

"POTENTIAL DISASTER"

Written by

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THE NOT-SO-SUPERVILLAINS

EPISODE 101

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EXT. EL DIABLO MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS - MORNING

01-01-1 An unassuming public middle school. The buildings are at least a century old, so they have a stately if decrepit air.

01-01-2 After a moment we SWIVEL enough to reveal that the building stands in the shadow of a NUCLEAR REACTOR.

INT. EL DIABLO MIDDLE SCHOOL - SAME

01-02-1 LUTHER hurries down the hallway, backpack slung over one shoulder.

01-03-1 HIS FELLOW STUDENTS. We catch glimpses a coven of TWEEN WITCHES near the water fountain.

01-03-2 He passes lockers, trophy cases, student election posters. It's all very ordinary except for--

01-06-1 PRINCIPAL PANIC's cheery voice booms over a LOUDSPEAKER.

PRINCIPAL PANIC (V.O.)
Good Morning, Young Villains!
Welcome to another day at El
Diablo, where we bring out the
worst in you! Remember, it's Spirit
Week, so don't forget to wear your
school colors - black on black!

01-07-2 Luther hears a BUZZING sound. He looks around, spying

01-08-1 A FLY landing on the fluorescent light above him. After a beat, it begins to GLOW. Make that a *FIREFLY*.

01-09-1 Distracted, Luther bumps right into FRED--

FRED
01-09-3 Watch it, Luther!

LUTHER
01-09-4...6 I think that firefly is following me. I keep seeing it.

FRED
01-09-7 That tracks. This school is infested with every kind of bug.

LUTHER
01-09-8 But why is it glowing like that?

FRED
 01-09-9 Because we're right next to a
 nuclear waste dump. I wouldn't
 stress about it.

02-01-1 Luther pulls a COMIC BOOK out of his backpack.

LUTHER
 02-01-1...02-03-1 *Don't you read comic books?*
 Radioactive insects turn people
 into villains every day. And my
 name is *Luther Sparks*. Doesn't that
 sound like a future villain to you?

FRED
 02-04-1 Maybe it's just a firefly.

LUTHER
 (eyeing the firefly)
 02-05-1...2 Yeah... or *maybe--*

VERNA (O.S.)
 02-06-1 It's a tragedy! A disaster! A
catastrophe!

INT. "ASSISTED SCHEMING" CLASSROOM - DAY

The classroom where students who struggle with villainy go
 for extra help. Luther and Fred sit at desks next to

VERNA, who has her head tucked into the arm of her gown like
 a sleeping bat (or a stalking vampire).

FRED
 02-07-1 Verna, I'm sure it's not *that bad*.

LUTHER
 02-09-1:10-1 Come on. Let us see.

02-10-1 Verna pokes out her head and GRIMACES. A thicket of metal
 covers her TEETH. Fred and Luther respond with frozen smiles.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
 02-12-1 Braces! They're so...shiny.

FRED
 Like beautiful barbed wire!

VERNA
 02-13-1 The dentist said my fangs are
 crooked. As if!

02-13-3 On "As if," a RUBBER BAND zings out of Verna's mouth. We hear SFX of it RICOCHETING around the room.

VERNA (CONT'D)
03-01-1 Oof. Sorry. Rubber band.

The rubber band sticks onto the blackboard as MS. MENACE slithers into the room clutching a coffee cup.

MS. MENACE
03-02-1 Bad morning, my little scourges!

FRED
03-03-1 Morning Ms. Menace. We might have to cancel class. Verna got braces.

03-03-2 Verna smiles PROUDLY, and another rubber band ZINGS out.

MS. MENACE
03-04-1:4 Oh please. Call me when you've been passed over as Vice Emperor or the Galactic Dominion. And why?!

FRED, LUTHER AND Verna
03-05-1 *Politics.*

MS. MENACE
03-06-1:12 But no matter. I got assigned here with all of you instead. Lucky me. You're going to learn science to make you better villains and, possibly, help me exact revenge.

03-07-2 Verna, Fred and Luther trade worried looks.

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)
03-08-1:2 Today's topic is *potential energy*!

03-08-3 INSERT A WHITEBOARD. Ms. Menace's alien hand comes into frame, drawing stick figures and diagrams as necessary.

MS. MENACE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
03-09-1:10 Let's say you have a boulder. How can a dumb old rock have potential energy? It's just sitting there!
(as the diagrams continue)
Well, if the boulder is at the top of a hill, it has potential energy based on its position relative to the bottom of the hill. Maybe someone pushed the boulder up there, like, for instance, someone who wants to crush the backstabbing leader of the Nebulan Senate.

The hand draws a stick figure that resembles Ms. Menace.

LUTHER (O.S.)

04-01-1 Ms. Menace... do you need a hug?

04-01-2 MS. MENACE'S EYES poke into frame, glaring--

MS. MENACE

04-01-3:8 Silence! Pushing the boulder up the hill increases its potential energy. If the boulder rolls back downhill, that *potential* energy is converted into *kinetic* energy.

Ms. Menace turns to the class--

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)

04-01-9 Who can think of things that change energy from one form to another?

LUTHER

04-02-1 Batteries?

MS. MENACE

04-03-1 Yes! They convert energy from chemical bonds into electricity!

VERNA

04-06-1? Windmills?

MS. MENACE

04-05-1 Yes. The wind turns the blades, and that kinetic energy is converted into electricity.

FRED

04-04-1 What about a bottle of soda that you shake up *really* hard?

