

Acting Edition

Squirrel Girl Goes to College

A Squirrel Girl Play

by Karen Zacarías

Based on the Marvel Comics
by Will Murray & Steve Ditko

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|| SAMUEL FRENCH ||

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MARVEL SPOTLIGHT

Welcome, True Believers!

I'm so glad to have you join us and take your place amongst the legendary pantheon of Marvel heroes.

In the early 1960s, Marvel was a small, upstart comic book company introducing little-known characters like Spider-Man, The Avengers, Black Panther, and so many more that are household names today. It's been an exciting ride over the last 20 years as we've expanded from the printed page to animation, television, movies, and games. Complete and total world domination... well, almost. I've been fortunate enough to serve at Marvel during this time, first as Editor-in-Chief and now as Chief Creative Officer, and I firmly believe that our success in each of these mediums has come from our love for the characters and an unbridled excitement that we bring to each new challenge. That's why I can't begin to tell you how thrilled I am about Marvel Spotlight and your participation in it – it's going to be amazing to see you bring these stories to life.

Marvel Spotlight is an all-new way to experience some of the greatest heroes ever. But the best part is that we get to watch you interpret them in your own way as you expand the Marvel Universe into a whole new medium (yes, and *then* we can claim complete and utter world domination).

At Marvel we tell the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things and I can't wait to see what extraordinary things you'll bring to these stories. So now, if you'd indulge me, take a deep breath and say it with me, loud, so that they call down from hallowed halls of Asgard complaining about the noise: "Move over, Shakespeare! Take a seat, Chekhov! Here comes Marvel Spotlight!"

See ya in the funny books,

Joe Quesada
Chief Creative Officer
Marvel Entertainment, Inc.

THE ORIGIN OF SQUIRREL GIRL

Doreen Green bonded with squirrels at an early age and soon developed the ability to communicate with them. She just really loves squirrels, okay? Now as Squirrel Girl, she's got all the powers of a squirrel and all the powers of a girl! Sure, Doreen's enhanced, squirrel-like strength, speed, agility, and reflexes make her gifted at climbing, jumping, and other hand-to-hand combat. And, of course, with her squirrel partner and best friend, Tippy-Toe, she's fought alongside heroes like Iron Man and battled boisterous brutes like Doctor Doom. In her heart, though, she's just a young hero who's super excited about squirrels, nuts, and kickin' butts... oh, and justice.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Comedy is a unique form of truth-telling. And also the hardest. Audiences usually cry about the same things; laughter and joy are hard-won. Comedy takes timing, tone, style, and commitment, but too few actors get a chance to practice their comedic skills. So I was thrilled to have the opportunity to write a full-fledged comedy about one of the greatest (yet relatively unknown) Marvel characters: Squirrel Girl!

Created by Will Murray and Steve Ditko, Squirrel Girl is my kind of super hero: smart, witty, generous, and confident. I love how Doreen Green embraces the gift of all of her human and squirrel abilities. Her can-do attitude is down-to-earth and inspiring. She cares about her friends, school, and environment and wants to make the world a better place. Squirrel Girl makes us realize that we all have super powers within – and that joy and laughter can be a powerful, unifying force for good.

And that theater that makes us laugh can also make us think.

Karen Zacarías

CHARACTERS

SQUIRREL CHORUS – They sing, they dance, they chant, they comment. May double as **STUDENTS, LITTLE TOMÁS, LITTLE NANCY, CHIPMUNK,** and **LITTLE GEORGIE**. Any gender.

TIPPY-TOE – Squirrel narrator. Doreen's best friend and crime-fighting partner. Female identifying

DOREEN GREEN – a.k.a. Squirrel Girl. Our hero, college freshman, positive, enthusiastic, protective. Female identifying.

DOCTOR DOOM – Obsessive, humorless super villain. Any gender.

TOMÁS LARA-PEREZ – College freshman, former cheerleader, Doreen's crush. Male identifying.

NANCY WHITEHEAD – College freshman, Doreen's dorm roommate. Female identifying.

