



# **CAPTAIN ZERO**

## **THE MOVIE**

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**WGA REGISTRATION NO. 2258625**

ACT I: HERO TO ZERO

**BLACK.**

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

A bloody and beaten Captain Hero heaves in agony inside an electromagnetic cube while staring down at **W.Z.R.D.** *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 you think  
you're being stalked by a "techno-  
maniac" thats causing you to  
experience blackouts?

XERXES  
Mm-hmm.

DR.NIOBE  
Right... And that as a form of  
stress relief you play...*Squash?*

Xerxes gives her a confused look.

XERXES  
Squash?

**FLASHBACK/MONTAGE:**

- Captain Hero get's zapped by Killa Watt.

- Captain Hero get's gut punched by Oblivion.

XERXES (CONT'D)  
Oh, *rightttttt!* Squash!

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

XERXES (CONT'D)  
Yeah, my friend Daisy and I formed this uh... *Squash* team. And every now and then we meet and just...

INT. ANTIQUE STORE - DAY

**CAPTAIN HERO**, Xerxes' superhero alter ego **SMASHES** against a wall destroying shelves full of antiques.

XERXES (V.O.)  
... Squash it up.

STORE OWNER  
My knick knacks! You gonna pay for this?!

Captain Hero props himself up and dusts off the debris.

CAPTAIN HERO  
I'm kinda strapped for cash at the moment, but if we could do like a payment plan--*duck!*

He grabs the store owner and ducks as another **BURST** of lightning wizzes through the air.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

DR.NIOBE  
I'm sorry. What is it that you do again?

**RECORD SCRATCH.**

XERXES  
Uh... freelancing?

Dr.Niobe gives him a blank stare.

XERXES (CONT'D)  
Yeah, so like I was saying--

INT. ANTIQUE STORE - DAY

Captain Hero dodges a series of **lightning bolts** from **KILLA WATT**, 20's, a Hyper-Human with electric powers. The Store owner pokes his head out from a stack of debris he was hiding under.

STORE OWNER

Goddamn Hypers! You're ruining my store!

He ducks and Killa shoots another bolt. Captain Hero pops up from his hiding place.

CAPTAIN HERO

Listen, I understand where you're coming from--**LOOK OUT!**

They both duck as a huge bolt of lightning strikes their hiding spots.

STORE OWNER

"Move to Florida" they said. "It's a great place to retire" they said.

**INCOMING CALL: BUTTAFLY GIRL.**

Captain Hero presses the circle on his wrist communicator.

CAPTAIN HERO

A little busy at the moment.

EXT. NEW TROY CITY STREETS, SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

**DAISY KIONGOZI**, A Caramel skinned Black girl with pink hair in two space buns rips a few flyers tapped to light posts.

DAISY

Nigga *make time*. We gotta talk.

The sound of lightning followed by a **CRASH** blares over the phone.

DAISY (CONT'D)

Guess what I found on my way home from work today?

She rips another flyer off a light-post.

CAPTAIN HERO (V.O.)

A match on Bumble?

DAISY

No! One of your stupid little  
flyers! I thought we talked about  
this?!

INT. ANTIQUE STORE - CONTINUOUS

CAPTAIN HERO

Yeah, but then I figured, what's  
the point of doing good deeds if  
nobody knows who did them?

Bolts of lightning *strike* the shelf. He runs for cover.

DAISY (V.O.)

That's **EXACTLY** the point! So you  
forgot public displays of Hyper-  
Human abilities is a class D felony  
right?

CAPTAIN HERO

Only if you get *caught*.

He dodges another bolt of lightning and shoots a laser beam  
back.

EXT. NEW TROY CITY STREETS, SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

She has her FRIENDSCAPE page pulled up. In the corner of the  
screen is **W.Z.R.D.**, a man with a black and orange helmet who  
makes commentary that goes unheard.

DAISY

Wha-what's that in the background?  
Are you on patrol without me--  
*again?*

CAPTAIN HERO (V.O.)

Whaaa?? Me???

DAISY

Then why am I looking at a  
livestream of a Hyper-Human fight  
in an antique store?

INT. ANTIQUE STORE - CONTINUOUS

He pops his head up and turns to the window. A *swarm of  
people are recording on their phones*. He smiles and waves  
before ducking back down.

CAPTAIN HERO

Well, why did you ask if you  
already knew the answer! Look, I  
gotta--

A bolt of lightning **BURSTS** through his barricade, sending him  
***flying through the wall of the store.***

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

I'm gonna feel that in the morning.

**CALL ENDED:**

EXT. NEW TROY CITY STREETS, SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

DAISY

I know he did **not** just...

EXT. OUTSIDE ANTIQUE STORE - CONTINUOUS

Captain Hero groans propping himself back up. Bystanders  
retreat as Killa Watt walks out of the store. *Electricity  
flows all around his body. Everything magnetic around him  
begins to float.*

KILLA WATT

Still tryna play hero? When the  
cops show up you think they're  
gonna give you a medal? Or throw  
you in the back of a squad car with  
me?

Captain Hero stumbles onto his feet.

KILLA WATT (CONT'D)

To them, there's no difference  
between you and me.

CAPTAIN HERO

I'm nothing like you.

KILLA WATT

Think *he* feels that way?

He gesture to the Store Owner who trembles in fear under a  
stack of debris. Captain Hero sees the *terror in his eyes.*

Captain Hero looks back at Killa Watt.

KILLA WATT (CONT'D)

I thought so.

He charges up his electricity. Captain Hero closes his eyes and braces for impact.

The **BUZZING** of his electricity suddenly **stops.**

Captain Hero opens his eyes and Killa Watt falls flat on his face with a **THUD**. He scrambles to his feet as the crowd erupts with **CHEER**.

Captain Hero looks around at the crowd. A smile forms on his lips.

CAPTAIN HERO  
They're cheering. Oh, my god I did  
it. I saved the day! Wait till I  
tell Daisy--

He looks down at Killa Watt and notices a small device smoking from the back of his head.

**His smile fades.** He looks up instinctively and sees **BUTTAFLY GIRL**, Daisy's Superhero alter ego descending from the sky. He **SIGHS**.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)  
Of course...

BUTTAFLY GIRL  
I believe the words you're looking  
for are "thank you".

She grabs a hair tie from her utility belt and throws it at Killa Watt's hands. The hair tie turns into handcuffs.

BUTTAFLY GIRL (CONT'D)  
Grab him. We'll drop him off at the  
precinct on our way back.

CAPTAIN HERO  
I gotta carry him?

BUTTAFLY GIRL  
Tell you what. When you stop a bad  
guy, I'll carry him.

He rolls his eyes and hoists Killa Watt over his shoulder. The crowd dissipates but a small **CHILD**, runs up to Captain Hero.

CHILD  
Hey mister, hey mister!

Captain Hero spins around.

CAPTAIN HERO  
Well, hey there buddy.

He drops Killa Watt with a **THUD**.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)  
What can I--

He coughs and makes his voice **deeper**.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)  
What can I do you for kid?

CHILD  
Can you sign this and say wassup to  
my live steam?

CAPTAIN HERO  
Anything for a fan.

He turns around to look at Buttafly Girl. She rolls her eyes. Captain Hero signs the piece of paper and waves to the kids phone. The livestream floods with comments and reactions that bubble up around the screen.

CHILD  
Sweet! Y'all seen it here first!  
This weeks biggest loser, Captain  
Hero. Got the signature right here.  
As always I'll be auctioning it off  
to who ever has the most liked  
comment.

Captain Hero deflates. A comment bubble pops up: **"More like Captain Hero LOL"**

CHILD (CONT'D)  
Haha, dude yes! More like Captain  
Zero!

The child walks away, **LAUGHING** into his camera.

Captain Hero looks down and sees one of his flyers, tattered and torn. He picks it up and looks at the singed image of his face.

CAPTAIN HERO  
*Hero.*

He balls the paper up in his fist.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)  
It's Captain **Hero**.



INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr.Niobe Scribbles a few things in her notes.

DR.NIOBE

So when did you first encounter  
this... "techno-maniac"?

XERXES

Right... So Daisy and I, we were  
visiting this museum right?

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.

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

Im 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!*

The news crew and the officers scatter. The police Chief  
looks up and sees the sculpture heading straight toward him.  
He braces for impact.

**CRASSH!!!**

He opens his eyes and sees Captain Hero holding the statue before tossing it to the side.

Buttafly girl flies down and Captain Hero extends his hand to help The Chief up.

The Chief slaps it away and shuffles to his feet.

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

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

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.  
And another group of officers trembling.

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 okay? Not some  
animated cartoon!

Captain Hero 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--*Holy shit!*

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

Without hesitation Buttafly Girl leaps into the air, grabs  
the pilot, and the other member 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 Hero shakes the Police Chief's hand.

CAPTAIN HERO

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

The Chief shoves Captain Hero 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 Hero 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 Hero deflates. Buttafly Girl grabs Captain Hero by the shoulder and nudges him towards the entrance.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

C'mon. We got work to do.

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

**BLACK.**

INT. W.Z.R.D.'S DEN - DAY

A shadowy figure sits hunched over a desktop in front of several monitors with blinding white light.

The figure's red scanner beam in his helmet scans the screens.

His head turns and locks in on a screen with footage from the Art museum.

He touches the side of his helmet and activates a speaker.

W.Z.R.D.

You're up. Don't disappoint.

OBLIVION (V.O.)

When have I ever?

He looks back at the screen and watches Oblivion walk towards the main lobby.

**BLACK.**

INT. ART MUSEUM, MAIN LOBBY - DAY

Captain Hero snaps out of a trance.

CAPTAIN HERO

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

Captain Hero notices a camera crew following him.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

Channel 5 news? They got like 10 million followers!

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Yo...

CAPTAIN HERO

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

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Yo...

CAPTAIN HERO

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

BUTTAFLY GIRL

**CAPTAIN!**

Captain Hero **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 Hero stumbles backward then regains his footing. Buttafly Girl comes up behind him.

CAPTAIN HERO

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 Hero 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

Step aside bug girl, I got no beef with you. I'm here for him.

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

Buttafly Girl steps in front of Captain Hero and gets in a **fighting stance**.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)

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

**She cracks her knuckles.**

BUTTAFLY GIRL

You want him? You gotta go through me.

OBLIVION

Gladly.

**Buttafly Girl and Oblivion charge at each other and engage 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 she 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 HERO

Oh... Fuuu--

**BOOM!** Buttafly Girl takes a powerful hit to the gut. Captain Hero 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 Hero'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 Hero looks at her, then back at Oblivion who is now walking towards him.

**NORMAL SPEED RESUMES:**

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

Shit.

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

INT. ART MUSEUM, PAINTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

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

OBLIVION

I love it when they run.

INT. W.Z.R.D.'S DEN - DAY

W.Z.R.D. watches Captain Hero runs from corridor to corridor unable to find an exit while whistling a slow distorted version of "*pop goes the weasel*".

He **LAUGHS MENEINGLY**.

W.Z.R.D.

Run, run, run little hero.

He resumes whistling "*pop goes the weasel*".

INT. ART MUSEUM, CORRIDOR #5 - CONTINUOUS

He darts to the end of another 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 Hero tries to steady his breathing but the **black smoke engulfs more and more of his body.**

Captain Hero turns and sees Oblivion staring him down. Oblivion **CRACKS** her neck.

The camera crew zooms in on Captain Hero'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.

(MORE)

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

You folks at home can't smell it,  
but the odor his body is emitting  
is truly something awful. I mean  
*really* folks--

CAPTAIN HERO

You know, I can hear you!

NEWSCASTER

Just doing my job son.

Captain Hero turns to face Oblivion again.

OBLIVION

I'm not sure what he sees in you.

Captain Hero 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 as 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 Hero.

She smirks.

XERXES (V.O.)

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

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

XERXES (V.O.)

