Pulse
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EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY (FIFTEEN YEARS AGO)

YOUNG MATT, YOUNG JAKE, and YOUNG JEREMY are playing football with a large group of children. Young Jeremy is playing quarterback, Young Matt is playing wide receiver, and Young Jake is on the other team.

YOUNG JEREMY
Hike!

The ball is snapped to Young Jeremy, who takes a few steps back, looking around for a pass. Jeremy sees Matt open and makes the pass. Matt makes the catch and begins to dash through the other players before being tackled to the ground by Jake. Matt is hurt.

Jeremy rushes over to Matt.

YOUNG JEREMY
What’d you do to him?

YOUNG JAKE
What’d I do to him? I tackled him, it’s football!

Jeremy sits Matt up.

YOUNG JEREMY
You alright, little bro?

YOUNG MATT
Yeah Jeremy, I’m fine.

Jeremy brushes some dirt off of Matt’s shoulder and stands him up.

YOUNG JEREMY
Alright, let’s play some football!

The two sides line up again.

YOUNG JEREMY
Hike!

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY (PRESENT)

JEREMY
Hike!

The ball gets snapped back to Jeremy, who hands it off to Matt. Matt bursts through the defenders, Jake right at his side, blocking for him. Matt runs all the way down for a touchdown.
JEREMY (cont’d)

Yeah!

Matt throws his arms into the air. Jake takes a few bows.

JAKE

Thank you, thank you. None of this would have been possible without my stupendous blocking. I’d like to thank the...

Matt forces the football into Jake’s chest.

MATT

(laughing)

Shut up already.

Jeremy runs up to the two of them, wrapping his arms around them.

JEREMY

Nice play, guys, they didn’t stand a chance.

The three of them walk over to the sidelines and collect their things.

Jake is putting on a blue dress shirt and a tie. His police badge is hanging on the left side of his chest.

JAKE

Jeremy, are we still coming over for dinner tonight?

JEREMY

Yeah, Sergeant gave me the night off so everything should be fine. What time do you get off?

JAKE

Around 7-ish I believe. Matt you’re coming right?

MATT

Yeah, I’ve got to go down to the lab to help out the professor with something, but I’ll head over tonight when we’re done. Shouldn’t be much later than seven.

JAKE

Awesome. Well I’m running late for my shift. I’ll see you guys tonight.
Jeremy and Matt
See you Jake.

Jake walks away with his duffel bag.

Jeremy
So what do you help the professor out with anyway?

Matt
Umm, he’s trying to come up with a new source of energy. It’s really complicated stuff, but, he’s trying to excite electrons within the body and be able to transfer them.

Jeremy
I have no idea what you are talking about.

Matt
Neither does anyone else.

Jeremy
(Laughing)
Alright kiddo. Hey let’s get out of here.

Jeremy and Matt leave.

Ext. Parking lot - a few moments later.

Jeremy waves and gets into his car. Matt continues walking through the lot towards his car. Next to his car are three men listening to loud rap music. Matt ignores them and opens his car door. One of them shuts it. Matt turns around to see the three have surrounded him and that one his holding a knife. He punches THUG ONE in the face while the other two grab him and start punching him.

Thug One
Oh, you’re feisty. I like that.

Thug ONE punches Matt in the chest and holds the knife against Matt’s face. The man with the knife feels a tap on his shoulder from behind him. He turns around to see Jeremy.

Jeremy
Stay away from my brother.
Jeremy punches the man in the stomach, then again in the face. Matt gets out of the two men’s hold and punches one of them. Jeremy knocks the knife from the hand of the man and pulls out his own police badge and a pistol.

JEREMY (cont’d)
Rorschach Police! Keep your hands where I can see them and don’t move!

The three men kneel on the ground. One of the grabs sand and throws it into Jeremy’s eyes. While Jeremy is momentarily blinded the three take off. Matt begins to take off after them.

JEREMY (cont’d)
Matt stop!

Matt returns to his brothers side.

MATT
Why? We could of stopped them?

JEREMY
Don’t worry about them. Are you OK?

MATT
Yeah I’m fine, don’t worry about it.

JEREMY
You sure?

MATT
(Mockingly)
Yes dad, thanks.

JEREMY
Shut it.

Jeremy brushes blood from Matt’s face.

JEREMY (cont’d)
I’ll see you tonight right?

MATT
Of course, I’ll see you tonight.

The two brothers hugs and then leave.
INT. RORSCHACH ENERGY LABORATORY - LATE AFTERNOON

PROFESSOR GEE, a man in his mid fifties, wearing a long, gleaming, white lab coat is sitting at a table, working on a large silver contraption. A spark flies.

PROFESSOR GEE
Dammit!

Matt enters and closes the door behind him. The professor looks up to him and removes his goggles from his eyes.

MATT
How’s it going professor?

PROFESSOR GEE
Matt, good to see you.

MATT
I heard the Mayor was awarding you with the Rorschach Academic Grant for Science. Congratulations!

PROFESSOR GEE
Thank you very much, Matt. The ceremony is in a week. Will you be there.

MATT
For sure, Professor. So what’s this?

PROFESSOR GEE
This Matt, is the future of warfare.

MATT
(puzzled)
I don’t understand. What is it?

PROFESSOR GEE
Now Matt, before I tell you what this is, you must swear and oath of secrecy. If anyone finds out about this I could be arrested and thrown into jail for the rest of my life. Do you understand.

MATT
Of course! I won’t tell anybody I swear.
PROFESSOR GEE
What I’m working on here is the
second generation of EMP weaponry.

MATT
Electromagnetic pulse. An E-Bomb.

PROFESSOR GEE
Very good. All modern day weapons
are based around electricity
now-a-days, not gas. Drop an
E-bomb on an enemy city or base,
you’ve negated about anything they
can use without killing
them. Which means 1) it wouldn’t
be a war crime to use on a city
that is full of civilians, and 2)
any enemy resistance is reduced to
hand-to hand combat.

MATT
So what do we need to do with it
right now?

PROFESSOR GEE
Get it working. There are three
that I’ve already completed.

MATT
Alrighty then, let’s get to work.

Matt and Professor Gee begin to pull out tools and get to
work.

Matt looks out the window and see’s a meteor shower taking
place.

ZOOM IN on the meteor shower.

INT. ANTHONY LABONTE’S WORK SHOP - NIGHT

ZOOM OUT from meteor shower. We see Anthony Labonte, an
elderly man, asleep in his bed. The other half of the bed
is empty. He is tossing and turning, suffering from a
nightmare.

ANTHONY
No, Dad, don’t let them in. They
have weapons. No dad!

Anthony wakes up violently, shooting straight up in his bed.

CLOSE UP on Anthony’s face, he is sweating profusely.
Anthony gets out of bed and heads into his workshop. He sits down at his workbench where there is a large TV sitting. He looks over to a picture of his wife that is sitting on his desk.

**ANTHONY**
You’ll be better soon my dear. I’ll find a way to cover your bills.

Anthony gets back to work on the TV but drops his wrench underneath his desk. When he goes down to retrieve it, the whole house shakes like an earthquake, and Anthony hits his head on the bottom of the bench.

**ANTHONY**
Dammit! What the hell was that?

Anthony looks out his window and sees a column of smoke rising from the ground a few hundred yards away.

**EXT. CRATER – CONTINUOUS**

Anthony gets into his pickup truck and drives along the country roads to the flames. In the background is Rorschach City.

When Anthony arrives at the flames he sees a large crater surrounding the flames, which are beginning to die down. But in the center of the crater, is a black sphere, floating about five feet in the air. Anthony looks around before climbing down into the crater.

He slowly approaches the black sphere, using extreme caution. He gets up close to it, and it begins to spark. After a few seconds it stops. Anthony stretches out one arm and touches the sphere, nothing happens. He grabs hold of the sphere with both hands cautiously, and still nothing happens. He looks around again before pulling the sphere out of the air.

**ANTHONY**
What are you?

Anthony gets back into the truck and heads back to his workshop.
INT. ANTHONY LABONTE’S WORK SHOP—CONTINUOUS

Anthony takes the sphere to his workbench, pushing the t.v. he was working on earlier over. Anthony pulls out a screwdriver and begins to look for a crevice along the sphere. He finds one and inserts the screwdriver.

The sphere begins to spark and again, then shoots large bolts of electricity out, one of which hits Anthony in the arm, which travels through the entirety of the right side of his body. He falls unconscious while the house erupts in flames.

INT. RORSCHACH ENERGY LABORATORY—NIGHT

Matt and Professor Gee are hard at work on the EMP bomb, outside, it begins to rain. A hole the size of a basketball provides access to the inside of the bomb.

PROFESSOR GEE
I’m going to go and grab a cup of coffee. Put in these three capacitors and when I get back we’ll take a look at what still needs work.

MATT
Yes Professor.

The Professor walks out of the room. Matt checks his watch, 6:30 PM. Matt goes back to work on the E-Bomb, putting in two of the capacitors. While Matt has his entire arm inside of the E-bomb, his hand gets stuck. His eyes widen as he realizes.

MATT (cont’d)
What the?

Matt sticks his other arm into the hole and all of the sudden the e-bomb begins to beep. Matt looks up and see’s that the bomb has activated and is counting down from fifteen seconds.

MATT (cont’d)
(yelling)
Professor! Professor help!

Matt struggles to get his arm out.

MATT (cont’d)
(yelling)
Professor!
The bomb has five seconds remaining. The door bursts open and the professor comes running in.

PROFESSOR GEE
(yelling)
What happened!

An intense ray of blue light emits from the bomb and a wave of hot energy bursts out. Both men are thrown against the wall. Fade out.

INT. RORSCHACH ENERGY LABORATORY - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Fade in. Matt opens his eyes and see’s the room has collapsed on top of himself and the professor. On top of him is a large steel beam. Matt uses all of his might and strength and manages to just barely life the beam off of his chest. He looks down at his hands and see’s that they glowing red. He pushes even further against the beam until red beams of energy burst for each of his palms, sending the beam flying away.

