

IN A FLASH

By

Dino A. Barlaam

Contact Information:

Dino A. Barlaam
DBarlaam99@aol.com
(908) 591-9886
Registered with WGAE

EXT. COMIC BOOK STORE - DAY

A lazy summer afternoon in a quiet suburb.

LANA, 11, and JIMMY, 8, walk out of the store towards the center of town. Jimmy grins ear to ear flipping through his Superman comic book. Lana wears a gold beret and carries a red, white and blue backpack over her shoulder.

JIMMY

Cool! Check this out.

He holds up a page of the comic book to Lana. She's not impressed.

LANA

I'm not into the guys in tights.

JIMMY

It's Superman.

LANA

Why did mom ever buy you that doll?

JIMMY

I don't have dolls. They're action figures.

LANA

He's been around like forever. Haven't they told enough stories about him?

JIMMY

No.

He pulls the comic away from her.

LANA

I like the indie books. There's a lot of great stuff beyond Marvel and DC. Something you wouldn't understand.

JIMMY

Boring.

LANA

They're not boring.

JIMMY

They're stupid.

LANA

You don't know what you're--

Lana interrupts herself when she BUMPS into DEVON, 12, a stocky kid with a mop of dirty blonde hair and a menacing smirk.

LANA (CONT'D)

Sorry.

DEVON

Watch where you're going, chicken legs.

Jimmy glares at Devon.

LANA

I said I was--

DEVON

(to Jimmy)
You gotta problem?

LANA

C'mon, Jimmy.

Lana leads Jimmy as they walk around Devon. Devon spins and rushes in front of them.

DEVON

Who said you could go?

LANA

Last time I checked this is a free country.

DEVON

Wrong.

LANA

Leave us alone, jerk.

Devon yanks the comic book away from Jimmy.

JIMMY

Hey! That's mine.

Jimmy attempts to grab his comic book, but Devon shoves him hard. Jimmy stumbles back against the brick wall of a small office building.

LANA

Give it back. Now.

DEVON

Last time I checked this is a free country.

Devon walks to the curb near the street light. The light is RED.

LANA

That doesn't mean you can take
people's stuff.

Devon turns and holds the comic book open before Lana and Jimmy. He TEARS it in half, then continues to rip it apart.

Devon tosses the pieces at them as Jimmy looks on in horror. Bits of paper fly off in different directions.

Devon snickers as he steps off the curb.

An SUV barrels down the road.

Devon crosses the street against the red light. Jimmy spots the SUV. He rushes up to Lana and grabs her arm.

A car horn HONKS.

Just before the SUV hits Devon--

Someone KNOCKS Devon out of the way. The two tumble onto the sidewalk across the street.

The SUV SCREECHES to a halt. Devon coughs, lying on his back. After a brief moment, the SUV takes off.

Devon opens his eyes and finds

LANA on top of him.

Jimmy stares wide-eyed at them from across the street.

The light turns GREEN. Jimmy races over to them.

DEVON

Get off.

He pushes Lana off of him. Jimmy picks up her backpack a few feet away.

Just as Devon is about to get up...

...she clocks him in the face. He falls hard. Jimmy's beside himself.

LANA

You're welcome.

A torn piece of the Superman comic book blows by in the soft breeze.

Lana stands and brushes herself off. Jimmy pretends to take a snapshot of Devon.

JIMMY

Click.

LANA

(to Jimmy)

I'll get you another issue.

Jimmy hands Lana her backpack.

The street light turns GREEN. Holding hands, she leads Jimmy back across the street.

JIMMY

That was...

LANA

Super? I know, right?

JIMMY

No. That was stupid. You could've been hurt. Seriously.

Lana looks at him, frowning. Jimmy's eyes meet hers. His serious expression quickly turns into a playful grin.

As they reach the sidewalk, Jimmy races ahead of Lana. Giggling, she chases after him into the comic book store.

FADE OUT.