BRIGHTMIND – Luminous computer science professor. Doubles as **GOOD TEACHER**. Any gender.

SMARTNOGGIN – Brightmind's offstage teaching assistant. Doubles as **MEAN TEACHER**. Any gender.

FREAK – Freaky new teaching assistant. Any gender.

MODOC – Suspicious substitute professor and super villain whose brain houses a giant computer. Any gender.

Marvel Spotlight aims to create compelling plays with teenage protagonists who tackle real-world problems in a diverse society. Licensees are encouraged to approach casting in a way that values equal representation and inclusion while promoting conversation and respect. Characters designated “any gender” should be costumed to reflect the gender identity of the performers.

SETTING

Empire State University

TIME

Present

PROLOGUE

Theater

(**TIPPY-TOE** enters with **SQUIRREL CHORUS**.)

CHORUS. (*sings a fierce theme song of their own creation*)

SQUIRREL GIRL, SUPER HERO
SHE'S THE STRONGEST ONE IN THE WORLD
SHE'S UP-FRONT! SHE'S POSITIVE!
FIGURING OUT THE BEST WAY TO LIVE
SQUIRREL GIRL, WATCH OUT!
HERE COMES SQUIRREL GIRL!

TIPPY-TOE. Today, dear friends, we present a dramatic work
like no other.

SQUIRREL 1. This is a story of adventure, secrets, and truth.

CHORUS. Heck yeah!

SQUIRREL 2. It's a story of fierce female energy.

CHORUS. That's right!

SQUIRREL 3. And the power of squirrels!

CHORUS. Sensational (*sung*)

SQUIRRELS!

TIPPY-TOE. Starring:

(**DOREEN** enters and takes place in line.)

DOREEN. Doreen Green as our fabulous hero: Squirrel
Girl.

CHORUS. Protagonist!

(**DOCTOR DOOM** enters and takes place in
line.)

DOCTOR DOOM. (*reading script or program, confused*)
Doctor Doom as... Baddie Number 2? Me? Doctor
Doom? Really?

CHORUS. Antagonist... Number 2!

(TOMÁS enters and takes place in line.)

TOMÁS. Tomás Lara-Perez as Doreen's new college friend.

CHORUS. Potential Crush!

(NANCY enters and takes place in line.)

NANCY. Nancy Whitehead as Doreen's college roommate.

CHORUS. Potential Best Friend!

(BRIGHTMIND enters and takes place in line.)

BRIGHTMIND. Brightmind as the Engaged, Innovative, and Dynamic computer science professor.

CHORUS. Good Teacher!

(MODOC enters and takes place in line.)

MODOC. Modoc as the suspicious substitute computer science professor.

CHORUS. Antagonist... Number 1!

DOCTOR DOOM. Really??

TIPPY-TOE. And other characters to be introduced later or... presented in flashback.

CHORUS. Fabulous Flashback!

TIPPY-TOE. *(to audience)* I am Tippy-Toe, Squirrel Girl's long-time crime-fighting partner and best friend.

DOREEN. Tippy, only people with squirrel powers can understand you.

TIPPY-TOE. In our play, the audience can understand me because I have the coveted role of the narrator. And these sassy squirrels are the:

CHORUS. Greek chorus!

TIPPY-TOE. Now, let's get started.

(All except TIPPY-TOE and CHORUS exit.)

SCENE ONE

Empire State University

TIPPY-TOE. *(formally announces to the audience)* “Scene One: The Beginning.”

SQUIRREL 1. Setting:

SQUIRREL 2. Empire State University.

SQUIRREL 3. Move-in day.

(DOREEN enters carrying a large box of clanking contents as if it were light as a feather.)

DOREEN. I thought this day would never come.

SQUIRREL 2. What’s in that big heavy box, Squirrel Girl?

DOREEN. Lots of nuts.

CHORUS. *(reveals slogan t-shirts)* Eat Nuts and Kick Butts!

TIPPY-TOE. Squirrel Girl Forever!

DOREEN. Except... don’t call me Squirrel Girl here.

TIPPY-TOE. Oh, right... *(to audience)* “High School Graduation.”

