

# Joel Drake

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## *Supermen*

*A Pilot*

### **EXT. EMPTY PARKING LOT – DAY**

A DOT APPEARS IN THE SKY ACROSS FROM VEG-A-MART SUPERMARKET. THE DOT GETS LARGER ACCOMPANIED BY A HUM.

### **INT. VEG-A-MART – DAY**

**TERRY**, 56, MANAGER, **TED**, 16, HIS SON, **VERITY**, 22, ASSISTANT MANAGER, **STEVE**, 30, STOCK MANAGER, **LUCY**, 18, AND **PAUL**, 24, CASHIERS, STARE OUT OF THE FRONT WINDOW. A SHADOW FALLS ACROSS THEM.

**TERRY**

Great god of guacamole.

### **EXT. EMPTY PARKING LOT – DAY**

THE SPECK HAS BECOME A BUILDING DESCENDING BY THE AID OF GIANT ROCKETS. THE FRONT READS: 'BIG BIG WAREHOUSE.'

### **INT. VEG-A-MART – DAY**

TERRY RUNS AROUND WAVING HIS ARMS.

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**TERRY**

Chain store! Battle stations  
everyone!

**PAUL**

Should we ... ?

**LUCY**

Battle stations are when Terry hides  
under his desk.

A BOOM AND FLASH. EVERYONE JUMPS.

**EXT. PARKING LOT – DAY**

BIG BIG WAREHOUSE DIGS INTO THE GROUND. THE BUILDING  
TRANSFORMS. LAMPPOSTS SPROUT UP. THE BUILDING FOLDS OUT. THE  
TRANSFORMATION COMPLETES. CUSTOMERS PARK AND FLOCK INSIDE.

**INT. VEG-A-MART – DAY**

**LUCY**

It must die.

SHE EXITS. STEVE AND PAUL FOLLOW. TERRY RUNS AWAY TO HIS OFFICE,  
VERITY IN PURSUIT.

**EXT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE – DAY**

LUCY, STEVE AND PAUL LOOK UP AT BIG BIG WAREHOUSE. IT GLOWS  
AND HUMS EERILY.

**STEVE**

They have. THE. Best. Nachos.

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**LUCY**

You can feel the evil.

**PAUL**

Yeah. But people know better than to shop at a place like this, right?

MRS NESSBAUM, 42, EXITS WITH A CARTLOAD OF DIAPERS. EYES WILD.

**MRS NESSBAUM**

HEY VEG-A-MORONS! GOTS ME  
FOUR HUNDRED DIAPERS FOR  
TWENTY DOLLARS!

**STEVE**

But, Mrs Nessbaum, you don't even  
have, like ... a baby.

**MRS NESSBAUM**

I'M GONNA MAKE SOME!

**INT. NESSBAUM MINIVAN – DAY**

MR NESSBAUM, 46, SHAKES WITH FEAR.

**EXT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE – DAY**

**PAUL**

What's her problem?

**STEVE**

Sale Madness, man!

**PAUL**

Excuse me?

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**LUCY**

Superlow prices have put normal shoppers into a state of hyper-consumerism. We call it ... 'Sale Madness.'

**PAUL**

Well, then I guess we should check it out.

**LUCY**

And destroy it.

**STEVE**

And nachos!

**INT. TERRY'S OFFICE – DAY**

TERRY HIDES UNDER HIS DESK. VERITY MID-PEP TALK.

**VERITY**

C'mon Ter-Bear! Positive fulfillment!  
Actuate your chi! Oooommmmm.

**TERRY**

I hate chi.

**VERITY**

No you don't! You hate bats,  
toenails –

**TERRY**

And chi! It's over, Verity! We might  
as well quit! Who's gonna come  
here when they can go to Big Big  
Warehouse?

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**VERITY**

What about the locavores!?

**INT. VEG-A-MART – DAY**

A **HIPSTER**, 33, POINTS TO ‘LOCAL FOOD AISLES’ SIGN AND BERATES TED.

**HIPSTER**

More like the BRITISH AISLES!

**INT. TERRY’S OFFICE – DAY**

**VERITY**

OK. We’ll have to get competitive!  
Dust the fruit, paint new signs, set  
traps for the honey badger! What  
about our website?

**TERRY**

We have a website?

**VERITY**

Doesn’t everything?

THEY PULL UP THE VEG-A-MART SITE: DINKY, WITH A FEW RANDOM  
GIFS. NO USEFUL INFORMATION. AN ANNOYING JINGLE LOOPS.

**TERRY**

Aww! Little cows! Look!

**VERITY**

... Let’s see what we’re up against.

BBW WEBSITE: IT’S SLICK WITH TONS OF ANIMATION.

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**P.H.A.R.O.S. (PLEASANT AND HELPFUL ALL-SEEING OVERLORD SYSTEM),  
BBW'S SPOKESMAN, GREET'S THEM.**

***P.H.A.R.O.S.***

Welcome! You have WON: a potato!

***TERRY***

I won!

***VERITY***

Terry! It's the enemy!

***TERRY***

But I never win.

***VERITY***

Wait ... That's it! We'll have a  
contest! And the winner gets a  
free prize!

***TERRY***

How free? Like, free-free?

***VERITY***

Hush! Now what contest to have?  
Beauty pageant? ... Been done. Cat  
show? ... Drama. Talent show? ...  
Mimes. I know! Doggies! PERF!  
We'll have a Doggie-Beauty-Pageant-  
Show!

***TERRY***

That's ... confusing.

***VERITY***

And you, me and Betsy will judge!

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TERRY WHIMPERS.

***VERITY (CONT'D)***

Don't be a baby! Let's get to it!

***INT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE***

PAUL AND LUCY STAND BEFORE A CITY OF PRODUCTS.

P.H.A.R.O.S. ON SCREENS EVERYWHERE. SHOPPERS FIGHT OVER DEALS.  
PAUL PICKS UP AN ITEM.

***PAUL***

Ten pounds of pancake mix for a  
dollar? How is this possible?

***LUCY***

Puppy labor.

***PAUL***

Say what now?

***LUCY***

It says on the package 'Made with  
Puppy Labor'. It even has a picture.

SHE HOLDS UP A BAG OF PANCAKE MIX WITH A PICTURE OF A PUPPY  
WEARING AN EYEPATCH.

***PAUL***

But ... Thumbs. And ... Who would  
want to buy such evil products?

MRS NESSBAUM NOW HOLDS THE BAG OF PANCAKE MIX.

***MRS NESSBAUM***

BABIES LOVE PANCAKE MIX!

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***INT. NESSBAUM MINIVAN – DAY***

MR NESSBAUM SOBS IN A MINIVAN FILLED WITH DIAPERS.

***INT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE – DAY***

STEVE ARRIVES STUFFING HIS FACE WITH NACHOS.

***STEVE***

(mouth full)  
I got nachos!

***PAUL***

Steve, don't! Evil!

***STEVE***

(crestfallen)  
But. Nachos!

LUCY EXAMINES THE NACHOS.

***LUCY***

These aren't even made with cheese.

STEVE CONTINUES TO STUFF HIS FACE.

***STEVE***

Terrible! Just terrible!

***LUCY***

Or corn.

STEVE SHAKES HIS HEAD. CONTINUES EATING.

***LUCY (CONT'D)***

But it does have 'meat bits.'



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STEVE STOPS MID-MUNCH.

**STEVE**

Meat?

**LUCY**

Bits.

STEVE TREMBLES. HIS EYES GO CRAZY. THE NACHOS DROP.

**PAUL**

You there Steve? Steve.

**LUCY**

Steve's a very strict vegetarian.

STEVE FOAMS AT THE MOUTH.

**LUCY (CONT'D)**

Very. Very. Strict.

STEVE LETS OUT A CRY. HE KNOCKS ITEMS OFF SHELVES, TEARS AROUND THE STORE SCREAMING AT CUSTOMERS.

**PAUL**

I see.

MIDWAY THROUGH WRECKING THE CEREAL AISLE, A METAL CLAW GRABS STEVE: ONE OF P.H.A.R.O.S.'S DRONES.

**P.H.A.R.O.S.**

What are you doing, Steve?

**STEVE**

(still mad)

How did you know my name, guy?

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You are wearing a nametag.

**STEVE**

Maybe I am!

**P.H.A.R.O.S.**

Please cease your destructive activities.

**STEVE**

No way robo-dude!

HE STRUGGLES WILDLY IN THE GRIP OF P.H.A.R.O.S.

**P.H.A.R.O.S.**

Oh dear. Perhaps music will calm you.

P.H.A.R.O.S.'S SCREEN TURNS INTO A JUKEBOX. SOFT POP PLAYS IN THE STORE. CUSTOMERS LOOK ENTICED BY SMOOTH BEATS. BOY BAND 'YEAH YEAH'S. FOG POURS FROM THE STOCKROOM DOORS. THE 'STOCKBOYS', A 4-PART BOY BAND STRUT OUT.

**STOCKBOY 1**

Oh baby, you've done it again (oooh)  
Smashed my life on the floor (yeah)  
But I can't let you in again (girl)  
the way I did before (no no no)

**DANCE INTERLUDE. LADIES SWOON. MEN SWOON. STOCKBOYS  
DANCE STEVE TOWARDS THE FRONT.**

**STOCKBOY 2**

So it's time for you to go (oh)  
get you outta my head (please) and

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if you try to come back for more  
(girl) please remember these words  
that I said:

***ALL STOCKBOYS***

This is a clean-up on aisle three,  
'cause it's over with you and me  
(me) if you come back here again,  
I tell you my friend you will regret  
you messed with me (ooh). You  
will regret you messed with me  
[Repeat x3].

***EXT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE – DAY (CONTINUOUS)***

THE STOCKBOYS THROW STEVE OUT THE FRONT DOOR.

***STOCKBOY 1***

ME!

***INT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE – DAY***

P.H.A.R.O.S. MENACES LUCY AND PAUL.

***P.H.A.R.O.S.***

Now, are we going to have any  
more trouble? Or would you like  
an encore?

***PAUL***

Please no.

***P.H.A.R.O.S.***

Excellent. Have a coupon for a  
potato!

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**PAUL**

I don't actually need –

P.H.A.R.O.S. PUTS THE COUPON INTO PAUL'S POCKET.

**P.H.A.R.O.S.**

I insist! Big Big Warehouse's deals are the best, I assure you. And if you find a better deal on a potato we match it.

LUCY GRABS P.H.A.R.O.S. BY THE SCREEN AND SHAKES HIM.

**LUCY**

Listen Speak-N-Spell, you're not wanted here! Capiche?

**P.H.A.R.O.S.**

Ss-stop s-sshaking m-me I'mmmm  
ffff –.

**LUCY**

Huh? You're a f-f-frisbee? Really?

SHE FRISBEES P.H.A.R.O.S. INTO THE RAFTERS. HE BOUNCES AROUND, GETS STUCK, TWITCHES. THEN BURSTS INTO FLAMES.

**LUCY (CONT'D)**

We can go now.

**PAUL**

Yes'm.

THEY WALK BY THE COWERING STOCKBOYS AND OUT THE DOOR.

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**EXT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE – DAY**

STEVE WAVES AT LUCY AND PAUL.

**STEVE**

Hey guys! Hey!

STEVE SEES SOMETHING.

**STEVE (CONT'D)**

Lucy! Look out!

LUCY TURNS. A POSSE OF SHOPPING CARTS ROLLS TOWARDS HER. HER EYES NARROW. SHE TAKES A FIGHTING STANCE.

