

# Captain Phantasm and the Countdown to DOOM!!!

## A Melodramatic Serial in Three Acts

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## MAJOR CHARACTERS

<b>CAPTAIN PHANTASM/ KNOX HENDERSON:</b>	A costumed hero trained in the mysterious and inscrutable fighting techniques of the Orient who wages a tireless battle against the forces of evil with his quick wits, his fists of justice, and his penchant for long, rambling, metaphor-laden speeches. His secret identity is KNOX HENDERSON, a young, idealistic detective with the Metroville City Police Department. He is secretly dating PRETTY PERFECT, but lives in fear that his enemies will attempt to get to him through her.
<b>PRETTY PERFECT:</b>	The intrepid and beautiful reporter for the Metroville City Herald who will stop at nothing to break the big story. She's got moxie, spunk, and chutzpah out the yin-yang, and a reporter's intuition for trouble. Her heart belongs to CAPTAIN PHANTASM, but she's tired of keeping it a secret.
<b>PROFESSOR:</b>	A loveable but slightly mad scientist and friend of CAPTAIN PHANTASM. He is well versed in the fields of... Science!
<b>THE BRAIN/ LAWRENCE CRANIUM:</b>	A diabolical disembodied brain floating in a jar whose wicked scheme entails very gradual world domination, a city at a time. Pompous and self-confident to a fault, he has united many of Metroville City's villains together to bring his ill-conceived schemes to fruition.
<b>LUCHADON CORLEONE:</b>	The Masked Mafioso of Metroville City who has risen ruthlessly through the ranks over the past year. His manner is commanding and eloquent, at least until he invokes the Brawn of the Luchadon...
<b>MISS KILOWATT:</b>	A nefarious assassin who electrocutes her victims with a newfangled ray gun. She's sassy and brash, but utterly loyal to THE BRAIN.
<b>DR. CALIMARI:</b>	The Ichthyologist of Crime who hides his visage behind the mask of a squid. Like his namesake, he is cold and slimy, with a voice eerily reminiscent of Peter Lorre. He is also well schooled in the ways of torture.
<b>KITTY VELOUR:</b>	This former henchman has only recently come into her own as a villain, and has a score to settle with CAPTAIN PHANTASM. She is deadly, agile, and wears a slinky black kitty cat costume. Meow!
<b>THE MAYOR:</b>	Hizzoner is the consummate politician, with a real talent for self-promotion and self-preservation.
<b>THE GENERAL:</b>	Having served in this man's army for thirty-five years, this heroic warhorse has little patience for fools, bureaucracy, or just about anything else.

**BABS:** Professional spokesmodel and eye-candy extraordinaire. She's what you'd get if you added Lana Turner, Veronica Lake, and Rita Hayworth together. And then divided by three.

**THE EMCEE:** Our host for the evening, he wears a suit and bowtie and sports greased back hair and a pencil-thin mustache. He has a pompous, Orson Wells air about him.

### **THERE ARE NO SMALL PARTS...**

BARON VON COMMUNAZI, JITTERBUG, HARVEY HARLEQUIN

DETECTIVE DEFAZIO, DETECTIVE FEENEY

REPORTER #1, REPORTER #2

GANGSTER #1, GANGSTER #2, GANGSTER #3, GANGSTER #4, GANGSTER #5,

SOLDIER

## SCENE DESCRIPTIONS

In addition to the main stage, there should be a side stage where the EMCEE can deliver his expository narration during the play.

### ACT I

- Scene 1      **Downtown Metroville City:** A platform from which the MAYOR can address the crowd of REPORTERS. A red, ceremonial ribbon (for the MAYOR to cut) should be on prominent display.
- Scene 2      **LOVEBUNNIES Headquarters:** A long table, with four chairs on one side. There is a pitcher of water and several glasses on the table. The LOVEBUNNIES banner should be ready to be unfurled in the background.
- Scene 3      **Professor's Lab:** Well lit. A table sits to one side, covered with various scientific equipment. There's a screen in the background, and plenty of room center stage to reenact the PROFESSOR'S flashback.
- Scene 4      **Professor's Media Room:** There's a platform, with a screen behind it for the PROFESSOR'S presentation. Off to the side is a rack with several lab coats hanging on it.

### ACT II

- Scene 1      **Professor's Media Room**
- Scene 2      **LOVEBUNNIES Headquarters**
- Scene 3      **Interrogation Room:** Dimly lit. A single table and chair, with a spotlight shining in the face of the person being interrogated.
- Scene 4      **Mayor's Office:** A cluttered desk, with a phone and an old-fashioned radio sitting on it. An American flag on a pole in the corner, and an open window in the background.

- Scene 5      **LOVEBUNNIES Headquarters**

### ACT III

- Scene 1      **LOVEBUNNIES Headquarters**
- Scene 2      **Rooftop of LOVEBUNNIES Headquarters:** A tier or platform, fairly minimalist. Should be enough room for the Isotonium Detonator Device, as well as plenty of pulse-pounding action.
- Scene 3      **LOVEBUNNIES Detention:** Dimly lit, and fairly minimalist. The only prominent set piece is the cell door.
- Scene 4      **Rooftop of LOVEBUNNIES Headquarters**

## INTRODUCTION

(On stage is an old-fashioned microphone with the letters KPST visible on it. The EMCEE comes out and speaks in a cultured, yet smarmy voice.)

EMCEE

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to another gripping and heart-racing tale of adventure on Radio KPST's Mystery Adventure Time Theater Hour. I'm your host, Wink Walters, coming to you live, as always, from the luxurious auditorium of the [theater name], in beautiful [location.]

Tonight's program will begin after a short musical prelude, brought to you by Sophisticate Cigarettes and Frosted Cracklin' Sugar Os. I'd like to invite our audience, as well as all the boys and girls listening at home, to join in with us as we sing *Swing on a Star*.

(Lead the crowd in a rousing rendition of *Swing on a Star*.)

