

VILLAINEX – PAULA BRETT – SYNOPSIS EASY READ

The show is about a Hero called X. The play begins by showing them reciting the rules of being a Hero. They tell the audience that secretly, they don't like how restricted the Hero life is and they don't want to live that way any more.

They see a Villain outside their window. X wants to be free and confident, just like the villain. X decides to run away. They try to tell their lover, called Pax, but they cannot find her. X runs away from the castle.

X finds their new Villain home. They know that all good villains have three things: an outfit, a sidekick, and a Villain Song.

They try on some outfits, some very feminine, some very masculine. They think about a time when they were younger, and had to wear an outfit that itched and was uncomfortable, but they were afraid of disappointing their parents. They choose an outfit they like.

X then goes to meet some creatures to become their sidekick. They find meeting all the new people overwhelming, and some people are unfriendly. However, they eventually find a sidekick they get on with, and they arrange to meet up the next night.

Back in their villain lair, X practises their Villain Song. They choose the name Villainex for themselves. They feel confident, and ready to go and be validated as a villain by a panel of Villains at the Emerging Villains International Linkup.

They now realise that they are running late to collect their sidekick. The sidekick is angry about this, and refuses to go with Villainex to the meetup. They go to the ceremony alone.

Villainex gets into the council meeting. The space is very dark, loud and busy. The judges are cruel and teasing about everything from their clothes to their pronouns. Villainex realises they would never have been welcomed into that space in the first place. Embarrassed and ashamed, they leave.

Suddenly, the fiancée that Villainex's parents chose for them in the Hero realm shows up. He tries to suggest that Villainex return to their old life and marry him. Villainex feels hopeless and ashamed, and agrees to go back.

There is lots of activity as the Hero realm prepares for the wedding. Just as the couple are about to say I do, Pax arrives on a dragon and rescues Villainex.

As the pair escape, Pax tells her story. She lives among the mundane, those who are not a Hero or a Villain. She shares that she loves the natural beauty of her home, and she reflects on the abuse she has received due to her social class. She tells us that being a Hero or a Villain provides no real security, because both are dependant on a very specific set of privileges.

X decides to live among the mundane. They tell the audience that they help out in the community more, and help other people, and that helps them to find belonging. They wish they had more help, but they want to help other young queer people too. They feel accepted and valued in their new life.