

HEELS

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INT. JERRY'S FRONT HALLWAY - NIGHT

The front door of a typical, suburban house is thrown open violently and two men tumble in, laughing and holding each other. Both are very drunk. They barely close the door as they start to make out messily. The taller and more muscular of the two, JERRY, flips on the lights and starts to take off his companion, BURT'S, jacket.

JERRY

I want you.

BURT

(laughing)

Right here? Don't you want to go to the bedroom?

JERRY

Here's perfect.

They begin to kiss passionately while making their way to the living room.

CUT TO:

INT. JERRY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

As they enter the living room, still kissing, Jerry reaches for the light. Burt grabs him and pulls him away while undoing his pants.

BURT

Let's fuck right here.

As they begin to strip down proper a voice comes from out of the darkness.

BRUISER (O.S.)

Hey faggot.

Jerry stops kissing and looks over towards the darkness in shock. A loud THUMP is heard and it takes Jerry a moment to comprehend what has happened before he screams. Burt is holding a bloody meat cleaver and Jerry's dismembered hand. Without missing a beat Burt quickly takes a golden ring off the now severed hand's finger.

BURT

(angrily)

Thanks, I never get to have any fun.

Jerry sinks to his knees trying to stop the blood that is spraying from his bloody stump. The light turns on from where the voice came from and sitting casually is the well dressed super villain IQ. She wears an expensive suit and smiles smugly at Jerry as he bleeds out. Standing over IQ is the half rotten, drooling, zombie-like ED who is being kept at bay on a stick leash held by the intimidating BRUISER. Ed is wearing a superhero costume that looks like it has not been washed in years. It is covered with dried blood.

Bruiser's head looks like it is made of jagged rock and his black tank top shows his massive build. He wears black gloves with various spikes sticking out of them. At the very end is RAPTOR, who, despite having the face of an iguana crossed with a man, wears a very traditional superhero costume with a cape and crest.

Burt walks over to the group and throws the ring to IQ who catches it and smiles at Jerry, who is now gaining his composure.

IQ

Not much without this, eh?

JERRY

(through the pain)

I don't know what you're talking about.

IQ laughs and holds up a gaudy blue costume that was lying in a pile at her side.

IQ

You probably don't know where this came from either then?

Jerry looks at the costume and begins to deflate. It is obviously a superhero costume, judging by the cape and the letter C emblazoned on the front.

BURT

(laughing)

He probably was going to a costume party. Dressed as a fuckin' goof.

As Burt laughs his entire body morphs. He becomes a very scruffy man with long hair and a handlebar mustache. A super villain known to the world as PERV.

JERRY

(shocked)

Perv?

(suddenly righteous)

You'll never get away with this.

IQ
I think we will.

She holds up the ring.

IQ (CONT'D)
We both know you're powerless
without this little ring here. And
from what ole Perv here left on
your hard drive, I think the world
will be more than happy that you're
dead.

Jerry is in shock.

PERV
I had to borrow your costume, but
once I knew what you looked like, I
had lots of fun with your face.

Jerry attempts to rush at IQ, but Perv easily restrains him.

PERV (CONT'D)
It's odd. I can shape shift. I have
greater than average strength. But
what people have chosen to dub me
with has to do with my most
memorable trait.

IQ stands up and puts on the ring. She smiles at Jerry.

IQ
And now, thanks to you, I now have
superpowers to match my
intelligence.

IQ pauses and holds out her hand displaying the ring.

IQ (CONT'D)
So, apparently this ring of yours
will do what whatever the wearer
thinks. Interesting.

As IQ concentrates Raptor grabs at his throat. His reptilian
eyes bulge as blood starts to pour from his mouth. That is
followed by his entire digestive system. The other villains
look at him in horror as IQ gives them a reassuring smile.

IQ (CONT'D)
Don't worry guys, I didn't kill him
for no reason. I have irrefutable
proof that he was an informant.

The villains relax as IQ smiles to Jerry conspiratorially and winks.

IQ (CONT'D)
 (mouthing the words)
 No he wasn't.

JERRY
 If you're going to kill me, get it over with. Death seems preferable to watching you gloat.

IQ
 (pleased)
 That's the thing. I originally thought it might be fun to see the world's reaction to the manly Champion being revealed as a queer. But you know what? After a while I don't think anyone would care.

She walks over to Perv and pats him on the shoulder.

IQ (CONT'D)
 But then I thought of something the world would never forgive you for.

IQ claps her hands together and smiles at Jerry.

IQ (CONT'D)
 So the good news is, we're going to kill you. I'm gonna sic brain dead Ed here on you. Going to make sure he doesn't eat all of you so you're easily identifiable. But I'm willing to make you a deal.

IQ throws the costume at Jerry's knees.

IQ (CONT'D)
 If you put on the costume we'll give you a five minute head start. Who knows, you might get lucky? Maybe Sniper will be out doing a patrol or we could just simply lose you.

(pause)
 But I wouldn't want you going to any populated areas though. We will kill anyone who is anywhere in the vicinity. You get someone killed, coupled with the fact that you're gay,

(smiling)

(MORE)

IQ (CONT'D)
there ain't no way you're getting
into heaven.
(shrugs)
Or you don't put on the costume and
Ed kills and eats you right here.

Jerry looks over all the super villains piled in his living room.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK ALLEYS - NIGHT

Jerry is now dressed in his Champion outfit as he runs through the nooks and crannies of his suburban area. Despite his costume being the archetypal heroic superhero outfit, he now looks like a mess. He ignores the pain in his arm and continues forward. However valiantly he acts though, he cannot hide his panic. Finally he has reached his destination.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

Jerry is in the living room of an abandoned house. He struggles with his one good hand to lift up a floor board to reveal a secret room. He heads down the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. SECRET ROOM - NIGHT

Jerry flicks on the light to see a large computer and radio console smashed to pieces. RAGNAR stands beside it with his arms crossed. He is dressed in a outfit that seems like a costumed villain's from the fifties, a one piece spandex outfit and a black mask to cover his eyes. He tips his bowler cap at Jerry.

RAGNAR
C'mon, you think we didn't know
about this?
(pause)
I'd run if I were you Champion. Ed
must be getting here by now. He
moves fast when he's hungry.

Jerry turns and starts towards the stairs. Ragnar laughs and puts his cellphone up to his ear.

RAGNAR (CONT'D)
The queer just left.

IQ (O.S.)
Is he still there?

RAGNAR
No. He left.

IQ (O.S.)
If you're not goading him, then I would ask you to refrain from using that language. I'm the smartest person in the world, not one of your redneck supervillain pals. On top of that, and hopefully you don't need a reminder on this, I'm your boss.

Ragnar grimaces into the phone.

RAGNAR
Sorry "boss". He just went upstairs.

CUT TO:

INT. JERRY'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

IQ give an evil smile and hangs up the phone.

IQ
Good.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

Jerry goes to exit the house but as he grabs the door knob, he hears a creaking behind him. He turns but there is no one there. He jiggles the knob only to find it jammed. There is another creak, on the other side of the room this time.

He peers in the direction and sees something move in the darkness. He wrenches on the door handle to no avail until he gives up entirely and looks towards the noise. Heavy breathing can now be heard as he sees what looks like a FIGURE hunkered down in the corner. The breathing turns to a wheezing as Jerry continues to look on in horror. It begins to rise, showing a sinewy frame.

Just as Jerry gasps the jammed door beside him bursts open and Ed falls on top of him. Jerry screams as Ed starts tearing into his stomach. As he is taking his last breaths he turns his head to see the sinewy Figure approaching slowly. It bends down over his dying body, and as Jerry watches in horror, gouges out both of Jerry's eyes.

CUT TO:

HEELS

CUT TO:

INT. JACK'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

JACK PARKER, a handsome, though scruffy man in his mid-thirties is interrupted from his television viewing by a buzzer. The apartment he lives in is shabby and his clothes look like he slept in them the night before. He presses a button on the intercom at the door.

JACK

C'mon up.

Jack goes to the kitchen as the television plays in the background.

TELEVISION ANCHOR

And rumour has it the heroic Sniper has been seen teaming up with none other than the trouble-making Vixen. Though she's not a high ranking super criminal, she's still caused enough problems in the city so that Snipes should know better.

ANCHOR 2

Still, that's nothing compared to the shame that Champion has cast upon our city.

TELEVISION ANCHOR

(uncomfortably)

There is no reason to get into that. The less said the better.

ANCHOR 2

Oh. Sorry about that....

TELEVISION ANCHOR

Moving on to other news, Fever has finally revealed that she has been secretly dating the dashing Snatcher...

A bottle of beer is grabbed from the fridge as the door to his apartment can be heard opening in the next room. Jack's friend, SAM's voice booms out.

SAM

So you in or are you out?

Jack sighs.

JACK

You don't want to work with those scumbags. Us guys always become their cannon fodder.

Jack walks out of the kitchen and hands SAM, a younger man, though just as sketchy, the beer. Sam sits on the couch of Jack's sparse apartment.

SAM

But it's a huge payoff! Guaranteed. I'm lucky to be even asked to join those guys since I don't have any powers.

JACK

Well, you obviously don't have the power of rational thought. We're just henchmen to those fuckers. Completely disposable.

SAM

Not always! Remember Jerome? He's now living high on the hog after he helped BloodMoney become King of that fucking country.

JACK

There's no shortage of dead henchmen, but you're gonna focus on the one guy who's still breathing?

SAM

Jack, they just need a couple guys who aren't recognizable to handle things in the city while they're doing their super powered shenanigans.

JACK

Well, I guess that's another reason I'm out.

Sam thinks for a moment and then realizes his mistake.

SAM

Yeah. I guess you're right about that. But I could find another job for you, though. It's a huge gig!

JACK

No. I'm out. And I wish you'd do the same.

SAM

Sure a lot of them are evil, but then so are the heroes. You heard about Champion? The guy was a kiddie diddler.

JACK

(laughs)
Yeah. Right.

SAM

What? He had pictures on his computer of him doing it. Apparently hundreds of them.

JACK

Sam, some of those guys can change into other people. It was an obvious setup. Also, I'm pretty sure there isn't a super villain alive who isn't smiling ear to ear now that Champion's dead and tarnished in the process. To top it off, they've already got a plan?

(pause)

Not suspicious at all.

SAM

There's a surprise. Everything's a setup to you.

Jack's entire mood changes. He goes from being a concerned, yet strict friend to being furious before Sam realizes what he's said.

JACK

What the fuck do you mean by that?

SAM

(flustered)

Sorry. I didn't mean anything by it. I'm just... I'm just upset you're not going in on this. It's going to be a life changer. We'll never have to do another job after this.

Jack calms down significantly. He sits down next to Sam.

JACK

Sam.

(very seriously)

Don't ever bring up what happened with my wife.

SAM

I said I'm sorry.

JACK

Just don't do it again.

SAM

I won't.

Jack's demeanor changes again as he gets up and happily goes to the fridge.

JACK

You hungry? We could order something. Or go out somewhere.

SAM

(smiling)

You want to get sushi again?

JACK

(innocently)

Maybe. Do you feel like it?

SAM

You think she'll be working today?

JACK

I'm not saying we go there because of her. Anyway, I wouldn't go there with you if I was trying to impress her.

SAM

I just ate. We can go if you want to.

JACK

Sure. It should be a blast to watch me eat.

SAM

If you're treating, I'm sure I can manage to pack away 15, maybe 20 dollars worth.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jack and Sam walk down the street. Sam is dressed the same way he was in Jack's apartment. However, Jack is wearing sunglasses and a hat while keeping his head pointed down.

SAM

How've you been lately? You know, with everything?

JACK

The same. Everyone thinks they know everything about something they've only heard about on the news.

SAM

Have the reporters backed off?

JACK

For the most part. It's not as bad as it was. That Champion debacle is probably keeping them too busy to worry about me.

SAM

(smiling)

They're really fuckin' up your shit.

JACK

That's putting it mildly.

SAM

Look, if you change your mind about the job, it's next Thursday.

JACK

Sam, I'm hoping you're going to be the one who changes his mind. I'll never work for the villains.

SAM

They're just like us. We're criminals, so are they.

Jack stops dead in his tracks and looks at Sam. Some plan is forming in his head.

SAM (CONT'D)

I don't like that look. Not one bit.

JACK

We should invite Nick and Maria to have lunch with us too.

SAM

(suspiciously)
And why would we do that?

JACK

Good times!

Jack takes out his cell phone and puts it to his ear. As they continue walking Sam looks worried.

CUT TO:

INT. SUSHI RESTAURANT - DAY

Jack, Sam, NICK and MARIA are sitting at a table. Nick is a handsome man in his twenties who wears a cowboy hat and is dressed almost entirely in denim. Maria, a beautiful but tough looking woman around Nick's age, is dressed the same.

Jack takes off his hat and sunglasses and runs his hand through his hair, to get rid of any potential hat hair.

SAM

Oh no. Here she comes. And I see at least 10 hairs that are out of place.

Jack shoots him a look as his three friends laugh. Jack's irked look quickly turns to a smile at the approaching waitress, SOPHIE.

SOPHIE
(smiling to Jack)
You again?

JACK
Yeah. You guys have great sushi.

SAM
And the ambience is great too.

SOPHIE
The usual?

JACK
Sounds great.

SAM
(indicating Nick and
Maria)
We'll all have the same. Jack
speaks so highly of it.

SOPHIE
Great. Well, I'll be right back
with your drinks.

As she walks away Sam gives a little laugh.

SAM
Damn, I don't know how she can
resist you.

JACK
I don't want to come off as creepy.

MARIA
No chance of that happening. You
show up every day and say the exact
same thing to her... creepily.

JACK
I'll get around to asking her out
eventually. I don't want to come
off like some sleazy customer who
pats waitresses on their ass.

SAM
I'll ask her out for you if you'd
like.

JACK
This isn't high school.

NICK
Says the guy who's too nervous to
ask the girl out on a date.

JACK
I'm just happy eating here and
seeing her. I'm in no big rush to
date anyone to be honest.

SAM
I notice you still haven't said no
to me asking her out for you.

JACK
No.

Sophie approaches with 2 beers.