Ah, yes. That is one swingin' tune, hepcats. Next up in tonight's cavalcade of mandatory audience participation is a rousing ditty guaranteed to get your toes to tapping and your heart to racing, much like a bowl of Frosted Cracklin' Sugar Os. Please join us in singing *The Mighty Mouse Theme*.

(Make 'em sing)

Thank you. This concludes our musical prelude. Our actors will now retire to prepare themselves for tonight's program.

(Na na na na. Hey hey hey. Goodbye.)

Tonight's episode of Mystery Adventure Time Theater Hour will begin in a moment, but first, a few words of introduction for those in our listening audience who might be unfamiliar with the conventions of "melodrama."

In tonight's program, you will witness acts of bravery, heroism, and derring-do. These heroic acts will be accompanied by stirring music like this.

(Pause to let the heroic music play.)

When you hear this rousing fanfare, show your support by letting out a triumphant shout like this. "Hooray!"

(Lead the crowd in a shout of "Hooray!")

And you will bear witness to deeds so vile and nefarious, they'll chill your spine and curl your heart. These villainous acts will be harbingered by this sinister music.

(Pause to let the villainous music play)

When you hear this music, you should respond with a resounding "Boo! Hiss!"

(Lead the crowd in some quality boozing and hissing)

And finally, you will find yourself suffering through sappy, turgid scenes where the actors ham it up in a desperate cry for attention. Anytime you hear the strains of this haunting melody...

(Pause to let the sappy music play)

You should respond by sighing like this. "Sigh!"

(Lead the crowd in some maudlin sighing)

Ah, yes. Quite maudlin. And I would hasten to remind our audience that, while we encourage your participation, Captain Phantasm would never tolerate profanity or rowdy behavior. Please keep it family friendly. Won't somebody please think of the children?

EMCEE (cont'd)

Very good. One final note before we begin tonight's exciting...

(Exciting fanfare music plays)  
...pulse-pounding...

(More exciting fanfare music plays)  
...two-fisted...

(EMCEE pauses, waiting for fanfare. Clears his throat.)  
I said, two-fisted...

(Fanfare music plays)  
...tale of adventure and intrigue. While we invite you to participate in tonight's program by lobbing popcorn at the actors on stage or at each other, please remember that the popcorn must be popped...

(Exciting fanfare music plays)  
...dry...

(More exciting fanfare music plays)  
...and thrown by hand.

(Once again, EMCEE pauses and waits for the fanfare.)  
Seriously?

(The fanfare plays.)  
The popcorn should not be recycled. Only Nazis and Communists would throw popcorn that they had scooped up off the floor. And you're not a Nazi or a Communist, are you? Fresh popcorn is available in the lobby for 50 cents a basket, which is pretty expensive for 1942. But hey, what are you going to do?

So now, without further ado, Radio KPST proudly presents the continuing adventures of that masked man of mystery, that dashing daredevil of decency, that courageous crusader against crime... Captain Phantasm, brought to you in part by the Aphrodite Suckmaster 4000 vacuum cleaner. If it doesn't suck, it's not an Aphrodite.

Captain Phantasm! Orphaned as a child in the Himalayas when his paleontologist parents were devoured by spider monkeys, Captain Phantasm was raised by the mystic monks who trained him in the inscrutable arts of the Orient. Yes, Captain Phantasm, disguised as Knox Henderson, idealistic detective for the Metroville City Police, fights a never ending battle against evildoers with his heightened catlike reflexes, his uncanny intellect, and his mighty fists of justice.

So kids! Gather round and set your decoder rings on "adventure" as Captain Phantasm comes face to face against the Countdown... to DOOM!

Our story begins in scenic downtown Metroville City, where intrepid reporter Pretty Perfect, who is secretly the sweetheart of Captain Phantasm, is covering the grand opening of the Metroville City Young Girls' School for Nurses, Secretaries, and Maids. But little does she know that this slow

news day is just moments away from heading down the fast track...  
to calamity!

(Blackout)

**ACT I**  
**Scene 1**

(We open on the MAYOR standing on a platform, next to a large, red ribbon. He is holding a large pair of scissors. REPORTERS #1 and #2 are standing along with PRETTY at the base of the platform, scribbling furiously in their notebooks or taking photographs.)

MAYOR

...and if it wasn't for that brave little dog, I would have never made it through college. So now, without further ado, I hereby declare the Metroville City Young Girls' School for Nurses, Secretaries, and Maids open for business!

BARON VON COMMUNAZI (offstage)

Achtung, capitalist schwein!

(MAYOR, the REPORTERS, and PRETTY all look offstage, startled. BARON enters with a flag bearing his swastika/hammer and sickle emblem.)

BARON

Guten tag, comrades! I hereby claim Metroville City in the name of...

(BARON plants the flag and stands proudly.)

BARON (cont'd)

...me!

MAYOR

Baron von Communazi!

(BARON approaches the MAYOR.)

BARON

In the flesh. Your mayoral term has come to a premature end, your Honor.

(BARON takes the top hat off of the MAYOR'S head and places it on his own.)

BARON (cont'd)

I hereby declare myself, Baron von Communazi, as mayor of Metroville City! From this day forward, all municipal taxes shall be paid... to me!

(BARON laughs maniacally.)

MAYOR

Um, I don't think it works that way.

BARON

Silence, fool! I, your mayor, command you!

PRETTY

You cad! You'll never get away with this!

BARON

Ah, intrepid reporter Pretty Perfect, of the Metroville City Herald. Well, here's a headline for your readers, Miss Perfect.

(BARON draws a pistol and points it at MAYOR'S head. MAYOR drops the scissors. REPORTERS gasp in horror.)

BARON (cont'd)

Mayor von Communazi Executes First Order of Business.

(BARON laughs maniacally, but realizes nobody else is joining in. He glares at the REPORTERS.)

BARON (cont'd)

Why aren't you laughing? That was funny!

REPORTER #1

Um, it was a little on the nose, don't you think?

REPORTER #2

Yeah. Why don't you go with something like... Mayor von Communazi Starts Term Off... um... with a Bang?

(BARON mulls it over.)

BARON

Meh, you're right. That is funnier.

(BARON turns to address the crowd.)

