

THE TERRIFICS

STRANGE ADVENTURES

Episode 104: "House of Stagg"

Written by

Tony Hernandez

Based on Characters from DC Comics

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Tony Hernandez

(602) 487-5150

tony@tonyhernandez.co

**INT/EXT - SIMON STAGG MANSION - DAY**

Opulence. Simon Stagg has it. He likes only the best.

"LE JARDINIER ET SON SEIGNEUR (THE GARDENER AND HIS LORD)" by FRANÇOIS-ANDRÉ PHILIDOR plays.

The outside of the home looks like the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air with massive, Grecian columns that probably weigh several tons each only to hold up a 100 pound overhang because of course they do.

The inside is just as useless with two staircases that flank both sides of the world's largest foyer. Maybe it's waiting for the world's most bowlegged man.

Everything is gold plated with white statues of armless white people. A small fountain that would make Tony Montana blush is right in the middle.

On one of the gold, fabric covered Design Toscano inspired couches sits a small family of three. METAMORPHO, aka Rex Mason aka THE ELEMENT MAN, SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON, Metamorpho's wife, are playing with their two year old son, JOEY MASON.

Joey JUMPS OFF THE COUCH with mom and dad and starts RUNNING AROUND, DROPPING VASES AND GLASS ART as large as him before both Metamorpho and Sapphire are able to SAVE the expensive pieces of falling and crashing on the ground.

SIMON STAGG

(running down stairs)

What is the meaning of all this racket?!

Sapphire and Metamorpho can only look on, both of them SPLAYED ON THE GROUND, holding onto priceless objects, with Metamorpho turning one of his legs into a hand that is holding a poor Venus de Milo recreation among three other large art pieces.

Just as Simon's mustache was about to move and make more noise, his green grandson, Joey, RUNS UP THE STAIRS and meets his grandfather halfway up the stairs.

JOEY MASON

Grandpa!

Joey is motioning for uppy uppy, much to Simon's chagrin. After half a beat, Simon lifts up his grandson who starts kissing his face. Try as he could, Simon relents and gives his grandson a smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sapphire and Metamorpho are still laying on the ground, holding onto the objects that Joey nearly broke.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

Hey, Dad! Mind giving us a hand?

As Joey giggles and plays with his grandfather's mustache, he's the only thing in the world that can make the curmudgeon Simon Stagg soften a little.

SIMON STAGG

I would, dear. But I have my hands occupied as well. I also have someone else to do that type of work for me.

Java!

JAVA, a Neanderthal that Simon Stagg resurrected from frozen ice in one of Stagg's many experiments, comes out to the top of the staircase.

JAVA

Yes, Mr. Stagg.

SIMON STAGG

Be a dear and help my daughter pick up the near-mess my grandson almost made.

JAVA

Of course, Mr. Stagg.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

(breathing heavily)

And son-in-law.

SIMON STAGG

What?

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

That, Java can you please come down and help both your daughter and your son-in-law. Both of whom you love dearly. Am I right, father?

SIMON STAGG

Yes. Of course. Everyone knows what I meant. Metamorpho's a man. He doesn't get his feelings hurt like some soy boy.

Isn't that right, Metamorpho?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

METAMORPHO

Sure. Yeah. You know me. The definition of a mean ole tough guy!

Java walks past his master and Joey STICKS HIS TONGUE OUT at Java as he walks past down the stairs. Joey likes everyone. Everyone except Java it seems.

Java helps Sapphire with the statue that she's holding over her as she lays on the ground, simply by putting one of his large mitts on the statue. For Java, it's as simple as holding an award.

He then lurches over to Metamorpho and pauses for a second. He gives out a LOW GROWL of contempt. After setting down the statue he had been holding, Java helps take the myriad of glass and vases from Metamorpho.

METAMORPHO

Thanks!

Metamorpho LIFTS A HAND for Java to help him up. Java TURNS ON HIS HEELS, ignoring the request for help.

JAVA

Will that be all, Mr. Stagg?

SIMON STAGG

Yes, Java. Thank you. Do you have to be somewhere?

JAVA

Yes, Mr. Stagg. I have an errand to attend to. But if you want me here, that can wait.

SIMON STAGG

No, no. Of course not. Go right ahead and do what you need to do.

Java GOES UP THE SAME STAIRS and ignores JOEY'S TAUNTS once again.

As Java passes, Simon Stagg tells his henchman:

SIMON STAGG (CONT'D)

I didn't know you had other things to do than to serve me, Java.

JAVA

There's a lot you don't know about me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JAVA (CONT'D)

(nodding  
respectfully)

Mr. Stagg.

Sapphire and her husband are now embracing each other, giving each other a look after hearing what Java had to say.

Simon Stagg begins his WALK DOWN THE STAIRS. Upon reaching the landing, Joey runs back to his parents, Sapphire lifting up her growing boy.

SIMON STAGG

So. Tell me how things have been going. Is this Mr. Terrific all that he's cracked up to be?

METAMORPHO

More than I could have ever imagined. He's showing me and the team how to harness and use my powers as never before.

SIMON STAGG

Impossible! I've taught you everything there is to know regarding your powers!

METAMORPHO

Yes. Of course you have, Mr. Stagg. But there's more to super powers than simply knowing how they work. It's more important to learn why to use them. And more importantly, when not to use them.

SIMON STAGG

Why to use them?

When not to use them?

Do you know how ridiculous you sound right now? You use your strength and powers because you can. Powers are exactly that: power. It's not so much that you have power over others, its that others are weaker than you.

Don't waste that opportunity.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

METAMORPHO

Opportunity? That sounds more like exploitation. Like, taking advantage of others.

SIMON STAGG

Oh, dear boy. I may have a mustache, but I don't go and twist it and cackle over a damsel in distress I tied up to some train tracks! I'm like you, a good guy, remember? But we can't let weakness in. If our enemies, the bad guys and gals of the universe think we're weak, like having empathy, they'll attack that weakness, won't they?

METAMORPHO

Sure. I mean... I guess--

SIMON STAGG

Of course you know I'm right! There's nothing wrong with being stronger than other people. More powerful than other people. I'm all for a kinder and gentler world, but your enemies need to see that you can go as low as they do.

Does that make sense?

METAMORPHO

Yes. Of course it does. Thank you, Simon.

Simon Stagg raises an eyebrow.

METAMORPHO (CONT'D)

Mr. Stagg.

SIMON STAGG

Good.

And how are you, my dear? How are both my dears?

JOEY

Grandpa!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

SIMON STAGG

Yes. I've already received that report from you. I'm talking to your mother now, Joseph.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

You know how I'm doing better than I do! Now that you have me and Joey living here.

SIMON STAGG

I wasn't going to have you and my grandson in that apartment alone while your husband is away at superhero school, could I now?

Sapphire has a slight roll of her eyes.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

Well, if you really want to know how me and Joey are doing, we are doing great now.

SIMON STAGG

(smiling)

See!

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

(nudging Metamorpho)

Because this big guy is finally here.

SIMON STAGG

(not smiling)

Oh.

