

ACT ONE

EXT. ROBOTO HOUSE - LINWOOD, CT - DAY

The HOUSE is a large, newly-built, cookie-cutter Colonial that presides over the neighborhood. An 18-wheel MOVING VAN pulls into the cul-de-sac driveway.

A CROWD has gathered in the street, MURMURING in awe.

CRASH! The back of the truck has BLOWN OPEN, and a giant, menacing ROBOT emerges. The crowd GASPS as the robot steps toward them. It suddenly bows down, revealing Alexei at the controls in its head.

ALEXEI ROBOTO

People of Linwood, Connecticut! I am
Dr. Alexei Roboto, scourge of the weak
and unroboted, defeater of your
precious hero SeaWolf, and, from this
day forward, your new neighbor! Bow
down! Bow--

ED LORCH (O.S.)

Stop that! Stop it!

ED LORCH, a stocky bald man with a moustache, approaches Alexei through the crowd.

ALEXEI ROBOTO

Who the hell are you?

ED LORCH

Ed Lorch. I've been sent by the Love.

INT. ROBOTO HOUSE - KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

Alexei sits at the table playing with a muffin. He CRUSHES it, then picks off little crumbs and eats them. Lorch sits across from him.

JANIE, Alexei's wife, enters with tea for them.

ED LORCH

Thanks, Mrs. Roboto. It smells lovely.

He drinks it. Alexei watches with evil glee, then stands.

ALEXEI ROBOTO

Ha! You just drank a teacup full of cyanide! So long, stooge!

He LAUGHS, then sees Janie shaking her head "no." Pouting, he sits back down and drinks his harmless tea.

ED LORCH

About that, Alexei. I'm what's called a "LoVE Monitor." I've been assigned to make sure you abide by the conditions of your retirement.

ALEXEI ROBOTO

What! You fired me. You can go to hell.

SMASHO, a 10-foot-tall humanoid robot, enters with several bags of groceries and begins stocking the refrigerator.

ED LORCH

Please. Mobius doesn't want you causing negative publicity for them. They're very wary of being seen as "evil."

ALEXEI ROBOTO

Well, that explains the "LoVE" acronym.

ED LORCH

Precisely. Condition one: No municipal domination. Two: No henchpersons.

Smasho DROPS a jar of pickles, which SHATTERS on the floor, and starts picking up the pickles one by one. Alexei glares at him.

ED LORCH (CONT'D)

Uh, three: No communication with the
LoVE, except through me. Four: No
lethal force. And finally: No media
presence, whatsoever.

Smasho puts all the pickles he's gathered up in a spare
Tupperware container, and puts it in the fridge.

ED LORCH (CONT'D)

(RE: SMASHO) He's not lethal, is he?

ALEXEI ROBOTO

(EXASPERATED) Well, considering it took
him a full minute to put a jar of
pickles into a refrigerator...I doubt
he's anything to worry about.

Smasho exits, sulking.

ED LORCH

Very good. Now I must warn you that
failure to abide by these conditions
will result in adversarial relations
with the LoVE, and loss of retirement
benefits. Understood?

Alexei nods.

ED LORCH (CONT'D)

Then I'll be off. Thanks for the tea.

Alexei sticks his foot out to trip Ed on his way out, but Ed
sees it in time and stops.

ED LORCH (CONT'D)

(WARNING) Tread lightly, Dr. Roboto.

Ed Lorch exits as DAN enters wearing a backpack.

DAN

Bye, Mom. Bye-- (TRIPS OVER ALEXEI'S
FOOT) --Dad...

JANIE

Alexei!

ALEXEI ROBOTO

Bye, son. Finish your homework?

DAN

(STILL DAZED) I...don't remember...

ALEXEI ROBOTO

That's m'boy. Have fun at school.

Dan sighs and exits. Alexei watches him go.

ALEXEI ROBOTO (CONT'D)

You know, I missed Dan's entire
childhood being a supervillain. Perhaps
there is a good side to this forced
retirement after all.

As Alexei devours his muffin, the doorbell RINGS.

ALEXEI ROBOTO (CONT'D)

(CHOKES) Dear God! Neighbors!

INT. ROBOTO HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Janie opens the door, followed by Alexei, revealing ALAN and SANDY JONES, holding a massive pre-fab WELCOME BASKET.

