

UP AND AWAY

A New Musical Comedy

Book and Lyrics
by
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Music
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UP AND AWAY

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN (5 ACTORS)

Jerry Jessup (early 30s): Kind, smart, but fearful man who is happiest staying put on the farm, but will stop at nothing to protect the ones he loves. Also plays *King Alien, Blind Nun, Beekeeper* and *T-Rex*.

Joe Jessup (20s): Confident, strapping farm boy with childlike enthusiasm, clueless charm, and big ambitions. Also plays *T-Rex* and *Pumpkin Head*.

Susie Dare (20s): Feisty but sweet jingle singer willing to go the extra mile to realize her dream to become a reporter. Also plays *Beekeeper, T-Rex, and Pumpkin Head*.

Player 1 (40-50s): Plays multiple roles, but primarily Ronak Fairchild, eccentric billionaire, and Mr. Malfeasance, evil genius magician. Also plays *Rebel, Announcer, Sarah Dapper Cracker, Boy Scout, Vertigo, Conrad Jackson, Beekeeper, Cab Driver, T-Rex, Newsie 1, Newsie 3, Henchman #1, Bank Teller #1, and Business Man*.

Player 2 (40-50s): Plays multiple roles, but primarily Mother Jessup, unemotional, no-nonsense farm woman, and Roxie Moron, criminal's moll. Also plays *Sarah Dapper Cracker, Blind Nun, Police Officer, Laverne, Widow Cranky, Alfred, Cat Lady, Newsie 2, Reporter, Nun 2, Nun 3, Henchman #2, and Bank Teller #2*.

Casting note: This is a superhero fantasy/fairy-tale type of story that encourages creative staging and imagining and is not wedded to any particular casting requirements at all, so we also encourage casting that embraces DEI&A efforts.

TIME: Early 1930s

PLACE: Big City and Farmtown, USA

AUTHOR'S NOTE: A superhero origin story obviously has many spectacular feats, such as flying, super-fast speed, and battles with the baddies. However, all of these actions should be staged with maximum creativity and old-fashioned stagecraft, including sound effects that can be performed by the actors themselves to great comical effect.

RUN TIME: 2 hours (2 acts, one intermission)

UP AND AWAY
MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

- MUSIC NO. 1: "PROLOGUE" (BAND)
MUSIC NO. 2: "MORE" (JOE)
MUSIC NO. 3: "DAPPER CRACKER VARIETY HOUR" (SARAH/SUSIE/SALLY)
MUSIC NO. 4: "MORE - REPRISE" (JOE/JERRY)
MUSIC NO. 5: "A NEW KIND OF HERO" (COMPANY)
MUSIC NO. 6: "DAPPER CRACKER VARIETY HOUR - REPRISE" .. (SARAH/SALLY/SUSIE)
MUSIC NO. 7: "THIS JUST IN" (JOE/JERRY/MOTHER JESSUP)
MUSIC NO. 8: "DON'T MIND IF I DO" (JERRY)
MUSIC NO. 9: "JOIN ME, WON'T YOU" (RONAK)
MUSIC NO. 10: "UP AND AWAY" (COMPANY)
MUSIC NO. 11: "GOOD NEWS" (JERRY/SUSIE)
MUSIC NO. 12: "GOOD NEWS - REPRISE" (JERRY)
MUSIC NO. 13: "ACT I - FINALE" (COMPANY)

ACT II

- MUSIC NO. 14: "CINNAMON STIX, DOG DETECTIVE" (BAND)
MUSIC NO. 15: "THE SCOOP" (SARAH/SALLY/SUSIE)
MUSIC NO. 16: "ANOTHER NEW HERO" (COMPANY)
MUSIC NO. 17: "BAD NEVER FELT SO GOOD" (JOE/HENCHMEN)
MUSIC NO. 18: "JOIN ME, WON'T YOU - REPRISE" (RONAK)
MUSIC NO. 19: "SUPER HERO" (RONAK AND COMPANY)
MUSIC NO. 20: "HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU" (JERRY/SUSIE)
MUSIC NO. 21: "TWO HEADS" (JERRY/JOE)
MUSIC NO. 22: "FINALE" (COMPANY)

UP AND AWAY

ACT I

SCENE ONE: IN DARKNESS...

MUSIC NO. 1: "PROLOGUE" (COMPANY)

On the planet Pluto Adjacent. In silhouette, we see two adult figures, KING ALIEN (PLAYER 1) and QUEEN ALIEN (PLAYER 2). Otherworldly music plays underneath.

KING ALIEN

My Queen, with the Rebels at the gate, we have no other choice. This planet is no longer safe for our prince.

QUEEN ALIEN

But to send him to a provincial planet such as Earth? Have you seen them chew gum?

A REBEL (JERRY) bursts through the chambers with a large stick.

REBEL

Death to all Royals!

King Alien pulls out a massive ray gun.

KING ALIEN

(making the ray gun sound)

PEW! PEW! PEW!

The Rebel explodes into a million pieces (thanks to the magic of silhouette).

QUEEN ALIEN

You couldn't have done that outside?

KING ALIEN

My love, if our son remains on this planet, he will certainly die. If we send him to Earth, he can stay hidden among the Beings Human. He'll blend in with those primitive creatures and their strange hairstyles. And when it is safe, we will send for him.

QUEEN ALIEN

If there is no other way....

King Alien picks up a large egg-shaped pod and holds it high in the air. Lights flash, buzzers buzz and a baby cries as an otherworldly ritual begins.

KING ALIEN

My son, prince of the great planet, Pluto
Adjacent - I send you, not abandoned, but armed
with the Gauntlets of Providence.

King Alien holds up two gauntlets
and places them in the pod.

KING ALIEN (CONT'D)

When you reach the age of virility, wear these
armaments. They will keep you safe until you
return to us once more.

QUEEN ALIEN

Godspeed, sweet prince. Know thyself and be
confident in your endeavors. Exercise caution
in the presence of those thou knowest not. And
don't eat food off a cart.

Music builds, as King Alien lets
go of the pod. It floats magically
in the air as King and Queen Alien
vanish.

The pod lands, and a figure of a
young boy stands up behind it:
legs firmly planted, hands on
hips, ready to take on the world.
As he stands firm, his silhouette
grows from a child to a proud,
strong man.

As the boy grows, so does the
majestic music, with a promise of
greatness and thrills beyond
belief. The music builds to an
amazing height. And then...

SCENE TWO: JESSUP FARM

PLAYER 1(O.S.)

Moo.

The promise of greatness is
blunted by the hard blinding heat
of reality.

Lights up on JOE JESSUP standing
in the same confident pose as the
child from the pod.

He is twenty-five years old - a strong, strapping young man with homegrown good looks and muscles.

An insect flies around Joe's sweat-drenched head.

PLAYER 2 (O.S.)

BZZZZ. BZZZZ.

JERRY enters. He is Joe's nervous, slightly older brother. With a hat, Jerry swats the bug on the back of Joe's head.

JOE

Bee?

JERRY

Fly.

JOE

Thank ya, brother.

JERRY

What the heck are ya doin' out in this sun without a hat? You're gonna broil your brain.

Jerry puts the hat on Joe's head.

JOE

It's so clear out today, I think I can almost see Big City from here.

Jerry rolls his eyes.

JERRY

Again with the Big City. Why are ya always goin' on about that place - day in, day out?

JOE

Day in, day out. That's the problem, Jer. Every day is the same here.

MUSIC NO. 2: "MORE" (JOE/JERRY)

JOE (CONT'D)

FIRST I CHECK IN ON THE CHICKENS

PLAYER 2 (O.S.)

Bwak Bwak Bwaaak!

JOE

THEN I MILK ANOTHER COW

PLAYER 1 (O.S.)

Moo.

JOE

AS I'M YANKIN' ON EACH UDDER
I THINK "THIS WILL SOON BE BUTTER"
AND I'M STILL IN AWE SOMEHOW
'CAUSE DESPITE THE ENDLESS CHURNIN'
JUST IMAGINE ONE DAY LEARNIN'
YOU'RE SOMETHIN'
THAT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN BEFORE
AND LIKE MILK TO CREAM TO BUTTER
AM I MEANT FOR MORE

JERRY

Why can't ya be more here?

JOE

More what? More of the same? Wouldn't it be
great if, just this once, somethin' new
happened today?

JERRY

Like what? A tornado. No, thank you.

JOE

Not a tornado.

JERRY

Pack of wild dogs?

JOE

Jer.

JERRY

Carnies?

JOE

Not everythin' new is bad. I can think of a
million excitin' new things.

JOE (CONT'D)

LIKE A BUS RIDE TO BIG CITY

JERRY

A bus!?!? With all those people?

JOE

TAKIN' TAXIS ONCE I'M THERE

JERRY

What tree did you fall out of?

JOE

I WILL SHOW 'EM THAT I'M SOMEONE
JUST AS SOON AS I BECOME ONE

AND THE CROWDS WILL CHEER AND STARE
 I WAS BUILT FOR CERTAIN GREATNESS
 AND IN SPITE OF MY SLIGHT LATENESS
 THEY'LL CHEER ME WHEN I BARGE RIGHT THROUGH THE DOOR
 'CAUSE I KNOW DEEP DOWN INSIDE ME
 I CAN DO MUCH MORE

JERRY

Can we please get back to our chores?

JOE

ALL I EVER WANTED
 WAS A CHANCE TO SHOW MY WORTH
 MAYBE SEE THE WORLD

JERRY

THE WORLD
 WHY ON EARTH

JOE

SURE, HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS
 BUT THE TOUGHEST PART IS
 NOT KNOWIN' WHAT WAITS BEYOND THAT HILL
 AND STUCK HERE ON THIS FARM
 I DON'T THINK I EVER WILL

MOTHER JESSUP enters with two
 shovels. She is a no-nonsense
 woman, born of the earth.

MOTHER JESSUP

Big news! We're gettin' a new outhouse. Start
 diggin'.

JOE

(frustrated)

Mother Jessup, I got bigger things to do than
 build outhouses!

MOTHER JESSUP

Enough with this Big City nonsense. I need ya
 here to protect your brother.

JOE

Why can't he take care of himself?

Jerry swats at a bug flying around
 him. He ducks and whirls around as
 if he's possessed.

JERRY

Bee! Wasp!! WASP!!

He trips over a bale of hay.

MOTHER JESSUP

I rest my case. I'm walkin' to the market. I'll be back in twelve to thirteen hours.

Mother Jessup exits. Joe moves to the radio and turns it on.

Jerry starts to dig as the radio plays. Joe stands next to the radio and listens.

BCN ANNOUNCER V.O.(PLAYER 1)

Thank you for listening to The Dapper Cracker Variety Hour. Stay tuned for The Freddy Spaghetti News Jamboree with more about the latest crime and chaos that has plagued Big City. But first, let's say good night to our favorite singing sisters.

MUSIC NO. 3: "DAPPER CRACKER VARIETY HOUR" (SARAH/SUSIE/SALLY)

DAPPER CRACKER SISTERS (V.O)
(PLAYER 1/PLAYER 2/SUSIE)

IT'S THE
DAPPER CRACKER VARIETY HOUR

JERRY

Come on, Joe!

JOE

One sec.

DAPPER CRACKER SISTERS (CONT'D)
TRANSMITTING LOTS OF YUMMINESS
FROM TOWER TO TOWER

JERRY

This hole ain't gonna dig itself.

JOE

Shh!

DAPPER CRACKER SISTERS (CONT'D)
SIT BACK WITH A LOVED ONE
AND HAVE A TASTY SNACK
WE'RE THE DAPPER CRACKER SISTERS

SARAH (PLAYER 1)

SARAH

SALLY (PLAYER 2)

SALLY

SUSIE

AND DON'T FORGET SUSIE

JOE
 (screaming into the radio)
 I love you, Susie!

SARAH/SALLY/SUSIE
 SO UNTIL WE COME BACK

SUSIE
 HAVE A DAPPER CRACKER

SARAH AND SALLY
 CRUNCH

As the Dapper Cracker Sisters sing
 CRUNCH, there is a loud CLANK from
 the hole where Jerry is digging.

JERRY
 What was that?

JOE
 CRUNCH.

JERRY
 No, this came from the hole.

Joe turns off the radio and runs
 over to the hole as Jerry clears
 the dirt from the source of the
 sound.

JOE
 Some sorta giant egg?

Joe reaches down into the hole.

JERRY
 What are ya doin'?

JOE
 I'm seein' what's inside.

MUSIC NO. 3A: "JOE AND THE GAUNTLETS OF PROVIDENCE" (BAND)

Suddenly, there is a loud PING and
 a light shoots out of the hole. A
 pair of gloves float out from the
 pod. They are magnificent gloves,
 maybe metallic gauntlets.

They magically float in front of
 Joe who reaches for them.

JERRY
 Don't touch 'em!

JOE

They're gloves, Jer. What's gonna happen?

Joe puts on the gloves. He holds them up, looking at them in awe.

Suddenly, Joe starts shaking violently as the gloves take over his body.

Joe holds them out towards Jerry.

JOE (CONT'D)

Get 'em off me! Get 'em off!

The gloves spin Joe around and drag him across the field.

JERRY

Joe!

The gloves throw Joe to the ground, and spin him in a circle.

Suddenly, his arms stretch up to the sky. Joe stands frozen for a moment, and then as the lights turn back to normal, he collapses to the ground.

Mother Jessup runs in and sees the pod.

MOTHER JESSUP

Good God. You uncovered it.

She drops down and holds Joe's head in her lap.

Joe starts to wake.

MOTHER JESSUP (CONT'D)

What happened?

JERRY

He found gloves in that egg. What the heck is that thing?

MOTHER JESSUP

It's certainly not from outer space, if that's what you're thinkin'.

JERRY

Outer space?!

MOTHER JESSUP

Fine, it came from outer space.

JERRY

When?

MOTHER JESSUP

Years ago.

JERRY

An object from outer space lands in your backyard and you just bury it?

MOTHER JESSUP

What did ya want me to do with it? Take it to the county fair?

Joe starts to sit up.

MOTHER JESSUP (CONT'D)

You okay, boy?

JOE

I'm a little dizzy.

MOTHER JESSUP

Don't move. I'll go get ya a pork chop.

Mother Jessup gets up and heads towards the house.

JERRY

(calling after her)

Mother Jessup, was there someone in that thing?

Mother Jessup stops in her tracks and spins around.

MOTHER JESSUP

You shut your mouth! There was absolutely no baby in there. And I most certainly did not raise him as my own. Now cover it up.

She ominously looks into the sky.

MOTHER JESSUP (CONT'D)

Before someone comes lookin' for it.

Mother Jessup exits. Joe stands up and begins rubbing his temples.

JOE

Jer.

JERRY

What happened?

JOE

The gloves took over my whole body. I could feel an electricity shootin' through my veins.

JERRY

I told ya not to put those things on.

JOE

God bless ya.

JERRY

What?

JOE

God bless ya. You're about to...

Jerry sneezes. Joe continues to massage his temples.

JERRY

How did ya know I was gonna sneeze?

JOE

I don't know. I just knew. Like how you're about to take a yellow handkerchief out of your pocket.

Jerry pulls out a yellow handkerchief and gasps in shock.

JOE (CONT'D)

But there's gum in it.

Jerry opens the handkerchief and gasps again at the gum inside.

JERRY

Joe, are you psychic?

JOE

'Course not.

Joe touches his temple.

JOE (CONT'D)

Wait!

He removes his fingers.

JOE (CONT'D)

No.

He rubs his temples.

JOE (CONT'D)

Wait! When I touch my head, I see five seconds into the future!

JERRY

That is amazin'. And slightly disappointin'.

Joe makes a muscle.

JOE

My whole body feels different. Like I'm invincible. Jer!

JERRY

More like possessed!

JOE

You know what this means? I have to go to Big City now.

JERRY

What? No!

JOE

All this time, you and Mother Jessup been fillin' my head with reasons not to go...

JERRY

For your own good!

JOE

It's too far. It's too mean. They'll eat you alive. Well, not anymore. I got me some magic gloves!

JERRY

I wouldn't say they were magic.

JOE

Watch this!

Joe runs around Jerry in a flash (Jerry spins, and Joe doesn't move at all).

JERRY

What just happened?

JOE

I just ran circles around ya.

JERRY

Did not.

Jerry spins again.

JOE
Did it again.

JERRY
Did...

Jerry spins again.

JERRY (CONT'D)
Please stop.

MUSIC NO. 4: "MORE - JOE'S REPRISE" (JOE/JERRY)

JOE
STOP?
WHY WOULD I STOP
WHEN THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNIN'

JERRY
Wait.

