

ENTER DR. MAYHEM

by
D. Ross Kellett

Based on his original screenplay, OPERATION: PROM

mrkellett@hotmail.com

425-923-3923

FADE IN:

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

CAPTAIN FREEDOM swoops in. Chiseled jaw. Ridiculous red, white and blue costume that makes him look like the mascot for Fox News.

He finds PENNY PARKER tied to a support beam. Maxim Magazine hot. The latest in designer shoes and hair. A cauldron of bubbling acid is poised above her head.

PENNY
Save me, Captain Freedom!

CAPTAIN FREEDOM
Sweet Mongolian Beef! Penny
Parker... the love of my life!

Across the room, KID WONDER is also tied up, identical cauldron of acid above his head. Big with 1930's style enthusiasm. Small with muscle mass.

KID WONDER
Forget the dame, boss. Save me.

CAPTAIN FREEDOM
Kid Wonder! My youthful sidekick!
What diabolical genius would set
such a trap?

DR. MAYHEM (O.S.)
Your arch-enemy himself...

DR. MAYHEM steps from the shadows. Head-to-toe in gray with horrifying metal mask and VOICE of Darth Vader evil.

DR. MAYHEM
...Dr. Mayhem!

Crickets.

DR. MAYHEM
Doctor. Mayhem. Dr. Mayhem. We
battled three weeks ago.

Captain Freedom yawns.

DR. MAYHEM
I robbed the First Savings Bank.

Captain Freedom shrugs. Penny shrugs. Kid Wonder shrugs.

DR. MAYHEM

You threw a taxi at my face. You quipped, "Now THERE'S an expensive fare."

CAPTAIN FREEDOM

You'd think I'd remember saying something so pithy.

KID WONDER

Who cares who he is? Punch his lights out!

Dr. Mayhem waves a REMOTE CONTROL.

DR. MAYHEM

Careful now. Nobody is punching anyone, not while my finger sits on a button that will give them both a shower of boiling acid!

Penny SCREAMS. Kid Wonder SCREAMS even louder.

CAPTAIN FREEDOM

How dare you!?

DR. MAYHEM

I'm evil. We've covered this.

Dr. Mayhem's finger hovers over the button.

CAPTAIN FREEDOM

Careful...

DR. MAYHEM

What'll it be, Captain Freedom? Your girlfriend...

Penny makes kissy faces at Captain Freedom.

DR. MAYHEM

...or your sidekick?

Kid Wonder also makes kissy faces at Captain Freedom.

DR. MAYHEM

Even with your super speed, you can't possibly save them both. Tick tock... tick tock...

Dr. Mayhem LAUGHS his most evil, diabolical laugh.

His laugh is interrupted by a woman's HORRIFIED SCREAM.

DR. MAYHEM
Crap! Seriously?

He pulls a CELL PHONE from his pocket. The HORRIFIED SCREAM ring-tone cuts out as he answers.

DR. MAYHEM
(into phone)
What? Yes. Yes. No. It doesn't matter where I am. I assure you, I am most definitely NOT inside the abandoned warehouse.

Penny WHISTLES. Bored.

DR. MAYHEM
(into phone)
Alright, fine. I said fine! I don't care. Whatever. Asparagus then.
(sighs)
Love you too.

He hangs up.

CAPTAIN FREEDOM
Well?

DR. MAYHEM
Something came up... back at my evil headquarters. The time for banter is over.

Dr. Mayhem pushes the button!

Everyone SCREAMS.

SPRITZ! The remote SPARKS. Dies.

DR. MAYHEM
Crap! Seriously?

Dr. Mayhem drops the remote... then runs for the shadows.

The others watch him escape.

KID WONDER
What are you waiting for? Get him, boss!

CAPTAIN FREEDOM
No. I'd only start sweating and ruin my hair.

PENNY (O.S.)
 (meek)
 Can you untie me now?

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Dr. Mayhem bursts through the back door into the alley. He looks behind a dumpster and pulls out a BICYCLE.

