THE GANG RIGS A COSTUME CONTEST

Written by

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Based on, It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia

COLD OPEN

TITLE: 3:46PM

TITLE: On a Wednesday

OVER TITLES WE HEAR:

DENNIS (V.O.)

I wouldn't be so sure, Frank.

FRANK (V.O.)

I'm telling you, I still have friends over in 'Nam. They said those weren't weather balloons.

DEE (V.O.)

Your business friends from the 90s?

FADE IN:

INT. PADDY'S PUB - DAY

DENNIS and DEE are behind the bar, half working, half drinking. FRANK sits on a stool opposite them, with MAC standing beside him.

FRANK

They are in the know.

MAC

I don't know Frank, sounds like conspiracy bullshit to me. I think it's aliens.

CHARLIE enters in the front door, dragging a large clear garbage bag full of various colorful items.

CHARLIE

EEEEEYOOOOO!

The rest of the gang greets Charlie in their own typical styles, voicing their hellos over each other (hey buddy, Charlie! Etc.) Charlie drags the garbage bag to the bar.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
You guys would not believe the treasures nor the trinkets I have discovered today.

DENNIS

Charlie, is this trash again?

CHARLIE

One man's trash, Dennis! One man's trash!

Charlie pulls out a detailed foam hand-axe prop and throws it at Dee, with a shout. Dee gets hit directly in the face and reacts as though she may have lost a tooth or broken her nose. Mac, Frank, and Dennis react simultaneously (ooooo, did it getchya?, etc.). Dee turns back to them and laughs.

DEE

That was amazing! It didn't hurt at all. Like at first I think I was just startled you know, so I was like AH but then it just kinda went bloop. Here see!

Dee throws the foam hand-axe at Mac, who dodges the throw.

MAC

I WILL KILL YOU, YOU GANGLY BITCH!

CHARLIE

Mac! Mac, it's okay! Look dude, it's just foam.

Charlie picks up the foam hand-axe and hands it to Mac.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

See?

DENNIS

Well, it looks as though Charlie found some cosplay props from Comic Con. As well as some....colorful garbage.

Charlie pulls some bright fabrics out of the garbage bag.

CHARLIE

You should have seen how this thing was dancing in the wind, dude. Plus look at these cool things I found!

Charlie takes a small brown fabric bag with a yellow draw string out of his coat pocket. He opens it to reveal a bunch of plastic gems.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Crystals!

DEE

Those are gems, I think.

DENNIS

They are just props for cosplayers.

CHARLIE

You keep saying that word but I think you mean costume.

DENNIS

Close. The costume is just a part of it. Anyone can wear a costume. Cosplaying is about more than just dressing up like someone. It is about becoming that character. You are playing their role. Acting as they would in whatever situation you are in. Cos....play.

CHARLIE

Cosplay. I like that!

MAC

Goddamn it guys. Every year we say we are going to go to Comic Con and every year we forget. And now...holding this incredible prop weapon in my hands, I remember just how much I've always wanted to go!

FRANK

It's a scam! It's just a way for the Hollywood Jaggoffs to make even more money from nerds and losers. Plus, no good celebrities even go!

DENNIS

That may have been true in the past Frank but since all of the superhero movies have exploded over the past 15 years, Comic Con just keeps getting bigger and better.

Dee finds a pamphlet from the Comic Con in the pile of trash Charlie has accumulated next to the garbage bag. She examines the itinerary.

DEE

Yeah, they have a bunch here. Looks like this year the headliners are the forehead girl from house of the dragon and one of the villains from the new Robert Pattinson Batman.

FRANK

Ugh I hated that movie. Garbage.

CHARLIE

What are you talking about, Frank? We both saw it and it was awesome!

FRANK

I couldn't see shit! It was way too dark. Plus Batman is boring. I am a Marvel guy.

Mac and Charlie get offended by this, starting to scream over each other.

MAC

Batman is the best superhero!

CHARLIE

Yeah, Frank you are crazy if you don't like Batman.

FRANK

Oh yeah, what is his superpower?

MAC

Uh, his body obviously. Didn't you see Christian Bale lift that log off him like it was nothing? That wasn't CGI dude.

DEE

I saw it. Mama like.

MAC

That's disgusting. Ugh. Women.

CHARLIE

No Mac, he scares everyone. His power is his scariness.

DENNIS

You're both wrong. It's his money. Money is power. That's why even against Superman, Batman wins.

(to Frank)

It's why Ironman is the leader of the avengers. Money beats all else.

DEE

Wasn't Chris Evans the leader of the Avengers? God he's hot too. MAC

Uhh that's Captain America! Christ, Dee, these men are worth more than just their bodies.

DEE

No, they are not! You think any of those actors would be superheroes if they weren't ripped? Even Chris Pratt had to get shredded. What can I tell you? Sex sells, gentleman.

CHARLIE

Dee, shut up. Dennis, his money is just how he affords to scare people. So I am going to go ahead and say we are both right on this.

DENNIS

Wrong.

Charlie continues speaking without stopping for Dennis.

CHARLIE

And Frank, I don't know what to tell ya, Batman's the goddamn best.

Charlie returns to looking through the garbage bag for more treasures.

FRANK

D.C. Stinks!

Dee is now sitting on top of the bar, looking through the pamphlet, noticing the itinerary.

DEE

Whoa, look at this. Aside from celebrity meet and greets, there are also early screenings and special previews of new shows and movies, plus there is a huge costume contest. The winner/winning group gets \$5,000.

FRANK

Yeah, but what about the other 25,000 people there in costume. They just get nothing?

MAC

Don't those people spend weeks making those costumes too?
(MORE)

MAC (CONT'D)

Seems like such a waste to put all of that time and energy into it for just one night's use and a chance at five grand.

DENNIS

Well now hang on a minute, fellas. You guys are helping me hatch an idea here.

MAC

I've been thinking it too! We should start working on our costumes now so that there is no chance we lose next year.

DENNIS

What did I say about interrupting!? No, no. What I am saying, is that all of the people from the local area that dressed up and went to Comic Con, they probably still have their costumes right?

FRANK

Yeah.

DENNIS

So what if we host Comic Con here?

