

I CAN DO EVIL ALL BY MYSELF

by Ken Green

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

CAPTAIN HERO - Your average superhero. White.

ELECTRO-LORD - Not your average super-villain. Black.

SETTING: Dramatic superhero action music (it plays in the background until it's not needed). We're in the hidden lair of ELECTRO-LORD, the diabolical super-villain. There are computers, tubes, flashing lights - standard evil villain shit. He's wearing his "Electro-Helmet" that allows him to control electricity.

SCENE: ELECTRO-LORD's plans for world domination are going along smoothly. Suddenly, CAPTAIN HERO crashes through the wall - floor, ceiling, wherever - to save the day! He sees ELECTRO-LORD and... grabs him in a protective, reassuring hug.

CAPTAIN HERO

Worry no more, citizen. I'm here to put an end to the evil plans of... THE ELECTRO-LORD!

ELECTRO-LORD breaks free of his grip.

ELECTRO-LORD

You'll never stop me, Captain Hero!

CAPTAIN HERO

Exactly, citizen. I'm here to stop the psychotic ELECTRO-LORD! My super senses detected a surge of electrical impulses from this location which means the evil Electro-Lord is nearby.

ELECTRO-LORD

(Diabolical laugh) But you're too late, Captain Hero. My plan is already in motion. (Pointing to equipment) With a turn of this dial, the entire world...

CAPTAIN HERO

(Cutting him off) No time, citizen. I must find the Electro-Lord, the most diabolical mind in Patriot City. Point me toward that cowardly dog, and I'll...

ELECTRO-LORD

(Firm) I stand here defiantly before you, Captain Hero, but there's nothing you can...

CAPTAIN HERO

(Trying to explain) I believe there's some miscommunication, friend. I'm looking for the Electro-Lord. Super-villain. Evil genius. Uses electricity to bend society to his will...

ELECTRO-LORD

Right. I... (Stands defiantly) ELECTRO-LORD!

CAPTAIN HERO

No, I mean Electro-Lord. He uses a powerful electro-helmet to enhance his superior brainwaves and...

ELECTRO-LORD points to his helmet.

ELECTRO-LORD

Electro-Lord.

Music begins to die down. CAPTAIN HERO is confused.

CAPTAIN HERO

(Thinking) Am I saying it wrong? E-LEC-TRO LORD. L-O...

ELECTRO-LORD

L-O-R-D, right. Me. (Proudly) I am the... ELECTRO-LORD! But again, Captain Hero, you're too late. My nefarious plan is already in motion and there's nothing you can...

Music completely dies down.

CAPTAIN HERO

(Interrupting) Are you sure?

ELECTRO-LORD

Oh, quite sure, Captain Hero. For only I have the key that can stop...

CAPTAIN HERO

No, I mean are you sure about...

ELECTRO-LORD

(Confused) About what?

CAPTAIN HERO

Being the Electro-Lord. Are you...

ELECTRO-LORD

Am I...? Yes, I'm me. I'm the... (defiantly) ELECTRO-LORD.

CAPTAIN HERO

So, wait. YOU'RE the Electro-Lord?

ELECTRO-LORD

Yes. Electro-Lord. I've studied electricity extensively, learned how to control it, pull it from skies at will and focus it on my enemies. (Pause) I've got the hat.

CAPTAIN HERO

Right, OK, I see that now, but...

ELECTRO-LORD

But what?

CAPTAIN HERO

You...

ELECTRO-LORD

What?

CAPTAIN HERO

You don't... I just thought... I pictured... the Electro-Lord... as...

ELECTRO-LORD

What?

CAPTAIN HERO

I just... You're...

ELECTRO-LORD

I'm what??

CAPTAIN HERO

(Reluctant sigh) You're gonna make me say it?

ELECTRO-LORD

Say WHAT?

CAPTAIN HERO

That you're, um... (half-whispers) Black.

ELECTRO-LORD is confused.

You're Black. We can say that, right? You're black. It's not like it's a secret.

ELECTRO-LORD

But apparently there's something wrong with that?

CAPTAIN HERO

NO! Nonononono. I never said that. I never said "wrong."

ELECTRO-LORD

Not in those exact words.

CAPTAIN HERO

Look, the Electro-Lord is a super-villain. (Thinking) The Western Hemisphere Electrical Grid Takeover. The Great Lighting Battle of 2014. He commandeered the controls of every electric vehicle in North America in 2020.

ELECTRO-LORD

I know my resumé.

CAPTAIN HERO

I just didn't consider...

ELECTRO-LORD

...that a black guy could have done all that?

CAPTAIN HERO

I'm just saying it's not... common. (Thinking) Ok, the Crimson Hurricane. Explodo. The Mystic Mayhem. Adolpho The Deadly Trapeze Artist. Smart Guy, the World's Smartest Guy. All... not black guys.

ELECTRO-LORD

So because Mister Super Eye-Sight here hasn't seen a black super-villain, they don't exist? You fight evil across the galaxy, but you see a black super-villain and... SHOCKER!

CAPTAIN HERO

I'm just saying it's not common, is all.

ELECTRO-LORD

You bust into a man's secret lair and tell him that he can't POSSIBLY be an intelligent super-villain because he's black.

CAPTAIN HERO

You're putting words into my mouth.

ELECTRO-LORD

A black man - WITH AN ELECTRO-HELMET ON HIS FUCKING HEAD - and you just assume, what, I'm the ELECTRO-LORD's assistant? Valet? Friend from college?