

My superHero

A ten-minute play

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“My *super*Hero”

Characters

Guy G.U.R.P..... Male. Young, devoted fan to Ma Zjong. He wants nothing more than to be her sidekick.

Ma Zjong..... Female. Old, paralyzed, superhero. Looking for a sidekick.

Setting

An interview room on Ma Zjong’s satellite, currently in geo-synchronous orbit around earth.

Synopsis

Guy G.U.R.P. has been following Ma Zjong for years, and has been her biggest fan. When a position opens-up as her sidekick, he eagerly applies for it. But is knowing ‘Ma’ enough for ‘Guy’ to be a true superhero?

Other Notes

A projector, though mentioned in the script, is not necessary for the action of the play, and can be removed if none is available.

Ma Zjong is paralyzed from the neck down, and Guy G.U.R.P. does everything for her.

Lines in [] denotes chess moves.

“M *super*Hero”

Lights-up on GUY G. U. R. P. Behind him, a chessboard is setup, with MA ZJONG sitting on one side, and an empty chair in another.

GUY G. U. R. P

Ma Zjong. Real name, Thelma Wheelhouse. And I'm in, like, honest-to-goodness awe. I even have her trading card.

MA ZJONG's trading-card image is projected behind him.

GUY G. U. R. P (CONT'D)

Yeah, that was her, right there. Before MC Squared. But you know about that. I memorized all her stats. Superior Intellect, master of all games. All games. That's incredible. I even figured out her secret identity, but I only told her. It starts trust, you know?

MA ZJONG's image fades.

GUY G. U. R. P (CONT'D)

Ten years after that pack, and I'm here. Not on her moon-base, of course. I'm not on the team yet, just a small satellite in geo-synchronous orbit for interviews. I want to be good enough for her.

MA ZJONG

Guy! You setup the pieces and then you start talking to yourself?

GUY G. U. R. P

Sorry. (I gotta pretend you're not here right now).

MA ZJONG

You bring me something?

GUY G. U. R. P. Takes a pack of cigarettes out of his pocket. Puts one in her mouth, is about to light it when.

MA ZJONG

Are these menthol?

GUY G. U. R. P

No.

MA ZJONG

Take it out.

GUY G. U. R. P. takes the cigarette out, puts it on the table.

Udoes what she says for the next part.

MA ZJONG (CONT'D)
Not a good start. Take the pieces. Mix them. Right hand.
Pawn to E4.

GUY G. U. R. P
Ok.

GUY G. U. R. P
Pawn to F5.

[he moves his king-bishop's pawn]

MA ZJONG
I'm paralyzed, I'm not deaf. You sure you want to move that?

[GUY takes his hand off the piece]

GUY G. U. R. P
Is that-

MA ZJONG
Well, you took your hand off the piece, so it doesn't matter.
Take pawn.

[GUY moves her piece]

GUY G. U. R. P
So... They haven't...

MA ZJONG
What?

GUY G. U. R. P
They haven't found MC Squared?

MA ZJONG
It will be the first mission.

GUY G. U. R. P
I'll find him in a second for you.

MA ZJONG
That's nice.

GUY G. U. R. P
King to F7.

[he moves]

MA ZJONG

I don't take kindly to people who throw games to me. I earn my victories.

GUY G. U. R. P

I'm not-

MA ZJONG

I need someone who can challenge what is wrong with society. And that is shown through chess.

GUY G. U. R. P

But I took my hand off the piece.

MA ZJONG

This will be quick. Queen to check.

[GUY moves the piece]

MA ZJONG (CONT'D)

You shouldn't have moved your king in front of everything like that.

GUY G. U. R. P

Sorry.

MA ZJONG

Maybe you're thinking that if you throw the game, I'll pity you. That I'll take you under my wing to be my sidekick. But I am building a team of heroes.

GUY G. U. R. P

I've done amazing things.

MA ZJONG

I don't work with sidekicks. And if I could move, then I wouldn't even need people like you, or The Wiggler.

GUY G. U. R. P

(worried)

He applied?

MA ZJONG

I'd let him in, but I think he used to be a cop. Now, I was shown your resume. To be honest, I'm disappointed. You haven't done a single heroic deed.

GUY G. U. R. P

I have.

MA ZJONG

You didn't include a press clipping.

GUY G. U. R. P

I'm here. That's pretty big.

