

THE MYSTERY MEN

by Neil Cuthbert

based on the Dark Horse comic created by Bob Burden

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registered WGA

THEME AND CREDITS...

FADE IN:

EXT. ERIE HOSPITAL FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE - DAY

CAMERA MOVES THROUGH a tangled jungle of razor wire, finally COMING INTO VIEW of a foreboding, fortress-like old institution, surrounded by towers and gun turrets. Screaming and horrible laughter is heard from within...

CLOSE ON a sign that reads "Erie Hospital for the Criminally Insane"... This is where the worst killers and psychos go.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

THE CAMERA PANS THE EXPRESSIONLESS FACES of the REVIEW BOARD as CASANOVA FRANKENSTEIN sits across from them. Dressed in an immaculately tailored prison smock (with "Casanova" exquisitely embroidered above the pocket), he sits contritely as DOCTOR EMMETT BIERCE, the hospital's fatherly Chief of Psychiatry, presents his case.

BIERCE

No one can deny the horrendous nature of Mr. Frankenstein's crimes, but in the twenty years he has been with us, I have never seen a patient turn his energies to more productive use.

ON CASANOVA, the picture of remorse and repentance.

BIERCE

Just look at his accomplishments... three volumes of poetry, two rock operas, a sculpture garden, four romance novels... and who can forget his touching portrayal of Billy Bigelow in our all-psychotic production of "Carousel"...

ON SEVERAL OF THE BOARD getting misty eyed at the memory of that brilliant performance...

BIERCE

Directed by our own Doctor Anabel Leek.

ON DOCTOR ANABEL LEEK, the hospital's icily beautiful, ultra cool, top shrink.

A moment later Casanova addresses them... His manner is charming, sincere, his voice soft, filled with emotion. He is a master of seduction.

CASANOVA

Twenty years ago, I was a lost
soul. Loveless...
(with a son-like glance at
Doctor Bierce)

Fatherless...
(chokes on the word)

A... psycho!
(breaks down sobbing)

Oh! How could I have done it? The
murder... the mayhem... all of
those lovely young girls!

(weeping, a brilliant
performance)

I'm sorry! I'm SO SO SORRY!

Doctor Bierce wipes the tears from his eyes. Reactions from the board, moved, as Casanova weeps convulsively. Doctor Leek shows no reaction.

CASANOVA

(pulls himself together)

But my deeds have been done, and my
youth is gone, and we can only go
forward in this cruel world... and
if I have learned anything from my
wretched life it is that... When
you walk through a storm, keep your
head held high...

(singing)

And don't be afraid of the dark...

Tears plop down the cheeks of the review board as the FULLY ORCHESTRATED STRAINS OF "WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH A STORM" SWELL...

SERIES OF SHOTS - AS THE MUSIC CONTINUES

A hand stamps Casanova's file "CURED"... Casanova shakes hands and embraces the tearful members of the review board, finishing with a paternal hug from Doctor Bierce.

In his cell a guard delivers Casanova his favorite old disco suit (that's been waiting for him for twenty years).

Casanova, dressed in the suit, walks down the central aisle of the lock-up... A moment later he steps out of the massive gates of the hospital, and takes his first deep breath of freedom... while in an office window high above Bierce and the members of the review board stand watching, very proud...

But suddenly THE MUSIC CHANGES TO SEVENTIES DISCO as a black Ferrari drives up, and Doctor Leek, now dressed very sexily, gets out... As the review board watches in stunned silence, Casanova and Anabel perform a nifty little disco twirl, finishing with a very lewd kiss...

Bierce, watching, realizes he's been duped... as Casanova, grinning up at him, puts a long gold chain (his favorite weapon) around his neck... Bierce, horrified, picks up the telephone... as Casanova and Anabel get in the car.

INT. THE CAR - A MOMENT LATER

Casanova and Anabel drive off. The massive old hospital is seen through the rear window behind them, as Casanova calmly looks at his watch...

CLOSE ON HIS WATCH -

as the second hand just swings toward the twelve. It is exactly twelve noon...

BACK ON CASANOVA -

CASANOVA
(almost wistfully)
Boom.

And the hospital EXPLODES in a HUGE FIREBALL that completely consumes it.

CASANOVA
Those gas leaks can be murder.

EXT. THE ROAD - DAY

The Ferrari drives past and the CAMERA HOLDS ON a sign that reads "Welcome to Champion City, home of Captain Amazing". The city itself, a crumbling rust belt metropolis (ala Detroit) can be seen stretched out along the shore of Lake Champion off in the distance...

INSIDE THE CAR - CONTINUOUS - ON CASANOVA

CASANOVA
I'm home.

BACK ON THE ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The Ferrari drives under a much larger billboard that looms over the road, showing a picture of Captain Amazing himself, a square jawed classic superhero, staring fiercely into the camera. The caption reads "Crime. Don't even think about it."

EXT. TRAIN YARDS OF CHAMPION CITY - NIGHT

Letters read "Six months later"...

as the CAMERA EXPLORES the desolate muddy terrain of the train yards, CRUISING past piles of ties and abandoned train cars...

CAMERA PICKS UP a battered van as it drives through the yard, then pulls up beside an old boxcar. The back of the van is thrown open, a ramp is thrown down, and THE RED EYES, a gang of vicious small time thieves (all of whom wear sunglasses with red lenses) start unloading their night's haul... RED EYE 1 drives a golf cart, with clubs, down the ramp.

RED EYE 1

Golf anyone?

Several more Red Eyes emerge carrying a sawn off bike rack with bikes still attached, a barber pole, a Virgin Mary lawn statue, and a top of the line baby stroller... while their leader, BIG RED, stands in the door to the boxcar, watching approvingly.

RED EYE 2

Not a bad night's work.

BIG RED

Who said crime don't pay?

The Red Eyes laugh... as Red Eye 3 takes the cover off the baby stroller and sees... that there's a BABY still in it.

RED EYE 3

Hey, Boss, we got a stowaway.

The crooks gather around the baby, a jolly little kid who just laughs at them.

RED EYE 4

(about to slug him)

Who you laughin' at, punk?

RED EYE 2

He's just a tyke. Lighten up.

RED EYE 5

He's kinda cute.

RED EYE 3

If you like drool.

RED EYE 2

Hey, why don't we sell him back to his parents? For a million bucks!

The others think that's a great idea, but Big Red doesn't.

BIG RED

And what if he rats on us?

The others hadn't thought of that.

RED EYE 3

So what should we do with him?

BIG RED

Stick a brick in his Pampers and
dump him in the lake.

The others think that's a good idea and look around for a brick.

RED EYE 3

Come on, kid, you're goin' for a
swim.

But suddenly there is another presence... A man in a blue turban and cape with the initials "BR" on his chest has appeared... He is THE BLUE RAJA.

RAJA

Not so fast, gentlemen--and I use
the term loosely... Unhand that
youngster...

Another man steps into the light. He wears a construction helmet and mask. There is an "S" on his chest, and he carries an old shovel. He is THE SHOVELER.

SHOVELER

Or you're mulch.

He brandishes his shovel for effect. The Red Eyes look at these two, highly amused.

BIG RED

What are you guys supposed to be...
superheroes?

A third man steps out. His costume is less dramatic than the others. He wears only an old leather jacket and a faded, torn shirt with flames on it, but the fierce look on his face and the atrociousness of his haircut make it very clear that he is the craziest and most dangerous of the three. He is MISTER FURIOUS.

FURIOUS

We ARE superheroes!

BIG RED

Really? Did you mother make those
costumes?

The crooks howl with laughter.

BIG RED

This is our territory. Beat it.

FURIOUS
Over YOUR dead body.

Big Red turns to the others and shakes with pretended fear.

BIG RED
Oooooo, he's scary.

The Red Eyes laugh, but suddenly, a small silver projectile whizzes through the air and implants itself in Big Red's backside. He howls with pain, pulls it out and examines it... It's a silver dessert fork.

BIG RED
A fork!

The Raja holds up his hands, each of which hold a spread of silver forks.

RAJA
And there's plenty more where that came from.

Big Red gives a shrill whistle, and a dozen more Red Eyes step out of an old caboose... including MIKEY, a four hundred pound behemoth. He is eating a container of Ben and Jerry's like it was an ice cream cone, taking huge bites out of it, container and all.

ON RAJA AND SHOVELER, reacting... Gulp. This was more than they'd bargained for. But Furious just growls; he's game.

BIG RED
GET 'EM!

The Red Eyes attack... Mister Furious goes into a furious rage; his hair stands out straight and he rushes right into the oncoming crooks...

A Red Eye takes a swing at the Shoveler--but he simply puts up his shovel and lets the crook slug the shovel's pan. The crook yelps with pain and shakes his battered hand... as the Raja fends off crooks, poking them with salad forks... and the baby sits in his stroller, watching and laughing, really enjoying the show. (There's no real martial artistry or teamwork here; this is a classic back alley brouhaha.)

But there's too many of them... The Raja goes down under swinging fists... and so does the Shoveler...

Furious holds his own, taking out crooks with powerful lefts and rights--until Mikey runs him down like a truck, falling right on top of him and crushing him under his massive weight.

RED EYES

Crush him, Mikey!... Mash him!...
Mush him!

FURIOUS

(barely audible under all
that meat)

Is that all you got?

RED EYES

He wants more!... Squish him!...
Finish him off!

FURIOUS

(faintly)

Your mother!

Mikey, sweating, hears down... but suddenly, a calm, very
authoritative voice is heard.

VOICE (O.S.)

Is there a problem?

Everything suddenly stops, as the Red Eyes look up and see...
CAPTAIN AMAZING standing on top of the boxcar, hands on hips,
framed in the light of the moon, his biceps bulging, his state
of the art physique sculpted body armor gleaming in the
moonlight, his cape wafting heroically in the wind. He is
superhero perfection incarnate.

ON THE RED EYES as their viciousness turns instantly to
panic...

RED EYES

IT'S CAPTAIN AMAZING!

Big Red and a couple others try to run for it, but Amazing
leaps cat-like off the boxcar and is on them in a flash. As
the baby claps his hands in delight, and our three heroes
watch in beat-up awe, Amazing deftly takes out the crooks with
expert punches and effortlessly delivered elbows and kicks.
He is the consummate superhero, and he doesn't even break a
sweat.

The remaining Red Eyes drop to their knees and throw up their
hands in surrender.

RED EYES

We give!... We're sorry!... We had
terrible childhoods! (Etc.)

Police cars and a TV truck come screeching into the train
yard... and the scene is suddenly flooded with light and
swarming with cops and reporters...

Our three heroes try to approach Captain Amazing (who still looks fresh as a daisy).

RAJA
Nice work, Captain.

But Amazing just walks past them, ignoring them completely, as if they didn't even exist. He goes to greet DAWN WONG (Champion City's answer to Connie Chung).

AMAZING
(turning on the old superhero charm)
Hi, Dawn.

DAWN
(putty in his hands, pudding in his bowl)
Looks like you've done it again, Captain.

AMAZING
It's what I do.

Our heroes just watch, feeling ignored, humiliated. Furious growls. Suddenly, TWO COPS are accosting them.

COP 1
Okay, show's over. Move it. On your way.

RAJA
Wait a minute, Officers. You don't understand--we're superheroes, and we just busted up this gang.

COP 1
Really? Let me guess--you're Towel Head and he's...
(meaning the Shoveler)
Captain Pooper Scooper!

The cops crack up. Furious growls at them. The cops yank out their nightsticks.

COP 1
Hey! Move it!

COP 2
Get a life!

COP 1
And leave crime fighting to the real thing!

Shoveler and Raja pull Furious away before he gets into real trouble... The cops watch as our three heroes disappear into the night.

COP 1

Wannabes.

COP 2

Pathetic.

EXT. THE LAKESIDE DINER - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

An inner city greasy spoon.

INT. THE DINER - CONTINUOUS - CLOSE ON A TV SCREEN

on which Captain Amazing, the laughing baby in his arms, is being interviewed by Dawn Wong. He's playing the cutsy photo op for all its worth, gootchy-gooing the kid, etc. Dawn is creaming.

Our three heroes sit at a booth in the back of the diner, watching the tube...

RAJA

(nursing a sore jaw)

He doesn't miss a trick, does he?

FURIOUS

What a jerk--and like nobody knows who he really is!

SHOVELER

Oh don't start that again--

FURIOUS

LOOK!

Furious picks up the newspaper on which there is a photo of a good looking guy in a tux at a benefit... The headline reads "Lance Hunt Hosts Benefit." He holds the picture up next to the television, so the faces of Lance Hunt and Captain Amazing are side by side. It is obviously the same guy.

FURIOUS

He's Lance Hunt! Just take off the glasses--and it's him!

RAJA

There's a vague similarity.

FURIOUS

A vague similarity? IT'S THE SAME GUY!

SHOVELER

(downing some aspirin)
Oh, who gives a damn who he is? I
can't take this anymore. Night
after night we're on the streets,
busting our humps--and for what?

RAJA

We take the licks and he gets the
chicks.

SHOVELER

How long do you have to chase a
dream before you realize it's not
gonna happen?

FURIOUS

We need a break, that's all!
Nobody'd ever heard of him until he
busted Casanova Frankenstein!

RAJA

But look at him... and look at us.

SHOVELER

The camera loves him.

A depressed silence. Furious turns his attention to the
napkin dispenser.

FURIOUS

(furious)
Why do they always fill stuff these
things so full you can't pull 'em
out without ripping 'em!
(rips one out)

RAJA

I lost another fork tonight. She's
getting suspicious, I know it.

FURIOUS

So why don't you just tell her!

RAJA

I can't.

FURIOUS

Why not?

RAJA

(upset)
Because I can't! Okay? She
wouldn't understand!

SHOVELER

Leave him alone. She's his mother,
not yours.

FURIOUS

We had an off night, that's all.

SHOVELER

So when are we gonna have an on
night?

A WAITRESS is standing at the table.

WAITRESS

Hi.

They look at her, taken aback. She's very pretty.

RAJA

You're... new.

WAITRESS

It's my first night. My name's
Monica.

CLOSE ON FURIOUS, smitten by her, but almost afraid to look at
her. Under all that rage, he's in fact shy.

MONICA

You guys going to a costume party?

RAJA

We're superheroes.

MONICA

Really? Like Captain Amazing?

Furious growls.

MONICA

Are you famous?

RAJA

Not yet.

MONICA

So you're like... struggling
superheroes?

RAJA

We prefer to think of ourselves as
unsung... I am the Blue Raja,
Master of Silverware...

(does a very impressive
little flipping thing with
his place setting)

MONICA

Wow.

RAJA

And these are my associates, the Shoveler.

SHOVELER

Hi.

RAJA

And Mister Furious... His anger is his power.

MONICA

(intrigued by Furious)

Really?

RAJA

Usually a superpower is a magical endowment or a great skill. In his case, it's entirely emotional.

MONICA

So what can I get you?

RAJA

Burgers all around.

(meaning himself)

Medium.

(meaning the Shoveler)

Rare.

(meaning Furious)

Raw.

A moment later as Monica walks away, Furious can't help but watch her. The Raja replaces the diner's dinnerware with the good stuff from his coat.

RAJA

She likes you.

SHOVELER

Definitely.

RAJA

Ask her out.

FURIOUS

Nah.

RAJA

Roy, when was the last time you had an actual date?

FURIOUS

(getting very pissed off)
 What does it matter? Women just want to control you--and talk about their feelings. They want to know why you're angry all the time--and what can they can do to help--so you tell them there's nothing--nothing!--just leave me alone--but they bug you and they bug you and they bug you--until you just can't stand it anymore!--so you finally open up--you pop like a blister--and it all comes spewing out--all your emotions--your feelings--your fears--all of it!

(after a beat)

And then they dump you.

RAJA

So you're chicken?

FURIOUS

(fiercely)

Who's chicken?

(gets up)

Monica stands at the counter placing her order. Furious approaches her, leans against the counter. For a moment he just stands there, fuming, unable to think of anything to say. She isn't sure what to make of this.

FURIOUS

Doesn't it piss you off the way the when you really want to talk to somebody you can't think of anything to say!

MONICA

I guess... Are you always so angry?

FURIOUS

Only when I'm awake... You busy after work?

She shrugs.

FURIOUS

Want to go out and get drunk?

She's visibly turned off by that.

FURIOUS

Or talk?

MONICA

Not tonight.
(picks up an order and walks
away)

EXT. OUTSIDE THE DINER - LATER

Furious, the Raja, and the Shoveler step out.

RAJA

Maybe you should try a more
romantic approach.

FURIOUS

(gets on his old Harley)
Like what? Cutting off my own ear?

RAJA

Or flowers.

FURIOUS

See ya tomorrow.

Furious kicks his engine started and speeds off into the night as the Shoveler opens the door of his battered Ford Esquire station wagon, and the Raja gets into his ancient Datsun.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

The Shoveler pulls into the driveway of his very modest house. The front yard looks like a battle zone. Bikes and kids' junk are everywhere.

INT. LIVING ROOM - A MOMENT LATER

as big a disaster area as the front yard. His kids, EDDIE JR. (15), LENORE (12), BUTCH (10), TRACY (7), and ROLAND (5) are all sprawled in front of the television. The Shoveler enters, and his kids don't even bother to look up from the tube.

SHOVELER

Hey, when are you guys gonna clean
this place up?

TRACY

When you're on TV.

EDDIE JR.

Right--like that will ever happen.

LENORE

Save any babies lately?

ON THE SHOVELER, silent, hurt.

TRACY

Faster than a speeding turtle--

BUTCH

More powerful than a deodorant--

EDDIE JR.

Able to eat twelve donuts in a
single sitting--

LENORE

Look, snoring in his chair--

EDDIE JR.

Sitting on the john--

ALL

It's... Supergut!

The kids all laugh (in that derisive way that kids do so well) as the Shoveler dejectedly walks into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - A MOMENT LATER

The Shoveler enters, dejected. His wife, Lucille, is doing the dishes. She looks up, sees him.

LUCILLE

(feels for him)

Rough night, Eddie?

He nods.

EXT. THE RAJA'S HOUSE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

The Raja's Datsun is parked in front of a neat as a pin little Victorian house.

INT. THE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The room is dark. Someone is sneaking around. A drawer is quietly opened, and we hear the gentle clink of silver. Suddenly, the light goes on and we see the Blue Raja, now dressed in a sport shirt and slacks, with his hand in the drawer. His MOTHER, in her nightclothes, stands by the door where she has just switched on the light.

MOTHER

Jeffrey!

RAJA

Oh hi, Mom.

MOTHER

What are you doing in the silver
drawer?

RAJA

Looking for... the TV Guide.

She just looks at him, very suspicious.

MOTHER

It's on the television.

RAJA

Of course. I'm such a fool...
Thanks, Mummy. Go to bed.

He kisses her and goes into the next room. CAMERA HOLDS ON MOM; she doesn't trust him.

EXT. HILLTOP - NIGHT - ANGLE ON

A billboard overlooking the city. Captain Amazing is posed wearin, a pair of bright blue Nikes. The caption reads. "It's a nice world. Somebody's got to save it... The Nike Supershoe. It's Amazing."

Furious sits on his Harley, taking long hauls from a pint bottle of cheap bourbon and gazing up at the sign.

FURIOUS

Amazing? What's so amazing about him? I'd be amazing, too, if I'd inherited two hundred million bucks... or two bucks... or two cents...

(hurls the empty bottle,
smashing it against the
sign)

Who am I kidding? Dreams don't come true.

A moment of despondency, and then he hears a strange sound overhead and looks up...

HIS POV -

as something suddenly flies across the star filled night sky above him...

It is Captain Amazing, wearing a high tech rocket pack on his back...

FURIOUS

Where's he going?
(kicks his Harley started)

SERIES OF SHOTS - WITH MUSIC

as Furious, following Captain Amazing, rides roughshod down the steep hill, skidding onto a road and then speeding through a residential area...

He cuts onto some railroad tracks, hops his bike up on a rail, and rides smoothly along it, following Amazing... He turns off the tracks, rides roughly through some woods, then emerges from the trees and sees...

A foreboding looking old mansion... Captain Amazing lands on the highest part of its roof... Furious pulls up, gazes at the front gates of the mansion...

HIS POV -

Letters across the iron gates read... "Frankenstein".

EXT. ON THE ROOF - CONTINUOUS

Captain Amazing abandons his jet pack and moves across the old slate roof like Spiderman, leaping nimbly from gable to gable and walking along a high ridge like a tight rope walker. Finally he approaches a skylight, looks down and sees...

A huge old library with an iron catwalk running around it. Casanova Frankenstein sits in a club chair by a roaring fire. Anabel perches on the arm of his chair. In the other chair sits a once good looking, now paunchy guy, with a meticulously coiffed haircut. He is TONY POMPADOUR, head of the infamous Disco Boys.

ON CAPTAIN AMAZING -

AMAZING

(just as he suspected)

Uh-huh.

He sees that the skylight is open, and quietly lets himself in...

INT. THE LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Casanova and Tony P savor glasses of brandy and puff on big cigars.

CASANOVA

I hope you enjoy these cigars. I had to kill a dozen Cubans to get them.

TONY P

Ummm.

CASANOVA

Have you considered my offer?

TONY P

You know, Mr. F, me and the boys always loved workin' for you. You had such style: the clothes, the dancin', the elegant way you'd snuff a babe. You were the King...

Casanova accepts this graciously.

TONY P

But times have changed, and you been in that bug house a long time. I can see you still got the style, but I dunno for sure you still got the edge.

CASANOVA

I got it.

TONY P

What about Captain Amazing?

AMAZING (O.S.)

Good question.

Casanova and Tony P look up and see Captain Amazing, posed nonchalantly on the iron catwalk, gazing down at them. Tony P jumps out of his chair, scared. But Casanova just smiles at his ancient rival, cool as a cucumber.

CASANOVA

I knew you'd come. I left that skylight open for you.

AMAZING

I know you did.

CASANOVA

I knew you'd know.

AMAZING

I know you knew I'd know.

CASANOVA

But did you know I knew you'd know I'd know?

AMAZING

Of course.

Tony P makes a move for his pistol, but Captain Amazing instantly whips out his pistol, getting the drop on him.

AMAZING

I'd hate to waste a good bullet on a piece of scum like you, Tony.

Tony freezes.

AMAZING

The jig is up, Casanova. I've spent six months watching you, and know exactly what you're up to.

CASANOVA

Really?

AMAZING

I know that you're recruiting your old henchmen...

Nervous reaction from Tony P.

AMAZING

I know who your girlfriend really is...

Icy reaction from Anabel.

AMAZING

And I know the terrible revenge that you plan to inflict on this city.

CASANOVA

I guess you know just about everything, don't you, Lance?

AMAZING

Um-hmm.

CASANOVA

Except for one little thing.

AMAZING

(supremely confident)
And what's that?

CASANOVA

That I've hot wired the city's entire power supply through that catwalk.

AMAZING

What--?

Casanova suddenly throws a secret breaker switch, and the ugly hum of a million volts instantly fills the room...

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS - ON FURIOUS

still watching... as all the lights in the house go out, except for a frightening orange glow in an upper room...

Off in the distance Furious sees... the lights of the entire city flicker and then black out... A moment later the mansion, and the city's lights return to normal... as Furious watches, not sure what to make of this.

EXT. STREET CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

Traffic is snarled. Horns are blasting. Tempers are frayed.

CLOSE ON A HAMMERING JACKHAMMER... CAMERA WIDENS TO REVEAL that it is being operated by the Shoveler, dressed in work clothes. Wiped out from the night before, the vibrations of the hammer are lulling him off to sleep... He nods out... as his BOSS whacks him on the arm.

BOSS

YO! CAPTAIN SOMINEX! Get your shut-eye at home, or you'll be a full time superhero!

EXT. THE RAJA'S HOUSE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

INT. THE RAJA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Raja lies sprawled on his bed, depressed, still in his pee jays, as he watches... an ANTHONY ROBBINS infomercial ON THE TV.

ANTHONY

It's all within your power. The only thing that's in your way is YOU!

RAJA

Easy for you to say.

EXT. SALLY'S AUTO DEMOLITION - DAY - ESTABLISHING

An auto junkyard and demotion yard.

EXT. THE YARD - DAY

A giant press mashes an old car... while nearby Mister Furious does the job by hand, demolishing an old Grand Prix with an iron bar. He does it as easily as a normal guy would tear apart a corrugated box, ripping off the doors, then tearing off the bumpers and the hood and tossing the pieces onto a big pile... His big boned, red faced boss SALLY is calling out to him.

SALLY

Hey, Roy!

EXT. THE BACK OF THE YARD - A MINUTE LATER

In a weedy overgrown far corner of the junkyard Sally and Furious stand looking a big old hunk of a military vehicle. It is a Herkimer Battle Jitney, a heavily armored, windowless, soundproof, personnel carrier (designed by the Pentagon in the fifties to take congressmen on battlefield fact finding tours). Overgrown with weeds, home to an extended family of pigeons, its fighting days (if it ever had any) are over.

SALLY

How many times I gotta tell you about this?

FURIOUS

Sally, that's a Herkimer Battle Jitney! They don't make 'em like that anymore. It's a classic!

SALLY

It's a hunk of junk. I want the iron. Do it!

She walks away. Furious growls. He picks up his iron bar and is about to wedge it under the front bumper of the Herkimer...

HIS POV -

But the big old headlights and the sad old grill seem to be looking at him, imploring him for one last chance...

And he just can't do it. He throws away his iron bar and climbs inside the cab of the Herkimer...

IN THE CAB - CONTINUOUS

Furious sits behind the wheel and tenderly touches its beat-up old dashboard, then turns on the radio, which, miraculously still works. He tunes in a local station, puts his feet up on the dash.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

... and continues to deny any knowledge of the incident... In local news, millionaire Lance Hunt has apparently disappeared...

ON FURIOUS, taking immediate notice.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Members of his household told police that the playboy philanthropist failed to return home last night after "going out for a walk". Police say they have no reason yet to suspect foul play, but a search is under way...

INT. THE DINER - NIGHT

Furious, the Shoveler, and the Raja all sit at their booth.

FURIOUS

I saw him go in--and he didn't come out!

RAJA

But we don't know for sure it's the same guy.

Furious groans.

SHOVELER

Hey, look.

ON THE TV -

Casanova is being interviewed by DON STOUFFER, the local Mike Wallace.

CASANOVA

Well, Don, I've done some terrible things in my life, but now I'm cured, and I just want to give back something to my old home town... That's why I'm using what's left of my fortune to build...

CLOSE ON A MODEL of a huge concrete bunker-like institutional structure (i.e. the Getty)

CASANOVA (O.S.)

The Frankenstein Center for the Arts.

DON

You've changed, haven't you?

CASANOVA

Oh yes.

BACK ON FURIOUS, RAJA, AND SHOVELER -

FURIOUS

No he hasn't.

EXT. FRANKENSTEIN MANSION - NIGHT - ANGLE ON

the wall of the estate... as our heroes' three heads rise up over it... and survey the grounds.

FURIOUS

(about to climb over)

Let's go.

RAJA

(in a whisper, holding him back)

Wait!... Look!

THEIR POV -

A group of men are hanging around the door to the house, smoking, chatting, and laughing. A CLOSER ANGLE REVEALS that they are all dressed in the height (or depths) of seventies disco fashion. One of them is showing off some steps.

Our heroes fall back behind the safety of the wall and confer.

RAJA

This is bad.

SHOVELER

Who are they?

RAJA

The Disco Boys.

FURIOUS

The who?

RAJA

The most vicious gang of thugs this city ever produced. Twenty years ago they were Casanova's personal bodyguard. But after he was busted they crawled into the woodwork.

FURIOUS

Well they've crawled back out.

SHOVELER

We may be getting in over our heads here.

RAJA

This looks like a job for Superman--

SHOVELER

Or Batman--

RAJA

Or both.

FURIOUS

Don't you guys get it? If Captain Amazing is still in there, we can rescue him--and get on TV!
(goes right over the wall)

They share an exasperated look, then scramble over the wall after him.

INT. CASANOVA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Casanova and Dr. Anabel Leek are preparing for bed. Anabel sits in front of a huge mirror, brushing her long hair as Casanova moves up behind her and puts his hands around her throat, massaging, squeezing, just barely resisting the temptation to strangle her. (She loves it).

CASANOVA

Everything's going exactly as we planned.

ANABEL

(puts the sharp point of her comb handle under his chin)
Not quite. You haven't announced our engagement yet.

CASANOVA

It must have slipped my mind.

ANABEL

Your mind is so slippery.

CASANOVA

Don't worry, Pootchkie. My womanizing days are over. You're my Lady Macbeth, my Imelda... my Nicole.

(pulls her into his arms)
We're such an incredible team. Who could possibly stop us?
(kisses her)

CUT RIGHT TO:

EXT. THE LAWN - CONTINUOUS - ON OUR THREE HEROES

as they crunch their way non too stealthily across the backyard.

RAJA

Don't crunch the leaves.

SHOVELER

Sorry.

RAJA

Be a Mohican.
(bumps into a lawn chair)

FURIOUS

Wait.
(They all stop.)
I hear something.

They all listen; there is a low rushing sound... It is the sound of water rushing through pipes. Suddenly, the lawn sprinklers all pop up... and our heroes get drenched. They duck off the lawn, behind the cover of a large tree.

RAJA

I'm soaked.
(sneezes)
Oh great.

FURIOUS

Shhh.

SHOVELER

Be a Mohican.

RAJA

Shut up.

Furious sees a pair of French doors, off a small patio. One of the doors is slightly open.

FURIOUS

Come on.

They start sneaking toward it, but as they cross the patio... they trip the automatic security lighting, and suddenly find themselves bathed in light.

RAJA

Uh-oh.

As our heroes look around a dozen Disco Boys, armed with pipes, chains, brass knuckles, step into the light and encircle them... The French doors open and Tony P steps out.

RAJA

Oh I'm sorry. We must have the wrong house.

TONY P

You sure do.

The Disco Boys attack. The Raja is instantly clubbed down. The Shoveler deflects only a blow or two with his shovel before he goes down, too... These guys are not the Red Eyes.

Only Furious holds his own. He grabs a pipe away from one of them and swings fiercely, keeping the others off. Suddenly, the Disco Boys pull back. Furious doesn't know why, until he turns and sees...

Casanova, standing right behind him, smiling.

CASANOVA

Hi there.

With a cat-like move Casanova slashes his gold chain viciously-- and repeatedly--across Furious' face. Furious, stunned with pain, lunges at Casanova, who neatly steps aside, then catches him with a fast combination of spinning disco kicks. Finally he lassos the chain around Furious' neck, and pulls it tight, strangling him.

ON THE DISCO BOYS, watching, snapping their fingers with admiration...

Casanova releases Furious, who slumps to the ground. Casanova steps away, and the Disco Boys gather around Furious and kick him viciously... as Casanova and Tony P watch, amused, chuckling.

CASANOVA

Superheroes.

TONY P

Should I kill them?

CASANOVA

(completely disdainful)
Why bother?

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE MANSION - A MOMENT LATER

The Disco Boys drag our heroes through the gate and throw them like bags of garbage into the street... where they lie in a moaning, agonized, semi-conscious heap.

INT. THE DINER - LATER - CLOSE ON

Furious, rubbing his neck; a thin red mark runs around it. The three of them are sitting at their usual table, in very bad shape, moaning and groaning... Monica approaches. She's made them ice packs and cold compresses.

MONICA

Here you go.

(sits with them, applies a
compress to the Raja's head)

RAJA

Ow.

MONICA

Maybe you guys ought to forget this superhero stuff and join Kiwanis or something.

A FUSSY CUSTOMER is calling out from another table.

FUSSY CUSTOMER

Miss!

She moves off.

RAJA

Maybe she's right.

FURIOUS

(still furious)

Are you serious? This is the break we've been waiting for!

SHOVELER

What are you talking about?

FURIOUS

What have the famous superheroes got that we don't?

RAJA

Agents?

FURIOUS

Archenemies! Casanova isn't just a criminal--he's a supervillain. Stopping him could be our ticket to fame, fortune--and babes!

SHOVELER

And it would be the right thing to do.

FURIOUS

(dismissively)

Yeah yeah--and that, too.

RAJA

But there's only three of us, and he's got the entire brotherhood of evil at his disposal.

FURIOUS

Then maybe it's time for us to form our own brotherhood...

(more)

FURIOUS (Cont'd)
 a brotherhood of righteous, crime
 fighting, skull cracking, Disco Boy
 bashing, warriors of the night!

SHOVELER
 I'm liking this.

FURIOUS
 I say we send out the word--and
 summon all of the unsung
 superheroes we know!

