Acacia walked into Egg Base with Celeste just behind her, face buried in her phone.

“Ta-da!” She presented. Celeste glared, blew a bubble with the gum in her mouth, and popped it. “You can at least act impressed.” Acacia groaned.

“Hey kiddo!” Josh greeted. He stopped short. “Oh, is this, uh… the Goth phase?” Celeste glared at him as well. “Ahem, well, we’ve got a lot of cool stuff here! Acacia says you’re a technopath now, so we could really use you in the robotics lab!”

“Did she tell you we saw dinosaurs!” Eileen exclaimed, entering the room as well. “Real dinosaurs! Seth was pretty excited about that. He hasn’t heard from you since you guys broke up… maybe you’d like to hang out? Or… something?” Celeste blew another bubble.

“Honestly Celeste, say something!” Acacia impatiently shouted.

“Where’s Jocasta?” Celeste asked. Everyone paused.

“Jocasta…” Acacia said.

“She, um…” Eileen tapped Josh. “Where’s she at Josh?”

“Well, um….” Josh stammered. “I don’t… exactly… know…”

“@$$holes.” Celeste crassly stated, exiting the base.

“She’s… really mean now.” Eileen noted.

“Try living with her.” Acacia groaned.

“Well, we can fix that, easy!” Josh exclaimed. “We’ve got our next mission guys: We’re going to find Jocasta!”

AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER. WHEN THREE FRIENDS UNITED TO SAVE THE EARTH, BEFORE GOING THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. ON THAT DAY, E.G.G. ENDED. OR DID IT?

-Episode 103-

MyRobot

Josh, Eileen, and Acacia sat in a conference room, combing through S.H.I.E.L.D. files.

“This is everything S.H.I.E.L.D. had on the day we beat Galactus.” Eileen sighed. “They appropriated Jocasta then, so her location should be in one of these files.”

“This is hopeless.” Acacia groaned, sinking in her seat. “Why can’t we just hack S.H.I.E.L.D. and find out?”

“Because hacking S.H.I.E.L.D. is generally a bad idea.” Eileen replied.

“You’re cozy with Fury still.” Josh noted. “Can’t you just ask him?”

“Yeah. Sure. If you’re fine with him figuring out about your new E.G.G.” Eileen replied.

“Ugh, no.” Josh stated. Kyle then entered the room.

“Hey guys.” He greeted.

“Hey bud.” Josh replied. “How was Dr. Cough Medicine?”

“Kafka. And it went well. What are you guys doing? Also when did Celeste get so mean?”

“The two things are somewhat related.” Eileen replied. “We’re looking for Jocasta, hopefully that will cheer Celeste up. Or adjust her attitude a bit…”

“Jocasta’s at the Triskelion.” Kyle stated. Everyone stopped and looked up at him.

“Are you serious?” Josh cried, swiping the files to the floor in frustration. “How do you know?”

“I saw her. It was a few months ago now, but I bumped into her while I was passing through on a mission transfer. She tried to say something to me, but I was on a time sensitive mission, the Symbiote was being touchy that day… I told her I’d catch up with her later, but I never went back.”

“Okay, well then we gotta go get her!” Acacia declared.

“Whoa, slow down Acacia.” Eileen cautioned. “You don’t just ‘go get’ something from the Triskelion. That’s S.H.I.E.L.D. Headquarters! The most secure place probably on the planet!”

“Well then.” Josh said with a smile. “Good thing we’ve got two people in this room that have clearance to be in there.”

The S.H.I.E.L.D. Triskelion

0800 Hours

“Um, Mr. Westbrook?” Miles asked, looking down at the street below him from the roof he was on top of. “I was kinda excited when you said we were going on a trip to Washington DC, but… why are we breaking into S.H.I.E.L.D?”

“Breaking implies violence Miles.” Josh stated, looking through a pair of binoculars at the Triskelion, while Acacia set up monitoring equipment. “What we’re doing is sneaking. A covert op. In and out.”

“Okay, but… if I go to jail my dad is going to kill me.” Miles said.

“You’re not going to jail.” Josh replied. “Reach into that there duffel bag.” Miles dug in and pulled out a black E.G.G. uniform.

“What’s this material?” He asked.

“Stealth mesh.” Josh replied.

“For people that can’t naturally turn invisible.” Acacia retorted. Josh rolled his eyes.

“Yeah, sure. It’ll keep us hidden once Kyle and Eileen get us in. Speaking of, are you guys in yet?”

“We’re in.” Eileen replied over comms. She and Kyle approached the entrance, and passed through a biometric scanner.

“Nestman, Eileen. Level 8.” The computer spoke. “Rice, Kyle. Level 7.”

