



# **CAPTAIN ZERO**

## **INTO THE ABYSS: PART II**

Written by  
Z Cher-Aimé

Based on characters created by  
Z Cher-Aimé

ZCheraime@gmail.com  
(772) 333-8387

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ACT I: "SQUASH?"

**BLACK.**

XERXES (V.O.)  
Superheroes are supposed to save  
the day right?

**OBLIVION** body slams Captain Zero into the ground.

**BLACK.**

A bloody and beaten Captain Zero heaves in agony but no sound comes out.

**BLACK.**

XERXES (V.O.)  
But who's gonna save me when I need  
saving?

Dr.Niobe's voice slowly **ECHOS** into focus.

DR.NIOBE (V.O.)  
Xerxes? Xerxes!

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Xerxes snaps out of his trance.

XERXES  
Yes! Sorry. You were saying?

DR.NIOBE  
You were saying that as a form of  
stress relief you play...*Squash?*

XERXES  
Squash?

Xerxes has a flashback of his face being **SLAMMED** into a wall by Oblivion's fist.

XERXES (CONT'D)  
Oh, right! Squash!

Dr.Niobe **SIGHS** then writes down "squash?" And circles it.

XERXES (CONT'D)

My friend Daisy and I formed this uh... *Squash* team. And every now and then we meet and just... squash it up.

EXT. IN FRONT OF ART MUSEUM - AFTERNOON

**POLICE SIRENS BLARE**, cop cars surround the museum. **SCREAMING PATRONS** rush out of the building. News reporter vans arrive along with **HELICOPTERS**.

NEWSCASTER

We're live on the scene. The police have the building surrounded. It's believed to be another Hyper-Human attack the likes of which this city has never seen.

Statues are **FLUNG** from the museum's rooftop onto cop cars. The news crew scrambles for cover.

*The blades of the helicopter aggressively blow debris around the crime scene.*

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

Folks, it is complete pandemonium out here and NTPD seems to be on the losing side of the-

The **POLICE CHIEF**, 40's, a burly man with a handlebar mustache walks in front of the News reporter.

POLICE CHIEF

I'm gonna have to ask you to step back sir, this is an active crime scene. And let me assure you, NTPD has everything under control.

Another large sculpture **goes through the roof** of the museum.

POLICE CHIEF (CONT'D)

*Move your asses!*

The news crew and the officer scatter. Several squad cars are **crushed** by the *tumbling sculpture*. *It continues to tumble, and heads directly toward The Police Chief*. He braces for impact.

**CRASSH!!!** He opens his eyes and sees the sculpture crushed against a wall, right where he would have been. He looks up and sees Captain Zero above him.

Buttafly girl flies down and Captain Zero extends his hand. The Chief slaps it away and helps himself up.

POLICE CHIEF (CONT'D)  
I could haul your asses to jail  
just for being here.

BUTTAFLY GIRL  
Cute. I think there's more pressing  
matters at hand.

A vein the size of Texas pulsates on the Police Chief's bald head.

POLICE CHIEF  
Me and my men are *more* than capable  
of handling the situation.

BUTTAFLY GIRL  
You mean *those* men?

She points to a *pile* of officers **crushed** under statue debris. The Chief's faces turns red.

POLICE CHIEF  
Look little lady, with all due  
respect, we don't need some two-bit  
"heroes" playing dress up. This is  
the real world, not some animated  
cartoon m'kay?

Captain Zero and Buttafly Girl look at each other then back at the Police Chief.

POLICE CHIEF (CONT'D)  
Like I said, we've got it under  
contro-

Like a firecracker launching into the sky, another statue goes **flying into the air**. They all follow with their eyes and watch as it **CRAHSES** into the news helicopter, and sends it plummeting to earth.

Without hesitation Buttafly Girl leaps into the air, grabs the pilot, and the two other members on board and lands them safely.

The helicopter crashes in a **FIERY EXPLOSION** behind her as she walks back to the the Police Chief whose eyes are widened in disbelief.

BUTTAFLY GIRL  
You were saying?

The Chief stutters before finding the words. He grits his teeth then signals on his radio.

POLICE CHIEF (TO RADIO)  
We got two Hyper's about to enter  
the building. Stand down.

He looks at them both menacingly.

POLICE CHIEF (CONT'D)  
For now.

He takes his thumb off the radio. Captain Zero shakes the Police Chief's hand.

CAPTAIN ZERO  
Thank you, thank you sir! Er,  
chief? Captain? Can I call you  
Captain? You won't regret this!

The Chief shoves Captain Zero off him and wipes his hands on his pant's sides.

POLICE CHIEF  
For your sake, I better *not*.

*He spits at his feet.* Captain Zero and Buttafly Girl both look at the spit with disgust.

