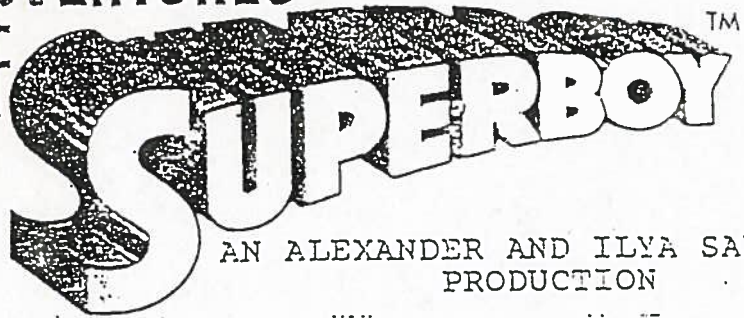


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Tim POWELL

THE  
ADVENTURES  
OF



AN ALEXANDER AND ILYA SALKIND  
PRODUCTION

"People vs. Metallo"

by

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&  
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"THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY"

"People Vs. Metallo"

TEASER

1 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

1

CLOSE ON a gavel pounding. PULL BACK TO REVEAL an angry-looking JUDGE surveying the courtroom. A defense attorney, SLOANE, and a prosecutor, NICHOLS, stand before her.

\*

JUDGE

Counsel approach the bench!!

(they approach)

That's enough. Mr. Sloane, I'm not going to warn you again about making inflammatory statements.

\*

\*

SLOANE

Your honor, the prosecution has obviously confused my client with somebody else.

NICHOLS

I have a list of charges here that says otherwise. Robbery, assault, murder.

SLOANE

How could my client possibly have done any of that? Just look at him.

\*

ANOTHER ANGLE

which reveals the defendant. It is METALLO, looking very weak. He is surrounded by medical devices. Nearby, running the devices, is his tall blonde nurse, GRETA. Metallo manages a slight, innocent smile for the judge, but once the judge turns back to the attorneys, Metallo slowly and painfully turns toward the back of the courtroom as if expecting someone or something.

HIS POV

As a man, GUNTHER, enters and looks around. He is carrying a green metal cylinder, the kind used on oxygen carts. A security guard approaches.

CLOSER

Gunther whispers to the security guard.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

GUNTHER  
It's oxygen for Mr. Corben.

He nods toward Metallo. The guard follows his gaze, thinks for a moment, then lets Gunther move forward. Gunther heads in, passing LANA, who is in the gallery listening intently to what's going on up front.

ANGLE ON JUDGE

who is quickly losing her temper again.

JUDGE  
Do either of you have anything that resembles a witness or evidence?

NICHOLS  
← Of course. I was just trying --

JUDGE  
Then let's get to it.

ANGLE ON GUNTHER

He reaches Metallo and bends down to exchange canisters.

ANGLE ON METALLO

A sinister smile slowly crosses his worn features.

ANGLE ON COURTROOM

The judge nods to the baliff.

JUDGE  
Bring in the first witness.

The baliff goes over and opens the door to a side chamber. There stands... SUPERBOY. As Superboy goes to the witness stand, INTERCUT with Metallo surreptitiously adjusting the oxygen canister.

BALIFF  
Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

\*

SUPERBOY  
Always...

TIGHT ON THE CANISTER

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

as Metallo opens a compartment in the bottom, revealing a glowing chunk of kryptonite...

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

2

START on the kryptonite, then PAN UP to Metallo, grinning.

He now uses quick, surreptitious movements to get the kryptonite out of the canister, and then bring it to his chest. Greta watches knowingly, as

\*  
\*

ANGLE ON SUPERBOY

In the witness chair, he weakens, feeling the effect. Sloane notices.

\*

SLOANE  
Are you all right?

\*

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

SUPERBOY  
I don't know... I...

He sees something o.s. which horrifies him.

SUPERBOY  
No...

ANGLE ON METALLO

He has gotten the kryptonite up to the compartment on his chest. With great effort, he slips it into place.