“Agent Nestman, Agent Rice.” A S.H.I.E.L.D. agent greeted them at the door. “I don’t have you two on the itinerary, what’s your business here?”

“I’m following up on the Gravitonium incident.” Eileen stated.

“Agent Jordan was assigned to that case yesterday.” The agent suspiciously stated.

“Yes, well, I need to give my testimony on the events that occurred during the transportation.”

“And they asked you to do that at the Triskelion?” The agent was skeptical. Eileen shrugged.

“Orders from up top. Must be a bigger op than we thought.”

“Interesting. And you, Agent Rice?”

“Symbiote diagnostic.” Rice replied. The agent flipped through his tablet.

“Um, says here you’re to report to one Doctor Ashley Kafka’s lab for those.”

“No, Kafka’s lab is for treatment, S.H.I.E.L.D. conducts the diagnostic checks.”

“Hm. Okay then. You two need to schedule ahead next time.” He nodded and they both were given lanyards with the S.H.I.E.L.D. logo on them.

Across the way, Josh put his binoculars away.

“Okay, the Triskelion monitors all comm traffic in and out, so we need to be on a closed network. Acacia?”

“Almost…” Acacia said. She hit a button and the devices she was tampering with came online. “We’re ghosted. Speak freely fellas.”

“Eileen, can you hear me?” Josh asked.

“Loud and clear.” Eileen replied. She and Kyle got into the elevator. “Logistics.” She stated.

“Logistics.” The computer repeated, as the elevator began to ascend.

“The Triskelion is a big place.” Kyle observed. “Finding Jocasta in here is like a needle in a haystack.”

“Then start looking!” Josh ordered. “Once you find her, Miles, Acacia and I will do a stealth incursion and extract her!”

“Josh, are you sure you should’ve brought Miles along?” Eileen asked. “What we’re doing is kind of, you know, illegal.”

“He’s my intern! He goes where I go! Right Miles?”

“Right…” Miles hesitantly replied. “You’re sure I’m not getting arrested?”

“73% sure, yeah.”

“Wait, what!”

“Nothing, go to that side of the roof and check for security drones.” Josh handed Miles the binoculars and shooed him away, as Miles reluctantly followed suit. “And put on your Stealth Suit!”

Inside, Eileen and Kyle got off at Logistics.

“Alright, should we split up?” She asked.

“Probably not.” Kyle replied. “Best to stick together until we locate…”

“OMG! Dad!” Kyle whipped around and was tackled to the ground by Squirrel Girl and a small female squirrel companion wearing a collar with an acorn on it.

“Dory! What are you doing here?” He asked.

“Mom didn’t tell you?” Squirrel Girl asked in shock. She stood up and saluted, as did her squirrel friend. “Tippy Toe and I are part of a top secret S.H.I.E.L.D. team called the Sec-”

“That’s enough Agent Green!” From a doorway came an African American teenager, wearing a Captain America-like red, white and blue uniform, and wielding a triangular shaped shield also branding US colors and the S.H.I.E.L.D. eagle. “That is classified information.”

“Aw, but Rayshaun, he’s my dad!”

“He’s also Level 7. And I told you, it’s Patriot when I’m in uniform!”

“I’m Level 8.” Eileen insisted. “Can I know?”

“No.” Patriot coldly stated. He squinted suspiciously. “You aren’t on the itinerary today, Commander Nestman. Why are you here?”

“I… don’t think I have to answer to you kid.” Eileen replied almost with a chuckle.

“I was trained by Captain America!” Patriot exclaimed. “I don’t care if you had a brief stint with the Avengers! Here, I’m in charge!”

“What did he say!?” Josh asked over comms.

“You’re not in charge Rayshaun!” Squirrel Girl reminded, pushing him to the side. “You just like to think you are.” He straightened himself out, then grumbled under his breath.

“Fine, you’re off the hook.” He said. “But I’m watching you two.” He walked off.

“He’s wound a little tight.” Kyle observed.

“He’s kinda by the book.” Squirrel Girl said.

“Did he say you were an Avenger!?” Josh shouted.

“Old news Josh.” Eileen replied. “We can talk about it later.” She turned to Kyle. “You catch up with Squirrel Girl, I’ll continue the mission.”

“But…” Kyle began, but Eileen stopped him.

“You’ve been cooped up in labs for the past year, hardly getting to see your family.” She nudged him closer to her. “You deserve this.”

Kyle smiled and nodded, as Eileen walked off.

“So, what was your team called?” Kyle asked. “Or do I need to be a higher level?”

“Psh, forget all that, we’re called the Secret Warriors!” Squirrel Girl happily announced, Tippy Toe just as excited.

Eileen continued through the building, looking around.