JOE
WAIT
WHY WOULD I WAIT
WHEN I CAN SET THE WHOLE WORLD SPINNIN'

Joe puts his hands out above the
radio. It automatically turns on.

BCN ANNOUNCER V.O.(PLAYER 1)
And another thing - if someone doesn't come do
something about the violence and mayhem in Big
City, we're all as good as dead!

The radio shorts out with a puff
of smoke and a flash. Joe stares
in wonder at his new gloves. This
is bigger than he imagined.

JOE
THERE'S A BUZZIN' IN MY FINGERS
THERE'S A BUBBLIN' IN MY BRAIN
EVERY GROWIN' MUSCLE RIPPLES
I FEEL LIGHTNIN' IN MY NIPPLES
AND I'M FASTER THAN A TRAIN

Mother Jessup enters and watches
from a distance.

JOE (CONT'D)
AND I'LL GO AND SAVE BIG CITY

JERRY
PLEASE I'M BEGGIN' YA JOE

JOE
SAY FAREWELL TO SHUCKIN' CORN

JERRY
JOE PLEASE DON'T GO

JOE
I MEAN WHAT'S A FELLA GOOD FOR
IF HE AIN'T WORTH WHAT HE STOOD FOR
SINCE THE DAY THAT HE WAS BORN
LIKE THE CREAM BEFORE IT RISES
JUST IMAGINE WHAT SURPRISES
ARE WAITIN' WHEN JOE JESSUP STARTS TO SOAR

JERRY
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR

JOE
I KNOW WHAT I'M IN FOR
I'M IN FOR
MORE
MORE
MORE
MORE
MORE

Mother Jessup crosses to Joe.

MOTHER JESSUP
That's the last time I go inside for a pork
chop.

JOE
Mother Jessup, please take care of my brother
for me.

MOTHER JESSUP
Who's gonna take care of me?

Jerry puts his hand on Mother
Jessup's shoulder.

MOTHER JESSUP (CONT'D)
Mercy and magnolia, it's a dark day.

Joe hugs Mother Jessup.

MOTHER JESSUP (CONT'D)
Try not to be an idiot. Don't talk to
strangers. And don't eat food off a cart. I got
turkey to jerky.

Mother Jessup exits. Joe turns to
Jerry. They run to one another.

JERRY

Two heads?

They touch their foreheads together, something they've done their whole lives. It's a source of comfort for one another. With their foreheads touching, hands on each other's shoulders, they continue.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Listen to me. We don't know where those gloves came from. Or who may be lookin' for 'em.

JOE

Aliens?

JERRY

Maybe. Probably. Just promise me you'll be discreet. Don't get off the bus wavin' your magic gloves in the air.

JOE

Jer, ya can't protect me all my life.

JERRY

Good luck to the fella who tries to stop me.

Jerry locks Joe in a tight embrace, and then runs off, overcome with emotion. Suddenly, it hits Joe. He's really going.

JOE

Can I do this? I can do this. I'm doin' this.

JOE (CONT'D)

LIKE THE CREAM BEFORE IT RISES
JUST IMAGINE WHAT SURPRISES
ARE WAITING
ONCE JOE JESSUP STARTS TO SOAR

BIG CITY
I'M ON MY WAY
BIG CITY
'CAUSE I LEAVE TODAY
ROLL OUT THE WELCOME MAT
I KNOW I'M WELCOME AT
BIG CITY
THEY'VE NEVER SEEN THE LIKES OF M...

SCENE THREE: BIG CITY

MUSIC NO. 5: "A NEW KIND OF HERO" (COMPANY)

Suddenly, a NEWSIE (Player 1), a BLIND NUN (Player 2), and SUSIE DARE storm the stage in despair.

T-REX (Jerry) stands in the middle of the street, terrorizing the citizens of Big City. He wears a dinosaur head and metal extensions shooting out from his tiny arms.

NEWSIE/BLIND NUN/SUSIE
(ad-libbing mayhem)

No!!!

BLIND NUN (PLAYER 2)
What is happening???

T-Rex chases Joe offstage as they sing.

NEWSIE/BLIND NUN/SUSIE
WELCOME TO BIG CITY
SADISTIC AND FOUL
FILTHY CRAMPED AND GRITTY
VILLAINS ON THE PROWL
HIGHEST CRIME
IN THE STATE
NUMBER ONE
MURDER RATE
WHAT CAN WE DO

MEANWHILE
OTHER CITIES MAY BE THRIVING
BUT HERE WE'RE BARELY JUST SURVIVING
WITH CONNIVING CROOKS AND HOOLIGANS GALORE

T-Rex (now played by Joe) re-enters and goes for the Blind Nun.

T-REX
Roar!

NEWSIE
It's T-Rex!

BLIND NUN
What is happening???

SUSIE
His real name is Theodore Rexel. He was the custodian at the Science Museum, until his arms were shrunk in that terrible spill in the radiation exhibit.

BLIND NUN
I'll get the police!

The Blind Nun runs offstage.

SUSIE

T-Rex, Susie Dare here. BCN Radio. Can I get a quote?

T-REX

Roar!!!

SUSIE

Can I get another quote?

The Blind Nun (now played by Jerry) runs back on with POLICE OFFICER (Player 2). The Police Officer pulls out his gun.

POLICE OFFICER

Freeze!

He stops in his tracks at the sight of T-Rex.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

Everyone step back. He's short-armed and dangerous!

T-REX

Roar!!

Newsie hits T-Rex with a rolled up newspaper. T-Rex chases Newsie offstage.

SUSIE/POLICE OFFICER/BLIND NUN

MEANWHILE

ALL OUR BUILDINGS ARE DECAIVING
AND ALL OUR NERVES ARE QUICKLY FRAYING
AS WE'RE PRAYING FOR RELIEF FROM ALL THE GORE
GONE ARE THE DAYS
WHEN A DARING COWBOY
WOULD GALLOP IN AND SAVE US ON HIS STEED

WHAT WE NEED
WHAT WE NEED
IS A NEW KIND OF HERO
HERO

VERTIGO (Player 1) enters. He is dressed as a mad scientist who holds a massive metallic staff. He speaks with a bad German accent.

VERTIGO

Behold the awesome power of Vertigo!

POLICE OFFICER

Vertigo?

SUSIE

A mad scientist hired to weaponize the inner-ear for world domination.

Susie crosses to Vertigo.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

Vertigo! Can I get an interview? What's the end game here?

VERTIGO

When my staff hits the ground, anyone who comes within twenty feet will lose all equilibrium.

SUSIE

Lose all equilibrium? That's the most insane thing I've ever....

Vertigo thrusts his staff onto the street.

Police Officer, Blind Nun, Susie drop to the floor and start rolling around.

VERTIGO

Guten nacht!

Vertigo lifts his staff and exits.

SUSIE/POLICE OFFICER/BLIND NUN

MEANWHILE

WHAT WAS ONCE SO QUAIN'T AND URBAN
NOW MAKES YOU FAINT IT'S SO DISTURBIN'
AND SUBURBAN HOMES SEEM BETTER EVERY DAY

POLICE OFFICER

MEANWHILE

NO ONE'S SAFE FROM ALL THE LOOTIN'
THE FAVORITE PASTIME'S PROSTITUTIN'

CONRAD JACKSON (Player 1) enters.

SUSIE/POLICE OFFICER/CONRAD/BLIND NUN

WE'RE ALL ROOTIN' FOR THE DAY WE MOVE AWAY

WHERE IS OUR KNIGHT
DRESSED IN SHINING ARMOR
WHO'D RIDE UPON THE SCENE TO INTERCEDE
WHAT WE NEED
WHAT WE NEED
IS A NEW KIND OF HERO
HERO

PUMPKIN HEAD (Joe) enters wearing a massive pumpkin head and wielding a scythe. He has a terrible "Screech" that is terrifying and hilarious at the same time.

SUSIE
Pumpkin Head!

POLICE OFFICER
Nope. I don't do pumpkins.

Police Officer runs away.

Conrad crosses to Susie amid the chaos.

CONRAD
What are you doing on the street, Susie Dapper Cracker?

SUSIE
Susie Dare.

CONRAD
We go live in less than five minutes.

SUSIE
I'm working on a story so you'll take me seriously as a journalist.

CONRAD
I don't.

SUSIE
Now wait a minute...

CONRAD
Do you know how many people would kill to be Susie Dapper Cracker?

Pumpkin Head chases Blind Nun offstage as Conrad exits into BCN Radio.

SUSIE
For the last time....

MY NAME IS SUSIE DARE

Blind Nun and Police Officer re-enter in slow motion panic.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

KEEP DIGGING
 KEEP SEARCHING
 YOU WILL FIND THAT SCOOP ONE DAY
 I KNOW IT
 DON'T GIVE UP
 DON'T BACK DOWN
 HEAVEN KNOWS YOU'VE GOT THE GOODS
 SO SHOW IT
 DON'T BLOW IT

Enter BEEKEEPER (Player 1) wearing a beekeepers outfit, but with two massive beehives stuck on each hand. Susie continues to look for her story, oblivious to the fact that the Beekeeper is wreaking havoc around her.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

I KNOW THAT DAY WILL COME
 WHEN SUSIE MAKES HER NEWSCAST DEBUT
 AND IF YOU THINK I'M WAITING FOR A HERO
 HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU

BLIND NUN/POLICE OFFICER

WE HAVEN'T GOT A CLUE

Beekeeper exits.

BLIND NUN/SUSIE/POLICE OFFICER

WHO WILL BE OUR HERO
 WHO
 WHO
 WHO
 WHO
 WHO WILL BE OUR HERO

Newsie re-enters.

BLIND NUN/POLICE

OFFICER/NEWSIE

SOMEONE SAVE BIG CITY
 BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE
 ANY OUNCE OF PITY
 WE'D APPRECIATE

SUSIE

DON'T GIVE UP
 KEEP DIGGING

DON'T BACK DOWN
 KEEP SEARCHING

ALL

ON YOUR HORSE
 DRESSED IN WHITE
 SET YOUR COURSE
 MAKE THIS RIGHT
 IT'S UP TO YOU
 ALL UP TO WHO
 BRING BACK THE DAYS

WHEN A DARING SOMEONE
 WOULD SAVE THE DAY WITH ONE GREAT NOBLE DEED
 WHAT WE NEED
 WHAT WE NEED
 IS A NEW KIND OF HERO
 HERO
 GODSPEED

MUSIC NO. 5A: "JOE ARRIVES AT BCN RADIO" (BAND)

The citizens move along their way.
 Joe re-enters dressed in a suit.
 The gauntlets are mostly hidden by
 the suit jacket. He reads a
 newspaper ad as he enters, and
 bumps directly into Susie. Music
 out.

SUSIE

Out of my way! I'm late!

Joe recognizes that voice as she
 exits into the building behind
 him.

JOE

I know that voice! Susie? Susie Dapper Cracker.

He looks at the paper, and then
 back up at the building.

JOE (CONT'D)

Susie, wait up!

Joe runs in after her as we
 transition to...

SCENE FOUR: BCN RECORDING STUDIO/CONRAD JACKSON'S OFFICE

SARAH (Player 1) and SALLY (Player
 2) stand behind microphones. Susie
 rushes into the recording studio.

SUSIE

Sorry I'm late!

SARAH

Are you kidding me? We go live in...

LESTER (JERRY - V.O.)

Three...Two...One.

**MUSIC NO. 6: "DAPPER CRACKER VARIETY HOUR -
 REPRISE" (SARAH/SALLY/SUSIE)**

SARAH/SALLY/SUSIE

IT'S THE
DAPPER CRACKER VARIETY HOUR
TRANSMITTING LOTS OF YUMMINESS
FROM TOWER TO TOWER
SIT BACK WITH A LOVED ONE
AND HAVE A TASTY SNACK
WE'RE THE DAPPER CRACKER SISTERS

SARAH

SARAH

SALLY

SALLY

SUSIE

AND DON'T FORGET SUSIE

SARAH/SALLY/SUSIE

SO UNTIL WE COME BACK

SUSIE

HAVE A DAPPER CRACKER

SARAH AND SALLY

CRUNCH

LESTER(V.O.)

And we're out.

Sarah immediately jumps out of
character and attacks Susie.

SARAH

Susie Dapper Cracker, how dare you be so late?
Lester almost had to go on in your place.

SUSIE

A trained monkey could go on in my place.

SARAH

A trained monkey, sure. But Lester?

Sarah exits.

SUSIE

(calling after Sarah)

And my name is Susie Dare, thank you very much!
I was out looking for a lead. All I need is one
good story, one hard-hitting exposé - something
to get my foot in the door.

Conrad Jackson enters.

CONRAD

Great show, ladies.

SALLY
Daddy!

CONRAD
Have a pickle.

Conrad shoves a pickle in Sally's mouth.

SUSIE
Mr. Jackson, if you're not going to let me read the news, how about that weatherman position?

CONRAD
I'm looking for a weather MAN, not a girl.

SUSIE
I'm not a girl. I'm a woman. And I can read the news as well as any man.

CONRAD
No one wants to hear a dame read the weather report.

SUSIE
I do! Sally does!

SALLY
Yay!

CONRAD
Well, I don't. Now scram.

MUSIC NO. 6A: "TO CONRAD JACKSON'S OFFICE" (BAND)

Conrad storms out of the studio.
Susie follows him. They move
across the hall to his office.

CONRAD (CONT'D)
Laverne!

LAVERNE (Player 2) rushes out with
a pad and pen.

LAVERNE
Yes, sir?

CONRAD
Don't let her in.

Susie barges past Laverne.

SUSIE
Mr. Jackson...

CONRAD

Laverne!

LAVERNE

Sorry, sir. I'm a little drunk.

Laverne exits.

SUSIE

It's been my dream to have my own news program at BCN Radio. I have happily paid my dues - each demeaning, belittling job here has been a necessary means to an end. And the weatherman position is one more step in my BCN evolution.

CONRAD

Evolution? What are you? A socialist?

SUSIE

Why not give me a chance? It's not like anyone else is banging down your door.

Joe storms into Conrad's office.

JOE

Sweet corn, this is a mean city! Did ya know there's a man with a pumpkin on his head?

Laverne pops her head through the doorway.

LAVERNE

Sorry, Boss. I have no idea who this man is, but I like his teeth.

Laverne exits.

JOE

Ask yourself: what kinda man wears a pumpkin on his head?

SUSIE

What kind of man wears cocktail gloves in the summer?

Joe quickly puts his hands behind his back.

JOE

Ha! There's that Susie Dapper Cracker wit I love so much.

SUSIE

Susie Dare!

JOE

Flies in the buttermilk, Jerry was right. He said that couldn't be your real name. Joe Jessup, here. Huge fan.

SUSIE

Wait a minute. Are you the one who keeps sending me his toenail clippings?

JOE

Of course not. What kind of weirdo clips his toenails?

CONRAD

Laverne?

JOE

Anyway, I came to help out. What can I do? If it's all the same to you, I'm gonna hold off on the pumpkin fella. 'Til I get my sea legs. Maybe I can start small, like takin' this little lady out for a bite to eat.

SUSIE

I'm sorry. This "little lady" made a promise: no romantic entanglements until I have my own news program.

CONRAD

Then you might want to get a cat.

Conrad heads for the door.

SUSIE

Where are you going??

CONRAD

If you're not leaving, I will.

Joe puts his fingers to his temples.

JOE

Don't forget your umbrella.

CONRAD

Why would I need an umbrella? It's a gorgeous day.

JOE

It's about to...

There is a loud clap of thunder.

CONRAD

Laverne, call Personnel.

SUSIE

Wait. What is happening here?

CONRAD

Sweetheart, meet BCN's new weatherman.

Conrad and Joe shake hands.

Conrad exits as Susie follows
after him in protest.

SUSIE

No!!!!!!

SCENE FIVE: JESSUP FARM/BIG CITY

MUSIC NO. 7: "THIS JUST IN" (JOE/JERRY/MOTHER JESSUP)

Jerry runs to the mailbox and
pulls out a letter.

JERRY

Mother Jessup, we got a letter from Joe.

Joe appears in Big City as Jerry
reads about his adventures.

JOE

Dear Jerry and Mother Jessup - Greetin's from
Big City. Big news here!