POLICE CHIEF (CONT'D)  
Well? What are you standin' around  
for? Go on you little freaks.

Captain Zero deflates. Buttafly Girl grabs Captain Zero by the shoulder and nudges him towards the entrance.

BUTTAFLY GIRL  
C'mon. We got work to do.

Buttafly Girl runs into the museum. Captain Zero looks back at the scowling face of the officer one last time. Then...

**BLACK.**

**END OF ACT I**

**ACT II: YOU'RE NOT SPECIAL**

INT. ART MUSEUM, MAIN LOBBY - DAY

CAPTAIN ZERO

What the hell? We're inside  
already? Oh, shit!

Captain Zero notices a camera crew following them.

CAPTAIN HERO

Channel 5 news. They got like 10  
million followers.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Z.

CAPTAIN ZERO

That's like what? 5 million viewers  
a night?

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Z...

CAPTAIN ZERO

If we get a great clip outta this  
is straight to the top! Maybe a  
meme here and there--

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Z!

Captain Zero **THUMPS** his body against **OBLIVION**, a 5'5, dark  
skinned Black woman with a shaved head, white fur coat,  
lightning bolt earrings, and a **big ass** gold cuban link chain  
with a large "O" pedant standing at the center of the museum.

Her body is as hard as a **brick** and just as toned. Captain  
Zero stumbles backward then regains his footing. Buttafly  
Girl comes up behind him.

CAPTAIN ZERO

A little warning would have been  
nice!

She rolls her eyes.

OBLIVION

There you are! I was wondering how  
many statues it'd take before you  
two showed up.

Captain Zero raises a brow. Buttafly Girl activates her wings.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Stand down. We don't want to hurt you, whatever your name is.

Oblivion scoffs.

OBLIVION

The name's Oblivion. And there isn't a soul *alive* that can hurt me. I'm here for him.

She locks eyes with Captain Zero who takes a step back and points at himself.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)

But since you're both here, I suppose there's plenty of ass whoopins to go around.

**She cracks her knuckles.** Buttafly Girl steps in front of Captain Zero and gets in a **fighting stance**.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

You want him? You gotta go through me.

OBLIVION

Gladly.

**Buttafly Girl and Oblivion charge at each other and engage blows in hand to hand combat.** Buttafly Girl gracefully dodges Oblivion's attacks.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Not bad...

Buttafly Girl uses a few gadgets and lands a few more hits.

BUTTAFLY GIRL (CONT'D)

...But I've fought stronger.

OBLIVION

Oh really?

She smirks then drops her coat. **Her skin turns celeste blue, her hair turns hot pink, and he grows until she's 6'9 with bulging muscles.**

OBLIVION (CONT'D)

How about *now*?

Buttafly Girl looks up at her once small opponent.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Oh... Fuuu--

**BOOM!** Buttafly Girl takes a powerful hit to the gut. Captain Zero winces and the camera crew continues to record.

Buttafly Girl immediately goes on the defensive. Dodging a few blows but catches a couple of hard hits.

**SLOW MOTION:** Buttafly Girl loses her balance and Oblivion lands a powerful punch that fractures her tibia.

**X-RAY: BUTTAFLY GIRL'S TIBIA FRACTURES MORTAL KOMBAT STYLE.**

Captain Zero's eyes widen. Before Buttafly Girl can even let out a scream, Oblivion grabs her by the wings and throws her clear across the room.

Buttafly Girl's head **SLAMS** into a wall. Her lens **CRACKS** upon impact and goes black. Her body slumps to the ground; unconscious. Captain Zero looks at her, then back at Oblivion who is now walking towards him.

**NORMAL SPEED RESUMES:**

CAPTAIN ZERO (CONT'D)

Shit.

*Captain Zero makes a b-line towards an exit.*

INT. ART MUSEUM, PAINTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Captain Zero sprints *frantically*, knocking over paintings. The camera crew follows him and so does Oblivion and she **LAUGHS**.

OBLIVION

I love it when they run.

He darts to the end of the hall then stops dead in his tracks. **A large pile of broken art blocks the exit.**

Black smoke forms around his body as the panic sets in. His eyes dart around the room as it begins to spin. Oblivion's **FOOTSTEPS** can be heard coming around the corner.

Captain Zero tries to steady his breathing but the **black smoke engulfs more and more of his body**.

Captain Zero turns and sees Oblivion staring him down. Oblivion **CRACKS** her neck. The camera crew zooms in on Captain Zero's face.



NEWSCASTER

Folks, it's not looking good for our would-be hero. The Butterfly Girl is down and her sidekick looks absolutely writhe with fear. You folks at home can't smell it, but the odor his body is emitting is truly something awful. I mean really folks--

CAPTAIN ZERO

You know, I can hear you!