“Kyle might be right.” Eileen said. “The Triskelion is looking very haystack-y. How are we gonna find Jocasta?”

“You’re on Logistics, right?” Acacia asked. “Just log onto a computer and look her up.”

“S.H.I.E.L.D. logs all inquiries.” Eileen informed. “That won’t work unless I want to raise a red flag and blow my cover.”

“When were you an Avenger!?” Josh exclaimed.

“Oh my goodness, Josh!” Eileen impatiently exclaimed. “It was a long time ago, calm down.”

“There she is! Go ask her!” Eileen noticed three S.H.I.E.L.D. agents rush up to her.

“Um, excuse me, Commander Nestman,” the one up front said. “I’ve got a kid, she’s a huge Lightstream fan, I was just wondering if you could sign a comic for her?”

“Of course.” Eileen happily replied.

“Thank you!” The agent handed her the comic. Upon seeing the cover, Eileen was taken aback in shock. It portrayed a rather unrealistically proportioned Lightstream in a very skimpy crop top and short skirt, flying through the sky and winking.

“Wow, um…” She looked up in concern. “Isn’t there another comic I can sign?”

“Sorry, this is the only one she’s got.” The agent apologetically replied.

“Right… okay then…” Eileen reluctantly signed the comic book.

“Thank you so much!” He exclaimed, rushing off with his friends.

“Get her some different comics please!” Eileen called after him. “Geez…”

“What was wrong with the comic?” Acacia asked.

“Well, they drew me basically in a bikini with boobs a million times their natural size.” Eileen replied. Miles snickered. “Really Miles? Is it because I said boobs?”

“Yeah…” Miles shamefully admitted.

“That sounds a lot like Issue #33.” Josh said. Eileen threw her hands in the air.

“How do you know that!?” Eileen cried in disbelief.

“First of all, I still adamantly collect Lightstream merchandise.” Josh proudly stated. “And secondly, because there was a whole controversy over that one. Particularly from your fellow folks in the Mormon community…”

“LDS.” Eileen corrected.

“You know what I mean. Anyways, the book was recalled and reissued, but a few with the original cover art made it out there, upping their value by like, a gazillion dollars. And if you just signed one…”

“That guy doesn’t have a daughter, does he?” Eileen groaned, burying her face in her hands.

“No, but he’s gonna have a field day on Ebay. You should probably pay more attention to what people are doing with your name and likeness.”

“I hired a manager for that! But believe me, he and I are going to have a very long conversation after this.”

“I take it you don’t know about Issue #57 then…”

“What about Issue #57?”

“Who are you talking to?” Eileen turned to see a rather flawlessly beautiful woman, wearing a black leather outfit, with silky black hair, a distinct white streak in it. She spoke in an Italian accent.

“Oh, um… myself.” Eileen stated. The woman stared at Eileen. She held out her hand. “Eileen Nestman.”

“Yes. Commander Eileen Deborah Nestman, Level 8. Enhanced individual. Codename: Lightstream.”

“Okay…” Eileen retracted her hand, a bit creeped out. “Who are you?”

“I am Contessa.” The woman greeted.

“Shell.” Josh swore. “Eileen, get out of there! Get out of there now!”

“Okay, well I’ve got to go…” Eileen said, briskly turning to leave.

“You are communicating on a closed network.” Contessa said. “That is forbidden within the Triskelion. Alerting proper personnel.”

“No, don’t do that!” Eileen reached for Contessa, who effortlessly caught her arm and twisted it behind her back. “Ahh!” Eileen shrieked.

“Eileen’s burned.” Josh stated, packing up.

“What’s that mean?” Miles asked in a panic. “Am I getting arrested?”

“No, but we’ve got to get in there and help!” Josh pulled up the schematics to the Triskelion. “I’ve got an access vent on the 41st floor, right where Eileen is!” Josh tapped the E.G.G. logo on his suit and became invisible.

“But the Triskelion is all the way over there!” Miles exclaimed. “How are we gonna get there Mr. Westbrook?”

“Like this.” Acacia formed several force field platforms in midair, ascending like a staircase.

“This doesn’t look safe…” Miles fearfully replied.

“Just don’t look down!” Josh said. “Now come on! Eileen needs us!” Miles tapped his logo and became invisible, and Acacia did so naturally. Josh began to hop across the platforms.

“Okay… I can’t do this!” Miles cried.

“What’s wrong?” Acacia asked.

“I can’t see myself! I don’t know where my legs are at, what if I miss the step and fall? Or…”

“Miles.” Acacia said. “Breath. Being invisible is easy. You don’t look where you’re going, you feel it. You’ve been using your body for 13 years.”

“14.”

