

GOOGLEMAN

FADE IN:

EXT. MOVIE SET - DAY

SUPER: Los Angeles, 2037

A virtual war zone. Rubble where buildings once stood. Several cars good for nothing but scrap metal.

NORTH WEST, 23, stands front and center. She wears a bikini fashioned from a business suit. Holds a microphone.

NORTH

This is North West reporting for E! News, on the set of the hugely anticipated new movie, *Googleman*. The buzz is due to this being the first film to feature someone with real life superhuman abilities.

INT. SCIENCE LAB - DAY

ETHAN ANDERSON, 25, muscular, blonde, chiselled jaw, reclines in a chair. Hooked up to various equipment.

Five LAB TECHNICIANS poke and prod him, measure his vitals.

NORTH (V.O.)

After the budget of Avengers 17 blew out to one point five billion dollars, Marvel studio executives decided to try a different approach.

A lab technician injects a vial into Ethan's arm. A beat. His body stiffens and the veins in his neck pulse.

NORTH (V.O.)

In an effort to cut down on special effects costs, Marvel invested heavily in genetic research aimed at creating a real life superhero.

EXT. MOVIE SET - DAY

North stands next to Ethan.

NORTH

Joining me now is Ethan Anderson who won the nation-wide search to play *Googleman*.

(MORE)

NORTH (CONT'D)

(to Ethan)

Ethan you underwent genetic manipulation in an attempt to give you superpowers, can you give us a demonstration of what you're able to do now?

ETHAN

Sure thing, North.

Ethan bends down, places a hand around North's shoe. He jolts upright, simultaneously lifting her up. She stands suspended in the air, stiletto heel tip on Ethan's index finger.

He floats off the ground and fifty feet into the air, North still balanced precariously on his finger.

NORTH

Oh my God!

They return to the ground.

NORTH (CONT'D)

Holy Yeezus, that was incredible.
Is there anything else you can do?

Ethan looks North up and down, smiles and nods.

ETHAN

X-ray vision.

(beat)

You really do look like your mom.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Seated at a large desk is MICHAEL BAY, 72. Sheets of paper scattered around the desk, along with a box of crayons. He draws on one of the sheets.

North stands beside him, looks on.

NORTH

I'm here with Michael Bay, the director of the film.

(to Michael)

Mister Bay, what is that you're working on?

A closer inspection shows a series of crayon drawings featuring stick figures.

BAY

Storyboarding for the film.

The one he works on is just an orange and yellow fire with the words BOOM and EXPLOSION.

NORTH

Can you tell us how Googleman came to be? Rumor has it that the character was originally called Captain Amazeballs.

Bay puts down his crayon.

BAY

That's true. We were running a hundred mil over budget so this was just the next evolution in product placements.

NORTH

How so?

BAY

Having a character use an iPhone or wearing a pair of Nike's will only bring in so much cash. But we held a bidding war to sponsor the character. And for an extra five mil we let Google name the villain as well.

NORTH

And what's the villain called?

BAY

Doctor Bing.

NORTH

Can you tell us about the character arc of Googleman?

Bay looks at her bemused.

BAY

The character what now?

NORTH

Y'know, the inner journey and transformation that takes place over the course of the story.

BAY

Oh that stuff. Yeah there was some of that in the original script but I took it out to make way for more explosions.

NORTH

Did the screenwriter understand?

BAY

I think so. I told him the exact same thing I tell all my Thai girlfriends. Less talky talky, more boom boom.

EXT. MOVIE SET - DAY

Various CAST and CREW on the same set as before.

Ethan wears the Googleman costume -- the spandex suit sports the colors of the familiar logo, a giant 'G' on the chest.

A HAIR AND MAKEUP GIRL fusses over him, tries to get his hair just right.

North stands a few meters away, microphone in hand.

NORTH

Here on the set, filming is just about to begin and we've been allowed a sneak peek at the cast and crew getting ready for the scene.

Bay sits in a Director's chair, holds a megaphone. Looks towards a pair of HOT GIRLS in short skirts and an overweight CINEMATOGRAPHER who mans a video camera.

BAY

(into megaphone)

Get that camera down lower. We can only see half way up their skirts and it needs to be at least three quarters.

The camera is lowered and the girls hitch their skirts up another couple of inches.

BAY (CONT'D)

Alright everyone, listen up. In this scene Googleman flies to the top of the burning building and rescues the two kids who are trapped on the roof. Make sure --

A series of MURMURS and GASPS are heard off screen.

BAY (CONT'D)

What the hell's going on?

Crew members gather around a TV monitor. Watch intently.

ON TV MONITOR

A SWAT TEAM surrounds a building.

PEOPLE in the street run and panic.

REPORTER (V.O.)

These scenes are coming to you live. As we understand it, terrorists are inside this Santa Monica building with up to seventy-five hostages. No word yet on who they are or what their intentions are.

BACK TO SCENE

Everyone now surrounds the TV.

NORTH

That's not far from here. Ethan, you could fly on over and stop them. This is a chance to be a real life superhero, to do something with those powers.

ETHAN

Yeah you're right. I've never done anything like this before, but it does feel like I should help.

NORTH

Great, you fly over and --

Bay puts his hands up.

BAY

Woah, woah, woah. Hold your horses there sweet cheeks. He won't be going anywhere.

NORTH

What are you talking about? He may be the only person who can take down those terrorists.

BAY

That may be, but the studio owns the rights to his superpowers.

(MORE)

BAY (CONT'D)

The contract stipulates Googleman can only use his powers and appear on screen as part of this film.

North looks incredulous.

NORTH

What? That's insane.

BAY

That's show business. If Googleman is flying all over the place saving people, there'll be no sense of anticipation when the film is released. Everyone will have seen it all before. The studio is just protecting their crown jewels.

North looks like she wants to rip his head off.

NORTH

And how are you going to protect your crown jewels, Mister Bay?

BAY

What do you mean?

She drives her leg upwards with the precision and velocity of an NFL punter, straight into Bay's balls. He doesn't even wince.

NORTH

What the hell?

BAY

The studio had those removed after the Megan Fox lawsuit in twenty twenty-one. They couldn't afford another huge compensation payout so they took steps to mitigate the chances of it happening again.

North yanks off her lapel microphone, walks away.

NORTH

(mumbling)

I hate this town.

FADE OUT.