

Today, Villain didn't have any amazingly evil plan to strike fear into the hearts of innocents.

No, they really didn't. Not even a "surprise, I bet you thought I didn't have a plan" plan.

Today, Villain was officially on *vacation*.

No stupid heroes to beat, no evil schemes, only the nice, warm beach, and a cute little floatie.

Not that Villain *needed* a floatie, they reminded themselves. They could swim just fine on their own! They weren't weak! It's just that... what if they got tired while swimming! Yeah! This was a vacation, they're supposed to be lazy while on vacation!

Villain one-hundred-percent, most definitely knew how to swim. Anyone who thought they couldn't swim was totally wrong.

And hey, there wouldn't be anyone there who'd think they *didn't* know how to swim yet. It was an off-day, which meant there'd be pretty much nobody at the beach, at least, nobody they *knew*. It'd be calm and nice.

Once they arrived, though, they realized that they'd made a huge mistake with that assumption.

Not only was there *one* other paca they knew, there were *three*.

They considered just turning around and leaving, saving their beach day for another time, but just as they turned around-

"Hey, is that Villain?!"

They were spotted.

The paca who'd noticed them was someone Villain just barely knew - Nimi. From what they'd known of xem, though, they did *not* want to stick around for long. Xir upbeat energy always made Villain feel... out of place.

"I haven't seen you in so long!" Xe continued, smiling. "Are you on vacation right now, too? Do supervillains even *have* vacations...?"

"I- yes, and yes." Villain replied, smiling awkwardly. "I mean- I was, but my time is up now. I need to get back to the lair, and-"

Nimi's expression fell. "Aw, really? We were just about to play volleyball, and I need a second paca on my team..."

Xe frowned at the ground. "I mean, I can look for someone else, but..."

This was their chance. They could just leave right now. But...

Villain took a sharp breath. Jeez, they couldn't just *leave* xem like this. "No, no, it's okay- I have enough time for *one* game-" They said, teeth gritted.

"Really?" Nimi perked *right* up again. "Great- that's great! Team purple!"

Xe led them over to the volleyball field, pep back in xir step. "Here's the other team, they're team soft! Y'know, since like, they're both soft-fluffy? Yeah!"

Villain already knew the other team - Bella was shaking Deuce awake, since in the excitement of it all, he'd fallen asleep in the sand.

"Deuce! Get up! Nimi found another player!!" She said, shaking him a little too roughly.

"Huh-wuh?" Deuce said, blinking his eyes open. "Volleyball?"

"Yeah! Volleyball!!!" Bella grinned, shaking a little harder. Full of energy. "C'mon, c'mon, c'mon!"

Villain just blinked as they stepped into position on the other side of the net.

Deuce finally woke up fully, though, and walked over to pick up the volleyball. He stared at it for a second as he held it. "So... at the count of three, we start-"

"Give them no warning!" Bella said, grinning. "All's fair in volleyball and war!"

"Oh, okay-" Deuce closed his eyes for a second, still half-asleep, before throwing the volleyball up in the air, and then-

*Wham.*

He hit it *much* harder than Villain could ever expect Deuce to ever do... well, anything. And at the trajectory it was going-

*Whunk!*

"Oh, gosh, I'm sorry-" Deuce said, covering his mouth with his nubs as he scurried over to where Villain now laid, practically with stars floating around their head.

"Whuh?" Villain asked.

"Dude, are you good? How many nubs am I holding up?" Nimi asked, quickly.

"Three?"

"Yeah, I think they're good-" Bella said, joining the other two in standing over them. "You've been through worse, right? I mean, I've seen Hero throw you *real* far into buildings."

"Should you maybe go home...?" Deuce asked, still hiding his face just a little.

It was the perfect excuse to just get up and leave. The very thing Villain was looking for. But...

"I'm fine-!" They said, getting back up. "Yeah-yeah! I'm good!"

"...Really?" Deuce asked, barely believing it.

"Yeah!" Villain insisted. "Throw another one at me!"

"Maybe not *at* you..." Nimi added.

"Yeah, not *at* you, but- with you!" Bella chirped. "Team soft vs team purple continues!" She announced.

The four of them continued to play long into the day, laughing together, without anybody really keeping score...