

## **Characters**

- Ralph (M/F)** - an older man, recently retired. Should look somewhat athletic. Wears casual clothes.
  
- Abbie (M/F)** - an older woman, recently retired. Should also look athletic and wear casual clothing.
  
- Danny (M/F)** - A waiter at a mid-priced restaurant. He wears khaki pants and a long-sleeved shirt.

## Scene 1 – Restaurant

(At rise, Ralph and Abbie face each other across a table at a moderately-priced restaurant. Ralph wipes his mouth with his napkin then sets the napkin down on the table.)

**Ralph:** Ah, that was delicious. We should do this more often.

**Abbie:** (takes a sip of water) Yes. I think we should. (pause) Tell me. How have you been? I feel like it's been ages since I've seen you.

**Ralph:** Oh, fantastic! Couldn't be better. I have all this free time now. I can catch up with friends and go out to lunch. (raises his glass of water in tribute) I can build my stamp collection and binge-watch classic Green Lantern episodes.

**Abbie:** Stamp collection?

**Ralph:** (shrugs his shoulders) Everybody needs a hobby.

**Abbie:** Really? (moves in closer) You're miserable, aren't you?

**Ralph:** (drops his pretense) Yeah. Is it that obvious?

**Abbie:** Only to me. It's because I know you as I do.

**Ralph:** Oh, I don't know, Abbie. This is supposed to be the best time—our golden years but I don't feel golden. Instead, I just feel like a rusty discarded antique.

**Abbie:** Don't fool yourself. Antiques are valuable. We're just forgotten.

**Ralph:** Ain't it the truth? It's like all those years were just erased the day they handed us the first pension check and sent us on our way.

**Abbie:** Yeah. They would never have survived without us but do they thank us? No. It's like one day they tell us how much they need us and the next they send us home and tell us to enjoy retirement.

**Ralph:** How are we supposed to enjoy ourselves with those foolish youngsters out there? They have no idea what they are doing.

**Abbie:** In our day it was all about brains and strength. It was about outsmarting your

opponent.

**Ralph:** Nowadays it's about electronic gadgets and blips on screens.

**Abbie:** You're out there saving the world every day and then, all of a sudden, you have a number of birthdays and—bam—you're nothing. It's as if you reach a certain age and people are convinced you can't do anything anymore.

**Ralph:** Forced retirement! Probably dreamed up by some twenty-year-old bureaucrat with acne problems. There's nothing we can't do now that we couldn't do before.

**(Abbie nods then picks up a dessert menu and looks it over. She squints at the page then puts on a pair of reading glasses.)**

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**Abbie:** I think I might get some dessert. You?

**Ralph:** Not for me. Doctor says I need to cut down on my calories and too much chocolate just gives me gas.

**Abbie:** Good to know.

**Ralph:** **(pause)** Anything good? **(reaches for his own dessert menu but stops in motion)** Ohh!

**Abbie:** What's wrong?

**Ralph:** **(rubs his arm)** I've developed this shooting pain in my elbow. Only shows up when I move the wrong way. Damned aches and pains!

**Abbie:** **(still looking at the menu)** Tell me about it! I get cramps in parts of my body I didn't even know existed. **(pause)** Ooh! Key Lime Pie!

**Danny:** **(approaches the table with a pad)** I trust you both had an enjoyable lunch.

**Abbie:** Oh, yes. Delicious!

**Ralph:** Yes, very good.

**Danny:** Have we thought about dessert or coffee to finish it off?

**Ralph:** **(carefully picks up dessert menu)** You know, I think I might have some of that... **(looks at his own stomach)** I'll just have coffee.

**Abbie:** The same for me.

**Danny:** Very good.

**(Danny tries to take the dessert menus from both Ralph and Abbie but they don't let go.)**

**Danny:** I'll just come back with your coffee. We can decide about dessert later. **(exits)**

**Ralph:** I tell you! It's a damned shame. Just cause I've picked up a few pounds doesn't mean I couldn't still do some serious pounding. We may have outlived our warranty but we're not broken. We can still put up a good fight.

**Abbie:** Ah, forget it, Ralph. The town council is not going to let us go back to work. Our crime-fighting days are over.

**Ralph:** Oh, Abbie. Maybe you're right. But I just can't sit at home every day and watch the world go by from my television. I feel like I'm just waiting for them to scoop me up and take me away like some old recycled magazine. I mean, what's a super-hero if you can't be super or a hero?

**Abbie:** Hey! Do you remember the time we took on Dogboy?

**Ralph:** **(brightens up)** Oh! Wasn't he an annoying little kid? He slobbered and made a mess wherever he went.

**Abbie:** Had quite a bite too, if I recall.

**Ralph:** I think we had to get rabies shots after battling with him.

**Abbie:** But we got him in the end, didn't we?

**Ralph:** Thanks to you and that brilliant idea you had to throw a giant ball into the jail cell.

**Abbie:** (laughs) He was panting right up to the moment you popped him in the snout and slammed shut the door.

**Ralph:** (laughs) I think he complained because he couldn't find a fire hydrant in his cell.  
(pause) And how about that Cobrowoman? She was tough!

**Abbie:** And slippery! She might have gotten away from us if you hadn't had the idea of bringing Egghead!

**Ralph:** One look at him and all she could think about was lunch.

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**(Danny enters with a tray holding two coffees. He silently drops them off at the table and exits.)**

**Abbie:** She never had a chance.

**Ralph:** (a pause) Oh, those were the days, weren't they?

**Abbie:** Yeah. They were.

**Ralph:** (takes a sip of coffee and thinks) What if we were to show them that we could still fight the good fight?

**Abbie:** Come on, Ralph. You're just fooling yourself.

**Ralph:** No, I mean it. Maybe we just need to prove to them that we've still got it. Maybe we can't go for days at a time like we had to during the Turf Wars but we can still lend a hand.

**Abbie:** They've got plenty of new and young superheroes at their disposal. What do they need us for?

**Ralph:** Because we have something those youngsters don't. We have experience. We know all the tricks those criminals have ever tried. We've seen it all. We've done it all.

**Abbie:** Ralph! They don't care! They don't want experience and history. Those things cost too much and all that experience has only taught us to know when they are

yanking our chain. They want young inexpensive fools they can mold and shape to their own schemes and causes.

**Ralph:** Maybe you're right. **(thinks for a moment)** But what if we showed them that we still got it?

**Abbie:** How we going to do that, win a bingo tournament?

**Ralph:** No. For years we've seen all kinds of criminal masterminds trying to pull off the perfect heist and we foiled them all.

**Abbie:** Yeah, so? We just need to find the right criminal. Maybe we could take on Medicare Man or Nostalgia Girl.

**Ralph:** No, I don't think that's it. **(pause)** We won't do it by waiting for the right criminal to come along but by showing them how to do the perfect crime.

**Abbie:** What?

**Ralph:** It would certainly get their attention wouldn't it?

**Abbie:** That's for sure, but...

**Ralph:** Oh, don't worry. No one would have to get hurt and we would return anything we took. We would just make a statement, that's all.

**Abbie:** A statement like "We're a couple of no-good crooks!" Is that really what you want people to think of us?

**Ralph:** Well, at least they would be thinking about us again instead of forgetting about us altogether.

**Abbie:** Hmm. I don't know, Ralph.

**Ralph:** Oh come on, Abbie. It might be fun. We could show up all those little punk super-hero wannabes *and* those foolish criminals all in one shot.

**Abbie:** **(thinks for a moment)** I have to admit. The idea does have a certain poetic justice to it.

**Ralph:** Now that's the spirit. Let's have some fun. **(slides his chair in closer)** Now, I

was thinking...

**Danny:** (enters with notepad) Change your minds on dessert?

**Abbie:** Well, it looks like we might be here a little while. Maybe a little dessert would be good.

**Ralph:** Oh, I don't know. We need to stay in shape in case any *work* comes our way.

**Abbie:** (gets the hint) Oh, sure. You may be right. I'll just have some more coffee.

**Danny:** (same tone) It won't work, you know.

**Ralph:** What did you say?

**Danny:** It won't work.

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**Abbie:** What won't work? Drinking more coffee? Staying in shape? Flouride-free toothpaste?

**Danny:** Your plan.

**Ralph:** What plan?

**Danny:** To pull off a heist.

(Abbie and Ralph look at each other then start laughing.)

**Abbie:** Who, us? A heist? That's a good one.

**Ralph:** (points to Danny) He thinks a couple of old fogeys like us are going to pull off a heist!

**Danny:** (after the laughter dies down) I know who you are.

**Ralph:** Is that so?

**Danny:** (to Ralph) You're Hypno Man and you can hypnotize anyone with just a glance.  
(to Abbie) And you're Windy with the power to call up mighty windstorms.

**Abbie:** That's ridiculous. You've been watching too many shows on the Cartoon Network.

**Danny:** Word gets around.

**Ralph:** What are you talking about?

**Danny:** Word gets out around the community.

**Abbie:** What community?

**Danny:** People like us. (leans in) Supers! They call me Sonar Boy because I can hear things from long distances like when two retired super-heroes plan a stunt to get attention.

**(Abbie and Ralph look at each other.)**

**Ralph:** Look, son. We don't know what you're talking about. Maybe you should just get us our coffee before we decide to talk to your manager.

**Danny:** (to Ralph) I believe it was you who said, "Well, at least they would be thinking about us again instead of forgetting about us altogether."

**(Abbie and Ralph look at each other again.)**

**Abbie:** Look, kid. We may be out of the game but that doesn't mean we couldn't take you down in a heartbeat.

**Danny:** That may be, but look around. You're in a crowded restaurant, one popular with the Super community. Anyone here could be a fighter. You might suddenly find yourself in a firestorm of giant muscles, death rays, enlarged insect parts, and mechanised mayhem. Is that really what you want?

**Abbie:** You're bluffing!

**Danny:** Am I?

**Ralph:** (beckons to Danny) Hey, Mighty Ears, let me tell you something!

**Danny:** (leans in before he realises his mistake) What? Oh, no!

**Ralph:** That's right, junior! Look into my eyes and use those super ears to hear what I say. When I snap my fingers, you will be an umbrella.

**(Ralph focuses his gaze on Danny then snaps his fingers. Danny drops his pad and becomes straight and rigid.)**

**Ralph:** Where's all your bluster now, kid?

**Abbie:** Youngsters today are so uptight. At least he's ready for a storm.

**Ralph:** (to Abbie) Is he? (to Danny) When I snap my fingers, the umbrella will open.

**(Ralph snaps his fingers. Danny pops out his arms as if he were an umbrella opening.)**

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**Abbie:** Doesn't he know it's bad luck to open an umbrella indoors?

**Ralph:** Maybe he needs a lesson in manners. Take it away, Windy!

**(Abbie slowly raises her arms to the sky as she makes wind noises. Ralph holds on to the table as the wind rises. Danny starts to lean toward an offstage direction. Abbie makes a dramatic throw of her hands like she is casting the wind toward Danny. Danny acts as if he were blown forcefully off stage. Abbie brings down her hands.)**

**Abbie:** (does a high-five with Ralph) We still got it!

**Ralph:** Oh yes we do! (takes a sip of coffee) We really should do this more often.

**Abbie:** Yes, we should.

**(Abbie and Ralph clink their coffee cups together.)**

Curtain