RAJA
 (after a moment)
 Yeah, but... who do we know?

They take a long moment to ponder this.

FURIOUS
 Well... there's the Spleen.

Shoveler and Raja make disgusted noises.

RAJA
 Do we have to?

SHOVELER
 I got this cousin. He's a real
 doofus, but he claims he can become
 invisible.

FURIOUS
 Have you ever seen him?

SHOVELER
 How could I see him if he's
 invisible?

FURIOUS
 Good point.

RAJA
 And there's the Sphinx.

SHOVELER
 The who?

RAJA
 He's a legendary masked Mexican
 crime fighting superwrestler and
 master of the machete.

FURIOUS
 Sounds good.

RAJA

No one's sure that he actually exists, but they say he can be contacted by leaving a message on a crumpled up napkin at the Tacky Taco down by the bus station.

SHOVELER

Get outta here.

EXT. TACKY TACO - DAY - ESTABLISHING

A funky Mexican restaurant by the bus station.

INT. THE RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Our heroes, in normal clothing, have just finished a taco lunch. Furious is writing a message on a napkin with a ballpoint pen.

FURIOUS

You sure that's how you spell it?

SHOVELER

Yeah.

CLOSE ON THE NOTE -

which reads "Spinks, we need you."

They crumple up the napkin and leave the restaurant... A moment later a shy looking MEXICAN MAN busses their tray... but in A CLOSE ANGLE we see him secretly pocket the napkin.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

A little brick house.

INT. INVISIBLE BOY'S ROOM - DAY

A teenage boy's room, decorated to the max with models and posters of the great superheroes: Batman, Spiderman, Captain Amazing, etc. INVISIBLE BOY, about fifteen, is being interviewed by the Raja, Mister Furious, and the Shoveler.

FURIOUS

So, let me get this straight. You have the power to become invisible.

INVISIBLE BOY

Yes.

RAJA

But... only when no one is looking.

INVISIBLE BOY

Yes.

FURIOUS

If someone looks at you, you immediately become visible again.

INVISIBLE BOY

Yes.

RAJA

So you're only invisible... to yourself.

INVISIBLE BOY

No.

OUR HEROES

(hopefully)

No?

INVISIBLE BOY

If I look at myself, I become visible.

RAJA

So you're only invisible, when absolutely no one is looking at you?

INVISIBLE BOY

Yes.

FURIOUS

So how do you know that you've ever been invisible?

INVISIBLE BOY

I just know.

Our heroes are less than impressed.

FURIOUS

Look, kid, we've got a lot of heroes to interview--

INVISIBLE BOY

(desperate)

I know I haven't got it entirely worked out yet, but I've always dreamed of becoming a superhero... Weren't you guys ever a kid? Didn't you ever need someone to just give you a chance?

ON OUR HEROES, looking around the room... and softening up.

INT. THE DINER - NIGHT

Our heroes sit at their usual table along with Invisible Boy and a weird looking guy in a greasy, stained yellow superhero outfit. Across his chest in falling off stick on letters it reads "THE SPLEEN", and that's exactly who he is. Furious, the Raja, and Shoveler sit as far away from him as possible. He is a totally noxious, hyperactive person... and he is thrilled to be there.

SPLEEN

Boy I can't tell you how thrilled I was when you guys called--You gonna eat that pickle?

(sucks it in)

I've always dreamed of being a member of the a real superhero team-- and to have friends--real friends-- I mean guys I could live with-- sleep with--die with--eat with...

He puts the mustard dispenser to his lips and squeezes it straight into his mouth.

SPLEEN

I love mustard.

Furious, Raja, and the Shoveler react; they can't believe they've actually invited this guy to join their group.

INVISIBLE BOY

So what exactly is your superpower?

SPLEEN

Well, when I was a kid I grew up on Love Canal--remember that?--and my brothers and I used to go swimming in it--make Kool-Aid out of it-- stuff like that. Anyway my brothers all died, but I lived, and I grew all these like weird organs that have never been seen in humans before. So now I can do things like this!

He leans over the table and lets just a little tiny drop of spittle dribble onto the table...

CLOSE ON THE TABLE -

as the spittle burns a hole in the Formica.

SPLEEN

Cool, huh?

The Spleen inadvertently gives the tiniest little burp, and our three heroes duck out of the way or under the table.

FURIOUS, RAJA, & SHOVELER
Watch it!... Look out!... Whoa!

The people in the next booth give a cry of revulsion, put their hands to their mouths, and immediately leave.

SPLEEN
Sorry, sorry.

SHOVELER
Hey, why don't you just put a cork in it?

SPLEEN
I tried that once. The cork melted.

THE SAME - AFTER DINNER

Our heroes mull their situation over coffee. Monica freshens their cups. The Spleen squirts mustard in his coffee.

SHOVELER
There's just not enough of us.

FURIOUS
But we know they're out there. Hundreds--maybe thousands of lonely, unknown superheroes, who desperately need a cause...

RAJA
And a social life.

SHOVELER
Yeah, but how do we get to them?

SPLEEN
Obscene phone calls?

They ignore that suggestion.

MONICA
Why don't you throw a barbecue?
(moves off to another table)

ON OUR HEROES, realizing that's it.

INT. INVISIBLE BOY'S ROOM - NIGHT - WITH MUSIC

Invisible Boy sits at the desk in his room, writing immaculate little notes on small file cards. (He's made a whole pile of them.)

CLOSE ON THE NOTE -

which reads "Got superpowers? Want to fight evil? Then JOIN US and let's PARTY HEARTY! Beer! Burgers! Babes!"

SERIES OF SHOTS - MUSIC CONTINUES

as our heroes post these notes all over the city, in places where lonely superheroes might find them...

The Raja posts a note on the door of a comic book store...

The Shoveler posts a note on the bulletin board at a bowling alley...

Mr. Furious tapes the note to the cracked glass of a vandalized phone booth...

At an abandoned drive-in movie theater... Invisible Boy walks through the empty lot, taping a note to each of the old speaker posts...

A White Castle hamburger joint... Inside the pay toilet the Spleen is scratching something on the wall with a nail. He stops and admires his handiwork, and we see that he has engraved the entire message on the wall...

END MUSIC.

EXT. SHOVELER'S BACKYARD - DAY

A small, typical working class backyard. A round, aluminum above ground pool. A Weber grill with burgers on it. Unopened packages of hamburger rolls. An old Vic Damon record plays on a boom box. The Spleen floats around on a rubber raft in the pool.

SPLEEN

Come on in! The water's great!

In fact, the water is turning a yellowish green... The rest of our heroes sit around on cheap folding chairs. No superheroes have shown up. The Shoveler, at the grill, serves burgers to his kids, who stand in line waiting for them.

BUTCH

(heavy on the sarcasm)
Great picnic, Dad.

EDDIE JR.

Big turnout.

ROLAND

Are these guys real superheroes?

LENORE

They think so.

The kids scoff... A moment later they head back to the house with their burgers.

ROLAND

But where's Captain Amazing?

EDDIE JR.

He wouldn't be caught dead here.

They go into the house. No one says anything. The Shoveler just stares at the burgers on the grill. Vic Damon sings. Furious chugs his beer; he's working himself into a really morose mood.

ON THE SPLEEN, munching on a chlorine tablet.

SPLEEN

Hey, these pool mints are delicious!

Raja looks at his watch.

RAJA

Maybe there was traffic.

FURIOUS

Who are we kidding? No one's gonna show. We're living in a fantasy!

INVISIBLE BOY

Come on, guys--we're fighting against evil.

FURIOUS

Good or evil, what's the difference?

SHOVELER

There's a big difference.

FURIOUS

I used to believe that. Now I'm not so sure.

RAJA

Roy, remember, it is all within your power. The only thing that's in your way... is you.

FURIOUS

Oh shut up.

Suddenly, there is a knock at the gate. Everyone immediately perks up.

INVISIBLE BOY

They're here!

A moment later they open the gate and see... HALF A DOZEN BURLY GUYS wearing various superhero outfits.

THEIR LEADER

Hey, man, is this the superhero wingding?

RAJA

This is it. Come on in!

SUPERHEROES

All right! Party! (Etc.)

At first glance these guys seem promising... but their outfits are decidedly improvised: weird goggles and sunglasses, shower curtain capes, baseball caps with beer cans on them. Their leader holds a squeegee with a long handle... Furious is suspicious.

RAJA

I am the Blue Raja, Master of Silverware.

THEIR LEADER

I am Squeegee Man, and these are my compadres, the Invincible Dudes!

The Invincible Dudes spot the keg.

INVINCIBLE DUDES

Whoa! Brews! Party! (Etc.)

They go immediately to the keg and start filling beer cups and guzzling them down. The Raja tries to hand out some forms.

RAJA

Would you mind filling out these forms; names, addresses, description of superpowers, that sort of thing.

INVINCIBLE DUDES

Sure, dude. No problem. (Etc.)
(but they just toss the forms away)

ON FURIOUS, watching, starting to get pissed off.

INVINCIBLE DUDE 1

Hey, man, like where are the babes?

INVINCIBLE DUDE 2
It said on the card there'd be
babes!

RAJA
Actually we lied about the babes,
but there's plenty of burgers.

INVINCIBLE DUDES
That's false advertising!... We
came all the way from South
Champion, man! We coulda gone
plinking!... We coulda gone bungee
jumping!

SQUEEGEE MAN
No babes. No peace.

INVINCIBLE DUDES
(chanting)
No babes--no peace! No babes--no
peace! No babes--no peace!

SQUEEGEE MAN
Let's trash the place!

INVINCIBLE DUDES
Yeah!

Furious, fed up, confronts Squeegee Man.

FURIOUS
If you're a superhero, what's your
power?

SQUEEGEE MAN
I am Squeegee Man.
(holding it out
threateningly)
Touch my squeegee... and you die.

The Invincible Dudes are cracking up.

FURIOUS
Can you fly?

SQUEEGEE MAN
No.

FURIOUS
Wanna bet?

EXT. JUST OUTSIDE THE YARD - CONTINUOUS

as Squeegee Man comes flying--and screaming--over the fence,
landing none too gracefully in the front yard.

A beat and his squeegee come flying out after him. Another beat and the Invincible Dudes come running out the gate in a panic.

INVINCIBLE DUDES
Let's get out of here!... That
dude's crazy!

They take off down the street, running right past a woman, carrying a bowling ball bag and dressed in a faded, threadbare old rayon superhero costume with a decidedly fifties flavor. She is THE BOWLER.

EXT. SHOVELER'S BACKYARD - A MOMENT LATER

Our heroes sit around the patio, dejected, miserable.

BOWLER (O.S.)
Who died?

They look up, see her standing there, and aren't quite sure what to make of her.

RAJA
Who are you?

BOWLER
I'm the Bowler.

SHOVELER
The Bowler? I remember him from when I was a kid. He was killed years ago.

BOWLER
I'm his daughter.

Our heroes share a look.

SHOVELER
Look, honey, being a superhero... it's a guy thing.

BOWLER
Really?

She takes her bowling ball and spins it on the tip of her finger (like a Harlem Globetrotter). For a long moment she just looks at them, smiling.

ON THE OTHERS watching, almost mesmerized by the spinning ball...

Suddenly, she gives an ear splitting battle cry and starts swinging the ball around her in wide ferocious arcs, like a cannibal with a war club--or a twirler on meth, going so fast she almost becomes a blur...

Then, just as suddenly, she stops, aims and rolls her ball... It shoots straight through Invisible Boy's legs...

ON A NEATLY PLACED COLLECTION OF PLASTER LAWN DWARVES -

as the ball smashes into them, pulverizing them... It goes into a reverse spin, passes through Invisible Boy's legs again, and returns to the Bowler who is holding its bag open for it... The ball rolls in.

BOWLER

Good ball.

ON OUR HEROES, left absolutely speechless.

BOWLER

If it could zip up its own bag,
then you'd be impressed, right?

She turns and walks out. Our heroes share an amazed look, then run after her...

JUST OUTSIDE THE GATE - ON THE BOWLER

walking away... as Furious catches up with her.

FURIOUS

Hey... Can I buy you a beer?

BOWLER

I thought you'd never ask.

She takes his arm and they all start to walk back into the Shoveler's backyard... but the CAMERA PANS ACROSS THE STREET to the dark place between two houses, where a MAN WEARING A STRANGE STEEL MASK with a frightening, impassively powerful expression stands in the deep shadows, watching them in motionless, predatory silence. We do not know who he is, and we cannot tell if he is good or evil.

BACK AT THE BARBECUE - A LITTLE LATER - CLOSE ON

A FADED OLD SNAPSHOT of the original "The Bowler" holding a little girl in his arms.

BOWLER (O.S.)

He was more than just a
superhero... He was my father...

The others, touched by this, have gathered around the Bowler, who is holding the old snapshot in her hand.

BOWLER

And then one day, he didn't come home. The police said it was an accident. But cargo containers don't just fall on people. He was murdered... After that I fell apart. I dropped out of school, became a mud wrestler, married and divorced a jerk. When my mother died I hit bottom... but then, when I was cleaning out her attic, I found my father's old bowling bag and costume, almost like he'd left them there for me... and I knew what I had to do.

SHOVELER

So who killed him?

BOWLER

The Disco Boys.

FURIOUS

You know something? Those guys are really starting TO PISS ME OFF!

SHOVELER

But there's still only six of us.

FURIOUS

SO WHAT?

BOWLER

That's two more than the Fantastic Four.

FURIOUS

Half a Dirty Dozen!

SPLEEN

Twice the Three Stooges!

INVISIBLE BOY

And only one short of the Magnificent Seven.

RAJA

And you can't count Horst Buckholtz anyway.

BOWLER

He was cute though.

RAJA

But they all had one thing we haven't got.

SPLEEN

Girlfriends?

RAJA

A name. All the great superhero teams have got a fabulous name.

They all think about it for a moment. You can almost smell their brains overheating.

BOWLER

How 'bout... the Savage Six?

RAJA

The Inscrutable Six?

SPLEEN

The Six Pistols?

SHOVELER

The Exterminators!

INVISIBLE BOY

The Obliterators!

RAJA

The Eradicators!

BOWLER

The Emasculators!

SPLEEN

Wait--I got it!... The Spleen Team.

He gets beaned by a couple of empty soda cans.

FURIOUS

To hell with a name. Let's get to work.

MUSIC UP as Furious stands and starts out. The others stand and follow him... as our heroes form up for their first HEROIC GROUP SHOT.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

MUSIC CONTINUES as A LITTLE OLD LADY crosses the street, when suddenly she looks up and sees a pair of headlights coming on fast. An immaculately maintained seventies limo is heading straight for her.

INSIDE THE LIMO - CONTINUOUS

Disco Boys sit in the front. Casanova, Anabel, and Tony P sit in the back, dressed for a night on the town...

There is a thud as the limo hits the old lady, and everyone in the car explodes into laughter.

TONY P

Little old lady. That's a hundred points!

INSIDE/OUTSIDE THE LIMO - A FEW MINUTES LATER

as the limo drives past a billboard with an ad for "MILK" with a milk mustached Captain Amazing looking at the camera...

TONY P

He knows your every move.

Tony P immitates a massive electrical convulsion, and the villains crack up.

But as they pass the billboard, a pair of headlights illuminate in its shadows, and the Shoveler's Ford Esquire pulls out and follows.

INSIDE THE ESQUIRE - CONTINUOUS

The Shoveler is driving. Mister Furious sits in the front seat next to him, and our other heroes are packed into the back.

FURIOUS

Let's say hello.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE THE TWO CARS - CONTINUOUS

as the limo stops at a traffic light... and the Esquire pulls up alongside it. For a moment good and evil stare each other down.

TONY P

Not these guys again!

The Disco Boys howl with laughter.

CASANOVA

Nice car.

The D Boys laugh. Furious stares at Casanova, and Casanova stares right back at him, as cool as a snake.

FURIOUS

What did you do with Captain Amazing?

CASANOVA

Captain who?

TONY P
 (spots the Bowler)
 Hey, in the backseat, who are you
 supposed to be, the Bowler?

BOWLER
 I'm his daughter.

TONY P
 His daughter? Well guess what,
 sweetheart? I'm the one who
 squished your Daddy. And he
 squished real good!

The villains laugh, and Mister Furious EXPLODES INTO RAGE. He swings open his car door, mashing it into the limo and leaving a big dent.

TONY P
 HEY!

FURIOUS
 'SCUSE ME!

