

THUNDERBIRDIE

Episode 1 - Angelpunk

written by

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COLD OPEN

EXT. CITY ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

VAL, the 15 year-old masked/costumed sidekick THUNDERBIRDIE, swoops down from the sky with her angelic wings -- clobbers CRIME MIME, the mostly-mute bargain-bin Joker.

CRIME MIME

Sacrebleu!

VAL

Hey! Mimes aren't supposed to talk!

Using his unique set of powers, Crime Mime mimes an INVISIBLE ROPE into existence and lassos the young vigilante.

VAL (CONT'D)

Guess that's why they call you
Crime Mime... wanna know why they
call me Thunderbirdie?

Val generates LIGHTNING from her body that travels down the invisible rope, ELECTROCUTING the villain -- he's out cold.

She breaks out of the rope via triumphant wingspan.

EAGLEMAN (O.S.)

'Atta girl, Val- dahh, I mean
Thunderbirdie.

The anthropomorphic EAGLEMAN lands next to his sidekick, dressed like an American flag draped around a pro-wrestler.

VAL

Thanks, Da-

She's cut off by a STREAM OF REGURGITATED FOOD as she looks up at him with an open mouth.

VAL (CONT'D)

DAD! GROSS!

EAGLEMAN

Sorry, sorry! Reflex. You know
you're not supposed to look up at
me with an open mouth like that.

He wipes his beak and flaps a LIGHT GUST OF WIND to clean her off.

EAGLEMAN (CONT'D)
Great job here, hun. I gotta meet
up with Broseidon and stop Mastodon
from destroying the city or some
stupid crap.

VAL
I'll come with!

He pats her head with his winged-hand.

EAGLEMAN
Oh no you won't! Too dangerous. No
sidekicks allowed.

VAL
But Broseidon's a sidekick!

EAGLEMAN
No, you're my sidekick now that
he's eighteen.

VAL
But I beat Crime Mime all on my
own!

EAGLEMAN
And I'm so proud of you!

He hoists her onto his shoulder.

EAGLEMAN (CONT'D)
But Mastodon and his crew are
leagues above that clown. I don't
think I could forgive myself if I
let one of them hurt you, or worse.

Sets her down.

EAGLEMAN (CONT'D)
Now fly back to your mom's. Okay?
I'm headed to Mastodon's lair.

VAL
Which lair? Volcanic lair? Bog
lair? Space lair?

EAGLEMAN
Obviously not the space lair. I
wouldn't send a water-guy like
Broseidon to space. It's the
underground- HEY!

Val smirks.

EAGLEMAN (CONT'D)

Don't even think about it! I'm serious. Promise me you'll fly to back to your mom's house.

VAL

Fiiiiine.

Val's fingers are crossed behind her back as Eagleman takes flight into the night sky.

EXT. MASTODON'S UNDERGROUND LAIR - LATER

Moving down beneath the earth's surface -- Eagleman battles MASTODON (45), the colossal super-powered Sopranos-esque crime lord. WIND vs EARTH!

MASTODON

You're getting rusty in your old age, Eagleman.

EAGLEMAN

What?! We're the same age, Mastodon.

Nearby, BROSEIDON (18) clearly a water-themed guy, costumed but unmasked, battles HIPPOBOMBAMUS (25) a heavysset young man in a hippo-themed MECH-SUIT. WATER vs EXPLOSIONS!

HIPPOBOMBAMUS

I'll filet you, fish-sticks!

BROSEIDON

Hey! That's Broseidon to you. Prince of Atlantis. Who even are you?

HIPPOBOMBAMUS

The name's Hippobombamus. Supergenius extraordinaire!

BROSEIDON

Pff. Doubt it. For a supergenius you sure picked a stupid name.

BOOM! An explosion sends Broseidon flying and tumbling down.

EAGLEMAN

Broseidon!

Hippobombamus stands over the fallen prince -- has him in his crosshairs. Young Broseidon braces himself.

HIPPOBOMBAMUS

My suit's waterproof. You never
stood a chance.

VAL (O.S.)

How about lightning-proof?!

Hippobombamus and Broseidon look up just as Val swoops down
and ELECTROCUTES Hippobombamus -- the MECH-SUIT is indeed not
lightning-proof.

EAGLEMAN

VAL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

Eagleman flies towards them.

VAL

Saving the day!

Hippobombamus recovers and charges an ENERGY BOMB, but his
MECH-SUIT is short-circuiting.

MASTODON

Stand down, Hippobombamus!

HIPPOBOMBAMUS

I'M NOT LOSING TO A SIDEKICK!

