

AVERAGE JOE

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FADE IN:

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

The bar is dark in the barely lit room. The smell of stale beer and body odor fills the air. It's a den of iniquity, alcoholism, and the great unwashed of the town.

JOE STEWART, 32, bald and miserable as they come, slumps over on a Bar stool. He rattles his empty glass loudly on the counter.

BARMAN strolls over.

BARMAN

I see you're empty. Would you like another one?

Joe raises an eyebrow.

JOE

Now, why the hell would I want another empty glass?

A tumbleweed blows across the bar.

The Barman shakes his head and pours him another.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Using your powers of stupidity, I see.

LAURA STEWART, 29, leans on the bar next to Joe, her long brown hair lying over one shoulder of her sequined dress. She tilts her head to one side, pushing out her red lips just a little.

LAURA

Just the average Joe.

JOE

What do you want, sis? Are you here to make fun of me and my lack of Superpowers.

LAURA

Yes. Yes, I am.

Joe downs his pint in one gulp.

JOE

I've got the power to get drunk quickly, and you have permanent clean hair.

LAURA

Living the dream. You have no idea,
and I mean that literally.

Joe jesters to the Barman for another drink, and he pours him another ever so slowly.

JOE

Wow, you also have a super pour.

The Barman and Laura stare blankly at Joe. Another tumbleweed passes by.

Joe turns around.

JOE (CONT'D)

Could you stop that?

An OLD MAN, 70's, wears a ragged old cape, sits at the side of the stage, he produces tumbleweeds from his mouth.

OLD MAN

I only use my ability sparingly.

Laura laughs and puts her hand on Joe's shoulder.

LAURA

You're in the Super Secret Superhero
dive bar, and it's singles night.
This is not how you get you power.

JOE

Dad thinks I'm a failure.

LAURA

No he doesn't. He might be on some
unpronounceable planet in a distant
galaxy, but he always said your time
will come to save the world. Maybe
it's today.

Joe looks around the bar. It's comprised of some of the most elite superheroes and Aquaman.

JOE

Everyone has every Superpower covered.

A disco ball lowers as some Barry White music booms throughout.

The crowd separates on the floor, and only Wonderwoman and Catwoman stand on the female side.

The male side has approx twenty superheroes. Aquaman stands in the middle of the floor, scratches his chin, undecided.

Professor XAVIER rolls out with a mic in his hand.

PROFESSOR XAVIER
Nobody is gonna Judge you, Aquaman.

All eyes shift to JUDGE DREDD.

JUDGE DREDD
I am the Law!

Aquaman slowly shifts towards the men. A smile appears on Judge Dredd's face.

JUDGE DREDD (CONT'D)
But not tonight. Tonight we dance.

AQUAMAN
Woohoo.

He runs to the female side and high-fives Catwoman and WonderWoman.

PROFESSOR XAVIER
Do we have any more female
superheroes?

BAR COUNTER
Laura glances at Joe.

LAURA
My time to shine, and by that, I
mean my hair.

JOE
You go get them, Sis.

Laura struts her stuff onto the floor and stands next to Wonderwoman and Catwoman.

WONDERWOMAN
Hi Laura, your hair looks fantastic
as usual.

LAURA
Thanks. All natural.

CATWOMAN
I wish I could have hair like yours.

LAURA
I wish I could lick myself like you.

DANCE FLOOR

All the men run to Wonderwoman, Catwoman, and Laura. Aquaman watches on dejected.

LAURA (CONT'D)

There's someone for you out there.

Aquaman smiles.

WONDERWOMAN

Guys, settle down. I'm not Mystique. You're not gonna have blue balls.

MAN (O.S.)

Hey there beautiful, I'll spray my webs all over you, and I mean all over.

Laura glances over to see Spiderman staring right at her.

LAURA

Jackpot.

SPIDERMAN

My Spidey sense is giving me a tingling down below.

Laura fixes her breasts.

LAURA

I will be your fly, and you can eat me any day.

Spiderman approaches Laura, and she smiles a gentle smile.

SPIDERMAN

Excuse me.

He brushes her to the side and picks up Aquaman. He's elated.

AQUAMAN

Ohhh, let's make spider fishes together.

Joe stands up, makes his way for the exit, marches up the stairs, and opens the door.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Rain pours from the sky. As he walks away, we see it's an abandoned RADIOSHACK.

Joe walks the street with his head down.

LAURA

Hey, wait up, knucklehead.

He turns around, and Laura catches up to him.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Going anywhere good?

JOE
Won't this rain destroy your hair?
Ahh right.

LAURA
You might be my little brother and a
pain in the ass, but I do love you.
Let's walk a little quicker.

JOE
I'm useless to this world. Those
guys have it covered.

Suddenly a large explosion erupts from beneath Radioshack.

JOE (CONT'D)
Holy Fuck!

LAURA
Wow. That's like every single
superhero under one room... possibly
dead. What are the chances?

Joe raises one eyebrow toward Laura.

JOE
Did you just do that?

LAURA
They all think they're big shots.
Nobody wants a girl with clean hair,
apparently. Well, at least all the
superpowers are up for grabs.

JOE
You're scaring me right now.

LAURA
Listen! All you gotta do is a good
deed, and you'll be rewarded. It's
that simple... Apparently.

JOE
Seems very vague and I'm sure I've
done good deeds in my life.

LAURA
Yeah, but now the World NEEDS a
superhero.

Laura nudges Joe. An OLD LADY (mid-80s) stands at a crosswalk.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Now's your chance.

Joe strolls over to the Lady. Stands next to her.