GOT A JOB I SURE COULD USE
READIN' WEATHER ON THE NEWS
I BOUGHT A SUIT
A TIE TO BOOT
CAN'T TIE IT YET BUT EVEN SO

FOUND A PLACE TO LAY MY HEAD
NEXT MONTH I MAY BUY A BED
BUT NOW THE FLOOR
IS PERFECT FOR
SOMEONE LIKE YOUR BROTHER JOE

THIS JUST IN
I'M UP AND ON MY WAY
THIS JUST IN
IT'S BETTER EVERY DAY
I GOT A PLACE TO HANG MY HAT
IT FEELS LIKE HOME
NOW HOW 'BOUT THAT
I BOUGHT A PAIR OF FANCY LACE-UP SHOES
HOW'S THAT FOR NEWS

Jerry opens a new letter.

JOE (CONT'D)

Jerry, I met Susie Dapper Cracker. Her real name is Susie Dare.

SUSIE DARE
IS REALLY NEAT
SO DARNED CUTE
AND AWFUL SWEET
PLAYS HARD TO GET
I'LL WIN HER YET
'CAUSE THEY GAVE ME MY OWN SHOW

THIS JUST IN
I'M UP AND ON MY WAY

JERRY

Ma!

THIS JUST IN
IT'S BETTER EVERY DAY

JOE

I GOT A JOB
A SHOW
A RAISE
THEY PAT MY BACK AND SING MY PRAISE
YOU SEE MY DREAMS ARE FIN'LLY COMIN' TRUE
WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU

Susie enters in a huff.

SUSIE

They're moving you from weatherman to hosting your own news program? How is that even possible?

JOE

Ronak gave it to me.

SUSIE

Ronak Fairchild? The new owner of the radio station? I've been trying to meet with him for weeks. How does a hard-working girl get a break in this town?

JOE

Why don't ya ask him yourself next week?

Joe hands Susie an invitation.

SUSIE

You got an invite to his charity ball? That's the hottest ticket in town.

JOE

You wanna be my "plus one"?

SUSIE
Absolutely not. Pick me up at seven.

Mother Jessup joins Jerry and
reads over his shoulder.

JOE
DID YA HEAR THAT JERRY

JERRY
HEAR WHAT
I'M NOT THERE
I'M READIN' THIS IN A LETTER

JOE
DID YA SEE THAT JERRY

JERRY/MOTHER JESSUP
DID WE SEE WHAT

JOE
SUSIE DARE
WE'RE GOIN' OUT
WHAT SHOULD I WEAR
I TELL YOU I'M WALKIN' ON AIR

Joe starts to float. He eventually
lands on the floor in shock.

Jerry reads a new letter.

JOE (CONT'D)
GOT SOME NEWS THAT JUST MAY SHOCK
JER I NEED YA YOU'RE MY ROCK
GET ON A BUS
WE HAVE TO TALK
I KINDA SORTA MIGHT CAN FLY

JERRY
Impossible.

MOTHER JESSUP
What?

JERRY
HE THINKS HE SORTA MIGHT CAN FLY

MOTHER JESSUP
FLY

MOTHER JESSUP/JERRY
FLY

JOE/JERRY/MOTHER JESSUP
 FLY
 THIS JUST IN
 JOE
 FIRST UP THEN CRASHIN' DOWN
 JERRY/MOTHER JESSUP
 HE'S DOWN
 JOE/JERRY/MOTHER JESSUP
 THIS JUST IN
 JOE
 I NEED YA
 COME TO TOWN
 JERRY/MOTHER JESSUP
 OH MY
 MOTHER JESSUP
 HE'S UNPREPARED
 JERRY
 HE SHOULDA STAYED
 JOE
 I'M REALLY SCARED
 JERRY/MOTHER JESSUP
 DON'T BE AFRAID
 MOTHER JESSUP
 YA HAVE TO GO
 JERRY
 I WISH I COULD
 JOE/MOTHER JESSUP
 THEN DON'T SAY NO
 JERRY/MOTHER JESSUP
 FOR JOE'S OWN GOOD
 JERRY/JOE/MOTHER JESSUP
 I'M IN A STATE PLEASE TELL ME WHAT TO DO
 THIS JUST IN
 I WISH I KNEW

SCENE SIX: JESSUP FARM/BIG CITY - CONTINUOUS

Lights out on Joe. Jerry paces.
 Mother Jessup enters with a small
 knapsack. She is on a mission.

MOTHER JESSUP

I'm off to get your brother. Stay inside while
I'm gone. Ya hear me? Stay inside!

Mother Jessup looks up in the sky.

MOTHER JESSUP (CONT'D)

God only knows what might show up next.

JERRY

You can't go to Big City.

MOTHER JESSUP

Your brother is flyin' into buildin's. And you
and I both know, he ain't about to take those
gloves off.

She starts out again.

JERRY

No, wait! I'll go.

Mother Jessup stops.

MOTHER JESSUP

You're gonna go to Big City?

JERRY

I've already lost my brother to that place. I'm
not gonna lose my mama too.

Mother Jessup hands him the
knapsack.

MOTHER JESSUP

I'm proud of ya, Son.

JERRY

I don't think I can do this. Can I do this? I
can't do this.

MOTHER JESSUP

Grow a pair and go help your brother. I got ham
to pickle.

Mother Jessup exits.

MUSIC NO. 8: "DON'T MIND IF I DO" (JERRY)

JERRY

THERE'S A VOICE
IN MY HEAD
SAYS WE'RE ALL GOOD AS DEAD
IT JUST SAID
NOT ONE PERSON CAN BE TRUSTED
AND BEFORE

I CAN BLINK
 I GET SCARED AND I SHRINK
 WELL I THINK
 THAT VOICE NEEDS TO BE ADJUSTED
 WHAT IF I GO AGAINST MY NATURE
 LET IN A LITTLE LIGHT
 MAYBE ALL THESE YEA-SAYERS
 ARE RIGHT

Jerry is off and on his way to Big City. He reluctantly climbs on a bus and sits down.

JERRY (CONT'D)

COULD I SAY YES
 SHOULD I BLINDLY AGREE
 TO WHATEVER FRIGHT'NIN' SIGHT I MIGHT SEE
 CROWDED STREETS
 IT'S POSSIBLE
 DELI MEATS
 NOT POSSIBLE
 JUST IMAGINE
 WHAT I'VE MISSED SO FAR
 BUT NOW I HOLD THE KEY
 ALL OF MY LIFE
 WHEN I'D SAY THERE'S NO WAY
 JOE WOULD TRY TO CHANGE MY WHOLE POINT OF VIEW
 HE'D SAY DO NOT SAY DON'T
 BUT TURN THAT DON'T INTO A
 DON'T MIND IF I DO

Jerry gets out of the bus and hails a cab.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Taxi!

CAB DRIVER (Player 1) pulls up.

CAB DRIVER

Where to?

Jerry starts to get in, but stops himself.

JERRY

Uh, maybe I'll just walk. No, wait.

CAB DRIVER

Buddy, do you want a cab or not?

JERRY

Yes! Yes, I do. BCN Radio, please.

Jerry gets into the cab. Jerry bounces around the backseat as the cab drives through Big City.

JERRY (CONT'D)

SHOULD I SAY SURE
 COULD I GLADLY COMPLY
 WITH THE RECKLESS RANDOM LIFE PASSIN' BY
 TAXI CABS
 IT'S POSSIBLE
 SOFT SHELL CRABS
 NOT POSSIBLE
 JUST KEEP NODDIN'
 AND KEEP DOWN YOUR LUNCH
 AT LEAST IT'S WORTH A TRY
 WHAT WOULD JOE SAY
 IF HE SAW ME RIGHT NOW
 HE'D REPEAT THOSE WORDS I RECKON ARE TRUE
 HE'D SAY DO NOT SAY DON'T
 BUT TURN THAT DON'T INTO A
 DON'T MIND IF I DO

Jerry hands the cab driver a wad of cash and hops out of the cab. He is immediately overwhelmed by Big City surrounding him.

As the Cab Driver exits, WIDOW CRANKY (Player 2) enters. She is a feeble old lady who walks with a cane. As she passes Jerry, she drops her purse.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Here, let me help you.

WIDOW CRANKY

Thank you, young man.

Jerry bends over to pick up her purse. Widow Cranky raises the cane like a baseball bat and hits him on the back of the head. He drops to his hands and knees.

She performs an amazing ninja-like spin and kicks Jerry to the ground. She grabs the knapsack.

WIDOW CRANKY (CONT'D)

Sucker.

Widow Cranky exits with one final ninja flip and is gone.

JERRY

OH
 YOU SEE
 SEE WHAT I MEAN
 THE MOMENT I FEARED HAS ARRIVED
 DUPED
 DEGRADED
 MANIPULATED
 NEVER SEEN
 SCENES SO OBSCENE
 IT'S LUCKY I SURVIVED

JERRY (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. I survived.

It hits him. Suddenly, he is filled with confidence and joy.

I SURVIVED
 I SURVIVED

OH
 I WILL SAY YES
 I WILL NOT SHED ONE TEAR
 TO GET PAST THE FEAR YOU FIRST MUST WALK THROUGH
 I WON'T SAY DON'T
 I'LL TURN THAT DON'T INTO
 A DON'T MIND IF I DO
 YES YES YEAH
 YES

SCENE SEVEN: ALL OVER BIG CITY - CONTINUOUS

MUSIC NO. 8A: "JERRY ARRIVES AT BCN RADIO" (BAND)

Conrad crosses, followed by Laverne. Jerry follows closely behind.

CONRAD

The crime in Big City is out of control. Laverne, get me Pumpkin Head on the phone. I want to hear his demands.

LAVERNE

Sir, he has no ears!

Jerry starts to exit into BCN Radio.

Susie walks out of a phone booth. She is now dressed to the nines. She bumps into Jerry, and is knocked to the ground.

JERRY
I'm so sorry.

SUSIE
You should be. What if I was carrying a hot...

She stands up and finally turns to
look at Jerry for the first time.

MUSIC NO. 8B: "JERRY AND SUSIE MEET" (BAND)

They both are caught off guard as
they're immediately attracted to
each another.

SUSIE (CONT'D)
Beverage?

JERRY
I'm an idiot. It's just that everybody walks so
fast here.

SUSIE
You're right. We do. We all walk so fast. I
always have. I'll change.

JERRY
Don't. Change. You're perfect.

SUSIE
Me? Perfect? I'm a mess. Just look at me.

She poses for a moment. Then her
demeanor changes.

SUSIE (CONT'D)
No!!!

JERRY
What happened?

SUSIE
I can't be seduced. I won't be seduced.

JERRY
Is that what I was doin'?

JOE (O.S.)
Jerry!

Joe enters dressed in a tuxedo,
but still wearing his gloves.

JOE (CONT'D)
You came!

Joe wraps Jerry in a bear hug,
which almost squeezes the life out
of Jerry.

JERRY
Can't. Breathe. Bones!

Jerry collapses on the ground.

JOE
I'm so sorry. I'm just so happy to see ya. Two
heads?

Jerry and Joe put their foreheads
together.

JERRY
(still recovering)
How did ya even know I was here?

JOE
It's crazy. I could feel your heart racin' a
million miles a minute, like it was in my own
gut. I was pulled to ya like a magnet.

Jerry whispers to Joe, as Susie
tries her best to listen from
afar.

JERRY
Must be another power from the gloves.

JOE
What kinda creepy power is that?

JERRY
What's creepy about bein' able to feel a loved
one's heart beatin'? Makes me feel safer
already.

Susie clears her throat.

SUSIE
Excuse me?

Jerry and Joe break apart.

JOE
Susie, this is my brother. Jerry, this is Susie
Dare, AKA Dapper Cracker.

JERRY
This is...Susie. Oh.

JOE

Not here five minutes, and ya already meet your first celebrity.

SUSIE

Gosh, I'm not really a celebrity. Personality, maybe. High-profile talent at most.

JOE

(to Jerry)

We're goin' to a fancy shindig, and you're gonna come with us!

JERRY

A party? No.

JOE

It'll be a hoot. It's bein' thrown by the new owner of the station, eccentric billionaire goes by the name of Ronak Fairchild.

SUSIE

He doesn't have an invite.

JOE

My invitation says "Joe Jessup plus one". "Plus one" means more than one. I can bring as many people as I want. Let's go!

ALFRED, an uptight British butler (Player 2), enters atop a staircase. He bangs a gong.

ALFRED

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, others. Welcome to "Night Among the Stars". Please allow me to introduce your host and benefactor for the evening, eccentric billionaire, Ronak Fairchild.

We are now in Ronak's penthouse, as RONAK FAIRCHILD (Player 1) enters with a flourish.

MUSIC NO. 9: "JOIN ME, WON'T YOU" (RONAK)

RONAK

THERE'S A WORLD I KNOW
FAR BEYOND THE STARS
WHERE THE RHYTHM SWINGS
WITH ITS OWN GUITARS
THERE'S A PARTY THERE

WITH MARTINI BARS
 JOIN ME
 WON'T YOU

ONCE WE PASS THE MOON
 AND THE MILKY WAY
 WE WILL LEAVE OUR SHIP
 WITH THE SPACE VALET
 AND WE'LL FIND OURSELVES
 AT A GAY SOIREE
 JOIN ME
 WON'T YOU

HAVE YOU EVER DANCED ON AIR
 WITH NO WORRIES TO HOLD YOU DOWN
 JUST KEEP DANCING
 WITHOUT CARE
 THE KEY IS DEPRAVITY
 WHO NEEDS MORE GRAVITY

THERE'S A PLACE I KNOW
 AND IT CALLS YOUR NAME
 IF YOU DIDN'T COME
 IT WOULD BE A SHAME
 AND TO GET YOU THERE
 IS MY ONLY AIM
 THE SHIPS ARE WAITING
 NO MORE HESITATING
 LET'S LEAVE BEHIND OUR EARTHLY CARES
 AND HOW
 JOIN ME
 WON'T YOU
 WON'T YOU
 JOIN ME NOW

You're a shooting star, that's what you are.
 Now let's make a wish!

MUSIC NO. 9A: "RONAK'S PARTY" (BAND)

Ronak crosses down to Joe, Jerry
 and Susie.

RONAK (CONT'D)
 Look at you, Joe Jessup. You look like royalty!

JOE
 I can't believe this apartment.

RONAK
 It's a penthouse. Call it an apartment one more
 time, and I'll throw myself off my wrap-around
 terrace.

JOE
 Ronak, this here's my brother, Jerry.

JERRY

Pleasure to meet ya, Mr. Fairchild.

RONAK

Please. Mr. Fairchild was my mother. Call me Ronak. Joe didn't tell me his brother was coming to town.

JERRY

Just makin' sure Joe settles in okay.

RONAK

In that case, you can skeedaddle back to the farm tomorrow. I assure you, Joe is in very good hands.

Alfred enters with a large gift box.

ALFRED

I do beg everyone's pardon. Mr. Fairchild, a package has arrived.

Ronak reads the card on the box.

RONAK

"With regards, Mr. Malfeasance - evil genius magician."

SUSIE

Mr. Malfeasance? There's a new villain in town?

RONAK

Color me intrigued.

SUSIE

You can't open that.

RONAK

Honey, a present's a present.

Ronak opens the lid and pulls out a bomb.

RONAK (CONT'D)

What is it? Cigarette lighter? Paperweight? Some sort of sport ball?

SUSIE

It's a bomb!

MUSIC NO. 9B: "MR. MALFEASANCE'S GIFT" (BAND)

RONAK

Ahh!

He throws the bomb to Susie.

SUSIE

Ahh!

Susie throws the bomb to Jerry.

JERRY

Ahh!

Jerry throws the bomb into the air. Joe catches it and jumps on top of it. It explodes under his chest. The only evidence is Joe slightly bouncing off the ground, and a puff of smoke.

Joe sits up with a smile.

SUSIE

Joe? How on earth could you survive an explosion?

JOE

I have special powers.

JERRY

Joe.

JOE

From these magic gloves I found in a space egg.

JERRY

Joe!

SUSIE

That's why you're always wearing those things. And how you can predict the weather! This is the scoop I've been waiting for. I'll write a story: an exclusive feature about Joe Jessup and his amazing superhuman powers.

JOE

I love it!

SUSIE

Excellent. Lunch tomorrow?

JOE

And how!

SUSIE

Once I introduce you to Big City, Conrad Jackson will be begging me to read the news.

Susie exits.

JERRY

Joe, I know you're very proud of your powers, but ya can't go around tellin' everyone. Some people might not understand.

JOE

Ya saw Susie just now? Imagine her reaction when she learns I can fly.

JERRY

Joe!

RONAK

You can fly?

JOE

I hit a lot of walls.

RONAK

This is too much. I'm dizzy, I'm shaking. (to himself) Stop. Breathe. Chant. I can't! (back to Joe) Tell me everything! But not here.

Ronak moves to the other side of the stage. Jerry and Joe follow. They are now in an abandoned warehouse.

