

WORKING-CLASS SUPERHEROES

an original screenplay by

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FADE IN:

EXT. /INT. CALDWELL MANSION - DAY

A large mansion on a hill right next to a rural farm. An eighteen-year-old wealthy kid named NATE CALDWELL looks at himself in the mirror and obsesses over his hair, combing it until every strand is perfect.

Confident in his appearance, Nate tiptoes through the hallways of his mansion and into his bedroom. He makes sure no one is around and closes the door.

Nate reaches under his bed and pulls out a six-pack of his favorite liquor. He starts drinking, opening up a copy of the 'Daily Hammer' newspaper. The headline reads 'High School Cheerleader Lifts Truck'.

INSERT---more newspaper clippings of ordinary people displaying super human abilities, such as 'Teenage Boy Has Bat Wings' and 'Local Boy's Third Eye Shoots Lasers'.

An elderly man named BEN MANGER narrates from the future.

BEN (V.O.)

Back then, no one knew exactly how much blame could be placed on alien tech for all those poor people who ended up with weird powers, but the public embraced them. It was a golden age of technology and heroics and they were the poster children.

TITLE SEQUENCE.

Clips of random people in superhero costumes attacking muggers and other criminals with different superhuman powers, striking terror into their hearts while defending the city.

"WORKING-CLASS SUPERHEROES"

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

A parade in the middle of a small town, attended by hundreds. Float after float is littered with masked, costumed superheroes who wave at a cheering crowd.

BEN (V.O.)

The government started funding their little vigilante groups and making celebrities out of them.

LATER.

A blue-clad superhero named BEETLE HEAD waves at the crowd as the Mayor of Hammer City gives him the key to the city.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But for all the good they did, they
were still breaking the law. Society
just looked the other way.

EXT. A FARM - NIGHT

Rebellious rich kid Nate Caldwell is sitting in the back of his father's limo, drinking and laughing with two already-drunk twenty-something girls.

Nate looks out the window and sees blue dots in the sky getting larger and larger. Meteors start pouring out of the sky. Barns are destroyed as well as houses, frightening the girls. Nate stays stoic, intrigued.

EXT. A SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - NIGHT

A truck-sized, slimy egg falls from the sky along with the blue meteors and lands on a football field. The egg cracks and a long, slithering dragon bursts out of it, breathing fire and burning the grandstands.

Students who are there for football practice start to flee as the dragon heads into the nearby town.

A FARM.

Nate Caldwell watches the meteor shower from his limo. He sees a small spaceship crash-land in some nearby cornstalks. Nate courageously walks into the still-raging meteor shower, towards this ship, as the girls react.

Nate looks through the glass cockpit of this ship at the infant inside. The ship is covered with shards of the blue meteors still raining from the sky. When Nate touches the ship, the cockpit opens and the infant starts crying.

Blue veins pop out of the child's neck as he screams bloody murder. Nate lifts the infant, trying to console him as he walks back to the limo. The further they get away from the ship, the baby calms down and the veins subside.

EXT./INT. SUPERHERO HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

A domed building with two towers on either side on the outskirts of "Hammer City". A sign outside reads 'Superhero Headquarters'.

Inside, Beetle Head stands in front of a large screen, watching news footage of the dragon now tearing up the small town of Hicksville.

A female Viking warrior named TOWANDA stands behind him, holding a sword and shield.

TOWANDA

It'll be a tough fight, Beetle Head.

BEETLE HEAD

Yes, Towanda. But the people need us!

Towanda follows Beetle Head into a hallway, towards the exit of their headquarters. There are pictures of other superheroes on the wall, members of their team.

Towanda touches a photograph of a young man in a black trench coat, whose skull ring gave him super powers. He calls himself TRENCH COAT. She looks at it lovingly.

TOWANDA

We need you, baby.

BEN (V.O.)

My brother told me they were understaffed that night. So many different heroes trying to save the world in so many different places they couldn't protect one small town two miles away. And Trench Coat was probably in another galaxy with his crew.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Beetle Head drives his motorcycle away from the dragon, narrowly missing a stream of fire the dragon blew at him. Towanda is standing on a rooftop. She lifts her sword and screams.

TOWANDA

Towanda!!!

Leaping from the rooftop, she grabs onto the dragon's back, narrowly missing his jaws as the creature snaps at her. Suddenly, the dragon bites down on both her legs. A blood curdling SNAP is heard.

The dragon throws Towanda into the air before swallowing her whole.

BEN (V.O.)

All it took was one near-casualty for the public's perception of superheroes to take an ugly turn.

Towanda's sword bursts out of dragon's neck. One circular swipe removes the dragon's head from the inside. Towanda lands on the ground hard in a puddle of the dragon's blood. She tries to move her legs and cannot.

Beetle Head returns on his motorcycle and sees Towanda dragging her motionless legs down the street. Other superheroes who had joined the fight surround Towanda. An ambulance soon shows up.

EXT. / INT. HOSPITAL - LATER

Trench Coat and a diverse team of aliens with the same black trench coat (and skull ring) descend from the sky. Towanda and Trench Coat make affectionate eye contact as the paramedics wheel her inside.

MUCH LATER.

A physical therapist tries to help Towanda walk again. Beetle Head and a few other superheroes, including Trench Coat are there for moral support. Towanda and Trench Coat make googly eyes at each other.

INT. ORPHANAGE - DAY

Nate Caldwell hands the infant he found to a social worker. A nearby TV tells the rest of the story.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

A spokesman for NASA told reporters that last night's meteor shower in Hicksville was residue from the planet Uranus, which apparently exploded within the past couple of weeks.

NATE

Ha. Uranus exploded.

SOCIAL WORKER

Your anus. Not my anus.

Nate laughs and gives the social worker a fist bump.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Astronomers assure us that the meteors themselves are not radioactive and completely harmless.

As Nate walks towards the exit, he sees a mirror. He notices a clump of hair on his shoulder. He picks it up and runs his fingers through his own hair. More hair falls out.

NATE
 (growls)
 NO! NOOOOOO!

Nate angrily punches the mirror, splintering it.

EXT. SUPERHERO HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Protesters gather outside the headquarters, demanding it be shut down. Superheroes dejectedly leave the building. Some get into cars and others fly away.

EXT. HICKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Now-bald 18-year-old Nate Caldwell addresses his classmates at their high-school graduation, dressed in his cap and gown. A banner behind him reads 'Hicksville Seniors'.

NATE

For years, I thought my entire life was just sort of laid out in front of me like a really exciting roller coaster track that I couldn't control. Graduate. Go to the best colleges. Take over my father's multi-billion dollar tech business whether I flunk out of school or not. Give a speech at the graduation even though I'm a C-student.
 (snickers)
 How did this happen? "Who'd his dad pay off?"

Nate's classmates laugh. Nate's parents are not amused.

NATE (CONT'D)

All perks of being my father's son, I suppose.

INSERT--Superhero Headquarters is now a boarded-up abandoned building. Hoodlums spray paint "tags" on it.

NATE (CONT'D)

But something happened this year that just sort of showed me what my life could truly be. Something that came out of the sky and affected the lives of myself and everyone else in this town.

INSERT--Superhero Headquarters is bull-dozed.

NATE (CONT'D)

There are threats out there, much further out than our atmosphere, that mankind will need to be protected from. And I will soon be in charge of a multi-billion dollar company that can produce weapons to quell those threats as they arise, be they alien or some diseased mutant freak that rise up from our own world.

(thinks)

That meteor shower was an omen. It told me that I need to get to work.

Nate's fellow students, their parents and faculty give Nate a standing ovation. Nate's own parents join in, beaming with pride as Nate pulls off his cap and throws it into the air.

EXT. A STRIP MALL - DAY

TIME PASSES.

A strip mall is built in the abandoned lot where Superhero Headquarters once was.

BEN (V.O.)

Been damn near forty years since anyone heard anything about superheroes--

EXT./ INT. A NURSING HOME - PRESENT DAY

A heavy-set, 20-something named ZEKE SULLIVAN is playing checkers with Ben Magner, an elderly man attached to a tank of oxygen, as he continues his story.

BEN

--until recently. This new crop popped up overnight.

There is a folded-up newspaper on the table. The headline reads MASKED VIGILANTE STOPS ROBBERY.

The vigilante in the picture is wearing a rubber chicken mask on his face and otherwise normal-looking clothes (khakis, a Polo shirt). The photo is from a security camera. The bank robbers are all lying unconscious at his feet.

Ben makes a move on the checker board.

ZEKE

So, what ever happened to your brother Scott, um--Beetle Head?

(MORE)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I've never heard you mention him before, Mr. Magner.

BEN

Last I heard, he was in California with his fourth wife. She's a model, probably twenty years younger than him.

ZEKE

Ladies' man, huh?

BEN

Womanizing pig is more like it. But that was the point, I suppose. Flawed human beings doing the best they could with what they had. But I knew my brother. I knew who he was, so I could always see the flawed man behind the mask.

Zeke nods.

INT. ZEKE'S CAR - LATER

Zeke goes out to his car and gets in. He picks up his cell phone and listens to a voicemail from a friend of his named SETH.

SETH (V.O.)

Hey, bro! It's Seth! Listen. Chuck got that promotion at Burger Cave today and we were going to celebrate by smoking a bowl near the train tracks. I was hoping you could come with.

Zeke is clearly frustrated by his friend's message.

SETH (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Now, I know you don't smoke weed, but I figured since both the cops and your mom think you do, maybe you'd want to get with the high times!

(laughs)

Train tracks. 4:20pm. Get it? Ha. Be there.

End of message. Zeke rolls his eyes. Zeke starts to reminisce.

SETH'S CAR. WEEKS EARLIER. (ZEKE'S MEMORY)

Seth has a few friends in his car. He has been pulled over by a cop. Seth pulls a bag of marijuana out of his pocket right as a police officer was walking towards his window.

SETH

Dude! Ditch this somewhere.

Seth tosses the bag to Zeke and he catches it out of reflex. Zeke gives Seth a look of horrified disbelief as the cop knocks on the passenger's window. Zeke turns to look at the cop holding the bag of weed.

BACK TO THE PRESENT.

Zeke deletes Seth's voicemail and starts his car.

ZEKE

Nice try, Seth.

INT. ZEKE'S APARTMENT - LATER

Zeke walks into his apartment and sees his mother SANDY rushing around, wearing a waitress uniform. She is looking for her keys in a really messy apartment with clutter and trash everywhere.

ZEKE

Hey, Mom. I'm home.

Ignoring him, Sandy continues to search frantically for her keys. She finds them underneath an empty potato chip bag.

SANDY

Finally! Gonna be late for my shift.
Mr. Kane is always riding me.

Sandy picks up a cigarette that is smoldering in the ash tray. She takes a long drag and then extinguishes it. Running out the door, she looks at Zeke. She nods her head in disappointment.

SANDY (CONT'D)

Good lord! I can't wait for you to get your lazy butt off parole so I can find you a job. Or at least kick you out without sending my only son to jail.

Sandy opens the door and continues to bark at him.

SANDY (CONT'D)

Clean up this pig sty and don't forget to call your parole officer.

Zeke leans over and puckers his lips, trying to kiss his mother on the forehead. But she completely ignores him and slams the door shut as she leaves.

Dejected, Zeke flops down on the couch and turns on the TV. The news broadcasts footage of bug-eyed extraterrestrials addressing the United Nations, shaking hands with the leaders of different countries, including a U.S. President.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Today marks the fiftieth anniversary of the first landing of visitors from the planet Neptune, refugees from their planet's century-long war with their neighboring planet. Even though the war destroyed the planet Uranus, the battles continued on the planet's many moons, prompting one group of Neptunians to seek refuge on our world.

Zeke picks up one of his mother's nature magazines and reads an article about wombats, short chubby mammals that Zeke found to be cute.

ZEKE

Ha. They kind of look like me.

Zeke starts channel surfing on the television, watching with interest news stories about superheroes.

LATER.

Zeke is on the phone with his parole officer, LT. DREW.

PHONE CONVERSATION. INTERCUT.

LT. DREW

Well, Zeke, I must say I've gotten some nice reports from the nursing home and Miss Bercelli about your community service. Keep it up and I might be able to talk Judge McCarthy into shortening your home confinement.

ZEKE

That's great, Lt. Drew. See, my sister's graduating from beauty school in a few weeks and the family is supposed to be getting together to celebrate. I'd like to get off home confinement before then, so I can see my grandma and cousins.

LT. DREW

I'll see what I can do, Zeke. But until then, don't let any of the cops in your neighborhood see you outside your house unless you are going to your community service dates. Otherwise, it's prison.

Zeke hangs up the phone and strokes his chin with thought.

INT. UNITED PARCEL EXPRESS BUILDING - LATER

A blonde 20-something man named JERRY TORK is standing between a long conveyor belt and a few delivery trucks. Many boxes of various shapes and sizes come down the conveyor belt and workers load them into the trucks.

Jerry loads his truck, using the super speed he possesses. It looks like there are three Jerry Torks as his trucks are loaded promptly and neatly. He makes sure other people are busy so they don't see him moving super fast.

When Jerry's boss, TED ROSWELL, walks by, Jerry is leaning up against the truck, thumbing through a magazine. There are no more boxes on the belt, so Jerry is enjoying a little 'down time'.

TED

HEY!

JERRY

(rolls eyes)

Yes, Ted?

