

Goin' Down the Drain

Swipe - A dealer who specializes in toilet paper
Nina - A messenger who delivers toilet paper to different clients
Syn (pronounced sin) - Karma guard, misses the way the world used to be
Benjamin Horrible - Another Karma guard, has never seen a world besides this one
Squish - Part of the group Mirah
Temmie - Another Mirah group member

SETTING

Almost two decades after the world ended, humans are trying to recover and survive. To make sure they'd stay alive, most have joined together into different groups that each have their own cultures and benefits. In the city where this story takes place, there are two main groups that regularly feud over land and resources. The group from the North inside the city call themselves Karma, while the group from the South, mostly situated in farmland, call themselves Mirah. Before the world ended, there were PSA that told people to get ready for the disasters. Therefore, many people stocked up on essentials, such as food, water, medicine, etc. But most of the public overlooked one important item necessary to comfortable human living. Toilet paper. As a result, those who had this resource decided to graciously share and provide the underprivileged public with their excess supply. For a reasonable price, of course.

Act I Scene I

Swipe is sitting on a chair center stage with legs dangling off the armrest

Swipe

yawns and moves hands behind head

Ahhh..... Was it only 17 years ago that the world ended? Good times, good times. What great luck I have! It pays to be smart. It pays to be prepared. **stands up suddenly and leans on the side of the chair** It pays to be THIS handsome **suggestive eyebrows**

Nina

from offstage

Oh, get over yourself already.

Swipe

scowls toward direction of voice

Oh, Nina? You're not dead yet? What a shame.

Nina

enter stage left to center stage wearing backpack

whistling Wouldn't do if your messenger got killed on the job.
takes off backpack and pulls out paper from pocket You've got new orders. The Karma wants about 10 rolls as payment for their next job.

Swipe

They'll get their reward once they actually complete their jobs. Tell them I said that.

Nina

Sure, Swipe. In other news, the leader of that new group in the East said he doesn't want our business and threw me out. But several freelancers located in the territory have requested at most 5 rolls.

Swipe

with admiration Those sly dogs. Looks like tension will only grow from here. I almost pity them, the stupid mules.

Nina

But you don't care what happens to them, do you?

Swipe

I care! To an extent. Businesses can't run if there aren't any customers left.

Nina

Swipe, you're horrible.

Swipe

It's not my fault! People were horrible to me, why should I care what happens to them? I, am a victim!

Nina

Oh, please. How were YOU ever a victim?

Swipe

with mocking sadness in voice Let me spare you the tale of sad, young Swipe Schooley, whose father was the village idiot and local plumber. Surprisingly, he went on to be a ruthless businessman in the manufacturing of toilets. My father thought it would be funny to give his children... "Unique" names. For instance, my sisters were named Trash, Disappointment, Failure, and Debby. Only *I* was spared. He named me Swipe. But for some reason the other children at school found it funny that my father worked with bathrooms and my name rhymed with wipe. *mocking the children mocking his name* "WI-IPE, WI-IPE, NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH NAH!" It was humiliating! Children are horrible.

Nina

... *waiting for continuation to story*

Swipe

waiting for her to respond ... well?

Nina

Wait, that's it? Kids called you names so now you have a total disregard for human life unless it benefits you in some way?

Swipe

Yes.

Nina

throws hands into air UNBELIEVABLE!

Swipe

matter of factly it's sad when you're the heir of a vast kingdom and the only throne you'll ever inherit is made of porcelain *shaking head*

enter running from stage left Syn and Benjamin Horrible

Benjamin Horrible

There you are, Nina!

Syn

Why didn't you stop when we called you back there?

Benjamin Horrible

Whoa... What is this place? Is this your house?

Swipe

waves to them and smirks

Nina

Out, out, OUT! *escorts them to stage left* *irritatedly* Didn't I tell you two that my source was SECRET and you shouldn't follow me back home!?

Syn

It's so very important to our young friend Benjamin Horrible, though!

Nina

What could be SO important that you followed me through enemy infested territory and 5 miles of desert?

Benjamin Horrible

You left your bandana at our base.

Nina

. . . *snatches it from his hand and smacks the back of his head playfully* You need to stop being dumb.