\*

SERIES OF CLOSE UPS

\*

- Metallo's hand jerks open and closed.
- Metallo's foot tenses, breaking the wheelchair foot rest.
- Metallo's head jerks up and his eyes snap open.
- His mouth forms an evil grin.

WIDER ANGLE

The bailiff runs up and tries to grab Metallo as he jumps out of his chair. Metallo tosses him back effortlessly.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Gunther pulls out a gun and covers the front of the room.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the security guard in back reaches for his gun, a second man standing next to him pulls one out and stops him.

ANOTHER ANGLE

A third man stands up next to Lana and also produces a gun.

GRETA

now pulls out a gun, too.

ANGLE ON METALLO

Metallo flexes his muscles and revels in his rejuvenation.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

METALLO

Oh, man. It's good to be back.

He approaches Superboy, whose skin begins to turn green with kryptonite poisoning.

\*  
\*

METALLO

So... You thought you got rid of me, eh fly boy? Well, maybe it's time I returned the favor.

Superboy is awash with green light. Greta watches in dismay for a beat, then grabs Metallo's arm.

GRETA

Come on... The cops'll be here any minute.

Metallo looks down at the squirming Superboy. He realizes Greta is right.

METALLO

Next time...

Disappointed he starts toward the back door, followed by Greta and Gunther. As he goes, he looks at the crowd.

HIS POV

People watch him go with hatred and anger in their eyes.

ANGLE ON METALLO'S BACK

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

Metallo suddenly comes to a stop. He turns back.

\*

METALLO

These good people have been told lies about me.

GRETA

You're lucky they don't know the truth. Now let's go.

\*

She tries to pull him out, but he shrugs her off.

\*

METALLO

The truth is, their hero isn't who they think he is.

\*

Metallo goes over to Superboy and picks him up.

METALLO

Are you?

SUPERBOY

Do what you want to me, but let these people go.

Metallo smiles. He shoves Superboy back into the chair.

METALLO

Let 'em go? They're here to see justice done, right? Well, that's what I'm gonna give 'em.  
(to courtroom)

\*

There's two sides to every story and I'm gonna show you the other half of this one. So settle in, folks and listen good, because at the end there's gonna be a quiz. Which one of us is guilty: Me... or Superboy? And who's going to pay the price?

DISSOLVE TO:

3 INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT (From "Metallo" - 18 seconds)

3

METALLO (NEW V.O.)

I was just an ordinary guy. A regular Joe. But something happened that changed everything.

Corben is in his car. He begins to have another heart attack. The car goes off the road and rushes toward a tree. It hits the tree and explodes.

CUT TO:



4 INT. PROFESSOR'S LAB - DAY (From "Metallo" - 1 minute)

4

METALLO (NEW V.O.)  
I made it through the wreck, but it  
wasn't too long before I wished I  
hadn't...

As the camera PANS ACROSS the lab, we begin to hear moans.  
A deranged-looking man appears in response and hurries over  
to a shape lying under a sheet on a table.

PROFESSOR  
You are a very lucky man, Herr  
Metallo.

METALLO (O.S.)  
What? Metallo? What are you  
talking about? My name is Corben.

PROFESSOR  
Nein.

METALLO  
Who in the hell are you?

Metallo's mechanical hand comes into frame.

METALLO  
Is that me?

PROFESSOR  
You like? You like?

Metallo sits up and begins examining himself in disbelief.

PROFESSOR  
Oh, please. No need to thank me.  
You were badly hurt in the  
explosion. Your arms, your heart  
were destroyed. I only did what I  
had to do to save you.

Metallo looks down at himself in horror.

METALLO  
Save me? You made me into a freak.  
Look at me!

On his reaction,

CUT TO:

5 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

5

Metallo has his head down, soaking any sympathy he can get  
from the courtroom.

\*

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

METALLO

Another man might've been angry.  
Another man might've been hurt.  
Me, I tried to make the best of my  
misfortune. I used it to help  
track down criminals. One of whom  
is in this very courtroom.