MAC

I don't see how we could. We can't get any celebrities to come here for meet and greets.

DEE

(referencing pamphlet)
And besides the celebrities this
thing sounds like a snooze-fest.

DENNIS

Okay, well forget the celebrities. What if we just host a Paddy's Comic Con inspired costume contest? We can charge for tickets and give discounts on drinks to those in costume. Then we use that money to give out a prize in the contest

FRANK

We should keep the money!

DENNIS

Well, yeah. We'll keep some of it. Plus we will raise our drink prices so the costume discount just brings them to regular price.

THE GANG all reacts positively to the idea.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

And here's the kicker. Mac, we are going to have to start working on our costumes....because I say we do this on Friday night!

THE GANG reacts over each other.

MAC

That's in two days!

DENNIS

Yes, but we may be able to get people that came into town who haven't left yet. Plus we don't want to lose the buzz from Comic Con! Let's make them feel like they have a special chance to use those costumes again.

DEE

Okay, if you think it will work. What are we going to dress up as?

Charlie pulls out a crumpled gift bag from the garbage bag. He opens it up and cannot believe what he has unveiled.

CHARLIE

I think the universe chose for us.

Charlie lifts a Batman Begins, One-Size-Fits-All costume still in it's original packaging. He reveals it to THE GANG, who react positively except for Frank.

FRANK

SHIT!

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

TITLE: "The Gang rigs a costume contest"

TITLE: "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. PADDY'S PUB - DAY

FRANK

I don't want to do it!

DEE

Come on, Frank, it'll be fun!

FRANK

Nooo!

CHARLIE

But Frank, it could be amazing. We can all dress up like Batman!

MAC

What? No. Charlie, we can all dress up like different characters from Batman.

CHARLIE

Oh yeah, okay. Guess that works too.

MAC

Think about it. We could be Batman, (to Charlie, Dee, Dennis, then Frank)

Robin. Batgirl... meh. Nightwing. And Alfred.

FRANK

The butler?!

MAC

Sir Michael Caine, Frank. Sir. Michael. Caine.

FRANK

(ponders it for a beat)

Nah.

DENNIS

I mean, Nightwing is very cool...

CHARLIE

What's Nightwing?

MAC

He is the first Robin, but all grown-up. Dude's badass.

DENNIS

Yeah he's objectively badass, no doubt, no doubt. I just don't know if he's me. And if we are going to be cosplaying at all-

CHARLIE

ARE WE GONNA BE COSPLAYING!?

DENNIS

I just meant if we want to keep that option open.

CHARLIE

Uhh, yes please!

FRANK

Nope! I'm out! I hate DC. I am not doing it. And if you guys are going to do that, then I will come as someone from Marvel!

Frank gets up and begins to walk towards the front door. Mac yells out to him.

MAC

Don't forget, Frank! You can dress as someone from like, sci-fi, or fantasy...horror even. It doesn't have to be superheroes. It can be anything you want!

We see Frank stop in the doorway, pondering this for a second. Over his should THE GANG watches him curiously.

DEE

That was weird.

CHARLIE

He has been acting weird all day. He didn't want to play nightcrawlers last night. He didn't go trash diving with me today. Something must be bothering him.

DENNIS

Guys, can I say something that has been bothering me for a while?

THE GANG agrees in various nods and affirmations.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

I am a little upset about Mac wanting to be Batman.

DEE

That just happened?

DENNIS

I just feel that if anyone were going to be Batman, I should be Batman.

Mac, Charlie, and Dee all start to yell over each other.

MAC

Look, maybe in the past you would have been the right choice, but I think as we've gotten older and I've gotten in better shape it would be best for me to be Batman.

DEE

Yeah, I don't see you as Batman, Dennis.

DENNIS

This is ridiculous, I am the only one with the range and jawline to portray both the Dark Knight and the Billionaire playboy, Bruce Wayne.

CHARLIE

Oh man! Yes dude you would have been an amazing Bruce Wayne!

DENNIS

Thank you.

CHARLIE

10 years ago.

DENNIS

Excuse me?

CHARLIE

It's just that Batman is in his young twenties usually and -

DENNIS

Ben Affleck played Batman well into his 40s.

DEE

Well...we can't all age as gracefully as Ben Affleck...

DENNIS

What are you saying right now?

MAC

We're saying to be an older Batman like Affleck you need to be ripped.

Dennis is growing increasingly frustrated.

DENNIS

Oh like you!? Are you saying you have the physique to play the caped crusader?

MAC

Well... I have gotten in better shape over the last -

DENNIS

Okay let's talk about this. Can we talk about this? You keep saying you have gotten in shape. Is the shape you're referring to round? You look the exact same as you did when we went to the Jersey Shore.

DEE

(horrified)

You swore we wouldn't talk about that trip again, Dennis.

CHARLIE

I had a really good time there.

DENNIS & DEE

Shut up, Charlie!

MAC

You don't see how much mass I have converted to muscle?

Dennis stares deadpan at Mac for an uncomfortably long time, looking miserable until he breaks the silence.

DENNIS

I see no change.

Mac and Dennis start yelling at each other.

CHARLIE

Okay, well we have to get this decided for our group costume. Shall we leave it to a vote?

DEE

Are we just voting on Dennis or Mac for Batman?

DENNIS

Why!? Did you want to throw your hat in the ring as well!?

DEE

I was just making sure, jeez.

DENNIS

Okay, all in favor of me being our Batman for the costume contest?

Only Dennis raises his hand.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Are you serious right now? Are you guys kidding me?

MAC

And all in favor of me being our group's Batman?

Mac and Dee raise their hands.

MAC (CONT'D)

I win!

DENNIS

Wait, Charlie didn't vote!

CHARLIE

I just don't know if either of you guys are right for Batman.

DENNIS

This is asinine!

CHARLIE

Again, 10 years ago. For. Sure.

DENNIS

ENOUGH OF THIS! I am just as chiseled in my chest and jaw as I was 10 years ago. I am better looking now than 90 percent of men in their 20s and 30s.

(MORE)

DENNIS (CONT'D)

I was a God at their age. That doesn't just go away! It hasn't! I can still be a model if I want to.

A beat.

MAC

So do it.