BARON (cont'd)

As your new mayor, my first order of business shall be to change the name of this city to Communazidelphia! And the increased taxes will help fund the statues of me to be erected in each of this city's public parks! And to make the summers longer, a new month—Communazuary—shall be inserted between July and August! Whiskey will be distributed to orphans, and kittens will be shot on sight! And Christmas shall, from this point onward, be banished!

(As the BARON laughs maniacally, PRETTY turns to the audience and speaks.)

PRETTY

I can't just stand by and let this city fall prey to this madman.

(PRETTY pulls a whistle out of her purse.)

PRETTY (cont'd)

Fortunately, Captain Phantasm gave me this whistle, which is pitched so high it can only be heard by him... and several breeds of small dogs. I must use it now, to summon him to our aid!

(PRETTY blows the whistle, which makes no sound. We immediately hear a lot of small dogs start barking in the background. BARON stops laughing and looks around, noticing the dogs.)

BARON

Hmm, that's peculiar. Well, no matter. As I was saying, Miss Perfect, here's a headline for your readers. "Mayor von Communazi Starts Term Off..."

(BARON points his gun at MAYOR'S head.)

BARON (cont'd)

"...with a BANG!"

(CAPTAIN PHANTASM leaps onstage, arms akimbo.)

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

Not so fast, you dime store dictator!

BARON

Captain Phantasm!

MAYOR and REPORTERS (in unison)

And his mighty Fists of Justice!

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

The same! Surrender, von Communazi. Your nationalist socialist reign of terror is at an end!

BARON

You're wrong, Captain Phantasm! My reign of terror is just beginning!

(As BARON once again points the gun at MAYOR'S head, CAPTAIN PHANTASM invokes the Speed of the Cheetah. There's a strobe effect as everyone except for CAPTAIN begins moving in slow motion. BARON fires the gun, which lets out a long, drawn out gunshot and recoils in slow motion. The REPORTERS gasp in slow motion horror.

CAPTAIN PHANTASM, moving at normal speed, dashes towards the MAYOR and snatches the bullet from midair. With one fluid movement, he punches BARON in the face. He then returns time to normal, allowing BARON to fall to the ground unconscious.)

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

Baron von Communazi's diabolical and, frankly, ill-conceived plot has been thwarted. Like a misbehaving child, he has been caught red handed, and I have pulled down the trousers of his malevolence and spanked the bare bottom of his wicked scheme with the paddle of righteousness!

(REPORTERS #1 and #2 exchange a wary look.)

REPORTER #1

Um, that's great, Captain Phantasm.

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

The authorities will be here shortly to take this miscreant into custody. The denizens of this fine city can breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that this despicable villain is behind bars, and democracy is safe once again!

(CAPTAIN PHANTASM picks up the top hat and hands it to MAYOR.)

CAPTAIN PHANTASM (cont'd)

Your honor.

(MAYOR puts the top hat on, and picks up the scissors.)

MAYOR

Thank you, Captain Phantasm. Anyhow, as I was saying, I hereby declare the Metroville City Young Girls' School for Nurses, Secretaries, and Maids open for business. I will now take questions from the press.

(REPORTERS begin calling CAPTAIN PHANTASM'S name and waving to get his attention. CAPTAIN PHANTASM points at REPORTER #2.)

REPORTER #2

Captain Phantasm, you're widely considered Metroville City's most eligible bachelor. Tell me, is there a Mrs. Phantasm?

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

The only lady in my life is Lady Liberty, and my ongoing affair with her has completely filled my dance card. Such is the life of a crime fighter.

PRETTY

Are you sure?

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

Excuse me, Miss... um, Perfect, is it?

PRETTY

Are you sure there isn't someone special in your life? Someone that, maybe, you've been dating in secret for the past few months? Somebody you might want to consider telling the public about?

CAPTAIN PHANTASM (a little flustered)

Er, no. Nobody like that. Now if you will excuse me, somewhere in the city, injustice is happening. And I must be there to set things right. Captain Phantasm, away!

(CAPTAIN PHANTASM exits with a flourish.)

MAYOR

Okay, um, are there any other questions?

(REPORTERS begin calling "Your honor!" and waving to get MAYOR'S attention. They begin asking questions, which MAYOR ignores.)

REPORTER #1

Your honor, sources in the police department say crime is up in Metroville City, despite the efforts of Captain Phantasm. Would you care to comment on this?

REPORTER #2

There's been a sharp increase in costumed criminal activity since the Dr. Noir incident last year. How do you account for this?

REPORTER #1

Is there any truth to the rumors of a criminal organization operating here in Metroville City?

(MAYOR looks around, blatantly ignoring the REPORTERS.)

MAYOR

Okay, any questions? Any questions at all? No? All right. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen of the press.

(MAYOR exits hurriedly. REPORTER #1 and #2 follow after him, calling to get his attention. KNOX HENDERSON enters, pushing his way past the

REPORTERS. When PRETTY sees him, she turns her back to him, crosses her arms, and taps her foot impatiently.)

KNOX

Um, hiya Pretty.

PRETTY (coldly)

Well, Detective Henderson. What a pleasant surprise.

KNOX

Aw, come on Pretty. I know you're sore at me.

PRETTY

Sore? What could I possibly have to be sore about? Just because my boyfriend is so ashamed of me that he won't even tell people that we're going steady...

KNOX

You know that's not it, Pretty.

PRETTY (melting just a little)

I know, Knox. It's just... I'm tired of keeping it a secret. I'm tired of keeping \*us\* a secret.

KNOX

We don't have any choice, Pretty. I have a lot of enemies in this city, and if they ever found out that we were an item, they would use you to get to me. Your life would be in constant danger.

PRETTY

My life is in constant danger anyway, Knox. That's how we met. Remember?

KNOX

Can we talk about this later, Pretty? I have someplace I need to be.

PRETTY

Oh, that's right. You and the mayor have a top secret meeting with some military brass this afternoon.

KNOX

How did you find out about that?

PRETTY

Hello! Intrepid reporter! Any chance you can get me into that meeting?

KNOX

Afraid not, Pretty. Top secret means no press allowed.