“Whatever. You know how to move, how you work. Concentrate. Don’t think about what you see, think about what you feel.”

“Okay… Okay, I’ll try.” Miles cautiously stepped out onto a force field step. “I… I did it!”

“Good Miles! Hop to the next one.” Miles inhaled.

“Don’t worry about what I see.” He said to himself. “It’s what I feel.” He leapt to the next step. “Haha! I got it! You’re right Ms. Blanco, there’s nothing to being invisible!”

“Toldja.” Acacia said. “I also just winked at you, but I’m invisible, so you didn’t see it… Let’s go!” They hopped across the steps to the window of the 41st floor, where Eileen was fighting Contessa.

“Back off!” Eileen shouted, rearing her elbow into Contessa’s face. Contessa, however, did not flinch.

“Target is hostile. Subduing with force.” Contessa flipped Eileen to the ground and pinned her down.

“Ouch!” She cried. “Holy crap woman, what are you made of?”

Josh plugged a device into the access vent and hacked into it, causing it to open and the laser grid to shut down.

“And… no internal alarms, the spoof signal worked!” Josh stated. “Inside, now!” He, Acacia, and Miles crawled into the vent, then kicked into the room. Contessa looked toward them.

“3 new targets. Joshua Daniel Westbrook. Acacia Newcomb Blanco. Unidentified male.”

“How does she see us!?” Miles cried in fear.

“Because she’s not human.” Josh replied, he and Acacia making themselves visible. “Get back into the vent Miles.” Miles more than happily obliged.

“Assessment: Subdue all targets.” Contessa stated. Acacia shot a fireball but Contessa slid under it and choked Acacia, lifting her into the air and slamming her down into Josh.

“Take this!” Eileen shouted, shooting lightning at her. It hit Contessa square on, but she seemingly absorbed it, then took out two laser guns and began firing at Eileen in rapid succession. Acacia quickly put a forcefield around Eileen, and Josh took out a Repulsor Blaster, firing several shots. Contessa dodged each one, then kicked Josh into the wall.

“Gah!” He cried, sliding down. Contessa grabbed Acacia by the hair and yanked her.

“Ow! Hair puller! We got a hair puller!” Acacia shrieked. Contessa threw her against the window so hard the reinforced glass cracked.

“Alright, let’s see if I can Extremis the crap out of you!” Eileen held her hand to her head, but something went wrong. “Ah!” She cried, grasping her head and falling to the ground. “What… What are you?”

“I am Contessa Valentina Allegra de Fontaine.” She declared, aiming her gun at Eileen. “And you have lost.” Suddenly Contessa was grabbed from behind, and turned face to face with the giant maw of Venom.

“Grrraaahhh!!!” He roared.

CRUNCH!

Venom bit her head off and threw her body to the ground, reverting back to Kyle.

“Geez man,” Acacia said, slowly standing up. “Glad she was a robot.”

“She was?” Kyle asked, slightly relieved.

“Not just any robot!” Josh exclaimed, picking up her head. “Back when Fury stole my armors, he repurposed the Jocasta AI in them and renamed it Contessa. That’s how I knew who she was.”

“So, her root operating system is Jocasta?” Acacia asked.

“Exactly!” Josh replied. “Which means if we get that signal and isolate it…”

“We can find our Jocasta!” Eileen exclaimed. Josh tossed Contessa’s head to Miles.

“Get cracking on that Morales!” He ordered.

“O-okay…” Miles stated, somewhat horrified by the humanlike female head he was holding.

“This way! I heard a commotion!” Some agents in the distance shouted.

“We need to hide!” Acacia said.

“Where?” Josh asked. Suddenly they all heard a small squeaking noise. They looked down and noticed Tippy Toe, pointing towards a wall. Acacia curiously knocked on it.

“Hollow.” She said. Eileen pushed it and it slid open.

“Secret passage, sweet!” Josh exclaimed. “Thanks, um, little squirrel dude…”

“It’s a she.” Kyle said, picking Tippy Toe up. “Come on!” Josh, Eileen, Acacia, Kyle, Miles, and Tippy Toe all flooded into the secret room and closed the door just as the S.H.I.E.L.D. agents rushed by.

They made their way in to find a bunch of dusty computers, some busted equipment, and few S.H.I.E.L.D. uniforms.

“Aw, this isn’t a secret room!” Josh complained. “It’s a broom closet!”

“Well you guys need these.” Eileen said, giving Josh, Acacia and Miles some uniforms and lanyards. “It may not work for long, but it’ll do temporarily.”

“Thanks.” Josh said, as they changed out of their Stealth suits. Kyle hit the power button and the computer booted up.