**PAUL**

The hell?

**LUCY**

Get some, you overgrown colanders!

THE SHOPPING CARTS ADVANCE ON HER. SHE JUDO KICKS AND SENDS ONE FLYING. THE CARTS ENCIRCLE HER. SHE TURNS AND TURNS. ONE OF THE CARTS REARS UP AT HER. SHE BLOCKS. LUCY THROWS THE NEXT ATTACKER. THE CARTS RUSH INWARD.

**PAUL**

Look out!

LUCY LEAPS OVER THE CARTS. LETS OUT A WAR CRY AND LANDS ON HER FEET, READY TO FIGHT. THE CARTS PULL BACK.

**LUCY**

Giving up? Cowards!

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THE CARTS PULL INTO A GROUP. THEY DISASSEMBLE AND TRANSFORM: LEGS, BODY, ARMS AND HEAD FORM A GIANT REPTILIAN MONSTER ... CARTZILLA. IT ROARS IN ANGER LETTING OUT A BLAZE OF FIRE.

**PAUL**

Wanna run away?

**LUCY**

Maybe ... Yeah.

THE TRIO RUN FOR IT. CARTZILLA PURSUES THEM. THEY BARELY MAKE IT TO THE EDGE OF THE PARKING LOT WHERE THE ANTI-THEFT LINE STOPS CARTZILLA. HE ROARS, FURIOUS. LUCY BLOWS A RASPBERRY AND EXITS. CARTZILLA PETULANTLY KICKS A MINIVAN AND SLUMPS OFF. MR NESSBAUM, WHO WAS SITTING IN THE MINIVAN, SCREAMS.

**INT. VEG-A-MART – DAY**

LUCY, STEVE AND PAUL ENTER AND FIND A RUNWAY IN THE STORE. LIGHTS. MUSIC. VERITY AND HER PAPILLON, BETSY, SIT AT THE JUDGES' TABLE DECKED OUT IN PINK FRILLS. A FAT BLACK LAB SITS ON TERRY. FIVE CUSTOMERS WATCH.

**VERITY**

Next up: Mrs Grossman and Fritz!

ENTER THE SEVERE **MRS GROSSMAN**, 45, AND **FRITZ**, 3, GERMAN SHEPHERD, IN TUTUS. FRITZ GROWLS AND FIGHTS. **MR GROSSMAN**, 50, APPLAUDS.

**VERITY (CONT'D)**

Very nice *Swan Lake* theme! Love the sequins! Talent?

**MRS GROSSMAN**

Fritz! Kill!

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FRITZ GOES AFTER MR GROSSMAN.

**VERITY**

Thank you! Next up: Mr Lee and  
Barnaby! Yay!

SHE CLAPS BETSY'S PAWS TOGETHER.

**STEVE**

I hope you guys are seeing this.

VERITY SEES THE TRIO.

**VERITY**

Paulie! Stevie! Lucy-ie! We're having  
a Doggie-Beauty-Pageant-Show!

**PAUL**

I see ... Why?

**VERITY**

To attract customers!

FRITZ GOES BY IN PURSUIT OF MR GROSSMAN.

**PAUL**

About that. We've just been over to  
Big Big Warehouse. And –

**VERITY**

They're trembling in their boots?

**PAUL**

I don't think your doggie ... thingy  
is going to work.

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VERITY TEARS UP.

**VERITY**

B-but, D-Doggie-Beauty-P-Pageant!

LUCY AND STEVE HIDE.

**PAUL**

It's not going to be enough. They're just too big. I'm sorry –

**VERITY**

No you're not! You're so smart but you don't really care! I care! And caring is what will save us.

VERITY COLLECTS HERSELF.

**VERITY (CONT'D)**

Now, I'm going to finish my pageant, and save Veg-A-Mart!

SHE STOMPS AWAY. LUCY AND STEVE ARE BACK.

**LUCY**

Way to make my sister cry dude.