SAM
(to Sophie)
Why thank you.

JACK
Yeah. Thanks.

SOPHIE
I'll be back with you orders soon.
If you need anything just let me
know.

JACK
You bet we will.

Sophie leaves and Sam laughs.

SAM
Prince Charming. I hope you carry a
condom with you at all times.

Jack takes a sip of his beer.

JACK
Thanks.
(pause)
Now about this job...

SAM
Whoa, Jack! I said you can come in
on it, but I never said anything
about Nick and Maria!

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)
(to the couple)
No offense.

NICK
Can't take offense when I have no
idea what you're talking about.

JACK
I told you, Sam. I have no interest
in working with those evil fucks.

SAM
Then what are we talking about?

JACK
Just trust me. And you know Nick
and Maria won't blab.

NICK
Still no idea what you're talking
about.

SAM
Fine. It's going to be huge. The
whole city will be talking about it
anyway.

As Sam continues Jack grows more intrigued.

JACK
How huge? How many villains are we
talking?

SAM
(whispering)
Fuck, at least twenty. Big guys
too. IQ's plan. I heard through the
grapevine they're going after
Champion's fortress now that he's
dead. God, knows what they'll find
in there. Identities of his
superfriends, old teammates being
confined... it'll be a gold mine.

NICK
More than likely they'll find more
kiddie porn. Motherfucker. Death
was too good for him.

JACK
(brushing it off)
What time is it happening?

SAM

(cautiously)

Look, Jack, there's only so much I can tell you if you're not taking the job.

JACK

No problem. I'm just thinking.

SAM

What?

JACK

Well, from the sounds of it, it seems like the cops and capes will be pretty tied up with this job. It would be pretty easy to get away with a smaller job. Or even a couple smaller jobs while that's going on.

Sam thinks about this for a second and smiles. Nick and Maria catch up with what is going on and become noticeably excited.

JACK (CONT'D)

And this way you don't have to work with those murderers.

SAM

I don't know Jack. I seem to be in pretty deep now. I don't know if they'll let me pull out especially since I know what I know.

JACK

Just say you got cold feet.

SAM

They kill people with cold feet Jack.

JACK

Goddammit! How could you be so dumb to get involved with them?

SAM

Well, I see it this way. I'll give you the time and place this is going down if you give me a cut. Just keep you jobs quiet, and don't let anyone know where you heard it.

JACK

Of course you'll get a cut. But
can't you just skip out on the job
and hide. You'll have the cash to
do it.

SAM

You can't hide from these guys
Jack.

Jack turns to Nick and Maria, who have not so much as budged.

JACK

I don't know how much you guys have
understood...

NICK

(interrupting)
We're in!

As Sophie approaches holding their orders the four criminals
go suspiciously silent. Sophie smiles.

SOPHIE

You up to no good?

SAM

Jack here would like to go out on a
date with you.

Jack looks horrified, but not near as shocked as Sophie
looks. She drops one of the plates on the floor.

SOPHIE

I... I was just being nice to you.
I didn't want...

Jack sees what's going on and sadness takes over his face. He
reaches into his wallet and pulls out some money.

JACK

That's okay. Thanks, we'll be going
now.

SAM

It's not fucking okay. What is your
problem?

SOPHIE

Have a nice day.

The OWNER of the restaurant comes over seeing the commotion.

OWNER
Sophie, it's okay.
(to the group)
You people, don't come back again.

Jack gets up to leave but Sam doesn't budge. Nick and Maria look at each other nervously, sensing some shit is going to go down. Sophie has already split the scene.

SAM
Why?

JACK
Sam, let's just go.

SAM
Fuck that. Why can't we stay?

The owner has had enough.

OWNER
We don't serve murderers. So leave!

Sam pounces on the owner before anyone can do anything to stop him.

SAM
Motherfucker!

Jack angrily rushes over and pulls Sam off the owner. Nick and Maria get up and head to the door. The other customers are frazzled, but almost all of them are making phone calls. Some of them are recording the scene with their camera phones.

MARIA
Call us later. You guys have fun.

JACK
Godammit Sam! Stop. Now!

The owner is frazzled and tries to crawl away as fast as he can. Sam attempts one last kick.

SAM
He was found not guilty! What more do you want from him?

JACK
Sam. It's okay. Let's go!

Sam starts heading to the door much to Jack's relief.

SAM

And the food here is terrible.

Sam throws open the door and leaves. Jack looks up from the terrified owner and sees Sophie near the back of the restaurant looking at him with fear in her eyes. Jack wants to say something, but instead just turns and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Jack and Sam rush onto the street, Jack a little more than angry at Sam's rash actions. Suddenly, a flash blinds Jack and he covers his eyes. Another flash and we...

CUT TO:

EXT. GRANDE HOTEL - DAY

Cameras flash as paparazzi are gathered at the front of the Grande Hotel frantically taking pictures of various actors and directors at a movie premiere. The atmosphere is hectic and the event is huge.

The actors getting the most attention from the media are the handsome leading man, JEFF STARGROVE and the stunningly beautiful actress, JANET BUTLER. They both smile at the camera and try and answer whatever questions are yelled at them.

Off to the side, casually smoking a cigarette, is Jack. He leans against the wall staying out of everyone's view. He is clean cut and wearing a tuxedo, but wants no part of the media frenzy. Janet smiles at him and rolls her eyes as she walks by and he smiles back happily.

PAPARAZZI (O.S.)

You're Jack Parker aren't you?

Jack is caught unaware as he turns to see a TMZ style PAPARAZZI standing next to him. He looks at the video camera pointing at him, not hiding his irritation very well at all.

JACK

You aren't seriously going to talk to me, are you?

PAPARAZZI

You must be excited to be marrying one of the most beloved actresses in the world? Why wouldn't you want to talk about it?

JACK

Yes. I'm excited.
(pause)
Bye.

PAPARAZZI

Oh, come on Jack. Don't you have more to say than that? What do you think of her love scenes with Jeff Stargrove? That must have been uncomfortable seeing that.

JACK

Not as uncomfortable as having that camera shoved up your ass. Now fuck off.

PAPARAZZI

(very animated)
You want to hit me? I dare you!
C'mon! I'd love some of that movie star money. Please I'm begging you, hit me!

Jack is appalled at what he's seeing and walks away, trying to ignore the paparazzi's tirade.

PAPARAZZI (CONT'D)

(yelling)
C'mon Jack. It's not fair that you're the only guy that Janet is taking care of. I want some of that movie star money too.

JACK

You should be ashamed of yourself.

PAPARAZZI

Says the guy with a criminal record longer than Yonge Street.

The paparazzi's attention is suddenly taken with an event that is being held on the hotel stairs where Janet and Stargrove are answering the media's questions.

PAPARAZZI (CONT'D)

(to Jack)
They make such a sweet couple.

Jeff Stargrove points to one of the reporters in the audience to ask the first question.

REPORTER

Jeff, did you do any of the stunts on this project?

STARGROVE

There's people who get paid to do that, and rely on it for their livelihood. So as much as some of the stunts looked fun to do, I'd never dream of taking away someone else's work.

REPORTER #2

Ms Butler, are you excited to be tying the knot?

Janet looks giddy as she leans forward to talk into the microphone.

JANET

Very. It seems like it's been years in the making.

REPORTER #2

How so?

JANET

Well, Jack and I dated in high school, but after that, we sadly drifted apart. Then who should I run into at the video store years later? It's like it was destiny.

The crowd responds well to this answer, obviously happy for Janet.

REPORTER #2

Well, I think I can speak for us all when I say congratulations.

JANET

Thank you.

As the audience begins to clap a voice rings out.

PAPARAZZI

Doesn't it bother you that Jack Parker is a career criminal?

Janet is taken off guard by the question, not having an answer prepared.

JANET

Well, uh, those days are behind him. He's now a successful...

PAPARAZZI

But doesn't it bother you knowing what he's capable of?

Stargrove whispers something to the frazzled Janet and takes to the microphone. He looks at the paparazzi sternly, but still oozes charisma.

STARGROVE

Show some class, man.

PAPARAZZI

The public wants to know.

STARGROVE

Yeah, I'm sure it'll win you the Pulitzer. Let someone be happy without trying to ruin it, okay?

(pause)

Sorry folks, this is going to conclude our question period. We'll be available after the premiere. Thank you all so much.

Janet and Stargrove walk back into the hotel. Jack has been watching the event take place from the distance and looks quite uncomfortable with being the cause of Janet being scrutinized. As he goes to the hotel entrance he sees the paparazzi laughing at him.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Janet is lying on the bed exhausted as Jack is looking out the window at the stunning view.

JANET

My God, it never ends.

JACK

I don't know how you do it. Being constantly judged and questioned.

JANET

That's the business, unfortunately.

JACK

Still.

JANET

It's a small sacrifice. I've always loved acting.

Jack sits beside her and starts stroking her hair. She looks up at him and smiles.

JACK

You're so beautiful.

JANET

Ah, get outta town.

JACK

I'm sorry.

JANET

Geez, don't take everything so seriously. You can call me beautiful. Though I do prefer gorgeous. Or better yet, stunning.

JACK

No. Sorry about those questions that guy was asking.

JANET

It's not your fault that guy was being a jerk.

JACK

But it is my fault that he had the ammunition to fire at you.

Janet sits up in the bed and looks at Jack lovingly.

JANET

Oh honey. I don't care what you did. I was only upset because I was totally unprepared for the question. I was actually more surprised than anything.

Jack seems pleased with her answer, though he still obviously feels a little guilty.

JACK

I just don't want what I've done in my past to hurt your career.

JANET

It's not like you killed anybody. You a super villain or something? The Hunter's arch enemy?

JACK
You know far too much.

Upon saying this Janet jumps on Jack and they proceed to have a play fight which eventually leads to them kissing. An irritating clicking can be heard as they begin to undress.

JACK (CONT'D)
I love you.

JANET
And I love you too, my badass,
super villain, fiance.

Her cell phone vibrates.

JANET (CONT'D)
I've got to be downstairs soon.

Jack kisses her some more and Janet reciprocates.

The clicking is getting more incessant as the room is overtaken by a series of flashes...

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

...the camera flash is nearly blinding Jack as the Paparazzi from the earlier scene steps up to him hastily.

PAPARAZZI
Jack Parker! Are you still
searching for your wife's murderer?
How does it feel that most people
think you did it? Did you do it?

Jack is annoyed until he realizes who the Paparazzi is. He smiles menacingly.

JACK
Didn't think I'd remember you?

Sam now smiles too. The Paparazzi goes to run and Sam grabs hold of him.

JACK (CONT'D)
Oh no, stranger whom I've never
met! Please, don't hurt him!

SAM
(flatly)
You can't stop me, even though
you've tried as hard as you could.

The Paparazzi lets out a feminine yelp as Sam slams his fist into his face.

CUT TO:

INT. ARENA - DAY

Jack and Sam are sitting in the audience of a sparsely packed arena. What they are viewing is a very amateur wrestling match between their potential associate WHIRLWIND and a heavily made up OPPONENT. The Whirlwind has a muscular build with long blonde hair, but it's getting obvious that his best days are behind him. He looks a little rough despite trying to look like an Andonis.

JACK
Jesus, with me and him doing the
jobs who are we going to get next?
Santa Claus?

SAM
No one remembers him from his pro
days. And he's great muscle.

Whirlwind is doing some rather flamboyant moves in the ring. Much more theatrical than tough.

JACK
Sorry I doubted you. We do need
this guy.

SAM
And you'll be wearing masks.

JACK
Fine. You vouch for the guy, I
trust your opinion. And Diane will
want to put a guy or two from her
crew on it.

SAM
What? You're telling Diane! Fuck
that then. This was supposed to be
secret.

JACK

Diane knows how to keep a secret.
And she'll flip if word gets out
that we pulled a job without
letting her in on it.

SAM

Goddammit. I can't have too many
people knowing. I'm not supposed to
be telling anyone this shit.

JACK

Diane is necessary. And she'd never
rat us out. She hasn't before, and
she's been doing this shit for
years. Why start now?

SAM

I don't know. Why start at all?

JACK

(motioning to the ring)
And you know more about her than I
know about your friend here.

SAM

That's not a positive.

In the ring Whirlwind begins his finishing move. He
outstretches both his arms and makes fists out of his hands.
Then he begins to spin while kicking his knees up into the
air. His opponent, try as he might, can not get in close
enough to hit him. Then Whirlwind, still spinning, comes
towards him. His opponent desperately tries to escape, but
before he knows it, he is laid out cold by the Whirlwind.
The Whirlwind stops spinning, but is dizzy and collapses near
his opponent. Dramatically, he moves towards his opponent
and throws his arm on him for the three count.

JACK

That move will definitely come in
handy.

SAM

Trust me man, he's a good guy.

JACK

Then you trust me.
(turns to Sam)
Deal?

They shake hands.

SAM
 (defeated)
 Call her up then.

Jack takes out a cell phone and dials as the next match of the has-beens begins.

INT. DIANE'S KITCHEN - DAY

An older, but rough looking woman sits at her kitchen table. This is DIANE. She is still wearing her housecoat as she reads the paper and has a coffee. Her cell phone that is sitting on the table rings. She checks who is calling and picks it up.

DIANE
 (into phone)
 Yeah?

THE REST OF THE SCENE IS INTERCUT BETWEEN DIANE AT HOME AND JACK AT THE ARENA.

JACK
 (obviously a little nervous)
 Diane. How's things?

DIANE
 Good.

JACK
 Good. Good.
 (pause)
 This is Jack.

DIANE
 I know who it is. I pay for call display. What do you want?

JACK
 Um. Well, I've got a project you might be interested in. I think...

Jack stops when the seemingly lifeless crowd reacts to one of the WRESTLERS in the ring falling off the turn stile.

CROWD
 (in unison.)
 You fucked up. You fucked up.

Jack covers his ear and continues.

JACK

Sorry.

DIANE

Where are you calling from?

JACK

A... a wrestling match.

DIANE

You've decided to call me from a fucking wrestling match? You need to tell me about your favourite wrestler?

JACK

Sorry. You could've heard a pin drop in here a minute ago. This is something we should talk about in person anyway.