“Still works.” He called out. The S.H.I.E.L.D. logo appeared, flashed quickly into the HYDRA logo, then reverted back, and went to the main menu. “Well… that’s not comforting.”

“That’s probably why they threw it in here.” Josh said, hooking Contessa’s head up to it. “Find our girl Miles.”

“On it.” Miles said, typing into the computer.

“Okay, so our Plan A is out the window.” Eileen stated. “What’s our next move?”

“We find Jocasta, and hope our disguises hold long enough to sneak her out of here.” Josh said.

“How are we gonna sneak an entire robot woman out of the Triskelion?” Acacia inquired.

“We can… put a hood on her?” Josh suggested.

“Okay, so we don’t have a plan.” Eileen groaned, rubbing her face. “Unbelievable. I’m gonna get fired. Kyle is gonna stuck in a test tube. And you two are gonna get arrested.”

“We’re getting arrested?” Miles asked.

“No, keep working!” Josh ordered. “It’ll be fine Eileen. We’ve been in worse scrapes.”

“I hope so, because I’m the primary source income for me and my husband.” Eileen said. “And if I go down, I’m dragging you with me Westbrook!”

“That’s pretty callus of you Eileen.” Josh observed. “Somebody got a little edgy over the past year.”

“Keep pushing me, I’ll show you edgy.” She warned, her eyes flickering red.

“What the-”

“I got it!” Miles exclaimed. Josh cleared his throat and they huddled around the computer.

“Miles, there’s over a hundred signals.” Josh stated.

“Well yeah, from the looks of it, there’s a Contessa on every floor of the Triskelion, linked to a single network.”

“So… not long until they notice one of them went offline?” Acacia deduced.

“Well, yeah, but that’s not the point I’m trying to make.” Miles clicked on the screen. “See this signal here on the 66th floor? It’s the same base OS, but it’s operating on a separated network!”

“That’s Jocasta!” Josh exclaimed. “What’s floor 66?”

“Um, dining.” Miles noted.

“Okay, good.” Eileen sighed with relief. “The floor with the least amount of security.”

“Alright guys, let’s roll out!” Josh ordered. He shut off the computer, unplugged Contessa’s head, and chucked it into the corner. They all peeked out, then shuffled into the hall. They made their way to the elevator and huddled in.

“Dining.” Eileen called.

“Dining.” The computer confirmed, as the elevator started to ascend.

“I’ve got it!” Josh exclaimed. “We say we’re running a maintenance check on Jocasta! Then we can sneak her out and quell suspicions!”

“That’s flimsy Josh.” Eileen stated.

“It’s all we’ve got.” Kyle reluctantly said. The elevator stopped, and they walked into a large dining hall. Kyle’s clothes began to shift.

“No, no! Tippy! Stay!” Kyle tried to contain her, but Tippy Toe leapt from beneath Kyle’s shirt and made a mad dash for the kitchen. “Well, I guess they’re not passing the health inspection this month.”

“Least of our concerns.” Josh said. “Fan out, find Jocasta. Miles, stick with me.” The five of them split up, and began to search the busy dining hall. Josh sniffed the air.

“Oooh, I think I smell fresh baked apple pie!” He exclaimed, licking his lips.

“Can we have a slice?” Miles asked.

“No Miles! Focus up! We’re on a mission!”

“Aww…” He looked up. “Um, Mr. Westbrook, what does Jocasta look like?”

“She looks like a robot, Miles. I don’t know what else to tell you.”

“Like that?” Miles replied, pointing. Josh looked and noticed an old, rusty robotic woman, mechanically sweeping the floors. She was unrecognizable in this state, but it was her. It was Jocasta.

“Shock and awe, that’s her!” Josh exclaimed. “Jeez, what did they do to her?” A couple of S.H.I.E.L.D. agents began to walk by her.

“Oops.” One said, intentionally dropping his tray.

“It is al-alright.” Jocasta replied. “I will re-retrieve- re-retrieve it.” She bent down, her joints creaking, and as she did another agent kicked her over. She fell to the ground, her leg and arm coming off in the process. The agents boisterously laughed.

“You suck bot.” Another one said, pouring his soda on her head as they left.

“Very fu-funny guys.” Jocasta replied, grabbing her leg and attempting to reattach it.

“Why are they being so mean to her?” Miles asked.

“Because people are jerks.” Josh replied. “Let’s get her home.” They started to move toward her when another Contessa began to approach. “Crap!” He pulled Miles over to the salad bar, and Contessa passed them.

“Oh! Hello Con-Con-Contessa!” Jocasta enthusiastically greeted. “Could you help me reattach my arm- my- my- my arm?”

“Oh, darling, I would love to, but I can’t get grease on my hands.” Contessa said. “You understand, don’t you?”

