

Characters

Narrator (M/F)	A narrator, oozing with charm.
Dr. Doomsday (M)	A mad scientist bent on world domination.
Carla (F)	His assistant with hopes and dreams of her own. Bubbly demeanour.
Villainess (F)	A super-villain with mind powers and feelings.
Super-Person (M/F)	A confident hero.
Super-Ensemble	10-20 actors that are responsible for various bits of stage magic, trickery, and fight choreography (see production note 1)

Prologue – Battlefield

(The Super-Ensemble enters in a blackout. When lights rise, everyone is frozen in mid-fight, all-out brawl pose. They are all dressed in black with the exception of colourful belts, capes, and masks. The Narrator, dressed in a suit and tie, with slick hair and pencil-thin moustache, walks out and speaks deliberately.)

Narrator: Lights!

(Spotlight appears on him.)

Narrator: Thank you. **(He changes his demeanour to an intense “movie announcer” voice)** In a world filled with superheroes and supervillains, things had to give at some point. There could only be so many super-beings around before jealousies and hatreds developed. It is the way of natural selection. Only the fittest could survive.

(SFX. Generic epic superhero music. Super-Ensemble start fighting in slow-motion.)

Narrator: And so, in a momentous battle royale, all the heroes and villains of Alternative Earth eventually duked it out. Old rivalries turned to friendships. Old friendships were met with betrayal. Heroes died. Villains laughed. But one hero prevailed.

All: Super-Person!

(Super-Person flies in –see production note 2–and lands in spectacular fashion, causing everyone to fall to the ground. Super-Person strikes a heroic pose as everyone crawls to and poses in a kneel, crawl, or worship position. Lights fade and everybody exits, with the exception of Narrator, who stays on stage with a single spotlight.)

Narrator: It was they, who through their unflinching morality, impenetrable resilience, and impossible strength, that brought everyone together. But it was only a matter of time before villainy would rise again.

(While Narrator speaks, Super-Ensemble bring on various set pieces of “The Doomsday Lab,” and remain onstage for the duration of the play, watching the action, reacting, and ready to make anything, or anyone, fly through the air. Narrator exits.)

Scene 1 – Doomsday Lab

(Lights up on “The Doomsday Lab,” a secret underground laboratory. There are trinkets, computers, experiments, and general mad scientist paraphernalia around. Dr. Doomsday, a mad scientist in the most iconic, comic book sense of the word, is putting the finishing touches on his Doomsday Machine, which is simply labelled “Doomsday Machine.” There is a video camera that is set-up on a tripod, pointing at a backdrop of flames and burning bodies. Carla, Dr. Doomsday’s loyal assistant, is walking around, checking her clipboard and making notes. See Production Note 3.)

Dr. Doomsday: My Doomsday Machine is nearly complete! Everything I have worked so hard to complete is finally coming to fruition! Carla! *Carla!* Are you ready to film our doomsday message? The drapes you made for the backdrop look lovely!

Carla: Thank you, Dr. Doomsday!

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Dr. Doomsday: Thank you for doing this. I really appreciate it.

Carla: Doctor, I’m happy to do it.

Dr. Doomsday: Really? Wow. It’s just...You’re the one assistant...

Carla: It’s okay. This is important.

Dr. Doomsday: You know, you are the first person to say that! No one believes that my Doomsday Machine will work. No one believes in *me*. Some things have really started to surface in my mad scientist support group. They all say “I’m crazy,” that world domination, “isn’t possible,” and that I have “delusions of grandeur.” Who are they?! Two-bit villains with nary a bit of ambition!

Carla: I believe in you, Doctor! I know the real you! The one who will stop at nothing to achieve what he wants!

Dr. Doomsday: That’s why your work is outstanding. Very smart. Top of the class. You are not just some deformed “yes-man” that does my bidding. You think things through! You had some terrific ideas on my machine. Like the weather regulator...

Carla: What can I say, Doctor? I think outside the box.

Dr. Doomsday: Well, I want you to know: when the world ends as a result of my machine, you will be right here by my side.

Carla: No other place I'd rather be, sir!

Dr. Doomsday: Shall we get started?

Carla: Let's do it!

Dr. Doomsday: Just as we rehearsed it, yes?

(Dr. Doomsday goes to the camera, while Carla goes in front of the backdrop, drapes painted with fire and burning bodies.)

Dr. Doomsday: Aaaaaaannd...Action!

