

ACT I

SCENE I

(Lights up, tight on a dusty desk. An old man sits reading a massive book, his glasses halfway down his nose. He's following along with his finger.)

PROFESSOR VOGEL

(Somewhat quietly at first)

Eureka!

(Standing, growing louder)

Eureka!

(He looks around to see if anybody's there. Nobody is, so he lets loose.)

Eureka! I have found it! After all that time and research, it's the Forever Code! I've discovered the Forever Code!

(His celebration is interrupted by DR. SKADELIG, who appears behind him out of the shadows.)

DR. SKADELIG

(Evilly)

Congratulations, Professor, on your accomplishment.

PROFESSOR VOGEL

(Shocked)

Skadelig!

DR. SKADELIG

Yes, it is I, Dr. Alexandra Ulrikke Skadelig. It's been too long, professor.

PROFESSOR VOGEL

Not long enough, if you ask me.

DR. SKADELIG

Nobody did! Now, just what have you discovered for me?

PROFESSOR VOGEL

For you? Nothing. It's my discovery.

DR. SKADELIG

No, no, no, my dear professor. You have it all wrong. You see, I've been busy lately. I'm teaching all these classes, I'm doing CrossFit, I've started crocheting. But my husband, my ruggedly handsome Osvald, he's been badgering me: "Where are all your new discoveries? What are your new theories? Why haven't they named a building after you yet?" And so on and so forth.

PROFESSOR VOGEL

Why don't you put down the crochet hook and discover something for yourself?

DR. SKADELIG

Ugh, so much work! So I thought, "Hey, I know, I could just visit my old friend Professor Vogel! He probably has something I could use."

PROFESSOR VOGEL

Skadelig, you fiend, you've been stealing my discoveries for decades, but you're not getting this one!

DR. SKADELIG

I knew you'd say that, so I hired some goons on the way over. They have the building surrounded.

PROFESSOR VOGEL

Nein!

DR. SKADELIG

Ja! I'll be taking this book now. Thank you for your assistance, Hr. Professor. Have a wonderful night!

(DR. SKADELIG bonks PROFESSOR VOGEL on the head with the book and exits. PROFESSOR VOGEL is dazed and about to faint, but he regains awareness. He sits and puts his head in his hands.)

PROFESSOR VOGEL

(Still a little dazed)

What was that code again? Oh, my head!

(Pause. Now, to nobody, really, as he's alone)

You've stolen my work for the last time, Skadelig! You might have goons, but I have the world's best

researchers at my fingertips. We'll find you,  
Skadelig. And then, you'll pay!

(He picks up the phone on his desk and  
dials.)

Eric? It's the professor. Assemble the team. This is  
the moment we've been waiting for. She's not going to  
get away with it this time.

(Blackout)