**PAUL**

But ... It's the truth.

**LUCY**

Dude. She's having a Doggie-Beauty-Pageant. You think she cares about truth?



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**STEVE**

Beauty is truth!

**LUCY**

Why don't you put that college  
brain of yours to use already?

**PAUL**

What can I do? I'm just a cashier.

**LUCY**

What happened man? You were a  
hero in this town. Now look at you:  
couldn't even turn down a coupon  
from the enemy. Let's go, Steve.

THEY EXIT. PAUL PULLS THE COUPON OUT.

**PAUL**

It was only for a potat – !

SOMETHING STRIKES HIM.

**PAUL (CONT'D)**

Oh.

**INT. VEG-A-MART BACK ROOM – DAY**

LUCY PLAYING A GAME AT THE COMPUTER, STEVE 'HELPING'.

**STEVE**

Right there! Mage! Get the mage!  
The mage! Get him! Lucy get him!  
Mage!

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**LUCY**

Freaking calm down!

PAUL ENTERS.

**PAUL**

I got it guys! I know what to do!

THEY STARE BLANKLY.

**LUCY**

'Bout what?

**PAUL**

Our store? The conversation we just had?

**LUCY**

Oh.

SHE GOES BACK TO THE GAME.

**PAUL**

What ... ? Never mind, I need the computer.

**STEVE**

But mages!

**PAUL**

Mages later Steve.

**INT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE – DAY**

LUCY, PAUL AND STEVE GO UP TO P.H.A.R.O.S. CHECKOUT DRONE.

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**LUCY**

Hey there Etch-A-Sketch.

**P.H.A.R.O.S.**

Well! How did you get past  
Cartzilla?

**EXT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE – DAY**

VERITY AWARDS A ‘MISS CONGENIALITY’ RIBBON TO CARTZILLA AND  
CLAPS HER HANDS.

**VERITY**

Yaaaayy!

CARTZILLA ROARS IN JOY. MR GROSSMAN PASSES, CHASED BY FRITZ.

**INT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE – DAY**

**P.H.A.R.O.S.**

And the Stockboys?

**EXT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE – DAY**

THE STOCKBOYS SING *SEXUAL HEALING* OUTSIDE A ROCKING NESSBAUM  
VAN.

**P.H.A.R.O.S.**

Clever. Well what do you want?

**PAUL**

Not much, I just found a better deal  
for a potato.

HE PUTS DOWN A VEG-A-MART COUPON FOR INFINITY PERCENT OFF A  
POTATO. P.H.A.R.O.S. SCANS IT. BEEP. SCANS AGAIN. ERROR ALARM.

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***P.H.A.R.O.S.***

But that's-th-  
thaaaaaaaaaaaauuuhhhzzzz

P.H.A.R.O.S. SMOKES AND TWITCHES. SPARKS FLY.

***PAUL***

What's amatter? Does not compute?

THE WHOLE STORE STARTS TO MALFUNCTION.

***PAUL (CONT'D)***

I think ... Let's run.

EVERYONE RUNS OUT OF BIG BIG WAREHOUSE.

***EXT. BIG BIG WAREHOUSE – DAY***

SMOKE POURS FROM THE BUILDING AS IT DE-TRANSFORMS. LAMPPOSTS SUCK INTO THE GROUND. ROCKETS START LIFT OFF. BBW EXPELS THE LAST CUSTOMERS AND TAKES OFF INTO THE SKY.

***PAUL***

Woo! It worked! Hey guys!  
High five!

LUCY AND STEVE ARE WALKING BACK TO VEG-A-MART.

***STEVE***

Mages!

***PAUL***

Go me ... Yeah.

***END OF PILOT***



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**Joel Drake** grew up in suburban Massachusetts. In 2007 he graduated from Occidental College in Los Angeles, California. For the next three years he worked in television for various production companies. In 2010 he moved to Norwich to attend UEA's prestigious Creative Writing programme.