METAMORPHO

Thank you for watching Sapphire and Joey while I work, Sy--Stagg. Mr. Stagg.

SIMON STAGG

Of course. That's what any good grandfather would do.

And how is my trusty, Maxwell Lord holding up? I understand you saw him. He reported to me as much.

METAMORPHO

Max is... Max.

(CONTINUED)

SIMON STAGG

Hmm. I see.

So much can be said in so little.  
You know, there's something I've  
been meaning to tell you,  
Metamorpho. The both of you.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

What is it?

SIMON STAGG

The Justice Gang. When Guy Gardner  
prematurely accepted you,  
Metamorpho, into the Justice Gang,  
I was all for it. It was Maxwell  
who deemed you unfit to join the  
group.

METAMORPHO

I know, Mr. Stagg. Maxwell just  
confirmed it.

SIMON STAGG

So, he told you that I didn't stop  
your advancement to join the  
Justice Gang? Is that right?

METAMORPHO

Not exactly. But when I confronted  
him with the fact that he didn't  
accept me, he didn't argue.

SIMON STAGG

Good. Because I always thought you  
were meant for the Justice Gang.

METAMORPHO

Really?! You thought I was strong  
and ready enough to join the  
Justice Gang?!

SIMON STAGG

Heavens no! I just needed someone  
on the inside. And who better than  
your own son-in-law?

METAMORPHO

Oh.

SIMON STAGG

I mean, I trust Maxwell. As much  
as someone can. But I have my  
doubts.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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SIMON STAGG (CONT'D)

Given the opportunity, I feel -- I know -- Maxwell Lord would use any opportunity to get rid of me. That's why having another set of eyes would have been nice.

METAMORPHO

Gee. Thanks.

SIMON STAGG

You're welcome.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

Dad. If you think Maxwell Lord is out to get you, why do you pay him and have him in charge of your little superhero program?

Simon Stagg looks at his daughter as if he has just seen a disgusting stranger for the first time.

SIMON STAGG

Why? Oh, sweet dear. You don't understand the ways of men. We are not here to help one another. We are all just using one another to get ourselves ahead. I'm no different so why would Maxwell Lord be? If I was hanging off a cliff and needed a hand, he'd be the first to offer his heel to my fingers. Even I only have him under my charge because I only need him. I can only do so much. When he is of no need or service, I'll rid myself of him, don't you worry.

METAMORPHO

Geez. You rich guys really seem to have wonderful friendships...

Simon Stagg laughs.

SIMON STAGG

You're just as naïve as your wife. No wonder you two get along so well. Becoming rich and powerful, and staying rich and powerful require two things: friends and the timing to stab those friends in the back to get ahead. It's how I treat others and how they treat me.

(MORE)

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SIMON STAGG (CONT'D)

All is fair in money and power.  
Nothing to get worked over about.

Simon Stagg waves a hand in the air as if to reset the discussion.

SIMON STAGG (CON'T)

Anyway. What have you been doing with these other Terrific people?

METAMORPHO

Sorry, Mr. Stagg. Our team of Terrifics, or whatever we are, is a team. And everything we do stays inside the team.

SIMON STAGG

Oh, come on! We're family! You can tell me.

METAMORPHO

Sorry, Mr. Stagg. We have some clues and some information that we can't leak. I can't risk it with anyone even you. Let alone, you.

SIMON STAGG

Very well, very well. I'll leave the three of you to reunite again. Just please try and keep a leash on Joseph this time.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

Of course, Dad.

Simon Stagg leaves the foyer.

METAMORPHO

Is he gone?

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

I think so?

METAMORPHO

Do you think he believed me when I said that I'm not telling you anything?

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

I think so. He thinks I don't know half the things I know about him. I think he thinks I'm still a twelve year old girl.

(MORE)

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SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON (CONT'D)

So. How are things going?

Metamorpho goes wide-eyed for a moment, a million thoughts trying to come out at once.

METAMORPHO

Well, we're still looking for Jenny Kord. That's what Mr. Terrific has us tasked with. No one knows she's missing.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

Do you still think she's dead?

METAMORPHO

(dejected)

Yeah, unfortunately. And you know more than anyone how much hope I hold out.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

We're both optimists.

METAMORPHO

(sad smile)

But I don't think any amount of optimism or hope'll help us this time.

She, Jenny Kord I mean, found that recording of her father. The one claiming that he was still alive.

I don't know why. I just don't buy it. If anything, it was probably used as bait to get her.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

So where is she?

METAMORPHO

(shrugs)

I don't know. But if I had to bet, she's probably somewhere in a box like Terry Sloane.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

Ew! Don't say that!

JOEY

Doan say dat!

After an exasperated sigh, Metamorpho says:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

METAMORPHO

I'm sorry, honey. That's just what I think. I wish it were different, just as much as you, I really do.

The three Masons embrace, happy and dejected at the same time.

**INT. SIMON STAGG MANSION - BASEMENT**

The BLACK SCREEN gets a rectangle of light as Java opens the door to the basement below. The staircase down is illuminated by the open door. Java pulls a string to light the way down, closing the door behind him.

He is carrying a cardboard that has the same markings as the one that carried Terry Sloane's remains.

When Java enters the dusty basement floor, there are cans of paint, ladders, and other things found in mansion basements.

Java puts the large cardboard box under one arm and pulls a fake can of paint near a wall on a handmade shelf. This dusty, simple, rustic shelf is anything but. It opens up into a SECRET ROOM.

With the box now back in both arms, he enters the shadowed Secret Room. He opens the top of the box and looks at it in disgust. He TOSSES the contents on the floor, including a round, head-shaped thing, flying in the shadows and landing with a squish.

We see the contents roll on the ground. They're not human bones but carrots. And the head is actually a ball of lettuce.

The ball of lettuce slowly rolls to a prisoner's knee. When the camera pans up we see JENNIFER KORD, gagged and filthy, tears streaming down her eyes.

**EXT. KORD ESTATE - DINING ROOM - DAY**

Our ragtag group of Terrifics is inside the dilapidated dining room of the Kord Estate inside Palmera City.

MR. TERRIFIC, PHANTOM GIRL, PLASTIC MAN, BLUE BEETLE, MAXWELL LORD, and BOOSTER GOLD are all seated inside the decrepit mansion's largest dining room.

Mr. Terrific cracks his knuckles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. TERRIFIC

All right. It's been 24 hours of research. Twenty four hours since--

PLASTIC MAN

--since you got your ass kicked by Superman in front of all of us?

Mr. Terrific doesn't look at Plastic Man, but the knot in his jaw shows that he is one none too pleased either.

MR. TERRIFIC

--since we started researching in our specific, assigned, areas. Does everyone know what they're supposed to do?

BOOSTER GOLD

Sir yes, sir!

(suddenly hushing)

But just in case some of the slower people in here don't remember, would you mind repeating what we're doing again?

Mr. Terrific lets out a sigh.

MR. TERRIFIC

Yeah. We've been researching for over a day.

PLASTIC MAN

Over a day since Superman kicked your ass.