PRETTY

But...

KNOX

Sorry, I've got to go. I'll see you tonight, Pretty.

(KNOX gives PRETTY a quick peck on the cheek, and exits. PRETTY stares after him for a few seconds, then turns to the audience.)

PRETTY

No press allowed, huh? We'll see about that.

(Blackout.)

**Scene 2**

(A spotlight comes up on the side stage, where the EMCEE stands behind his microphone.)

EMCEE

And so, as intrepid reporter Pretty Perfect plunges headlong into danger without regard for personal safety or common sense, we find ourselves at an old abandoned radio station in the heart of Metroville City, where four iniquitous villains have gathered to hatch their evil plans. What dastardly schemes lie at the heart of this sinister gathering? Let's go there now!

(Spotlight on the EMCEE goes off, and the lights come up on a long table, with four chairs on one side. Sitting in three of the chairs are LUCHADON CORLEONE, MISS KILOWATT, and DR. CALAMARI. BRAIN sits in the center of the table in a glass jar. GANGSTER #1 and GANGSTER #2 stand to the side.)

BRAIN

Luchadon Corleone, a masked Mafioso with the strength of ten men!

LUCHADON (raising his hand)

Here.

BRAIN

Miss Kilowatt, a deadly assassin who harnesses the lethal power of electricity to dispatch her victims!

MISS KILOWATT

Yo!

BRAIN

Doctor Calamari, the Ichthyologist of Crime!

DR. CALAMARI (sounding very much like Peter Lorre)

Heh heh. Present.

BRAIN

And I am the Brain, a disembodied cerebellum of pure evil, and leader of this sinister cabal.

(BRAIN laughs maniacally.)

MISS KILOWATT

We all know each other. Do we really gotta go through this every time?

BRAIN

Quiet, you! I, the Brain, hereby call this meeting to order! First order of business, I, the Brain, have finally settled on a name for our wicked organization. From this day onward, we shall be known as...

(The banner unfurls behind them. MISS KILOWATT, LUCHADON, and DR. CALAMARI turn to look at it as BRAIN continues to speak.)

BRAIN (cont'd)

...the League of Villains, Evil-doers, and Bad-guys United for Nefarious, Naughty Interests and Evil Schemes!

MISS KILOWATT

LOVEBUNNIES?

BRAIN

What?

DR. CALAMARI

It... it spells LOVEBUNNIES.

BRAIN

What are you... oh, crap.

MISS KILOWATT (laughing)

LOVEBUNNIES! Oh, that's rich. Why don't we just call ourselves CUDDLE MUFFINS? Or SCHMOOPY PIE? Or NUMMY WUMMMY POOKIE BEAR? Or...

BRAIN

That's enough! The Brain will not be mocked!

DR. CALAMARI

This is most embarrassing. How did you not see this before?

BRAIN

See? Hello! Brain in a jar!

LUCHADON

LOVEBUNNIES is not a name to inspire fear in the hearts of men. We must change it to something more... you know...

DR. CALAMARI

Heh heh. Fear inspiring?

LUCHADON

Yes, fear inspiring. Exactly.

BRAIN

We can't change our name. We already spent the money on the banner.

MISS KILOWATT

Aw, come on! We can't be LOVEBUNNIES! We're gonna be the laughingstock of supervillainy!

BRAIN

The matter is closed. Next order of business.

LUCHADON

I agree. LOVEBUNNIES is not a name for...

BRAIN

I, the Brain, said next order of business!

(MISS KILOWATT, LUCHADON, and DR. CALIMARI sort of look at each other uncomfortably for a few seconds, without saying anything. MISS KILOWATT pulls out a steno pad and flips a couple of pages.)

MISS KILOWATT

Um, okay, okay. We're still looking for a fifth member to join our ranks here in the nefarious organization of... LOVEBUNNIES.

(MISS KILOWATT, LUCHADON, and DR. CALIMARI snicker.)

BRAIN

Stop it. The Brain is growing impatient.

MISS KILOWATT

Yeah, all right. Keep your shirt on. Anyway, we're having some problems getting new recruits.

Captain Phantasm is nabbing criminals so fast these days, pretty soon there won't be nobody left what to join up with us.

LUCHADON

Miss Kilowatt is right. I heard Baron von Communazi was just arrested earlier this morning.

BRAIN

Troubling. How many does that make this month?

MISS KILOWATT

Let's see. So far, Captain Phantasm has pinched Baron von Communazi...

(MISS KILOWATT flips some pages in her steno pad and reads.)

MISS KILOWATT (cont'd)

...The Pink Panzer, Venus de Milo Flytrap, Yellow Peril, Octomom, Hotsy Nazi, Daddy Longlegs, Assassinanny, Unipsycho, Rubber Baron, and Autie Aircraft.

BRAIN

Okay, so who's on the agenda for today?

(The GANGSTERS exit.)

MISS KILOWATT

Let's see. First up, we've got... The Jitterbug.

(GANGSTERS #1 and #2 enter escorting JITTERBUG, who bears a striking resemblance to Cab Calloway. JITTERBUG struts and spins between the GANGSTERS with impeccable style.)

JITTERBUG

What's the jive, Buddy Ghee? The Jitterbug has come to play!

LUCHADON

Do you have any special talents or abilities?

JITTERBUG

The Jitterbug is smooth, baby. With a capital "smoo."

DR. CALIMARI

So, no special talents? What exactly can you bring to this group?

JITTERBUG

What can the Jitterbug bring? How about style, hepcat!

LUCHADON

Do you have any actual criminal experience?

JITTERBUG

Experience? You alligators are coming up on the wrong riff! The Jitterbug ain't here to flap the crumb crushers! The Jitterbug is here to creep out like the shadow, dig? The Jitterbug's talking about frisking the whiskers and laying his racket! You peolas must be off the cob...

BRAIN

Next!

(MISS KILOWATT shoots JITTERBUG with her electric gun. JITTERBUG convulses for a few seconds, and falls to the floor. The GANGSTERS grab him by the arms and drag him offstage.)