He turns to Superboy, who cringes from the kryptonite.

METALLO

Isn't that right, pal?

CUT TO:

6 EXT. BANK - DAY (From "Super Menace" - 1:10 seconds)

6

Superboy breaks out of the bank carrying sacks of money. He looks around and sees a large military truck nearby. Metallo steps out. He is newly rigged for battle with Superboy. He smokes a cigar. They stare each other down for a moment, then Superboy begins to approach.

SUPERBOY

Metallo --

Metallo winds up and punches Superboy who goes flying back. Metallo watches him as he hits the ground.

METALLO

That's my name. Don't wear it out.

7 EXT. BANK - DAY (From "Super Menace" - 6 seconds)

7

METALLO (NEW V.O.)

I tried to help, but I was betrayed.

Metallo has just "killed" Superboy.

METALLO

That takes care of that pain in the ass.

Just then, the General steps out and fires a rocket at Metallo. It hits and explodes. Metallo falls.

CUT TO:

8 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

8

Metallo shakes his head in dejection.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

METALLO  
It's sad but true. My whole life's  
been one betrayal after another.

9 INT. BAR - DAY (From "Super Menace" - 20 seconds)

9

Superboy is talking to Metallo at the bar.

SUPERBOY  
You know, I've been thinking --

Metallo silences him with a gesture. He turns to the two women with him and motions them away.

METALLO  
Yeah, what?

SUPERBOY  
That you and I...

METALLO  
Yeah...

SUPERBOY  
With a little luck, we could be running this country in one month.

METALLO  
Yeah...

SUPERBOY  
Yeah. And I have the perfect plan.

10 EXT. MILITARY BASE - DAY (From "Super Menace" - 35 seconds)

10

METALLO (NEW V.O.)  
I know now that it was wrong, but when someone like Superboy comes and asks someone like me to help him... Well, it can be...  
(choosing his word)  
...confusing. How could I not say 'yes?' This began what I thought was going to be a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

Superboy flies down and joins Metallo as he approaches the military base. They arrive at the fence which has a high voltage warning. Superboy starts to grab the fence.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

METALLO

Oh no, no. Allow me.

SUPERBOY

No. Allow me.

METALLO

Let's do it together.

They grab the fence and electricity courses through their bodies. They pull the section of fence away. Metallo gestures to Superboy.

METALLO

After you, Pal.

SUPERBOY

Thanks, Pal.

METALLO

Don't mention it. Anything for a friend.

They enter the base.

CUT TO:

11 INT. MILITARY BASE - DAY (From "Super Menace" - 42 seconds)

11

METALLO (NEW V.O.)

But apparently, since I was the only one who could be a threat to him, he decided to get rid of me.

Metallo approaches a piece of Kryptonite sitting on a pedestal.

METALLO

Is this what it appears to be? It is. It's another chunk of the magic rock. Now I'll be twice as strong.

SUPERBOY

Or twice as dead.

METALLO

What do you mean?

Suddenly, Superboy flips a switch on a nearby laser and a beam shoots out, engulfing Metallo.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

SUPERBOY

I'm turning your Kryptonite red.

METALLO

I was gonna double-cross you, but  
you double-crossed me. It's a  
double, double cross.

Superboy approaches him, grabs him by the neck and lifts him  
up.

SUPERBOY

You think I could ever team up with  
a loser like you? Once you're out  
of the way, nothing can stand in my  
way.

Superboy draws his fist back to punch him.

CUT TO:

12 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

12

Metallo turns to the jury.

METALLO

He tricked me into a life of crime,  
and then he tried to kill me. The  
facts--

SUPERBOY

That's not true.

METALLO

Not true? Which part? Remember...  
You're under oath. And Superboy  
can't lie anyway. Tell me -- yes  
or no -- did it all happen the way  
I just said?

SUPERBOY

Well, I...

METALLO

No 'Well, I...' I've seen Perry  
Mason. It's yes or no.

SUPERBOY

(beat)

Yes.

