

Kate the Ultimate and Jane the Invincible: Earth's Last Inhabitants

a short play
by
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Cast Of Characters

KATE/CAPTAIN ULTIMATE: A classic superhero akin to Superman. Cold. A strict professional.

JANE/PRINCESS INVINCIBLE: Kate's partner and fellow superhero with basically the same powers as the Captain but younger and more able to adapt to change.

Setting

Earth, the near future. The secret lair belonging to the superheroes Captain Ultimate and Princess Invincible.

(Lights up on a once ultramodern, now ramshackle superhero retreat. JANE the Invincible sands the edges of hand-made picture frame. KATE the Ultimate, dressed in full, shiny superhero apparel enters with a superhero gait. JANE is dressed in more casual attire—T-shirt and athletic tights.)

KATE

Great salutations, my fellow guardian.

JANE

Hey.

KATE

My daily full circle reconnoiter of the globe is complete.

JANE

Okay.

KATE

I'm afraid I've nothing but discouraging news. The world remains as barren as a moon. No sign of survivors or any life forms of any kind. The situation is still matter-of-course.

JANE

Uh-huh.

KATE

Even with my telescopic and infrared vision, nothing.

JANE

Okay. Good.

KATE

How is that good?

JANE

I mean, good in at least we know.

KATE

Right. Yes. There is that. I circled along the equator. Maybe I should scan along the prime meridian right away. Would you care to accompany me?

JANE

Mm, I would, but I'm kind of in the middle of something, so...

KATE

Ah. And what is this, Princess Invincible? What have you accomplished today?

JANE

I made this ornate picture frame.

KATE

A- picture frame?

JANE

Yep. Nice, huh? Just gotta paint it and it's all done.

KATE

A picture frame yet we have no pictures.

JANE

Well, that's next. I thought I'd try some water color.

KATE

Water color? I fail to see how this will help our cause.

JANE

It's something to pass the time.

KATE

Princess Invincible, you have remarkable powers of strength, speed and element manipulation. You need to exercise these abilities or they will begin to atrophy. This activity hardly-

JANE

My powers are fine. Full capacity.

KATE

You should heed my advice. Remember...you're just a sidekick.

JANE

For the last time, I'm not your sidekick. I never was.

KATE

I taught you everything about being an ultimate crusader.

JANE

That's not true. I was a well-established superhero before you and I became the Awesome Twosome. I even had my own rogues' gallery of villains.

KATE

I taught you the Spect-O-Lafwega maneuver. Without it you never could have saved Brazil from Mr. Inside Out's inversion ray.

JANE

Yes, okay, that's— You did do that.

KATE

So there, you see? I am more knowledgeable in the tactics of superheroism than you are. That makes me your superior.

JANE

One maneuver eight years ago doesn't make me your sidekick. I taught you the Maniacal Leningrad Procedure and the Felision Round-A-Bout.

KATE

The Felision Round-A-Bout? We devised that as a team.

JANE

That's right. Because we're partners.

KATE

And what are we now? Here we are, the most formidable entities on the planet.

(JANE resumes sanding her frame.)

No being can match us for our strengths or fortitude or intellectual prowess.

JANE

Yeah, the nuclear fallout made sure of that.

(KATE steps around aimless, unsure what to do.)

KATE

Remember Dr. Diabolical and his plan to wipe out all plant life?

JANE

Yeah.

KATE

He was one fiendish individual.

JANE

Fiendish.

KATE

He would have succeeded too if not for our cunning opposition. That was when the world still flourished, the rivers seem to flow with sanguinity and optimism reigned. Society was on the verge of greatness. Oh sure, the world had its share of evil but that's where we came in. What went wrong?

(KATE stares, as if out a window.)

Look at it out there. There's no opposition needed in a wasteland of sand and ice. With an iron fist of justice we protected the world. I could hold a piece of the sun in my hand and not even feel it. I can run faster than sound or carry an oil tanker to the top of a mountain without so much as getting winded. But what good are these abilities now? All these powers and here we sit. Useless. Where is the justice in that?

(Pause.)

JANE

I'm sorry, what?

KATE

I said where is the justice in that? Didn't you hear me?

JANE

Sure- Ye- I- No.

KATE

How could you not hear me? I was right. Your powers are fading. You need to exercise them immediately.

JANE

My powers are fine. I just- I chose not to listen.

KATE

Not to listen? I don't understand. Princess Invincible, I need to-

JANE

It's Jane. My name is Jane. I'm not Princess Invincible anymore.

KATE

You'll always be Princess Invincible. You were chosen by XerSuess the Laborer to carry on his legacy. Remember? It was fated that—

JANE

Yes. I remember.

KATE

That you would come upon his golden anklet and save him from—

JANE

I know. Yes, I know, but—

KATE

You have a responsibility. You will always be Princess Invincible just as I will always be Captain Ultimate.

JANE

Well, now I just want to be Jane, okay? I'm Jane. And you're Kate. That's all we are now.

KATE

What has transpired in you?

JANE

Nothing's transpired.

KATE

You used to go on globe excursions with me. We would search together. You used to care about the human race, and now—

JANE

And now there is no human race.

KATE

You have incredible powers gifted to you and yet you choose to spend your time with insignificant activities such as—

JANE

Like you said, what good are strength and speed now?

KATE

You never know when a crisis might erupt. There could be—