DEE

Yeah, we aren't stopping you.

DENNIS

You know what? Maybe I will! Yeah...but...yeah.

Dennis starts to exit out the front door.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

You guys go ahead with your Fatman and, well look at that. You already got a bird here to play Robin.

MAC

Hey!

DEE

Rude.

DENNIS

Later, dorks.

Dennis exits. The door closes behind him. There is a moment with just Dee, Mac, and Charlie left.

CHARLIE

I don't care what he says Dee, you don't get to play Robin.

CUT TO:

INT. COSTUME SHOP - LATER

Frank enters the front door of a local costume shop. He turns and calls back to someone behind him, outside.

FRANK

Hurry up, they close soon.

BILL (O.S.)

I'm coming, I'm coming! Stupid smart meters. What happened to coins?

BILL enters behind Frank, wearing an untucked shirt with a stain on it and with hair looking like it hasn't been cleaned or styled in days.

BILL (CONT'D)

Alright, Franky boy, what's the plan here?

Frank walks passed Bill further into the store. The shop is huge, being used by theatres, film companies, and universities. There is a warehouse attached with thousands of various costumes. Frank and Bill walk towards the store Clerk. They pass many different mannequins, including three mannequins dressed in very fancy three piece suits, with tophats and canes. Neither of them acknowledge any mannequins.

FRANK

Pondy, I need to find the best costume I can to win the contest. But more than that, I want to be someone badass. Someone really powerful.

BILL

Boom. Got it. You should be the hulk.

FRANK

I don't know Pondy, the hulk seems kind of lame. Plus he's deaf.

BILL

What? No he isn't.

FRANK

Oh yes he is! It was a whole big thing in the 70s. Who else?

BILL

Thor?

FRANK

The pretty boy? Nah.

BILL

OH. I know.

Bill walks towards the shop's checkout counter. A nice older woman is patiently waiting to greet them. Frank follows.

BILL (CONT'D)

Hi ma'am, do yoù happen to have any costumes here from the Avengers movies?

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1
Of course, is there anyone in particular you are looking for?

FRANK

Well...

Bill cuts Frank off, knowing Frank will love his suggestion.

BILL

We're looking for a Thanos costume.

FRANK

Nice!

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1
Oh of course we do! That's one of our more popular requests. Let me pull it up here on the computer.

FRANK

Pondy, you're a genius.

BILL

It's nice to hear that genuinely for once instead of sarcastically from my ex-wife and kids.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1 Okay, so we have the costume available in multiple sizes. But it looks like we are all out of the "Infinity Gauntlet" accessory.

BILL

That's what makes Thanos so powerful, Frank. You can't dress like him without one!

FRANK

Well, what else can we do?

BILL

What do all the other nerds do for costumes? Lets get foam, duck tape, and spray paint and get to work! My gay son loved doing that stuff in his Marvel phase.

FRANK

You think we can get that done by Friday night?

BILL

Absolutely.

Frank turns his attention back to the clerk.

FRANK

Can you please get me into a Thanos costume as quickly as possible?

BILL

Oh and we will take any foam, tape, and gold spray paint you have.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1
Of course. I will gather some supplies while you get fitted. Sheila, can you help these gentleman get sized so we can get some costumes for them?

Another older woman appears from a door behind the clerk's desk. She is also very nice and welcoming.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 2 Right this way boys! We will get you taken care of in a jiffy.

Frank and Bill follow OLD WOMAN CLERK 2 down a hallway lined with costumes and props. As they walk, Bill leans to Frank.

BILL

Hey, so if you're going as Thanos, who should I be?

FRANK

I don't give a shit.

BILL

Fair enough.

CUT TO:

INT. TALENT MANAGEMENT LOBBY - LATE AFTERNOON

We see a busy open-concept office, mostly full of young attractive professionals, more women than men. There are modern office perks, like lounge areas and isolated work stations. The receptionist's desk is directly inside the front door. Dennis enters and approaches the young receptionist, who is typing but greets him with a smile.

DENNIS

Hi, I was just walking by and I got to wondering. How might one get representation at a nice establishment like this?

The receptionist is taken aback by this. Though she doesn't want to hurt anyone's feelings.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry sir. I am not quite sure how to say this, but... I don't think you are quite what our agency is looking for right now.

Dennis flashes anger behind his eyes but he regains his composure quickly. With a fast smile he turns on his charm.

DENNIS

Oh my gosh, no. No. I am so sorry. I must have looked so silly by approaching without any context. My name is Brian Lefevre. I have an adorable daughter, Abigail, who I am thinking about finding representation for. But I really know nothing about the industry and would love to just ask some questions if anyone is available for a minute or two.

RECEPTIONIST

Thank goodness! I was so worried I didn't want to have to be like, umm hello you are too old to be doing this!

Dennis goes deadpan, staring as he did with Mac in the bar.

DENNIS

Right. What an absolutely foolish notion.

RECEPTIONIST

Do you have any headshots of Abigail?

DENNIS

(snapping out of it)

Huh?

RECEPTIONIST

Do you have any pictures of your daughter?

DENNIS

Oh yes. Obviously haha. Let me just find a good one here.

Dennis pulls out his phone and starts googling, careful not to expose his screen until he's found something.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Ugh. Password protected. Just a sec....hmm gotta find a good one. Ah. Here she is. Abiqail.

Dennis turns the phone around to show an adorable little blonde girl on a rope swing with her hair blowing in the wind.

RECEPTIONIST

How precious! Let me see if I can find someone for you.

Dennis waits for a few moments in the open concept lobby. The RECEPTIONIST then returns with an agent in a pantsuit and heels. She is in her low 50s, cougar type.

AGENT

Hello, Hello, Mr. Lefevre! I hear you have quite the beautiful little girl. Would you like to come chat in my office?

DENNIS

Thank you so much. I just have a few questions.

Dennis follows AGENT down a hall towards some rooms in the back. They take a left and enter a doorway.

CUT TO:

INT. TALENT MANAGEMENT OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

Dennis follows AGENT into a small office with a desk, a desk-chair, and two chairs opposite the desk. AGENT goes to her seat behind the desk. She motions for Dennis to sit.