Hippobombamus throws the ENERGY BOMB towards Val and
Broseidon. They brace for impact, but are suddenly pushed to
safety by a HUGE GUST OF WIND.

EAGLEMAN (O.S.)

I told you to go to your mom's! You
promised me.

Val looks up to see Eagleman standing in the way of the
ENERGY BOMB -- he takes the hit. BOOM!

BROSEIDON

VAL

EAGLEMAN!

DAD!

MASTODON

NO!

Hippobombamus is taken out by the EXPLOSION with Eagleman.

Tears well in Val's eyes.

FADE TO WHITE.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE**EXT. VAL'S HOUSE - DAY**

VAL (now 30) dressed in civilian clothes and a day bag frantically steps outside of her home. She's talking on her cell phone.

VAL
I'll be right over, Mom.

Val hangs up the phone and takes flight.

EXT. SUPER CITY - DAY - SERIES OF SHOTS

Glimpses of everyday life in Super City as Val soars through the skies. People use SUPERPOWERS for mundane tasks:

-- A postal worker makes her rounds TELEPORTING door-to-door.

-- A SUPER-STRETCHY guy easily transports his groceries from the car up into the window of his top floor apartment.

-- A businessman misses his train, gets mad and TRANSFORMS INTO A HULK. Even angrier now that he's ripped his nice suit and crushed his coffee thermos.

-- A granny with her walker SUPER-SPEEDS across the street, zipping past a DOG-MAN cleaning up after their MAN-DOG.

EXT. KAYA'S HOUSE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

Val lands in front of her mother's house. Reaches into her bag and pulls out her keys.

INT. KAYA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Val enters the house into the living room. Native American decorations littered throughout.

VAL
I'm here, Mom!

No sign of her mom. Val reaches into her day bag and pulls out some tupperware.

VAL (CONT'D)
I also finally remembered to bring back your good tupperware.

KAYA (O.S.)
In here, Val.

Val glances over in the dining room to find her mother KAYA (60) who looks like an older version of Val without the wings, sitting safe and sound.

VAL
What?! You said it was an emergency?!

Broseidon (now 33) still dressed the same, leans over into sight with a big goofy grin on his face.

VAL (CONT'D)
Oh, god dammit.

BROSEIDON
Hey, Val! Long time no *sea*. Get it? *Sea*? Like the ocean. 'Cause I'm the Prince of Atlantis.

VAL
Yes. I get it.

INT. KAYA'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATER

Val sits with Broseidon and Kaya. She looks annoyed.

VAL
No! I'm not 'teaming up' with you! I still haven't been able to shoot lightning since the whole 'dad dying'... situation?

BROSEIDON
You can still fly and kick ass though!

VAL
I'm not a hero.

KAYA
You're not employed either. And you're running out of your father's inheritance.

VAL
Mom! How do you even know that?

KAYA
Oh, please, Valorie.
(leans towards Broseidon)
I still file her taxes for her.

Broseidon LAUGHS. Val is clearly embarrassed.

BROSEIDON

Just go on a patrol with me
tonight. See how it makes you feel?

VAL

Can't! I have big plans tonight.

SMASH-CUT TO:

INT. VAL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Val is passed out in a recliner, covered in burrito crumbs.
Light from the television illuminates her drool.

An HGTV-esque show plays as Val SNORES:

HOST

You just put a million dollars down
on your dream home, BUT...

The HOST cuts into the house with a knife. It's a giant cake.
The CONTESTANT is very disappointed.

HOST (CONT'D)

It's cake!

CONTESTANT

DAMMIT! I was really hoping it
wasn't cake! I didn't want to spend
all that money on cake! This sucks!

A LOUD RUCKUS outside wakes Val up.

VAL

(half-asleep)

Cake.

Comes to her senses as the RUCKUS turns into a KERFUFFLE.

She looks out the window to the alleyway and sees the hot-
headed, cheap-costumed vigilante RAGEMAN (28) getting his
butt kicked by the brute, muscle-mommy ALBINO RHINO.

VAL (CONT'D)

What the- that's Albino Rhino!

(beat)

Nope. None of my business.

Val turns around and sees a picture of Eagleman. SIGHS.

EXT. ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Albino Rhino shoves Rageman through trash cans into a big ol'
pile of wet, stinky garbage.

RAGEMAN

Screw you, Albino Rhino! I hope you
drown in the sewer with the rats!

A rat scurries across Rageman's face. He SCREAMS.

Albino Rhino holds some sort of tracking beacon in one hand.