RONAK (CONT'D)

Here.

JERRY

A warehouse?

RONAK

An incubator: a think tank where problems are solved and new ideas are born. This is so exciting! Think, Ronak. Think. Where to start?

JERRY

Where to start what?

RONAK

What indeed! He's one of a kind. He's a hero. No, bigger than a hero. What's the word? A... mighty vigilante. Is that what we should call you? Is that too on the nose?

JERRY

What's wrong with Joe Jessup?

RONAK

He needs a nom de plume: a name that tells the people who he is, what he does.

JOE

What do I do?

RONAK

What you just did. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. There are new villains like Mr. Malfeasance popping up every day in Big City. With your superhuman powers, you could be the man to stop them.

JOE

Super. I like it.

RONAK

Super, yes. Super what?

JOE

Super Joe?

RONAK

Close.

JERRY

Super Man?

RONAK

Do you mind?

JOE

Super Saver! That's it!

RONAK

No, that's not it.

JOE

It's perfect. I'm Super Saver.

JERRY

This is insane. We're thinkin' up names? We don't even want people to know!

RONAK

(to Joe)

What do you mean you don't want people to know? He can fly!

JOE

But that's the thing. I can't.

RONAK

Look at what you're wearing. Flying in a tuxedo? Whoever heard of such a thing? Take it off.

JOE

I don't feel comfortable doin' that.

RONAK

You need a sleeker form. With a jacket, bow tie, and those boats for shoes, it's a wonder you can even walk down the street.

JOE

That makes total sense.

Ronak points offstage.

JOE (CONT'D)

Who flies in a tuxedo?

Joe exits.

RONAK

I mean, really.

JERRY

How exactly are you gonna teach him how to fly?

RONAK

Specially enhanced gloves from a world hitherto unknown to this planet. Probably much more powerful in this atmosphere than their creators even imagined. I just have to help him harness their powers.

JERRY

Why are ya doin' this?

RONAK

I'm simply doing my part to make my planet a better place.

Joe enters proudly wearing nothing but his red union suit and the gloves.

JOE

I'm ready.

RONAK

Okay, let's see what you got.

MUSIC NO. 9C: "JOE TRIES TO FLY" (BAND)

Joe shoots up into the sky, but bounces around the warehouse.

JERRY

Flap your wings.

Joe flaps his arms like a chicken.

RONAK
Put your arms out.

Joe flies out of control.

RONAK (CONT'D)
Put them back.

Joe does so and flies offstage.
Ronak and Jerry watch with
concern. There is a loud crash
offstage.

RONAK (CONT'D)
I can't believe my eyes. It's astonishing.

JERRY
You call that astonishin'?

RONAK
It may be sloppy, slapdash at best, but it is
also the single most amazing thing I have ever
witnessed.

Joe runs back onstage determined,
and not at all bothered by the
fact that he is wrapped in a
clothesline still covered in
someone's laundry.

JOE
I'm okay.

RONAK
Okay? My good man, you are more than okay.

MUSIC NO. 10: "UP AND AWAY" (COMPANY)

RONAK (CONT'D)
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA
WHAT EXCITEMENT AWAITS YOU
DO YOU HAVE EVEN A CLUE
WHAT'S IN STORE
WHEN THE WORLD SEES WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF
THEY'LL BE KNOCKING DOWN YOUR DOOR
SO JOE...

JOE
YOU MEAN SUPER SAVER

RONAK
TO BE DISCUSSED AT A LATER DATE
....WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR

As Ronak sings, Joe begins ripping clothes off the clothesline. Jerry helps him.

RONAK (CONT'D)

LOOK AT YOU
WITH YOUR GOOD LOOKS AND TALENTS
WOULD YOU LOOK AT YOU
BUILT AS STRONG AS AN OX

LOOK AT YOU
ALL YOU NEED NOW IS BALANCE
AND A MAN LIKE ME
WHO THINKS OUTSIDE THE BOX

Jerry starts to take off the tablecloth that is stuck around Joe's neck.

RONAK (CONT'D)

Leave the tablecloth.

JERRY

Why?

RONAK

Trust me...

WITH THIS SUPER
AND POWERFUL
WONDROUS
INCREDIBLE
MARVELOUS STUNNING DISPLAY
YOU'LL BE UP UP UP
UP UP UP
UP UP UP
UP UP UP

Joe takes off and starts flying.
He flies with grace and precision.

RONAK (CONT'D)

LOOK AT YOU
YOU'RE UP AND AWAY

JOE

Woo-hoo!!

Joe flies out of the warehouse.

JERRY

We can't let him fly in public! The whole city
is gonna see.

RONAK

You're thinking too small, Mr. Jessup. Not the whole city. The entire world!

As Ronak and Jerry run out of the warehouse, we move to the streets of Big City.

As Joe flies, Jerry watches in amazement.

LOOK AT HIM JERRY

Lookie here! JOE

FLYIN' OUT IN THE OPEN JERRY

Whee! JOE

WOULD YA LOOK AT HIM JERRY

Look at me! JOE

FOR THE WHOLE WORLD TO SEE JERRY

Hey! JOE

LOOK AT HIM JERRY

I'm up here! JOE

I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M COPIN'
I SHOULD BE LIKE JOE JERRY

Yahoo! JOE

AND FOR ONCE LET IT BE JERRY

THIS WAS MEANT TO BE JOE

RONAK

TO SAY SPLENDID
ILLUSTRIOUS
BRILLIANT
MIRACULOUS
STAGGERING MIGHT SOUND CLICHE

JERRY

HE'S OKAY

Susie enters.

RONAK/JERRY/SUSIE

AND HE'S UP UP UP
UP UP UP
UP UP UP
UP UP UP
LOOK AT HIM
HE'S UP
AND AWAY

CAT LADY (Player 2) runs on
screaming.

CAT LADY

Somebody help me! T-Rex chased one of my cats
into a tree!

JOE

This looks like a job for Super Saver!

SUSIE

Super Saver?

JOE

It's my new name.

SUSIE

Super Saver? You sure?

CAT LADY

Excuse me? The cat!

Joe flies towards a tree, lands on
a branch.

SUSIE

LOOK AT THAT
IS A NEW AGE UPON US
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT
SAVING LIVES LIKE HE SAID

Joe flies down with the cat,
returning it to the loving arms of
Cat Lady, then runs off in pursuit
of T-Rex.

CAT LADY

LOOK AT THAT
WITH THE STRENGTH OF ADONIS
YOU CAN HAVE THE CAT
AND I'LL TAKE HIM INSTEAD

During the following stanza T-Rex
(Player 1) runs across the stage
and exits. Joe quickly chases him
off.

SUSIE/CAT LADY

HE'S A PERFECT
AND POWERFUL
WONDROUS

T-REX

Roar!

SUSIE/CAT LADY

INCREDIBLE
MARVEL WE'LL NEVER REPAY
AND HE'S UP UP UP
UP UP UP
UP UP UP
UP UP UP
LOOK AT THAT
HE'S UP
AND AWAY

As the Newsies shout the latest
headlines, we see Joe taking down
the villains in silhouette.

NEWSIE 1 (PLAYER 1)

This just in! Handsome hick helping harangued
habitants! Mysterious man makes metropolis
merry again.

NEWSIE 2 (PLAYER 2)

This just in! Super Saver saves city from
sinister sinners.

NEWSIE 3 (PLAYER 1)

This just in! I'm seven years old, and work
sixty hours a week! But let's talk about the
new guy!

Susie rushes in, followed by
Jerry.

JERRY

Ain't you done with that story of yours? You've
been followin' Joe around for weeks now.

SUSIE

I'm turning in the final draft this evening. So I guess you can finally stop following me. If you want.

Susie exits.

JERRY

I'm not followin' you. Wait up!

Jerry and Susie exit as Joe enters. MR. MALFEASANCE (Player 1) enters and stops Joe.

MR. MALFEASANCE

Well, well, well. Mr. Saver, at last we meet in person.

JOE

And you are?

MR. MALFEASANCE

Mr. Malfeasance.

JOE

I know that name. Evil genius magician?!

MR. MALFEASANCE

I see my bomb didn't kill you. Perhaps this dagger will!

Mr. Malfeasance pulls out a dagger and stabs Joe, just as Jerry and Susie enter. The blade bends. He tries again. Nothing. He tries again. Joe bends over in pain.

MR. MALFEASANCE (CONT'D)

Ah hah!

Joe stands straight, smiling.

JOE

Nothin'.

Joe disarms Mr. Malfeasance, and throws him offstage.

JOE (CONT'D)

Let that be a lesson to all the villains of Big City. There's a new sheriff in town, and he goes by the name of Super Saver.

Cat Lady joins Susie and Jerry.

SUSIE/JERRY/CAT LADY
THREE CHEERS FOR SUPER SAVER

JOE
THAT'S ME

SUSIE/JERRY/CAT LADY
THREE CHEERS FOR SUPER SAVER

JOE
Ah gee.

Ronak enters.

ALL
SUPER SAVER
SUPER SAVER

JOE
You said three.

RONAK/JERRY/SUSIE/CAT LADY
SUPER SAVER

JOE
Yeah!

RONAK/JERRY/SUSIE/CAT LADY

HE'S AN AWESOME
AND FABULOUS
FIRST-CLASS
SUPERIOR
CHAMPION SAVING THE DAY
AND HE'S UP UP UP
UP UP UP
UP UP UP
UP UP UP

RONAK/JERRY/SUSIE/CAT LADY (CONT'D)
LOOK AT YOU

JOE
Look at me!

RONAK/JERRY/SUSIE/CAT LADY
HE'S UP UP UP

ALL
AND AWAY

Blackout.

SCENE EIGHT: BCN RADIO ROOFTOP

MUSIC NO. 10A: "BACK TO BCN RADIO" (BAND)

Susie enters from the stairwell. She looks around to make sure she's alone, sits and takes a deep breath, as if trying to meditate. After a moment, Jerry enters.

JERRY

Susie? Laverne said she saw ya run up here. What are you doin' on the roof?

SUSIE

Getting some air. I need air.

JERRY

Joe just caught Mr. Malfeasance. He's holdin' a press conference.

SUSIE

I'm sure he'll do fine without me.

JERRY

What's wrong?

SUSIE

I heard back from Mr. Jackson about my Super Saver exclusive.

JERRY

And?

SUSIE

He wants Joe to read it himself.

JERRY

That's good news. A story ya wrote is bein' read on air? That's somethin', isn't it?

SUSIE

I was supposed to read it. I had a plan. Leave the comfort of Beaver Springs for Big City. Get a job in the typing pool and befriend Jenny Winegardner in Personnel. Be invited for a piece of Jenny's birthday cake, slip my demo onto her desk, sing jingles on the air, then I'd wait for Milton Schnipp to retire, take over the weatherman position and finally begin my much-ballyhooed ascent into journalistic greatness.

JERRY

Wow. I don't even know what I'm gonna have for lunch.

SUSIE

A lot of good it did me. According to Conrad Jackson, shilling crackers is as far as this road leads.

JERRY

I realize I've only known you a few weeks, but the Susie I do know, she'd find another road, or pave one herself.

SUSIE

I appreciate you trying to cheer me up, but it's just not going to work.

Jerry starts to exit, but stops, bravely turns to Susie, and sings.

MUSIC NO. 11: "GOOD NEWS" (JERRY/SUSIE)

JERRY

TRY TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE
AT LEAST YA DON'T HAVE SCURVY
FLIP THE COIN TO THE RIGHT SIDE
YOUR FEET AIN'T SO BIG
THERE ARE PEOPLE ABOUT
WITH SEVERE BOUTS OF GOUT
WHO WOULD KILL TO FILL YOUR SHOES
THINGS AREN'T GREAT
BUT COULD BE WORSE
AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS

SUSIE

At least I don't have scurvy?

JERRY

Ya don't, do ya? Do ya? Ya don't. That ya know of.

JERRY (CONT'D)

TRY TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

SUSIE

I'VE NEVER OWNED A POODLE

JERRY

FLIP THE COIN TO THE RIGHT SIDE

SUSIE

I HAVE ALL MY TEETH

JERRY

ON THE STREET THERE ARE BUMS
WHO MUST CHEW WITH THEIR GUMS
WHO CAN'T SPEAK AND REEK OF BOOZE
THINGS AREN'T GREAT

JERRY/SUSIE
 BUT COULD BE WORSE
 AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS

SUSIE
 FLOOD AND FAMINE

JERRY
 PLAGUE AND PESTILENCE

JERRY/SUSIE
 BANGING DOWN OUR DOOR

SUSIE
 DO YOU EVEN KNOW
 WHAT A PESTILENCE IS

JERRY
 NOPE
 THAT'S ONE MORE THING
 TO BE GRATEFUL FOR

JERRY/SUSIE
 TO BE GRATEFUL FOR
 TRY TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

SUSIE
 THERE'S SOMETHING 'ROUND THE CORNER

JERRY/SUSIE
 FLIP THE COIN TO THE RIGHT SIDE

JERRY
 YOU'LL TURN AND YOU'LL FIND
 WAITIN' JUST OUT OF SIGHT

JERRY/SUSIE
 LIFE CAN CHANGE OVERNIGHT
 AND WE'VE SURELY PAID OUR DUES

SUSIE
 THINGS AREN'T GREAT

JERRY
 BUT COULD BE WORSE

JERRY/SUSIE
 AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS

SUSIE
 FAME AND FORTUNE OR LOVE

JERRY
 WHY NOT ALL THE ABOVE

JERRY/SUSIE
IT'S ALL THERE FOR YOU TO CHOOSE

JERRY
AND THAT'S NOT GOOD

SUSIE
THAT'S GREAT

JERRY/SUSIE
NEWS

Jerry and Susie lean in to kiss.
Suddenly, Joe pops up from the
side of the building. He floats in
the air as he talks.

JOE
Howdy!

JERRY
Joe, hey.

JOE
Press conference is startin'. Believe me, you
are not gonna want to miss this.

JERRY
We were just on our way.

JOE
Well, let's go. Ma'am?

Joe offers his hand to Susie.

SUSIE
Really?

JOE
It beats the heck outta the stairs.

She stands on the ledge and takes
his hand.

JOE (CONT'D)
Jerry?

JERRY
Nope. I'm fine, thanks. Stairs are good. Love
stairs.

JOE
Suit yourself. Next stop: the ground.

Joe and Susie disappear over the
side of the building.

Jerry watches in terror for a second, then sits down on the ledge.

MUSIC NO. 12: "GOOD NEWS - REPRISE" (JERRY)

JERRY

TRY TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE
WE HAD A CONVERSATION
FLIP THE COIN TO THE RIGHT SIDE
SHE'S NICE AS CAN BE
BUT YOU CAME HERE FOR JOE
SO YOU'D BEST LET IT GO
YOU'VE NO PRAYER WITH SUSIE DARE
THINGS AREN'T GREAT
BUT COULD BE WORSE...

He smiles, proud of himself for a brief moment and exits through the stairwell as we transition to...

SCENE NINE: OUTSIDE BCN RADIO

MUSIC NO. 12A: "THE PRESS CONFERENCE" (BAND)

Joe stands atop a platform, speaking to the gathered crowd in front of him. He holds Mr. Malfeasance by his collar. Jerry enters, and he and Susie watch from the side. A REPORTER (Player 2) takes notes.

JOE

Citizens of Big City, you can now rest easy. With the arrest of Pumpkin Head, Beekeeper and at last, Mr. Malfeasance, I can assure ya that all the villains in this metro place have been put behind bars.

The crowd erupts into cheers.

REPORTER

Super Saver, you put your life in danger on a daily basis. Why? Why do you do it?

JOE

Why do I do it? I'll tell ya why. That little lady right there. Girl goes by the name of Susie Dapper Cracker.

SUSIE

Susie Dare.

JOE

That's what I meant. Gosh, I wasn't plannin' on doin' this in front of everyone, but what the heck.

Joe gets down on one knee.

MUSIC NO. 12B: "THE PROPOSAL" (BAND)

SUSIE

What is happening?

MR. MALFEASANCE

(squealing like a little girl)

Oh my God, he's proposing!

JOE

Don't spoil it.

SUSIE

Seriously?

JOE

Mr. Malfeasance is right. You don't know me from Adam, but these past few weeks have been the best time of my life.

SUSIE

Please, stand up.

JOE

Not 'til I get my answer.

SUSIE

Joe, any girl would be lucky to be married to someone like you. God, our kids. Can you imagine? But you're right. I hardly know you. And you know even less about me. I'm sorry, but the answer is no.