AGENT

So, how can we help you get your daughter, what was it?

DENNIS

Abigail.

AGENT

Abigail. How can we get her on track here at Thomas Talent Agency.

DENNIS

Yeah well, I guess I am first just wondering you know, how does one get signed to an agent?

AGENT

Well from what I hear of Abigail, I don't think it will be difficult. Can I see her photo?

DENNIS

Well I don't mean just for Abigail.

AGENT

Oh?

DENNIS

Yeah, I have....daughters.

AGENT

Well that is great! Usually genetics work in favor of -

Dennis cuts her off.

DENNIS

They aren't as cute as, uh, as Abigail.

AGENT

Okay...

DENNIS

They are older than her too.

AGENT is starting to feel like something is off. She feels she is now being tricked in some way. But she also feels slightly bad for Dennis.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Older and uglier.

AGENT

Right...so let's just focus on Abigail then. Can I see that picture?

DENNIS

Of course, but first. Do you ever do like, parent-daughter signings?
(MORE)

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Like a shoot for a Dad and his daughter at a park. Like. Could I do that with Abigail?

AGENT

Usually we would just hire a male model to play the father.

DENNIS

But I couldn't like, be hired to be that male model?

AGENT

Mr. Lefevre. Can I please see the picture of Abigail now?

DENNIS

Right.

Dennis get his phone out and pulls up the google tab showing the cute girl on the swing. He keeps it far from AGENT.

AGENT

That's not your daughter is it?

DENNIS

No.

AGENT

You didn't kidnap or plan to kidnap that little girl, right?

DENNIS

What? No! I just googled adorable 4 year old when I was talking to your receptionist because she was trying to say I couldn't be a model.

AGENT

So that's what this is all about.

Dennis has had an emotional day, and he feels himself deflating as he lets his feelings out.

DENNIS

It's just that when I was younger I was a good looking guy. And now people are saying that isn't the case, and, I don't know. I just want to feel like I am still attractive. And I thought if I could get a modeling job...

Dennis sneers, thinking about the potential vindication.

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Then I could rub their smug faces in it.

AGENT

Well, I don't know if that is the best reason to get involved, but I kind of understand.

DENNIS

So there is no way you guys could hire me even for like one event?

AGENT

I'm sorry... But check out Madam Bloom's Talent Agency. They may be able to work with you and help make you a model.

DENNIS

Thank you.

Dennis gets up from his chair and starts towards the office door. AGENT stands.

AGENT

And for the record. Just because you cant be a model here doesn't mean you aren't attractive.

DENNIS

Well, what the fuck do you know?

Dennis exits slamming the door. AGENT is left confused.

CUT TO:

INT. PADDY'S MEN'S ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Mac is in a closed stall while Charlie is waiting for him outside the door. Mac is struggling behind the door with something, only half paying attention to Charlie.

CHARLIE

So there was the Troll, being all buddy-buddy with the Nightman. Then when the Dayman came back, they surprised him with a song! The Troll and Nightman wore these really fancy suits with top-hats and canes and they used them during their tap dance!

MAC

Goddamn it, dude!

CHARLIE

I know! And I keep having the same dream!

MAC

Charlie, I don't give a shit about your goddamn dream right now.

The bathroom stall door opens, revealing Mac in a child's sized Batman costume which does not fit him. It's so tight he can barely move. He walks out of the stall as best as he can.

CHARLIE

Oh.

MAC

Yeah.

CHARLIE

So, what do -

Mac interrupts.

MAC

I don't know Charlie! I don't understand I thought you said this was one size fits all!

CHARLIE

That's what it said on the package!

MAC

Oh great.

Mac struggles as he starts to remove this Batman costume.

MAC (CONT'D)

I'm sure that's what it said to your illiterate ass.

CHARLIE

No, I'm positive, dude!

By this point, Mac has removed the small costume and is just in a t shirt and gym shorts. He storms out of the bathroom. Charlie starts after him, stopping to pick up the costume from the bathroom floor. INT. PADDY'S PUB - LATE AFTERNOON

Dee is behind the bar looking at a laptop. Mac enters with a purpose, determined to find out the size of the Batman costume. Charlie enters after Mac, carrying the costume.

DEE

Guys, should I get a Batgirl costume with the yellow trim or do I do an Alicia Silverstone one?

MAC

You don't get to be Batgirl, Dee.

DEE

Why the hell not?

Mac is now making his way behind the bar.

MAC

Because I said so. Figure something else out.

Dee is very annoyed by this response. Mac pulls the costume wrapper out of the trash.

MAC (CONT'D)

Okay, let's see here. Well, it does in fact say one size fits most. Not all.

CHARLIE

That's the same thing, dude.

MAC

It is not the same! I was right to not trust your literacy.

DEE

Charlie knew the size already I read it out loud to him earlier.

CHARLIE

Dee! Was that necessary to the conversation?

DEE

(shrugs)

It seemed relevant.

CHARLIE

Relevant maybe, but necessary?

MAC

Guys, it doesn't say youth size anywhere on here.

CHARLIE

So it doesn't fit. Big whoop.

DEE

That's why he's so upset?

MAC

It's not that I don't fit! It's that they made a mistake somehow. It is mis-sized!

DEE

Or maybe it isn't a mistake. Maybe you just don't fit in the one size that most others fit in to....

MAC

Why would you say that?!

CHARLIE

She's been doing that dude!

MAC

If anything, I only don't fit in the costume because I have gotten too jacked.

DEE

Whatever you gotta tell yourself.

Mac struggles to fight back tears.

DEE (CONT'D)

Oh my God are you gonna cry?

Mac throws the costume wrapper in frustration as he starts to $\operatorname{cry}_{\:\raisebox{1pt}{\text{\circle*{1.5}}}}$

MAC

I hate you!

Mac runs and cries through the front door. We see Dee examining the costume wrapper.

DEE

Huh. It actually doesn't say youth anywhere on here. I thought for sure it was a kid's costume.

Charlie looks down at the Batman costume in his hands. He has is holding it securely, not letting it touch the ground. He wonders...