BRAIN

He kept talking about himself in the third person. The Brain has little patience for that sort of thing.

MISS KILOWATT

Next up is Harvey Harlequin, the Mime of Crime.

(The GANGSTERS enter escorting HARLEQUIN.)

BRAIN

Next.

(MISS KILOWATT shoots HARLEQUIN with her electric gun before he takes too many steps. HARLEQUIN convulses and collapses without a sound.)

BRAIN

The Brain hates mimes.

MISS KILOWATT

Our last candidate is Kitty Velour.

(The GANGSTERS escort KITTY into the room. KITTY places a hand on her hip and strikes a slinky pose.)

KITTY

Kitty Velour, cat burglar extraordinaire at your service.

DR. CALAMARI

Meow.

(LUCHADON glares at DR. CALAMARI, then turns back to KITTY)

LUCHADON

So, Miss Velour... do you have any actual criminal experience?

KITTY

I spent about three years henching for Dr. Noir. Got pinched by Captain Phantasm last year.  
Spent a couple of months in prison.

DR. CALAMARI

I heard about that. You were the ones who tried to poison the municipal water supply. Very impressive.

LUCHADON

You only spent a couple of months in prison for that? Did you escape?

KITTY

Let's just say I gave myself some time off for good behavior. Spent the last few months working on my criminal skill set. Oh, and making this costume.

DR. CALAMARI

Meow.

LUCHADON

(To DR. CALAMARI) Stop that. (To KITTY) So, Miss Velour. Do you have any special talents? What exactly can you bring to this group?

KITTY

Well, let's see. (She counts them off on her fingers) Cat burglar... jewel thief... escape artist...

(KITTY suddenly strikes a martial arts pose and takes out the two GANGSTERS in a totally badass move.)

KITTY (cont'd)

Oh, and I'm a master of the inscrutable arts of the Orient. (Beat) I also type 65 words per minute.

BRAIN

Well, the Brain is impressed. What say you, my cohorts in crime?

LUCHADON

I vote yes.

DR. CALAMARI

Meow.

MISS KILOWATT

Sure. Why not?

BRAIN

Very well. It's unanimous. Welcome, Miss Velour, to the League of Villains, Evil-doers, and Bad guys United for Nefarious, Naughty Interests and Evil Schemes.

KITTY

Wait. LOVEBUNNIES?

(Blackout.)

### **Scene 3**

(The spotlight comes up on the side stage, where the EMCEE stands behind his microphone. To his side stands BABS, a commercial model, who enthusiastically displays the Suckmaster 4000 vacuum cleaner as the EMCEE speaks.)

**EMCEE**

We'll be right back with more Mystery Adventure Time Theater Hour in just a moment. But first, this message.

Ladies. You know the best is always worth waiting for. When the best is what you want, you know you'll be happy with nothing else. And when it comes to vacuum cleaning machines, you know there's none better than the Aphrodite Suckmaster 4000, from Bamburger Industries.

The Aphrodite Suckmaster 4000 makes housecleaning a pleasure with its incredible sucking and blowing power. The patented Sucksational technology, with brushing and beating action, thoroughly air-cleans through the miracle of electricity. And with the optional attachments—sold separately—the Aphrodite Suckmaster 4000 will let you sweep floors, clean walls, brush carpet, dust knickknacks, control moths, paint stairs, wax cars, polish furniture, wash pets, mow grass, stir frosting, cut hair, defrost turkeys, press clothes, juice oranges, unclog drains, and scratch those hard to reach areas. It even has a built-in foot massager, so you can spend less time lounging about and more time keeping your home immaculate for your husband.

So remember, ladies. If you're looking for that perfect appliance to take the chore out of housework, nothing sucks like the Aphrodite Suckmaster 4000. That's the Aphrodite Suckmaster 4000, from your friends at Bamburger Industries.

And now, back to our program. We find ourselves in the laboratory of the Professor, a brilliant scientist who has made many outstanding advances in the fields of... SCIENCE! Captain Phantasm, disguised as detective Knox Henderson of the Metroville City Police Department, and the Mayor have arrived early to prepare for their upcoming top secret meeting. Let's go there now.

(Spotlight goes off on the EMCEE, and the lights come up on the PROFESSOR'S lab. KNOX, the MAYOR, and the PROFESSOR are all standing about front left stage, smoking cigarettes.)

**PROFESSOR**

...and that, along with his incredible physical prowess, is why Abraham Lincoln would readily defeat Shirley Temple in a display of fisticuffs.

**KNOX**

Um, that's great, Professor, but can we get back to discussing the Metroville Project?

**MAYOR**

Yes, the general will be here any moment, and I want to make sure this presentation goes smoothly.

(MAYOR turns directly to the audience and addresses them.)

**MAYOR (cont'd)**

As smooth as these Sophisticate Cigarettes. They're mild, good-tasting, and agree with your throat.

(KNOX tastes a drag on his cigarette.)

KNOX

Ah, yes. That's nice. Anyway, Professor. About the Metroville Project...

PROFESSOR

Yes. I suppose it all began ten years ago, with the discovery of isotonium. My colleague—Dr. Lawrence Cranium—and I were exploring potential uses for this exciting new element. I remember it as if it were yesterday...

(Harp music takes us into the PROFESSOR'S flashback. We see a still slide of YOUNG PROFESSOR and LAWRENCE CRANIUM working in a lab.)

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

I recall, we had a difference of opinion regarding military use of isotonium. I felt the best application of this technology would be an unstoppable robot army, powered by the unique chemical properties of this exciting new element.

(The slide changes to show the YOUNG PROFESSOR and CRANIUM, arguing.)

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

But Dr. Cranium, unfortunately, was obsessed with the idea of creating an explosive—or bomb—far more devastating than any explosive device ever conceived in the minds of men.

(The slide changes to the YOUNG PROFESSOR, storming away angrily.)

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

I couldn't sway him from his destructive path. I stormed away in anger, vowing never to work with the man again. And then... I blame myself for what happened next.

(The slide changes to CRANIUM, working on his bomb and looking up, startled.)