MR. MALFEASANCE

Tough luck, Loser. Smoke bomb!

Mr. Malfeasance throws a smoke bomb. It fizzles out. Humiliated, he runs away.

SUSIE

Are you going after him?

JOE

What's the point?

SUSIE

I'm sorry.

Susie rushes away. Jerry runs out after her. Joe is dumbfounded. Suddenly, he's smacked in the face with reality as the Reporter rushes to him.

REPORTER

How does it feel to be humiliated in front of the entire city? Don't you wish you proposed in private?

Lights down on a deflated Joe. As we move to...

SCENE TEN: BACK ALLEY

Susie darts down the back alley, furious. She turns just as Jerry catches up to her.

JERRY

Susie, wait.

SUSIE

Did you know he was going to propose?

JERRY

Of course not.

SUSIE

Who does he think he is?

JERRY

Super Saver. Most beloved man in all of Big City.

SUSIE

Well, I'm not interested. My mind is somewhere else. You follow?

JERRY

Yes. No.

SUSIE

Jerry, think. Look at me. Remember, the roof just a few minutes ago? Why do you think I turned down your brother?

Jerry thinks for a moment. A light bulb goes off.

JERRY

Oh!

SUSIE

Are we on the same page?

JERRY

Your career. You don't want romance to get in the way of the news. I get it.

SUSIE

I'm not interested in Joe because I am drawn to someone else.

JERRY

Oh! Conrad Jackson?

SUSIE

Nope.

JERRY

Ronak?

SUSIE

Seriously.

JERRY

Laverne?

Susie lays a big kiss on Jerry.
After a moment, they break apart.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Oh!

He lays a bigger kiss on her.

Suddenly, Joe screams from offstage.

JOE

Noooooo!

Joe flies into the alley holding his temples.

JERRY

Joe, it didn't mean anything. It was an accident, I...

SUSIE

Accident?

Joe turns to Susie.

JOE

This is why ya turned down my proposal?

SUSIE

Of course not.

JOE

(to Jerry)

And why you was always followin' us around?

JERRY

You got it all wrong.

JOE

After everything I've done, this is how ya repay me? What an idiot I've been!

MUSIC NO. 13: "ACT I - FINALE" (COMPANY)

JOE (CONT'D)

ALL I EVER WANTED
WAS A CHANCE TO SHOW MY HEART
BUT OUR LOVED WAS DOOMED
YES DOOMED
FROM THE START
WHAT'S A FELLA GOOD FOR
AFTER ALL HE STOOD FOR
TURNED OUT TO BE SUCH A PACK OF LIES

Joe runs off. Lights up on Newsie
2 (Player 2).

NEWSIE 2

Extra, extra! Super Saver super sucks! Broken-
hearted dreamboat turns his good deeds into a
reign of annoying misdemeanors.

Lights up on BCN Radio. Susie
watches as Conrad Jackson paces.

CONRAD

I knew I shouldn't have given a no-nothing rube
his own show. I've got an hour to fill. Now
what am I going to do?

SUSIE

Mr. Jackson, I can do it.

CONRAD

I already told you - no girlie is going to read
the news.

SUSIE

Would you rather have an hour of dead air?

Conrad is trapped.

CONRAD

This one time. And that's it!

SUSIE

I won't let you down. I promise!

Lights up on another part of town.
The Blind Nun (Player 2) runs on
with her two sisters NUN 2 and NUN
3 (puppets on each arm of Player
2).

BLIND NUN 2
Somebody help!

BLIND NUN 3
Super Saver stole five dollars from the
offering plate.

BLIND NUN
And ate all of Christ!

The nuns runs off as Joe enters.
He stands outside Big City Jail.

JOE
THIS JUST IN
BIG CITY BEST BEWARE

Lights up on Susie in the
recording studio.

SUSIE
THIS JUST IN
YOU'RE LIVE WITH SUSIE DARE

JOE
DID WHAT I COULD

SUSIE
HE'S SO IRATE

JOE
BUT WHY BE GOOD
THIS FEELS TOO GREAT

Joe rips open the jail bars wide
open.

JOE (CONT'D)
Villains of Big City! You're free! Ha Ha Ha!

Beekeeper (Jerry), Vertigo (Player
1) and Widow Cranky (Player 2) run
out of the jail.

BEEKEEPER/VERTIGO/WIDOW CRANKY
THREE JEERS FOR SUPER SAVER

JOE
That's me!

BEEKEEPER/VERTIGO/WIDOW CRANKY
WE'RE PEERS WITH SUPER SAVER

JOE

Now flee!

BEEKEEPER/VERTIGO/WIDOW CRANKY

SUPER SAVER
SUPER SAVER
SUPER SAVER

Vertigo and Beekeeper run off to wreak havoc. As T-Rex (Susie Dare) exits from the jail, he carries a dummy of Pumpkin Head with him. Joe and Widow Cranky laugh maniacally as they run off in different directions.

T-REX

Roar!

PUMPKIN HEAD (JOE - OFFSTAGE)

Screech!!

T-Rex and Pumpkin Head run off after them. Lights up on Ronak's penthouse. Jerry rushes in to talk to Ronak.

JERRY

Ronak, ya gotta help us. Joe's released all the villains back onto the streets. He's lost his mind.

RONAK

Of course he has. Susie publicly shuns him, then makes mad passionate love to his brother.

JERRY

That is not what happened!

RONAK

Details. Blah! He's devastated. You should just leave while you still can. Take my car. Take my plane. Just go and never come back.

Suddenly, Joe flies into the apartment, crashing through the window. Getting tangled in the drapes, Joe rips a drape panel from the window.

JOE

What's this? First ya steal my girl, and now my best pal.

RONAK

Joe, let's sit down and discuss this like rational adults who don't destroy brand new drapes.

JOE

I came here because I thought you'd understand, but obviously this no-good, lyin' backstabber got to ya first.

Joe starts to leave. Jerry grabs Joe's arm.

JERRY

Joe.

JOE

Stay away from me!

Joe pushes Jerry back. As soon as he pushes him, Joe runs out, devastated. He doesn't even look back to realize that the force of his strength has pushed Jerry through the window. Nor does he realize that Jerry has pulled off one of his gloves.

JERRY

No!!!

Ronak runs towards the window as Jerry falls out of sight. We hear his scream fade as he falls twenty stories.

RONAK

Jerry!

Ronak runs offstage as he screams.

RONAK (CONT'D)

Someone help! Super Saver killed his own brother!

After he is gone, a gloved fist appears outside the window. The glove rises into view. Jerry's hand is in the glove, as it lifts him higher and higher.

He hovers in the window, terror in his eyes, as he realizes he has the same superpowers as his brother.

END OF ACT I

ACT II**SCENE ONE: BCN RECORDING STUDIO****MUSIC NO. 14: "CINNAMON STIX, DOG DETECTIVE" (BAND)**

As lights fade, dramatic music fills the theater. Finally, in darkness, the music transitions to a radio on stage, and finally....

BCN RADIO ANNOUNCER (PLAYER 1)

And so...our beloved hero is perched on a precipice. With the winds of change on his tail, and the scent of a brighter future wafting over the horizon, he must choose. Love or loss? Win or lose? Life or death? What will become of our champion? Will evil conquer goodness once and for all? Or will our four-legged pooch save the day in time for supper? Tune in tomorrow for Episode Three of "Cinnamon Stix, Dog Detective". Up next, BCN Radio is proud to present our newest and most talked-about news program - "The Scoop with Susie Dare"....

Lights up on BCN Radio.

The Dapper Cracker Sisters stand around a microphone. Susie proudly stands in the middle.

MUSIC NO. 15: "THE SCOOP" (SARAH/SALLY/SUSIE)

SALLY/SARAH/SUSIE

WHO'S THE GAL WITH THE LATEST SCOOP
ON THE TRAIL FOR THE HOTTEST NEWS
WHO'S THE GAL WHO WILL STOOP TO SNOOP
FOR A SCOOP FULL OF TIPS AND REVIEWS
WITH NEWS THIS HOT
COOL THE FAMILY DOWN
TRY A TREAT YOU ALL CAN SHARE
WELCOME TO
GRANDMA TAWNY'S
OLD-FASHIONED
HOMEMADE
ICE CREAM
SUNDAE
SCOOP
WITH SUSIE DARE

Susie steps downstage with pride.

SUSIE

That's me!

Sally and Sarah exit, disgusted.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

Susie Dare here, and have I got the scoop for you: the latest in serious, in-depth journalism that I'm enjoying with a delicious bowl of Grandma Tawny's Rocky Road Ice Cream.

As Susie talks, we transition to the next scene...

SCENE TWO: UNDERGROUND SEWER HIDEOUT/BCN RADIO/BIG CITY STREETS

An underground sewer hideout has been set up for a meeting, complete with folding chairs. A radio plays in the corner of the room.

T-Rex (Jerry) enters. He sits in the front row next to Widow Cranky (Player 2), holding a dummy form of Pumpkin Head. Vertigo (Player 1) enters and sits in the back row. Joe enters and makes his way to the podium.

SUSIE

Tonight's headline: Super Saver Sabotage! Two weeks ago, Super Saver released all the villains from prison, and set them free to terrorize our city once again. Who in their right mind would release such depraved animals into our fair community?

Joe turns off the radio. Lights out on Susie.

JOE

"Animals"? I'll show her "animals". Everybody pipe down. May the meetin' of the "Chaos and Disorder Order" please come to order?

WIDOW CRANKY

Who put the greenhorn in charge?

JOE

The guy who broke you out of prison, that's who. Roll call. T-Rex?

T-REX

Present.

JOE

Pumpkin Head?

PUMPKIN HEAD (SUSIE - OFFSTAGE)
Screech!!

JOE
 Widow Cranky?

WIDOW CRANKY
 What?

JOE
 Vertigo?

VERTIGO
 Ja.

Vertigo places his staff on the ground. Everyone except Joe falls off their chairs and onto the floor, dizzy. After a moment, Vertigo realizes his mistake and lifts it. Everyone crawls back up into their chairs.

WIDOW CRANKY
 For the last time, would you keep that blasted staff at home?

JOE
 Guys, please. I got some really great ideas on how we can terrorize the city.

Beekeeper (Susie) rushes in, still in his regalia, complete with active hives on both hands.

BEEKEEPER
 Sorry I'm late. Parking. Am I right?

Beekeeper sits. Joe addresses the crowd.

JOE
 Okay, listen up. You just heard what Susie Dare said. She called us "animals". Are we gonna let her get away with that?

T-REX
 Technically, I am an animal.

JOE
 Not helpin'!

BEEKEEPER
 I'd like to see Susie Dare up against a real animal. See how she likes that!

WIDOW CRANKY

Jesus on a tandem bike, that's it! We should release all the animals from the zoo, and onto the streets of Big City!

T-REX

Love it!

JOE

Wait! No, we should not do that! Let's really hit 'em where they live. We'll knock on the mayor's front door and run away!

Silence as everyone stares at Joe in silent scorn.

BEEKEEPER

To the zoo!

JOE

Wait! Animals runnin' amok through the city. That's gonna hurt a lot of people!

WIDOW CRANKY

That's the goal, cowpoke. Little Miss Smarty Pants thinks we're a bunch of animals. Let's see how well Big City does against the real thing.

Everyone cheers!

MUSIC NO. 16: "ANOTHER NEW HERO" (COMPANY)

WIDOW CRANKY (CONT'D)

LIONS ON THE LAM
PANTHERS ON PARADE
ZEBRAS ON THE TRAM
PUMAS PROMENADE
VENGEANCE HAS BEEN PAID
AND IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING

As they sing, they make their way to the zoo, followed by Joe, who is trying to discourage them.

BEEKEEPER

MONGOOSE ON THE LOOSE
HIPPOS CRUSHING CARS

T-REX

RHINOS DROP A DEUCE
IN THE RESERVOIRS

VERTIGO
 LOCKED BEHIND THOSE BARS
 HOW MY WHOLE WORLD VAS SPINNING

JOE
 Guys, please...

T-REX/BEEKEEPER/VERTIGO/WIDOW
 CRANKY
 BUT WE'RE FIN'LLY BACK IN BUSINESS
 ON THE MAKE WHERE WE BELONG
 WHILE BIG CITY SLEEPS
 FEELING SAFE FOR KEEPS
 THEY COULD NOT BE MORE WRONG

They arrive at the zoo gates. Joe stands in front of the gate.

JOE
 Oh my Gosh, let's T.P. the court house. They will not know what hit 'em.

WIDOW CRANKY
 You're either with us or against us!

PUMPKIN HEAD
Screech!!

JOE
 I'm with ya, but this is too much.

WIDOW CRANKY
 Then stand back, and leave it to the professionals.

Widow Cranky pushes Joe aside, and T-Rex rips the gates to the zoo open. We hear a cacophony of animals howling and roaring as the villains run inside. Joe runs away from the zoo.

Lights up on Susie.

SUSIE
 (into her microphone)
 Susie Dare here. Unbelievable events are happening on the streets of Big City. And we are bringing you the breaking news in unprecedented real time. I have our own secretary, Laverne, out on the street and on the phone!

Susie speaks to Laverne on the phone, while still speaking into the mike.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

Laverne, where are you?

Lights up on Laverne on a pay phone.

LAVERNE

I'm not in a bar, if that's what you're thinking.

SUSIE

Just tell us: what do you see?

Laverne sings as Susie echoes her.

LAVERNE

PANDAS IN THE PARK

SUSIE

PANDAS IN THE PARK

LAVERNE

PLUS A KANGAROO

SUSIE

PLUS A KANGAROO

LAVERNE

LOOKS LIKE NOAH'S ARK

SUSIE

NOAH'S ARK

LAVERNE

COUNT 'EM TWO BY TWO

SUSIE

TWO BY TWO

LAVERNE/SUSIE

THEREFORE TO REVIEW

WE ARE KNEE DEEP IN TROUBLE

Laverne hangs up the phone. Lights out on Susie.

Jerry runs on with great urgency. He holds the lone glove, but carries it as if it were contaminated. When he sees Laverne, he shoves it in his back pocket.

LAVERNE

Jerry, where's your brother? He's the only one cute enough to stop this.

JERRY
I'm afraid he ain't interested.

LAVERNE
Then can YOU do something? I'm too drunk to die!

Laverne exits.

JERRY
WHAT THEY NEED IS SOMEONE STEADFAST
SOMEONE BRAVE AND STOUT AND STRONG
IF SHE THINKS THAT'S ME
I CAN GUARANTEE
SHE COULD NOT BE MORE WRONG

Laverne enters with a sloth wrapped around her face. She flails about, blinded by the sloth, but does not let go of her martini glass.

LAVERNE
WHAT WE NEED
WHAT WE NEED
IS ANOTHER NEW HERO
HERO

JERRY
Stand still.

Jerry reluctantly puts on the glove, and easily pulls off the sloth. He holds it at a distance. This is his worst nightmare.

LAVERNE
Thank you!

JERRY
(panicked about being found out)
It wasn't me! I have no idea who it was.

Jerry throws the sloth offstage.

LAVERNE
Wait! I could have made a coat out of that!

Conrad runs across the stage holding handfuls of snakes.

CONRAD
Do something!

Jerry is paralyzed as he hears the pleas of citizens all around him.

He wipes his sweaty brow with his handkerchief.

LAVERNE

WHAT WE NEED IS ANOTHER NEW HERO

SUSIE

WHAT WE NEED IS ANOTHER NEW HERO

CONRAD

WHAT WE NEED IS ANOTHER NEW HERO

CITIZENS OF BIG CITY

HERO

HERO

HERO

HERO

Jerry notices the handkerchief, and wraps it over his face like a bank robber. He exits, finally determined to act.

SUSIE

(into the microphone)

Susie Dare here. This just in: After the villains released all of the animals from the zoo, someone new arrived on the scene. This mystery man is actually corralling the animals and leading them away from Big City!

JERRY (O.S.)

YIP YOO!!! YIP YOO!!

Lights up on Jerry, directing unseen animals like a manic traffic director . He still wears the handkerchief over his face cleverly disguising his identity.

JERRY (CONT'D)

HOW DID YA END UP HERE
PLAYING RED ROVER WITH AN ELEPHANT
HOW DID YA END UP HERE
PRAYIN' NOBODY SEES
YOU'RE ALLERGIC TO BEES
AND CHIMPANZEES
AND SHRIMP
AND DUST
AND GRASS AND TREES

YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO DO THIS
BUT YA JUST FOUND OUT YA DO
SO DO IT
GET TO IT
THEN THIS HERO BUSINESS IS THROUGH

TO THE ZOO

Jerry runs offstage as he continues to corral the animals. Lights out on Jerry and up on Susie.