He starts punching the limo like it's a punching bag--putting big dents in it.

TONY
 Waste him!

Tony and the boys all reach into their coats for their pistols--but as they yank them out, the Spleen sticks his head out of the station wagon, puts his face right up to the open window of the limo and lets loose with a TREMENDOUS BELCH...

As the villains choke and gag in the noxious fumes, Mister Furious goes on a DEMOLITION RAMPAGE, working his way around the limo, punching big dents with his fists, breaking the windows with his head, flattening the tires by kicking them, knocking off the rear view mirror with the back of his hand...

Then he leaps up on top of the limo...

While inside the villains gasp for air as big dents are stomped into the roof above them...

ANGLE THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD as Furious leaps down onto the hood, and gazes in at them.

FURIOUS
 Shall I check your oil?

He plunges his hand through the metal of the hood, pulls out the car's dip stick, and checks it.

FURIOUS

Looks fine.

He tosses the dip stick away, then leaps off JUST AS Tony P gets off a shot, EXPLODING the windshield of the limo.

Furious lands safely on the hood of the station wagon. As the Shoveler throws the Esquire into gear, Furious shouts...

FURIOUS

NICE CAR!

And our heroes streak off into the night... Casanova and the others stagger out of the demolished limo, sucking in the clean air.

CASANOVA

(impressed by Furious)

That boy's got talent.

TONY P

And I'm gonna nip it in the bud.

ANGLE ON A DARKENED ALLEY -

where the man in the strange steel mask can be seen... watching.

EXT. A BAR - LATER THAT NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

A very typical, nondescript neighborhood place...

INSIDE THE BAR - CONTINUOUS

Our heroes stand at the bar, celebrating their first victory.

SHOVELER

To us!

RAJA

Whatever our name is.

They toast and drink.

THE SAME - LATER

The Spleen is passed out at a table, snoring. Shoveler and Invisible Boy sit next to him.

SHOVELER

Even his snores smell bad.

Raja and Bowler sit at the bar, deep in it.

BOWLER

But she's your mother. You gotta tell her.

RAJA

I can't.

ON SHOVELER AND INVISIBLE BOY -

INVISIBLE BOY

Dad thinks all this superhero stuff is a stupid waste of time.

SHOVELER

But he plays golf, right?

INVISIBLE BOY

Yeah.

BACK ON RAJA AND BOWLER -

RAJA

I'm her only son, and she always had such high hopes for me. Medicine. Law.

BOWLER

But you're a superhero.

RAJA

The cape. The turban. She wouldn't understand.

BOWLER

I know... My girlfriends all dumped me after I put on the mask. They thought I'd lost it.

RAJA

But in fact... you'd found it.

They clink their glasses and drink.

BACK ON SHOVELER AND INVISIBLE BOY -

SHOVELER

This is your dream... and you can't ever give it up.

The Spleen makes weird noises in his sleep.

INVISIBLE BOY

I wonder what he dreams about?

SHOVELER

We don't want to know.

Mr. Furious sits alone in the corner, brooding, lost in his own angry thoughts...

OUTSIDE THE BAR - CONTINUOUS

A black van drives slowly past the bar.

INSIDE THE VAN - CONTINUOUS

The van is packed with Disco Boys. Tony P sits in the front seat.

TONY P

There.

HIS POV -

He has spotted the Ford Esquire parked in the lot.

BACK IN THE BAR - A LITTLE LATER

ON THE BOWLER AND RAJA -

BOWLER

It's late. I'm headin' home.

RAJA

Me, too.

BOWLER

(to Invisible Boy)

Come on, Junior, it's a school night.

JUST OUTSIDE - A MOMENT LATER

as our heroes, carrying the Spleen, leave.

FURIOUS

Anybody up for a little White Castle?

But suddenly the world is a whirling mass of chains and clubs as tney are bushwhacked by the Disco Boys...

EXT. AN ALLEY - A LITTLE LATER - CLOSE ON FURIOUS

as he comes to with a groan and sees... the Bowler and Invisible Boy tied up and gagged, with the Raja, Shoveler, and the Spleen trussed up right next to them. Furious looks up, sees Tony P standing over him.

TONY P

Hi, cutie.

Furious struggles, but he has been secured with some very heavy tire chains. Tony P takes out a large caliber revolver, flips it open to make sure it's loaded.

TONY P

Six losers. Six bullets.
Perfect... Got any last words,
Angry Boy?

FURIOUS

Disco sucks.

TONY P

Disco sucks. Very good. You know what I'm gonna do, Angry Boy, since you're so colorful? I'm gonna save you for last.

He turns and points the pistol right at Invisible Boy's head. Furious struggles against his chains--to no avail.

TONY P

Sweet dreams, punk.

Invisible Boy closes his eyes... Tony P cocks the pistol... But suddenly, there is the ring of steel--a broad blade sweeps through the air, and Tony P's pistol is sliced neatly in half.

TONY P

(holding half a pistol)

HOLY...!

The man in the strange steel mask is standing there, the drawn machete still in his hand.

MAN IN MASK

Buenos noches.

TONY P

Get him!

The Disco Boys rush the newcomer, but he slices through their baseball bats with his machete, and sends them reeling and crashing into each other with expert forearm blows, whacks with the flat of his blade, and head butts with his mask.

Furious struggles to break free and join the fight, but the chains are too strong... and the stranger doesn't need any help.

Tony P flicks open a big switchblade and lunges at the stranger, who sidesteps him like a matador and swings his machete at him. Tony P turns, about to charge again.

MAN IN MASK

(Mexican accent)

Would you like me to trim the sides?

TONY P

What?

Tony P feels the top of his head, and realizes that the blow from the machete has neatly sliced off the top his disco-do, leaving only stubble on the top of his head.

TONY P

(freaking out)

LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

Tony and the Disco Boys run for it...

Furious and the others study their masked savior, who stands before them, machete in hand.

FURIOUS

You're the Sphinx.

SPHINX

And you are a fool.

He raises his machete above Furious' head... and then slices clean through the chains.

EXT. AUTO DEMOLITION YARD - LATER THAT NIGHT

Our heroes have gathered around a scrap wood fire in a steel drum. They sit on the ground and on old car seats, feeling like schmucks as the Sphinx chews them out, his mask looking very frightening and magical in the flickering light.

SPHINX

You call yourselves superheroes? A rooster fights more intelligently than you! You have shown yourself to your enemy and revealed your powers to him--and what have you accomplished for this? You have destroyed his car. Brilliant! If you want to survive you must fight like a wolf pack--not like a six pack!

Furious sulks, but the others get the point.

SPHINX

The wolf is cunning. He knows that stealth is his greatest weapon, and he always fights as a team...

(more)

SPHINX (Cont'd)
 (at Furious)
 Not like some drunken Tejano on
 Saturday night.

Furious grunts.

SPHINX
 Casanova Frankenstein is a a master
 of evil. You will need more than
 shovels and dessert forks to stop
 him... What else have you got?

They are silent.

FURIOUS
 (angrily)
 So what else has Superman got?

SHOVELER
 He's got the fact that he s
 Superman!

BOWLER
 Bullets bounce off him!

Furious sulks again, feeling that the others are turning
 against him.

RAJA
 Firepower costs money.

INVISIBLE BOY
 Anybody got any?

A silence.

SHOVELER
 We didn't think this through very
 well.

BOWLER
 (after a moment)
 My father had this friend... He was
 an inventor...

EXT. DOC HELLER'S FARMHOUSE - DAY

Our heroes stand looking at an old farmhouse. The place is an
 absolute wreck. It hasn't been painted in twenty-five years.
 Windows are boarded up. Half the shingles are gone. There's
 visible fire damage around the kitchen window.

SHOVELER
 Are you sure he's still lives here?

RAJA

Are you sure he's still alive?

BOWLER

He was the last time I saw him.

SHOVELER

When was that?

BOWLER

I was eight.

She is about to knock, but the door is suddenly yanked open, and an eighty year old guy is standing there. He's got a wild head of white hair (that looks like a living explosion), and he wears a stained old lab coat with stickum messages to himself stuck to it, non-matching slippers, and a pair of thick glasses with frames that have been composited of half a dozen different old pairs all taped and welded together into a fantastic concoction. He is DOC HELLER.

HELLER

Yes!

BOWLER

Doctor Heller?

HELLER

(doesn't recognize her)

Yes!

BOWLER

It's me... Elizabeth.

HELLER

Elizabeth! Little Elizabeth! Why you're so... middle aged!

BOWLER

Thanks.

HELLER

How's your dad?

BOWLER

He's dead.

HELLER

Oh that's right--they squished him... Heck of a guy.

Furious throws a look at the Shoveler and Raja. This guy's out of it. They're wasting their time.

BOWLER

Doc, these are my friends. We're superheroes, and we need your help.

HELLER

Well, I give to the United Way, and I feel that sort of covers--

SPHINX

Doctor, we need your weapons.

HELLER

(ecstatic)

My weapons? You need my weapons?

EXT. BEHIND THE HOUSE - A MINUTE LATER - MOVING ANGLE

as Doctor Heller leads them all briskly across his overgrown yard toward... the barn.

HELLER

The military establishment has never understood me. They won't return my phone calls, much less field test anything. But I knew that someday I'd get my chance, and now... here you are!

(pulls open the barn door)

INT. THE BARN - CONTINUOUS

as our heroes step into Heller's laboratory/arsenal. A stack of small aluminum cans lines one wall. There are weird looking sprayers, tubes, and strange homemade toy-like devices... but there isn't a firearm in sight.

RAJA

But, Doc... where's the machine guns?

SHOVELER

The bazookas?

INVISIBLE BOY

The lasers?

HELLER

You don't need that junk! You see, for thousands of years mankind has been immolating, disemboweling, and exploding itself. Why? Because we have this built-in screwed up need to go to war!

(more)

HELLER (Cont'd)

So as a young man I thought, why not have the fun and excitement of war, without all that unnecessary bloodshed. That's why I have devoted my life to developing an arsenal of highly sophisticated non-lethal military weapons.

(points to a hand held tube)

Air cannons... Blame throwers... Feet seeking missiles... And perhaps my ultimate invention...

(picks up one of the small cans)

The canned tornado.

Furious groans, and the others share a look. This guy's really a nut.

HELLER

Now here's a beauty!

(picks up a purple and orange sprayer that looks like a suped up water gun)

I call it the Shrinker! I developed it after years of studying the worst dry cleaners I could find. It instantly shrinks fabrics to half their size. Anyone caught in its spray is immediately immobilized by their own clothing!

FURIOUS

Let's get out of here.

Furious turns and goes out, and the others start to follow. But the Bowler picks up a canned tornado.

OUTSIDE THE BARN - CONTINUOUS

as Furious walks away, the Bowler steps out of the barn.

BOWLER

Hey, Mister Bad Mood.

Furious stops, turns back.

BOWLER

(pulls the ring on the can)

Catch.

She tosses the can to him. He catches it--just as a small angry tornado FUNNELS out of the can. It catches Furious and lifts him high in the air... then dissipates to nothing...

A beat later Furious lands on the ground with a painful thump.

ON THE OTHERS, amazed.

Furious gets to his feet, unhurt, but really pissed off. He starts back toward the barn, violently kicking the empty can. The others get out of his way, as, muttering angrily to himself, he goes back into the barn...

And emerges a moment later, toting the air cannon.

HELLER

He's got the air cannon!

The others think he's going to use it on them and scatter for cover, but Furious steps out into the yard, looking for a suitable target... He sees an old abandoned outhouse, puts the air cannon to his shoulder, aims, and fires...

There is a loud WHOOOOMPH of compressed air, and the huge recoil of the cannon instantly flings Furious back against the wall of the barn. But the big rush of air hits the shed dead center... and BLOWS IT TO PIECES, leaving only the old seat.

Furious gets up, dusts himself off, and moves to Doc Heller.

FURIOUS

Doc, you're a genius!
(hugs him)

HELLER

I know.

FURIOUS

(turns to the others)
Okay! We got the firepower! I say we throw it into the car, drive over to Casanova's house, and kick some ass!

SPHINX

No.

The others ignore Furious and listen to the Sphinx.

SPHINX

We are not yet ready. Now we must learn to fight together... as one thing.

The others nod in agreement... while Furious fumes.

MONTAGE WITH MUSIC - TRAINING AT THE FARM

CLOSE ON DOC HELLER aiming his air cannon... CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL our heroes (minus Furious) standing in a pack right behind him, holding him down. He fires, and the recoil jolts them all violently, but it doesn't knock them over...

as half a dozen scarecrows are blown to pieces... Our heroes cheer and shake their fists... while Mr. Furious sits alone on the sidelines, drinking bourbon, and feeling very alienated.

VARIOUS SHOTS as our heroes learn to fight as a team... crawling across the grass together... charging in a line... hurling canned tornadoes... while Furious sits it out, brooding, drinking, and getting very jealous of the Sphinx.

Shoveler, Bowler, and the Sphinx stand shoulder to shoulder, as Invisible Boy, Spleen, Raja, and the Doc throw small stones at them... They deflect the pebbles with shovel, bowling ball, and machete... They're having fun. They're becoming a team...

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BARN - EVENING

Furious drinks alone, while the rest of our heroes sit around an old picnic table, feasting on sodas and pizza (like a football team after a great practice.) Raja explains the history of the situation to the Sphinx.

RAJA

Twenty years ago all the major hoodlums of this city were united into one great brotherhood of evil, and Casanova was their king.

SHOVELER

Crime was rampant. It wasn't safe to stay in your home.

BOWLER

Much less go outside.

SHOVELER

Then Captain Amazing appeared.

RAJA

He busted Casanova and sent the crooks packing.

SHOVELER

And this has been a pretty nice place to live ever since.

FURIOUS

(pissed off)

But now Casanova's back! And we're gonna sit around here all night eating pizza and telling stories! Hey, let's toast some marshmallows!

SPHINX

The wise snake coils before he strikes.

FURIOUS
 (lunges at the Sphinx)
 And a skunk stinks!

Furious and the Sphinx square off, their faces only inches apart.

SPHINX
 You drink too much.

FURIOUS
 When are you going to take off that mask?

SPHINX
 (pointedly)
 When I am sure I am among friends.

RAJA
 Rov--

FURIOUS
 (snapping at him)
 Go dance with your mother, Jeffrey!

ON THE RAJA, hurt.

SPHINX
 Your rage is a very great power,
 but it blinds you to your heart.

FURIOUS
 My heart died a long time ago.

SPHINX
 It is not dead. It is hiding.

FURIOUS
 Blow it out your bean hole,
 Pancho!... And to hell with the
 rest of you!... Look at you. Bunch
 of rejects. I didn't need you
 before--and I don't need you now!
 (jumps on to his motorcycle)
 The great ones RIDE ALONE!
 (kicks the engine started)
 Adios, muchachos!
 (and he rides off across the
 field)

ON THE OTHERS, watching him...

BOWLER
 Has he always been like this?

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - CONTINUOUS - CLOSE ON FURIOUS

the wind whipping against his face, as he rides his Harley at about a hundred miles an hour... The languorous sound of an OLD DEAN MARTIN SONG is heard as we...

FADE INTO:

MEMORY SEQUENCE - DAY - CLOSE ON FURIOUS

as a little boy, sitting in the backseat of the family car. It is thirty years ago, and Mister Furious is a sweet, very shy, well behaved, perfectly normal three year old. His MOTHER and FATHER sit in the front. Dean Martin is playing on the car radio. Little Furious looks out the window and sees the Mohave Desert going by. A sign reads "Las Vegas, 120 miles".

 MOTHER
 (to husband)

Oh this place looks great.

An old sign reads "BAR" as the family car pulls into the parking lot of a single adobe building out in the middle of nowhere. They park.

 MOTHER

Now honey, you just wait in the car. Mommy and Daddy will be right back.

They get out, lock the car and head for the bar, leaving the windows up. Little Furious watches them go, never suspecting that his entire life is about to change. He sits quietly in the backseat and plays with the little superhero figurines that he's brought with him.

 LITTLE FURIOUS

Pow! Bang! Wham!

INSIDE THE BAR - CONTINUOUS

as the parents enter. A very Western motif An old Gene Autrey song is playing on the juke. The air conditioning is on. They're the only customers in the place.

 MOTHER

It's nice and cool in here.

 FATHER

(as they sit at the bar)
Barkeep, a couple of cold ones.