MS. MENACE

04-07-NEW Sure! The dissolved gases inside have potential energy that can be released explosively! When you learn how to harness energy you can do wonderful things, like causing an avalanche that buries Milwaukee.

VERNA

04-08-1 Or my dentist's office.

Another rubber band FLIES out of Verna's mouth. She shrugs: *whoopsy*. LUTHER examines Ms. Menace's drawings.

LUTHER
 04-09-1 Does everything have potential energy?

MS. MENACE
 05-01-1 Yes. Just like each of you has the potential for villainy.

05-02 FRED reacts hopefully; LUTHER reacts anxiously. Ms. Menace holds up a BOTTLE, a PENCIL, and RUBBER BANDS.

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)
 05-03-1:04-01 Experiment time! Take this plastic bottle, rubber bands, straw, paper clip, and metal washer and make me a vehicle that converts potential energy into kinetic energy.

FRED
 05-05-1 Wait-- how?

MS. MENACE
 05-06-1:2 Figure it out! And have fun, kids!

05-07-1 We TRANSITION as if PANNING to another pane of a COMIC BOOK--

EXT. EL DIABLO QUAD / COURTYARD - DAY

05-08-1 Our heroes-- er, villains-- well, our main trio are outside in the courtyard of the school.

05-09-1 Fred inspects the bottle racer materials, perplexed. He and Luther try combinations of items, with no luck.

FRED
 05-10-1 This looks like the inside of a trash can, not a science project!

LUTHER
 05-11-1:2 There are holes on both ends of the bottle. Maybe that's something.

05-12-1 Luther puts his eye to one of the holes, and from his POV THROUGH THE BOTTLE: we see FRED. Fred ponders the paper clip, washer and rubber bands.

FRED
 What are the rubber bands for?

VERNA
 I don't know, but if you need extra, there are about a hundred in my mouth. I need to adjust them.

Verna looks in a CLASSROOM WINDOW. Only her BRACES are reflected. The braces "talk" as Verna speaks--

VERNA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Having a reflection would be nice
right now.

LUTHER
06-03-1 Why don't you ask one of the eighth
grade witches to cast a spell to
straighten your fangs? Then you
won't need braces.

VERNA
06-04-1:2 I would never! Next they'd be
asking me to join their coven.

FRED
06-05-1:06-1 Can we *focus*? I don't want to flunk
science! I already got a C minus on
my maniacal laugh test.

06-07-1 QUICK CUT TO FRED, standing at the front of a classroom--

FRED (CONT'D)
Your soul is MINE! Tee hee hee hee--

06-08-1 BACK TO FRED, who SHUDDERS at the memory. Luther stops--

LUTHER
06-09-1 Quiet. Do you hear buzzing?

VERNA
06-10-1 My mouth might be picking up radio
signals.

LUTHER
06-11-1 No... There!

06-12-1 The RADIOACTIVE FIREFLY comes around a tree. It comes towards
Luther, and he SWATS THE AIR, making it SWERVE.

06-14-1 The FIREFLY rights itself, staring right at Luther.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
(ad lib as fly chases him)
Get out of here! Shoo! Go away!

FRED
06-16-1 Uh oh. You made it mad.

Luther RUNS, with the firefly in pursuit, its abdomen glowing
a disturbingly nuclear shade of green--

VERNA

07-1-1 Look at it glow!

07-01-2 On "glow," another rubber band ZINGS out of Verna's mouth, whizzing past FRED'S HEAD. He lights up, inspired--

FRED

07-02-2:03-1 Verna! We can fight back with your rubber bands!

Luther runs through frame, the FIREFLY still in pursuit--

LUTHER

07-03-2 Fred's right! Point your fangs at the firefly!

07-04-1 Verna steps in the path of the firefly with a determined look, BARING HER GLITTERING, STEEL-STUDDERED FANGS.

07-05-1 She HISSES! Another rubber band ZINGS out of her mouth---

07-06-1 CLOSE ON THE FIREFLY freezing in midair as the rubber band SMACKS into it with a comic book-style "POW!"

07-07-1 It hits the ground, inert and, for the moment, harmless.

07-08-1 INT. THE "ASSISTED SCHEMING CLASS" - MINUTES LATER - DAY

07-09-1 The BOTTLE RACER zooms across the linoleum floor. Fred shows it off with pride.

FRED

07-10-1:2 Thanks to Verna, I figured out that twisted rubber bands can hold potential energy.

LUTHER

07-10-2 Yes, and the more you stretch them, the faster the bottle racer goes!

FRED

07-10-3 We made an unstoppable machine! The world is OURS! Tee hee hee hee--

VERNA

07-10-5 The laugh still needs work, Fred.

Ms. Menace watches the racer zoom by with droll approval.

MS. MENACE

07-11-1 So, who's ready to avenge me in the ice caves of Zorgon Seven?

LUTHER

08-01-1 Maybe... after lunch?

08-02-2 Ms. Menace rolls her three eyes, turning to Verna and Fred--

MS. MENACE

08-03-1 You shouldn't hang around Luther so
much. He's becoming a good
influence on you.

EXT. EL DIABLO MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS - AFTERNOON

08-04-1 A wide shot of the empty courtyard outside the campus. The
nuclear reactor still looms in the distance. Clouds gather.

08-04-2 In the foreground, the neon firefly BUZZES to life, lifting
into unsteady flight and disappearing into the shadows.

SUPER A TITLE: **TO BE CONTINUED....**