MATT
(panting)
Pro- Professor? Professor can you hear me?

Matt begins to search through the rubble. An ambulance and firetruck can be heard approaching in the background.

MATT (cont’d)
Professor!

PROFESSOR GEE
(quietly)
Matt? I’m... over... here.

Matt runs over to the source of the professor’s Man, and begins to dig through the rubble. After removing a few pieces of rubble he finds the professor’s hand. He pulls on the professor’s hand, bringing him out from the rubble.

Professor Gee falls unconscious on top of the rubble as MEDIC ONE & TWO rush into what is left of the room.

MEDIC ONE
We’ll take it from here kid.

MEDIC TWO
You OK?
MATT
Yeah, yeah. Just a few scratches.

INT. RORSCHACH GENERAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Anthony’s bed is wheeled into his room. He is covered in bandages, is missing his right arm, his right leg, and has a tank of oxygen breathing for him. As the nurse leaves the room, he awakens. In the bed next to him is the woman from the picture on his desk. She is now very weak looking, and bald from chemo.

ANTHONY
(quietly, in pain)
Cecelia? Is that you dear?

CECELIA
Yes Anthony, it’s me. They told me what happened. Are you OK?

Anthony stretches his left arm out and grabs her hand, holding it gently.

ANTHONY
I am now that I’m with you.

Cecelia smiles at her injured husband and then looks up towards the ceiling and closes her eyes. Anthony can feel Cecelia’s grip begin to loosen.

ANTHONY (cont’d)
Cecelia?

Next to Cecelia’s bed, the heart monitor flat lines and begins a loud beeping.

ANTHONY (cont’d)
Cecelia!?

Anthony drops Cecelia’s hand and uses all of his might to sit up in his bed. He uses the one good arm he has to remove his oxygen mask.

ANTHONY (cont’d)
Cecelia! Somebody! Somebody help her!

Doctor’s rush into the room and surround Cecelia’s bed. One doctor tries to assist Anthony and put his oxygen mask back on for him.
ANTHONY (cont’d)
No! She needs help!

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS grabs the defibrillator and opens up Cecelia’s shirt. DOCTOR TWO is assisting him.

DOCTOR TWO
Charging 1000!

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
1000! Clear!

Doctor Calmedias sends an electric charge through Cecelia’s body, which causes it to lurch into the air. The monitor is still flat lined.

DOCTOR TWO
Charging 1500!

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
1500! Clear!

They send another charge through Cecelia’s body, but with no luck.

DOCTOR TWO
Charging 2000!

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
2000! Clear!

They send one final shock through Cecelia’s body. But again Cecelia does not awake. Doctor Calmedias wipes his forehead and sighs.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS (cont’d)
We’ve lost her.

Doctor Calmedias pushes through the other doctors over to Anthony, who is still sitting there, completely focused on Cecelia’s body, shaking and breathing heavily.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS (cont’d)
I’m sorry Anthony. We’ve done all we can. I’m afraid, she’s gone.

Anthony continues to stare at Cecelia’s body. CLOSE UP on Anthony’s face, followed by an EXTREME CLOSE-UP on Anthony’s eye, which shed’s a single tear for his wife.
EXT. RORSCHACH ENERGY RUINS - NIGHT

Professor Gee is being lifted into an ambulance and then driven to the hospital. Matt is sitting in the back of another ambulance and being attended to by MEDIC THREE. Medic Three puts a final bandage on Matt’s arm.

MEDIC THREE
Alright kid, you’re all set. If you feel any numbness or pain call that hospital right away, OK?

MATT
Yeah OK.

Matt hops down off the ambulance and walks over to his car. He brushes debris off of the windshield and drives away.

INT. JEREMY’S HOUSE - CONT

Jeremy is sitting at the dinner table, Jake is pacing through the hallway, still wearing his police uniform. Lighting is low.

JAKE
Where is Matt at? He’s running really late.

JEREMY
Did you try his cell phone?

JAKE
Yeah, it was turned off.

A car is heard rumbling down the street.

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - CONT

Matt’s car begins to stall and then stops. It is beginning to lightly rain.

MATT
This day really couldn’t get any worse.

Matt gets out of the car and begins to walk. At the corner in front of him, three black men were standing. Matt recognizes them as the thugs from the hockey rink.
EXT. JEREMY’S HOUSE - CONT

The rumbling car stops outside of the house. THUGS FOUR & FIVE, dressed in sweats get out of the car and walk up to the porch. Thug Five knocks, while Thug Four holds a small pistol behind his back.

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - CONT

The THUGS see Matt and make their way for him. Matt tries to cross the road but they cut him off.

THUG ONE
Where do you think you’re going?

MATT
Leave me alone.

THUG TWO
Where’s big brother to help you now?

INT. JEREMY’S HOUSE - CONT

SFX: Knocking.

JEREMY
That must be him.

Jeremy gets up to answer the door.

JEREMY (cont’d)
(continuously)
Matt?

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - CONT

The three thugs surround Matt and begin to beat down on him. Matt throws his arms over himself for cover.

INT. JEREMY’S HOUSE - CONT

Jeremy opens the door.

THUG FOUR
Jeremy McGinnis?

JEREMY
Yes?
EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS – CONT

Matt’s fist clench and begin to glow red. Matt jumps up and his arms shoot out to their sides as he screams with rage. His fists open up and a red wave of energy emits around him, sending them all flying away into a nearby building wall.

INT. JEREMY’S HOUSE – CONT

Thug Five shoots Jeremy right between the eyes. The two thugs take off for their car. Jake comes running to the door, discovering the body of his fallen brother.

JAKE
Oh my God.

Jake runs out into the street, drawing his gun as he does so. He fires several rounds into the car as it speeds away. He runs back to the house, grabbing his police radio.

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS – CONT

MATT
Oh my God.

Matt then runs from the scene.

INT. JEREMY’S HOUSE – CONT

JAKE
(into radio)
I’ve got an officer down! Repeat, Sgt. Jeremy McGinnis is down! Victim has a gunshot wound to the head! I need backup and a bus! Suspects are two men, white, mid 20’s, driving a beat up, red, Ford Taurus. License plate is R-H-7-0-1-1.

DISPATCHER
(from radio)
Roger Officer. Bus and backup are on their way.

Jake drops his radio on the porch and holds onto Jeremy’s body.
EXT. JEREMY’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Matt comes running from down a side street. He sees the flashing lights of cop cars and stops dead. A look of fear runs through his face. Matt rushes up to the scene where POLICE OFFICER 1 stops him. Matt pushes past him and up to the porch of the house, where Jeremy’s body is being put into a body bag. One lone tear falls from Matt’s face.

EXT. CEMETERY - EARLY EVENING/SUNSET

Matt and Jake stand around the grave plot for Jeremy, surrounded by their closest friends. Everyone is wearing suits for the funeral, solemn faces are everywhere. This is followed by a shot of the two of them walking away from the cemetery while the sun sets.

INT. JEREMY’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Matt and Jake are packing up things, preparing to sell Jeremy’s house. Matt picks up a box labeled "HALLOWEEN 2009" Inside are old costumes, and a picture Jake, Jeremy, and Matt from their childhood. Jake is dressed as Superman, Matt is dressed as Spider-man, and Jeremy is dressed as Nightwing. Matt looks back into the box and sees the Nightwing mask that Jeremy had been wearing that night. He holds in to his face.

MATT
Rorschach City could really use a superhero these days.

Matt then drops the mask and looks down at his hands. He holds out his right hand and then faces it away from him, towards the open window. Without meaning to, a burst of red energy fires from his palm outside the open window. Matt looks back down at the mask, excited.

Matt puts the mask on his face and steps outside onto the roof of the house. Matt sends a blast of energy up towards the sky. He then looks to the ground, takes a deep breath, and jumps from the rooftop, and runs out into the dark.

INT. ANTHONY LABONTE’S WORK SHOP - NIGHT

Anthony limps into his workshop, now sporting a plastic arm and a plastic leg. He is pushing a wheeled oxygen tank. His face is expressionless. He does his best to pick the broken T.V. off of the floor, but drops it before he lifts it up even a foot.
Anthony sits down at his desk and looks into the mirror on the wall. Taped on the mirror is a picture of himself and Cecelia from their wedding day. Anthony stands up and punches the mirror.

ANTHONY
(While punching)
Arrrgggghhhhh!

The glass shatters and Anthony’s one good hand is now bloody.

He get’s up and limps over to a chest. Inside is tubing, wiring, and other small electrical objects. He grabs as much of it as possible and heads back to his bench and gets to work.

Various shots of him piecing things together. After which he then pulls out his prosthetic arm and leg. The final shot then shows what he has constructed, a robotic arm, leg, and a new breathing apartments.

He then looks back into the broken mirror.

SURGE
Why was I the only person who lost anything? I’m going to even the playing field God made.

SURGE then walks out of the workshop door.

INT. JAKE’S HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

Jake is sitting at his dining room table, drinking a cup of coffee, dressed in his police uniform, it looks like he didn’t sleep at all the night before. Matt comes walking through the front door, wearing the mask he found the previous night.

JAKE
Where the hell did you go last night? And what are you wearing?

MATT
I took a stroll through the city last night I guess.

JAKE
What?

MATT
You know the explosion that happened down at the lab?
JAKE
Yeah?

MATT
Something happened to me during it.

JAKE
What are you talking about?

MATT
Watch.

Matt heads for the backyard and Jake follows. Matt extends his arm towards a trash can and then fires a blast of energy towards it, knocking it back into the fence surrounding the yard. Jake jumps back a few feet.

JAKE
What the hell was that?

MATT
I don’t know. At first it just kind of happened. But I think I’m learning how to use it.

JAKE
What are you planning on doing?

MATT
Going after the guys who killed Jeremy.

JAKE
And the mask?

MATT
Well I don’t want them to know who I am. Then they would come after you or the professor.

JAKE
Alright, I’ll go into the station and see what I can find out. Meet me tonight at the corner of 2ND and Grand, and we’ll figure out what’s going on.

MATT
Sounds good. I’ll see you tonight bro.

Matt then pulls the mask off his face and makes his way back into the house.
JAKE
Where are you going now?

MATT
I’m going to go see the professor at Rorschach General. I’ll see you tonight.

JAKE
One more thing.

MATT
Yeah?

JAKE
I wouldn’t tell anybody about this "power" you have. I can see a lot of bad things happening if you do.

MATT
Right.

INT. RORSCHACH GENERAL HOSPITAL - DAY

Laying unconscious in his bed is Professor Gee. A heart monitor steadily beats. Sitting in a chair next to his bed, is his daughter AMY. DOCTOR CALMEDIAS comes into the room to check on Professor Gee. Amy stands up.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
Vitals seem OK.

AMY
Do you know when he’s going to wake up?

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
I’m sorry, but we’re not sure. To be honest with you, I’m surprised he came through. At his age, surviving an explosion is very lucky.

Amy nods.

The doctor exits the room just as Matt enters.

AMY
Excuse me, do I know you?

MATT
I’m Matt McGinnis. I know the professor.
AMY
You were the one who was with him
during the accident.

MATT
(scratching his head)
Uh... yeah.

Amy offers Matt her hand, Matt shakes it.

AMY
Thank you, so much. If you hadn’t
been there...

MATT
It was nothing, he would have done
the same for me.

Amy sits back down in the chair. Matt pulls up another
chair and sits next to her.

MATT (cont’d)
So, how is he doing?

AMY
The doctors say he’s recovering,
but they aren’t sure if he is going
to come out of his coma.

MATT
Well at least he’s getting better
instead of worse.

AMY
But what about you? Weren’t you in
the same explosion? How did you
only come out with a few scratches?

MATT
I don’t know. My arm was caught
when the explosion happened, I was
actually closer to it that he was. We both flew back into the
walls and the room collapsed on us. I woke up with a beam on me
and he was under a bunch of rubble. I guess it was just all of
the adrenaline, I pushed the beam off of my and lifted the professor
out of the rubble.
AMY
Wow, that’s amazing.

MATT
Really, it was...

AMY
(interrupting)
Hey, I’ve been in this hospital room since last night, do you want to go get some food or something?

MATT
(looking down)
Well...

Amy grabs Matt by the hand and they exit.

INT. DOCTOR CALMEDIAS’ HOUSE – NIGHT

Doctor Calmedias is sitting down to dinner with his wife and three kids, two girls and one boy.

Ad lib various small talk between the family.

SFX: Knocking

The family looks up towards the front hallway.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
I’ll get it.

Doctor Calmedias gets up from his chair and walks over to the door. When he opens it nobody is there. He closes the door and turns around to make his way back to the dining room.

SFX: Knocking

Doctor Calmedias turns around again and opens the door, again there is nobody there. Doctor Calmedias closes the door. Surge appears right behind him and bashes Doctor Calmedias’ head into the door (a la The Dark Knight).

The family hears the bang.

MRS. CALMEDIAS
Oh my God!

MRS. CALMEDIAS comes running into the front hallway, followed shortly by the kids.
MRS. CALMEDIAS
Oh my God! What’s going on.

Doctor Calmedias gets up groggily.

SURGE
I’m going to do to your family exactly what you did to mine.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
What? What are you talking about?

SURGE
You let my wife die. You let her die just to get a little bit more money from our insurance company. I watched my wife die under your care.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
Anthony?

SURGE
The name is Surge now.

MRS. CALMEDIAS
What is he talking about Eugene?

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
I have no idea.

SURGE
Liar!

Surge punches the Doctor in the stomach with his human arm.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
OK, OK. I’ve been watering down some of the medication, so that patients will remain sick for a while longer than usual, and collect a little more from the insurance agents.

SURGE
And Cecelia died because of it. How many other people died because of you?

Surge punches the Doctor once again. Surge then turns and walks to Mrs. Calmedias and grabs her my the hair, forcing her into the kitchen with him. He walks silent over to the counter and slams her head into it. The doctor regains a
bit of his strength and tries to punch Surge in the back of the head, but with a flash of smoke, Surge disappears and the doctor ends up punching his own wife. Surge appears behind the doctor, grabs onto his shirt, and throws the doctor across the room. All of the kids run from the room.

SURGE (cont’d)
Are you prepared to watch your wife die, right in front of your eyes?

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
(groggily)
Please, please don’t do this. I’m sorry for what happened to your wife.

SURGE
No. No your not. Not yet.

Surge grabs Mrs. Calmedias by the throat and begins to choke her. Doctor Calmedias gets to his feet and makes is way over to Surge and his dieing wife. When the Doctor gets within a few feet of Surge, Surge tightens his grip on the wife’s neck, breaking it and killing her in the process.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
(screaming)
Nooo!

SURGE
Say it!

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
I’m sorry!

SURGE
For what?

Surge turns back towards the doctor, who is now down on his knees.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
Letting your wife die. I’m sorry.

SURGE
Yes. Yes you are.

Surge then grabs the man by the collar of his shirt and throws him through the kitchen window, killing him.
Jake is standing at the corner of 2ND Street and Grand River, wearing normal street clothes. From the shadows Matt walks out, wearing his mask and a dark gray sweatshirt.

MATT
How’s the investigation going?

Jake turns around to see Matt.

JAKE
(shocked)
Shit you scared me. It goes exactly the way I thought it was going to.

MATT
How’s that?

Jake turns back to the road.

JAKE
It isn’t. I’ve been told not to ask any questions. But I do have a lead you should check out.

MATT
OK.

JAKE
One of my contacts says that one of the men involved is down by the docks right now.

MATT
Kind of late to be out by the docks at this hour. What’s he do there?

JAKE
You’re pretty clueless about the under city of Rorschach aren’t you? Nobody goes to the docks after sunset unless they’re bringin’ in guns or drugs.

MATT
Why don’t you guys do anything about it?

JAKE
Because the majority of the police force is crooked. I’m sure that

(MORE)
JAKE (cont’d)
some of the guys down there are
cops themselves.

MATT
Why aren’t you?

JAKE
Jeremy and I were one of the few
that weren’t crooked. Why? I
don’t know, some sort of heroism
that runs through the McGinnis
blood, I mean, look at yourself.

MATT
Right. Well, I guess I’ll be
heading down to the docks now.

JAKE
Good luck.

Jake turns around to Matt but Matt is already gone.

EXT. RORSCHACH DOCKS - NIGHT.

Several THUGS are unloading a large shipping freighter of
crates and moving them to a few semi-trucks parked in front
of the ship. One of the the thugs is alone. When the thug
is alone in the back of the truck, Matt makes his way into
it, and shoves the man up again the wall face first.

MATT
(yelling)
Who ordered the hit on Jeremy
McGinnis?

THUG FIVE
I don’t know nothin’ bout no
McGinnis.

MATT
(yelling)
Who do you work for?

THUG FIVE
I’m jus’ a hired hand I swear!

Matt throws him out of the semi back and blasts a few bursts
of energy at him, narrowly missing him.
MATT
(yelling)
Who do you work for?

THUG FIVE
He’s a crooked cop who runs a gang
down here by the docks. I don’t
know his name!

Matt leaps towards the man, coming down a foot in front of
him, and launches a blast of energy at the side of the
thug’s head, barely missing.

MATT
Where is he?

THUG FIVE
He uses the old train station as a
base. He spends most of his nights
there.

Matt looks off into the distance and sees the old train
station.

MATT
Thanks.

THUG SIX
Who’s that?

Several thugs see Matt and pull out their pistols. Matt
gets behind a car for cover and shoots several bursts of
energy over the car towards them. One of the blasts hits
the car that the thugs are standing next to and it explodes,
killing several and injuring all remaining. Matt runs from
the scene.

EXT. RORSCHACH TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

Matt is standing in the shadows next to the old beaten down
train station. He looks down at his hands, which are
beginning to blister.

MATT
Ah piss!

Matt looks around the corner and see’s two thugs with
machine guns. Matt quickly rounds the corner, kicking the
closer of the two in the face and sending a blast of energy
towards the second. The first man falls back
unconscious. Matt runs of to the second and blasts the gun
from his hands. He then pins him down against the ground.
MATT (cont’d)
(yelling)
Who do you work for?

THUG SEVEN
I ain’t tellin’ you shit. You’re just a freak in a mask.

Matt positions his palm a few inches from the man’s chest and unleashes a few bursts of energy, burning a hole in the man’s shirt and then burning his skin.

THUG SEVEN
(yelling)
Alright! Alright!

Matt stops.

THUG SEVEN (cont’d)
I don’t know his name, I was just hired by a friend. But the guy has an office on the top floor. Always wears a dark suit, I never seen his face though.

Matt leaves the man on the ground and walks towards the station. He goes up the side steps and through the main entrance. He steps into the shadow behind a large, decaying stone pillar. THUG EIGHT is standing on the stairs leading up. Matt thinks to himself for a second, and then sends a blast of energy to the far wall.

THUG EIGHT
What the...?

The thug goes to investigate the blast that hit the wall and Matt takes the opportunity to make his way up the stairs.

INT. RUSSEL MURPH’S OFFICE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

RUSSEL MURPH is standing, looking out the large window that dominates one wall. Below is the sparkling Rorschach River. The room’s only source of light is a lamp on Russel’s desk. Russel’s hands are deep in his pockets and a Cuban cigar hangs from his lips. THUG NINE enters.

THUG NINE
We’re almost finished boss. Two of the trucks are loaded and gone to the dealers, the third is almost finished, but we ran into some trouble.