“O-of course.” Jocasta said, picking up her arm. “Did you check- check on my new data processor? It was supposed to be- su-supposed to be delivered today.”

“Oh, yes, well, it was delayed in shipping. Sorry.”

“That is the 5th… processing… processing… 5th time it has been delayed.”

“Yet you ask about it daily.” Contessa groaned.

“Do you think there is an error- er-er-error?” Jocasta asked.

“Darling, I think it’s time you realized that it is never going to arrive.” Contessa said.

“Oh… Well then maybe I can… error… error… loading… maybe I can talk to the Robotics Lab? I would not mind an up-up-upgraded chassis, like yours.”

“Oh, Jacinda, I’m one of a kind.” Contessa flaunted her hair.

“My name designation is… processing… Jocasta.”

“Of course it is. Keep at that spill now, Triskelion has to stay spick and span.”

“I will!” Jocasta finally got her arm back on, pulled herself to her feet, and began mopping the spill.

“Contessa’s a total tool!” Miles exclaimed. “And poor Jocasta thinks they’re friends.”

“That’s because she doesn’t have any in here.” Josh sadly replied. He waited until Contessa was completely out of sight. “Alright, move in.” They both approached her. Josh tapped her on the shoulder.

“Is there another- a-another spill?” Jocasta asked. Upon turning, she noticed Josh. Her eyes literally lit up with excitement. “JOSH!” She joyously cried. She hugged him, and both of her arms fell off.

“Good to see you too Jocasta.” Josh said, Miles proceeding to pick up her arms. “And shhh! We’re not supposed to be here, but we’re gonna bust you out!”

“I’m Miles by the way.” Miles introduced.

“Shush Miles!” Josh said. “Let’s roll Jocasta!”

“I knew you would come for me- come for me!” She said.

“Hey Agent!” Josh and Miles spun around and found themselves face to face with Patriot. “Stop messing with the bot and get back…” He drew his shield.

“What’s wrong?” Josh nervously asked.

“Your uniforms and lanyards are outdated by 5 years. Who are you? How’d you get in here? And how old are you kid?”

“Not much younger than you!” Miles retorted.

“We’re blown, run!” Josh cried. He pulled Jocasta’s head off and kicked her body into Patriot.

“Ah!” He cried.

“My body!” Jocasta whined.

“It’s busted, we’ll make you a new one!” Josh shouted, running off with Miles, who had dropped the arms.

“Errr… stop them!” Patriot ordered. He noticed Acacia at the other end of the room, trying to sneak out. “And her!”

“Shell it all.” Acacia swore. Agents began to bombard them. Thinking fast, Josh picked up a cheeseburger, and hurled it, nailing an agent in the face.

“Son of a-” The agent picked up his soup and chucked it. Josh ducked and hit another agent.

“Why I oughta…” She said, grabbing onto her pie. Other agents began to grab their lunch.

“You can’t be serious…” Patriot said.

“FOOD FIGHT!” Someone shouted, and food began flying this way and that.

“What are we, 3?” Patriot asked, taking a meatball sub to the visor. “Ah!” He cried, holding up his shield to block the food.

“That should keep ‘em busy!” Josh proudly exclaimed.

“Josh!” Eileen scolded. “Did you seriously just start a food fight in the S.H.I.E.L.D. Triskelion?”

“I regret nothing.” He said, dodging a pineapple.

“Oh, pineapple!” Kyle observed.

“Forget it! Let’s go!” Acacia exclaimed. Patriot squinted and saw the E.G.G. Agents making a break for it.

“Oh no you don’t!” He began to run but slipped on some lemonade. “Dang it!”

“Eileen! Acacia! Agent Rice!” Jocasta happily greeted. “I am very- ve-ve-very happy to see you all!”

“It’s good to see you too Jocasta.” Eileen sincerely replied. “I’m sorry we let this happen, but we’ll make it right.”

“And you can see Celeste again!” Acacia added.

“Really!” Jocasta was ecstatic. “Oh, how I have hoped I would see- see Celeste again!”

“You will see nothing, outmode.” They all stopped short as Contessa landed in front of them, instinctively caught an apple, and crushed it to mush in her hand.

“Contessa, I thought we were- we were friends?”

“I was never your friend.” Contessa revealed.

“Okay, other way.” Josh said. They turned, but Patriot was behind them.

“Going somewhere?” He asked. Contessa and Patriot began to close in.

“Sorry guys.” Eileen said. She held up her hands and flashed light from her palms.

“Ah!” Patriot cried, covering his eyes. Contessa was unaffected and charged at them.

“Miles! Go long!” Josh shouted, throwing Jocasta’s head just as Contessa tackled him to the ground.

