

MOON MALL

"Rise of the Moon Master"

Full script

by Mike Podgor

PAGE 1 (Four panels)

1. We open with jock Buck Gordon noticing security guard Sarah Sheif at the Moon Mall comic book store, Cosmic Comics. The store is filled with whatever bric-a-brac can be imagined, along with a good amount of comics. In the background, there is a man carrying off a bag of loot. He should look shifty and devious, though not really dangerous. We'll call him Ebidiah.

2. Buck walks over to get a better look and sees Sarah chatting with an employee. Buck is concerned. Sarah looks like she's getting angry, while the employee is too self-absorbed to notice this. The employee should be dressed in street clothes, with a badge with the shop's insignia on it.

EMPLOYEE: The Galactic Guardian is too old-fashioned. He hardly ever kills anybody.

SARAH: That's not the point. He's a beacon of hope...

3. Close-up on Sarah. She is no longer angry; instead she has a far-off look in her eyes. There should be a smaller picture of the Galactic Guardian behind her, and he should look like a typical Superman-type super-hero:

SARAH: ...plus he's so suave and sophisticated. He's handsome, too. I kind of wish guys like him were real. Especially if they could catch whoever's been robbing people blind.

4. Buck hurries away from Cosmic Comics, his face a mask of intense thought. Ebidah is in the background, carrying a second bag of loot.

BUCK: If Sarah likes guys like that, then I can BECOME a guy like that! I can become...

PAGE 2 (6 panels)

1. Buck is wearing a costume that should include the traditional super-hero elements, such as the cape and gloves and mask, but made of sports equipment. It should still obviously be Buck, however. An important aspect of the costume is a duffel bag, where he keeps his weapons. The background for this panel should be something dynamic, like a sunburst.

BUCK: ...a SUPER-HERO! Step one complete!

BUCK: Step two is catching that crook.

2. The background turns to normal, and Buck is shown to be perching on a stand called Lunar Pioneer Jerky Company. They, of course, sell various kinds of jerky. In the background, Ebidiah is entering a store with an empty bag.

BUCK: The Moon Master is on patrol!

BUCK (small letters): Ha ha, yeah.

3. Buck stands up on the mall kiosk. The man operating the kiosk is looking up at him with some confusion, and in the background, various other mall patrons are taking notice.

BUCK: Look out, evil-doers, because...

4. Buck's finger is in the air. He is looking down at the violently wobbling kiosk, obviously concerned.

BUCK: ...because...

BUCK: ...I think I'm gonna FALL!

5. The kiosk crashes in a shower of jerky, with the owner running towards him. In the background, Ebidiah is seen exiting the store, with his bag now full of loot.

OWNER: What were you thinking, boy?

BUCK: I'm not a boy! Well, I mean, I AM a boy, but...

6. Buck runs off while shouting. Everyone is staring at him.

BUCK: ...I'M THE MOON MASTER!

BUCK: And you deserved that, jerky guy! You charge way too much for your jerky!

PAGE 3 (Five panels)

1. Manager Lionel Atticus is sitting in his office on the phone. He is very concerned. There is a huge window behind him, and it's the only source of light in the room currently.

LIONEL: ...I KNOW shoplifting has gone up 200% in the last month. I have my best people on it.

LIONEL: All right, my ONLY people, but that's pretty much the same thing.

2. Lionel swivels his chair around to the window. From this vantage, we can see a little bit more of Moon Mall. Two rows of shops lead to the Food Court, with more shops beyond the Food Court.

LIONEL: All the storeowners have been notified to keep a closer eye on customers, which they should be doing anyway, but they're retail. What can you do?

LIONEL: ...replacing everyone with robots wouldn't be cost-effective. Believe me, I looked into it. The only owner I haven't been able to talk to is Buck Gordon. Yeah, the sports guy.

3. Lionel stands up and looks out the window. For a moment, he looks almost serene. He doesn't notice Ebidiah exiting a store, his bag full.

4. Lionel's serenity is quickly replaced with baffled rage. The background should be replaced with another sunburst or something similar.

LIONEL: ...Buck Gordon is WHAT?!

BUCK (off-panel): Buck Gordon is...

5. Lionel turns around, his face a mix of shock and horror. He drops the phone.

LIONEL: Oh God.

PAGE 4:

SPLASH PAGE. Buck Gordon is perched on a darkened something in Lionel's doorway, and the lighting should make him look as intimidating as possible. For this panel, and this panel alone, we can almost believe he's an actual super-hero.

BUCK: ...THE MOON MASTER!

BUCK: Except forget I said that, Mister Atticus. It's my secret identity.

BUCK: But don't forget that I'm here to make the Moon Mall a safer place!

