

EPISODE TWO - "WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE KID"

WRITERS:

JOHN DORSEY & MAX CLARK & RACHEL MUSIC

EPISODE TWO - NEWS ONE

INT. NEWS STUDIO

In the studio.

APOORVA SINGH

Another corpse has been found in the Philadelphia's historic district completely drained of blood. Mayor Rex Tillis issued the following official statement: "God expletive, it looks like we have expletive expletive vampires now. You can deal with this on your expletive own." He has since resigned.

UNDERWRITER

That was Apoorva Singh reporting from SPR Philadelphia.

WENLING CHEN

Live from SPR News in Washington, I'm Wenling Chen.

SFX: Protesting.

WENLING CHEN (CONT'D)

Protestors have poured into Washington DC following the passage of the Super Act.

(then)

The bill was saved at the last minute by an amendment exempting active members of the Heroic Legion, from the proposed database.

(then)

While the Southern Battalion and the ACLU prepare to challenge the bill in court, thousands of protestors have taken to the streets. Leading the charge in DC are the members of the Future People Academy. Most notably, seventeen year old activist, Juhi Singh. She has brought millions of young people together on under the hashtag "#GoIncognito."

SFX: Outside. Megaphone echoing. Hushed murmurs. Supporters audibly agreeing with her.

JUHI SINGH

These politicians shout for us to save them, but when we need help they whisper no.

(then)

President Norris and his cronies want to use us, but we do not consent. They want to control us, but we do not consent

(then)

They want to expose us, but they have only exposed themselves. They fear us because we are what's next. We are Incognito. And we are the future.

INT. NEWS STUDIO

In the studio.

WENLING CHEN

Later in the hour we'll have a live interview with Juhi Singh about the role of the young activists and the legacy of her late father Stephen Singh, also known as the hero Quantum.

UNDERWRITER

That was Wenling Chen reporting from Washington, it's 75 degrees here in Paradise City. Next up, it's the Utility Belt.

EPISODE TWO - END NEWS ONE

EPISODE TWO - ACT ONE - UB DEVON CONNELLY

INT. UB STUDIO

In the studio.

STAN

Give us your rapt attention, it's
time to present The Utility Belt!

(then)

I'm Stan the Henchman and by my
side is God's gift to robotics,
Billy the Whiz Kid.

WHIZ KID

Don't try to put me in a box, Stan.
I have other interests.

STAN

That's a fine whine for a birthday
boy!

WHIZ KID

I don't know about wine, but you're
certainly in good spirits.

STAN

It's not every day your half-pint
partner turns twelve! So, how you
plan to celebrate your Dirty Dozen?

WHIZ KID

I'm fourteen.

PRODUCER BOT

(buzzer/kazoo)

And many more!

WHIZ KID

Stan, let's put a bow on this
before I pin something on your
tail.

STAN

I guess I did make an ass of
myself. Producer bot, give the
birthday boy his first caller.

DEVON CONNELLY

Shtan? Is that you? You've got the
wee smart-aleck with you?

STAN

Why yes it is and yes I have!

WHIZ KID

What's your major malfunction, sir?

DEVON CONNELLY

Name's Connelly. Devon Connelly.

WHIZ KID

Agent Double Eleven himself!?

DEVON CONNELLY

At your service.

WHIZ KID

It's a real honor, sir.

STAN

How can we help Her Majesty's least Secret Serviceman?

DEVON CONNELLY

Well lads, I've woken up somewhere strange.

(then)

My companion from the casino must've spiked my drink because last thing I remember I'm in Monaco, on a hot streak at the Baccarat table with my hotel key between her pert little...

PRODUCER BOT

[bleep!] Potential F.C.C. Violation Detected.

DEVON CONNELLY

Easy now, I was just going to say "breasts."

WHIZ KID

So what's the problem?

DEVON CONNELLY

Well next thing I know I wake up on a cliff,

STAN

Let's start with the basics, Devon. Have you got anything on you?