Syn

I'm afraid that's too much to ask of our friend Benjamin here.
scruffles his hair playfully

Swipe

sneaks up behind Nina and reaches over her shoulder to snatch the bandana from Nina's hands It's very nice to actually meet you two in person! *with a nice tone, but an underlying disgust* Benjamin Horrible and Syn, yes? *as he says this he uses the bandana to

"accidentally" hit Syn in the face with it* Nina doesn't bring home many friends these days, so this is a most joyous occasion! Let me get straight to the point, boys. *throws bandana away and Nina scurries to pick it up* You gentleman are already enjoying the service that I provide, but may I interest you in some... Extra offers? *beginning to open trench coat* *Closes it quickly and smile falls* That is, of course, IF you get caught up on your payments, Karma. Like your name, what goes around comes around, And this just might come back to haunt you. *all smiles* This is for future reference of course, since I'm confident you'll get caught up within the week, won't you, boys? I'm a patient guy, I'm kind. Don't worry about it too much.

Syn

We'll try to do the job you ordered us to do. It's just been... difficult. Plus we've been busy this past week.

Swipe

pats both of them on the back Of course! Understandable, boys. COMPLETELY understandable! Just get 'er done. Now, about those extra offers???

Benjamin Horrible

Well, we're not supposed t-

Syn

Sure. Whatcha got?

Swipe

Excellent, gentlemen. Excellent! *opens coat* *as Swipe names them he throws them off stage.* I have 1 ply, 2 ply, school grade, decorated, quilted, name brand, off brand, paper towels, the cardboard tube, organic (it's a plastic leaf), scented, sandpaper, and used. (Its colored to look like it's been "used") *Swipe realized he just threw out all of the merchandise* ... I have some more in the back since I just WASTED all of these.*grins and waits for laughter...* DANGIT Nina. *storms offstage to retrieve them*

Syn

Ummmm... I think we're good, actually. Right, Benjamin?

Benjamin Horrible

Yup! *referring to Swipe* He's pretty excitable.

Nina

You guys should head back. It's getting dark and the wastelands get even more dangerous at night time.

Syn

We can take care of ourselves, Nina. You worry about you.

Benjamin Horrible

I guess we'll see you tomorrow. *waves* bye.

Syn and BH exit

Nina

sits down by the side of the chair (center stage) for Swipe to return

Act I Scene II

Nina is sitting on the floor next to the chair. No one else is on stage.

Nina

whistling to herself

Swipe

staggers in from stage right covered in toilet paper, acting drunk with a tie around his forehead Whooo! Well that took *burp* a long time to clean up! Where did those guys go?

Nina

I know you weren't cleaning up that whole time. Do you think i'm stupid? It didn't take all night to pick up like, 3 rolls.

Swipe

... So I might've gone out for a few drinks. No big deal. I'm alive, you're alive, nothing's stolen. It's all good. *stumbles* *shakes head*

Nina

hmpfh *continues whistling*

Swipe

... *slurring* That's one annoying habit I wish you would break, Nina.

Nina

stops whistling Sorry. Can't help it.

Swipe

Well, learn to help it quick. I'm expecting some new customers in a few minutes and I don't want them disturbed by your pitchy excuse for a melody.

Nina

Syn said he likes my humming. He said that it was his favorite song.

Swipe

regains composure and straightens appearance Do I look like that lowlife?

Nina

rolls eyes So what's this about "new customers"? I thought you had every faction eating out of your palm by now.

Swipe

drapes tie over his throne Hmm? Oh. Question, Nina. Remind me, what group were those boys from yesterday?

Nina

Karma. The group from the North inside the city. Why?

Swipe

Oh. No reason in particular. It just seems that tensions are growing between Karma and Mirah again- You know how they fight over EVERYTHING. It's good to be uninvolved, that way you can take advantage of both of them. I heard some Mirah talking last night at the bar I went to. They were strategizing attacks for later this week against the Karma. Ambushes mostly.

Nina

Then let's warn Benjamin and Syn!

Swipe

slumps down into throne Nope! No can do. I can't betray the trust of my new consumers.

Nina

But they could get hurt, or worse. They're my friends.

Swipe

Well, you obviously have a poor choice in friends, Nina.

Nina

But they're also YOUR customers, YOUR business!