SUSIE

And just when you think this mysterious stranger could not get any braver, he's turned the animals onto the villains themselves.

Lights up on the villains running in place downstage as glimpses of animals chase them from behind. Vertigo (Player 1), Widow Cranky (Player 2), T-Rex (Joe), Pumpkin Head (Dummy held by Widow Cranky).

VERTIGO/WIDOW CRANKY/T-
REX/PUMPKIN HEAD

TIGERS ON OUR TAIL
NIPPING AT OUR HEELS
LEOPARDS ON THE TRAIL
CHASED BY KILLER SEALS
THIS IS HOW IT FEELS
WHEN ONE NEEDS A NEW HERO

Jerry closes a gate on the villains. He is exhausted, terrified, and done.

JERRY

WHAT YOU NEED IS SOMEONE STEADFAST
SOMEONE BRAVE AND STOUT AND STRONG
IF THEY LOOK AT ME
IF THAT'S WHAT THEY SEE

VILLAINS

WHO IS HE

JERRY

THEY COULD NOT BE

VILLAINS

WE COULD NOT BE

ALL

MORE WRONG

SCENE THREE: BAR

Joe sits at the bar and nurses his wounds. He still only wears one glove.

JOE

Gimme another soda pop. And this time, no ice.

He pushes an empty glass towards the unseen bartender. Jerry enters.

JERRY

Joe.

JOE

I'll take that soda to go.

Jerry pulls the glove from his back pocket, and starts to give it to Jerry, but on second thought...

JERRY

What happened to your other glove? Did ya misplace it?

JOE

No, I didn't misplace it. I just don't need 'em both. And I don't have to answer to you!

Jerry returns the glove to his back pocket.

JERRY

There's a new vigilante out there. He's stopped every one of the villains ya let loose. Maybe you'll have to answer to him.

JOE

I don't answer to nobody anymore. Back in Farmtown, all I was good for was milkin' cows and shovelin' manure. Not anymore. Last week, a fella bowed when he saw me. He bowed, Jerry. That's the kind of respect Super Saver deserves.

JERRY

You don't save anyone anymore! Why do ya still call yourself that?

JOE

I had things monogrammed!

Cat Lady runs into the bar.

CAT LADY

Super Saver! My kitten is stuck up a tree again. Somebody help me!

Joe immediately jumps up with concern.

JOE

Oh no, poor little....

He stops himself.

JOE (CONT'D)

Have you been livin' under a rock? I don't do that anymore.

JERRY

I'll help ya, ma'am.

JOE

You? What are you gonna to do?

JERRY

I'll do what I can. 'Cause that's how we were raised. It would break Mother Jessup's heart if she saw ya like this.

CAT LADY

Punk.

Jerry and Cat Lady exit.

JOE

That's a low blow, draggin' Mother Jessup into this. Where's my drink?

Mr. Malfeasance pops up the bar holding an ominous-looking goblet.

MR. MALFEASANCE

This one's on the house.

Joe turns and sees Mr. Malfeasance.

MR. MALFEASANCE (CONT'D)

But do be careful. It's got quite a kick. Mwah ha ha ha!

JOE

(annoyed)

Not now Mr. Malfeasance.

MR. MALFEASANCE

Poor Mr. Saver. Are you sad because your despicable friends are in the clink, and it's all your fault?

JOE

I didn't lock 'em up. I don't know who it was, but when I find out...

MR. MALFEASANCE

Let me stop you there. Word on the street is you weren't up to the challenge. You bailed. Now they're all behind bars, and you're sitting at one. Perhaps I can interest you in something... stronger.

Mr. Malfeasance offers Joe the goblet.

JOE

How did you manage to not get arrested?

MR. MALFEASANCE

Silly child, I was sent to Big City to see that you were kept from living up to your full potential, not to release peacocks on the El.

JOE

Sent? Who sent you?

MR. MALFEASANCE

Let's save that tidbit for the moment just before I kill you.

JOE

With that poisoned goblet you're holdin'? I don't know what you're worse at: magic or murder.

MR. MALFEASANCE

Glass houses, Josephine. If you had let henchmen do your dirty work in the first place, none of this would have happened.

JOE

Henchmen?

MR. MALFEASANCE

No one takes a villain seriously unless he has nameless nobodies to do the heavy lifting. No wonder you're the laughing stock.

JOE

I am not a laughin' stock. I'm just gettin' started. Spread the word.

MR. MALFEASANCE

I will spread the word, perhaps with this live carrier pigeon!

Mr. Malfeasance dramatically whips a pigeon from his closed fist. He releases it to fly. It drops to the floor, dead.

Mr. Malfeasance kicks the pigeon offstage and exits.

MR. MALFEASANCE (CONT'D)

(under his breath, re: the pigeon)

He was a friend.

Mr. Malfeasance is gone.

JOE

What does he mean? No one takes me seriously as a villain? This is who I am now. This is who I was always meant to be. And it feels great!

MUSIC NO. 17: "BAD NEVER FELT SO GOOD" (JOE/HENCHMEN)

JOE (CONT'D)

WE'RE TAUGHT TO HOLD THE DOOR
BUT I BARGE RIGHT THROUGH
BAD NEVER FELT SO GOOD

HAVE YOU HAD POP BEFORE
I CHUGGED DOWN A FEW
BAD NEVER FELT SO GOOD

I TRIED MY HAND AT BEIN' HANDY
I MESSED AROUND WITH NICE
BUT NOW I'VE SEEN BOTH KIND AND MEAN
AND SO NICE IS NO DICE

I'LL ROB A CANDY STORE
AND GET A TATTOO
THAT SAYS WHAT YOU HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD
THAT BAD NEVER FELT SO GOOD

Mr. Malfeasance appears upstage in a tight spot, as if he's in Joe's subconscious.

MR. MALFEASANCE

You call yourself a villain? You don't even have henchmen....henchmen....henchmen....

JOE

What does that loser know anyway? I can get a henchman.

Suddenly, Joe is inspired.

JOE (CONT'D)

I'll get two henchmen. They'll frame me better.

HENCHMEN (Player 1/Player 2) come out dressed in black, slithering all over the stage like out of a Bob Fosse wet dream.

HENCHMEN

Chaaa!

JOE

I PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS
WHEN I'M MY OWN BOSS

HENCHMEN

Who's the boss?

JOE

BAD NEVER FELT SO GOOD

HENCHMEN

Good.

JOE

I LOOSENED ALL THE TOPS

HENCHMEN

(popping sound)

JOE

OF BARBECUE SAUCE

HENCHMEN

So saucy.

JOE

BAD NEVER FELT SO GOOD

HENCHMEN

SO GOOD
SO GOOD
SO GOOD

HE TRIED TOO HARD TO BE ACCEPTED
PATHETIC SOME MIGHT SAY

JOE

Hey!

HENCHMEN

BUT MEN IN BLACK NOW GOT YOUR BACK
SO IT'S

JOE/HENCHMEN

UP AND AWAY

JOE

I BRUSH THESE GORGEOUS CHOPS
BUT I'LL NEVER FLOSS

HENCHMEN

What?

JOE

AND FRANKLY THERE'S NO REASON WHY I WOULD

HENCHMEN

WE KINDA WISH YOU WOULD
IT'S...

HENCHMEN/JOE

BAD

JOE

NEVER FELT...

Suddenly, he remembers the kitten.

JOE (CONT'D)

BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT KITTEN
STUCK UP A TREE
WHAT'S TO BECOME OF HIM
I SHOULD SET HIM FREE
BUT I CAN'T LET THEM SEE ME GO OUT ON A LIMB

HENCHMEN

BAD NEVER FELT SO GOOD

JOE

Stupid cat!

HENCHMEN

BAD NEVER FELT SO GOOD

JOE

He should stay away from trees!

HENCHMEN

HE MAY HAVE OVERCOMPENSATED
FROM FEELING OUT OF PLACE

JOE

THERE'S NO MORE CHEERS BUT OH THE FEAR
SEEN ON EVERYONE'S FACE

Take me home, fellas.

JOE/HENCHMEN

HOW NICE TO FEEL AT HOME

JOE
ONCE AND FOR ALL

HENCHMEN
WELCOME HOME

JOE
BY DOIN' WHAT I WANT NOT WHAT I SHOULD

HENCHMEN
DOIN' WHAT HE SHOULD

JOE/HENCHMEN
BAD NEVER FELT SO
BAD NEVER FELT SO

JOE
BAD NEVER FELT SO
GOOD
CHAAA

HENCHMEN
SO GOOD
SO GOOD

JOE
GOOD

Blackout.

SCENE FOUR: RONAK'S PENTHOUSE/ABANDONED WAREHOUSE/BIG CITY

Alfred appears in a spotlight.

ALFRED
Ladies and gentlemen, eccentric billionaire -
Ronak Fairchild!

Ronak appears on top of the
stairs.

MUSIC NO. 18: "JOIN ME, WON'T YOU - REPRISE" (RONAK)

RONAK
Hello kittens!

THERE'S A GAL I KNOW
WHO'S THE BEST BY FAR
SUSIE DARE'S NEW SHOW
RAISES EVERY BAR
SO I'LL MAKE A TOAST
TO OUR SUPERSTAR
JOIN ME
WON'T YOU

(MORE)

RONAK (CONT'D)

To Susie Dare - BCN Radio's little firecracker whose investigative reporting on that awful Super Saver has earned her a place in the history books! Please give her a warm Big City welcome!

Susie enters to applause, and runs into Jerry as he enters, knocking her to the floor.

SUSIE

Jerry! What are you doing here?

JERRY

I came to celebrate your promotion.

SUSIE

Oh. Thank you. It's just that I haven't seen you since...since that time...the "accident".

JERRY

I'm really sorry about that. I don't know why I said it was an accident. That whole kiss thing was just terrible.

SUSIE

Excuse me?

JERRY

Not the kiss. The kiss was...well, it was pretty spectacular.

SUSIE

Do you mind? I'm at work here.

JERRY

Of course.

SUSIE

What about it was spectacular?

JERRY

I'm sorry?

SUSIE

The kiss. You said it was pretty spectacular.

JERRY

Yes, compared to others.

SUSIE

Others?

JERRY

The back of my hand. An orange. A cousin.

SUSIE

Okay, that's good. Have a lovely evening.

JERRY

Good night.

SUSIE

You're leaving?

JERRY

I thought you...

SUSIE

Go!

Suddenly, the window crashes into pieces, as Joe flies in and lands in the middle of the room. Jerry pulls his glove from his back pocket and ducks out of sight. Ronak runs in.

RONAK

Could I please just give you a key to the front door?

JOE

Well, well, well. Looks like we're havin' a party.

SUSIE

Joe Jessup, this obsession of yours, it's sickening. I don't love you. Get over it.

JOE

Don't ya worry. I HAVE gotten over it. Roxy! Get in here, Sweetheart.

ROXY MORON (Player 2) climbs in through the window. Her hair is a mess, and she holds on for dear life.

ROXY

This'll teach me to date a witch.

JOE

For the last time, I'm not a witch.

ROXY

You fly! Meanwhile, you make your girlfriend shimmy up a drain pipe.

JOE

We've discussed this. You're too oily.

RONAK

May I help you?

Roxy turns to the others.

ROXY

Oh, I do beg your pardence. Pleased to meet your acquaintance. The name is Roxy Moron.

SUSIE

(to Joe)

This makes no sense to me. You have a new gal. Why are you here?

JOE

Roxy Moron is a lady of extreme leisure. It takes a lotta money to keep this dame in the pink. Ain't that right, Honey?

ROXY

I smell shrimp.

Joe approaches Susie with menace.

JOE

Congratulations on your new show. How does it feel steppin' on the backs of those who loved ya most?

SUSIE

I got that promotion based on my solid news reporting. Nothing more.

Joe moves uncomfortably close to Susie.

JOE

Everything ya got is because of me and you know it!

Jerry turns out the lights.
Everyone is plunged into darkness.

MUSIC NO. 18A: "SUPER SAVER GETS TIED UP" (BAND)

There is a loud ruckus in the darkness.

JOE (CONT'D)

What's goin' on? Hey, what's that? What the...

Finally, the lights come up. Joe and Roxy are tied together in the middle of the room, with one of Ronak's drapes wrapped around them.

JOE (CONT'D)

Who did this? No one ties up Super Saver.

SUSIE

Looks like somebody just did.

Joe violently rips the drapes into pieces, releasing himself and Roxy.

RONAK

Two! Two sets of drapes RUINED!

Joe looks around the room.

JOE

Come on out and show yourself.

SUSIE

At last, this new mysterious man has his eyes set on Super Saver. How does it feel? Can you feel him breathing down your neck?

JOE

I ain't afraid of no secret do-gooder!

RONAK

He practically hog-tied you. That's gotta sting.

JOE

Everybody shut up! If he ain't man enough to show his face, then he ain't no concern of mine.

He turns to Susie.

Enjoy the good times...while they last.

Joe flies away. Roxy yells out the window.

ROXY

(screaming out the window)

Don't worry about me! I'll just walk.

SUSIE

I can't believe it. The vigilante was in this very room tonight. He's getting closer, and now it's up to Susie Dare to find out who it is!

Susie runs out. Roxy starts out, but turns and looks at everyone with disdain.

ROXY

P.S. The shrimp was cold.

RONAK

It was shrimp cocktail, so...

ROXY

Worst. Drink. Ever.

Roxy exits. Jerry steps out of hiding and starts to exit.

RONAK

What do you think, Mr. Jessup? Should we tell Susie Dare that you're the one she's looking for?

JERRY

I don't know who it was, but I assure ya, it wasn't me.

RONAK

Save the lies. I was there when you were pushed out the window. No one could survive a fall like that. Not unless they could fly.

JERRY

I hung onto the ledge.

RONAK

There is no ledge.

JERRY

I landed on an awning.

RONAK

What do you think - I live in a deli? You have special powers too. Let me guess. You have his missing glove.

Jerry pulls the glove out from his back pocket.

RONAK (CONT'D)

Each glove has superhuman strength. My God!

JERRY

No one can know. Especially Joe. If he knew I was the one tryin' to stop him, it would break his heart. Now if you'll excuse me...

RONAK

Wait. I have a proposition for you.

JERRY

What kind of proposition?

RONAK

Not here.

Ronak moves with Jerry to the other side of the stage.

Here.

They are now in the abandoned warehouse.

JERRY

Your warehouse?

RONAK

I want to offer it to you: a secret sanctuary of solitude. Think of it as your headquarters.

JERRY

Headquarters for what?

RONAK

He's got to be stopped, and you're the only man who can do that.

JERRY

He's my brother!

RONAK

He's a menace, Mr. Jessup.

JERRY

I'm not really the kind of guy to seek the spotlight.

RONAK

I'm one step ahead of you. Fight crime, but do so incognito.

Ronak holds up a mask.

JERRY

What is that?

RONAK

After observing your brother's flying, I made adjustments, calculated aerodynamics. This is a prototype for a sleeker, better suit. I built it for a hero, Mr. Jessup. And now I realize, I was building it for you.

JERRY

I'm sorry. I can't do this. I'm Jerry Jessup. I sleep with a stick under my pillow. I'm scared of parades.

Ronak directs him offstage.

RONAK

That was the old Jerry Jessup. The new Jerry Jessup waits for you beyond those doors.

Ronak pushes him off.

MUSIC NO. 19: "SUPER HERO" (RONAK AND COMPANY)

RONAK (CONT'D)

IF NOT YOU THEN
WHO THEN
PLEASE POINT ME TO THE MAN TO TAKE YOUR PLACE
IF NOT RIGHT NOW
WHO'LL FIGHT NOW
AND STAND UP TO THE BATTLES THAT WE FACE
BETWEEN
RIGHT AND WRONG
GOOD AND BAD
RUNNING SCARED
FIGHTING MAD
IT'S TIME YOU BE THE HERO AND SOAR
BE ANOTHER HERO
A BETTER HERO
A SUPER HERO
NO ONE'S SEEN BEFORE

Jerry returns wearing a spandex costume topped with the mask. The new costume has long sleeves, which manages to hide most of the glove underneath the spandex.

Jerry suddenly puts his hand on his heart.

JERRY

I feel Joe's heart. He's up to no good.

Jerry exits.

Joe holds a bank hostage. BANK TELLER 1 (Player 1) and BANK TELLER 2 (Player 2) huddle in terror.

JOE

Everybody gimme the money. Now!

BANK TELLER 1

Please don't hurt us. Sheila here will do anything you want. Take her!