The room shares a wide eyed look. By the loan smile on his face, Plastic Man is the only person enjoying his jokes. Finally reading the room and realizing he may have gone one step too far, Plastic Man drops the smile, face reddening behind his sunglasses.

MR. TERRIFIC

And it's time we stop researching by looking at screens and folders and start researching using our eyes, hands, and feet.

Start knocking on doors and, if need be, start knocking on some heads.

So, to recap;

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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MR. TERRIFIC (CONT'D)

the two bits of information we found are -- the two major bits of information we found out are that -- one; the transmission that sent Ted Kord's voice back from the dead came near the location of Simon Stagg's house.

And, two; we intercepted a crude message of an unknown language. Digital forensics can only decipher with 99% certainty that the message is hostile in nature. This incoming attack on Earth is coming from an empty place in Alpha Centauri.

BOOSTER GOLD

But we all know that that isn't an empty place at all.

MR. TERRIFIC

That is correct, Mr. Gold. That is where, 25 trillion miles away or four-and-a-half lightyears, is believed to be the planet Rann.

PHANTOM GIRL

And Rann just happens to be where Adam Strange, the "hero" suspected of blowing off a kid's head, is from. Wow. His case just keeps looking better and better by the minute.

MR. TERRIFIC

Well, technically, he's from here, from Earth. But, yeah. He moved from Earth to Rann, had a wife and kid there, and finally moved back to Earth with just the wife. Their daughter having died back in Rann.

The good news is, Metropolis is less than a half hour ride from Palmera City so it should take us no time to reach both Simon Stagg's place and the Strange's home, both located in and around Greater Metropolis.

Plus, I already got Rex at Chez Stagg with his father-in-law doing some early recon for us.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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MR. TERRIFIC (CONT'D)

I'll take Phantom Girl and Plastic Man to meet with Simon Stagg.

Beetle and Gold'll go and meet with the Stranges.

MAXWELL LORD

But don't you think it makes more sense for you to meet with the Stranges? That is your case, after all.

MR. TERRIFIC

Exactly. It would make complete and perfect sense for me to return there. And that's exactly why we're gonna throw a curveball and have Blue and Gold 2.0 take a look and have a word with the fine couple.

Plus, if I'm completely honest with everyone, I think that the Pykkt and the Rannians are working together to invade our planet.

MAXWELL LORD

And what makes you think that?

MR. TERRIFIC

Just call it a hunch. A very, very strong hunch.

MAXWELL LORD

Um, yeah. That all sounds great. Wonderful, really. You just forgot one teeny tiny thing. You forgot one person. Ummm... what about me? What am I doing?

MR. TERRIFIC

What about you? You're the big boss man, ain't cha? Your job is to send us supes into danger while you sip champagne.

MAXWELL LORD

I don't drink champagne. Gives me terrible hangovers.

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CONTINUED: (4)

MR. TERRIFIC

Whatever. What I'm saying is, isn't this the part where you let those on your payroll get their hands dirty?

MAXWELL LORD

Yeah. Usually. But not this time. This time? I'm too invested. I'm still stunned that I got to witness Terry Sloane's suit. Guy was a legend.

MR. TERRIFIC

Fine. So, which team do you want to join, Max?

MAXWELL LORD

I'd like to join you and see what exactly is going on with Simon Stagg. The question that is killing me the most is, why did that transmission, the one that I unlocked and that Jenny must've found, come from his place?

MR. TERRIFIC

Okay. Perfect. Makes complete sense. And that's why you'll be going with Blue Beetle and Booster Gold.

MAXWELL LORD

Wait... what?!

MR. TERRIFIC

You heard me.

MAXWELL LORD

Then why the fuck did ya even ask me?!

MR. TERRIFIC

'Cause. Whatever we want to do, we should do the opposite. If you want to catch people by making them uncomfortable, then you gotta make yourself uncomfortable. Ya dig?

MAXWELL LORD

Do I... dig? Dude...  
(exasperated)  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MAXWELL LORD (CONT'D)

You know what? Sure. Fine. Fuck it.

MR. TERRIFIC

Good. Now that we have everything settled why don't we hop into the T-Craft waiting for us outside and head on out to Metropolis.

Plastic Man MEEKLY RAISES HIS HAND, still feeling guilty for overstepping with his bad sense in humor.

PLASTIC MAN

Question.

Mr. Terrific doesn't say a word. No one does. After an uncomfortable beat, Plastic Man continues.

PLASTIC MAN (CON'T)

Umm... I'm doing great, by the way. Thanks for asking. So. How, exactly, did Adam Strange's daughter, ya know... die?

The camera focuses in on Mr. Terrific's face that suddenly has a layer of melancholy on it. The screen starts to blur and turns into the sepia 4:3 ratio. The V.O. starts with Mr. Terrific but then transitions to Adam Strange's voice.

**EXT. RANN - THE ICE AREA OF "MOORM" - DAY**

We are now back in the past on Rann, in the northern most peninsula called Moorm. The landscape is... what landscape? Snow and white cover the screen. Alanna Strange and her two royal guards are fighting to walk through a blizzard. The V.O. of Mr. Terrific reading then becomes Adam Strange's voice in retelling the events mixes with the howl of the snowstorm.

ADAM STRANGE (V.O.)

Alanna and her two royal guards had made the rendezvous point, Moorm, a peninsular salient at the northern most part of Rann. Since it was the closest body of land to the poles, it was also the most snow covered area on Rann.

Moorm is an area named after the massive, owl-like creatures that live there, the Moorms.

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ADAM STRANGE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Moorm is just like Dante's last and worst 9th circle of hell. A frozen hellscape.

Unbeknownst to Alanna, I could already see her and her two royal guards through my thermal binoculars. I just wasn't ready to share with her the worst news a husband could share with his wife.

As Alanna and her two royal guards struggle to get through the snowstorm, a sudden appearance of two white silhouettes appear. Each one is nearly three meters tall. The pair look more like snow covered trees with large, round heads about as wide as a pair of outstretched arms.

ROYAL GUARD 1

Your Highness. I believe these are the Moorms of Moorm.

ALANNA STRANGE

(sarcastically)

That would track.

Royal Guard 1 looks at Royal Guard 2 and says:

ROYAL GUARD 1

They have always lived in autonomy to the princess's father's rule.

ROYAL GUARD 2

Why? They're big, sure. But they also look... cute.

The two Moorms get closer and their appearance becomes clear. They are nearly three meters tall with their heads being one meter wide. Massive, white owl heads. Their eyes are about the size of a human head. The large, almost comical eyes almost gave the Moorms a kind look. They almost looked like a Margaret Keane Big Eye painting. The rest of their body looked like a simple, white feather shawl. A shawl larger than a man, but a shawl nonetheless. They are two, tall, white feathered angels with the safe, wide eyes of reassurance that only an owl's visage can give.

ALANNA STRANGE

They might look cute. But there's a reason we let the Moorms run free. You do not want to fuck with these guys.

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CONTINUED: (2)

Royal Guard 2 takes a few, snow sloshed steps up to the Moorms. He points at one and looks at Alanna Strange.