TED

Why is it that every time I walk by, I see you standing around?

JERRY

Because I'm such a diligent worker.

(points inside truck)

Waiting for more work.

TED

Then help the guys up there!

Jerry buries his nose in the magazine once again and keeps it there.

JERRY

They load their trucks. I load mine.

TED

What if my boss came by and saw you just standing there?

JERRY

I assume he would applaud the speed and efficiency of my work.

TED

You think so, huh?

JERRY

Well, he certainly wouldn't fire me, if that's what you're driving at. I come in every day and I haven't misloaded a single package in eight years. I'm sure he wouldn't want to tarnish that stellar track record by even suspending me.

TED

Okay, okay! Your loads are good and I'm glad you come in. I'm just saying that if my boss were to show up and you were just standing there, it would make me look bad.

Jerry's nose is still buried in his magazine. He turns a page.

JERRY

Well, your political situation with upper management is none of my concern. Especially with your track record of dishonesty with your subordinates.

TED

What dishonesty?

JERRY

You came up here to yell at me and you made it sound like I wasn't doing my job! Only after I pointed out a gaping hole in your logic did you admit your true motives, brown-nosing your fat corporate swine of a boss who waddles in here a few times a month looking for reasons to save the company money by canning you!

TED

Sometimes I wonder why I don't fire you.

JERRY

(laughs)

You're gonna fire me for working too fast? I get paid by the hour. I'm saving the company money by working faster.

More boxes come down the conveyor belt. Jerry puts down his magazine and walks over to them.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Pardon me, sir.

Annoyed, Ted walks away with a huff. Jerry continues loading his trucks at normal, but brisk speeds, because he notices other people are watching.

A dark-haired, twenty-something lady named TALIA walks over to Jerry. She is wearing nicer clothes than the truck loaders, as she is a supervisor.

TALIA

Shocking disdain for authority.

JERRY

Ha! Ted's a good guy. That's why I bust his chops.

TALIA

Really? You bust his chops because you like him so much?

JERRY

He knows I'm only kidding. What does he care if I make fun of him? He gets paid more than me and I don't get him in trouble as long as I do my job. I'm sure he can dry his tears on his big fat paycheck or in his swimming pool.

TALIA

Well, some people think busting their chops means you're undermining them. Maybe he wants people who respect him to show it by being nice.

Jerry smiles at Talia in a flirtatious manner.

JERRY

I'm nice to you. I bring you coffee all the time. Does that count?

TALIA

You flirt with me. There's a difference. And vending machine coffee tastes like motor oil.

Talia slaps her clipboard against Jerry's chest, handing him the paperwork that is on it.

TALIA (CONT'D)

Try flirting with Ted next time. You'd have a better shot.

Jerry starts filling out the paperwork, smiling in Talia's direction as she walks into a nearby office.

EXT. UNITED PARCEL EXPRESS BUILDING - LATER

Jerry Tork walks out of the building after work. He walks over to his car and gets in the back seat, pulling a rubber chicken mask out from under the front seat. He puts it on, becoming the superhero SPEED CHICKEN.

Speed Chicken makes sure no one is around. He jumps out of the car before taking off at super speeds. His arms and legs are a blur as he takes a nice long run through Hammer City.

EXT. A HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

Speed Chicken gets on the highway and starts running alongside cars and in between them, garnering attention from passing motorists.

He sees a gorgeous brunette in a convertible and runs alongside her car for a few seconds. He nods at her before taking off faster.

EXT. AN EXPENSIVE BOUTIQUE - MOMENTS LATER

There is a beautiful blonde standing in front of a store with shopping bags. Suddenly, a red streak whooshes by and her white dress flies up in the air like Marilyn Monroe's. She drops her bags and struggles to put her dress down.

INT. A BANK - MOMENTS LATER

Three gun-toting mercenaries with various rubber animal masks herd a group of hostages into a room with their machine guns.

A red and yellow streak whips past them. Their guns and masks are gone. The criminals are confused as they look around and at each other.

A second streak zips by in the other direction. These three gunmen now have their pants around their ankles.

They try to run, but they trip and fall, desperately trying to pull their pants back up.

Realizing that their captors are now helpless, the hostages start grabbing chairs and other blunt objects to beat these crooks senseless.

Speed Chicken watches the hostages take back their bank as he unloads a machine gun and gently places it on a nearby counter.

SPEED CHICKEN
And the animal masks! That's MY
thing!

Speed Chicken disappears just as quickly as he came.

INT. A PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - LATER

A photographer with a loud Hawaiian shirt looks at his watch and is frustrated to realize that he is behind schedule. This is CARLOS.

CARLOS
Ugh! Faster than a speeding bullet
and he is still late!

He turns to the group of female models behind him. They are all wearing beautiful evening gowns.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
Okay, ladies! We will have to start
without the poultry man!

Carlos starts taking pictures of the girls. In between two rapid-fire shots of the camera, Speed Chicken appears in between the girls, wearing a tuxedo (and his chicken mask). The girls are startled. Carlos lowers his camera.

SPEED CHICKEN
Sorry, I'm late. Man, it's like a
broiler in here.

Carlos laughs and the photo shoot continues.

TIME LAPSE.

Speed Chicken wears different outfits during this three-hour photo shoot with these beautiful models. Formal, casual and swim wear. His mask stays on the whole time.

One of Speed Chicken's modeling shots is a parody of a famous Coppertone advertisement. Speed Chicken is shown in a small bathing suit with a dog pulling it down, exposing his buttocks.

EXT. A CITY STREET - AFTERNOON

Speed Chicken's Coppertone parody picture ends up on the cover of 'Posh' magazine.

This issue is being sold on a magazine kiosk and is picked up by a tall, dark, mustachioed news reporter with thick glasses. His name is TODD CLARK, 40-years-old, but looks younger. He comes across to others as clumsy and awkward.

TODD

Speed Chicken. What a sellout.

Todd's fellow reporter KELLY QUINN walks out of a nearby coffee shop with an enormous iced coffee. There is a poster in the window with Nate Caldwell's picture on it that reads 'Caldwell for Mayor'. Kelly walks over to Todd.

KELLY

Todd Clark. Since when is a farm boy like you interested in fashion?

Todd smiles sheepishly and puts the magazine back.

TODD

Well, it's like the Chief says, when there is a superhero involved, it's always news, Miss Quinn.

Kelly picks a tabloid newspaper called 'The Squealer' off of the kiosk. It has a picture of a mustachioed superhero named MAGMA MAN carrying Kelly in his arms while flying. The caption reads 'Hammer City's Super Power Couple'.

Magma Man is wearing a black jumpsuit with a red cape, red boots and a red 'M' logo blazoned across his chest. He is quite obviously (to the audience, anyway) Todd Clark without his glasses and wearing a superhero costume.

KELLY

Sad but true. The tabloids went public with our relationship before we could.

TODD

Was he afraid that you would write some kind of expose?

KELLY

He promised he would tell me his secret identity someday, but he didn't want me being attacked by some psychopath trying to get to him.

Todd listens attentively.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Ha. Fear of commitment is more like it.

Suddenly, there is an explosion on a monorail track a few blocks away. A portion of a bridge comes plummeting down. Todd sees the monorail train screaming around the corner, moving quickly toward this gap in the bridge.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Oh no!

TODD

Flaming fart muffins!

There is chaos in the streets as panicked people are running every which way. Kelly turns around and sees Todd running into a nearby alley. He takes a cowardly leap into a dumpster.

Kelly gives Todd a look of disbelief as she pulls out her cell phone. She runs off to make an emergency phone call.

A homeless man in this alley is sleeping on a bed of newspapers, but he is awakened (and startled) when the lid of the nearby dumpster suddenly pops off. The homeless man looks up and sees Magma Man as he leaps out of that dumpster.

Magma Man hovers in mid-air, flicking a banana peel off of his shoulder. The homeless man stares in disbelief as the black-clad superhero takes to the skies, flying off with great speed.

The monorail continues to speed towards the destroyed bridge. Emergency brakes are activated. Sparks fly from the wheels as the monorail train skids towards certain doom.

Passengers inside the train see a red streak zip by the outside of the train. Magma Man grabs onto the front of this train, plants his feet on the track and tries to slow it down.

Magma Man is running out of room. He drops underneath the train as it flies off the track. Grabbing onto the wheels and metal rods, Magma Man catches the train while hovering and shuffles it over to the other side of the track.

The citizens of Hammer City start applauding Magma Man when the train stops safely. Magma Man hovers closer to these people so that he can wave at them with a big smile as they snap pictures.

Kelly Quinn smiles, beaming with pride as her superhero boyfriend zips around the nearest tall building and out of sight.

INT. ZEKE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Zeke Sullivan watches news coverage of Magma Man's monorail rescue, putting on a black ski suit. He also puts on a tool belt with two crowbars hanging from it, big black work boots and a black gas mask with round 'ears' on the side.

On TV, Zeke watches Magma Man himself assisting city workers by using his magma vision (heat beams that come from his eyes) to weld and repair the monorail track.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

The amazing rescue by Hammer City's own Magma Man prompted a comment by Republican Mayoral candidate Nate Caldwell.

Footage of a fifty-something version of Nate Caldwell being interviewed.

NATE (V.O.)

There is nothing wrong with citizens of Hammer City who just happen to have super powers stepping in to save lives in ways others can't. For that, I applaud this so-called "Magma Man" for his recent assistance to Hammer City Public Transportation.

Zeke picks up a baby monitor and some duct tape. He tapes an old-fashioned cassette tape recorder to the baby monitor so that the microphone on the recorder was up to the speaker on the baby monitor. He sticks it into his tool belt.

News footage of Magma Man carrying three masked criminals, tied up with rope. These are the men responsible for bombing the monorail track. He ascends from the sky and places these criminals on the steps of police headquarters.

NATE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But ordinary citizens patrolling the city and attacking criminals is against the law, even if they do turn them over to the cops. It's a bad example for the youth of our city.

Nate continues his speech as Zeke picks up the remote control for the TV off of the couch.

NATE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Especially when they start wearing funny costumes and give themselves stage names to capitalize on their
(MORE)

NATE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 image and appeal to the younger set
 the way pro wrestlers do!

Zeke turns off his TV. He picks up his gas mask and puts it on. He climbs out of his apartment window, onto a fire escape.

Zeke stops as he sees a policeman walking out of a convenience store. The cop gets into his police car. Zeke waits until the cop drives away and starts climbing down.

EXT. A CITY STREET - NIGHT

A frightened woman is being held at knife point by a masked assailant. A second masked man is standing behind him. When the woman hands over her purse, the two men run into the nearest alley.

The black clad Zeke Sullivan, wearing a gas mask and calling himself WOMBAT, drops down from a fire escape. The men stop in their tracks when his boots hit gravel. Wombat rises up from his crouching position with both crowbars in his hand.

NOTE: Wombat's gas mask distorts his voice into a deeper, electronic sounding one.

WOMBAT
 Purse doesn't match your shoes.

Wombat throws one of his crowbars, hitting the first mugger in the head. The mugger staggers backwards and drops the purse as Wombat attacks the second mugger, breaking his knee caps with one ferocious swipe of his crowbar.

Wombat pins the first mugger to the ground with the crowbar pressed to his chest as the second mugger screams in pain.

MUGGER
 Who--who are you?

WOMBAT
 Wombat!

Wombat knocks out that mugger with a swift head butt. The second mugger is still cradling his broken leg and screaming.

Wombat looks up and sees two police officers standing in the alley. One of them is Zeke's parole officer Lt. Drew and the other is SWITCH. The masked hero quickly runs over to the fire escape, picking up his fallen crowbar.

Drew and Switch casually stroll over towards him. They watch with confused derision the overweight do-gooder's clumsy,

comical, out-of-breath attempt to climb this fire escape quickly.

LT. DREW

Superheroes ain't what they used to be.

SWITCH

Wombat? Ha. He kinda looks like a wombat.

INT. AN OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT

Men in black uniforms try to crack a thick steel safe as other criminals hold hostages at bay with their machine guns.

Suddenly, a streak of red takes out one of the gunmen guarding the hallway. There are more streaks of red and more bone-crunching sounds as the gunman start disappearing into the shadows of the hallway.

One gunman walks away from the hostages and sees Magma Man, who drops one of the unconscious hoodlums to the ground. Magma Man walks towards this gunman, who starts firing bullets at the hero.

Bullets bounce off Magma Man's body. He slaps the machine gun out of the criminal's hand so hard, it bends in two. Magma Man starts firing lasers out of his eyes that knock bank robbers into walls.

Soon, there is only one hoodlum standing. He grabs one of the hostages, a woman, and holds the gun to her head. Magma Man keeps his distance as his eyes continue to glow red.

The handle of the machine gun soon gets extremely hot. The man lets out a scream and drops the gun as Magma Man darts forward.

OUTSIDE.

The Hammer City Police Department arrives quickly, surrounding the building with their sirens and lights blaring.

Suddenly, the windows on the second floor of this building shatter as the gunmen are forcibly tossed through them. Twelve windows. All at once.

Some gunmen land on the windshields of the police cars. The others land painfully on the ground outside the building. The frightened hostages start running out of the building as the cops get out of their cars.

One police officer looks up and sees Magma Man hovering near the broken remains of the window with his eyes still glowing

red. He nods respectfully to the police officers before taking off into the night sky. The cop is terrified.

