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Chapter 29: The Master Plan

MUSIC: (FADE IN) BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME

NARRATOR

You're listening to The Blizzard of Osborn by Michael Sheen Cuddy.

Chapter 29: The Master Plan.

MUSIC: BLIZZARD OF OSBORN THEME (FADE OUT)

Scene One: Deserted urban street. Night.

SOUND: Nocturnal city sounds

DIRECTOR

...sound...rolling...ACTION!

ASSAM

Why single file? I just assumed we'd walk the way we normally do, side-by-side.

DIRECTOR

No no no, just do it. We want to show each of your faces as you walk

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past the Thatcher obelisk.

NARRATOR

And so they did. First Cassie, holding Jet snuggled to her shoulder, then Memyselfandi waddling behind, followed by Assam, looking ghostly under the cold blue mercury vapor streetlight, and finally, Sly came up the rear, slithering stealthily in the night.

DIRECTOR

Ah...you know? I want to redo this shot, OK? This time Cassie, when you're about to step off the curb, I want you to stop, turn around and stare right into the CCTV camera mounted on the streetlamp up there, you see? Ah oui! I want them to get a good look at you. Then, you turn to the others and wave them on to follow you.

(*claps twice, then yells*) Alright! Everyone--positions premiere--first positions! Ready? Rolling... and... ACTION!

NARRATOR

On "action" Cassie did as directed and the others followed. The director, huddled around a monitor next to the cameraman, shouted.

DIRECTOR (loudly)

That is a take, my friends, well done! Ah, bravo! Now let's move on to the Cheney bridge and really give them something to look at!

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MUSIC: (lively)

**Scene Two: Ministry of Omniscience, Aspire Branch, Simulation
Applications Center. Day.**

SOUND: Busy office ambience

NARRATOR

One of the many resources the Ministry of Omniscience had was a state-of-the-art special effects, makeup and wardrobe department. Facing one of their greatest challenges ever, the department was buzzing like a hive when Sly pushed through a door, a big grin on his face.

SLY

Ladies and gentlemen, may I present to you the one and only Professor Williwaw, impresario of the outer realms, aficionado of the extraordinary and epicurean of the arcane.

CASSIE

You look awesome! I'd never guess it was you under all that...what is that anyway?

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MEMYSELFANDI

It's hair. Or it's supposed to be hair. Wild hair. Caveman hair.

Crazy, deranged woolly artist hair.

CASSIE

And the beard, whose idea was that?

MEMYSELFANDI

The makeup specialist's. She claims it's the perfect disguise. Anyone who sees me will mistake me for that ridiculous charlatan, Professor Williwaw. Nearly everyone knows what he looks like and everyone regards him as a harmless fool. I can tell you I feel like a fool in this preposterous get-up.

SLY

I like this look on you. The rainbow-striped stovepipe hat makes you look more interesting than you really are. And when you're playing Dr. John Chillykonkon disguised as Professor Williwaw you're bound to be more interesting than your usual self!

CASSIE

What the heck kind of name is Dr. John Chillykonkon anyway?

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901

Dr. John Chillykonkon is a legendary hacker, also known as 'Gree-Gree Man' or 'The Night Ripper'. He masterminded the hack that paralyzed the Ministry of Shadow Tracking. To anarchists, he's a hero because he keeps infecting our security networks with undetectable malware.

CASSIE

What if someone who knows Dr. John Chillywhatever sees Memyselfandi and can tell it's not really him?

901

Don't worry kid, like, no one knows what the real Dr. John Chillykonkon looks like.

MUSIC: (lively)

Scene Three: Ministry of Omniscience, Aspire Branch, Simulation Applications Center, Wardrobe & Make-Up Department. Night.

SOUND: Busy office ambience

NARRATOR

All the while Cassie was staring at Memyselfandi disguised as Professor Williwaw, she had no idea she was about to be transfigured

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next. And just as they masked Memyselfandi's egginess, the makeup and wardrobe specialists would transform Cassie from a 10-year old dark girl into a 60-year old albino dwarf named Marco Davinci.

CASSIE

You can't just paint me white!

MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

It's not paint. It's a special dye.

CASSIE

What if I get caught in the rain? Won't the dye wash off?

MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

No, you can't wash it off, not with soap and water.

CASSIE

How will I get if off?

MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

Only we can get if off with a special solvent that we'll give you if--I mean when you return.

CASSIE

Oh.... I don't have to wear that wig do I?

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NARRATOR

The wig was snow-white: straight, long hair, parted in the middle, and then embellished with a long flowing snow white beard.

MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

Yes, you absolutely have to wear that wig.

CASSIE

I'll look like some ancient sorcerer.

MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

Exactly why you need it. But be careful: if the wig falls off you're sunk. To prevent that we anchor it to your scalp with special microhooks.

MUSIC: (creepy-crawly)

MAKEUP TECHNICIAN (cont.)

It's a slow, painstaking process but you should only feel a tingling sensation. But I'll warn you: the transplant takes at least 8 dura because each individual hair has to be fused into your existing follicles. If not, the wig could slip off--then it's game over for you.

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CASSIE

Isn't there another disguise I could wear?

MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

No. Given your profile, this is the one image that totally obscures you: a 60-year old albino dwarf.

CASSIE

Why do I have to be sixty?

MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

Because you're ten.

CASSIE

Why do I have to be a man?

MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

Because you're a girl.

CASSIE

Why do I have to be a dwarf?

MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

Because ... you're short.

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MUSIC: Blizzard Theme (FADE IN)

NARRATOR

Next: To get into The Crow's operations center, Cassie, Sly, Memyselfandi and Assam must either be perfectly hidden or disguised beyond recognition. But what happens when The Crow's security force gets suspicious?

MUSIC: Blizzard Theme

[end Chapter 29]