

JUSTICE LEAGUE ACTION

Season 1 Spec Script

"Don't Fear The Scarecrow"

Written by

David Halle

11405 Chandler Boulevard
Unit 413
North Hollywood, CA 91601
Dhalle90@gmail.com
703-474-3448

EXT. GOTHAM CITY - ABANDONED CHEMICAL FACTORY - NIGHT

SOLOMON GRUNDY carries a DRUM OF CHEMICALS on his back as he runs through the streets of Gotham City.

SOLOMON GRUNDY

(panting)

Big bucket heavy! Grundy hate run!
Almost as much as Grundy hate eat
stupid broccoli.

He emerges at the top of a HILL, overlooking a creepy old FACTORY on the banks of Gotham River. He runs down, into it.

BATMAN and STARGIRL emerge over the hill, hot on his trail.

STARGIRL

Wow! I am like so totally excited
to be working my first big case
with you, Batman! I've got to post
about this.

Stargirl whips out her PHONE, as they run. Batman looks back, gives her a stern look. She puts it away.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)

Or... Maybe later.

BATMAN

This is no time to let your guard
down, Stargirl. Solomon Grundy may
seem brainless, but he never acts
without purpose.

They reach the entrance to the factory, charge inside.

INT. ABANDONED CHEMICAL FACTORY - NIGHT

Stargirl follows Batman through the maze of old CHEMICAL VATS, her STAFF at the ready.

STARGIRL

This place is like, super icky.

BATMAN

Well, it has been abandoned for ten
years. Not that anyone misses it.

SOLOMON GRUNDY (O.S.)

No one will miss ugly Batman,
either!

Grundy leaps down from the rafters, onto Batman, punches him across the room. Stargirl projects her STARFIELD onto Grundy, tries to lift him, but cannot.

STARGIRL
(EFFORT GRUNTS) You're a big boy,
aren't you?

BATMAN
Stargirl, stop! Grundy is a necro-
being, your staff won't effect him.
Didn't you read the file?

STARGIRL
I skimmed it!

SOLOMON GRUNDY
Little shiny girl annoy Grundy!

Grundy breaks free from the STARFIELD, slaps Stargirl across the factory. She crashes through a wall, into a dark, dank ROOM filled with MOLD, FUNGUS, AND MUSHROOMS.

STARGIRL
(SHRIEK) So gross! Get it off,
get it off!

Stargirl runs back into the main room, wiping the gunk off.

SOLOMON GRUNDY
You think that bad, look Grundy's
teeth!

Grundy hops over, gets in her face, smiles. His teeth are full of disgusting plaque and twigs.

STARGIRL
(DISGUST REACT) Please, no! (DRY
HEAVING)

Stargirl makes a shield around herself, cowers. Batman kicks Grundy in the face so he staggers away. Stargirl stands.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)
Thanks for the save, Batman.

BATMAN
(angry)
What was that?

STARGIRL
Oh, sorry, I forgot to mention I
have, like, have a serious problem
with disgusting stuff.

BATMAN

On the Justice League, we don't let our fears interfere with our work. If you can't handle that, maybe you're not ready to join us.

STARGIRL

What? I am so ready!

Grundy returns, holding an overflowing DUMPSTER, hurls it at them. Stargirl shrieks, cowers, makes her shield, again. Batman throws BATARANGS into it that EXPLODE on impact. Garbage rains down, covering Stargirl's shield.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)

Aw, sick! I cannot deal with this.

BATMAN

Then just go home, Stargirl. I'll take it from here.

Batman leaps back into combat with Grundy. Grundy swings wildly. Batman dodges and leaps around his fists. Stargirl releases the shield so none of the garbage falls on her.

STARGIRL

No, no, it's okay. I can do this!

Batman slings a TANGLE SHOT that lasso's Grundy's feet together. Grundy looks like he's about to trip, but then easily breaks it apart, gives a menacing GRIN.

BATMAN

I said, go! You're only slowing me down.

STARGIRL

You don't really mean that--

Batman spins to face her. He means it.

BATMAN

Do not make me repeat myself.