EXT. ABANDONED RAILROAD STATION - NIGHT

A broken-down wooden structure that used to be a train station next to some railroad tracks. Wombat is perched on the top of it. He places a baby monitor into a nearby barrel. Hearing some voices, he disappears.

Zeke's old friend Seth and some of his friends come out of the woods and stand next to the broken-down station. They pull out marijuana and start rolling joints.

Wombat is in a tree a few feet away, taking pictures of Seth and company smoking weed with his cell phone. The other baby monitor is on a branch. Wombat can hear their conversations and the tape recorder is recording it.

WOMBAT

I'll teach you to set me up!

Suddenly, the sound of a siren is heard. A police car that was hiding in some nearby bushes suddenly reveals itself to the pot smokers. Lt. Drew and Switch are in the car. Lt. Drew is on the loud speaker.

LT. DREW

Stay right there and put your hands up!

The smokers drop their drugs and scatter, running away from the cops. Another cop car appears, blocking their way. Lt. Drew turns to his left and sees Wombat hiding in the tree.

WOMBAT

Aw, crap!

LT. DREW

What the heck is that?

Wombat jumps out of the tree and starts running as soon as he hits the ground. Lt. Drew sees him and jumps out of the car.

LT. DREW (CONT'D)

There's one over there!

Lt. Drew runs into the woods and starts chasing after Wombat. Wombat finds a sewer drain and jumps into it. Lt. Drew finally realizes that he lost Wombat and gives up.

Lt. Drew walks back to the cop car, out of breath. The other officers are arresting the pot heads.

SWITCH

Who was that?

LT. DREW

Wombat, I guess.

SWITCH

Seriously?

Lt. Drew walks back to the tree Wombat was hiding in and finds the baby monitor duct taped to the tape recorder.

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER

Lt. Drew plays the tape Wombat recorded for Switch. Seth and all his friends can be heard very distinctly.

LT. DREW

The lab has voice-recognition software that should be able to pinpoint everybody who was there. This Wombat guy really came through.

SWITCH

(sarcastic)

Yeah. Really came through. Potheads beware! Here comes Wombat, the Republican Avenger!

(laughs)

Just remember. He's still a vigilante. You know what that means.

LT. DREW

Yes. It means that no matter how many times he helps us out, we can't let "the man" know.

Switch smiles.

SWITCH

Are you serious?

LT. DREW

It was guys like this who took down the dragon forty years ago. Not cops.

Lt. Drew gets up off of his chair.

LT. DREW (CONT'D)

Come on! I have a kid on home confinement that I want to do a random visit on before I quit for the day.

SWITCH

Really? Why now?

LT. DREW

He knows this Seth kid. Might be worth asking him a few questions before we go to the judge.

EXT. RANDOM ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Wombat stands on the ledge, looking out at Hammer City from above. He pulls out a pair of binoculars and scans the city.

Wombat sees a few shady-looking characters pulling a large truck up to the back of a warehouse. These men have black masks covering their faces and machine guns.

Wombat pulls a crowbar off of his belt.

WOMBAT

Not on my watch!

Wombat jumps from the rooftop to the nearest fire escape.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Two armed, masked guards standing in front of the building.

GUARD #1

I'm not saying she wasn't incredibly beautiful. I'm just saying I am at a point in my life when I need more.

GUARD #2

(sniffs)

Do you smell that?

GUARD #1

No.

GUARD #2

Ugh! Smells like raw sewage and toe cheese.

GUARD #1

I have a cold.

Wombat runs by behind them, heading over to a group of similarly-masked hoodlums who are pushing a large crate. There is a security guard unconscious at their feet.

A guard looks up and sees Wombat standing on a different crate. Wombat pounces on them.

MOMENTS LATER.

The first two guards hear noises they associate with a fight. They run over to see their colleagues beat up and tied up.

GUARD #1 (CONT'D)

What happened?

Wombat can be seen running by on an overhead catwalk. Bullets are fired that miss him by inches.

GUARD #2

Where is he?

GUARD #1

Let's find him!

The two guards walk into an area in which crates and barrels are stacked. They look for Wombat, but all appears silent.

Suddenly, a barrel on the end of a chain swings down and takes out the first guard with a sickening THUD. The second guard looks up and fires bullets even though he cannot see Wombat.

GUARD #2

WHERE ARE YOU???

(looks down at partner)

What is this, 'Home Alone 17'?

Wombat pounces on the guard, hitting his kneecaps with his crowbar before knocking the gun away. Wombat gives the guard a head butt that knocks him out cold.

Suddenly, Wombat is surrounded by armed guards with the same mask. He takes a deep breath before Magma Man drops down from above. He wraps his cape around Wombat and flies off with him, leaving the group of thieves confused.

EXT. RANDOM ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

Magma Man lands on a rooftop and lets go of Wombat.

MAGMA MAN

Are you hurt?

WOMBAT

No.

MAGMA MAN

Good. You can climb down from here and go home. Leave the costumed crime fighting to the professionals. No powers. No help.

WOMBAT

Professional? Someone hired you?

Magma Man ignores Wombat. He walks towards the rooftop, preparing to fly away.

WOMBAT (CONT'D)

Why didn't you stop them?

MAGMA MAN

(sarcastic)

Because first I had to protect the sweet, innocent civilian who just happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time.

(scoffs)

Seriously. Go home, kid. You're not one of us.

Magma Man flies away.

WOMBAT

Douche.

EXT./INT. CALDWELL MANSION - NIGHT

There is a party going on for influential people in Hammer City. Butlers serve the well-dressed guests as hired musicians play the cello and violin. Enormous banners that read 'Caldwell for Mayor' litter various hallways.

Lt. Drew is standing in front of a large glass case in the middle of the mansion's banquet hall. He clearly feels out of place among well-dressed people.

The glass case contains a glowing yellow rock and a photograph of Nate receiving the rock from an alien from Neptune. The rock is attached to the ceiling by wires. Nate Caldwell walks up to Lt. Drew with a beautiful blonde on his arm.

NATE

Admiring my crown jewel?

LT. DREW

It is quite impressive, Mr. Caldwell. That's from the core of planet Neptune, isn't it?

NATE

It's the rock that the Neptunian ambassador offered to the U.N. when they first arrived here. I was the one who arranged for them to live on Seether Island, so they gave the rock to me.

Nate's date smiles at Lt. Drew as Nate continues to speak.

NATE (CONT'D)

It's the ultimate fuel source, a bottomless well of clean, renewable energy. That little gem is powering this entire mansion and three of my factories. Has been for decades. But, enough shop talk, Lt. Drew. I am so glad you could come.

LT. DREW

I'm honored, Mr. Caldwell, but I'm a little surprised to be invited.

NATE

Because you have endorsed the current Mayor's re-election campaigns for so many years.

LT. DREW

And he never invited me to one of his black tie, open bar, caviar fundraisers.

NATE

Well, sir. Let's just say that you and I differ with our current Mayor in a few key areas. The first would be the way we treat men whose work we claim to respect.

Nate pulls a newspaper out of his pocket and opens it so that Lt. Drew can see the picture of Magma Man on the cover.

NATE (CONT'D)

The second would be our enthusiasm for making sure that the work of our hard-working boys in blue is not undermined by the vigilante actions of a few admittedly well-intentioned sideshow freaks.

LT. DREW

Yes, I heard your speech, Mr. Caldwell. You promised to crack down on this new group of superheroes, like the ones who keep smashing up your warehouses.

NATE

Criminals, Lieutenant. Super *criminals*. Vigilantes. Super hoodlums, dare I say. And I plan to accomplish my goal primarily by giving the police department "teeth" that they simply don't have right now.

Nate places the newspaper down. Nate gestures towards his personal assistant CURTIS as he arrives on the scene.

NATE (CONT'D)

If you would follow my assistant Curtis into the next room, I have something that I would like your opinion on.

The Lieutenant nods and follows Nate and Curtis into the other room. Nate's attractive female companion kisses him on the cheek before she walks away. She starts to mingle with Nate's other guests.

OTHER ROOM.

Curtis pulls out a laptop and starts punching up some data as Nate closes the doors.

NATE (CONT'D)

I came across some interesting statistics the other day. Out of the 43% of Hammer City residents who believe that costumed "superheroes" should be allowed in our city, the vast majority still believe that the government should regulate their activities, like they tried to in the old days. Which means that people are less concerned about super powered do-gooders than they are about power being abused.

Curtis shows the Lieutenant some footage of some large, tank-like robots, piloted by human soldiers that have some pretty serious weaponry. These robots fire missiles at targets off in the distance and rip apart other targets with machine guns.

NATE (CONT'D)

What would happen if one of these super freaks went rogue? Power like theirs needs to be kept in check. No matter how many laws we make against it, there will always be vigilantes--which is why the Hammer City Police Department will need the aforementioned "teeth".

Lt. Drew stares at the screen as the robots destroy more targets.

NATE (CONT'D)

Law Enforcement Droids. LEDs for short.

LT. DREW

Those are some pretty sharp "teeth".
This isn't for the military?

NATE

Nope. Just a little prototype I showed to the Mayor a few months ago. He thought it was too dangerous for trained, dedicated police officers to be "stomping around in". His words.

LT. DREW

The SWAT team doesn't have that kind of firepower.

NATE

The Mayor claims to be against superhuman vigilantes, but he doesn't quite understand the threat they present to lives of police officers. But you do--your father was a beat cop back when that dragon ripped up downtown Hicksville.

INSERT. The dragon's fiery rampage destroys police cars.

LT. DREW

Yes. He was killed.

Nate pats Lt. Drew on the shoulder in a sympathetic manner.

NATE

I know. Which is why, IF you endorse my campaign in front of your fellow officers--AND if I am elected, you will have as many of these units in your employ as you do squad cars. So that none of your men will have to suffer the loss that you did. Or rely on vigilantes who undermine your work.

Lt. Drew thinks seriously about Nate's offer.

LATER.

Lt. Drew is gone. Nate speaks with Curtis.

NATE (CONT'D)

Our men had a bit of a snag stealing the ionic discharge filter for the laser drill. I need to speak with the Boy Scout.

CURTIS
He is off the grid.

NATE
He won't be for long. Keep tracking
him. We're in this together, he and
I.

EXT. A DESERT - DAY

Magma Man flies high above a mountainous desert area with
Kelly Quinn in his arms. She holds onto him tightly and
gazes lovingly into his eyes.

"TORA BORA. AFGHANISTAN"

Below Magma Man's flight path, there are desert merchants
with camels. The merchants look up with awe as Magma Man
flies by.

Magma Man flies towards a mountain range and descends when
he sees a large cave opening.

INT. A CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Magma Man descends deeper and deeper into a hole in the
ground. This cave has many levels and is well-illuminated
by lights that turn on automatically when Magma Man arrives.

Kelly Quinn stares in awe at the elaborate system of caves,
connected by staircases and ladders. Magma Man finally places
Kelly down on one such level, next to an enormous computer
that has many screens.

KELLY
What is this place?

MAGMA MAN
Well, it used to be one of Osama Bin
Laden's hideouts. I found it a few
years back and converted it into my
own little--stronghold of seclusion.

KELLY
Come again?

MAGMA MAN
This is one of the caves that Bin
Laden hid in after 9/11. It's a
great place for people who don't
want to be found by military
satellites.

KELLY

Are you serious? I saw a diagram of one of these caves on Fox News back then and I thought it was ridiculous. How come it took so long to catch this guy when we knew what these caves looked like?

MAGMA MAN

There are a lot of fortresses just like this in these mountains. He just kept moving from one to the other.

KELLY

(scoffs)
Yeah, right.

MAGMA MAN

Well, just remember that the CIA started what became Al Qaeda when Afghanistan was fighting the Russians in the 1980's. The United States government gave them a lot of money and resources when they were on our side. Not to mention alien tech.

KELLY

Al Qaeda has alien tech?

MAGMA MAN

Quite a bit. Those Neptunian refugees on Seether Island have given a lot of tech to Middle East terror groups since they started landing here. They are probably the biggest threat to the stability of this region.

KELLY

Neptunians?

MAGMA MAN

Yes. That's part of the reason I chose this as my hideout, so I could keep on top of things.

Kelly is still cynical. Magma Man smiles a boyish grin.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

The American government would never lie to us, Kelly. They just need a little help keeping people safe sometimes.

Kelly smiles and wraps her arms around Magma Man, who smiles a boyish grin.

KELLY

Well, you're just a little Boy Scout,
aren't you?

They kiss. Magma Man starts to float upwards, carrying Kelly in his arms. He lands Kelly on a platform that has a heart-shaped bed with leopard-print sheets and a lava lamp resting on the bureau.

MAGMA MAN

Stay right here.

Magma Man zips over to a boom box and plays some up-tempo dance music. He starts strutting around this cave bedroom to the beat of the music as Kelly starts to laugh. He tosses his red cape to Kelly mid-dance and she catches it.

Grabbing onto a zipper on the front of his black jumpsuit, Magma Man slowly starts to unzip it while dancing. This reveals his extremely hairy chest as Kelly continues to watch.

INT. ZEKE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sandy, Zeke's mom, puts out her cigarette when she hears banging on the door. She opens the door and sees Lt. Drew and Switch.

LT. DREW

Mrs. Sullivan.

SANDY

Oh, Lord. What did Captain Lard
Butt do now?