ALAN AND SANDY

Welcome, welcome, one and all,/ to
Linwood, hope you have a ball! (LAUGHS)

ALAN

I'm Alan Jones.

SANDY

And I'm Sandy Jones! Welcome!

ALAN AND SANDY

Welcome--

ALEXEI ROBOTO

Good God, what ghastly torture is
this?! Get out!

ALAN

We're the Joneses. We live next door.

ALEXEI ROBOTO

But of course you do. Where else would
"the Joneses" live? Now please be off;
God forbid you neglect the neighbors on
the other side of your house...

He starts shoving them out the door, but they resist.

SANDY

Wait! What about the basket?

ALEXEI ROBOTO

You're right. Thank you. Get out.

He takes the basket and SLAMS the door.

JANIE

That was nice of them.

ALEXEI ROBOTO

Yes. I must remember to destroy their
house later.

INT. ROBOTO HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Alexei and Janie enter. Janie puts the basket on the table as Alexei rips out the bottle of Champagne and takes a swig.

ALEXEI ROBOTO

(DISGUSTED) Spared no expense, I see.

It's not everyday you find a sparkling wine that tastes like Milwaukee's Best.

He tosses the bottle out the window.

ALEXEI ROBOTO (CONT'D)

Try and salvage the cheeses. I've gotta go see Dad.

Alexei exits. Janie tries the cheese.

JANIE

Oooh, American!

EXT./ESTAB. MARVEL COLLECTIBLES' OLD VILLAINS' HOME - DAY

INT. OLD VILLAINS' HOME - YURI'S ROOM - SAME

YURI ROBOTO, an 85-year-old Russian still wearing his cloth 1960's-era villain costume, sits on his bed across from Alexei, who plays with Yuri's rolltop desk.

YURI

I don't know why you complain! We used to dream of being paid millions of dollars to sit still and to shut up!

ALEXEI ROBOTO

But I became a supervillain to conquer a city and rule with a stainless-steel fist; not to "take the money and run" like some snot-nosed Steve Miller Band protagonist. I wanted money and power!

YURI

Bah! In Soviet Russia we had neither. I build them robot to launch ballistic nukes, and they use it to launch stupid beeping ball! So I come to America to become villain. Captain Sputnik was my name! For twenty-five years I battled Blue Mystic for control of "Hartford." Then League of Villainy shut me in here and gave job to you! 1987 it was. You used one of my newest robots...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HARTFORD - 1987 - STREET LEVEL - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Alexei sits in the head of a boxy, 20-foot-tall robot that looks like an 80s-era 8-bit videogame character. He FIRES A CUBE at the BLUE MYSTIC (a blue wizard riding a cloud), but Blue Mystic deflects the cube with a THUNDERBOLT.

BLUE MYSTIC

Ha! Using the same old toys as your father, Alexei? Or is it "Sputnik Jr.?"

ALEXEI ROBOTO

It's--

Blue Mystic FIRES A THUNDERBOLT at the robot, knocking it into a building, seeming to knock Alexei out.

BLUE MYSTIC

"Hard being the center of attention?"
I'll say. Not like being a sidekick, with your father to hide behind! You won't get away this time, Junior!

Blue Mystic hovers down to Alexei's level, and prepares to throw a thunderbolt, but the robot suddenly FIRES A CUBE at him, knocking him back into the sky. Alexei awakens...

ALEXEI ROBOTO

It's Doctor...Roboto!

He pulls the robot to its feet as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OLD VILLAINS' HOME - YURI'S ROOM - DAY (PRESENT)

YURI

It's always hard to start new battle,
son. Here is no different. You're the
region's most successful supervillain!
Don't let stupid corporate bureaucracy
make you forget this!

ALEXEI ROBOTO

You're right, Dad! (DEVIOUS) First
Linwood...then Hartford again...then
the world! Come, Smasho!

PULL OUT to REVEAL Smasho in the corner, knitting. He stands and follows Alexei out, SMASHING to rolltop desk as he goes.

EXT./ESTAB. MONTCLAIR HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

INT. MONTCLAIR HIGH SCHOOL - GYM

Dan and a dozen other CLASSMATES play dodgeball. Dan is the only one wearing a hockey helmet, thus he is the prime target of his classmates, who BARRAGE him with dodgeballs. The class bully, JAKE WESTWOOD, approaches Dan.