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

Perhaps if I had been there, I could have prevented the unfortunate accident.

(The slide changes to a mushroom cloud, and is accompanied by a deep, rumbling explosion.)

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

But sadly, such is the fate of those who tamper in God's domain.

KNOX

What happened to Dr. Cranium, Professor?

PROFESSOR

Sadly, he perished in the explosion.

MAYOR

How tragic.

PROFESSOR

Yes, the sheer force of the isotonium blast tore him apart and scattered his remains over a two-mile area.

KNOX

I'm so sorry, Professor.

PROFESSOR

His entrails were scattered all through the rubble, clinging to the walls and draped over the still smoking support beams. Those pieces of him that were recovered were little more than radioactive lumps of goo encased in black, charred flesh.

KNOX and MAYOR (in unison)

Ewwwww!

PROFESSOR

Oddly enough, his head was never recovered.

MAYOR

But what about your own work, Professor? You've spent the last decade developing these robot soldiers?

PROFESSOR

Indeed, and I'm so close to success. There's still one minor flaw in the design that I have yet to overcome. But should the military agree to fund the Metroville Project, I have every confidence that I will eventually succeed in creating an unstoppable army of automatons—or robots.

MAYOR

Well, I don't need to remind you that this project will mean a lot of money for Metroville City, so it's important that this presentation go off without a hitch.

KNOX

Don't worry, your honor. I'm sure everything will go just swell.

MAYOR

I hope so, because if not...

(BABS enters, interrupting the MAYOR.)

BABS

Excuse me, your honor, but the General and his men have arrived.

MAYOR

We're up, gentlemen. (Jazzhands) Time to sparkle!

(Blackout.)

#### **Scene 4**

(The spotlight comes up on the side stage, where the EMCEE stands behind his microphone.)

EMCEE

Meanwhile, intrepid reporter Pretty Perfect, driven by her insatiable curiosity and poor sense of judgment, attempts to sneak into the Professor's lab.

(A light comes up on PRETTY as she enters and glances around. We see a rack with several lab coats hanging on it.)

PRETTY

My reporter's intuition tells me there's a story here, but if I'm going to get to the bottom of it, I'll need to find myself a disguise.

EMCEE

Glancing around, the inquisitive investigator spots some lab coats, traditionally worn by brilliant men in their pursuit of... SCIENCE! As she rummages through them, her crafty mind seizes on a cunning plan.

(While the EMCEE is speaking, PRETTY rummages through the lab coats and selects one.)

PRETTY

This lab coat's the ticket. With this, I'll be able to waltz right into that secret meeting.

(PRETTY slips into the lab coat. She reaches into the pocket, pulls out a pair of glasses, and puts them on.)

EMCEE

Affecting a disguise as a man of science, our daring reporter surreptitiously makes her way into the Professor's lab, just as the top secret meeting is getting underway.

(Lights go off on the EMCEE as they come up on the stage. On the platform, we see GENERAL shaking hands with PROFESSOR. The MAYOR and KNOX are standing next to them. PRETTY glances around and surreptitiously makes her way to the platform.)

GENERAL

I've heard good things about your work, Professor... I'm sorry, I didn't catch your name.

PROFESSOR (absentmindedly)

Yes. If you gentlemen would be so kind as to take your places, our presentation is about to begin.

(The GENERAL, KNOX, and the MAYOR step down next to PRETTY, who does her best to be inconspicuous. PROFESSOR steps up to the podium.)

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

War. Huh. Good god, y'all. What is it good for? Absolutely nothing. Say it again, y'all...

GENERAL

Mayor!

MAYOR

Detective Henderson!

KNOX

Um, Professor?

PROFESSOR

(Snapping out of it) Hmm? Oh, yes. Yes. Sorry about that. Gentlemen, I give you... the Metroville Project.

(The lights dim, and a flickering black and white film comes on behind the PROFESSOR. After the film countdown, we see an emblem for the Metroville Project. The title SOLDIER OF THE FUTURE appears, accompanied by ominous and dramatic music. We next see an animated graphic of the continental United States, surrounded by four blank blocks.)

FILM NARRATOR

Democracy is under siege, and as a nation, we must continue to defend ourselves against foreign tyrants and dictators who would oppose our way of life.

(As the NARRATOR speaks, the first block lights up to display the Nazi swastika. An animated arrow moves from it towards the U.S. The second block displays the Japanese flag, and also launches an arrow towards the U.S. The third displays a hammer and sickle, while the fourth shows the Canadian maple leaf.)

FILM NARRATOR (cont'd)

However, with recent advances in the fields of... SCIENCE, our nation is now on the verge of being able to wage a new kind of war. A war with technology on the frontlines, keeping our American soldiers out of harm's way.

(As the NARRATOR speaks, the music abruptly switches to peppy, educational film music. We see a ROBOT standing in front of a wall. The PROFESSOR and young TIMMY are standing to either side of the ROBOT, trying not to look at the camera. TIMMY is wearing a baseball cap and has a bat slung over his shoulder, as if he just came from the playground.)

PROFESSOR

(Gestures towards the ROBOT) Behold, the soldier of the future!

TIMMY

Gee, Professor! That's swell! But will it really be able to stand up to the sinister might of our nation's enemies?

PROFESSOR

Of course it will, Timmy. This modern military marvel is armored...

(The word "ARMORED" appears near the bottom of the screen.)

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

...automated...

(The word "AUTOMATED" appears near the bottom of the screen.)

PROFESSOR (cont'd)

...and armed, with an Isotonium-powered death ray.

(The word "ARMED" appears near the bottom of the screen.)

FILM NARRATOR

That's right, Timmy. The soldier of the future stands ready to protect us from our freedom-hating foes, whether they attack by land...

(We cut to stock footage of tanks. Cut back to the ROBOT looking to the right and firing a beam from its eyes. Back to the tanks, which explode.)

FILM NARRATOR (cont'd)

...by air...

(We cut to stock footage of planes. Back to the ROBOT, which looks up and fires another beam. Back to the planes, which explode.)

FILM NARRATOR (cont'd)

...or by sea.

