

RUTHIE is walking toward him in the other direction.)

MR. MALEVOLENT

No, no, no, no, no! I was so close this time. How did they escape my clutches?

RUTHIE

You got rats in your room, too? This place is infested.

(MR. MALEVOLENT doesn't like being disturbed, but collects himself.)

MR. MALEVOLENT

Yes, rats. These pests have been bothering me all my life.

RUTHIE

Probably because your room's a mess. You have so much crap in there, I can't even open the door.

MR. MALEVOLENT

And why, pray tell, are you trying to open the door to my room?

RUTHIE

I'm a klepto. Don't worry. I never take anything valuable. Usually just buttons. Everybody's got wayward buttons.

MR. MALEVOLENT

If you dare attempt to enter my-

RUTHIE

Use poison on those rats. They got too smart for traps.

(This gives MR. MALEVOLENT an idea.)

MR. MALEVOLENT

Poison. How simply perfect? Why didn't I think of that?

RUTHIE

Because you're a moron.

(This enrages MR. MALEVOLENT, but again, he holds back.)

MR. MALEVOLENT

You are very lucky, my dear, that you have inspired my new ploy to stop the Power Heroes.

RUTHIE

You should take care of the rat problem first.

(RUTHIE starts to exit.)