LT. DREW

Nothing. Nothing, Mrs. Sullivan. I
would just like to ask him a few
questions.

Sandy turns towards Zeke's room.

SANDY

Zeke! Mister Drew is here!

No answer.

SANDY (CONT'D)

Probably sleeping. I'll wake him
up!

LT. DREW

Thank you, ma'am.

MOMENTS LATER.

Wombat climbs into his room through a fire escape. There is banging on his bedroom door. Wombat pulls off his mask, becoming Zeke again.

SANDY
Zeke! Zeke!

ZEKE
Um, yeah?

SANDY
Lt. Drew is here to see you! Get
your butt out here!

Zeke frantically tries to hide his mask and throws it under a pile of clothes. He unzips his ski suit and tries to take it off fast. He takes off the top part and throws a bathrobe over himself, leaving the bottom part and the boots.

Sandy knocks some more, rattling the doorknob to his locked bedroom door.

SANDY (CONT'D)
What are you doing in there?

ZEKE
I--uh, just woke up and--

SANDY
I told you not to lock this door.
That's how you got yourself in trouble
in the first place!

ZEKE
Yeah, um--sorry. I'll be right out!

Zeke opens his bedroom door, wearing his bathrobe.

ZEKE (CONT'D)
Sorry, mom. I fell asleep.

SANDY
Well, Lt. Drew is--
(sniffs)
Ugh! Why do you smell like raw sewage
and toe cheese?

ZEKE
(cold)
I'm a slob. You've always told me
that. Don't expect any more.

Sandy is clearly hurt by Zeke's remarks as he walks into the kitchen and sees the two cops.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Lt. Drew. Officer Switch. Sorry
I'm not more presentable, sirs.

LT. DREW

No problem, Zeke. I just wanted to
ask you a few questions about your
friend, Seth.

Switch notices that Zeke is wearing thick boots, tracking mud into the living room. The bottom half of his ski suit, is visible beneath the robe.

ZEKE

Well, he's not really my friend
anymore, Lt. Drew. I've been trying
to stay away from that crowd.

LT. DREW

I know you have been. You've been
doing really good with the program,
but we just caught Seth and a bunch
of his friends smoking near the Coin
Street railroad tracks. It reminded
me of what you told the judge, about
how that was a popular hangout for
the drug crowd.

The sleeve of Zeke's ski suit drops out from underneath his robe and hits the floor. Switch sees it and it raises an eyebrow.

ZEKE

I've never actually been there, sir.
I told the judge that. Seth used to
call me and invite me, but I never
went.

LT. DREW

Well, I may be able to use this little
incident to help Judge McCarthy
reconsider your case, so you can see
your sister graduate.

Zeke is touched.

ZEKE

Really? Wow! That'd be great!

Zeke tries to hug Lt. Drew while holding his robe shut, creating an awkward hug. Switch gives Zeke a funny look, looking down at his boots once again.

OUTSIDE. POLICE CAR. LATER.

Lt. Drew and Switch get into the car.

SWITCH

So, Zeke claimed he was innocent the whole time.

LT. DREW

Yup, according to Zeke, his friend Seth tossed him the weed when they got pulled over, to hide it somewhere.

SWITCH

Why'd they get pulled over?

LT. DREW

He had a brake light out. Since Zeke is a little older and because the other two guys sided with Seth, Zeke got put on probation.

SWITCH

Anything seem unusual to you about the way Zeke was acting up there?

LT. DREW

Unusual? No.

SWITCH

Like the work boots he was wearing under his robe or the way he smelled?

LT. DREW

I'm getting over a cold. I can't smell much anyway.

As the police car heads back to the station, Switch pieces together things he has seen.

INSIDE. ZEKE'S APARTMENT.

Zeke walks back to his room. His mother is sitting at the kitchen table. She speaks with a lump in her throat.

SANDY

I'm sorry.

Zeke turns around.

SANDY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I didn't believe you about Seth. It's just been difficult, you know.

(MORE)

SANDY (CONT'D)

Supporting the two of us with your daddy in prison. I just didn't want you to follow in his footsteps and it was frustrating having another man in this house in trouble with the law.

Sandy holds Zeke's hand, tearing up.

SANDY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry that I put you down all the time. I'm your mother. I should be helping you get back on your feet. I'm sorry I wasn't on your side.

Sandy hugs her son.

SANDY (CONT'D)

I am now. I love you.

ZEKE

I love you too, Mom.

Zeke's phone rings. He answers it.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Hello?

(listens)

Oh, hello, Miss Bercelli.

(listens)

Yeah, sure.

(listens)

Well, I might have to clear it with Lt. Drew, but I'd be happy to help.

EXT./INT. THE CAPE AND COWL CLUB - NIGHT

The strip mall where Super Hero Headquarters was located many decades prior now contains many small businesses. One of these businesses is a bar called 'The Cape and Cowl Club'.

Magma Man descends from the sky and lands in front of this bar before walking in.

INSIDE.

Magma Man walks over to a table where two other superheroes are sitting. The first is a thirty-something Puerto Rican male named CAMBIO. He is wearing a black shirt with a green 'C' on it.

The other superhero is a curly-haired, heavy-set male with a black trench coat and a skull ring. This is Earth's new TRENCH COAT.

He is a member of the same team of aliens as the old Trench Coat, just a new recruit.

Trench Coat is shuffling the cards. They are waiting on a fourth for their game, so there is one more empty chair.

TRENCH COAT

I'm not suggesting Nate Caldwell is right. I'm just saying there is a difference between using your super powers to perform a citizen's arrest and breaking a bad guy's kneecaps with a crowbar like some mob hoodlum.

MAGMA MAN

I heard about that guy. Wombat, right?

CAMBIO

He's probably trying to make some point about how it should be okay for anyone to do what we do, super powers or not. But he is making us look bad. People already think we abuse our power.

TRENCH COAT

Have you ever explored the possibility that this Wombat guy might be in cahoots with Nate? Awfully convenient for him, making us look bad so close to the election.

MAGMA MAN

That--is a distinct possibility.

A whooshing sound is heard and Speed Chicken appears in the empty chair. He pulls off his chicken mask.

SPEED CHICKEN

Hey, guys! Sorry I'm late. Photo shoot took longer than I expected.

TRENCH COAT

Another one?

SPEED CHICKEN

Yeah, this one was for Entertainment Weekly. They wanted to hear about that music video I did with Jay-Z. It's the most popular video on 'You Tube' right now.

Trench Coat starts dealing cards, rolling his eyes.

TRENCH COAT

Speaking of making superheroes look bad.

SPEED CHICKEN

You're not gonna lay another guilt trip on me, are you, Trench? Superheroes back in the old days did commercials too.

CAMBIO

Yeah, like the one who trained Beetle Head. What was his name? He wore a horse mask.

MAGMA MAN

(sings)

Trojan Maaaaaaan!

CAMBIO

At least he doesn't run around breaking kneecaps.

SPEED CHICKEN

Oh, yeah! I heard about that guy.

(turns to Magma Man)

So, are we gonna take him down or what?

MAGMA MAN

I thought of that--even just as a PR stunt. Problem is, Wombat knows my one weakness and if he is in cahoots with Nate Caldwell--I think they both do.

CAMBIO

What makes you think that?

INT. A NEWSPAPER OFFICE AFTERNOON (MAGMA MAN'S STORY)

Todd Clark and Kelly Quinn are searching through old newspaper articles, doing research.

MAGMA MAN (V.O.)

My alter-ego Todd Clark and my writing partner Kelly Quinn had just been assigned to write an expose on Nate Caldwell's underground business dealings. We spend most of our time talking about her relationship problems.

TRENCH COAT (V.O.)

With you--because you're her boyfriend
and she doesn't know your secret
identity.

Todd Clark finds a photograph of an old building that catches
his eye.

MAGMA MAN (V.O.)

Right. It was then that I found out
about an abandoned warehouse that
Nate used to own. I decided to
investigate as Magma Man.

TRENCH COAT (V.O.)

So, let me get this straight--

INT. THE CAPE AND COWL CLUB - (BACK TO THE PRESENT)

The four card-playing superheroes continue their conversation.

TRENCH COAT

--Kelly Quinn and Todd Clark are
close friends--to the point where
she feels comfortable confiding in
you about relationship stuff.

MAGMA MAN

Yeah, we're pretty close. We've
worked together for a long time.

TRENCH COAT

How in the world does she not tell
you and Magma Man apart? You don't
wear a mask. You hide behind a pair
of glasses. You both have the same
moustache, dude!

MAGMA MAN

Well, it's not just the glasses.
It's this whole thing where I comb
my hair differently when I'm Todd
Clark and I try to act clumsy.

TRENCH COAT

No! Come on! You told us about
that office party you went to before
you guys got serious! She's made
out with both of you!

SPEED CHICKEN

Hey, man! Give the 'Big M' some
credit!

(MORE)

SPEED CHICKEN (CONT'D)

What guy wouldn't love to be a fly on the wall when our women talk to other people about us! He's living the dream, being the boyfriend AND the non-threatening, effeminate male coworker.

Magma Man gives Speed Chicken a look.

TRENCH COAT

I think she knows your secret, bro. She can't be that stupid if she won a Pulitzer. I think she's gonna blackmail you with this.

CAMBIO

You should try hitting on her at work. See if she'll cheat on you with yourself.

MAGMA MAN

(annoyed)

Can I finish my story, please?

INT. AN ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT (MAGMA MAN'S STORY)

Magma Man flies into the warehouse through a hole in the ceiling. Wombat is there, beating the stuffing out of a tattooed hoodlum with his crowbar.

HOODLUM

Please, stop!

WOMBAT

I will stop--when I grow weary of your whimpering!

MAGMA MAN

Enough!

Wombat turns to Magma Man.

WOMBAT

Magma Man!

MAGMA MAN

I know you think you're doing the right thing! But beating this man to a pulp is not the answer.

WOMBAT

If someone had broken a few bones the last time this man committed a
(MORE)

WOMBAT (CONT'D)
 crime, he might not have done it
 again. Cops dropped the ball.

MAGMA MAN
 Still not right.

Wombat drops his crowbar to the ground. Reaching into his tool belt, he pulls out a glowing blue rock and extends it towards Magma Man.

Magma Man is affected by the radiation from this rock. Blue veins start popping out of his neck. He can't breathe or talk. He drops down to one knee, unable to move.

WOMBAT
 Uranium. A radioactive fragment of
 your home world.

Magma Man continues to gag.

WOMBAT (CONT'D)
 It's ironic--with all your powers--
 that I could defeat you by pulling a
 jagged rock from Uranus.

INT. THE CAPE AND COWL CLUB - BACK TO THE PRESENT

The conversation continues.

MAGMA MAN
 And because of that little encounter,
 a dangerous street gang got away
 with the sonic wave emitter they
 were stealing.

TRENCH COAT
 How would Wombat know your weakness?

MAGMA MAN
 Nate Caldwell. He's been digging up
 Uranium all over the country for
 this weapon his company is building
 for the Army.

CAMBIO
 And Nate was the one who found you
 in that spaceship, when you were an
 infant.

MAGMA MAN
 Yes. The meteor shower in Hicksville.
 Uranium raining from the sky. Broken
 shards on my spaceship.

(MORE)

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

I was very sick when he found me.
He must have figured it out by now
and told Wombat if they are working
together.

Cambio nervously taps his cards against the table. Speed Chicken looks at Cambio as he starts nervously changing his shape. He turns into an elderly woman, an alien from Neptune and a hippie in a matter of seconds.

SPEED CHICKEN

(to Magma Man)

It's a nervous twitch. Usually means
he has a bad hand.

MAGMA MAN

Weird 'tell'.

Magma Man slaps his cards down on the table.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

Read 'em and weep! Four Jokers!
Caesar Romero. Jack Nicholson.
Mark Hamill. Heath Ledger. Jared
Leto doesn't count.

Cambio slams his cards down angrily as he 'morphs' into a bulky creature made out of rock.

CAMBIO

(deeper voice)

You cheat with your scanner vision!

MAGMA MAN

(rolls eyes)

So dramatic.

SPEED CHICKEN

I assume you heard about Nate
Caldwell's deal with the Hammer City
police department to give them those
big honkin' robo-cops.

MAGMA MAN

I have. So the cops can handle super
powered threats without us.

CAMBIO

Basically acknowledging why the world
needs us while smearing us at the
same time.

MAGMA MAN

It's because he's running for Mayor.
We're his 'platform'.

CAMBIO

Stepping on us.

SPEED CHICKEN

Well, I don't know if you knew this,
but Nate Caldwell tried to sell his
weapons to the Mayor's office two
days before he announced that he was
running for Mayor himself. Then,
one of Nate Caldwell's buildings got
attacked by one of his employees the
day after the announcement.

EXT. /INT. AN OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT (SPEED CHICKEN'S
MEMORY)

A large office building. Five floors. The entire front is
glass windows. Inside, an overweight, fifty-year-old man
with a machine gun bosses around well-dressed office workers,
telling them to kneel on the floor. They frightfully comply.

SPEED CHICKEN (V.O.)

Naturally, I got a little suspicious,
so I decided to investigate with the
help of everyone's favorite Latino
shape shifter.

The gunman turns around and sees Speed Chicken standing there,
holding his hands behind his back. The gunman grabs a thin,
yet shapely black woman, one of the hostages, and holds her
in front of him, pointing his gun at her head as she screams.

GUNMAN

Hands where I can see 'em! NOW!

The woman is terrified. She starts to scream and cry.

GUNMAN (CONT'D)

Do it, freak! Get on the ground!
GET ON THE GROUND!!!

Speed Chicken pulls his hands out from behind his back. He
is holding the same machine gun the gunman was holding a
split second ago. Speed Chicken shows the gun to him in a
non-threatening manner.

The gunman soon realizes that his gun is gone. Speed Chicken
grabbed it very quickly. When the female hostage realizes
her attacker is unarmed, she steps on the man's foot and
knocks him to the floor with a punch.

Speed Chicken pops the cartridge out of the gun. He then places it on a nearby counter as the former hostage beats up her attacker, hitting him with blunt objects and kicking him when he is down.

CRAZED GUNMAN

(crying)

I just wanted a raise!

Speed Chicken super speeds away as the beat down continues.

INT. A LONG HALLWAY - LATER (CAMBIO'S MEMORY)

The same woman that was being held hostage earlier walks down a long hallway. There is no one in this section of the building. These offices are closed.

The woman pulls an ID card off of her belt that has someone else's picture on it. It is a man's picture. She swipes the card in a door. The door unlocks and the woman goes in.

Sitting down at a computer, she starts typing away after plugging a flash drive into the machine. She starts downloading information about a rather elaborate device that looks like a cross between a ray gun and a drill.

Suddenly, this woman starts changing shape and reveals herself to be Cambio in disguise.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (FLASHBACK)

A security guard scans a series of security cameras and watches Cambio, once again disguised as the woman, walk out of the office and head for the exit.

The security guard just happens to notice someone who looked exactly the same (the real woman that Cambio is imitating), standing next to a water cooler with her co-workers in a different part of the building via a different camera.

The guard punches keys on a computer and sees a photo of the man whose card Cambio had swiped in order to get into that office. He picks up a phone.

SECURITY GUARD

Sir, I think we have another security breach. A weird one.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS (CAMBIO'S MEMORY)

Cambio (still disguised as the lady) walks towards the exit, looking around somewhat nervously. The security guard suddenly appears from around the corner. He is holding a gun on Lady Cambio.

SECURITY GUARD
Stay right there!

Lady Cambio seems confused. The guard reaches out and pulls the man's ID card off her belt. He holds it up.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
What are you doing with this? This
doesn't belong to you.

The security guard turns to his left and sees a group of employees walking towards the cafeteria. The black lady that Cambio decided to morph himself into is among them. The security guard is scared.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
Who are you?

Lady Cambio lifts his arm, slowly tightening his fist. Cambio's arm grows three times its size and becomes solid rock, allowing him to punch the guard across the warehouse. This attracts a lot of attention from the employees.

The employees react with fright as they watch an exact replica of one of their coworkers run for the exit with one oversized arm made out of rock. An alarm goes off as large metal doors block Cambio's way.

CAMBIO
Dios mio!

Cambio changes his shape so that his whole body becomes a rock creature. He pounds on the metallic doors that block his way. He dents them, but cannot breach them.

EXT. AN OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS (SPEED CHICKEN'S
MEMORY)

Speed Chicken (Jerry Tork) is standing across the street, in the parking lot. He is leaning up against his car with his mask off.

The Hammer City Police Department is still surrounding the building. The cops are still interviewing office managers while the employee who started the hostage situation is handcuffed in the back of one of the cars.

Suddenly, an alarm goes off and metallic panels start covering the windows.

COP
What's going on?

MANAGER
That's our lockdown protocol.

INT. AN ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER (CAMBIO'S MEMORY)

Cambio, still shaped like the creature, runs through the warehouse. Security guards show up and shoot at him. Before the bullets can hit him, Cambio turns himself into a knight with a suit of armor. The bullets bounce off of him.

SECURITY GUARD #2
What is this?

SECURITY GUARD #3
(into his radio)
We've got a meta-morph!

SECURITY GUARD #4 (V.O.)
What the heck is a meta-morph?

Cambio transforms into a half-man, half-frog creature and leaps up to the beams on the ceiling, fifty feet up. He hangs there for a few seconds before transforming into a furry monkey-like creature and running along these beams.

SECURITY GUARD #2
(into his radio)
He's headed your way!

Furry Cambio drops out of the rafters in a different, darker part of the warehouse. He looks around at three Law Enforcement Droids that are partially covered by tarps.

Suddenly, the eyes of one of these LEDs illuminated. Cambio transforms back into his own shape as he looks up at these twenty foot tall armored tanks with arms and legs.

He leaps out of the way as a giant metal fist comes barreling down towards him. The fist makes a crater in the cement floor as Cambio rolls away.

He turns himself into the frog-creature again and leaps towards the nearest wall. When a second metal fist plows into that wall, Cambio springs off of it and lands on the back of the robot's neck.

Hanging from the LED's neck, Cambio returns to his former self and is obviously frightened. The eyes of the other two LEDs start to illuminate. Cambio takes a deep breath and turns himself back into the rock creature.

Rock Cambio plunges his fist into the LED's neck and rips out a mechanical part with wires dangling. The robot becomes disoriented. Cambio hurls the part at the second robot's chest and it rips right through him. Both robots keels over.

Rock Cambio drops to the ground as the third LED tries to make its way towards him, but is blocked by two sparking, convulsing, damaged robots standing in his way. Cambio becomes "himself" again as he runs away from the robots.

EXT. AN OFFICE BUILDING - LATER (SPEED CHICKEN'S MEMORY)

Speed Chicken (Jerry) watches all the commotion with the police department and the security guards. He looks worried.

Suddenly, a security guard starts walking towards him. Jerry is startled at first, but tries his best to act casual.

JERRY
Um, hello--officer.

Jerry realizes that this is one of the security guards, not an actual police officer.

JERRY (CONT'D)
(laughs)
Oh, wait! You're not an 'officer'.
You're more like a mall cop.

The guard is not amused.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Ha! I'm just yankin' your chain,
Barney Fife!

The security guard holds up a flash drive, revealing that this is really Cambio.

CAMBIO
Mission accomplished, poultry man!

Cambio smirks. Jerry is relieved. He and the "security guard" start to laugh and pat each other on the back.

JERRY
Man, you are a ball-buster! I knew
I liked you.

The "security guard" gets in Jerry's car, where he becomes Cambio again.

INT. THE CAPE AND COWL CLUB - BACK TO THE PRESENT

Speed Chicken and Cambio finish their story.

MAGMA MAN
So, they just let you drive away?

CAMBIO

They had the whole place locked down and they didn't really know what I looked like, so they assumed I was still inside.

SPEED CHICKEN

Basically, all we got from that little endeavor were blueprints for this laser drill Nate was building for the military.

Suddenly, someone is standing nearby.

WOMBAT (O.S.)

That's not for the military.

All four superheroes turn around and are surprised to see Wombat standing there.

WOMBAT (CONT'D)

Caldwell's into something worse.

Wombat tosses wrinkled, stained blueprints onto the table.

WOMBAT (CONT'D)

The past few nights, hoodlums have been stealing equipment from Caldwell warehouses. Nate's trying to sell the laser drill to somebody and make it look like a series of robberies.

MAGMA MAN

Who's he selling it to?

WOMBAT

I don't know. Someone bad. Why else wouldn't he sell it openly?

Cambio picks up Wombat's blueprints and realizes that they are quite stained and stink horribly. Slimy wetness is dripping off of these blueprints onto the poker table.

CAMBIO

Ugh! What did you do? Go through Nate's garbage?

WOMBAT

(nods)

I go through everyone's garbage.

There is an awkward pause as the superheroes look at each other.

WOMBAT (CONT'D)

This device is fueled by Uranium. Whoever ends up with this thing will have access to amazing power that only Magma Man is strong enough to stop.

MAGMA MAN

How did you get in here?

WOMBAT

Sewers.

CAMBIO

Smells like it.

MAGMA MAN

This is a private club, Hamster Man!

The other superheroes laugh.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

For superheroes! You don't have any super powers!

WOMBAT

Either does Trench Coat. He has a ring that was given to him by aliens.

TRENCH COAT

Oh, yeah? Why don't I take off this ring and throw you out, tough guy?

MAGMA MAN

You can't just put on a costume and fight crime, young man. It's against the law.

WOMBAT

It's against the law *with* superpowers too. Society just looks the other way. You have no more moral high ground than I do.

Magma Man stands up.

MAGMA MAN

No, I have ALL the moral high ground, because YOU are trespassing, Rat-Boy!

Another awkward pause. Wombat turns to leave, but he has one more thing to say.

WOMBAT

Back in the old days, people were allowed to become superheroes just by doing all they could do combat evil, creating a force field with group force. I'd hate to think what would've happened to this world if the heroes who fought the dragon thought like you.

Wombat leaves. Magma Man sits down.

MAGMA MAN

He's nuts! Ha! Wom-batty!

TRENCH COAT

I know! I mean, so what if I have a ring from space? We all got our powers somewhere.

(to Magma Man)

You get your powers from Earth's plants.

(to Speed Chicken)

You got chemicals spilled on you.

(to Cambio)

You were standing next to toxic waste when your cell phone went off.

CAMBIO

I should have upgraded.

SPEED CHICKEN

You know who he was quoting, right? That line about group force?

CAMBIO

Towanda. One of the superheroes from the old days. The one that killed the dragon.

MAGMA MAN

(scoffs)

Dethroned Amazonian princess who saw 'Fried Green Tomatoes' one too many times.

SPEED CHICKEN

She was a warrior from Seether Island. She fought a hundred-foot dragon with a sword and shield. The thing paralyzed her, but she went out like a hero.

CAMBIO

She's a legend. What ever happened to her?

FLASHBACK MONTAGE.

--Towanda, covered in purple dragon blood, being carried into an ambulance after her big fight.

--Towanda, in a hospital, learning to walk with crutches with the help of a physical therapist.

--Towanda in a wheel chair, typing away on a computer in her home.

SPEED CHICKEN (V.O.)

After she got paralyzed, she started writing all this feminist literature about how the world would be a better place if women had more power. You ever hear of Anne Bercelli? That was her pen name.

--A pile of books with titles like 'Estrogen Economics', 'Testosterone Trouble' and 'Femalocity'.

--ANNE BERCELLI (Towanda) at a book signing. There are long lines of middle-aged housewives who look at her with a certain level of worshipful adoration. The men in this line, holding their wives' purses, look bored out of their mind.

SPEED CHICKEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They sold pretty well. She made Oprah's book club once or twice and then she just retired. No one's heard from her in years.

--One of the pictures on the back of these books shows an older, middle-aged Towanda.

EXT. A HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

Zeke Sullivan is driving down a fairly open highway, listening to some music on the radio. He taps his fingers against the steering wheel. His Wombat mask is in the back seat.

EXT. /INT. TOWANDA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

An elderly Towanda sits in her wheelchair, looking out the window at the ocean. Her dog, Pollo, loyally sits next to her. A delivery truck pulls up to her neighbor's house as she pets her dog.

TOWANDA

It's that time of year again, Pollo.
The flowers are blooming, the birds
are singing--

A tall, handsome young man steps out of the delivery truck with a box to deliver. He is wearing a brown uniform that includes a pair of shorts.

TOWANDA (CONT'D)

--and the delivery guys are wearing
their shorts.

Pollo barks. There is a knock on the door. Pollo runs over to the door as Zeke lets himself in, holding bags of groceries.

ZEKE

Hello? Miss Bercelli? Hello?

TOWANDA

Right here, Zeke.
(to the dog)
Down, Pollo! I was just finishing
that Sarah Palin book you got me
from the library.

ZEKE

Any good?

WOMBAT

Ha. Only a woman as stupid as her
could get anywhere in a world run by
MEN! Did you see her when she was
running for Vice-President? Trying
to look like a normal Alaskan person
by shooting a moose! She's standing
there with the gun and the moose is
lying there all bloody and the rest
of us are like "why is dog fighting
illegal?" Are they not tasty enough?

ZEKE

I always thought she was kinda hot.

TOWANDA

(rolls her eyes)
Shut up and get me a beer!

LATER.

Zeke and Towanda are playing a board game as they talk.

ZEKE

They think you have to have super powers in order to be a vigilante crime fighter! I honestly don't see the difference between that 'power ring' and my crowbar!

TOWANDA

Typical men and their 'high school lunch table' mentality.

ZEKE

Well, to be fair, the girls in my school had segregated lunch tables too. Segregated by cliques.

TOWANDA

Yes, and the cliques were probably segregated by the kinds of *guys* they liked. Cheerleaders sat near the jocks. Goth kids sat with the loners. Fat girls sat with the nerds. Women don't usually act that stupid unless they're influenced by men! Fighting over a man. Trying to compete with a man for a job. Some women grow out of that, mind you, but this IS a man's world.

ZEKE

You come from an island of all women, right?

TOWANDA

It is a place where newborn babies are sculpted from sand and given life by the gods.

(thinks)

Well, not exactly 'gods'--aliens from the planet Neptune that our people revere as gods because of their advanced technology. They satisfy our maternal needs in exchange for political sanctuary.

INSERT--A lush, tropical island in which human women wearing long, flowing white robes live in perfect harmony with grey-skinned, bug-eyed Neptunian aliens.

TOWANDA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

When I lived on Seether Island, the planet Neptune had been at war with Uranus for nearly a century.