Swipe

That might be true. But darling, I'm a firm believer in things taking their natural course. It's not fun if you're in the middle of the mess. *stands up and lurks towards the lip of the stage, staring straight at the audience* The best seat in the house is in the audience, safely watching the chaos from a distance. Maybe sometimes you poke the bear with a stick, but other than urging it along, I don't get involved with people. *turns back towards Nina* And I don't want you to get involved either, Nina. *runs and hugs her* *blatantly overdramatized and sarcastic* I just couldn't stand the very THOUGHT of you getting hurt! Plus, I don't want to do the routes myself, it's way too hot out there.

Nina

smiles awkwardly and pushes him off Just hear me out, Swipe. If we don't do anything, there's gonna be war at our doorstep.

Swipe

Then it's a good thing we're not soldiers.

the sound of footsteps in heels resonates through the air

as Nina goes to continue arguing, puts hand up to shush her Shush now, we'll talk more later. The new clients are here. *Takes seat in throne*

enter stage right Squish and Temmie

Squish

Yoohoo, mister! I brought along my friend Temmie!

Temmie

blows bubble with bubble gum *extremely monotone* Hey.

Swipe

waves Pleased to make your acquaintance.

Temmie

Yeah.

Nina

goes to shake Squish's hand Welcome, my name's Nin-

Squish

brushes past Nina and talks directly to Swipe Yeah, yeah. That's great lady. Are we gonna do this or not, mister? I haven't got all day and my friend and I have to be back in a couple of hours for our shift. You said you had some things we might be interested in last night. Watcha got?

Swipe

nodding Straight to the point. I like that.

Squish

Thanks!

Swipe

stands up proudly Well, ladies. I have toilet paper! 1 ply, 2 ply, school grade-

Temmie

interrupts Toilet paper? *blows bubble* That's pretty dumb.

Squish

Ha! I thought you had something useful. C'mon Temmie. This guy's just wasting our time.

Nina

Oh God, not this again. *promptly exits*

Swipe

A waste of time? ... A WASTE, ... of time?! My dear! It's saddening to hear such disgusting words coming out of such a pretty face. *Pinches Squish's cheeks* Let's play a game of trivia, Miss Squish. Please, remind me what happened almost 2 decades ago.

Squish

My name's not Sq- *is interrupted by Swipe shushing her by putting finger over her mouth*

Temie

... *pops bubble*

Swipe

Your name is Squish now. Squish, Tell me what happened 17 years ago. Go ahead, jog my memory. *looking away from Squish*

Squish

tries lowering Swipe's finger to speak

Swipe

puts finger up again to her lips

Squish

tries lowering the finger to speak

Swipe

puts finger up to her lips AGAIN

Squish

agitatedly smacks hand out of the way

Swipe

Hey! *pouts and holds hand like it's hurt*

Squish

dramatically 17 years ago was the day the world ended.

Swipe

aside to self Got your dumb lipstick on my finger.

Squish

sternly It was the day the world ended, mister.

Swipe

Huh? Oh. OH. Yes! Yes that's what it was! DING DING DING! Next question! When the end did come along, were you prepared?

Temmie

Yeah. practically everyone was.

Squish

You should know, Mister. The government sent out those Public Service Announcements to everyone before it disbanded.

Swipe

reminiscent Ah, yes. Back when the only problems young people cared about was how many followers they had and if Brad was dating Jessica or some other nonsense. Now they had to fight for survival in a desolated world by themselves without the comfort of technology. How romantic! *picks teeth* Anyways, you are correct. The world knew it was coming years in advance, so everyone was prepared. Final question, this one's for all the marbles Miss Squish. On a scale of 1 - 10, how would you rate your preparedness? Tell me. And remember, this is for my personal enjoyment, so be honest. *uses hand like a microphone for Squish to talk into*

Squish

getting caught up in the moment and playing along Well I had water, food, medical supplies, all the basic human needs. So I'd say a strong 8.

Temmie

is now on the other side of Swipe opposite Squish. takes his hand and also uses it as a microphone I joined Mirah early on. Even before the disaster. They took care of me.

Swipe

Food, water, medicine, all that gross stuff. It's all so BORING! What was the one thing you forgot? Hmm? The one, GLORIOUS necessity that everyone overlooked?! *fanfare like* DA DA DA DAAAAA!!!! *spins around and holds up a roll of toilet paper triumphantly* TOILET PAPER!!! ONLY I WAS SMART ENOUGH TO STOCK UP ON THIS WHITE GOLD. It's a necessity that no one realizes they really need until it's too late! By that time, you're doomed and helpless. Destined to sit and rot away forever on your porcelain grave. That is why this *holds up toilet paper like life saving water* is SO important!

Temmie

nonchalantly takes out her gum and puts it on the roll

Swipe

... Lucky for you, this was going to be your free sample. *tosses over shoulder*

Squish

Actually, I had a lot of toilet paper prepared beforehand.

Swipe

Warehouses full? Enough to last you AND YOUR FRIENDS the rest of your mortal lives?

Temmie

Nobody has that.

Swipe

I DO! And that's what I'm offering you and your group, ladies. Paper. Heaven.

Squish

And this is legit? completely legit? No strings attached?

Swipe

Twirls around Temmie and Squish Yes! All this for a low, low, REASONABLE price of course!

Temmie and Squish exchange looks and nod

Squish

You have a deal mister! Thanks a lot! Temmie, present the payment, please.

Temmie

hands Swipe a thick wad of cash

Swipe

shakes head and laughs No, no, no. *makes incorrect buzzer sound* Wrong. *drops the cash on the ground and kicks it away* It's the end of the world, ladies. You think money has any value? I require payment that's actually worth something.

Squish

Like what exactly?

Temmie

puts another piece of gum in mouth I got gum. *gestures to Squish* She has a knife. The Mirah has a large supply of weapons if that's what you're after.

Swipe

You people disgust me. I have no need of weapons. I'm in need of favors, of ... "employees" per say. I give you a job, you complete it on time, I pay you with how much product you've ordered. Pretty sweet deal. In fact, I'll sweeten it up even more.

Temmie

What do you mean by that?

Swipe

I heard that you Mirah were having trouble with the Karma. They just so happen to be my other clients, and frankly, I'm tired of them not being able to complete their work on time. Two of them specifically. There're a couple of guards positioned on the west side of Karma's main base. Syn and little Benjamin Horrible. Let me offer you a

friendly tip, action is all that matters in this world. When you don't DO what you're told, you're gonna have a bad time. Frankly, you Mirah have more resources and more consumers, so it would be wiser to side with you. Your first task would be to get rid of your competition, Benny boy and Syn. But you were gonna do that soon anyways, weren't you? Aren't I generous and thoughtful? Just do it today and you've got a deal for life. Or when I feel it's necessary to break our little pact.

Temmie

Seems fair, for now. *picks up the money*

Squish

Thanks a lot, mister.

Swipe

takes Squish's hand and kisses while bowing Please, call me Swipe, Miss Squish.

Temmie and Squish exit stage right, as they do so, swipe waves goodbye to them.

Nina

enters stage left Did they buy it?

Swipe

Yup! I guess you could say, *does cartwheel and lands on floor* I was on a ROLL.

Nina

Nina groans Oh, God. Please don't.

Swipe

rolls onto stomach and puts head in hands and lifts feet up in a very cute way I'm glad they found me quite, CHARMIN'.

Nina

Sometimes I can't stand you, Swipe

Swipe

shrugs and smirks smugly

I know. *gets up from floor*

Nina

I guess i'll go plot a route for Mirah territory. I'll be in my room.
leaves again

Swipe

to himself

Well Nina, I hope you aren't that fond of your Karma boys.

ACT I SCENE III

Set changes to Karma base. BH and Syn are standing with spears guarding the base.

Benjamin Horrible

Tell me again about the world back then? I love your stories..

Syn

Not now Ben. We need to focus on protecting the base.

Benjamin Horrible

Please? Oo! Tell me more about music! What was music like? *staring in awe at syns face*

Syn

sigh fine, what do you want to know about it?

Benjamin Horrible

I don't know, what was it exactly?