MA ZJONG

(Laughs)

It is, isn't it? Let's start with interview questions while I'm waiting on your move.

GUY G. U. R. P

Sorry. I'll block you again.

[GUY moves a knight]

MA ZJONG

I'm going to keep on attacking your king as long as your stupid enough to leave it exposed. You understand?

GUY G. U. R. P

Yes.

MA ZJONG

Queen check.

[GUY moves her queen]

MA ZJONG (CONT'D)

So why did you choose Guy G. U. R. P.?

GUY G. U. R. P

GURPS was a role-playing game before computers did it. Paper, pencils, dice, and your imagination.

MA ZJONG

I've forgotten more about GURPS than you'll ever know, sonny.

GUY G. U. R. P

So I have these 20-sided dice here that explode, and the pencils are really lasers. I don't normally wear long-sleeves, but my mom said it would be cold in space. *(pause)* I have a motto.

MA ZJONG

Good. How about you move?

GUY G. U. R. P

It's "roll 20 for critical justice"! *(no response)* Sorry. I guess I'll block you again.

[GUY moves his bishop]

MA ZJONG

Check.

[GUY moves her BISHOP]

MA ZJONG (CONT' D)

Your enthusiasm is a boon, but I need to rely on facts. Press clippings. You have to have proof. Proof that you can work on a team.

GUY G. U. R. P

I've been very heroic.

MA ZJONG

Really.

[GUY moves his piece.]

MA ZJONG

Check.

[GUY moves her piece.]

MA ZJONG

You've put yourself in harms way, sacrificed all that you hold dear, to make the world a better place.

GUY G. U. R. P

Yeah.

MA ZJONG

And you're willing to forget those that you love to join a cohesive member of a team?

GUY G. U. R. P

I already have.

MA ZJONG

Then come back when your resume supports what goes on in your head.

[GUY moves his piece]

MA ZJONG (CONT' D)

Check. So thanks for coming, and-

GUY G. U. R. P

Wait. Let me tell you what I did.

[GUY moves his piece.]

MA ZJONG

What? Knight.

[GUY moves her piece]

GUY G. U. R. P

I was on a stake-out, and it was late. The moon pierced the clouds.

MA ZJONG

Sure.

GUY G. U. R. P

I was following my, my target, and she.

MA ZJONG

A she? Must have been fierce.

GUY G. U. R. P

I was ready, and I sprang into action!

MA ZJONG

A big rooftop brawl?

GUY G. U. R. P

No! She could take me in a second! Wham! I'd be as flat as a pancake. I followed her. Quietly. She didn't even see me. She walks down the street in her normal clothes.

MA ZJONG

She was a supervillian, too?

GUY G. U. R. P

And I had it all setup. I had caused an accident, so there were cops like all around. She didn't like them, so she turned down this alley.

MA ZJONG

An alley?

GUY G. U. R. P

Yeah.

MA ZJONG

Where did she come from, again?

GUY G. U. R. P

World's Gym. That was her secret headquarters. And she's halfway down the alley, and I'm pretty close. I could smell her cigarettes.

MA ZJONG

This isn't funny.

GUY G. U. R. P

I thought they were regulars, but I guess menthols.

MA ZJONG

Marshall...

GUY G. U. R. P

And when I can almost touch her, I reach out.

[GUY moves a piece]

GUY G. U. R. P (CONT' D)

And grab her neck with one hand and in my other I have this bottle, and I open it and pour it down her throat.

MA ZJONG

Secur-

[GUY clamps his hand over her mouth]

GUY G. U. R. P

Shh.. It'll get better. I promise. And I make her drink it all. And she starts shaking and I, I lower her down really gently. Your hair, it was like a halo. I don't think you even had a bruise from the shaking, did you? And I stayed with you until you stopped, and then I called the cops. Sorry about that. I kept the mask, though. I am perfect for your team. And I'm a challenge, see? Look at the board! You kept on attacking my king, because it was so easy. But by defending him I developed my pieces. I won this game. I am a challenger, and your biggest fan! Thelma, I got your card and everything. Let me get that.

[GUY releases her mouth and tips her king over]

GUY G. U. R. P

I want to show it to you.

[IMAGE of MA ZJONG is projected again]

GUY G. U. R. P

That was pretty heroic, yeah? Oh. The mask that I had on. I brought it in the bag here for you. So you'll believe me. So what do you think? Did I earn a place on your team?

END OF PLAY