

MR. MALEVOLENT

Isn't this a charming little scene? Geriatrics in love.

(KIRBY turns to face him bravely.)

KIRBY

You're not wanted here, Malevolent. Not after what you did to her flower garden.

MIGHTY GIRL

Kirby, no.

MR. MALEVOLENT

I have no idea what you're talking about. And that's Mr. Malevolent to you.

KIRBY

Mister is a term of respect. And you haven't gained mine.

MR. MALEVOLENT

And who are you supposed to be?

KIRBY

I'm Masked Man.

MR. MALEVOLENT

I figured that much. Are you recovering from cataract surgery?

KIRBY

I'm a superhero.

MR. MALEVOLENT

And what's your power, Masked Man?

KIRBY

Well... I um... I wear a mask.

MR. MALEVOLENT

I tremble at the thought of going into battle with you.

MIGHTY GIRL

Leave him alone, Mal.

MR. MALEVOLENT

I was just getting to know my neighbors. Nice to meet you, Masked Man.

(MALEVOLENT extends his hand to KIRBY.)

MIGHTY GIRL

(with urgency)

No, Kirby, don't.

(Too late. KIRBY takes his hand, and immediately draws it back in pain. MR. MALEVOLENT laughs.)

KIRBY

He shocked me.

MR. MALEVOLENT

I naturally assumed your mask would protect you.

(MIGHTY GIRL rises to face him.)

MIGHTY GIRL

If you harm him again, Mal. You're the one who'll need protecting.

MR. MALEVOLENT

Still overprotective of your loved ones, Leigh?

(to KIRBY)

She was that same way with me.

KIRBY

(confused)

You?

MR. MALEVOLENT

Oh? She never told you about our past?

MIGHTY GIRL

The past is in the past, Mal.

MR. MALEVOLENT

Then Kirby wouldn't care that we were once married.

KIRBY

(shocked)

Married?

MIGHTY GIRL

It was decades ago. He was pretending to go straight.

MR. MALEVOLENT

That's the way she tells it. But in reality, I was the bad boy, and Leigh thought she could change me. Typical woman.

MIGHTY GIRL

It was the biggest mistake of my life.

MR. MALEVOLENT

Perhaps. But why, after all these years, have you not even dated another man?

MIGHTY GIRL

Being a superhero took priority.

MR. MALEVOLENT

Or you buried yourself in your work because you still had feelings for me.

MIGHTY GIRL

Don't flatter yourself.

KIRBY

But... I've done tons of research on all of you and never saw any mention of a marriage.

MIGHTY GIRL

Our PR people did a great job burying it.

KIRBY

I can't believe this.

MR. MALEVOLENT

Believe it. I still have the Thank You cards I never sent.

MIGHTY GIRL

You told me you mailed those.

MR. MALEVOLENT

I lied. I'm evil. Remember?

KIRBY

You're a real jerk, Malevolent.

(MR. MALEVOLENT looks deep in KIRBY's eyes to hypnotise him.)

MR. MALEVOLENT

You will call me, Mr. Malevolent.

KIRBY

Whatever you say, Mal.

(MR. MALEVOLENT stares harder.)

MR. MALEVOLENT

I could use a comical sidekick. My last one, The Jester, had an unfortunate exploding confetti accident. You will join me.

KIRBY

Go suck a lemon.

(MR. MALEVOLENT is a little surprised that his hypnosis is not working, but he does his best to hide it.)

MR. MALEVOLENT

Well. I'll let you get back to your little romantic interlude. I'm sure you have lots to talk about. Ta!