

# **RATBOY**

## **BY**

# **JAMES HANSON**

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### Cast of Characters

Dr. Oscar: a pshchologist, can be played  
by a man or woman

Ratboy: a modern day superhero, very  
bitter

### Scene

Dr. Oscar's office

### Time

Present time

ACT I/SCENE 1

*At Rise: DR. OSCAR is sitting in front his office desk with a stack of folders on the desk.*

DR. OSCAR

(speaking through the phone on his desk)  
Please send in Mr. Frank.

*(DR. OSCAR files through a manila folder, and RATBOY enters the stage, shaking his head, visibly frustrated.)*

DR. OSCAR

(CONT'D)  
Please have a sit, Mr. Frank. Or would you like me to refer to you as Ratboy?

RATBOY

(sits on the sofa)  
Mr. Frank, please. I'm in civilian mode.

DR. OSCAR

How do you feel?

RATBOY

Really, doctor? I think we both know that I'm not feeling well. All New York knows that I'm not feeling well. I embarrassed myself on national TV: (emphatically) Ratboy gets assaulted by an old lady. (Facing the audience, talking to himself.) I retrieved her purse from a man I assumed to be a thief. But that was her husband. It was a mistake, come on! (shaking his head) I've been relegated to retrieving purses. My promising career is in ruins. While my rival Superman has all the fame, with his abilities and movie star looks. When he saves the day, he's on the front page of the newspaper showing off his perfect teeth. When I do something impressive, I'm somewhere at the back of the newspaper with my face censored by someone's body part. (crying on the sofa) I'm so depressed!

DR. OSCAR

Mr. Frank, depression is a common condition. Most people feel down in the dumps at one point in their life.

RATBOY

I literally live in one too, and that makes me more depressed. So I'm down in the dumps in the dumps. (wiping his face) You see, I breed rats, because of my powers, I need lots of rats. That's why I live in a  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RATBOY (cont'd)

dump. I'm responsible for three quarters of the rat population in New York City.

DR. OSCAR

Three quarters?

RATBOY

Three quarters.

DR. OSCAR

Does your conscience ever bother you, Mr. Frank?

RATBOY

I don't think so.

DR. OSCAR

Maybe the problem is your powers?

RATBOY

You know I topped this years list of most hated superheros? Parents hate me. Kids hate me. Seeing the source of powers, I'm not lunch box material.

DR. OSCAR

Interesting. How long have you been depressed?

RATBOY

It started way before I became officially Ratboy.

DR. OSCAR

Exactly when?

RATBOY

When I got the powers. When I was eight.

DR. OSCAR

How did you get your ability?

RATBOY

It just happened. I had this pet rat named Pedro, and one day he squeaked, and I understood him. I began talking to the rats in my house, and took care of them, and soon became the leader of the pack.

DR. OSCAR

I see. Is Pedro still alive?

RATBOY

No. He died on the field of battle.

DR. OSCAR

Do you miss him?

RATBOY

What kind of question is that? Of course I miss him!

DR. OSCAR

Calm down, Mr. Frank.

RATBOY

(crying on the couch)

Pedro! Pedro! I need you!

DR. OSCAR

How do you know that Pedro died? Wasn't he among the many thousands of your pack?

RATBOY

I buried him myself.

DR. OSCAR

That must have been difficult.

RATBOY

Pedro was special to me. My sidekick and best friend.

DR. OSCAR

Do you ever feel threatened by the rats?

RATBOY

Without Pedro it has been harder to control them. If I fail to take care of the them, the worse may happen. I bag groceries for a living, so all my money goes to the rats.

DR. OSCAR

So your career is based on an unreliable source of power?

RATBOY

I would say so, doctor.

DR. OSCAR

How was your childhood, with your powers?

RATBOY

The rats were my only friends.

DR. OSCAR

Were you ever bullied?

(CONTINUED)

RATBOY

Plenty.

DR. OSCAR

How did you handle it?

RATBOY

I have an army of rats.

DR. OSCAR

Did you harm anyone?

RATBOY

No, no. I wouldn't do that. I was determined to be a superhero. Not a villain. They just had a lot of rat problems. Infestation.

DR. OSCAR

Don't you think you could have handled the bullying better?

RATBOY

No. No.

DR. OSCAR

Infesting their houses with rats sounds a bit extreme.

RATBOY

I was BULLIED.

DR. OSCAR

Okay, Mr. Frank. Bullying does cause kids to act in ways they normally would not.

RATBOY

Thanks for being understanding, doctor.

DR. OSCAR

Do you think your powers are enough to make you a superhero?

RATBOY

Are you criticizing me, doctor?

DR. OSCAR

Maybe I came off disrespectful. I'd like to know what you think of yourself, Mr. Frank.

RATBOY

Have you ever heard the sound of ten thousand rats squeaking together? My power makes criminals tremble. Imagine a piece of cheese the size of Manhattan devoured in five seconds. Poof!

(CONTINUED)

DR. OSCAR

But you are hated, because of your powers.

RATBOY

Even Batman is hated.

DR. OSCAR

True.

RATBOY

You can't please everyone.

DR. OSCAR

And do you have a fan base?

RATBOY

What, is this some day-time show that I'm on? I'm not answering that.

DR. OSCAR

Do you struggle to face the truth, Mr. Frank?

RATBOY

I'm a superhero. I love truth and justice.

DR. OSCAR

What do you think you can do to change your public image?

RATBOY

I am what I am. Ratboy. How can I change that?

DR. OSCAR

What about your costume? It looks like you're wearing a rat. Why not design a better fitting, modern day costume?

RATBOY

Not happening.

DR. OSCAR

You look like you're wearing a rat, Mr. Frank.

RATBOY

Are you a psychologist, or a judgmentalist?

DR. OSCAR

Sorry, Mr. Frank. I let my personal opinion come out.

RATBOY

Thank you. Even though I made the worst dressed superheros of all time list, I'm keeping my costume. I'm different. And let's say I change my costume for a

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