Carla: **(To the camera)** This is Carla, Dr. Doomsday's henchwoman. Be warned, government agencies of the world! Dr. Doomsday is here to destroy you all! With his Doomsday Machine in full effect, you will all experience unending suffering and pain! The world will end! There are no demands! There is no escape! Just simple annihilation for humanity! It is time to start over. If you would like to live through the end of the world, you can go to Dr. Doomsday's website, www.doomsday.org, and submit an application to be one of the lucky few deemed worthy by Dr. Doomsday to start a new society. But time is of the essence! Go to the website now!

Dr. Doomsday: Perfect! Excellent.

Carla: Thank you sir. But...

Dr. Doomsday: What? What is it?

Carla: It's just that...Well...It's my name.

Dr. Doomsday: Carla is a lovely name.

Carla: Not very threatening though, is it? It doesn't very well strike fear into the hearts of men. Not like "Dr. Doomsday!"

Dr. Doomsday: Hmm. You have a point.

Carla: Right?

Dr. Doomsday: Every henchman needs a name.

Carla: Henchwoman.

Dr. Doomsday: What's that?

Carla: Henchwoman. You said henchman.

Dr. Doomsday: Please, you know what I meant.

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Carla: Oh, yeah, I know what you meant. You don't think I'm worthy because I'm a woman.

Dr. Doomsday: Carla, you're being ridiculous.

Carla: I am not! Y'know, this is so typical. It's really hard for a smart, power-hungry woman to get her foot in the door!

Dr. Doomsday: Look, I'm sorry I said "henchman." I was merely using it as a gender-neutral term.

Carla: You could have said "assistant," or something like that.

Dr. Doomsday: Fine. I'll be more sensitive to your needs.

(Narrator enters and the action freezes.)

Narrator: Freeze! Meanwhile, at the Villain Villa, the lair of The Villainess, the femme fatale keeps up on her socials.

(Lights change and Super-Ensemble move to create the "Villain Villa.")

Scene 2 – Villain Villa

(Lights up on the Villain Villa, a comfortable, relaxing space with spectacular views. Villainess is speaking to her phone. See production note 4.)

- Villainess:** Vut up, my villainistas! Villainess here again vit your daily update! Look, zere's been some chatter out zere about me coming back to nefarious deeds. *Don't believe zee hype!* I'm clean. I haven't tried to overzrow a government, kidnap a CEO, or even as much as zreaten a spider in six months. I'm just living, laughing, and loving in my Villa. Zat's right...I said "loving." **(In a sing-song voice)** I'm seeing someone!
- Narrator:** Hi.
- Villainess:** **(Surprised)** Ah! Moly holy you scared zee crap out of me. Vut are you doing here? I don't cause problems anymore. I'm clean.
- Narrator:** Yes, yes, I'm well aware. How's your love life?
- Villainess:** Vut are you talking about? None of your busy-ness.
- Narrator:** But it's the business of your thirty-thousand followers? How are things with Dr. Doomsday?
- Villainess:** How do you know about zat?
- Narrator:** I'm the narrator. I know everything.
- Villainess:** Why do you ask? **(Suspicious)** Vut are you up to, Narrator?
- Narrator:** Oh, just asking. **(Pause)** When was the last time he responded to one of your texts?

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- Villainess:** Um...I'm sure he's just really busy.
- Narrator:** **(Sarcastically)** I'm sure he is.
- Villainess:** Why did you say it like zat?
- Narrator:** I don't know whatever you mean. I'm sure he's very busy trying to take

over the world and isn't ignoring you at all and doesn't feel stifled in this relationship.

Villainess: He hasn't answered a text in a few days...and he has seemed distant whenever we're together. Like he just isn't listening, y'know?

Narrator: Oh, yes. I know.

Villainess: You don't think...he's...not interested in me anymore, do you?!

Narrator: **(Sarcastically)** Oh, I'm sure he is very interested in you.

Villainess: Why do you keep talking like that?! I need to get to the bottom of this!

(Villainess closes her eyes and floats in the air and flies off.)

Narrator: **(To the audience)** This will be fun! Back to the lab!

(Villainess flies around, searching while Super-Ensemble moves the set back to the Doomsday Lab, where we left off.)

Scene 3 –Doomsday Lab

(Back at the Doomsday Lab, Dr. Doomsday and Carla are standing exactly as they were at the end of Scene 1. SFX. Loud echoing knock as if on a steel door.)

Dr. Doomsday: Oh, who could that be?! Carla, go see who that is, please.