Cause if you don't... You just  
might get hit in the face.



She chin checks him so hard one of his lens shatter. 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 Hero **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 lifts 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 I**

**ACT II: POP GOES THE WEASEL**

**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 looks at him dumbfounded.

DR. NIOBE  
*Riiiiighht...* So what happened next?

**EXT. ART MUSEUM - SIDEWALK - LATER**

Captain Hero regains consciousness on a gurney.

His vision is blurred. *His ears are RINGING*. His bloodshot  
eyes wonder until he sees Buttafly Girl getting a foot cast  
by an EMT.

CAPTAIN HERO  
Did... did we win?

A **RANDOM GUY** runs in front of him with his phone out.

RANDOM GUY  
Say cheese mother-

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

**BEGIN MONTAGE:**

- #CaptainZero 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.
- #HeroOrZero trends as people debate whether or not Captain  
Hero actually saved the day.

**END MONTAGE:**

**SCHOOL BELL RINGS**INT. NEW TROY HIGH SCHOOL, CLASSROOM - DAY

Xerxes sits in the back of the classroom, 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.**

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. Their 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

**STOP!**

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 Palestinian woman wearing a hijab enters the room. Daisy ducks out, following Xerxes.

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.

EXT. NEW TROY CITY, SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

Xerxes walks in the pouring rain. His phone keeps **BUZZING**. He takes it out of his pocket to see 8 missed calls from Daisy.

His thumb hovers over the "Call back button" until a notification from friendscape pushes her notification to the bottom of the screen.

INT. PHONEVERSE - CONTINUOUS

Xerxes scrolls through his comments section. Large text blocks float around him in the air showing the comments.

*EPIC FAIL, LOSER, BETA, HERO TURNED ZERO, CAPTAIN ZERO, BLUE MENACE OBLITERATES WOULD-BE H(Z)ERO.*

Text bubbles containing "CAPTAIN ZERO" swallow up the other text bubbles and grow **larger**.

He falls backwards and tries to run. The "Captain Zero" text bubbles get bigger and **BIGGER**. The bubbles begin to chant "Captain Zero" over and over.

XERXES

Stop! Stop it! That's not my name!  
It's hero! *It's HERO!*

The text bubbles turn into black smoke and completely envelop him in thick, smokey, storm of clouds.

His phone vibrates at the volume of **THUNDER**.

**BLACK.**

INT. XERXES/RAMSES BEDROOM - NIGHT

**Xerxes jolts out of bed. He hears the sounds of war rage out of the television.**

**RAMSES**, Xerxes' little brother mashes away on his video-game controller at the foot of their bunk bed.

Xerxes looks around disoriented.

XERXES

Wh-when did I get home?

Ramses' eyes remain glued to the screen.

RAMSES

2 hours ago. You went straight to bed.

XERXES

Mom home?

RAMSES

Mmm-Hmm.

Xerxes gets out of bed and walks down stairs.

INT. HUGHES HOME, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

**VIOLET (50's)** Xerxes' mother, a **Brown-skinned woman wearing a Haitian flag wrapped around her head, and an Dominican apron wrapped around her waist** prepares food in the kitchen.

**MONTAGE:**

- She grabs fresh vegetables from the fridge.
- She slices vegetables on the cutting board.
- She puts bunun in hot oil to fry.
- She seasons chicken before adding the vegetables on top.
- She rolls dough to make marinade.
- She puts the chicken under the stove to cook.

**END MONTAGE:**

Xerxes walks down from the stairs and into the kitchen. He walks past his mother and goes straight for the fridge.

VIOLET

Oh-oh. I didn't know I died and became a ghost.

Xerxes **SIGHS**, turns around and kisses his mom on the cheek.

XERXES

Bon soir Mom. Sorry, I just had a really long day. I just want to drink this water and go back to bed.

He looks at the freshly made bunun cooling off on the top of the stove. He reaches for one and she smacks his hand away.

VIOLET

Sleep and eat, I swear that's all you do.

XERXES

C'mon, I can't get one?

VIOLET

No, they're for tonight. How about you put on an apron and help instead?

Xerxes fake **YAWNS**.

XERXES

I would but I'm so tired...

VIOLET

Mmm-hmm.

She shakes her head, Xerxes walks towards the stairs.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Ahh, ahh!

Xerxes stops dead in his tracks.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Don't forget to fill out your college applications. I put them on the table over there.

She points to the table. Xerxes **SIGHS** before walking back down to grab the pile of papers, then walks back upstairs.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Oh! And one *more* thing.

Xerxes stops and lets out another **SIGH**.

XERXES

Yes?

VIOLET

Don't forget your closing up tomorrow night.

XERXES (V.O.)

Shit.

VIOLET

*Excusez?*

XERXES

I said, right...right... It's just that I have this other thing and...

**CRACK OF LIGHTNING.** Violet turns to face him and gives him the **Evil Haitian Eye**. **His heart drops into his stomach.**

XERXES (CONT'D)

Tomorrow. Lock up. Got it.

Violet's eyes return to normal. She gives him a smile then turns her attention back to the food.

Xerxes shutters before walking back up stairs.

INT. XERXES/RAMSES BEDROOM - DAY

Xerxes walks in and throws his college applications on his night stand. He reaches into his pocket and takes out his phone.

INT. PHONEVERSE - CONTINUOUS

Xerxes lays down on his back in an empty void. He uses his hands to move giant blocks of posts on his timeline.

He scrolls pass several Captain Hero hate comments before stumbling across a photo of **ARIZONA**, (18) a dark skinned girl with vitiligo who has her photo captioned "Back in NT".

He sits up immediately and pushes all the other blocks of text aside and zooms in on her photo.

XERXES

Oh my god.

He clicks on her profile and the image materializes before him, filling the space that was once a dark void.

Cherry Blossom Petals flutter down around him as he scrolls through her media tab.

He scrolls and scrolls until he comes across an old photo of the both of them. He pauses.

Then reaches out to touch her face on the photo.

XERXES (CONT'D)

Arizona...

The petals freeze in mid air.

DR. NIOBE (V.O.)

Arizona?

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

DR.NIOBE

Who's Arizona?

XERXES

She's...

INT. NEW TROY HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAY - DAY**SLOW MOTION:**

Arizona struts through the hallway with her mobility aid. Her bright purple locs lightly bounce with each step.

Her yellow green eyes shimmer in the light.



Xerxes closes his locker and meets her gaze as she struts down the hallway.

Several students watch as she makes her way down the hall. Most in awe, others with envy.

**NORMAL SPEED RESUMES:**

Arizona approaches Xerxes' locker.

XERXES (V.O.)  
Oh, shit, Oh shit, oh shit. She's walking up to me. Say something.

XERXES  
H-h-hi Ari--

Arizona walks right past him and makes a left at the end of the hall.

XERXES (CONT'D)  
...zona.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

XERXES  
She's like this hot no non-sense girl in my computer science class. We used to be friends when we were kids. I had the biggest crush on her. But...

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY (FLASHBACK)

An arm grabs a young Arizona away from Xerxes and puts her in a car. The doors **SLAM** shut. Arizona peaks through the window looking back at Xerxes before the car drives off.

XERXES  
She left... I thought I would never see her again...

Xerxes crosses his arms. Dr.Niobe Takes note of this and writes down "self soothing at the mention of Arizona" in her notebook.

XERXES (CONT'D)  
But now...she's back. And that's how I know.

DR.NIOBE  
Know what?

XERXES

That this is my second chance. My  
chance to do it right this time.

INT. COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASS - DAY

Xerxes sits in front of his computer with a bunch of code  
that looks completely illegible.

His teacher drones on in the background, but he's so lost  
it's as if he's speaking another language.

Xerxes looks back at his screen and the numbers start to move  
around, then through the screen. Xerxes pushes his chair back  
and bumps into Arizona.

ARIZONA

Hey, watch it!

XERXES

Sorry. It's just... this damn  
practical man. I don't know what  
I'm doing. This shit looks like  
gibberish to me.

She looks over at his computer screen.

ARIZONA

You still on module one?

XERXES

Hey, this shit is hard!

Arizona **SCOFFS**.

XERXES (CONT'D)

Oh, yeah? Since you're so smart  
what module are you on?

ARIZONA

I finished 20 minutes ago.

XERXES

*What?!*

She turns over her computer screen to show she's finished all  
88 modules.

Xerxes stutters trying to find the words.

XERXES (CONT'D)

H-how??

She turns the computer back to face her.

ARIZONA  
Computers are kinda my thing.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The warehouse stands empty, viewed from W.Z.R.D.'s Friendscape livestream, filmed directly from his helmet.

Hearts and emotes fly along the screen with frantic chats spewing mostly nonsense.

Two drones hover above him moving a dolly filled with camera and recording equipment. He approaches the entrance of the building whistling "pop goes the weasel".

GUARD #1  
Hey, sir you're not allowed back here!

GUARD #2  
We're going to have to ask you to--

W.Z.R.D. points at one of his drones. **ZAP!** Guard #2's body hits the ground with a **THUD**. Guard #1 reaches for his radio.

GUARD #1  
10-14,10-14 we have a possible--

W.Z.R.D. points, and his other drone **ZAPS** Guard #1, who falls on top of his his radio.

PERSON OVER RADIO (V.O.)  
Hello? Hello? Do you copy?

W.Z.R.D. stoops down to the guards and places a small device on each of their temples. Their eyes light up green and they slowly stand upright in a zombie like trance.

W.Z.R.D. points at the door.

W.Z.R.D.  
If you'd be so kind.

Guard #1 reaches for his keys and unlocks the door. W.Z.R.D. resumes whistling "pop goes the weasel". The door unlocks and they all walk inside.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

W.Z.R.D. walks inside the large empty room and looks around. The drones immediately get to work setting up lighting and camera equipment.

He paces, examining every inch of the room while still **WHISTLING**. He **CLAPS** his hands and the two guards stand at attention.

W.Z.R.D.  
You two. Make yourselves useful and help my machines.

The guards nod and begin to work alongside the drones setting up the warehouse.

W.Z.R.D. continues to inspect the building until he suddenly stops, and his eyes lock onto a stage.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
Yes... this will do just nicely.

He turns to face his many drones and mind controlled guards as they quickly assemble equipment.

**BEGIN MONTAGE:**

- The drones set up lights

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
Lights...

- The drones set up cameras

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
Camera!

- The drones ready the stage by placing a desk next to a chair with metal restraints attached to it.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
Action.

**END MONTAGE:**

EXT. NEW TROY CITY, ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

Captain Hero sits on the edge of the rooftop, swiping through videos of the kid that made fun of his name. He swipes past memes and other videos making fun of "Captain Zero". *Smoke starts to emerge from his body.*

As he swipes, he sees a livestream titled "NEW TROY'S RECKONING". He raises an eyebrow then clicks on the stream.

W.Z.R.D. (V.O.)

The snake which cannot cast its skin has to die. Nietzsche.

CAPTAIN HERO

What the...

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

W.Z.R.D.

We are in in the middle of a metamorphoses my fellow New Trojans. Our world isn't the place it used to be. All around us, we see these... **freaks** trying to steal our way of life. Well no more! I will single handedly restore law and order to our fair city... And best of all? You'll see it all *live*.

He **LAUGHS** maniacally.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Stay tuned folks. What your about to see is going to change our world *forever*.

The livestream ends. Captain Hero tries to scroll and find the name of the user the stream came from then--**BUZZ! BUZZ!** The screen floods with Daisy's call.

The black smoke dissipates.

He answers.

CAPTAIN HERO

What? Hello?

DAISY (V.O.)

Got some info on our art museum baddie.

He puts her on speaker and continues listening.

CAPTAIN HERO

What'd you find?

DAISY

Her name's **Oblivion**. She's an underground cage fighter who takes money on the side for anyone willing to pay for her services.

CAPTAIN HERO

And?