The gallery reacts. Metallo straightens up smugly.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

METALLO

Ladies and Gentlemen... Do we need  
to go any further? I think the  
verdict is obvious. Allow me to  
pass sentence. Right now...

He moves in and opens his chest cavity, exposing the  
kryptonite. Superboy cries out in agony and the green glow  
engulfs him. Again, his face becomes sickly green.

METALLO

So long, Pal. It's been fun.

Metallo laughs maniacally.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

13

Metallo is still advancing on Superboy. Lana now jumps in between them.

LANA  
Wait!... Isn't he allowed to have  
someone defend him? \*

Metallo is stumped. He looks up at the judge.

METALLO  
Is he?

The judge nods nervously.

METALLO  
Damn.  
(shrugging)  
Okay, whatever.  
(to jury)  
I want to do what's right. That's  
the kind of guy I am.  
(to Lana)  
So, go ahead. You defend him.

LANA  
Me?

Metallo nods and backs away from Superboy. Superboy's complexion returns to normal as Lana looks around, totally unprepared, but determined, nevertheless.

LANA  
(hesitant)  
Well, it seems to me that you've  
twisted the facts in your favor.  
The truth is a little different.

DISSOLVE TO:

14 INT. HOSPITAL - DAY ("Metallo" - 47 seconds)

14

Corben is in a hospital bed. The DOCTOR talks to him.

DOCTOR

There would've been no tomorrow for you, Mr. Corben. Look, you suffered a massive heart attack. You wouldn't have lasted the night. Look on the bright side. They'll keep you off your feet in prison. You'll get plenty of rest and with a little bit of luck, you just might live.

CORBEN

Oh yeah, yeah, sure. I'd be alive, I'd be in a cage for the rest of my life. Face it, Doc. I might as well be dead.

The doctor turns his back. Corben grabs a scalpel.

DOCTOR

(turning back)

Please, Mr. Corben...

Corben grabs him and puts the knife to his neck.

CORBEN

Please? No one's ever been that polite to me. I wish I could return the favor. But I'm not that kind of guy.

As he slashes the knife across his neck, we CUT TO the curtain being thrown open a moment later. Corben stands for a moment, wearing the dead doctor's smock.

CORBEN

Yeah... I'm a lucky guy.

CUT TO:

15 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

15

Metallo looks a little sheepish.

METALLO

Well, sure. I had the occasional-- weak moment. What's your point?

LANA

You talk about how your life has been one betrayal after another.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



15 CONTINUED:

15

LANA (cont'd)  
The truth is, you're the one who's  
betrayed everyone who's ever tried  
to help you. Even the man who gave  
you your life back.

CUT TO:

16 INT. PROFESSOR'S LAB - DAY ("Metallo" - 22 seconds) 16

Metallo is starting to like his new image. He notices  
Superboy on t.v.

SUPERBOY  
(on t.v.)  
I'm really honored the city's  
chosen me to be the first to  
receive the community service  
award.

The professor notices Metallo's interest.

PROFESSOR  
What's wrong?

Metallo grabs the professor by the throat and lifts him up.

METALLO  
Am I strong enough? Can I beat  
him?

PROFESSOR  
Who? Who?

METALLO  
The one who started this.  
Superboy.

PROFESSOR  
I don't know. Perhaps --

METALLO  
There's no time. He'll be at the  
arena soon. Aw, well. I already  
died once. I'll take my chances.

He snaps the professor's neck.

METALLO  
Tough break.

And he exits humming.

CUT TO:

17 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

17

Lana points accusingly at Metallo.

\*

LANA

Most people would have been grateful to be alive. Your only concern was whether or not you could kill Superboy.

METALLO

(shrugging)  
Just curious.

LANA

Curious?

METALLO

Whatever. But what about all the stuff Superboy did?

LANA

I'm getting to that. You want justice, right?

METALLO

More than anything.

CUT TO:

18 INT. MILITARY LAB - DAY ("Super Menace" - 17 seconds)

18

Scientists shoot a beam of light at a piece of kryptonite. The room fills with red light.