DIANE

Yes. Please. Wouldn't want to keep you from your wrestling match. Drop by the pub after nine.

Diane hangs up the phone and continues to read the paper. Her husband, JOHN, comes in and grabs something from the fridge.

JEAN

Who was that?

DIANE

Jack, the lady killer.

DUSTIN, her nephew, walks in the kitchen with a beer, and takes a swig. He is a handsome man in his thirties, but his whole demeanor screams douchebag.

DUSTIN

Really bottom dwelling now, aren't we Aunt Diane?

DIANE

Fuck off.

DUSTIN

What's the piece of shit want then? Dating advice?

DIANE

(smiling)

To have a drink with you Dusty.

DUSTIN
I should be okay. He only poisons
people he's married to.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET/DUGAN'S PUB - NIGHT

Outside of Dugan's Pub the nightlife is picking up.

INT. DUGAN'S PUB - NIGHT

Diane and Dustin are sitting at a table. Lots of attractive waitresses run around serving the crowded bar. Diane lifts her empty glass over her head and one of the waitresses, ANNIE, who is in the middle of serving other customers, stops and rushes over to Diane. The customers are very confused as to why their waitress just left them.

ANNIE
Another drink, ma'am?

DIANE
(frustrated)
Don't stop serving the other
customers Einstein.

ANNIE
So you don't want a drink, ma'am?

DIANE
Jesus. Yes I do want one, but
please, take care of the table
first, then rush me and Dustin here
a drink.

ANNIE
Okay.

DIANE
When I hold up my glass, it means
just get me a drink from now on.
Okay?

ANNIE
Yes ma'am.

DUSTIN
(mischievously)
What's the specials of the day?

ANNIE

Sorry?

DIANE

Goddammit. Ignore him and go serve the table. Give them a round of drinks on the house for your idiocy.

Annie rushes away back to the table. Dustin laughs as she leaves.

DUSTIN

You certainly don't hire them for their brains, do you?

DIANE

Shut it.

Diane notices Jack walking slowly towards them through the crowd of people. She stands up and motions to Jack to follow her and Dustin.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Let's go to a place a little less crowded.

Dustin, Diane and Jack head towards the office near the back of the pub. As they leave Diane turns around to see if Jack's following them and sees Annie holding two drinks, confused, in front of their now empty table as the customers she was serving are getting up to leave.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ.

CUT TO:

INT. DUGAN'S PUB/BACK OFFICE - NIGHT

Diane sits behind a oak desk as Dustin stands to the side of it, leering at Jack. Jack takes a seat on a sofa set up by the door.

DIANE

You're early.

JACK

Yeah.

DUSTIN

Not out searching for your wife's killer?

Jack is angered, but not overly surprised by Dustin's comment.

JACK

Does this fuckwit really need to be here?

Dustin laughs to himself.

DIANE

Yes he does Jack. Now what is it you want to discuss?

Jack can barely contain his disdain for Dustin who is smiling at him, mockingly.

JACK

You know what? Nothing. As long as he's in the room, I'm not discussing shit.

DIANE

You don't trust my nephew Jack? That's my family you're talking about there.

JACK

I don't like your nephew, Diane. I doubt anyone does.

DUSTIN

My feelings!

DIANE

(annoyed)

All right. Enough you two.

(calming down)

Jack, I'm always going to take my nephew's side, so don't bother trying to badmouth him to me.

(pause)

And speaking of trust, I understand Dustin's concern that you don't trust us enough to just admit to us that you poisoned your dear, movie star wife.

Jack goes to say something but Diane holds out his hand.

DIANE (CONT'D)

I've lived a while now, and a general rule I've noticed, if someone doesn't trust anyone, he is often not to be trusted.

(MORE)

DIANE (CONT'D)

(pause)

And we are to trust this person who brings us a job?

JACK

(very seriously)

I never poisoned my wife.

DIANE

Semantics. So you got someone else to do it. Either way, why should I trust you?

JACK

I'm coming to you with a potentially huge job and you're giving me this shit. Fuck it.

Jack gets up from the couch and goes towards the door.

JACK (CONT'D)

I'd rather not do the job at all than have to put up with this.

Diane's demeanor changes entirely. She is now very defensive.

DIANE

C'mon Jack! I'm like this with everyone. Just giving you a hard time. Sit down. Tell me about this plan of yours.

Jack turns around. He can tell Diane is just saying what he wants to hear, but this is only a formality anyway. He would not be here if he did not have to be. He sits down and begins.

JACK

The super villains are planning something huge.

DIANE

And how do you know this?

JACK

Doesn't matter. But when this is going down, the city is going to be too tied up to care about a couple of jewelry stores and small banks.

DIANE

(intrigued)

And you're certain this is happening? This super villain battle?

JACK

Absolutely. I know someone on the inside. It's already in motion.

(pause)

And that's why it would be good to have you guys involved. We'll want to hit more than one place, and it would be better if we split into teams.

DUSTIN

(signifying Jack)

I'm on whatever team this guy isn't on.

Diane turns to Dustin furious. Her eyes bulge and she is practically foaming at the mouth.

DIANE

SHUT THE FUCK UP!

(to Jack, calmly)

Continue.

JACK

Well first we...

CUT TO:

INT. JACK'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jack sits on the couch watching the news. He is dressed entirely in black and is holding a gun. There is a knock on the door and he gets up while still keeping an eye on the television. At the door stands The Whirlwind.

JACK

C'mon in.

WHIRLWIND

You hear from Sam at all?

JACK

No, he's probably knee deep in supervillains right now. He'll call when he can....

Jack stops talking as he notices that Whirlwind is wearing his self promotional wrestling T-shirt. It shows Whirlwind's face atop of a tornado.

JACK (CONT'D)
What are you wearing?

WHIRLWIND
(proudly)
You want one too? I brought a couple.

Jack shakes his head sadly.

JACK
You really are wearing a shirt with your name on it? And your face?

WHIRLWIND
Well, I figured if we all wore one it would be good publicity. No one will think it's me.

JACK
Dammit Whirlwind. What size are you? Maybe I have a sweater that'll fit you.

WHIRLWIND
I'm sorry Jack. I just thought no one would ever think that I'd wear the shirt if it was actually me doing it.

JACK
And if we don't wear the shirts your name isn't brought up at all. Isn't that much better?

Whirlwind nods and goes to the couch and checks the news as Jack goes to his bedroom to look for a sweater.

WHIRLWIND
So Sam hasn't called?

JACK (O.S.)
No. If we don't hear from him...

CUT TO:

INT. DUGAN'S PUB/BACK OFFICE - NIGHT

We are back to Jack explaining to Diane and Dustin about the job.

JACK

... we just assume that he can't get to a phone. Just keep an eye on the news to make sure they don't start without us.

DIANE

And do you have any idea what banks and jewelry stores we'll be hitting?

JACK

Well, I know of a couple that are perfect. But we were hoping you'd know a couple of good ones too.

DUSTIN

I've always wanted to rob that bank on Queen East. Rudest motherfuckers I've ever met. You'd think they weren't getting paid good money to be there.

JACK

That's great then. The city will be in chaos due to the...

CUT TO:

INT. DIANE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Dustin sits at the table while Diane talks on her cell.

JACK (O.S.)

(on phone)

...villains teaming up anytime now.

DIANE

You've heard from Sam?

JACK (O.S.)

(on phone)

No, but if we don't head out now we'll miss the chance to take the most advantage of everyone's confusion.

Diane looks over at Dustin who is seeming to get very anxious. He is fiddling with the gun in his hands.

DIANE

Alright. You know where you're going to hit and we'll meet at your place afterwards.

Diane hangs up the phone and begins loading her gear in a bag.

DUSTIN

It's started?

Diane heads out into the living room to check the news on the TV.

DIANE (O.S.)

Not yet. I imagine the whole city...

CUT TO:

INT. DUGAN'S PUB/BACK OFFICE - NIGHT

Diane sits behind her desk smiling from ear to ear.

DIANE

...will know when it happens. Something this big, if not prevented, will be remembered for decades to come.

On the couch sits a heroic looking man in a superhero's outfit. It is THE HUNTER, sitting rigidly, his dark outfit and mask intimidating even as he sits idly. His uniform is more of a SWAT outfit than a typical superhero costume, but his mask covers his entire face except for his eyes. Goggles cover them. The only logo on his shirt is that of a chalk outline of a body.

HUNTER

And you're absolutely certain that your intel is good?

DIANE

One hundred percent. I have a friend who has a friend on the inside.

Hunter stands up and goes to leave the office. He stops before the door and glares back at Diane.

HUNTER

Just because you gave me this info, doesn't mean I'll let you get away with just anything.

DIANE

I would never dream... But it certainly has got to count for something. Had I not told you this, think of what would happen to our city. To the heroes. To our citizens.

HUNTER

Yes. I'm certain you told me because of your conscience. I'm just warning you, don't try and get away with too much.

DIANE

Never. I'm not a moron. I know now that Champion's dead, you're the big dog in town.

HUNTER

That's not what I was saying, and I'd gladly give anything to have Champion back. And if you ever say his name again, I'll make sure those are your last words.

Hunter leaves and Diane smiles to herself.

DIANE

(under his breath)

If I didn't know you had super hearing I might say something like, "A thank you would have been nice asshole".

CUT TO:

INT. JACK'S APARTMENT - DUSK

The front door is flung open and Jack, Whirlwind, Nick and Maria rush in. All of them are carrying various sacks of different types of loot and dressed entirely in black. Jack rushes across the room and shuts the curtains and turns on the lights. All of them take turns throwing money, jewelry and various other goodies onto a table. They can barely contain their joy.

WHIRLWIND

If Diane's team got even half this
much we'll be rich.

MARIA

If they came away with nothing we'd
still be. Look at all this.

Nick kisses her on the cheek and she hugs him happily.

JACK

They should be here soon. I can't
imagine the battle lasting much
longer.

Jack grabs the remote for the TV and flicks it on to the
news. What is on the set shocks him.

INT. NEWS STUDIO - DUSK

NEWSCASTER

(on TV)

...luckily for the city, the heroes
and police were lying in wait. What
could've been a national tragedy
was prevented.

EXT. BAY STREET - DUSK

Hunter stands in front of the camera somewhat heroically
while microphones are being shoved into his face.

HUNTER

It's not me or the heroes that you
should be thanking, but the brave
policemen who found out about this
before it could ever happen.
Without their diligence and
expertise we would have never been
here to stop this.

CUT TO:

INT. JACK'S APARTMENT - DUSK

By now the group is gathered around the television, all quite
surprised.

WHIRLWIND

I hope Diane and her guys are
alright.

JACK

I'm sure they're okay. Even with the heroes waiting, the city was ripe for the pickin'.

WHIRLWIND

Then why do you look so worried Jack?

Jack slumps down on the couch and throws the remote to the side.

JACK

It's probably nothing, Whirlwind.

MARIA

Who tipped them off?

JACK

I don't know.

Nick begins to pace.

NICK

This is not good.

Whirlwind is getting very confused.

WHIRLWIND

What?

MARIA

It won't take a genius like IQ to figure out that whatever assholes went on a crime spree during their attempted battle royale had inside info on it.

WHIRLWIND

But we didn't say nothing.

MARIA

Like that'll matter. They kill people for looking at them wrong.

JACK

We're getting worked up over nothing. We just don't spend a dime and keep this to ourselves, and we'll be fine. Most are probably stewing in jail right now.

HUNTER (O.S.)

...it's unfortunate that most of them got away, but at least this potential catastrophe was stopped, even with Champion dead. Without his strength and courage, we remaining heroes need to....

The news quickly switches to another story before Hunter can finish. A human interest piece on something insignificant.

The group look at each other sadly.

CUT TO:

INT. MANSION - MORNING

A much younger Jack is getting dressed for the day. His wife Janet looks at him angrily.

JANET

Where are you off to?

JACK

Anywhere. You aren't very fun to be around right now.

He steps into the kitchen and pours himself a cup of the coffee that is already brewing.

JANET

What do you have to be mad about?

JACK

Nothing. Everything's wonderful.

He goes to the fridge and pours some cream into the mug.

JANET

No it isn't. It hasn't been in a while.

Jack looks at her frustrated.

JACK

Look, you know I agree. We make each other miserable. I will never be as successful as you. You should be with one of your kind.

JANET

One of my kind?

JACK

A rich, shallow, self involved actor. Throw a rock and you'll hit one in this neighborhood. If the paparazzi are to be believed, you don't need me to tell you that anyway.

JANET

How dare you.

JACK

C'mon. That fuckin' Jeff Stargrove is practically in every picture they show of you.

JANET

We made a movie together. It's called publicity. And besides, we're friends.

JACK

Good. I'm happy for you. You have one more friend than I do.

Jack begins pouring the sugar in his coffee.

JANET

Are you going to mention divorce again?

JACK

Why shouldn't I? We're done. Anyone can see that.

JANET

I'm not going to give up half of everything to a petty criminal like you.

This stops Jack dead.

JACK

Ah, the truth's out. You don't want this to work. You just don't want to part with your precious money.

JANET

It is MY money Jack. Not yours. Can't we just get divorced and go on living the way we were?

Jack is still obviously hurt from hearing about the reason Janet is staying with him.

Though he realizes what he is about to do is petty, he just wants to hurt her back. A malicious smile spreads across his face.

JACK

Honey, I'll take you for everything you have.

Janet looks at him unhappily. She decides not to continue any further and turns to leave.

JANET

Make yourself at home Jack. That's what you're good at. I'll leave.

Once Janet has left the room Jack seems to age 10 years in one swoop. He looks at the spot Janet was standing and realizes that this is really it. It's over. He sighs, slumps into his chair and takes a drink of coffee.

Suddenly he hears what sounds like a scuffle in the next room. Janet's voice can be heard indistinctly, but also that of a man. Jack gets up to investigate, but before he can leave the kitchen, Janet plunges into him, knocking him over. She is grabbing at her throat, gasping for air. Within seconds she begins to cough up blood.

Jack, though in shock, quickly rushes to her aid, but to no avail. She begins to jerk and then dies in his arms. As he looks down at her face in confusion he hears a noise in the next room. He looks to see a figure hidden behind a dresser, a slit in the door showing his wild eyes staring at him crazily.