ROYAL GUARD 2

These guys? Aren't they just cute flying horses? I thought -- AGH!

While Royal Guard 2 offered his arm up to one of the Moorms and looked away at Alanna, we, the audience, saw the slow terror of the giant owl-like creature calmly bring down its beak and eat the man's arm off straight from the shoulder.

As Royal Guard 2 quickly passes out from the blood loss, Royal Guard 1 raises his ray rifle, ready to shoot.

Alanna Strange quickly shoves the ray rifle down.

ALANNA STRANGE

Stop! Are you trying to get us all eaten?!

ROYAL GUARD 1

Well... I... what do we...?

During the panic, the snow starts to ease up, revealing that there is more than just the one pair of Moorms around them. They are SURROUNDED by the Moorms and the Moorms are slowly encroaching. Every moment, we are privy to see more and more a Moorm appear all around them. There were always there, just hidden.

ROYAL GUARD 1

Your Highness...

VOICE (O.S.)

*Igpay atinlay!* (actually some clicks and clucks)

Upon hearing the command O.S., all the Moorms that were closing in suddenly start to retreat back. Only the original two are still there, with one slurping up a bloody arm that it hadn't finished from Royal Guard 2.

As the Moorms disappear back into the cover of snow, the Voice comes forward. It's Adam Strange.

ALANNA STRANGE

Oh, Adam!

Alanna is only able to flinch a hint of a hug towards her husband, with Adam raising a hand to make her stop. He looks beaten and battered.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ADAM STRANGE

*Gibberish, gibberish!* (again, more clicks and clucks)

The pair of Moorms look at one another. They talk in clicks and clucks as well, only they add other bird only guttural sounds. Rolling, cackling sounds from their throats.

The Moorms and Adam have a BRIEF CONVERSATION until finally Adam looks satisfied.

Adam lunges to his wife and gives her a hug. As they embrace, the two Moorms disappear.

ALANNA STRANGE

You look terrible! You smell worse! Where's your royal guard? Wait... where's Aleea?

Adam is trying and failing to hide his tears.

ADAM STRANGE

We'll get to that... eventually. First, we need to survive.

ALANNA STRANGE

Are we still in danger? From the Moorms?

Adam nods.

ADAM STRANGE

We are. But not just them. I did, however, make a deal with them; the Moorms. They are hungry and I've made it so that they can get fed.

Royal Guard 1 interjects:

ROYAL GUARD 1

Yo, man. I ain't about to be offered up as a bird snack, am I?!

ADAM STRANGE

No! Of course not.

ALANNA STRANGE

Who, then?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ADAM STRANGE

Them.

(Adam motions to the  
emptiness, Adam  
motions to nothing)

The Pykkt assholes who have been  
chasing me. The ones who killed my  
royal escort. The ones who...

Alanna tries to see who he's referring to, but there has  
only been -- maybe? -- three meters of visibility, tops,  
with most visibility being just the one meter.

ADAM STRANGE (CON'T)

Just follow me! Let's hide behind  
that rock!

Before Alanna or Royal Guard 1 could inquire about what  
rock Adam was referring to as he led the way, there was a  
two meter high block of blackness that came out from the  
snow.

The three of them sat on the snow, their back to the  
rock.

Alanna looked as if she wanted to ask Adam a million  
questions. Adam looked exhausted and winded. Royal Guard  
1 looked scared, clutching onto his ray rifle like a  
teddy bear.

The strange RADIO CHATTER from episode 101 SMALL VILLAGE  
ATTACK could be heard. THE PYKKTs ARE TALKING and getting  
closer.

ALANNA STRANGE

Is that--?

Adam RAISED a dirty digit to his lips, SHUSHING his wife.

The small, red silhouettes of the Pykkt's and their  
glowing eyes can now be seen appearing behind the curtain  
of snow. Closing in.

Even though he had asked Alanna to quiet down, he was now  
speaking aloud himself.

ADAM STRANGE

Where did they go?! Where are  
those stupid fuckin' Moorms?! We  
had a deal. They lied to me! They  
abandoned us!

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CONTINUED: (5)

There were now four Pykkt soldiers who had come out from the wall of snow. Each one had a rifle as large as themselves.

ROYAL GUARD 1

What do we do, Mr. Strange? Your Highness?

Adam is trying to find the right words as his wife holds his hands, tears running down her face.

ADAM STRANGE

I'm sorry! I'm so, so sorry!

As the apology is the only thing that Adam can get out, the ground below the Pykchts OPENS UP. BLACK CLAWS AND BLACK BEAKS begin to TEAR INTO THE ENEMY.

With the violence that the Moorm is doing to the Pykkt, the screen instead focuses on the wide eyed faces of the trio sitting in terror against the rock. We can hear Pykkt screams and every time there is a gruesome SOUND OF FLESH RIPPING, a line of blood SPLASHES against or horrified trio. In a few seconds, the slashing visual of blood splattering on our seated trio accompanied with the even more gruesome sound of flesh ripping, quickly creates a world of red snow.

Although the screen has saved the visual of the RIPPING AND RAVAGING that the Moorms had done to the Pykchts, there is still one Moorm who is slurping up a Pykkt leg like a long, thick noodle.

The Moorms SAY A FEW THINGS to Adam and then WALK AWAY.

ALANNA STRANGE

What did they say?

Adam still has a 10,000 yard death stare. Alanna shakes her husband and once again asks him:

ALANNA STRANGE (CON'T)

What did they say?!

ADAM STRANGE

They said thanks for the snack.  
That they would share their meal  
with the others.

ALANNA STRANGE

And Aleea? Where's Myleea? Tell me  
Adam!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ADAM STRANGE

I... Alanna. Aleea. Aleea.  
She's... I'm sorry.

ALANNA STRANGE

She's, what? Tell me you fucking  
asshole! Where's my daughter!

Unable to keep the truth from Alanna a moment longer,  
Adam begins to sob.

ADAM STRANGE

I'm sorry, Alanna! The Pykkt!  
Those... assholes. They killed  
her! They killed our girl. She's  
dead. Ourleea is dead!

Alanna shakes her head no, but can see that her husband  
isn't lying. They hold each other and sob as Royal Guard  
1 looks down despondently. The camera zooms out into the  
sky, filling the screen in white.

**INT. THE STRANGE'S APARTMENT - DAY**

We FADE IN from the bright sight of three, sad seated  
individuals in the snow to seeing three sad individuals  
sitting on a couch. Only this sad trio is not on a snow  
covered ground but a couch inside a modern apartment.  
Blue Beetle, Booster Gold, and Maxwell Lord are all taken  
aback at what they have just heard.

On the other sofa is Adam Strange and Alanna Strange.  
Alanna is curled up on her husband and is drying her eyes  
with a small tissue.

MAXWELL LORD

Dang. I mean, Terrific told us  
that your daughter died in Rann,  
but not who killed her. It's  
terrible that the Pykchts killed  
her. But at least those giant owl-  
things gave those assholes a  
gruesome death they deserved.

