Every Day Superhero

by Kristopher Hoffman Open on a black screen. White letters fade in from black.

"A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is brave five minutes longer."

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

FADE IN:

INT. DAY

Frank is standing at the window of a mental hospital, framed in the window. He looks down from the window, looking at a pool.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY

THE CAMERA CUTS TO A CLOSE UP OF FRANK

Frank has tears streaming down his face as he looks at the pool.

CUT TO:

EXT. POOLSIDE DAY

A little girl is floating face down in a pool. The grill is set up and smoking. Frank comes out carrying a tray of raw hamburgers. He turns after he closes the door behind himself. Seeing the girl in the pool he drops the tray and dives into the pool, pulling her out.

He tries, continually, to revive her using CPR. He keeps trying. The hours pass and finally, he gives up and collapses across her body, weeping.

FADE TO:

INT. DAY

Close in on frank weeping again. He turns away from the window.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. FRONT DESK - DAY

An orderly is sitting at the desk when a doctor walks up and places a clip board on counter in front of the orderly.

ODERLY

What's this.

DOCTOR

Frank Matthew's discharge papers.

ODERLY

Are you sure that's wise, doc?

DOCTOR

We really don't have a choice.

ODERLY

How so?

DOCTOR

He checked himself in 15 years ago. He came here a broken man. I never really believed he needed to be here, but he was insistent. Today, he was just as insistent. It's time for Frank to go home.

CUT TO:

INT. DAY

Frank and the doctor are standing just inside the door of the institute. Frank is no longer dressed in the robe and slippers. The doctor straightens his tie and shakes his hand. Then Frank turns and walks out. Several seconds later, Frank walks back in. The doctor places the robe around his shoulders and Frank leaves again.

CUT TO:

EXT FRANK'S HOUSE DAY

LOW ESTABLISHING SHOT - ALONG THE SIDEWALK.

Frank walks past (or over) the camera to the front door. He unlocks it and walks inside.

CUT TO:

## INT. FRANK'S HOUSE DAY

The room is dark, Frank opens the door and is framed in the light from outside. He reaches out to flip the light switch - nothing happens. He walks through the house and comes to the back door and looks out at the patio. Then he pulls the drapes closed and turns away from the patio.

Then he walks deeper into the house and stops outside his daughter's room. He takes a deep breath pushes the door open and walks in.

He starts cleaning out the room, throwing away everything that reminds him of the girl. Then he sets it on the curb.

CUT TO:

EXT DAY

THE CAMERA IS CLOSE ON THE TRASH CAN, FOCUSED ON A TEDDY BEAR IN THE TOP OF THE TRASH CAN. (SHALLOW DEPTH OF FIELD, SO THE BEAR IS IN FOCUS, FRANK IS NOT)

Frank walks away then turns around and carries the bear into the house.

CUT TO:

## INT. HER BEDROOM DAY

Frank walks in and takes down a poster. It is a superhero handing a teddy bear to a little girl.

CUT TO:

## INT. HIS BEDROOM DAY

He sits the bear down on the dresser (the dresser has a mirror on it) and then tacks the poster up beside it.

CAMERA ZOOMS INTO THE BEAR'S FACE (A SHALLOW DEPTH OF FIELD AGAIN). HE IS SEEN IN THE MIRROR, BUT IT IS BLURRED BY DEPTH OF FIELD.

He strips down and then changes clothes. The camera pulls back to get Frank in frame.

He is now dressed as the super hero in the poster. He takes the teddy bear and tucks it into his belt. Then leaves the house.

CUT TO:

EXT DAY

Frank wanders through the city. People react to him with relative disbelief. He wanders for quite a while.

Then he sees a little girl who looks like his daughter (same actress) trips and falls in front of a car or (preferably) a bus. It is obvious that the bus will not be able to stop in time.

Frank rushes forward, picks her up and throws her clear of the bus. He is hit hard by the bus.

CAMERA (SHALLOW FIELD OF FOCUS AGAIN) PART OF THE BUS IN FRAME AND THE LITTLE GIRL AS WELL. (ALL BLURRED) THE BEAR COMES INTO FRAME, SPLATTERED WITH BLOOD. THE LITTLE GIRL TAKES THE BEAR.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAY

WIDE SHOT, FRANK LAYING ON THE GROUND IN A POOL OF HIS OWN BLOOD. A CROWD HAS GATHERED A COUPLE PEOPLE ARE ON CELL PHONES. A SIREN CAN BE HEARD IN THE DISTANCE.

Frank dies.

FADE OUT.

Black screen. White words Fade in. "15 years later"

FADE IN:

COLLEGE DORM HALLWAY. DAY

A girl opens her door and walks in to her room. Inside, she sets the box she is carrying on her dresser. She pulls something out of the box and sets it on the dresser.

CAMERA CUTS CLOSE AND SHE STEPS AWAY. IT IS THE SAME TEDDY BEAR - STILL STAINED WITH BLOOD.

ROOMIE

That thing's seen better days.

GIRL

He's been with me a long time.

ROOMIE

What is that on his face. It looks like dried blood.

The girl looks down and touches the bear's nose.

ROOMIE (CONT'D)

It is! Ewww. That's gross!

GIRL

Hey. Show some respect. He saved my life once.

FADE TO BLACK.

White letters fade in.

"No hero is immortal till he dies"

W. H. Auden