CUT TO:

INT. PADDY'S MEN'S ROOM - EVENING

We briefly see an empty wall through a mirror reflection. Suddenly, Charlie rises into the mirror, donning the Batman costume which fits him enough for his liking. He is in full cosplay mode whenever the mask is on, imitating Christian Bale's infamous "Batman voice."

CHARLIE

I'm Batman!

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Charlie is wearing his Batman costume, but has the mask off, hanging around his neck on his back. He eats cat food from a bowl with a spoon. He then turns towards the bed, and sees Frank's empty side. He looks out the window, wondering where Frank could be now. Charlie takes his cell phone out of the utility belt on his Batman costume, and calls Frank.

CHARLIE

Frank, buddy! Big change of plans, I'm Batman now! Mac didn't fit in the costume. Please, please, please come be my Robin. I need you here, bud. And I've been missing you, man. Anyway, I'm sure I'll see you tomorrow.

Charlie hangs up the phone, and lays down in bed to go to sleep, still wearing the Batman costume.

CUT TO:

INT. BILL'S BASEMENT - LATE NIGHT

A few dim yet colorful lights glow in an otherwise black basement. Frank and Bill stand side by side over a table, which has some light shining up at their faces. House music with a big beat starts to kick in. Frank raises the blowtorch that was emitting light below.

It appears that Frank and Bill are going to work hard on their Infinity Gauntlet, but it is then seen that Frank is using the blowtorch to do dab hits with Bill. The music picks up as we see a blend of colorful LED lights swirling with darkness. Frank and Bill go through a plethora of drugs that are on the table. Once they are efficiently messed up, they stand up and Bill starts laughing hysterically as he dumps the foam, spray paint, and tape onto the table. Frank and Bill show unsettling smiles as they lean towards the table to begin their work.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. COSTUME SHOP - MORNING

Mac enters the costume shop, looking around for a moment before being approached by OLD WOMAN CLERK 1.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1
Can I help you find something, sir?

MAC

Hi, yes. I have a costume contest tomorrow night and I am wondering if you have anything that could make me look great.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1 Well, I don't think that will be very difficult at all.

MAC

(blushing)

Oh stop.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1
Do you have any idea what you'd like to dress as?

MAC

I had a plan for a costume but...I don't know if that is going to work out anymore.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1 Well, why don't we try a few things on and see what you like?

Mac looks up slyly and smiles at the clerk. This begins a fashion montage. The two old women help Mac pick outfits, then he goes into a changing room behind a curtain to try them on. An upbeat song plays, like "Don't Stop Me Now." As the curtain opens, Mac comes out in the style of the costume he is wearing. The old clerks applaud or jeer different looks. Mac tries on costumes such as a pirate, jedi, an NFL Eagle, a wizard, Deadpool, etc. The music fades as Mac sits at a small table with the clerks, having tea and laughing.

MAC

I'll tell you girls, I really needed this today. But...I'm still pretty disappointed.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 2
Because you didn't fit in the children's Batman costume.

MAC

It didn't say child size anywhere, Sheila! I don't know. I guess I just thought, if anyone were going to be Batman, I should be Batman.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1 Would you like to still be Batman?

MAC

Yes, please.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1

Let's see what we can do.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1, OLD WOMAN CLERK 2, and Mac are all behind a small, old computer screen. Mac smiles.

MAC

That's the one! And it'll arrive before tomorrow?

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1

Absolutely.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 2 Our distribution center is in Jersey. Just over the border.

MAC

Girls... You're amazing.

CUT TO:

EXT. STRIP MALL - NOON

Dennis gets out of his Range-Rover and examines the rundown area. He looks up at the Talent Agency sign above one of the storefronts. He sighs, and enters.

CUT TO:

INT. BLOOM'S TALENT OFFICE - NOON

Inside there are a few photos hung on white walls. Behind a counter we see a tall woman with dark black hair, pulled into a messy bun. She has long red hair sticks that match her red glasses frames. Dennis enters and approaches the counter.

DENNIS

Hi, I was wondering if I could speak with Madam Bloom? Or any other agents that may work here.

MADAM BLOOM

You've got her right here, darling!

DENNIS

Oh, you're Madam Bloom? No receptionist, okay...I was told to come here about a potential modeling opportunity?

MADAM BLOOM's eyes widen with excitement.

MADAM BLOOM

....yes! Yes! Oh this is perfect! Do you believe in fate Mr.?

DENNIS

Reynolds. And, I don't know, why?

MADAM BLOOM

We just had one of our models have to drop out of our show! You are about his height, and if you are free tomorrow night-

DENNIS

I could do tomorrow night.

MADAM BLOOM

This is simply wonderful! Destiny, Mr. Reynolds!

DENNIS

Look, I've never done this stuff before. What do I need to know?

MADAM BLOOM

Do not worry about a thing, darling. You'll arrive at Lancaster Studios at 6pm. We will show you the runway and then you'll go into the dressing room, makeup chair, then you walk out for the audience! The show is at 8pm and you will be home by 10pm with a check in hand.

DENNIS

Wow that actually sounds pretty amazing. Alright, yeah. Let's do it.

MADAM BLOOM

Perfection! So I'll just take a few measurements in case your suit needs to be altered.

MADAM BLOOM grabs a rolled up measuring tape from the counter and approaches Dennis.

CUT TO:

INT. PADDY'S PUB - EVENING

Charlie is wearing the Batman costume, but with the mask hanging down off his back. He sits at a table eating. Dee is sitting at the bar, feeling confident. Dennis enters through the front door.

DENNIS

Well, I became a model in less than a day. I told you it would happen.

DEE

Wow, good for you, Dennis.

DENNIS

Thank you, Dee. Unfortunately it means I now have to miss the costume contest tomorrow.

CHARLIE

Aw man that stinks. Do you think we can still win the group contest?

DENNIS

Well to be honest Charlie now that I'm not participating, I don't really give a shit.

Mac enters, also feeling good.

MAC

It's taken care of everyone! I have secured a new Batman costume!

CHARLIE

What? Dude, I thought I was being Batman now.

MAC

Charlie, we've been over this. And we voted.

CHARLIE

But then I fit in the costume! Look!

Charlie stands, turns around, and puts on his Batman mask. As he turns back, he is now in cosplay mode, imitating Christian Bale's Batman voice.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I'm Batman!

