

7 MORE COMIC BOOK SCRIPTS

*"No one understands
gloriously defective
supermen better than
Jeschonek."*
- Eric Searleman,
Superheronovels.com



*DC Comics Writer
and Booklist Critically Acclaimed Author*

ROBERT T. JESCHONEK

7 More Comic Book Scripts

by

Robert T. Jeschonek

More Superhero Tales by Robert T. Jeschonek

7 Comic Book Scripts

A Matter of Size (mature readers)

Forced Retirement (Forced Heroics Book 1)

Forced Betrayal (Forced Heroics Book 2)

Forced Partnership (Forced Heroics Book 3)

Heroes of Global Warming

The Masked Family – a novel

The Wife Who Never Was

Introduction

What's the one thing I love more than reading comic books and graphic novels? *Writing* them, of course. There is no other type of writing exactly like it. Screenplay writing comes close, but even so,

isn't quite the same animal.

Comics are a truly unique art form, an amalgam of prose, film, still photography, visual poetry, and whatever other creative elements a writer and artist decide to toss into the pot. Mapping them out in a script, conveying the precise instructions needed to realize a specific vision (while leaving room for improvisation along the way) is a challenge...and a joy.

I've been writing comic scripts for many years. Sometimes, these scripts came to life on the printed page with finished artwork...and sometimes they didn't. But they were all part of the learning process that eventually led to the publication of my work at DC Comics.

Now, it's time for another look back at some of the scripts I've written. Some were "spec" projects—attempts at getting a publisher to publish my work. Others were commissioned but never saw the light of day for one reason or another.

Whatever the reasons behind the writing, I hope you'll enjoy the scripts in this second volume of the series. If I've done my job, you should be able to visualize each story as it was meant to appear on the final, fully illustrated page. You might think that some of them would have made great published comics; others, perhaps, not so much. But *all* of them have something to offer, whether it's a cool central idea, a great line, a clever scene, a cool hero...

Or just plain fun.

~~You're Listening to Alter Ego Talk Radio 1050~~

by Robert T. Jeschonek

Introduction

Let's start off with a fun script I wrote for the Dark Horse Strip Search contest a while back. I had a great time writing it; Super Shrink and Psycho Boy really jumped off the page for me. Unfortunately the artist for this one never finished the job, and Super Shrink never entered the Dark Horse contest. But he and Psycho Boy still seem to have a lot of potential, either for their own series or as character in another book. You haven't seen the last of the radio call-in psychiatrist who specializes in superheroes...or his trusty "kid" sidekick, the beer-swilling producer who looks like he's about 85 years old.

You're Listening to Alter Ego Talk Radio 1050

Page 1 (5 panels)

Page 1 panel 1

Inside the darkened control booth of a radio station. A seedy-looking guy is conducting a call-in psychiatry show for people with super powers. (We'll recognize the famous callers from what they say, though we won't hear their names.) The host is smoking, wearing sunglasses, has a beard. He talks into a microphone and has a telephone at hand with buttons marking the extensions. One button on the phone is now lit and another is blinking, indicating that another call has come in. The host sits in front of a control panel with knobs and switches; also, a professional tape deck for playing commercials. A big digital clock indicates the time in red numbers.

Title (across top of page): You're Listening to Alter Ego Talk Radio 1050

Caller: So my wife thinks I'm having an *affair*! But I'm just out with my *super-teammates* saving the *world*!

Super Shrink: And she doesn't know you're a *crimefighter*?

Page 1 panel 2

Caller: Yeah, which just makes it more complicated.

Super Shrink: But she's your *wife*. How can she not know you have *powers*?

Page 1 panel 3

Caller: They only activate in *salt water*.

Super Shrink: So you come across a lot of *crime* in salt water? Like someone steals a fortune in *sand dollars*? There's a break-in at *Davy Jones's locker*?

Page 1 panel 4

Caller: Hey, *listen!* I'm the *king* of the *seven seas*, all right?

Super Shrink: You need to come out of the *closet*, caller. Show your wife the same *trust* you expect her to show *you*.

Page 1 panel 5

Super Shrink: Otherwise, it's "*Sorry, Charlie.*"

Caller: Hey! *King of Atlantis*, remember? Show some respe...

SFX: CLICK of Super Shrink switching to another phone line.

Page 1 panel 6

Super Shrink: Next caller! You're on the air with *Super Shrink...*

Page 2 (6 panels)

Page 2 panel 1

Shot of the show's producer, a really old and scrawny guy in an adjacent glass booth. Surrounded by equipment, he's leaning back in his chair with his feet on a table, eating a sandwich and drinking a beer.

Super Shrink: ...and my kid sidekick, *Psycho Boy!*

Page 2 panel 2

The host rolls his eyes when he hears who the next caller is.

Caller: Hi, Super Shrink. It's me again.

Super Shrink: Carl! What a nice *surprise*. We haven't heard from you since...oh, *fifteen minutes* ago!