Saddened, Stargirl rides her staff out the door. As Batman watches her go, Grundy slams an EMPTY DRUM down onto his torso, trapping his arms at his sides.

SOLOMON GRUNDY

Got you in bat trap, now! (LAUGH)

BATMAN

(STRUGGLING REACT) (SCOWLS)

EXT. ABANDONED CHEMICAL FACTORY - LATER

Stargirl sits up on the hill, looks at the factory, pouts.

STARGIRL

Forget this. I don't care what
Batman says. I'll show him I have
the metal to be a real leaguer, no
matter how grody things get!

She flies back into the factory.

INT. ABANDONED CHEMICAL FACTORY - NIGHT

Stargirl flies on her staff, past the vats. There are signs
of a struggle, but otherwise, it is totally quiet.

STARGIRL

Batman! I'm sorry! I'm ready to
act my age, now! Where are you?

SCARECROW (O.S.)

(DISTANT CACKLING)

STARGIRL

Now, that can't be good.

INT. CHEMICAL FACTORY - RESEARCH ROOM - NIGHT

Stargirl sneaks into the back room, hides behind some
EQUIPMENT. In the center, Grundy stands by a RAISED
PLATFORM, looking up at Batman, who is tied, upside-down, to
hanging HOOK on a cable. Next to him, THE SCARECROW siphons
liquid through a hose from the DRUM GRUNDY BROUGHT into a
large CANNISTER BOMB that has a FLASHING RED COUNTDOWN.

SCARECROW

(LAUGH) The dark knight, de-
knighted, at last!

STARGIRL

(whisper to herself)
(GASP) Who's that bag-headed guy?
Man, maybe I really should read
those files.

SCARECROW

With the last of these chemicals,
my nightmare bomb will be complete,
and the whole city will be flooded
with my mind-bending fear gas!

SOLOMON GRUNDY

Then, everybody will look just as scary as Grundy?

SCARECROW

Um... Sure, my dim-witted disciple. That's exactly right.

BATMAN

You'll never get away with it, Scarecrow! You've been trotting that same tired trick for years.

Scarecrow pinches Batman's cheeks.

SCARECROW

Oh, but this time is different, Bat-Moron! Because with your wings clipped and your stupid fat face poised to take the brunt of my blast, no one can stop me! (LAUGH)

Stargirl steps out, staff raised.

STARGIRL

Find a brain, straw man!

SCARECROW

Never mind, seems you called a teenage girl to help you! (LAUGH)

STARGIRL

I'm not afraid of you!

SCARECROW

Oh, you will be.

BATMAN

Stargirl, look out!

Scarecrow leaps over, arm raised, shoots her in the face with FEAR GAS from his GAUNTLET. She falls to her knees, grasps at her neck.

STARGIRL

(CHOKING, GASPING)

POV STARGIRL: The room contorts into a NIGHTMARE. Colors change and shapes become warped, like looking through water.

SCARECROW

(LAUGH) Singing a different tune now, aren't we, "Star Brat"?

STARGIRL
(COUGHING) What did you do to me?
S-Stay back!

POV STARGIRL: Mushrooms sprout all over Grundy, while Scarecrow wilts and grows mold.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)
(SHRIEK) Keep that mushroom face away from me! And you, why are you growing mold? Stop doing that!

SCARECROW
(HMM) As an expert psychologist, its obvious you suffer from severe Septophobia. That is, a fear of grossness. Too bad for you! My serum will dig through your mind, illuminating every fear, until your deepest, darkest horrors resurrect before your very eyes!

Scarecrow snaps his fingers, Grundy runs over.

SCARECROW (CONT'D)
Grundy, toss her out with the trash. I doubt we'll be seeing you again, fair child. You're in the Scarecrow's world now! (LAUGH)

Grundy grabs Stargirl, drags her to the TRASH CHUTE. Scarecrow crosses to his bomb, caresses the COUNTDOWN CLOCK, which is at 5 MINUTES.

SCARECROW (CONT'D)
Just a few more minutes, my gorgeous gaseousness. And then, all of Gotham will join her in my eternal sphere of fear!

