COLD OPEN

INT. LIVING ROOM - FAMILY DINNER

THE THUNDERMAN FAMILY -- DAD, MOM, OLIVER (17), BILLY (11) AND NORA (8) -- SIT TOGETHER AT THE DINNER TABLE AS PHOEBE (14) BRINGS OUT A COVERED SERVING DISH. IT SEEMS LIKE A TYPICAL FAMILY MEAL.

PHOEBE

Dinner is served.

DAD/MOM/BILLY/NORA

All righty. / Ooh. / Yum. / Lay it on me.

MOM

It is so nice to sit down to a normal family dinner.

PHOEBE

I agree. Nora, would you roast the chicken with your eyeballs?

PHOEBE LIFTS THE COVER OFF THE SERVING DISH TO REVEAL A RAW CHICKEN.

NORA

You got it, sis.

NORA ZAPS IT WITH LASERS FROM HER EYES, COOKING IT TO A GOLDEN BROWN.

PHOEBE

Oops -- forgot forks.

PHOEBE RAISES HER FOREARM UP. SIX FORKS FLY MAGNETICALLY TO HER ARM <CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG! CLANG!>

ON OLIVER - HOLDING UP THE SODA BOTTLE.

OLIVER

We’re out of soda.
BILLY

Super speed, activate!

BILLY SUPER-DASHES OUT THE FRONT DOOR IN A BLUR. <SFX: CAR HORNS; CARS CRASHING>. HE RETURNS WITH THE SODA.

OLIVER

This is diet, dork.

BILLY

Super speed, re-activate!

BILLY STARTS DASHING OUT AGAIN WHEN DAD GRABS HIM AND LIFTS HIM UP. BILLY’S LEGS KEEP MOVING.

DAD

Whoa, whoa, slow down! Do you think for once we can just enjoy a nice, relaxing dinner without you kids using your superpowers?

PHOEBE/BILLY/NORA/OLIVER

Sure, Dad./ Sorry. / Fine. / No prob.

DAD PUTS BILLY DOWN AND IS ABOUT TO EAT.

DAD

Thank you.

DAD KNOCKS OVER HIS GLASS. UNCOMFORTABLE BEAT.

NORA

You're going to fly around the Earth and reverse time so you never spilled that, aren't you.

DAD STANDS UP.

DAD

Super suit!
HE SPINS INTO A BLUR. WHEN HE STOPS, HE’S NOW WEARING A SUPERSUIT EMBLAZONED WITH HIS THUNDER MAN LOGO.

DAD (CONT’D)

Thunder Man – AWAY!

DAD FLIES UP AND O.S. SHARDS OF PLASTER FALL IN HIS WAKE.

PHOEBE

So if Dad's reversing time, we won’t remember the next few seconds, right?

MOM

I suppose.

PHOEBE CONSIDERS FOR A MOMENT, THEN BLURTS:

PHOEBE

I ditched math to go to the mall today.

BILLY

I fart when I lie.

NORA

I punch boys I like in the face.

MOM

I’m not really blond.

OLIVER

I hate all of you.

AFTER A PAUSE, THEY HAPPILY RESUME EATING.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES
ACT ONE

INT. LIVING ROOM - NEXT AFTERNOON

NORA (8), A WISER-THAN-HER-YEARS Smarty-Pants who has little-kid likes, but a deadpan disposition, places an apple on the head of her brother BILLY, 11, an over-enthusiastic superhero geek who wears a homemade superhero outfit and can’t wait to graduate to actual superhero. He stands against the wall with the apple on his head as NORA lines up her target.

BILLY

(NERVOUS) You’ve used your laser vision to do this before, right?

NORA

Nope.

ALARMED, BILLY DIVES WAY. NORA BLASTS HER EYE-LASERS AT THE TARGET AND HITS THE WALL WHERE BILLY’S HEAD WAS.

NORA (CONT’D)

Wow, that coulda been ugly.

PHOEBE ENTERS, TALKING ON HER CELLPHONE. PHOEBE IS 14; PRETTY, FUNNY, SARCASTIC. IF SHE WEREN’T SO DISTRACTED BY THE TRAVAILS OF TEEN LIFE, SHE’D MAKE A GREAT SUPERHERO. BILLY PROUDLY RUNS UP TO HER.

PHOEBE

(ON PHONE) Okay, see you then. I can’t wait either!

SHE HANGS UP.

BILLY

(PROUD) Phoebe, check it out. It’s my new badge from the Jr. Superheroes -- for Excellence in Upper Gum Hygiene.

HE SHOWS HER THE NEW BADGE ON THE BOY SCOUTS-LIKE SASH.
NORA
Nobody cares about your stupid badges, dip-rod.

BILLY
The gum-diseased are such a bitter people.

PHOEBE
I think it’s great, Billy. Now if you’ll excuse me, I have to get ready. *
I’m going out tonight. *

BILLY
Ooh! Are you gonna stop Man-Blob’s string of frogurt store robberies?

NORA
Or freeze rats with your freeze breath?

PHOEBE
No. (EXCITED) My new friend Cherry * took a phone video of Cole Coleson running to class, and we’re going to watch his hair bounce in slow motion.

BEAT.

BILLY
And then battle Man-Blob?

PHOEBE
(WEIGHING) Let’s see. Ogle a cute boy or battle a fat guy....
SHE MIMES “WEIGHING” WITH HER HANDS. BOY WINS.

PHOEBE (CONT’D)

Ding ding!

SHE EXITS.

BILLY

I don’t get it. Phoebe was born with 12 different superpowers and she’d rather hang out with a friend than fight crime?

NORA

You don’t get it cuz you don’t have friends. Except the bacteria in your socks.

BILLY

Ha ha, very funny. (SOTTO, TO SOCKS) Don’t listen to her -- she’s jealous!

MOM, EARLY 40’S, ATHLETIC-LOOKING, BUT STILL A MOM TYPE, COMES DOWN THE STAIRS WEARING A SUPERHERO COSTUME WITH A “W” ON THE FRONT. DAD, A BARREL-CHESTED, MOCK-HEROIC TYPE (THINK PATRICK WARBURTON OR ROB RIGGLE) FOLLOWS, HOLDING TWO SUPERSUITS.

DAD

Hey, honey? What should I wear tonight? (HOLDS UP SUPERSUITS) Silver thunderbolt or the big flaming T?

MOM

That one. I sewed a girdle into it.

DAD

What? Why would you do that?
MOM

Let’s just say you’re flying a little closer to the ground these days.

DAD GOES BACK UPSTAIRS. MOM ENTERS THE LIVING ROOM AS OLIVER -- 17, WITH ANGER ISSUES -- ENTERS FROM THE KITCHEN WEARING A BLACK T-SHIRT THAT READS, “DEATH PUKE SUICIDE.”

OLIVER

Mom, seriously, you and Dad don’t have to go to the awards show. It’s gonna be lame.

MOM

Of course we’re going. It’s not every day your son’s nominated for “Most Promising Newcomer” at the Outstanding Superhero Awards.

NORA

Superhero? Him? (TO OLIVER) All he does all day is hatch evil plans for world domination in the basement.

OLIVER

(ANGRY) It’s a “lair”!

MOM

Don’t listen to her, Oliver. Everyone else in the family is very excited for you.

PHOEBE RE-ENTERS AND WALKS TOWARD THE FRONT DOOR.
PHOEBE


PHOEBE OPENS THE DOOR TO LEAVE WHEN <WAH-PSH!> -- A GOLDEN WHIP GRABS THE DOORKNOB AND SLAMS IT SHUT.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Wow, Mom. You still got game.

ON MOM - HOLDING A GOLDEN WHIP.

MOM

Phoebe, where do you think you’re going?

PHOEBE

Oh, I made this cool new friend at school and we’re hanging out at her house tonight.

MOM

Honey, I need you to babysit Billy and Nora.

PHOEBE

What? No! Mom! Can’t you get a neighbor or something?

MOM

And risk having the kids expose their powers to a non-supe? Our neighbors are supposed to think we’re a normal, average family, not Thunder Man and Whipra and their superpowered kids.
PHOEBE
Billy and Nora won’t expose us --
they’re getting really responsible!

WHIP PAN TO BILLY AND NORA AS NORA SHOOTS LASERS AT HIS FEET AND HE DODGES THEM. <ZAP! ZAP! ZAP!>

NORA
Dance! DANCE I SAY!

BILLY
Ow! Cut it out!

MOM
You were saying?

PHOEBE
Please, Mom? Cherry’s the first friend I’ve managed to make in the six months since we moved here.

DAD COMES DOWNSTAIRS, NOW WEARING HIS SUPERSUIT.

DAD
Hey, we all wanted to stay in Metroburg, but all the villains have moved here to the suburbs. Besides, these small-town folks really appreciate us superheroes. Just yesterday, I flew over this frogurt store and everyone started chanting “Thunder Man! Thunder Man!”

NORA
That’s cuz it was being robbed.

BEAT, AS DAD TAKES THIS IN.

DAD
I did not know that.
MOM

(OFF WATCH) Ooh, honey, we better go.

DAD

Right! My boy’s big night. To the Thundermobile!

DAD TIPS A BOOK FROM THE BOOKSHELF, CAUSING THE BOOKCASE TO SPIN OPEN, REVEALING TWO SHINY POLES (LIKE THE BATPOLES). DAD JUMPS ONTO THE POLE AND SLIDES O.S.

OLIVER

It's just a stupid minivan.

DAD (O.S.)

(FROM GARAGE) THUNDERMOBILE!

MOM JUMPS TO A POLE AND SLIDES DOWN. OLIVER IS ABOUT TO DO THE SAME WHEN BILLY STOPS HIM.

BILLY

Oliver? (DRAMATIC) I’m glad we’re on the same side now, brother.

OLIVER

Touch my stuff and I'll kill you.

OLIVER SLIDES DOWN THE POLE. BILLY TILTS THE BOOK AND THE BOOKSHELF SPINS SHUT, LEAVING PHOEBE WITH HER TWO SIBLINGS. PHOEBE FALLS ONTO THE COUCH, DISAPPOINTED.

PHOEBE

Uch. This is so not fair.

BILLY

I know -- I don’t need a babysitter.

Check out my “Clean Super Undies” badge.

BILLY POINTS TO ANOTHER BADGE.
NORA

(TO PHOEBE) Just sneak out, sis. I’ll keep an eye on the dork.

BILLY

Hello, I’m three years older than you!

NORA

Zip it, badge boy.

BILLY/NORA

You zip it! / No you! / You! /Don’t make me eye-laser you!

PHOEBE ROLLS HER EYES, THEN USES HER POWERS TO FLY HER CELLPHONE INTO HER HAND. SHE DIALS.

PHOEBE

(ON PHONE) Cherry? It’s me. I can’t come over tonight. I have to babysit.

CROSS-CUT WITH CHERRY IN HER BEDROOM. CHERRY (14) IS AFRICAN-AMERICAN, WITH A HYPER-COLORFUL SENSE OF STYLE.

CHERRY

That’s okay -- I love kids. I’ll come over and help.

PHOEBE LOOKS OVER AT NORA SHOOTING LASER-EYES AT BILLY, WHO’S DODGING AT SUPER-SPEED.

PHOEBE

What? Come here? You can’t! Our... toilet’s broken!

CHERRY

(DUBIOUS) Oh, it’s the toilet this time, huh?
PHOEBE
Yeah. It’s baaaad. (COVERS MOUTH TO EFFECT VOICE) I’m wearing a gas mask.

CHERRY
Phoebe, do you realize I’ve known you for 6 months and I’ve still never been to your house?

PHOEBE
Which, by the way, is on fire!

CHERRY
Nice try. See you at 7.

CHERRY HANGS UP.

PHOEBE
Wait, don’t hang up--! (MORTIFIED) Cherry’s coming over.

BILLY
What? No non-supes in the house is Dad’s number-one rule!

NORA
What if we slip up and use our powers?

BILLY
She’ll know we’re a superhero family, and tell everyone, and Mom and Dad’ll be kicked out of the League of Heroes for exposing their true identities!
PHOEBE

Worse! Do you know what it’ll do to * my social life if the kids at school * find out I have superpowers?
PUSH IN ON PHOEBE’S STRICKEN FACE. *

WAVY TRANSITION:

NIGHTMARE MONTAGE:

NIGHTMARE #1: EXT. SCHOOL CAMPUS – DAY

PHOEBE SHYLY ASKS OUT A CUTE BOY.

PHOEBE (CONT’D)

So if you weren’t doing anything

tonight, I was kinda wondering...

THE CUTE BOY COWERS IN FEAR.

CUTE BOY

Yes, I’ll go out with you! Whatever

you want! Just please don’t hurt me!

NIGHTMARE #2: INT. GYM – DAY

CLOSE ON PHOEBE IN A CHEERLEADER OUTFIT.

PHOEBE

Honestly, guys -- is this the only

reason I made cheerleader?

PULL BACK TO REVEAL THAT SHE’S HOLDING UP 6 OTHER GIRLS.

CHEERLEADERS

What? / No! /How could you think that?

NIGHTMARE #3: INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY – DAY

A BULLY STEPS UP TO PHOEBE AS SHE’S WALKING DOWN THE HALL.
Hey, super freak. Is it true your only weakness is tuna breath?  <BELCH!>

HE BURPS IN HER FACE. PHOEBE WAVES THE STENCH AWAY AS THE SURROUNDING STUDENTS LAUGH AND START RAZZING HER.

STUDENTS

(DERISIVE CHANTING) Su-per freak!  
Su-per freak!  Su-per freak!

END OF NIGHTMARE.

WAVY TRANSITION:

NORA TAKES UP THE CHANTING.

NORA

Su-per freak!  Su-per freak!

PHOEBE SHOOTS HER A LOOK.

NORA (CONT'D)

(SHRUGS) Sorry, it’s catchy.

PHOEBE

I can’t be the new kid AND the school freak!  (STRICT) Promise me you won’t let Cherry catch you using powers so she won’t go viral with it.

BILLY/NORA

(UNISON) We promise.

WE HEAR <ICE CREAM TRUCK MUSIC> OUTSIDE. BILLY REACTS.

BILLY

Ice cream truck!  Ice cream truck!

AN EXCITED BILLY SUPER-SPEEDS AROUND THE ROOM UNTIL BANGING <BAM!> INTO A WALL AND FALLING DOWN.
NORA

You know, many super freaks go on to lead rich, fulfilling lives.

CUT TO:
INT. AWARDS HALL – HALF-HOUR LATER

MOM AND DAD WALK INTO THE AWARDS BANQUET IN THEIR SUPERHERO COSTUMES, FOLLOWED BY OLIVER. ALL THE TABLES HAVE TABLECLOTHS, FLORAL CENTERPIECES AND A NUMBER.

OLIVER

See? Just a lame awards show. You guys should go.

MOM

(PROUDLY) Don’t be so modest, “Mr. Nominee.”

DAD

Yeah, come on, son. Let’s see which of your ol’ Dad’s super buddies they have us sitting with. Ah, here we are...Table 31.

PAN AROUND TABLE TO SEE AN ARRAY OF 3 ARCHETYPAL SCI-FI VILLAINS: A LAB-COATED BALD GUY WITH A SCAR AND GOGGLES (DR. COLOSSUS); A VAMPIRA-TYPE WOMAN WEARING A BLACK, WEB-LIKE EVENING GOWN (MADAME WEB), AND A LIZARD MAN (SCALE-STRO) LIKE THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON, BUT WEARING A TUX.

DAD (CONT’D)

Dr. Colossus? Madame Web? Scale-stro! It’s a set-up!

DAD ASSUMES A SERIES OF FIGHTING POSES -- TO NO REACTION.

MADAME WEB

Relax, Thunder Man. We’re off duty.

DR. COLOSSUS

Yes, we always take a break from Evil for the Supervillain Awards.
MOM

Super Villain Awards?

OLIVER

Well, gotta go!

DAD GRABS HIS ARM HIS AND STOPS HIM.

DAD

(STERNLY) Son? What's going on.

MOM

Oliver, if this is a joke, it's not funny.

OLIVER SIGHS AND ADMITS THE TRUTH.

OLIVER

Okay, here's the deal. I was sorta nominated for a Supervillain Award. I just told you it was a Superhero Award so you wouldn't be disappointed.

DR. COLOSSUS

Thunder Man's son is a villain? Oh, the irony is too delicious.

DAD

My boy's not a villain!

SCALE-STRO

Looks like "denial" isn't just a river I mutated from.

THE VILLAINS CACKLE MISCHIEVOUSLY.

MOM

That's it. We're leaving.
MOM AND DAD GRAB OLIVER TO LEAVE. OLIVER PULLS HIS ARM AWAY.

MOM (CONT’D)

Oliver, are you coming or not?

OLIVER

No. I’m staying. I’m an evil genius. I know you guys were hoping I’d grow out of it, but this is who I am.

MOM

Well, we’re certainly not going to stay here and support your being a supervillain.

DAD AND MOM TURN TO LEAVE. OLIVER WATCHES DEJECTEDLY AS THEY WALK AWAY.

DR. COLOSSUS

Ta ta, Thunder Man! Oh, and nice bit of work against Destructicon last month.

DAD STOPS AND TURNS BACK.

DAD

Oh, you heard about that?

MOM

Honey, please...

DAD

Bet you didn’t know I had a herniated disk that day.

DR. COLOSSUS

Is that a fact?
DAD

Oh yeah. I was all doped-up on super-aspirin. 'Course, I couldn't let Destructicon know that. (TURNS TO MOM)
Honey, we can stay for a little while, can't we?

DAD SITS IN AN EMPTY SEAT NEXT TO DR. COLOSSUS.

DAD (CONT'D)
(To DR. COLOSSUS) So anyway, there I am, hanging by my super-fingers from the 53rd floor of the Metro Building...

MOM SIGHS AND SITS DOWN NEXT TO DAD. OLIVER SITS DOWN NEXT TO MOM AND GIVES HER AN UNCOMFORTABLE SMILE.

CUT TO:
INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT EVENING

THERE’S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR. PHOEBE GOES TO GET IT AS BILLY AND NORA STAND BY.

PHOEBE

She’s here. Remember - no superpowers.

BILLY

Right. Ooh, better take off my cape.

NORA

Please. The only superhero she’d suspect you of being is the “Doy” Wonder.

PHOEBE OPENS IT AND WE SEE CHERRY (14) IN THE DOORWAY. SHE’S BIG AND HIGH-ENERGY AND CLEARLY COMFORTABLE WITH ATTENTION.

PHOEBE/CHERRY

Hiii! / Hey girl!

THEY HUG. CHERRY LOOKS AROUND MOCK-SUSPICIOUSLY.

CHERRY

No weird smells. No slime oozing from the walls. I give up -- why have you been keeping me away from your house?

PHOEBE

What? Don’t be silly! Like I said, we’ve been painting.

CHERRY

You said it was the toilet.

PHOEBE

We’ve been painting the toilet.

BILLY COMES UP AND STARTS SCANNING HER WITH A METAL DETECTOR.
CHERRY

Well, hello there. You must be Billy! (TO PHOEBE) Why is he scanning my leg? *

BILLY

Relax, ma’am. Just a routine security check of your person to make sure you’re not a supervil--

PHOEBE

(CUTTING HIM OFF) Billy! Ha ha. He was just leaving.

PHOEBE GRABS HIM AND DRAGS HIM TOWARD THE PATIO DOORS. *

BILLY

(STRUGGLING) Hey leggo! You’re stretching my super cape!

PHOEBE TOSSES HIM OUT ON THE PATIO, THEN CLOSES THE DOOR.

NORA PLOPS DOWN NEXT TO CHERRY LIKE ONE OF THE GIRLS. *

NORA

Phew! Glad we got rid of the boy germs, am I right, ladies? Now, let’s get into it: Closed-mouth smooching on the first date -- thoughts? *

PHOEBE STARTS GUIDING NORA OUT, TOO. *

NORA (CONT’D)

What are you doing? I’m not like Super Dork! I wanna hang with you guys! *

PHOEBE PUSHES NORA OUT THE PATIO DOORS AND <SLAMS> THE DOOR.

CUT TO:
EXT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

BILLY SPEAKS INTO HIS DIGITAL RECORDER “LOG” AS HE PATROLS THE BACKYARD. A DISGRUNTLED NORA TAGS ALONG.

BILLY

<CLICKS RECORDER> 7:18 P.M. Billy Thunderman, Junior Superhero, patrolling the area. <CLICK>

NORA

Can you believe Phoebe? Kicking us out of our own living room? I mean you I get, but I’m cool!

WE HEAR A TWIG <SNAP>.

BILLY

Ssh. What was that?

NORA

What?

THEY LOOK OVER AND SEE A DWP GUY CHECKING THE GAS METER. THEY DUCK BEHIND A TREE.

BILLY

A shadowy figure with nefarious intent! Back me up.

HE GIVES HER HIS TAPE RECORDER AND EXITS.

NORA

<CLICKS RECORDER> 7:19 pm. If Billy dies, I get his room. <CLICK>

ON DWP GUY - TURNING AWAY FROM THE GAS METER.

BILLY

Going somewhere?
ON BILLY – HOLDING A COIL OF GARDEN HOSE.

DWP WORKER

Oh, hey kid. Just checking your gas meter.

BILLY

I see. Well, that sounds perfectly reasonab-- HAVE AT YOU!

BILLY GOES INTO “BLUR” MODE, WRAPPING THE HOSE AROUND THE DWP GUY, WHO’S NOW TIED UP ON THE GROUND.

BILLY (CONT’D)

Come on, Nora! Let’s go see who this guy really is.

BILLY DRAGS THE CONFUSED DWP GUY AWAY BY HIS HOSE-BOUND FEET.

NORA

Billy, are you nuts? You can’t drag a tied-up stranger into the house!

(THEN:) You have to gag him first!

SHE RUNS AFTER THEM.

CUT TO:
INT. AWARDS HALL - CONTINUOUS

THE AWARDS HOST OPENS AN ENVELOPE.

AWARD HOST

And the award for Best Threat to World Peace goes to...(READS ENVELOPE)

Strongdar the Invincible!

<AUDIENCE APPLAUSE>. STRONGDAR, WHO LOOKS LIKE A VIKING, COMES BOUNCING UP TO THE STAGE.

ON OLIVER’S TABLE - AS DAD, MOM AND OLIVER WATCH THE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, MADAME WEB SHARES A THOUGHT WITH MOM.

MADAME WEB

(TO MOM) Your son is very lucky to have such supportive parents.

MOM

(UNCOMFORTABLE) Oh. Uh, thank you.

DR. COLOSSUS

Yes, my parents never supported me, and now we don’t speak.

MOM LOOKS A LITTLE GUILTY. SHE GLANCES AT OLIVER.

MOM

I suppose it's never too late to make things right between family.

DR. COLOSSUS

It is for me. I froze my parents in carbonite and blasted them into deep space.

RESUME: STAGE. STRONGDAR IS STILL ACCEPTING HIS AWARD.
STRONGDAR

I’d also like to thank my manager,

Shelley Koch, and all the folks at--

THE CEREMONY’S **BAND STARTS PLAYING.**

STRONGDAR (CONT’D)

I’m not finished! **NOBODY PLAYS OFF**

STRONGDAR! (WAR CRY) RAAAGH!

HE PULLS OUT HIS MASSIVE **WAR HAMMER** THREATENINGLY.

* 

CUT TO:
INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PHOEBE AND CHERRY ARE WATCHING CHERRY’S CELLPHONE VIDEO OF COLE COLESON’S HAIR. THEY’RE DREAMY-EYED.

CHERRY

Cole Coleson’s hair is amazing.

PHOEBE

I think I want to marry it.

CHERRY

I want to stuff my pillow with it. *

PHOEBE

I want to reduce myself to 100th my normal size and live in it.

CHERRY

I want to name my first child “Cole Coleson’s Hair.” *

PHOEBE

You know how it’s gross when there’s a hair in your soup? I would like to have a soup just made of Cole Coleson’s hair.

PAUSE

PHOEBE/CHERRY

(dreamy sigh)

CHERRY

It’s too bad he’s so stupid.

PHOEBE

God, he’s stupid.

PHOEBE STARTS GETTING UP.
PHOEBE (CONT'D)

I guess I’d better check on my sibs.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Nahh, they’re fine. How much trouble

can they get into in the backyard?

PHOEBE PONDERs THIS, AGREES, AND SITS BACK DOWN.

CUT TO:
INT. BASEMENT / OLIVER'S "LAIR" - CONTINUOUS

WE'RE IN OLIVER'S ROOM -- A SUPERVILLAIN-ISH LAIR FILLED WITH X-RAY EQUIPMENT, LASER GUNS, MAPS, BEAKERS OF CHEMICALS, ETC. BILLY HAS THE DWP GUY STRAPPED IN A CHAIR. NORA LOOKS ON.

DWP WORKER

Kids, how many times do I have to tell you - I'm the meter man!

NORA

Meter Man...or METEOR Man!?

BILLY AND NORA NOD AT EACH OTHER.

DWP WORKER

Look, can you just call your Mom and Dad?

BILLY

No way - this is MY bust! Now let’s check your story with Oliver’s lie detector.

HE RETRIEVES A METAL BOX WITH ELECTRODES AND DIALS.

DWP WORKER

Lie detector? So why does it say, * "Press Here to Destroy Cleveland"?

NORA

We ask the questions here, buddy!

NORA TIGHTENS HIS STRAPS. BILLY LICKS A SUCTION CUP AT THE END OF A WIRE, <STICKS> IT ON THE GUY’S HEAD AND STARTS THE INTERROGATION.

BILLY

Now...who do you work for?
I told you. The gas company.

Billy pushes a button on the machine and watches as the needle goes into the red. The machine starts <beping>.

Billy

He’s lying! Or I just destroyed Cleveland.

Nora

Maybe a blast from Oliver's Backhair-O-Lyzer will make this birdie sing.

Nora retrieves a blaster labeled "Backhair-O-Lyzer."

Billy

Cool! Hand it over.

Nora

I wanna do it.

Billy

No way! I caught him -- I get to threaten him with backhair!

Nora

It was my idea!

They struggle over the blaster.

Billy/Nora

Leggo! / You leggo! / Nora!

On their struggle, we...

Cut to:
INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Billy and Nora bust into the living room.

Nora

You want the Backhair-O-Lyzer? HERE!

Nora <Blasts> at the pursuing Billy, who dodges the shot.

On Phoebe and Cherry - they stand up, startled.

Phoebe

Whoa! What’s going on?!

Billy hides behind Cherry.

Billy

Hide me!

Cherry

What?

Nora blasts at Billy, narrowly missing Cherry, who <screams>.

Phoebe

You guys! Stop it right now!

Billy

Missed me!

Nora keeps chasing Billy and blasting wildly.

On Phoebe - she raises her forearm and magnetizes the backhair-O-Lyzer to her arm with a <clang>. Then she points * her fingers at Billy and Nora and raises them up in the air, stranding them.

Cherry

(re: Phoebe) O...M...G.

Phoebe <gulps>, realizing Cherry saw her use her powers.

Fade out.

End of Act 1
ACT 2

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BILLY AND NORA ARE STILL SUSPENDED IN MID-AIR.

CHERRY

You have superpowers.

PHOEBE

No, I don’t.

CHERRY

You just used them!

PHOEBE

No, I didn’t.

CHERRY

Your siblings are floating in mid-air!

PHOEBE

No, they’re not.

PHOEBE SURREPTITIOUSLY WAVES HER HAND AT BILLY AND NORA, CAUSING THEM TO FALL WITH A <THUD>.

BILLY/NORA

(IMPACT) Oof!

CHERRY

Phoebe, I know what I saw. You have some sort of weird, amazing superpowers like Thunder Man and stuff!

PHOEBE

* Cherry, there happens to be a very simple explanation for their floating. And the explanation is...uh...
PHOEBE LOOKS NERVOUS, THEN SUDDENLY <BLOWS> ON CHERRY, FREEZING HER. (NOTE: THE BREATHE SHOULD LOOK WHITE TO SUGGEST ICE-COLD.)

NORA
You froze your friend. *

PHOEBE
I know I froze my friend! I can’t believe you guys made me use my powers! Now Cherry’s going to tell everyone at school about us and I’ll be the Phoebie the Freak!

BILLY
Hey, that would be a cool superhero name for you!

SHE SHOOTS BILLY A LOOK. *

BILLY (CONT'D)
(AFRAID) Don’t freeze me! *

NORA
Sis, I am so sorry about all of this. *

(CASUAL) Well, good luck with everything.

NORA AND BILLY START WALKING AWAY.

PHOEBE
STOP! You two are gonna help me fix this.

NORA
Why? Looks fixed to me. *
PHOEBE

Eventually I’ll have to un-freeze her. *

NORA

Or WILL you. *

PHOEBE

Yes! And you’ll have to help me
convince her that there’s some other
explanation for what she saw.

BILLY/NORA

Sounds boring. / Yeah, pass.

THEY START WALKING AWAY.

PHOEBE

If you don’t, I'll fill your pockets
with bacon bits and suspend you over
the dingo pit at the zoo.

THEY STOP AND RETURN.

BILLY

Let’s get to work!

NORA

Born to help - that’s us!

CUT TO:
INT. AWARDS HALL - CONTINUOUS

THE AUDIENCE APPLAUDS AS A VILLAIN WALKS OFF WITH HIS AWARD.

   HOST

   And now, let’s take a moment to
   remember all the diabolical madmen and
   women we lost this year.

PUSH IN TO ONSTAGE SLIDE SHOW.

ON SCREEN: “IN MEMORIAM.” MUSIC: “LOVE LIFTS US UP WHERE WE
BELONG” PLAYS.

SLIDE #1 - “EVIL CLONE LINCOLN” - ABE LINCOLN IN A NEHRU
JACKET, PENCIL MOUSTACHE AND GOATEE, PETTING A CAT.

SLIDE #2 - “THE GREAT BIG EYE” - A GIANT EYEBALL.

SLIDE #3 - “PROFESSOR BANANAS” - A MUGSHOT OF A GORILLA IN A
LAB COAT AND GLASSES.

ON DAD - LEANING OVER TO MOM.

   DAD

   Now he was the total package.

SLIDE #4 - “MICHAEL DAVIDSON” - A PLEASANT-LOOKING GUY WAVING
AT CAMERA.

AUDIENCE APPLAUSE> THE LIGHTS RISE AGAIN AS THE HOST
RESUMES.

   HOST

   Their treachery will be missed. And
   now the nominees for “Most Promising
   Newcomer.”

ON OLIVER’S TABLE - MOM AND DAD EACH TOUCH OLIVER’S SHOULDER
SUPPORTIVELY.

   DAD

   Ooh, this is your category!
MOM

Good luck, honey.

OLIVER

You mean it, Mom?

MOM

Of course. Evil science is what you do.

OLIVER IS TOUCHED BY MOM’S APPROVAL.

RESUME: ON STAGE.

HOST

And the winner is--

HE STARTS OPENING THE ENVELOPE.

ON OLIVER’S TABLE – AS DR. COLOSSUS TAKES A SIP FROM SCALESTRO’S WATER GLASS.

SCALESTRO

That's my water.

DR. COLOSSUS

No, it’s not.

SCALESTRO

(HISSING IN ANGER) Yesss it is! I ssspecifically asked for lemon!

DR. COLOSSUS

And I need to drink 8 glasses of water a day.

SCALESTRO

Oh? Then have ALL the water!

SCALESTRO DUMPS A WATER PITCHER ON DR. COLOSSUS’S CHEST. THEY STAND UP AND FACE OFF TO FIGHT.
DR. COLOSSUS/SCALESTRO

You’ll pay for that! / Who’s gonna make me?

ANOTHER VILLAIN STEPS IN TO STOP THEM.

VILLAIN #1

Break it up, you two.

VILLAIN #2

No! Let ‘em fight!

NOW THOSE TWO VILLAINS START FIGHTING. SOON, THE WHOLE PLACE ERUPTS IN A BRAWL.

ON HOST – HE DUCKS AS A CHAIR COMES FLYING OVER HIS HEAD, THEN RUNS OS.

ON MOM AND DAD – MADAME WEB LEANS OVER TO THE ALARMED MOM AND DAD.

MADAME WEB

I don’t know why we have these.

CUT TO:
INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

PHOEBE TALKS TO BILLY AND NORA AS CHERRY REMAINS FROZEN.

PHOEBE
Okay, so we’re all clear on the story?
Remember, if you get confused, just
follow my lead.

PHOEBE <BLOWS> HOT BREATH ON CHERRY, UNFREEZING HER.

CHERRY
So? I’m waiting. How do you explain
those kids rising up into the air?

PHOEBE
Simple. They happen to have been
rehearsing for the new sci-fi musical
they’re doing at theater camp, called,

uh... (LOOKS TO BILLY TO SAVE HER)

BILLY
Uhhh....“Forbidden Space Squids”!

Wires UP!

BILLY CLICKS A HAND-REMOTE AND THEY’RE LIFTED INTO THE AIR BY
VERY VISIBLE WIRES.

NORA
I’ll get you, alien squid!

BILLY
Never, evil overlord!

BILLY/NORA
(FLYING/SINGING) “Oh, why can’t squids
and overlords be friends?”
THEY FLY AROUND IN A CIRCLE A WHILE BEFORE BILLY CLICKS THE REMOTE AND THEY GENTLY DESCEND.

PHOEBE
There. Now don’t you feel silly after hearing that completely reasonable explanation?

CHERRY
I...guess so. Plus I’m sure you would have told your new best friend if you had superpowers, right?

PHOEBE
I sure might. Now let’s never mention this again.

CHERRY
Sounds good. Can I have some tea? For some reason I’m freezing.

BILLY
I’m on it!

BILLY SUPER-DASHES OUT THE FRONT DOOR IN A BLUR. <SFX: CAR HORNS; CARS CRASHING> AND RETURNS WITH A STEAMING CUP OF TEA.

CHERRY
Whoa whoa whoa! How did he do that so fast? (GASP) Unless HE has super-- *

PHOEBE BLOWS ON CHERRY AGAIN, RE-FREEZING HER.

NORA
She was gonna say “powers.”

PHOEBE SHOOTS NORA A LOOK.

CUT TO:
INT. AWARDS HALL - CONTINUOUS

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE SUPERVILLAIN AWARDS, THE VILLAINS BATTLE AWAY AS DAD, MOM AND OLIVER STAND WATCHING.

SUPERVILLAINS

(fighting walla)

MOM

What a disgrace.

DAD

I know. Now we’ll never know if

Oliver won.

MOM

Yeah, not quite what I meant. Come

on, let’s go home.

MOM AND DAD START TO LEAVE, BUT THEY SEE OLIVER LOOKS BUMMED.

DAD

Honey, can’t you...you know?

MOM

(RELENTING SIGH) Hand me my purse.

DAD HANDS MOM HER PURSE. SHE TAKES OUT A TINY GOLD WHIP. SHE SWINGS THE WHIP AROUND HER HEAD AND DOES HER WAR-CRY.

MOM (CONT’D)

(superhero war cry)

SHE LAUNCHES THE WHIP.

ON TROPHY - WHERE IT STANDS IN THE PODIUM ONSTAGE. THE WHIP LASSES IT AND YANKS IT O.S.

RESUME ON MOM, DAD AND OLIVER AS MOM PULLS IN THE TROPHY AND THEY ALL LOOK AT THE ENGRAVED PLAQUE.
OLIVER

(Reading) “Most Promising Supervillain, Oliver Thunderman.” I won!

DAD

That’s my boy!

DAD HUGS HIM PROUDLY. HE LOOKS UP AT HIS WIFE.

DAD (CONT'D)

Honey? Thunder hug?

MOM RELENTS AND JOINS THE HUG.

CUT TO:
INT. LIVING ROOM – MOMENTS LATER

PHOEBE, BILLY AND NORA STAND NEAR THE RE-FROZEN CHERRY.

PHOEBE

Okay, let’s try this again.

PHOEBE BLOW-MELTS CHERRY, WHO RESUMES WHERE SHE LEFT OFF.

CHERRY

(FROM WHERE SHE LEFT OFF) --powers!

PHOEBE

It sure seems that way. Our little magician is pretty good, huh?

CHERRY

Magician?

BILLY PULLS SOME FLOWERS OUT OF HIS SLEEVE.

BILLY

TA-DAA!

PHOEBE

Tell her how you did it, Billy.

BILLY

Easy! I just hid the tea outside the front door while you weren’t looking.

CHERRY

Uh uh. No way. You went crazy fast. I saw a blur.

PHOEBE

You mean a blur painting.

ON NORA – DRESSED IN A SMOCK AND BERET, HOLDING A PAINTBRUSH. THERE’S AN EASEL IN FRONT OF HER WITH A PAINTING OF A BLUR.
(FRENCH ACCENT) To paint eez to live!

PHOEBE

Honestly, the shenanigans of these two.

CHERRY

Phoebe, do you think I’m an idiot?

BEAT OF SUSPENSE -- IT SEEMS LIKE CHERRY’S NOT BUYING IT.

CHERRY (CONT’D)

I knew it was a magic trick all along!

PHOEBE BREATHE S A SIGH OF RELIEF.

PHOEBE

Good. Now can we finally put this whole “Phoebe’s family has superpowers” idea behind us?

JUST THEN, A FLY <BUZZES> PAST BILLY’S FACE.

BILLY

Buzz off, you stupid fly.

NORA

I’ll get him.

NORA SHOOTS HER EYE-LASERS AT THE FLY, <ZAPPING> IT DEAD.

CHERRY

(GASP!) She-- she has laser--

PHOEBE BLOW-FREEZES CHERRY AGAIN.

BILLY

She was gonna say “eyes.”

CUT TO:
INT. FAMILY CAR - CONTINUOUS

DAD, MOM AND OLIVER ARE DRIVING HOME FROM THE AWARDS DINNER. DAD DRIVES. MOM SITS IN THE PASSENGER SEAT.

DAD

You know, I hate to admit it, but that was kind of fun.

MOM

It was good to see some of the old faces.

DAD

Yeah. Boy, the Angry Kaiser really let himself go.

HE AND MOM SHARE A CHUCKLE. MOM LOOKS BACK TO THE BACK SEAT, WHERE HE SITS NEXT TO OLIVER.

MOM

Scale-stro? Is there someplace in particular you’d like us to drop you?

SCALE-STRO LEANS INTO SHOT FROM THE BACKSEAT.

SCALE-STRO

(Dripping evil) Anywhere in Burbank isss fine.

CUT TO:
INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

PHOEBE USES A POINTER AND A WHITEBOARD FILLED WITH COMPLICATED DIAGRAMS AS SHE TRIES TO EXPLAIN NORA’S EYE-LASERS TO THE NOW-UNFROZEN CHERRY.

PHOEBE

So you see, every summer solstice, excessive gamma rays secrete through the mesosphere and irradiate our track lighting, giving Nora the illusion of laser vision, resulting in--

PHOEBE STOPS. SHE LOOKS UNCOMFORTABLE.

PHOEBE (CONT’D)
I’m sorry. I can’t do this. I can’t lie to my best friend. (TO BILLY AND NORA) Guys, will you excuse us?

WIDEN OUT TO BILLY AND NORA - WHO ARE BOUND AND GAGGED SO THEY CAN’T SCREW UP ANYMORE.

BILLY

(indecipherable)

PHOEBE

Oh right. Untie you.

SHE UNGAGS AND UNBINDS THEM. THEY EXIT.

CHERRY

All right, Phoebe, what is going on?

PHOEBE

Look, Cherry. I’m about to tell you something you can never share with another living soul. Can you handle that?
CHERRY

Phoebe, I’m your friend. You can trust me.

PHOEBE

Okay, here we go. (DEEP BREATH) My Dad is Thunder Man, my Mom is Whipra, and my brother, sister and I all have superpowers.

CHERRY NODS THOUGHTFULLY, THEN SUDDENLY GETS HYPER-EXCITED.

CHERRY

(CALM) I see. (THEN:) WHERE’S MY PHONE? WHERE’S MY PHONE?

SHE FINDS HER CELLPHONE AND STARTS TEXTING ON IT.

PHOEBE

What are you doing?!

CHERRY

How many h’s in “Whipra”?

PHOEBE

Cherry!

PHOEBE HOLDS UP HER ARM AND MAGNETIZES CHERRY’S CELLPHONE TO IT WITH A <CLANG>.

CHERRY

Hey!

PHOEBE

You promised!

CHERRY

Girl, did you buy a one-way ticket to Crazytown?

(MORE)
This will make you the most popular girl in school! And isn’t that what high school is all about?

PHOEBE
I thought it was about becoming a smart, well-rounded citizen.

CHERRY
No, they just say that to the unpopular kids so they don’t feel bad. Now let’s get textin’!

CHERRY GRABS HER PHONE BACK.

PHOEBE
Cherry? Cherry? First, I need to tell you a little story.

CHERRY LOOKS UP.

CHERRY
Okay, but will it take long? I have a lot of texting to do.

PHOEBE
...a story about a little girl who felt different from every other kid growing up. Then she moved and went to a new school and met someone who was funny and cool and seemed to like this girl for who she was.
CHERRY

This story’s about you and me, isn’t it.

PHOEBE

No, I saw it on a sitcom. How cheesy do you think I am? But it might as well be us. Cherry, being your friend makes me feel like a normal girl, not some superpowered weirdo. Maybe I’ll tell people about my powers someday, but right now I just want to be a normal teenager. Does that make sense?

CHERRY TAKES THIS IN FOR A MOMENT, THEN PUTS THE PHONE DOWN.

CHERRY

I get it. (SIGHS) And I swear I won’t tell anyone. (OFF PHOEBE’S UNSURE LOOK) I swear on Cole Coleson’s hair.

PHOEBE

And you don’t think I’m a freak?

CHERRY

Oh, I’ve always thought that. Now you have an excuse. (BEAT) I’m kidding. Seriously, superpowers or no superpowers, I think I have the coolest friend in the world.

PHOEBE

You mean it?
THEY HUG. PHOEBE EXHALES HUGELY.

PHOEBE (CONT'D)

Wow. It feels so good to finally tell someone!

CHERRY

Imagine how good it would feel to tell LOTS of someones. (OFF PHOEBE’S LOOK:)
Kidding again!

SUDDENLY, WE HEAR MOM AND DAD’S CAR <PULL UP>.

PHOEBE

My Mom and Dad. You have to go!

PHOEBE STARTS HUSTLING HER TOWARDS THE PATIO DOORS.

CHERRY

But I just got here a few minutes ago.

PHOEBE

Actually you were frozen for 2 hours.

CHERRY

Oh right. (THEN:) Wait, what?

PHOEBE

I’ll explain tomorrow. Go out the back gate - bye!

PHOEBE USHERS CHERRY OUT THE BACK PATIO DOOR.

ON BOOKCASE - IT SLIDES OPEN, REVEALING DAD AND MOM ON THE BATPOLES.

DAD

Thundermans, back in casa!

THEY WALK IN. OLIVER SLIDES UP THE BATPOLE AND FOLLOWS THEM INSIDE.
BILLY AND NORA ENTER EXCITEDLY. BILLY SEES OLIVER’S AWARD.

BILLY
Sweet -- Oliver won his superhero *
award!

MOM
Actually, it’s a super-villain award.

BILLY
What?

DAD *
Yeah.

PHOEBE *
Duh.

NORA
Toldja.

BILLY APPROACHES OLIVER.

BILLY
(DRAMATIC, TO OLIVER) Well, brother. It seems we’re once again locked in
the eternal dance of good and evil.

OLIVER
Bite me.

OLIVER BRUSHES PAST HIM AND INTO THE KITCHEN.

MOM
Thanks for babysitting, honey. I’m sorry you had to cancel your plans.
PHOEBE

No problem, Mom. And actually? It
turned out to be a pretty good night.

SUDDENLY, CHERRY RE-ENTERS FROM THE PATIO DOORS. SHE PICKS
UP HER PURSE FROM THE LIVING-ROOM TABLE.

CHERRY

Forgot my purse. (TO MOM AND DAD)

‘Night, Thunder Man. ‘Night, Whipra.

CHERRY EXITS. THERE’S A LONG DEADLY SILENCE, THEN:

BILLY          NORA

It’s our fault. We were         Phoebe didn’t do a thing.
fooling around as usual and      Billy and I were being
using our powers--               completely irresponsible--

<WHIPCRACK!> – AS MOM CRACKS HER WHIP, SHUTTING THE KIDS UP.

MOM

I’d like to hear from Phoebe.

PHOEBE

(TO BILLY AND NORA) Thanks anyway, *

DAD

(ANGRY) You told a non-supe?

PHOEBE

I told my best friend. I couldn’t lie
to her anymore. So I broke the rules
and I let you down. (BEAT) But you
know what? I’m glad I told her.

(MORE)
Because tonight I learned that a real friend will accept you no matter how magnetic you are, or how freakishly strong, or how cold you can make your breath...

BILLY
Negative 80 degrees centigrade! You shoulda seen it! It was this awesome, frosty--

NORA
Billy!

BILLY
Zipping it.

PHOEBE
Anyway... Dad, if you want to reverse time so it never happened, I’ll understand.

DAD
You’re darn right I’m gonna!

DAD READIES TO BLAST OFF LIKE IN THE COLD OPEN.

MOM
No, you’re not.

DAD
I’m not?
MOM

Being a teenager is hard enough with having to keep a huge secret from your best friend.

PHOEBE

(TAKEN ABACK) What? You mean it, Mom?

DAD

(CONFUSED) Yeah, you mean it?

MOM

A wise woman reminded me tonight how important it is to support your children, so... yeah, I mean it.

PHOEBE

(HAPPY) Omigod, Mom, you’re the best.*

PHOEBE HUGS HER MOM.

MOM

(MID-HUG) Of course, she was part spider and wanted in 50 states...

PHOEBE AND MOM FINISH THEIR HUG AS BILLY AND NORA RUN UP.

BILLY

So can we tell people, too?

NORA

Yeah, we’re trustworthy too, you know!

OLIVER (O.S.)

(YELLING UP) WHY IS THERE A METER MAN TIED UP IN MY LAIR?!

A BUSTED BILLY AND NORA LOOKS AT EACH OTHER.
NORA

Never mind.

BILLY

Forget we mentioned it.

THEY ZOOM UPSTAIRS, WITH BILLY USING **SUPER-SPEED**.

ON MOM AND DAD – AS THEY LOOK AT PHOEBE, WHO SHRUGS.

FADE OUT.
EXT. FRONT DOOR - LATER THAT NIGHT - TAG

DAD -- BACK IN REGULAR CLOTHES -- IS AT THE FRONT DOORWAY APOLOGIZING TO THE DWP GUY, WHO HOLDS HIS BAG OF TOOLS.

DAD

Thanks again for being so understanding.

DWP GUY

Don’t worry about it. I got two kids of my own at home. G’night.

DAD

G’night now.

AS THE FRONT DOOR SHUTS BEHIND HIM, THE DWP GUY PULLS OLIVER’S LIE DETECTOR.

DWP GUY

A good night, indeed, sir. For now, I, Meteor Man, shall destroy Cleveland once and for all! AH HA HA HA HA HA!

HE <BLASTS> INTO THE SKY, TRAILING FLAMES LIKE A METEOR, HIS LAUGHTER ECHOING IN THE DARKNESS.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE