

(Name of Show)

("Title of Episode")

by

(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by

(Names of Subsequent Writers,
in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by

(Current Writer, date)

Name (of company, if applicable)

Address

Phone Number

DEUS EX MACHINA, SPIDERMAN
BY SEAN TAYLOR 9/11/2013

INT. CLASSROOM - EVENING
(PETER PARKER, MR. CATULLUS)

PETER PARKER IS TIED UP AGAINST THE WALL AND MR. CATULLUS IS BEHIND HIS DESK HOLDING AN APPLE AND AN ON-OFF SWITCH.

PETER PARKER

It was you all along, Mr. Catullus.
Who knew my Latin teacher could be so
cruel?

MR. CATULLUS

That's right, Peter Parker. Not only
am I going to kill you, but I just
graded your midterm and, frankly, I'm
disappointed you don't know what deus
ex machina means.

PETER PARKER

Let me go! You'll never get away with
this!

MR. CATULLUS

It translates to "god from the
machine" and is often used a plot
device whereby an unsolvable problem
is suddenly and abruptly resolved from
a powerful outside force.

PETER PARKER

I'm going to get out of here and put a
stop to you and your nonsense.

MR. CATULLUS

But you can't. See, your spider powers are of no use to you in this room.

PETER PARKER

One of my friends will come for me.

MR. CATULLUS

Nope, 'fraid not. This might look like our classroom but we're two miles deep into the Earth's core.

PETER PARKER

Some other superhero then.

MR. CATULLUS

Now come on! Which superhero patrols the lower mantle?

PETER IS QUIET

MR. CATULLUS (CONT'D)

Exactly. It's that type of logic that made you miss deus ex machina. I spent an entire lecture on that one concept. Remember?

PETER PARKER

Um. Not really.

MR. CATULLUS

Remember when we had all of those examples from pop culture...like the Eagle rescuing Gandalf in LORD OF THE RINGS. Sound familiar?

PETER PARKER

Not really.

MR. CATULLUS

Too bad. Oh well, now when I flip this switch, you die. Good bye, Peter.

MR. CATULLUS GOES TO FLIP THE SWITCH AND THE EARTH MOVES, THE SWITCH DROPS AND MR. CATULLUS FALLS OVER. HE QUICKLY RECOVERS, GRABS THE SWITCH. PETER YELLS WHILE STILL BEING TIED UP.

PETER PARKER

Aha, deus ex machina!

MR. CATULLUS
(regains composure)

No, Peter.

PETER PARKER

But that was a powerful outside force.

MR. CATULLUS

Yes, but you're still tied up, helpless and powerless.

PETER ACKNOWLEDGES HIS ERROR WITH A SIGH

MR. CATULLUS (CONT'D)

See you get it now. Just in time for your death. Good bye, Spiderman.

MR. CATULLUS GOES TO FLIP THE SWITCH AND A GIGANTIC EAGLE FLIES IN CARRYING GANDALF. IT SWIRLS AROUND THEN EXITS. MR. CATULLUS SHUTS THE WINDOW.

PETER PARKER

Thank you, deus ex machina! Now, it's your turn, Mr. Catullus!

MR. CATULLUS

Peter!

PETER PARKER
(realizing he's still tied up)

Oh. But you said...

MR. CATULLUS

Yeah, in Lord of the Rings, it solved a problem. Here, it was just random.

PETER PARKER

Sort of makes sense though.

MR. CATULLUS

How so?

PETER PARKER

You know, "middle Earth"

MR. CATULLUS THINKS ABOUT IT FOR A SECOND AND GETS IT.

MR. CATULLUS

Oh. Oh yeah. Wait. Was that a pun?

PETER PARKER

Yeah.

MR. CATULLUS

Nooooo!!!! I can't stand puns. I'm melting.

MR. CATULLUS MELTS AWAY AND IS DYING

PETER PARKER

Finally, a deus ex machina that
worked!

MR. CATULLUS

Nope.

PETER PARKER

You're not dying?

MR. CATULLUS

Oh, I'm dying. But you're still
trapped!

MR. CATULLUS MELTS AWAY. PETER IS LEFT TIED UP.

BLACKOUT.