(We see stock footage of ships. Cut to the ROBOT looking to the left and firing a beam. Back to the exploding ships.)

FILM NARRATOR (cont'd)

Ooh, take that, Fritz! That ought to send you goosestepping back to the Rhine.

(The music abruptly switches to an orchestral version of "America the Beautiful," and we slowly zoom out on the ROBOT standing in front of an American flag.)

FILM NARRATOR (cont'd)

And so, from sea to shining sea, the people of this nation can sleep secure in the knowledge that their freedom is safely in the hands of... the soldier of the future!

(The film sputters to an abrupt end, and the lights come up. The MAYOR breaks into enthusiastic applause, but stops when no one else joins in.)

GENERAL

Very impressive, Professor. Just how close to production are we on this soldier of the future?

PROFESSOR

Ah, yes. Well, there are still a few defects to work out of the existing design...

MAYOR (interrupting)

But we're absolutely on track, and I'm sure we'll have no problem delivering these... um...

KNOX

Soldiers of the future?

PROFESSOR

Quite.

MAYOR

Right.

GENERAL

Well, then, I say we proceed. With a few dozen of these boys on the front lines, we should...

(The GENERAL is interrupted by the sound of gunfire. LUCHADON enters with GANGSTER #1, GANGSTER #2, and GANGSTER #3, all of whom are firing their guns into the air.)

MAYOR

Oh, no. Not again.

(KNOX glances around, and dashes offstage without anyone noticing. KITTY and KILOWATT enter from the opposite side.)

KITTY

We've come for the Professor.

GENERAL

What in the name of George S. Patton is going on here? Who the hell are you people?

KITTY

We are the League of Villains, Evil-doers, and Bad-guys United for Nefarious, Naughty Interests and Evil Schemes!

MAYOR

LOVBUNNIES?

(PRETTY, PROFESSOR, MAYOR, and the SCIENTISTS snicker. The GANGSTERS fire their guns into the air, and everyone falls silent.)

KITTY

Okay, like I said, we've come for the Professor. Don't nobody be a hero, and you won't get hurt.

GENERAL

Missy, I've been in this man's army for thirty-five years. I've seen more action than a two-dollar hooker at the county fair!

(The GENERAL draws his pistol.)

GENERAL (cont'd)

I didn't take 37 bullets battling the Huns on the Western Front just so I could stand here and be threatened by a little girl in a kitty cat costume! Now you tell these thugs of yours to stand down and lower their weapons, or I'll take you over my knee and...

(KILOWATT zaps the entire group. The GENERAL, PROFESSOR, MAYOR, PRETTY, and the SCIENTISTS all fall to the floor.)

KITTY (to KILOWATT)

Have you flipped your lid? We need the Professor alive!

KILOWATT

Keep your shirt on. I've got it set on stun.

(KITTY and KILOWATT walk over to the Professor, lift him up, and slap his face to awaken him. PROFESSOR snaps awake.)

PROFESSOR

Wiener dog! (Looks around, confused) Er, what? What's going on? Who are you people?

KILOWATT (brandishing her gun)

Button your yap, brainiac, or you'll get another zap.

KITTY

Just take it easy, Professor. Just come along quiet and...

(KITTY glances at the unconscious PRETTY.)

KITTY (cont'd)

Hey, I know this dame.

(KITTY walks over to kneel next to the unconscious PRETTY.)

KITTY (cont'd)

This is Pretty Perfect, intrepid reporter for the Metroville City Herald.

PROFESSOR

Miss Perfect? Really?

KILOWATT

Yeah? So?

KITTY

So, if she's here, then Captain Phantasm can't be far behind. He's sweet on her, you know.

LUCHADON

In that case, you and Miss Kilowatt get the Professor back to headquarters. I'll take care of Captain Phantasm when he shows up.

KITTY

I'm not leaving! I've got a score to settle with that do-gooder when he shows up!

(LUCAHDON turns to face KITTY. The GANGSTERS all point their guns at her.)

KILOWATT

Uh oh.

LUCHADON

(A little more empathically) You and Miss Kilowatt get the Professor back to headquarters. I'll take care of Captain Phantasm when he shows up.

(KITTY stands defiant for a few seconds, then finally relents.)

KITTY

Yeah, okay. Fine. Just try not to screw it up.

(KITTY and KILOWATT escort PROFESSOR offstage, bickering as they exit.)

KILOWATT

What are you, meshuga? You don't argue with the Luchadon.

KITTY

Oh, don't you start on me too, sister.

(Once KITTY, KILOWATT, and PROFESSOR are offstage, LUCHADON nods towards the unconscious PRETTY. Two GANGSTERS grab her by the arms and lift her up. LUCHADON gently slaps PRETTY'S face until she wakes up.)

PRETTY

(Groggily) Oow, did anyone get the number of that... (Shakes her head and glares at LUCHADON) Luchadon Corleone, the masked Mafioso! I heard you've been clawing your way to the top of Metroville City's organized crime rackets since Sunny Polito got put away last year.

But what are you doing at a top secret meeting of scientists and military brass? What's your game, Luchadon?

(LUCHADON speaks to his gangsters, ignoring PRETTY.)

LUCHADON

Keep her covered. Captain Phantasm should be here any moment now.

(GANGSTERS #1 and #2 hold PRETTY by the arms. GANGSTER #3 points his gun directly at her head.)

PRETTY

Yeah, that's right, you lowlifes. When Captain Phantasm gets here, he's gonna open a can of whup...

(PRETTY'S line gets slower as the strobe light kicks in. LUCHADON, PRETTY, and the GANGSTERS are moving in slow motion when CAPTAIN PHANTASM rushes onstage dramatically and strikes a heroic pose, with his arms akimbo.)

CAPTAIN PHANTASM (heroically)

Speed of the Cheetah!

(CAPTAIN PHANTASM rushes towards the GANGSTERS, yanks the guns from their hands, and punches them while they're still stuck in slow motion. He returns time to normal with a gesture, and the GANGSTERS fall to the floor.)

LUCHADON

Captain Phantasm!

