

"EL DIABLO FREEZES OVER"

Written by
Jason Mayland

THE NOT-SO-SUPERVILLAINS

EPISODE 102

April 10, 2024

Final Draft

SHR PROJECT
Gen Media Labs

EXT. EL DIABLO MIDDLE SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

VERNA, FRED and LUTHER sit at a table in the cafeteria.

VERNA
So I'm sitting in Lurking class,
and the witch behind me says "*vegan
vampires can't be scary.*"

FRED and LUTHER shake their heads, properly outraged.

VERNA (CONT'D)
The gall, right? I mean watch this.

Verna takes a BITE of the fruit from her cafeteria tray, and then spreads her arms wide, red liquid drips from her fangs--

VERNA (CONT'D)
I want to suck your blood orange.

LUTHER
That was horrifying... In an eco-
friendly way.

FRED
Totally! A chill went through me!

Verna licks the juice off her chin with a proud SLURP.

VERNA
Yes! I've still got it.

Fred SHIVERS again, pulling his cape tighter around him.

FRED
No, I shivered for real. Did it
just get colder in here?

PRINCIPAL PANIC enters. He is as stout as Ms. Menace is rail-
thin, with mad scientist hair and horn rimmed glasses.

PRINCIPAL PANIC (O.S.)
Bad Morning, my miniature
miscreants! Some bad news. Our
school's heater, the Chill Be Gone
3000, is...to use the technical
term... not working.

FRED
No wonder it's freezing in here!

VERNA
Fred, it's like seventy degrees.

FRED

I'm sensitive to cold. My people
come from a warm climate!

FLASH ON FRED eating dinner with his PARENTS. Their dining
room is ENGULFED IN FLAMES. Fred's dad ALASTAIR calmly asks--

ALASTAIR

Frederick, pass the hot sauce.

As Fred passes a tureen of literally FLAMING hot sauce, we
CUT BACK TO the El Diablo Cafeteria.

Principal Panic motions to an ominous looking door labeled
"BOILER ROOM - KEEP OUT!"

PRINCIPAL PANIC

Don't worry! Our fearless janitor
is on the case.

The door SLAMS OPEN and MAL, the hulking and Yeti-like school
handyman, rushes out in a very distressed state--

MAL

That's no boiler. That's a *monster*!

Mal BOLTS out the door. Principal Panic calls after him--

PRINCIPAL PANIC

You can't just *leave*! Not all of us
have an antarctic fur coat!

An ominous RUMBLE rises from the basement like a growl.
Principle Panic gives the students a forced smile.

PRINCIPAL PANIC (CONT'D)

I have the situation totally under
control, so just... chill out. Now
off to class you go!

INT. ASSISTED SCHEMING CLASSROOM - DAY

MS. MENACE stands in front of the class, wearing a scarf and
tiny knit caps on each of her three eye-tentacles.

MS. MENACE

Nothing like a brisk chill to
concentrate the mind! It takes me
back to my days as Governor of the
Ice Moon of Torr.

FRED

Weren't you impeached for
embezzling Dominion funds?

MS. MENACE

Never mind that!

Ms. Menace begins sketching on her trusty CHALKBOARD.

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)

Today's topic is Thermodynamics,
which is a fancy way of saying "the
movement of heat." And that's what
a boiler does, it moves heat!

FRED

When it's working.

MS. MENACE

Right. So how does it work? First,
a gas flame heats up water in the
main tank. When the water gets hot,
it turns into steam, which carries
even more heat.

Ms. Menace sketches the boiler pipes with arrows
demonstrating the movement of the heat.

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)

The steam condenses back to liquid
water, transferring heat to the
metal pipes, then from the metal to
the air around us, which makes us
feel warmer.

LUTHER studies the diagram, curious--

LUTHER

Why does heat move like that? Why
doesn't it just stay where it is?

MS. MENACE

So glad you asked! It's because of
the *Second Law of Thermodynamics*,
which decrees that heat always
moves towards cold!

VERNA

Like the heat in Fred's body is
moving into the cold air!

FRED

Verna, you're not helping.

CLOSE ON LUTHER, his interest suddenly piqued.

LUTHER

So why isn't the heat moving from
the school boiler to our classroom?

MS. MENACE

It would take a very courageous
student to find out. Only one has
ever tried. He battled the Chill Be
Gone and lost.

SWIVEL TO REVEAL a framed photograph behind Ms. Menace's
desk: it's a Two-Face style villain with a half-melted face.

LUTHER reacts with a horrified SHUDDER. Ms. Menace smiles.

MS. MENACE (CONT'D)

Good old *Meltface*. Such a good-
looking boy! Last I heard he was
terrorizing Albuquerque.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Luther, Fred and Verna stare at the Boiler Room door, which
is clearly marked with "DANGER" and "KEEP OUT!" signs.

VERNA

We've got to go down there.

LUTHER

Are you totally insane?

VERNA

I got a C- in criminal insanity.
That's why I'm stuck in assisted
scheming with you.

FRED

We've have to do something. It's
getting c-c-colder by the second.