MAC

You're an idiot.

DEE

You guys! I am so excited about the contest. I got a costume that's gonna blow the nips off of your asses.

MAC

What do you mean?

DEE

I'll show you.

DENNIS

You can just tell us you don't have to-

Dee goes into the office, closing the door before Dennis finishes his sentence.

CHARLIE

Hey, have any of you guys seen Frank? I haven't heard from him since he left here yesterday.

DENNIS

Nope.

MAC

Nah, me neither.

CHARLIE

I hope he's okay.

Dee enters from the office, wearing a Catwoman suit that looks surprisingly great on her. She even has black make up around her eyes covering her exposed skin. THE GANG reacts.

MAC

EW GOD! NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT, Dee.

DEE

What the hell, why not?

MAC

It's just wrong, Dee!

DEE

Come on, I look good. Dennis, don't I look good?

DENNIS

Like I said earlier, I'm out.

MAC

You think you deserve to wear the same costume as Michelle Pfeiffer? Halle Berry? Anne Hathaway? Please.

As Mac is talking, he walks towards the end of the bar that still has the large clear garbage bag full of other things from the Comic Con.

DEE

First, I look good. Second, this is the best character for me if I can't be Batgirl. So you can't stop me.

MAC

Okay, Dee. Fine. I guess you're right. Oh hey, look at this!

Mac pulls out another prop knife from the Comic Con.

MAC (CONT'D)

Another foam prop! These things are awesome. Here Dee, catch!

Mac throws the knife hard at Dee, hitting her in the eye.

DEE

GODDAMN IT! YOU HIT ME IN THE EYE! YOU SON OF A BITCH WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?

Charlie jumps into action, grabbing Mac by the shirt and pushing him back and forth. Cosplaying with his Batman voice.

CHARLIE

Hey! Why did you hurt her!?

MAC

I didn't mean to! I swear to God.

Charlie gets right in Mac's face, wearing his Batman mask.

CHARLIE

SWEAR TO ME!

DENNIS

Whoa Charlie, easy buddy.

CHARLIE

I'm Batman!

MAC

No you aren't, dude. Stop quoting lines! You aren't Batman, you're too little and you aren't a good fit.

CHARLIE

It's not who I am underneath, but what I do that defines me.

Charlie lets go of Mac, feeling that his lesson was successfully taught. Charlie walks towards the front door.

MAC

Jesus, dude. Did you just rewatch the movie or something?

Charlie opens the door, then turns his head back without fulling turning around. He still uses his Batman voice.

CHARLIE

Yeah, this morning. All three.

Charlie whips his cape around as he exits. Dee has since taken off her Catwoman mask and has been wiping down the black makeup from around her eyes. She as a large bruise where she was hit with the rubber prop knife. Her eye is starting to swell shut.

DEE

Guys, does my eye look okay?

Dennis and Mac notice how quickly her eye has gotten bad.

MAC

Uhhh..yeah it's not too bad.

DENNIS

You'll just need a little cover up.

MAC

And maybe now it'll be best if you just are a judge for the costume contest instead of being in it.

DEE

Screw you! You're such an ass. You don't deserve to be Batman.

MAC

Take that back!

DEE

(standing)

No. You know what? If anyone were going to be Batman, I should be Batman.

MAC

How dare you!?

DEE

There is a Batwoman show on The CW now. Maybe I'll take the mantle.

MAC

Dee, I am putting my foot down!

Dee exits. Mac calls after her.

MAC (CONT'D)

I'm not kidding, Dee!

MAC (CONT'D)

Can you believe this, Dennis? Batwoman!?

DENNIS

I don't know how to be any more clear on this. I simply do not give a shit.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Charlie is on his phone again, still in costume but his with mask hanging off his back. He is leaving another voicemail.

CHARLIE

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I hope you aren't like, mad at me about something. Like Mac is. God, he is so frustrating! I am the one that fit in the Batman costume but know he is saying he is still going to be Batman. It isn't fair. I just feel like, if anyone were going to be Batman, I should be Batman, you know? Sorry. Anyway, I hope you come home soon. I went out looking for you tonight but came up empty. I'm sorry for whatever I did. I'm going to go to bed. Oh, I had the dream again last night. Same old song and dance. Night pal.

Charlie goes to sleep in the empty bed.

FADE OUT.

ACT THREE

INT. BILL'S BASEMENT - NOON

Frank and Bill are passed out on the floor. There are beer cans, food wrappers, drug paraphernalia, and clothes on the floor around them. Frank wakes up.

FRANK

Oh God. I'm wiped. What time is it?

Bill is awake, but doesn't move from where he slept.

BILL

Noon.

FRANK

Okay, not bad.

BILL

Noon on Friday

FRANK

What!? Did we lose a day again?

Frank takes out his phone and listens to his voicemail.

BILL

Lost a day. Slept like 28 hours.

Frank reacts to Charlie's voicemails, then looks to Bill.

FRANK

Change of plans. Let's go!

Bill and Frank both struggle to get up and get going.

CUT TO:

INT. COSTUME SHOP - AFTERNOON

Frank and Bill enter the costume shop through the front door. Frank quickly approaches OLD WOMAN CLERK 1, who is hanging some wigs on a rack.

FRANK

Hey, costume lady! Do you guys have any Robin costumes?

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1 Hello again! Robin like Batman and

Robin? Let's take a look.

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1 walks around the counter to the computer. She searches their database. Bill looks completely out of it.

FRANK

Any luck?

OLD WOMAN CLERK 1

Well, we have a few children's sizes, but from your measurements the other day, we would have to order from our distribution center in New Jersey. We could have it here tomorrow for you.

FRANK

Ah shit. That won't work, I need the costume tonight.

Frank looks around, almost desperate. He sees the fancy suits with the top-hats and canes on the mannequins behind Bill. Frank has a eureka moment.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Bingo

CUT TO:

INT. FASHION STUDIO - EVENING

The show is in a large black room with a runway jutting off a small stage. Various people are setting up for the event when Dennis enters. He is unsure where to go until he sees MADAM BLOOM talking with a large man in overalls. They stand next to the runway. Dennis approaches.