PAGE 5 (6 panels):

1. Buck leaves, knocking over the upturned janitor's bucket he was perched on. Lionel is back on the phone.

BUCK (off-panel): Moon Master away!

LIONEL: Sarah? Lionel. Keep an eye on Buck. I think he's gone insane.

2. Sarah is on her phone, holding a latte and leaning against some scaffolding. There is a box immediately above her, obviously perched precariously. She looks annoyed.

SARAH: Buck is harmless, Lionel.

3. In one fell swoop, a golf ball pushes the box out of the way and then the ball lands in Sarah's drink, illustrated through a dotted line originating off-panel, bouncing off the box, and into Sarah's drink. We also see that the box was empty, and therefore, absolutely no threat to anyone. Sarah is looking at her latte and scowling.

BUCK (off-panel): Look out, Sarah!

4. Sarah, now quite angry, sees Buck walking over to her. Buck is extremely happy and completely oblivious to the fact that he has knocked over a garbage can. In the background, we see Ebidiah with an empty sack, entering a store.

BUCK: I saved you with one of my Moon Meteors! Pretty suave and sophisticated, huh? Maybe you want me to be your unattainable romantic ideal?

5. Sarah prods Buck in the chest.

SARAH: No, Buck, I want you to stop this stupid game before someone gets hurt.

6. Buck runs off and Sarah watches him, her body language rigid with rage. Buck is waving cheerfully at her. Neither one sees Ebidiah leaving the store, his bag now full.

BUCK: Nope! I have crooks to catch! Moon Master away!

PAGE 6 (Four panels):

1. Buck skids to a stop in front of the Sweet Tooth, his head turned to look inside the store. We see elderly security guard Farney Bife, young apron-clad Candy Kane, and hobo-esque Olman Reaver inside. Ebidiah is seen entering another store.

2. Inside the Sweet Tooth, Candy is talking to Farney while Olman eats some candies that are clearly labeled as free samples. Candy has a stressed look on her face; Farney is leaning on the counter. The store is filled with candy in various forms: the walls have bulk dispensers, there are various displays here and there on the floor, with some brightly colored boxes near the register.

FARNEY: ...and that's when ol' Gandy caught that fish! You should have seen it, Candy!

CANDY: Wow, Farney. That's really nice.

SFX: CRASH!

3. Buck is now inside the store, pointing with one hand and holding a polo mallet. The mallet has "Moon Mallet" written on it. A display has been knocked down behind him.

BUCK: Put down that candy, miscreant!

4. Olman and Farney are looking at Buck, the confusion clear on their faces. Candy looks both relieved to be free of Farney's yammering, but concerned about Buck's sudden destructive appearance.

OLMAN: Put it down? It's free! The only place I'm putting it is in my mouth!

PAGE 7 (6 panels):

1. Farney walks towards Buck, hands raised in the universal symbol for being unarmed and not wanting trouble. Olman and Candy are behind him, Olman with a piece of candy halfway to his mouth and his eyes firmly on Buck, while Candy is now leaving the counter.

FARNEY: Now, Buck, put down the hammer. I think you need to go for a bit of a lie-down.

BUCK: The only lie-down I need is the lie-down of justice!

FARNEY: What?

2. Candy pushes past Farney and Olman, causing Olman to drop his candy. Confusion still reigns.

CANDY: Let me handle this.

FARNEY: No, Miss Candy, I can't -

CANDY: Trust me.

3. Candy sidles up to Buck and bats her eyelashes at him, smiling sweetly.

CANDY: Now, Buck, you don't really want to hit anyone with that hammer, do you?

BUCK: You and the other good citizen should let me handle this, ma'am.

4. Olman holds out his hand to Buck and smiles, but his eyes are worried. Buck is holding his Moon Mallet defensively.

OLMAN: I don't want any trouble. I was just trying to get a free sample.

BUCK: The only free sample you'll be getting is a free sample of justice, Olman!

5. Olman and Buck are now nose to nose. Buck is grimacing; Olman is trying to move away.

OLMAN: Please, Buck. I thought we were on good terms.

BUCK: We were, until I realized you were...

6. Close-up of Buck. He should be posing dramatically, dropping his mallet in the process.

BUCK: ...my greatest nemesis!

PAGE 8 (Six panels):

1. Buck throws a punch at Olman, who has raised his arm to block it. Olman looks worried, while Buck looks determined.

2. Olman grabs Buck by the wrist, still worried.

OLMAN: Sorry about this.

3. Olman flips Buck onto the ground, and we see that Buck has landed in an area of the store that is generally cleared of merchandise and people.

4. Buck grabs Olman's ankles. This panel should be focused on Buck and Olman's ankles.

5. Olman falls into a candy display, knocking everything to the ground. Candy is in the background, aghast. Farney is waving his arms in a vain attempt to stop the fight.