CUT TO:

INT. JACK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jack wakes up with a start on the couch. Whirlwind, who was sitting beside him watching wrestling, mutes the TV.

WHIRLWIND

You okay?

JACK

Yeah. Yeah. Just a nightmare.

WHIRLWIND

What was it about?

JACK

Huh?

WHIRLWIND

Sometimes if you talk about your
dreams you understand them better.

Jack sits up on the sofa and runs his hands over his face.

JACK

Sorry Whirlwind, it's nothing I
want to talk about.

WHIRLWIND

Oh. Okay. Diane isn't back yet.
Hasn't called or anything.

JACK

Great.

WHIRLWIND

Nick and Maria are worried if she's
caught she'll spill the beans and
it'll only be a matter of time
before the heels know it was us.

JACK

Heels?

WHIRLWIND

Bad guys. Wrestling term.

JACK

No need to worry about Diane. You
don't get as old as she is in this
business by being a snitch.

NICK (O.S.)

Or maybe that's precisely how you
do it.

Nick and Maria step into the living room, obviously not
having slept.

JACK

Godammit, you all need to stop
worrying and just get some rest.

MARIA

Oh of course, why didn't I think of
that? Just go to sleep and we'll
wake up and things will be better.

JACK

I'm sorry. Does that interfere with
your cunning plan of standing
around and yelling at each other?

NICK
Thinking things out!

JACK
Worrying about things that we don't
know are true.

NICK
(storming out)
Well, I don't think you'll be
getting away with this scott-free
if anyone finds out.

Jack goes to get up and confront Nick but Whirlwind holds out his huge arm to stop him.

WHIRLWIND
That's not going to solve anything.

JACK
Sounds familiar.
(calming down)
But you're right.

As Jack sits down Whirlwind turns his attention back to the television.

WHIRLWIND
(offhandedly)
I never believed you killed your
wife.

JACK
(relaxing again)
Thanks.

He begins to doze again as he watches the wrestling on television. The noise fades in and out as he begins to drift... and then suddenly BAM as the door swings open. In rushes Sam, who looks a little worse for wear. Jack and Whirlwind rise from the couch happily.

JACK AND WHIRLWIND
Sam!

Sam stops for a moment and looks at them, almost amazed.

SAM
Whirlwind?

Jack and Whirlwind are confused as Nick and Maria hurry into the room.

NICK
Thank God. Maybe now we can find
out what's going on.

SAM
(befuddled)
What's going on with you guys?

Jack looks quite concerned about Sam's nonchalant attitude.
He approaches his friend.

JACK
Sam, are you okay?

SAM
Yeah. Yeah of course I am. It's
just been one of those days.

WHIRLWIND
I can't imagine. Thank goodness you
got away. We were worried the cops
nabbed you.

NICK
Fuck the cops. We were more worried
about the villains finding out
about us.

Maria gives him a nudge angrily.

NICK (CONT'D)
About you. We were worried they
found out about you.

Sam smiles his winning smile and moves into the room.

SAM
I told you guys you had nothing to
worry about. They don't know jack
shit.
(pause)
So, how'd it go?

The whole group immediately lightens up as they lead Sam to
the table with all the goodies. Sam laughs as he digs his
hands through the loot.

SAM (CONT'D)
We're rich!

JACK
And we haven't heard back from
Diane yet. If she got away clean,
who knows how much we have?

SAM
And if she hasn't?

JACK
She knows how to keep her mouth
shut.

SAM
(seriously)
We better pray she does. I saw as
close to pure evil today than I
ever thought possible.

JACK
Jesus Sam. I told you not to get
involved with these guys. Are you
okay.

SAM
I don't think I'll ever be okay
again.

Sam suddenly gives a wide smile and goes back to the loot.

SAM (CONT'D)
But this should help.

The group laugh except for Jack who looks at his friend with concern. This is not the same man he once knew. Whirlwind's laugh is more of a nervous giggle, obviously thinking the same thing.

SAM (CONT'D)
Well, I'm done. Where can I crash?

JACK
Have my bed. I'll crash on the
couch.

SAM
Where's Whirlwind gonna sleep then?

WHIRLWIND
I'm fine on the air mattress. We're
just glad you're okay.

SAM
All right. I'm off to bed then. See
you guys in the morn.

Sam leaves the room and the group wait to hear the bedroom door close.

NICK

Well, seems Sam has the right idea.
Maybe now that I'm not worried sick
I'll be able to sleep.

Nick and Maria start heading out, but Maria turns to Jack before she leaves.

MARIA

I'm sorry we were so
confrontational. We were just
scared. Looks like you were right.
Everything is going to be fine.

JACK

(doubtful)
Yeah.

CUT TO:

INT. JACK'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack is once again startled awake on the couch. Another dream. He sees Whirlwind has left the TV on and reaches for the remote to turn it off. As he searches for the remote he notices that the air mattress Whirlwind should be sleeping on is empty. He gets up and glances into the hall. The bathroom door is open with obviously no one in it. Panicked, he checks the loot left on the table. It is all there. Curious.

Suddenly a loud thump comes from one of the rooms in the hallway. Jack begins to head towards it.

INT. JACK'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Another loud noise comes from behind the door leading to his room. Jack nears it and hears a muffled yell. He runs away only to come back a moment later with his gun in hand. He reaches slowly for the doorknob and opens it.

CUT TO:

INT. JACK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sam is standing in front of Whirlwind's bound, naked and bloody body. Sam himself is naked with streaks of blood on him too. He smiles at Jack.

SAM

Man, this guy was my hero when I
was a kid.

Jack raises the gun at Sam. Sam puts his hands in the air.

SAM (CONT'D)

Whoa! Jesus Jack! He's still alive.
No need to get crazy.

JACK

What is going on? What happened to
you?

SAM

(upset)

You should have never let me go
Jack. This is your fault. They did
something to me.

Whirlwind is struggling to get untied. Jack walks in and
begins to loosen the ropes though, keeping his gun trained on
Sam.

SAM (CONT'D)

You can't let him go Jack. He'll
kill me!

JACK

No one's killing anyone. Just sit
on the bed and wait until
Whirlwind's untied.

SAM

C'mon Jack, you won't shoot me.

JACK

(calmly)

Where'd we meet?

SAM

What are you talking about?

JACK

All right. I'll make it easier.
What restaurant did we go to last
week?

SAM

I don't know, Jack. I've been
through a lot.

JACK

What's your mom's name?

Sam quickly turns to run and Jack shoots him in the leg. Nick
and Maria rush into the room, guns in hands as Sam morphs
into Perv.

PERV

Asshole! Aren't I supposed to be
your best friend?

Nick and Maria are horrified. They are in deep shit.

Jack aims at Perv's face.

JACK

Where's Sam?

PERV

(in pain)

He's fine. He kept his mouth shut.
As long as I report in that
everything is okay, he'll be let
go.

JACK

So this is just routine? You're
doing this to all the henchmen?

PERV

He was the most suspicious. If you
guys didn't have your loot
displayed for everyone to see I
would have made an excuse to leave
and that would've been that.

(pause)

It can still happen that way.

Jack is done untying Whirlwind and Whirlwind goes into the
corner and begins to calmly get dressed.

JACK

So you guys know.

PERV

It's obvious. Even without IQ. The
cops and capes are waiting for us
and a group of normals just happen
to go on a crime spree....

Whirlwind is suddenly on top of Perv, laying in punch after
punch. Jack, Nick and Maria all pull him off after much work.

JACK

Whirlwind! We need him.

(pause)

Sam needs him. If he doesn't call
and say everything is okay, we're
all dead.

WHIRLWIND

You don't know what he did to me.

JACK

No I don't. But you have to keep it together. For Sam.

The look on Whirlwind's face shows no sign of the man he was before. Gone is the kindness and innocence, replaced with a cold, angry visage.

WHIRLWIND

(to Perv)

First chance I get.

As Whirlwind leaves the room, Jack turns to Perv.

JACK

So you're such a piece of shit you blew your cover just to rape someone?

PERV

You don't understand! When I was growing up he was my idol. I would never be able to forgive myself if I passed up the chance. And hey, they don't call me Perv because of my self control. And I may be a piece of shit, but at least I never killed my wife.

JACK

Do I need to shoot you again?

Perv slumps down, knowing he is defeated.

PERV

Fine. What do you want me to do?

JACK

All you have to do is get in touch with whoever you need to, and tell them it's not us. And to let Sam go.

PERV

And how do I know you won't kill me afterwards?

JACK

We won't kill you.

PERV
(angrily)
Fuck. Get my cell from my jacket.

Jack stands Perv up and drags the limping supervillain to the living room.

CUT TO:

INT. JACK'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jack pushes Perv on to the couch as the rest of his crew look on. He retrieves the phone and dials the number Perv gives him. He holds the phone up to Perv's mouth.

PERV
(smiling)
33 Logan Avenue. It's them.

Jack quickly snaps the cell phone shut in horror.

PERV (CONT'D)
I'd say you have a matter of about
30 seconds to get out of here.

The group scatters quickly and grabs whatever they can except for Whirlwind who calmly walks over to Perv. Perv looks panicked for just a moment before Whirlwind snaps his neck.

The group is still rushing around and Nick throws a full bag of loot to Whirlwind.

NICK
Great. You got your revenge. Now we
gotta get out of here!

Whirlwind picks up the pace and heads to the open door along with Jack. But something occurs to Jack. Just why is his door open?

NICK (CONT'D)
Go! Go! Go!

As Nick runs towards the group he falls over onto his face. Behind him, on the floor are his two feet, cleanly severed. The group look in horror as Nick realizes what is happening. As he struggles to his knees both of his hands come off. The door slams shut behind the group and suddenly the couch is in front of it too. Nick takes one last look at the group, silently pleading for them to help, before he instantaneously becomes a grotesque pile of bloody flesh, bones and entrails.

Every member of the group draws their guns and point them at various points of the room. Before they know it all of their guns disappear from their hands and have been replaced with various harmless items from the apartment. With a blur, a figure stands in front of them. It's GREASED LIGHTNIN', a supervillain known for his incredible speed, brandishing his samurai sword. He wears a skintight suit and his hair is styled as if it is constantly being thrown back by the wind.

GREASED LIGHTNIN'

See you killed Perv. Almost tempted to just thank you and let you go. But, you know, business is business.

JACK

Greased Lightnin'. Any chance we can bribe you?

GREASED LIGHTNIN'

Naaah. I'll be taking those bags when I leave anyway.

(smiling)

How about this? Go to the kitchen and grab all the knives you want. I'll give you a fighting chance.

Jack and Whirlwind rush to the kitchen and as we hear the clanging of silverware Maria rushes to what used to be Nick.

MARIA

(to Greased Lightnin')

You bastard.

GREASED LIGHTNIN'

What? You double cross a group of supervillains and you were intending to grow old together?

Maria stares daggers into him.

GREASED LIGHTNIN' (CONT'D)

C'mon lady, this ain't my fault. There are so many things you could have done differently to avoid this. You could've worked in a grocery store.

Jack and Whirlwind leap out of the kitchen brandishing knives in both their hands. Greased Lightnin laughs out loud.

GREASED LIGHTNIN' (CONT'D)

It's almost cute. I actually didn't think you guys were going to take me up on it. I mean, you know when I'm running it's like you guys aren't even moving.

Whirlwind and Jack start slowly moving towards him, knives extended.

GREASED LIGHTNIN' (CONT'D)

I love you guys! Tell you what. I'll tell you the order I'm going to kill you all in.

(to Jack)

You're first. And don't think I don't recognize you. I loved your wife in Space Sharks. You denied the world a sequel, and that can't be forgiven.

(to Whirlwind and Maria)

I'll figure out who I'll kill next after him. And here I go.

Greased Lightnin' disappears in a blur. Jack slides one of his knives over to Maria, and as he bends down Greased Lightnin' appears behind him and kicks him hard in the ass. Greased Lightnin' disappears in a blur once again. Jack falls on his face as Whirlwind starts swinging the knives in a panic. Suddenly he's taken aback by a punch in the face from the still invisible Greased Lightnin'. Jack gets up and starts swinging the knife as well. Maria rushes to stand beside them but she is suddenly thrown into Nick's remains.

Whirlwind loses it. He begins the finishing move he uses in his wrestling matches, holding both knives outwards as he begins to spin around as fast as he can. Jack moves away from the spinning Whirlwind, knowing that his time is soon up. There's madness around the room. Maria is horrified and covered in the gore of her former boyfriend and Whirlwind's scream as he spins is turning even more frantic.

JACK

Jesus. Do it if you're going to.

And as soon as he's finished his sentence blood sprays up into his face. It takes him a second to realize it's not his. A hole appears in the wall as Greased Lightnin's headless body crashes through it and falls flat in the next room. On the floor of the living room Greased Lightnin's head stops rolling and comes to a halt in front of Jack's feet. The severed head looks just as surprised as Jack does.

JACK (CONT'D)
 (to Whirlwind)
 Are you fucking kidding me?

Whirlwind stops spinning and looks at Jack in shock. Then he stumbles comically and falls to the ground. Both Jack and Maria rush to his aid.

JACK (CONT'D)
 (overjoyed)
 That's amazing! Thank you so much.
 You saved my life.

MARIA
 How'd you do that?

WHIRLWIND
 (dazed)
 It's my finishing move.

JACK
 (shaking head in
 disbelief)
 Amazing.

Maria walks back over to Nick's remains.

MARIA
 We were going to get married after
 this.

JACK
 If it's any condolence, I'm sure
 Greased Lightnin' suffered. If time
 moved as slow as he says it did, he
 was in pain a long, long time.
 (pause)
 But we still need to get out of
 here now. There could be more on
 their way.

WHIRLWIND
 Where will we go?

CUT TO:

INT. DUGAN'S PUB/BACK OFFICE - MORNING

Diane is sitting behind her desk as Dustin sits on the couch with Annie.

DUSTIN

(to Annie)

Now I did you a huge favour by getting my aunt to keep you on, so how do you intend to pay me back?

ANNIE

By working twice as hard.

DUSTIN

Yeah, that's great. But I was thinking of something a little more... personal.