DEVON CONNELLY

I'm wearing a... Red leather diaper and bandolier? Is this a handlebar mustache? So it's just this and my birthday suit. (**ALT: Only my birthday suit.**)

STAN

So you have nothing?

DEVON CONNELLY

Well I wouldn't call *it* nothing.

BILLY

Then how are you even calling us?

DEVON CONNELLY

There's a cellphone planted in my brain. U put it there.

WHIZ KID

I did?

DEVON CONNELLY

No. U did.

STAN

Who? Me?

DEVON CONNELLY

U. My mechanic-slash-chemist slash bookie slash-

STAN

Oh your henchman! Of course double eleven would have one. I don't know U though.

DEVON CONNELLY

I thought everyone knew me.

WHIZ KID

(exasperated)

So you have your coms! Can you get your bearings?

DEVON CONNELLY

Not much to see, just some rocks the ocean and a sun that's not moved in five hours.

SFX: Warbling and otherworldly deep hum.

STAN
We thinking a local hookup?

DEVON CONNELLY
Now that sounds fun.

WHIZ KID
If he was passed out at the bar,
they could've taken him to a lab.

DEVON CONNELLY
Uh gents, the head is looking at
me.

GIANT ROCK HEAD
(hard to hear)
The connection was real.

STAN
What was that?

WHIZ KID
It said "the connection was real"

DEVON CONNELLY
It said "the connection was real"

GIANT ROCK HEAD
(booming close)
The connection was real!

DEVON CONNELLY
That must have been a doozy of a
mickey.

GIANT ROCK HEAD
(booming close)
The climax was not.

WHIZ KID
What does that mean?

PRODUCER BOT
Alert. Potential FCC violation.

STAN
Devon? Have you come up
against any villainesses lately?
Hmm? Maybe been a little
misogynistic?

DEVON CONNELLY
Oh, I've come up against plenty of
ladies, if you know what I mean.

STAN

That answers both questions.

WHIZ KID

You know, the Villainy VR Expo this weekend in Monaco. Tracey Maceo gave the keynote. I watched it last night.

STAN

The Tracey Maceo?! Eco-Terror firebrand and Supers Illustrated cover model Tracey Maceo?

WHIZ KID

Yeah, but I watched it for the science.

DEVON CONNELLY

Aye, that's the tart from the casino! She was yammering on about something, but I was three martinis deep and--

GIANT ROCK HEAD

You said you were interested in my work.

WHIZ KID

Looks like the Halluci-Deck is finally ready for market. I'd only heard rumors.

STAN

Halluci-Deck?

WHIZ KID

She wanted to make torture carbon-neutral. The Halluci-Deck runs off the body's own electrical impulses and recycles the kinetic energy of peristalsis and respiration to power the local hardware.

STAN

You could waterboard somebody in the desert and not waste a drop.

GIANT ROCK HEAD

Have you enjoyed my demonstration?

DEVON CONNELLY

If I'd know you were this good at giving [head]---

PRODUCER BOT
ALERT! FCC FINE IMMINENT!

STAN
Do you know how he can sever
the connection?

WHIZ KID
He could kill himself.

STAN
Kid I feel like you're not giving
this problem your all.

WHIZ KID
No, no. The last version had a
problem processing fall damage and
would crash and reset. He could
jump off the cliff and that might
wake him up.

A beat.

DEVON CONNELLY
I'm sorry I need to do what now?

STAN
You're gonna have to punch your own
ticket. Hit the hard reset. Step
off. Kick the bucket. Shake hands
with Elvis.

DEVON CONNELLY
How do I know you're not a devious
part of the simulation?

STAN
It's a good point. We could be.
(then)
You know there's philosophers who
think that we're all plugged into a
greater machine feeding our power
into--

WHIZ KID
Not helping Stan. Devon, I am 23.7%
sure this will end the simulation.
I know it's a risk, but it's the
only way.

GIANT ROCK HEAD
Apologize and I will let you live!

WHIZ KID
Or you can apologize to the Giant
Rock Head.

DEVON CONNELLY
I would rather die.

STAN
That's the spirit!

WHIZ KID
You have to admit it's pretty cool.
This whole world is being fed
directly into your hippocampus,
feeding off your body's own--

DEVON CONNELLY
Blah blah blah, this was the same
drivel only a profoundly lonely
lady would think of.

STAN
You said that to her?

DEVON CONNELLY
I offered to make her less lonely.

GIANT ROCK HEAD
Who's lonely now?

STAN
Kid's right. You insulted the
woman's work. You should say sorry.

DEVON CONNELLY
I will not be blackmailed by some
leggy spinster

SFX: Lightning DEVON SCREAMS

GIANT ROCK HEAD
I am your god now.

DEVON CONNELLY
What do I do, boys?

STAN Apologize! WHIZ KID Apologize!

SFX: Thunder!

DEVON CONNELLY
You sure about the cliff thing?

WHIZ KID
No, I was very unsure.

DEVON CONNELLY
Ah the hell with this --

WHIZ KID
And he's jumping.

GIANT ROCK HEAD
No don't!

SFX: Jumping. Soaring through the air.

WHIZ KID
He's Skyfall-ing.

STAN
I think he's going to be a Specter.

SFX: A sickening crunch.

WHIZ KID
Devon...?

SFX: Tech sounds. See Neo waking up from the Matrix.

DEVON CONNELLY
It seems it was not my time to die.

STAN
Hooray!

WHIZ KID
Hooray.

TRACEY
You're still strapped into the machine Devon, I wouldn't celebrate quite yet.

DEVON CONNELLY
Another stimulation? I'd be honored. But if you want to join me, maybe we could try something a bit more hands on.

TRACEY
How about I remove that com-set from your brain?

SFX: Mic feedback.

TRACEY (CONT'D)
I assume this is U?

STAN
Yes it's me.

WHIZ KID
Actually it's the Utility belt.
It's a radio show, where people--

TRACEY
William Whizgig? He asked you about
my halluci-deck?

WHIZ KID
You know who I am?

TRACEY
I am a huge fan.

WHIZ KID
Likewise. You know it's always been
a dream of mine to --

PRODUCER BOT
FCC risk limit exceeded. Call
terminated.

SFX Line goes dead.

WHIZ KID
-- interview you.

STAN
Well kid, does this qualify as a
happy birthday?

WHIZ KID
I got an international super spy to
commit suicide on live radio and
Tracey Maceo knows my name.

STAN
Well. You know what they say...
Goldeneye.

WHIZ KID
What?

STAN
Well that's our show.

WHIZ KID

As always, if you have tech
questions, we've got answers.

STAN

Give us a call at 414-555- BELT
that's 414-555- B E L T

(then)

I am Stan the hench-man,

WHIZ KID

I'm Billy the Whiz Kid and this
was:

STAN

The Utility Belt!

WHIZ KID (CONT'D)

The Utility Belt!

EPISODE TWO - END ACT ONE

EPISODE TWO - NEWS TWO

INT. AD BREAK

In the studio.

ADS

Support for SPR comes from...

(then)

Thwip-recruiter. Finding Supers for your team up can be harder than the fight itself. With Thwip-recruiter, we use a network of sticky webs to literally pluck qualified supers off the street to help you whenever you need.

(then)

We will rip them right out of the bathroom if you want us to. That's how serious we are about serving you.

(then)

Thwip-recruiter.

(then)

Thwip-recruiter does not guarantee a willingness to collaborate. Please visit us on the web.

INT. NEWS STUDIO

In the studio.

WENLING CHEN

Live from Washington I'm Wenling Chen.

(then)

The UN Security Council has notified the territory of Isla Silva, known to the locals as "Xen", that its sovereignty will not be recognized until the android known as Galetea is returned to Tzarpathia.

(then)

Prince Nokov, supreme ruler of Tzarpathia, stressed the urgency of the robot's return before the General Assembly.

INT. UN ASSEMBLY

SFX: Press walla. Echoing words. John Pirkis does an amazing job of Tzarpathian dialect.

