

"Pinx beneath the Pendulum!"

by

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DareDoll Pinx prepares for a cold day by slipping into a tight vinyl snowsuit in the DareDoll dressing room. As she is leaving, she regards a wide-screen monitor. She picks up a note that reads, "Turn me on." She turns it on.

NORMAN

Good, you got the memo!

PINX

Does this thing get The Weather Channel?

NORMAN

Even better! It will highlight the day's events for you, even before they've happened!

PINX

Like...a time machine?

NORMAN

We wanted a time machine, but it just wasn't in the budget this year. The economy. You know....

PINX

So you bought us a telepathic television.

NORMAN

Yes. So, would you like to see what's waiting for you in the old, abandoned Magic Factory today?

PINX

I don't know. It sounds kind of scary.

NORMAN

Well, just remember that it's only magic and it can't hurt you. Norman out!

The screen channel-switches to a brief alternative take from the upcoming episode: a buffing all over her prone DareDoll body! Pinx can only shudder at the events onscreen.

PINX

I can't take much more of this. Oh, I've got to turn this off!

She does so.

PINX
(exiting)
I'd better go. I'm going to be late
for work!

Pinx walks the maze, encountering signs that progressively taunt her: "You don't have the guts to come in here!" "Turn around now and you just might live!" "Pinx, be careful! This could be a trap!" and finally, "Can you lift it?!"--this last sign affixed to an arty little crystal globe. Pinx lifts it and is immediately buzzed to the floor by an electrical force, as the object hums warmly. A Peeper appears.

PEEPER
This lethal Peeper buzzer is
overpowering you, Pinx. One by one,
your five senses will leave you, as
the force works its way from boot
to puss!

Pinx wakes tied beneath the Pendulum. After the Peeper exits, she escapes by struggling just enough that the ropes binding her are severed by the blade.

Pinx resumes her search, but is overtaken by the Peeper, who shoots at her with metal bearings. The first few miss her, but we see as they stick to the wall around her that they light up with energy by the brief glow they give off. One of them finally sticks to Pinx, who manages to pull it off of herself with a "pop" but still succumbs to it. The Peeper moves in, smiling....

Pinx is buffed.

PEEPER
There's just enough energy left in
your body to feel this buffer all
over. It will remove all of the
anti-carnivorous plant particles in
your DareDoll suit. And then you
will be ready to eat!

Pinx finds herself finally encircled by vines, which tighten until she passes out. She wakes again only to find that the plant is now eating her with its monstrous petals.

PEEPER
Oh, poor Pinx! Around here, the
salad eats you!

Can she escape?