Bank Teller 1 pushes Bank Teller 2 towards Joe.

BANK TELLER 2

(to Bank Teller 1)

Why am I friends with you? You're a terrible person.

Jerry enters. Joe turns and sees Jerry for the first time. He stares for a moment.

JOE

What have we got here?

JERRY

Someone who's gonna stop your reign of terror.

Joe walks up to Jerry. They stand face to face. Does Joe recognize Jerry?

JOE

You think you're gonna stop me?

JERRY

If I have to, yes.

Joe stares more. After a moment...

JOE

Who are you?

JERRY

Can you not tell?

JOE

I want a name!

JERRY

Listen to the voice. Really? Nothin'?

Joe starts to hit Jerry. Jerry stops the punch. Joe can't believe it. He drops the money bags.

JOE

This isn't over. Not by a long shot.

Joe flies away. Susie runs up to Jerry.

SUSIE

Who are you?

JERRY

A friend.

Jerry throws the money bags to the bank tellers and runs off.

SUSIE

Wait! Don't leave.

SUSIE/BANK TELLERS

HE FIGHTS
CRIME AND VICE
SHEER NEGLECT
LOADED DICE
DISRESPECT
I MET HIM ONCE BUT NOW I WANT MORE

FROM ANOTHER HERO
A BETTER HERO
A SUPER HERO
NO ONE'S SEEN BEFORE

SUSIE

(an idea)

Super Hero! We'll call him "Super Hero".

Susie runs off, inspired.

High above Big City, Jerry stands on a rooftop, standing tall, proud and with more confidence. This is a super hero.

JERRY

DOES THE MAN WITH THE POWER
STEP UP TO THE PLATE
IN THE FINAL CRUCIAL HOUR
DOES HE STAND UP TO THE HATE
NOW I SEE
NOW I SEE
WHAT'S A FELLA GOOD FOR
IF HE CAN'T BE AS GREAT
AS HE CAN BE

He flies off the rooftop with grace and precision, finally the super hero he was meant to be.

When he lands, Joe's HENCHMEN (Player 1, Player 2) descend upon Jerry. They taunt him, and they fight.

HENCHMAN 1

Ha cha!

HENCHMAN 2

Skidoosh!

Jazz! HENCHMAN 1

Thwack! HENCHMAN 2

Pow! HENCHMAN 1

Not the face! HENCHMAN 2

After Jerry defeats the Henchmen, Joe enters and starts to fight Jerry. At first, Jerry resists the fight, but soon, Joe punches Jerry in the face, and their long awaited physical showdown begins.

JOE
Don't ya have a train to catch?

Joe throws Jerry in front of a train.

JOE (CONT'D)
Next stop, Loserville.

Jerry and Joe fight on top of the train.

Eventually, unable to beat Super Hero, Joe backs away.

JOE (CONT'D)
You think this is over? This is not over. Watch your back, Super Hero.

Joe flies away in a fury.

Ronak and Bank Teller 2 join Susie as they surround their new favorite hero.

RONAK/BANK TELLER 2/SUSIE

YOU'RE A
DARING CHAMP
BREATH OF AIR
BRAVE AND STOUT
KIND AND FAIR
BIG CITY'S FAVORITE SON WE ADORE
THERE'S NO OTHER HERO
WE LOVE OUR HERO
A SUPER HERO
NO ONE'S SEEN BEFORE
SUPER HERO

The crowds part. Ronak approaches Jerry.

RONAK

Well done, Super Hero who I've never met before and have no idea who you really are.

JERRY

Okay, calm down.

RONAK

I most certainly will, strange man who I couldn't possibly know.

As Ronak exits, Susie runs up to Super Hero.

SUSIE

Wow! Super Hero, nice work.

JERRY

Thank you.

SUSIE

Hey, wait a minute. How about a few questions?

JERRY

No, thank you.

Jerry starts to walk away.

SUSIE

Super Saver is hell-bent on destroying Big City. What makes you want to stop him?

JERRY

Doesn't everyone wanna stop him?

SUSIE

But you're the only one who can.

JERRY

I think you answered your own question.

SUSIE

But how do you always know where he's going to be?

JERRY

I can feel when his heart rate is elevated. When someone is about to commit a crime, their heart rate goes through the roof.

SUSIE

You feel his heart? I've heard that once before.

JERRY
That's enough questions.

SUSIE
Wait a minute!

Jerry starts to leave. Susie steps in front of him to ask another question. They bump into one another, knocking Susie to the floor.

MUSIC NO. 19A: "SUPER HERO AND SUSIE CONNECT" (BAND)

SUSIE (CONT'D)
Jerry?

JERRY
I don't know any Jerry. I must go.

Jerry flies off.

SUSIE
Jerry? It can't be. There's only one way to find out.

Inspired, Susie exits with a plan.

SCENE FIVE: UNDERGROUND HIDEOUT

MUSIC NO. 19B: "JOE'S UNDERGROUND HIDEOUT" (BAND)

In an underground sewer, Joe paces in front of his Henchmen (Player 1) who sit on a bench like a defeated football team. Roxy stands apart, staring at the Henchmen with disgust.

JOE
You had one job: stop Super Hero. What happened out there?

ROXY
I'll tell ya what happened: meteor-ocrity!

HENCHMAN NUMBER 1 (Player 1)
raises his hand.

JOE
Yes, Henchman Number 1?

HENCHMAN NUMBER 1
I do have a name, you know.

ROXY

Not in here you don't!

HENCHMAN NUMBER 1

I just wanted to say - I ran away because he threw a boat at me.

JOE

And how's that even possible? I'm the only one who can throw a boat. Who is this guy?

ROXY

He does have an air of mystery about him. Is he my next-door neighbor? Is he the local postman? Who can say for sure?

JOE

And why is he pickin' on me? What about Mr. Malfeasance? He's still on the lam, terrorizin' the city with terrible magic. Why isn't Super Hero tryin' to catch him?

ROXY

Don't let Super Hero get in your head!

JOE

How can I not? Super Hero? Really? He practically stole my name!

ROXY

Come on, look at the newspaper - front page - we're above the fold, Baby.

JOE

So we're on the front page today. And then what? Tomorrow we rob more banks?

ROXY

Exactly.

JOE

And the money keeps pilin' up.

ROXY

You got it, Hot Stuff.

JOE

But no one will let us in their shops. How we gonna spend it?

ROXY

We don't gotta spend it. Because anything we want, we take!

JOE

Then why steal the money??

Roxy thinks for a moment. She is stumped.

JOE (CONT'D)

I destroyed everythin' I knew and loved, and for what? For some girl I barely knew?

ROXY

This isn't about the girl. This is about you findin' your true place in the world. And it's here, with Roxy Moron, in an underground sewer.

HENCHMAN NUMBER 1

Anyway...We don't think this is working out for us.

JOE

What do ya mean, "us"?

HENCHMAN NUMBER 1

All us guys have talked it over. We're leaving, and starting a jazz ensemble.

ROXY

You can't chicken out now. This is just the beginning.

HENCHMAN NUMBER 1

Forgive me for saying so, but...the beginning of what?

The Henchmen exit.

ROXY

(screaming out after them)

Don't think you're keepin' the black turtlenecks! And take the back stairwell.

JOE

He has a point. The beginnin' of what?

ROXY

Of greatness! You never got this kind of attention when you was bein' good.

JOE

So why do I feel so bad?

There is a loud explosion offstage.

JOE (CONT'D)

What was that?

ROXY

I booby-trapped the back stairwell.

JOE
You killed the Henchmen?

ROXY
They were startin' a jazz ensemble.

JOE
Jer was right. I don't have what it takes to be a villain.

Joe starts to exit.

ROXY
Where are you goin'?

JOE
I gotta find my brother.

ROXY
He turned his back on you!

JOE
No, I turned my back on him. And myself.

Joe runs out in search of Jerry.

ROXY
Where are you goin'?

JOE
I gotta find my brother.

ROXY
He turned his back on you!

JOE
No, I turned my back on him. And myself.

ROXY
Don't go! I love you. I'm dyin'. I'm pregnant!

SCENE SIX: BIG CITY STREET

MUSIC NO. 19A: "SUPER HERO AND THE BUSINESS MAN" (BAND)

Jerry flies in holding BUSINESS MAN (Player 1) by the collar of his trench coat. They land safely on the sidewalk.

BUSINESS MAN
By Mercury, I don't know how to thank you, Super Hero.

JERRY

No thanks necessary. It's not your fault that crazed flight attendant hijacked your zeppelin.

BUSINESS MAN

Boy, oh boy, the missus is not going to believe this!

Business Man runs into the phone booth.

JOE (O.S.)

Jerry? Jerry!

Jerry quickly runs into the phone booth as well.

Joe enters, looking for Jerry.

JOE (CONT'D)

Jerry, I felt your heartbeat. Where are you?

Jerry pops out of the phone booth wearing the business man's suit, complete with tie and trench coat. He is not wearing the gloves.

Jerry quickly rips off his mask just as Joe turns to see him. There is an uncomfortable tension between them.

JOE (CONT'D)

Jerry.

JERRY

Joe.

JOE

Hi.

JERRY

Hey.

JOE

I thought maybe you went back to the farm.

JERRY

I'm not goin' back without my little brother.

JOE

After everythin' he did, you'd be a fool to take him back.

JERRY

Then put me down for a fool.

Jerry sits down on the stoop. Joe sits next to him.

JOE
Fancy outfit you got on.

JERRY
This? Just somethin' I threw on.

JOE
I'm so sorry, Jer. I don't know what I was thinkin'. The way I behaved -- the things I done.

JERRY
It's this city. It brings out the worst in everybody.

JOE
I kicked a mime.

JERRY
See? You're not all bad. Cities aren't natural. So many people crammed into such small places.

JOE
It's not good for the circulation.

JERRY
Like sardines.

JOE
Are you thinkin' what I'm thinkin'?

JERRY
I sure could go for some of Mother Jessup's sardine casserole.

JOE
And her hushpuppy pie.

Jerry hugs Joe.

JOE (CONT'D)
Can't. Breathe. Bones!

Jerry pulls away. Joe notices the mask in Jerry's hand.

JOE (CONT'D)
What is that?

Jerry suddenly realizes he still holds the mask. He stands up and walks away.

JERRY

What's what?

JOE

Don't hide it. Lemme see it.

Jerry holds out the mask. Joe takes it.

JOE (CONT'D)

Of all the....

JERRY

If you'd just let me...

JOE

He was here? Super Hero was here?

JERRY

Tricky question.

JOE

Who is he? Do you know him?

Jerry grabs the mask back.

JERRY

Forget about Super Hero.

JOE

You were with him?

JERRY

All of that is behind us now.

JOE

My own nemi... nemi...

JERRY

Nemesis.

JOE

I'll kill him.

JERRY

Calm down. Let's go home. We could catch a bus tonight.

Susie appears in the shadows.

MUSIC NO. 19B: "SUSIE'S CRY FOR HELP" (BAND)

SUSIE

Super Hero! Help me, Super Hero!

Jerry puts his hand on his heart.
Susie disappears.

JERRY
Do you feel that?

JOE
Feel what?

JERRY
Nothin'. It's nothin'.

Susie reappears in the shadows.

SUSIE
Super Hero! Help me, Super Hero!

Jerry grabs his heart again.
Susie disappears.

JOE
What's wrong?

JERRY
You go back to your room and get packin'. I
have to tie up a few loose ends.

JOE
You're not comin' with me?

JERRY
I'm sorry. Unfinished business. Two heads?

Jerry places his head on Joe's
forehead. After a moment, Jerry
pulls away.

JERRY (CONT'D)
I love you, Brother.

Jerry pulls out the glove as he
exits. Joe calls out after him.

JOE
I'll call Mother Jessup!

Joe opens the phone booth, and is
shocked as the Business Man
screams from inside.

Blackout.

SCENE SEVEN: ROOFTOP

MUSIC NO. 19C: "SUSIE NEEDS TO BE RESCUED" (BAND)

Susie is tied to a chair, with a gag in her mouth. After a moment, Jerry flies onto the roof.

He pulls out the gag and unties her.

SUSIE
Super Hero, you're here.

JERRY
Who did this to ya?

SUSIE
Bandits. It was terrible. Hold me.

JERRY
How many of 'em were there?

SUSIE
Four. Big burly men. Hillbillies.

JERRY
The knot was actually kinda loose. What exactly did they want with you?

SUSIE
I don't know. They just kidnapped me.

JERRY
And tied ya loosely to a chair on the roof of your own building?

SUSIE
Excuse me, it isn't me you should be questioning.

JERRY
I guess I should question the two men who kidnapped ya.

SUSIE
Exactly.

JERRY
I thought ya said there were four of them.

SUSIE
Two to four. It was dark.

JERRY
You dirty bird! You're lyin'!

SUSIE
So are you, Jerry Jessup.

JERRY

I am not Jerry Jessup.

SUSIE

Let me see!

She tries to see under Jerry's mask. Jerry swats away her hands with each attempt.

JERRY

Nope. Nope. Stop it. Stop it. Don't. Fine!

Jerry takes off the mask.

SUSIE

Yes! I knew it!

JERRY

Okay, calm down.

SUSIE

How did this happen?

JERRY

I got a hold of one of his gloves.

She pushes him away as if to say "Get out!"

SUSIE

Jerry Jessup, was this whole coward thing an act? Because it was really convincing.

JERRY

It was no act, believe me.

SUSIE

Why didn't you tell me?

JERRY

Every one of your shows this week has been about exposin' Super Hero's true identity.

SUSIE

You listen to my shows?

JERRY

Maybe.

SUSIE

Maybe?

JERRY

Some.

SUSIE
How many?

JERRY
All.

SUSIE
Yes!

JERRY
You are an incredible journalist. I got so
sucked in, I wanted ya to catch Super Hero
myself.

SUSIE
It seems so obvious now.

JERRY
Just do me a favor. Can ya wait till Joe and I
are gone before ya tell the public?

SUSIE
Gone? Where are you going?

JERRY
We just think it would be easier on everybody
if we went back to Farmtown.

SUSIE
You can't leave. Big City needs you.

JERRY
Not anymore. All the villains are locked back
up. Joe's back to his old self.

SUSIE
What about anybody else? Can you think of one
person who might want you to stick around?

JERRY
Who?

SUSIE
My mistake. Have fun in Farmtown.

Susie starts to leave.

JERRY
What did I say?

SUSIE
Nothing! You said nothing. You keeps saying
nothing!

JERRY

What do you want from me? I don't know how to do this. I grew up on a farm. My best friend was a pig.

SUSIE

You're Super Hero. You have people cheering your name. You strut down the street, in long underwear and those ridiculous boots, with the confidence of a peacock, and then you get alone with me and snap shut like a clam.

JERRY

You don't understand...

MUSIC NO. 20: "HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU" (JERRY/SUSIE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

YOU LOOK AT THE MAN
WHO KEEPS BAD GUYS AT BAY
HE IS BOLD
HE IS BRAVE
HE IS STRONG
YOU'D THINK SUCH A MAN
WOULD KNOW JUST WHAT TO SAY
IF YOU DO - NOW YOU KNOW - YOU'D BE WRONG

HE CAN LIFT A CAR WITH HIS BARE HANDS
HE CAN STOP A BULLET WHERE HE STANDS

BUT IF YOU THINK HE'D BE FEARLESS
SO CALM AND SO SOUND
THE ESSENCE OF SUAVE
WHEN A WOMAN'S AROUND
IF YOU THINK WITH ROMANCE
HE WOULD HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE
THEN HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU

SUSIE

So I guess you expect me to ask you out?

JERRY

That's a great idea. Do that!

SUSIE

I will not.

JERRY

Why not? Scared?

SUSIE

Of course not. No. Maybe.