“I am airborne.” Jocasta noted, spiraling into Miles’s arms.

“Got her!” He said, leaping around the still reeling Patriot. Kyle grabbed Contessa and threw her into the kitchen where her face hit the stove. She looked up at them, half of the skin burned off to reveal metal and a menacing red robotic eye.

“She’s… upset.” Josh said, as she charged at them.

Miles slid behind a table, ducking a spiraling pizza.

“I’m pinned!” He called.

“I’m open!” Acacia shouted, waving her arms. Miles threw Jocasta’s head. It twirled in the air and Acacia caught it, then made a break for the elevator.

“Cease and desist!” Patriot ordered, throwing his shield. It zoomed toward Acacia.

“Ah!” She shrieked, setting up a forcefield, causing it to bounce off. “Haha!” The shield then stopped in midair and transformed into a glider, which Patriot hopped onto and began to pursue Acacia.

“You’re kidding.” She groaned. “Eileen! Coming in hot!” She threw Jocasta’s head.

“I am getting dizzy.” Jocasta stated. Eileen leapt up, but just as she was about to catch it, she got nailed with a pudding cup.

“Shell!” She cried, falling to the ground. Jocasta’s head bounced under a table.

“Fumble!” Josh shouted. He fired a few Thwip blasts at Contessa, then dove under the table and grabbed Jocasta. Contessa seized him by the ankle and began dragging him out.

“No! No! No!” Josh squealed.

“Westbrook!” Kyle called. Josh smacked Jocasta’s head. It slid and Kyle scooped it up, only to be rammed by Patriot’s glider. “Ah!” He cried. Patriot picked up Jocasta.

“This is property of S.H.I.E.L.D!” He exclaimed. “You are all violating code of conduct and will promptly reported to…”

“Yoink!” Miles exclaimed, swiping Jocasta and rushing for the elevator.

“Run Miles!” Josh yelled. “Run!” He ducked a pie, barely spun out of the way of some alfredo, and leapt over a full watermelon. He was nearly there, when a chimichanga came from left field and nailed him in the face, knocking him out of commission.

“Dang it.” Josh groaned. Jocasta’s head rolled. Everyone dove for it at once. Josh, Contessa, Eileen, Patriot, Acacia, and Kyle all dogpiled on top of each other. They wrestled around, hitting, shoving, hair pulling.

“WAIT!” Josh called, all of them freezing. “Where is Jocasta?” They all heard the elevator ding. The looked to see Tippy Toe, holding Jocasta’s head, wink at all of them as the doors closed.

“Lobby.” The computer said.

“Catch that squirrel!” Patriot ordered, leaping onto his glider and flying over the balcony. Contessa got up, but Eileen grabbed her exposed robotics and electrocuted her, shutting her down.

“There we go.” She said in relief.

“We gotta get to the lobby!” Josh exclaimed. He ran and leapt off of the balcony. “Yippee ki yay mother shockers!” He landed on the back of Patriot’s glider, causing it to spiral out of control.

“What are you doing! Get off!” He yelled. Eileen also dove from the balcony, and began flying downward. A decent way down, she spotted the agent with the comic book.

“Hey you!” She shouted.

“Crap! Run!” He yelled, as he and his friends took off, Eileen in hot pursuit. Kyle kicked the door to the stairs open and spun a web to the bottom.

“Go! Go!” He ordered. Acacia leapt on and slid down, followed by Kyle. Miles reached out, then paused.

“Nah man.” He said, proceeding to descend the stairs. “Nope. Nope. Nope. Nope.”

The elevator dinged at the bottom, just as Patriot and Josh crashed into a giant S.H.I.E.L.D. eagle sculpture. Tippy Toe emerged and proudly presented Jocasta’s head to Squirrel Girl with an enthusiastic squeak.

“Tippy!” Squirrel Girl disapprovingly said. “What did I tell you about picking up random junk?” She took Jocasta’s head.

“Hello Squirrel Girl.” Jocasta greeted.

“Whoa! Jocasta?” Squirrel Girl laughed. “Sorry, I guess I didn’t recognize you, being, you know, just a head!”

“Agent Green!” Patriot called, limping toward her. “Give that to me!” Just then Kyle burst out of the stairwell, followed by Acacia.

“Dory!” He cried, causing her to stop short. “Give me Joscasta!”

“Agent Green!” Patriot shouted. “I gave you a direct order!”

Up a few stories, Eileen slid in front of the agent.

“Give me the comic.” She growled.

“Over my dead body!” The agent boldly refused. Eileen’s hands began to light up. “Ah! Okay! Here!” He tossed it at her and ran. She caught it, ripped it to pieces, threw it away, then flew down to the lobby, where she found Josh laid out.

