

“HERE COMES KING BEETLE!”

SCENE 1

KIRBY

What’s up, Super Fans!? Living in National City can be exciting  
for superhero spotters, and one of the best things?

Team-ups. There are lots of cities with superheroes running around, but  
nowhere with as many as National. And when you’ve got that many heroes,  
you have plenty of team-ups.

Many of my listeners know I’m friends with both Yellowhammer and Kid Megaton,  
so it’s really exciting for me to see them working together.

BAILEY (Yellowhammer)

Take ‘im high, Kid Megaton, I’ll take ‘im low!

KID MEGATON

Right with you, Yellowhammer!

FX- quite a pounding

ANKYLOSAURUS REX

Uuungh...

FX- loud thud; high five

KID MEGATON

Whew. Ankylosaurus Rex is a tough customer, but he’s  
no match for the two of us together.

BAILEY (Yellowhammer)

Yeah. We really make a solid team-up, huh?

KID MEGATON

Yeah. What is this, four times now that we’ve tag teamed some creep?

BAILEY (Yellowhammer)

We do good work. We should really...

FX- running

KIRBY

Oh my gosh, that was so awesome!

KID MEGATON

Hey, Kirby. Get a good view of the fight?

KIRBY

Yep, yep. Perfect angle... I really think the Kid Megaton/Yellowhammer partnership is set to be one of the classics. You just need a team-up name.

Kid Hammer? Megahammer? Yellow Kid?

Ah, we'll workshop it.

Wow! I want to get this footage online tonight!

BAILEY (Yellowhammer)

Oh, if you're ordering pizza tonight, get the two-for deal.

I'm starving.

KIRBY

Sure. And the cheesy breadsticks?

BAILEY (Yellowhammer)

Oh, yeah. Good call.

KID MEGATON

Wait, wait, wait. Do you guys...

BAILEY (Yellowhammer)

Uhh...

KIRBY

Oh yeah. We're... Good friends.

BAILEY (Yellowhammer)

Best buddies. Practically roommates.

KIRBY

Right! So...

I need to go home to edit this footage.

Check out the stream! Bye!

BAILEY (Yellowhammer)

I know that seemed, uh... It's not what you...

KID MEGATON

You're dating Kirby. That's cool.

I mean, as often as you're on her podcast, it should have been obvious...

BAILEY

No! She's... y'know what? Caution to the wind.  
She's my roommate. *Actual*, regular roommate, not "And they were roommates" roommate.  
My real name's Bailey Burroughs.

KID MEGATON

Oh. Okay.

BAILEY

Live right down the street, there on Schuster Boulevard.

KID MEGATON

Cool. So... I need to get Ankylosaurus Rex back to the Mesozoic Mesa before  
he wakes up. I'd invite you to come with, but you've got pizza...

BAILEY

You're not going to tell me your real name?

KID MEGATON

It's... awkward, you know? I'm part of a superhero family.  
Everybody knows Megaton Jr. is my brother, so if I told you *my*  
real name, I'm effectively telling you his. And then it wouldn't  
be that hard to figure out Megaton and Lady Megaton...

BAILEY (Yellowhammer)

Okay, but... I mean, Kirby once told me *she* knows your ID...

KID MEGATON

Yeah. She figured it out. Got to give her props.  
*And* she's kept it to herself.

BAILEY (Yellowhammer)

So... since she's your friend and she's my friend and  
we're all friends...

KID MEGATON

She's good at secrets. You... obviously aren't.  
We're out here in the middle of the street and you just  
blurted out your real name.

BAILEY

I can keep secrets! I used to be part of a team, right?  
And I've never revealed Robin or Kenny's secret ID to anybody...  
Oh. Crap.

KID MEGATON

Bluestreak and Red Shift's real names are Robin and Kenny.

BAILEY

First names! There are tons of Kennys in Ann Arbor.

KID MEGATON

And how hard would it be to find the Kenny  
who knows a Robin and Bailey Burroughs?

BAILEY

Fine. Your point is made.

KID MEGATON

I'm not saying I'm averse to telling you, but...

KIRBY

No, I get it.

KID MEGATON

Can we talk about this later? Somewhere a little less  
out in the open, after I've dealt with the mutant dinosaur man?

BAILEY

Sure. You probably should take care of the dinosaur problem...

KID MEGATON

Bye, now.

FX- flying

BAILEY

Okay. Yeah, bye.

SCENE 2

MUSIC- transition

FX- door, bell

MOLLY

Kirby!

KIRBY

Hi, Molly. Hi, Cash. I'm going to grab a corner table and do a little editing, if that's cool.

CASH

Sure. Molly and I were just discussing that play you wrote. Is that still on?

KIRBY

Oh, yeah. We just need to find a venue and figure out if we need a license or anything. I've got a lawyer friend and I'm going to run it by her.

CASH

Cool. Molly and I have been thinking about expanding it to a full season. See if we can get a little company started.

MOLLY

Yeah, I've discovered this guy who writes musicals and I've been reading through his catalog. Somebody named Sondheim...

KIRBY

Stephen Sondheim? Oh, he's great.

MOLLY

Mm, no. Melvin Sondheim.

KIRBY

What? Let me see that.

"A Mildly Amusing Thing Happened on the Way to the Acropolis?"  
"Giddily We Stroll Along?" "A Lot of Night Music?"

MOLLY

I'm leaning toward "Monday in the Diner with Edward."  
Read the description!

KIRBY

(reading) ...features a fictionalized version of Edward Hopper and tells the story of the creation of his painting Nightbirds...  
I don't know.

MOLLY

Or Assassins! It's a mosaic featuring every person who's ever attempted to assassinate the governor of North Dakota!

KIRBY

So Melvin Sondheim just writes low-budget rip-offs  
of much better musicals. Why would we do these  
over actual Stephen Sondheim shows?

MOLLY

The royalties are really cheap.

KIRBY

Fair. Oh!

Into the Moors! (reading) "Fairy tales collide as such famous  
characters as Red Ridinghood, Jack of beanstalk fame, Cinderella  
and Rapunzel must join together with...  
Sherlock Holmes...? To save the kingdom from...  
Count Dracula..."

CASH

That's got my vote!

MOLLY

Dibs on Rapunzel!

KIRBY

Sure. Let's do it.

SCENE 3

MUSIC- transition

JIMMY

And in this room, you'll find wax statues of the Whiz's  
most deadly enemies. Dr. Ezekial Genius, the world's smartiest scientist.  
The Whoosh, with all the Whiz's powers, but as cruel as the Whiz is kind!  
Commander Evil, who can call on the powers of any evil figure in history!

GOLDFINCH

Dear me, but why is there a small bug in a jar behind this glass case?

JIMMY

Oh, that's the most dangerous villain of all. King Beetle!  
In 1943, he united all the villains in National City into his Consortium of Crime!  
All fourteen of them.

GOLDFINCH

Oh, that sounds terribly frightening. (purring seductively) Would you open the case and let me see him... up close?

JIMMY

Oh, gosh, I couldn't do that. Gee! These wax statues are delicate.

GOLDFINCH

But I'd... be very, *very* grateful. Just unlock the...

ALBATROSS

Oh, hey, Goldfinch! What are youse doin' here?

GOLDFINCH

Albatross! You... Well, aren't you... a sight for sore eyes.  
I didn't know you'd be here.

JIMMY

Oh, you know Albatross? He's the best assistant curator we've ever had here.

ALBATROSS

Aw, geez. I love workin' here wit' youse and learnin' about the Wooz.

JIMMY

The Whiz.

ALBATROSS

What'd I say?

GOLDFINCH

Jimmy, dear, could I have a moment alone with your associate?

JIMMY

Oh, sure. I'll be right in the gift shop.

GOLDFINCH

I'll count the seconds, sugar!  
(sternly) Albatross, sweetheart, do you recall that I am an undercover operative?  
You're not supposed to walk up and say hello!

ALBATROSS

Yeah, well, nobody told me you was comin'. How was I supposed to know?

GOLDFINCH

Well, I don't suppose I can blame you for your shortcomings. I'm sure your mother surely did the best she could raising you, considering what she had to work with.

ALBATROSS

Was that an insult?

GOLDFINCH

Heaven forbid.

ALBATROSS

Anyways. I figure I ought to be in the loop on things. This museum bit is my assignment, you know.

GOLDFINCH

Fine. Mr. Kingfigsher wants that beetle. And if possible, he wants it legally, so I'm trying to seduce that idiot into giving it to me.

ALBATROSS

Hey, Jimmy ain't no idiot. He's a good kid.

GOLDFINCH

Do you recall that we're the villains, Albatross?

ALBATROSS

I recall that I'm s'posed to keep an eye on things here.

GOLDFINCH

Well, keep your eye on things, but keep out of my way.

SCENE 4

MUSIC- transition

BAILEY

But seriously, Robin, don't you think it's unfair that she knows my identity but I don't know hers? What? I am not obsessing!

FX- door



BAILEY

My roommate's home, I'll see you tonight. Bye.

KIRBY

Hey, who was that?

BAILEY

My best friend from home, Robin. She's running up from Ann Arbor to meet me for dinner...

KIRBY

Running?

BAILEY

Uh, not Robin. Bluestreak.

My old teammate Bluestreak... Who is *not* my close friend Robin Richards...

KIRBY

See, this is why people don't tell you their secret identities.

BAILEY

Neither are you! You let it slip just the other day  
that Kid Megaton's real name was Jennifer... Jessica...

Jjjjjj... Jillian?

KIRBY

Nope.

BAILEY

But it is a J, right?

KIRBY

It's not a J. And I never let it slip.

I am a perfect identity keeper.

BAILEY

Dammit! Okay, but you'll tell me if I'm getting warm, right?

KIRBY

I don't know what you mean...

BAILEY

Like, okay. I started superheroing when I was sixteen, so about seven years, right?

And she was already established, so... gotta be twelve or so.

She's probably approaching thirty...

KIRBY  
Oh dear lord.

BAILEY  
Why does she still call herself “Kid Megaton?”

KIRBY  
I guess because there’s already a Lady Megaton, and...

BAILEY  
But anyway. It’s somebody you know, who’s in her late 20s or early 30s...

KIRBY  
Can we postpone your breakdown? I’m having a friend over...

BAILEY  
Is it Kid Megaton?

KIRBY  
It’s my fried Parker. She’s a lawyer. She’s going to help me figure out what kind of licensing and permits I might need to...

BAILEY  
Yep, bored already. I’ll be at the coffee shop.

KIRBY  
We’re talking about starting a little fringe theater. You’re an actor, I thought you might be interested.

BAILEY  
I’ll be interested when you have auditions. See you later.

SCENE 5  
MUSIC- transition

GOLDFINCH  
As I was saying before we were so rudely interrupted, Jimmy, that little beetle is so adorable. I’m sure the museum wouldn’t miss one tiny exhibit. For me?

JIMMY  
Oh, gosh, the museum wouldn’t be complete without King Beetle. He gave the Whiz one headache of a time.

GOLDFINCH

Oh, but I would do aaaaaanything. Absolutely *anything*  
for that little bauble.

JIMMY

Well, maybe I could get our wax sculptor to make you one... hey, what are  
you doing? Don't lean on me like that, I don't even know you, gosh!

GOLDFINCH

But you're such a... manly man. I can't help myself...

JIMMY

Jeepers!

BRANDON

Hey! What's going on here?

JIMMY

Gosh, Brandon, I wish I knew.

BRANDON

Jimmy, can you get the ledger out of the office for me?

JIMMY

Sure, Brandon. Excuse me, Miss Goldfinch...

BRANDON

Look, lady, I don't know what this is all about, but  
you're barking up the wrong tree with Jimmy here.  
If he goes for anybody at all, it's gonna be some downhome girl  
with pigtails and freckles, but it sure  
as hell isn't somebody throwing herself on him like that.

GOLDFINCH

And who are you, exactly?

BRANDON

As it happens, I'm Jimmy's best friend. And also the museum's  
financial advisor.

GOLDFINACH

Is that so? And he listens to you?

BRANDON

Yeah, I...

GOLDFINCH

Such a strong, forceful man. I bet you have a good deal of authority...

BRANDON

Hey, what are... (goofy laugh) You can't, uh... (goofier laugh)

Okay, you can...

SCENE 6

MUSIC- transition

CASH

Okay, Molly I guess this is the building.

Used to be a church, but it might make

a pretty good theater.

It's kind of dusty, but it's already got a stage. What do  
you think?

MOLLY

I like it!

CASH

I don't really know a lot about theater stuff, but there's some  
light rigging already in place. We can probably work with it.

We should get Bailey in here

and see what she thinks. Let me send her a text...

MOLLY

I'm going to try the stage out!

FX- footsteps, enthusiastic tap dancing

CASH

How do you try out a stage... you brought tap shoes?

MOLLY

It always pays to be prepared for any tap based emergency.

CASH

Got it. You dance and I will... evaluate.

These seats will need to be replaced, but I'm guessing  
the place will seat about... a hundred? Hundred fifty?

MOLLY

brush, hop, shuffle, step, flap, ball, change...

CASH

The “lobby” is more of a vestibule, but that’s probably fine.  
Most of the renovation is just cleaning and some  
simple repairs.

MOLLY

And skip, and skip and shuffle...  
Take it, Cash!

CASH

I’m good.

It’s just the electronics I’m really concerned with. I mean,  
Kirby has experience with sound systems, but probably not on  
this scale, and none of us knows much about stage lighting.  
We might need to hire somebody. It’ll be expensive, but I can...

PUCK

(suddenly and loudly) I’ll do it for a tenth of the price!

CASH

Holy shit! Where the hell did you come from?

PUCK

You drive a hard bargain. One one-hundredth of the price, but nobody touches  
the lighting board but me. It’s mine!

MOLLY

Oh, hi, new person!

PUCK

How’s it going?

CASH

Who *are* you!?

PUCK

You can call me Puck.  
I’m your new technical director.

CASH

What? You can't just come in and declare yourself  
the technical director.

PUCK

Well, who else would it be?  
You're the producer and she's clearly the on-stage talent,  
so that just leaves me.

CASH

We at least need an interview first.

PUCK

Okay, I'll interview you. Have a seat.

SCENE 7

MUSIC- transition

JIMMY

I can't sell King Beetle!

BRANDON

Jimmy, we can get another. How much can sculpting a  
three inch wax statue cost?

JIMMY

Well, gee. Even a few days without King Beetle  
leaves the display incomplete! I could see maybe not having  
Sir Robot or the Balladeer, but King Beetle?

BRANDON

But she... she made some... really good points.

JIMMY

What were they?

BRANDON

Well, I... eh... they were kind of technical. You know.  
Finance stuff. It'll be good for the, uh... the bottom line.

JIMMY

Oh, I don't know... gee. You're really smart and all, but...

BRANDON

Yeah. I, uh... I'm pretty smart, alright.

JIMMY

Okay, I guess I'll do it.

BRANDON

Yeah, uh... dammit. No, Jimmy.

JIMMY

No?

BRANDON

I let myself be manipulated by a pretty woman, and I made promises I shouldn't have. Sometimes, I'm a jerk.

JIMMY

Oh. I see.

BRANDON

So, yeah. Don't worry, I'll let her down easy...

JIMMY

Well, no. We have to give it to her now.

BRANDON

What!? No. I said *don't* give it to her.

JIMMY

But you made a promise, Brandon. You just said!  
And you can't break promises. What kind of a heel  
would you be, then? A pretty rotten one, that's what!

BRANDON

Jimmy...

JIMMY

No. You were right. It's going to be easy enough to  
replace a little wax statue like that.

FX- open case

JIMMY

Here you go.

BRANDON

You don't have to do this.

JIMMY

No, but you do. You made a promise. You wouldn't be the kind of fella that goes back on a promise.

BRANDON

I... guess not.

JIMMY

Anyway, it's not like it's the real Beetle.

BRANDON

Yeah, I guess that bug is long dead.

JIMMY

Oh, gosh no. The original King Beetle is in hibernation. We used to keep the actual one in that cabinet before Mr. Beck sold the museum. But now he's got him, for safe keeping.

BRANDON

Wait, you kept a megalomaniac alien insect in a jar in the museum?

JIMMY

Well, gosh, what else would you do with him?

BRANDON

I... am... going to give this to Miss Goldfinch now.  
See you at the coffee shop later.

SCENE 8

MUSIC- transition

FX- tool sounds

PUCK

Listen, I know my way around a theater like nobody's business. You aren't going to find a better tech than me. Frankly, I should be working in an Equity house, but the stagehands union is all "OSHA" this and "fire hazard" that. Theater used to be about taking risks, man.



MOLLY

Yeah! We need more risks!

CASH

No. No, we don't...

PUCK

Look, I can have a full tech infrastructure installed in a week, and at a fraction of the cost. I know the supervillain cheats.

CASH

The what?

PUCK

The supervillain cheats. You know how supervillains will have some piece of technology that should have taken a team of engineers several years and millions of dollars, but the villain built it overnight in their garage?

CASH

You're a supervillain?

PUCK

No. Could have been. Could have been one of the greats. But my passion is theater tech, so here I am.

CASH

I see.

PUCK

So we're in agreement?

CASH

I'm not making any firm decisions until we can...

MOLLY

You're hired!

CASH

Uhhh... Can I have a discussion with my associate?

PUCK

I'm hired! She said I'm hired!

CASH

Yeah, I'm the one with the money.

PUCK

Right. I'll just be over there.

CASH

Molly, we can't just hire the first... really, really  
exhausting person who asks for a job.

MOLLY

Why not? They know what they're doing.

CASH

How do we know?

MOLLY

They know the supervillain cheats! That sounds  
really impressive.

FX- door

BAILEY

Hello? Hey, Cash! Is this the place?

CASH

Yep. I think this is going to be our new theater.

BAILEY

Mm. Looks like a dump.

CASH

We're going to clean it up. Don't think about  
how it looks now, think about how it CAN look.

BAILEY

Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Yeah, I've worked in worse places.  
I did *Noises Off* in a place one time when the stage literally collapsed.

MOLLY

Oh my gosh! Was everybody okay?

BAILEY

Yeah... audience thought it was part of the show, and I was the only one who got hit, and I can't be hurt, so... Oh.

CASH

You can't be hurt?

BAILEY

Wow, I really am bad at secret identity stuff...

CASH

What?

PUCK

Hey, new girl. Here.

FX- paper slap

BAILEY

What's this?

PUCK

Tech schematics for the theater that I just drew up.

BAILEY

Oh, wow. This looks ambitious.

CASH

But is it good?

BAILEY

I'm not a techie, but it seems pretty well thought out. I mean, stupidly expensive. The ellipsoidal lights alone are probably, what, \$700 each? And lord knows how long it would take to install...

PUCK

I'll have it done by Saturday. Thousand dollars for the lot.

MOLLY

They know supervillain cheats!

BAILEY

Oh. Yeah, well, if they know supervillain cheats, this'll be a breeze. As long as they're making stage lights and not death lasers.

FX- pencil scratching

PUCK

No... death... lasers. Got it.

MOLLY

Or freeze rays!

PUCK

I'll just rule out ray weapons entirely.

BAILEY

So, if you guys don't need anything else, I need to run back to the apartment real quick.

PUCK

And I've got to go to Home Depot to get some supplies.

CASH

Okay. Uh... I guess we've hired you...

MOLLY

This is going to be fun!

SCENE 9

MUSIC- transition

PARKER (same character as Kid Megaton)

...and just fill these out, get your friends to sign them,  
and bring them to me at my office,  
and I *think* you should be good to go. This isn't really my field,  
but I'll run everything by one of the associates before I file it.

KIRBY

Thanks, Parker, you're the best!

FX- door

BAILEY

Don't mind me, I just need to change... wait a minute.

KIRBY

Bailey, this is Parker Clarkson. She's my lawyer friend...

BAILEY

Kid Megaton!

PARKER

I'm sorry, what...?

BAILEY

Come on. You're wearing glasses and you've got your hair in a bun, but I just spent the better part of the morning punching an anthropomorphic dinosaur with you.

PARKER

Well, I... don't know... what you... okay. Okay, you got me.

BAILEY

Ha! I knew it!

PARKER

You know, I wish you'd just be a little more direct.

BAILEY

More direct? I just flat out asked you to trade secret IDs. How much more direct am I supposed to be?

PARKER

I think there's more to it than just  
"trading identities."  
An ulterior motive, maybe?

BAILEY

Um... yeah, I guess so.

Look. No slight to my civilian friends. They're awesome. Kirby... lifelong BFF, right?

Molly, Cash, Jimmy, but... back in Ann Arbor, you know...

The superhero community there was literally me and my friends.

We hung out, did superhero stuff together, kept each other's secrets...

But now, I'm in the biggest superhero community  
in the world, but I don't... feel like I'm really part of it.

Everybody's so busy, or they all have their own cliques and, well...

I guess I just really wanted a... I hate saying this...

a super friend. Ugh, that's so corny...

KIRBY

Nooooo, it's so cute...

BAILEY

And you're... I mean, you're really cool.

Oh, god that's sounds ridiculous...

But... you're friends with Kirby and I'm friends with Kirby and

I just thought... we could all be friends together.

PARKER

Seriously?

BAILEY

That sounds pathetic, doesn't it?

PARKER

Yes... I mean, No! It's not pathetic, it...

I mean... Yes. Yes, of course we can be friends.

BAILEY

Yeah?

PARKER

Of course.

KIRBY

Megahammer?

PARKER

We don't need a team-up nickname.

KIRBY

I would beg to differ.

BAILEY

And now I hate to have that whole embarrassing little monologue and bail, but Bluestreak ran in from Michigan and we're having dinner together, so I have to... I don't even have time to change.  
I gotta go. Bye!

PARKER

Bye.

FX- door

KIRBY

That was so awesome. And now we can all be open with each other, and that's such a relief...

PARKER

Yeah, wow... I read that situation entirely wrong.

KIRBY

What do you mean?

PARKER

I thought she was going to ask me out!  
I mean... she really went out of her way to make sure I knew you and she were just roommates, and the whole "let's trade secret Identities" thing...

KIRBY

Oh. Well, I don't think you have to worry about that...

PARKER

Worried? I was waiting for it.

KIRBY

What?

PARKER

Look, I've dated civilians, it's all well and good, but the whole balance of keeping secrets and protecting them from villains...  
It's just easier to date somebody in the business, you know?

KIRBY

Oh.

PARKER

We get along great. We've had enough team-ups, one of the tabloids has already published our picture with a "More than just friends, question mark" caption.

KIRBY

Wait, which one? I need to pick a copy up...

PARKER

And... let's face it, she's hot, she's cute, she's into girls, AND she's in my strength-class?  
It would be perfect...

KIRBY

So let's tell her.

PARKER

No! No, she's so excited to have a superhero friend, I don't want to ruin that.

KIRBY

Sure, but I bet...

PARKER

This is just between us. Promise?

KIRBY

(sigh) Yeah, okay.

MUSIC- outro

KIRBY (podcast)

And that's it for today, super fans. I've got some great Ishtar footage coming up on my livestream later, and... (frustrated grunt)  
I have the best piece of superhero gossip, and I can't say anything! Aagh!

BAILEY

Wait, you have gossip? What is it?

KIRBY

Bailey, you're interrupting my outro.



BAILEY

You can edit this part out, what's the gossip? Tell me, tell me, tell me.  
Is it about Slingshot? (gasp) Slingshot and Sunburn are totally doing it, aren't they?

KIRBY

Yes. It's about Slingshot and Sunburn "doing it."

BAILEY

I knew it!

KIRBY

And that's all for now, super fans. Eyes to the sky!

BAILEY

Wait, you gave that up really easily...

MUSIC- outro music fades out, more sinister music fades in

KINGFISHER

Ah. Goldfinch. You have completed your task?

GOLDFINCH

I have, Mr. Kingfisher. The King Beetle, as you requested.

KINGFISHER

Yes! Yes, I... no. This isn't the King Beetle, this is a piece of wax!

GOLDFINCH

It's the display you requested I obtain, Mr. Kingfisher.

KINGFISHER

I don't want this replica! I want the real King Beetle!  
This Jimmy Bromfield is far more clever than I reckoned.

GOLDFINCH

If I may, Mr. Kingfisher...

KINGFISHER

Out of my sight! I must ponder.  
I... must... ponder...

ANNOUNCER

The Supporting Cast was written and edited by Patrick Duke  
Starring Luarin Skarr as Kirby

Chrisi Talyn Saje as Bailey  
Kayce Swan as Cash  
Marnie Warner as Molly  
Logan Smith as Jimmy  
And Patrick Duke as Brandon

With  
Rebecca Olivia as Kid Megaton  
Sage Pazera as Puck  
Tony Heugh as Albatross  
Marnie Warner as Goldfinch  
And Patrick Duke as Mr. Kingfisher