SUSIE (CONT'D)

YOU LOOK AT THE GIRL
AND HER CONFIDENCE SHOWS

SHE IS SHARP
 SHE IS SLICK
 SHE IS WISE
 YOU LOOK AT THE GIRL
 THE RIGHT HAIR - THE RIGHT CLOTHES
 WHAT YOU SEE IS A STAR ON THE RISE

WHEN SHE'S GOT A GOAL SHE'LL NEVER YIELD
 SHE'S THE ONLY WOMAN IN HER FIELD

BUT IF YOU THINK SHE'S SO FORCEFUL
 THAT SHE'D TAKE THE LEAD
 SO SMOOTH WITH A MAN
 SHE WOULD SURELY SUCCEED
 IF YOU THINK SHE'S A GIRL
 WHO CAN GRACEFULLY PURSUE
 THEN HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU

JERRY
 EVERY DAY IN THE AIR

SUSIE
 EVERY NIGHT ON THE AIR

JERRY/SUSIE
 I PERFORM WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE
 I'M STRONG AND SECURE
 AND I'M NEVER MORE SURE
 SO HOW COME I'M WEAK IN THE KNEES
 OH

I'M LOOKING AT YOU
 AS YOU LOOK BACK AT ME
 I AM COY
 I AM SCARED
 I AM SHY
 I STUMBLE FOR WORDS
 THAT WOULD HELP YOU TO SEE
 IF I DON'T HOLD YOU SOON I MIGHT DIE

JERRY
 I CAN SEE FIVE SECONDS IN ADVANCE

SUSIE
 ON THE NIGHTLY NEWS I WEAR THE PANTS

JERRY/SUSIE
 SURE IT MAY SEEM I'M INVINCIBLE
 SOMETIMES IT'S TRUE
 ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW
 WHAT ON EARTH I SHOULD DO
 IF YOU THINK I WON'T KISS YOU
 AS SOON AS THIS SONG IS THROUGH
 THEN HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR

Jerry and Susie kiss passionately.
They can't even finish the song.
After a long kiss.

JERRY/SUSIE (CONT'D)

YOU

They embrace. After a moment,
Jerry pulls away.

JERRY

Hang on. If ya weren't really kidnapped, how
did I feel your heart beatin'?

SUSIE

Thanks to my crackerjack reporting, I figured
out Super Hero feels the elevated heartbeat of
the people he loves.

JERRY

But ya weren't really kidnapped. So how could I
have felt your...?

Susie starts jumping rope with the
rope she was tied up with. Jerry
stops her jumping and pulls her to
him.

JERRY (CONT'D)

You're good.

SUSIE

Right back at ya. You can really see five
seconds into the future?

Jerry touches his temples.

JERRY

Yep. Kiss me again. I just saw it, and it's
gonna be a doozy.

Jerry and Susie kiss.

JOE (O.S.)

Susie!!!!!!

Suddenly, Joe flies onto the roof.
Joe is standing behind Jerry, so
he doesn't immediately recognize
him.

JOE (CONT'D)

(confused)

This can't be real. I felt your heart racin'. I
came to rescue you, and I find ya kissin' Super
Hero?

Jerry turns to face Joe.

JERRY

You felt *my* heart, Joe. Not Susie's.

JOE

Wait.

JERRY

I can explain.

JOE

Why are you wearin' that outfit?

JERRY

Susie, would ya give us a few minutes?

SUSIE

You would literally have to pry me from this roof.

JERRY

Please.

Susie exits. Jerry takes a deep breath and turns to Joe.

JERRY (CONT'D)

I love her, Joe. Ya felt my heart racin' a mile a minute, because I was kissin' the woman of my dreams.

JOE

I don't care about that! Why are you dressed as Super Hero?

JERRY

I am Super Hero.

JOE

Nope. Nope! You can't be.

JERRY

I know this is a lot to take in. But if you'll just let me explain. Everythin' I did was....

JOE

You! Super Hero? How?

Jerry holds up his hand with the glove on it.

JOE (CONT'D)

You stole my glove!

JERRY

I accidentally pulled it off.

JOE

I bet you've been lovin' every second of it.
After all those years of livin' in my shadow.

JERRY

Please don't do this.

JOE

It all makes perfect sense now. Ya just
couldn't wait to make up for bein' snickered at
for bein' the weak one.

JERRY

That's not what this was about.

JOE

Poor, skinny, ugly, scaredy-cat Jerry.

JERRY

Not scared at all as it turns out.

JOE

Is that why ya wore the mask? You were scared
to show your true colors? Terrified of what
people might think of ya?

JERRY

I was tryin' to help you!

JOE

Help me? How could you possibly help me? You
are nothin' but a coward. A snivelin', pathetic
excuse of a man.

Joe lunges for Jerry. They start
to fight, but they are both
interrupted by sudden racing of
their hearts.

MUSIC NO. 20A: "MOTHER JESSUP GETS KIDNAPPED" (BAND)

Mother Jessup appears in the
shadows.

MOTHER JESSUP

I'll never tell you where he is. Get away from
me!!!!

Lights out on Mother Jessup.

JERRY

Mother Jessup?

JOE
Did you feel that too?

JERRY
She needs our help.

JOE
No! She needs MY help.

Joe pushes Jerry and takes off.

MUSIC NO. 20B: "FLIGHT TO THE FARM" (BAND)

JERRY
Joe!

Jerry immediately takes off after him.

They both fly back to Farmtown. As they fly, they try to outmaneuver and fly faster than the other.

SCENE EIGHT: JESSUP FARM

Jerry and Joe both land outside their farmhouse.

Mother Jessup enters from behind the house, wrapped in an endless string of handkerchiefs.

JOE
Mother Jessup!

JERRY
Who did this to ya?

Mother Jessup spits a business card out of her mouth.

JOE
Mr. Malfeasance, evil genius magician!

JERRY
What would an evil genius magician want with you?

MOTHER JESSUP
He's no magician! He's an alien sent to Earth to kill the prince!

She looks at them closer.

MOTHER JESSUP (CONT'D)

Wait a minute. What the hell are you two wearin'?

JERRY

That's not important right now.

MOTHER JESSUP

Oh God. Jerry, are you an acrobat?

JOE

Mother Jessup! Please. Tell us what's goin' on.

MOTHER JESSUP

I don't have the strength to tell ya. But I can show ya. When that pod landed in our field all those years ago, it didn't just come with gloves. It came with this.

Mother Jessup holds up a metal cube that fits in the palm of her hand. Jerry takes it from her hand.

The cube buzzes and spins. Jerry drops it to the ground. When it lands, a beam of light appears, revealing a hologram of King Alien (Player 1).

MUSIC NO. 20C: "THE HOLOGRAM" (BAND)

KING ALIEN

(tapping on a cube that he holds)

Is this thing on? I can't hear myself. Greg? A little help here?

As if being told he was "live", he turns and begins speaking with gravitas.

KING ALIEN (CONT'D)

My progeny, if you are viewing this hologram, that means you have learned the truth: You are a prince - the heir to the throne of the great planet Pluto Adjacent. Rebel warriors put a price on your head, and we sent you to Earth in order to protect you.

JERRY

In that pod we dug up?

JOE

Shh.

KING ALIEN

Affixed within the pod are the Gauntlets of Providence. When you come of age, the rebel army will send mercenaries to defeat you, but the Gauntlets will give you the strength to defend yourself against those who seek triumph over your permanence. When peace is restored, we will send a messenger to prepare you for your magnificent return, where you will once again walk amongst your people as you reign in unbridled glory!

King Alien stands still for a moment. Then...

KING ALIEN (CONT'D)

Is that it? Is it still on? Come on, Gre....

King Alien vanishes. There is a moment of silence as Jerry and Joe let this news sink in. Finally...

JOE

All this time, you knew I was an heir to a royal throne, and you were holdin' me back?

MOTHER JESSUP

Wait. Oh, sweetie. No. You're not the prince. Jerry is.

JERRY

What?

MOTHER JESSUP

(to Jerry)

You are the prince.

JERRY

It's not possible. A royal prince?

MOTHER JESSUP

...Who would stop at nothin' to keep his people safe. It was a part of you all along. Ya just didn't know it.

MUSIC NO. 20D: "MR. MALFEASANCE SHOTS MOTHER JESSUP" (BAND)

MR. MALFEASANCE

Pew! Pew! Pew!

Suddenly, Mother Jessup shakes violently and drops to the ground. Mr. Malfeasance stands behind her with a massive ray gun.

JERRY/JOE

Mother Jessup, no!

MR. MALFEASANCE

Leave her be!

JERRY

Your beef is with me, Malfeasance. Do whatever ya want with me. But leave my family alone.

MR. MALFEASANCE

I want nothing to do with you. I want the prince.

JERRY

That's me.

MR. MALFEASANCE

No, seriously. I'm looking for the son of royal blood, born to return his planet to its former greatness.

JERRY

That's me.

MR. MALFEASANCE

Mmmm. I'm not sure it is.

JERRY

Trust me.

MR. MALFEASANCE

Beans! I'll just kill you both.

JOE

(trying to stall)

Wait!

MR. MALFEASANCE

What?

JOE

Why did ya dress up like a Big City villain?

MR. MALFEASANCE

To blend, obviously.

Mr. Malfeasance gets ready to shoot again.

JOE

Wait! That's why ya kept trying to kill me?

MR. MALFEASANCE

Geez, Louise. You do love a good yarn, don't you? Fine.

(MORE)

MR. MALFEASANCE (CONT'D)

We had no way of locating the prince until you animated the Gauntlets of Providence - powerful weapons forged in metonium.

JOE

Huh?

MR. MALFEASANCE

You put on the gloves. And as soon as you did, it set off the tracking device. It was a genius plan, actually. You see, all I needed was a top hat and secondhand rabbit.....

JOE

(to Jerry)

Two heads.

As Mr. Malfeasance continues his monologue, Jerry and Joe turn to one another, lean in and touch foreheads.

MUSIC NO. 21: "TWO HEADS" (JERRY/JOE)

JERRY

I CAN SEE FIVE SECONDS IN THE FUTURE

JOE

I CAN SEE FIVE SECONDS IN THE FUTURE

JERRY

I CAN RUN CIRCLES 'ROUND THIS CREEP

JOE

'ROUND 'IM IN MY SLEEP

JERRY

BROTHER CAN YA HEAR ME

JOE

I HEAR YA

JERRY

BROTHER CAN YA FEEL ME

JOE

I FEEL YA

JERRY

GET THE WIRE

JOE

GET THE HAY

JERRY

READY SET

ON MY SAY
NOW

JOE

Jerry and Joe run circles around Mr. Malfeasance. Lights blink, buzzers buzz. They both stand still in their running pose as Mr. Malfeasance spins. Lights flash on and off as he screams.

MR. MALFEASANCE

What is happening? Wait. Stop!

When he stops, and the lights come up, Mr. Malfeasance is encased in a bale of hay. His legs stick out from the bottom of the bale, but his torso and hands are completely inside the hay.

MR. MALFEASANCE (CONT'D)

Not hay! I'm allergic.

Mr. Malfeasance sneezes. Mother Jessup jumps up, holding a shovel.

MOTHER JESSUP

God bless ya.

Mother Jessup hits him over the head with the shovel. Mr. Malfeasance falls back and lands with a thump. Jerry and Joe push the bale of hay and Mr. Malfeasance offstage.

JOE

We did it!

Mother Jessup, Joe and Jerry hug in celebration. Suddenly, Mother Jessup collapses.

JOE (CONT'D)

Mother Jessup!

She gasps for air.

JERRY

It's okay. We're here. You're gonna be okay.

MOTHER JESSUP

Nope. This is it for me. Come close, I got about more ten seconds.

JOE/JERRY
 (fingers to temples)
 Five, actually.

MOTHER JESSUP
 Listen to me. My last words. To my babies....

Joe and Jerry gather close around
 their mother, and await her final
 words of wisdom.

MOTHER JESSUP (CONT'D)
 Get out of those ridiculous costumes.

Mother Jessup dies.

MUSIC NO. 21A: "MOTHER JESSUP DIES" (BAND)

JOE
 I'm so sorry, Jer.

JERRY
 We both got enough sorry in us to go around, I
 reckon.

Ronak enters out of breath.

RONAK
 Thank God you're alive.

JOE
 How did ya find us out here? Are you a rebel
 alien too?

RONAK
 How very dare you? I'm a Royal, one of the good
 aliens. I was sent to Earth to protect our
 prince and prepare him for his triumphant
 return.

JERRY
 You were here to protect the prince? You turned
 us against each another.

JOE
 Yeah! How did that help?

RONAK
 I knew you would never leave your brother
 behind, not unless he was...your mortal enemy.

JOE/JERRY
 Oh!

JOE
 That's good. Except, I'm not the prince.

RONAK

Sure you are.

JOE

Nope. It's Jerry.

Ronak turns and gives Jerry a once-over.

RONAK

Oh. I mean yay!

Susie enters out of breath.

SUSIE

Jerry!

JOE

Hang on! Is everyone an alien except me?

SUSIE

Who's an alien?

JERRY

I am.

RONAK

Mr. Malfeasance.

JOE

Ronak.

SUSIE

What?

RONAK

Keep up. And you call yourself a reporter.

SUSIE

(to Ronak)

I knew YOU were up to no good.

RONAK

Excuse me! Raise your hand if you traveled in a pod the size of a bread box in order to retrieve the one true leader who can restore sovereignty to his planet.

He raises his hand.

RONAK (CONT'D)

Just me then?

SUSIE

Wait. True leader? Sovereignty to his planet? Who are we talking about here?

JERRY
(meekly)

Me, I guess.

SUSIE
Wow! Talk about burying the lede.

RONAK
And with the war ended, it is time to rebuild.
We need a hero more than ever.

MUSIC NO. 22: "FINALE" (COMPANY)

RONAK (CONT'D)
THERE'S A WORLD I KNOW
AND IT CALLS YOUR NAME
IF YOU DIDN'T COME
IT WOULD BE A SHAME
AND TO GET YOU THERE
IS MY ONLY AIM
JOIN ME, WON'T YOU

A spaceship appears in the
distance.

JERRY
I'm sorry. I can't lead an alien race. Have ya
seen me drive a tractor?

RONAK
They're not an alien race, my Lord. They're
your people.

JERRY
But I can't do this on my own.

SUSIE
If you think for a second I'm not going with
you, you have lost your mind.

JERRY
Another planet?

SUSIE
For the scoop of the century? Yeah, another
planet. And for you too, I guess, if you must
know.

JERRY
Can she?

RONAK
Another atmosphere? Hardly.

SUSIE
You came here.

RONAK

Fine, you can come. But I call shotgun.

Ronak runs off to prepare.

Jerry turns to Joe.

JERRY

Come with me. We can lead together.

JOE

Except I'm no leader. I think we all know that. I gotta stay here - start doin' some good for a change. That is, if Big City will take me back. They hate Super Saver.

SUSIE

But they love Super Hero.

JOE

Except I'm not Super Hero, am I?

Jerry hands Joe his mask.

JERRY

Why do I have to be the only Super Hero? Who knows how many super heroes are out there?

Suddenly, Conrad Jackson appears upstage.

CONRAD

Super Hero! If you can hear me, my secretary Laverne got bit by a rabid subway rat! She's lost her mind. Help us! Help us!

Rabid Laverne pops up behind Conrad. She bites into the back of his head. They both disappear behind the desk.

JERRY

Looks like someone needs your help.

JOE

I can't. I need you, Jer.

JERRY

ALL YOU EVER WANTED
WAS A CHANCE TO SHOW YOUR WORTH
NOW YOU'VE GOT THAT CHANCE

JOE

I NEED
YOU ON EARTH

JERRY
 HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS
 AND THE SWEETEST PART IS
 IT'S SOMETHIN' THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN

JERRY/JOE
 I'LL ALWAYS FEEL YOUR HEART
 JUST AS IF IT WERE MY OWN

Jerry pulls off his glove and
 gives it back to Joe.

JOE
 What about...

JERRY
 Brother, where I'm goin', somethin' tells me I
 ain't gonna need it.

Joe takes the glove and puts it
 back on.

JERRY/JOE
 LIKE THE CREAM BEFORE IT RISES
 JUST IMAGINE THE SURPRISES
 DISCOV'RIN' THINGS WE NEVER WERE BEFORE
 BUT THE ONE THING I AM SURE OF
 I COULD NOT LOVE YOU MORE

Jerry and Joe hug. Then suddenly,
 Joe turns and flies off.

Lights and smoke swirl around them
 as the spaceship hovers above
 them.

SUSIE
 I think that's our ride.

JERRY
 What are we doin'? A new planet? What's the
 atmosphere like? Are we dressed okay? What will
 I say? I don't...

Susie kisses Jerry.

JERRY (CONT'D)
 I WILL SAY YES
 I WILL BRAVELY AGREE
 TO WHATEVER FRIGHT'NIN' SIGHT I MIGHT SEE

SUSIE
 FLY THROUGH SPACE

JERRY
 IT'S POSSIBLE

SUSIE
LEAD A RACE

JERRY
IT'S POSSIBLE

SUSIE/JERRY
TIME TO BE THE HERO AND SOAR

JERRY/SUSIE
BE ANOTHER HERO
A BETTER HERO

ALL
A SUPER HERO
NO ONE'S SEEN BEFORE
SUPER HERO

Jerry takes his pose. Susie joins
him in the pose. A bright beam of
light shoots down on them.
Blackout.

THE END