ALBINO RHINO

Stand down, D-lister.

Rageman throws a trash lid at Albino Rhino and tries to rush her, but she catches it, spins around, and hurls it right back at Rageman.

Rageman falls back into the trash. Another rat scurries across him. He SCREAMS again.

Albino Rhino looks at her tracking device.

ALBINO RHINO (CONT'D)

She's near...

VAL (O.S.)

You found me.

Val lands down in front of Rageman, wings spread proud and far.

ALBINO RHINO

Huh?

VAL

What do you want with me? Here to
take me to Mastodon?

ALBINO RHINO

What? Lady, I don't know what
you're even talking about! I'm
looking for-

The entire block TREMBLES -- an EXPLOSION of PINK FIRE
ERUPTS, destroying Val's home.

VAL

MY HOUSE!

RAGEMAN

Well, that definitely ain't
cake.

Albino Rhino looks over the edge into the crevasse below as
smoke smolders out.

NOVA flies out of the smoke - a humanoid alien appearing no
older than her mid-20s. Pink hair/flames, her light
flickering. She's weak and exhausted.

A silver-plated HAND rises from the crevasse. Several RHINO GUARDS, the silver armored rhino-themed henchmen, climb up out of the hole where's Val's house once stood.

Val grabs Rageman and hides behind a dumpster.

RHINO GUARD 1
Rhinoguards at the ready!

RHINO GUARD 2
Wooo!

ALBINO RHINO
At ease, soldiers.

RHINO GUARD 3
Target acquired.

ALBINO RHINO
Yes, very good, but I already saw her! Now who's gonna go up there and get her? Do any of you know how to fly?

RHINO GUARD 1
... No.

ELEPHANTOM (O.S.)
On it.

ANOTHER FIGURE rises out from the smoke. Nova turns around to face ELEPHANTOM - the cloaked, masked, elephant-themed supervillain sorceress floating across from her.

RAGEMAN
Whoah! Elephantom is here now too?

VAL
What the hell is going on?!

Elephantom creates a SHADOWY RING that binds Nova in place.

ELEPHANTOM
We're not done with you yet, Nova.

Elephantom looks down at the Rhinoguards.

ELEPHANTOM (CONT'D)
Useless.

RHINO GUARD 1
Sorry, ma'am!

Rhinoguard 1 is VAPORIZED by a SHADOWY ASTRAL MIST.

Horrified expressions from Val and Rageman. Nova can't help but creepily GIGGLE.

ALBINO RHINO

Aw, come on! He was my favorite.

ELEPHANTOM

Let this be a lesson to all of you. Do not call me "ma'am"! From now on you call me "mommy"!

RHINO GUARDS

Yes, mommy!

ELEPHANTOM

That's better. Mommy hates her stupid, little babies. I didn't breast feed any one of you and it shows.

ALBINO RHINO

(under her breath)

I wish I was dead.

Elephantom turns her attention back onto Nova, still floating bound in place. The SHADOWY RING starts to BURN Nova. Nova SCREAMS in pain -- exhaling a HUGE BURST OF PINK FIRE that incinerates Albino Rhino and the remaining Rhinoguards.

Another SHADOWY RING forms around Nova's mouth.

ELEPHANTOM

Aw! You killed my babies.

Tears well/steam in Nova's eyes as the SHADOWY RINGS burn her -- Val tightens her fist. Steps out from the garbage.

RAGEMAN

What are you doing? They're on a completely different level than us!

Val ignores him.

VAL

Hey, Elephantom!

Elephantom turns back, looks down at Val.

VAL (CONT'D)

Let's dance, mommy.

(beat)

Uh, I couldn't think of anything...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING**

The smoke from the crevasse still billowing. Rageman watches as Val flies up into the sky -- wings flapping in place as she reaches Elephantom's level. Nova still bound.

ELEPHANTOM

Nova, look! This dirty birdie needs wings to fly! Wings! Gross!

VAL

Let her go.

ELEPHANTOM

Or what? What's a street-level try-hard gonna do against ME? I'm Mastodon's third-in-command-

Elephantom looks down at the pile of Albino Rhino's ashes.

ELEPHANTOM (CONT'D)

Second-in-command! Plus, I'm a friggin' sorceress, babe.

VAL

First, I'm gonna punch you. Then, I'll probably punch you again.

Val seemingly doesn't realize that Elephantom's SHADOWY ASTRAL MIST from before is slowly gathering around her -- but Rageman sees it.

RAGEMAN

Look out!

VAL

Huh?

Val notices just in time and dissipates the MIST by flapping her wings. The SHARP GUST from Val's wings blows smoke towards Elephantom -- she's lost in the cloud.

ELEPHANTOM

Gross! Poor person house smoke!

PUNCH! Another PUNCH! -- Smoke parts to reveal Val.

VAL

Not poor. Financially-challenged!

ELEPHANTOM

Ohohoho! You dirty birdie! I like you.

Elephantom ponders.

ELEPHANTOM (CONT'D)

Hmm... Birdie...

On that note, Val quickly springs back into action -- attempts another punch, only this time Elephantom dodges.

- Meanwhile, Nova attempts to break out of the SHADOWY RINGS but it's no use. Her glow dims as she comes crashing towards the ground.

Rageman softens the blow by jumping under her. He HOWLS in pain.

- Back in the sky, Val narrowly avoids Elephantom's DARK ENERGY WAVES.

ELEPHANTOM (CONT'D)

So, what? Is having nasty wings and punching kinda hard your only powers?

Val tries to kick her, but misses.

ELEPHANTOM (CONT'D)

I'm getting bored-duh! We're never gonna win homecoming QUEENS if you keep doing the SAME dance moves.

VAL

You're one to talk! You just keep doing the same... vague, spooky ethereal energy attacks.

ELEPHANTOM

Sweetie, I have so many spooky powers you wouldn't even know what to do... like, watch!

Elephantom creates a SWORD MADE OF BONE.

ELEPHANTOM (CONT'D)

Bone-sword. Just like that.

She LAUGHS, starts swinging the weapon -- slashes a FEATHER from Val's wing.

VAL

Ow! I just molted those, dick!

Elephantom BLASTS Val with a DARK WAVE -- sending her flying down into the pile of trash.

Elephantom menacingly floats down. Looks at Nova passed out on top of a concussed Rageman, then at Val in the garbage.

ELEPHANTOM

It was fun while it lasted, but it looks like I'll be taking home the crown.

She points the bone-sword at Val's throat. Suddenly -- a VOLT OF ELECTRICITY travels down the weapon and ELECTROCUTES Elephantom. Elephantom HOWLS in pain.

VAL

My powers? My powers!

The SHADOWY RINGS dissipate from Nova. She wakes up.

Val tries to shoot another lightning bolt, anything, but nothing happens.

VAL (CONT'D)

What the hell?

ELEPHANTOM (O.S.)

(sing-song voice)

I know who you are now!

Val looks up at Elephantom standing over her.

ELEPHANTOM (CONT'D)

Eagleman's brat... Thunderbirdie. I don't know if I'm allowed to kill you, but better to ask for forgiveness than-

Elephantom is engulfed in PINK FLAMES -- she SCREAMS.

Val looks over and sees Nova attacking with her FIERY HANDS held out.

NOVA

I'll save you, bestie!

VAL

"Bestie"?! Wait, stop!

Nova stops. Elephantom is still SCREAMING until she stops, drops, and rolls the flames off of her -- she stands back up, her cloak singed and smoking.

ELEPHANTOM
Bye-bye, BIRDIE!

Elephantom LAUGHS as she PHASES into the shadows of the alley with the FEATHER in hand.

Val does her best not to show it, but she's rattled. She SIGHS. Looks at the hole where her home once stood. SIGHS again.

Rageman looks up and sees Val and Nova are hurt but okay.

RAGEMAN
Hey! We won!

NOVA
My turn!

Nova plops onto the ground, SNORING at Rageman's feet.

RAGEMAN
We can't stay here. Let's regroup
at 'The Rage Unit'!
(beat)
You in?

VAL
No. I'm not teaming up with you or
the alien that DESTROYS PEOPLE'S
HOMES!

Nova innocently LAUGHS in her sleep. Continues to SNORE. SIRENS WAIL in the distance.

RAGEMAN
If you want to talk to the pigs, be
my guest, but I think we should get
out of here. You don't have to be
my sidekick if you don't want to-

VAL
First of all, I was NOT the
sidekick in any scenario you got
going up in there!

RAGEMAN
Look, I'm just inviting you to come
hang out as a thank you for...
y'know... saving me...

VAL
Oh... that's... nice of you.

Nova drools HOT PLASMA that melts through the asphalt.

RAGEMAN

Hey, you mind carrying her for me?

EXT. STORAGE UNITS - NIGHT

Val carries Nova as Rageman unlocks a storage unit. The "STO" lights on the neon "STORAGE UNIT" sign flickers.

Rageman slides the door up, a clowder of cats come roaming out; yowling, hissing, and mewling as loud and annoying as possible.