He mounts the bike. Removes his helmet to reveal--

--MAX. 13. Angry kid with over-the-top spiky hair. He pulls out a mini-recorder and presses RECORD.

MAX
 Operation Double Jeopardy was a resounding failure. I have been defeated, once again, by my other arch-enemy: curfew.

He puts on a bright blue helmet and pedals away.

EXT. SUBURBIA - NIGHT

Max rides through a perfect neighborhood. Past cute houses with green lawns and shiny cars.

INT. MAX'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Max enters a home that's as quaint as the neighborhood outside. He tip-toes to the stairs.

GERRY (O.S.)
 Have a good time?

Damn. Max freezes.

GERRY and CHRISTINE wait for him on the couch. Nice, cardigan-wearing, Leave it to Beaver type parents.

ON THE TV, Penny recounts her ordeal on the Evening News.

MAX
 I plead the fifth.

GERRY
 I'm sorry we interrupted your plans, but you know the rules: no fighting superheroes past eight on a school night.

Max makes it to the stairs.

MAX
(mumbling)
Stupid rules. Stupid parents.
Stupid... stairs.

CHRISTINE
I've got some potatoes left, if
you're hungry.

MAX
Are they evil potatoes?

CHRISTINE
Mashed.

MAX
Then no!

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Max tinkers at his workbench with a canister labeled DANGER:
RADIATION.

The room is an odd mix of mad scientist and teenaged boy. A
Batman poster hangs behind lab equipment. Bookshelves are
lined with sports trophies and human skulls.

KNOCK at the door.

Max presses a BUTTON. The ceiling opens. A giant GUN
descends, powers up, and points at the door.

MAX
(wicked smile)
Come in.

The door opens. Gerry peeks in.

GERRY
Don't shoot, Dr. Mayhem. I come in
peace.

Max sighs. Presses the button. The gun ascends.

MAX
Some Dr. Mayhem I am. Called home
by his mom before anyone even
cried.

GERRY
Any screams?

MAX
(smirks)
A couple.

Gerry enters. Looks at his son's crazy experiments with pride.

GERRY
Talk to me, son.

MAX
A little busy. This bomb's not gonna make itself.

GERRY
You can blow up the world later. It's time to listen to your old man.

Gerry sits on the bed. Pats the space next to him.

Max groans. Sulks. Joins his dad on the bed.

Gerry puts his arm around Max. Then stops. Pulls back. The mother of awkward family moments.

GERRY
Did I ever tell you about the defeat of Hero Man?

MAX
Only about a million times.

GERRY
(lost in the past)
It was my first victory...

MAX
Million and one.

GERRY
I called myself the Iron Wizard and I would make the city tremble in fear! Hero Man, that muscle-bound goody two-shoes, would finally face his greatest enemy. Up until then, I hadn't even robbed an ice cream cart let alone destroyed one of Earth's mightiest heroes.

Max stares at a poster on the wall. His parents, but much younger. Both wearing crazy super villain costumes. Big letters announce: IRON WIZARD AND LADY ICESTORM!

MAX

You're both legends. Superheroes still pee their pants when they hear your names.

GERRY

Now we are, sure. But we were two-bit criminals up until the age of thirty.

MAX

You're lying.

GERRY

I wish. The first time I robbed a bank I was so nervous I threw up. Security Guard called me Captain Vomit.

Max can't help but laugh.

GERRY

You're so focused on ruling the world, you've forgotten what it's like to just be a kid.

Gerry kisses him on the head. Max recoils. Gerry pulls one of Max's hairs out of his teeth.

MAX

I hate being a kid. I hate being short. I hate school.

GERRY

School's important. No super villain is emotionally ready to destroy the world until he's suffered two years of middle school.

They both nod. He's hit the nail on the head.

GERRY

So... building a bomb, eh?

MAX

Just a little something for gym class.

GERRY
Do they still make you run laps?

MAX
Every day.

Gerry stands. Makes a bee-line for the workbench and picks up a screwdriver.

GERRY
I hate running laps.

Max is all smiles as father and son go to work.

FADE OUT.