DENNIS

Uh, hi. Could you tell me what I should be doing?

MADAM BLOOM turns from her conversation. The large man exits.

MADAM BLOOM

There he is! My new superstar!

DENNIS

Well. I wouldn't say-

MADAM BLOOM

Let's get you into wardrobe and makeup! Follow me, darling!

DENNIS

Uhhh, okay.

MADAM BLOOM turns and begins to walk.

MADAM BLOOM

Wait until you see what you'll be wearing! It's beautiful.

MADAM BLOOM walks out of a side door that leads to the backstage area. Dennis follows.

CUT TO:

INT. PADDY'S PUB - EVENING

Mac and Dee are hurrying, trying to get everything in order at the last minute for the costume contest. Dee is setting up limes and cleaning glasses behind the bar. Mac is putting together a voting box for the costume contest, which is just a cardboard box that he has cut a hole into. It reads "VOTES"

MAC

Dee is everything ready back there?

DEE

Yes. But don't talk to me, Mac.

MAC

Me? Why?

DEE

Uhh hello! Don't you see what you did to my eye?

MAC

Oh yeah. Well karma's a bitch, Dee what can I say?

DEE

What do you mean?! Karma isn't the one who can't tell the difference between foam and rubber!

MAC

Dee, I knew it was rubber the moment I picked it up.
(MORE)

MAC (CONT'D)

You were just being obnoxious about your Catwoman costume.

DEE

Oh I am being obnoxious?! You stupid fat idiot! Stupid, stupid fat, stupid idiot!

MAC

Hey!

DEE

Karma isn't a bitch, Mac! You are!

Dee exits into the office just as RICKETY CRICKET enters in the front door. CRICKET dance-walks in, holding a duffle bag.

CRICKET

Heyooo!

MAC

Cricket, you're late! Why aren't you in costume?

CRICKET

It's all in the bag! You got the goods?

MAC

I told you, no payment until the end of the shift. Just remember, you're the Bartender tonight and you're also announcing the costume contest winner.

CRICKET

You better not be boning me here! I was promised dinner and drinks!

MAC

You can serve yourself after the contest. Now go get changed and get behind the bar! Doors open soon.

CRICKET walks towards the bathroom to change.

MAC (CONT'D)

I wonder how the guys are doing.

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM - EVENING

Dennis is sitting with MADAM BLOOM and a makeup artist standing on either side of him. Dennis is caked in pale makeup, also wearing mascara, light blue eye shadow, and dark blue lipstick. He has two bright pink circles painted on his cheeks. He is wearing a baby blue suit, with a bright pink vest and bowtie. MADAM BLOOM and the makeup artist smile.

MADAM BLOOM

Absolutely stunning! You are going to wow the world tonight Mr. Reynolds! So you are all set to hang out here until the show begins in about 25 minutes.

MADAM BLOOM and the makeup artist start to leave. As she is at the door, MADAM BLOOM turns around for one more look.

MADAM BLOOM (CONT'D)
Gorgeous, darling! Truly gorgeous!

MADAM BLOOM blows a kiss towards Dennis and exits. Dennis is staring at himself in the mirror, hating what he sees. The large man from earlier enters and sits next to Dennis. The large man starts putting on makeup.

DENNIS

I think that's just for the models.

LARGE MAN

You're right, luckily I am one! Name's Fred!

LARGE MAN goes to shake Dennis' hand, but Dennis turns back towards the mirror. The large man continues his pre-show routine as another man enters. This second man is shorter, not wearing a shirt, and has an odd looking face. He sits on the other side of Dennis and starts doing his makeup too.

DENNIS

Oh come on!

LARGE MAN

I heard it's your first show. It's okay to be nervous, just know you look great!

DENNIS

I look like an asshole! What am I even doing?

LARGE MAN

Hey, buddy, take it easy. We're all just here for fun.

DENNIS

Fun!? I am here to be a model! I am here to prove something! And seeing who I am paired up with, I have no need to prove anything to you people. You are nothing! You will always be nothing! I have no need to impress you or anyone else in this charade! Tell Madam Bloom she just lost another model.

Dennis storms out, still in his suit and makeup.

CUT TO:

EXT. FASHION STUDIO - NIGHT

It is pouring rain as Dennis walks out of the stage door. He needs to cross the street to where his Range Rover is parked, but has to wait for traffic to pass. As he is waiting, a truck drives by that splashes him from a puddle.

DENNIS

You've got to be kidding me!

Now soaked, Dennis approaches his car.

CUT TO:

PADDY'S PUB - NIGHT

Mac is putting up a few final decorations on the bar and tables as CRICKET enters from the bathroom, dressed as a child friendly Halloween scarecrow.

MAC

Cricket, what in the hell are you wearing!

CRICKET

You told me to be a scarecrow!

MAC

No! We told you to be the scarecrow! Like from the Batman movies!

CRICKET

Whoops. My bad.

MAC

Goddamn it!

Charlie enters dressed as Batman. He speaks in his Christian Bale Batman voice.

CRICKET

Charlie? That you?

CHARLIE

I'm Batman.

CRICKET

I see that. I'm uh, a scarecrow. I didn't know about the Batman thing.

Charlie grunts in acknowledgement, then heads towards Mac.

CHARLIE

Hello Mac. Nice costume.

MAC

I haven't put it on yet, Charlie. Can you please watch things here as I go get changed?

Charlie grunts again. Guests start to sprinkle in here and there. CRICKET starts taking orders. Charlie goes behind the bar, pours himself a beer, and starts drinking. Dee is heard in the office.

DEE (O.S.)

Has anyone seen my black face paint?

Dee enters, wearing a Batwoman costume which again, looks surprisingly good on her, except for the fact that her swollen eye is visible since her black eye paint is missing.

DEE (CONT'D)

Goddamn it guys, I really need it.

Mac enters from the bathroom, wearing a full Ben Affleck Batman costume that looks straight out of the Justice League movie. He is wearing the black eye paint that was missing from Dee. Charlie and Dee jeer as Mac approaches the bar.

MAC

Now this is how you dress like Batman!

DEE

Did you take my face paint!?

MAC

I'll deal with you in a sec, Dee.

Dee ignores Mac. Mac turns to Charlie.

