

AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER. A DAY WHEN FOUR VILLAINS CAME TOGETHER TO DESTROY E.G.G. ONCE AND FOR ALL. ON THAT DAY, THE MASTERS OF DOOM WERE BORN.

MASTERS OF DOOM

The World's Most Dangerous Villains

-EPISODE 20-

THE END OF EVERYTHING

MASTERS OF DOOM SEASON 2 FINALE

PART 4

MASTERING DOOM

“There.” Smythe said, putting the final touches on a Scramble gauntlet. “Tech that Norman hasn’t tampered with.” He began to get up, but then stopped, remembering he had just lost the use of his legs. Julian strapped it on.

“Solid.” He said. “What’s good with Mara?” He looked over to Ailemara, who was hooked up to an IV.

“The nanites should be drained from her system.” Smythe said. “But I’d give it another 10 minutes just to be sure.”

“We don’t have ten minutes.” Cylus said, pointing out the window. Julian walked over to see what was left of the Peak plummet into the Hudson River.

“Oh shoot, wasn’t that the eggheads?” He asked.

“Do you think they’re dead?” Cylus inquired.

“Knowin’ Westbrook? Not a chance.”

“Got it!” They turned to see Wally emerge from the wreckage, dusting off the Lightstream videogame. “Box art’s a bit banged up, otherwise the game is in good condition.”

“Are you for real right now?” Julian asked.

“Well, clearly we have to get out of town, so I’m gonna make sure I’ve got my game!”

“Galactus will not stop with your city.” Ailemara quietly stated. “He destroys planets. As it is written. Nowhere we go will be safe.”

“The heroes will take care of him though, right?” Wally asked.

“E.G.G. just crashed into the river.” Julian said.

“And this morning’s issue of the Bugle said all of the Avengers are in Jersey.” Cylus added.

“So there’s no heroes.” Wally groaned, shoulders slumped.

“It’s up to us.” Julian said.

“We don’t save the world Julian.” Wally reminded. “It’s not who we are.”

“Osborn was using us, Wally!” Julian exclaimed. “Whatever this is, Norman used *us* to help Doom bring it about. I ain’t down with that. Come on man, for Harry.” Wally paused. He sighed.

“Alright, for Harry.” He said. “But how would we go about killing a planet eater?”

“Smythe.” Cylus said. “Do you think you could hack Norman’s computers and figure out what he was up to?”

“If he hasn’t wiped the data, then most assuredly. Can... can you help me into the other room?” Cylus sighed and began to levitate Smythe. “Ah! This is not what I meant!”

“Hush.” He said. They all went into what was left of Norman’s lab, where Cylus sat Smythe in the desk chair.

“Computer’s busted up, but still online.” Julian observed.

“Excellent, just give me a few moments.” He began typing. Ailemara tapped Wally on the shoulder.

“Wally, can we talk?” She asked.

“Not really.” Wally replied.

“I... I’m very sorry.”

“Sorry’s not gonna cut it Mara.” Wally said. “Not for this.”

“I never wanted to. It just... happened.”

“Apparently it ‘just happened’ a few times.”

“I never wanted to hurt you.” She dug into her shirt and took out the necklace. “Remember when you gave this to me? It’s the only thing I have from my home planet. You gave it to me Wally.”

“It’s a piece of metal I scraped off the wall of my cell, Mara.” He said. “A cell you were holding me captive in, by the way.”

“You said that’s when you fell in love me.” She recalled. “Had you never been captured and replaced during my people’s invasion, we never would have met. You never would have asked Julian to spring me that day on the Helicarrier. If it weren’t for you, I wouldn’t be here right now.”

“Which makes it even more sad that you would take it all for granted so easily.” Wally stated. Ailemara closed her eyes, tears streaming down her face.

“I’m sorry.”

“I’ve got it!” Smythe said. “Oh dear, this is disconcerting.”

“Osborn’s been playin’ us since day one!” Julian exclaimed. “Springing Moreno, kidnapping that girl in a coma, the Stark part we went to war with the Six for! All for Doom!” Julian banged the table.

“It appears it was all for a device Norman had Alby Moreno constructing.” Smythe noted, continuing to type. “It looks to be some kind of ring. Powered by a source I’ve never seen before... But to sustain this much power he’d need... Hm... I’m almost insulted Norman did not have me working on this.”

“What’s it do Smythe.” Wally impatiently asked.

“I can’t be sure.” Smythe honestly replied. “But it does not look good.” Suddenly the building shook. There were crashes, explosions, and screams. The Masters of Doom rushed over to the window to see Galactus, standing in the street, even taller than the Oscorp tower.

“That’s him!?” Cylus exclaimed.

“He’s huge!” Wally cried. Galactus’s eyes lit up, and he fired a beam into a building, causing it to explode.

“Oh \$#&%!” Julian exclaimed. “Go! GO!” They all turned to flee.

“What about me!” Smythe cried.

“Ughhh.” Julian groaned. “Grab him Cylus.” Cylus levitated Smythe and they all took the elevator. Once they hit the ground floor, they ran outside. Galactus was stomping through the street, plowing through anything that got in his way.

“Okay, so what’s the plan?” Wally asked. Julian looked up and saw a Quinjet soar by.

“I got one.” He said. “But y’all ain’t gonna like it.”

* * *

In the Stark Fujikawa lab in Japan, HYDRA agents and Doombots were moving supplies into the giant ring that had been positioned around the Arc Reactor.

“We are prepared?” Doom asked. Silver Samurai nodded, as he, Viper and Moreno boarded the ring. Emma Frost entered the room with Carrie Jordan, wearing a Dark Phoenix uniform.

“The Phoenix is ready.” Frost stated.

“Get her onto the Halo.” Doom demanded, as Frost obeyed. Shadow entered and approached.

“Dr. Tanaka is quiet, but restless.” She reported.

“Stay here and keep an eye her Fumiko.” Doom ordered. “For the plan to succeed, the Arc Rector must remain intact.”

“Of course.” Shadow said, with a bow. “At last, your plan comes to fruition.”

“After years of plotting, is there any surprise? I have orchestrated every detail to a tee. None can stand against Doom.” He activated his communicator. “Allyssa, what is your status?” He asked. There was no response. “Daughter? Respond.” Doom demanded. Again, silence. Doom looked to Shadow. “After this, find my daughter.” He ordered.

“Yes, my lord.” She said. “Before you complete your plan, I just... Our agreement still stands?”

“Of course.” Doom said. “You have been my most loyal servant next to Allyssa. When the mission is complete, Doom shall resurrect Terrance Friedman. Permanently.” Shadow bowed.

“Many thanks, my lord.” She thanked. Doom nodded, and turned, boarding the Halo. It began to spin in a circle, slowly at first, then more rapidly. Fire spewed from the bottom and it launched into the sky. The Halo soared up through the atmosphere, into space, where it floated for a while.

“Levels holding...” Moreno announced.

“Initiate activation.” Doom ordered.

“And we are... go!” Moreno pulled a lever and the thrusters reversed, sending the Halo downward. Viper grabbed onto her seat, as Emma Frost scoffed.

“Feeling sick, Madame Hydra?” She jaunted.

“Silence mutant filth.” Viper hissed. “I’m not accustomed to traveling through space!”

“Either way.” Frost dismissed. “What part of the planet were you promised?”

“Europe.” Viper said. “All of it. As per Red Skull’s request. What of you?”

“Genosha.”

“Where is that?”

“The less you know, the better.” She looked to Silver Samurai. “I assume you took Asia?”

Samurai nodded. “Well, looks like we’re all about to be kings and queens.”

“Do you know what Norman chose?” Viper asked.

“I’ve not heard from Osborn since he left yesterday.” Frost replied. “Who knows what that madman wants.”

“We made it!” Moreno announced. The Halo rocketed down toward Manhattan. “Targeting is online, I got the big guy in sight.”

“Steady Moreno.” Doom cautioned. “We haven’t room for error.”

“You forget A.I.M. built this thing?” Moreno cockily replied. “There is no error.” The Halo sped downward, then came to a sudden stop, just above Galactus’s head. It began to rotate in a circle once more.

“Powering up!” Moreno exclaimed, pulling another lever.

“Now my dear.” Frost said to Carrie. Carrie got up, without a word, then flew out of a door and into the center of the ring. She lit her body on fire, and created a supernova in the center of the Halo. It began rotating at a steady pace. The Richards power source activated, powering up the Halo. The Stark

device came online, activating the shields. Five lights around the outside of ring shone, and attached ethereal tethers to Galactus. Galactus looked up, and began to form a blast in his hands.

“Um...” Viper looked nervously.

“It’s not working!” Frost shouted.

“Moreno.” Doom sternly stated.

“Give it a sec...” Moreno said. Galactus held his hand up, ready to fire the blast.

“Moreno!” Doom exclaimed.

“And now!” Moreno slammed a button, and suddenly Galactus’s eyes dimmed, then began to light up green. “Initiation successful.”

“Thank Heavens.” Frost sighed with relief. Moreno stood up and pulled out the chair, as Doom approached.

“Congratulations, Victor von Doom.” He said, Doom sitting in the seat. “You now control the most powerful entity in the universe.”

“Good.” Doom stated. “Put me through to the UN.”

* * *

The Quinjet soared over New York, Kyle flying and Eileen as co-pilot.

“It looks bad out there...” Acacia observed.

“We have to focus on how we can stop Galactus.” Josh replied.

“What’s that thing on his head?” Nestman asked. “It wasn’t there before.” They all looked out the window.

“What the...” Eileen said. A screen on the control panel began to beep.

“What’s that?” Josh asked.

“A breaking news feed,” Kyle explained. “Every Quinjet is equipped with one in case of a national emergency.”

“Put it on.” Josh said. Kyle tapped it, and Doom’s face appeared on the screen.

“Attention, dignitaries of the United Nations.” He declared. “I am Victor von Doom, Prime Minister of Latveria. By now you must know what is happening in New York City. An entity known as Galactus has come from beyond the stars to consume this planet. I have taken control of him to prevent that from happening, but as you can see, Galactus is still quite a destructive force in his own right. Thus, my ultimatum. You will relinquish control of your respective countries to Doom, or they will be destroyed. Manhattan will be leveled as a show of strength, and persuasion should you feel... unconvinced. You have 24 hours to surrender control of your countries. Vote now, and think fast.” The transmission ended.

“Doom is *controlling* Galactus!” Eileen exclaimed.

“And whoever doesn’t fall in line with his new world order is gonna get wiped off the map!” Nestman cried.

“Unbelievable.” Josh said. “He is literally trying to take over the world!”

“Except he actually has the power to do it.” Acacia pointed out.

“Not if we can help it.” Kyle said. “That ring is probably how Doom is controlling Galactus.”

“So we shut it down, we stop Doom.” Josh deduced.

“That thing is also all that’s keeping Galactus from chowing down on Earth.” Eileen reminded.

“Maybe if we shut off the Arc Reactor?” Acacia suggested. “Surfer said that’s the reason he came right?”

“Right!” Josh recalled. “But we have to shut down the one at Stark and in Japan at the same time! I have to get in touch with Chika!”

“Or we could use the thing you guys made to destroy him.” Kyle reminded.

“The Ultimate Nullifier.” Josh said, taking it out and looking at it.

“You look uncertain.” Eileen noticed.

“What’s to be uncertain about?” Nestman asked. “He’s gonna destroy the planet!”

“Well first off, we have no clue if it even works.” Josh said. “And secondly... I don’t know. I recently had a run in with Fin Fang Foom. The Avengers put him on ice without even hearing his side of the story. Galactus is a living thing, drawn to this planet by Doom, who is currently manipulating him. I say we shut down the Arc Reactor and give him a chance to leave peacefully. If not, we’ll use the Nullifier.”

“I hope you’re right about this Westbrook.” Kyle said.

“It’s worth a try.” Acacia agreed.

“But first, the ring.” Eileen said.

"I'm gonna set her down." Kyle informed. He slowly descended and landed the Quinjet in the street. They all got off, and looked up.

"Let me call Chika." Josh said, taking out his phone. Acacia took out hers and dialed.

"Hello?" Celeste answered.

"Hey, kiddo." Acacia said.

"Auntie Acacia! Are you... are you in New York?"

"I am." She said. "And you're still on Ellis Island, right?"

"Yeah, with Agent Brand, like you told me."

"Good. Just stay there. And be a good girl, okay?"

"Okay. Auntie Acacia?"

"Yeah?"

"I love you." Acacia smiled and wiped a tear away.

"I love you too Celeste." Kyle, across the way, dialed Sabrina.

"Daddy!" Squirrel Girl answered.

"Dory, please tell me you guys are out of the city." He asked.

"We tried to evacuate, but then Mommy's water broke!" Kyle froze.

"... Wha- What!?"

"I've helped enough squirrels deliver babies to know that my sister is on her way!"

“Dory, hand me the phone.” Sabrina’s voice interjected. “Kyle?”

“Sabrina, are you...”

“Yeah, I’m fine, except I’m about to give birth and the city’s burning down. Where are you?”

Kyle looked up at the Halo.

“I...”

“It’s okay. Go save the day.”

“But you need to get to a hospital!”

“You really think that’s gonna happen right now? Don’t worry about me honey. Besides, you heard Dory, she’s delivered tons of baby squirrels. Now I’m gonna go. You save the city. I love you.”

“I... I love you too.” Kyle said, as Sabrina hung up. He looked down, distraught.

“Chika’s not answering.” Josh said in distress. He looked over at Kyle. “Kyle?” he called, snapping him out of it. “You good?”

“Sabrina’s giving birth...” He said. Everyone looked at each other. Josh cleared his throat.

“Then go.” He said. “We’ll stop Galactus.”

“No way!” Kyle exclaimed. “Just the three of you!”

“Four!” Nestman objected.

“Not a chance.” Eileen said. “You’re staying here and helping clear the streets.”

“I wanna help!”

“You can’t, Nestman.” Josh said. “You’re not a fighter, and that’s not a bad thing. It’s just, this is major leagues man. You’d be better off helping down here. Protecting people.” Nestman looked at Eileen.

“He’s right sweetie.” She said.

“But you guys-” Kyle began.

“Are you still here?” Josh asked. “Sabrina needs you! Get going!” Kyle looked at them, then nodded.

“Okay. Thank you.” He turned and ran off.

“Nestman, start evacuating everyone south of 41st. First responders are about to need all the help they can get, and I think a few E.G.G. gadgets would come in handy.”

“You got it.” He drew Eileen in and kissed her passionately. “Good luck.”

“You too.” She said. Nestman pulled on a backpack full of E.G.G. inventions and rushed off.

“Alright.” Josh said. “Suit up.” He tapped the Signal, and was soon covered in blue Joshinator armor, the J-10. Acacia clipped on her Regulators, and lit up her hands. Eileen tapped the Lightstream signal, and the armor emerged from the backpack.

“You might wanna put on your glasses if you’re going to be zipping around in the Lightstream armor Eileen.” Josh suggested.

“It’s the end of the world Josh,” she replied. “Forget secret identities.”

“Your choice.” Josh said with a shrug.

“So, the three of us against Dr. Doom and Galactus.” Acacia said. “Nice.”

"Where's S.H.I.E.L.D.?" Josh asked. "Shouldn't they be all over this."

"Probably in New Jersey with all the superheroes." Eileen replied.

"Isn't there anyone we can call?" Acacia asked. "Like the original team we went after Doom with!"

"You mean Amora in Asgard?" Josh asked.

"Or O'Hara in 2099?" Eileen added.

"Or Ghost Rider." Acacia sighed. "Who's probably riding his flame bike somewhere in Hell right now."

"I hate to say it." Josh sighed. "But we're on our own."

"Sounds like y'all could use some help." E.G.G. turned to find themselves face to face with the Masters of Doom.

"Julian..." Josh said.

"Westbrook." Julian replied.

"You. Want to help us?"

"Like Rainbow Eyes just said, it's the end of the world." Julian repeated. "So why not?"

"Of course this doesn't change anything." Cylus said. "We still very much hate you. Blanco owes me a new face."

"And Gyro-dork still owes me 10 bucks!" Josh exclaimed.

"I don't know about this..." Acacia said, eyeing Ailemara.

“I’m with Acacia.” Eileen stated. “What’s Osborn’s stake in this? Did he tell you to come help us?”

“Norman turned on us!” Wally exclaimed. “Used our own tech and intel to put us out of commission. He’s in league with Dr. Doom!”

“Acacia.” Ailemara said. “Harry is dead. Norman killed him.” Acacia stumbled back, in shock. Eileen turned to her.

“Acacia? Are you...”

“I’ll be fine.” Acacia unconvincingly replied. She wiped a tear away. “I just... figured we’d get to... work things out between us... eventually...” She cleared her throat. “I guess that’s not happening now.”

“We’re steamed.” Julian said. “Doom’s been using us from day one!” Josh paused, then looked down.

“Yeah.” He replied. “Yeah, us too.” He looked up. “Julian, a minute.” Julian nodded, as they broke off from the group.

“What’s good?” He asked.

“Did you know Allyson was Dr. Doom’s daughter?” Josh asked. Julian’s eyes widened.

“I knew she was workin’ for Doom, but I didn’t know all that.”

“So when you kidnapped her, all those years ago, it was all part of the plan?”

“Dude, I never even left Castle Doom that day.” Julian replied. “She dropped that broken egg there and teleported back all by herself, before I got the chance. That’s when I figured out who she was. You got straight played, Westbrook.” Josh sighed.

"I wish you would have told me." Julian opened his arms.

"We ain't exactly buddy-buddy."

"True. Can I count on you and Masters of Doom?"

"Hey, you worry about you and yours." Julian said. "My team is always ready to throw down."

Josh smiled, then patted Julian's shoulder.

"Alright then." He said. "Good to be on the same side."

"Eh, we'll see." Julian replied. They turned back to their teams.

"Alright guys." Josh announced. "We're doing this."

"Cool. So now there's seven of us." Acacia said. "Still not crazy about those odds."

"Would it be better if we told you that we have the schematics to the Halo?" Cylus asked, holding them up. Josh blinked.

"That'd be nice, yes. Thank you, Gravity Master." They laid the plans out on a news stand and huddled around them.

"Interesting, it's shielded with a Stark energy device." Josh noted.

"Which Norman had us fight the Sinister Six to get." Wally added.

"It looks like the whole thing's powered by Reed Richards's power source!" Acacia observed.

"Doom kept sendin' me to swipe that from y'all back in the day." Julian said.

"Yeah, he told us." Josh said. "Allyson eventually got it for him."

“Designs by Alby Moreno!” Eileen noticed. “Oh, you have got to be kidding me! How many times did we put that guy away?”

“Just once.” Ailemara said.

“And we broke him out.” Cylus added. Josh sighed and face palmed.

“Osborn played us I told you!” Julian defended.

“So I heard.” Josh said. “Alright guys, here’s the plan...”

* * *

The Osjet sped through the sky towards the Halo.

“I still think we should have used the Quinjet.” Josh said.

“That’s smart.” Julian sarcastically replied. “Doom would have had Galactus blow you out of the sky in a second. Osborn was actually in league with Doom, so an Oscorp branded jet won’t look so suspicious.”

“He’s got you there.” Acacia commented.

“Hush.” Josh groaned. Just then, the communicator on the jet beeped.

“Osbron.” Doom’s voice said. “You haven’t answered any of my hails, yet you dare to approach the Halo?” Cylus nodded at Ailemara, who shape shifted into Norman.

“Don’t waste my time with threats Doom.” She said, “I do whatever I want. And I am coming aboard.” She looked back and gave a thumbs up. Acacia scrunched her face and gave her so-so hand gesture.

“While I do not care for your tone, Doom is a man of his word.” Doom replied, everyone sighing with relief. “Land your jet, we will be waiting.”

“Alright, that worked.” Eileen said. “Get ready to come out swinging.”

“We’re always ready.” Wally stated.

“That’s literally the opposite of true.” Josh retorted. Wally fanned him down and everyone got ready.

“Setting her down.” Cylus announced. The Osjet hovered and landed on the Halo, where Doom, Silver Samurai, and Emma Frost emerged. Though the ring was spinning, the speed was slow enough for them to stand with ease. Doom folded his arms.

“Come out, Osborn.” He demanded. The ramp to the Osjet opened, and the Masters of Evil were met with E.G.G. and the Masters of Doom.

“Surprise!” Josh exclaimed, as he and Julian unleashed an onslaught of Repulsor and sonic blasts.

“Gah!” Doom growled, putting up a shield made of green energy. “Destroy them!”