DAISY

And...that means she wasn't the real target. She was paid by someone to fight you in the museum.

CAPTAIN HERO

Paid? To fight me?

He perks up a bit.

DAISY

Yeah, and so far she's our only lead.

CAPTAIN HERO

So...what now?

DAISY

We pay her a visit.

INT. THE ELEMENT, DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Captain Hero and Butterfly Girl descend down steps in a dimly lit, smoke filled room. As soon as they walk in a man goes flying across the room, head first into a table.

Patrons **SCREAM** and **JEER**. They look around and notice that most of the Hyper-Human's in this place are class C.

Hyper-Humans with the inability to blend in. Razor sharp teeth, feathers, purple scales, etc.

They make their way to the center of the room, all while getting dirty looks from everyone in the bar.

CAPTAIN HERO

I think they're staring at us.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

That's because they are.

CAPTAIN HERO

Well, it's making me uncomfortable.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Focus!

INT. THE ELEMENT, IN FRONT OF WRESTLING CAGE - CONTINUOUS

In the center of the bar sits a giant cage ring. Sprawled out along the sides and edges are bloody and beaten up Hyper-Humans.

Captain Hero tries carefully to walk around all the bodies.

CAPTAIN HERO

Sorry, sorry, excuse me--sorry.

He steps on someone's already broken hand. They let out a **BLOODCURDLING SCREAM**.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

Ooo! Sorry!

Butterfly Girl grabs him and pushes him towards the front.

A group of deformed Hyper-Humans **CHEER** as they watch Oblivion go toe to toe with an opponent in the ring.

INT. THE ELEMENT, INSIDE WRESTLING CAGE - CONTINUOUS

Oblivion body slams **FISH-FACE** (30's) a bulky, green Hyper-Human with a large body and a tiny fish head onto the mat.

She pins Fish-Face in a choke hold.

OBLIVION

Say it. Say it.

Fish-Face's eyes **bulge** out of his head.

Oblivion squeezes the hold tighter. She leans into his ear and whispers.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)

*Say it.*

FISH-FACE

You win big daddy! You win!

He taps the mat and Oblivion jumps off him.

**DING! DING! DING!** The **REFEREE** grabs Oblivion's arm and raises it up.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen, for the 55th time in a row. The undefeated heavy-weight champion. The blistering, blue badass, **OBLIVION!**

Oblivion takes her giant "O" chain suspended from the top of the ring and puts it back on.

The crowd goes wild and begins to chant:  
**OBLIVION! OBLIVION! OBLIVION!**

Oblivion puts both hands in the air and smiles as a bloody and bruised Fish-Face crawls out of the ring and falls in front of Captain Hero's feet.

Oblivion walks out of the ring and towards the bar.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

C'mon, we're gonna miss our window.

She pulls Captain Hero towards the bar.

INT. THE ELEMENT, BAR - CONTINUOUS

Oblivion sits at the bar. The bartender slides her a huge mug full of beer.

BARTENDER

For the undefeated champ.

Oblivion raises the mug, then downs it in a *single* gulp.

The bartender cleans a glass while watching Fish-Face get carried out in a gurney. The bartender **SUCKS HIS TEETH.**

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

Damn shame. Why do they do it?

Oblivion looks down at her chain, it gleams in the light.

OBLIVION

Everyone wants to be the king.

Oblivion gets a **TAP** on her shoulder. Without looking she answers.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)

No autographs tonight. Thanks for watching the match.



BUTTAFLY GIRL

Not looking for an autograph. But  
we do need a name.

Oblivion glances over and sees Buttafly Girl and Captain Hero  
who stands behind her, knees knocking.

She **SCOFFS**.

OBLIVION

Oh brother, you two again? What are  
you chumps doing on this side of  
town?

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Looking for information, like I  
said.

Oblivion turns her seat so she can face Buttafly girl.

OBLIVION

I'm surprised you can see at all  
considering what I did the last  
time we were face to face.

She looks down and sees Buttafly Girl's leg in a brace.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)

How's it healing?

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Fine. Now can we--

Oblivion raises her hand.

OBLIVION

My time isn't cheap. You wanna  
talk, you gotta make it worth my  
while.

CAPTAIN HERO

H-how do we do that?

Oblivion smiles.

OBLIVION

Cash. Or... last one round with me  
in the ring.

Captain Hero looks back at all the beaten and bloody Hyper's  
laying in agony. He spots a Hyper with their leg inverted and  
winces.

CAPTAIN HERO  
*Yeahhhh...* How much?

OBLIVION  
To start the conversation? 2G's.

Captain Hero nudges Buttafly Girl. Buttafly girl turns to face him with disgust.

BUTTAFLY GIRL  
Excuse me?

Captain Hero whispers.

CAPTAIN HERO  
Aye, you the one with the deep pockets. Mrs. "Heir to the Alacore fortune". And I don't know about you, but that last ass whoopin was enough for 3 lifetimes. My ass ain't gettin' in that ring. I don't suppose you plan to?

She stares at him for a brief moment, then lets out an exasperated **SIGH**.

BUTTAFLY GIRL  
*Fine.*

She reaches into her utility belt and pulls out a wad of cash. She slams it on the table in front of Oblivion.

BUTTAFLY GIRL (CONT'D)  
Now *talk*.

OBLIVION  
Oh, **feisty**. I like that.

Oblivion takes the wad and puts it in her bra. She turns her chair to face them both.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)  
The conversation has begun. Now if you want info, that's gonna be another 4G's.

BUTTAFLY GIRL  
What? I just paid you!

OBLIVION  
To open up the conversation. Not for information.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Oh this some ol' bull--

Oblivion turns her chair facing away from them.

OBLIVION

Well, then it was nice seeing you.

Buttafly Girl fumes, ready to blow a fuse. Captain Hero comes up behind her and whispers.

CAPTAIN HERO

I think you should just--

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Nigga shut up! Just shut up.

He makes a zipper and lock motion with his mouth. Buttafly girl **SIGHS**, reaches into her utility belt and pulls out another wad.

She slams it on the table. Oblivion turns her chair back around.

OBLIVION

They always come around.

She puts the second wad in her bra.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)

Alright kiddos, what do you wanna know?

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Who hired you to bait us into fighting you?

OBLIVION

I have no idea.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

What?! I just paid you 6G for information.

OBLIVION

Yeah. And I just gave it to you. I don't know who hired me. Dude wears a helmet that completely covers his face, and I've never met him in person. All of our conversations have been over this ear piece--

She presents them the ear piece.

OBLIVION (CONT'D)

And it crapped out after the job was complete.

CAPTAIN HERO

You gotta be kidding me.

OBLIVION

All I can say for sure is dude has a thing for computers. He's super into all that techie, hacker stuff.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Can I take the ear piece?

Oblivion tosses it to her.

OBLIVION

Go nuts. Don't have much use for it these days.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Did you ever meet to hand off your payments?

Oblivion shakes her head.

OBLIVION

All electronic transfer.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Oh, perfect! So we can trace it!

OBLIVION

Negative. Checked this morning. All banking and wire details were wiped from my phone.

Captain Hero stomps on the ground.

CAPTAIN HERO

Damn it!

**CRUNCH!** Another Hyper winces in pain. Captain Hero looks down and sees that he's stepped on another patron's hand.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

Jesus, do they just leave these guys lying here?

OBLIVION

Pretty much.

She takes a sip of her drink. Captain Hero raises his arms then drops them.

CAPTAIN HERO  
So we got nothing.

Buttafly Girl inspects the earpiece.

BUTTAFLY GIRL  
Not exactly... it's not much. But  
it's the best we got.

She looks up at Oblivion.

BUTTAFLY GIRL (CONT'D)  
Thanks... I guess.

Oblivion raises her drink to her and proceeds to take more sips.

BUTTAFLY GIRL (CONT'D)  
C'mon. We got work to do.

She opens her wings and flies out of the bar. Captain Hero tries to carefully walk around the beaten up people on the ground. Every so often stepping on someone.

CAPTAIN HERO  
Sorry. Sorry. Sorry. Sorry!

INT. HUGHES HOME - NIGHT

The lights are out. Xerxes sneaks in through the back door, trying to tip-toe to his room.

Just as he makes it to the stairs--

**LIGHTS CUT ON.**

Xerxes turns his head to see his mom, **WALTER**, his father, and Ramses all standing in the kitchen. Food and dirty dishes are everywhere.

WALTER  
Do you know what time--

VIOLET  
-- Walter.

Violet puts her hand in front of him. **A black cloud forms around Xerxes.**

VIOLET (CONT'D)  
Let me handle this.

Xerxes takes a deep **GULP**.

RAMSES  
Ooooooo, you're in trouble!

VIOLET  
Shh! Both of you up stairs. I need  
to speak to Xerxes...**alone**.

Ramses and Walter walk up stairs. Ramses mouths the words  
"YOU'RE GONNA DIE".

XERXES  
Ma, before you say anything--

Violet raises her hand and the room falls silent.

VIOLET  
Do you know what day it is?

XERXES  
Ma--

VIOLET  
Do you know...what day it is?

Xerxes puts his head down.

XERXES  
Thursday...

VIOLET  
And on Thursday's you're supposed  
to do what?

XERXES  
Clean and lock up. But Ma, you  
don't understand I had to-

VIOLET  
Save it. Whatever sorry excuse  
you're going to give me save it. I  
needed you tonight. We needed you  
tonight.

XERXES  
Ma, I know, I just--

VIOLET

You just what? What did you need to do so bad that it was worth abandoning the family?

XERXES

Abandon?? Ma, it's not even like that.

VIOLET

Then what's it like hmm?! Tell me? I'm listening.

Xerxes falls silent. He looks away, avoiding her gaze.

She grabs his face and makes him look eyes her. She notices bruising on his face, then lets go.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

What happened to your face?

XERXES

Nothing.

Xerxes turns away from her. **A black cloud casts over Xerxes' head.**

VIOLET

Nothing?

She folds her arms.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Are you in a gang?

XERXES

What? *No!*

VIOLET

Are you doing drugs?

XERXES

*No!*

VIOLET

Then what? You come home, you sleep all day. You're out all night. You come back late with scratches on your face and bags under your eyes. Explain that.

**Silence.**

She takes a deep breath.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

When are you going to shoulder some responsibility Xerxes? Mijo, you're not a child anymore. Ramses shows more initiative than you. Your older sister...

XERXES

Yeah, the **favorite**.

Violet scowls.

VIOLET

Your sister is in college actually *doing* something with her life. Making her family proud. What are you doing?

**Silence.**

Violet Scoffs.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

You're not reliable. You're not dependable. Your head is always in the clouds.

The Black clouds consume his head. Violet notices his dejected gaze.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Are you listening to me?

Xerxes **SHOUTS**.

XERXES

**Yes!**

Violet steps back.

XERXES (CONT'D)

I've just... I have a lot on my plate right now.

VIOLET

Like what? I don't know what's going on with you. You don't talk to me. I don't know what's going on-

XERXES

Yeah, well that makes two of us.

They stand in uncomfortable silence for a bit.



VIOLET

Have you even turned in any of those college applications?

XERXES

I... I started some of them, yeah.

Violet reaches into her apron pocket and pulls out his applications. They're blank.

VIOLET

So you're a liar now too?

Xerxes clenches his fist and turns to walk away.

XERXES

Whatever.

VIOLET

*Whatever?*

She grabs him by the shoulder and spins him back around.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

**WHATEVER? This is your future!**

The depression demon speaks over Violet.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Look at this? Look at what's around you. Do you think I came to this country so you could be like me? Work day and night, living pay-check to pay-check? I bust my **ass** day in and day out to keep a roof over your head. And the only thing I ask in return is that you handle your responsibilities. Show up when I ask. Be on time. And you can't even do that!