Adam gives a small, sad smirk.

ADAM STRANGE

Yeah. I kept out all the details  
of how Aleea was killed by the  
Pykchts in the book.

BOOSTER GOLD

And why's that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Booster Gold is in the middle of the couch and the bookends of Blue Beetle and Maxwell Lord give Booster Gold a dude-wtf? look.

ADAM STRANGE

(incredulous)

Because, asshole. Reliving the murder of my daughter seems like a moot point. She was killed. Murdered. In front of me. By Pykkt assholes. She was killed in front of my eyes and I was unable to stop it.

You'll forgive me if I don't get into every single, little bloody detail.

BLUE BEETLE

Mr. Strange. Of course. You have to forgive our friend Booster here. He sometimes doesn't pick up on social cues too easily.

SKEETS

*Beep. Beep.*

BLUE BEETLE

See? Even his partner agrees.

BOOSTER GOLD

I mean... I didn't mean any offense. I'm sorry. I'm just... I'm just trying to understand what's happened. That's all.

ALANNA STRANGE

And why are you trying to understand?

What I mean is, I thought Batman put Mr. Terrific on this case. And now I have three guys here who don't seem to have a clue what's happening.

Alanna's death stare at Booster Gold gets even deeper.

ALANNA STRANGE (CON'T)

I mean, no offense from us either but what I'm seeing here doesn't give me much confidence either.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALANNA STRANGE (CON'T) (CONT'D)

I have a man whose superpower is being a bug. Another who is from the future... not even sure what that brings to the table.

At least Max has a superpower that can be of some use.

Maxwell's brows furrow as he points to his chest.

MAXWELL LORD

Me? What's my superpower?

ALANNA STRANGE

Being the world's biggest asshole.

Maxwell is unimpressed, but it does bring a smile to both Blue and Gold.

Maxwell tries to steady the conversation again.

MAXWELL LORD

Look. I ain't gonna lie. I didn't want to be here.

ALANNA STRANGE

You didn't?

MAXWELL LORD

Fuck no! There's some stuff going on with my benefactor, Simon Stagg. I want to see what that's about.

ADAM STRANGE

And what exactly is happening with good old Simon Stagg?

MAXWELL LORD

Sorry. But that's top secret. The reason Terrific has us here is to have a new set of eyes look into the shooting after the event at the Bookworm. Well, that's according to Mr. Terrific at least.

ADAM STRANGE

And how do you think that's going? I mean, the whole new-eyes-on-something-different thing?

The three men share a look and a shrug.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MAXWELL LORD

Don't really think it's changing anything, if I'm honest. We know as much as Terrific. If anything, he probably still knows more than us. So, just like you two, I still don't understand why he'd have us here.

Just as Alanna was about to say something, Blue Beetle speaks up.

BLUE BEETLE

Well, the thing is, we're here for two reasons. Sure, the whole new eyes thing, but there is another reason. We have something to share with you.

ALANNA STRANGE

Who? Adam? Me? Both of us?

BLUE BEETLE

Yes. We intercepted a message from the direction of Alpha Centauri. I think you know where this is headed.

ALANNA STRANGE

Is my father sending a message to Earth? I find that hardly unlikely. He can communicate with me through a Zeta Beam instantly. Although, truth be told, I haven't talked to him in a few weeks. Which has been concerning me, if I'm honest.

BLUE BEETLE

It's not the Rannians that we caught talking and headed our way. We picked up a message from your enemy, the Pykkts.

ADAM STRANGE

Impossible! I mean, we never destroyed the Pykkt threat, sure, but there is no way that they would have gotten past Rannian defense. We would have heard of them attacking Rann if they were on their way to Earth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MAXWELL LORD

Well, it could be that the Rannians and the Pykkts are working together.

Adam Strange JUMPS OUT of his seat.

ADAM STRANGE

Didn't you just hear a word I fuckin' said? They killed my daughter! They've tried to kill my wife's people countless times. Why in the fuck would we suddenly want to work with our mortal enemies?

Maxwell Lord lifts up a pair of hands.

MAXWELL LORD

Guys. Chill. That last idea was one of the thoughts that Terrific had and told us before we left for here. He's the one that planted that idea into our heads. I don't think any of us three even know a thing about the hostilities between Rann and Pykkt.

ADAM STRANGE

Then why would Mr. Terrific even bring you here with such a bold claim rolling inside your minds? Even if you hadn't brought up that half stupid idea, the fact that it looks like a Pykkt fleet is on its way to Earth is pretty big fuckin' news! Why didn't Mr. Terrific want to tell us, in person, arguably the biggest news there is?!

ALANNA STRANGE

(shakes her head)

Don't you see, Adam? This is all part of Mr. Terrific's plan. That's exactly why he sent us these three flunkies. He wanted these three to share the revelation about the Pykkt advancing to Earth and he hoped that one of these dullards would share his cockamamie theory with us. Why? Because that asshole didn't want to do it to our face!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ADAM STRANGE

And why would he do that? Send this out-of-the-loop trio to inform us about this Pykkt update and hope that they would spill the beans on an insulting theory that makes zero sense?

ALANNA STRANGE

Because, Adam. No matter how much he says to me and to the world that he wants the impartial truth, and only the truth, in his mind, he already has you marked down as guilty. Not only do I think that Terrific is convinced that you killed that kid outside the Bookworm, now it sounds like he believes you're somehow in charge of spearheading an invasion of Earth with your mortal enemy. Just saying that out loud sounds even more stupid than it actually is.

Ahhh!

I can't believe I allowed myself to trust that fuckin' asshole! Again.

BLUE BEETLE

Hey, there's no need to insult us. We're not dullards. Well, at least I think that's what you're doing. We're just here to share news and give our opinion.

In a defeated, self-whisper, Booster Gold says to himself:

BOOSTER GOLD

Speak for yourself...

BLUE BEETLE

We're not idiots. If that's what you're calling us. Is that what you're calling us? Look. Doesn't matter what you think about us. We're just here to share news with you and then give our opinion back to Mr. Terrific. That's all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ALANNA STRANGE

Oh, honey. You sweet, sweet -- yet very pretty! -- but still stupid, little boy. The only one who's insulting you is Mr. Fuckin' Terrific. Not us.

Unbeknownst to you three, he sent you three on a fool's errand. He wasn't going to tell us the news about the Pykkt signal because, as Max has already said, Terrific thinks that Rann -- my people! -- are in cahoots with their lifelong enemy. That's how biased Terrific is against my Adam.

You know, for a smart guy, he sure is dumb as fuck.

BOOSTER GOLD

Wait. I gotta be honest. I don't understand what's happening.

It's now Alanna's turn to stand up next to her husband. Only she takes a step forward over to look at Booster Gold straight in the eye.

ALANNA STRANGE

That's the whole fuckin' point, stupid future man. Terrific had a message to send us. Two messages in one. Isn't that right, Beetle Boy? The messages are as follows: That he wants us to know that, not only does he believe that there's a Pykkt invasion coming to Earth, but he also wanted us to know that he suspects that me and my husband are in cahoots with this invasion.

The trio are stunned. Maxwell wants to say something because he always needs to say something.

MAXWELL LORD

Well, I heard the garbled transmission. Whether it was Pykkt or not, I don't know. What I do know is, Kord Tech did confirm that in all likelihood it is not a friendly message.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

MAXWELL LORD (CONT'D)

And, as far as Mr. Terrific  
planting the idea in our heads  
that you guys are somehow  
involved, what can you tell us to  
prove that you're not involved?

Adam is about to yell but his wife beats him to it.

ALANNA STRANGE

How can we prove that we are not  
working with the Pykkts? The race  
that believes their purpose is to  
take over the universe, enslaving  
all those in their path? The same  
Pykkt that have killed millions of  
my people by destroying cities  
full cloth in one single blast?  
The same Pykkts that killed the  
only thing that has ever mattered  
to me? For nine months I carried  
Myleea inside of me, creating her.  
She was more me than myself!

You're really asking how we can  
prove that we're not working with  
our mortal enemies? How about I  
prove it by grabbing Adam's ray  
gun and putting three holes where  
your heads are?

Blue Beetle stands up.

BLUE BEETLE

Okay. I think we're done here. If  
there is anything else you would  
like to tell us, please feel free  
to call.

Alanna moves to over to Blue Beetle's face.

ALANNA STRANGE

Just tell Mr. Terrific that his  
plan did work.

BLUE BEETLE

And what plan was that?

ALANNA STRANGE

Letting me know how he really  
feels without getting himself  
killed. Pfft. Had he told me this  
to my face Mr. Terrific would have  
been referred to in the past tense  
going forward.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

ALANNA STRANGE (CONT'D)

Now, why don't the three of you leave before I decide that you three can take his place in the dead department.

MAXWELL LORD

"Dead department"? Is that a threat, Mrs. Strange?

ALANNA STRANGE

No. No threat at all. When I see Mr. Terrific again, I'm gonna kill that sonuvabitch.

Now, that's a fuckin' promise.

**INT. SIMON STAGG MANSION - DAY**

Metamorpho opens one of the double sided doors to the entrance of the mansion and welcomes his team of Terrifics.

METAMORPHO

Hey, hey! Glad to see you guys!  
Been only two days, but it feels like two months!

Mr. Terrific is the first through the door and GIVES REX A HUG.

MR. TERRIFIC

My man!

Phantom Girl is next with a LONG, STRONG HUG of her own.

PHANTOM GIRL

Oh my God, Rex! I missed you so, so, so much!

METAMORPHO

Careful, Phantom Girl! I can make myself into pure diamond and even I think you'd be able to crush me with that hug!

You know, for someone who phases, you sure are a solid piece of work!

PHANTOM GIRL

I only phase when I want to.  
(winks)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Finally, Plastic Man enters through the threshold, ARMS OUTSTRETCHED.

PLASTIC MAN  
Sexy Rexy! Put 'er 'ere, buddy!

Metamorpho SLAMS THE DOOR SHUT on Plastic Man and walks away. Slowly, THE DOOR REOPENS with Plastic Man's face and upper body completely FLATTENED. The imprints of the door paneling can be seen stamped into him.

PLASTIC MAN (CON'T)  
(muffled)  
Geez. Great to see you too, bud.

Plastic Man puts a thumb into his mouth and, in a POP, RE-INFLATES HIMSELF.

The Terrifics enter Simon Stagg's foyer, the foursome finally reunited again. Only this time, Joey and his terrible twos isn't destroying anything and the team finally gets to meet Rex's better half.

PHANTOM GIRL  
Oh my God! And you must be  
Sapphire Mason! And this must be  
the infamously cute Baby Joey! Hey  
ya there, little cutie!

Joey is pensive for a moment but Sapphire encourages her son.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON  
Joseph Beowulf Stagg! You be nice  
to Misses Phantom Girl! She works  
with Daddy!

After a pensive look at his mother, Joey realizes his mistake and quickly goes into Phantom Girl's arms.

METAMORPHO  
Just don't drop him, please.

PHANTOM GIRL  
Dude. Like, I just literally told  
you. I control when phase. Chill.

Phantom Girl and Sapphire Mason PLAY WITH JOEY and SHARE SOME LAUGHS.

Mr. Terrific and Plastic Man get close to Metamorpho.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MR. TERRIFIC

Look, man. I know I gave you a few days off to meet up with the fam bam but something's come up.

METAMORPHO

You need me come back to the Kord Estate? Can't I have just one more day here?

MR. TERRIFIC

Shit. You can have two, three. I don't care. I told you that you could stay at your father-in-laws house for a week and that hasn't changed.

METAMORPHO

Then why are you here to take me away?

PLASTIC MAN

Who said anything about taking you away?

Metamorpho instinctively gets angry whenever Plastic Man speaks, but finds himself quickly moving to his normal, human emotional state.

METAMORPHO

Wait. You guys aren't here to call me back? Does that mean... am I fired?

Plastic Man KNOCKS HIS HEAD BACK once for one large laugh.

PLASTIC MAN

Ha! I wish!

Mr. Terrific gives Plastic Man a Mr. Terrific look which quickly neuters Plastic Man.

PLASTIC MAN

Saw-wee.  
(eek face)

MR. TERRIFIC

(smallest eye roll)  
No. No one is getting fired.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MR. TERRIFIC (CONT'D)

Actually, we were working on both cases, the Jenny Kord and Terry Sloane cases when Blue Beetle found and discovered where the audio of the supposed still living Ted Kord came from. It came from here. Chez Stagg.

Plastic Man's hand turns into a hook.

PLASTIC MAN

The call is coming from inside the house!

Metamorpho and Mr. Terrific give Plastic Man an ew-highschool-bully-girl look.

PLASTIC MAN (CON'T)

What? Wrong R.L. Stine story?

As Plastic Man's flesh hook goes limp, Mr. Terrific barks:

MR. TERRIFIC

Neither story you're referring to is an R.L. Stine story! They're both urban legends, ya damn fool!

Just as Mr. Terrific is about to correct Plastic Man that he's conflating "The Hook" and "The Babysitter And The Man Upstairs", that both are two completely, different urban legends, Mr. Terrific instead balls his leather covered fists and squeezes his eyes shut for one hot beat.

MR. TERRIFIC (CON'T)

Look. Let's just focus at the...  
(seeing Plastic Man's  
flaccid "hook")  
...task at hand.

Mr. Terrific tries to refocus his attention back to Metamorpho.

MR. TERRIFIC (CON'T)

Like I was saying. Mr. Blue Beetle was working on the console that Maxwell Lord had pulled up the audio from. You remember the audio, right? The one Max miraculously pulled up right before Booster Gold was going to kill him?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MR. TERRIFIC (CON'T) (CONT'D)

At first, Max was adamant that there was no more forensics needed to be done on the audio. But I told Beetle to persist. Sure enough, he found two things.

One. Beetle found that the "Ted Kord" transmission addressed to his daughter, Jenny Kord, was sent to the Kord Estate from here, the Stagg Residence.

METAMORPHO

Whoa! And the second? Thing, I mean.

MR. TERRIFIC

The second thing we found out was that, yes, the day before Jenny stopping texting Jaime and fell off the face of the Earth was the same day that she "discovered" the audio of her father saying that he was still alive.

METAMORPHO

But you don't buy that, do you?

Mr. Terrific shakes his head no.

MR. TERRIFIC

No, I do not. We're still running tests on the recording of Ted Kord, but so far, it's showing that it's inconclusive insofar as if it's real or not. And, more importantly, I don't think she found it as much as someone put the audio on top of her to-do lists and let her "find it" on her own. If you catch my drift.

METAMORPHO

Jeez. Why would Simon create a fake audio like that? And why would he want Jenny to find it?

MR. TERRIFIC

Why indeed. Now you see why we're here, yeah?

Just tell Simon Stagg that we're here to visit you and your family.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MR. TERRIFIC (CONT'D)

Don't let on to Simon Stagg why we're actually here. To investigate this place.

SIMON STAGG

Don't let on to me, what?, Mr. Terrific?

MR. TERRIFIC

Nothing at all... Mr. Stagg.

SIMON STAGG

Oh, pish posh! I might be old enough to share High School photos with Moses himself, but that doesn't mean that I'm as deaf as an adder.

Out with it.

We see Simon Stagg walking down the same staircase as when we first met him. Only this time, he has Java in tow.

Mr. Terrific lets out a defeated sigh.

MR. TERRIFIC

Fine. These past few days I've been training these three.

SIMON STAGG

Yes. So the Element Man tells me.

MR. TERRIFIC

So I'm sure he's told you what we've been working on.

SIMON STAGG

To the contrary! The father of my own grandson hasn't told me a thing about your actions. Much to my chagrin, I may add.

Simon Stagg and Java reach the landing.

SIMON STAGG (CON'T)

(grinning)

The irony. I couldn't get a word out of Metamorpho since he has pledged alliance to you and your ragtag crew. Yet, with his new master here, I'm going to hear the truth from that man instead.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

SIMON STAGG (CON'T) (CONT'D)

The irony is so sweet, I might  
grow a cavity.

MR. TERRIFIC

I'm no one's master.

(gathers himself)

Your son, along with Phantom Girl  
and Plastic Man have been helping  
me with a little case of mine.

Simon Stagg's self-pleased smile gets just that much more  
brighter.

SIMON STAGG

Oh, I know. You're not the only  
brains on Earth, you know.

So. Tell me. How is the  
investigation into Adam Strange  
shooting that kid at the bookstore  
going?

The room exchanges several looks. Some, including  
Sapphire and Joey Mason, give Simon Stagg a look of  
incredulity that borders on a bad smell. Others, like  
Phantom Girl and Plastic Man give each other an oh-shit-  
we're-busted look.

SIMON STAGG (CON'T)

What?

METAMORPHO

That's not what we're researching.

Mr. Stagg.

Simon Stagg looks at his son-in-law and isn't sure to  
believe him or not.

SIMON STAGG

No? Then what is it?

Phantom Girl hands Joey back to Sapphire.

PHANTOM GIRL

We're looking for the  
disappearance of Jennifer Kord.

Mr. Terrific's eyes dart about, not sure if Simon Stagg  
is buying the white lie. But so far, no one gave up the  
ghost that Simon Stagg was actually correct and continued  
unfazed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

SIMON STAGG

Jennifer... Kord? Wait. Do you mean Jenny Kord? As in the late great Ted Kord's daughter?

MR. TERRIFIC

That's exactly who we're looking for.

SIMON STAGG

My God. What a tragedy. First the mom dies. Then the dad and now the daughter. How sad.

Do we know who will be executing the estate? There's a lot of money in that house, you know. Hell, even some of that Kord Tech might still be worth a dollar or two. Even all these years later.

The room is in disbelief.

MR. TERRIFIC

No, we don't know who the executor of the estate is, since we don't think that Jenny is dead!

SIMON STAGG

But... I thought you said she was missing?

MR. TERRIFIC

She is. Missing. She has disappeared. Where to? We don't know. But we plan on finding out... finding her. No one said anything about anyone being dead.

Simon Stagg lets out a small, near silent scoff.

SIMON STAGG

No offense, young man, but if the Kord family didn't have bad luck, they'd have no luck at all!

MR. TERRIFIC

Well, I'm sure you'll be glad to hear the news that we have! Through our investigation, we believe that Jenny Kord was lured away by, what I believe to be, a fake message.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

SIMON STAGG

A fake message? How delicious!

Ambiguity. Illusion. You know, I have a first edition copy of The Maltese Falcon myself.

MR. TERRIFIC

That's all well and good, Mr. Stagg. The thing about your books and whatnot. But we're not looking for any book. We're looking for a woman. A still-alive woman.

SIMON STAGG

Of course. Of course. You think me a man without empathy? Of course finding this young woman, this Jenny Kord, is paramount.

Is that why you're here? To take Metamorpho back to help you?

MR. TERRIFIC

Not exactly.

SIMON STAGG

Well, at least I got that right. The Element Man is of great use to the world, but not exactly in the mental department, am I right?

No one joins Simon for his silent laugh and smirk.

Finally reading the room, Simon adjusts his three-piece suit and his face returns to being stern.

SIMON STAGG (CON'T)

Very well. If you're not here to carry off Metamorpho, then why are you here? You said you had news that would make me happy. Why hold your cards?

MR. TERRIFIC

I'm not holding any cards, Mr. Stagg. It's just that someone won't shut the fuck up and give me a second to speak.

Simon Stagg's jaw drops in shock. Instead of pearl clutching, he's ascot clutching.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (9)

MR. TERRIFIC (CON'T)

Because, Mr. Stagg. The false transmission that was made to impersonate a deadman came from this place. Your home.

Java has TO HOLD SIMON STAGG UP. The team is surprised that Mr. Terrific shared the reason they were there, when he told everyone to keep it a secret.

SIMON STAGG

That's impossible! I had nothing to do with that girl's disappearance!

MR. TERRIFIC

Well then, I guess you won't mind it if we look inside your laboratory, do you?

SIMON STAGG

Of course I mind!

PLASTIC MAN

Told you he did it.

Simon Stagg's face goes as red as a tomato.

SIMON STAGG

Very well. You'll all see. Java! Let's take our... quests downstairs!

**INT. SIMON STAGG MANSION - BASEMENT**

The same rectangle of light opens up in the darkness. Only this time, when the light is turned on we can see Simon Stagg leading the group down the stairs into the basement, towards the hideout.

As they follow him down, Simon Stagg is LAMENTING how foolish all of this is.

They reach the bottom of the basement. It is still a dusty mess. Java is looking at the faux wall that has Jenny Kord behind it.

Simon Stagg pulls on a rock and a secret door opens. We see...

**INT. SIMON STAGG MANSION - SECRET LAB**

Everyone slowly files in. The Secret Lab is a medically white room. Definitely not the room that has Jenny bound.