CHORUS. Flashback!

(DOREEN puts down her box to enter the flashback. TIPPY-TOE hands DOREEN a cap and gown with a huge squirrel tail as the CHORUS hums a sassy squirrel version of “Pomp and Circumstance.”)

DOREEN. I love this pompous song.

(DOCTOR DOOM enters.)

DOCTOR DOOM. I am Doctor Doom!

CHORUS. Antagonist Number 2!

(DOCTOR DOOM sneers at the second-class designation.)

DOCTOR DOOM. I am here to ensure my domination of the world by stopping you from graduating, Squirrel Girl!

DOREEN. A high school diploma is a powerful thing, and I've earned it.

DOCTOR DOOM. Stop graduating... or I will hurt your friends!

(**DOCTOR DOOM** *grabs* **TIPPY-TOE**.)

TIPPY-TOE. He's got me!

(**TIPPY-TOE** *bites* **DOCTOR DOOM**.)

DOCTOR DOOM. Ouch! You bit me!

(**DOREEN**, **TIPPY-TOE**, and **CHORUS** *strike a martial arts defensive pose against* **DOCTOR DOOM**. *Maybe they fight.*)

DOREEN. Doctor Doom, why are you intimidated by accomplished young women?

DOCTOR DOOM. Because you do good things!

DOREEN. You know... The Future Is Female—

DOCTOR DOOM. The Future Is... You Failing!

DOREEN. I overcame standardized testing, A.P. History, and Coach Grumby's health class to get here. You will not stop me from graduating!

(**DOREEN** *throws her cap in the air, maybe slo-mo.*)

DOCTOR DOOM. Nooooo!

CHORUS. (*sung*)

SHE GRADUATES! OH YEAH! SHE GRADUATES!

DOCTOR DOOM. I will find you in college, Squirrel Girl. And I will make you, and everyone you love, regret that you ever graduated high school! HA-HA-HA!

DOREEN. Not funny, Doctor Room.

DOCTOR DOOM. Doctor *Doom*!

DOREEN. You have bad comic timing, Doctor Zoom.

DOCTOR DOOM. Doom. Doom! DOOOOOOOOOOOOM.

DOREEN. Because you have no patience, Doctor.

(**DOCTOR DOOM** *pauses, gets big, and then lets out a big laugh.*)

DOCTOR DOOM. “Patients, Doctor”... I get it! That’s funny.
But it also makes me—

(**DOCTOR DOOM** and **CHORUS** groan.)

DOREEN. It’s what we call a “dad joke.”

DOCTOR DOOM. I always wanted a dad.

DOREEN. Oh, I’m sorry. I didn’t realize—

DOCTOR DOOM. Maybe my toxic personality results from
the lack of positive role models.

DOREEN. (*super sensing something odd*) Doctor Doom... is
that really you?

DOCTOR DOOM. If I had people who cared, people who
made me laugh...

DOREEN. Why don’t you take up comic improv? Maybe
you need less “but no...” and more “Yes, *and...*”

DOCTOR DOOM. But no—

DOREEN. (*using trust as a tactic*) I’ve never said this
to anyone, Doctor Doom, but I’ve always wanted a
sibling.

DOCTOR DOOM. Well, you are an only child...

DOREEN. How did you know?

DOCTOR DOOM. (*whips out a Squirrel Girl comic book*)

I studied you. At age twelve you began to discover you
had the proportional strength and agility of a squirrel.
You have an aptitude for numbers and a great can-do
attitude. You are the only super hero in the world who
has never been defeated, which is why you are my
ultimate target!

DOREEN. Yeah, that’s cool, but all I really want is to make
great friends in college. Like really close friends.

DOCTOR DOOM. Squirrel Girl, how does one make close
friends?

DOREEN. I’m not really sure.

DOCTOR DOOM. By sharing, perhaps?

DOREEN. But sharing... what?

DOCTOR DOOM. Let me share this advice: WATCH YOUR BACK. Because I will hunt you down in college and destroy your new “really close friends.” HA-HA-HA!

(**DOCTOR DOOM** *storms off.*)

CHORUS. End of flashback!

TIPPY-TOE. Hey! Why are you so hyped about new friends?

DOREEN. I love you, Tippy-Toe, but there are some human things that I think only another human would understand. Understand?

TIPPY-TOE. But no—

DOREEN. So now I’ll just be Doreen Green so I can protect my new friends... that I don’t have yet.

TIPPY-TOE. How are you going to make new friends if you can’t be your squirrel self?

DOREEN. Doreen Green *is* myself!

TIPPY-TOE. Well, yeah, but not your whole self...

(**DOREEN** *takes a deep breath and picks up her box.*)

SCENE TWO

Outside the Dorm

(**TOMÁS** enters.)

TOMÁS. Hello.

CHORUS. Tomás!

(**TOMÁS** startles **DOREEN**, and the box falls.)

TIPPY-TOE. Up next: “Doreen Meets Tomás.”

CHORUS. Too cute!

TOMÁS. Hey. Are you okay?

DOREEN. I am okay. (*notices that **TOMÁS** is really cute*) I’m fine. I’m great. Wow. You’re great. What? Awesome school, huh? Do your eyes always sparkle like that?

TOMÁS. Um... I came over to see if you needed help. I’m sorry I startled you.

DOREEN. No, I’m clumsy.

(**DOREEN** picks up the heavy box. We hear clanky noises within, maybe a “moo,” or popping popcorn.)

TOMÁS. (*flirty*) No, I am.

DOREEN. Okay... you are.

(**DOREEN** and **TOMÁS** do-si-do a little.)

TOMÁS. (*laughs*) I like this little dance.

DOREEN. But no. I don’t dance. (*laughs and lets the box fall again*) You know, my poor popcorn popper isn’t going to survive this day.

TOMÁS. I’m so sorry.

DOREEN. Oh... it’s okay. Who needs popcorn?

TOMÁS. It’s a carb. And a grain. And delicious.

CHORUS. Mmm... popcorn...

DOREEN. Did you know a single kernel pops with such force it can be propelled up to three feet in the air?

TOMÁS. Cool. I’m Tomás. And you are?

CHORUS. (*jazz hands*) Squirrel Girl!

(**DOREEN** gestures “Quiet!” **CHORUS** freezes –
oops.)

DOREEN. My name is Doreen. Doreen Green. I’m moving in.

TOMÁS. I moved in yesterday.

DOREEN. Are you a first-year too?

TOMÁS. Yep, freshman – majoring in computer science!

DOREEN. Me too! I so want to study with Professor Brightmind.

TOMÁS. Me too! Brightmind is considered the best teacher in the field.

DOREEN. Engaged!

TOMÁS. Innovative!

TOMÁS & DOREEN. And Dynamic!

DOREEN. I’ve always wanted to bridge the worlds of technology and human psychology.

TOMÁS. Yes! Artificial intelligence can improve the world when coupled with human compassion.

DOREEN. Coupled. For sure.

TOMÁS. Amazing. I wonder what more we have in common.

DOREEN. Well... I like squirrels.

TOMÁS. I like chipmunks.

DOREEN. Ha-ha-ha.

TOMÁS. Ha-ha-ha. Here, let me help with this box.

(**TOMÁS** tries to pick up the box but can’t.

DOREEN quickly and easily takes it in her arm.)

DOREEN. No! I got it. No worries. See you in class tomorrow.

TOMÁS. You are strong, girl!

DOREEN. I mean, yeah, I am strong, but like in a kick-ass, girls-belong-in-the-House-and-the-Senate-and-the-White-House kind of way... not in like a

woo-hoo-super-hero way. Like, I'm totally outstanding, but still a regular human.

TOMÁS. Totally, a regular human.

DOREEN. And I've never had a boyfriend. Like, I've kissed a guy, but never like been really committed to a relationship – argghhh!

CHORUS. Awkward!

DOREEN. Um. Yeah. Okay. Bye.

TOMÁS. Bye.

(DOREEN goes to her dorm.)

WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

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