JOE
I'm going to help you across the
road.

OLD LADY
Well, that's very nice of you and
very explanatory.

The Old Lady takes Joe's arm as they start to walk.

They approach the midsection, and Joe glances down the road. He notices a School bus veering towards him at full speed; it's out of control. He glimpses the opposite direction and sees an eighteen-wheeler truck traveling toward him.

The old Lady pays no notice. Joe is in a panic.

JOE
Oh shit, this ain't gonna be good.

Laura watches as Joe swings the old Lady towards the School bus. The bus runs over her, but her body sticks to the tire forcing the bus off to the opposite lane, and it misses the truck by inches.

The school bus comes to a complete stop, and it's full of children.

Passersby are mortified.

Laura gives Joe a thumbs up. Joe shrugs.

Joe and Laura disappear.

EXT. ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

They reappear in an alleyway. Rats scamper over their feet. Joe lets out a high-pitched scream, and Laura rolls her eyes.

A FIGURE appears from the darkness. STANLEY mid-eighties, the kind of mid-eighties we all hope to look like.

STANLEY
Howdy Joe. Excellent work out there.

JOE
How do you know my name? Wait!

JOE (CONT'D)

Are you the guy that makes me a Superhero for my good deed? I mean, technically, I just killed an Old Lady. So not exactly good.

STANLEY

You're not looking at the bigger picture, Joe. Yes, you killed her, BUT you saved a school bus full of children, and her life was pretty much done anyways.

Stanley glances over at Laura.

STANLEY (CONT'D)

Your hair still looks great, by the way.

LAURA

Thank you, Stanley. Can I call you Stan Lee?

STANLEY

No. No, you can't.

Joe raises his hand.

JOE

Back to me. So who am I to become? Superman? Batman? Spiderman? Iron Man? Please, not Aquaman.

Stanley shakes his head.

STANLEY

First, I don't have the rights to those heroes; they were created by another guy.

He raises his finger at Laura as if to say don't.

STANLEY (CONT'D)

I create logical Superheroes, like Squirrel Girl, Arm Fall Off Boy, SS Writer, Matter-Eater Lad, and Dog Welder, My finest creations. But you, Joe, you will be my Ultimate Superhero.

Lightning crashes: Thunder roars: Stanley lifts his arms up to the sky, then points them at Joe.

Joe begins to shake uncontrollably and then stops. He looks at his hands and scans his body. Nothing changed.

LAURA

Did it work?

STANLEY

Yes. He will be known as the minimum disaster man or THE MINIMIZER.

Laura laughs out loud.

LAURA

That's also a bra that reduces breast size.

STANLEY

I did not know that. Ah, well can't be reversed.

JOE

So my Superpowers are reducing breast sizes? Men will hate me.

STANLEY

No. No. No. You turn major disasters into a minor. You killed the Old Lady but saved School children. Think outside the box.

Joe sighs.

STANLEY (CONT'D)

Well, good luck.

Stanley disappears. Joe and Laura stare at each other.

JOE

Now what?

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

They wander along the street as a TV plays in a shop window. They stop to look.

ON THE TV

NEWSCASTER

And that's why Canada is the number one country to live in. In other news, an explosion in an abandoned Radioshack has killed every Superhero and Aquaman. Unfortunately for us, a giant Asteroid is heading toward Earth, and Nasa believes we have literally till the end of the day. Go figure.

NEWSCASTER (CONT'D)

Will Smith, the star of Independence Day, says he slapped one rock, he can slap another. If any leftover superheroes that are not Will Smith are out there, now would be a good time.

BACK TO SCENE

Laura snaps her fingers.

LAURA

I got it. Fly up there, break the Asteroid, and then target it so that it takes out Russia only. That way, you also stop the war in Ukraine. Double points.

JOE

That's very precise and also major.

LAURA

Nah. Nobody likes the Russians, even the Russians. You need to hurry, and you only have a little time.

Laura points to the sky.

JOE

So wouldn't I have to fly and have super strength also?

LAURA

Well, give it a go.

JOE

This is bullshit.

Joe looks up to the sky and points his arm up. He takes off and leaves Laura in the dust. She shakes her head, and the dust falls off. Hair restored to new.

Joe practices his flying loops after loops. He leaves Earth's atmosphere as he approaches the asteroid head-on and notices a small figure flying toward him.

His DAD, well-toned, dons a bright purple suit and cape.

JOE (CONT'D)

Dad! What are you doing here?

DAD

This is your time to shine, boy.

JOE
Why don't you destroy it?

His Dad smiles a mischievous smile.

JOE (CONT'D)
Wait! You sent this to Earth.

DAD
Yes, my son, your sister, and I
conjured this plan. That's why she
planted that bomb. Anyway, no time
to chat. Go get that Asteroid!

Joe flies after the Asteroid, and before it enters Earth's
atmosphere, he punches it, and it breaks into smaller pieces.

He grabs one large chunk and throws it toward Russia.

JOE
Goodbye, Russian scum.

INT. NEW DIVE BAR - EVENING

Joe and Laura sit at the bar counter, the TV is on, and the
Barman turns up the volume.

ON THE TV

NEWSCASTER
A new Superhero has emerged, The
Minimizer. He broke up the Asteroid,
throwing a large chunk towards Russia,
looking to annihilate the country.
Unfortunately, the Asteroid managed
to hit a stray Chinese weather
balloon, bounced off, and instead
destroyed Canada. Which included
newly resided Will Smith, so it wasn't
all bad.

Joe and Laura clink glasses as we

FADE OUT: