

THE BAILEY'S COMICS HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

By

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TEASER

MUSIC: THEME SONG

SOUND: FAR AWAY, FRIDGE OPENING

AMANDA

(FAR AWAY)

I've got milk, OJ. There's a couple diet-cokes, you could have one of those.

STU

But no mead?

AMANDA

(FAR AWAY)

I don't keep mead in the house, usually. How about water. It's safe to drink nowadays.

STU

Your mother sang a different tune when last we spoke.

AMANDA

(FAR AWAY)

Hell must have frozen over. Stuart Cobblepot just made a "yo mama" joke.

STU

I assure you I am completely sincere. Surely you noticed that your mother and I have become acquaintances through the latest social network.

AMANDA

(FAR AWAY)

I have her blocked.

STU

Your mother has splendid maternal instincts. She immediately began warning me against the various common scourges, such as tap water.

AMANDA

(FAR AWAY)

So you don't want any?

STU

On the contrary. I would quite enjoy a glass of water.

SOUND: DOORBELL

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

(FAR AWAY)
Can you get that?

STU

(WALKING AWAY)
'Twould be my pleasure. The sweets are adjacent to the entrance, are they not?

SOUND: FAR AWAY, GLASSES CLINKING

AMANDA

(FAR AWAY)
That's right.

SOUND: DOOR OPENING

KIDS

(FAR AWAY)
Trick or treat!

STU

(JOHN WAYNE VOICE)
Well hello there, little pilgrim.

BOY

I'm not a pilgrim, I'm a cowboy.

STU

(JOHN WAYNE VOICE)
Well then, partner, you're gonna need some Big League chaw.

BOY

Thanks!

STU

(AS IF OVER AN EARPIECE)
KTCH! This is mission control. We're gonna need a sample of that candy. KTCH!

GIRL

Thanks!

STU

(AS IF OVER AN EARPIECE)
KTCH! Mars Bars. Excellent choice. KTCH!(IN A PIRATE VOICE) Arrr. And you me matey. Is it treasure yeh seek?

BOY TWO

Yeah!

(CONTINUED)

STU

(IN A PIRATE VOICE)

Then chocolate doubloons for yeh, yeh scallywag.

BOY TWO

Arrrr!

STU

(IN A PIRATE VOICE)

Arrrr! Happy Halloween!

KIDS

Happy Halloween!

SOUND: DOOR CLOSING

AMANDA

That's pretty impressive.

STU

(WALKING CLOSER, USUAL AFFECTATION)

Years of mastering dungeons has honed my vocal chords-

AMANDA

(INTERRUPTING)

Not the voices. You were great with those kids.

STU

Why thank you, Miss Townsend.

SCENE 1 - MAX ENTERS

SOUND: DOORBELL

STU

Miss Townsend...

AMANDA

After you.

STU

(WALKING AWAY)

Very well.

SOUND: SILENCE

SOUND: DOOR OPENING

MAX

(FAR AWAY)

Hey Stu.

(CONTINUED)

STU

(FAR AWAY)
Phyranes! Well met!

AMANDA

That sounds like Max.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSING

MAX

(WALKING CLOSER)
Hey Amanda. I think you forgot these.

AMANDA

My X-comics, thanks! Come on in. We were just working on the comic.

MAX

Nice. How's it coming along?

STU

I have had some small amount of trouble marrying the hero's confidence with his vulnerability. If it were a color publication blue eyes might do the trick, but in black upon white? No, the facial features must be just so.

MAX

I'm sure you'll get it. See you guys later.

AMANDA AND STU

Wait.

AMANDA

You should stay. We were just taking a refreshment break anyway.

MAX

Are you sure? I don't want to get in the way of you making your comic.

STU

Nonsense, Phyranes! I am predisposed to create collaboratively, and as you are one of my regular partners around the gaming table, I can only imagine that you would be a boon rather than a hinderance.

AMANDA

Can I get you something to drink?

STU

I warn you she does not have any mead.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

I'll try and make due. Do you have any Dr Pepper?

AMANDA

I have some Pepsi. Well, Diet Pepsi.

MAX

Then I'll have some water.

AMANDA

(WALKING AWAY)

I'll be right back.

MAX

I didn't get a chance to congratulate you on winning the costume contest today at the OWA show.

AMANDA

(FAR AWAY)

I have two unfair advantages: Betsy and Florence.

MAX

You grandmothers taught you how to sew?

AMANDA

(WALKING CLOSER)

No, those are the names of my boobs.

MAX

Thanks.

STU

I thought the child in the Batman costume stood a decent chance.

AMANDA

He was thirteen. And he voted for me.

MAX

Have you decided what gimmick you're choosing for next week's main event? Kevin's been asking about it all day.

AMANDA

I did go on wikipedia and look at gimmick matches. There are some that jump out at me, but I want to pick something appropriate to the storyline and all that.

MAX

You should ask Kevin. Despite my kayfabe position he's a lot more involved in the creative process with Menace than I am.

(CONTINUED)

STU

I only ask that you do not choose a sixty minute Ironman Match. I fear I would be gassed before twenty had elapsed. To change the subject unceremoniously, I believe I have cracked the Bret Frost issue.

AMANDA

That's amazing! He does look more vulnerable. I don't even see the difference. What did you change?

STU

I have added the subtlest of eyelashes.

MAX

That's brilliant.

STU

It would have been had I thought of it an hour ago.

AMANDA

He's always modest like this.

MAX

Trust me, I know. You should try complimenting a Bards and Barbarians session he's run. (IMITATING STU)
"'Tis a collaborative process, you all had much more to do with it than I!"

STU

A man is merely the summation and aggregation of his surroundings and influences. I cannot take credit for an enjoyed session of B&B.

AMANDA

You can take credit for this eyelash thing.

STU

(SMILING)
If you insist.

MAX

What did you say his name was?

STU

Bret Frost. The superspy.

MAX

He looks sort of familiar...

STU

As well he should. I have based many of his facial design elements on one Maxwell Harper.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

I thought he looked particularly handsome.

AMANDA

(SARCASTIC)

I see Stuart isn't the only one who can be modest.

STU

I may not fall prey to my pride, but I am guilty of at least one deadly sin: gluttony. I am quite famished.

AMANDA

I've been craving pizza all day, but it didn't seem worth it to order one just for you and me.

STU

Then the gods have smiled upon us, for Maxwell has joined our merry band.

AMANDA

What do you say, Max? Stick around for some pizza? Unless you've got a Halloween party to go to or something.

MAX

Who me? Trust me, I've got nothing better to do.

AMANDA

That's the spirit. I'll go order a pepperoni.

SOUND: WALKING AWAY, PHONE BEING DIALED

SOUND: SLIDING GLASS DOOR OPENING, CLOSING

SCENE 2 - AMANDA EXITS TO ORDER

PIZZA

SOUND: SILENCE

MAX

You sure have your fingers in a lot of pies.

STU

Maxwell. I know that I often make light of my weight issues, but 'tis different coming from another.

MAX

No, I mean... you're working on a lot of projects right now. You're running a campaign in your own homebrew system once a week, you're illustrating a graphic novel, you backyard-

(CONTINUED)

STU

(INTERRUPTING)
Outdoor wrestle.

MAX

Right, you outdoor wrestle every saturday. Hell, you even make custom figurines in your offtime. Do you ever feel a little schizophrenic?

STU

Hardly.

MAX

A little A.D.D.?

STU

Perhaps. But for myself, the goal has never been to hold in my hands a completed artpiece and scream to the world, "There, I have finished it." The creative process is in itself a reward. If I serve mine own creativity by diversifying, even at the expense of my productivity, 'twould be for a worthy cause. Why do you ask? Are you thinking of branching out?

MAX

So much of my life is spent at the shop. So much of my mental energy. I play B&B with you, but I'd never run a campaign. I help out with OWA, but I'd never work a match, or book a card. I've always been reluctant to commit myself wholly to a second goal.

STU

I don't understand. Why not?

MAX

If something, or someone, were occupying my time and thoughts... what would happen to the store?

SOUND: SLIDING GLASS DOOR OPENING

AMANDA

Pizza's ordered.

STU

Then I shall step out back to indulge in yet another sin.

SOUND: WALKING AWAY, PACKING A PACK OF CIGARRETES

SOUND: SLIDING GLASS DOOR CLOSING

SCENE 3 - STU EXITS FOR A SMOKE

AMANDA

I ordered a two-liter of Doctor Pepper.

MAX

Thanks, that's really nice.

SOUND: SILENCE

MAX

It's already weird seeing you in a costume again. Over the last few days I'd really gotten used to seeing you in your original pieces.

AMANDA

I'll always be a cosplayer.

MAX

And don't get me wrong, that's one of the things I like about you. But I feel like recently I've finally gotten to know you, not just some cavalcade of comicbook and sci-fi characters.

AMANDA

Who could've known it takes not wearing a costume to be noticed?

MAX

(FLUSTERED)
Oh I notcied. Trust me, I noticed. I just wanted to dig a little deeper.

AMANDA

Deeper?

MAX

You were always so cocksure-

AMANDA

Cocksure?

MAX

(FLUSTERED)
You know what I mean. Just... sure of yourself. I've known since highschool that you were confident, but no one's that confident.

AMANDA

Are you saying I've got a big head?

(CONTINUED)

MAX

I'm saying you don't, but it's only recently you've been comfortable enough to show it.

AMANDA

Right, because insecurity is so attractive.

MAX

I like the real you. In fact-

SOUND: CELL PHONE TEXT ALERT

AMANDA

What?

MAX

It's Kevin.

AMANDA

No, I meant what were you going to-

MAX

(INTERRUPTING)
He wants to know if you've come up with a gimmick yet. I'll text him about you two going over it soon.

SOUND: CELL PHONE TEXT ALERT

MAX

...and he wants to know if you're having a party.

AMANDA

I guess he can come over if he wants, but I'm not having a party.

MAX

I'm a little surprised by that. I've heard some crazy stories about your holiday parties.

AMANDA

A little too crazy.

MAX

I thought crazy was your bread and butter.

AMANDA

I'm trying to go on a more wholesome meat and potatoes diet. I'm not seventeen anymore.

MAX

I know how you feel.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

You've known how I feel since freshman year. You couldn't wait to grow up, with your books in that little briefcase.

MAX

I can't believe you remember the briefcase.

AMANDA

How could I forget? We sat together during lunch on the first day of school because no one would sit with us. You with your briefcase-

MAX

(INTERRUPTING)
-and you with your ren-faire dress. I remember now. (LISTFUL) What happened?

AMANDA

The next day you had a backpack. At lunch you sat with Kevin.

MAX

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have ditched you like that,

AMANDA

No worries. It wasn't long after that my wild years started. We wouldn't have had much in common back then.

MAX

That's changed now. You've changed.

AMANDA

I'm trying. When it comes to being a goody-two-shoes I have a pretty good example in you.

MAX

Goody-two-shoes, huh?

AMANDA

Yeah.

MAX

You remember when Principle Jackson's house got egged?

AMANDA

Oh my god, that was you?

MAX

No. But I saw it happening.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

But you tried to stop them...

MAX

No...

AMANDA

Then what's the point of this story?

MAX

It's... it's about how we've changed.

AMANDA

So you would stop them if it happened now.

MAX

No... but I would tell someone who could stop them.

AMANDA

So you'd snitch.

MAX

No... well...

SOUND: DOORBELL

AMANDA

I should get that.

MAX

(AN ASIDE)
Thank god.

AMANDA

(WALKING AWAY)
What?

MAX

Nothing.

SOUND: DOOR OPENING

KIDS

(FAR AWAY)
Trick or treat!

AMANDA

(FAR AWAY, TRYING TO DO A VOICE)
Ye scallywags be wantin' some candy?

SOUND: SILENCE

KIDS
(FAR AWAY, CONFUSED WALLAH)

AMANDA
(FAR AWAY)
Nevermind. Here's your candy.

KIDS
(FAR AWAY)
Thanks!

SOUND: DOOR CLOSING

MAX
Was that supposed to be a pirate?

AMANDA
(WALKING CLOSER)
Like your impression of Stuart was any better. So where were we?

MAX
I'm pretty sure we were talking about how you've changed.

AMANDA
Yeah, that must be it. I've been trying to make myself into someone... someone that you might-

SOUND: DOORBELL

AMANDA
Seriously?

MAX
(WALKING AWAY)
I've got it.

AMANDA
(AN ASIDE)
Ridiculous.

SCENE 4 - KEVIN ENTERS

SOUND: DOOR OPENING

KEVIN
(FAR AWAY)
Trick or treat!

MAX
(FAR AWAY)
Kevin!

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

(FAR AWAY)
Oh. Hey Max.

MAX

(FAR AWAY)
How did you get here? I haven't even texted you the address yet?

AMANDA

Is that Kevin?

KEVIN

(FAR AWAY)
Hey Amanda! Wait. Is this Amanda's house?

MAX

(FAR AWAY)
Yes!

KEVIN

(FAR AWAY)
Oh, cool.

MAX

(FAR AWAY)
If you didn't know then why are you here?

KEVIN

(COMING CLOSER)
I'm trick-or-treating, duh.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSING

MAX

By all means, come right in.

AMANDA

If you're trick-or-treating shouldn't you be wearing a costume?

KEVIN

Oh yeah. I was wearing this mask, but it got hot.

AMANDA

A batman mask.

KEVIN

Yeah.

AMANDA

With an Avengers t-shirt and jeans.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

Well I had to do something to offset the DC.

AMANDA

I think you miss my point.

KEVIN

So have you decided the gimmick for next week's main event?

AMANDA

Well, I was just talking to Max, and he said-

SOUND: CELL PHONE TEXT ALERT

KEVIN

One second.

SOUND: SILENCE

KEVIN

"You can come over but there's no party." No party?

AMANDA

No party.

KEVIN

But you've got beer, right?

AMANDA

No mead.

KEVIN

I don't need protein, I want to get drunk.

AMANDA

I don't have any alcohol in the house right now.

KEVIN

I'm sorry. About that gimmick match.

AMANDA

Well I was talking to Max, and he said-

SOUND: CELL PHONE TEXT ALERT

KEVIN

One second.

SOUND: SILENCE

KEVIN

"Amanda wants to talk to you about the gimmick match."

MAX

Are you seriously just getting those now?

KEVIN

It happens. About the gimmick match.

AMANDA

I was thinking about a tables match, or maybe a cage match.

KEVIN

You're thinking along big-man lines, that's good. The problem is-

SOUND: CELL PHONE TEXT ALERT

KEVIN

One second.

SOUND: SILENCE

KEVIN

"But take your time." Well I would have to without her address, now wouldn't I?

SOUND: CELL PHONE TEXT ALERT

KEVIN

...and there's her address.

SCENE 5 - STU RE-ENTERS

SOUND: SLIDING GLASS DOOR OPENING, CLOSING

STU

Kevin! My good and dear friend.

KEVIN

Hey Stu. Max, you didn't tell me Stu was here.

MAX

Actually-

SOUND: CELL PHONE TEXT ALERT

KEVIN

One second.

(CONTINUED)

MAX

I can tell you what is says.

KEVIN

"BTW Stu is here." Now you tell me.

AMANDA

So are you going to finish your thought?

KEVIN

About what?

AMANDA

The gimmick match!

KEVIN

Oh yeah. Well, cage is out of the question. We'd have to get one custom built. And if we're going to spend that kind of money I'd rather just get a ring.

AMANDA

And tables?

KEVIN

Not a bad idea. Though I'm having hard time imagining even Menace picking up and slamming Stu through a table.

MAX

What if he threw him off a ladder?

STU

I am afraid I must object. This frame shall never rise above floor level again. Not after last time.

MAX

Oh yeah, I forgot.

KEVIN

What?

MAX

When we were playing D&D, back in highschool, Stu was roleplaying an ogre, so he got up on the chair and started growling and-

STU

(INTERRUPTING)
It was not designed to support my weight.

MAX

He fell onto the table, destroying the combat area. We had to handwave the fight.

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

Handwave?

MAX

As in "An ogre approaches." Cut to "Thank the Gods we got out of that one."

STU

And there I was, shattered plans of a Total Party Kill in shards at my feet.

MAX

Along with the shards of the chair.

STU

And the table.

AMANDA

Were you hurt?

STU

Abrasions. Minor contusions. Nothing too serious. Though to this day little Mifka's sword is missing.

AMANDA

Max, can you help me put away this comic stuff so we can sit at the table?

MAX

Sure.

AMANDA

Are you excited for your buy one get one deal?

MAX

Nervous is more like it.

AMANDA

It'll go great.

STU

I suppose our creative endeavours have ceased for the night. And you, Kevin, what are your plans on this, All Hallow's Eve?

KEVIN

Well I was trick-or-treating, but the candy this year is bullshit. The lady in the red house next door gave me a blueberry muffin.

AMANDA

Mrs. Hollis makes the best muffins.

KEVIN

Tonight, if it's not chocolate, I don't care.

STU

Indeed! Tonight is a night for merrymaking and skylarkings. For the imbibing of fermented beverages.

AMANDA

I don't have any mead.

STU

Precisely my point. I invite all present to accompany me to our local tavern, there to dance on tables until thrown forcibly out into the street.

KEVIN

I'm down.

STU

Maxwell?

MAX

Not usually my thing, but tonight that actually sounds kind of fun. What do you say, Amanda?

AMANDA

I think I'll stay here. There's more trick-or-treaters and less temptation.

STU

Then you admit it is tempting?

AMANDA

I've got some revisions to make on the third story before you can start illustrating it. I should really stay here.

STU

Very well. May your midnight oil burn bright. Come Kevin, Maxwell.

KEVIN

(WALKING AWAY)
To the Hope and Anchor!

STU

(FAR AWAY)
Anon!

SOUND: DOOR OPENING

(CONTINUED)

KEVIN

(FAR AWAY)
Later Amanda.

AMANDA

Later Kevin. Bye Stuart.

SOUND: SILENCE

AMANDA

Well. Happy Halloween.

MAX

Happy Halloween. See you Wednesday?

AMANDA

Wouldn't miss it.

KEVIN

(FAR AWAY)
Come on, Max!

MAX

(WALKING AWAY)
Coming.

SOUND: DOOR CLOSING

SOUND: SILENCE

AMANDA

(SIGHS)
Patience is a virtue, Amanda.

SOUND: SILENCE

AMANDA

Great. Now I have to eat a whole pizza.