6. Buck starts crawling towards Olman, who in turn is crawling away from him. Buck should be crawling like a baby, while Olman is crawling like a soldier.

PAGE 9 (6 panels):

1. Farney and Candy start holding down Buck, who is straining against their weight on his vulnerable form.

FARNEY: Calm down, son! You're going to hurt someone!

BUCK: I'm a super-hero! That's what I'm supposed to do!

2. Buck tries to throw off Farney and Candy, while Olman runs off in the background. Buck is very upset, as is Candy.

CANDY: Please, you're destroying my product!

BUCK: You're both nefarious ne'er-do-wells!

3. Lionel and Sarah enter the store, both are furious. In the background, Ebidiah is walking out of a store with his loot.

LIONEL: Gordon! I swear, if you don't knock this nonsense off right now, I'm shutting down your store!

SARAH: You're almost hurting people.

4. Buck, who is now standing up and being held back by Farney and Candy, is yelling. He is very angry.

BUCK: Sarah! You too? Well, I'll show you!

5. Buck breaks free from their grip in a show of athleticism. Candy's eyes go wide with shock and lust. Farney's eyes boggle.

BUCK: I'll show you all!

6. Buck runs off, leaving the others behind. Sarah, Farney, and Candy watch him run towards his store. Lionel is frowning and ignoring Buck's retreating form.

SARAH: Well, that could have gone a lot better.

PAGE TEN (Five panels):

1. CUT: It's now the next morning. Candy, Farney, and Olman are walking into the Moon Mall. Candy should be furthest left, while Olman should be furthest right. None of them should be very happy. Farney, perhaps, should be wearing some token tactical armor.

CAPTION: The next morning.

CANDY: It's settled, then. We're going to talk Buck out of this Moon Master nonsense.

FARNEY: Yep. Maybe get him some help, if we need to.

2. They walk into the mall and find out a soccer net has been erected in front of the entrance. A few other Moon Mall employees have been captured (perhaps the employees of Cosmic Comics and Lunar Pioneer Jerky Company) and are in various stages of confusion, sadness, and anger. Olman is looking at Candy and Farney.

OLMAN: That worked out pretty well, eh?

BUCK (off-panel): Ha! I've got you!

3. Buck, still in his Moon Master guise, poses triumphantly. In the background, we see Ebidiah enter Buck's store.

BUCK: Now that I've captured my three greatest enemies, Sarah will have no choice but to fall in love with the Moon Master!

4. In Buck's store, we see EBIDIAH putting things into his loot bag. We can see Buck and the others in the background, Buck should be gesturing widely while the other three main characters should be staring at him. Farney might be using his radio.

EBIDIAH: Heh. I wish there were more super-heroes. This is the easiest string of thefts I've ever pulled, or my name isn't Ebidiah Armstrong!

5. Buck turns to return to his store, while Ebidiah continues to load up the loot. This panel should have a natural border in the middle, probably the entrance to Buck's store.

BUCK: I'll be right back, you rogues. I need to call the commissioner.

EBIDIAH: Now all I need to do is find a fence to off-load all my loot.

PAGE 11 (6 panels):

1. Buck enters his store and sees the oblivious Ebidiah. Ebidiah is whistling at this juncture.

SFX: Musical notes

BUCK: A-ha!

2. Ebidiah turns to see Buck, and Ebidiah is nervous despite himself. Buck is pointing at Ebidiah.

EBIDIAH: Uh oh.

BUCK: I know what you're after, mister, and you'll get it!

3. Buck takes a step forward, not noticing that his foot has become hooked on a lacrosse stick.

BUCK: The very best sports equipment --

4. Buck trips, falling into a display.

BUCK: -- oof!

5. The display knocks into another one, which falls onto Ebidiah. This panel is the end result of that domino effect, with some motion lines illustrating what has fallen.

6. Ebidiah is entangled in various sports equipment. Buck is also lying on the ground. We see Sarah, Lionel, Candy, and Farney running towards the store.

PAGE 12 (5 panels):

1. Candy and Farney are helping Buck out of the fallen shelves. Sarah has Ebidiah. Lionel is holding one of Ebidiah's loot bags.

LIONEL: I'll be...

2. Close-up on Buck, who looks happy, but surprised.

LIONEL (off-panel): It looks like the Moon Master actually caught a crook.

BUCK: Really?

3. Buck strides forward. The other characters look on, amazed.

FARNEY: Good job, Buck!

CANDY: Wow. Good job.

BUCK: Thank you! All I ever wanted was your acceptance of my super-heroics!

4. Sarah, escorting Ebidiah, smirks. Buck is standing next to her, all smiles and laughter.

SARAH: All we want is the Moon Master to be gone.

BUCK: Ha ha, yeah. Of course!

5. Buck winks at the reader.

BUCK: ...for now.

END