VAL

What's with the, uh, cat army?

RAGEMAN

Yeah, I run a feral cat rehabilitation program. Some of these guys have made significant strides- HEY, FATTER GARFIELD! NO! WE DON'T HUMP MY FUNKO POPS!

Rageman shoos an obese orange cat from his EAGLEMAN FUNKO POP -- the sight of it triggers Val. She drops Nova.

NOVA (O.S.)

KITTIES!

VAL

W-What, why, why do you have that?

RAGEMAN

What? Fatter Garfield? He has gout.

VAL

No, the, dad- the dead- the... Eagleman?

RAGEMAN

Oh! I love Eagleman! He's the whole reason I became a superhero!

VAL

Yeah... same...

Rageman shoves the Eagleman Funko Pop in her face, oblivious to the mental and emotional anguish he's causing.

RAGEMAN

(doing a deep voice)

HI, uh, HI ANGELPUNK! WHAT'S, WHAT'S GOING ON OVER HERE-

Val lightly THROAT CHOPS Rageman, he immediately drops the Funko Pop and starts CHOKING.

VAL
I should go!

NOVA
No! Don't go, bestie!

VAL
"Bestie"? You exploded my house!

Genuine remorse washes across Nova's face. She sets Fatter Garfield down, floats to Val.

NOVA
I didn't mean to! I needed to get away from that mean elephant lady!

Steaming tears well in her starry eyes.

NOVA (CONT'D)
(crying)
They do test stuff to me that makes me hurt and forget things!

VAL
I...

NOVA
(dry heaving from crying)
PLEASE. DON'T. GO. YET. BESTIIIIIE.

She nearly vomits.

RAGEMAN
(still choking)
DON'T GO! I IMPLORE YOU TO STAY!

VAL
Okay! I'll stay the night until I figure something else out! Jeez!

NOVA
(dry heave)
YAY!!! BESTIE!

RAGEMAN
(light choking)
ALRIGHT! SLUMBER PARTY! IT'S A SLUMBER PARTY!

INT. STORAGE UNIT - CONTINUOUS

Rageman finally regains his breath and composure. He goes into the storage unit, turns on an old TV, and brushes cat turds and empty bags of chips off his "couch" (a torn out backseat of a mini-van).

RAGEMAN

Pop a squat, ladies! Don't mind the cat piss smell, you'll get used to it! Whatchya wanna watch?

VAL

Wait, you actually live here?

Nova digs into the backseat couch and eats an old chicken wing bone.

RAGEMAN

Yeah! Lots of up-and-coming heroes and retired villains do! It's a nice little community, but the old guy next to me is a grade-A piece of trash!

VAL

Oh?

RAGEMAN

Yeah, lately he's been doing this thing where he finds out what shows I'm watching and then skips a little bit ahead of me so he can shout spoilers through the wall. Friggin sucks! I hate his guts.

VAL

'Kay.

RAGEMAN

I don't know if you remember Crime Mime from back in the day, but it's Crime Mime who, by the way-

Rageman BANGS his fist on the wall.

RAGEMAN (CONT'D)

-IS AWFULLY CHATTY FOR A GOD DAMN MIME!!!

CRIME MIME (O.S.)

(muffled through the wall)
HONHONHON! HE CHOSE JES! MERCI!

RAGEMAN

DAMMIT! I just started watching Rock of Love! Asshole!

Val looks around.

VAL
 No, this is too stupid. Come on,
 Nova. Follow me.
 (to Rageman)
 It was nice to meet you, mister,
 uh?

RAGEMAN
 Rageman!

VAL
 Wonderful. Thanks again.

Val reluctantly grabs Nova by the wrist.

RAGEMAN
 "Again"? You never thanked me to
 begin with.

NOVA
 Bye, Mister Uh Rageman!

Val and Nova fly away from the storage units as Rageman
 watches.

RAGEMAN
 I think I'm concussed.

He picks up the Eagleman Funko-Pop. Kisses it on the cheek.

INT. SUPER CITY SQUAD HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

A KNOCK at the door.

Broseidon opens the door to find Nova floating in place.

NOVA
 Hi! I'm Val's bestie!

BROSEIDON
 The hell you are! I am... probably.

EXT. SUPER CITY SQUAD HEADQUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

Broseidon steps outside and has a look around.

BROSEIDON
 Where's Val?

A feather lands down by them.

INT. MASTODON'S UNDERGROUND LAIR - NIGHT

Val's FEATHER from earlier is dropped into a cauldron, stirred with a bone-sword. Elephantom at the helm. As the FEATHER dissolves in the cauldron, the smoke gives a vision of Val's current whereabouts as she flies away.