(Carla crosses her arms and does not move.)

Dr. Doomsday: Carla. Go see who that is, *Please!* **(He picks up his pain-ray gun)** Don't make me pull out my pain ray!

(Carla thinks for a second then lets out a frustrated grunt and leaves the stage. Dr. Doomsday goes to the video camera and starts watching playback. After a moment, Villainess flies in, followed by Carla.)

Villainess: *Doomsdaaaaaaaaaay!*

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Dr. Doomsday: **(Visibly annoyed)** Oh crap. Villainess! Carla, why did you let her in?!

Villainess: Leave her out of zis, Doomy! Why haven't you been answering my texts?!

Dr. Doomsday: I'm sorry, I lost my phone.

Carla: Ahem!

(Carla walks over to a table and holds up Dr. Doomsday's phone.)

Dr. Doomsday: Oh! There it is! Ah-ha! Thank you, Carla. I'll take that.

Villainess: Not so fast, Carla!

(Villainess uses her mind powers to bring the phone to her hand. See production note 5.)

Dr. Doomsday: Hey!

Villainess: Vut's your passcode?

Carla: 555555.

Villainess: Seriously?

Dr. Doomsday: Shut up!

Villainess: Ah yes, here it is. All of zem read. Oh, and vut's zis? A nice little text-convo vit Fiero?

Dr. Doomsday: Hey! That's private!

Villainess: “Sup, bro. Yo, Villy is giving me mad stalker vibes.”

Dr. Doomsday: Look, can we talk about this later? I'm kind of in the middle of something.

Villainess: Oh yeah? Like vut? **(Mocking Dr. Doomsday)** “Taking over zee world?”

Dr. Doomsday: As a matter of fact, yes! **(Walking over to his machine)** I've just put the finishing touches on my Doomsday Machine, and Carla has recorded our Doomsday message to go out to the government agencies of the world.

Villainess: Ha! Zis zing?! Does it even verk?

(Villainess walks over to inspect the Doomsday Machine.)

Dr. Doomsday: Of course it does!

Villainess: How do you know? Have you tested it?

Dr. Doomsday: How can I test it? It would end the world. It's a one-and-done kind of thing.

Villainess: Zat seems pretty stupid if you ask me.

Carla: Um, excuse me, Villainess?

Dr. Doomsday: What is it, Carla?

Carla: I assure you, Villainess, with all due respect, it works. I've run the simulations in the Big Computer hundreds of times, and every time the result is the same: Doomsday.

Dr. Doomsday: That's right!

Villainess: Carla, you're a smart girl. Vhy do you work for zis clown?

Dr. Doomsday: Hey!

Carla: Well, I was really hoping this gig was going to be a stepping stone for me. Honestly. But I'm realising that it's absolutely useless for a woman to try to get into the mad scientist business.

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Villainess: Hey! Stop zat talk. Look, I know, more zen anyvun else, how hard it is to be taken seriously. Look at my outfit, for crying out loud. But don't let anyvun let you feel less zan. Especially not some two-bit "scientist" zat couldn't even jump his car last week.

Dr. Doomsday: Those cables were busted!

Villainess: **(To Dr. Doomsday)** You be quiet. Zee voomen are talking now. **(Back to Carla)** But you do have to have a better name.

Dr. Doomsday: How about "Apocalypse Girl?"

Carla: Are you kidding me? "Girl" is just as demeaning as "henchman!"

Dr. Doomsday: How so?

Carla: I am not a girl! I am a full-grown woman!

Villainess: Apocalypse Vooman?

Carla: That just sounds lame.

Dr. Doomsday: Well, what then.

Carla: Let's forget it. I'll never be taken seriously in this field. *(Pause)* Unless...

Dr. Doomsday: Yes?

Carla: I become Dr. Doomsday...

Villainess: Now you're talking!

Dr. Doomsday: But I'm Dr. Doomsday.

Carla: Yes...But if I overthrow you...

Dr. Doomsday: Now you're thinking like a mad scientist. But you could never defeat me. That's laughable.

Carla: Is it?

Dr. Doomsday: Of course! You're not even a doctor.

Carla: Just a title. Being a mad scientist is like having a PhD. It isn't a real doctorate.

Dr. Doomsday: Hey! I am a real doctor!

Villainess: Oh, vut, you have a doctorate in Mad Science? Vere did you go, University of Evil Villainy?

Dr. Doomsday: That's not funny.

Carla: You're not funny.