(MORE)

TOWANDA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The aliens who lived with us were pacifists. They had escaped the planet to avoid any involvement with the war.

BACK TO THE GAME.

TOWANDA (CONT'D)

The planet Uranus was eventually destroyed, but the fighting continued. The aliens that landed at the White House years later stayed behind to fight. They came here to be with their people when the fight seemed lost.

ZEKE

So, what made you leave the island?

TOWANDA

Ironically, the fact that there was no men.

ZEKE

Care to explain?

TOWANDA

Come on, Zeke! I'm sure you've complained to your friends about a girl you were dating. Some annoying habit. Some argument you had. But would you really want to live on Sausage Island with a bunch of dudes?

ZEKE

Ha. I see your point.

TOWANDA

I might complain about the male ego and how it affects the political system here in Man's World, but that's a lot better than an island where full-scale tribal warfare breaks out on 28-day cycles. We go off to vanquish our enemies in bloody combat while the Queen stays in the palace eating chocolate and watching soap operas in her sweat pants for five days straight.

Awkward pause.

ZEKE

Okay, next topic.

TIME PASSES.

Towanda looks at the blueprints that Zeke (Wombat) acquired of Nate's laser drill.

TOWANDA
So, this drill runs on Uranium?

ZEKE
Yup.

TOWANDA
I have some Uranium over there--in my rock collection.

Towanda points at a glass case on the other side of the room that is full of all different kinds of rocks and minerals. Zeke walks over there.

On the wall, there are photographs of a younger Towanda with her superhero friends. The sword Towanda used to kill the dragon that crippled her is also hanging on the wall.

TOWANDA (CONT'D)
Most of those rocks are from other planets. Got them from an old friend of mine who was part of the Trench Coat League.

ZEKE
Really? You knew a Trench? I don't think you ever told me about him.

TOWANDA
He was the reason I left the island for good. And thanks to our Queen's bitter disdain for anything Man's World, he was the reason I couldn't go back. That sword is actually made of Uranium. Forged it myself during one of my trips back home, in the fires of Mount Ovar before my exile.

Zeke gives the sword a closer look and seems impressed by its craftsmanship. The sword has a lizard carved on it that appears to be wrapped around the handle.

ZEKE
This was the sword that killed the dragon?

TOWANDA
Saved my life.

Zeke turns away from the glass case and smiles at Towanda.

ZEKE

I gotta say, Miss Bercelli. The past few months have been very-- educational. I'm almost glad those cops found weed in my car.

Towanda laughs.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

All the training you've given me. All that you've taught me about the way of the warrior. You've given me direction in my life, purpose, something to shoot for.

Zeke looks up at the pictures of Towanda and her superhero friends on the wall.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

To be the thorn in the sandal of crime that you once were. Proving that you CAN make the world a better place if you just beat the snot out of bad people with a rusty crowbar.

EXT. CITY STREET - EVENING

Zeke crouches on a third floor fire escape in his Wombat costume. He hears the alarm of a bank that has just been robbed and sees two masked men running out of said bank with money bags.

Wombat jumps off the fire escape with his crowbar at the ready.

INT. JERRY'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Jerry Tork and Cambio are sitting in Jerry's apartment, in front of his TV, playing video games. One robot on the screen knocks another robot into a vat of lava. Cambio lets out a triumphant roar as Jerry throws his controller down in frustration.

CAMBIO

Yeahhhhhh! Ha ha!

JERRY

Man! I should have used my lance.

CAMBIO

Coulda! Shoulda! Didn't!

Laughing, Jerry gets up from sitting on the floor, walks over to his fridge and opens it.

JERRY

Aw, man! We're out of beer.

Jerry closes the fridge and disappears into thin air as Cambio continues to play video games. Seconds later, Jerry reappears with two six packs of beer and places them on the table.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Sorry it took so long. There was someone in line.

CAMBIO

What kind did you get?

JERRY

Schuster's Ale. They were out of Seigel's, but this just as good.

CAMBIO

I like Schuster's better anyway.

JERRY

Just don't tell Trench Coat what I just did. He might guilt trip me about using my powers for selfish gain.

CAMBIO

That's his superiors talking, not him. He doesn't agree with everything the Trench Coat League teaches, their militant, so-called honor code. He's used his skull ring powers to pick up chicks AND get free drinks before. Don't let him lie to you.

Jerry pulls out two bottles of beer and hands Cambio the other one.

CAMBIO (CONT'D)

Then again, you could have helped me out when I was trapped in that building, especially when it started to lock down like that.

JERRY

Dude, we went over this. I didn't know about the giant robots Nate had in that place. You got out of there in one piece and you got the blueprints. You did fine.

(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

I knew you could handle an easy assignment like that.

CAMBIO

Oh, so you asked me for help and gave me THAT assignment because it was easy?

JERRY

Well, Cambio, just look at the kind of powers we have. I can actually get the jump on our enemies. They never even see me coming before I take them DOWN! All you can do is hide from the bad guys, blend in with your surroundings and stuff.

CAMBIO

Which explains why the original plan called for YOU to distract the cops.

JERRY

By facing down a crazed gunman who was ready to execute his co-workers. Look, I'm sorry I didn't charge in there to rescue you from the big scary robots, but I was just trying to make you feel useful.

Jerry puts his hand on Cambio's shoulder.

JERRY (CONT'D)

You're my little buddy and if you want to use what little super power you have to try and make a difference in this city, than I am going to help you do just that.

Cambio is clearly annoyed by Jerry's condescension about his powers. Jerry and Cambio resume their video game rivalry. They play silently for a minute or so before resuming their conversation.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Hey, did you notice anything weird about Magma Man at the card game last night?

CAMBIO

Weird? No. Why? Was he more uptight than usual?

JERRY

Ha. No. Like when Wombat showed up. Magma Man just sat there and mouthed off to him, after telling us a story in which the same costumed avenger almost killed him with Uranium.

CAMBIO

He was just playing tough. You know his ego. Besides, we would have jumped Wombat if he started anything.

JERRY

But, why did Wombat say that Magma Man was the only one who could stop that weapon when it's powered by Uranium.

Cambio thinks.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Wombat was asking Magma Man for help in stopping something that could destroy the entire city and Magma Man just cut him off, started making fun of him. Seemed very out of character.

CAMBIO

Well, he was drinking. But, you're right. It didn't even seem like Wombat even knew that Uranium could weaken Magma Man.

(thinks)

So--what, you think he was lying when he told us how those criminals got away?

JERRY

I've run Magma Man's story through my head a hundred times and honestly, I don't think Wombat was even there.

EXT./INT. AN OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT

Nate Caldwell stands next to a giant prototype of his laser drill in the warehouse section of his building. He looks at his watch and then looks around nervously.

Suddenly, Magma Man drops in through an open skylight, holding a high-tech device. He stays his distance from Nate and holds up the device.

NATE

Did anybody see you steal that?

MAGMA MAN

Not a soul.

NATE

Good. Staging a second robbery is always a good cover. I just wish you had gone a little easier on my hired goons instead of tossing them out of windows like rag dolls.

Magma Man places the device on a table.

NATE (CONT'D)

There has been a slight snag. Apparently, someone else raided the Uranium deposit in Nebraska. I got my lawyers on it, but I think Pygmy Tech is going to get a piece of the pie.

MAGMA MAN

(growls)

Not on my watch!

NATE

(smiles)

You have been quite helpful to me, old friend.

MAGMA MAN

Destroying the planet Neptune from the inside with this drill will be all the thanks I need.

NATE

It was a war with Neptune that destroyed your home planet, wasn't it?

MAGMA MAN

And to this day, the Neptunian government is a tyrannical regime that threatens the moons of my home world with laser weaponry. Their executioners will be freedom fighters.

Nate holds up a yellow rock that comes from Neptune's core.

NATE

And you don't have any moral objection to the billions my company will make
(MORE)

NATE (CONT'D)

mining the Q-mineral from the planet's core as it implodes beneath your enemies' feet?

MAGMA MAN

(laughs)

You deserve to be compensated for your hard work and dedication to galactic security.

NATE

I wonder if the citizens of Hammer City would have been so quick to cheer for you when you stopped that train if they knew that you were helping a capitalist commit genocide.

Nate puts the Q-mineral back into his coat pocket.

MAGMA MAN

I told you, Nate. EVERY superhero has a secret identity.

NATE

And the fact that Uranium is toxic to you has nothing to do with why you are helping me?

Magma Man raises an eyebrow. Nate smirks.

NATE (CONT'D)

You KNOW that my drill sucks the energy out of the Uranium rock. If I use my drill long enough, there will be no Uranium left on Earth. Your one weakness will be gone and you will be truly invulnerable.

MAGMA MAN

You never go into business with anyone without learning their dirty little secrets, do you, Nate? Don't I deserve to be compensated too?

NATE

Of course you do! I was only teasing you, man! I just don't want there to be any secrets between us. I've known you a long time, right? Haven't I been like a father to you?

MAGMA MAN

More like an older brother.

(MORE)

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

The kind that would rather help you get away with stuff than actually protect you from consequences.

NATE

Damn right! The COOL older brother! You're bullet proof, man! Why should you give a crap?

MAGMA MAN

Toss your jacket, Nate.

NATE

What?

MAGMA MAN

There is a piece of Uranium in your left pocket.

(growls)

TOSS IT!

Nate slowly slides his jacket off and throws it away from him. When the jacket hits the ground, a thick, grey box bounces out.

NATE

I thought you couldn't see through lead.

MAGMA MAN

What else would you be carrying around in a lead box? A wig?

NATE

Watch it, kid! Don't talk about my hair like that! I got more Uranium in the back!

Magma Man walks closer to Nate as the bald billionaire starts to fidget.

MAGMA MAN

(laughs)

Are you threatening me, cue ball?

NATE

(stuttering)

Uh-uh-uh-no. I--

Magma Man puts his hand on Nate's shoulder.

MAGMA MAN

You said there shouldn't be any secrets between us, Nate. Well, I have a confession to make. I liked it a lot better when NO ONE knew my weakness! I mean, this way, it's like a John Woo movie where everybody's got a gun pointed at everyone's head and there's all this drama.

Magma Man wraps his iron-like fingers around Nate Caldwell's neck. Nate gags as he is lifted off of his feet. Cracking noises are heard.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

You may have found me in that spaceship! You may have arranged for me to grow up in a nice house in a nice neighborhood with stepparents who didn't give a flying crap if I was alive or dead! And don't think I don't appreciate the jobs and the money and the sports car--and that high-priced hooker I took to the prom! But just remember one thing, Uncle Fester!

Magma Man's eyes glow red.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

You DON'T own me!!!

A thick red laser beam shoots from Magma Man's eyes. This beam pummels the body of Nate Caldwell as he bursts into flames.

Nate is burned to a crisp and becomes a blackened corpse made from solid ash. The ash breaks apart and falls to the ground through Magma Man's fingertips.

Magma Man walks over to a computer console. He punches the keys as robots, similar to the ones Nate was trying to sell to the police, march in and start working on the drill. Magma Man looks at a satellite photo of the planet Neptune.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

First--NEPTUNE!!!

Magma Man stands up and walks over to a window where he can see the entire city. He throws his fists into the air maniacally as he continues to rant.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

Then, THIS planet--
 (growls)
 --SHALL BE MINE!!!

EXT. A MINERAL MINE - NIGHT

Men in hard hats are working hard to dig up Uranium. The hot desert sun beats down on them as they work and sweat.

"NEBRASKA."

The workers load up mine carts with the blue rock.

WORKER #1

Yup. Apparently, we're not working for Mr. Caldwell anymore.

WORKER #2

(shrugs)
 Whatever. These guys give us dental.

Suddenly, spotlights from above illuminate the work area. Three of Nate's LEDs fall out of the sky, frightening the mine workers as they run for cover.

As soon as they land, bullets are fired from machine guns on the robot's wrists. Workers flee for their lives and are shot to death. The worker's vehicles explode.

The robots walk amidst the fireballs and collect all the blue rock they can find. Activating rockets on the bottom of their feet, these robots fly away with the Uranium, disappearing into the night sky.

EXT. AN ALLEY - NIGHT

Wombat stands next to a man who is tied up and hanging upside down from a first floor fire escape. Wombat taps his palm with his crowbar.

WOMBAT

Where's Nate Caldwell? Where's he getting the Uranium?

MAN

I don't know, man! I never met the guy! I work for Burns!

Wombat presses his crowbar up to the man's temple.

WOMBAT

(growls)
 WHERE IS HE???

Suddenly, Speed Chicken appears out of nowhere.

SPEED CHICKEN
Wombat. We need to talk.

LATER.

The interrogation suspect is still tied up and hanging there awkwardly as the two superheroes talk.

WOMBAT
Every robbery I foiled, the same parts showed up missing the very next day. Inventory chalked it up to a clerical error.

SPEED CHICKEN
Supporting your theory that it was an inside job.

WOMBAT
I came to your club last night to try and get Magma Man's help, because I thought, if the drill was operational, he was the only one who could defend himself. His lack of cooperation caused me to probe a little deeper.

Wombat hands Speed Chicken a file folder. It is full of charts and diagrams of the caves and fault lines beneath planet Neptune.

WOMBAT (CONT'D)
Nate is planning to use that drill to mine a mineral out of the center of planet Neptune that will cause the planet to implode instantly. And it runs on Uranium. Magma Man could collect Uranium a lot faster than Nate could.