DIANE

Goddammit Dustin. If you're going to do that, don't do it in my fucking office.

Annie is confused.

ANNIE

Do I still have my job?

DIANE

For fuck's sake, yes. Take her downstairs and buy her a drink or something. Just get her out of here.

The door to Diane's office flings open and Jack, Whirlwind and Maria walk in.

JACK

(angry)

Thought I heard your voice in here. Not picking up the phone?

Diane looks a little addled, but quickly thinks of something.

DIANE

Not smart to be calling one another at this time. I thought we'd visit you later.

JACK

What about the plan to meet at my place? Wasn't suitable?

DIANE

We were busy here. What's wrong?

JACK

What's wrong? We have every super villain who's not in jail looking for our heads! They've already got Nick and I'm sure Sam is probably dead by now too.

Dustin is confused and he pushes Annie off the couch.

DUSTIN

Get out of here. I'll get my favour later.

ANNIE

Did you want a drink?

DUSTIN

(angry)
Leave!

Annie scoots by the motley, bloody, beat up bunch and heads downstairs, avoiding getting too close.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

(to Jack)
What are you on about?

JACK

Someone alerted the heroes, or cops, or something about the super villains plan yesterday and they figure it was us.

DUSTIN

Why the fuck would they think that?

JACK

Well, we did know, didn't we? And now they know it was us that went on the crime spree.

DUSTIN

What crime spree? It was called off once we found out that the plan never went through. Did you idiots not even listen to the news?

Maria steps towards him angrily.

MARIA

Nick was listening to the news the whole time. There was nothing about the heroes showing up until well after it happened.

DUSTIN
Bullshit.

DIANE
(clearing throat)
Actually, I heard from a source
rather than the news.

The group looks to Diane in shock.

JACK
And you didn't bother telling us?

DIANE
I tried.

JACK
Really? How hard?

DIANE
I phoned.

JACK
Who? Indiana Jones? And that source
that told you, was it the same
person you ratted out us to?

DUSTIN
Whoa guys. That's my aunt you're
talking to.

DIANE
How dare you! Accuse me.

JACK
Who was your source?

Diane pulls out a gun from her desk drawer and points it at Jack.

DIANE
Alright. Enough of this shit. I'm
going to have to ask you to leave.

Jack puts up his hands and backs away. He motions for the group to go.

JACK
Sure thing Diane. But I can
guarantee before they get me I'll
be mentioning your name, you rat.

DIANE
(smiling)
Well, that's true. Can't have that.

Diane pulls back the hammer on his gun and BANG.

The group is surprised that not one of them is hit. Diane drops into the chair, a bullet wound in her shoulder. Dustin keeps his gun aimed at his aunt.

DUSTIN
Are you fucking kidding me? You're
a fucking rat? What other things
have you told the heros about?

DIANE
(weakly)
It wasn't me.

Dustin stops in his tracks and looks at his aunt in shock.

DUSTIN
Motherfucker! I didn't want to
believe it, but it could have only
been you.

DIANE
I would never. I'm your aunt.

DUSTIN
You know me Aunt Diane. If you
don't get me believing you in 5
seconds, I'm going to shoot your
tits off. Honestly.
(pause)
One.

DIANE
How am I to get you to believe me?
It seems like you've already made
your mind up.

DUSTIN
I've changed my mind. I'm just
going to shoot them off.

Dustin steps around the desk and aims his gun downwards as Diane panics.

DIANE
(yelling)
They would have caught you anyway!
You only getting 5 years was part
of the deal!

DUSTIN
And did you set these guys up?

DIANE
I didn't set them up...

Dustin pulls back the hammer.

DIANE (CONT'D)
I let the heroes know! But that means I get a lot of leeway. It's how to stay in power! Most people can't handle it, but it's the business.

DUSTIN
I'm ashamed to be related to you.

Dustin puts down his gun and heads towards the group still standing at the door in shock.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)
What do you need?

JACK
Guns, I guess. But you're aunt's just as good as killed us. These are people with super powers we're going up against.

WHIRLWIND
If we could give them your aunt, maybe that would help.

DUSTIN
Take her. And I'll give you some guns too. Better than nothing.

DIANE (O.S.)
If I can fix this, can I get a pass?

Dustin turns to him angrily.

DUSTIN
You're done! This is my place now.

JACK
Wait a minute Dustin.
(to Diane)
How do you mean fix this?

DIANE

I got a guy. Has powers. Pretty much unbeatable.

DUSTIN

Why the fuck have I never heard of this "guy"? More than likely because you're full of shit.

DIANE

I can call him.

DUSTIN

(to Jack)

Get this scumbag the fuck out of here before I'm tempted to finish him off.

JACK

(to Whirlwind and Maria)

This could work. If we hand deliver her.

MARIA

You know what? Fuck this. We need to take it to them. They killed Nick, they have to pay!

JACK

(frustrated)

That's crazy talk Maria. I'm sorry Nick is dead, he was a great guy, but us going after the villains would be like an ant trying to take down one of us. It's impossible.

MARIA

Nothing is impossible. You were there for Greased Lightnin' and saw what happened. You're a coward.

JACK

Lot's of things are impossible. Including us getting that lucky again. Let's just try to get out of this and you can plan your revenge later.

The group goes to Diane to stop the flow of blood for the moment with a dirty rag that the cleaning people obviously left behind.

DUSTIN

And no offense, but you can't stay here. When they do find you, I don't want to be in the crossfire.

CUT TO:

INT. WHIRLWIND'S VAN - DAY

Whirlwind drives his tour van as Jack and Maria tend to Diane in the back.

DIANE

It smells like used underwear dipped in blue cheese back here.

JACK

Don't worry. You'll be dead soon.

DIANE

I'm not lying. I know a guy.

JACK

A guy? Very convincing Diane. Let us know when you dream up a name for this "guy".

DIANE

I don't just go around giving out his fucking name.

JACK

And you won't have to worry about us asking soon.

MARIA

Unless we hold a seance.

WHIRLWIND

Because you'll be dead.

JACK

So I don't really care about your bargaining chips. As soon as we figure a way out of this, we don't have to listen to your shit any longer. But we'll keep you alive until then. Promise.

DIANE

Dance Commander.

Jack and Maria can barely contain their laughter.

JACK

That dude hasn't been seen in ages. He's gotta be closing in on fifty by now. And he's more of a freakshow than a superpower.

DIANE

He's out of the game. But he owes me more than one favour. He retired because he said the time for a hero like him is over. The world's outgrown him.

JACK

If I remember correctly, his time was over about 5 years before he started.

MARIA

Tell me you're not seriously considering this Jack.

JACK

No worries. Even if Diane really knows the reclusive weirdo, what's to say he doesn't just get him to kill us.

DIANE

I wouldn't do that! I'm in trouble here too. Dustin knows it was me as well.

JACK

Alright. Dance Commander kills Dustin as well. I'm sure you'd love to see him gone after how quickly he turned on you.

DIANE

You know what? Go with your brilliant plan. You think there's a hope in hell of them not killing you even if you do deliver me gift wrapped? They will kill you eventually. You know that.

JACK

Not if they can't find us.

DIANE

Okay. So they kill everyone you know instead.

JACK
 (getting more stressed)
 So we're supposed to trust a rat?

DIANE
 Try and think of one time Dance
 Commander lost a battle. Just once.

WHIRLWIND
 The guy was undefeated. I do know
 that. He really was awesome. Back
 then.

DIANE
 I need those powers dead too. And
 then I disappear. My name obviously
 means shit now anyway. I just want
 to live. That's all.

Jack looks to Maria who shrugs.

MARIA
 (to Diane)
 This Dance Commander, is he going
 to kill these fuckers?

DIANE
 That's what I'm hoping.

MARIA
 Good enough for me.

Jack hands Diane his cellphone. Diane dials the number and
 waits for it to pick up.

DIANE
 (into phone)
 Hi, Mike. I need to take you up on
 that favour you owe me.

CUT TO:

INT. DUGAN'S PUB/BACK OFFICE - DAY

Dustin seems very pleased with himself as he now looks at his
 new digs. He sits behind the desk his aunt has sat behind so
 many years and lights up one of her cigars. As he puffs away
 he picks up the phone.

DUSTIN
 (into phone)
 Hey Tom.
 (MORE)

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

Tell me how to get in touch with
IQ. I have a nice gift for him.

CUT TO:

EXT. ABANDONED PARKING LOT - DAY

Jack and Whirlwind wait in the middle of an empty parking lot as a corvette drives towards them. As it nears the driver slams on the brakes and spins to a stop in front of them. Out of the car climbs DANCE COMMANDER, dressed up like an eighties nightmare. He wears shades with pink handles, a headband, a colourful shirt with the sleeves cut off and tight spandex pants. If anyone could pull off the look it wouldn't be him. He's at least 30 lbs overweight and his mustache cannot compensate for his thinning hair. He approaches the two men.

JACK

No updating your wardrobe?

DANCE COMMANDER

It's what I'm comfortable in. Is
Diane okay?

JACK

She's being well taken care of.

DANCE COMMANDER

And after this is all said and
done?

JACK

If you can take care of this, I'll
give her a big, sloppy kiss before
I let him go.

DANCE COMMANDER

Unnecessary, but I'm going to hold
you to it.

JACK

(surprised)

What? Seriously?

DANCE COMMANDER

Yup. Wanna see Diane's face when
you do it.

JACK

Fuck!

DANCE COMMANDER

Now here's the deal. I carry my boom box, because I like to hear what's going on while I kick ass, but I wear this iPod as a backup in case anything ever happens to my boom box. Nothing ever has. Now you two are going to wait behind my car and if anything happens to my iPod, you crank up the stereo in this. The speakers should carry the music to the next city. But don't worry, it's never come to that.

WHIRLWIND

You're going to be up against a lot of powers.

DANCE COMMANDER

As long as the music flows through me, I can't be beat. Not by one or one hundred of those evil fucks.

JACK

Well, thanks. You're really saving our asses Mike.

DANCE COMMANDER

Dance Commander.

JACK

(unhappily)

Thank you Dance Commander.

DANCE COMMANDER

Mike is a guy who works 40 hours a week at a job he hates so that he can provide for his wife and son, whom he loves very much.

JACK

(nodding)

Understood.

WHIRLWIND

Now how do we get them to come here?

DANCE COMMANDER

Oh, they should come running when they hear this. They haven't heard it in years.

Dance Commander puts his boom box on top of his car and hits play. Synths and electric guitars play in a pop song that seems like it would have been "too much" even in the eighties. Dance Commander already starts moving his arms to the rhythm.

DANCE COMMANDER (CONT'D)
It's great to hear it again myself.

CUT TO:

INT. WHIRLWIND'S VAN - DAY

Maria and Diane sit in a van parked nearby and hear the music begin to play.

DIANE
It's begun.

MARIA
My God. People used to listen to that?

DIANE
You're too young to remember this. But there was a time when that song meant something.

The lyrics kick in. Some inane gibberish about wanting a girl who wants to party.

MARIA
I stand corrected.

DIANE
It was a different time. Much more innocent.

MARIA
You can have it.

CUT TO:

EXT. ABANDONED PARKING LOT - DAY

The three men see a figure off in the distance approaching the parking lot. Behind him, at least a dozen more can now be seen.

WHIRLWIND
Jesus.

DANCE COMMANDER
No need to worry.

Jack looks nervously at Dance Commander's old boom box.

JACK
Have you changed the batteries in
this thing?

DANCE COMMANDER
Brand new this morning.

As the figures near, it becomes apparent that they come in all shapes and sizes. But what unites them is their intensity as they approach. Each looks very ready to tear someone limb from limb.

JACK
Have you have it serviced recently?
You know, these things haven't been
used in a long time.

DANCE COMMANDER
It should work fine. Just remember,
crank the stereo if anything goes
wrong. I'll be back in a minute.

JACK
But are you sure you can handle
these guys? They're vicious! I seem
to remember you dancing people to
jail. I don't think that's going to
work.

DANCE COMMANDER
They killed Champion. That's fair.
It's all part of what we do. But to
then piss on his grave the way they
did? You don't do that. It's
unforgivable. I'm going to enjoy
what's coming to them immensely.

And just like that, Dance Commander begins doing a very feminine skip and clap as he hooks his boom box onto his belt and heads towards the horde.

WHIRLWIND
Don't worry Jack. This guy's
amazing.

Jack continues looking as Dance Commander starts clapping his hands above his head as he hops from side to side towards the villains.

JACK

So this is going to be who saves our lives. A little embarrassing you gotta admit?

WHIRLWIND

Jeez Jack, don't you remember being a kid? Everyone wanted to be Dance Commander.

Dance Commander has reached the group now and though he stops in front of them he continues dancing. The leader of the group, HARD DRIVE, smiles as he steps towards him. He wears a type of armor suit with a computer screen on his chest. His face is displayed through his helmet as if it were a computer monitor.

HARD DRIVE

Never thought I'd be seeing you again. Tell me, those wouldn't happen to be the guys we've been scouring the city for hiding behind that corvette back there, would it?

DANCE COMMANDER

Here's the deal, boys. You let them go, and this ends right here.

HARD DRIVE

Don't tell me you're protecting those rats.

DANCE COMMANDER

Don't tell me that you're willing to be killed just to get to them. You know they'll never be any threat to you.

HARD DRIVE

It's a pride thing.

DANCE COMMANDER

Last chance.

HARD DRIVE

They have to die.

DANCE COMMANDER

(smiling)

I was hoping you'd say that murderer.

And before Hard Drive can even make a defensive move, his head is split in half down the center with a karate chop.

The music increases as Dance Commander really gets down. Jack and Whirlwind watch in amazement at the bloody spectacle going on. Limbs fly, blood sprays and there are insanely spectacular deaths rivaling Dead Alive all set to bad eighties pop while an overweight middle aged man dances furiously. A true sight to behold.

JACK

Holy shit!

WHIRLWIND

I told you.

The number of villains is whittling down as Dance Commander continues his massacre. As he pulls the face off of another villain, IQ, Bruiser and a female supervillain, GORGON appear behind the field of gore in a flash. Gorgon, a beautiful woman in her twenties, wears a bikini type uniform with a skull-like helmet.