Page 2 panel 3

Super Shrink rubs his head impatiently. This guy calls all the time.

Caller: I've been thinking about what you said. Maybe I *do* have some *abandonment issues*.

Super Shrink: Earth to *Carl!* Your parents sent you into *space* in a *rocket* when you were a *baby!* You do the math!

Page 2 panel 4

Caller: It doesn't explain the *bed wetting!*

Super Shrink: You're crying for *help*, Carl. Just like your calling this program *ten times a night*.

Page 2 panel 5

Caller: I think I might have some *trans-gender* issues. Last night, I had a dream that I was exposed to a *glowing red mineral*, and it changed me into a *female* version of myself. *Anatomically correct*.

Super Shrink: It wasn't a *dream*, Carl. There were clips on the *Today show* this morning.

Page 2 panel 6

Caller: But...then...that would mean my *arch enemy* and I...

Caller: Oh, dear.

SFX: CLICK of Super Shrink switching to another phone line.

Super Shrink: Next caller!

Page 3 (6 panels)

Page 3 panel 1

Caller: I've figured out how to make myself *bigger*!

Super Shrink: Y'know, *these* days, they've got a *pill* that does that.

Page 3 panel 2

Caller: I've always been able to reduce the size of my *body* through the power of a *dwarf star fragment* in my *tights*. Now, I can *increase* my size, too!

Super Shrink: Did you just say you have a *dwarf star* fragment in your *tights*?

Page 3 panel 3

Caller: It's a breakthrough in *size enhancement*!

Super Shrink: Size doesn't *matter*, my friend. When you see your "*dwarf star*" as a *shortcoming*, perhaps it's because you're feeling inadequate in *other* ways.

Page 3 panel 4

Super Shrink: Next caller!

SFX: CLICK of Super Shrink switching to another phone line.

Caller: I think I have a codependent relationship with my alter ego.

Page 3 panel 5

Super Shrink: Sigh. You again, *Carl*?

Caller: This isn't Carl. I'm his *secret identity*.

Page 3 panel 6

Super Shrink: I know it's *you*, Carl. It's just you talking with a *falsetto*.

Caller: I *hate* Carl. He's too *perfect*. I'm *jealous* of him.

Page 4 (6 panels)

Page 4 panel 1

Caller: *He* gets all the *attention* with his *flashy costume* and saving the *world*. *Nobody* cares about *me*.

Super Shrink: That's kind of the *idea*, isn't it?

Page 4 panel 2

Irritably, Super Shrink punches a button on the phone, switching to another line.

Caller: I wish he was *dead*! But I feel like I *need* him, y'know?

Super Shrink: That's because you're the *same person*, Carl!! Next caller!

SFX: CLICK of Super Shrink switching to another phone line.

Page 4 panel 3

Caller: I think I've got *agoraphobia*. I'm afraid to go back out on the streets and *fight crime*.

Super Shrink: I see. Was there a traumatic incident?

Page 4 panel 4

Caller: I had a run-in with an insane criminal *clown*. It was the worst beating I've ever *experienced*.

Caller: By the time he was *done* with me, I was screaming like a *little girl*! I was *crying* for my *mommy*! I even...*wet my tights*.

Page 4 panel 5

Caller: And I'm no *pushover*, either! I've got a scary yellow *belt* and pointy ears on my big black cow. But he laid me out like a *rag doll*!

Caller: I never want to go through that kind of punishment *again*! I never want to face that awful clown *again*!

Super Shrink: Wait a minute...

Page 4 panel 6

Super Shrink: You *are* an insane criminal clown, *aren't* you?

Caller: Um...hee hee...of *course* not...what makes you say *that*? Ha ha ha!

Page 5 (6 panels)

Page 5 panel 1

Super Shrink: Next caller!

SFX: CLICK of Super Shrink switching to another phone line.

Caller: I've been struggling with some *anger management* issues, Super Shrink. The littlest things set me *off*, and I completely *lose control*.

Page 5 panel 2

Super Shrink: How long have you been acting out like this?

Caller: Well, I met this *boy*, and we got *bombed* together.

Page 5 panel 3

Caller: Ever since, it's like I become *another person* sometimes. I can't control my *urges*.

Super Shrink: Go on.

Caller: My *skin* turns *green*. My *pants* turn *purple*.

Page 5 panel 4

Super Shrink: Green skin. Purple pants. I see.

Super Shrink: Caller, do you encounter much *homophobia*? Is *that* what brings out your *rage*?

Page 5 panel 5

Caller: Do I encounter homo...*hey!* How *dare* you!!

Caller: Now you've gone and made me *angry* again!! *AARRHH!! RARRGH!!*

Caller: *STUPID SHRINK!*

Caller: *I AM STRAIGHTEST ONE THERE IS!!*

SFX: CLICK of Super Shrink switching to another phone line.

Super Shrink: Next caller.

Page 6 (6 panels)

Page 6 panel 1

Again, Super Shrink looks exasperated because Carl won't leave him alone.

