

Evil Comes Parcel Post

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01 EXT Wide shot of single story house with street in front

01

A large delivery truck pulls up in front of an average home in the suburbs.

Camera follows DELIVERY GUY as he exits the truck and knocks on the door. Camera is tight on the doorway. An older woman in a housecoat opens the door.

DELIVERY GUY

Afternoon, I have a package for "Mammon."

HAROLD'S MOTHER

There's no "Mammon" here.

(contemplative pause)

Oh, wait.

HAROLD!

Harold, are you a Super Villain again?

HAROLD/MAMMON

(voice o.c.)

Mom?

What are you doing here?

You're supposed to be at work?

HAROLD'S MOTHER

I wasn't feeling well so I took the day off.

Is this for you?

What is "Mammon" supposed to mean?

HAROLD/MAMMON appears in the doorway beside his mother, he is pushing thirty and wearing a ratty tee shirt with the slogan "Evil Rules Convention 1992"

HAROLD/MAMMON

(flustered)

It's Biblical.

(to DELIVERY GUY)

I'll sign for that.

As DELIVERY GUY hands HAROLD/MAMMON an electronic clipboard and stylus, his mother walks away shaking her head.

DELIVERY GUY

Sign here.

HAROLD/MAMMON takes the clipboard, signs it and returns the clipboard, but not the stylus, which he pockets.

DELIVERY GUY

(handing over the package but not noticing the loss of his stylus)

Have a nice day now.

HAROLD/MAMMON

Thanks.

HAROLD/MAMMON closes the door.

02 INT CUT TO: entryway of house, stairs to the right

02

HAROLD/MAMMON turns and runs up the stairs ripping the brown paper from his package as he goes.

Pieces of the paper fall to the floor and stairs.

Camera follows up the stairs to his room. Harold/Mammon jumps onto his bed opening the box that he has received. Inside the box is a thin, cheaply bound manual entitled, "Sinister Plot of the Month Club: A Mayor is the First Step to Success, Plot of the Month #1,327." He flips quickly through the manual and gets excited.

HAROLD/MAMMON

Everyone said I was wasting my money, that this stuff was nothing but castoff material.

But this plan, THIS PLAN makes that \$29.95 a month worth while!

03 EXT CUT TO: front entrance of ARTHUR's apartment**03**

Tick and Arthur are returning from patrol. An average looking man in a business suit is also approaching the entrance. He notices TICK and ARTHUR and stops to wait for them.

NEIGHBOR

You missed your Aunt and Uncle earlier.

Nice couple, shame it doesn't run in the family.

ARTHUR

(looking optimistically thoughtful)

Are you sure, after the last family reunion, I didn't think any of my extended family was talking to me anymore.

NEIGHBOR

Not yours,

(beat - indicates Tick)

his.

Tick registers surprise. Scene fades to black.

04 INT HAROLD/MAMMON's bedroom**04**

HAROLD/MAMMON has the contents of his package spread out on his bed. He is reading a "Required Items" checklist. The items on the checklist are: Mayor, Flunkies, Mecha-Menace (Sinister Plot of the Month Club edition), 40 lbs clay (gray), alarm clock, misc wires, in very small letters below this reads "Mecha-Menace, clay and alarm clock SOLD SEPARATELY" and finally, Demands (list of).

HAROLD/MAMMON checks off the first item and comes to the second.

HAROLD/MAMMON

Flunkies, hmm.

(pause)

Well, when in doubt, turn to the classics.

(picks up his phone, it's shaped like a leg-bone)

I'd like to place a classified ad.

HAROLD/MAMMON

(continued)

(long pause taps fingers on headboard)

Yes I'd like to place a classified ad.

(listens)

The text should read "Flunkies wanted, contact Mammon at 555-1972."

(listens)

No, no it's MAMMON, M-A-M-M-O-N

(pause)

No, it's Biblical.

How much will this cost.

(pause)

Ok, bill me.

(hangs up phone and picks up the list)

What's this?

(looks closer)

Mecha-Menace sold Separately?!

What a gyp!

