



L.T.D. LUCY TAKES DECALORE #1

The Family Jewels

By The 23rd Phoenix

Chapter (Episode 00) One: It's a Beatdown

THOOOOM! GRUUUWAHH! PUUAAAARRRR! DWOOORRRUUUMMM!

The quiet town of Moomensville once again found itself the set dressing of a rather loud incident. Sounds of combat danced down the sleepy suburban streets, eventually fizzling out into the atmosphere.

She was there. Of course, *she* was there.

CRACK!

The impact sent her skidding across the mulch. The plastic dinosaurs would wince if they could. A colossal silhouette ran her down. She plunged her hands into the ground. **PUARI** An explosion sent her flying, launching mulch in any and all directions.

“Too easy!” The shadow swung its hefty leg, kicking up plenty mulch. The pieces shifted to a deep purple.

I can't hold back anymore.

THUNK! THUNK! THUNK!

The mulch hurtled towards the ground, pelting the young lady's skull. **PUARI PUARI** **PUARI** Scurrying like a discovered rodent, she shot her hands above her head, blasting air from her palms.

“C'mon Lucy you're gettin' washed! I'm tryna see Henry swallow some teeth!” Despite throwing *zero* punches, Victor had worked up quite a sweat. Hanging upside down from dinosaur bone monkey bars, the dreads that usually hid his feelings were of no use, his conflicted expression was available for the world to see.

Not as harsh but just as concerned, Oscar added “Lucy use your head! You can't beat Henry at his own game!” Rocking a standard low cut and spinning waves, Oscar gave gravity a break by standing as man was intended. Behind his poker face, Oscar's angst came in the form of scratching at his thick headphones.

Dusting off his suit jacket, Henry, the former silhouette shouted. “No one's gonna hold back in Decalore!” Icy blaze in his eyes, he watched Lucy stumble from the remains of his attack. “I know you only have so many uses of your Phoenix Factor left!”

Reassuming a boxing stance the sleeves of Henry's jacket became tainted, the same glossy material that imposed itself on the mulch also infected his arms. His shoes sunk a little into the mulch. Not letting another moment pass, the man bearing the *Weight of the World* dashed into round two.

Lucy broke into a mad dash towards her opponent. Digging his feet into the ground, Henry blasted a heavy straight. **GSHHHHHHH!** She slid between his legs and **PUAR-EDI** into the air.

CRACK!!!

Lucy drove her knee into the back of Henry's head forcing him to stare into the Earth. **PUAR!!!** Twisting in the air she whipped her leg. **TWING!** Henry's sturdy forearm blocked the kick. "Damni-!"

CRAAAAACCCCCCKKKKK!!!

The sound snatched a few squirrels from their sleep.

Lucy's head snapped back, Henry had fed her a crazy uppercut. The contact with his arm multiplied her weight, but instead of turning purple, a cartoonish looking weight was tethered to her ankle. Eyes glazed over there was no way for her to see the **THICKWHACK!!!** coming. Swinging faster than lightning, Henry placed a quick two piece on Lucy before she had the luxury of falling to the ground. Aside from the sound of knuckle to face contact replaying in Oscar and Victor's minds, the park was silent. Even the gnats overhead held their breath.

"HENRY! IT'S OVER! YOU SLEPT HER! GOD!" Victor shouted.

"IS SHE ALRIGHT?! I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LIKE THIS BEFORE! HENRY YOU WENT WAY TOO FAR!!" Oscar's headphones were irreparably damaged. Coming to an unspoken conclusion, both onlookers stormed the battlefield. Only a few steps in, a resounding.

"STAY BACK!"

Froze the boys in place. "Don't underestimate our sister!" Like many times before, Oscar and Victor reluctantly obeyed their brother's words.



Albeit at a snail's pace Lucy collected her strength in an attempt to stand. Breathing heavily she rested on a single knee. Henry couldn't see her expression through her curly smokescreen of hair, but he could see **SPLURCH!** The mess of blood spill from her mouth. "LUCY WHAT'S WRONG?!?!" Henry yelled, crouching down just above her.

CUUURRREEEEEAAAACCKKKKK!!!

That one woke a few birds up.
Lucy rose to her feet in a wild sprint. Flipping Henry the bird, she shouted.
"HA! YOU'RE JUST AS GUILTY!"



THWIZOOOM! THWAZIING! THWUZAANG! Nose leaking, Henry didn't miss a beat either. Making them mu(l)ch more like bullets he flicked weighed down pieces of the terrain at his sister. **THWAZIING!** Lucy broke into a streak of front handsprings. **THWIZOOOM!**
THWUZAANG! Spinning, twisting, and bouncing she slid between the plethora of projectiles.

PUARI

"HUUH DON'T BRING HIM OVER HERE!!" Oscar screamed.

"SHIT! KEEP ME OUTTA TH-!" **THUNK!** Falling from his bony throne, Victor was shocked as the show had switched dimensions without his consent. Both brothers abandoned the park's playset.

Having used her ability to soar Lucy gracefully landed on the monkey bars flashing a smile the devil would recognize. The mulch meteor shower had sliced her hands open, with a few dramatics and some sleight of hand, she'd pulled the oldest trick in the book. She dusted off her bright red track jacket, tightened her black sweatpants, and loosened her shoulders up. It was hard to make out, but a slight smirk could be seen etched into Henry's face.

Dino bone monkey bars, stegosaurus slides, brachiosaurus bench, spinosaurus spring riders. Each and every object watched her grow up, there was no better place for the littlest Lovebeat's final battle. **PUARI PUARI** Closing her fists, Lucy's hands shook, still atop the bony bars she threw small white balls toward her opponent. **PUARI PUARI PUARI** Henry dashed in between the maze of mines as they burst on impact with the ground.

Leaping, Henry sliced the air above the monkey bars with a killer lariat. Luckily, Lucy had fell to her back. **TINK! TINKATTINK!** However while airborne he dropped weighted mulch down on his sister. **WHOOSH!** Lucy quickly swung under the bars, avoiding the rain.

THWAZING! CRUNCH! "Deyygiyah!" A mulch bullet planted itself in the center of her back, but Lucy's cries fell on unrelenting ears. **WHOOSH!** Henry blasted another hook **THUD!**, forcing her to fall to the ground in evasion. **PUARI THUNGGG!** "ARGAH!" Lucy blasted herself into the monkey bars' underside. **SHWIF-SHWIF SHWAFF!** Henry walked his sister down with an impenetrable string of jabs and hooks. Hands up Lucy stepped back, weaving between punches.

JAB, JABI

"I didn't think you guys would make it in time to see me run! Hee hee hee! You saw how fast I was!?"

Hook!

"Henry, Henry! Hee hee hee, I got a date for prom! C'mon you gotta do my hair!"

CROSS!

"Henry! Henry! Henry! I GOT IT! Hahaa! I GOT THE JOB!!!"

JAB, JABI

"Why is mom on TV and not here?"

Hook!

I gotta focus! If I baby her, she won't get any stronger!

HEAVY STRAIGHT!

PUARI

THUNGGGGGGGG!!!!

As he swung, Lucy pointed her palms skyward and let loose a full blast of air. The monkey bars crashed down, parting Henry's curly top. . .

Lucy smiled. "Three clean hits, right?"