JAKE

Nice helmet, Robo-Dork!

Jake PEGS him in the head with a dodgeball, and LAUGHS.

DAN

You won't be laughing tomorrow when I'm
the only one that doesn't have a giant
subdural hematoma! Jerk!

He gets PEGGED in the head by several more CLASSMATES.

DAN (CONT'D)

(WOOZY) I stand corrected...

He drags himself to the sideline, where he meets LUKE
STABLER, a meek-looking kid with several bruises on his
head. He's wearing a SeaWolf t-shirt.

LUKE

A helmet! Why didn't I think of that!

DAN

It doesn't help.

LUKE

(EXTENDS HIS HAND) Luke Skywalker.

DAN

What?

LUKE

Luke Stabler, really, but my friends
call me Luke Skywalker.

DAN

That's...cool.

LUKE

Yup. So what's your name, friend?

DAN

Dan Roboto.

Luke's eyes widen. He tries to cover his t-shirt.

LUKE

Oh my gosh! You're Dr. Roboto's kid!

DAN

(SIGHS) Yeah. He's not that scary.

LUKE

Really? I nearly crapped myself when he beat SeaWolf. I was expecting a horrible reign of terror or something.

DAN

Nah. They made him retire.

LUKE

It's still cool. But we're friends, right? Even though I like SeaWolf?

DAN

Sure. Dad's not a supervillain anymore. Now he's just an insufferable jackass.

LUKE

Like Jake?

Dan gets HIT by another dodgeball.

DAN

(WINCING) How do you mean...

EXT./ESTAB. ROBOTO HOUSE - LATER

INT. ROBOTO HOUSE - BASEMENT - SAME

The basement is the size of a warehouse, and dark. Yuri and Alexei's obsolete giant robots line the walls, as Alexei works at a table in the center of the room using only a small desk lamp for light. We don't see what he's building.

A door CREAKS open off-screen.

PAN TO Janie as she flips on the lights.

JANIE

Honey? (SEES ROBOTS) I thought you were gonna put your old robots in storage?

ALEXEI ROBOTO

This is storage. Come here, honey, I'm working on a plan!

JANIE

Oh, no. But you're retired!

ALEXEI ROBOTO

I can't help it. Certain things need to be dealt with.

JANIE

What things?

ALEXEI ROBOTO

What things? Evil things. Big nasty corporate things. Supervillainy things. This whole "LOVE" thing...

JANIE

But I "love" you...

Alexei makes an "over-the-head" gesture as Dan enters.

DAN

Dad, I hate my new school. This kid Jake Westwood--

ALEXEI ROBOTO

Not now, Dan. I'm scheming.

DAN

Again? But you already won...

ALEXEI ROBOTO

Not here I haven't. In Linwood, like in all suburban Connecticut towns, the seat of power is at the country club; and I've just found a way into their exclusionary, white-bred fortress!

DAN

Oh, give it up, Dad. Can you help me deal with my real problem now?

ALEXEI ROBOTO

You're a kid. Kids don't have problems.

Now look at this:

Alexei unveils two nasty-looking BLADES about the size of twin beds, along with blueprints of Smasho wearing the blades in place of his hands.

DAN

So now he slices instead of smashes?

Good one, Dad. This is much better than helping me with my bully problem.

ALEXEI ROBOTO

Bully, eh? Don't worry, "Slice-o" will take care of him! (BEAT) Once I come up with a better name for him..."Blade-o?"

DAN

Dad, I don't think smashing and slicing are gonna work that well here.

ALEXEI ROBOTO

Sure they will! Once I slice my way
into that country club, I'll be
bringing back the fear in a big way!

EXT./ESTAB. MONTCLAIR HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

INT. MONTCLAIR HIGH SCHOOL - MAIN HALLWAY - SAME

Dan opens his locker as Jake grabs his arms from behind.

DAN

What! Hey!

JAKE

Your Dad's a supervillain, right?

Luke enters, but hides when he sees Jake.

DAN

You're a fat, pimply moron, right?

LUKE

(WHISPERING IN TERROR) No, you fool!

