



# The Cosmic Playmate

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In a dark, high-tech lab beneath Chicago, the blue-skinned Mauler Twins argue over a screaming dimensional machine. Energy spirals across the ceiling, crackling with an unstable power that threatens to tear the fabric of space apart.



The machine collapses inward into a blinding point of white light, and a man with curly black hair and a white jacket steps out. He wears a wide, innocent smile, looking around the ruined laboratory with the wide-eyed wonder of a child seeing the world for the first time.



The stranger points a finger at a simple coffee mug, instantly transforming it into a tiny, armored squirrel that lets out a high-pitched battle cry. As the laboratory continues to warp and melt like rubber around him, the man claps his hands in pure, delighted joy.



Inside the Global Defense Agency, Cecil Stedman and Donald stare at monitors showing chaotic energy readings that defy all known physics. The screens display matter being rewritten at random across the globe, signaling the arrival of a being far more unpredictable than any Viltrumite.



Mark Grayson and Eve watch in disbelief as the sky over their city turns a deep shade of purple and the clouds transform into schools of swimming fish. Gravity loses its grip, sending cars drifting into the air while a nearby dog begins to converse politely in fluent French.



A massive, fifty-foot-tall version of the smiling man appears above the downtown skyscrapers, his voice echoing like thunder across the city. He waves a giant hand at the panicked crowds below, announcing to the world that he has arrived and is looking for new friends to play with.



The Beyonder grabs Invincible by the shoulders and whisks him through a dizzying blur of dimensions in the blink of an eye. They stand on the rings of Saturn, plunge into the heart of a volcano, and finally land on a planet made entirely of giant, floating cheeseburgers.



In an attempt to be helpful, the Beyonder turns an entire neighborhood into solid gold to help a man in need, causing the buildings to groan under their own weight. He smiles brightly, unaware that his gifts are causing total economic collapse and mass confusion across the internet.



High in Earth's orbit, Omni-Man watches with a grim expression as the Beyonder playfully juggles several of the solar system's moons like they were colorful rubber balls. Nolan realizes that this entity possesses a power that dwarfs even the strongest warriors of the Viltrum Empire.



Mark stands between his father and the cosmic visitor, trying to explain that the Beyonder isn't malicious, just misunderstood. However, Omni-Man prepares for battle, sensing that a being with the power of a god and the mind of a child is the most dangerous threat the universe has ever faced.