LUTHER

The sign clearly says "Keep Out!"
We'll get in trouble.

Verna cracks a wry smile.

VERNA

This is a school for villains. We
are the trouble.

INT. THE BOILER ROOM - DANK AND GRIMY DAYTIME

LUTHER, VERNA and FRED reach the bottom of the stairs, coming face to face with THE CHILL-BE-GONE. A terrifyingly steam-punky BOILER, just outside its 1000 year warranty.

VERNA

Whoa. They don't make 'em like this anymore.

LUTHER

Fro good reason. If we get too close I'll end up as the next Meltface.

FRED

Come on, Luther! We've got to risk it, or I'm gonna end up as a D-d-duh... Demon-sicle.

VERNA

Facts. And let's face it, blue is not Fred's color.

LUTHER

Okay, fine. Let's just fix it and get out of here.

The kids approach the CHILL-BE-GONE. It LOOMS over them.

VERNA

What did Ms. Menace say? Heat moves toward cold?

LUTHER

Yes. So why isn't any heat moving?

VERNA

Maybe there's nothing to carry it.

Fred is struck with inspiration--

FRED

Maybe there's no w-w-w-wuh--
(deep breath)
W-w-w-wuh--

LUTHER

Water! There's no water.

Fred nods vigorously. (Or maybe it's just his head shivering). Luther POUNDS the tank. It makes a HOLLOW sound.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Fred's right! It's empty!

VERNA
Wait a second-- I just remembered--

FLASH ON A BIOLOGY CLASSROOM, where the COVEN OF EIGHTH GRADE WITCHES giggle and murmur over a BOILING CAULDRON--

VERNA (CONT'D)
The eighth grade witches cast a spell on our biology teacher to make her forget we had a test.

JUMP BACK TO VERNA, FRED and LUTHER, putting it together--

VERNA (CONT'D)
I heard them say they used "water boiled a thousand times" to make their spell stronger. They must have stolen it - from right there!

Verna points to the WATER INTAKE VALVE on the top of the boiler. Fred looks at Verna and Luther with determination.

FRED
Hold my cape. I'm going up.

FRED hands Verna his cape, grabs a ladder and climbs to the top of the tank, finding the WATER VALVE. He turns it on.

LUTHER
The tank is filling! Good job Fred!
(a beat, then)
Um... Fred?

Luther looks up to see Fred is FROZEN in place--

VERNA
Whoa. His demon blood froze solid.
This thing needs to heat up fast!

The CHILL-BE-GONE beings to RUMBLE -- almost growling. Luther speaks to it in soothing tones, as if its a pit bull--

LUTHER
Be a good boiler. You're such a good boiler, yes you are.

Suddenly, a BLAST OF STEAM shoots out of a lower VALVE--

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Noooooooo! I'm mellllltingggg--

Verna shakes Luther out of his Wicked Witch impression--

VERNA

Dude! The blast missed you. You're fine.

Luther checks himself and realizes Verna's right--

LUTHER

Oh.

Verna points to the STEAM still pouring out of the valve--

VERNA

The witches must've left that valve open! We have to close it so the steam can move through the pipe!

Luther looks at still-frozen FRED. He gathers his courage--

LUTHER

I can do it.

VERNA

What if it blows up in your face?

LUTHER

Saving Fred is worth the risk. Just give me a cool villain name, like "Sergeant Scalder" or "Lord Lava."

Luther starts towards the blasting steam.

VERNA

Use Fred's cape! It's fire-proof!

Luther realizes he's still holding the cape.

He lifts it in front of his face like a matador as he approaches the steam--

The cape REPELS the steam as he walks--

The CHILL-BE-GONE, now at full bubble, ROARS angrily, its front grate snarling like a fanged beast's mouth--

VERNA (CONT'D)

Bad boiler! Down, boiler, down!

Using Fred's cape as a shield, Luther diverts the blast of steam and reaches the valve, straining to TWIST IT CLOSED--

SMASH CUT TO:

Fred sits with his feet up on his desk, wearing sunglasses, a Hawaiian shirt, and sipping from a lemonade cocktail.

FRED

And when Luther closed the valve,
the heater started working again!

ANGLE ON VERNA, who is sweating and fanning herself.

VERNA

A little too well if you ask me.

MS. MENACE

Ugh. What a horrible tale of
bravery and friendship. Please tell
me it ended badly, and that Luther
met a deliciously tragic fate.

Luther ENTERS, ominously shielding his FACE with Fred's cape.

LUTHER

I am not Luther. From now on, call
me... The Dastardly, Dreaded--

Luther DROPS the cape, revealing... His usual self.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Regular Face! BWAH HA HA HA!

MS. MENACE

You have disappointed me yet again,
Mister Sparks.

LUTHER

Come on. Aren't you a *little bit*
relieved that I didn't get hurt?

MS. MENACE

The Second Law of Thermodynamics
does not apply to my heart, Mr.
Sparks. It stays ice cold in all
conditions.

INT. THE BOILER ROOM - SAME

We push in on the CHILL-BE-GONE as it bubbles and growls,
waiting to turn Luther into a villain on another day...

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