

Super Self-healing Metal Ma'am
By Mindy Thomas

<<Scene opens inside Mindy's gingerbread mansion where she's getting ready for Cartoon Con>>

Meditation Guru. Snore gently in and out. That's it. Now give a little snort... good...

<<Alarm clock goes off>>

Mindy. <<Gasp>> I'm awake! I'm awake! <<Gets up and runs around flipping light switches and waking the house up>> Reggie! Quick, wake up!

Reggie. [Other room] coo

Mindy. We gotta get into our costumes for Cartoon Con!

<<Drawer open>>

<<Throw clothing>>

Reggie. <<Coo>>

Mindy. What?! You slept in your costume?! Reggie!

Reggie. <<Coo>>

Mindy. Well I guess that's fine! C'mon get in here and brush your beak!

<<Runs into bathroom , lightswitch, sink running>>

<<Toothpaste squirt>>

<<Sink off>>

Reggie. Coo

Mindy. <<Tooth brushing really fast>> <<spit>>

Reggie. Coo

Mindy. Oh wow, your costume looks great, Reg!

Reggie. Coo

Mindy. You are going to be the most authentic looking Captain Coo Coo Head in the whole place! The pigeon patrol fans are going to love you!

Reggie. <<Coo>>

Mindy. Come on! Let's get downstairs!

<<Lightswitch off>>

Reggie. Coo

Mindy. <<Running down the stairs>> Downstairs, downstairs, downstairs!

Reggie. Coo

Mindy. Ok, we have time for a quick breakfast and then we've–

Dennis. Goodmorning, citizen!

Mindy. Blagh! What are you doing in my kitchen, Dennis!?

Dennis. No, I'm not Dennis! I'mStatic Man! <<Thunder/lightening>> ... fully charged and at your service! <<Zap>> owe!

Mindy. Dennis!

Dennis. Do you have any dryer sheets I can borrow? This cape is clinging to my body and shocking me everytime I move. <<Zap>> ow! Quit it cape!

Reggie. Coo (laugh)

<<Doorbell & incessant knocking>>

Mindy. No, there's no time! You two stay here <<starts walking toward door – calls back to Dennis>> and don't zap Reggie! He's gotta fly us to Cartoon Con and I don't want you messing up his GPS!

Dennis. [Distance] fine!

<<Doorbell and incessant knocking>>

Mindy. I'm coming!! I'm coming!!

Gramma G-Force. <<From behind the door>> there ain't nothing wrong with it Fingerling!

<<Mindy opens to the door to Gramma G-Force and Thomas Fingerling squabbling>>

Fingerling. That's not a costume G-Force! That's just the same old snagged up unitard you always wear!

Gramma G-Force. It ain't a costume Fingerling! It's my Gramma G-Force official uniform!

Mindy. Thomas Fingerling! Gramma G-Force!

Fingerling. Hi Mindy

Gramma G-Force. Hi Mindy...

Mindy. Gramma G-Force, where's your costume?!

Gramma G-Force. Where's your costume?!

Fingerling. Where's my costume?!

Dennis. <<From the kitchen>> I got my costume! <<Zap> owe! What's wrong with this thing?! Is it broken?!

Fingerling. Bring it over here fella, I'll take a look at it!

Mindy. Dennis! I told you not to shock anyone!

Dennis. <<Walking>> I'm not Dennis, I'm Static Man, and I'm shocking myself!

Mindy. <<Exasperated groan>> ugh..

Dennis. <<Zap>> ahh! Fix it, Tommy!

Fingerling. C'mere.

Dennis. <<pouting>>

Mindy. And what cartoon character are you dressed up as Thomas Fingerling? Are you a grocery bag?

Fingerling. No! I'm The Amaaaazing Couch Potato!

Mindy. Oh! That is amazing!

Fingerling. Ah, I just shoved a buncha foam inside a burlap sack. I'm not a real potato.

Gramma G-Force. I'll be the judge of that. Gimme a bite.

Fingerling. G-Force! I told you ta quit bitin' my potato costume! <<Smacks her away>>

Gramma G-Force. And I told you to gimme a bite!

Guy Raz. <<Walking up>> Good Morning, everyone!

