The Amazing Adventures of Action Jack and Obvious Girl!
By Havilah McGinnis (havilahmcginnis@gmail.com)
Final Scene Excerpt

Context: ACTION JACK was successfully ticked by THE SULTAN OF CYNICISM into letting his guard down... and now The Sultan has kidnapped Jack's sidekick, OBVIOUS GIRL, and his girlfriend CYNTHIA! But now he's back in action and on the scene, ready to sort this all out!

ANNOUNCER

Welcome back, faithful listeners. Just like Action Jack, you've arrived at the base of the Notable Bridge with only moments to spare: and indeed, standing there is the Sultan of Cynicism, but Cynthia and Obvious Girl remain eerily out of sight.

SULTAN

Mwahaha... hello, Action Jack! How nice of you to join us!

ACTION JACK

Sultan of Cynicism... where are they?

SULTAN

Why don't you look to the skies you're so fond of traversing!

CYNTHIA

Jack!

OBVIOUS GIRL

Action Jack! We're up here!

SULTAN

Yes... the two people you care about most, both dangling precariously over the deeply shark infested waters! Soon I shall cut the rope, leaving you with only enough time to save one of them. But tell me... which one will you choose?

CYNTHIA

Jack! Get me down from here!

ACTION JACK

Cynthia! Are you okay?

CYNTHIA

No! No, I'm not! You don't need ultra vision to see that nothing about this is okay!

OBVIOUS GIRL

Save us, Action Jack!

ACTION JACK

Aw, jeez, I... look, Cynthia... I have to save Obvious Girl.

OBVIOUS GIRL

Yay! I get to live!

CYNTHIA

What? Really. Really? REALLY? She's a superhero!

ACTION JACK

Well, a sidekick. I have a responsibility to her.

CYNTHIA

She has powers!

ACTION JACK

Eh, kinda... They're still developing? It's like an internship.

OBVIOUS GIRL

I'm learning valuable life skills!

CYNTHIA

She has something. I'm a civilian!

ACTION JACK

And a great one, really just, so great, but I feel like we haven't been connecting recently...

CYNTHIA

Oh my god... are you dumping me? You're using this fricking hostage situation as an excuse to dump me?

SULTAN

Wow. Dude, that is cold.

ACTION JACK

It's just, it seems like we're naturally drifting apart...

CYNTHIA

Yeah, and we're going to drift a lot further apart when I'm being dragged downstream by sharks! I wouldn't even be here if it wasn't for you! Aren't you supposed to be a hero? ACTION JACK

Oh, oh, so all of a sudden now that you're in need, now it's suddenly great that I'm a hero?

CYNTHIA

I've always wanted you to be a real hero... not a puppet for our sham of a mayor!

ACTION JACK

(gasp)

How dare you insult the mayor!

CYNTHIA

She's ridiculously corrupt.

SULTAN

Yes! Thank you!

CYNTHIA

Why do you think our schools are so underfunded? Why do you think our city has so much crime to begin with?

ACTION JACK

Crimes like this scum trying to rob our illustrious citizens?

CYNTHIA

Serious crimes, like what happens to everyone who doesn't have multiple bank accounts! Maybe if you weren't so busy sucking up to the high society members, you'd see that they're the real villains destroying this city.

SULTAN

Yes, you get it! Finally, someone else gets it!

ACTION JACK

Do you hear yourself? You're siding with this evildoer!

CYNTHIA

Maybe I should! The Sultan of Cynicism can be a little extreme, sure, but maybe we do need someone fighting against the elite's stranglehold on our town!

SULTAN

You know, I wasn't always a supervillain. I wrote letters to the editor for ten years, went to every single community board meeting...

CYNTHIA

And nobody listens! It's insane.

SULTAN

That's what *drove* me insane! Hey... would you want to take off, maybe grab a bite to eat, talk about ways to overthrow the affluent?

CYNTHIA

Yeah. Yeah, I think I'd like that.

ACTION JACK

Cynthia...

SULTAN

Sorry, Jack. Looks like someone else gets to have a little action this time!

SULTAN AND CYNTHIA

Mwahahaha!

Their laughter fades away. Action Jack and Obvious Girl are alone.

OBVIOUS GIRL

Yay! We both get to live!

ACTION JACK

Wow... is she right, Obvious Girl? Am I just a pawn who's working for the wrong team? Have I been so blinded by the glory and the fanfare, that I can't see where evil really lies?

TIFFANY

Excuse me... is everything okay? I saw a commotion... Oh. My. God. You're Action Jack! Action Jack!!! You're totally ultra cool.

ACTION JACK

Yeah... yeah I am, aren't I?

TIFFANY

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

You're so big, and strong, and airborne. It's super impressive.

ACTION JACK

Why thank you, little lady. What's your name?

TIFFANY

Tiffany. Tiffany Mc--

ACTION JACK

Why don't we leave it as just Tiffany. How'd you like a bird's eye view of the Conveniently Nearby Volcano?

TIFFANY

Whoa. Really? That'd be amazing!

ACTION JACK

Then come here. Action Jack, away!

OBVIOUS GIRL

Um, hello? Action Jack? Sultan of Cynicism? Is anyone gonna cut me down first?

ANNOUNCER

Will dashing daredevils deliver us from deranged demons' dastardly deeds? Can we expect entities to engage in evacuating everyone from evil encounters with enraged egomaniacs? Who shall fortune favor to finally find freedom from fiendish foes' felonious frenzies?

OBVIOUS GIRL

Guys... the rope is starting to unravel...

ANNOUNCER

Find out next time on... Action Jack and Obvious Girl!