CUT BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN CAR AND BAR -

ANGLE ON THE MIDDAY SON - blazing down on the car...

as Little Furious still plays with his superheroes, but the interior is starting to bake, and the sweat begins to pour off him. He looks out at the bar, getting worried. He tries the windows, but they're automatic and won't open...

Back in the bar his parents down shots of bourbon with their beers, as the BARTENDER finishes telling them a joke.

BARTENDER

And here's a banana for your monkey.

Mom and Dad have a good laugh.

BARTENDER

Couple more?

FATHER

You bet.

ANGLE FROM OUTSIDE THE CAR as Little Furious, sweat and tears pouring out of him, his hair wet and sticking out (and starting to take on that familiar look), pounds on the window.

LITTLE FURIOUS

Mommy! Daddy! Mommy! Daddy!

as back in the bar his parents, now very drunk, down more beers and chasers as they play a spirited game of pinball.

ANGLE ON THE MOHAVE SUN - beating down mercilessly

Barely able to breath, Little Furious flops back onto the seat, his face a mask of heat and terror... But suddenly, a change begins to take place in him, as some primordial defense mechanism kicks in... and his fear begins to give way to rage... His teeth bare.

CLOSE ON HIS HANDS -

as they CRUSH the superhero figurines in their grasp...

While back in the bar his drunken parents dance a slow two step to Hank Williams "Your Cheatin' Heart"...

EXT. THE PARKING LOT - NIGHT - HANK WILLIAMS CONTINUES

as the big desert moon shines down on the family car, still parked there.

INSIDE THE BAR - CONTINUOUS

The parents are asleep in a booth. Furious' mother wakes up, looks around groggily, and in a moment of horror suddenly remembers...

MOTHER

OH MY GOD!

THE PARKING LOT - A BEAT LATER

as she runs toward the car, hysterical.

MOTHER

Oh my God! Oh my God! Oh my God!

She unlocks the door, throws it open, and sees something that makes her pull back in horror... Little Furious sits in the backseat. His hair sticks out wildly, his face has become that now familiar mask of primordial rage. Another OLD DEAN MARTIN SONG is heard as we...

FADE INTO:

INT. THE DINER - NIGHT - CLOSE ON FURIOUS

sitting alone in the booth, a look of profound pain and loneliness on his face; he is still that little boy. The Dean Martin song is playing on the juke.

MONICA (O.S.)

Hi.

He looks up and sees Monica.

FURIOUS

Hi.

MONICA

Alone tonight?

FURIOUS

Every night.

She smiles.

EXT. THE FRANKENSTEIN MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Armed Disco Boys guard the front entrance...

While on the hillside above Invisible Boy (looking through binoculars) and the Spleen lie together on their bellies in the weeds, keeping the mansion under surveillance.

SPLEEN

(in a whisper)

Adolescence was the worst--The other kids made fun of me, so I'd spit on them and they'd scatter-- I've never had a girlfriend--unless you count that night with my cousin-- She recovered fully though--We exchange cards every Christmas-- Well, I send her one, and she sends it back...

(spritzes something into his mouth, then offers it to Invisible Boy)

Bug repellent?

Suddenly, the gates of the mansion open and several sedans... followed by a truck, drive out...

POV THROUGH BINOCULARS -

Casanova and Anabel sit in the front of the truck.

INVISIBLE BOY (O.S.)

Where are they going?

Invisible Boy hesitates for just a moment, then gets up and runs down the hill.

SPLEEN

Kid!

(runs after him)

As the small convoy drives past, Invisible Boy slips out from behind some trees, runs after the truck, jumps up and sits on its rear bumper. The Spleen comes running after him, and Invisible Boy reaches out, grabs his hand and pulls him up alongside him. Invisible Boy tries the rear gate. It's open. The two of them pull it up just a foot, squirm inside, then pull it closed behind them.

INSIDE THE TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Invisible Boy flashes the light of his key chain flashlight around the inside of the truck. There is nothing in it, except for a large pile of packing blankets.

EXT. WATERFRONT AREA - NIGHT

as the convoy drives through Champion City's seedy waterfront area and out onto a long pier.

INT. THE DINER - NIGHT - CLOSE ON THE TV

Dawn Wong and Don Stouffer report the night's news.

DAWN

... still no sign of millionaire Lance Hunt, and now, in an unrelated story, another one of Champion City's leading citizens has apparently disappeared. Captain Amazing has not been seen or heard from in a week. Authorities believe that the hard working superhero may just be taking a well deserved rest.

DON

Cancun perhaps?

DAWN

Sounds good to me. Don.

Mr. Furious sits in the booth drinking coffee as Monica serves him his burger and fries.

FURIOUS

(floundering)

Monica... I was wondering if--uh-- maybe we--I mean you and I--could-- uh--you know--get a--I mean have a...

MONICA

Date?

FURIOUS

Yeah.

MONICA

I get off work in fifteen minutes. Walk me home?

FURIOUS

Sure.

MONICA

That was easy.
(goes back to work)

ON FURIOUS, feeling a whole lot better.

JUST OUTSIDE THE DINER - CONTINUOUS - UNKNOWN POV

from across the street. Furious' head is clearly visible in the brightly illuminated window of the diner.

A Disco Boy stands in the shadows, gazing at the diner; he recognizes Furious.

EXT. WATERFRONT - NIGHT

The convoy has pulled up alongside a rusty old freighter, docked at the pier.

Casanova's men throw the gate of the truck open, and the CAMERA MOVES IN. No one is there, but we notice... two large lumps under the packing blankets.

Casanova holds Anabel in his arms as they watch a large wooden crate being lowered from the deck of the freighter.

CASANOVA

Honey, our ship's come in.

Casanova's cellular phone rings.

OUTSIDE THE DINER - CONTINUOUS

The Disco Boy is on his phone. His pistol is drawn, and he's got it aimed right at Furious' head.

DISCO BOY

Just give me the word.

BACK TO THE PIER - CONTINUOUS - ON CASANOVA

CASANOVA

(gets an idea)

Wait. I'll be right there.

(hangs up, starts off)

ANABEL

(peevd)

Where are you going?

CASANOVA

Head hunting.

A minute later Casanova and two or three Disco Boys drive off in one of the sedans... as the crate is loaded onto the truck, and the gate is pulled closed... and locked.

INSIDE THE TRUCK - A MOMENT LATER

The engine starts up, and the truck starts to move, as Invisible Boy and the Spleen poke their heads out from under the packing blankets... They approach the crate and Invisible Boy shines his flashlight on it. The crate is secured with rivets and thick metal bands; there's no way they're going to be able to get inside it, but in the light of the flashlight they see...

Faded red lettering, in Russian, and the distinctive old hammer and sickle of the former Soviet Union.

EXT. DIMLY LIT STREET - NIGHT

Furious walks Monica home.

MONICA

I admire you.

FURIOUS

Why?

MONICA

Being a superhero, wanting to save the world. It's so... unselfish.

FURIOUS

It is?

MONICA

Most people just want to make money or be famous or something. But you risk everything, just to help people.

FURIOUS

(after a moment)

I wouldn't mind being famous.

MONICA

Who wouldn't?

In the shadows behind them... Casanova follows, stalking them, as silent as a vampire.

MONICA

I've never been able to figure out what to do with my life, which is why I guess I'm still a waitress.

FURIOUS

Nothing wrong with being a waitress.

MONICA

What's your real name?

FURIOUS

Roy.

MONICA

Have you always lived here?

He nods.

MONICA

Me, too... I love this stupid old town. It's noisy. It's smelly. It's falling apart.

FURIOUS

It's home.

MONICA

Yeah.

CASANOVA'S POV -

Monica, smiling, looking lovely.

CLOSE ON CASANOVA; he wants her...

BACK ON FURIOUS AND MONICA -

MONICA

I've thought of leaving, going to Chicago or New York, but...

FURIOUS

What have they got that we ain't got?

MONICA

Champion's going to bounce back, and I want to be here when it does.

FURIOUS

Me, too.

MONICA

You don't seem very angry right now.

He shrugs. And they kiss, very tenderly.

MONICA

You know what? Underneath all that anger I think there's just a little boy who wants everyone to love him.

FURIOUS

I just want to be a superhero.

MONICA

That's what I mean... 'Night, Roy.

She turns and climbs the stairs of an old apartment building and goes inside, as Furious watches, feeling emotions he's not used to. He really likes her. He starts walking back down the street, past a man sitting on the stoop. The man looks up. It's Casanova Frankenstein.

CASANOVA

Going my way?

Furious is caught completely by surprise--he takes a stand, ready to fight.

CASANOVA

Take it easy--take it easy. I just want to have a little chat... That was quite a number you did on my car. You've got a lot of violence in you... and I like that in a guy.

Furious, silent.

CASANOVA

You know what the difference is between good and evil, Roy?

Furious reacts to the fact that Casanova knows his real name.

CASANOVA

Evil is more fun. When you want something, you just take it, and if somebody gets in your way, you kill them... You seem like a very frustrated guy, Roy. Unhappy. Unfulfilled. What is it that you've always wanted, always desired? Because whatever it is, I can give it to you... Fame?

(snaps his fingers)

Easy. Fortune? Even easier. Women?

(laughs)

The easiest of all.

CLOSE ON FURIOUS as, out of the corner of his eye, he catches movement in the alley across the street... He knows what it is.

CASANOVA

I'll let you in on a little secret, Roy. In two days this entire city will belong to me, and there's not a damn thing your little pals can do about it. It's the perfect time to switch teams... So what do you say?

FURIOUS

(quietly)

You're nuts.

CASANOVA

(flairs)

They always call the great ones
nuts.

FURIOUS

And the nuts always call themselves
great.

CASANOVA

(his psychosis showing)

Are you with me... or against me?

FURIOUS

Against.

CASANOVA

Too bad. PLUG HIM!

Gunfire rings out from the alley as the Disco Boys step out, their pistols blazing. But Furious has anticipated them. He leaps right at Casanova, pins his arms in a bear hug and holds him in the line of fire.

CASANOVA

WAIT!

The Disco Boys stop firing... Furious drags Casanova back into an empty lot, using him as a shield.

FURIOUS

(to Casanova)

Thanks for reminding me which team
I'm on.

CASANOVA

You're dead.

FURIOUS

So are you!

Furious releases Casanova, then runs for it and leaps over the wooden wall at the end of the lot... as the Disco Boys open fire again, and their bullets punch holes through the wall...

Furious runs down a back street and escapes into the night.

EXT. THE FRANKENSTEIN CENTER - CONTINUOUS

The convoy drives up the hill toward an ominous looking structure (that we recognize from the model on the TV interview with Casanova earlier.) A high central tower rises up out of the half completed bulwarks of featureless concrete. It looks both totally modern and completely ancient, but a profound sense of evil connects both themes beautifully.

ANGLE ON a plaque that reads... "Frankenstein Center for the Performing and Non-performing Arts".

The gates of the center open, and the convoy passes through.

INSIDE THE TRUCK - A MOMENT LATER

Invisible Boy and the Spleen stand listening, waiting, as they feel the truck pull to a stop...

A moment later the gate is pulled opened... Anabel is there with several thuggy looking SECURITY GUARDS.

ANABEL

Be careful with my baby.

There are two lumps under the packing blankets again.

EXT. LOADING DOCK - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The crate is being carried away by a forklift... A beat, and then Invisible Boy and the Spleen slip out of the empty truck...

And run down the road back toward the gates... which are still open. They're just about to pass safely through them, when a PAIR OF ARMED SECURITY GUARDS, step in their path, their guns pointed at them.

GUARD 1

Freeze!

GUARD 2

Hands up!

They freeze, their hands held high.

GUARD 2

What are you two doing here?

Our heroes are mute.

GUARD 1

Not talking, eh? That can be fixed. Turn around, start walking up the hill--

GUARD 2

And no funny business.

Invisible Boy and the Spleen turn, hands in the air, and start up the hill, the guards right behind them.

SPLEEN

(after a moment, to Invisible
Boy, in a whisper)

Pinch 'em.

Invisible Boy pinches his nostrils--and the Spleen lets out with a horrendous fart. The guards gag and choke violently in the fumes as our heroes turn and run for it... escaping out the gates.

INT. DOC HELLER'S LABORATORY/BARN - A LITTLE LATER

Invisible Boy and Spleen report to the others.

INVISIBLE BOY

Whatever was in that crate... is
from Russia.

The others consider this, then hear a familiar voice.

FURIOUS (O.S.)

Is there room in the pack for one
more wolf?

They look up and see that Furious has just returned... The Sphinx moves to him. For a moment they stand face to face...

FURIOUS

I was wrong... I need my friends.

The Sphinx takes off his mask, revealing that he is the busboy from the Tacky Taco.

SPHINX

Amigo.

They embrace.

A few minutes later. The others are gathered around Furious, listening to his story.

FURIOUS

Casanova said that in two days the
entire city would belong to him...
and there wasn't a thing that we
could do about it.

BOWLER

What did he mean?

FURIOUS

I dunno.

Through the window the moon is seen rising over the hillside, the Frankenstein Center silhouetted ominously against it. Raja, Shoveler, and Furious gaze at it.

SHOVELER

Maybe it's time we checked that place out.

RAJA

But how do we get in?

FURIOUS

(after a moment, sounding very Sphinx-like)

We must become like the wolf... who wears the sheep's clothing.

MONTAGE WITH MUSIC - THE NEXT DAY

CLASSIC DISCO ("Stayin' Alive" if we can get the rights)

Furious, Raja, and Shoveler (in street clothes) walk down the street together and step into the doorway of... the Salvation Army Thrift Shop...

Later. CLOSE ON three pairs of legs, wearing polyester pants and vintage shoes (ala the classic shot from "Saturday Night Fever")... CAMERA WIDENS TO REVEAL our three heroes, dressed in full blown seventies attire (with vintage sunglasses), doing their best Travolta strut down the street...

MUSIC CONTINUES as our heroes strut their way through the gates of the art center, right past the security guards...

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CENTER - DAY

They climb the long stairs toward the center, which looms above them... then pass through the big wooden doors and into...

INT. MAIN HALL - A MOMENT LATER

END MUSIC as our heroes move through a vast, but empty main hall... A small army of heavily armed security guards marches about.

RAJA

So where's the art?

FURIOUS

He hasn't stolen it yet.

SHOVELER

This place is built like a fortress.

FURIOUS

Because that's what it is.

They hear a WILD BURST OF DRUNKEN LAUGHTER echoing through the hall.

RAJA

What's that?

FURIOUS

(following the sound)

Come on.

They approach a doorway. The noise is coming from within.

INT. BANQUET HALL - A MOMENT LATER

as our heroes step inside and see... A big luncheon is in progress. Casanova, Anabel, and Tony P sit at the head table. The room is lined with banquet tables, which are filled with VICIOUS LOOKING CHARACTERS, drunk, eating, laughing, and giving the waitresses a very rough time.

RAJA

(stunned)

Oh my God... Every crook in the city is here.

ON A GROUP OF VICIOUS LOOKING BALD BIKER TYPES...

RAJA (O.S.)

The Bone Heads from the South Side...

ON THREE INSIPIDLY EVIL LOOKING GUYS in hip suits...

RAJA (O.S.)

The Bland Boys from Downtown...

ON A DARK HAIRED WHITE GUY dressed as a rapper...

RAJA (O.S.)

Italian Ice...

ON A GUY with a frightening assortment of metal things piercing his face...

RAJA (O.S.)

The Stapler...

ON TWO THUGS DRESSED AS ELVIS...

RAJA (O.S.)

The Elvis Brothers.

A more degenerate group of criminals never sat down to lunch. Furious recognizes one of the waitresses... It's Monica.

Casanova's got his eye on her, too, and he remembers her from the night before on the street with Furious.

ON ANABEL, noticing his interest.

Our heroes see Monica walking straight toward them. They turn away, lean against a wall, trying to be totally inconspicuous...

But as she passes them, not noticing them... Casanova approaches her.

CASANOVA

Excuse me.

She stops, turns to him, while our heroes listen in, only a few feet away...

CASANOVA

(reading her name tag;
Monica... Beautiful name. It suits
you.

CLOSE ON FURIOUS, getting jealous.

CASANOVA

I hope you won't take this the
wrong way, but I couldn't help but
notice... that you're a dead ringer
for Veronica Lake in "The Blue
Dahlia".

MONICA

Really?

Furious growls. Raja gives him an elbow.

CASANOVA

Are you an actress?

MONICA

Just a waitress.

CASANOVA

You underestimate yourself.