PRINCE NOKOV

There is a saying in Tzarpathia
about women who run away from home.

TRANSLATOR

There is a saying in Tzarpathia
about women who run away from home.

PRINCE NOKOV

Man leaves home, is wife's problem.

TRANSLATOR

Man leaves home, is wife's problem.

PRINCE NOKOV

Wife leaves home. Is everyone's
problem because I release kompromat
on everyone.

Note for John Pirkis: We want this to be buried in the wonderful split of Brazilian and Russian you use for Nokov.

TRANSLATOR

Wife leaves home. Is...
(hesitates)
Everyone's problem.

WENLING CHEN

Prince Nokov has promised that the
android will be "properly disposed
of" in accordance with
international law.

(then)

But warned that if Galetea is not
returned, Isla Silva will face the
consequences. Cosmos, who is widely
considered to be the main
representative of the island, was
unavailable for comment.

UNDERWRITER

That was Wenling Chen reporting
from Washington. It's 74 degrees
here in Paradise City. And now:
Sequential.

EPISODE TWO - END NEWS TWO

EPISODE TWO - ACT TWO - SQ EP1. THE MO

INT. SEQUENTIAL STUDIO

In the studio.

AUTOMATED VOICE

This is a World-Tel link prepaid
call from:

SICKO

Sicko.

AUTOMATED VOICE

A patient at the Shady Acres Rehab
Facility in...

Fade Out/Music cue.

CANDICE STRIPE

From These American Supers and QSPZ
Baltimore, it's Sequential, one
tale, told bit by bit.

(then)

I'm Candice Stripe.

(then)

For the last year I've spent every
day trying to figure out where a
supervillian was for one hour on
Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020.

SFX: Cop walla. News walla.

BEN BELTZER

Sicko has once again escaped from
the Shady Acres Villain Rehab
Center in Bloomington, Indiana.

CANDICE STRIPE

In case you aren't familiar with
his crimes, Sicko is best known as
the arch-enemy of Goat Man. He's
the perfect foil for the dour
ungulate: colorful, afraid of
heights, and famous for his sick
sense of humor.

SFX: Sicko's laughter.

CANDICE STRIPE (CONT'D)

Hence: "Sicko." A name given to him
by the Chicago PD.

(MORE)

CANDICE STRIPE (CONT'D)

His real name is unknown. Every attempt to identify him has ended in failure.

(then)

This show is not about the origin of Sicko. This show is about his most infamous crime:

REPORTER #1 SEQUENTIAL EP 2

Tragedy in Chicago today. The Kid, beloved sidekick to Goat Man has been found dead...

Music cue.

CANDICE STRIPE

The Kid's real name was Phillip Dodd. Known to be good natured, calm under pressure, smelled nice at the end of a patrol. He was nineteen at the time of his death.

(then)

That fateful night in September, the 23rd, a Wednesday, The Kid had tracked Sicko to an abandoned pharmaceutical plant on the outskirts of the city.

(adding)

The villain tends to be drawn to places with a medical theme.

(then)

A police officer on patrol noted the Kid's arrival in his duty journal, remarking it was strange to see the sidekick without his mentor.

(then)

The officer in question was Commissioner Norman, who unlike most Commissioners working in the United States, still likes to patrol the streets on foot.

SFX: Street walla. Police radio.

COMMISSIONER NORMAN

Yeah the boys keep insisting that I stay in the office saying, but I think it brings me closer to the voters when I'm clubbing some of them into the paddy wagon.

(then)

Anyway. I'm out there right. Eyes like an eagle.

(MORE)

COMMISSIONER NORMAN (CONT'D)

And I see The Kid, without the boss-goat enter the building at 11:32pm. Moment later *whoosh*. Ginormous fireball. Explosion rocked all of Cicero. Car alarms everywhere.

(then with a sigh)

I love this job.

(adding)

Tragic though. About The Kid.

CANDICE STRIPE

Goat Man swore vengeance, and within a week he caught Sicko and turned him over to the authorities.