MAC (CONT'D)

Hey Charlie, what do you think of a real Batman costume?

Charlie takes off his Batman mask, letting it hang over his back, defeated.

CHARLIE

Okay, Mac. You win. You can be Batman.

MAC

Yes! Now, Dee. You need to go downstairs and find a different costume to wear. Anything Batman related. Come on, I'll go with you.

DEE

What?! No way!

MAC

Dee! I swear to God! I will go for the other eye!

DEE

Jesus, fine.

Dee exits towards the basement with Mac looking pleased as he follows her. The crowd in Paddy's is getting big now. Charlie looks depressed, now sitting at the bar, drinking.

CRICKET

I didn't realize everyone was doing a Batman thing. Seems silly.

CHARLIE

Oh yeah, why's that?

CRICKET

Well, there is only one Batman... and if anyone were going to be that Batman... well I think I should have been that Batman.

CHARLITE

Makes sense.

Charlie gets up to leave, seeing no point in staying at the party. As he stands up, he sees the front door open. Frank enters wearing the troll hair, ears, and nose from The Nightman Cometh, but with the three piece suit, top-hat, and cane from the costume store over it. This makes him look a lot like the Penguin from the Batman movies, but neither him nor Charlie are aware of that resemblance. He runs to Charlie

FRANK

Charlie! I'm sorry Charlie. When I got your message and the store didn't have any Robin costumes.

CHARLIE

Frank, this is amazing!

FRANK

You like it? I was trying to cheer you up! So when I couldn't be Robin, I figured I would be the Troll from your dream!

CHARLIE

You remembered!

FRANK

Of course I did, you talk about it all the time. And here!

Frank hand's Charlie a top-hat and cane. Charlie puts it on over his Batman costume.

CHARLIE

Thanks, man!

Charlie gives Frank a hug. Bill enters dressed as Thanos.

FRANK

That was my original costume.

CHARLIE

I prefer this one.

BILL

Hey Franky, hey Charlie! What's up Cricket?

CRICKET

You're not doing the Batman thing?

BILL

No I wasn't told about it. Looks like you weren't either.

CRICKET

No, I am. I am The Scarecrow.

BILL

You're a scarecrow.

Dee and Mac enter from downstairs, Mac still wearing his Batfleck costume and Dee now wearing pieces of her fighting Irishman costume and her red curly haired wig. Dee looks miserable, and still has a swollen black eye.

MAC

Guys, look! She's Poison Ivy!

The guys all hoot and holler. Everyone, aside from Dee, is starting to feel pretty good. Cricket grabs the microphone at the end of the bar.

CRICKET

Alright everyone! It is time to head over to the voting station, write in your favorite costume that you've seen here tonight and we'll start tallying the votes!

The costumed patrons all meander towards the long foldout table Mac set up earlier with paper, pens, and the votes box.

MAC

Don't forget to vote guys!

As THE GANG and other Paddy's patrons are voting, thunder crashes. The front door swings open. Lightning flashes as we see Dennis enter in from the rain. His light blue suit and bright pink vest and bowtie are drenched, making them look much darker in color. His makeup is smeared and running down his face. He looks like a crazy clown. He's in a rage, forgetting that he is surrounded by people.

DENNIS

Fools! They think that I belong there? ME!? With the bottom shelf, off-brand, knockoffs? Then we must live in a sham world! A joke world!

(seeing the humor in it)
And it's a laugh isn't it? HAHAHA
It's hilarious, really. What a set
up!

(laugh sighs, then returns
to anger)

It's hysterical... But I got the last laugh! And she got what she deserved!

The bar is almost silent in response. Everyone including THE GANG, stares at Dennis.

CHARLIE

Awesome Joker cosplay, Dennis!!

The crowd all cheers for Dennis as he now enters the bar. He approaches THE GANG.

DENNIS

Ha, well...yeah. Glad I ended up making it here in time. So we got...

(referencing costumes)
Batman?...Batman with a tophat?...Thanos?....uhhh

MAC

She's Poison Ivy.

DENNIS

Ah, of course. And Frank you're -

CHARLIE

He's the Troll from my dream, dude!

MAC

Oh, from the tap dance dream!

CHARLIE

Yeah! And I am now the Nightman with a top-hat and cane.

DENNIS

More like, the dark-nightman.

CHARLIE

That's pretty good!

THE GANG, except Dee, all laugh. Cricket has now collected all the votes and has the microphone in hand.

CRICKET

Alright everyone, the votes are in and we have a winner. By a landslide, the winners are....the Batman gang! Come up here for a picture!

FRANK

We won!

MAC

Well I would hope so, I've been stuffing that box with extra votes all day.

THE GANG shuffles towards CRICKET, talking as they walk.

DEE

I actually put a bunch of extra votes in there earlier as well.

CHARLIE

Yeah, me too. Like a lot of them.

THE GANG has reached CRICKET who hands Mac an envelope. The crowd cheers as a young girl in costume approaches the group.

BLOG GIRL

Hi! Do you guys mind if I take your picture for our subreddit and facebook page?

CHARLIE

Of course! Gather in guys!

THE GANG groups together, Charlie stands in the middle with Frank on his right and Mac on his left. Dennis and Dee stand behind Mac and CRICKET and Bill standing behind Frank. They are all smiling except Dee who has her head turned so her swollen eye is towards the camera. A photo is taken.

BLOG GIRL

Thank you so much!

CHARLIE

We did it, guys! We hosted and won a costume contest! And in two days!

DEE

We won our own rigged contest. Whoop Dee-freakin'-doo.

FRANK

Whoa what happened to your eye? And your Batgirl costume?

DEE

I don't know, Frank! Why don't you ask Mac!

MAC

I don't know what her problem is Frank, just that time of the month probably.

FRANK

Ha. Probably! Dumb bird!

DEE

Unbelievable! I hate you guys!

CHARLIE

Well, what do we do now?

DENNIS

Now Charlie. Now is when we do what we do best. Now...we get drunk.

There is still a crowd of costumed patrons around the bar. As THE GANG, CRICKET, and Bill raise their glasses to toast, the photo that was taken of them in costume fades in and is the final image of the episode.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE