

THE JOANS' KILLER

"A new toy awakens to find her line of toys is in jeopardy from an old, broken toy."

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. DARK SPACE COMMAND CENTER -- UNKNOWN

Steel. Gray. Dark. Red lights above blink with SIRENS. DRAGHOULIA, a menacing dark-robed space villain, glides along with TWO BLACK GUARDS holding space rifles. BOOM!

A wall is blown to bits. In the dust emerges JUSTICE JOAN (25), a mocha skinned soldier in a tight black space suit.

Draghoula points at Joan. Both guards begin FIRING.

Joan ducks and reaches at her belt for her boomerang. She CHUCKS it, knocking down both guards. Words burst on the screen: "INTRODUCING JOAN OF JUSTICE."

INT. CHILDREN'S TOY STORE -- MIDNIGHT

Cold noir. In shadows, a TV continues playing the commercial next to Space Command center set up in the spotlight.

Within in the set up stands action figure JOAN. She gleams in the light next to a sign reading A NEW ERA IN TOYS.

CLOCK STRIKES MIDNIGHT. Joan's eyes blink. She twitches her fingers then wrinkles her nose. OTHER TOYS also come alive.

She stretches. As a TRAIN WHISTLES, Joan cracks her back looking at the train set up nearby. She looks a little harder, noticing the CONDUCTOR trying to get her attention.

She takes a few steps toward him. He points to the tracks. Joan notices that a piece of the track is missing at a turn. She turns away. TRAIN WHISTLES. She looks to it.

The tracks are sprawled throughout the store. She notices that when it reaches the missing piece, the train will crash into a pile of Joan figures.

She hurries over to the tracks and nods to him, accepting the case. The CONDUCTOR skips with joy.

As he approaches, Joan begins analyzing the scene of the crime. She kneels at the tracks studying every inch. Something catches her eye.

INSERT -- JOAN POV

A black dot on the ground.

BACK TO SCENE

Joan touches the substance. She plays with the acid on her fingers in disgust. She shows the sullied finger to the Conductor. He shakes his head. She looks to the TV.

INSERT -- JOAN POV

The TV shows Draghoulia shooting a black "fire" at Joan.

BACK TO SCENE

She scans the ground, finding another black spot. Her eyes follow the trail towards FLAP JACK'S PANCAKER, a children's frying pan that makes large pancakes with a smile.

The Pancaker smiles to Joan as it lifts its lid and spits out an oversized pancake branded with a smiley face. The Pancaker begins to cook again.

Joan and the Conductor exchange looks agreeing the Pancaker isn't the culprit. Joan follows the trail past the Pancaker, the Conductor right behind.

They reach the end of the display table. Joan looks over the side. Unable to see, she runs back to her set up.

Conductor watches as she picks her axe, her boomerang, her rope, and her binoculars and attaches them to her utility belt. Then she sprints back to the Conductor.

Joan grabs her binoculars and puts them to her eyes. Then with authority, she puts them back on her belt and unravels her rope. She lets one end drop to the floor.

The Conductor looks down at the rope. Joan nudges him. He turns back to her. She hands him the other side of the rope. He looks down at it then back at Joan. He takes it.

Joan gives him a thumbs up. The Conductor nods. Joan grabs hold of part of the rope. The Conductor pulls tight as Joan slithers down the rope with skill. She makes it quick.

She reaches the floor wasting no time. She kneels onto the ground. She finds another black spot. Joan rises to march forward leaving the Conductor watching her enter the shadows.

She walks into a small pool of light, finding a larger black spot. She reaches for her axe. Another large spot within the shadow of a large bucket of balls. She creeps forward.

RUNNING. Joan whips around. RUNNING to her left. She turns to it. As something CIRCLES her, she spins the axe around into her fighting position. MOVEMENT ABOVE. She glances up.

A MONSTER pounces on her. She FALLS with it on top of her. She kicks it away and bounces up to see the dark beastly man crouch to pounce again. It ROARS.

It JUMPS at her. Joan side steps and SWINGS her axe. She misses. The Monster whips around to make another attack. Joan surprises it by charging with full force. It ROARS.

She WHACKS it in the jaw then brings her axe back DOWN on its head hard enough to get it stuck. The toy SPARKS and COLLAPSES at her feet. A dying ROAR echoes through the store.

She RIPS out her axe and puts it on her belt. Then she goes over to the Monster's back. She lifts the battery lid. She examines the battery; all new. She SLAMS the lid.

Annoyed, Joan kicks the dead toy. A beat. She goes back on the hunt for the source of the black acid. TRAIN WHISTLES.

Joan looks up to see that the train isn't far off from reaching the end of the tracks.

With haste, Joan blows past spot after spot passing TOYS wiggling in their boxes. Amongst them, Joan finds an opened box. She halts.

Acid drips off the mangled box top. In it, Joan finds a piece of hair. She picks it up and looks it over. Then she sticks it into a pocket on her space suit.

Joan picks up the box. A picture of the Monster she defeated covers the front. She reads it.

MONSTER BOX

ROXAS THE RAVAGER. From the hit show, DEMONHUNTERS, he Pounces, he Claws, He ROARS!

She drops the box. A TOY GINGERLY GLIDING ACROSS THE FLOOR.

Joan bolts towards the sound, whipping out her boomerang. She stops at a black cloak on the ground. She picks it up. With a sense of familiarity, she looks up at the TV near her set up.

INSERT -- JOAN POV

The TV shows Draghoulia in a dark cloak fleeing.

BACK TO SCENE

A TOY ACROSS THE FLOOR. Joan drops the cloak and raises her boomerang. She steps forward.

A beaten up DRAGHOULIA figure limps into the light missing parts including an arm. He FALLS at Joan's feet.

Joan puts the boomerang away and bends down to help Draghoulia. He refuses. Startled, Joan steps back. With his only arm, he points behind her. Joan turns - SMACK.

Joan CRASHES to the floor.

INT. CHILDREN'S TOY STORE -- LATER

On a high shelf, Joan awakens to find herself twisty-tied to a clothes rack. She STRUGGLES. SLAP to Joan's head.

Joan regains focus to see a MANDIE MAKEUP DOLL with too much make up staring her down. Joan gives her a dumbfounded look.

Mandie SLAPS her again. Then she turns away, revealing a dripping black spot where her battery has leaked. As she leaves, Joan SQUIRMS with no luck.

Mandie turns back around and points to the box next to her. Joan reads it: "NEW!!! Mandie the Doll of your dreams! Comes with washable makeup and three outfits! Only 15.00\$"

Joan looks back at Mandie trying not to reveal that she is starting to understand. Mandie then goes next to another box. She turns it around.

A SCARED JOAN tries to escape as Mandie RIPS the price tag off the box. Joan cringes With ferocity, Mandie pushes the toy off the ledge. It SPLATTERS on the ground.

Joan glares at Mandie trying even harder to escape. The twisty ties begin to give in.

Mandie walks over to Joan and takes off a price tag reading 75% off. Then Mandie SMACKS the scared Joan's tag on her own chest. She flexes and fixes her hair. A few pieces fall out.

Mandie turns to take a seat to view the train crash. Joan gives a final pull. The twisty ties BURST.

Mandie whips around before Joan runs over and KICKS her in the face. Mandie FALLS forward off the shelf. TRAIN WHISTLES. MANDIE CRASHES ONTO THE DISPLAY TABLE.

Seeing the train nears the track's end, Joan searches for a way down. She spots an old metal slinky. She rushes to it and pulls it forward. Then she ties it to an old nail nearby.

She grips the bottom end of the slinky. She JUMPS, the TRAIN WHISTLES BLARING. She FALLS reaching just above the display table. Before it can recoil, Joan lets go.

On the display table, Joan looks for something to stop the train. She notices a stack of pancakes next to the Pancaker.

She goes and grabs one of the old pancakes. She pulls it forward. With everything she has, she nears the tracks.

TRAIN WHISTLES. Something tugs the pancake causing Joan to stop short. She looks back to see a broken Mandie trying to pull the pancake away. Joan pulls harder-

SLAM. The Conductor hits Mandie with a wrench. Joan takes the opportunity to pull the pancake over the final tracks.

The train DRIVES onto the pancake and FALLS to its side with a crash without hitting a single Joan figure.

Joan beams with pride as Conductor jumps with joy. He hugs her. Feeling awkward, Joan pats him on the back.

Conductor releases her and looks at the mess. He looks up at Joan unsure how to fix it. She shrugs.

INT. CHILDREN'S TOY STORE -- 5:58AM

Sunrise has begun behind outside buildings as Joan and Conductor place the missing track in its rightful place.

LOCKED IN, the two share a moment of pride. Joan looks up at the clock. 5:59am. Conductor jumps up and runs back over to the toy train station where the train now stands clean.

Joan turns to her set up smiling. She goes to her spot. She sees that it is seconds from 6:00am. She looks to Conductor.

Conductor waves to her, freezing. She smiles as the clock strikes 6:00am. The smile stays frozen on her still body.

FADE OUT.