IQ

Good God! Why didn't anyone tell me it was Dance Commander they were going after? I work with idiots.

The three villains start walking towards the still dancing Dance Commander.

IQ (CONT'D)

DC, you want to come work for us? You'll make more money than you ever imagined.

DANCE COMMANDER

I'll dance on your grave first.

IQ

You know, I did not miss that joke.

(pause)

Look, I like you, so I'm giving you a chance. It's not like back when we fought in the old days. I'm not going to try and outsmart you or trick you. We kill people now. Terribly. Just the other day, we burned a busload of people alive because they were blocking my view. We don't fuck around anymore.

DANCE COMMANDER

All the more reason you need to be stopped. And as you may have noticed, I can change with the times too.

IQ

Too bad.

Gorgon opens her mouth and a high pitched shriek comes out, drowning out the sound of the boom box and making Dance Commander's ears bleed. He falls to his knees as his boom box explodes. Whirlwind and Jack clutch their ears in pain as well. Finally, the noise subsides.

IQ (CONT'D)

She's new.

Dance Commander reaches for his iPod and turns it on. Unfortunately it cracked with Gorgon's yell as well.

IQ (CONT'D)

If you can still hear, just wanted you to know, as soon as I find out your identity, I'm going to kill your whole family.

Dance Commander struggles to his feet as Jack and Whirlwind rush into the car and crank up the stereo. Only one problem, it broke as well. As Bruiser approaches Dance Commander, Jack and Whirlwind, in a moment of sheer desperation, try singing the song that had been playing. There's a reason they are criminals instead of musicians.

Bruiser extends his hands on either side of Dance Commander's head and Dance Commander looks at him with tears in his eyes.

DANCE COMMANDER

(pleading)

Please don't kill my family.

BRUISER

(smiling)

Gonna torture em first. Really.

And he claps his hands together crushing Dance Commander's head in between them. Now the three villains turns their sights to Jack and Whirlwind.

JACK

Not good.

WHIRLWIND

Drive!

Jack steps on the gas and the car peels out of the parking lot. IQ smiles as the car travels into the distance.

IQ

Let's have fun with this!

GORGON
I'm already having fun.

CUT TO:

INT. WHIRLWIND'S VAN - DAY

Maria and Diane look to Jack as he climbs in the back of the van.

JACK
(to Diane)
Your friend's dead.

DIANE
Then so are we.

JACK
We still got you.

Whirlwind has already started the van and they are now moving.

DIANE
You'd do that? After I tried to save your ass?

JACK
I think you were more concerned with your own ass Diane. And anyhow, we wouldn't be in this mess if it wasn't for you.

MARIA
And it's really paying off, ratting us out to your heroes. Where the fuck are they now? They couldn't give a shit about a bunch of thieves getting killed. No doubt they heard what was going on.

DIANE
Maybe I could get The Hunter to help. I'm tight with him.

MARIA
Really? Are you guys facebook friends? I'd be shocked if he'd so much as give you the time of day?

DIANE

He owes me as well. It was him I told about the villains.

JACK

(impatiently)

All right. How do we get in touch with him?

DIANE

Well, we can't right away. He usually gets in touch with me.

JACK

You're a real piece of work there Diane.

Suddenly they hear something thud onto the roof.

MARIA

What was that?

Through the windshield they see the van rising from the road. The highway disappears beneath them.

WHIRLWIND

I'm not doing this!

JACK

I think we've figured that out Whirlwind.

DIANE

They're gonna drop us!

The van is very high in the air now.

JACK

Yeah. Looks like it.

Jack leaves the group and sits in the corner of the van, awaiting the moment when gravity disappears.

Diane glares at Jack, and a cruel smile appears on her face.

DIANE

So, you want to give any last minute confessions Jack?

WHIRLWIND

Shut up asshole.

DIANE

C'mon, it'll do your soul good.

WHIRLWIND

I'd kill you right now if I didn't want you to die the same way as the rest of us are going to.

JACK

That's okay Whirlwind. I didn't kill my wife.

DIANE

Still sticking by the whole, "someone else was there" excuse.

JACK

Someone was.

DIANE

And poisoned your wife. And ran away. Why would he do that? What could he gain?

JACK

So, you've really decided to spend your last few minutes of your life irritating me?

DIANE

Got nothing better to do. C'mon Jack, everyone knows. She was seeing that Stargrove fella and you'd had enough. Nothing any of us wouldn't have done. Shame you didn't get her money though.

JACK

I think I might just kill you after all.

DIANE

Alright. Fine. But no one would blame you. Everyone saw her on TV all the time, having the time of her life. Where were you?

Jack leans back against the van.

JACK

Do me a favour Diane. Let me die in peace.

He closes his eyes and Diane shows her disappointment, but leaves him alone.

CUT TO:

INT. MANSION - DAY

A much younger Jack wanders through the empty mansion, not dressed for the day though it is obviously the afternoon already. He sits in front of the TV and flips it on, only to see Janet partying it up on a beach on some celebrity gossip show.

VOICE ON TV

...newlywed, but no husband in sight. Outside the famous Astoria bar Janet had this to slur... say about the shoot.

The television shows an inebriated Janet smiling at the camera a paparazzi is pointing at her.

CAMERAMAN

How you enjoying the beautiful beaches?

JANET

It's wonderful here. The people are great. The food is great. It's awesome!

CAMERAMAN

Where is your husband? Shouldn't he be here?

JANET

(uncomfortable)

Unfortunately he had some work he had to finish at home. He's hoping to be here soon.

Jack throws down the remote and picks up the phone. Though he seems angry, the moment Janet picks up on the other end he calms down.

JACK

Hey honey.

From the noise on the other end of the phone, Jack can tell she is at a social gathering.

JANET (O.S.)

Oh, hi Jack. What's wrong?

JACK

Nothing. Just wanted to talk.

JANET (O.S.)

Really? This is a bad time Jack.

JACK
How are things going there?

JANET (O.S.)
Good. Busy.

Jack looks to the TV and sees it is still showing Janet partying at a club this time.

JACK
Saw you on TV. Seems like you're having a good time.

JANET (O.S.)
It's not bad. You know TV exaggerates everything.

JACK
Well, anyway, I heard on the news the other day you won an award for A Mother's Honour. That's great.

JANET (O.S.)
No big deal.

JACK
It was on the news. Kind of surprised I had to find out there.

JANET (O.S.)
Like I said, no big deal. Look Jack, I really got to go.

The TV is still playing footage, now of Janet and other celebrities at a red carpet gathering. Jack looks away sadly.

JACK
Look, Janet. I just want to... I feel that I'm losing you.

JANET
Sorry about that. Telephone reception is terrible here. I'll call you on Monday from a land line. We can talk then. Bye.

Janet hangs up before Jack can say anything else. He looks at the TV and sees a crudely animated version of Janet with a streamer in one hand and a bottle of beer in the other as the announcer pokes fun at her for being a party girl. Jack turns the TV off.

CUT TO:

INT. WHIRLWIND'S VAN - DAY

Jack opens his eyes when he feels the van jolt again.

WHIRLWIND

(happily)

We're getting closer to the ground!
They're setting us down.

The van jolts as it's set down in the middle of a field. The group's relief is cut short when the van door is slid open by IQ, smiling happily. Beside her stands a rough looking Sam.

JACK

Sam?

EXT. FIELD - DAY

IQ backs away from the van with Sam in tow.

IQ

If you could all step out of the
van for a moment, I have something
I'd like to discuss.

The group hesitantly exits the van, all of them clutching their guns. Behind them someone clears their throat. Sitting on top of the van comfortably is MAXIM, taking a rest after carrying the heavy load. He wears a red spandex uniform with a black cape. On the emblem on his chest is a hand giving the middle finger.

MAXIM

I'd drop the guns folks. We're not
planning on killing you. Yet.

IQ

And besides, Maxim could easily fry
you all to a crisp before you even
raised them.

The sound of guns falling to the ground is followed by IQ's self satisfied giggle.

IQ (CONT'D)

You're friend Sam can join you now
if you'd like.

JACK

Sam, is that you?

SAM
(looking downwards)
Yes. It's me.

IQ
Or is it? Could be another shape shifter. Or we could have a tracking device on him.

MARIA
He's right Jack. We can't let him join us.

IQ
Groovy. Then we kill him in front of you. Maxim, if you will.

JACK
Wait. I never said we wouldn't take him.

DIANE
Don't be stupid Jack. Why the fuck would they be letting us have him?

IQ
Oh, it's gonna be a trade Diane. We're pretty anxious to get our hands on you, you snitch.

Diane is taken aback by this.

JACK
If you know it was Diane, are you going to let us go?

IQ
Absolutely. Until we hunt you down and kill you that is. You've... how should I put this... really fucked things up for us. With Champion gone, and my new found superpowers, this was our chance to really get things accomplished. You idiots set us back months.

MARIA
Seriously Jack, they don't need to trade for Sam. They could kill us all right now if they wanted.

IQ
Where's the fun in that?

SAM

I'll understand if you don't take me Jack. I wouldn't if I were you. I'm prepared to die.

MARIA

You hear that? He's okay with it.

WHIRLWIND

Get your ass over here Sam. If you don't like it Maria, we can part ways now. Maybe you can join Diane.

IQ

Whirlwind right? There's one thing that's always bothered me. Is wrestling fake?

Maxim laughs at this and walks over to IQ's side. He gives Sam a little shove to send him over to the group.

MAXIM

Catch you later.

JACK

(to Sam)

What's your favourite food?

SAM

A big, juicy steak.

JACK

My favourite food?

SAM

Up to a week ago I would've guessed Sushi. But I'm pretty sure it's back to being indian.

IQ

Now, if you will. Diane, come on over.

DIANE

No.

IQ

Seriously?

(to group)

You four, skedaddle. Unless you want a preview of what's in store for you. We'll give you until tomorrow morning. Good luck.

JACK
Where are we?

MAXIM
Let me draw you a map.
(yelling)
Get the fuck out of here!

The group turn and start running away as Jack and Whirlwind help the weakened Sam.

IQ
(to Diane)
I think we're alone now.

MAXIM
There doesn't seem to be anyone
around.

Diane knows her goose is cooked. The world's smartest and most powerful super villains are staring at her, ready to do something awful.

DIANE
Is there anything I can do to
change this?

IQ
Afraid not. Seriously, what could
you possibly offer us? Anyway,
you're loving nephew, who gave us
all the info we needed, is more
than willing to play ball with us
rather than go running to the
heroes like his scumbag auntie did.

Diane is visibly angered by hearing about Dustin's further betrayal.

DIANE
That fuckin'....

Before he can get the sentence out, Maxim shoots her arm off with his laser vision. Diane falls to the ground screaming.

IQ
Shut up already.

Diane tries to stop the blood from spraying with her other hand, to no avail. She looks up at the two villains approaching him.

DIANE

I do know something that would interest you.

IQ

Don't care.

DIANE

Consider it a freebee. Dustin was in on it the whole time. It was his idea.

Maxim steps down hard on Diane's head, spraying blood and brains everywhere. Maxim looks at the mess left on his boot.

MAXIM

Damn it!

IQ

Hmmm. An interesting turn of events. Is it true or a last act of revenge?

MAXIM

Don't know.

IQ

Didn't really get the chance to tell if she was lying through the pain before you crushed her melon. Well, better safe than sorry. Guy was a creep anyway.

MAXIM

I'll get someone to take care of it.

CUT TO:

INT. DUGAN'S PUB/BACK OFFICE - EVENING

Annie is buttoning up her blouse as Dustin sits down on the couch and lights a cigar. His shirt is still unbuttoned and he puts both his arms up against the cushions.

DUSTIN

Don't want to cuddle?

ANNIE

(visibly upset)

No, sorry. I really should get back to work.

DUSTIN

Shucks. Oh well, close the door on
your way out.

As Annie approaches the door she turns around with a vicious
look on her face.

ANNIE

You think you were good you small
dicked little shit? If it wasn't
for your family you'd probably be
someone's prison bitch.

Dustin shoots up from the couch and races towards her.

DUSTIN

You can't talk to me like that you
fucking whore!

Before Dustin gets to her, Annie springs onto him and claws
at his eyes, leaving bloody scars over his cheek.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

Bitch!

He punches her hard and she crumbles to the floor. Dustin
starts unbuckling his pants as he approaches her.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

I'll show you who has a small dick
you fucking....

Annie's hand shoots up and grabs Dustin's junk. He falls to
his knees as she begins to twist.

ANNIE

I'll fucking feed it to you!

The door bursts open and in walks THE CORRUPTER, reeking of
death and sin. His face and hands can barely be seen because
of the black shroud he wears. Annie shrinks back in fear,
releasing Dustin's package. Dustin falls to the ground,
clutching at his groin. The Corrupter continues towards
Dustin as he crawls to his desk. The Corrupter extends his
hand towards Dustin, ready to crush him. Flies buzz around
the rotten meat that is his flesh.

Suddenly Dustin has grasped what he's been searching for, a
gun. He swings it in The Corrupter's direction and opens fire
right into his shrouded face. Even though he empties the
clip, The Corrupter's barely dazed. However, the creature is
off his balance enough for Dustin to run by him.

INT. DUGAN'S PUB - EVENING

As Dustin runs for the exit through his new pub, every manner of sin is being committed by his customers and employees. Some are having sex while others are committing murder. Some both.

DUSTIN
 (to himself)
 Sorry I can't stick around.

He quickly exits the bar, knowing his life depends on it.

CUT TO:

INT. JANET'S BACKYARD POOL - EVENING

A shooting star rockets past the night sky.

JACK (O.S.)
 Shooting star or an asshole in a
 cape?

Jack and Janet are lying next to each other on a blanket looking at the sky. Jack sits up to take a drink from his beer.

JANET
 Oh, come on Jack. Who knows what
 state the world would be in if it
 wasn't for the superheroes. It's
 not a world I'd want to live in.

JACK
 It would be amazing. It's not like
 we'd all go crazy and kill and rape
 each other if they weren't
 constantly keeping watch over us.
 Who the fuck are they to judge us
 anyway?

