

"THE FIREFLY'S RETURN"

THE NOT-SO-SUPERVILLAINS

EPISODE 106

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FINAL DRAFT

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EXT. EL DIABLO MIDDLE SCHOOL - MORNING

Aspiring villains bustle into school on an early June day.

INT. EL DIABLO SCHOOL HALLWAY - SAME

LUTHER bops down the hall with a spring in his step. The LOUDSPEAKER comes to life on the wall above him.

PRINCIPAL PANIC (O.S.)
Happy Last Day of school, El
Diablo! It's been a wonderful year
full of chaos, terror and evil.

As Luther passes a classroom, we glimpse a MASKED STUDENT setting an apple on his teacher's desk. The TEACHER accepts it with a smile, then goes pale at the sight of its LIT FUSE.

PRINCIPAL PANIC (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Reminder, Eighth graders: you
cannot pick up your diplomas until
you return *all* your enemies from
alternate dimensions.

Luther keeps walking as a BOOM and a PUFF OF SMOKE emanate from the classroom behind him.

INT. ASSISTED SCHEMING CLASSROOM - DAY

Luther pops down next to Fred and Verna.

LUTHER
It's gonna be a great day! Because
it's the last day.

VERNA
I know. I can't wait to relax in my
coffin all summer.

FRED
I'm going to camp in purgatory,
where the fun never ends!

Ms. Menace faces the class in a particularly summery dress.

MS. MENACE
Don't turn off your brains yet. I
have one more dollop of knowledge:
today's topic is catalysts.

Ms. Menace moves behind a lab counter, where equipment is hidden under a SHEET.

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)

And we have a surprise visitor to help us demonstrate it.

Ms. Menace grabs the sheet with one of her gelatinous fingers and whisks it off, revealing A BELL JAR -

with the RADIOACTIVE FIREFLY inside! Luther recoils.

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)

A common firefly. I found him buzzing around the classroom.

VERNA

(whispering to Luther)

Is that the same one that chased you before?

CLOSE ON THE FIREFLY: it's glaring at Luther. *Snarling.*

LUTHER

That's him all right.

Ms. Menace powers on a screen with a detailed SCHEMATIC of a firefly. It's depicted as if it's a fighter jet.

MS. MENACE

A catalyst is any substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction. For instance, inside a firefly's abdomen, there is a special chemical called luciferase.

The LUCIFERASE appears on screen as pulsing RED TRIANGLES.

FRED

Like *Lucifer*! Cool!

MS. MENACE

When a firefly draws air into its abdomen, oxygen combines with the chemicals in its belly to produce small amounts of light.

On the diagram, ARROWS pull oxygen molecules (white circles) into contact with other chemicals (blue squares). Dim yellow "explosions" result.

IN THE BELL JAR, the FIREFLY looks on with interest.

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)

Luciferase *speeds up* those reactions, making the light bright enough for us to see.

ON SCREEN, the red triangles bump into the white and red shapes, making the collisions speed up until the dim "explosions" magnify in number and brightness.

At the same time, as if on cue, the firefly GLOWS an otherworldly yellow-green. LUTHER's seen enough.

LUTHER

I gotta get out of here.

MS. MENACE

Yes you do!

LUTHER

Wait. I can go?

MS. MENACE

You're all going to demonstrate a catalyst in action. But first, you need special ingredients from the school kitchen. Go fetch them!

Luther, Fred and Verna head for the door. Luther pauses to glance back, and notices... the BELL JAR IS EMPTY!

LUTHER

What happened to the firefly?

MS. MENACE

He must have snuck out. Clever bug!

INT. EL DIABLO MIDDLE SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Luther rushes down the hallway with Verna and Fred in tow.

LUTHER

Why did that pest have to come back today. The last day!

FRED

He's *devilish*! It must be the Luciferase.

VERNA

He has pointy little teeth. I think he might be part vampire.

LUTHER

I don't care, as long as he doesn't get any part of *me*!

WITH COMIC PANEL TRANSITION and a scary music STING, we are--

INT. EL DIABLO KITCHEN - DAY

Luther, Verna and Fred cower before MISS CLEAVER. She's a hulking GORGON dressed in a lunch lady apron. She has silverware snarled in her hair.

FRED

Hi Miss Cleaver. Uh... Lunch was delicious. I love oatmeal!

MISS CLEAVER

(glowering)

That... was *salad*.

LUTHER

We need ingredients for an experiment.

MISS CLEAVER

Well I don't need children grubbing around in my kitchen. Right, Pox?

A GIANT RAT climbs onto Miss Cleaver's shoulder and NODS.

LUTHER

Miss Menace sent us.

Luther offers a note. Miss Cleaver inspects it, and softens.

MISS CLEAVER

Martha sent you? That's different! Anything for my pickleball partner.

WE QUICKLY FLASH ON: Miss Menace and Miss Cleaver on the same side of a pickleball court. Miss Cleaver rushes the net, cutlery flying as she spikes an oncoming BALL--

MISS CLEAVER (CONT'D)

YAHHH!

Back in the kitchen, Fred asks meekly--

FRED

We need soap, and yeast. Then we'll be out of your...uh... hair.

Miss Cleaver grabs a KNIFE from her snarled curls and points--

MISS CLEAVER

You can find them in the stockroom. But I better not find a single spoon out of place, or your last day of school will be *your last day of school*.

