Doctor Horrible is trying to get into the Evil League of Evil. He feels as though he has done enough evil to get in but he’s not accepted, he’s even had a letter of condemnation from the deputy mayor!

Doctor Horrible doesn’t really seem to have his heart in his evil doings, but he seems to do them out of desperation to prove that he can make some kind of mark on this world. Though misguided, he’s not much of a bad guy, he is reluctant to hurt someone and seriously dislikes the “hero” of the movie, Captain Hammer, because he’s a jerk and not because he is the hero, and keeps on stopping Horrible from being recognized.

He even seems to want to advance science, he created a teleporter and stole gold bars … though they came out the other side as a kind of mush rather than bars. “It’s not about making money, it’s about taking money”, he says as a way to justify his slight failure. He really seems to want the recognition for doing something, anything, to make his name. He made a freeze ray and says it’s for evil to his blog followers, but it’s really to help him get the courage to talk to a girl he likes, and possibly stop time so he can come up with the right words for Penny instead of looking like an idiot.

Dr. Horrible got a letter from the evil league that says he’s in if he can prove himself by doing one really evil deed, so he plans a heist. As he is in mid-execution Penny, the girl he likes, approaches him to sign a petition. He pretends to be texting as he performs the heist from his mobile phone and pretty much blows her off without meaning to. His efforts are focused on the heist right at the moment. Captain Hammer shows up, thwarts Dr. Horrible, and impresses Penny. Doctor Horrible is not in an envious situation.

With his plan gone wrong he’s going to have to kill someone to prove his worth to The League. Hammer has been showing his true colors as an attention whore, only doing heroic acts for women and glory. Dr. Horrible sees a way to get into the league, he’s going to kill Hammer.

When he tries he can’t morally bring himself to kill, so hammer steals his gun and points it at Horrible’s face and shoots without hesitation. The gun backfires and kills Penny. Horrible is damaged beyond repair, has nothing else to lose, and truly becomes a villain in the end.

I feel that the villain of this story is two people at different times. To begin with its Captain Hammer, he only wants the glory of being a hero and, as long as he’s not seen, doesn’t mind hurting anyone that gets in his way, pushing people out of the way and even trying to hurt Dr. Horrible through Penny (because he enjoys seeing his enemies suffer) for example. Not everything Hammer does is villainous, but it’s leaning that way. He does one truly villainous act and that’s rubbing his fake relationship with Penny in Horrible’s face.

But when, in the end of the story, Penny is killed by the gun exploding in Hammer’s hands Dr. Horrible becomes a true villain. Horrible no longer cares if he hurts anyone and, through some evil deeds, is easily admitted to the Evil League of Evil.

Comparing the juvenile, vindictive behavior of Captain Hammer to the actual crimes that Dr. Horrible does in the end clearly points to Dr. Horrible being a villain if I had to choose only one villain, but because of Horrible’s story you slightly feel for him even in the end.