“Eileen! Get to the center and Extremis the crap out of this thing!” Josh ordered, as she nodded and flew off to do so.

“Jones, Raise, waste that Samurai freak!” Julian commanded. Wally rolled forward in his gyro ball, and Cylus ripped off a piece of the Halo and began levitating on it.

“Acacia, Ailemara, you’ve got Frost!” Josh called, as they ran forward. Josh looked straight at Dr. Doom. “Doom is ours.”

“Westbrook. Woodfin.” Doom said, marching toward them. “What do you hope to accomplish with this pitiful attempt?”

“We gonna shut you down for good Doom!” Julian shouted.

“You will do nothing but die!” Doom growled, firing green lightning from his hands. Josh blocked with the J-Blade, while Julian dove to the side and fired sonic blast, nailing Doom. “Gah! Insolent fools!” He shouted, rushing towards them.

Wally rolled toward the Silver Samurai, Cylus floating by his side. The Samurai tumbled out of the way of the gyro ball, charged his sword, and cut the piece of metal Cylus was flying on in half.

“Oof!” Cylus cried, hitting the Halo with a thud. Wally circled back around and began tossing mini gyro from within his ball. Samurai blocked each of them, then heated his sword once more and slashed the rings of the gyro ball, causing it to fall to pieces.

“Ah!” Wally screamed, tumbling next to Cylus. The Silver Samurai leapt into the air and came down at them with his blade. Thinking fast, Wally tossed a mini gyro and made an ice wall, blocking the Samurai’s attack. He heated his sword and melted through it, then swung at them, as they just barely dodged. Silver Samurai rushed toward Wally and swung, but Cylus caught the sword in a gravity field.

“I got him! Do something Jones!” Cylus cried.

“Um... uh...” Wally shifted through his mini gyros. Samurai heated his sword and began forcing his arms downward toward Wally. Cylus began sweating under the strain of holding him in place.

“JONES! Now or never!”

“Well, I guess we’ll just go classic on this one!” Wally extended a mini gyro in a full gyro ball. Cylus thrust with all his might and pulled the Samurai’s sword out of his hand, then tossed Silver Samurai himself into the gyro ball.

“Ten bucks for a ride.” Wally said.

“Even without my blade, I will break free of this rudimentary contraption.” Silver Samurai threatened. “Then I will slaughter you like the swine you are.”

“Ooohhhh...” Wally shook his head. “Shouldn’t have said that.” He looked back at Cylus, whose eye began to twitch.

“I.” He held out his hands and the gyro ball began to levitate.

“What are you doing!” Samurai demanded.

“Hate.” Cylus began to form a large ball of gravitational energy.

“Foolish American! Free me at once!”

“PIGS!” Cylus unleashed the energy in a pulse, and launched the gyro ball sky high, Silver Samurai trapped inside.

“Nooooooooo!!!!” He yelled, as he vanished into the horizon. Wally patted Cylus’s back.

“Good one buddy.” He said.

“Shut up Jones.” Cylus groaned.

Eileen flew toward the supernova in the center of the Halo. She took a deep breath.

“Here goes nothing!” She exclaimed, flying into it at full force. She put an energy shield up and punched through to find herself within a sphere of cosmic fire. “Alright.” She said to herself. She held out her hands and was preparing to absorb the energy when she was blasted from above.

“Ah!” She cried, slamming against the edge of the sphere, which singed her armor. She looked up and noticed Carrie, now the Dark Phoenix, flying toward her. “Oh no...” She got on her comm. “Guys! The fireball in the center is being caused by Carrie Jordan! That madwoman Emma Frost must have put the Phoenix Force into her after she failed to do it to me!”

“You’ve got to stop her Eileen!” Josh replied.

“I will.” Eileen said, flying up. “This won’t end like last time.” She and Dark Phoenix hurtled toward each other, and clashed.

Ailemara and Acacia were both hurling fireballs at Emma Frost. She turned her body to diamond, and examined her nails as the attacks bounced off of her.

“Are you quite done?” She asked. Acacia and Ailemara looked at each other.

“Yeah, I guess.” Acacia said.

“Good.” Emma Frost dropped her diamond form and held her fingers to her head.

“AAAHHHH!!!” Acacia and Ailemara screamed, clutching their heads and falling to their knees.

“Honestly, did you think you could be the world’s most powerful telepath by hurling fireballs at me?” She laughed.

“You mean... Like this!” Acacia cried, managing to launch one through her pain.

“Oh dear!” Emma exclaimed, stopping her psychic attack and turning to diamond.

"She can't use telepathy in diamond form!" Ailemara noted.

"Great!" Acacia said. "I'll keep up the heat! You phase!" Ailemara nodded. Acacia put out an intense heat wave. Emma shielded her eyes, still in diamond form.

"You can't hope to win!" She exclaimed. "I'm more powerful than both of you comb-" Just then Ailemara rushed up and phased right through her. "Ahhh!" Emma shrieked, as her diamond dissipated. "What did you do to me you alien filth!"

"This!" Ailemara exclaimed, punching her. Emma touched her lip and saw blood on her finger.

"You bi- GAH!" She cried, as she was struck with a fireball.

"Boom!" Acacia exclaimed. "Looks like I just beat the world's most arrogant and underdressed telepath by hurling a fireball at her!"