(picks up the phone again)

Yes, this is member number 559, I just got this months plot and need a Mecha-Menace.

Um-hm

(reacts with shock)

How much??!

(pause)

I can't afford that!

How much to rent one?

(pause)

OK \$100 a day isn't bad, that includes insurance right.

HAROLD/MAMMON

(continued)

(rolls eyes)

It doesn't, well how much is insurance?

(short pause)

\$30 per day huh?

And that covers everything?

(listens rolls eyes again)

Well how much would it be to include Superhero damage coverage?

(short pause then shocked)

\$50 a day!

(resigned)

OK Fine, so that covers everything?

(short pause)

Sidekick insurance?!

How much is THAT.

(short pause, sarcastically)

Only \$10 a day, what a bargain.

Yeah, yeah, I'll take it, so that's \$160 then?

(longer pause)

Delivery fee?

How much is THAT?

(short pause)

ANOTHER \$40?

You really should include these little details in your membership agreement!

(short pause)

Yeah, I know I can get a better deal on a week rental, but I only need it for the day.

(short pause)

HAROLD/MAMMON

(continued)

Yeah, yeah, I'll have the cash on delivery, just make sure you're there first thing in the morning, I'm on a schedule.

(hangs up)

What a bunch of rip-off artists!

Looks like someone has earned a place on my list.

HAROLD/MAMMON pulls out a small spiral notebook and flips it open. The first page is titled "People to Get Back at Someday" There is a list with the following items: Mom, Dad, Principal Krakowski, David Hasselhoff.

At the bottom of the list, he carefully writes "Sinister Plot of the Month Club."

05 INT CUT TO: ARTHUR's apartment**05**

TICK and ARTHUR are getting ready for bed.

ARTHUR

How come you never told me about your family?

TICK

(deadpan)

I didn't know I had one.

ARTHUR

Everyone has a family.

(short pause)

Are you telling me that you don't even remember your childhood.

TICK

There are a lot of things, little things, that I can't remember.

That just happens to be one of them.

ARTHUR

I'd hardly call your childhood a "little thing."

TICK

Yeah well, you weren't there were you?

ARTHUR

For all you know maybe I was.

Now let's get to sleep.

My sister is dropping her car off on her way to work in the morning so we can patrol the east side of the City.

TICK

Nighty Night

ARTHUR

Good night Tick

(turns out lights)

Fade to black

06 INT View from dining room with view of kitchen

06

Fade in from black.

ARTHUR is cleaning the breakfast dishes while TICK is reading the paper. There is a knock on the door. TICK puts the paper down and we can just see HAROLD/MAMMON's classified:

"Flunkies wanted, contact Mammon at 555-1972."

TICK moves out of scene to open the door.

07 INT View from behind Tick of door

07

TICK opens the door, through it we see that it's an elderly couple who brighten visibly as they see Tick.

AUNT

Tick! It's so good to see you!

(gives him a big hug)

TICK

(Looking confused and uncomfortable)

Who are you?

AUNT

(punching him in the shoulder)

Oh Tick, such a kidder

(walks past TICK)

UNCLE

Tick!

(extends hand)

It's been a while.

ARTHUR

(in BG)

Uh, hello.

Do I know you?

TICK

(Shaking his hand, still looking confused)

Uh, yeah I guess so.

AUNT

(in BG)

You must be Arthur!

I'm so happy to meet you!

UNCLE

(Putting his arm around Tick and closing the door)

So, how's the Superhero business treating you?

ARTHUR

(in BG)

Urk.

(weakly)

Please put me down.

TICK

Oh, you know, feast or famine.

One day you're saving the city, the next you're hoping for a hold up just to pass the time.

They walk into the living room, camera spins to follow allowing us to see the entire room. ARTHUR is looking disheveled.

ARTHUR

(trying to regain composure)

Uh, can I offer you anything.

A drink?

I think we have some SPAM left.

UNCLE

(planting himself on a recliner)

No thanks, we just came from this great breakfast buffet downtown.

AUNT

Oh yes, simply delicious, you **MUST** try it sometime!

(sits on the couch)

Oh, please, have a seat, we don't stand on formality!