Caller: That reminds me of something.

Super Shrink: Shouldn't you be out *saving the world* or something, Carl?

Page 6 panel 2

Super Shrink tosses two aspirin in his mouth.

Caller: Have you ever thought about *switching sides*?

Super Shrink: Changing sexual orientation, you mean?

Page 6 panel 3

Super Shrink holds his head in pain and grits his teeth.

Caller: No, no. Like *good and evil*. Maybe I'm in the wrong line of work. Maybe that's my *problem*.

Super Shrink: Do you know who my own personal *super-villain arch-nemesis* is, Carl?

Page 6 panel 4

Caller: Um, no.

Super Shrink: *You!!* Judging from the amount of *aggravation* you cause me on a nightly basis, you already *have turned evil!*

Page 6 panel 5

Super Shrink: Now stop being such a *drama queen!* Next caller!

SFX: CLICK of Super Shrink switching to another phone line.

Caller: My girlfriend doesn't like that I'm a *swinger*.

Page 6 panel 6

Super Shrink: You swing?

Caller: Yeah. All over the *city*. Sometimes I *crawl around*. And I *tie people up* a lot. With my *webs*.

Page 7 (6 panels)

Page 7 panel 1

Caller: But I only do it when I'm in *costume*.

Super Shrink: You *dress up*?

Caller: In a full body suit with a *mask* over my *face*.

Page 7 panel 2

Super Shrink: How do your...adventures...make you *feel*?

Caller: Well, whenever someone tries to *hurt* me, I tingle all *over*.

Page 7 panel 3

Super Shrink: I see. Is there another woman in your life, one who's been known to *punish* you when you needed it?

Caller: Well, I live with a *stern* but *loving* older woman. She didn't believe in *sparing* the *rod*, that's for sure.

Page 7 panel 4

Super Shrink: Sounds like a match made in *S and M* heaven.

Caller: *Hey! Eww!* You got it all *wrong!* She's my...

Super Shrink: Next caller!

SFX: CLICK of Super Shrink switching to another phone line.

Page 7 panel 5

Super Shrink looks totally exasperated again.

Caller: I'm so depressed.

Super Shrink: Not *again!* I'm cutting you off, Carl!

Page 7 panel 6

Caller: Everything sucks.

Super Shrink: No more *calls*, Carl!

Caller: Maybe I'll end it all.

Page 8 (7 panels)

Page 8 panel 1

SFX: CLICK as Super Shrink switches to another phone line.

Super Shrink: I'm done enabling your *self-destructive behavior*, Carl! We're *quits*!

Super Shrink: And just for the *record*, you can't "end it all" if you're *invulnerable*!

Page 8 panel 2

Shot of Psycho Boy in his control booth. He flips a switch on a board, and above the switch, we see a lit electronic display with the words "MUTE MICROPHONES."

Psycho Boy: 'Scuse me.

Super Shrink: Yes, Psycho Boy?

Psycho Boy: He's the most powerful guy on *Earth*, right?

Page 8 panel 3

Super Shrink: Right.

Psycho Boy: He can do pretty much *anything*?

Super Shrink: Yeah.

Page 8 panel 4

Psycho Boy: What if, when he says end it all, he means end *it all*?

Page 8 panel 5

Super Shrink: It all?

Psycho Boy: It all. Everything.

Psycho Boy: Because he *could*, right?

Page 8 panel 6

Close-up on Super Shrink as realization sinks in. He has a blank look on his face.

Super Shrink: Uh...yeah, actually.

Page 8 panel 7

Super Shrink springs into action, frantically chattering into the mike. He has a desperate, pleading grin on his face.

Super Shrink: Carl! How 'bout giving a *shout-out* to your old friend Super Shrink! I wanna' *hear* from you, *buddy*!!

Super Shrink: That was just *reverse psychology* when I said stop *calling* me! Feel the *love*, Carl!

Super Shrink: Please, *FEEL THE LOVE*!

The Cold Shoulder

by Robert T. Jeschonek

Introduction

This one was fun to write for entirely different reasons than "You're Listening to Alter Ego Talk Radio 1050." Instead of going for laughs, I wrote "The Cold Shoulder" as a nonstop action tale with havoc and destruction in almost every panel. The body count is high, and displayed on an actual body *counter*. That isn't to say there's not plenty of humor here...but it's definitely of the *dark* variety. What do you do with a bigmouthed super Mafia wiseguy who can't be killed physically? Go after his *weak spot*, of course--the one in his *head*...

The Cold Shoulder

Page 1 (3 panels)

Page 1 panel 1

Big vertical panel. Medium shot. In a diner, Guido Mauditesta – a thick, muscular Italian whose black t-shirt is stretched over the chiseled frame of Superman – holds a guy by his shirtfront and fries his head in a burst of light with energy beams from his eyes.

Title: The Cold Shoulder

Narrator (caption): Welcome to Sargasso, North Dakota

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