NEWSCASTER

Just doing my job son.

Captain Zero turns face Oblivion again.

OBLIVION

I'm not sure what she sees in you.

Captain Zero slowly backs away.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)

At least your friend put up a fight. Or *tried*. You on the other hand? (scoff) pathetic. And I mean *truly*... pathetic.

He continues to back away and she inches closer.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)

And now that your partners *indisposed*.... You've got no one to hide behind.

His back hits a wall.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)

And nowhere to run.

**He clenches his fist.** She looks back and the camera crew, then back at Captain Zero. She smirks.

XERXES (V.O.)

See, the thing about squash is... you gotta keep your eye on the ball.

OBLIVION

Smile.

**SLOW MOTION:** Oblivion wines up her fist. Captain Zero closes his eyes and braces for impact.

XERXES (V.O.)  
Cause if you don't... You just  
might get it in the face.

She chin checks him so hard one of his lens shatter and blood comes flying out of his mouth.

**NORMAL SPEED RESUMES:** They exchange a few blows before locking fists in a power struggle.

OBLIVION  
Not bad kid.

She begins to overpower him.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)  
But not good enough.

Captain Zero **BLASTS** her with his heat vision. She stumbles backwards.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)  
Cute trick. But it won't do you any  
good.

She punches him so hard in his gut **all the wind is knocked out of him.** He drops to his knees.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)  
You know what your problem is? You  
think being a Hyper with more than  
one power makes you special.

She walks over to his slumped body and lift him by his collar.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)  
But that's the thing about being  
special...

***She chokes him as he sputters for air.***

OBLIVION (V.O.)  
Everybody *thinks* they are... Until  
someone proves they're **not.**

She **HEAD-BUTTS** him and everything goes...

**BLACK.**

**END OF ACT II**

**ACT III: THE ABYSS**

**INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY**

DR.NIOBE

Struck in the head with a cinder  
block?

XERXES

I just didn't see it coming you  
know. Just, *BAM*. Like I walked  
right into it. Our Squash games can  
get pretty intense...

DR.NIOBE

*Riiiiighht*... So what happened next?

**EXT. ART MUSUEM - SIDEWALK - LATER**

Captain Zero regains consciousness. **He's bloody and beaten.**

*Bright lights surround him.* His vision is blurred. *His ears are RINGING.* He raises his hand to cover his eyes. His bloodshot eyes wonder until he sees Buttafly Girl getting a foot cast by an EMT.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Did... did we win?

WORLDSTAR GUY

Say cheese mother-

**SNAP!** The camera takes his picture.

**BEGIN MONTAGE:**

- Captain Zero trends and goes viral.
- His follower count on social media grows by 50,000.
- Memes from his fight flood the timeline.
- People make reaction gif's to him being punched in the face.
- #HeroOrZero trends as people debate whether or not Captain Zero saved the day.

**END MONTAGE:**

**SCHOOL BELL RINGS**

INT. NEW TROY HIGH SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY

Xerxes sits in the back of class, hoodie up, tapping a pencil nervously against his desk. The clock **TICKS**.

His eyes dart around. His classmates snicker while looking at their phones.

XERXES (V.O.)  
What are they laughing at?

**A black cloud of smoke begins swirling around his head.**

DEPRESSION DEMON (V.O.)  
They're laughing at you, who else?

His face tenses up, the pencil tapping increases. His eyes lock on their phone screens.

DEPRESSION DEMON (V.O.)  
Look. Your finest hour on display  
for the whole world to see. You're  
a joke to them. A spineless,  
pathetic, excuse for a hero.

The walls begin to cave in. His classmates go from humans to **black shadowy figures whose only facial features are their unsettling grins and glowing red eyes.**

*Beads of sweat stream down his face.* The sound of his own **HEARTBEAT** mixes in with the loud **TICKING** of the clock. The eyes all lock on him.

DEPRESSION DEMON (V.O.)  
They're all looking...

XERXES  
Stop it.

DEPRESSION DEMON  
Laughing...

XERXES  
Stop it.

Daisy, now sporting a cast walks up behind Xerxes, whose hyperventilating. She reaches for his shoulder. The Depression Demon jumps in front of Xerxes.

DEPRESSION DEMON  
At You!

Xerxes shoots out of his seat and **SNAPS** his pencil in half.

XERXES

I said **stop it!**

The classroom goes silent. All eyes are now on Xerxes who stands frozen in embarrassment.

STUDENT

The hell wrong with you?

A **LAUGH** breaks the silence and the rest of his classmates join in. Tears begin to well up in Xerxes's eyes.

DAISY

Xerxes-

The **BELL RINGS** and Xerxes storms out of the class room.

STUDENT

Every year man, there's always one weirdo!