Janet sits up looking a little concerned.

JANET
 People have nothing to worry about
 from the superheroes unless they do
 something bad.

JACK
 As they define it.

JANET

You're not planning on doing something you shouldn't?

Jack glares at her, obviously irritated.

JACK

Can we just once have a conversation without you accusing me of something I haven't done?

JANET

I'm just saying... it's not like you've held down a job for more than a couple weeks.

JACK

So I'm going to rob a bank? And I quit those jobs because people were giving me a hard time about being married to you.

JANET

Oh, it's my fault you can't keep a job?

JACK

Janet. Those jobs were just temporary anyway.

JANET

Going for a career as a sponge salesman?

This infuriates Jack and he takes an even bigger swig from his beer.

JACK

Leave it to you to say that.

JANET

Sorry, I forgot you don't like to be judged.

Jack turns to her to vent his anger only to look terrified when he sees Janet's dead white eyes staring at him. Blood trickles from her purple lips.

JANET (CONT'D)

Why shouldn't you be judged Jack?

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT CELLAR - MORNING

Jack wakes up with a start. The rest of the group remains sleeping on a dirty floor except for Sam who moves to Jack's side.

SAM
You all right?

JACK
Yeah. Jesus.
(pause)
Pretty fucked up when you wake up from a nightmare only to discover real life is worse.

SAM
(laughing)
Yup. Don't know how we're going to get out of this one. Any ideas?

JACK
Yeah. One.
(pause)
We could turn ourselves in. Maybe the authorities can protect us.

SAM
Why would they do that?

JACK
I don't know. Civic duty?

WHIRLWIND
(groggily)
What time is it?

JACK
Just after seven. No need to get up. We're not going anywhere.

WHIRLWIND
The owner's cool if we stay here?

JACK
Maria says he's okay with it. I imagine there'll be a time limit. Don't start a garden or anything.

WHIRLWIND
Cool.

And with that Whirlwind goes back to sleep.

SAM

I got to thank you again for taking me back. I wouldn't have blamed you if you left me.

JACK

Wasn't a chance of that happening. I'm just really glad to have you back Sam. I was worried.

SAM

They roughed me up pretty bad, but I didn't say anything.

JACK

We know. And we appreciate it. Let's just stick together and we might get through this.

SAM

(doubtful)
Yeah.

JACK

We could also go to the capes.

SAM

And why would they protect us?

JACK

Isn't that what they do?

SAM

To civilians. Not a bunch of morons who rob people.

JACK

(smiling)
We could stop running and stand up and fight.

SAM

(playing along)
I'll take Bruiser, you take Maxim!

JACK

Done! They won't know what hit em.

Jack sits back and closes his eyes.

JACK (CONT'D)

Should be able to fall back to sleep knowing we have a fail safe plan. Thanks Sam.

SAM

No problem Jack. That's what I'm here for.

JACK

(falling asleep)
I'll call Dustin again later. Maybe he can help us get out of the country or something.

SAM

You trust that psycho all the sudden?

JACK

Maybe I misjudged him. He certainly helped us with his aunt. And gave us guns and all. Not many choices here anyway.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - MORNING

Dustin wakes up in the driver's seat of a parked car with the sunlight bothering his eyes. He checks his watch and sees it is now morning. Slowly, he starts up the car and drives out of the alleyway, revealing the corpse of the person he stole the car from leaning against the garbage cans. The passenger seat is bloody from the shooting.

Pulling out of the alleyway he checks the skies to make sure no heroes or villains happen to be flying above him.

DUSTIN

Motherfuckers. Better not see you.

He continues down the street and his cell phone rings. He checks who's calling, doesn't recognize it and picks up. There's a pause as he hears who it is on the other line.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

You fuckers! Why'd you drag me into your shit? I tried to help you.

CUT TO:

EXT. PAYPHONE - MORNING

Jack is making a call on a payphone in a convenience store. He's being very inconspicuous, trying not to get noticed.

JACK
(whispering)
What are you talking about?

THE REST OF THE CONVERSATION IS CUT BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THEM ON THE PHONE.

DUSTIN
Who should show up at my place yesterday but The Corruptor! The fucker was there to kill me!

JACK
Whoa! We never said anything about you. It had to have been your aunt.

DUSTIN
Is she there? Put her on!

JACK
I'm not sure she's alive anymore. The villains let us all go except for her.

DUSTIN
So you're safe and they're going after me?

JACK
No. Let us go for the time being. They promised to kill us later. Very sporting of them.

DUSTIN
Where are you?

JACK
Where are you?

DUSTIN
Driving around trying not to get noticed.

JACK
You got money? Guns?

DUSTIN
Some and one. Are you going to tell me where you are? I'm in fucking trouble now too.

Jack thinks about this for a second. His more compassionate side wins.

JACK

We're in the basement of Santo's. The owner said we could stay there a couple days. It's not the Ritz, but he feeds us and lets us use the bathroom.

DUSTIN

I'll be there in a bit.

Jack realizes something in a panic.

JACK

Wait! They're onto you and you're using your cell?

DUSTIN

Yeah.

JACK

They have all sorts of tracking shit at their hideout or lair or whatever the fuck it is! They could be listening in or even tracing the call. Throw it the fuck out! Now!

DUSTIN

Let's make one thing understood. You don't give me orders. If anything, I'll be the one...

JACK

Throw it the fuck out idiot!

Jack hangs up the phone and quickly picks it up again and dials.

JACK (CONT'D)

Santos! Things are fucked up. Get everyone out of there.

(pause)

You should go too. Wait for Dustin and meet me at the old school. Sam will know what I'm talking about.

(pause)

I gotta go now. Hurry!

Jack hangs up the phone and runs his hands through his hair. In just a matter of seconds everything went to hell. He looks towards the counter and notices the cigarette display.

JACK (CONT'D)

Fuck it. I'll probably be dead by the end of the day anyway.

He heads towards the counter behind an OLD WOMAN buying a scratch lottery ticket. She is taking her time choosing the ticket and dishing through her purse for money. The STORE OWNER sighs behind the counter.

OLD WOMAN
 (to store owner)
 I wasn't even planning on getting one of these. Haven't bought one in years.

JACK
 C'mon you old cunt! Get a move on.

OLD WOMAN
 Fuck you, bum. What, you have to get back to work?

Suddenly the store owner takes a bat from behind the counter and cracks open the old woman's skull with it. He looks at Jack maniacally.

STORE OWNER
 I've had it up to here with you fucking people!

He charges around the counter holding the bat over his head, ready to strike. Jack moves quickly, tackling him down to the ground. He grabs the Store Owner's head and starts bashing it into the floor. As he does this, chaos can be heard from just outside the door.

Jack rushes behind the register, opens it up and grabs all the cash. He then grabs as many packs of cigarettes as he can fit in his pockets.

The bell rings as the door to the store opens and in walks The Corruptor. Upon seeing him, Jack realizes that he has lost control and the fear kicks in. He runs and grabs the baseball bat from the floor.

JACK
 (still somewhat crazed)
 One step closer and I take your fucking head off!

The Corruptor laughs creepily. He lifts both his rotten hands to take off his hood revealing what looks like a rotten slab of meat with deep, black eyes and a hollow, toothless mouth.

JACK (CONT'D)
 Looks like I'd be doing you a favour.

Jack swings the bat and The Corruptor easily catches it. The wood sears under his touch. Jack takes off down one of the aisles as The Corruptor slowly follows. Jack sees a door by the freezers and rushes towards it.

JACK (CONT'D)
Please be an exit.

He flings it open and it's a small, filthy employee bathroom. Jack quickly locks himself in it.

The bell rings again as the front door opens and a group of teens come in and start grabbing all the confection. TEEN #1 sees the bloody baseball bat on the ground and grabs it.

TEEN #1
(to other teens)
I never liked any of you.

He cracks one of his friends over the head with the bat and as his friend falls to the ground, TEEN #2 takes off down the aisle in a panic. Without noticing, Teen #2 collides right into The Corruptor. He shrieks as both fall and he begins to burn. Jack peeks out the door and sees that The Corruptor is momentarily down and makes a run for the door. He barely misses being hit by TEEN #1 who swings the baseball bat wildly at him.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Jack hops over a couple having rough sex in front of the doorway and rushes down the street. The door behind him explodes as Teen #1's bloody corpse is thrown through it and The Corruptor continues to pursue Jack, this time at a much more rapid speed. The sidewalk and street have become an obstacle course of sins as Jack narrowly avoids getting stabbed by a raging HOUSEWIFE and getting run over by a car who's DRIVER has taken to playing Death Race 2000. Unfortunately, as much trouble as he's having getting through the mob, The Corruptor is getting through with ease, with people screaming and running out of his way. Jack's starting to see that his time is running out.

JACK
(out of breath)
Dammit. Never even got to have a
cigarette.

A car crashes in front of him, blocking his way, but it does not matter. The Corruptor has caught up. Jack turns around, defeated.

JACK (CONT'D)

Okay fugly. You win.

The Corrupter reaches out his hands towards him as Jack prepares to be burned alive. As the hands approach his face, they disappear in a flash. Jack opens his eyes he sees that The Corruptor is being flung backwards, dragged by what seems to be a lasso. Shocked, he sees The Hunter, on the other end, using a gunlike device to retract The Corruptor towards him. As The Corruptor quickly approaches, a spear shoots out of The Hunter's gun and goes through The Corruptor's chest. It does not kill him, but certainly detains him for the moment. The Hunter wastes no time securing the creature with a metal rope as Jack struggles to his feet.

HUNTER

(to Jack)

You stay right there! You so much
as move you'll be wishing I let him
get you!

Jack holds his hands up showing he means no harm and sits back down, amazed at how The Hunter is easily handling this seemingly indestructible monster. Once The Corruptor is tied up, The Hunter throws him into the trunk of a suped up car that takes off quickly. As soon as the car is somewhat out of sight, the madness that has taken over the street disappears. Some of the people try and walk away without making eye contact with anyone, while others crumple to the ground, ashamed and horrified at what they are capable of.

The Hunter approaches Jack in almost a friendly manner.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

You're lucky they sent their most
unsubtle hitman.

The Hunter reaches down to help Jack up.

JACK

Thank God you showed up when you
did. I thought I was done for.

(pause)

Well. Thanks again. Bye.

HUNTER

You're not going anywhere. A wife
killer and robber. You are going to
jail for an awfully long time.

Jack spins around angrily.

JACK

Holy fuck! I did not kill my wife!
I fucking proved it in a court of
law! What the hell is wrong with
everyone? What do I have to do?

HUNTER

Sure. Robbing banks is sure to make
people see you as a decent,
respectable citizen. Now come with
me.

JACK

No! I didn't want to do this shit!
But who the fuck would hire me? A
man who killed his wife? His movie
star wife! It was either this or
win the lottery.

HUNTER

Poor baby. The only criminal with a
sob story. Now come with me or I'll
force you to. And you won't like
that.

Jack angrily begins to walk beside The Hunter as they
approach another suped up car.

JACK

The least you could do is help my
friends. They're all going to die
if you don't do something.

HUNTER

Tell me where they are and I'll be
more than glad to help them.

JACK

Right. Help them all the way to
jail where they probably wouldn't
last a day.

HUNTER

What do you want me to do? Let a
bunch of robbers go free? You've
made your choices.

JACK

They're not bad people.

Hunter stops and looks at Jack very seriously.

HUNTER

Yes they are. You all are.

INT. HUNTER'S CAR - DAY

Jack is put into the passenger seat of the car, shortly followed by The Hunter who sits in the driver's side. As he turns on the ignition Jack looks out the window sadly. Hunter sees this and turns off the car in frustration.

HUNTER

Fine. I'll make you a deal. I will help you and your friends get through this, and you go and do your time without any trouble.

JACK

What?

HUNTER

These super villains that are after you. I'll dispatch all of them if you guys agree to play right by me afterwards.

JACK

No thanks. Even with them in jail, we're all dead.

HUNTER

The Corrupter is not going to jail.

JACK

(surprised)

What are you saying?

HUNTER

These villains are just too dangerous. If I'm to protect the public, I can't keep just putting them in jail for them to break out later. I'll use you and your friends as bait, sure, but I guarantee, you'll never need to worry about these super villains ever again.

JACK

You're killing them?

The Hunter lets his guard down for just a moment. His intimidating demeanor is suddenly overtaken by a deep sadness.

HUNTER

With Champion gone... what they did to him...

(MORE)

HUNTER (CONT'D)
and IQ going after our Fortress,
it's all gone too far. It used to
be robbing banks, trying to take
over the world, stuff like that.
There's now superhuman serial
killers.

JACK
Look, I'm cool with you killing
them. Honestly, you guys should've
done it sooner.

Hunter's sadness leaves as quickly as it came.

HUNTER
I did not say that I'm killing
them. And my friends most certainly
are not. And I won't say anymore on
the matter.

Hunter turns to Jack seriously.

HUNTER (CONT'D)
So do we have a deal?

CUT TO:

INT. OLD SCHOOL/HALLWAY - DUSK

The group, now including Dustin and SANTO, who looks like he
fled still wearing his dirty kitchen clothes, sit in the
hallway of the unused school.

MARIA
How much longer should we wait?

SAM
Where else should we go?

MARIA
If he got caught, anywhere but
here. He could have told them our
location.

SAM
Jack wouldn't do that.

DUSTIN
We'll give him another half hour
and then we split.

SAM

You guys can do what you want. I'm waiting for him.

The conversation is interrupted by the sound of the doors opening at the other end of the hallway. The group look to see Jack being accompanied by The Hunter.

DUSTIN

(quietly)
Motherfucker!

They all shoot up to their feet in shock.

MARIA

What have you done Jack?

Jack smiles and puts his hands up to calm them.

JACK

Take it easy guys. This isn't how it looks... kinda.

Jack and The Hunter are now amongst the group, who are looking at Hunter cautiously.

HUNTER

I'm here to help.

JACK

Now you gotta trust me. He is going to take care of the villains.

HUNTER

But it's not going to be that easy. I'll save your lives, but you are going to have to go to jail.

The group is seemingly appalled by this suggestion.