"Nice one!" Ailemara exclaimed, as they high fived. They paused.

"Um... Good work..." Acacia said. "You know, with the phasing."

"Yeah..." Ailemara said. They stood for a bit. "This is awkward..."

"Just a little." Acacia agreed.

"You know, for what it's worth, I am sorry. You know, for replacing you and stealing your life."

"... Overdue, but thank you."

"Yeah... But Bullseye would have killed you that day if I hadn't, so..."

"Oh, I had him on the ropes!"

"You didn't..."

“I did!”

“Right, except you didn’t, so...”

“I hate you.” Acacia groaned.

Doom marched toward Josh and Julian, firing blasts from his gauntlets.

“A traitor and a fool!” Doom growled. “Attempting to stop me! This plan has been in motion for years! There is nothing you can do that will deter Doom from his victory!” He fired again. Josh activated the yellow ring and materialized a shield, while Julian slid under it and fired a sonic wave, nailing Doom.

“Grrraahhh!” He growled, slamming the ground with both fists and emitting a pulse of green energy, knocking them off their feet.

“We ain’t gonna stop him like this!” Julian exclaimed. “He can kill us both!”

“We need a new strategy...” Josh noted. Just then his HUD popped on.

“Greetings Director Westbrook.” Jocasta said.

“Jocasta! Glad you’re alive, but not a good time!” He and Julian rolled out of the way as Doom fired at both of them.

“Yes, this does seem like a bad time, but I only came online because Project Ringleader was initiated.”

“Project Ringleader?” Josh asked. “Here?”

“The Mandarin’s five remaining rings are around the perimeter of this vessel.” Jocasta informed. Josh’s eyes widened.

“Shadow was working for Doom!” He looked at Julian. “Woodfin! Keep him busy!”

“I’m sorry, did you say keep Dr. freaking Doom busy!” He exclaimed.

“I have a way to end this, but I need you to buy me some time!” Josh pleaded. Julian sighed in frustration.

“If I die, I swear I’m go kill you Westbrook.” Julian said. Josh smiled and took off.

“Coward!” Doom called, aiming for Josh when Julian blasted him.

“Aw, you don’t want Westbrook.” Julian shouted. “He ain’t the one that stole your tech from under your nose then made a clean getaway!”

“Your escape from me was anything but clean.” Doom reminded.

“But I escaped.” Julian retorted. “And what was it you were goin’ on about?” Julian put his hands on his hips, puffed out his chest, and made his voice gruff. “I don’t respect nobody who don’t know their place!” Julian imitated, as he began marching boisterously around and waving his fist in the air. “You realize your resistance is futile! Blah, blah, blah! I’m Dr. Doom, and I’m a blowhard!” Doom clenched his fists.

“You dare to mock Doom.” He growled.

“You couldn’t kill me the first time.” Julian said. “So why should I be afraid of you now?”

“Allow me to show you!” Doom emitted a blast so powerful that after Julian dodged it, it blew the Osjet to pieces.

“Ookay, he’s mad now...” Julian said.

Eileen flew at Carrie and fired at her, but Carrie took the hit head on and punched Eileen into the sphere again.

“Gah!” Eileen growled. “She’s too powerful. I... I can’t beat her. I need your help.” Carrie grabbed Eileen by the shoulders and began to engulf her in flames.

“Aaaahhhhhhhhh!!!” Eileen screamed. “Please! I know you’re in there!” She headbutted Carrie and pulled herself free. She fired several lightning blasts but Carrie knocked them aside and kicked Eileen so hard it cracked the chest plate of her armor and launched her into the edge of the sphere once more.

“Come on! I’ve never asked you for anything! And I know I’ve fought you with all my will, but if you help me now, I promise, I’ll stop fighting. Once a month, I’ll let you be you. How’s that sound?” Carrie flew up on her. Eileen swung but Carrie caught her arm and twisted it, resulting in a violent crack.

“Agh!” Eileen screamed. A fiery Phoenix formed behind Carrie and she fired everything she had at Eileen. Eileen quickly put up an energy shield.

“Twice a month! You can come out twice a month! Please! The world is at stake! And she’s going to kill me! What good am I to you dead?” The shield began to dissipate, Eileen’s armor charring and turning to ash.

“Fine! Once a week! It doesn’t get any better than that! Now stop screwing around and HELP ME!” Eileen’s eyes suddenly flashed from blue and green to red, and she smiled.

“Well, all you had to do was ask.” Darkstream said. She opened her arms and red lightning struck Carrie, knocking her back.

“Hahahahaha!!!!” Darkstream sinisterly laughed, as red lightning rained down around her, and her armor was transformed from purple and blue to black and red. “Darkstream lives once more!” Carrie, clenched her fists, and flew at Darkstream with full force.

“Not today, little girl.” Darkstream growled. She covered herself in a ball of red lightning and fire, and sped toward Carrie. “You will burn at the hands of destruction incarnate! ME!” The two collided, and the supernova in the center of the Halo imploded. Eileen and Carrie were flung from it and crashed down on a nearby rooftop. Eileen, back in her normal suit, sat up slowly, and smiled.

“Thank you.” She said.

“Unn...” Carrie groaned. She was no longer in the Dark Phoenix outfit, but her old Sparkle costume. Eileen’s heart skipped a beat.