**The laughter dies down as MRS. SINGH** (40's), their homeroom teacher, a Hindi woman wearing a hijab enters the room.

MRS. SINGH

Alright class, settle down.

DAISY

Mrs. Singh, may I be excused?

INT. NEW TROY HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Daisy runs out into the hall and spots Xerxes by the exit.

DAISY

Xerxes!

Her call echos down the hall as Xerxes pushes past the double door exit, tears in his eyes.

**BLACK.**

EXT. NEW TROY CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Xerxes scrolls through his comments section: *EPIC FAIL, HERO TURNED ZERO, BLUE MENACE OBLITERATES WOULD-BE H(Z)ERO.*

The black smoke reappears but now, as thick, smokey thunder clouds.

**BUZZ, BUZZ!**

His cell phone **RINGS**. He looks down and sees Daisy's caller ID. He looks at it for a moment before ignoring the call.

**LIGHTNING crackles across the night sky.**

EXT. JUNKYARD - NIGHT

**RAIN** pours down. Captain Zero stands on a makeshift platform before a row of bottles and cans. He closes his eyes, takes a deep breath.

He opens his eyes and **BLASTS** a bottle with his heat vision. A smile forms on his lips. He closes his eyes again.

CAPTAIN ZERO  
Envision... the target-

He has flashback of Oblivion's face. He winces then accidentally lets out another **BLAST** that misses.

He clenches his fists. He **BLASTS** again and misses.

He **BLASTS** again. *Another miss.* Again. **Miss.** Again. **MISS.**

He **SCREAMS** before letting his heat vision go wild, **destroying the entire platform--**He finally stops, out of breath then **punches a crater into the ground.**

**X-RAY: THE TIPS OF HIS KNUCKLES CRACK.**

He recoils in pain, grabbing his arm and dropping to his knees.

CAPTAIN ZERO (CONT'D)  
Shit! What the hell is happening to me...?

His phone **BUZZES**. He unlocks his screen and sees video link in his DM. It reads: *HOPE YOU'RE WATCHING.*

He presses play on the video.

INT. PHONE-VERSE - NIGHT

**VIVICA TATE**, a young, blonde news anchor for a conservative news network shows footage of the aftermath of Captain Zero's fight.

VIVICA TATE  
Since everyone's a snowflake these days, I'll just come right out and say it.

(MORE)

VIVICA TATE (CONT'D)

Hyper-Humans are destroying this city. Don't take my word for it, look for yourself. This delusional vigilante is costing us--the taxpayers of New Troy *millions* in property damage. This low life **thug-**

Captain Zero **mutes** the video. *The black smoke reappears and surrounds him.* His hands tremble. He hears faint whispers.

DEPRESSION DEMON (V.O.)

Good for nothing...

Captain Zero spins around, looking for the speaker.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Hello?

*The black smoke shape-shifts into **THE DEPRESSION DEMON**. The Demon's head **turns like an owl** until he meets his gaze.*

CAPTAIN ZERO (CONT'D)

W-who are you?

DEPRESSION DEMON

The better question is who are **you?**

*The Demon's "You" rattles every bone in his body. He drops to his knees, covering his ears.*

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)

Oh, c'mon, don't get soft on me now. We're just starting to have some fun.

The Demon **LAUGHS**. Captain Zero lunges towards him but *phases right through him* and falls to the ground. The demon **CHUCKLES**.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)

I knew you were pathetic but I didn't think you'd be down right stupid. Are you seriously trying to fight a figment of your own imagination?

Captain Zero gets up and swings and The Demon again.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)

Look at that. I guess you are stupid. Try this one on for size.

The Demon punches Captain Zero in the gut, *knocking all the wind out of his body.* Captain Zero staggers.

***His vision is doubled and he sees multiple demons.*** He can hear a faint chant start to grow.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
You like that? How about this?

He punches him again.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
Or this!?

Other demon's unleash a *fury* of punches.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
What's wrong hero? All out of juice?

The Demon **LAUGHS**. Captain Zero spits out blood, and tries to get back on his feet.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
Weight of the world on your back?

Demons begin to dogpile on top of him. The chants become **LOUDER**.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
Walls closing in around you? Hope fading? Darkness over taking?

The demons wraps around Captain Zero's body and remove his mask, exposing Xerxes' blood and beaten face. They force him up right so he's face to face with the Depression Demon.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
You can feel it can't you? The despair setting in?

Tears roll down Captain Zero's face as he attempts to let out a muffled cry for help.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
Shh. Don't try and fight it. Just sit back... and *sink* into the abyss...

**BLACK. *The Demon's laugh echoes in the void.***

XERXES (V.O.)  
Like I said... who's gonna save me when I need saving?

**THE END**