Mister Furious is fuming. The strands of his perfectly coiffed disco-do start to stand straight up.

CASANOVA

You know I'm writing a play--it's
just a little Broadway thing, but
there's a part in it that I think
you'd be perfect for.

MONICA

Really?

CASANOVA

I'd love to hear you read it.
Could you stick around after the
luncheon?

MONICA

Sure--I guess.

CASANOVA

Terrific.

She turns and walks into the kitchen.

CLOSE ON CASANOVA, watching her; his intentions are
sinister... He turns and sees... our heroes, hanging by the
wall.

CASANOVA

What are you three doing here?
This is invited guests only. Out.

Our heroes skulk out.

JUST OUTSIDE THE BANQUET HALL - CONTINUOUS

as our heroes step out and breathe a sigh of relief.

RAJA

That was too close.

SHOVELER

But we gotta find out what's going
on in there.

FURIOUS

Hey.

Furious has spotted... a large covered dessert table, waiting
to be wheeled into the hall.

BACK IN THE BANQUET HALL - A FEW MINUTES LATER

as the dessert table is wheeled in... and in a CLOSER ANGLE,
under the table cloth, we see three pairs of disco shoes
creeping along...

A few minutes later, Monica steps up to the dessert table...
Suddenly, she is yanked under.

UNDER THE TABLE - CONTINUOUS

Monica struggles, tries to cry out, but a hand is clamped
firmly over her mouth.

FURIOUS

It's me.

She calms down, and he takes his hand off her mouth.

MONICA

What are you guys doing here?

RAJA & SHOVELER

Shhhh!

The waitresses leave; the big doors to the dining room are swung closed, and the cigars are lit. The meeting has begun. Casanova takes the podium.

CASANOVA

Thank you all for coming. I hope you enjoy the cigars. I had to kill a dozen Cubans to get them.

Tony P chuckles loudly, but the joke goes over like a lead balloon with the rest of the crowd.

CASANOVA

Twenty years ago, this town was yours! AND I WAS YOUR KING!

ON THE HOODS, listening, bored, puffing on their cigars; this is a sad old story.

CASANOVA

(tragically)

But they called me a psycho, and they put me away. For twenty years I rotted in my cell, painting watercolors, writing haikus--just waiting for the day I could take my revenge. Well, brothers, that day has come!

ON OUR HEROES under the table, listening. Monica begins to realize what's going on.

BACK TO CASANOVA -

CASANOVA

They thought I was crazy? Well the joke's on them--because tonight at precisely midnight--on the twentieth anniversary of my tragic arrest--every man, woman, and child in this city is going to turn into a RAVING PSYCHOTIC! Mothers will murder their tots! Old ladies will strangle their cats! Children will bump off their babysitters!

The guests think Casanova's completely lost it. Italian Ice speaks up.

ITALIAN ICE

You're outta your mind!

CASANOVA

I beg your pardon?

ITALIAN ICE

Nobody could drive a whole city crazy.

CASANOVA

Tell you what, Ice. I'll make you a friendly little wager. If I can't do it... you can blow my brains out. If I can, I'll blow out yours.

Now the hoods' interest has been perked.

ITALIAN ICE

Done.

CASANOVA

(to Anabel, with a smile)

Honey, give the boys a taste.

Anabel puts on a pair of heavy duty sound deadening ear protectors, then presses a button on a small remote control device.

ANGLE ON A SPEAKER, placed above the podium... as the air is suddenly filled with a weird, stridulating, HORRIFIC NOISE (somewhere between the sound of a fire siren and a hornet trapped in your ear) and everyone in the room (except Anabel) goes COMPLETELY BERSERK...

CAMERA PANS the tables as the guests laugh dementedly, punching, gouging, strangling, and stabbing each other...

Under the serving table our heroes go crazy...

Casanova, in a state of psychotic ecstasy, whips out his pistol and empties it into Italian Ice... who drops to the floor, dead.

Anabel presses the button again; the sound winds down and stops, and everything returns to normal. The entire event lasted only a few seconds, but the guests are dazzled.

CROOKS

That was great!... What the hell was that?... How did you do that?

Casanova throws Anabel a kiss.

CASANOVA

Tonight, at midnight, that sound
will be amplified across this
entire city. Murder and mayhem
will reign supreme! And Champion
City will be ours again! This will
be our castle! And I will be our
king! And there's no one to stop
us!

Suddenly, a familiar voice is heard.

AMAZING (O.S.)

Not so fast, Casanova!

A pair of curtains suddenly part... and Captain Amazing
(looking a bit singed) is standing there in classic superhero
pose.

CAMERA PANS the crooks, as their criminal ecstasy turns
instantly to terror. They yank out their pistols, dive for
cover under the table, throw up their hands in surrender,
etc... But Casanova just grins.

CASANOVA

Don't worry, fellas...

(moves to Captain Amazing,
and puts his arm chummily
around him)

I killed him... and I've had him
stuffed.

Casanova reaches behind Captain Amazing's back and pulls a
string (like the ones they used to have on those old talking
dolls).

AMAZING

(in a canned voice)

Isn't my butt cute in these tights?

(pulls again)

Blue is my color.

(pulls again)

Oh, my abs are killing me!

The crooks are beside themselves with laughter.

ON OUR HEROES, under the table, stunned.

ON THE ELVIS BROTHERS -

ELVIS BROTHER 1

The King is back!

ELVIS BROTHER 2
Long live the King!

The crooks fire their pistols exuberantly into the air, as disco music fills the air and Casanova dances, basking in their adoration...

And our heroes slip out from under the table and make good their escape...

INT. DOC HELLER'S BARN/LAB - LATER

Our heroes and Monica pow-wow, sobered by what they have seen.

MONICA
What could have made such a horrible noise?

HELLER
(after a moment, gravely)
He's got the Psychostridulator.

ALL
The what?

HELLER
Ten years ago the Kremlin's top secret Psychiatric Warfare Division developed a prototype for a weapon that emitted a fluctuating alternative frequency noise that produced a violent psychotic reaction in any mammal within hearing distance. But when the old Soviet Union fell the stridulator and its brilliant inventor, Doctor Kopov, disappeared.

SHOVELER
This Kopov, what happened to him?

HELLER
Not him... her.

They react to that piece of news, and then the Bowler opens up the newspaper.

BOWLER
Did she look like that?

CLOSE ON A PHOTO of Anabel and Casanova, announcing their wedding engagement.

HELLER
Yes.

Silence; this is bad.

SPLEEN
(hopefully)
Maybe it won't work.

FURIOUS
It works.

HELLER
A village in Siberia was wiped out
when a cleaning woman switched it
on by mistake.

Another grim silence, as they realize how desperate the
situation is. For the first time, they're really scared.

MONICA
We've got to warn the city.

SHOVELER
How?

RAJA
No one will believe us.

BOWLER
They'll think we're just a bunch of
weirdoes.

CAMERA CUTS BETWEEN THEM as they look at each other--their
frightened faces, their sad, faded costumes. Even the Sphinx
looks scared.

FURIOUS
(after a moment, grimly)
We know what we gotta do.

They look at him.

RAJA
We're outnumbered twenty to one.

SHOVELER
It's suicide.

FURIOUS
Maybe. But this isn't about living
or dying. It's about good versus
evil, and we're good, whether we
like it or not... Maybe we look a
little funny...

ON THE SPLEEN...

FURIOUS

And smell a little funny. We're not bulletproof and we can't fly. But we're superheroes--and that means doing what's right--even when it's impossible... This is our city--these are our friends, our families--and if we don't save 'em, nobody will! So I say we take a ride up that hill, blast our way in there, destroy that Psycho-whatchamabob--and teach those deviants a lesson they'll never forget!

SPHINX

Now you're talking.

BOWLER

Sounds good to me.

RAJA

Let's do it.

SHOVELER

And we'll take a bunch of 'em with us!

They're all with him. Monica steps forward.

MONICA

I just want you guys to know--I may not be a superhero, but I'm with you--and I want to help!

ALL

Oh that's great... Thanks, Monica... (Etc.)

BOWLER

We could really use some coffee--

SHOVELER

And some sandwiches--

SPLEEN

With mustard!

MONICA

(her feelings a little hurt)
Sure.

A few minutes later, Monica serves sandwiches and coffee as our heroes plan...

RAJA

But that place is huge and we don't know where this psycho thing is--

BOWLER

Or even what it looks like.

HELLER

And he must have it well hidden.

FURIOUS

We'll just have to get lucky.

ON MONICA as she gets an idea. A moment later she slips a canned tornado into her purse... as the others put their arms around each other in a group huddle\embrace.

FURIOUS

Go do what you gotta do. We'll meet back here at sunset... Do or die.

ALL

Do or die.

SPHINX

Victoria o morte.

HEROIC MUSIC as...

EXT. AUTO DEMOLITION YARD - DAY - CLOSE ANGLE ON

THE FRONT GRILL of the Herkimer Battle Jitney... as Mister Furious hooks it up to the "Sally's Auto Demolition" tow truck... A moment later he drives the tow truck, towing the Herk off the lot, as Sally steps out of her office, pissed off...

SALLY

HEY!

EXT. HELLER'S FARM - DAY

ON THE SPHINX, standing as immobile and silent as a statue... as a falling leaf slowly flutters down in front of him... In a flash, his machete slices through the air, and the leaf continues fluttering down, but in two pieces...

INT. LABORATORY/BARN - DAY

Doc Heller fine tunes his Shrinker spray... as the Bowler sits quietly in the hayloft, studying the old dog eared photo of her father and herself as a little girl...

INT. INVISIBLE BOY'S ROOM - DAY

Invisible Boy stands in front of his mirror, eyes closed, concentrating for all he's worth, trying to become invisible... He suddenly pops opens his eyes and looks at himself in the mirror... but he's still completely visible. He flops onto his bed in frustration.

INT. THE DINER - DAY

CLOSE ON A TABLE full of food... Eggplant Parmesan, broccoli, chili... CAMERA PULLS BACK TO REVEAL the Spleen sitting alone in the booth, stuffing his face, gassing up for battle.

INT. THE SHOVELER'S HOUSE - DAY

The Shoveler, standing in his bedroom, has just put on his freshly laundered suit. CAMERA OPENS WIDE TO REVEAL Lucille, his wife, standing there, holding his just polished shovel. He takes it from her, then takes her in his arms.

SHOVELER

Baby, if I don't make it... find yourself... a normal guy.

LUCILLE

I don't want a normal guy.

And they kiss.

A few minutes later... In the living room the Shoveler's kids lie sprawled in front of the television. The Shoveler, in full battle array, steps into the room. He wants to say something to them, but the kids don't even take their eyes off the TV look at him... He turns and walks out in silence.

END MUSIC...

INT. THE RAJA'S DINING ROOM - DAY

The shades are drawn. The Raja, in full costume, quietly loads silverware into the secret pockets of his cape. Suddenly, the light switches on... It's his mother. She's caught him red handed.

MOTHER

Jeffrey, YOU THIEF!

RAJA

Mother... it's not what you think!

MOTHER

And why are you wearing that silly costume?

RAJA
 (painfully)
 Because... I'M A SUPERHERO!

ON HIS MOTHER, shocked.

RAJA
 Oh, Mother, I'm sorry. I know how
 much you wanted me to be a doctor
 or a lawyer with a family--but it's
 just not who I am!

MOTHER
 But... the silverware?

RAJA
 I use it... to fight evil.

MOTHER
 (after a moment)
 Jeffrey... this is wonderful.

RAJA
 (stunned)
 It is?

MOTHER
 I always knew that you were
 special.

RAJA
 You did?

MOTHER
 Ever since you were a little boy...
 (gets an idea, excited)
 Come with me.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - A MOMENT LATER

She pulls down the stairway to the attic...

INT. THE ATTIC - A MOMENT LATER

She switches on the light and leads the Raja to a far
 corner... where she moves a couple of old hat boxes,
 REVEALING an ancient leather bound box with the word
 "Excalibur" engraved in gold on the top.

MOTHER
 This is for you.

The Raja opens the box and registers astonishment as he
 sees...

A FABULOUS VICTORIAN SILVER SET packed with formidable looking servers, cake knives, ice cream forks.

MOTHER

Your Great Great Grandmother's
wedding silver.

The Raja lifts up and handles a large heavily engraved pie server.

RAJA

Bitchin'.

EXT. OUTSIDE HELLER'S BARN/LAB - EVENING - CLOSE ON

Mister Furious, wrench in hand, covered with grease and oil, cussing to himself as he works under the hood of the Herkimer.

FURIOUS

Try it again!

Invisible Boy, sitting behind the wheel, tries the ignition of the Herkimer, and the old engine grinds as it turns over, but doesn't catch.

FURIOUS

Come on, baby... Come on, baby... I
SAID COME ON!

Mister Furious SLUGS the engine with his fist, and it sputters and backfires into life... shaking, rattling, leaking, smoking, exploding, but running... Furious kisses the Herkimer... as the Bowler calls out to him from the barn.

BOWLER

Mon Capitan, it's for you.
(tosses him the phone)

FURIOUS

Hello?

EXT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - EVENING - CLOSE ON MONICA

MONICA

(on a phone, speaking very
softly)

It's me.

BACK TO FURIOUS - CONTINUOUS

FURIOUS

Monica, where are you?

BACK TO MONICA - WIDER ANGLE

REVEALING that she is on a pay phone just outside the art center. She's wearing make-up and a sexy little dress; she looks she's dressed for a date. Disco Boys and security guards go about their business all around her.

MONICA

At the Frankenstein Center.

CUT BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THEM -

FURIOUS

Are you nuts? Get out of there!

MONICA

I'm going inside.

FURIOUS

What are you talking about?

MONICA

Listen, Casanova may be a supervillain, but he's got a weakness, and I'm it. Maybe--just maybe--I can trick him into showing me the location of the whatchamathing.

FURIOUS

He's a psycho! He'll kill you!

MONICA

Just shut up and listen. Hold off the attack as long as you can. If I can discover the location I'll call you--

FURIOUS

And what if you get killed?

MONICA

Then at least I will have died trying, right?

Furious silent, taken aback by her courage.

MONICA

Roy... We might never see each other again, so I'd better tell you now... I think you're wonderful.

FURIOUS

(caught completely off guard)
What?

MONICA

Bye.
(and she hangs up)

FURIOUS

Monica!

INT. LOBBY OF THE FRANKENSTEIN CENTER - CONTINUOUS
as Monica approaches a GUARD standing by the main door.

MONICA

Could you tell Mr. Frankenstein
that Monica is here?

GUARD

Sure, doll.

BACK TO THE BARN - CONTINUOUS

Furious stands by the Herkimer, phone still in hand. He seems
speechless, dazed. Something inside him has changed.

BOWLER

(worried about him)
Hey... you okay?

FURIOUS

Sure.

BACK TO THE FRANKENSTEIN CENTER - A FEW MINUTES LATER
as Casanova steps out and sees... Monica, looking very sexy.

MONICA

Hi.

CASANOVA

I thought you'd chickened out on
me.

MONICA

Just wanted to... powder my nose.

His eyes roam all over her; he knows she's up to something,
but she looks yummy, and this is just the sort of cat and
mouse game he loves.

MONICA

How 'bout giving me "the tour"?

CASANOVA

Why not?

EXT. COURTYARD - A FEW MINUTES LATER

as Casanova leads Monica across an open courtyard toward... the sheer walls of the imposing central tower.

CASANOVA

Big, isn't it?

He leads her to a massive archway, the only apparent entrance to the tower. But just as she is about to pass through, Monica looks up and sees something that makes her pull back with fear...

HER POV -

A very sinister looking SECURITY EYE gazes down at her from the top of the archway.

CASANOVA

Don't worry. It's not activated.

They pass through and into...

INT. ROOM IN THE BASE OF TOWER - CONTINUOUS

which is filled with IMMENSE BRONZE SCULPTURES of voluptuous, scantily clad females in various poses of bondage. Monica reacts; these things are scary.

MONICA

Who's the artist?

CASANOVA

Me.

EXT. THE BARN/LAB - NIGHT

The Bowler, Spleen, Invisible Boy, and Doc Heller load up the Herkimer with Heller's weaponry...

as Mister Furious lies sprawled on the hillside... breathing in the night air, contemplating a dandelion gone to seed, and listening to the sounds of the night. The Raja, Shoveler, and Sphinx, stand nearby, watching, trying to figure out what's wrong with him. A whippoorwill is heard singing.

FURIOUS

Listen. He's lonely... and he doesn't care who knows it.

Raja and Shoveler share a bewildered look. The bird sings again.

FURIOUS

We're all the same really. Our songs, our dreams, our seeds are all just a brave attempt to live forever.

(blows the dandelion seeds into the wind)

SPHINX

He is in love. His anger is gone.

RAJA

Oh no.

SHOVELER

Great timing!

FURIOUS

Has Monica called?

INT. TOP OF THE FRANKENSTEIN TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Casanova leads Monica into... a palatial room, filled with priceless objects d'art, all of which reflect Casanova's dark psyche. A Munch painting. Mayan idols. Weird German furniture. A huge glass chandelier hovers over the room. A massive bronze sculpture of a wolf (done in the same style as the other sculptures) is perched in the balcony. It seems to be howling out over the city which is seen in a spectacular view, spread out along the lakeshore below.

CASANOVA

This is where I come to... be alone.

He turns down the lights and quietly closes and locks the big door to the room.

CLOSE ON MONICA, sensing her danger.

MONICA

Oh, look at that view.

She moves out onto the balcony... as Casanova slips the gold chain from around his neck and follows her.

INT. BARN/LAB - CONTINUOUS

Our heroes have gathered around Furious, who sits in a chair, getting the third degree.

HELLER

Snap out of it!

BOWLER

Get on to yourself!

SHOVELER
 (shouting right in his face)
 GET MAD!

FURIOUS
 But I just don't feel it.

RAJA
 He's turned into a completely
 normal person!

FURIOUS
 Normal. What's normal? Does
 normal exist? And if it did, how
 would we know it?

The Shoveler slugs him, sending him sprawling.

FURIOUS
 You know, Eddie, that was really
 uncalled for.

EXT. BALCONY ON FRANKENSTEIN TOWER - ON MONICA

gazing out onto the city, as she senses Casanova slinking up
 behind her.

MONICA
 I'm chilly.

She turns, elegantly avoiding him, and moving back inside.

BACK TO THE BARN/LAB - CONTINUOUS

The Spleen holds up Furious' favorite sunglasses.

SPLEEN
 Look! Your favorite sunglasses!
 (snaps them in two)

BOWLER
 Your Roy Rogers coffee mug!
 (hurls it against the wall)

SHOVELER
 Your Spiderman Pez dispenser!
 (breaks the head off it)

FURIOUS
 Okay, you win. I'm pissed off.
 I'm seriously peeved.

The others groan with frustration.

BACK AT THE FRANKENSTEIN TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Monica moves nervously around the room as Casanova sprawls languorously on the bed, toying with his gold chain.

CASANOVA

Come here.

MONICA

I'm not that kind of girl.

CASANOVA

Then why are you here?

MONICA

Curiosity.

CASANOVA

(with a smile)

Remember the cat.

Suddenly, he hears high heels in the hall. A key is put in the lock--Casanova leaps off the bed, grabs Monica and roughly shoves her into the closet. He leaps back onto the bed, just as the door opens, and Anabel, dressed in a lab coat (and wearing high heels) enters. Casanova is completely relaxed, nonchalant.

ANABEL

What are you doing all alone in the dark?

CASANOVA

Fantasizing... about you.

She crosses the room to the wolf sculpture.

CASANOVA

I thought you were done?

ANABEL

One last tweak.

She opens a secret panel on its back, REVEALING a FLASHING HIGH TECH INTERIOR... and Monica, watching from the closet, realizes that she has found the Psychostridulator.

BACK TO THE BARN/LAB - CONTINUOUS - CLOSE ON

a boom box... A CD jacket tells us that "Kenny G" is playing...

RAJA

If this doesn't do it, nothing will!

ON FURIOUS, a pair of headphones on his head. The music is so loud that we can hear it even though it's being played only through the headphones.

ON THE OTHERS, gathered around him, waiting to see if this will work. And then Furious begins to respond... as his face turns into a contorted grimace.

BOWLER

It's working!

Furious groans and writhes... The others are thrilled; they've done it!

FURIOUS

This music is just SO BEAUTIFUL!

He starts to weep. The others give a collective groan of defeat.

BACK AT THE FRANKENSTEIN TOWER - CONTINUOUS

as Anabel works on the Psychostridulator, Monica looks at a clock... which reads almost eleven. Time is running out.

BACK TO THE BARN/LAB - CLOSE ON SHOVELER'S WRISTWATCH

which also reads eleven.

ON SHOVELER AND RAJA -

SHOVELER

It's time.

RAJA

With or without him, we gotta go!

BACK TO THE FRANKENSTEIN TOWER -

as Anabel closes up the wolf... and starts to leave.

ANABEL

Our guests are waiting.

CASANOVA

I'll be down in a jiffy.

She goes out. Casanova listens as the sound of high heels fades away, then he goes to the closet and lets Monica out.

MONICA

I'd better go.

CASANOVA

You're a spy.

MONICA
(offguard)

What?

CASANOVA
I saw him walk you home.

MONICA
Who?

CASANOVA
Roy.

She makes a sudden try for the door, but he blocks her way, a cold look in his eye that makes her step back in fear.

CASANOVA
Don't be afraid... I never hit a lady...

He lets the gold chain drop loose in his hand, then starts coming for her, a sadistic grin on his face. This is the real Casanova.

Monica pulls back, then reaches into her purse and takes out A CANNED TORNADO, which she holds out threateningly.

MONICA
Stay away!

CASANOVA
Or you'll what? CAN ME?

He laughs dementedly as Monica pops open the can and A SWIRLING FUNNEL OF AIR SHOOTS OUT OF IT and ENGULFS Casanova, throwing him across the room... Monica grabs the handset of a cordless phone and runs out the door.

ON CASANOVA, pulling himself together.

CASANOVA
That bitch!

INT. CORRIDOR JUST OUTSIDE - CONTINUOUS

as Monica runs for it, dialing the phone on the fly...

INT. THE BARN/LAB - CONTINUOUS - ON THE PHONE

ringing... but no one is there...

EXT. THE BARN/LAB - CONTINUOUS

Our heroes are climbing into the Herkimer, whose noisy idling engine obliterates the ringing of the phone.

FURIOUS
But she still might call!

SHOVELER
Are you coming or not?

FURIOUS
I'll drive.

SHOVELER
Not a chance!

He shoves him in the back, closing the heavy metal door behind him.

BACK TO THE FRANKENSTEIN TOWER - CONTINUOUS - ON MONICA
hiding behind a large planter... listening to the phone ringing on the other end.

MONICA
Come on, guys... Pick up...

Suddenly, we hear Casanova's voice on the line.

CASANOVA'S VOICE
What's the matter...

BACK IN THE TOWER ROOM - CONTINUOUS
Casanova is listening in on another phone.

CASANOVA
Nobody home?

BACK TO MONICA - CONTINUOUS
as she moves quickly down the hall.

INSIDE THE HERKIMER - CONTINUOUS
The Shoveler is at the wheel. The Raja sits in the passenger seat. The others are in the back.

SHOVELER
Here we go!

He forces the stick into gear and the Herkimer lurches forward.

SHOVELER
We've got lift off!

RAJA
May the forks be with us!

EXT. DOC HELLER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

as the Herkimer--backfiring, smoking, clanging--rumbles down the driveway into action.

BACK IN THE HERKIMER - CONTINUOUS

Shoveler tries to put the car in second gear, but it won't go. He yanks and pulls and struggles, until the stick comes off in his hand.

RAJA

First is good.

INT. CORRIDOR IN FRANKENSTEIN TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Casanova instructs three security guards.

CASANOVA

I want her alive.

GUARDS

Yes, Mr. Frankenstein.

CAMERA PANS UP the top of a staircase... where Monica is crouched listening.

EXT. STREETS OF CHAMPION CITY - NIGHT

VARIOUS SHOTS as the Herkimer rumbles and smokes down Champion's main street (in first gear) and the citizens step out of houses and bars to watch this bizarre sight.

ON A LITTLE BOY AND HIS FATHER -

LITTLE BOY

Daddy, what is that thing?

FATHER

I don't know, son.

A couple of GRIZZLED CHARACTERS stand in front of a bar.

DRUNK

A Herkimer? Those yuppies will drive anything.

INSIDE THE HERKIMER - CONTINUOUS

ON FURIOUS AND THE OTHERS in the back.

SPHINX

Amigo, we need you.

INVISIBLE BOY

Just GET MAD!

Furious closes his eyes and tries, but it's hopeless.

INT. V.I.P. LOUNGE IN FRANKENSTEIN TOWER - CONTINUOUS

A sumptuous, hotel-like lounge. Anabel is holding court with all of top crooks from the luncheon, charming the pants off them... Casanova slithers up behind her.

CASANOVA

Fellas, this is woman without whom
I would have gone sane.
(kisses her neck)

EXT. FRONT GATE OF THE FRANKENSTEIN CENTER - CONTINUOUS

A pair of security guards (the same two who got gassed by the Spleen) are on duty, when they see... a strange looking vehicle chugging up the hill straight for them.

GUARD 1

What the hell is that?

GUARD 2

Looks like... a Ford Dumpster.

They have a good laugh at it, then hold up their hands for it to stop... But the Herkimer just rolls past them, hitting the wrought iron gates and snapping them open as if they were made of match sticks.

GUARDS

HEY!

They open fire...

INSIDE THE HERKIMER - CONTINUOUS

Bullets are heard pinging off the Herk as THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD just ahead we see the long stairway heading up to the front door of the art center.

SHOVELER

Hang on!

EXT. ON THE STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Several more guards open fire, as the Herkimer hits the stairs and starts bouncing up them...

BACK AT THE LOUNGE - ON CASANOVA

checking his watch.

CASANOVA

It's showtime.

But then they all hear... the sound of gunfire.

TONY P
What's that?

BACK ON THE STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

as the Herkimer chugs and bounces... toward the entrance of the center.

INSIDE THE HERKIMER - CONTINUOUS

Our heroes get bounced all over the place.

INT. JUST INSIDE THE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

as guards close and bolt the big wooden doors to the art center.

ON A GUARD wearing a headset.

GUARD
Mr. Frankenstein, we're being attacked.

INT. SECURITY DESK - CONTINUOUS

Casanova sits at a security console. Anabel, Tony P, and the top crooks stand behind him, listening.

CASANOVA
By whom?

VOICE OF GUARD
We don't know!

BACK ON THE STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

as the Herkimer climbs to the top, then rams into the doors with a thud. But the doors hold.

BACK ON THE VILLAINS -

TONY P
They'll never get through those doors.

BACK AT THE FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

But the plucky little Herkimer digs in its rear wheels and pushes against the doors like the Little Engine That Could...

INSIDE THE HERKIMER - CONTINUOUS

as our heroes encourage the Herk.

SHOVELER

Come on, baby!

BOWLER

Do it, big boy!

ON ITS WHEELS, grinding, chewing up the concrete...

JUST INSIDE THE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

as the Herkimer comes crunching through the big wooden doors of the center, scattering the guards.

BACK INSIDE THE HERKIMER - CONTINUOUS

our heroes cheer, pat the Herk.

SHOVELER

Atta, girl!

BOWLER

Atta, boy!

BACK TO CASANOVA -

watching on a security monitor

VOICE OF GUARD

Mr. Frankenstein, they're in!

CASANOVA

We'll kill them.

BACK IN THE HALL - CONTINUOUS

The Herkimer drives into the main hall of the center as a small army of security guards swarms in, guns blazing.

BACK AT THE SECURITY DESK - CONTINUOUS

Casanova and the crooks watch the security monitor...

INSIDE THE HERKIMER - CONTINUOUS

The bullets sound like hailstones bouncing off the armor of the Herk as our heroes grimly prepare themselves for battle... The Sphinx puts on his mask... the Bowler unzips her bag... Doc Heller cocks his air cannon... Spleen and Invisible Boy load a bag with canned tornadoes... While Mister Furious watches anxiously.

The Shoveler drives intently, bullets splattering like bugs on the windshield.

SHOVELER

Where am I going?

RAJA
 (pointing to an archway on
 the other side of the hall)
 Through there!

SHOVELER
 Right.

But suddenly something under the hood blows up; the engine gives a long groan, and the Herkimer rolls to a dead stop...

INSIDE\OUTSIDE THE HERKIMER - CONTINUOUS

Right in the middle, in the most exposed position of the main hall. More guards arrive and open fire... An armored golf cart with a fifty caliber machine gun mounted on it comes speeding into the hall, blasting the Herk...

Inside, the sound of the big bullets is deafening as Shoveler tries to restart the engine.

SHOVELER
 No good! She's dead!

ON CASANOVA AND THE CROOKS, watching the monitor and laughing as bullets pulverize the Herk.

TONY P
 Spam in a can!

The crooks laugh.

But suddenly, the Herkimer's door is thrown open, revealing our heroes--holding down Doc Heller, his air cannon at the ready. He fires--there is a WHOOMPH of air--and the mounted machine gun and a dozen guards are sent tumbling...

SECURITY DESK - CONTINUOUS - ON CASANOVA AND THE OTHERS
 watching, sobered.

BACK IN THE MAIN HALL - CONTINUOUS

as our heroes come charging out of the Herkimer, using their various skills to blow through the surprised guards. Mr. Furious comes out last, not quite sure what to do with himself.

But suddenly, a withering barrage of machine gun fire is being laid down on them by three guards firing tommy guns from a balcony overlooking the floor. Bullets splatter all around them--and several unlucky guards are hit--but our heroes dive for cover. The Raja tries to get off a fork, but the firing is too intense. Our heroes are pinned down.

ON MR. FURIOUS as he sees... the bag of canned tornadoes. He's got no superpowers, and he's scared to death, but he grabs a canned tornado.

FURIOUS

Cover me!

SHOVELER

With what?

Bullets dancing all around him, Furious runs a desperate (but impressive) zig-zag pattern across the floor... He performs a wild somersault, comes up on his feet, pops open the can, and executes a perfect jump shot, lobbing it right into the balcony. The tornado funnels out, and the guards are sent flying.

ON CASANOVA AND THE TOP CROOKS watching...

ELVIS BROTHER 1

Who are those guys?

CLOSE ON CASANOVA, who knows who they are.

While BACK IN THE HALL our heroes rally around a shaken Mr. Furious.

RAJA

Not bad for a normal guy!

SPHINX

Amigos!

ALL

Do or die!

EXT. COURTYARD - A MOMENT LATER - ANGLE ON

the security eye watching...

as the panicking security guards retreat under it into the main tower.

BACK TO CASANOVA -

as he types something into the security computer...

ON THE SCREEN a computerized image of the eye appears. Casanova highlights the word "Activate" and then presses "Enter".

BACK TO THE COURTYARD - ON THE EYE

as it comes to glowing, sinister life...

A hapless guard retreats under the arch--the eye instantly focuses on him, and he is hit by a dozen nasty looking laser beams... that SIZZLE HIM...

A moment later our heroes arrive at the arch. Furious is about to run through, but Doc Heller holds him back.

HELLER

Wait! Look!

He points to... a man shaped pile of charcoal, all that remains of the unfortunate guard.

HELLER

Laser eye... and it's a humdinger.

RAJA

No problem.

The Raja takes out a butter knife, aims, and hurls it straight at the eye, but laser beams intercept the knife and instantly melt it into... a formless blob of silver.

BACK TO CASANOVA AND THE TOP CROOKS -

TONY P

We'll take care of these clowns.

ELVIS BROTHER 2

Piece a cake.

BONE HEAD LEADER

No sweat.

CORRIDOR - A MOMENT LATER

as Tony P, the top crooks, and the Disco Boys march en masse TOWARD THE CAMERA... They are an ugly, formidable looking bunch.

EXT. COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

Our heroes are blocked by the eye.

SHOVELER

Doc, there's got to be a way.

But the Doc is stymied... Suddenly they hear a woman's voice calling down to them.

MONICA'S VOICE

It's up here! It's up here!

FURIOUS

(looks up)

Monica!

EXT. TOP OF THE FRANKENSTEIN TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Monica leans over the edge of the balcony, the wolf sculpture looming over her, shouting down at them.

MONICA
ROY! THE PSYCHO THING IS--!

But strong hands suddenly grab her. It's Casanova.

BACK TO FURIOUS - CONTINUOUS

as high above he hears Monica scream.

BACK TO THE BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Casanova, hand held tightly across Monica's mouth, shouts down tauntingly to Furious.

CASANOVA
Thanks, Roy! She's just my type.
You can have her back... when I'm
done!

BACK TO FURIOUS - CONTINUOUS

as he hears Casanova's evil laugh and Monica's scream. He is desperate to find a way up, but the wall is completely sheer. He feels helpless--frantic, near tears...

FLASH TO the terrified little boy trapped in the back of his parents' car, crying, pounding on the windows...

And then... Mr. Furious' hands clench into fists--his hair stands up--and his face turns into a mask of primordial rage. His button has finally been pressed. He's MAD! He reaches up as high as he can...

CLOSE ON HIS HAND -

as his fingers literally dig into the concrete of the wall... and he pulls himself up.

BACK AT THE TOP OF THE TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Casanova throws Monica onto the bed, puts his hands on her throat and strangles her as she thrashes helplessly against his immense strength.

BACK TO FURIOUS -

Fifty feet up and climbing. He pulls himself up, one hand, then another, digging in his fingernails, catching his toes on whatever tiny cracks he can find... as the others gaze up at him.

HELLER

He'll never make it.

BOWLER

Think positive.

Meanwhile, Invisible Boy stands staring at the security eye, a look of fierce determination on his face. This is his moment.

INVISIBLE BOY

(to himself)

I can do it.

He takes a deep breath, closes his eyes, and concentrates...

ON FURIOUS as the fingers of one hand lose their grip and a toehold gives way... For a desperate moment, Furious is dangling off the wall by the tips of the fingers of one hand. Only his incredible rage keeps his fingertips taut.

Suddenly, there is a flash of silver, and a large cake fork embeds in the concrete not far from his head. Furious grabs hold of it, and throws a grateful look down to the Raja...

Who salaams up at him...

As Invisible Boy, eyes closed in concentration, walks very slowly, hands at his sides, in an almost Egyptian pose... toward the eye... which stares down mercilessly, waiting for its next victim...

But we notice that Invisible Boy has become... just slightly transparent.

BACK AT THE TOP OF THE TOWER - CONTINUOUS - ON CASANOVA

a look of pleasure on his face as he strangles Monica. Her resistance fades. Her hands fall away. She is pale, beautiful, almost gone, a picture of exquisite death.

CASANOVA

(admiring her)

Some girls just know how to die.

Suddenly, we hear someone cursing Casanova in Russian. He turns and sees... Anabel standing there, pistol in hand.

ANABEL

You two timing psychotic bastard.

CASANOVA

Darling, you've got the wrong idea.

ANABEL

(aiming at his heart)

Do I?

CASANOVA

I was only strangling her... I've killed hundreds of women. It doesn't mean a thing.

(moving toward her, turning on that old Frankenstein charm)

Pootchkie, you're over-reacting. This is our night. It's what we've lied for... cheated for... murdered for. She's just a plaything, a trifle... You're the only woman who's ever meant anything to me. I adore you. I worship you. I want to make you my bride.

She succumbs to his charms, and he gently takes the pistol out of her hand.

CASANOVA

There's just one thing...
(with a psychotic smile)
I don't need you anymore.

A look of terror comes across her face as she sees the murder in his eyes.

CASANOVA

Don't worry, Darling. I never hit a lady.

EXT. ON THE WALL - A MOMENT LATER - ON FURIOUS

still climbing as he hears a scream, looks up... and sees Anabel go plummeting past him.

ON OUR HEROES down below.

BOWLER

Heads up!

CAMERA HOLDS ON OUR HEROES, wincing as Anabel hits with an ugly thud.

Suddenly they hear Invisible Boy calling to them.

INVISIBLE BOY

Guys, I did it! I did it! I'm invisible!

They all turn and see... Invisible Boy, totally visible, but standing on the other side of the arch.

INVISIBLE BOY

Can you see me?

ALL

Yes!

INVISIBLE BOY

Nuts.

SHOVELER

Kid, turn that thing off!

Invisible Boy turns and sees... a computer screen built into the wall (with the same image of the eye on it that was on Casanova's computer), but he doesn't have a clue how to turn it off. Suddenly, he hears running feet, turns and sees...

The top crooks and the Disco Boys rushing towards him through the giant sculptures. He gets an idea... and stands right in front of the computer screen.

INVISIBLE BOY

HEY! CREEPS!

He makes a face at them--and a dozen guns are instantly fired at him. He jumps clear behind a pillar--as the bullets smash into the wall... one of them demolishing the computer screen.

CLOSE ON THE EYE -

as it goes dead.

ON INVISIBLE BOY, hiding behind the pillar... realizing he's been shot in the shoulder.

BACK ON OUR HEROES -

SHOVELER

This is it! DO OR DIE!

The villains form a line, bristling with pistols... as our heroes, led by Sphinx, Shoveler, and Bowler come running through the arch. The threesome go shoulder to shoulder (with our other heroes right behind them) as the villains open fire, laying down a deadly fusillade...

ON SHOVELER, BOWLER, AND SPHINX, standing together, deflecting their bullets with shovel, bowling ball, and machete... (as they practiced with pebbles at the farm)... with the Raja right behind them, hurling silverware...

ON THE VILLAINS, rapid firing... but their own bullets ricochet back into them, dropping them... They start to fall back.

BACK TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Casanova is about to finish Monica.

CASANOVA
And the light goes out...

FURIOUS (O.S.)
Frankenstein!

Casanova turns and sees... Furious, standing on the balcony.

CASANOVA
Roy... What took you so long?

Furious starts at Casanova, who aims Anabel's pistol at him.
Furious hesitates.

CASANOVA
Let me guess... Bullets don't hurt
you.

FURIOUS
They hurt... BUT THEY DON'T STOP
ME!

Furious lunges at Casanova--who gets off a shot before Furious
grabs the gun out of his hand. Casanova ducks clear. Furious
tosses the pistol away... then realizes he's bleeding from a
shoulder wound.

CASANOVA
Smarts, doesn't it?... Shall we
dance?

He turns on his stereo and the sound of DISCO MUSIC fills the
air...

INTERCUT BETWEEN THE TWO FIGHTS - CONTINUOUS

Downstairs, the villains have regrouped.

TONY P
Let's rush 'em!

They charge en mass at our heroes... who are waiting for
them... pinching their noses closed, the Spleen bent over at
their forefront...

While Casanova dances around Furious like a cat... Furious,
fighting the pain of his bullet wound, lunges at him, and
Casanova neatly sidesteps him...

The crooks and Disco Boys fall back, gasping, choking in the
noxious fumes...

As Casanova attacks...

Advancing shoulder to shoulder, fighting as a team, our heroes wield machete, fork, shovel, bowling ball, and canned tornado... forcing the villains back...

Casanova comes at Furious relentlessly, kicking and spinning... and Furious gets the worst of it.

Suddenly, a squad of Disco Boys comes charging at our heroes from the flank... but Doc Heller turns to face them, shrinker spray held Rambo-style on his hip. He lets them have it, blasting them with a DENSE BLUE SPRAY...

When the spray clears, the D Boys lie squirming on the floor, prisoners in their now child sized disco suits...

DISCO BOYS

Help!... Get me out of this!
(Etc.)

Upstairs, Casanova pummels Furious...

While, downstairs, the Shoveler dispatches the Elvis Brothers with some nifty shovel work... But suddenly, the Bland Boys, pistols blazing, are advancing on him, forcing him back against the base of a sculpture. But the Raja suddenly leaps up onto the sculpture.

RAJA (O.S.)

Gentlemen!

The Bland Boys look up and see... the Raja, both hands filled with silverware... which he HURLS...

A beat later the Bland Boys, bristling with forks and grapefruit spoons, run screaming through the sculptures... as Tony P, pistol in hand, skulks out from behind a sculpture and spots... the Bowler.

Upstairs, Furious goes flying against a wall...

CASANOVA

Roy, you're making this too easy.

As Tony P takes a careful bead on the Bowler.

TONY P

Say hello to Daddy for me!

He opens fire, but she goes instantly into her ball swinging frenzy... He fires, missing--she's too fast to keep a bead on... Finally, his gun clicks empty. She turns and faces him.

BOWLER

(grimly)
Daddy says hello.

She HURLS the ball at him--like a fiery softball pitch.

BALL'S POV -

going straight for Tony P's SCREAMING head...

ON THE BOWLER, watching--as Tony's scream is cut short by a gruesome thud.

Back upstairs Casanova comes at Furious again... but Furious ducks the kick, pops back up and smashes Casanova with his good arm... sending him flying across the room... Casanova recovers.

CASANOVA

Let's change the tune.

He reaches into his pocket and takes out the remote device (that Anabel used at the luncheon). He presses a button...

ON THE WOLF SCULPTURE as the jaws open, its eyes glow red... and the dreadful sound of the Psychostridulator grinds up and FILLS THE NIGHT AIR LIKE A SIREN.

Downstairs, the foul noise fills the room and our heroes and the villains all go into a full blown psychotic episode... The villains start shooting and stabbing each other.

SERIES OF SHOTS - AROUND THE CITY - CONTINUOUS

On Main Street cars slam into each other. Pedestrians start screaming and fighting... A man and his dog snarl and snap at each other...

The customers at the Lakeside Diner go insane, hurling plates and food...

At the Shoveler's house the kids turn psycho in front of the television...

ANGLE ON A TYPICAL SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD -

as the sounds of screaming and smashing dishes and furniture can be heard coming from all the houses...

LONG ANGLE OF CHAMPION CITY -

as a din of collective insanity rises up from the city...

BACK TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER - CONTINUOUS - ON CASANOVA

in full psychotic ecstasy...

CASANOVA

WHAT A RUSH!

(tosses the remote off the
balcony)

ON MONICA, still motionless on the bed...

Casanova and Furious collide in the center of the room and grapple in a contest of psychotically enhanced superhuman strength... Casanova gets his hands around Furious's throat and crushes it... Furious drops to his knees, and Casanova thinks he's got him. But Furious, grimacing with rage, looks him right in the eye.

FURIOUS

(raspy voiced)

Is... that... all you got?

Furious grabs Casanova's wrists... and crushes them. Casanova howls with pain, loses his grip. Furious slugs him, again and again... then he grabs Casanova by the belt, swings him around, and HURLS him into the air...

Casanova CRASHES into the huge crystal chandelier--there is an explosion of crystal and glass. Furious averts his eyes as cut glass rains down all around him... then he looks up and sees...

Casanova's gold chain has hooked onto a fixture of the chandelier. Casanova kicks and flails... as he is hanged by the neck on his own gold chain...

Furious moves to the wolf sculpture. He PLUNGES HIS HAND through its bronze casing, and RIPS OUT the heart of the Psychostridulator, a flashing football sized device that gives off an unamplified, but higher pitched and more irritating sound...

Furious HURLS the device hard against the floor, and it smashes into a thousand pieces...

CLOSE ON ONE OF THE PIECES -

an insect sized device that gives off an even higher pitched, even more disorienting sound. This is the very nerve center of the Psychostridulator...

Furious lifts his foot and crushes it hard under his heel...

SILENCE...

Furious drops to his knees, wounded, exhausted... He looks up... at Casanova, who dangles lifelessly off the chandelier...

FURIOUS
Nice dancing with you.

SERIES OF SHOTS - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - CONTINUOUS

as our other heroes return to their senses amidst the vanquished crooks... the traumatized remnants of whom run for it. Things also return to normal...

On the street...

At the Lakeside Diner...

And at the Shoveler's house...

BACK TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER - CONTINUOUS

Furious moves to the bed, where Monica lies motionless and pile...

FURIOUS
Monica...

He touches her face, her eyes open, and she looks at him.

MONICA
You're beautiful when you're angry.

He takes her tenderly in his arms... as the Raja, the Shoveler and the others rush into the room and see... Furious and Monica embracing.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE FRANKENSTEIN CENTER - A LITTLE LATER

Police cars and news vans arrive... as our heroes, battered, wounded, but victorious walk proudly down the long stairs...

Furious and Monica hold each other up. Wounded Invisible Boy has his arm around the Spleen... while policemen and news people run up the stairs past them into the center, ignoring them as always...

But this time our heroes could care less. They are superheroes, and they don't give a damn who knows it.

INT. THE RAJA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

as the Raja opens the door and enters...

RAJA
Mama!

She is there, waiting up for him.

RAJA
I'm home.

They embrace.

INT. SHOVELER'S HOUSE - NIGHT - CLOSE ON A TV SCREEN

Don Stouffer is reporting.

DON

Few details have emerged...

ON THE SHOVELER'S KIDS, on the couch, still rattled by their psychotic episode, glued to the TV -

DON (O.S.)

... but the Dawn Patrol got this exclusive interview with two of the suspects.

ON THE TV -

Dawn Wong interviews the battered, handcuffed Elvis Brothers as they are led away...

ELVIS BROTHER 1

I don't know who those guys were-- but I never want to see 'em again.

ELVIS BROTHER 2

Especially that big dude with the shovel...

ELVIS BROTHER 1

(near tears)

He was the worst!

ON THE KIDS' COLLECTIVE REACTION as they realize who it was... and then they hear the front door open...

In the front hall the Shoveler enters wearily; his shoulder hurts, his back is killing him... as his kids come running to him.

KIDS

Dad!... Dad!... You okay?... You hurt?

SHOVELER

(shocked by this welcome)

I'm okay--I'm all right.

EDDIE JR.

Lean on me, Dad.

LENORE

I'll hold your shovel, Dad.

They lead him back into the living room and give him the prime spot on the couch.

BUTCH
You want a soda, Dad?

SHOVELER
(stunned)
Okay.

He runs to get it as Eddie Jr. slides a footstool under his feet and Tracy puts a pillow behind his back. Roland, the little one, cuddles up next to him, puts his arm around him.

ROLAND
Nice work, Dad.

SHOVELER
Thank, Roland.

ROLAND
You really are a superhero, aren't you?

The Shoveler nods. A few minutes later... The Shoveler sits on the couch, feet up, soda in hand. The television is off. His kids all huddled around him, hanging on his every word.

SHOVELER
And that's when the engine blew up.

KIDS
Whoa...

BUTCH
What did you do?

SHOVELER
Well...

ON LUCILLE as she comes in and sees... her husband surrounded by his kids, a happy man at last.

EXT. LAKESIDE DINER - THE NEXT NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

INT. THE DINER - CONTINUOUS - ON THE SPLEEN

sitting between the Bowler and a bandaged Invisible Boy. The Bowler has her arm chummily around the Spleen's shoulder. The Spleen finally has real friends. Doc Heller discusses the art of fork throwing with the Raja as the Shoveler listens in. The Sphinx sits at the end of the table, silent.

DOC HELLER
So you're never actually conscious of range or trajectory?

RAJA

Heck no. I just chuck 'em.

Monica (in her waitress outfit) sits close to a bandaged Mister Furious.

ON THE TV -

Dawn Wong reports.

DAWN

It's been twenty-four hours since the deadly psycho-sonic attack and bloody shoot-out that left Casanova Frankenstein and dozen of the city's top hoodlums dead... But tonight the question remains... Who were these heroic mystery men who saved our city?...

ON OUR HEROES -

BOWLER

Could have been anybody.

They laugh.

RAJA

Wait a minute... That's it. That's our name. We're... the Mystery Men.

They all like it, except for the Bowler.

BOWLER

Hey, do I look like a man?

SHOVELER

Well we can't call ourselves the Mystery People.

SPLEEN

(singing, ala "Macho Man")
Mystery, Mystery Man...
I want to be a Mystery Man...

SHOVELER & RAJA

Shut up.

BOWLER

Eat your mustard.

FURIOUS

It doesn't matter what we call ourselves. We know who we are.

RAJA

Yes, Obie-wan.

INVISIBLE BOY

Hey... he's gone.

The others see... that the Sphinx's chair is empty. Raja spots a crumpled napkin on the table, opens it up, and reads.

RAJA

"Until you need me again... Adios."

A silence... Reactions from our heroes as they realize that the Sphinx is gone...

SHOVELER

I miss him already.

Suddenly, somewhere in the night, a burst of gunfire and screams are heard. THE FINAL MUSIC BEGINS...

FURIOUS

Amigos, duty calls.

The Mystery Men wolf their burgers, then stand and start for the street...

As Monica watches them leave, a PATRON asks her.

PATRON

Miss... who are those guys?

MONICA

(after a moment)

I don't know.

JUST OUTSIDE THE DINER - A MOMENT LATER

HEROIC GROUP SHOT as the Mystery Men march down the middle of street, toward the sound of the gunfire... and into the night.

THEME AND CREDITS...

THE END