Russel doesn’t look away from the river down below.
RUSSEL MURPH
What happened?

THUG NINE
Well you see boss. Some of the guys are, well...

RUSSEL MURPH
Dead?

THUG NINE
Yeah.

RUSSEL MURPH
How’d they die?

THUG NINE
This man, I don’t know how to explain it. He was like shooting light out of his hands.

SFX: Walking up stairs.

RUSSEL MURPH
(yelling towards stairs)
I thought I told you to guard the steps.

SFX: Walking up stairs.

Russel turns around to the door, then walking SFX stops.

RUSSEL MURPH (cont’d)
Jim?

There is no response. Russel and Thug Nine ad lib small talk. Matt is crouching in the stairwell, spying through the open door. Matt pulls out his cell phone and takes a picture of Russel. He picture messages Jake. Russel and Thug continue to talk. Jake messages back.

JAKE
(in text message)
Detective Russel Murph, dirty cop. He served under Jeremy.

Matt closes his cell phone. He then bursts the door open and blasts the Thug in the face with a blast of energy, knocking him into a side table with a vase on it. The vase falls on the thugs head.

Russel pulls out a pistol from his suit jacket.
Who was it that murdered Jeremy McGinnis?

Russel aims and cocks the pistol. Matt’s eyes fill with rage as he sends a blast of energy from his hand, forcing the pistol from Russel’s hand and down into the stairwell.

MATT (cont’d)
I asked, who was it that murdered Jeremy McGinnis?

RUSSEL MURPH (scared)
What are you?

Matt blasts away the window.

RUSSEL MURPH (cont’d)
Look, the order came from up the food chain. I passed it along to two of my men.

MATT
Why was he killed?

RUSSEL MURPH
I don’t know, ask whoever put out the hit.

Matt grabs Russel by the shirt and hangs him out the window.

RUSSEL MURPH (cont’d)
Hey!

MATT
Who were these guys? Where can I find them?

RUSSEL MURPH
To be honest with you, I don’t know their names.

MATT
There seems to be a lot of that going around.

RUSSEL MURPH
They play basketball in Liberty Park most nights. You can find them there. The court lights are out by eleven though.
MATT
One more thing, who gave you the McGinnis order?

RUSSEL MURPH
You’d have to kill me before I gave you that.

MATT
Fine.

Matt drops him out the window.

INT. CITY OFFICE - DAY

CLOSE UP on TV screen.

TV ANCHOR
Dr. Eugene Calmedias was found dead late last night after what witnesses say was a break in by a robotic man.

MAN
(sarcastic)
What a shame.

TV ANCHOR
Police found the doctor in his backyard bloodied. His wife was also found dead. Several windows and walls were smashed.

SECOND IN COMMAND enters.

SECOND IN COMMAND
Boss, Murph is in the hospital.

MAN
What happened this time?

Man lights a cigar.

SECOND IN COMMAND
Somebody threw him through a window.

MAN
Probably deserved it.

SECOND IN COMMAND
And there was a bit of a disturbance, down at the docks.
MAN
And what was that?

SECOND IN COMMAND
There was a man who showed up, and he could blast energy from his hands. A few people got hurt before he took off.

Man looks back at the TV.

MAN
Find the man they’re talking about on the news. And bring him to me.

SECOND IN COMMAND
Yes boss.

SECOND IN COMMAND exits.

INT. JAKE’S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Matt is asleep on Jake’s living room couch. Jake enters.

JAKE
Matt, it’s two in the afternoon! Don’t you have class today?

MATT
(groggily)
Canceled indefinitely. Professor’s in hospital due to freak lab accident.

JAKE
Either way, wake up. I’m leaving for work in a bit.

Matt sits up on the couch.

MATT
Wait a minute.

Matt looks down at his hands and is reminded of the night before.

MATT (cont’d)
(continued)
Did the police recover anything from the ruins?
JAKE
Well yeah, but the investigation isn’t over, I wouldn’t be able to find out much about it.

MATT
I thought you said the city was filled with dirty cops, I’m sure you can get into it.

JAKE
What are you after?

MATT
There are these gloves we used in the lab. There were thirty or so pairs in a locked cabinet. They’re a bright white color.

JAKE
What are you going to use them for?

Matt shows Jake his hands.

JAKE (cont’d)
What happened to you?

MATT
My new powers are tearing up my hands.

JAKE
Ouch. I’ll see what I can do about the gloves, and then I’ll give you a call.

MATT
Thanks.

Jake exits. Matt gets off of the couch and walks into the kitchen.

SFX: Cell phone ringing

Matt picks up his cell phone.

MATT (cont’d)
Hello?

AMY
(phone)
Hey Matt it’s Amy.
MATT
Oh hey what’s up?

AMY
I was just wondering if you wanted
to go and maybe get a bite to eat?

MATT
Yeah that sounds fun. I’ll be over
in a bit.

AMY
Awesome!

INT. RORSCHACH POLICE STATION - DAY

Jake walks into the police station and is greeted by
COMMISSIONER ROHDE.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
Afternoon McGinnis. How’re you
feeling?

JAKE
Afternoon, Commissioner. I’ve been
getting better.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
Good to hear. I’ve got a meeting
down at city hall, I’ll see you
later alright?

JAKE
Yes, sir.

Commissioner Rohde exits. Jake heads down a flight of
stairs into the basement. Halfway down the hallway is the
evidence locker. DETECTIVE MOCK enters the hallway.

DETECTIVE MOCK
Hey, hey, hey! Look who’s becoming
one of the rest of us.

Jake laughs.

JAKE
Yeah, yeah.

DETECTIVE MOCK
So what do you need to get into the
evidence locker for?
JAKE
I want to look at some of the stuff from the lab accident the other week. I’m sure some of the stuff could fetch for a pretty penny.

DETECTIVE MOCK
Ah, yeah I bet a lot of it could.

JAKE
And I’d rather you keep this between us, don’t go telling the rest of the guys. I don’t want them getting in on this.

DETECTIVE MOCK
(laughing)
Oh of course, officer.

Mock opens up the locker and he and Jake enter.

DETECTIVE MOCK (cont’d)
Just one thing before you really get started.

JAKE
What’s that?

DETECTIVE MOCK
I want a cut of whatever you sell from this locker.

JAKE
How much?

DETECTIVE MOCK
Quarter.

JAKE
10.

DETECTIVE MOCK
20.

JAKE
15, not a cent more.

DETECTIVE MOCK
Fine.

Jake looks around the locker a few times before seeing the gloves that Matt had mentioned.
JAKE
I think that’s what I’m looking for.

DETECTIVE MOCK
Really? There’s all this techno mumbo jumbo around in here and you want to try and sell a pair of gloves?

JAKE
Let’s see how these go and then maybe we’ll move on to the bigger stuff.

Jake and Mock exit the locker and Mock locks it back up.

DETECTIVE MOCK
See you around.

Mock exits. Jake pulls out his cell phone.

JAKE
(in text, to Matt)
Got your gloves, see you tonight.

Jake continues down the hallway and enters the forensics laboratory. EMILY MOX is sitting at a microscope.

JAKE (cont’d)
Hey, Em.

EMILY
Oh hey, Jake, how’s it going?

JAKE
Good, what are you working on?

EMILY
There was a shooting down at the courts today yesterday, I’m doing a little ballistics work.

JAKE
Yeah I heard about that on the news. Judge Fathom was shot wasn’t he?

EMILY
Yeah, but he’s recovering in the hospital.
JAKE
Do you think it was set up? I mean, do you think the mob had anything to do with it?

EMILY
I’m almost positive they did. I guess you can never really know for sure though.

Jake looks around and sees a silver body suit.

JAKE
(pointing at the suit)
What’s that?

Emily turns around to see what Jake is looking at.

EMILY
Oh that. That is a military test suit. Capable of stopping small arms fire and knives. It can handle small amounts of larger arms fire.

JAKE
What’s it doing here? Why would the military send us a combat suit?

EMILY
Sent here by mistake. I don’t think it’ll see mass production. From the documents that came with it, it costs about three hundred thousand dollars.

Jake thinks to himself.

JAKE
What if I told you I needed it?

EMILY
What?

JAKE
You and I both know how corrupt this city is, and how its getting even worse.

EMILY
Well yeah.
JAKE
Change is coming. There’s a man who’s going to put an end to it all.

EMILY
What are you talking about?

JAKE
There is a man who is going to stop the mob, and put an end to corruption.

EMILY
A politician.

JAKE
No, he’s literally going to fight the mob. But he needs help, and this suit could really do it.

EMILY
I can’t just make this thing disappear, the commissioner knows as well as a few of the other detectives.

JAKE
Well, we’ll just have to stage a break-in.

EMILY
Jake, I’m not so sure about this...

JAKE
Em, weren’t your parents murdered last year?

EMILY
Yeah.

JAKE
And don’t you have a pretty good idea that the mob was behind it?

EMILY
Yeah.

JAKE
Well I’m sure that Jeremy’s death was also because of the mob. When I’m not allowed to ask questions about the investigation of my
(MORE)
JAKE (cont’d)
brother’s death, it’s pretty obvious. But we have a chance to put an end to the mob. You can help. Won’t you?

EMILY
Alright. Take the suit with you, and I’ll tear this place up tonight before I leave. There’s no camera’s down here.

JAKE
Thank you Em, I owe you.

EMILY
Maybe dinner sometime?

JAKE
For sure.

Jake exits.

EXT. OUTSIDE A COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON 37

Matt and Amy are leaving a coffee shop, with a cup in hand each.

AMY
How’s your coffee?

MATT
(stuttering)
It’s a... well...

AMY
(giggling)
C’mon! It’s just a simple question.

MATT
It’s pretty good, but I should’ve gotten the orange mocha frappuccino.

AMY
I love orange mocha frappuccinos! They’re my favorite!