SPEED CHICKEN
And the Neptunians destroyed Magma Man's home world.
(thinks)
He and Nate do have a lot of history together. You think Magma Man swiped this equipment after the thugs you stopped couldn't get to it?

WOMBAT
He's not as fast as you, but he could outrun any security camera.

SPEED CHICKEN

So, what's your next move?

WOMBAT

Find some way to keep that drill from getting built. I'm gonna send this information over to Todd Clark at the Daily Hammer. He always does those exposes of corporate greed. He's written about Nate Caldwell many times.

Speed Chicken swallows hard.

SPEED CHICKEN

But what if Magma Man IS involved in this plot and he comes looking for you?

WOMBAT

I don't know.

Wombat holds up his crowbar.

WOMBAT (CONT'D)

I could try hitting him in the nuts.

INT. JERRY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jerry and Cambio are playing video games again.

CAMBIO

You didn't tell him about Magma Man's weakness?

JERRY

Just in case we're wrong. I don't want this whack job killing the city's most powerful superhero. Then again, Wombat did say he could handle Magma Man. Maybe he does know his weakness already.

CAMBIO

And what if Magma Man is involved?

JERRY

WE know his weakness.

CAMBIO

Yes, but where are we gonna get Uranium? It sells for \$10,000 an ounce on the black market and the smallest chunk in existence is five pounds.

JERRY

I can't afford that. Do we know any rich megalomaniacs that we can steal it from?

CAMBIO

Well, even if we did, you would need ME to distract the cops.

JERRY

Ha. Don't start with me, Shifty.

Cambio confidently smiles.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Back in the old days, superheroes were funded by the government, so they had money for high-tech equipment and a fancy headquarters. They didn't have to hold their meetings in a bar during poker night.

CAMBIO

And most of them were born into money anyway. Towanda came from royalty. Beetle Head owned an oil refinery.

JERRY

And we're just--working class.

CAMBIO

So, what if Wombat does have some Uranium? Shouldn't we at least keep him in the loop?

JERRY

No. I don't trust him. Not yet.

INT. CAMBIO'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Cambio is sleeping on his couch. He wakes up as the morning sun pokes in between the curtains. The TV morning news is on. Footage is shown of the police clearing many dead bodies away from the Nebraskan mines that were attacked by robots.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

This is the remarkable scene earlier this morning as the local police try to make sense of a senseless attack by what eyewitnesses say were three giant robots.

The news channel broadcasts an artist's rendition of the robots that attacked these men. Cambio immediately recognizes them as the LEDs that attacked him in Nate's building.

CAMBIO

No way!

Cambio picks up his cell phone and hesitates to make a phone call.

CAMBIO (CONT'D)

Na, I don't need him. Especially if he's gonna be a jerk about my powers!

Cambio sticks his cell phone into his pocket and changes his shape so he looks like his friend Jerry Tork. He stands up perfectly straight and starts doing a rather exaggerated impression of his old friend.

JERRY/CAMBIO

(mocking tone)

Gee, thanks for saving the entire world from total annihilation, Cambio. But I totally could have done a better job because I'm a self-assured moron with great hair whose idea of a great superhero costume is a \$10 chicken mask I found at a truck stop.

Cambio turns back into his own shape and laughs at his own impression. Nodding, he turns off the TV before walking towards the front door.

CAMBIO

Seriously. I got this.

EXT./INT. AN OFFICE BUILDING - LATER

WAREHOUSE AREA.

Magma Man is remotely operating a few of Nate's LEDs to load Uranium rocks into containers that looked like foot-long bullets. These containers are then loaded into the drill as batteries.

GUARD SHACK.

A security guard named RAY is leaning back in his chair, flipping through a magazine. The door opens and his wife MISSY walks in, holding two large cups of coffee from a local coffee shop.

MISSY

Hi, sweetie!

RAY

Hey, baby!

Missy puts the coffee down on a table. Ray runs over to his wife, grabs her and gives her a long passionate kiss. As they are kissing, Missy reaches behind Ray and grabs an old-fashioned land line telephone.

RAY (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

Missy hits Ray in the head with the telephone and knocks him out cold. He collapses to the ground and Missy starts changing her shape, revealing "herself" to be Cambio in disguise.

Cambio has a look of disgust on his face and starts spitting. He kicks the fallen guard in the gut before stealing the access card that he had clipped to his belt.

CAMBIO

Brush your teeth!

WAREHOUSE AREA.

Magma Man looks at a few security camera screens. He sees what looks like Nate Caldwell walking around the facility. "Nate" opens a door with the security card that Cambio stole from the guard he knocked out. Magma Man is not fooled.

MAGMA MAN

(scowls)

Cambio!

Magma Man picks up a phone. He dials a number and hears a busy signal.

GUARD SHACK.

The guard lies unconscious as the phone is off the hook and lying on the ground.

A FUEL AREA.

"Nate" walks through an area that is full of high-tech equipment being used to power the building. A large incubator-like device has a small chunk of the yellow rock powering it.

"Nate" reaches into his coat and is startled when Magma Man is suddenly standing behind him with a stoic expression on his face.

NATE/CAMBIO

Oh! It's you! I'm glad you're here.
One of our security guards has been
attacked and--

Magma Man lifts "Nate" off of his feet and throws him up against the nearest wall hard. As Cambio slumps to the ground, he morphs back into his true shape. Magma Man looks down at the fallen shape shifter, scowling.

EXT. YARD BEHIND THE OFFICE BUILDING - LATER

Cambio slowly wakes up, as he is chained to a chair. Magma Man is standing not far from him. He is holding a small bomb in his hand.

MAGMA MAN

Cambio! Cambio! Cambio! I'm a little disappointed in you.

Magma Man holds up the bomb.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

Coming in here and trying to blow up my stuff!

Cambio turns himself into a large rock creature once again and tries to break the thick chains that bind him. He cannot break them and reverts back into his true form once again, exhausted.

Magma Man presses a button on the bomb. A light blinks. The bomb is armed. He throws the bomb high into the air with one flick of his wrist.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

I mean, the ego of it all!

An explosion is heard and a fireball can be seen, illuminating the night sky.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

Your ONLY super power is changing your shape! You can't dodge bullets. You can't fly! You're hardly a super human! And you DARE to challenge the Last Son of Uranus!

Cambio lifts his head and watches three robots attach the laser drill to a small spaceship. This spaceship looks very similar, albeit larger, to the ship Nate Caldwell found Magma Man in when he was a baby. It is chrome and has spikes.

Two more LEDs are standing guard.

CAMBIO

Doing Nate Caldwell's dirty work?

MAGMA MAN

He was doing mine. I scouted Neptune for the Q-mineral. I designed the drill. I just let him think he was in charge. I let him do all the heavy lifting. For a guy who can bench press a planet, I sure get lazy sometimes.

(laughs)

Soon, the planet Neptune will share the fate of my home world and Magma Man will have struck an enormous blow for truth and justice--

(growls)

--MY WAY!!!

CAMBIO

You'll kill billions of innocent beings!

MAGMA MAN

Hey, ever since those refugees started coming to this planet, Earth's leaders have tried to negotiate with their leaders to give up their laser weapons programs.

Cambio starts nervously changing his shape into other people as Magma Man continues his speech. He turns into Nate Caldwell, a baseball player, an alien, a female super model and finally Magma Man.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

They refused, so now we make an example of their planet, by turning it into one enormous meteor shower.

(smiles)

Beautiful. Might even be able to see it from this planet on a clear night. Well, I will, anyway.

CAMBIO

This planet gets to have laser weapons for defense, but other planets have to give them up? And then you attack them for defending their rights?

MAGMA MAN

(growls)

Because they're SAVAGES!!!

CAMBIO

Don't pretend this is about truth and justice. This is about money, power and revenge.

MAGMA MAN

The American way! Well, for me it's power and revenge. I don't care who mines that stuff, as long as Neptune is turned asunder!

Magma Man picks a remote control off of his belt and walks towards the spaceship. Pressing a few buttons, the two robots who were standing guard start stomping towards the nearby city.

The other three robots attach themselves to the ship as Magma Man lifts the remote control to eye-level.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

Time for blast-off!

Suddenly, the remote control disappears out of Magma Man's hand. He turns to see an empty chair. Cambio is gone.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

(growls)

WHERE ARE YOU???

Magma Man sniffs the air around him and senses someone's presence. A slow, evil smile spreads across his face.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

Speed Chicken!

Magma Man uses his 'scanner vision' to see what is inside and behind various crates in this yard. He doesn't see anyone. Speed Chicken and Cambio poke their head out from behind the building as Magma Man looks around for them.

CAMBIO

We have to get out of here!

SPEED CHICKEN

No. We're superheroes! We have to stop this! Billions of alien lives are at stake!

CAMBIO

Are you kidding me? That's Magma Man! He's a villain now! A SUPER villain! How are we supposed to take him down?

(sad)

How am I supposed to take him down? All I can do is change my shape! I tricked some security guard into thinking I was his wife, but--I'm no superhero.

Speed Chicken puts his hand on Cambio's shoulder.

SPEED CHICKEN

Listen! You took down TWO of those giant robots with your powers AND escaped the cops while I was outside being a lazy jerk! You can do this! We need to stop that ship from taking off!

Cambio looks over at the ship.

SPEED CHICKEN (CONT'D)

Come on, bro! I need you! I might bust your chops sometimes, but that's only because--well, we're best friends. You're like a brother to me.

CAMBIO

Well, we're both good at running distraction.

SPEED CHICKEN

We can do this! As a team!

Speed Chicken extends his fist and Cambio 'bumps' it with his own.

SPEED CHICKEN (CONT'D)

Together.

EXT. CITY STREETS MOMENTS LATER

Two of Nate Caldwell's twenty-foot-tall LEDs are stomping through the middle of Hammer City, crushing cars under their feet and firing lasers from their palms. Innocent civilians run for their lives.

A line of cop cars block off the street and policemen get out. Lt. Drew and Switch are among them.

SWITCH

What is that?

LT. DREW

I've seen that before. That's one of Nate Caldwell's.

MOMENTS LATER. Lt. Drew is on the radio.

LT. DREW (CONT'D)

Yes, it's exactly like those things Nate Caldwell tried to sell to the

LT. DREW (CONT'D)
Hammer City P.D. not too long ago.
(listens)
We're going to need the heavy
artillery.

Lt. Drew looks up and a SWAT van pulls up.

LT. DREW (CONT'D)
Well, that was fast.

All the police officers on this team are handed missiles launchers. They aim them at the rampaging LEDs and fire. The first LED opens its palm and starts firing lasers that detonate these missiles before they get to him.

The second LED shifts his attention towards the line of cop cars and starts destroying them with thicker, more powerful laser blasts. Officers dive for cover as the cars explode.

After the explosions, Drew suddenly jumps up and runs down the nearest alleyway with his rocket launcher.

SWITCH
Where are you going?

LT. DREW
I got an idea.

Switch runs after Drew.

SWITCH
Care to fill me in before we run off
half-cocked?

LT. DREW
Believe it or not, Nate Caldwell was
right. This is a super-powered
threat. We gotta think like
superheroes.

SWITCH
Do I look like Magma Man to you?

LT. DREW
Naw, man. Forget that Boy Scout.
(smirks)
We're gonna do this Wombat-style!

EXT. YARD BEHIND THE OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Magma Man continues to look for Speed Chicken on the other side of the yard.

MAGMA MAN
Where are you, Speed Chicken?
(starts clucking)
Buck buck buck BUCKAW!

Magma Man thrusts out his arm and suddenly, Speed Chicken is there, in his hand. Magma Man has him by his neck, lifting him up as his legs are moving super-fast.

Speed Chicken drops the remote control he stole as Magma Man pulls him closer.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)
Gotcha!

In a desperate maneuver, Speed Chicken kicks Magma Man right in the crotch. It is like kicking a stone wall. Speed Chicken lets out a pained grunt. Magma Man's eyes start to glow red. He is interrupted as he hears a voice behind him.

WOMBAT (O.S.)
Put the chicken man down!

Magma Man's eyes turn back to normal. He turns behind him and sees Wombat standing behind him, wielding Towanda's sword.

MAGMA MAN
You FAT little marsupial!

Magma Man throws Speed Chicken to the other side of the yard and he lands in some bushes. Magma Man picks the remote control off the ground and presses buttons.

Two of the three robots attached to the ship detach. They start stomping towards Speed Chicken. Wombat tosses his crowbar over to Speed Chicken. Wombat respectfully nods to Speed Chicken as he picks the weapon off the ground.

The first robot extends his open palm. A thick laser pours out of a cannon in this palm. Speed Chicken starts running. He outruns the enormous laser as it chases him, pummeling the ground behind him, missing him by inches.

A furry creature with a pig nose and giant bear claws (Cambio in disguise) jumps onto the robot. He swings up to the robot's head and starts clawing at its metal face. The robot staggers backwards, disoriented.

Speed Chicken stops running and notices that the spaceship, complete with the laser drill and one remaining robot, is beginning to lift off.

MEANWHILE.

Wombat walks towards Magma Man with Towanda's sword at the ready.

MAGMA MAN (CONT'D)

Look at this! The peasants are storming Mount Olympus! Peasants who THINK they have super powers. The most annoying kind!

WOMBAT

I'm not storming anything!

Wombat points the sword at Magma Man.

WOMBAT (CONT'D)

I have a little present for you!

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE YARD.

The first robot falls backwards and continues to fall apart as Cambio drops. He changes back to his normal shape when his feet hit the ground. Speed Chicken looks up and sees the second robot towering over him.

He runs towards it and starts running vertically up the robot's leg and torso. He soon reaches the robot's head and stands on its shoulder. With the crowbar in his hand, he pounds away at the robot's head with this blunt object.

The spaceship, meanwhile, continues to throw smoke and ascend. Magma Man scoffs at Wombat as he keeps walking forward.

MAGMA MAN

Now what would I want with a sword that was obviously crafted on Seether Island?

(growls)

Neptunian gutter trash!

WOMBAT

Actually, I got this sword a little closer to home.

MAGMA MAN

Oh, yeah? Where? And where are you gonna stick it, bro? I'm bulletproof!

Wombat steps forward some more. Towanda's sword starts glowing blue. Magma Man starts to feel weak. Blue veins pop out of his neck as he gags, struggling to breathe. Magma Man drops to his knees as Wombat lifts the sword.

WOMBAT

Straight up Uranus!

Speed Chicken drops to the ground after the second robot has been reduced to scraps. Wombat decapitates Magma Man with Towanda's glowing sword. Magma Man's mustachioed head rolls off as his headless, caped body bleeds purple blood.

Speed Chicken turns to Cambio. They are both astonished.

SPEED CHICKEN

I think Wombat should run distraction.

Speed Chicken looks up at the spaceship, making its way into the sky in a trail of smoke.

SPEED CHICKEN (CONT'D)

(to Cambio)

Dude! Throw me!

Cambio turns back into the rock creature, lifts Speed Chicken off his feet and hurls him at the spaceship. Speed Chicken hurtles through the air and grabs onto the ship with one hand clenching the crowbar.

MIDAIR.

Speed Chicken climbs up the side of the spaceship as it climbs into the sky, using the crowbar as a climbing claw. He starts pulling levers that deactivate magnets. The drill starts to detach and hang off the side of the ship, ready to fall.

The robot that is attached to the ship realizes what Speed Chicken is doing. Its eyes illuminate and it swats at him. Speed Chicken loses his balance and finds himself hanging by the end of his crowbar over a messy fall.

Speed Chicken pulls himself up, grabbing the controls of the laser drill. The drill bit illuminates and starts spinning. It fires a laser that rips right through the robot's torso. The robot fell off of the ship and to the Earth below.

THE YARD BELOW.

Wombat walks away from Magma Man's headless corpse and walks over to his head. He picks the head up by the hair and looks at it with the intensity of a victorious Seether Island warrior.

WOMBAT

The battle is everything!

Suddenly, a laser pours out of the sky and disintegrates Magma Man's headless body. Wombat looks back at the pile of ash the body of Hammer City's most popular superhero has become.

The spaceship is now high enough that the air is thin. It is getting harder for Speed Chicken to breathe. He starts to faint. His fingers slip off of the drill controls and he falls off of this high-flying spaceship.

Wombat looks up. So does Cambio. He sees Speed Chicken falling from the sky at an incredible speed.

WOMBAT (CONT'D)

Um, can he fly?

CAMBIO

No!

Cambio turns into a man-cheetah creature and starts running towards his old friend.

Speed Chicken keeps falling faster and faster, limp and unconscious. Cambio starts running on all fours, bounding towards his plummeting friend as he achieves 'cheetah speed'.

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF HAMMER CITY - CONTINUOUS

Cambio soon realizes that Speed Chicken is falling right into a large, rocky canyon on the outskirts of Hammer City. He watches in horror as Speed Chicken plummets towards it from the sky.

With a running leap, Cambio leaps across the ravine with his arms outstretched towards his friend. For a few brief seconds, Cambio feels like he is flying, hurtling through the air with his arms outstretched.

Cambio catches Speed Chicken in mid-air and before he can fall any further, bat wings pop out of Cambio's back and start flapping. These wings allow Cambio to hover to the other side of the ravine, where he lands safely.

Cambio places Speed Chicken on the ground as he shape shifts back into his old self. Speed Chicken starts coughing as he regains consciousness. After looking around to make sure no one else is looking, Cambio yanks off Speed Chicken's mask.

Jerry's eyes flutter open and, while initially startled, he soon realizes that he is safe on the ground and in one piece. Cambio holds out his fist and 'bumps' the fist of his old friend.

Suddenly, both superheroes are startled when Wombat's crowbar falls out of the sky. It hits the ground with an ear-splitting clang. When they realize what just fell out of the sky, they are relieved. The two friends start laughing.

EXT. CITY STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Standing on either side of the street, Drew and Switch are hiding in alleys when the towering robots stomp by. They fire rockets at the back of the robot's knees, blowing them to bits.

SWITCH

Yeah! Where's your kneecaps, huh?

Drew and Switch high-five each other. The robots drop quick. More rockets from other police officers destroy more robots. They are reduced to scrap metal. Surrounding civilians applaud the efforts of the Hammer City Police Department.

INT. TOWANDA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Zeke Sullivan places Towanda's sword back on her wall. Towanda wheels into her living room in her chair.

TOWANDA

Nate Caldwell was a power-hungry con-man to be sure, but he was right about one thing. It's like my man Tupac used to say "You got to keep your hoes in check!"

ZEKE

Power corrupts. Whether it's political power or super powers. Superheroes should have a place in the modern world, but not without regulations. If they step out of line, they must be stopped!

TOWANDA

And that's where you come in. You will never mistake yourself for a god, because you're flesh and blood. You can be shot, stabbed--paralyzed. With my sword, you represent the balance between super humans and the common man--as I once did. Anytime you need it, just come down and pick it up.

Zeke looks back at the sword on the wall.

TOWANDA (CONT'D)

It will be waiting.

Zeke opens a large cabinet in Towanda's living room. Inside this cabinet, there are the severed heads of warriors that Towanda defeated in her younger days. The stuffed, severed head of Magma Man is now here, as a trophy of war.

INT. UNITED PARCEL EXPRESS BUILDING - MORNING

Talia is standing next to her boss, Ted. She has her nose in some paperwork as delivery trucks leave the building. Talia looks up and sees Jerry walking towards her with two cups of coffee.

Surprisingly, Jerry walks right past Talia and hands the second coffee to Ted. They talk and laugh. Jerry looks over at Talia, smiling knowingly (and flirtatiously).

INT. ZEKE'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Zeke walks up the stairs and sees Lt. Drew standing outside of Zeke's apartment, talking to his mother. Both Lt. Drew and Sandy are smiling ear-to-ear.

Lt. Drew hands Zeke a pink piece of paper. Zeke looks at the paper and realizes that he is no longer on 'house confinement'. He smiles. Lt. Drew shakes his hand. His mother gives him a hug.

Lt. Drew walks down the hallway. Then, he turns around and tosses something to Zeke. It is the baby monitor and tape recorder (duct taped together) that Wombat left behind in a tree. Zeke is surprised and doesn't know what to say.

Lt. Drew gives Zeke an encouraging, sincere thumbs-up.

LT. DREW

Keep it up, son. We need you--to
inspire us.

EXT. A YARD - AFTERNOON

There is a family barbecue going on. Kids are running around with squirt guns. Zeke walks into the yard with his mother and greets some elderly relatives he has not seen in a while.

Zeke's sister Talia (who is also Jerry Tork's female supervisor at UPX) runs up to her brother and gives him a hug. Talia turns and introduces Zeke to Jerry, who is standing behind her.

Jerry smiles and introduces himself. He does not recognize "Wombat" without his mask, but "Wombat" recognizes "Speed Chicken" without his mask from the Cape and Cowl Club. Being a protective older brother, Zeke looks Jerry up and down.

EXT./INT. THE CAPE AND COWL CLUB - NIGHT

"SIX MONTHS LATER."

Speed Chicken, Trench Coat and Cambio play cards. A television set above the bar shows a commercial that Speed Chicken is starring in.

In the commercial, Speed Chicken runs around at super speeds and gives delicious chicken sandwiches to fashionably-dressed teenagers as an announcer narrates.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

If you live life in the fast lane--
you need a super-charged meal!

The TV shows a close-up shot of the chicken sandwich that is being advertised.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The 'Speed Chicken' chicken sandwich!
Now only 99 cents for a limited time!
Only at Burger Cave!

The commercial ends with a shot of the 'Burger Cave' restaurant logo. Speed Chicken tells a story to Trench Coat as they play cards.

TRENCH COAT

Man! Did I miss a lot being off-planet! So, what happened to the drill?

SPEED CHICKEN

It was still on the ship when it lifted off, but I destroyed the robot that was supposed to operate it, so I assume it just landed somewhere.

TRENCH COAT

Somewhere on Neptune?

SPEED CHICKEN

Yeah, that's where Nate was sending it. Some kind of mine where he could get to the planet's core.

TRENCH COAT

That would be the Glorbian Mine--in the Zinthian Wastelands.

SPEED CHICKEN

Oh, yeah! I keep forgetting you've been there.

TRENCH COAT

Yes, the Zinthian Wastelands are home to hundreds of militant rebel

(MORE)

TRENCH COAT (CONT'D)

groups who can ship weapons in from the surrounding moons. My colleagues and I have intervened numerous times to keep the peace whenever one of them would try to overthrow the existing government.

SPEED CHICKEN

You mentioned that before, it's a very unstable area of the solar system.

TRENCH COAT

Yes, and you two geniuses sent a high-powered laser weapon with the ability to destroy the entire planet right in the middle of that political and ideological hornet's nest.

Speed Chicken and Cambio look at each other. There is an awkward pause. Trench Coat soon starts laughing.

TRENCH COAT (CONT'D)

Ha. I'm just busting your chops! We'll clean it up! I know a Trench Coat who lives there. It's fine.

Trench Coat laughs some more. Speed Chicken rolls his eyes.

CAMBIO

Well, it's a good thing Wombat showed up when he did.

SPEED CHICKEN

Yeah. I wonder where that sword came from.

CAMBIO

Who cares. I'm glad he had it. We'll never fight anything that powerful again!

WOMBAT (O.S.)

Don't bet on it!

The three heroes turn to see Wombat standing there.

CAMBIO

Are you a member of this club?

Wombat gives him a 'look'.

SPEED CHICKEN

He's kidding, Wombat. You saved our skins, man. You can play cards with us anytime.

WOMBAT

No time.

Wombat tosses a soiled, smelly newspaper on the table, right on top of the poker chips.

WOMBAT (CONT'D)

Have you seen today's Daily Hammer? Kelly Quinn just wrote her last article. She's taking a leave of absence.

Cambio picks up the paper and starts reading.

CAMBIO

That's kind of sad. She must be hurting after her boyfriend's death.

WOMBAT

Her boyfriend's *disappearance*. Even if she does know his secret identity, nobody knows what happened to his body--or head--and quite frankly, I don't know why you didn't tell me that Uranium drill could kill him. I didn't have to get as close as I did. I could have just shot him.

SPEED CHICKEN

We were wrong not to trust you, Wombat. Especially after all the work you did. I mean, if you think about it, there's no difference between your crowbar and his ring.

(points at Trench)

We're all vigilantes, they're all weapons and we're all breaking the law by using them to fight crime.

Wombat listens intently.

SPEED CHICKEN (CONT'D)

I guess you're a real superhero after all!

WOMBAT

(complacent)

Thanks.

CAMBIO

Is this another article about how misunderstood Magma Man is? I mean, I know she loved the guy, but he did try to commit genocide.

WOMBAT

No, it's more of a goodbye to all of her readers.

CAMBIO

Before her leave?

WOMBAT

Her maternity leave.

Speed Chicken, Cambio and Trench Coat look at each other, surprised.

INT. KELLY QUINN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kelly Quinn, visibly six months pregnant, taps away at her laptop, rubbing her stomach in between paragraphs. The title of the article is: CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TODD CLARK.

KELLY (V.O.)

Todd Clark died the way he lived-- heroically chasing stories. His news helicopter was shot down while covering the story of a military siege in Afghanistan. He was a great reporter and an even better friend. He will be sorely missed around the news room--and as a part of my life.

LATER.

Kelly talks to her sister Ashley on the phone.

ASHLEY (O.S.)

I thought the whole plan was to blackmail him with his secret identity. Now, you're covering for him by making his other identity out to be a hero? I know he's your child's father, but, I mean, the baby was supposed to be the bargaining chip.

Kelly hangs up the phone. A tear comes from her cheek as Wombat narrates the final part of the story.

WOMBAT (V.O.)

For years, Kelly Quinn has been writing articles that poke away at Hammer City's seedy underbelly.

Kelly walks into her kitchen, flipping on the light and waddling over to the counter.

WOMBAT (V.O.) (CONT'D)

People would say to her, "Aren't you the one who wrote about the Senator's mob contacts?" Or "Aren't you the one that exposed that Vatican prostitution ring?"

Kelly picks up a photograph of herself and Magma Man, staring at it with a blank, pale look on her face. More tears flow from her eyes.

WOMBAT (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But from now on, people the world over will be asking her "Aren't you the one--who birthed a child--from Uranus?"

Kelly rubs her pregnant belly as she down looks at the picture with great sadness.

FADE TO BLACK.

"WORKING CLASS SUPERHEROES."

CLOSING CREDITS.