Syn

It's like... Well, when you listen to it, you feel... Heck, I don't know. It's hard to explain. *sits down on lip of stage, Benjamin Horrible sits down next to his mentor* Music was a refuge, it was some people's whole lives. Just the sound of it was sweeter than poetry and richer than honey. You could be having the worst day of your life, but when you turned on the right song, all of that would just melt away. You'd turn the music up and you'd turn the world down. It really didn't matter what you were hearing, what really mattered was the way it made

you FEEL. That's why music was SO important. In my mind, the day the world ended wasn't when the storms hit or when the weapons were fired. The day the world ended was when we forgot about music.

Benjamin Horrible

with innocence NOT sass Wow Syn... did you like, practice that in the mirror or something?

Syn

Haha. No. *stands up* I guess I just miss the old world. You'd be in school and i'd be at a job and we wouldn't be fighting for our lives on a daily basis.

Benjamin Horrible

I'd rather fight for my life than go to school.

Syn

to himself Typical kid..

Hey Benjamin, i'm curious. You've never seen the old world, just heard about it in stories I told you. What do you think about this world? The Karma, the Mirah. Does it even make sense to you?

Benjamin Horrible

marching like a soldier, trying to impress Syn I might be a kid but that doesn't mean i'm oblivious, Syn. This whole thing is crazy. We Kamra are better, though. We focus on staying alive and helping people out. But the Mirah doesn't care about anyone or anything. They focus on having fun instead of helping people survive. *stops marching* They're really selfish. Kinda like Swipe. He gives us impossible assignments and treats us like puppets. There's no way we're going to hurt someone, especially Nina, just to get dumb toilet paper. Nina is our friend. If Swipe doesn't like her, he should just fire her. Maybe she could come live with us! That would be awesome!

Syn

We invited Nina to Karma already. She refused. I guess she's oblivious to how Swipe really is. I know they have a history, but I think it's about time she opens her eyes. Gratitude can only go so far, and Swipe clearly doesn't care, judging by him telling us to get rid of her.

Squish and Temmie enter scene quietly, waiting for the best time to cut in.

Benjamin Horrible

twirls spear She should hang out with us instead of him. We'd be happy together, all of us.

Syn

That's definitely something to shoot for. *scruffles his hair playfully*

Squish

Ahem! *BH and Syn turn to face where the sound is coming from, but Squish and Temmie have already moved behind them towards the middle* Woohoo! *Bh and Syn face the intruders* *Squish walks in between the two guards, playfully tipping the spears towards the floor* And you guys call yourselves guards.

Syn

raises spear threateningly Who are you and what business do you have here?

Benjamin Horrible

You a-are approaching Karma base. *lifts spear higher*

Squish

overly sincere OH! I'm sorry! were we intruding on your conversation? Oh, Temmie. That was really rude of us! *snaps fingers* say sorry.

Temmie

blows bubble sorry... guys.

Benjamin Horrible

It's fine I guess. *lowers guard a bit*

Syn

unflinching I don't like the look of you two. What are your intentions?

Squish

Oh nothing really... *circles Syn and drags her finger across his shoulders flirtatiously* just have to take care of a little errand is all.

Syn

And what would that be?

Squish

joins Temmie We Mirah just entered into a little business deal with Swipe. You might know him. Trench coat, kinda off his rocker. Well, to put it frankly, you two have been replaced! Sorry! And old, useless trash like Karma isn't needed, is it Tem?

Syn pushes BH behind him to protect him

Temmie

All that matters in this world is action.

Squish

And for that very reason, it seems that Swipe sent us to take care of you boys. *takes out pocket knife* Now, don't make this harder than it has to be. After we take out you two, the Mirah is going to obliterate what's left of Karma! Now isn't that fun!

Syn

I'LL NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN! *rushes at her with spear*

Temmie quickly disarms Syn and Squish grabs Benjamin Horrible by the arm. She puts the pocketknife up to BH's neck

Squish

tsk tsk naughty, naughty.

Syn

YOU LET BENJAMIN GO!

Squish

tightens grip on BH Try me! you and your weak clan are no match for Mirah!

Syn runs at squish* *tackles to ground* *BH rolls away

Syn

struggling with squish

GO BENJAMIN! RUN!

continues struggling while BH gets up and runs away

BH exits stage right

Squish struggles and reaches over to stab Syn

At this point, the rest of the fighters should be onstage and brawling

Syn yells in pain

Squish breathes heavily as there is still fighting going on

Squish gets up and brushes off her dress then looks towards direction where BH ran

Squish starts after BH but is caught up with another fight going on

Act I Scene IV

Swipe is laying on throne while Nina sitting on ground organizing papers

Nina

**is still whistling the same song* *talking to herself while tracing the route on a map with her finger* Past the baseball stadium, down what's left of Kings Ranch Road, right at Gold Canyon, Through the Golf Course... Kay. The Mirah route is all planned out for next week.*

stands up and looks towards Swipe for approval

Swipe

**is tossing a roll of toilet paper up in the air like a ball, playing catch with himself* Cool.*

A clock chimes offstage, signaling to Nina that it's time to start her paper route

Nina

pockets the rest of her papers and puts on backpack* Guess i'll start my route. *starts heading out the door

Swipe

**no change in action or tone* Oh, that won't be necessary.*

Nina

**stops and turns around. takes a couple of steps towards Swipe* ... What do you mean? What are you talking about?*

Swipe

gets up from chair and stretches Well you see, if everything went like it was supposed to, there would be no one left to deliver TO. So why go out into the blazing sun for no reason when you can have a lazy day inside and eat some popcorn or something?

Nina

Walks up to Swipe Swipe. What are you talking about?

Swipe

Popcorn? It comes in little kernels and you heat it up and it goes
popping sounds like th-

Nina

-NOT the popcorn. The part about there being nobody left to deliver to.

Swipe

I did say that, didn't I? Oops. *starts to walk away*

Nina

grabs his arm and twirls him around. Lifts up Swipe by the collar in a burst of anger What did you do to Syn and Benjamin?

Swipe stares at Nina as she realizes her mistake. She shyly takes her hands off of his trench coat

Swipe

straightens collars They refused their assignment. And hey, like the name says, what goes around comes around.

Nina

more pleading than angry What have you done to my friends?

Swipe

I did nothing. I had others do it for me, of course.

Nina

turns away from Swipe *talking out loud to herself* I can't believe... I don't believe this.

Benjamin Horrible runs in from stage left glancing behind him, He bumps into Swipe on his way to Nina. BH stumbles past Swipe and falls at Nina's feet, blubbering.

All

*ad lib chaos and babble as people are confused and frantic and angry. *BH is talking incomprehensibly and Nina is trying to figure out what's going on/comfort him. Swipe is fuming because he doesn't have control of the situation for once.*

Nina

Whoa, whoa. Slow down Benjamin. I can't understand you.

Benjamin Horrible

between breathes and clinging to Nina Mirah attacked us. *pant* They killed Syn. *pant* It's all HIS fault! *points at Swipe* He ordered Syn and I to get rid of you, Nina. But we wouldn't. So he sent the Mirah and they killed Syn! *to Swipe* Syn was my FRIEND. LEMME AT HIM. *in a burst of fury tries to lunge at Swipe but Nina holds him back*

Nina

puts Benjamin Horrible behind her You ordered them to get rid of me?!

Swipe

proudly Yeah. I did. And I'm not sorry. I just wanted to change things up a bit, that's all. And if they just did their job, this whole mess would never have happened. *crosses over to BH and pokes him in the chest* And maybe then your friend wouldn't be dead.

Benjamin Horrible

... you- you *begins to cry, begins to run offstage stage left but Nina steps in his way*

Nina

Puts her arms around him and escorts him offstage Benjamin, wait for me outside. And don't worry. I'll take you somewhere safe.

Benjamin Horrible

exits stage left

Swipe and Nina walk towards each other and Nina completely loses control. They meet in front of Swipe's chair

Nina

I've wasted my life being your errand girl, but I can live with that.

Thought I was being loyal. *Nina pushes Swipe*

Thought I was being grateful *Nina gives Swipe a right hook*

But you've wasted Syn's life too, *Nina uppercuts him and Swipe lands in his chair, clutching at his nose*

And that's unforgivable.

Nina

Takes a moment to take in what she's done, then turns and joins BH offstage

Swipe

dabs at the blood dripping from his nose with his fingers and stands up. picks up the roll he was tossing earlier and wipes his nose. Discards that sheet and holds the roll outstretched in one hand admiringly

Swipe

laughing to himself

as if talking to the roll

Don't you just LOVE the end of the world?

curtains close

THE END