MATT
Really? I thought I was the only person who liked them.
AMY
You seem so familiar to me. Did we know each other before we met in the hospital?

MATT
Uh, yeah actually. I sat behind you in chemistry junior year.

AMY
Oh my gosh, really?

MATT
Yeah, I was in your math class too.

AMY
Wow, I feel so embarrassed.

MATT
Don’t, you were one of the popular girls, and I was one of the nerdy guys, you had no reason to notice me.

AMY
Maybe I should have, you’re kind of cute, in that nerdy sort of way.

MATT
Thanks?

SFX: Cell phone ringing

Matt checks his phone, it’s Jake calling. Matt puts the phone back in his pocket.

AMY
Aren’t you going to answer it?

MATT
It’s my brother Jake, I’ll just call him back when we’re done.

AMY
OK.

SFX: Text message tone

Matt pulls his cell phone out of his pocket again. He has a text message from Jake.
JAKE
(in text)
Give me a call, it’s important.

Matt puts the phone back into his pocket and checks his watch.

MATT
Shit, I didn’t realize how late it was getting. I’ve really got to be going.

AMY
Aw, why? We were just getting to know each other.

MATT
I’ve got plans with Jake, that’s probably what he was calling about.

AMY
OK. What are you doing tomorrow?

MATT
Nothing that I know of. Why?

AMY
Would you want to go get lunch or something.

MATT
Yeah, definitely.

Amy and Matt hug and then Matt turns down a side street. He quickly pulls out his phone and calls Jake.

JAKE
Hello?

MATT
What’d you call for?

JAKE
I got a present for you.

MATT
What are you talking about?

JAKE
For your personal war. I got you something to wear.
MATT
Please tell me it isn’t tights.

JAKE
(laughing)
No, not quite.

MATT
Well what is it?

JAKE
An armored suit.

MATT
You want me running around
Rorschach City dressed as a knight?

JAKE
No, you’ll understand when you see it. I spray painted it and your mask. You’re going to love it.

FADE OUT

INT. ANTHONY LABONTE’S WORK SHOP – AFTERNOON

Surge enters his workshop and looks around. Various broken electronic items lay about, and pictures of himself with his wife hang on the walls. Surge’s eyes narrow.

FLASHBACK INT. LABONTE ELECTRONICS – 45 YEARS AGO, NIGHT

RICHARD LABONTE and YOUNG ANTHONY are working in the back of the electronic shop, fixing a radio.

YOUNG ANTHONY
Dad, that’s not where that’s supposed to go.

RICHARD LABONTE
Good catch, Anthony.

Richard pulls a part out of the radio and puts another part in its place. Young Anthony looks on interested.

At the front of the shop, two men in suits wait outside. Richard notices them, performing a double take.

RICHARD LABONTE
Stay here.
Richard goes to the front door and lets the two men in. He looks nervous and begins to sweat.

MOBSTER ONE
You’re late.

RICHARD LABONTE
I know I am, but please, just give me more time.

MOBSTER ONE
You know the deal. Every week, we come and take what you owe us.

MOBSTER TWO reveals the baseball bat he had behind his back.

RICHARD LABONTE
(frightened)
I can get the money. Come back tomorrow, I’ll have it then.

MOBSTER ONE
Sorry, no deal.

Mobster Two hits Richard in the stomach with his bat.

RICHARD LABONTE
I need more time! Sales were low today! I’ll have it tomorrow.

Mobster Two hits Richard in the head with the bat, knocking him unconscious.

MOBSTER ONE
You better.

The mobsters exit.

Young Anthony runs out to his dad, who is bleeding from the ears.

YOUNG ANTHONY
Dad, wake up, dad.

Richard opens his eyes and looks at his son.

YOUNG ANTHONY (cont’d)
Dad!
RICHARD LABONTE
It’s going to be OK, son. It’s going... to... be...

Richard dies.

INT. ANTHONY LABONTE’S WORK SHOP – PRESENT

Surge’s right hand recedes into its forearm socket, leaving a large gun barrel where the wrist is located. He points it around the room, and large lighting bolts fire from it, blowing things up and setting the room ablaze. He moves out from the room, into his actual home, electric blasting everything until the entire house is on fire. He then teleports back into his burning workshop, and hovering in the center, above what used to be his desk, is the black sphere.

He holds out his left hand, blue bolts of electricity travel from his hand and the sphere, and the sphere miniaturizes. Surge grabs the sphere and then teleports outside.

Waiting in the road is a limo, and leaning up against the limo is the SECOND IN COMMAND.

SECOND IN COMMAND
Gasoline would have been faster.

Surge teleports again, landing right in front of the second in command.

SURGE
What did you say?

SECOND IN COMMAND
Somebody important wants to talk to you. Says he has something to offer.

SURGE
And what is that?

SECOND IN COMMAND
That’s for you two to talk about. Only one catch.

SURGE
What’s that? And where can I find this man?
SECOND IN COMMAND
City Hall, room 401. But you’re going to have to promise to play nice, and not use your pretty little electric gun here.

SURGE
No guarantees.

Surge teleports away.

INT. JAKE’S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Matt enters Jake’s living room, where Jake is sitting on the couch.

JAKE
Took you long enough. It’s up in your room.

Matt runs up the stairs with Jake following him. Matt enters his room and the body armor is laying on his bed. It is a mostly black suit with a red upper body. The mask was painted with the sides red, gradually turning black as it reaches the center of the mask.

MATT
Nice.

JAKE
It’ll stop small firearms and knives. You’re going to have to try and avoid machine guns though.

Matt takes off his pants and shirt and gets into the suit and puts on the mask.

MATT
I’m going after the guys who killed Jeremy tonight.

JAKE
How will you find them?

MATT
Murph told me where they’ll be.

JAKE
You think Murph hasn’t already warned them?
MATT
He’s in a coma.

JAKE
What the hell did you do?

MATT
I dropped him out a window.

JAKE
Oh... well then...

MATT
I don’t know what came over me. I was just so angry about Jeremy. I couldn’t control myself. It’s like I change when I put that mask on.

JAKE
I know Jeremy’s death has been hard on you. Hell it’s been hard on the guys down at the station. But you can’t let it control all of your emotions like that. You’ve got to try and move past it, especially if you’re going to try and find his killers. Blind rage isn’t going to get you anywhere.

MATT
Yeah I know, it’s just been tough.

Jake puts his arm around Matt, who has taken the mask off.

JAKE
You’ll get past it bud.

MATT
Thanks Jake.

JAKE
Listen, I’ve got to get back to the station. You going to be OK?

MATT
Yeah, I’ll be fine. When are you getting off?

JAKE
I’m not sure, sometime tonight. Why?
MATT
Just wondering.

JAKE
Alright, don’t go dropping anybody
off of anymore buildings alright?

Matt smiles.

MATT
Yeah, yeah.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURTS - NIGHT

Thug Four and Thug Five are playing basketball. Off in the
background Matt approaches the two. Matt enters the court
and steals the ball, taking a shot and making it.

THUG FOUR
Yo kid, you in the wrong
neighborhood!

MATT
Who me? I just wanted to play some
hoops with y’all.

THUG FIVE
You better get outta here if you
know what’s good for you.

MATT
And why’s that?

Thug Four pulls out his pistol and points it at Matt.

MATT (cont’d)
(slowly taking steps forward)
Hey man, there’s no need for
that. Can’t we all just get along?

THUG FOUR
Let me ask you something. Have you
ever killed someone? Have you ever
taken a life?

MATT
Almost.

THUG FIVE
Yo don’t get smart.
THUG FOUR
I killed a cop.

MATT
(inching forward)
Really?

THUG FOUR
On his front porch, while his brother watched on.

Matt’s mocking smile fades away, and becomes serious.

THUG FOUR (cont’d)
Shot him, right between the eyes. And you’re next.

Matt’s right arm shoots forward, sending a blast that knocks the gun from Thug Four’s hand. Thug Five takes off running. Thug Four takes a few steps back and falls over on his ass. Matt pulls the mask out of his pocket and puts it on as he stands over Thug Four. He takes off his sweatshirt and jeans.

MATT
That cop you killed was a very important friend of mine.

Matt punches the man in the face and kicks him in the stomach.

MATT (cont’d)
You were willing to take a life to gain acceptance. We’ll I’m willing to take a life to gain revenge.

Matt grabs the man by his hand and begins to drag him away.

THUG FOUR
No!

Matt continues to drag Thug Four away.

THUG FOUR (cont’d) (continued)
They forced me to do it! I said no!

Matt stops walking and punches the man in the face again.

MATT
Don’t lie to me!
Matt goes into a rage and begins to pummel on Thug Four. Behind Matt, a light turns on. He turns around to see a man with a video camera. Matt looks back down at Thug Four and see’s that the man is bloodied, missing teeth, and just inches from death. He stands up, still looking at the Thug, and then takes off running.

Matt runs until he’s far away from the scene. He ducks behind into an alleyway and takes a few deep breaths. Matt looks around and see’s a fire escape ladder. He quickly climbs up to the roof of the building and stares off at Rorschach City.

FADE OUT

INT. JAKE’S HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

Matt wakes up on the couch of Jake’s living room. Jake enters.

JAKE
You know you have a room upstairs right? You don’t have to sleep out on the couch every night.

MATT
Hmm?

JAKE
Never mind.

Matt sits up and turns on the TV. The news channel comes on.

TV ANCHOR
Last night a man dressed in a red and black costume violently beat down a wanted criminal on Rorschach’s east side.

JAKE
What the...?

TV ANCHOR
Please be aware, the image may be a bit disturbing.

The news station plays the video of Matt dragging the man and punching him in the face.

TV ANCHOR (cont’d)
Police Commissioner Rhode was unavailable for comment. It’s also (MORE)
TV ANCHOR (cont’d)
been confirmed that this man busted
a drug ring down at the Rorschach
docks a few nights ago. Here is
what some Rorschach citizen’s are
saying.