ELEPHANTOM

There she is.

MASTODON (now 60), still a large, powerful presence steps out of the shadows behind Elephantom.

MASTODON

I know where she's headed.

A glistening in the titan's eye.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

Val stands at her father's grave. A proud statue of the fallen hero.

VAL

Dad... I wish I could talk to you... ask you for advice... hell, I'd kill just to have you accidentally baby-bird feed me one more time.

Cry-laughing as she shuts her eyes. Falls to her knees and weeps.

ELEPHANTOM (O.S.)

I'll baby-bird feed you, babe.

Eyes open. Violated. Fear and fury.

Elephantom PHASES up from the shadows, passing through Eagleman's grave.

ELEPHANTOM (CONT'D)

EW! I just saw your dead daddy... you wanna see his skeleton?

Val crawls back away from her. Her makeup washes off with her tears.

VAL

Please. Don't do this. Not here. Not now.

Val gets back to her feet, continues her slow retreat.

VAL (CONT'D)
Why can't you all just leave me
alone?!

A SPARK circles her clenched fist.

She backs up into something... something big... someone?

The earth beneath her SHAKES.

Val turns around, scared by the sight of this giant man.

VAL (CONT'D)
It's... you...

Mastodon towers over her and smiles.

MASTODON
Thunderbirdie... how ya been?

She freezes.

Mastodon reaches out for her -- his hand dwarfing Val's head.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**EXT. MASTODON'S UNDERGROUND LAIR - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING**

A spooky underground lair shaped like a mammoth's skull.

INT. MASTODON'S UNDERGROUND LAIR - CONTINUOUS

Val is trapped in a big, metal birdcage in Mastodon's lair.

She tries pulling the bars apart, but it's no use -- the metal bars suddenly TWIST and INDENT towards her.

MASTODON

You know how easy I could crush you
with that, don't'chya?

The cage RATTLES with each THUNDEROUS STEP he takes.

VAL

Let me out of here and we'll see
who gets crushed!

MASTODON

HA! Yeah, right. I know your powers
don't work no more. Ain't that why
you stopped being a *real* hero?

VAL

Uh, I stopped being a "real hero"
because my dad was killed right in
front of me! Because of YOU!

Mastodon stops to think. Lights a cigar.

MASTODON

That night wasn't supposed to go
down like that. You played your
part too, y'know?

VAL

Screw you!

Mastodon takes a long drag from his cigar. Ashes it -- the sparks dancing like shooting stars, lighting up stalagmites.

MASTODON

Broseidon was supposed to die. Not
your old man.

VAL

What?!

MASTODON

Yeah.

INSERT: Flashback to Broseidon (18) and Hippobombamus (25) fighting -- WATER vs EXPLOSIONS.

MASTODON (V.O.)

Y'see, to become a "made-man" in the family, you got to take out a superhero. Hippobombamus started out as a henchman, but he was ambitious. I decided to give him a chance. Made him a mech-suit specifically designed to handle a water-guy.

VAL (V.O.)

A henchman? Didn't he have super-intelligence?

Hippobombamus is still losing the fight, despite his MECH-SUIT'S advantage. He just can't keep up with Broseidon's skillset.

MASTODON (V.O.)

Nah, he just told everybody that. Stubborn fool. We weren't expecting you to show up the way you did. That threw a wrench in things.

-- Hippobombamus eventually gains the upper-hand against Broseidon. They look up just as Val swoops down and ELECTROCUTES Hippobombamus.

EAGLEMAN

VAL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

Eagleman flies towards them.

MASTODON

Thunderbirdie?

VAL (O.S.)

Saving the day!

MASTODON (V.O.)

See, I didn't bother making his mech-suit thunder-proof. At least not thunder-proof enough for one of your attacks. That caused somethin' to go haywire.

-- With a short-circuiting MECH-SUIT, Hippobombamus throws the ENERGY BOMB towards Val and Broseidon.

They brace for impact, but are suddenly pushed to safety by a HUGE GUST OF WIND.

EAGLEMAN (O.S.)

I told you to go to your mom's! You promised me.

BOOM!

BROSEIDON (O.S.)

EAGLEMAN!

VAL (O.S.)

DAD!

MASTODON

NO!

Hippobombamus is taken out by the EXPLOSION with Eagleman.

Mastodon shields himself with a WALL OF EARTH. He can't believe what just transpired.

MASTODON (V.O.)