POV STARGIRL: Batman looks like a literal GIANT BAT.

BATMAN
You've got to fight it, Stargirl!
Don't let your fears control you!

SCARECROW
Oh, shut your bat cave, Caped Cru-LAME-er!

Stargirl can only stare, paralyzed, as Grundy drops her down the TRASH CHUTE.

INT. CHEMICAL FACTORY - TRASH ROOM - NIGHT

Stargirl falls from the garbage chute into the TRASH ROOM. It's full of old garbage and would be scary even in daytime.

POV STARGIRL: The trash stands, becomes GRUESOME MONSTERS.

STARGIRL
Go away! This can't be happening!

POV STARGIRL: The trash monsters smile and dance for her.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)
Focus, Stargirl. This isn't real.
None of this is real!

The WALLS lurch forward, compacting the garbage room.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)
But, maybe that is! I think. Come
on, snap out of it... Focus...
Just focus! What the-!?

INT. CIRCUS TENT - HALLUCINATION

The trash room becomes a CIRCUS TENT, with Stargirl in the AUDIENCE. A RINGLEADER MADE OF SLIME walks to the center, conducts a circus of ANIMALS MADE FROM TRASH AND FUNGUS. Creepy, jaunty MUSIC plays. Stargirl pinches herself.

STARGIRL
This is a nightmare! Just wake up!
Why can't I wake up!?

MOLDY BREAD CLOWNS march up to her, drag her from her seat.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)
No, thanks! I just want to watch!

They throw her into the LION TAMER ARENA. The ringleader throws her a WHIP and a MATADOR CAPE.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)
What am I supposed to do with
these?

Cages open, giant SPIDERS, ROACHES, and MAGGOTS charge her.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)
(SHRIEK)

She tries to run, but her feet are stuck in the ground.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)

What now!?

She looks down to see she is sinking in GREEN MUCUS. The circus tent falls away and she's actually sinking into the NOSTRIL of a giant STUFFY NOSE.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)

So disgusting! Somebody help, me!
Please! (SCREAM)

She sinks into the mucus, falls into blackness, lands on...

INT. THE WATCHTOWER - BRIEFING ROOM - HALLUCINATION

...A hard FLOOR. She looks up to see she is in the MAIN ROOM of the WATCHTOWER. Batman stands at her feet, staring down at her.

BATMAN

How pathetic.

STARGIRL

Batman! You're here!

BATMAN

You're off the team, Stargirl. I knew you didn't have the stomach for this line of work.

STARGIRL

What? No...

WONDER WOMAN materializes, next to him.

WONDER WOMAN

You're a disgrace to the entire League.

SUPERMAN appears between them.

SUPERMAN

What was I thinking recommending you? You are my biggest mistake.

STARGIRL

Superman, please! I'm sorry!

GREEN LANTERN, THE FLASH, CYBORG, and OTHER HEROES appear until the room is filled with LEAGUERS, all muttering "DISGRACE", "FAILURE", "MISTAKE". Stargirl puts her head in her hands, tugs her hair, as tears stream down her cheeks.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)
No! Please, I can change! I am
good enough! Don't shut me out!

One by one, the leaguers all turn their backs on her.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)
(WEEPING) No, no...

INT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - BED ROOM - HALLUCINATION

Stargirl shuts her eyes. The Watchtower transforms into her
childhood room. Her MOTHER tucks YOUNG COURTNEY into bed.

YOUNG COURTNEY
Mama, there's a monster under the
bed!

MOTHER
Oh, Courtney.

Stargirl opens her eyes, stands.

STARGIRL
Mom? Is that you?

Mother sits on the bed, Stargirl crosses, sits next to her.

MOTHER
Whenever you're feeling afraid,
just remember what a great man once
said: There's nothing to fear but
fear itself.

YOUNG COURTNEY
What does that mean?

STARGIRL
Yeah, what does that mean?

MOTHER
That nothing is inherently scary,
unless you give it the power to
scare you. Fear comes from inside.
But, in that same place, you can
also find... The light of courage.

STARGIRL
The light of courage...