JACK

You don't have to go along with this, but I for one am fine with it. We'll never be able to get away from the villains, I'm sure they'll find us anywhere. I'd be shocked if they didn't already know we were here.

(pause)

So the choice is simple. Do you want to live or die?

The group calms down quite a bit after Jack has spoken.

SANTO
I'll take his offer!

MARIA
Of course you will Santo, you did nothing wrong.

WHIRLWIND
I'm in. I don't want to die.

SAM
Me too. I'm sure there's lots of TV shows I'll enjoy very much, even in jail. Can't be that bad.

MARIA
Look, I'll need to hear more. Believe me, I still want to see those bastards pay for what they did to Nick. And how can he guarantee that we'll never be killed?

JACK
I can't say, but trust me, we won't be bothered by them ever again.

As Jack continues convincing the group, The Hunter stands beside him barely moving. Dustin, who is behind Hunter goes to speak.

DUSTIN
Um. Hunter?

Hunter turns around to see Dustin's gun pointed directly at his face. Dustin pulls the trigger and shoots him right through the eye. The Hunter plummets to the ground.

The group stops talking and stares at The Hunter in shock. After a moment, when The Hunter doesn't move, they realize that he is, in fact, dead.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)
Thank God. I wasn't sure that would work. I only heard a rumour that his eyes were his weakness.

Jack can't believe what has happened.

JACK
You lunatic! What have you done?

DUSTIN

C'mon Jack. You were forced to come here, weren't you? You didn't want to go to jail.

JACK

As opposed to dying? Yes! Yes, I would love to go to jail you fucking psycho!

DUSTIN

Hey, enough of the name calling. If you need reminding, I'm the one with the gun asshole. And I for one am never going back to jail. I'll die first.

JACK

I'm sure you will! Looks like we all will now.

The sound of a flash is heard and then the doors at the end of the hall burst open with a crash.

IQ (O.S.)

His eyes! It was that simple?
Where'd you here this rumour?

The group turn to see IQ, along with Bruiser, Maxim and Ed. Dustin raises his gun to fire but Maxim uses his heat vision to make Dustin drop it to the ground.

SAM

Finally. I was getting so bored.

Maria, who is standing in front of Sam, spits out a huge mouthful of blood. An insect like tendril bursts through her chest. The arm is protruding from Sam's bloody stomach. Sam laughs with blood pouring from his mouth as his skin starts to rip apart revealing the insect like creature within him.

SAM (CONT'D)

(to Jack, weakly)

If it's any condolence, you're friend fought me the whole time.

IQ is not even paying attention to the insect creature tearing through Sam's skin. Maria's corpse is discarded to the ground.

IQ

I'd recommend everyone run except you Dusty. It's time to end this game.

The group scatter leaving Dustin standing in front of the villains.

IQ (CONT'D)

First. Were you in cahoots with your aunt?

DUSTIN

No.

IQ examines his face.

IQ

You're not lying. Okay, how'd you know how to kill The Hunter?

DUSTIN

I think it was my aunt who said something about it.

IQ

Makes no sense why she'd know that. But once again, you seem to be telling the truth.

DUSTIN

They were childhood friends. Said the only time she ever saw Hunter hurt was when he got something in his eye.

IQ

Good. Makes sense now. You can wait outside until we're done with your friends. You get a pass. Toodle-loo!

Dustin quickly high tails it out of there.

IQ (CONT'D)

All right guys. I want all their heads brought back to me.

The group of villains stand there.

IQ (CONT'D)

C'mon now. Haste makes waste.

The group of villains scatter in the various directions the criminals went.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL/SCIENCE LAB - NIGHT

Santo is hiding behind one of the long unused science desks. He reacts in a panic when he hears the door creak open, scared but trying his best to remain quiet. The sound of an unnaturally large insect can be heard click clacking across the floor. Santo attempts to keep his cool and stays as still as he can, though he is obviously sweating up a storm.

The click clacking stops as it approaches. Santo eyes dart around, looking for any sign of hope. Suddenly, the sound picks up speed and heads directly for him. He barely jumps out of the way as the desk explodes into bits behind him. He begins running towards the door.

SANTO

I didn't even do anything!

As he swings the door open to exit, he nearly jumps out of his skin as two figures rush towards him. Luckily for him it's Jack and Whirlwind, holding an axe they must have grabbed from a firebox. Jack pushes Santo past him as he runs toward the insect, raising the axe above his head. Unbeknownst to him, Santo managed to knock over Whirlwind as he was pushed behind and Jack is running into the room without backup. Before he can swing the axe, the insect, that resembles a cross between a praying mantis and an infant, is upon him, swinging it's sharp pinchers back and forth. Jack's scream is enough to make Whirlwind pick up the pace to get in and help his friend.

Sadly, from the looks of things, he is too late. Blood is covering Jack's lifeless body.

WHIRLWIND

(loudly)

Jack!

When Jack does not respond Whirlwind picks up the axe and looks for the insect, terrified of the moment it will spring upon him as well. In a dark corner of the room he sees it staring towards him. He tenses up until he realizes it's not moving. Gazing a little closer he sees that it is cut neatly in half.

WHIRLWIND (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

Jack groans behind him, regaining his consciousness. Whirlwind turns to him, shocked that he is still alive.

JACK

Did you save my life again? How many times am I gonna owe you?

WHIRLWIND

You don't remember? You fucking killed that bug man. Sliced him clean in two.

Jack struggles getting up as Whirlwind helps him out.

JACK

I just remember it jumping on me, then I blacked out. Must have hit my head. Was sure I was done for actually.

WHIRLWIND

Well, we gotta move, or we will be done for.

With that the two men run for the exit door where Santo should be waiting.

INT. SCHOOL/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Once they run outside the door, Whirlwind goes flying, sliding in something slippery that carries him into the wall. Jack tumbles too, but not quite as far.

A few feet in front of him lays Santo's corpse, with Ed's head stuck inside the now empty cavity. What they had tripped in was what used to be Santo's digestive system. Ed notices Jack and gets up from his grisly meal to approach him. Jack tries to get away, but slips on the grue on the floor and falls down once again.

As Ed has nearly reached Jack, Whirlwind comes from out of nowhere and tackles Ed to the ground. Ed snaps at him while Whirlwind tries his best to keep his jaws away from his face.

On the other side of the room the Figure rises from the shadows, the same figure that killed The Champion so many days ago. Jack stares in horror as it makes it's way towards him, slowly but terrifyingly. Once again the creature reaches out for it's victim's eyes, this time those eyes belong to Jack. With Whirlwind still audibly struggling with Ed behind him, Jack quickly realizes he can't rely on him to save his ass once again. He swings out his hand and it hits the creature, but not before the creature makes a brutal lunge. The creature and Jack tumble through Santo's guts as Jack manages to make his way towards the axe.

Simultaneously he swings it at the creature as the creature makes it's way towards Jack's eyes. Just as his fingers are nearly there, the creature screams in pain and disappears. The axe falls to the ground where the figure once was.

The sound of the struggle between Ed and Whirlwind seems to have disappeared as well. Jack turns to see his friend, lying on the ground, clutching at his body that is torn to bits. Ed is nowhere to be seen.

JACK
Whirlwind!

He kneels beside the obviously dying Whirlwind, who is struggling to breathe through all the blood in his mouth. Whirlwind smiles at the very distressed looking Jack.

WHIRLWIND
Ed's dead. Looks like when you killed that other one, Ed disappeared too. They must have been connected.

JACK
Good news. Only about 500 left to go. Should be no problem for the two of us. We make a great team, man.

WHIRLWIND
Yeah. I don't think I'm quite up to it Jack.

JACK
No problem, I'll do the brunt of the work. I owe you anyway.

WHIRLWIND
I really hope you make it, Jack. I wish I could help.

JACK
Man, you were more help....

Jack is stopped mid-sentence as Whirlwind's head explodes. Jack falls backwards in shock as Maxim approaches.

MAXIM
That was so gay. I thought you were gonna kiss him.

Bruiser walks out ahead of him.

MAXIM (CONT'D)
And since we are fucking sick of looking at you, I'm going to make this quick.

Jack is done. He can not be bothered to even attempt an escape, or grab an axe or plead for his life. He closes his eyes and waits for his fate.

As Bruiser's two hands approach Jack's head, ready to flatten it like a pancake in the same way he killed Dance Commander, Jack's body gives a momentarily quiver. In mere milliseconds, Bruiser's head disappears in a splash of blood. Maxim looks at this event in a panic.

MAXIM (CONT'D)

What the fuck?

Jack opens his eyes to see that he is perfectly fine. Maxim, terrified shoots fire from his eyes at the unharmed Jack. A second later Maxim goes up in flames.

Jack is truly shocked by this turn of events as he stands up and looks over the two dead supervillains in front of him. He hears a noise and sees a flash on the other side of the room and there is IQ looking at him in shock.

IQ

I knew there was no way you yahoos
killed my guys!

Jack is still confused as IQ lets out a hearty laugh.

IQ (CONT'D)

Jesus, you were one of us this
whole time.

(to himself)

Damned powerful too.

JACK

What the fuck are you talking
about?

IQ

Isn't it obvious? You have some
sort of power that makes you rubber
and the other person glue so to
speak. Someone tries to kill you
and they die in the very same
manner and you don't so much as get
a scratch. Fantastic!

(pause)

We should keep this under our hat!
This would be a much better gift if
no one knew about it.

JACK

We? I'm not like you. You just
killed all my friends.

IQ

Yeah, sorry about that. Had I known, I wouldn't have touched them, I assure you.

Jack picks up the axe off the ground.

IQ (CONT'D)

Oh, I see. Look, now that I have Champion's ring, there's things I could do to you that don't necessarily mean killing you. Suspended animation for example. Or shooting you into space. So don't get too brave there Jack.

JACK

Are you sure that would work? Now that I know I have these powers?

IQ

Very true. They probably were just kicking in in case of emergency, but yeah, you might not even be able to be hurt now that you are aware. Best not try it.

JACK

I'm not going to let you live IQ.

IQ

I understand you're angry, but come on. You're a criminal who put all your friends' lives at risk for a simple score. And I really don't believe you are above killing someone who gets in your way. You don't really consider yourself a good person, do you? If you are different from us, the difference is pretty miniscule.

JACK

(raising the axe)

I'm not like you scumbags.

IQ simply smiles at this statement.

IQ

Not when you didn't have powers, of course. But you will be.

IQ obviously has just realized something.

IQ (CONT'D)
 And you've finally convinced me
 that you did not kill your wife.

Jack looks very confused by this statement until it hits him. With this realization he stops dead, no longer raising the axe.

IQ (CONT'D)
 I'll leave you alone with your
 thoughts. If you ever want to do a
 team up, let me know. And trust me,
 your secret's safe with me.

IQ walks out of the room as Jack sits on the ground in shock. Slowly his shock turns to anger.

FADE IN:

INT. STARGROVE'S MANSION - DAY

It's a beautiful day outside as Jeff Stargrove sits on his sofa playing video games with a bunch of hip, young, stylish go-getters.

STARGROVE
 So should I do the Scorsese or the
 Bay?

One of the clique speak up.

ENTOURAGE MEMBER 1
 Do you want to show your artistic
 side, or your ass kicking side?

STARGROVE
 I'd like to show both.

ENTOURAGE MEMBER 2
 Hasn't been a movie made in years
 that you could do that in.

As the entourage members pass around a bong, the front door explodes. A group of henchmen come in with machine guns aimed at the group. Stargrove and his entourage jump to their feet, raising their hands above their head.

STARGROVE
 Everything's cool! Take whatever
 you want.

JACK (O.S.)
Isn't that what you usually do
Jeff?

Jack, now very well dressed and fit looking walks out from behind the group of the gun wielding goons. All are dressed in white overcoats and hats, Jack being the only one in black.

JACK (CONT'D)
It was you there, wasn't it?

It takes a second for Stargrove to recognize who Jack is. Once he does, he looks momentarily angry, then back to being innocent.

STARGROVE
Jack. I have no idea what you're
talking about.

Without hesitation Jack draws his gun and shoots just above Stargrove's head. This definitely gets Stargrove's attention.

JACK
Wouldn't want me doing that again.
I'm not that great an aim.

STARGROVE
Holy shit.

JACK
I'm only going to ask one more time
Stargrove. It took me a while to
finally remember, but it was you
who was there when my wife died.

STARGROVE
Shit man, I never killed your wife.

Jack makes a motion to his henchmen who grab Stargrove's entourage and begin escorting them out forcefully.

JACK
Don't want anyone witnessing what
happens if you don't start telling
the truth.

The henchmen and entourage have now left. Jack aims the gun at Stargrove's head this time. Stargrove is taking in the seriousness of the situation and sighs.

STARGROVE
Yeah. I was there. But I didn't
kill her. That's the truth.

JACK

I know. You were there to help
dispose of the body.

(pause)

My body.

Stargrove is realizing Jack knows exactly what must have happened.

STARGROVE

She was the one who wanted to kill
you. Not me.

JACK

It was in my coffee, wasn't it?

STARGROVE

(defeated)

The cream actually. In case she
felt compelled to have a cup with
you.

(pause)

She couldn't stand the thought of
you with any of her money.

Jack lowers the gun.

STARGROVE (CONT'D)

I always thought this day would
come. Figured you pulled a switch-a-
roo.

JACK

Something like that.

(sadly)

You know, I wouldn't have taken her
money. I just said that to hurt
her. I really did love her. We
really were happy in those early
days. I was really happy.

Jack looks utterly defeated. Without thinking he puts his gun down on the sofa to run his hands through his hair. He begins to walk out the door.

JACK (CONT'D)

I just had to know.

Stargrove, realizing Jack has his back to him, has a decision to make. Does he believe Jack does not plan to kill him and let him walk out, or does he get the gun and end this?

He grabs the gun off the sofa and aims it at Jack.

STARGROVE

You come in to my home and threaten
me? Do you know who I am?

(pause)

She hated you. She was constantly
being ridiculed for falling in love
with you. You were an
embarrassment.

As Stargrove fires into the back of Jack's head, his face
explodes onto the couch. Jack continues walking out the door,
not closing it behind him as his henchmen dutifully follow.

FADE TO BLACK.