Xerxes holds back tears.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

I sacrificed everything for you. For this family. My mother left me to fend for myself at six years old. Do you know what I would have given to have had a mother tell me right from wrong?

Tears stream down Xerxes' face.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Do you want to live the rest of your life just scrapping by? Or do you want to make something of yourself?

Xerxes looks at a painting behind her. The light shines in such a way where he can see his reflection.

The reflection shows him with his Captain Hero mask on... then it fades.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

Huh? I'm asking you!

XERXES

**Yes!** Okay. Jeez--yes, of course I do!

VIOLET

**Then act like it!**

Her words echo in his head.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

*Sak vid pa kanpe.*

The black smoke dissipates. She puts her hands on his face and wipes his tears.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

You're a bright child. Filled with limitless potential. But you need to start being accountable. To yourself... and the people who love you.

She walks towards the stairs.

XERXES

I'm... I'm sorry.

She stops in her tracks. She turns to face him.

VIOLET

Prove it. Clean up this mess, then lock up the truck.

She throws him the food truck keys and he catches them. Then She disappears up the steps.

Xerxes looks at the mountain of dishes in the sink.

He **SIGHS**, ties on an apron, puts on gloves, cuts on the water, grabs a plate and starts scrubbing.

**BLACK.**

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Xerxes covers his eyes and holds back tears. Dr.Niobe reaches for a box of tissues and extends it to him.

He looks up, and wipes his tears on his jacket sleeve but takes the tissue.

XERXES

I just... I hate letting people  
down.

He balls up the tissue paper in his fist.

EXT. NEW TROY CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Xerxes scrolls through his comments section: *EPIC FAIL, LOSER, BUM, ZERO.*

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

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.**

Another **BUZZ**. Xerxes reaches for his phone again and is stunned when he sees a friendscape message from Arizona.

The message reads: **RANDOM, BUT ARE YOU FREE RN?**

He replies with quickness: **YES!**

She replies: **LOL, BET. MEET ME HERE.** She drops her location. He smiles then starts running the opposite direction.

INT. BURGER BOYS USA - NIGHT

Xerxes enters the restaurant, he looks around until he spots Arizona waving at him. He grins and walks over to her.

INT. BURGER BOYS USA, TABLE - LATER

Xerxes and Arizona **LAUGH HYSTERICALLY**. Both of their plates are empty with half eaten fries.

XERXES

Oh my god, my stomach. I can't take it. You're ridiculous.

Arizona slams the table with her hand, **LAUGHING** so hard hardly any noise is coming out.

Xerxes wipes a tear out of his eye.

XERXES (CONT'D)

Oh, my god you don't know just how bad I needed this.

ARIZONA

Really?

She takes a bite of one of her fries.

ARIZONA (CONT'D)

Why? What happened?

XERXES

My folks man...they've just really been on my ass lately.

ARIZONA

About what?

XERXES

It just... nah, it's nothing.

**BUZZ!** His phone goes off on the table. In the corner of his eyes he sees another notification about Captain **ZERO**.

Arizona sees his discomfort. Xerxes turns the phone so the screen is on the table.

ARIZONA

Are you sure?

XERXES

Yeah, yeah. I just needed some fresh air is all.

He takes a sip of his soda then talks under his breath.

XERXES (CONT'D)

And not to feel like a fucking disappointment all the time.

ARIZONA

Whoa... that's kinda--

XERXES

Sorry. I'm not tryna bring the mood down. See, that's why I didn't want to even bring it up in the first place. Let's just move on.

This time BOTH of their phones **BUZZ**. Xerxes clocks her checking her phone. She types something out, then **his phone vibrates**.

He reaches for the phone. A DM from W.Z.R.D.: **I KNOW YOUR LITTLE SECRET.**

His eyes slide up to watch Arizona type something and send.

Another message from WZRD: **AND TONIGHT, WE'RE GONNA SEE WHO YOU REALLY ARE.**

Smoke begins to emit around Xerxes as he sets his phone down and looks at Arizona typing away.

XERXES (CONT'D)

Who are you texting?

Arizona **LAUGHS**.

ARIZONA

Whoa, there helicopter mom, relax. I'm just texting a friend.

DEPRESSION DEMON (V.O.)

She's lying.

XERXES

What friend?

Arizona gives him a confused look.

ARIZONA

Is that... really any of your business?

XERXES

I mean...kinda, we're at dinner and you're on your phone, that's kinda rude.

ARIZONA

And so were you a second ago? Where is this coming from? Are you okay?

XERXES

Fine. Never better.

Her phone **BUZZES** again. She looks down, types, then presses send. **His** phone **BUZZES** again.

He looks down. Another message from W.Z.R.D.

It reads: **XERXES**.

Xerxes looks up at Arizona. The room starts to close in.

INT. COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASS - DAY (FLASHBACK)

ARIZONA

Computers are kinda my thing...

Her voice echos in his head as he's bombarded with a barrage of texts messages.

INT. BURGER BOYS USA, TABLE - NIGHT

He looks up and watches her text and **LAUGH** at her screen.

He jumps out of his seat, startling Arizona.

ARIZONA

What the--

XERXES

**Stop it** okay. Just **stop it!**

ARIZONA

Seriously, are you okay? Because you're freaking me out.

The smoke rises around him. Under his words, you can faintly hear the Depression Demon speaking with him.

XERXES

You think I'm **stupid**? You're fucking with me. You've been fucking with me this whole time.

She looks at him completely bewildered. He looks around as sees that he's now drawing attention to himself from the other patrons.

He sits back down, leans in and **WHISPERS**.

XERXES (CONT'D)

I know what you've been doing okay. You've been tryna get in my head this whole time. That's why I been seeing the black smoke, and hearing the voices.

ARIZONA

Excuse me, the *what*?

XERXES

You know I'm Captain Hero and you want to expose me. Make me make a fool of myself. But guess what? Not gonna happen.

He leans back in his seat and **SCOFFS**.

XERXES (CONT'D)

I can't believe it. I should have known better. No way after all these years a girl like you would go for a guy like me. I'm just some joke to you. This is just all apart of your master plan. Butter me up, talk about the past, and make me fall for you all over again then **BAM!**

He **SLAMS** the table making her flinch.

XERXES (CONT'D)

Hit me when I least expect it. Is that it? Is that you're angle?

ARIZONA

Xerxes I--

XERXES

You know what the worst part is?

He **EXHALES DEEPLY**.

XERXES (CONT'D)

I almost believed you.

He reaches into his pocket, rummages around for cash and throws a few crumpled bills on the table.

XERXES (CONT'D)

Well, I'm not gonna let you make me look like a fool anymore.

He goes to leave but Arizona puts one of her mobility aids in front of his feet, blocking his exit.

ARIZONA

Stop.

He stops and turns to face her. She props herself up.

ARIZONA (CONT'D)

I don't know what you're dealing with or what your suppressing but I sure as hell don't appreciate you taking it out on me. I invited you here because I wanted to make up for lost time. To get to know that person I loved hanging out with when we were kids. But I guess I was sorely mistaken because the asshole who just blew up on me clearly isn't that person I used to know.

She picks up his crumpled cash and throws it at his chest.

ARIZONA (CONT'D)

And here.

She reaches in her pocket and lays her money on the table.

ARIZONA (CONT'D)

I don't need your charity either.

She turns to leave but turns back for a moment.

ARIZONA (CONT'D)

And you don't need me to look like a fool. You're pretty good at doing that yourself.

She storms out of the restaurant. Xerxes stands there humiliated.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

DR.NIOBE

Wow...that was...

XERXES

Yeah...

He runs his hands through his hair.



XERXES (CONT'D)

Not my proudest moment.

DR.NIOBE

Let's take a quick detour while we're at it. I'm noticing a pattern I'd like to address.

XERXES

What's that?

DR.NIOBE

I want to talk a bit more about your feelings towards the word Zero.

XERXES

What about it?

DR.NIOBE

I think there's a missed opportunity for you to find the silver lining.

XERXES

Silver what now?

Dr. Niobe **SIGHS**.

DR.NIOBE

Silver lining. Specifically, seeing the good in the bad. Kinda like Yin and Yang.

XERXES

Oo! Right, the circle dot thingys!

DR.NIOBE

Yes...the...circle dot thingys. Basically what I'm trying to say is our perception is what dictates our reality. Currently, your perception of the word Zero is negative. As is the case for most people. But Zero is actually quite a unique number.

Xerxes leans in.

DR.NIOBE (CONT'D)

In numerology zero represents limitless potential. Endless possibilities. The ability to adapt and start anew.

(MORE)

DR.NIOBE (CONT'D)

Maybe instead of looking at being called a zero as a bad thing, you can think of it like that. Limitless potential.

Xerxes tunes out as the words "ZERO" begin to echo in his head. Dr.Niobe continues but her words are inaudible.

Dr.Niobe **SNAPS** her fingers and he comes to.

XERXES

Hmm?

DR.NIOBE

I asked what were your thoughts on that.

XERXES

My thoughts? Oh, yeah. I think that's...really something. You definitely given me a lot to think about.

DR.NIOBE

Mmm-hmm...

An **ALARM** rings.

DR.NIOBE (CONT'D)

Well, it would seem that our session has come to an end.

XERXES

Wait. I didn't get to finish telling you about the rest of my work week!

DR.NIOBE

Well, I'll be looking forward to hearing all about it next week. In the meantime you try to think about what we discussed okay?

XERXES

Yeah...

Xerxes stands up, shakes her hand, then walks out.

EXT. JUNKYARD - NIGHT

**RAIN** pours down. Captain Hero stands on a makeshift platform before a row of bottles and cans. He closes his eyes, and 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 HERO

Envision... the target-

He has a 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 HERO (CONT'D)

Shit! What the hell is happening to me...

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

He presses play on the video.

INT. PHONE-VERSE - NIGHT

**VIVICA TATE**, (30's) a blonde news anchor for a conservative news network shows footage of the aftermath of Captain Hero's fight.

VIVICA TATE

Since everyone's a *snowflake* these days, I'll just come right out and say it. Hyper-Humans are destroying this city. Don't take my word for it, look for yourself. This delusional vigilante is costing us-- the tax payers of New Troy *millions* in property damage. This thug--

Captain Hero **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 Hero spins around, looking for the speaker.

CAPTAIN HERO

Hello?

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

CAPTAIN HERO (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 covers 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 Hero 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.

Captain Hero gets up and swings at The Demon again.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)

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

The Demon punches Captain Hero in the gut and knocks all the wind out of his body. Captain Hero staggers.

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

"Zero, Zero, Zero".

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)

You like that? How about this!

He punches him again.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)

Or this!

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

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)

What's wrong **hero**? All out of  
juice?

The Demon **LAUGHS**. Captain Hero 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)

Closing in all around you?  
Hope...fading? Darkness over  
taking?

The demons wrap around Captain Hero's body and remove his mask, exposing his bruised 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 Xerxes' 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' muffles screams fade into the darkness.*

EXT. HUGHES HOME, FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

A hand **KNOCKS** on a door.

Violet walks down stairs to the front door. She looks into the peep hole but the lens is covered.

VIOLET  
Can I help you sir?

W.Z.R.D. dressed in a trench coat slowly removes his hand from the lens revealing his helmet.

W.Z.R.D.  
Sorry to bother you ma'am. Is this the address of one Violet Hughes?

VIOLET  
Wrong house, sorry.

W.Z.R.D. jiggles the door handle before kicking down the door. Violet **SCREAMS** as W.Z.R.D. and his group of mind controlled minions and drones barge inside the house.

He quickly muffles her screams in a chloroform laced napkin, then zip ties, handcuffs, and duck tapes her.

**BEGIN MONTAGE:**

- W.Z.R.D. knocks on several doors.
- W.Z.R.D. breaks into several houses.
- W.Z.R.D.'s minions tie up and bind several civilians.
- W.Z.R.D. hacks into the friendscape server.

**END OF MONTAGE:**

EXT. ARIZONA'S HOME - NIGHT

Arizona walks up to her front door and is about to put in her key, when a large shadow rises up from behind her. She quickly spins around to identify the figure. **Her eyes widen.** But before she can let out a scream a hand covers her mouth.

**BLACK.**

EXT. JUNKYARD - NIGHT - LATER

Captain Hero jolts up **GASPING**. He inspects his surroundings to verify he's alone.

He sits up and his phone **BUZZES**. He checks the notification window and sees: 8 MISSED CALLS FROM DAISY, 10 UNOPENED TEXTS.

CAPTAIN HERO  
Shit.

He scrolls through his notifications and reads Daisy's text:

*WHERE ARE YOU? DID YOUR PHONE DIE? CALL ME AS SOON AS YOU GET THIS!*

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

*Shit.*

He opens her messages and starts typing. Suddenly, he gets an *INCOMING CALL*. He answers.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

Hello?

DAISY (O.S.)

I've been trying to get a hold of you all day? Where have you been?

CAPTAIN HERO

I was just... I needed some time to think.

DAISY (O.S.)

Xerxes... You know you can talk to me right?

CAPTAIN HERO

I know. But I'm fine, really.

DAISY (O.S.)

I just think--

Her voice trails off as Captain Hero spots a few *men in masks walking into a gas station.*

CAPTAIN HERO

D, I'm gonna have to call you back.

DAISY

What? I just got a hold of you. What's going on?

CAPTAIN HERO

You wouldn't understand okay. Something I have to handle.

DAISY

I'd understand if you took the time to explain it to me. I'm concerned about you. I want to know you're okay. Between the fight with Oblivion, your folks, and everything online I just--

CAPTAIN HERO  
Look, I just...

A beat.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)  
There's a lot going on. A lot of  
stuff I can't explain. I just...

A beat.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)  
I keep fucking up okay. And I feel  
like if I don't make it right...  
I'll never be able to live with  
myself.

DAISY  
Xerxes, I--

CAPTAIN HERO  
Please. I **have** to do this.

DAISY  
Do what? Where are--

He hangs up the phone and sprints after the men.

INT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

The masked men rush the store. **JOEY**, a Hyper with spiked  
projectiles raises a spike at **RAMÓN**, the cashier's face. The  
two other goons raid the shelves.

Ramón slowly raises his hands.

RAMÓN  
I don't want any trou--

JOEY  
*Shut the fuck up!* You so much as  
*sneeze* and I'll jam this spike  
right between your eyes. Open the  
fuckin' register.

Ramón's trembling hands reach into the register.

**DING-DONG.** The store sensor goes off as Captain Hero steps  
into the store. The thugs and cashier turn their heads to  
face him.

CAPTAIN HERO (O.S.)  
I don't think that'll be necessary.



RAMÓN

Man, I know you're tryna help but I think you should just go home.

CAPTAIN HERO

I'm not going to leave a citizen in need--

RAMÓN

Just *go*, okay! Before you get us both killed.

Tears well up in his eyes.

JOEY

You should listen to em kid. You're--oh, oh my God. Lenny, look, look, it's the guy from that video I sent you earlier.

LENNY

What? No way.

Lenny squints and examines Captain Hero closely.

LENNY (CONT'D)

Holy shit, it is! He's that Commander Zero or something.

Captain Hero grits his teeth.

CAPTAIN HERO

It's Captain Hero.

Joey notices his balled fists and gritted teeth.

JOEY

You got something to prove kid. But you're not gonna do it here. Last chance. Go home.

The thugs **CHUCKLE**. Captain Hero takes a step closer.

CAPTAIN HERO

I'm not going anywhere.

JOEY

Oh! Looks like we got ourselves a tough guy.

The other criminals move in on him. Joey makes spikes pop out of his arms and back.

JOEY (CONT'D)

Let's show him what we do to tough  
guys.

The black smoke reappears. Captain Hero balls his trembling hands into a fist, then charges towards the men.

**BANG! SLOW MOTION:** Captain Hero's eyes watch as a spike grazes the side of his head.

**REGULAR MOTION RESUMES:** Thug #3 **head-butts him in the face**, sending him flying back into shelves.

They all **open fire**. Captain Hero runs for cover. Captain Hero looks at his reflection in a glass sliding door. It morphs into The Depression Demon.

The Demon **ACKLES**.

CAPTAIN HERO

*Leave me alone!*

DEPRESSION DEMON

I'm afraid I can't do that. You and me? We're a package deal. I'm not going anywhere.

The demon **LAUGHS**. Captain Hero shakes his head as his eyes flood with tears.

CAPTAIN HERO

*Stop it. Stop it!*

**His eyes glow with intensity and his heat vision goes BERSERK!**

The Thugs duck for cover. Ramón runs for the exit but is hit with a burst of heat vision as Captain Hero spins around trying to get his powers under control.

The blast finally lets up, and his **eyes widen in horror**. His knees give out, and he falls on his hands. A trail of blood touches his finger tips...

His eyes follow the trail until they land on Ramón's nearly severed torso lying in a pool of blood near the exit.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

*Oh-oh my god...*

Captain Hero raises his hands to his face and trembles at the sight of his blood stained palms.

The Thugs behind him look in awe.

LENNY

Oh, shit! I gotta say, I did not see that coming.

Captain Hero **HYPERVENTILATES**.

JOEY

Sure made our job a hell of a lot easier. You two, bag the money and lets split.

LENNY

What about the kid?

Joey looks at Captain Hero.

JOEY

He's no threat to us.

The thugs raid the register then bolt for the door but before they can exit--

**CRASHHH!!! Glass Shards fly everywhere as** *Buttafly Girl* kicks through the window with a metallic cast on her leg.

She throws **Butterfly shaped shurikens** at Joey then knocks him out **cold**. She quickly disarms and subdues the two other thugs and turns to look at Captain Hero, who is still kneeling, frozen in shock.

Her eyes catch sight of Ramón...She **GASPS** in horror.

CAPTAIN HERO

I tried to... I was just trying... I was just trying to help... I lost control... I'm so sorry.. I'm so sorry...

She reaches down and checks Ramón's vitals.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

We'll talk about it later. Right now, we need to get him to a hospital.

The sound of "Pop goes the weasel" being **WHISTLED** can be heard behind them. They turn to find W.Z.R.D. standing behind the broken glass of the store.

W.Z.R.D.

Bravo, heroes. Bravo, a truly spectacular performance. Wouldn't you say chat?

Captain Hero and Buttafly Girl look at him with confusion.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Where are my manners. I haven't even properly introduced myself.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Look, whoever you are we don't--

W.Z.R.D. nods his head and one of his drones shoots a tiny device into Buttafly Girl's neck. She **SCREAMS** as her body convulses before hitting the ground.

W.Z.R.D. walks over to her slumped body and picks up the *ear piece she took from Oblivion* out of her utility belt.

W.Z.R.D.

Thanks. Lead me right to you.

Captain Hero's eyes glow in anger.

CAPTAIN HERO

***What did you do to her?!***

He lunges at W.Z.R.D. who is able to easily evade every punch he throws.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

***Answer me!!***

He throws a few more punches but none of them land.

W.Z.R.D.

Tisk, tisk, tisk.

W.Z.R.D.'s drone shoots a tiny device into Captain Hero's neck that makes his body convulse. He tries to fight it but falls to his knees.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

No spoilers before the big reveal.

Captain Hero slowly fades out of consciousness as he watches W.Z.R.D.'s drones carry away Buttafly Girl. He reaches his hand out to her, *but is too weak to move*.

Then everything goes...

**BLACK.**

**END OF ACT II**

**ACT III: CAPTAIN ZERO**INT. WAREHOUSE, CENTER STAGE - NIGHT

W.Z.R.D.

Three... two...

**BOOM!** Blinding bright lights pierce through the darkness.

The sounds of prerecorded applause crescendo as the tune of "pop goes the weasel" plays in the background.

A disoriented Captain Hero slowly regains consciousness.

He blinks a few times before his vision comes into focus.

He looks around and sees a crowd full of people who are handcuffed behind their back, zip tied by their feet, duck taped by the mouth, and restrained to their seat with a metal bar.

W.Z.R.D. (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Wakey, wakey hero. Or should I  
say...zero.

He tries to move but the large metal bar holds him in place. He tries to use his strength to move or bend it, but to no avail.

W.Z.R.D. (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Ah, ah, ah!

He looks around trying to find where the sound of the voice is coming from. From stage right, W.Z.R.D. slowly walks out onto the stage, wearing a suit like a talk show host.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

You didn't think I'd go through all  
this trouble just for you to escape  
did you?

Captain Hero struggles some more. W.Z.R.D. walks over and taps on his metal restraint.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

That's 2 tons of reenforced Osmium.  
Heaviest metal known to man.

He leans into his face.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

So you're not going anywhere...

He turns to face the crowd.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
So without further a-due, let's get  
this show started!

Game Show music plays.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
Welcome one and all to the game  
show...

His mind-controlled minions in the audience chant.

MINIONS  
*Hero or **Zero!***

W.Z.R.D.  
Yes! Hero or Zero! The only game  
show where loosing won't just cost  
you your reputation--it might just  
cost you your life!

A screen showing the livestream has a wave of heart emojis,  
donations, and chat reactions, wash over the footage.

**BEGIN MONTAGE:**

- A man stops jogging and looks at the livestream on his phone.
- A group of girls at a sleep over all huddle around their phones watching the livestream.
- A large group of people walking around in a mall all get notifications, stop in their tracks and tune into the livestream.

**END MONTAGE:**

INT. CETUS HQ, HALLWAY - NIGHT

A **CETUS EMPLOYEE** runs down the hallway and into the office of **ALYSSA DAY**, (60's), CEO of CETUS.

INT. CETUS HQ, ALYSSA DAY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The tired employee walks into Alyssa's office. Alyssa turns her phone to face him.

ALYSSA

Can you explain to me what I'm looking at?

W.Z.R.D. (V.O.)

We've got quite the show for you tonight folks.

CETUS EMPLOYEE

Ma'am. All servers have been compromised.

ALYSSA

By who?

INT. WAREHOUSE, CENTER STAGE - NIGHT

W.Z.R.D.'s helmet gleams under the stage lights.

W.Z.R.D.

But this is no ordinary game show. No, no. The stakes for this show couldn't be any more *real*.

An applause sign lights up and the minions **APPLAUD**.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Tonight, we're kicking off our first episode with an illustrious guest. You know him. You hate him. The one and only...*Captain*....  
*Zero!*

An applause sign lights up and the minions **APPLAUD**. Captain Hero struggles with is restraints.

CAPTAIN HERO

That's not... that's not my name!

W.Z.R.D.

Really? Funny, because I don't seem to hear much about a Captain Hero in the news or online. What about you chat? That name ringing a bell?

He looks out into his audience of captured civilians with their mouths ducked taped.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Deafening silence. Harsh. But you know what, why guess? That's why we have the internet. Let's look at some polls.

A projector screen comes down and internet search results come up for "Captain Hero". No Results or searches.

A "ooo" sign lights up and the drones and minions "ooo" in disapproval.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
Yikes. No results. Let's try  
Captain Zero.

Search results load of Captain Zero. Several hundred hits pop up.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
Well...there you have it. Can't  
fight the facts kid.

CAPTAIN HERO  
I don't care what your stupid poll  
says. That's my name! I'm not  
Captain Zero okay. Look, it's even  
embedded in my chest.

W.Z.R.D. examines his Captain Hero logo.

W.Z.R.D.  
It's a first, but you are correct.

He stands up straight.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
We'll have to fix that won't we.  
Bad for branding.

He snaps his fingers and two of his drones fly over, and start tinkering away at Captain Hero's logo.

CAPTAIN HERO  
Hey! Hey! Stop it! Get off me!

W.Z.R.D.  
Oh, relax it'll only be for a  
minute.

He turns to face the camera.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
Divas am I right?

An applause sign lights up and the minions **APPLAUD**. The drones finish and fly away, revealing a new logo that has a "C" and a "Z" for Captain Zero.



W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Ahh! That's more like it! And now that we're all settled the show can **REALLY** begin.

Captain Hero's chair turns to face the projector.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

We're gonna start off easy. A little word association game. You match the photo with the corresponding words and that stops one of our studio audience members from being stabbed.

CAPTAIN HERO

What?

W.Z.R.D.

30 seconds on the clock.

CAPTAIN HERO

Wait, wait, wait!

W.Z.R.D.

And...**go!**

A timer appears on the top of the screen. An image of a rotting apple appears.

CAPTAIN HERO

Uh...uh... rotting?

A **BUZZER** goes off. He looks into the audience as a duck taped civilian is stabbed with a small sharp rod in the shoulder. They wince in pain through **MUFFLED SCREAMS**.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

Fuck. Shit. Uh...apple?

Another **BUZZER** goes off. Another audience member is stabbed in the shoulder. More **MUFFLED SHRIEKING**.

W.Z.R.D.

Oh, c'mon, you're gonna have to do better than that.

Black smoke begins to form around him.

CAPTAIN HERO

Uh...moldy?

Another **BUZZER** goes off. His mother is stabbed in the shoulder.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)  
*Fuck... uh... bad?*

**DING-DING-DING.**

W.Z.R.D.  
Correct? Next word!

The image of a sun appears on screen.

CAPTAIN HERO  
Uh... uh... sun?

**DING-DING-DING.**

W.Z.R.D.  
Yes, you got it! Next image.

The projector shows two people hugging.

CAPTAIN HERO  
Uh...hug?

The **BUZZER** goes off. Another audience member is stabbed in the shoulder.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)  
Shit. Close? Comfort?

Two **BUZZER's** go off. Two audience members are stabbed in the shoulder. They shriek in pain through their duck tape.

W.Z.R.D.  
Ooo, so close. Here's a hint.

A photo of Daisy appears on screen. **Captain Hero is stunned.** He looks out into the audience and sees her duck taped and restrained too.

A single tear falls down his cheek.

CAPTAIN HERO  
Friend...

**DING-DING-DING.** The black smoke thickens around him. The depression demon **CHUCKLES.**

W.Z.R.D.  
Correct! Next word. 10 seconds on the clock!

An image of a generic superhero appears on the screen. Captain Hero drops his head.

CAPTAIN HERO

Hero...

**DING-DING-DING.**

W.Z.R.D.

You did it! Give him a hand folks,  
he's not as dumb as he looks. Oh!  
And with 5 seconds to spare.

The Black clouds swirl around his body.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Now let's line em all up and see  
what they spell.

He lines up the bad apple next to the images of the sun,  
people hugging, and generic hero.

W.Z.R.D. looks over and sees Captain Hero's head is down. He  
walks up to him and lifts up his chin.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

If you could be so kind as to read  
the last arrangement on the screen?

Captain Hero looks up at the projector.

CAPTAIN HERO

Bad...**son**...

His eyes wander over to his mother who he sees tearing up.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

Bad...**friend**....

His eyes wander over to Butterfly Girl and Arizona, both of  
which have expressions of terror in their eyes. He looks back  
up at the screen.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

**Bad... hero.**

**DING-DING-DING!** He's startled by the noise and the tune of  
"pop goes the weasel". W.Z.R.D. begins to **CLAP** furiously.

W.Z.R.D.

Yes! Yes! What a great first round  
folks. Truly a spectacle.

An applause sign lights up and the minions **APPLAUD.**

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

And let's also give a hand to...

He turns to face Captain Hero and hears him sobbing quietly with his head down. His hand raises and the faux audience applause **stops**.

He traverses the stage over to Captain Hero. Captain Hero slowly raises his head.

CAPTAIN HERO

Why... why are you doing this to me?

W.Z.R.D.

It isn't personal really.

CAPTAIN HERO

Isn't personal? *ISN'T PERSONAL?!*

His voice echos through the room.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

You've stalked me. Fucked with my head. Destroyed my relationships.  
***Ruined my life--***

W.Z.R.D.

Ah, ah, ah! Let's not play coy. While yes...I have interfered with certain *aspects* of your life, but *ruin?*

He **SCOFFS**.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

You didn't need me to ruin your life. **You did that all on your own.**

Black smoke begins to form the Depression Demon's figure, beside W.Z.R.D.. The Depression Demon's voice elevates W.Z.R.D.'s speech.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

I didn't make you desert your family when they ***needed*** you.

CAPTAIN HERO

Shut up.

W.Z.R.D.

Or run like a **coward** against Oblivion.

CAPTAIN HERO

*Shut up!*

W.Z.R.D.

And I certainly didn't make you  
slice a cashier in half because you  
can't control your emotions.

W.Z.R.D.'s Friendscape chat floods with reactions. All  
ranging from "**holy shit...**" To "**LMFAO**"

CAPTAIN HERO

*Shut up! Shut up! **SHUT UP!***

Captain Hero's eyes glow red.

W.Z.R.D.

Is this the supposed savior of New  
Troy city? An emotionally  
dysregulated twerp with a martyr  
complex? Certainly our fair city  
deserves better than that.

Captain Hero **SCREAMS. He uses his heat vision to melt his restraints.** He leaps out of his chair and grabs W.Z.R.D. by the **throat, fighting back tears.**

CAPTAIN HERO

Give me one good reason why I  
shouldn't crush you right now.

W.Z.R.D. chokes through his words.

W.Z.R.D.

Cause then you'd just be proving my  
point.

Captain Hero looks out into the audience. They're all stunned  
and horrified. Including his mother and Buttafly girl. He  
looks back at W.Z.R.D., then drops him.

W.Z.R.D. collects himself then rises to his feet. He **LAUGHS**  
mocking Captain Hero.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

*What a joke.*

Captain Hero moves towards the captured audience but is  
stopped by drones and minions, and knocked to his knees.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

You want to know why I chose you?

He leans in.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

You're average--hell, below average if we're being honest. A nothing. A nobody. I choose you because you're like every other shmuck with a computer and a platform. You've diluted yourself into believing your mere existence makes you special.

He steps closer.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

From birth to death our lives are a series of unfortunate events strung together by the illusion that there is some greater purpose. But in the end, we are no different than the *beasts in the fields*. Deep down inside the heart of every man is the desire to see destruction.

He points to the screen.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

We've got 25 million viewers locked in on this broadcast. I restored the ability to exit the livestream 20 minutes ago and we haven't had a single drop in viewership.

W.Z.R.D. **LAUGHS**, then steps closer. He kneels down and speaks to Captain Hero only:

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

I showed them violence, blackmail, and moral depravity, yet our numbers have only been going up by the minute. What does that tell you?

Captain Zero looks at the floor. W.Z.R.D. Stands.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

It tells me that deep down...there are no heroes truly. Only monsters.

A **LOUD BUZZER** goes off.

EXT. NEW TROY ROOFTOP - NIGHT

The platform Captain Hero is standing on is raised until he finds himself at the top of a roof. W.Z.R.D. Comes out in a small hovering craft with speakers facing him.

W.Z.R.D.

And now, it's time for our next game!

CAPTAIN HERO

Wait!

W.Z.R.D.

I call this: **The Heretic's Revenge.**

INT. WAREHOUSE, AUDIENCE - NIGHT

A gadget forms around the neck of each restrained audience member. A metal heretic's fork emerges from the center.

The sudden appearance of the fork surprises Daisy, who immediately gasps and looks to Arizona and Violet to make sure they're okay.

EXT. NEW TROY ROOFTOP - NIGHT

W.Z.R.D.

Each one of these forks will extend through the chin and chest each time you fail to save someone. You'll have 1 minute to locate and save civilians.

He projects a holographic map that shows 3 separate locations: below the building, a park, and a medical office. Captain Hero's eyes dart around the screen, focusing intensely on their faces.

W.Z.R.D. closes the projection.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

With every save, the timer resets. But should you let the timer hit zero...

He shows another projection. This time a 3D model showing how the heretic's fork will pierce through the skull and chest of anyone wearing the collar.

Donations and reactions fly in on the stream. A mix of reactions that shift between horror and excitement.

W.Z.R.D. closes the projection.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
I think you get the picture.

Captain Hero balls his fists up.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
What is a hero if not someone  
willing to risk their life for  
another? And what do we call false  
prophets who blasphemers in the name  
of justice?

He pauses briefly.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
*A heretic.*

He presses a button and the projector shows a countdown clock  
counting down from 59.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
GO!

Captain Hero runs and leaps off the ledge of the building.  
His body glides in the air before landing and creating a  
crater in the "superhero" stance.

He gathers his bearings and starts looking around.

INT. CAPTAIN HERO'S VISOR - CONTINUOUS

The HUD inside his lenses pin point the closest location:  
Below the building.

EXT. NEW TROY CITY, STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Captain Hero takes off sprinting.

INT. WAREHOUSE, AUDIENCE - NIGHT

Daisy watches a broadcast of Captain Hero as he sprints to  
save the first citizen. W.Z.R.D. **LAUGHS** menacingly from  
inside his hovering raft.

She looks around the room and sees that his mind-controlled  
minions are perfectly frozen.



DAISY (V.O.)  
Without any direct commands,  
they're basically statues. It's now  
or never.

Daisy licks around the edges of the tape until it comes loose  
and her mouth is freed. She leans over to Violet.

DAISY  
Mrs. Hughes, I know this is all  
very confusing but I need you to  
trust me right now.

Violet nods.

DAISY (CONT'D)  
I need you to lean your head over  
and try to knock one of my bobby  
pins loose.

Violet raises an eyebrow.

**DING-DING.** The screen shows Captain Hero saves the first  
citizen.

W.Z.R.D. (V.O.)  
That was a free one. Onto the next.

Timer resets. Daisy turns her attention back to Violet.

DAISY  
Just trust me.

Violet leans over, and Daisy does the same. They rub their  
hair together until one of Daisy's bobby pins comes loose.

The pin falls but Daisy catches it just behind her back. She  
clicks the bobby pin three times and a tiny torch comes out  
one end.

She sears through the handcuffs, then rubs her wrists. She  
then sears through the metal bar on her waist, and the zip  
ties on her feet.

She removes Violet's mouth tape.

VIOLET  
Bless your heart.

Daisy starts searing through Violet's restraints.

VIOLET (CONT'D)  
Do you always have laser pointing  
bobby pins in your hair?

Daisy **CHUCKLES**.

DAISY

Never leave home without 'em.

She burns off the last of Violet's restraints.

VIOLET

What about these collars?

Daisy tries to sear through the collar but is electrocuted.

DAISY

*Shit!*

VIOLET

Language!

DAISY

Sorry Mrs. Hughes. They're rigged with some kind of defense system. Our best bet is to try and hack his computer and shut them off manually.

She takes out another bobby pin and hands it to Violet.

DAISY (CONT'D)

Free the others. I'll see what I can do about these collars.

Violet nods, takes the pin, and begins freeing the other hostages. Daisy looks at the frozen minions and takes out two of her hair ties.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Captain Hero flies backwards into a trash can. He shuffles to his feet and looks up at W.Z.R.D. who hovers above him. The timer countdown has 30 seconds left.

He looks over to a group of civilians tied up as **LOCAL FLORIDA MAN**, a 7 foot tall, humanoid purple alligator steps into frame and **ROARS**.

W.Z.R.D.

Tick, tick, hero.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The heretic's fork expends and slightly pierces everyone's throat.

The minion's are tied up and Daisy searches through the main console's program files. A now freed Arizona is aided by Violet who helps walk her over to where Daisy is working.

ARIZONA

Any luck?

DAISY

No. These firewalls and encrypted files seem endless. Our best hope is that Xerx---Uh, I mean *Captain Hero* can buy us some more time.

She **CHUCKLES nervously**.

VIOLET

Baby, you don't have to cover for him. A mother knows her child's voice.

ARIZONA

Yeah... and he kinda spilled the beans when we were out earlier. He spilled a **lot** of things when we we're out earlier...

Daisy **SIGHS**.

DAISY

Of course he did.

She turns her attention back to the console.

DAISY (CONT'D)

That's the least of our worries now.

She looks over at the screen and sees Captain Hero wrestling local Florida Man with 15 seconds to spare.

ARIZONA

Let me try.

Daisy looks back at her.

DAISY

You know how to break through a 6 way encrypted system?

ARIZONA

I used to do them as puzzles before school.

Daisy and Violet look at Arizona in amazement.

ARIZONA (CONT'D)  
Computers are kinda my thing.

Daisy steps aside and Violet helps Arizona over to the console. She cracks her knuckles then starts rapid fire clicking away at the keyboard.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

**BLAM!**

All 600 pounds of Local Florida Man's body slumps to the ground revealing a scratched up, bloody, and beaten Captain Hero standing over him.

The timer resets.

W.Z.R.D.  
Good show. Jolly good show. Now,  
onto the final test.

INT. MEDICAL OFFICE - NIGHT

Captain Hero kicks open the doors of a dark room. Lights flicker from above.

He slowly walks into the room. Hear hears the sound of an EKG.

CAPTAIN HERO  
What is it? Where's the civilian?

Blinding lights cut on. Captain Hero shields his eyes with his arms before slowly letting them down.

His eyes lock onto the object in front of him. His pupils shrink and his tear ducts fill up immediately...

On an operating table lies the near lifeless body of **Ramón**.  
**Torso nearly severed in half.**

A tiny platform raises with stitching equipment.

Captain Hero slowly stumbles backwards but the doors seal **shut** behind him.

W.Z.R.D.  
You wish to play God. Believing  
that life and death is inextricably  
tethered to your own hand. Look  
before you and see a man who had  
his life placed in your hands.

Captain Hero places his hands over his mouth fighting back tears.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

He told you he didn't want your help. But you didn't listen... you couldn't help but feel the need to assert your hero complex--even if it meant putting someone else's life on the line.

Tears rolls down his mask as Black smoke starts to appear.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Believe it or not he survived the follies of your arrogance--by a mere thread. But now, I grant you the opportunity to right a wrong.

The smoke swirls around Captain Hero's body.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Save his life, **hero**.

A countdown clock appears in front of him. Counting down from 60 seconds.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

If you fail to act, **he will die**.

Captain Hero winces.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

If you act incorrectly, **he will die**.

Captain Hero grits his teeth.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

And if he dies. So will **everybody** in that warehouse.

CAPTAIN HERO

You monster! You're sick!

W.Z.R.D.

Me?

W.Z.R.D.'s **SCOFFS**.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

I have done a lot of things some might deem wicked.

(MORE)

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

But the man whose life hangs in the balance is not from my own doing. It's from yours. **Your** self absorption and need for external validation is what nearly killed that man. **Your** hero complex. **Your** shortcomings. **YOUR** failure!

Captain Hero turns to face Ramón.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

It is often said that only in moment of extreme duress can we truly decipher what we are truly made of. So show us Captain. Who are you deep down?

He presses a button and the countdown starts. Captain Hero runs to the platform with the stitching material.

He looks down at the objects.

CAPTAIN HERO (V.O.)

You can do this. You can do this.

He grabs the stitching needle and leans over Ramón's body. *His hands tremble as the room begins to shake.*

CAPTAIN HERO

C'mon... c'mon...

His hands motion towards Ramón's body but he hesitates. The counter winds down, 30...29...28...

INT. WAREHOUSE, COMPUTER - NIGHT

The Heretic's fork wedges itself deeper into everyone's skin. **Arizona types away furiously as sweat drips down her brow.**

Daisy looks up at the screen as sees Captain Hero **paralyzed by fear**. She then looks at the timer. **10...9...8...**

ARIZONA

Almost...

INT. MEDICAL OFFICE - NIGHT

Captain Hero's hands trembles as he *inches* closer to Ramón's body.

CAPTAIN HERO

Almost...

W.Z.R.D. leans forward in his hover craft, watching **intently**.

INT. WAREHOUSE, COMPUTER - NIGHT

Daisy grabs Violet's hand. Violet puts her free hand onto Arizona's shoulder. Violet watches the timer.

5...4...

Arizona types away furiously.

INT. MEDICAL OFFICE - NIGHT

Captain Hero's hands **shake uncontrollably** as black smoke engulfs him.

DEPRESSION DEMON  
Yes...that's it...*sink...sink...*

INT. WAREHOUSE, COMPUTER - NIGHT

Violet's eyes watch as the timer descends into it's **final numbers**.

3...

2...

She closes her eyes.

**BLACK.**

**CLICK.**

INT. MEDICAL OFFICE - NIGHT

Captain Hero drops the stitching tool and it hits the ground with a **CLANG**.

A **BUZZER** goes off.

INT. WAREHOUSE, COMPUTER - NIGHT

Violet opens her eyes as the heretics fork device falls off everyone's neck.

Daisy let's out a momentous **SIGH OF RELIEF** and everyone in the room **ERUPTS WITH CHEER**. Daisy and Violet tightly hug Arizona.

INT. MEDICAL OFFICE - NIGHT

Ramòn's EKG **flatlines.**

Captain Hero hangs his head. W.Z.R.D. **LAUGHS HYSTERICALLY.**

W.Z.R.D.

I knew it! I knew you we're a  
fraud! A self righteous hypocrite  
who chokes when the pressure is on.

He **LAUGHS** some more.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Game...

BUTTAFLY GIRL (O.S.)

**Over...**

W.Z.R.D.

Wha?

W.Z.R.D.'s projector turns on and it shows *all the freed civilians* as Buttafly Girl adjust her helmet. Captain Hero turns around.

CAPTAIN HERO

What?

W.Z.R.D. presses a button on his wrist.

W.Z.R.D.

Minions! Do as I--

BUTTAFLY GIRL

They're a little tied up at the  
moment.

She pans the camera to show his minions tied up to a metal pillar. Then pans the camera back over to her.

BUTTAFLY GIRL (CONT'D)

And thanks to a *real* computer  
wizard...

Arizona nods and Violet pats her on the back.

BUTTAFLY GIRL (CONT'D)

I've now got full control of the  
broadcast. So consider this a  
*change* in programing.

**BEGIN MONTAGE:**



- Civilians at the mall watching the broadcast all **CHEER**.
- The young girls at the slumber party all cheer.

**END MONTAGE:**

INT. DR.NIOBE'S HOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

DR. NIOBE  
Would you look at that...

INT. MEDICAL OFFICE - NIGHT

W.Z.R.D.  
No, no, no! That's impossible!

INT. WAREHOUSE, COMPUTER - NIGHT

ARIZONA  
Actually, once I got past your  
firewalls, it was pretty easy. It  
gave me full access to all your  
files. Including the fact that you  
logged Ramón's death 5 minutes  
after you left the convenience  
store. Meaning...

INT. MEDICAL OFFICE - NIGHT

Captain Hero turns to face W.Z.R.D.

CAPTAIN HERO  
He was already dead.

Captain Hero clutches his fists, then looks back toward the projector.

BUTTAFLY GIRL  
You've talked a lot about what you  
feel is at the core of every human  
being. Darkness and a need for  
destruction. But I don't believe  
that...

**BEGIN MONTAGE:**

- People at the mall watch on their phone, then look at each other and smile.

- Strangers on the street see a Hyper-Human being attacked and intervene.
- Oblivion watches from a TV at the element and gives a smirk.

BUTTAFLY GIRL (CONT'D)

I believe at the heart of every person, Hyper or Human, is the capacity to care for their fellow man. You were right about one thing though... after tonight this city wont ever be the same. It'll be better. Because of people like *us*. The people who make up this city.

- Civilians all across the city cheer.

**END MONTAGE:**

BUTTAFLY GIRL (CONT'D)

So consider your game show cancelled. Go get em Cap.

The broadcast ends. Captain Hero makes a b-line towards W.Z.R.D.

His eyes glow red and he blasts the hovercraft W.Z.R.D. was perched in.

W.Z.R.D. falls to the ground and cracks his helmet, all while slinking away.

CAPTAIN HERO

You tried to turn the city against me. Hurt my friends. My *family!*

Captain Hero gets closer as W.Z.R.D. continues to back away. W.Z.R.D. slowly reaches behind him for a hidden remote.

CAPTAIN HERO (CONT'D)

And now you're gonna pay.

He lunges towards him and W.Z.R.D. whips out a remote and presses a large red button.

**Hundreds of drones break through the wall and aim red dots all over Captain Hero.** He stops dead in his tracks.

W.Z.R.D.

No... I don't think I will.

The drones open fire and Captain Hero jumps in the air and a fury of bullets tear through the wall.

**BEGIN MONTAGE:**

- Captain Hero maneuvers around the drones.
- Captain Hero uses the targeting system against them and has drones open fire on one another.
- Captain Hero uses his heat vision and shoots drones out of the sky.
- W.Z.R.D. realizes he's losing and tries to retreat.
- Captain Hero notices him from the corner of his eye, grabs the last two drones and **SMASHES** them into each other before using his heat vision to turn the asphalt into tar, stopping W.Z.R.D. from escaping.

**END MONTAGE:**

An exhausted and battle-torn Captain Hero walks over to W.Z.R.D.

CAPTAIN HERO  
Give it up. You lost. And I'm  
taking you in.

W.Z.R.D. **CHUCKLES**. Captain Hero raises an eyebrow.

He takes a step forward and his foot activates a pressure pad. He looks down below, and before he can react, an electromagnetic cube forms around his body.

He begins to panic. **Black smoke appears and the cube begins to shrink.**

W.Z.R.D.  
Poor little zero.

He **LAUGHS**.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
I will admit, for a second there I  
almost thought that you had me.

He struggles but manages to rip his feet out of the melted asphalt. Captain Hero tries to use his communicator to call Daisy but gets static.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)  
The electromagnetic field disrupts  
all communications. So you can't  
call your friend to come save you.

Smoke begins to fill the cube and it shrinks once more.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

I designed this device especially for you. See, each wall as a sensor that detects the speed of your heart rate. So the more you panic...

The cube **shrinks again**. Captain Hero drops to his knees trying to push apart the walls apart, but to no avail.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

The smaller the cube gets until... well, you get the picture.

Captain Hero struggles, trying with all his might to push against the walls.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Don't you see...this was inevitable.

He gets close to the cube to look into Captain Hero's eyes.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

No matter how you played it. No matter how hard you fought or tried to resist, this was always going to be the outcome. You know why?

He looks into Captain Hero's eyes, which are now welling up with tears. **The cube shrinks again**.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Because you're nothing. Nobody. A **Zero**.

Captain Hero let's out a **SCREAM**.

W.Z.R.D. **LAUGHS** as the cube shrinks again. Captain Hero's body is nearly pretzeled inside.

Black smoke fills the cube.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

So long...Zero.

Captain Hero's eyes dart around the cube as the black smoke completely engulfs it. Then...

**BLACK OUT.**

INT. ABYSS - NIGHT

The sound of Xerxes' faint breathing slowly comes into focus.

The white of his eyes appear. Then the rest of his body comes into focus. He looks around the pitch black abyss.

XERXES

W-where am I?

He hears faint **ECHOS** and turns quickly.

DEPRESSION DEMON (V.O.)

You're where you always retreat  
when you can't handle the pressures  
of the real world.

The abyss suddenly turns red, the ground begins to shake. He spins around to see all the darkness swirling, and rising up out of the ground like an emerging volcano.

Large black talons form, then glowing red eyes.

DEPRESSION DEMON

Your mind.

Xerxes looks at the large being that towers over him.

XERXES

Does that mean I...

Several of the demon's tentacles rip through the ground and slither towards Xerxes.

Xerxes punches some and uses his heat vision against others but more and more appear.

He tries to fight them off but is quickly overpowered. He uses his heat vision once more, then turns to run.

The demon reaches out and grabs Xerxes, raising him to meet his gaze. Xerxes squirms in his clasp *but cannot break free.*

DEPRESSION DEMON

You still don't get it do you?  
There isn't a single place you can  
run to where I won't find you. No  
crevice in your mind deep enough to  
shield you.

He pulls him in closer and shrinks in size until they are about the same height.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
You can't fight me and win. You  
can't pray me away, banish me, or  
kill me. You know why?

His face morphs into Xerxes with red glowing eyes.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
Because I'm you. All the parts you  
hate. The parts you try and stuff  
down. The parts of you that knows  
you're a coward. A simpleton. A  
**ZERO!**

The demon **LAUGHS** and morphs back into it's original face.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
And as long as you loathe yourself  
to the degree that you do... I  
won't be going anywhere.

He hears a "zero" **CHANT** begin to **CRESCENDO**.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
Hear that? That's the sound of  
inevitability.

The Demon **LAUGHS** and joins in.

DEPRESSION DEMON (CONT'D)  
Zero, zero, zero, zero!

The chanting gets louder an louder. The demons tentacles wrap  
around his body and face until he's covered in complete...

**DARKNESS.**

A voice faintly comes into focus.

DR.NIOBE (V.O.)  
In numerology zero represents  
limitless potential. Endless  
possibilities...

Xerxes's eye twitches.

DR. NIOBE (V.O.)  
The ability to adapt and start  
anew...

His muscles contracts inside the demon's cocoon.

DR. NIOBE (V.O.)

Instead of looking at being called a zero as a bad thing, you should think of it like that: **Limitless potential.**

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Niobe leans in.

DR. NIOBE

The fact of the matter is, we cannot defeat our inner demons with our fists. But when we accept our shadow self--instead of trying to fight it, it is then, and only then can we finally begin to take control of our life and who we want to be.

Xerxes sits on the couch, looking intensely into Dr. Niobe's eyes.

DR. NIOBE (CONT'D)

So they think you're a zero. So what? You show them *exactly* what a zero can be.

**BLACK.**

INT. ABYSS - NIGHT

Xerxes lets out a **BLOODCURDLING SCREAM**. He rips through the cocoon and lands on his feet, fully dressed in his Captain Zero uniform.

The Demon is taken aback. The Demon launches a fury of punches that he effortlessly dodges.

The Demon tries to wrap his tentacles around him but they phase right through him. He continues to walk towards the demon.

The demon stumbles back and falls onto the ground.

DEPRESSION DEMON

Wait! Wait! No! You can't kill me!  
You *can't!*

Captain Zero leans over to face the demon.

CAPTAIN ZERO

I know.

He extends his hand.

CAPTAIN ZERO (CONT'D)

I **accept** you.

The demon grabs his hand and **a bright beam of light tears through the darkness.**

INT. MEDICAL OFFICE - NIGHT

A bright beam of light pierces through the cube. W.Z.R.D. turns around in disbelief.

W.Z.R.D.

What the--

**BOOOOOOOOOOM!**

W.Z.R.D. goes flying back and hits a wall. He ends up crushing his remote. He covers his eyes and tries to peer through the blinding light and flying debris.

From the ashes emerge **CAPTAIN ZERO.**

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

Wait...wait!! How did you...no!  
That's impossible! You're not  
suppose to do that!

Captain Zero walks toward him.

W.Z.R.D. (CONT'D)

You're nothing you hear me! Nothing  
more than a...a...

CAPTAIN ZERO

**A Zero.**

Captain Zero punches him in the face and shatters his helmet. He falls to the ground, **knocked out cold.**

EXT. MEDICAL OFFICE - NIGHT

Captain Zero limps to the curb. W.Z.R.D. lies unconscious, with a steel beam bended around his body.

A car **SCREECHES** to a halt. He sees his mother and Arizona step out. Buttafly Girl descends from above and tackles him and gives him a tight embrace.



BUTTAFLY GIRL

You did it! I know you could do it!  
I knew it! Ahaha!

He hugs her back tightly.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Thank you for never giving up on  
me.

Buttafly Girl releases him and Arizona and his mother walk  
up. He **CLEARs HIS THROAT** and tries to lower his voice.

CAPTAIN ZERO (CONT'D)

Well, uh--ma'am. I'm glad my  
partner and her friend here could  
assist in your--

BUTTAFLY GIRL

She knows.

CAPTAIN ZERO

What?

VIOLET

It wasn't hard to put together.  
You're a bad liar son.

ARIZONA

Yeah, you're kinda bad about  
the whole secret identity  
thing.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Really bad.

VIOLET

(In Spanish) *horrible*.

The women all nod and agree in unison.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Alright! Alright!

Captain Zero looks at Arizona.

CAPTAIN ZERO (CONT'D)

Hey... so about that whole thing at  
dinner--

ARIZONA

Don't worry about it. You were  
obviously going through a lot.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Yeah... it was still pretty shitty though. And you didn't deserve that. I'm sorry.

ARIZONA

You're right. I didn't.

He deflates.

ARIZONA (CONT'D)

But you can make it up to me when you pay for our next date.

He perks up.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Wait... did you say...date?

Violet taps Captain Zero on the shoulder.

VIOLET

Sorry to cut in. I'm glad I finally have an explanation for your late nights and mysterious bruises, but I need you to know that just because you're a superhero doesn't mean you can skip out on your other responsibilities.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Mom! I *just* saved the city, can we not?

VIOLET

Mmm-Hmm. We gonna put those powers of yours to WORK. You got all that time to fight crime, you better be fighting them books!

ARIZONA

I know that's right.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Don't encourage her!

VIOLET

And I need those college applications filled out by the morning!

CAPTAIN ZERO

Oh my god...

She pinches him.

CAPTAIN ZERO (CONT'D)

Ow!

VIOLET

You know better than to take the  
lord's name in vain.

Daisy and Arizona **CHUCKLE**.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Sorry mom.

Violet raises his chin so he's facing her.

VIOLET

Hey.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Yes?

VIOLET

I'm proud of you mijo.

Tears well up in his eyes.

CAPTAIN ZERO

Thanks mom.

She embraces him.

BUTTAFLY GIRL

Aww, you guys are so cute!

VIOLET

Bring it in, there's enough love to  
go around.

Buttafly Girl and Arizona join the warm embrace.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr.Niobe closes her notepad. Xerxes looks down at the note  
pad then back at Dr.Niobe.

XERXES

What? So that's it?

DR.NIOBE

For now, yes.

XERXES

Okay... So what's my verdict?

DR.NIOBE

Verdict? You're not on trial here  
Mr. Hughes.

XERXES

Yeah, I know but... What's your  
assessment?

She **CHUCKLES**.

DR.NIOBE

As far as I can tell you're a  
pretty good kid--

XERXES

Yesss!

DR.NIOBE

-With a bit of a martyr/superman  
complex.

XERXES

A what now?

DR.NIOBE

People with a martyr complex often  
get the feeling of being a martyr  
for it's own sake. Seeking out  
suffering or persecution because it  
either feeds a psychological need,  
or a desire to avoid  
responsibility.

XERXES

(scoff) You think I'm  
irresponsible?

DR.NIOBE

Let's see, you ran off on your  
friend, accused the girl you like  
of being a domestic terrorist  
without evidence, left your parents  
hanging with the food truck, and  
let several people get hurt because  
of your need to be validated as a  
hero.

His pupils shrink.

XERXES

Wait...

She pulls out a small cloth and cleans her glasses lens.

DR.NIOBE

You know what all those degrees  
behind you mean?

He looks behind him at her multiple degrees.

DR.NIOBE (CONT'D)

It' means I know bullshit when I  
hear it. *Squash?* C'mon now.

She puts her glasses back on. *Fear washes over Xerxes's face.*

XERXES

So... you know?

DR.NIOBE

Yes. You're not a very good liar.

Xerxes sucks his teeth.

XERXES

*So I've been told.*

She **CHUCKLES**.

DR.NIOBE

So for future reference. Let's not  
make a habit of *lying* in therapy.  
Kinda defeats the purpose don't you  
think?

XERXES

Yeah... noted.

DR. NIOBE

Good.

XERXES

Okay. So now that you know the  
truth I... *technically* confessed to  
a crime.

DR.NIOBE

**Several** crimes actually.

XERXES

So... you gonna report me?

DR.NIOBE

I took an oath to help patients.  
**All** patients.

(MORE)

DR.NIOBE (CONT'D)

Believe it or not, despite your *misguided* attempts at heroism I think your heart is in the right place. You just need a little... maturing is all.

XERXES

So what now?

DR.NIOBE

The way I see it you have two choices Mr. Hughes. You can see me every Wednesday and together we can uncover the cause of your blackouts...

She hands him a doctors note for a follow up appointment.

DR.NIOBE (CONT'D)

Or...

XERXES

Or?

DR.NIOBE

You can let the darkness consume you. Keep blacking out and never know why.

XERXES

Wow. That's... Those are two great options right there.

DR.NIOBE

Xerxes, as a therapist I can only show you the mirror. It's up to you to decipher what's in front of it.

Xerxes looks at his reflection in her grandfather clock.

She rests her hand on his shoulder.

DR.NIOBE (CONT'D)

I'm going to give you a piece of advice. Something a wise person once told me. Sometimes, the most heroic thing we can do is save ourselves.

INT. OUTSIDE THERAPIST'S OFFICE, HALL WAY - CONTINUOUS

DR.NIOBE

Thank you for seeing me today  
Xerxes. I don't get too many young  
Black boys willing to talk through  
their emotions.

XERXES

I mean, you have Daisy to thank.  
She's the one who referred you. And  
the one paying for these sessions.  
This is a nice ass building, I  
could never afford this.

Dr.Niobe **CHUCKLES.**

DR.NIOBE

You have a friend who cares a great  
deal about you. Hold onto that.

XERXES

I will.

EXT. NEW TROY CITY STREETS - DAY

She hands him a card, then waves goodbye. He waves back, then  
looks down at the card.

It reads: **YOU NEVER KNOW, THE LIFE YOU SAVE COULD BE YOUR  
OWN.**

He smiles, then looks up and sees a defaced billboard that  
reads: "Captain Zero: New Troy's Very Own".

He shakes his head then opens up his friendscape account.

He presses the "edit name" button, changes his name to  
"Captain Zero" then presses save.

He tucks his phone in his pocket, then turns to walk home.

His shadow trails behind him, forms a smile, and lets out an  
**LAUGH.**

**THE END**

**END CREDITS**

INT. CETUS, PRISON - NIGHT

The sound of Alyssa Day's **HEELS CLICK** against cold linoleum floors.

She walks pass several caged and incarcerated Hyper-Humans.

She walks up to a security guard and scans her retina before a giant door with complex locks.

It opens.

She walks to the end of the hall and stops in front of a door labeled "W.Z.R.D."

She slides a small metal grate, making only her eyes visible.

ALYSSA

I'm going to make this quick.  
You're facing 2 life sentences for domestic terrorism, 33 counts conspiracy and 22 counts of corporate espionage. The best lawyer in the world couldn't get you off.

A beat.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

But somehow...you managed to hack into a server with several hundred layers of encryption in a few hours. I don't like being bested and I sure as hell don't like being out smarted. So I'll cut you a deal...

W.Z.R.D. perks up.

ALYSSA (CONT'D)

Tell me how you did it... and I'll help you bring this city to it's knees.

W.Z.R.D. smiles.

Alyssa smiles back.

**THE END**