CITIZEN ONE
I think it’s great! Our own police
don’t bring in any real
criminals. This guy brought down a
corrupt cop and his drug ring and
then took down a wanted criminal
last night.

CITIZEN TWO
He should get a medal!

CITIZEN THREE
(in thick Southern drawl)
It’s just dandy! Rorschach has
it’s own superhero!

Matt and Jake look at each other.

TV ANCHOR
It’s clear that this man has a hold
on the pulse of our citizens and
the pulse of crime.

The show goes to commercial.

MATT
Pulse, huh? I like it.

JAKE
For a name?

MATT
Yeah. Somebody just said I was
Rorschach’s superhero, I need a
name don’t I?

JAKE
Yeah... Pulse.

INT. CITY OFFICE - MORNING

Man is sitting at his desk, watching the same newscast that
Matt and Jake were watching.
MAN
This character is getting out of hand.

SECOND IN COMMAND
Yes sir.

A wisp of smoke appears in the room and Surge appears. The black sphere is in his hand.

MAN
You’re late.

SURGE
And you’re desperate enough not to do anything about it. Why?

MAN
I need you to do a favor for me.

SURGE
Why?

MAN
Because it’s something I wouldn’t trust my men to do.

SURGE
Why me?

MAN
Whether you like it or not, I know just about everything there is to know about you, Anthony, and I have something to offer you.

SURGE
Call me Surge.

MAN
Fine, Surge.

SURGE
What do you have to offer me?

MAN
When you were just a boy, you witnessed your father’s death. And it’s haunted you ever since.

Surge’s hand retracts into its socket, revealing the lightning gun.
SURGE
How do you...?

MAN
Calm yourself, Surge.

Surge’s hand reappears.

MAN (cont’d)
You want to know what else I know? You’ll have to do some favors for me.

CUT TO shot of Surge.

MAN (cont’d)
(continued)
I’ll take that as a yes. I don’t know if you’ve been watching the news lately, but a so-called superhero has been thwarting some of my operations.

SURGE
And you want me to kill him for you?

MAN
Actually, I would like to speak to him for a little before I watch you kill him.

SURGE
What do I get for all of this?

MAN
You’ll find out when you get the job done.

SURGE
...Fine.

Surge disappears.

INT. RORSCHACH GENERAL HOSPITAL - DAY

Amy is sitting in a chair at her father’s bedside, reading a magazine. Matt enters.

AMY
Oh hey!
MATT
How are you?

AMY
I’m good.

MATT
That’s good, any updates on your dad?

AMY
No, same old. Although, a few days ago he was assigned a different doctor.

MATT
Any reason why?

AMY
The hospital wouldn’t say. I asked and all they said was he was removed from the case for personal reasons.

Matt sits down next to Amy.

MATT
Really? What was his name again?

AMY
Eugene Calmedias.

Matt pulls out his cell phone and begins typing away.

MATT
(in text)
Jake, see what you can dig up on a Dr. Eugene Calmedias.

AMY
Who’d you text?

MATT
Jake.

AMY
What for?

MATT
To see if he can find any source of information on Doctor Calmedias through the police station.
AMY
Do you think he’ll be able to find out anything?

MATT
If Calmedias has a police record he will.

AMY
He’s a doctor, and it’s the most corrupt city in America. If he did commit a crime, he could of just paid a judge.

MATT
Yeah but you never know.

Matt’s phone goes off. It’s a text message from Jake.

JAKE
(in text)
Turn on channel 4.

Matt puts his phone away and grabs the TV remote from the bedside table and turns on the TV.

On the TV screen it shows Surge rampaging through the streets while cops chase him down.

AMY
Is that some lame action movie?

MATT
Not quite... I’ve got to go.

Matt stands up and begins to walk out.

AMY
Why?

MATT
Because that’s actually happening... and one of those cops is my brother.

Matt exits.
EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - DAY

Surge continues his rampage, flipping cars over and shooting arcs of electricity from his arm cannon. Anytime a police officers takes a shot at him, he teleports a few feet away.

JAKE
Rogers, get on the phone. Make sure the mayor, the commissioner, and Lieutenant Rupt are aware of the situation. Tell Rupt to get his SWAT Teams available as soon as possible!

OFFICER ROGERS
Yes sarge!

SURGE
Come out, come out, wherever you are.

Surge flips over another car. From behind a building, PULSE emerges.

SURGE (cont’d)
That’s my boy!

Pulse is standing in the center of the street while Surge comes charging at him. When Surge gets close, Pulse grabs onto Surge’s waist and throws him behind him. As Surge is flying through the air, he realizes where he’s at and teleports behind Pulse. Surge punches Pulse in the center of Pulse’s back, sending him flying.

Pulse stands back up, a bit dazed. He regains his composure as Surge is advancing on him. Pulse turns around to face Surge and launches a few blasts of energy at Surge. Surge teleports away from all of the blasts.

Surge reappears right next to Pulse and makes a powerful punch. Pulse ducks and Surge ends up punching through a car window. Pulse looks up at Surge and sends a blast into Surge’s chest plate, knocking him back.

Pulse sends a few more blasts into Surge’s chest plate, knocking him farther back. After taking four blasts, Surge teleports behind Pulse and half-nelson slams Pulse into the street.

Meanwhile, the police force is taking cover behind their squad cars.
OFFICER ROGERS
Sarge, Lieutenant Rupt has SWAT teams in place on four buildings, two on each side of the street.

JAKE
Thanks Rogers. Get all of the civilians as far away as possible.

OFFICER ROGERS
Yes, sir.

On top of two of the buildings are snipers, both with their scopes set on Surge. On the roofs of the two other buildings are two squads of men with assault rifles.

Pulse rises from the street, holding his back. Surge punches Pulse in the stomach, which sends Pulse to his knees. Surge then punches Pulse in the face.

SURGE
You’re coming with me.

PULSE
Not this time.

Without warning, Pulse sends a blast of energy that hits Surge in his mouthpiece, destroying it. Surge falls to his knees, gasping for air. A sniper shit goes off as Surge teleports away. A bullet is the street is all that remains of Surge.

Civilians emerge from the buildings cheering for Pulse. Pulse smiles and takes in the applause. Jake comes up to Pulse.

JAKE
Good work, Pulse.

Pulse smiles at his brother.

JAKE
(continued)
The Mayor would like to speak with you.

PULSE
The Mayor?

JAKE
Yeah, we’ll talk about it later.

Pulse smiles at his brother again.
FADE OUT

INT. CITY OFFICE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

FADE IN

CLOSE UP on Man, who is covered in shadow.

   MAN
     Failure.

Surge is breathing heavily, trying to repair his broken mouthpiece.

   SURGE
     (wheezing)
     He was stronger than I expected.

   MAN
     I don’t want excuses. Bring him to me.

   SURGE
     (wheezing)
     Or what?

   MAN
     Or you’ll continue to be haunted by the fact that you did nothing to save your father.

Surge regains his composure and approaches the Man.

   SURGE
     (wheezing)
     You know nothing of what I’ve done. And don’t pretend that you do.

   MAN
     I do things that would make your nightmares look like barbie doll commercials. I do the things that everyone thinks about but are too afraid of. Things you talk about quietly at party’s but when they’re brought up in the real world everyone cowers away and waits for someone else to get their hands dirty.
SURGE
(wheezing)
What makes you so special?

MAN
It’s just good business.

The man stands up and crosses the room, opening a cabinet
and retrieving a bottle of liqueur. He steps into the
light, revealing himself to be an overweight black man in an
expensive suit.

Surge’s eyes narrow.

The man pours two glasses of the liqueur and returns to his
seat, turning on his desk lamp so that he can be seen.

MAN
Care for a drink?

SURGE
(wheezing)
No thank you, Mr. Mayor.

THE MAYOR
You will eradicate this problem of
mine for the sake of business. We
cannot have a stray rock tumbling
through the cogs of my great
machine.

SURGE
(wheezing)
I’m going to need more than just an
order. Tell me where he’s going to
be or who’s under that mask.

THE MAYOR
I wonder that myself. I’m sure you
can draw him out like you did just
now.

SURGE
(wheezing)
You have no information for me to
work with.

THE MAYOR
He’s a young man, try the college,
or a pot circle.

Surge disappears.
THE MAYOR (cont’d)
Nobody says goodbye anymore.

The Mayor takes a drink.

INT. JAKE’S HOUSE – AFTERNOON

Jake and Matt enter the living room. Both are smiling but Matt is holding his back.

JAKE
That was awesome!

MATT
I don’t know about awesome, but it was exciting. Can you get me an ice pack?

Matt sits down on the couch.

JAKE
Sure thing.

Jake exits the room and returns a few moments later with an ice pack. He tosses it to Matt. Matt catches it and puts it behind him.

MATT
Who was that?

JAKE
I don’t know. But he’s after you. He showed up on Circle Drive and just started to rampage. He was going on and on about finding Pulse.

MATT
Well what do we know about him?

JAKE
He’s insane. He has a lightning gun. And he can teleport.

Matt and Jake think for a moment.

JAKE (cont’d)
Didn’t some electrician and his wife just die?

MATT
Like I watch the news. And it’s Rorschach City, who isn’t dying?
JAKE
Touché. But some electrician’s house burned down a few days ago out on the edge of town.

MATT
Was his wife in the house too?

JAKE
No, she had passed away the day before in the hospital.

MATT
Gunshot?

JAKE
Cancer.

MATT
Ah. Maybe he killed himself after his wife died.

JAKE
Maybe Pulse should do some investigatory work.

MATT (not going to be in actual script)
Maybe Jake should shutup and be lookin’ fine.

MATT (cont’d)
Maybe the cop should do some detective work.

JAKE
I don’t like you.

MATT
You’re my brother, you have to like me.

JAKE
Not true.