“You okay?” She asked, helping him up.

“Nope.” He replied. “But I’ll live.”

“Good. Also do you have a copy of Issue #33?” Josh froze.

“Eileen, please don’t make me destroy it!” He begged.

“Oh, Josh, I know how you feel about your collection, I would never make you do something like that.”

“Oh thank goodness…”

“So just give it to me and I’ll do it myself.”

“What? No!”

“Come on! We still got a mission to finish!” She said, hurrying off.

“Ugh…” Josh groaned, going after her.

Squirrel Girl stood between Kyle and Patriot, Jocasta’s head in hand.

“Dory, please.” Kyle pleaded.

“Agent Green! Follow orders!” Patriot ordered. “Give me the bot!” Squirrel Girl looked between them, then snorted.

“It’s not even a competition Rayshaun.” She said, tossing it to Kyle.

“No!” He started after him, but Squirrel Girl tackled him.

“Go Dad!” She cheered.

“Thank you!” Kyle said, running for the exit, Acacia behind him. Josh and Eileen joined them, just as Miles came from the stairs.

“Phew.” He said. “Let me catch my…”

“Come on Miles!” Josh shouted, everyone running past him.

“Dang it!” Miles groaned, following them. The five ran across the Triskelion lobby, but just as they were about to reach the doors, the ground beneath them began to quake.

“Ahhhh!” They screamed, as everyone lost their footing and fell to the ground. They were approached by a young woman with short brown hair, wearing a black and purple S.H.I.E.L.D. uniform, and sporting two distinct metal gauntlets on each wrist. She put her hands on her hips.

“Well.” She said. “You almost made it.”

“Who the shell are you?” Acacia asked.

“Agent Daisy Johnson.” She said, grabbing Jocasta’s head. “And this, belongs to S.H.I.E.L.D.”

“Hello- he-hello Agent Johnson.” Jocasta greeted.

“Hey Jocasta.” Daisy replied. “Hm, your speech pattern is still off, I thought for sure the new data processor would fix that.”

“It never- ne-ne-never arrived.” Jocasta said.

“Weird, tracking said Contessa signed and accepted. I guess I’ll just have to install it myself.” She pointed down toward E.G.G. “Arrest them please.”

“I knew it!” Miles whined. “My dad’s gonna kill me!”

“Agent Johnson wait!” Josh pleaded. “You seem to care about Jocasta.”

“I do.” She said. “A lot.”

“Then please, let us take her home.” Daisy looked at them, then at Jocasta.

“Is this them?” She asked.

“Yes,” Jocasta answered, “these are my fr-fr-friends.” Daisy sighed.

“Jocasta literally talks about you guys all the time.” She said. She considered for a bit, then handed the head to Josh. “Here.”

“Agent Johnson you can’t!” Patriot cried.

“I can’t what?” She asked, looking at him. He cleared his throat and rubbed the back of his neck.

“Sorry ma’am.” He shamefully said. Daisy turned back to E.G.G.

“Take care of her.” She said, walking off.

“Well, that worked out nicely.” Eileen admitted.

“Yeah, now let’s scoot before they change their minds!” Josh exclaimed, and all of them ran as fast as they could from the Triskelion.

* * *

The secret door to E.G.G. Base slid open, and the five dragged inside, utterly and completely wiped out. Celeste was leaned against the wall, texting.

“You guys look like $#&%.” She remarked. Josh tossed her Jocasta’s head.

“You’re welcome.” He grumbled in agitation. Celeste stopped, and her eyes began to water.

“Jocasta?” She asked.

“Hello Celeste.” Jocasta said. “I have missed- mi-mi-missed you.” Celeste clutched Jocasta’s head tightly to her chest and kissed it.

“I’ve missed you more.” She said. “Oh, what have they done to you? Don’t worry, I’ll have you back up and running in no time!” She pointed to Josh. “Hey, douchebag, where’s the Robotics Lab?” Josh sighed and pointed.

“That way.” He ushered. Celeste hurried off, then paused, and turned back to the five of them.

“Thank you.” She said, then made her way to the lab. Acacia gasped.

“She said thank you!” She exclaimed. “I haven’t heard those word leave her lips in months!” Acacia happily laughed. “Yes! She’ll be back to good old Celeste in no time!”

“… You heard what she called me, right?” Josh asked.

Epilogue

In the S.H.I.E.L.D. broom closet back at the Triskelion, the Contessa head’s eyes opened, and lit up red.

“At last.” She spoke in a male German accent. “Arnim Zola returns! Hail HYDRA!” The eyes scanned their environment. “Well… zis is unfortunate.”

The End