LANA (NEW V.O.)

No one could have foreseen the effects red Kryptonite would have on Superboy. It was unpredictable.

CLOSE ON SUPERBOY

He looks at the light and slowly raises his arm in front of his face.

19 INT. MILITARY LAB - SECONDS LATER - DAY ("Super Menace" - 32 seconds)

19

Superboy is talking with the General and the Scientists. He puts out his hand and the General takes it.

SUPERBOY

Well, thank you for your efforts.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

GENERAL

Think nothing of it, Superboy...

But the General stops as the bones in his hand are crushed by Superboy. He cries out in pain.

SUPERBOY

Whoa... Guess I don't know my own strength.

The Scientists look at him in shock.

SCIENTIST #2

Superboy... What's wrong?

SUPERBOY

Nothing's wrong.

Superboy uses heat vision on the wall to create an escape.

GENERAL

What are you doing?

SUPERBOY

What I should've been doing all along. Letting the world know who's in charge.

And he exits.

CUT TO:

20 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

20

Metallo is excited.

METALLO

Exactly like I said.  
(to courtroom)  
Even she admits it.

LANA

It wasn't his fault. He wasn't in his right mind.

Metallo smiles sweetly.

METALLO

What am I? The picture of mental health? So far, I don't think there's a single difference between him and me.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

LANA  
Oh, there's a difference all right.  
One you carefully ignored.

CUT TO:

21 INT. MILITARY LAB - DAY ("Super Menace" - 55 seconds) 21

Superboy has Metallo by the neck like before.

SUPERBOY  
You think I could ever team up with  
a loser like you? Once you're out  
of the way, nothing can stand in my  
way.

Superboy-draws his fist back to punch him. Suddenly, a  
voice interrupts. It is the General in the control booth.

GENERAL  
Superboy, don't. We can help you.

CAMERA PANS TO REVEAL Lana is at the door.

LANA  
No, we can't. Do it. Kill him.

Superboy tries to bring himself to do it, but something  
inside won't let him.

LANA  
What are you? A coward? Don't  
back down now, Superboy. One punch  
and he's finished. Kill him.

Superboy realizes he is not able to.

SUPERBOY  
(dropping Metallo)  
I can't.

METALLO  
Oh, good.

SUPERBOY  
I can't. I can't kill.

CUT TO:

22 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

22

Lana turns to Metallo.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

LANA

I goaded him to make him realize he couldn't kill. And that's the difference between you and Superboy. He can't kill.

(looks at Superboy)

It's not in him. He --

METALLO

All right, all right. Shut up. You've had your say.

(to Judge)

Right?

JUDGE

Right. I guess.

He goes over to the jury with his most sincere face on.

METALLO

I know this all very unusual -- the guns and stuff, I mean -- but it's important to me that you people see my side and realize that I'm not a bad guy. I've just been led astray by people like Superboy.

(lowering his head)

Someone like me probably shouldn't expect good people like you to understand, but I'm hoping that you'll look past the rough...

(looking down)

...tinman-like exterior and see a regular Joe who's just wants a little justice.

He gives a dramatic pause, then quickly jerks his head up.

METALLO

So what's it gonna be?

He looks at the jury, but they seem afraid to answer.

METALLO

Am I guilty... or is Superboy? Do I pay the price... or does he?

Lana looks at the jury, her eyes pleading. They're still afraid to answer. One coughs uncomfortably. Metallo approaches a juror.

\*

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

METALLO  
What's it gonna be, Grandma?

\*

SUPERBOY  
Stop it!

Everyone turns to Superboy as he struggles to his feet.

SUPERBOY  
(to jury)  
Please... Do what he wants. Don't  
put yourselves in jeopardy.

Metallo is delighted.

METALLO  
See? He's practically admitting  
he's guilty. How tough can this  
be?

The jury is still silent. Lana can't believe it.

LANA  
Are you going to let Superboy die  
to save yourselves? Are you?

The jury begins to shift uncomfortably. Lana turns to the  
old lady.