INT. STOCKROOM - DAY

Verna reaches into a box to retrieve a bottle of SOAP.

VERNA
dish soap, check! Did you find the
yeast?

LUTHER (O.S.)
Almost.

Luther is up on a STEP STOOL, reaching on tippy-toes for a canister of yeast on the shelf.

FRED stands below him with a container of marshmallows open. He's TOASTING one over an open flame in his palm.

FRED
Look, I'm doing a demo!
(Ms. Menace voice)
"A toasted marshmallow is the
catalyst of a S'Mores reaction."

Luther climbs and hands Verna a can clearly labeled YEAST.

LUTHER
Keep the catalysts away from me. I
don't like change.

VERNA
You can't avoid it. It can be good
or bad, but change always happens.

As they step out of the stockroom--

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

We hear a BUZZING SFX, and the FIREFLY SWOOPS PAST THEM.

LUTHER
Look out!

Luther and Fred run to a rack of utensils. They each grab a SPATULA and don BOWLS and COLANDERS for helmets.

VERNA
Miss Cleaver said not to touch!

FRED
We have no choice. This is war!

Verna nods -- Fred's right -- and grabs her own metal spoon.

As the firefly circles, the kids swat with their utensils as they try to evade and subdue the firefly.

They weave between carts stacked high with PLATES--

The firefly DIVE-BOMBS AT FRED. He flails with the spatula, smacking the firefly across the room and out of sight.

FRED (CONT'D)

Yes!

Off-balance from his swing, Fred BUMPS a CART FULL OF PLATES. It WOBBLES. Luther and Fred shout in panicked SLO MO--

LUTHER AND FRED

NOOOOOOOO!

Verna thinks fast -- she lifts her arms wide, opening her cape, and MORPHS INTO A BAT--!!

Bat Verna FLIES ACROSS THE KITCHEN, steadying the stack of plates with her snout just before it topples. Crisis averted.

There's a moment of calm. Luther and Fred breathe a sigh of relief, then turn to find

MISS CLEAVER looming over them.

MISS CLEAVER

What are you two cooking up in here?

Luther holds up a spoon with a weak smile.

LUTHER

We were just, uh, practicing our pickleball swings?

FRED

Yep!

MISS CLEAVER

Oh. Well. That's important.

Luther and Fred nod, then do a DOUBLE TAKE when they realize

VERNA is standing next to them, human again. Verna holds up the YEAST and SOAP with an innocent smile.

VERNA

All good. Have a nice summer!

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Luther, Fred and Verna walk back to the classroom. Fred smiles at Verna with a little awe--

FRED

So the whole *transformation* thing.
Can you do that whenever you want?

VERNA

Whenever I'm feeling batty.

LUTHER

It definitely saved us back there.

VERNA

Like I said. Change can be good.

MS. MENACE (O.S.)

Welcome back, my mad scientists!

INT. ASSISTED SCHEMING CLASSROOM - DAY

Verna and Fred are back at their desks. Luther stands at the lab table with Ms. Menace. Both wear LAB COATS and GOGGLES.

MS. MENACE

Now that you have the necessary
materials, we can demonstrate a
catalyst at work. Let's make
Elephant Toothpaste!

Ms. Menace points to a flask filled with BLUE liquid.

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)

I prepared a six percent hydrogen
peroxide solution with blue food
coloring, then mixed in a cup of
dish soap.

Luther raises a beaker of his own.

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)

A small amount of yeast solution
breaks apart the hydrogen peroxide
atoms, releasing oxygen into the
soap to make bubbles. Luther, when
you're ready, pour in the catalyst!

As Luther holds the beaker over the flask, he spots something
out of the corner of his eye--

THE FIREFLY circling just above him!

Luther looks over at Fred and Verna and whispers--

LUTHER

Run!

Luther pours THE ENTIRE BEAKER OF CATALYST into the flask!
BLUE FOAM starts pouring out--

MS. MENACE

Too much catalyst! Move it, kids!

Ms. Menace, Verna and Fred rush out of the path of the bubbles. Luther joins them at the threshold and shuts the door as the room FILLS WITH FOAM--

They see the neon-green glow of the firefly inside the foam, floating around the room and then OUT an open window.

Ms. Menace turns to Luther--

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)

Luther Sparks. You disobeyed my instructions poured in too much catalyst, and created total chaos! For that, I'm forced to give you--

Luther cringes, preparing for the worst--

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)

An A-Plus! We may make a villain of you yet! Go make lots of mischief this summer. See you next year!

The end of school BELL RINGS as we DISSOLVE TO--

EXT. EL DIABLO MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Tween villains return to El Diablo for another school year, walking through the entrance under a banner that says "WELCOME BACK, HELLHOUNDS!"

SUPER A TITLE: THREE MONTHS LATER.

INT. ASSISTED SCHEMING CLASSROOM - DAY

Verna and Fred are at their desks. Ms. Menace greets them.

MS. MENACE

Welcome to Eighth Grade! What did everyone do this summer?

Suddenly, a LONG SHADOW appears from the doorway. We hear a deeper voice boom out:

LUTHER

I grew.

Fred and Verna turn to look in the direction of the door.
Verna exclaims, shocked--

VERNA

Luther?!

SMASH TO BLACK.

THE END.