

The Anxiety League

(When Panic Attacks)

Logline:

Captain Panic leads a team of anxious wannabe superheroes to outsmart villain Society, and defeat his evil plan to brainwash the city.

Synopsis:

In this comedic superhero fantasy, ex-New York cop, Captain Panic leads her team of anxious wannabe heroes; twins Claustro and Agor, Super Sad, love interest Exacto, and shut-in Nana. Seeking the respect of pro-superheroes, the team takes on villain Society and his plan to control minds through his formula “Public Opinion”.

Outline:

After a chemistry lab explosion, dozens of casualties are stuck in a burning building. CAPTAIN PANIC (35), an Ex-New York cop, and her team rush to the scene. This anxious group, THE ANXIETY LEAGUE, was formed when PTSD-ridden Captain Panic left the force, after the shooting of a young boy who pulled a gun on her. In order to get to the explosion they must face challenges of their own: taking the subway and going through large crowds of people. These are feats particularly difficult for CLAUSTRO and AGOR (mid 20s), indecently attractive identical twins with exact opposite anxieties. Once they finally make it to their destination, EXEMPLARY MAN (30), New York's beloved superhero has already saved the bunch, but his emotions and adrenaline are running high, so the team takes him aside for a therapy session.

While SUPER SAD (28) uses her power of empathy to talk out his super-feelings, Captain Panic surveys the scene. In the wreckage of what appears to be a science lab, she finds detailed plans for a mind control formula. Unbeknownst to her, they belong to New York's hottest new villain, SOCIETY (30), an insecure narcissist and the face of a Perfume Empire, looking to grow his fan base. Realizing the depth of this situation, Captain Panic knows this is a job more suited for Exemplary Man. On the other hand, solving this case could finally be the push she needs to overcome her anxieties, not to mention put the league on the map, and win them the recognition they deserve.

The Anxiety League returns to their base of operations – the house of shut-in and retired scientist, NANA (75). They study the notes and discover that the mind control formula is a mixture of two compounds that when combined release a lethal amount of positive ions, turning people into mindless drones - it's name: "Public Opinion." Luckily,

EXACTO (30), an OCDelightful pro-planner has already started a to-do list. Her exceptional organizational skills, not to mention stubborn mindedness, is part of what makes her so attractive to Captain Panic.

First on Exacto's list: examine air particles throughout the city. This puts the team in high-stress situations, challenging Exacto's germophobia and Super Sad's aversion to social interaction. But with every breakthrough it seems Society is always one step ahead. Small pockets of the City have already been affected and humans are becoming zombie-like creatures, completely susceptible to absolute mind-control. Claustro and Agor discover that the dates and locations of the polluted air coincide with the tour of a highly anticipated new line of perfume, belonging to iconic perfume mogul, Society. His previous scent "#Villain" was already so successful you could find it in most homes, including the twins'. Nana figures out that #Villain was a way of chemically seeding the city's air, in preparation for the second compound.

At home, Nana is working hard to formulate an antidote. It's a race against the clock, as Society is getting closer to releasing his new scent, the second compound needed to complete the lethal formula, Public Opinion. After studying the air particles, Nana is certain she can create a neutralizing agent, with one specific chemical. Unfortunately it was buried 50 years ago with her husband's scientific research, after his mysterious death and Nana's departure from the outside world. She tries to direct the team, but because the city has changed so much over the years, it's up to Nana to save the day. With the league creating a wall around her, Nana steps outside of her house for the first time in fifty years and retrieves the chemical.

Absolute turmoil is erupting throughout New York City, as people believe the zombie apocalypse has started. Exemplary Man and New York City's finest are working double duty trying to save innocent lives, but without understanding the source of the issue, there's only so much they can do. TOM BRIGGS (45), the Chief of Police, and Captain Panic's ex-partner, confides in her, wondering if she knows anything about the case. She knows that this is a job much bigger than she had anticipated, but before she can tell the Chief her findings, Exemplary Man arrives to check in. With his typical arrogance, he dismisses Captain Panic, assuring her that the "real" superheroes will handle this.

It's Society's next mall appearance and just a couple of days before the scent's official big release. The league rushes to confront Society, arriving much earlier than the event, thanks to Exacto's power of punctuality. Although the villain is yet to arrive, he has his minions already at work, spritzing the mall with his new perfume. Realizing the mall will prove fatal in a matter of minutes, Exacto and the twins sacrifice themselves. Using their beautiful bodies, the twins distract Society's entourage, while Exacto uses her logic to control the newly zombified crowds, leading them to safety. Before long, Exacto and the twins succumb to the epidemic.

With only half of the league left in their right mind, Captain Panic knows she has failed her City and her team. The infection of Exacto hits Captain Panic hard and she pushes Nana to find the antidote fast. Nana tells Captain Panic that the positive ion damage will be reversible if they can prevent more of the chemicals being released, but they only have a 24-hour window. Finding the nerve to seek the help she needs, Captain Panic goes to the Chief and Exemplary Man. Reprimanding her for not saying anything

sooner, Exemplary Man tells Captain Panic that The League will never be real superheroes, and now he has to clean up the mess they made.

Meanwhile, Nana manages to formulate the antidote, but without the proper time and resources there's only enough for the team. While the Chief orders the manufacturing of enough antidote for the whole city, Exacto and the twins slowly come to their senses.

The team needs to stop Society before he can release more of the perfume, but he has gone into hiding. The twins, knowing Society's selfie obsession from following his Insta, lurk his feed for clues. Meanwhile, Captain Panic does extensive research on Society's background, piecing together why he is conducting this project. Although they're still groggy, Exacto, Claustro, and Agor insist on coming along as Captain Panic and Super Sad gear up to take on Society.

The League rushes to Society's lair, where Exemplary Man and other similar heroes have been captured. Society welcomes them; he's been waiting. A timer is set in the background, there's ten minutes left until he will be unleashing his perfume in a cloud over the city, creating a lethal amount of Positive Ions to pollute the air.

Breathing through it, Captain Panic talks to Society about his childhood, and tells him she understands how hard it must have been growing up in a family of genius scientists. The pressure he must have felt to be one too. Society is shocked by Captain Panic's compassion; he himself never realized the toll it must have taken on his psyche. Super Sad interjects, explaining she experienced something similar as a child, and that it made her care too much about what other people thought of her. And that sometimes she wishes she could just change other people's perception of her, without having to change her own thought patterns. To everyone's surprise, Society breaks down in tears. No one

has ever understood him before. His Public Opinion project all started because he just wanted to change his parent's perception of him.

Super Sad leads Society to a couch where he continues talking out his problems, while Captain Panic lets out the trapped heroes. Exemplary Man, in a zombified manner, staggers to action and punches Society. He then thanks Captain Panic for helping him save the day. With everyone's help, the league destroys Society's Public Opinion, and leads the victims to a safer part of the city, while they wait for the affects to wear off.

With the city safe for now, the league goes home to journal about their feelings over a nice mug of celebratory herbal tea.

Cut To:

Exacto and Captain Panic finally go on a date.

Society has admitted himself into a psychiatric ward, where he enjoys talking out his problems and meeting others that have gone through similar experiences.

Exemplary Man conducts a class for his heroes to better understand each other and talk out their issues.

Nana goes for a walk, and breathes in the fresh air.

THE END.