(Carla picks up the pain ray from one of the tables and points it at Dr. Doomsday.)

Dr. Doomsday: Whoa! Carla. What do you think you are doing?

Carla: Achieving.

Dr. Doomsday: Okay. Alright. Calm down.

Carla: I refuse to be second banana anymore! I want the power! I want to be feared!

(Narrator enters and everyone else freezes.)

Narrator: Freeze! Okay! Alright! Now we are getting somewhere. Will Carla the assistant ascend to super-villainy? Will Dr. Doomsday succeed in bringing Earth to its knees? Will The Villainess continue to assert herself and be a strong independent woman? Who knows?! Actually, I do, but I'm not telling you! Not yet! Let's take a look at the heroiest hero of them all, Super-Person in their Castle of Calling.

(Lights change and Super-Ensemble steps into action, changing the set to the "Castle of Calling.")

Scene 4 – Castle of Calling

(Lights up on Super-Person, lounging about in their Castle of Calling, a majestic reminder of how impressive Super-Person really is.)

Super-Person: Ho-hum. Such a boring day. No super-villainy detected whatsoever. Apparently, I am just too good at my job. I love me.

Narrator: Hello

Super-Person: Aaah! What are you doing here?! How'd you get in here? This place is fortified!

Narrator: I'm the narrator. I can do whatever I want.

Super-Person: Ah. Yes. Narrator. Welcome to my Castle of Calling.

Narrator: I'm afraid there might be some nefarious activity happening in the Doomsday Lab.

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Super-Person: What?! I must have been distracted. Let me meditate.

Narrator: Have at it.

(Super-Person sits criss-cross and meditates loudly.)

Super-Person: Oh no! My super-sense has picked up on some super-powered villainy brewing! I must save the day! Again!

(Super-Person jumps up and flies offstage)

Narrator: That's the Super Person we all know and love! Let us head back to the Doomsday Lab!

(While Super-Ensemble move the set back to the Doomsday Lab, Super-Person flies around, greeting fans, helping an old lady, and saving a cat in a tree--or similar such things. See production note 6.)

Scene 5 – Doomsday Lab

(Lights up as we find ourselves back to the exact moment Carla was pointing the gun at the end of Scene 3. SFX. Loud crash.)

Dr. Doomsday: What the heck was that?!

(Super-Person flies in in grand fashion and strikes a pose.)

All: Super-Person!

Super-Person: That's right. My super-sense picked up on some super-powered villainy brewing. I thought you'd given up on the super-villain game, Doomsday!

Dr. Doomsday: Doctor.

Super-Person: I'm sorry?

Dr. Doomsday: Nevermind. Get out of here, Supes. We're having our own conversation now. Nothing villainous.

Super-Person: Then why is she pointing a ray gun at you?

Carla: Things were just getting a little tense, that's all.

Super-Person: Well, I think we'd all better just calm down and head to the police station and let the proper authorities figure this out.

Carla: I don't think so, Supes.

(Carla turns the gun on Super-Person and fires, who dodges the laser beam and flies over. See production note 7. What follows is a choreographed fight scene with all three fighting each other in ridiculous fashion, ending with Dr. Doomsday and Villainess holding Super-Person down. See production note 8. Carla has the pain-ray and has it pointed at Super-Person.)

Carla: **(Turning the camera on)** Now listen! I mean business!

(Carla shoots Super-Person. Super-Person dies dramatically. There is a pause.)

Dr. Doomsday: Whoa! Whoa! Hey! That's a bit extreme, don't you think?

Carla: Shut up!

(Carla shoots Dr. Doomsday.)

Dr. Doomsday: That'll leave a mark in the morning. **(Dies)**

Carla: There's a new mad scientist in town! And it's me! No longer Carla, assistant to Dr. Doomsday! You will all call me Doomsdame! And I am not afraid to use this Doomsday Machine to end the world! All I have to do is press this red button, and the world will end! The only way to stop this is to make me Emperor of the Earth! Government agencies, you have one-hour to meet my demands, or you all perish! **(Laughs evilly)**

Villainess: Nice laugh.

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Carla: Thank you.

(Narrator enters.)

Narrator: Freeze!

(Everybody freezes.)

Narrator: This is no good! No good at all! We cannot have the villain win! And all these dead bodies? This is a family show. Let's rewind.

(Narrator goes off to the side to observe. SFX. Videotape rewind sound. All the characters replay the previous scene backwards in fast motion to the moment when Super-Person enters. See production note 9.)

All: Super-Person!

Super-Person: That's right. My super-sense picked up on some super-powered villainy brewing. I thought you'd given up on the super-villain game, Doomsday!

Dr. Doomsday: Doctor.

Super-Person: I'm sorry?

Dr. Doomsday: Nevermind. Get out of here, Supes. We're having our own conversation now. Nothing villainous.

Super-Person: Then why is she pointing a ray gun at you?

Carla: Things were just getting a little tense, that's all.

Super-Person: Well, I think we'd all better just calm down and head down to the police station and let the proper authorities figure this out.

Carla: I don't think so, Supes.

(Carla turns the gun on Super-Person.)

Super-Person: Now, now, Ne'er Do Well, let's put the gun down.

Carla: No! Listen, I mean business! There's a new mad scientist in town! And it's me! No longer Carla, assistant to Dr. Doomsday! You will all call me Doomsdame! **(Laughs evilly)**

(While Carla has been laughing, Dr. Doomsday has snuck up and disarms her)

Dr. Doomsday: Ah-ha! **(points the pain ray at Carla)**

Carla: No!

Dr. Doomsday: Yes!

Super-Person: No!

Dr. Doomsday: Yes!

Villainess: No!

(Villainess uses her mind powers to float the pain ray to her hand and points it at Dr. Doomsday.)

Carla: Yes!

Dr. Doomsday: No!

Villainess: Yes!

Super-Person: Noooooooooooooooooo!

(In a dramatic slow-motion fight, Super-Person flies over, grabs the pain ray and kicks and punches the three villains in impressive fashion. Dr. Doomsday, Villainess, and Carla lie in a heap on the

floor.)

Super-Person: Let this be a lesson to you all: Villainy will never win. Good will always prevail.

(Narrator enters.)

Narrator: Freeze!

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(Everyone freezes.)

Narrator: Boring. Let's add some spice. Some drama. Rewind!

(SFX. Videotape rewind sound. Narrator goes off to the side and everyone rewinds in fast motion to the moment Carla is pointing the pain ray at Super-Person.)

Super-Person: Now, now, Ne'er Do Well, let's put the gun down.

Carla: No! Listen, I mean business! There's a new mad scientist in town! And it's me! No longer Carla, assistant to Dr. Doomsday! You will all call me Doomsdame! **(Laughs evilly)**

(While Carla has been laughing, Dr. Doomsday has snuck up and disarms her.)

Dr. Doomsday: Ah-ha! **(pointing the pain-ray at Carla)**

Carla: No!

Dr. Doomsday: Yes!

Super-Person: **(Making a defensive stance, ready for a fight)** What's your play, Doomsday?

Dr. Doomsday: **(Urgently)** I'll tell you the play. **(Changing his tone to be more sensitive)** This is getting old. This same old tired fight.

(Dr. Doomsday walks over to Super-Person and hands them the pain-ray.)

Dr. Doomsday: Take it. I've done a lot of thinking in the last thirty seconds. I've come to some revelations. One, I'm sorry, Carla. Truly. I haven't been fair to you. My natural gender bias has affected you, and I apologise. I should have thought before I spoke. All I can do is learn from this experience and continue to grow.

(Dr. Doomsday takes his lab coat off and gives it to Carla.)

Dr. Doomsday: I'd like to pass the mantle to you. You've earned it, Dooomsdame.

Carla: I don't know what to say. Thank you! **(Putting the lab coat on as she speaks)** I accept this honour!

Dr. Doomsday: Two, Villy, I have not been fair to you. Truly. Our relationship has been complicated, and honestly, it's my fault. I was never clear on what I expected from our relationship. I've always been an awful communicator, and for that, I apologise. There's no excuse for how I treated you, and all I can do is learn from this experience and continue to grow. Again. And if you'll have me, I'd like to give it another go. Whaddya say?

Villainess: Oh, Doomy! Yes! Yes!

(Dr. Doomsday and Villainess hug and hold hands.)

Super-Person: Well, I'd say the "Doomsday" was the friends we made along the way!

(Narrator enters.)

Narrator: Yes, I'd say so. And everyone lived happily ever after.

Carla: **(Looking around, noticing everyone's smug smiles, she grows increasingly annoyed, and then...)** Never!

(Carla presses the red button on the Doomsday Machine. Lights flash. SFX. Alarms ring, ground rumbles, and explosions.)

All: Noooooooooooooooooo!

(Blackout.)

THE END