

Chapter Ten

Nap

Back in Head's apartment, Awdokai began a full diagnostic on Robotski, while Kazoo tried to relax in the guest quarters, reading Supercandy #52.

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Supercandy #52, entitled "I Come From Tricycle City," answered many questions that had been building in the series for a long time. The Trickertreaters have established a link with the Candy Distributers, and Suckerboy has become a full agent of their Factory. The Trickertreaters have been recruited as candy dealers, drumming up business throughout the 5 boroughs. The Factory has set up an outpost in Coney Island, a secret playland called Arcadium, where Trickertreaters lure only the most wretched candyeaters (dubbed the "Doze Mopus"). It is at Arcadium, it seems, that most of the disappearing kids are last seen. Suckerboy is being supplied with a special candy that has augmented his appearance. He has lost all of his teeth, and has a completely metal mouth. He appears to be very powerful, yet tortured. In addition, the Factory has mysteriously supplied him with a super-beautiful girlfriend, the very evil Ezmeralda.

A cryptic message from the Icecream-Man sends the Makebelievers in search of "a boy who can help you," at the Towers in Flushing Meadow Park. There they meet Thuddious, a little older than all of them, who wears a Decoder Ring like Kid America. Thuddious comes from a place called Tricycle City, which, is also revealed as the name of the Factory that makes the Supercandy. He and a contingent of '1-2-3' all have been fighting to reclaim that which is inside the great factory. When asked what he means by this, Thud says, "Our city, an entire city lies *within* that factory."

Thuddious and Rollerskatie begin a semi-romance which creates a love triangle in the story. This sends Kid America into a time of great training and solitude. Although his heart is breaking, he also desperately needs the guidance of Thud, who begins to train him in the ways of his Decoder Ring. The Ring is a device which can channel one's energy into usable forms, it can emanate light, be used as an energy dagger, or fire off bolts of energy. "The Rings," Thud says, "can also unlock many of the doors in Tricycle City. You were chosen by Sam, as I was, as were seven others like us. We Nine, must take back the city, as it is our birthright." Kid America eats his last piece of Supercandy in this issue (except for one final chew near to the series end).

Copernicus has engineered a plot into Tricycle City, knowing more of the truth than any of the other characters combined. He has his new babysitter, Geneveeve, to thank for this, who appears to be the twin sister of Suckerboy's girlfriend, Ezmeralda. It seems possible that Geneveeve is a Factory renegade. Copernicus has grown to despise the Tricketreaters as much as the Makebelievers, believing them all to be stupid and weak. After getting roughed up by his brother Suckerboy, Copernicus confides in Upside Down Brown. "I want to be bigger than all of them," reads the word bubble from his head, "Like you, but bigger, so big, that I can just jump off this stupid planet and swim off into Space."

-Bodey Flugger
Encyclopedia Komica
synopsis of Supercandy # 52

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When Kazoo finished his reading, he could not get off to sleep. He found himself wondering what Kid America could even *do* to save everyone. He certainly hadn't done

anything yet. The little Robotski could be malfunctioning, with his talk of great plans and “In-Stereo”.

A half hour later, Robotski came pattering in to the room and landed on the table near to Kazoo’s head. Kazoo made as if he were asleep. Robotski paced on the table, making tiny little clicking noises with his metallic footsteps.

“Cerebral scans indicate that you are not asleep, Kazoo,”

Kazoo looked at him and the robot stopped.

Kazoo leaned up in his bed and said,

“When was the last time you *saw* Kid America?”

“Long ago. Before he moved his studios again. This is the same time he and Goose parted ways. She *refused* to remain underground. I wished to go along with Kid America but he demanded that I should stay with Goose. He rewrote my program so that my loyalty would always lie with her. She is who I would protect now, if I had to choose between them. She and I have lived on the surface for a very long time, evading detection by fractions, far too often.”

Kazoo wondered how the little robot could protect *anybody*.

“How is it that this man *is* Kid America?”

“It would be foolish for you to assume him to be anything like the boy you read about in Comic Books. He is a man. A Siphon. He is a Mechanist, and a sonic inventor. His name is meaningless, it is his intent, I suppose, that makes him a Kid America.”

“I--I think I’ve already realized that.”

“However, the Kid America that we seek shares many of the comic book character’s qualities.”

“But do you know where he is?”

“I do not. Goose nor I have communicated with him in over five Blanket-threads. Most say that is probably equal to 1 year outside the Electric Blanket.”

“Milk Crates says that he’s dead.”

“Oh I doubt that. We have had ways of seeing signs of him. He had his hands in many of the small debacles that have taken place for the DJ over the years. It is word that he has spies deep in the Stereo System. Those that work for the Record Company and are trusted quite completely.”

“How come the DJ doesn’t just go get him and destroy him? What if he already has?”

“That is exactly what Goose feared as she embarked on her mission, I daresay too early.”

“Do you know what the Stereo System is? Do you know how to get in without having to be captured first? How do we *save* her?”

“Oh, I do not know if Goose will be in any real need of actual rescue. I doubt she would allow that sort of ‘damsel-in -distress’ situation to occur. I may think that she went ahead with things a little bit too soon, but she still knew what she was doing. She did what she felt she had to in order to try and save the city. However, as to your question about the Stereo, I can tell you this: The Stereo System is a great computer mind. It encompasses the entire Electric Company and the Muffinman himself. I believe it is every pixel of the Electric Blanket and every Digital bit of each of the seven Transistors. It is a mind, who wishes to be in control. It advertises itself as a *place*, and that, I think, means it wishes to control everything. But I really don’t know what it is, or what it is like up in the Amusement Platforms. The thing that Goose seemed to

know, was, that the Stereo was near completion. That was why she left abruptly.”

When Robotski turned to look at Kazoo once again, the boy was finally fast asleep.

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Gel sat up in her bed, Awdokai on the floor with his legs drawn into his torso.

Gel said, “Alright Auto, my dad’s asleep. Play the recording.”

“I must warn you that his ear microphones will pick up the sound of the playback. He shall read it all right in front of his face when he awakes.”

“I know very well how my father operates, Auto. Now are you *my* robot or not?

Play the stupid recording like I said.”

“As you command.

“The recording is low. Maxing volume.”

Awdokai stood frozen. Finally, he looked up. He said, **“Amplified.”**

A noisy hiss came out of Auto’s chest speakers. The sound of metallic footsteps could be heard, then, a voice,

“This way, Mister Transistor. Just down this corridor.”

Gel said, “Pause.”

The recording halted.

“That’s Elroy talking. Matheson. Plus Nice. Continue.”

The recording ensued. It was the voice of Jim. He said, “Thank you, young man. My Group just need a little inspection before we go about our business. Come, come fellows...”

Slightly more erratic footsteps, then Jim said, annoyed, “Come now you oaf, we haven’t much time... Say there... boy!”

Elroy could be heard running back towards Jim a bit. He said, “Yes, sir?”

Jim said, “I heard that you had a small run-in with the Truant?”

“That’s correct sir. I played him a bit of the “Mad Popcorns” record. He was completely debilitated. Quite susceptible to it’s sound.”

“Yes, yes. Excellent, that was very good work you know... I’ll be recommending you for advanced Cookie placement, you can be sure of that...”

The footsteps disappeared down the hall.

“End recording, Miss Gel.”

“Thanks, Auto. Do you know what this means?”

“There is a Transistor already present in the School. Our friend Kazoo is in grave peril.”

“That’s right. And we’re going to help him. C’mon, robot.”

Awdokai eased upwards, popping his legs out of his pelvis.

To Be Continued...