At one point in time, your father was like a brother to me. Even if he was my arch-enemy, I still saw him as family.

BACK TO SCENE: Mastodon wipes a single tear from his eye.

MASTODON

That makes you family too, Val. And family helps each other out.

VAL

By putting me in a giant birdcage?!

MASTODON

No, by helping you unlock your suppressed powers. So one day you can take your old man's place... or... you could join us?

Elephantom joins Mastodon's side.

VAL

Oh, you're full of cliches today, aren't you?

MASTODON

Or there's the alternative.

Mastodon takes a puff of his cigar. Steps up to Val's cage. Exhales.

MASTODON (CONT'D)

I may have spared you back when you was a kid, but you're fair game now as far as I'm concerned.

VAL

Now you wanna kill me?

MASTODON

No. But I know someone who does. Someone who blames you for all their pain and suffering.

Val looks at Elephantom.

VAL

Who? Elephantom? I barely know her.

Elephantom SCOFFS as if offended.

MASTODON

Not her. Move outta the way.

Elephantom floats to the side to reveal SOMEONE behind her -- whoever it is, it horrifies Val.

VAL

No... no it can't be...

HIPPOBOMBAMUS has been turned into a CYBORG-HIPPO. A mostly mechanical man of steel. Only part of his scarred face remains.

MASTODON

You remember Hippobombamus, don't'chya? Yeah, as furious as I was with him, I kept him around. He's a "made-man" after all. What little "man" is left of him.

CYBORG-HIPPO

(robotic)

I'm not losing to a sidekick.

The Cyborg-Hippo points a BLASTER ARM at Val's cage.

MASTODON

Whoah, it's not a fair fight yet!

BROSEIDON (O.S.)

You're right!

A sudden TIDAL WAVE washes the trio of villains away!

Broseidon surfs down on a SPIRALING STREAM OF WATER and joins Val's side by the birdcage.

BROSEIDON (CONT'D)
Now it's a fair fight!

Elephantom wrings out her cloak as Mastodon surrounds himself with STALAGMITES. Cyborg-Hippo scans Broseidon and Val.

MASTODON
Time to put both of ya down for
your dirt nap!

CYBORG-HIPPO
Two against three is not a fair
fight.

ELEPHANTOM
I can't believe you let him claim
to be a supergenius.

Then, a PINK FIREBALL comes crashing down -- DESTROYING Mastodon's underground lair!

Nova sees Val.

NOVA
She's here! Hi bestie!

Then she sees Mastodon, Cyborg-Hippo, and Elephantom. No words, just contempt as she BREATHES FIRE!

Mastodon shields them behind a WALL OF EARTH.

Nova joins Broseidon and Val on the other side of the birdcage.

BROSEIDON
(to himself)
Yes! Team-up!

Nova observes Val's cage.

NOVA
Is this your new house, bestie?

VAL
No, it's not my new house! But feel
free to destroy it anytime!

NOVA
Okay!

Nova engulfs her hands in FIRE and easily breaks through the metal cage, freeing Val.

Val stretches her arms, legs, and especially her wings.

VAL
Thanks, Nova.

Nova smiles.

The three heroes form a united front.

The ground SOFTENS into QUICKSAND beneath Broseidon, swallowing him up before he can react.

A CRACK in the earth opens under Nova, encasing and dragging her down in LAVA.

NOVA
Weeee!

VAL
Bro! Nova!

MASTODON (O.S.)
Fuhgeddaboudus?

Mastodon, Cyborg-Hippo and Elephantom standing and floating by.

ELEPHANTOM
(hushed)
You can't say that!

MASTODON
I didn't say what you think I said!

VAL
Mastodon! Let them go!

MASTODON
You vs Hippo. One-on-one.

ELEPHANTOM
But I want to fight too-uh!

MASTODON
Hush up.

With his GEOKINESIS Mastodon erects a STALAGMITE THRONE and takes his seat. Elephantom floats up to his side.

MASTODON (CONT'D)
 (to Cyborg-Hippo)
 Don't let me down again.

CYBORG-HIPPO
 I won't.

- With rocket boots, Cyborg-Hippo takes to the sky. Val follows him and engages in an aerial duel. They exchange some mid-air attacks.

MASTODON
 Don't drag this out! You get sloppy!

Cyborg-Hippo grabs Val by the face and SLAMS her back onto the ground. Holds her there. Val struggles.

CYBORG-HIPPO
 Once I'm done with you I'm gonna pick your little friends off one by one. I wish I could tell you that you'll be reunited with BOTH of your little teams, but...

