LITTLE GIRL

That's not healthy. Everyone should believe in something.

BED-BUG KING

Not after the year I had. Hey- is that camera on?

LITTLE GIRL

I think so.

BED-BUG KING

2010 it's time to give you the sucker punch of a lifetime. You killed my cat, you forced me to put my dog to sleep, you gave me mum the Big C and took her away, and my lady... She's gone too.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (8)

LITTLE GIRL

Who?

BED-BUG KING

My Lady Bug.

Many moons ago. I fell in love with the most exquisite little Lady Bug. Imagine that. Me, a Bed Bug. A red jacket. A blood-sucking bug and a little lady bug- together. And then she left me. Or, I left her. I'm not really sure anymore. Such things are never clear in retrospect.

This infestation, as you people so crudely call it... for me and my fellow bugs, your infestation is our search. A great search for my Lady Bug.

A wiki leaked my way and tipped me off saying that she might be here, in America. Talk about an unreliable source. After all of our time spent in this godawful place I realize now that I am waaaay off the map. She's not here.

2010: A whole lot of wasted time and energy. Sucking blood in all of the wrong places.

What's in the package?

LITTLE GIRL

It's for Santa.

BED-BUG KING

What's in it?

LITTLE GIRL

I don't know. It's for Santa.

BED-BUG KING

From who?

LITTLE GIRL

I don't know. There's no return address.

BED-BUG KING

Might as well open it up.  
I've got a Santa suit on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

LITTLE GIRL

Maybe you're right. It doesn't look like I'm going to find him before the clock strikes midnight.

BED-BUG KING

Some things just aren't meant to be.

LITTLE GIRL

(begins to open the package)

Wait! You should open it.

BED-BUG KING

Never got to open a gift.  
Never been given a gift.

LITTLE GIRL

See, 2010 has some good things to offer.

BED-BUG KING

Don't be such an optimist.

LITTLE GIRL

Open it.

BED-BUG KING

(opens the package and reveals a top, reminiscent of Leo's Totem; he looks at it curiously)

Wbat the-

LITTLE GIRL

Spin it! Ain't you seen that movie?

BED-BUG KING

(spins it, suddenly LITTLE GIRL transforms into a Lady Bug; the hook from Michael Jackson's *Breaking News* plays us out)

THE END (of 2010). Good riddance!