

SPR

S01E04

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NEWS ONE

22

INT. NEWS STUDIO

22

In the studio.

UNDERWRITER

This is SPR.

DEIRDRE WILSON

Tilly, the beloved Kaiju at Tokuworld, has escaped with the help of a young boy. The move has received an outpouring of support on social media, while local governments report billions in damages in the wake of the giant monster.

UNDERWRITER

That was Deirdre Wilson reporting from SPR, Tokyo.

STEPHEN SINGH

From SPR news in Washington I'm Stephen Singh.

(then)

Tragic news from Palo Alto, California. Actor, humanitarian and former hero, Henry Rackmueller has died in a car accident late last night. In a dramatic turn, Mr. Rackmueller, who has recently made headlines for his full-throated defense of the proposed Alien Registration Act was found to be of alien origin himself during his autopsy.

(then)

His wife has said that she did not know of her husband's otherworldly origins, saying that she believed him to be originally from Poland. His planet of origin is unknown. He leaves behind his wife, two children and five grandchildren.

UNDERWRITER

That was Stephen Singh reporting from Washington, it's 74 degrees here in Paradise City. Coming up next is These American Supers.

END NEWS ONE

ACT ONE

23 INT. UB STUDIO

23

In the studio.

STAN

From the planet that spawned the poison dart frog and a species that eats them, this is Utility Belt. I'm Stan, the henchman. And with me as always from the family Hominidae and the genus genius, it's Billy the Whiz Kid.

WHIZ KID

Finally an opening with class.

STAN

What can I say, I'm evolving. Saw your friend Ms. Thunder the other day.

WHIZ KID

Oh yeah? What was she arresting you for?

STAN

Ha, very funny.
(then)
Building a bomb. But it was for educational purposes.

WHIZ KID

Educational purposes? C'mon...

STAN

No, seriously. I'm volunteering at a science camp for kids of villains.

WHIZ KID

Ah, training the next generation of one armed evil-doers.
(genuinely interested)
What...What kind of bomb was it?
Chemical, fusion, anti-matter?

PRODUCER BOT

Danger. Potential FCC violation detected.

STAN

Let's take our first caller. From Nolan, Texas. We have... "John."

SFX: Flips switch.

WHIZ KID

Okay, caller, what's your major malfunction?

THE KID

How much do you know about super-cars?

STAN

Lots. Never press the red button, always use unleaded turbo fuel and never steal the Goatmobile.

Stan and Whiz Kid laugh. Silence.

WHIZ KID

Caller?

THE KID

I didn't mean to!

WHIZ KID

Wait are you *the Kid*?

STAN

I thought you were the Kid.

WHIZ KID

No I'm the Whiz Kid, he's the Kid Kid. You know, The Young Wonder! The Juvenile Giant! The heir to Goatman's horns?

STAN

Bah sidekicks. Nothing spoils a fight like a pimple faced kid.

WHIZ KID

Don't mind him, Kid. He's dealing with his own antiquation. How can I help?

THE KID

Yeah, yeah thanks. Likewise.

(then)

So yes I took the car --

WHIZ KID

Is it fast? It looks fast.

THE KID

What? Yeah. It's real fast. Too fast. I got into a little accident.

STAN

Well, good that you called us before the cops. Did you hit someone? Are they breathing?

THE KID

It's just me. But it's bad. Aw god, it's real bad. It's so bad. Uhh, it's lost its wheel.

STAN

That's it? I'm sure Goatman's got a spare.

WHIZ KID

Stan how much do you know about Goatman?

STAN

We never crossed paths. Mostly because I didn't like overnights. I'm more of a morning person.

WHIZ KID

Stan. The Goatmobile only has one wheel.

STAN

One wheel?

WHIZ KID

A monowheel. It's really cool looking.

THE KID

Aww, I'm dead. I'm dead.

STAN

Well that certainly complicates things.

