

**The Sidekick**  
**(A Mad Mabel Adventure)**  
by JoAnn Yeoman

**Time:** *The Present*

**Place:** *A large studio. There might be some silhouettes on the back wall/back-drop of exercise equipment. Set pieces as needed for the fight scene.*

**Cast:** *(two women)*

**Mad Mabel/Mabel Meehan-** *Early 30's. Very fit and confident. Owner and head instructor at the studio. She is dressed in a traditional gi with a black belt. \*\**

**Frieda** - *(female) A pupil in the class. 20's to 30s.*

*At rise of curtain it's closing time. MABEL is facing down right as she waves "goodnight" to the rest of the class who have just left the studio.*

MABEL

Good class, ladies. See you next week. Practice that side kick combination. Belt exams in three weeks. *(MABEL goes to the front desk, gets her cell and dials)* Hi honey. Great class tonight. Some of these gals are gonna' be pros; I can feel it. Yeah, I'll be home soon. I gotta' lock up and then stop at the grocery on the way. Love you back. *(MABEL replaces the phone and starts to hum a little tune. She exits into the wings down right. She soon re-enters, warms up a little, bows to an invisible partner, and begins practicing one of the combinations from class. She talks to herself.)* Good, good. OK, so I do this and then ... and then my opponent does this *(she switches sides as if she were playing both sides of a chess game)* and then *(switches again)* I do this. That was brilliant. I like being my own partner. *(MABEL is interrupted by a knock at the front door.)*

MABEL

*(moving downstage right toward "door")* Who is it?

FRIEDA *(from off stage right)*

It's Frieda. I think I left my cell phone in the studio just now. Can I come in and look?

MABEL

*(to Frieda)* Sure. I'll be right there. *(starts for the "door")* Don't feel bad. I lose my cell on a daily basis. *(MABEL is now off stage right)* Just be a minute while I find the right ... *(FRIEDA pushes her way into the studio, knocking MABEL off balance)*

MABEL

*(overlapping-style dialogue as she tries to repel the attack)*

What? Stop! Frieda! Are you crazy? What do you think you doing? *(The next scramble catches MABEL off guard and she is temporarily incapacitated)*

FRIEDA

I just need a little quick cash and I know you make a bundle here. Get it for me and I'll leave you alone. You'll never see me again.

MABEL (*angry, but strangely confident*)  
You know you're gonna' be very sorry for this.

(MABEL easily breaks free and begins to out-manuever FRIEDA.  
*The lights change isolating MABEL and FRIEDA who freezes in action. MABEL tears off her gi jacket exposing a superman-like" shirt or leotard that reads: Mad Mabel, Enforcer.)*

FRIEDA  
But you're ... you're... You're not real! You're a tall tale, like Paul Bunyon and those guys. There is no (*looks at MABEL's shirt again*) "Mad Mabel."

MABEL  
Not so tall and not so mythical. I'm the last legend standing. By day a shy martial arts instructor and by night "Mad Mabel Meehan" devoted to righting wrongs and apprehending villains. Might as well start with you. Let's see what you've learned in class.

The lights restore and FRIEDA unfreezes. *The ensuing battle is now in the hands of the stage-fight choreographer, including appropriate sound effects from the blows or breaking props. In a more formal production there could be rear-projections with the "cartoon" words BAM, POW, SMASH, THWACK, from the comic books. When MABEL has triumphed and FRIEDA is subdued, the dialogue continues.*

FRIEDA  
OK! Uncle! Uncle! (*she struggles to retrieve and wave a white kleenex*) For heaven sake -- I surrender.

MABEL  
Not a bad night's work (*MABEL pulls FRIEDA to her feet and ties her hands with the gi belt. Gets her cell phone once more*) Hi honey. Me again. Something came up. No nothing big. I just need to make one more stop on the way home. (*hangs up and faces FRIEDA*) That would be to the nearest police precinct!

The End

*\*\* gi - a lightweight two-piece white garment worn in judo and other martial arts. A gi typically consists of loose-fitting pants and a jacket that is closed with a cloth belt the color of which denotes the wearer's rank.*