

Pillbug-Man

Characters:

Justice - An invulnerable hero

Pillbug-Man - A wannabe top level nemesis to Justice

Hammer - A pitbull who is Justice's sidekick

Cat-atonic - A bipedal cat the size of a man that wields a laser gun

Hostage 1

Hostage 2

Setting: It starts in a clean bank. Its granite countertops and pillars have no dust on them and it would be another normal day, except today everyone in the bank is tied against the pillars.

[Pillbug-Man (a man in a giant pill bug costume that is probably too big for him) stands in the center of the bank.]

Pillbug-Man: Remain calm, my lovely hostages. I shall simply steal all of the money from this bank and disperse it randomly on the streets to strangers so they don't have to worry about producing a consistent income to compete in a capitalist society and they can instead enjoy their lives and families for a couple days.

Hostage 1: I didn't understand most of what you just said.

Pillbug-Man: Zip the lips. Justice should be here any second. I want you all to look distraught. This is my big moment. I love when he first arrives. I bet today he is gonna come in through the ceiling.

[A crash can be heard as a man in bright orange spandex and cape runs in from the left stage. He has a big "J" printed on his chest. Justice looks toward the tied up hostages.]

Justice: Is everyone ok?

Hostage 1: Of course we are. It's just Potato-Bug-Man.

Pillbug-Man: IT IS PILLBUG-MAN! I suppose your dog sidekick is just around the corner. I don't fear Hammer anymore. I brought my own sidekick! GET OUT HERE, CAT-ATONIC!

[A big, muscular cat in a trench coat and a fedora steps out from the right stage. He reaches into his trench coat and pulls out a huge gun.]

Cat-atonic: Moo-Rowr

Pillbug-Man: Oh, you are in for it now. BLAST HIM!

[The big gun Cat-atonic is holding starts glowing and humming. He points it at Justice. Pillbug-Man runs up to Justice.]

Pillbug-Man: WAIT! Let me hit him first!

Pillbug-Man: EHHHHHKKK!

[Pillbug-Man slaps Justice lightly. Justice does not flinch. Pillbug-Man shrieks with joy and claps his hands then runs to the side as the gun Cat-atonic is holding starts to sparkle. There is a bright flash then a VROOM. The stage lights up blue.]

[When the bright light fades, the ground is darkened around Justice, but Justice is unfazed.]

Justice: I don't have time for this.

[Justice flicks his finger which creates a shockwave that knocks down Pillbug-Man and Cat-atonic]

[Justice dashes to Pillbug-Man and lifts him up, pinning him to the wall.]

Justice: Alright, do you give up now, Doodlebug-Man?

Pillbug-Man: Oh, I LOVE this part of the fight so much I am going to pretend you said my name right. Why of course I--wait, where is Hammer? He hasn't shown up. Tell me I am enough of a threat to at least bring your dog?

[Justice sets down Pillbug-Man.]

Justice: He has been sick. He got cancer and it has gotten a lot worse. I was about to take him to the vet for the final time, but I had to pause to stop you.

Pillbug-Man: Oh, Heavens! Why didn't you say anything? Why are we here? Let's help out your dog! Come on, Cat-atonik! Start the Evil Pizza Delivery Bicycle! We will meet you at your home, Justice.

Justice: What? You don't even know where I live.

Pillbug-Man: OF COURSE I DO. I am your nemesis afterall.

[Pillbug-Man and Cat-atonik run off the stage to the left and Justice follows shortly after.]

Hostage 1: WAIT! WHAT ABOUT ME!

Hostage 2: Shut up, Man. They are helping his dog. I for one don't mind sitting here for a bit. Before this happened, I was on my way to the dentist. This is a win for me.

End Scene

[Pillbug-Man and Justice are now in a car in the vet's parking lot. Pillbug-Man is wearing a Hawaiian polo and khaki shorts. Justice is wearing a button-up shirt with a sweater and khaki pants.]

Pillbug-Man: You know, I don't consider myself a villain. I consider myself THE villain. I mean I routinely fight others to free fellow citizens from the shackles of modern society so they can live the lives of their dreams. It's really diabolical. Think about how mad company CEOs are that their workers are happy.

[Justice is reaching one hand to the back of the car to pet Hammer. Cat-atonik is in the back of the car as well and has pushed himself as far away as possible from Hammer. Justice's eyes are tearing up.]

Justice: Um, you know I am not sure if right now is the moment to have this conversation, but you don't sound evil to me. That kind of sounds thoughtful, Roly-Poly-Man.

Pillbug-Man: Ew, don't say that. My mom died at a young age and my dad lived with her parents to help raise me. Her parents would drink all night long and my dad would always clean up after them. He recycled every bottle and tucked them in once they passed out. Some nights they would yell at him for helping them and said they just wanted to be left alone. They said he was causing problems. I always respected my dad so I knew when I grew up I wanted to be as evil as him.

[Justice sniffles]

Justice: Wow. There is some serious emotional damage there that needs to be unpacked by a medical professional. Can we just focus on what's going on right now for a little bit?

Pillbug-Man: Do you know why I chose a pill bug as my costume?

Justice: Why?

Pillbug-Man: Because we know so little about how they process pain. They don't feel emotions, no agony, no despair. They simply exist. I think there is something so beautiful about that. I think we should all live a little more like a pill bug.

[Pillbug-Man puts his hand on Justice's shoulder.]

Justice: You're right. Hammer can probably sense my sadness. Let's get moving on this.

[Justice and Pillbug-man got out of the car]

[Justice opens the car's back door and Cat-atonic dashes out of the car and into the nearby woods. Justice reaches in and lifts Hammer out of the car. Hammer's once muscular legs are now covered in saggy skin. His once bronze mane is now stained gray. His once wide eyes now struggled to stay open.]

[Justice puts a leash on Hammer and walks him over to the grass.]

Justice: Come on, Buddy. How about one last bathroom break?

[Pillbug-Man walks over to Hammer and bends down to pet him]

[Hammer growls at him and backs up.]

Justice: Easy, Hammer. He is on our side now. There is no more fight--

[Justice is cut short. He stops talking, clears his throat, and snuffles. He looks away from Pillbug-Man.]

Justice: You know, I am the strongest man in the world . . . and I can't even do this. How can I stop a meteor heading for Earth, but not even . . . not even take my dog in for a vet appointment. I don't get it.

Pillbug-Man: I believe false strength comes from thinking you have to do everything alone. True strength comes from knowing you have people that can help you bear the load.

[Pillbug-Man pets Hammer then reaches for the leash in Justice's hand.]

Pillbug-Man: Let me help you take him in. It's time.

[Justice wipes his face and turns around to look at Pillbug-Man.]

Justice: You're right. Thanks, Pillbug-Man. You are the best nemesis anyone could ever ask for.

[Pillbug-Man, Hammer, and Justice walk into the Veterinary Clinic.]

End Scene

[Justice gets out of his car in his driveway. He is alone and carrying a cardboard box. He starts walking up to his house and sees a pill bug crossing his driveway. He pauses, then reaches down to pick it up and he carries it to the other side of the driveway. He keeps walking up to his house and walks in the door. You can hear a conversation vaguely.]

Justice: Don't worry, Honey. He is at peace now . . .

End Scene