TICK and ARTHUR exchange bewildered looks as someone else knocks on the door.

TICK

(quickly)

I'll get it!

ARTHUR

(Giving TICK a dirty look)

Uh, so, you're Tick's Aunt and Uncle, huh.

(long uncomfortable pause)

Guess you've know him a long time, huh?

AUNT

Oh yes!

We've know Tick since he was a Grub!

UNCLE

He was always such a good boy.

Except for the time he got my car stuck in that tree.

Should have never let him watch the Super Bowl.

Tick returns holding a set of car keys

TICK

(tossing the keys to ARTHUR)

Your sister says hello and want's to know when you're going back to the accounting firm.

ARTHUR

(sighs)

Anything else?

TICK

She wants you to fill it up when you're done.

ARTHUR

As usual.

AUNT

I always knew that he'd be a superhero.

He never liked bullies, kept tossing them into the lake behind the house.

Made a real mess of things sometimes, but always trying to help.

ARTHUR

(turning towards the kitchen)

I think I have some biscuits in here somewhere, Tick will keep you occupied while I find them.

Tick looks stricken, his Aunt and Uncle are beaming. His Aunt waves him over to the couch.

AUNT

We have so much to catch up on!

TICK

Uh, sure...

08 INT CUT TO: close up of a desk with a roughly-drawn seal of the city

08

Camera pulls back as we hear HAROLD/MAMMON delivering an ultimatum.

HAROLD/MAMMON

(off camera and in mid-sentence)

...and if the city doesn't deliver the ransom, we'll send the Mayor here out in pieces!

Camera has pulled back so that we see all of HAROLD/MAMMON, he is dressed in jeans and a tee-shirt and is holding the manual from scene 2. We can now see that behind the desk is a stuffed scare-crow like dummy wearing a ratty suit. A sign safety pinned to the dummy reads "Mayor, securely bound." Pieces of the newspaper used to stuff the dummy stick out in various places where the suit has worn through. HAROLD/MAMMON begins to pace behind the stuffed Mayor. We can now see two other individuals on either side of the desk.

HAROLD/MAMMON

(bumps the stuffed Mayor which begins to slowly fall over)

And those pieces will be propelled by forty pounds of plastique explosive which is enough to...

(stuffed Mayor falls out of its seat)

As the stuffed Mayor falls we see that his seat is a metal folding chair. A groan comes from behind the camera. FLUNKY #1 walks into scene while Camera pulls out enough to see all of the room. It is a garage with a dusty tool shelf along one wall and the fake Mayor's office along the back wall. the other wall is largely empty except for an aluminum ladder hanging by hooks.

FLUNKY #1

(deeply scornful)

I always thought that crime should be spontaneous, you know, kind of like an ad-lib type of thing.

HAROLD/MAMMON

(dropping his manual on the stuffed Mayor's desk)

I don't pay you to think?

FLUNKY #1

You haven't paid us at all.

You keep saying we'll get ours after the caper.

HAROLD/MAMMON

(trying to conceal shifty look)

Yeah, of course you'll get yours.

(pause, shakes head as if to clear it)

Anyway, that is why you always end up in jail.

The true greats always had a plan!

FLUNKY #1

(under breath)

They probably didn't get theirs in the mail.

09 INT CUT TO: ARTHUR's apartment

09

It is afternoon, TICK and ARTHUR are preparing to leave. Both are flustered having planned on leaving on patrol much earlier.

TICK

Well, it was a nice visit, but Arthur and I are overdue on Patrol.

(gestures towards door)

You'll have to come back again sometime.

AUNT

What are you talking about, we just got here?

ARTHUR

(to AUNT)

You realize that we're crime fighters, right.

Well, we have to Patrol the city looking for crime.

It could be dangerous.

UNCLE

(patting TICK on the shoulder)

Nonsense, Tick here will protect us, right Tick?

TICK

(grudgingly)

Well, they DO have a point there.

ARTHUR

(shocked)

Tick?!

AUNT

Well, it's settled.

(picking up purse and heading towards the door)

Let's get going.

AUNT opens the door, snatches the car keys, and leaves UNCLE follows. TICK and ARTHUR exchange bewildered looks.

ARTHUR

(heading towards door)

Whatever happens, I'm NOT riding in the back!

10 INT ARTHUR's sister's car

10

ARTHUR is driving, TICK is in the passenger seat. AUNT and UNCLE are in the back peering intently between the seats as if they would miss something if they weren't paying attention. TICK and ARTHUR look uncomfortable. TICK is gazing in all directions, searching for evil, any evil, especially evil that will get him away from AUNT and UNCLE.

TICK

(excited and opening car door)

Jaywalker!

I'll take this one, you all stay here!

ARTHUR hits the breaks stopping the car as TICK bounds out the door, AUNT and UNCLE follow excitedly.

11 EXT: sidewalk

11

TICK

(plants himself in front of the jaywalker)

HALT!

Jaywalker stops, stunned to be accosted by a superhero, then surprised again when AUNT and UNCLE arrive.

AUNT

(catching up with TICK)

Yeah, what do you think you're doing?

TICK

(to AUNT)

Thanks, but I can handle this.

JAYWALKER

(gesturing)

That's quite a team you have there.

TICK

(hand on forehead, shaking head)

I can't work like this.

12 INT: ARTHUR's sister's car

12

More driving. TICK notices something and bolts from car, camera stays in car. AUNT and UNCLE try to get out but child safety locks are on.

TICK gets back in car.

ARTHUR

(quietly to TICK)

I can't believe you left me here with them, what was HE doing anyway?

TICK

(quietly to ARTHUR)

Well,

(pause)

He really looked like he may have been considering an evil deed.

I put a stop to it.

ARTHUR

(sighs)

13 EXT: sidewalk

13

His Aunt and Uncle always get in the way, even to the point of accidentally assisting a purse-snatcher to escape.

14 EXT Capital building rear service entrance

14

Cut to the City Capital building where we see HAROLD/MAMMON and his three flunkies sneaking into the service entrance disguised as Pizza delivery men.

15 INT Mayor's Office

15

HAROLD/MAMMON and his three flunkies enter the Mayor's office each carrying a Pizza box.

MAYOR

(looking relieved and approaching HAROLD/MAMMON)

Finally!

It took you long enough, but I only ordered three.

HAROLD/MAMMON

(pulls out a device that looks like a bomb. To Mayor)

Mr. Mayor, sit tight, you are now a captive of Mammon!

(to secretary)

Deliver this to the press!

(tosses her an envelope from an inside pocket of his costume)

HAROLD/MAMMON

(continued)

And tell them that I mean business and if the city doesn't deliver the ransom, we'll send the Mayor here out in pieces!

16 EXT CUT TO: street scape outside of a restaurant**16**

ARTHUR parks his sister's car. TICK, AUNT & UNCLE get out at the same time.

AUNT

(excited)

This is it!

We had the best breakfast here this morning!

ARTHUR exits car as they cross sidewalk towards restaurant.

UNCLE

I can't wait to see how good their dinner buffet is!

17 INT CUT TO: table inside of restaurant**17**

The restaurant is not fancy. A radio plays in the background and a large number of people mill around the buffet line. TICK, ARTHUR, AUNT, and UNCLE are seating themselves at one of the many tables with full plates of food. On their table is a large plastic sign reading "4 Feasters" we can see that all of the occupied tables have similar signs with the number of patrons per table printed on them. TICK's antennae perk up as he listens to the radio broadcast.

ANNOUNCER

Special bulletin, a giant robot, believed to be a late-model Mecha-Menace is menacing the City at this hour spreading fear and terror among the residents and making them wonder, just where are our superheroes when we need them.

(TICK stands during short pause ANNOUNCER continues just audible in background)

In other news, the Mayor is being held hostage by a villain calling himself, of all things, the Mormon and demanding 5 billion dollars in small unmarked coins to be delivered for his release.

(short pause)

ANNOUNCER

(continued)

And now a word from our sponsor, and later Weather with Chuck.

TICK

(charged up)

We're needed!

Come on Arthur!

ARTHUR begins to rise but stops half way when UNCLE speaks.

UNCLE

(shocked)

But we just got here!

I didn't spend ten bucks a person to just leave!

AUNT

(also shocked)

Tick, we're family!

Have you forgotten what that means?

TICK

(slightly deflated)

But, the robot...

AUNT

Forget the robot!

The Tick I know wouldn't be so rude as to abandon his family during dinner!

TICK

(chastised but persistent)

But...

AUNT

(loudly and forcibly)

SIT!

TICK sits but looks uncomfortable. UNCLE starts eating.

AUNT

(looking relieved)

That's better.

We'll have a nice dinner and let someone else deal with the evil robot.

TICK looks sulky and uncomfortable and begins to fidget immediately. As AUNT begins speaking again, we start hearing increasingly loud explosions from outside.

AUNT

(as if nothing happened)

INSERT STORY/IDLE COMMENTS HERE

Tick is fidgeting, glancing out the window. His antennae twitch with every explosion or scream from outside.

TICK

(quietly to ARTHUR)

We've gotta get out of here!

ARTHUR

(quietly to TICK)

I think I have an idea.

(standing, louder to AUNT and UNCLE)

Uh, I've got to go to the Little superhero's room.

Tick, how about you?

(winks)

TICK

Nope, I'm fine, you go ahead.

ARTHUR

(more forcibly)

Are you ABSOLUTELY sure?

TICK

(realization dawning)

OH!

Yeah!

(theatrically large wink)

Bathroom!

Gotta go, be right back.

TICK and ARTHUR get up and head towards the bathrooms. As soon as AUNT and UNCLE return to eating, they run out the closest door.

18 EXT street scape strewn with rubble and fires burning

18

MECHA-MENACE is wreaking havoc but pauses as TICK and ARTHUR arrive. We can see a man standing in the extreme background with a remote control unit. No one else seems to notice him. We can see him manipulating the control box and speaking into a microphone projecting from the control box in sync with MECHA-MENACE's dialog.

ARTHUR makes a swoop towards the robot who blows a bolt of air at him making him fly back off-camera.

TICK

(striking a pose)

You'll find me a little harder to blow away.

MECHA-MENACE

Good, I'm getting bored here.

There's really no challenge to smashing up cars and stuff.

The two circle. TICK seems impatient. Suddenly TICK lurches out and manages to get a hold of the robot's right arm and rips it off. Way in the background, the man with the remote control wipes his forehead.

TICK

(to MECHA-MENACE)

If you want to keep the other one, you'll put an end to this messy little rampage of yours.

(to ARTHUR)

Come on, we'd better get back!

TICK and ARTHUR start to depart hurriedly. The man in the background looks shocked and fumbles with the controls for a second.

MECHA-MENACE

Wait! Don't you want to know about my part in the evil plan?

TICK

Nope, gotta get back to dinner.

(looking stern and wagging a finger at MECHA-MENACE)

No more evil now, you hear!

MECHA-MENACE

But wait!

(pauses then continues in a sing-song fashion)

I'm just a decoy!

TICK and ARTHUR spin to focus on MECHA-MENACE.

19 INT CUT TO: Mayor's Office

19

MAYOR is hanging up the phone. HAROLD/MAMMON is standing beside him holding his "bomb." FLUNKY #2 and FLUNKY #3 are on either side of HAROLD/MAMMON and MAYOR. FLUNKY #1 is wandering around looking at the books on the shelves around the office.

HAROLD/MAMMON

(lifting the "Bomb" towards MAYOR)

So?

MAYOR

(resigned)

Your money will be here within the hour.

HAROLD/MAMMON

(looking disgusted)

You give up so easily.

FLUNKY #1

(turning from the bookshelf)

Isn't that kind of what you were counting on?

HAROLD/MAMMON

(sharply to FLUNKY #1)

If you want your cut, you'll keep your mouth shut!

(to MAYOR, flustered by FLUNKY #1)

Anyways, I'll be glad to be away from you and your City.

There are sounds of activity from outside.

HAROLD/MAMMON

(looking towards the window)

What was that?

TICK

(loudly from outside)

Spoon!

TICK crashes through the window. ARTHUR flies in and gently lands beside him.

TICK

(loudly)

Release the Mayor, Mormon!

HAROLD/MAMMON

(frustrated)

It's Mammon!

Doesn't anyone read the Bible anymore?

(gesturing towards flunkies)

Get him!

The flunkies look at him disbelievingly and stay exactly in place.

FLUNKY #1

(disbelieving)

Are you kidding?

HAROLD/MAMMON

If you want your cut, get rid of the blue freak!

The three flunkies charge in mass. TICK easily swats them aside. They crash into a bookshelf knocking the contents to the floor where the books and flunkies remain. TICK slowly approaches HAROLD/MAMMON.

HAROLD/MAMMON

I knew I should have gotten professional flunkies from the Yellow Pages.

(holding the "Bomb" towards TICK)

Stay back!

I've still got the bomb!

TICK easily snatches the bomb from HAROLD/MAMMON who looks disbelieving at his now empty hands.

TICK

(holding the "bomb")

No you don't.

HAROLD/MAMMON

(looking confused)

That wasn't supposed to happen.

Quiet falls, we can hear small pieces of glass fall from the shattered window pane and some books toppling off of the disturbed book shelves. The quiet stretches uncomfortably.

TICK

Uh, Isn't it time for a maniacal tirade about now?

HAROLD/MAMMON

(still confused and flustered)

Shut up!

You're off-script!

Security guards burst into the room. ARTHUR leads HAROLD/MAMMON towards them. TICK turns to MAYOR.

TICK

(handing MAYOR the "Bomb")

You're safe now Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR

(petrified - eyes locked on the "Bomb" now sitting in his hands)

Uh...

TICK turns and leaves the room.

MAYOR

(weakly)

Somebody get this thing away from me!

20 INT CUT TO: table inside of restaurant

20

TICK and ARTHUR return to the dinner table. AUNT and UNCLE have nearly empty plates sitting in front of them. TICK and ARTHUR's plates are still full, as they were left.

UNCLE

Boy, you two really did have to go, didn't you?

AUNT

(wiping her mouth with her napkin and dropping it onto her plate)

Well, now that's what I call a good dinner!

AUNT stands followed by UNCLE. Looking confused TICK and ARTHUR follow suit.

AUNT

(hugging TICK who looks uncomfortable)

It's been great seeing you again!

If you're ever in our neck of the woods you truly must stop by for a visit.

UNCLE

(moves in as AUNT releases TICK and shakes hands)

I guess I was wrong about you kiddo, you seem to have done pretty well for yourself with this whole superhero thing.

TICK and ARTHUR stand disbelievingly.

AUNT

(giving ARTHUR a hug who looks uncomfortable)

Next time I won't forget the photo album.

Tick was quite the cutie when he was younger!

UNCLE

(shaking ARTHUR's hand)

A privilege to meet you Arthur.

Keep him out of trouble, OK?

ARTHUR

Uh, sure.

AUNT gives TICK another hug then starts to lead UNCLE out.

AUNT

We'll stop by again soon!

Come visit us sometime.

Spring is best, you can see how well my garden is turning out!

AUNT turns and AUNT and UNCLE leave the restaurant.

ARTHUR

(looking befuddled)

You know, they never even told us their names.

TICK

I still don't remember having a family.

21 INT Jail Cell tight shot of the lower bunk

21

HAROLD/MAMMON sits on the bottom bunk. We can see that his prison number is 559. He pulls out the spiral notebook containing his list and writes "Tick" at the bottom under "Sinister Plot of the Month Club".

HAROLD/MAMMON

Someday, I'll get them all!

(breaks into maniacal laughter)

A pillow flies down and strikes him in the face ending his laughter.

ROOMMATE

(agitated)

What did I tell you about that?

No maniacal laughter after lights out!

HAROLD/MAMMON

(handing the pillow back)

Sorry, I forgot.

ROOMMATE

Happens to all of us now and again.

Now shut up and let me get some sleep.

Fade to black as HAROLD/MAMMON lies down to sleep.