THE KID

I-I-I have to get it back before he notices. He gets so angry.

WHIZ KID

We've got your back, right Stan?
(then)
Right Stan?

STAN

One wheel. Gee. It all makes sense now. Of course it's a bad idea to steal the Goatmobile, it's a terrible car.

WHIZ KID

Stanley!

STAN

Alright. So no spare in that rig huh?

THE KID

No, he says that if you prepare for failure, you'll fail.

STAN

Sounds like a great mentor. You know if Goatman built it himself?

THE KID

I don't know, he's had it longer than I've been around.

STAN

Billy, did the big unguulate outsource the job or build it in house?

WHIZ KID

Goatman? He's the most mysterious hero in the world. He's a master of karate, a keen detective and loves all things goats. Unless he's the world's smartest man, which he's not, because I am, I'll bet he bought it in parts.

STAN

Hey Kid, Kid Kid, not my Kid. Can you look at the big plate under the steering wheel? By the emergency brake. Should have a brand name on it.

THE KID

OK.

SFX: Banging.

THE KID (CONT'D)

It says Mega Moteo.

STAN

Ok we're getting somewhere. Most supercar suppliers leave a couple special features around in case of User Error.

WHIZ KID

You know about those, huh?

STAN

Of course not. How would I know about the classified world of superhero supplies?

(he snorts to himself)

There should be a panel right below it, do me a favor and pop that off. May need a flathead screwdriver. Do you have any tools.

WHIZ KID

Stan, he's the Kid. He has tools. Go slowly around the edges, you'll get it off soon enough. But Stan what--

(then)

Oh. You're looking for the Heilo Converter aren't you?

STAN

Bingo.

WHIZ KID

That could work.

THE KID

Ok it's off.

STAN

Great there should be a bunch of tech stuff in front of you. Right?

THE KID

Yeah. A lot of wires and buttons.

STAN

Do me a favor and press the little round red button.

THE KID

You said to never touch the red button!

STAN

This is the one time you want to push it.

THE KID

They're all red!

WHIZ KID

It should be the one all the way on the left.

THE KID

OK.

SFX: Small alert.

GOAT-MOBILE

Tracker activated. Contacting Goatman.

THE KID

What? Oh no. I pushed the one on the left! I did.

STAN

Kid, is the Goatmobile upside down?

THE KID

...maybe. Aw jeez.

WHIZ KID

Oh jeez.

STAN

Alright, well you've activated the lo-jack. The Heli function is gonna be locked.

THE KID

You gotta help me. Give me a new face a new id, help me disappear?

STAN

Can you just roll it? Like a hamster ball.

WHIZ KID

I'm sure Goat-man will understand.
You're not the first sidekick
that's taken a supercar for a joy
ride.

THE KID

I wasn't taking it for a joy ride.
I was trying to escape.

STAN

Escape? From what?

THE KID

Oh my god. He's here.

GOAT MAN

(deep voice)
Bahhhhh...

THE KID

I'm not the first --

SFX: Phone clattering. Line goes dead.

WHIZ KID

Kid. Kid are you there?

Silence.

STAN

Well.

SFX: Hangs up.

STAN (CONT'D)

That's our show. As always, if you
have tech questions, we've got
answers.

WHIZ KID

You think he's OK?

STAN

I've heard Goatman's much more
forgiving in person. Until next
time, I am Stan the Henchman.

WHIZ KID

I'm Billy the Whiz Kid.

STAN
And this was The Utility
Belt!

WHIZ KID (CONT'D)
And this was The Utility
Belt!

Banjo music.

END ACT ONE

NEWS TWO

24 INT. AD BREAK

24

In the studio.

ADS

Support for SPR comes from...

(then)

Exemplar Insurance. If you're a super, you know it's hard to find a telephone booth to change in anymore and it's even harder to find good insurance. So we founded Exemplar. Insurance for Superheroes. Whether it's a torn cape or a destroyed lair, we have you covered.

(then)

Exemplar Insurance. Insurance for Superheroes. Exemplar does not cover fire, smoke, wind, hail, or water damage. This also includes theft, snow, ice, bed bugs, fleas or ticks. Furthermore cat infestations and alien eggs are not covered by Exemplar, nor is any issue unrelated to villainy. All claims will be reviewed on a case to case basis. See website for details. Exemplar Insurance.

(adding)

Not available in Utah.

25 INT. NEWS STUDIO

25

In the studio.

STEPHEN SINGH

From SPR news in Washington I'm Stephen Singh.

(then)

Prince Nokov shocked the world by unveiling a fully conscious Android he called Galatea at the World's Fair early today.

SFX: In a large auditorium.

PRINCE NOKOV

(Russian)

Modern Man has become a slave to machine.

TRANSLATOR, E4

Modern Man has become a slave to machine.

PRINCE NOKOV

(Russian)

It is time for machine to once again to become slave to man.

TRANSLATOR, E4

It is time for machine to once again to become slave to man.

STEPHEN SINGH

At this point Prince Nokov reached over to his assistant's face, removing it, revealing machinery below.

SFX: Gasps from the crowd. Curses in many languages.

PRINCE NOKOV

"Machina ex hominum."

STEPHEN SINGH

The move has been criticized by governments and rights groups who have declared this to be a clear breach of the Asimov accords which have formed the basis of international AI development..

(then)

When asked about his previous support for the Prince, the President stated that he and Nokov have a good working relationship and that he was aware of the announcement the entire time. When asked if he knew that creating Artificial Intelligence was against international law, he asked the reporter, and I quote: "What Superpower hasn't broken the law?" And walked away.

UNDERWRITER

That was Stephen Singh reporting from Washington.

(MORE)

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)
It's 72 degrees in Paradise City.
Coming up next is The Speech
Bubble.

END NEWS TWO

ACT TWO

26 INT. TSB STUDIO

26

In the studio.

KELLY CLOSE

From JDHC Houston, this is The
Speech Bubble, I'm Kelly Close.

(then)

The first time I saw Cosmos I
thought I was going to die.

(then)

I was crossing the street and a
drunk driver blew the light
barreling towards me. I shut my
eyes, heard the horn blare then...

(pause)

There he was, holding the car above
him, cape billowing in the wind. I
I remember the blue of his suit
matched the hue of his eyes. He put
down the car and flew away without
ever saying a word. I remember
thinking, "will I ever see him
again?"

(then)

It's been just over a month since
Cosmos was arrested during a
protest for Alien rights and
transferred into ICE custody.

(then)

I reached him over the phone as he
is not allowed visitors. He has to
pay for each call.

SFX: Phone is answered.

COSMOS

Hello?

KELLY CLOSE

Hi!

COSMOS

Kelley?

KELLY CLOSE

Yes. So you know we're recording.

COSMOS

I figured as such.

KELLY CLOSE

Would you like to be referred to as
Cosmos or by your legal name?

COSMOS

My parents named me Callum
Callahan, but I guess Cosmos feels
like my real identity these days.

KELLY CLOSE

Cosmos. When did you first find out
about your origins.

COSMOS

When I was twelve. I always knew I
had powers. That part wasn't weird.
A couple kids in town were gifted.

(then)

But, and I'm not proud about it, I
had stolen my father's pack of
cigarettes, hoping to try out one
of his reds.

(pause)

We had this barn that I wasn't
allowed in, and I figured it'd be
the only place I wouldn't be caught
and that's when I found it. The
escape pod.

KELLY CLOSE

How did you react?

Cosmos laughs.

COSMOS

Well I thought my parents were
aliens!

Kelly laughs.

COSMOS (CONT'D)

I mean I knew I was adopted, they
were never shy about that, but when
they found me in that barn with a
cigarette in hand, they didn't even
think about the whole, from another
planet thing, they just started in
on why smoking was bad and you
should never do it.

(laughs)

After they'd calmed down they
realized what I'd seen.

(MORE)

COSMOS (CONT'D)

At that point they told me how the ship crashed in their cornfield and found me inside.

(then)

They'd been waiting for a sperm donor and well, I guess this was the next best thing.

KELLY CLOSE

Growing up, did you ever feel alien?

COSMOS

I did, for a time. But that was probably teenage hormones. If I ever questioned my place in the world, they made sure that I felt loved...

(pause)

Honestly, it wasn't until now that I've felt. Different. If I'm totally honest, it all seems like a bad dream I'm just going to wake up from.

KELLY CLOSE

When you were arrested at the protest, I have to believe you imagined this going differently.

COSMOS

Did I think they would try removing me from the country for expressing my views? No. But maybe I've just been too comfortable with my privilege.

KELLY CLOSE

Did you consider just flying away? No one would blame you.

A beat.

COSMOS

No. Not for a second. When the MPD started reading me my Miranda rights, all I could think about was what would the kids think?

(then)

If I run, I only prove the xenophobes right. But if I stay they see me in cuffs.

He swallows.

COSMOS (CONT'D)

I mean, I was a baby when I crash landed on earth. I don't even remember it. I didn't have a choice to be American. I just am.

(then)

But I refuse to be shy about my Xenocian heritage. My gifts come from my birthright. I was an alien when I saved the earth from meteorites, from villains and space vortexes. I was an alien when I represented earth in the galaxy games, I was an alien when I protested the registration act.

(then)

I am an American Alien.

KELLY CLOSE

Do you believe that they'll grant you asylum?

COSMOS

I've spent years fighting evil and placing people in jail for breaking the law. I believe that my parents did the right thing in taking me in, even if technically what they did was illegal.

(adding)

I'm just glad that they aren't alive to see me in here now.

KELLY CLOSE

You didn't quite answer the question.

COSMOS

Do I believe in the system?

(long pause)

I guess I have too.

SFX: Sad music.

KELLY CLOSE

One of the world's strongest heroes, brought low by the very law he fought to protect. I found out later from a correctional officer that works at the Elkhart ICE Facility that the color of the prisoners jumpsuit is Blue.

(then)

(MORE)

KELLY CLOSE (CONT'D)

The average immigration case in America takes more than 700 days and can take five years if it reaches the Supreme Court. Cosmos's legal team hopes to expedite the proceedings given Cosmos's importance to global security.

(then)

Coming up next we have interview --

END ACT TWO

NEWS THREE

27 INT. NEWS STUDIO

27

In the studio. This cuts into the previous broadcast.

STEPHEN SINGH

-- Breaking news!

(then)

Supervillian Babylon has broken out of Santa Diablo Prison. Local news has confirmed multiple fatalities at the facility and among first responders.

(then)

Citizens of Santa Diablo have been told to shelter in place while the Heroic Legion responds. Babylon was famously imprisoned by his arch-nemesis Cosmos who has himself been placed into custody. There has been no statement from the Department of Defense or The Legion concerning a temporary release of the hero. It is not certain who besides Cosmos would be able to defeat Babylon, were he to strike. More on this story as it develops.

UNDERWRITER

That was Stephen Singh reporting from Washington, DC.

(then)

Today's show was written and produced by John Dorsey and Maximilian Clark. Additional producing by Brendan Sokler and Carla Lerner, This episode's cast include (see website). With special thanks to Brenna Killeen.

(then)

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(then)

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(then)

(MORE)

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)
For more. Head to
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Outro:

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)
Coming up, we return to The Speech
Bubble, with an interview with
Invisible Sam. Sorry Correction. We
cannot seem to find him. Please
stand by...

SFX: Music and Fade Out.

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)
This is SPR.

END NEWS THREE

END EPISODE FOUR