YOUNG COURTNEY
Thanks Mom, I feel better, now.
Good night!

MOTHER

I love you, Courtney.

Young Courtney closes her eyes. Mother kisses her, lays a hand on her. Stargirl puts her hand on her Mother's hand, smiles and closes her eyes.

INT. CHEMICAL FACTORY - TRASH ROOM - NIGHT

Stargirl opens her eyes and is back in the trash room, the walls now just two feet away from crushing her.

POV STARGIRL: The garbage monsters continue dancing.

She stands, faces them.

STARGIRL

I take back your power to scare me!
You are not real! You're nothing
but harmless trash!

POV STARGIRL: The monsters stop dancing, look to each other, stunned.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)

That's right!

Stargirl picks up TRASH, rubs it on herself.

STARGIRL (CONT'D)

There, you see! I love trash! It
can't hurt me! I have nothing to
fear but fear itself!

MONSTERS

(PAINED SQUEAL)

POV STARGIRL: The monsters contort and VANISH. The hallucination effect ENDS and the room returns to normal.

Stargirl nods, grabs her staff, flies back up the chute, escaping just before the walls CRUNCH behind her.

INT. CHEMICAL FACTORY - RESEARCH ROOM - NIGHT

Scarecrow lovingly strokes the countdown, now at "2 MINUTES". Stargirl flies out of the chute, lands in front of Grundy.

SCARECROW

You're back? How? You're supposed
to be trapped in an endless
nightmare of your own creation!

STARGIRL

Let's just say I had a wake-up
call!

Stargirl rushes forward, Grundy swats her back.

SOLOMON GRUNDY

Small girl no hurt straw man!

SCARECROW

Yes, stop her, my revolting
reprobate! It's almost time.

Grundy smiles, gets in her face, like before.

SOLOMON GRUNDY

You want see Grundy's teeth, again?

STARGIRL

Save that smile for your profile
pic, Mr. Handsome!

Stargirl stomps on Grundy's head, flips through the air,
lands by Batman, cuts his ropes loose with her staff.

Batman grabs Scarecrow, hoists him up by the scruff of his
shirt, raises a fist. Scarecrow smiles, raises his gauntlet,
sprays his face with FEAR GAS. Batman sniffs, rubs his nose,
then raises his fist again.

SCARECROW

What? Impossible! How can you
resist my gas?

BATMAN

Simple, Scarecrow. I have no
fears.

Batman punches Scarecrows so hard he flies clear across the
room, landing on the other side of Grundy.

SCARECROW

Grundy, pulverize those peons!

SOLOMON GRUNDY

(CHARGING ROAR)

Grundy rushes at them. Batman pulls out a BATARANG,
punctures one of the TUBES that make up the bomb, releasing
all the gas directly into Grundy's mouth. Grundy stops in
his tracks, eyes go wide.

SCARECROW

No, my bomb! You've ruined it!

Grundy turns, stares at Scarecrow.

POV GRUNDY: Scarecrow becomes a giant SPRIG OF BROCCOLI.

SOLOMON GRUNDY
(SCREAM) Broccoli? Grundy hate
nasty broccoli! Grundy smash it to
bits!

Grundy charges into Scarecrow, grabs him in a bear hug,
continues sprinting with him, out the door.

SCARECROW
(STRUGGLING GRUNTS) I'm no
vegetable, you lousy lummoX! Curse
you, Batman! And curse you, Starry
Girl!

STARGIRL
That's Stargirl! But, close
enough.
(to Batman)
So, should we go after them?

BATMAN
I think Scarecrow needs to learn
his own lesson about overcoming his
fears.

He puts a hand on her shoulder.

BATMAN (CONT'D)
I'm proud of you, Stargirl. Not
many people could have resisted
Scarecrow's formula. It seems you
are definitely Justice League
material.

STARGIRL
Really!?! So, can I post that, now?

She holds up her phone. Batman removes his arm, deploys his
GRAPPLE GUN to the rafters.

BATMAN
Don't push it.

Batman's grapple gun carries him off. Stargirl grins, texts
a few words on phone, then flies off after him.

END OF EPISODE