(then)

This is where our story begins. With a letter addressed to me, from Sicko.

(then)

His message was four simple words: "I didn't do it."

Music cue.

CANDICE STRIPE (CONT'D)

In another life, I was a television reporter in Chicago, working the Super beat.

(then)

I'd covered several of Sicko's crimes and was kidnapped by him on more than one occasion. So we had what you would call a "working relationship."

(then)

"I didn't do it."

(then)

If there's is one thing to know about Sicko. He's not shy about his crimes:

SICKO

I once took out an ad to brag about killing a kitten in front of a puppy, in front of a children's birthday party.

CANDICE STRIPE

We speak on the phone twice a week. I can often hear other criminal masterminds playing in the background.

DR INSANO
Nat twenty!

SFX: Other inmates cheering.

SICKO
Ugh. Where was I? Oh yeah. I just love killing. Men, women, children. Black, white, alien, extra-dimensional, 2-dimensional.
(then)
Doesn't matter to me. If it's got a pulse, I can fix that. At this point if chose not to kill someone, it would be prejudicial.

CANDICE STRIPE
So for the record. Did you kill The Kid?

SICKO
I. Wish.

CANDICE STRIPE
So who did?

SICKO
Now that's the question.

CANDICE STRIPE
Sicko is not only unrepentant of his crimes, he is proud of them.
(then)
He is already serving 98 consecutive life sentences for his other crimes. So why deny this one?

SICKO
I have a image to uphold. Explosions are so... Pedestrian. Quotidian!
(adding)
If I were to blow someone up, I would do it like they were a balloon. If you were to get an air compressor --

CANDICE STRIPE
I'm going to cut in here to spare you the details. And it's true, every crime that can be traced back to Sicko has a unique spin to it. A brief list includes:
(then)
(MORE)

CANDICE STRIPE (CONT'D)

Setting up an actual trolley-car dilemma, removing the parachutes from a skydiving course for nuns, placing lactose into a soy based ice cream vat, and of course what is widely known as the "noodle incident".

(then)

Having covered his crimes for years I can say this: confidently. An explosion at a pharmaceutical plant just doesn't fit his M.O.

(then)

And then there's this:

SFX: TV interview.

KELLY CLOSE

So what do you say to the rumors that you're about to take over the horns?

THE KID

Aw jeez I don't know about all that. Goat Man is the best there is, I just want to make sure the horns wind up on the best head out there.

CANDICE STRIPE

Then 36 hours after that interview...

From the pre-recorded segment: Goat-mobile (Episode 4). It's been added in for pacing.

FADE IN:

THE KID

You gotta help me. Give me a new face a new id, help me disappear?

CANDICE STRIPE

This is a segment from the popular SPR show the Utility Belt. The Kid is calling in after crashing the Goat-mobile. Listen to how the call breaks down.

STAN

Can you just roll it? Like a hamster ball.

WHIZ KID

*I'm sure Goat Man will understand.
You're not the first sidekick
that's taken a supercar for a joy
ride.*

THE KID

*I wasn't taking it for a joy ride.
I was trying to escape.*

STAN

Escape? From what?

THE KID

Oh my god. He's here.

GOAT MAN

*(deep voice)
Bahhhhh...*

THE KID

I'm not the first --

SFX: *Phone clattering. Line goes dead.*

WHIZ KID

Kid. Kid are you there?

Music.

CANDICE STRIPE

*What happened in those 36 hours to
change the Kid from the bright,
confident Heir to the Horns to
someone running for his life?*

(then)

*Unfortunately we may never know
because that was the last the world
heard from him. Two days later, he
was dead.*

(then)

*We may never know what it was he
was escaping, but a dark
explanation looms.*

(then, with weight)

Listen to this part again.

SFX: *Tape rewind.*

THE KID

Oh my god. He's here.

GOAT MAN
 (deep voice)
 Bahhhhh...

THE KID
 I'm not the first --

SFX: Phone clattering. Line goes dead.

FADE OUT:

CANDICE STRIPE
 "I'm not the first."

A beat. Music.

CANDICE STRIPE (CONT'D)
 In the past twenty years, there
 have only been six recorded deaths
 of teenage sidekicks.
 (then)
 This is Quentin Crawford from the
 Boy and Girl Sidekicks of America.

CANDICE STRIPE (CONT'D)
 Now can you tell me what you just
 said for the record?

QUENTIN CRAWFORD
 Yes. But I will preface that this
 is a matter of public record, if
 not widely publicized. But of the
 six deaths,
 (sigh)
 Three of them were apprenticed to
 Goat Man...

End music.

CANDICE STRIPE
 Sequential is produced by Hailey
 Frond and me, Candice Stripe. Ethan
 Schwartz is our editorial advisor.
 Sequential is a production of These
 American Supers and QSPZ Baltimore.
 We'll be back next week, with our
 next episode: "Bhaaaaad-man"

EPISODE TWO - END ACT TWO

EPISODE TWO - NEWS THREE

INT. NEWS STUDIO

In the studio.

WENLING CHEN

This is Wenling Chen from SPR
Washington with Breaking News!

(then)

The Superhuman Rights protest in
Washington has turned violent. A
group of counter protesters calling
themselves "The NormCore" have
arrived in droves. And skirmishes
have broken out all over.

(then)

We go live to SPR investigative
reporter Fiona Vaughan. Fiona?

SFX: Protesters clashing. Police responding. Screams. Powers
being used.

FIONA VAUGHAN

Thanks, Wenling. As you can hear,
things have turned chaotic at what
was once a peaceful rally.

NORMCORE CHORUS, NEWS 3, EP 2

You cannot save us! You cannot save
us! You cannot save us!

FIONA VAUGHAN

The Normcore members are wearing
tactical gear, bandanas and shields
emblazoned with what appears to be
a cartoon sheep.

SFX: Close violence.

FIONA VAUGHAN (CONT'D)

There are enough of them that they
have now encircled the students
from the Future People Academy.

(not to mic)

Hey! Hey get away from her!

NORMCORE CHORUS, NEWS 3, EP 2

Fake news!

FIONA VAUGHAN
They have been harassing members of
the media as well.

WENLING CHEN
Have the police responded?

FIONA VAUGHAN
Police are dispatched along
Constitution Ave, but they seem
mostly concerned with protecting
the Capitol Building itself.
(then)
The Future People have been
protecting us in the meantime.
(reacting)
Oh sh -

SFX: Shield. Glass shattering. Fire.

FIONA VAUGHAN (CONT'D)
One of the Future People has
deflected what appeared to be an
incendiary device with her mind.
The fire is everywhere.

SQUALL
Juhi what do we do?

PARROT
squawk Juhi --

SQUALL (PARROT) (CONT'D)
What do we do?

SQUALL (CONT'D)
Shut up Parrot!

SHEENA
Where's Loop?

JUHI SINGH
Squall, make a hole! Sheena, keep
up that shield.

SFX: Wind gust. People being blown over.

FIONA VAUGHAN
One of the teens has unfurled her
wings and is pushing the mob back
with a strong gust of wind!

SQUALL
I can't keep this up!

JUHI SINGH

It's now or never people! Let's
move!

FIONA VAUGHAN

We have to move Wenling, live from
Washington, I'm Fiona Vaughan.

SFX: Feed goes dead.

UNDERWRITER

That was Fiona Vaughan reporting
from Washington.

(then)

Today's show was written and
produced by John Dorsey and
Maximilian Clark. Additional
producing by Rachel Music and Carla
Lerner, This episode's cast include
(see website). With special thanks
to Brenna Killeen and Brendan
Sokler.

(then)

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(then)

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Outro:

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)

Coming up next...

(then)

Learn why thousands are bringing
super pets out of intergalactic
zoos and into their homes, plus
tips for how to get radioactive fur-
balls out of your carpet, an SPR
special report.

SFX: End Music.

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)
This is SPR

EPISODE TWO - END NEWS THREE

END EPISODE 2