Mindy. Guy Raz! You're late!

Guy Raz. Am I late? Or am i... <<in a big voice>> The Clockwork Crusader!!!

Everyone but Guy. Huh?

Guy Raz. The Clockwork Crusader! My superpower is logical and flawless time management! I always get us to where we need to go on time!

Everyone but Guy. Oh.

Guy Raz. See...i've got two watches on each wrist and another one in my pocket!

Dennis. Kew-aaaaa! <<Zap>> ow!

Fingerling. Hold still.

Dennis. Sorry... <<whispers>> Kew-waaal...

Guy Raz. I know! I came up with this Cartoon Con character myself!

Mindy. That's great, Guy Raz!

Guy Raz. So! Is everyone ready to go?

Dennis. To Cartoon Con and beyond!

Fingerling. Yyyyup!

Gramma G-Force. Well I guess

Reggie. <<Coo>>

Guy Raz. Wait. Mindy, where's your costume?

Mindy. Oh, I still have to put it on. It's outside in my scrap metal yard.

Guy Raz. Your scrap metal yard?

Dennis. Yeah, it's just her back yard. But she filled it up with scrap metal!

Guy Raz. Why?

Mindy. I'm organizing and recycling all my old inventions!

Guy Raz. I see...

Mindy. Ok, I'll go out and get my costume on, and the rest of you hop aboard Reggie and meet me out front okay?!

Guy Raz. Okay...

Mindy. Run run run run

<<whoosh>>

Mindy. Tadaaa!

Everyone but Mindy. Wowwwwwwwww

Mindy. Have no fear! Super Self-Healing Metal Ma'am is here!!

Fingerling. Pretty cool.

Guy Raz. That's brilliant!

Gramma G-Force. And she sounds just like Mindy!

Mindy. Oh, well...

Dennis. Aww! So cool! Super Self-Healing Metal Ma'am is like the best character ever!

Fingerling. Ya don't say.

Dennis. Yeah! Super self-healing metal ma'am has this metal suit that can repair itself!

Mindy. You know it!

Guy Raz. And I just read that her suit is inspired by a new discovery reported in the scientific journal, nature!

Dennis. Yeah, and the bad guys are all like, "pew pew pew booosh! Baaah!" And Super Metal Ma'am's suit is all like, "szoop szoop szoop szoop" and it comes all back together!

Fingerling. Neat!

Dennis. And then Metal Ma'am is all like, "now it's my turn" and then everyone's all like--

Gramma G-Force. Well, she looks like she belongs at the dump.

Guy Raz. Ouch!

Mindy. I'll take that as a compliment!

Gramma G-Force. Okay

Mindy. See, these scientists just made this stunning discovery that some metals, like copper and pure platinum, can actually heal their own cracks! *Without* any help from humans!

Fingerling. Wow.

Gramma G-Force. Well that sounds very nice and fancy, Mindy... now get on the pigeon!

Mindy. Oh, right <<awkward metal movements>>... let's see here... uhhh

Guy Raz. Do you need some help getting up, Mindy?

Mindy. Uh...yeah...I think I do.

Guy Raz. Here, uhhh, take my hand...okay everyone! On the count of three... one...two... three

Everyone. Pull!

Mindy. <<Strained>>

<<Metal clanks and scrapes>>

Mindy. <<Out of breath>> oof! Ok! I'm ready, Reg!

Reggie. <<Coo>>

Guy Raz. Good! Because ...here...

Guy Raz and Mindy. We...

Everyone. Gooooooooooooo!!

<<Flying on Reggie>>

Guy Raz. <<Yelling over the wind>> so Mindy! Is your costume actually made of self-healing metal?

Mindy. What?!!

Guy Raz. I said! Is your costume made out of...

Reggie. Coo

Mindy. Everyone, hold on! Coming in for a landing!

Reggie. Coo!

<<Reggie dives>>

Mindy. Weeee!

Dennis. Ahhh

Fingerling. Ahhh

Gramma G-Force. Ahh

<<Rough landing>>

Everyone. <<Oofs>>

Guy Raz. Whew! Thanks for the ride Reggie.

