

Act One

SCENE ONE

(Lights up on the nursing home rec room. Day. RUTHIE, one of the elderly resident, is standing before a bookshelf at the far end of the stage. She is trying to grab a book off the top shelf, but loses her balance and falls. She struggles to raise herself but fails.)

RUTHIE

I've fallen and I can't get... Shit.

(calls out)

Help! Help!

(POWER MAN enters on the opposite side. He is dressed in the remnants of an old superhero costume. He walks with a cane, but still does his best to strike a heroic pose.)

POWER MAN

Do not fear, good citizen! I will save you.

(POWER MAN begins to cross the stage toward RUTHIE. This may take a little time. RUTHIE struggles to see who's come in.)

RUTHIE

Who's that?

POWER MAN

It is I, Power Man. Protector of the weak.

RUTHIE

(disappointed)

Oh, it's one of you nut jobs.

(sighs)

Can you can help me up?

POWER MAN

No fear! I will rescue you.

(Still not there yet.)

RUTHIE

I still don't get why you nut jobs run around in your long underwear. That couldn't have been flattering even when you were in shape.

POWER MAN  
Justice has no concern for fashion.

RUTHIE  
Well maybe it should.

(POWER MAN reaches RUTHIE. He slowly bends to reach her. It is obvious by his groans and reactions, this is causing him pain.)

RUTHIE  
Are you sure you can lift me?

POWER MAN  
My dear, I once lifted an entire mountain and leapt though the dessert with it.

RUTHIE  
Why would you do a dumb thing like that?

POWER MAN  
(thinks hard)  
It was to... Uhm... I can't remember, right now. But I'm sure there was a good reason.

(POWER MAN reaches RUTHIE's hand, gives it a pull and... ends up falling right on top of her.)

RUTHIE  
Ow! That's my bad shoulder, you idiot! Now you're down, too. Lot of good that's going to do me.

POWER MAN  
Do not despair, good citizen, I've escaped from worse situations. Perhaps I can use my super breath to push us off the floor.

RUTHIE  
You better not have had the fish for lunch.

POWER MAN  
Prepare for lift-off.

(POWER MAN blows at the floor. For a moment, he appears to get actual lift, but then he breaks into a fit of coughing and falls back onto RUTHIE.)

RUTHIE  
Ow! That's still my bad shoulder, you idiot! I was better off before you showed up.

POWER MAN

Don't despair, I will devise a plan to get us out of this predicament.

RUTHIE

I've got a better plan.

(shouts)

Help! Somebody please help me!

(MIGHTY GIRL runs into the room. She is in slightly better shape. Her costume, though dated, is more flattering.)

MIGHTY GIRL

Is somebody in-

(Spots the two on the floor.)

MIGHTY GIRL

Jack? What are you doing on the floor with Ruthie?

POWER MAN

Mighty Girl! Don't reveal my secret identity in front of a civilian. You are in violation of The League bylaws!

RUTHIE

I know your name, Jack... ass!

POWER MAN

No need for foul language, miss. I'll have us free in a jiffy.

(MIGHTY GIRL lifts POWER MAN off RUTHIE with ease.)

POWER MAN

No need for an assist, Mighty Girl, I've got this one.

RUTHIE

No he doesn't.

(MIGHTY GIRL lifts RUTHIE with ease.)

MIGHTY GIRL

There you go.

RUTHIE

Finally. Now make yourself useful and get that book off the shelf for me.

(RUTHIE points to the bookshelf. MIGHTY GIRL moves to it and places her hand on a book.)