Cyborg-Hippo leans down and whispers into Val's ear.

CYBORG-HIPPO (CONT'D)
 I've died before. It's just *nothing*. No reunions. Just your life flashing before your eyes.

SERIES OF SHOTS: LIFE FLASHES

- Val, Broseidon, and Nova stand together.
- Val carrying Nova with Rageman.
- Val (18) with Kaya (48) at high school graduation.
- Val (15) and Broseidon (18) at a funeral. His hand on her shoulder.
- Eagleman hoists Val/Thunderbirdie (15) onto his shoulder.
- Eagleman helps Val (8) fly for the first time.
- WHITEOUT.

BACK TO SCENE:

A FURY OF BRIGHT LIGHTNING shoots out of Val -- severely ELECTROCUTING Cyborg-Hippo.

Mastodon watches in awe. Elephantom frozen in place.

Blood-curdling screams as Cyborg-Hippo is sent flying -- body skipping across the ground.

Val rises to her feet. ELECTRICITY SWIRLS and CRACKLES.

Cyborg-Hippo stands back up, singed and battered.

Activates rocket boots -- flies straight toward Val.

Right as he arrives, Val claps her hands together for a THUNDERCLAP! Cyborg-Hippo is ELECTROCUTED. Falls down with a silent scream.

CYBORG-HIPPO
(malfunctioning)
NO! NO! NO! That's IMPOSSIBLE! I'M
NOT LOSING TO A SIDEKICK!

Cyborg-Hippo prepares to toss an ENERGY BOMB at Val.

Another THUNDERCLAP! The ELECTRICITY pierces the ENERGY BOMB causing it to EXPLODE above Cyborg-Hippo's head!

Mastodon smiles. Raises a hand as if to summon something.

Broseidon and Nova return, free from their terra-traps.

BROSEIDON	NOVA
Dammit, I got sand in my gills!	There are horrifying monsters in the Earth's core! Hee-hee!

VAL
You guys are okay!

BROSEIDON
Uh, no! Sand in my gills!

They look over and see Mastodon by the short-circuiting remains of Cyborg-Hippo. Still barely alive, the cyborg reaches up towards Mastodon.

CYBORG-HIPPO
(short-circuiting)
Why... didn't you make... my body electric-proof?

Mastodon sets his giant foot on the cyborg's head.

CYBORG-HIPPO (CONT'D)
Please, no... Don't make me nothing again-

CRUSH! Mastodon stomps on Cyborg-Hippo's head, killing him for good. Val and Broseidon are shocked. Nova LAUGHS.

MASTODON

Not bad, Thunderbirdie. Not bad at all.

VAL

I'm not Thunderbirdie anymore.
(beat)
Call me Angelpunk.

He smirks.

NOVA

The bad man is still alive! Let's burn his flesh!

Val and Broseidon look at each other. Shrug and nod in agreement.

LIGHTNING, WATER, and FIRE ATTACKS fly and converge towards Mastodon. He raises an EARTH SHIELD just as Elephantom floats in behind him and wraps them both in SHADOWS -- an ELEMENTAL EXPLOSION!

When the dust settles, Mastodon and Elephantom are nowhere to be seen. The heroes emerge victorious... for now.

BROSEIDON

Sooo... is this team-up official, Angelpunk?

Val smiles. Wipes the dust off her pants.

VAL

Fiiiiine.

BROSEIDON

Hell yeah!

Yaaaay!

NOVA

A beat.

NOVA (CONT'D)

What's a "team-up"?

END OF ACT THREE

TAG**INT. STORAGE UNIT - DAWN**

The sun peaks out as Val, Nova, and Broseidon sit together in Rageman's storage unit on the 'couch' watching TV.

Rageman does his best to contain his excitement about being included.

BROSEIDON

Wait, so that villa is a cake?

VAL

Don't know yet.

BROSEIDON

How do they even make a cake that big?

VAL

Cake powers.

BROSEIDON

Do they get to eat it?

VAL

Nah, it goes bad pretty quick.

BROSEIDON

And they're stuck paying hundreds of thousands of dollars... for a big ass cake?

VAL

Yeah! Isn't it great? It's my favorite show.

CRIME MIME (O.S.)

(muffled through the wall)

HONHONHON! THE VILLA IS A CAKE!

MERCI!

Val and Rageman are clearly upset by the spoiler as Nova and Broseidon aren't sure how to react.

VAL

God dammit!

RAGEMAN

I HATE HIM SO MUCH!

Val stretches her wings out behind the 'couch', embracing the newly formed team.

END OF EPISODE