Reggie. <<Coo>>

Mindy. Uh, Guy Raz, he's Captain Cuckoo Head.

Guy Raz. Oh...right.

Reggie. <<Coo>>

Random fan girl #1. <<Squeal>> is that Captain Cuckoo Head from Pigeon Patrol!?

Reggie. Coo

Random fan girl #1. Look everyone! It's Captain Cuckoo head!

<<Avalanche of screaming girls>>

Fingerling. Heavens!

Guy Raz. Oof, well good for Reggie! Look at the time! Everyone ready to head inside?

<<Clanking janky footsteps>>

Ticket taker. Oh, hey dere! Welcome to Cartoon Con. Tickets please. Uh... ma'am?

Mindy. Of course...here ya go!

Ticket taker. Thaaaank you.

Mindy. But, that's Super Self-Healing Metal Ma'am to you.

Ticket taker. Oh of course! Sorry right over this way, ma'am, and then through the metal detectors over there.

Mindy. Thaaaank you!

Guy Raz. Wait...metal detectors? Mindy, I don't know if that's a good idea. Your entire costume is made out of...

<<Sirens squeal as Mindy sets off the metal detector>>
<<People nearby react>>

Guy Raz. Metal <<sigh>>

Mindy. Oopsie! Ha, ha. Sorry

Security guard. Ma'am, please remove all metal from your pockets.

Mindy. It's okay! I'm Super Self-healing Metal Ma'am!

Guy Raz. And I'm the Clockwork Crusader! I have *two* watches on each wrist and one in my pocket!

Security guard. Ah, well that explains that. Please continue into the convention center..move along

Mindy/Guy Raz. Whew!

Mindy. Walk..walk..walk

<<Exciting music from auditorium pa>>

Announcer from inside. Cartoon-Con is proud to welcome attendees, professionals, exhibitors, retailers, volunteers, and all the fans who dressed up as their favorite cartoon characters and comic book heros!

Mindy. C'mon Guy Raz!

Guy Raz. Right behind you, Mindy!

<<They run/clank closer to the event stage>>

Announcer. Coming up next on the main stage, a conversation with the self-healing marvel!

<<Audience cheer>>

Guy Raz. Woo!

Announcer. ...What began as a stunning new discovery made by scientists at Sandia National Laboratories and Texas A&M University, has now become a superhero sensation sweeping the globe! Please give it up for Super Metal Ma'am!!

<<Audience cheer>>

Mindy. Yeaaaaahhh!! Super Metal Ma'am! I'm you!!

Guy Raz. This is amazing, Mindy! I can't believe there are actually metals that can heal themselves!

Mindy. Yeah, it's a huge breakthrough in the metal community!

Super Metal Ma'am. Thank you, thank you, calm down everyone. I put my metal pants on the same as all of you- one metal leg at a time.

<<Audience cheer>>

Mindy. Wow! She's so relatable!

Guy Raz. Yeah...

Announcer. So Super Metal Ma'am, tell us what makes you and your costume here so special.

Super Metal Ma'am. Well as you can see, I'm covered in mostly pure platinum and copper metals...

Guy Raz. Psst, Mindy. What is your costume made out of?

Mindy. Mostly just hubcaps and garbage can lids. <<Fork falls on the floor>>
oops, I just dropped my fork finger.

Announcer. Wow, that's so interesting. Tell me, why those two metals– platinum and copper?

Super Metal Ma'am. Well, they are two of the metals that scientists discovered could actually heal themselves!

Audience. <<Gasp>>

Announcer. And that means...most other metals... cannot?

Super Metal Ma'am. Well, at least that's what we've always thought.

Mindy. Oh, I bet she's going to talk about metal fatigue.

Super Metal Ma'am. Let's talk about something called metal fatigue.

Mindy. Yesss!

Guy Raz. You called it!

Super Metal Ma'am. Let's take the metal in cars or bridges for example. When the metal in these things is put to use over and over and over again, it can eventually become stressed...and what happens when something is stressed?

Mindy. <<To Guy>> it starts to crack!

Super Metal Ma'am. It starts to form these teeny tiny cracks...and over time, those cracks can grow bigger and bigger

Mindy. And bigger and bigger and bigger and bigger

Super Metal Ma'am. Until suddenly...snap!