LANA  
Remember the time he put out that  
fire at the rest home?  
(to the large man)  
Or the time he stopped that  
building from collapsing? Or when  
he saved those kids in the school  
bus? Or how about the last time he  
fought Metallo?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

LANA (cont'd)  
He could've been killed, but he did  
it anyway. He was willing to  
sacrifice himself for us.

The jurors are starting to respond.

QUICK CUTS

showing the faces of the observers, all now stirred.

LANA (O.S.)  
And now he needs us. But it's  
more than that. It's about  
principles... The principles he's  
always fought for, and the  
principles we're supposed to  
believe in, too. The principles  
that this very court room was built  
to uphold.

Some of the spectators begin to stand and edge forward.

ANGLE ON THE GUNMEN

They exchange worried looks. The room is beginning to turn.  
There is the o.s. sound of a SIREN. One of the gunmen  
motions to Greta.

ANGLE ON GRETA

She, too, wants to get out of there.

\*

GRETA  
(to Metallo)  
Let's go, Metallo. You've proved  
your point.

Metallo whirls on him.

METALLO  
My point ain't proved until I get a  
verdict.

Greta gives him a look, then motions to the other gunmen.  
They head for the exit.

METALLO  
Go on, go! I don't need you! I  
don't need anybody. I'm Metallo!

ANGLE ON LANA

She continues.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

LANA

He's Metallo, all right. But he can be stopped. Not by any one of us, but by all of us.

Metallo shoves her away.

METALLO

That's enough.

He ominously turns to the jury.

METALLO

You know your choices. Now what's it gonna be? Who's the guilty one? Him or me.

CAMERA PANS across the jury for a long, anxious beat as they exchange nervous glances. Finally, the old lady stands. \*

OLD LADY

You!

WIDER

Metallo's stunned.

METALLO

Huh???

Amid the remaining eleven jurors, another stands.

LARGE MAN

You.

23 INTERCUT REACTION SHOTS:

23

LANA: relieved; METALLO: increasingly stunned; SUPERBOY: painfully lifting his head to see.

WIDE SHOT

Metallo takes a step back from the box as, one by one, the jurors rise, each pointing at Metallo.

ON METALLO

He's now confronted with the entire jury. He's a little scared by their boldness but attempts to cover with bravado.

METALLO

Whoa, whoa, whoa... Are you people nuts, or what?

(CONTINUED)



23 CONTINUED:

23

The jurors don't answer. Instead, the large man looks over at another man in the jury and they nod. They jump out of the jury box and head for Metallo. Metallo bats them aside, but this sparks something in the other jurors who now begin to rush at Metallo. People in the gallery begin to join the charge and soon Metallo is surrounded, being beaten and grabbed. \*

ON LANA

She starts toward the mob. Metallo is still trying to fend off the mob. Lana reaches in, trying to get to something. Finally, she gets a hold of the panel on Metallo's chest. When he realizes what she's doing, he jerks his head up and looks her in the eye. \*

METALLO  
(heart-felt)  
No... Please...

Lana rolls her eyes, then yanks open the panel and pulls out the kryptonite. She backs out of the crowd which slowly parts to reveal a pale, powerless Metallo. After a beat, he crashes to his knees. He looks up at Lana.

METALLO  
(gasping for breath)  
The only reason you won is because  
juries are suckers for a pretty  
face.

And he collapses. Lana turns to the old woman and hands her the kryptonite.

LANA  
Take this... far away.

The old lady exits as Superboy comes up behind Lana, his skin color almost back to normal. Lana smiles at him. He leans on her for support:

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

DOWN SHOT - WIDE

The aftermath: Medics take Metallo away. A couple of cops have the gunmen and Gunther in custody. Reporters shoot the scene. The judge walks among the jurors. Lana and Superboy stand close. Superboy turns to her.

\*

SUPERBOY

Thanks for coming to my rescue,  
counselor.

LANA

I figured I owed you one... or two.

They smile at each other and exit.

FADE OUT.

THE END