“Carrie?” She asked. Carrie opened her eyes.

“What...” She looked around. “Where am I?”

“Carrie!” Eileen hugged her. “You’re awake!”

“I guess I lost the fight...” She said. Eileen paused.

“The fight. Right...”

“I’m sorry Lightstream, I’m totes your biggest fan, it was stupid of me to think I knew more than...” She looked past Eileen and saw Galactus. “... How long was I out?”

“It, um...” Eileen sighed, tears in her eyes. “It’s been nearly 4 years.” Carrie was at a loss for words.

“Four...” She shook her head. “I’m gonna be sick.”

“I’m so sorry Carrie,” Eileen apologized. “I went too hard on you, I put you in a coma, this is all my-”

“No.” Carrie interrupted. She cleared her throat. “That’s what you were trying to teach me, right? To take responsibility for my actions. I lost control. I was endangering people. I did this.” Carrie looked down sadly. “I guess I woke up just in time to see the end of the world.”

“No, we’re gonna stop it.” Eileen reassured. She smiled. “Like that one time, when I helped Spider-Man defeat Gravity Master.” Carrie perked up.

“That was his first appearance as Gravity Master!” She exclaimed. “Up until then he’d been the Grand Master, which was so lame!”

“I know, right!” Eileen laughed. “Funny, he’s actually up there helping us right now.”

“No way! Superhero/super villain team ups are so rad!”

“And you know what else? I named one of my moves earlier today.”

“Really?”

“Yep. I called it Lightstream’s Might.”

“So freaking cool! Did you TM it?”

“Haha, no, but I totally should, right?”

“Totally!” Eileen stood and helped Carrie to her feet.

“What do say you redeem yourself as a hero, and go keep everyone down there safe?” She winked at Carrie. “I’ll stop the big guy.”

“You got it Lightstream!” Carrie exclaimed.

“Call me Eileen.” She said. “If I recall, I revealed my identity before you went out.”

“You did.” She nudged Eileen. “But I totally called it.”

“Can’t trick a super fan.” Eileen said. She flew up.

“One more thing!” Carrie called.

“What’s that?” Eileen asked.

“The new armor. Super cool.”

“I know.” Eileen flew off. Carrie smiled, and leapt off of the roof, going to help civilians.

Josh rushed to the edge of the Halo, where a glowing light was attaching one of the ethereal tethers to Galactus. Josh wedged the J-Blade into the metal and peeled it up to find the Mandarin’s black ring.

“Jackpot!” Josh said. He grabbed it, and felt a sensation as the tattoo on his chest surged. He inserted it into the J-Blade. “Four more!” He skirted the edge of the Halo, pulling the metal back and grabbing the rings one by one. White, pink, brown, and orange. He put them all in, and the J-Blade pulsed, surging with energy.

“I can feel the power!” Josh exclaimed.

“Hey!” Julian shouted, barely counteracting one of Doom’s blasts with a sonic wave. “How about you come feel some of that power over here!”

“DIE!” Doom growled, increasing the power and blowing Julian’s suit.

“Gah!” He exclaimed, ripping off the Scramble harness. He looked up, angrily. “I never needed no fancy tech to beat you Doom. All I need is these!” He held up his fists. “I slugged the worst of the worst back in the day. So come at me Doom. 1 v 1. Man on man. Let’s run the hands!” Julian ran up to Dr. Doom. “Fight me like a man!” Doom choked Julian, stopping him short, and lifted him from the ground.

“Doom does not sully his hands with peasantry.” He stated. He threw Julian to the ground, and his hands lit up. “It is quite sad, Woodfin. After all this time, I’ve used you and Westbrook to finally bring my plan to fruition! It’s almost poetic that you should die by my hands. Because after years of attempting to stop me, you’ve only aided in the inevitable! All the while, never once realizing that, from the start, you were doomed.”

“You know what Victor.” Josh called. He pointed the J-Blade directly at him. “For once, I’m pretty sure you’re the one that’s doomed.” All ten rings and Josh’s tattoo lit up, and he fired a ray of multicolored cackling energy right into Doom. He held his hands forth, and attempted to resist, but his armor began to crack, his cloak starting to shred.

“No... Impossible!” Doom shouted. “This... is... my... age! My victory! My...” A bright light began to emanate from him. “INFINITE DOOM!!!!!!” And with that, Doctor Victor von Doom faded away into dust. His metal faceplate clanged onto the Halo, the only thing remaining of him.

“Wow.” Josh said, looking at the J-Blade. “I mean... I knew it was gonna hurt him but I didn’t mean to do all that to the guy.”

“You mean you accidentally killed the baddest bad guy to ever bad guy ever?” Julian sarcastically asked.

"I didn't kill him..." Josh said, a bit uneasy. "I... disintegrated him... I think." Julian patted his shoulder.

"Own up to it Westbrook." He said. "Your hands are dirty."

"Well..." Josh inhaled. "If it was gonna be anybody, it was gonna be Dr. Doom."

"Bet. Now let's stop this thing."

"Right!" They both ran to a hatch and pulled it open. They entered the Halo to find Viper puking into a trash can and Moreno spinning around in the control chair. He froze when he saw them.

"Uh-oh..." He looked desperately at Viper. "Um... help..."

"Do I look like I am in any condition to... oh no... huuuaaaaa!!" Viper hurled once more.

"Yuck, to think you were the first one on my kiss list." Josh said, disgusted.

"Screw you... huuuaaaaa!!!!" Viper moaned. Julian approached Moreno.

"The power source." He demanded.

"There's three," Moreno hastily explained, backing up as far as the chair would allow him. "Dark Phoenix's super nova."

"Dealt with." Julian said.

"Mandarin's rings."

"Check." Josh said.

"And the Richards power cell..."

"And where is that?" Julian asked.

“... Right behind me.” Moreno admitted. Julian got close to his face.

“Move.” Before Julian could finish Moreno scurried out of the chair and into the corner. Josh opened the compartment and found a small tube with a glowing blue rod inside of it.

“That’s it alright.” Josh stated. “Man, this little guy powered Mother Egg for days.”

“Before I blew it out of the sky...” Viper said, managing a smile.

“Oh right.” Josh recalled. He looked at Julian. “I’m not big on hitting women.”

“Word.” Julian said, turning and punching Viper out cold.

“Harsh!” Moreno exclaimed.

“You want some next?” Julian asked, as he rapidly shook his head. “Didn’t think so. Alright Westbrook, so what’s good?”

“This thing’s fully charged, and working overtime to power this entire device. We gotta pull hard.”

“Grab it, with our bare hands?” Julian asked. “And pull!?”

“You chicken Woodfin?” Josh asked. Julian clicked his tongue.

“Man, move.” He pushed Josh aside and grabbed onto the power cell. “Huuuurrrrggghh!!!” He groaned, pulling at it. Josh grabbed on as well, and nodded at Julian. Then, they both pulled with all their might.

“AAAAHHHHHH!!!!!!” They screamed. Random explosions began to go off all over the Halo.

“Uh-oh..” Acacia said. Wally threw a gyro ball.

“Everyone in!” He called. Acacia, Cylus, and Ailemara all piled in. “Hold on tight!” He rolled it, off of the ring, down the side of a building, and into the street.

“We need to go!” Moreno cried. He grabbed Viper and dragged her into an escape pod. He locked himself in and launched. Josh and Julian continued to pull.

“You even tryin’ man!?” Julian exclaimed.

“Me? I’m picking up your slack!” Josh shouted back. And just at that moment, the power cell was dislodged. The Halo lost power, then fell, hitting Galactus on the head and breaking in half, plummeting to the ground. The Halo crashed into a building, and slid to a stop in the street. Eileen landed, the gyro ball rolling next to her.

“Josh!” She cried.

“Julian!” Cylus yelled. From the smoke, the two emerged, Josh shielding them in a ball of yellow energy from the J-Blade.

“We’re okay!” Josh called.

“Yes!” Acacia shrieked. She and Eileen rushed up and hugged Josh. Julian approached the Masters of Doom.

“Glad you’re okay.” Wally said.

“Y’all too.” Julian replied. The Masters of Doom turned to face E.G.G.

“So, what do you guys say we save the world?” Josh asked. “You could be heroes. Even if just for a day.”

Julian looked back at his team. Cylus, Wally, and Ailemara all smiled and nodded. Julian smiled as well, and approached Josh. He put his hand on Josh's shoulder, and looked him square in the eyes.

"Nah." He said. He punched Josh across the face and rushed back over to his team. "Y'all are on your own! Let's roll fellas, we outie 5000!" They all leapt into the gyro ball and rolled off, laughing.

"Oh seriously!" Josh yelled.

* * *

The Masters of Doom sat around in Frankie's bar, the place packed with villains.

"End of the world special!" Frankie announced. "All drinks are on the house!" All of the villains cheered, enjoying what could very well be their last moments on Earth.

"Well, that was fun." Cylus said.

"Felt pretty good to stick it to Doom once and for all." Julian admitted.

"Yeah..." Wally said. He looked at Ailemara. "Listen, Mara, if this is really the end, I just wanna say..."

"I know." Ailemara said, taking his hand. "Me too." They both smiled, and Ailemara laid her head on Wally's shoulder.

"You guys need refills over here?" Frankie asked.

"Nah, we good." Julian said. "Thanks Frankie."

"Hey, Frankie, what's this place called?" Cylus asked. "We've all just been calling it Frankie's, but you don't have a name out front. I've always wondered..."

“Oh, well,” Frankie shrugged. “I’ve always tried to keep this place off the books, you know, seeing as how all of my loyal customers are super villains. So... I guess I never really named it... it’s a bar with no name!”

“Oh, well that’s a perfect name!” Wally exclaimed. “The Bar with No Name!”

“That’s stupid Jones!” Julian groaned.

“I like it.” Ailemara protested.

“Of course you’re siding with him!” Cylus accused. “You’re clearly biased in this situation!”

“It has the perfect amount of mystery to it!” Wally defended. “The Bar... wait for it... with No Name! See! Mysterious!”

“It’s stupid!” Julian shouted.

“You’re stupid!” Ailemara shot back.

“You’re all stupid!” Cylus yelled.

“I don’t know how I got stuck with y’all as a team.” Julian complained. And the Masters of Doom spent the rest of what could have very well been their last day arguing about the bar with no name.

The End