Mindy. <<At the same time>> snap!

Super Metal Ma'am. And that's when you've got a big catastrophic problem on your hands.

Mindy. <<Shouting>> but that's when you swoop in, Super Metal Ma'am!

Audience member. Shhhh! Be quiet!

Mindy. Sorry

Super Metal Ma'am. That's right, lady in the junkyard costume!

Mindy. What?!

Guy Raz. Oh boy...

Super Metal Ma'am. But before I could swoop in, I had to be discovered! By scientists!

Mindy. Aw yeah, this is the good part.

Super Metal Ma'am. Now, when these scientists were conducting a different experiment with certain cracked metals under a special microscope, they noticed something....

Mindy. Unusual.

Guy Raz. Unusual.

Super Metal Ma'am. Unusual. They noticed that the teeny tiny nanoscopic metals had begun to spontaneously heal...themselves!

Audience. <<Gasp>>

Mindy. Now that's a superpower! We love you Super Metal Ma'am!

Super Metal Ma'am. Thank you, trash dump!

Mindy. Oh come on!!

Announcer. Incredible! Absolutely stunning discovery!

Guy Raz. Wow. It really is!

Mindy. <<To Guy>> Yeah, and after making this discovery, the scientists decided to run some experiments to test the limits of it!

Super Metal Ma'am. For these experiments, the researchers would pull on the ends of tiny pieces of metal, two hundred times per second. I know, I know..

Guy Raz. <<To Mindy>> aha, I suppose the purpose was to stress the metal enough to form a teeny tiny crack.

Super Metal Ma'am. And once they got a crack to form, they watched as it grew and spread and then...forty minutes later...the crack fused itself back together!

Mindy and Guy Raz. It healed itself!

Super Metal Ma'am. And that super self healing metal became its own superpower... and that superpower became a superhero Me! Super ... Metal ... Ma'am!

Audience. <<Applause>>

Mindy and Guy Raz. <<Cheering>>

Announcer. Amazing! We will now take some questions from fans in the audience.

Mindy. Oooh! Mee! Mee! Pick me!!

Announcer. Uh...yes...looks like we have a question from the pile of used car parts in the back.

Mindy. Seriously??

Announcer. Please state your question, junkyard lady.

Mindy. Super Metal Ma'am. First of all, big fan. And if you're seeing double, it's because I made my Super Metal Ma'am costume to look exactly like yours.

Super Metal Ma'am. Hm...well, I must need glasses.

Mindy. My question for you is what is happening inside the guts of the metal when it heals itself? You know, like is there a scientific explanation for this?

Super Metal Ma'am. Well, yes, there is. It's a process called cold welding, and this is a process that occurs when two smooth, clean pieces of metal are brought together and their atoms...their teeny tiny building blocks... reform or bond together.

Mindy. Cool.

Guy Raz. Uh...I have a question!

Announcer. Yes, you...the one wearing an unnecessary number of wrist watches.

Guy Raz. Actually, I'm The Clockwork Crusader. My super power is time management and- <<gets cut off>>

Announcer. Just your question please.

Guy Raz. Yes! Right. Okay. So Super Metal Ma'am...when can we see you do your thing?

Super Metal Ma'am. I'm sorry? What now?

Mindy. He's talking about your super power! We want to watch you crack!

Guy Raz. And then fuse yourself back together again.

Mindy. Yeah.

Super Metal Ma'am. Well, all I can tell you is that I am actually self healing as we speak.

Mindy. It sure doesn't look like it does in the cartoon!

Super Metal Ma'am. That's because in real life, it's happening on a nano scale. And a nano scale is one thousand times smaller than a micro scale, which means it's not visible to the human eye.

Super Metal Ma'am. But it is possible that scientists can take this nanoscopic discovery and use what they've learned to create other materials and metals that can self heal in a larger ways. And ultimately help to prevent big problems with cracking metals in the future!

Audience. <<Cheers>>

Announcer. That's all the time we have for questions.

Super Metal Ma'am. Thank you, everyone! I'm *your* biggest fan.

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