JAKE

That's it, little Roboto! You get to
spend the day in your locker!

Jake THROWS Dan into his locker, SLAMMING it shut after him.

Suddenly the locker begins BEEPING and grows ARMS and LEGS.

JAKE (CONT'D)

What the...

LUKE

Whoa!

INT. LOCKER - CONTINUOUS

Dan is crammed between his coat and backpack.

DAN

Oh, come on, Dad! Not LockerBot!

BACK TO MAIN HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

LOCKERBOT walks toward Jake, picks him up, and THROWS him through the window.

It's job done, LockerBot turns its combination lock and releases Dan, before returning to default and shutting down.

ALEXEI (V.O.)

(FROM LOCKERBOT) You can thank me later for solving your bully problem. I love you, son. And remember to clean this out if you wet yourself again.

Dan grits his teeth in anger as other students LAUGH at him.

LUKE

Do you think your Dad can build one of those for me?

INT. ALAN JONES'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Dan walks into Alan's obsessively spotless office, with drawings done by his kids on the walls. He sits down.

DAN

You wanted to see me, Mr. Jones?

ALAN

Call me Alan. And Principal Slater actually wants to see you, not me. I just thought I'd spare you the embarrassment of being called to the Principal's office on your second day.

DAN

That was nice of you. Where's Principal Slater's office?

ALAN

Down the hall.

Dan MUTTERS in frustration as he gets up.

INT. PRINCIPAL SLATER'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Dan enters and sees Ed Lorch, the LOVE Monitor, sitting in Principal Slater's chair.

ED LORCH

Hello, Dan. I'm Ed Lorch, the new Vice Principal. I know your father. I hope you're not taking after him...

DAN

No! I didn't mean to hurt Jake! My Dad built LockerBot, I swear!

ED LORCH

Oh, I'm quite sure of that. But Principal Slater has insisted that someone be held responsible for this, and I'm afraid that someone is you. You're expelled. See you next year.

Dan's eyes grow wide with fear.

EXT./ESTAB. WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB - AFTERNOON

EXT. CLUB SWIMMING POOL - SAME

Jake Westwood, his legs in casts, and his Dad JACK WESTWOOD sunbathe on chaise lounges in the "Club President" section. Suddenly, a huge SHADOW appears and blocks their sun.

JACK WESTWOOD

What the...

JAKE

Hey, who's the jerk with the big
umbrell-- (LOOKS UP) Oh...

He sees Smasho, with his new blades, standing behind Alexei.

ALEXEI

President Jack Westwood, I presume!
And...Jack the younger...I'm sorry I
don't recall your name at the moment.

JAKE

It's Jake, moron.

ALEXEI

Jake Westwood, eh? The pimply bastard
who's been bullying my son!

JACK WESTWOOD

Hey, lay off, Roboto! Your stupid
locker robot threw my son out a window
at school this morning!

ALEXEI

You'll suffer a much worse fate if you
don't let me in your club, Jack!

JACK WESTWOOD

Absolutely not! If you want in, you'll
have to find a sponsor like anyone
else, but I wouldn't count on it!

ALEXEI ROBOTO

Very well! Smasho, attack!

Smasho stomps its foot, which lands in a puddle and slips. Smasho struggles to balance, accidentally stepping down into the pool, sending ELECTRIC SHOCKS throughout its body. Smasho tries to climb out of the pool, but the blades can't grab hold. Beaten, it swims to the shallow end and crawls meekly out of the pool.

ALEXEI ROBOTO (CONT'D)

Oh, for the love of- does nothing work?

JACK WESTWOOD

Your robots won't help you here, Dr.

Roboto. Now get out of my club!

EXT. CLUB PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Alexei and Smasho plod out of the club. Alexei suddenly sees Jack Westwood's BENTLEY in the Club President space.

ALEXEI ROBOTO

(DEVIOUS) Haha...you may have won the battle, Westwood, but not unscathed!

Smasho! Key "Loser" into that Bentley!

Alexei LAUGHS evilly as Smasho begins writing with his blade on the car, but instead of scratching letters, the blade DIGS IN to the car, MANGLING it beyond recognition.

ALEXEI ROBOTO (CONT'D)

Uh...hmm. Well, revenge is revenge.

END OF ACT ONE