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

The same! Surrender now, Luchadon Corleone! It's the bottom of the ninth, the bases are loaded with justice, and I'm about to knock one out of the park... of EVIL!

LUCHADON

I don't think so, you do-gooder. Your inscrutable arts of the Orient are no match for the...

BRAWN OF THE LUCHADON!

(LUCHADON flexes, and his shirt rips away from his impressive torso. He adopts an Incredible Hulk stance and lets out a threatening roar. CAPTAIN PHANTASM attacks, but LUCHADON easily withstands his blows and knocks him backwards. CAPTAIN PHANTASM climbs to his feet and waxes expositonally.)

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

By the shores of Gitche Gume! Luchadon Corleone now has the strength of ten men! My strongest blows have no effect! Still, I must try!

(CAPTAIN PHANTASM wades back in, and the excitingly choreographed combat continues. CAPTAIN PHANTASM lands blow after blow on LUCHADON, but with no effect.)

CAPTAIN PHANTASM (cont'd)

A hero is paragon of virtue, justice, and fair play. And ordinarily, Luchadon, I would be opposed to these kind of despicable tactics. But you've left me no choice.

(CAPTAIN PHANTASM kicks LUCHADON between the legs, which once again has no effect. LUCHADON raises both fists and brings them down on CAPTAIN

PHANTASM, knocking him to his knees. CAPTAIN PHANTASM is still reeling when LUCHADON draws back to deliver the killing blow. In the meantime, PRETTY makes her way to one of the unconscious GANGSTERS and takes his gun. She fires a shot into the air. LUCHADON turns his attention from CAPTAIN PHANTASM to her.)

PRETTY

(Pointing the gun at LUCHADON) Take your mitts off the super hero, you palooka.

(LUCHADON stands and faces PRETTY. He laughs and approaches her slowly.)

PRETTY (cont'd)

That's far enough, Luchadon. I'm not afraid to use this thing.

(LUCHADON continues to approach, and PRETTY fires. LUCHADON jerks slightly as the bullet bounces off of him with a ricochet sound. PRETTY fires five more shots, all of which bounce off of LUCHADON. Once the revolver is empty, PRETTY throws it at LUCHADON.)

LUCHADON

Luchadon smash!!!

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

Great sassy mollassy! Pretty's in trouble!

(CAPTAIN PHANTASM leaps up and plows into LUCHADON from behind. LUCHADON turns to face CAPTAIN PHANTASM. CAPTAIN PHANTASM throws a punch, but LUCHADON catches it. We hear some bone crunching noises.)

CAPTAIN PHANTASM (cont'd)

Strength is low! My only chance is to use the Sting of the Serpent! A quick tap to the sciatic nerve will render him unconscious...

(CAPTAINPHANTASM makes a cobra with his free hand and taps LUCHADON on the shoulder. LUCHADON glances down at his shoulder, then at CAPTAIN PHANTASM. Suddenly, he falls unconscious. CAPTAIN PHANTASM tries to strike a heroic pose, but it's obvious he has no strength left.)

CAPTAIN PHANTASM (cont'd)

Justice is a...

(CAPTAIN PHANTASM sinks to his knees. PRETTY rushes to his side.)

PRETTY

Knox, are you okay? What's wrong?

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

Just need a moment... to recover. Where's... the Professor?

(As CAPTAIN PHANTASM and PRETTY converse, GANGSTER #1 comes to. He climbs stealthily to his feet, readies his pistol, and sneaks up on the two of them.)

PRETTY

They took him, Knox. Two women. One had a zap gun, and the other was dressed like a kitty cat.

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

Meow.

PRETTY

What?

CAPTAIN PHANTASM

Nothing, Pretty. Just let me... catch my breath and we'll...

(At this point, the GANGSTER is standing behind CAPTAIN PHANTASM, with his pistol pointed directly at his head. We go to blackout just as PRETTY looks up at him. We hear PRETTY scream, and a gunshot. The words "To be continued..." appear on the screen.)

## **ACT II**

### **Scene 1**

(The spotlight falls on the EMCEE, who is standing on the side stage with the microphone. BABS is standing next to him, holding a box of Frosted Cracklin' Sugar Os. Next to her is a stand with a bowl of cereal resting on it.)

EMCEE

Hey, kids! Superheroes like Captain Phantasm agree that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. A big, hearty breakfast, packed with vitamins, iron, and calories, gives you the "Go-Power" you need to face any challenges that lie ahead. And with Gastro Mill's Frosted Cracklin' Sugar Os, you're off to a delicious—and nutritious—start!

(BABS sets down the box and picks up the bowl. She takes a bite and keeps on chewing and chewing and chewing and chewing as the EMCEE continues his spiel.)

EMCEE (cont'd)

Each bowlful of tasty and healthy Frosted Cracklin' Sugar Os contains 37 essential vitamins, as well as over 800 calories of energy-packed sugary goodness! Yes, that's right. A single bowl of Frosted Cracklin' Sugar Os contains more sugar than a bowl of sugar. Frosted Cracklin' Sugar Os also contains other important food elements, such as protein, iron, vitamin B1, bohrium, and dolomite. And with fried eggs, bacon, sausage, buttered toast, chocolate milk, and gravy, Frosted Cracklin' Sugar Os is an important part of a well-balanced breakfast.

(BABS finally swallows the bite. She puts the bowl down and picks the box back up.)

EMCEE (cont'd)

So kids, if you want to be big and strong like Captain Phantasm, then ask your parents to pick you up a box of delicious, nutritious, energy-packed Frosted Cracklin' Sugar Os. From Gastro Mill, the makers of Shredded Wheat, Liver Crunch, and Double Nut Monkey Fudge Crispies.

(BABS exits)

EMCEE (cont'd)

And now, as you recall in our last episode, Captain Phantasm had just overcome Luchadon Corleone, the Masked Mafioso of Crime. Exhausted and weakened from the ordeal, the Captain was recovering his strength, unaware that one of the Luchadon's men was stealing up behind him, prepared to ensure that his victory was short-lived. Let's go there now!

## **End of Excerpt**

For more information, please contact  
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