Java lets out a sigh of relief as people start to go into the Secret Lab. The last person heading into the Secret Lab is Sapphire until she stops at the threshold when she hears the SOUND OF A BUCKET ROLLING.

Before entering the Secret Lab, it's only her and Java still inside the Basement.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

What was that?

JAVA

What was what, Mrs. Mason?

This time the SOUND OF A FALLING BUCKET is more clear.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

That! What the fuck was that sound, Java?

JAVA

I... didn't hear anything, Mrs. Mason.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

You didn't hear... you know what? Just move out of my way. Hay! Let me through!

JAVA

I just believe that they'll be waiting for you inside the Secret Lab.

Mrs. Mason.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

Well, I guess they're just going to have to wait, aren't they?

Sapphire gets past Java and starts closing in on the other secret wall, the one where Jenny is tied up. As Sapphire starts to slowly tip toe towards the secret wall, Java slowly lifts up his massive hands and is ready to choke Sapphire from behind.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

Joey! What are you doing hiding back there making all that noise?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON (CONT'D)

You scared me! You scared us!  
Isn't that right, Java?

Java?

Sapphire only has time to see Java put his hands behind his back and grow a nervous smile.

JAVA

Of course, Mrs. Mason. You had us  
all worried, Master Mason.

Joey still doesn't like Java and STICKS HIS TONGUE OUT at the Neanderthal once again.

As both Sapphire and Joey enter the Secret Lab, Sapphire gives a worried look back to Java.

Java enters the Secret Lab and closes the door behind them, giving one last look to the secret room that houses Jenny Kord.

SIMON STAGG

Okay. Here you are. As you can  
see, you'll be fluent in  
everything I own.

MR. TERRIFIC

Yeah, 'cause nearly everything in  
here is Terrifictech that you  
stole!

Simon Stagg wags a finger.

SIMON STAGG

Ah, ah, ah! You gave me all this  
tech. Willingly. We were partners  
for nearly six months. You do  
remember that, don't you?

MR. TERRIFIC

Yeah. I can't believe it didn't  
take me six seconds to learn what  
kind of person you actually were.

SIMON STAGG

And what is that supposed to mean?

METAMORPHO

Guys. I introduced you two and you  
both agreed to work together.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

METAMORPHO (CONT'D)

For whatever reason, you guys ended that business relationship after a few months. But it was amicable, right?

MR. TERRIFIC

Yeah. Sure. Amicable.

SIMON STAGG

(spitting)

Amicable.

Phantom Girl tries to end the tension.

PHANTOM GIRL

So, what exactly are we looking for, Mr. T?

Once again, Mr. Terrific is locked on, glaring at Simon Stagg. Mr. Terrific claims he's not a man of many emotions, yet his anger is always there, just underneath everything he does.

PHANTOM GIRL (CON'T)

Mr. T?

MR. TERRIFIC

Huh? Oh, yeah. Right. The software to make a fake voice is probably inside one of these computers. But that's not what we need.

SIMON STAGG

It isn't?

Mr. Terrific shakes his head.

MR. TERRIFIC

No. What we're looking for is something that can transmit. Something that can transmit something analog, trying not to leave a trace.

SIMON STAGG

Analog?

MR. TERRIFIC

Yeah. The person who sent the audio file to the Kord Estate sent it via an analog signal.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MR. TERRIFIC (CONT'D)

The good news is, for the bad guys at least, is that the analog signal didn't leave a trace of who sent it or how it was made.

SIMON STAGG

And the bad news? For the bad guy who sent it, I mean. And I'm sure that no one sent any false message from here to anywhere else. It's just me and Java here. Why would either of us want to hurt some girl neither of us have ever met? Isn't that right, Java?

Java doesn't say a word and Mr. Terrific continues talking as if Simon Stagg hadn't said a word.

MR. TERRIFIC

The bad news is, analog is the easiest sonar to track. Analog... like this television!

Mr. Terrific sees the old boob tube on one of the counters. Two rabbit ear antennas stick out from the back of it.

Motioning to the TV, Simon Stagg says:

SIMON STAGG

That old thing? I just use it to watch Meteor games. There's no way in heck that I'm going to be a fool and pay for a streaming service! Only idiots do that!

Oh, and by the way, the Arizona Diamondbacks don't have the pitching to beat us in the first round.

Mr. Terrific grabs a thick, black wire from behind the television.

MR. TERRIFIC

If this is such an innocent TV, then why does it have a 30,000 gigawatt energy amplifier attached to it? Any clever answer for that, Stagg?

SIMON STAGG

I've never seen that in my life! Tell them Java!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Mr. Terrific turns the knob on the television, turning on static. There's a quick flash of a ballgame then the court case for Bat-Mite.

MR. TERRIFIC

Not this dumb shit again.

Phantom Girl raises a hand to stop Mr. Terrific from changing the channel.

PHANTOM GIRL

Wait. Keep it here. I have a feeling...

MR. TERRIFIC

What? You want to watch that stupid Bat-Mite trial? Now's not the time for some stupid, gossipy, true crime bull shit.

PHANTOM GIRL

Just... trust me. Okay?

MR. TERRIFIC

Fine.

Mr. Terrific turns up the volume on the old T.V.

**BEGIN INTERCUT** BETWEEN THE COURT CASE ON SCREEN TO THE GROUP INSIDE THE SECRET LAB.

VICKI VALE

...while taking the stand on his defense today, Bat-Mite went on, what was deemed at the time, a crazed rant.

At the witness stand, Bat-Mite is being held by two bailiffs as he tries to escape their hold, yelling at the courtroom.

BAT-MITE

...said let me go! You want the truth? You can't handle the truth! And the truth is, there's an entire fucking armada of Pykkts coming to Earth to enslave us all! Let me go and I'll tell you everything! I'll tell you--AHHH!

One of the bailiffs tases Bat-Mite unconscious.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MR. TERRIFIC

See? Told you this was a waste of time. We need to find Jenny. To do that--

PHANTOM GIRL

Just... keep watching. Trust me.

VICKI VALE

What was considered a crazed outbreak earlier today, now looks absolutely clairvoyant considering the latest update.

MR. TERRIFIC

Latest update? The fuck she talking about?

The camera pans up away from Vicki Vale towards the blue Gotham sky. There, we see in full color, in real time, Pykkt warships entering Earth's atmosphere.

SAPPHIRE STAGG MASON

Oh my God. Are we gonna die? We're gonna die, aren't we? We're gonna die!

Metamorpho and Plastic Man crowd next to Mr. Terrific to get a better look at the television.

METAMORPHO

What are we gonna do, Mr. Terrific?

PLASTIC MAN

What's going on, Mr. Terrific.

Mr. Terrific is speechless. He realizes all is lost.

MR. TERRIFIC

Well, folks. I'm about to say three words I have never said before.

Mr. Terrific turns from facing the TV to looking at everyone in that room.

MR. TERRIFIC (CON'T)

I don't know.

"POSSE ON BROADWAY" by SIR MIX-A-LOT plays.

**END INTERCUT.**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

**CUT TO BLACK.**