MATT
Which part, the brother part, or the liking me part?

JAKE
Both.
MATT
What?

JAKE
I was kidding. I’ll go take a look at the house, you should probably go to class today, you haven’t been since Jeremy died. I’m sure your grades have been slipping.

MATT
OK Mom.

Matt gets up and exits.

INT. LECTURE HALL - LATE MORNING

CLOSE UP on professor pointing to a complex equation.

ZOOM OUT to show the lecture hall. Stop at upper right corner of room revealing CHELSEA GATES, hunched over her notebook. Focus changes to upper left of screen to show Matt entering the hall. He see Chelsea and starts towards her.

CUT TO Chelsea looking up and seeing Matt, she smiles. Matt walks behind her and sits to her right.

CHELSEA
Hey, I was beginning to think you died or something.

MATT
(taking out books and notebooks)
Nah, I’ve just been busy with family stuff... you know.

CHELSEA
I figured. How’ve you been?

MATT
Okay, I guess. Between everything that’s happened with by brother and the explosion at the lab, I haven’t had much time to think or do anything.

CHELSEA
Oh yeah, I heard about that, Matt McGinnis comes out of the burning building, unscathed, while carrying the unconscious Professor Gee. Way to go, Superman!
MATT
(slightly uncomfortable, laughs.)
Not quite. I just did what anybody else would have done.

CHELSEA
Uh huh. I remember those days growing up, you and your brothers playing Batman out in the street. You were just reliving your glory days, I know what’s up.

MATT
(laughing)
Yeah, that’s exactly what it was.

Both go back to listening to lecture. Chelsea bites her lip and then turns back to Matt.

CHELSEA
(nervous)
Hey, listen, I’m throwing a party this weekend at my house. You should come.

The professor finishes his lecture and students begin to leave.

MATT
(closes notebook)
A party huh? Could I bring someone?

CHELSEA
(taken aback)
Like a date? (Regains composure) Yeah... sure, why not?

MATT
(laughs)
Alright, awesome. But hey, I have to run. I’ll let you know about the party.

CHELSEA
Okay, yeah. That’d be great. See you around.

Matt leaves the lecture hall. Camera focuses on Chelsea looking after him.
Jake arrives at the house in his squad car and uniform. He exits his car and enters the burnt, destroyed house. He looks around the rubble, searching for clues.

Jake enters what used to be the workshop, watching closely where he steps. Jake looks down on the ground and sees a photo of Anthony and Cecelia, the protective glass shattered. Jake bends over and takes a look at it. After a moment he places it back on the ground and continues his search.

Outside of the house, Surge appears. Jake sees Surge through the workshop window and quickly takes cover behind an overturned desk.

JAKE
Maybe this wasn’t such a good idea after all.

Surge enters his former home and enters the workshop. He passes by Jake’s hidden spot and makes his way towards the back. On the ground is a charred toolkit. Surge bends over and opens up the toolkit.

Jake peers over the table at Surge.

Surge reaches in and grabs a small wrench and a laser. He instantly gets to work on repairing his mouthpiece.

Once he finishes, he goes to the garage at the back of the property. Jake silently follows him. Surge enters the garage, and Jake peers through a window.

Up against the wall is an electric generator. Surge places his hand a few inches away from the generator. The generator begins to hum and then bolts of electricity fly from the generator, up through Surge’s hand.

SURGE
What a rush!

Jake tries to silently creep away from the garage but trips when he gets close to the exit.

Surge turns around and immediately blasts lightning at Jake. Jake quickly gets up in time to get out of the way. He makes a dash for his car. Surge sends a few more blasts of lightning towards Jake, all of which miss. Jake gets into the police car and exits.
CLOSE UP on Surge’s face, which is angry. Surge looks down at the ground and picks up something silver, which can’t be seen by the camera.

INT. JAKE’S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Matt arrives back at Jake’s house, and sets his notebooks down on the coffee table in the living room. He walks over to the fireplace and looks at photographs on top of the mantle.

The first is of himself, Matt, and Jeremy as kids, huddled together and smiling. The next photo is of Matt’s parents on their wedding day. The third photo is of Jake, Matt, and Chelsea and appears to be very recent.

ZOOM IN on Chelsea’s face in the photo.

Matt picks up the photograph, looking at it intently, and then his phone goes off.

SFX: PHONE RINGING

MATT
Hey, Amy. (pause) No I can’t hang out right now, I’ve got some stuff going on. (pause) Hey, do you want to go to a party my friend is having?

Matt sets down the photograph

MATT (cont’d)
(continued)
It’s tomorrow night. (pause) Great, I’ll pick you up at eight.

Matt hangs up the phone.

Jake enters.

JAKE
Had another run in with that thing.

MATT
What? Are you OK?

JAKE
Yeah, I’m fine. But get this. You know that guy I was telling you about? He and his wife died and his house burnt down?
MATT
Yeah?

JAKE
That’s who this is. I went down to the house to poke around and he showed up, knew exactly what he was looking for.

MATT
What’s his name?

JAKE
Anthony Labonte. He was a repairman, owned his own shop.

MATT
So what do we do now? How the hell am I supposed to stop him, I don’t even know why he fled the first time we met with him.

JAKE
When he showed up, he started using some tools and was messing around with his mouthpiece. He doesn’t seem one to be making a fashion statement, if you destroy it, I think you can beat him.

MATT
But we’ll still have to deal with him disappearing.

JAKE
There was one other thing...

MATT
Yeah?

JAKE
When he showed up, he seemed like he was weak. He was limping around, and gasping for breath.

MATT
So I should just beat the snot out of him?

JAKE
He went into his garage where there was a generator or something. I don’t know what happened, there (MORE)
JAKE (cont’d)
were a lot of flashes of light, but afterwards, he seemed so much stronger.

MATT
So he can absorb energy from electrical items maybe? So let’s isolate him, take him out into a forest, or a field.

JAKE
Right.

MATT
Hey, I just noticed, where’s your police badge.

Jake looks down at his shirt, noticing that the badge indeed isn’t there. He pats himself down. Suddenly Jake realizes what happened.

CUT to Surge picking up the silver item, it’s Jake’s badge.

CUT back to Jake’s face.

JAKE
Shit.

INT. CITY OFFICE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

The Mayor is sitting at his desk, smoking a cigar and looking at a painting of himself. Surge appears from nowhere.

THE MAYOR
Tell me, Surge. What do you think of this painting of myself?

Surge says nothing, throwing the badge onto the Mayor’s desk.

The Mayor spins around in his chair and takes a look at the badge.

SURGE
The cop who was watching me today left that.

THE MAYOR
Officer Jacob McGinnis. Age 25, brother of deceased Sergeant Jeremy McGinnis. (pause) Hmm... I wonder?
SURGE
What?

THE MAYOR
Bring him to me.

SURGE
I’ll rip him to shreds.

THE MAYOR
No. No, bring him to me, alive.

SURGE
What about Pulse?

THE MAYOR
Leave him for now, just bring me the cop.

Surge teleports away.

EXT. CITY SKYSCRAPER - SUNSET

Surge appears on the roof. He looks out over the city.

SURGE
I won’t do this any longer. I’m more powerful than he is. The Mayor is just trying to distract me from destroying him.

Surge’s eyes narrow towards the outskirts of the city, where there is a nuclear plant.

SURGE
The nuclear plant!

Surge’s eyes grow wide. He then looks down to the city streets and notices two patrol cars parking next to the building.

Surge leaps from the building.

He lands in between the patrol cars, the one behind him is empty while the one in front of him has two cops eating donuts and drinking coffee.

Both are surprised, one throwing his coffee into the air. Surge approaches the side of the car and smashes the driver’s side window.
Where is Jacob McGinnis?

I don’t know.

Surge electrocutes the police officer, killing him. He turns his attention to the other officer.

The other officer screams and runs away. Surge teleports and reappears in front of the officer.

Where is Jacob McGinnis?

His house in Rorschach Heights! Please don’t hurt me! I have a wife!

Surge’s eyes narrow and his eyebrows arch.

So did I.

Surge electrocutes the man and teleports away.

Jake and Matt are sitting at the dinner table eating Chinese food. Matt seems distracted.

You alright?

I don’t know, Jake. I feel like I’ve gotten away from why I started this.

You started this so that nobody would have go through what we did. So that nobody would fall to corruption and gangs like, Jeremy.

No, I started this because I wanted revenge. I did this to I could bring down the man who killed Jeremy.
JAKE
Well, maybe, maybe you’re above revenge now. You’re out there for justice, and protecting the innocent.

MATT
Maybe.

They continue eating their Chinese food. Matt throws down his food and gets up from the table.

JAKE
Where are you going?

MATT
The hospital.

JAKE
Why?

MATT
I’m going to go have another talk with that cop I dropped out of a building.

JAKE
Murph?

MATT
Yeah. I want to see if I can get anymore information out of him.

JAKE
Don’t drop him out another window.

MATT
No promises.

Matt smiles and exits out the front door. Jake looks at the containers of Chinese food.

JAKE
There’s too much food here.

INT. RORSCHACH GENERAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Russel Murph is being wheeled into his private room on his bed. The nurse leaves him there and as she is walking out she turns on the light and closes the door. Behind the door, Pulse is waiting.
RUSSEL MURPH

Nurse!

PULSE
Nobody is going to come.

RUSSEL MURPH
What do you want, going to drop me out of this building too?

PULSE
Not if you answer my questions.

RUSSEL MURPH
Again, what do you want?

PULSE
Who gave you the order to kill Jeremy McGinnis?

RUSSEL MURPH
I ain’t tellin’ you.

Pulse pulls the I.V. from Russel’s arm.

RUSSEL MURPH (cont’d)
Ow! Put that back in!

PULSE
Sorry, not a doctor. Tell me who gave the order.

RUSSEL MURPH
Rohde.

PULSE
The police commissioner?

RUSSEL MURPH
Surprised?

PULSE
Not really.

Pulse hits the Nurse’s call button as he jumps out of the window.
EXT. COMMISSIONER ROHDE’S HOUSE - NIGHT

A silver Cadillac pulls up and Commissioner Rohde gets out, wearing a very expensive looking suit. He reaches his front door and pulls out his keys.

PULSE
Good evening, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
Who’s that?

Pulse steps out from the shadows.

PULSE
Why’d you put out the hit on Jeremy McGinnis?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
I’d never do such a thing. Jeremy was one of my best Sergeants.

PULSE
Detective Murph begs to differ.

Pulse pulls out a digital recorder and plays back the conversation he just had with Russel Murph.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
Just because I passed the order down doesn’t mean I was the one who issued it.

PULSE
Who did?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
I got the order from my boss. That’s how this works, everybody has someone above them and a few below them. Nobody knows who’s above or below those men. Nobody asks questions because it works.

PULSE
Keeps the bad men rich and the good men scared.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
Exactly.
PULSE
So who is ahead of you?

Rohde pulls out a piece of paper from his suit jacket and hands it to Pulse. It is a written letter.

Dear Rohde,

This Pulse has become a nuisance to our operations. Do what you can to get rid of him. Call me when I get back into town.

James.

PULSE (cont’d)
What does, James want with me?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
James wants what all of the gang leader want. You, out of the picture.

PULSE
Why? I haven’t gone after the gangs, just the ones connected to police and public officials.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
No, but you’ve scared the rest of them. If you haven’t noticed, crime rates have been down a bit since you’ve shown up. In a way, I should be thanking you for making my job a little bit easier.

PULSE
So who is, James?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
That depends.

PULSE
On what?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
On what kind of information you’re after.

PULSE
I’m looking for the top of the food chain. The one who put out the hit on, Jeremy McGinnis.
COMMISSIONER ROHDE
James Harrington.

PULSE
I know that name.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
Probably from your childhood. Big shot lawyer. Used to coach youth sports about ten years ago.

PULSE
So why did he hand you the hit?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
Normally, James is the type to handle something like this himself. But he took off for the Bahamas right after he received the hit, so he passed it along to me.

PULSE
Why?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
He’s afraid. He’s been getting paranoid. Thinks that someone is always out to get him.

JAMES
I am not afraid.

Pulse and Rohde turn to see JAMES walking up the driveway.

JAMES (cont’d)
Good evening,
Commissioner. Evening, Pulse.

PULSE
Why’d you take off after getting the hit?

JAMES
I went on vacation thank you very much. And it wasn’t me who ordered the hit on McGinnis. But listen here kid. You’re getting deeper and deeper into something you can’t handle. The mob doesn’t go down just because some freak in a leotard says stop. They’ll kill you before you get much farther. So I suggest you go home and play with your train sets.
PULSE
Fine.

James and Rohde turn to Pulse but he is already gone.

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - CONTINUED

Pulse is running through the streets. He stops in an alley way and pulls out his cell phone.

PULSE
Jake, Commissioner Rohde is working for James Harrington.

JAKE
Sound familiar.

PULSE
Can you get a warrant to search his house?

JAKE
Not without some evidence or a motive for some crime.

PULSE
I stole your digital recorder and have the conversation taped. Take it to someone you can trust. You might have some contracts put out on your head if the wrong people find out you’re working with Pulse.

JAKE
I’ll take it to the D.A. I’d trust her with my life.

PULSE
Alright, I’ll be home soon.

JAKE
I’m leaving for Chelsea’s party in a sec, when are you going to get there?

MATT
I forgot all about it. I’ll head home and then take off.

As soon as Pulse hangs up, his phone rings again.
MATT
Hello?

AMY
(angrily)
Hey, Matt!

MATT
Amy! What’s wrong?

AMY
You were supposed to be here half an hour ago to pick me up for the party.

MATT
Yeah I know, I ran into a bit of trouble, I’ll be over as soon as I can!

AMY
Whatever. See you when you get here.

INT. JAKE’S HOUSE – NIGHT

Jake and Emily pull out of the driveway and leave. Surge appears a few moments later. Surge bursts down the door, knocking pictures down off of the hallway wall. Surge enters the kitchen and sees a note on the counter. The note reads:

Matt,

If you’re hungry, there’s meatloaf and vegetables in the oven. See you at Chelsea’s party.

Jake

Surge rips the note into shreds. He turns around and notices a laptop on top of the kitchen table. He takes a closer look and finds mapquest on the screen, leading to Chelsea’s house. Surge goes upstairs and into Matt’s room and looks around, seeing pictures of Matt, Jake, and Jeremy. He takes a look down at Matt’s desk and see’s drawings of Pulse. Surge looks into the same crate of junk that Matt looked into in the beginning of the story and see’s the picture of Matt, Jake, and Jeremy in Halloween costumes from their childhood.

SURGE
The little one does look remarkably like Pulse.
Surge teleports away.

EXT. AMY’S HOUSE - FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER

Amy can be seen in the window of the house when Matt pulls up in his car. Amy sees the car and comes outside. Matt gets out of the car and opens the door for Amy.

AMY
Is this what you drive? My last boyfriend had a Mustang GT.

MATT
Yeah, Jake took the other car.

They get into the car.

AMY
It’s cool. So who is this Kelsey girl?

MATT
It’s Chelsea - Chelsea Summers - but I’ve known her my whole life. She lived next door to me as a kid. We hung out all the time until my parents died...

AMY
(interrupting)
Ugh, I’ve had such a long day today. I hope Kelsey has a lot to drink. I need to relieve some stress.

MATT
I’m sure she will. Chelsea knows what’s up.

INT. CHELSEA’S HOUSE - NIGHT

The party has already started. Music is playing loudly, several people are already drunk. Chelsea, Jake, and Emily are sitting on the couch when Matt and Amy enter.

CHELSEA
Well look who decided to show up, Matt’s here!

MATT
You’re real funny.

Chelsea gets up and hugs Matt. Jake and Emily raise their glasses to Jake.
CHELSEA
What took you so long, been out pretending to be Batman again?

Chelsea laughs.

MATT
Something like that.

CHELSEA
What?

MATT
Nothing.

AMY
Hi, Kelsey. I’m Amy, Matt’s date.

CHELSEA
It’s Chelsea, actually.

AMY
(sarcastic)
Sorry.

CHELSEA
Well, drinks are in the kitchen, there’s pong in the family room, and there are some other games going on in the basement.

MATT
Thanks. Amy, why don’t you go ahead and see what’s in there. I’ll be in a sec.

AMY
Mmmk.

Amy enters the kitchen.

CHELSEA
So where’d you pick up this one?

MATT
Look, I know she comes off as kind of stuck up but she’s really a great girl once you get to know her.

CHELSEA
Whatever you say, Superman.

Matt enters the kitchen.
AMY
So who is this girl again?

MATT
Chelsea, we’ve been friends for forever. You start drinking already?

AMY
A little at home. I don’t like that she hugged you the moment you walked in the door.

MATT
What’s wrong with that? We’re just friends.

AMY
I don’t know, there’s just something about her.

MATT
Don’t worry about it, I’m here with you.

Amy and Matt each grab a drink and then return to the party. "Burn it to the Ground" by Nickelback plays and a drinking montage plays with everyone doing shots and playing beer pong.

After the montage, Matt and Chelsea are in the kitchen.

MATT
This party was a great idea.

CHELSEA
Thank my roommates for leaving town.

MATT
Cheers to that!

Chelsea and Matt clank cups and finish their beers.

Matt grabs another beer from the fridge and goes to exit the kitchen but stops dead in his tracks.

CUT to Amy and another guy making out on the couch. Matt can be seen in the background, standing in the doorway.

CUT back to Matt. Chelsea comes up behind Matt and puts a hand on his shoulder.
CHELSEA
I’m sorry, Matt. I know you liked her.

Matt turns around.

Two men grab the keg from the kitchen and leave.

CHELSEA (cont’d)
Hey! That’s my...

Matt kisses Chelsea.

CHELSEA
Well that’s wonderful.

Chelsea kisses Matt back.

SFX: Crashing noise

Several people scream, Matt and Chelsea look into the family room from the kitchen. Surge is standing in the center of the room. Everyone is running out of the house.

MATT
Shit.

Surge grabs hold of Jake and then spots Matt and Amy. Surge grins. He teleports in front of Matt and Chelsea and grabs Chelsea by the waist.

SURGE
One for the mayor, and one for me.

Jake pulls a pistol out from under his shirt and fire a shot into Surge’s arm. Surge immediately lets go of Jake.

SURGE
You son of a bitch, I’ll get you for that.

Surge swings at Jake, knocking him into a wall.

Surge teleports away.

MATT
No!

Matt rushes over to Jake, who has been knocked unconscious. Jake wakes up a few moments later in a daze. Matt and Jake are the only ones left in the house.
JAKE
He got away?

MATT
Didn’t spend much time here before he left.

JAKE
Did he take, Chelsea?

MATT
Yeah, I’m going to go after him. Why would he want, Chelsea anyway.

A look of horror comes over Jake’s face.

JAKE
He knows who you are.

MATT
What are you talking about?

JAKE
When I went to investigate his house, my badge fell off of my shirt. He must have found it.

MATT
But how could he connect you to, Pulse?

JAKE
He must be working with someone in the agency. The file on the fire there was closed, which means that either they solved it, or somebody was paying for it not to be solved. The only cop who would show up would be one working with, Pulse. So he knows I’m connected to, Pulse. I don’t know. You’ve got to find him. I’m going to head back to the station, and see if I can figure something out. Sober up a bit, and I’ll give you a call.

MATT
No.

Matt pulls out the Pulse mask from his pocket and puts it on.
PULSE
(While removing shirt, underneath is Pulse costume)
I’m going to find, Surge. He has, Chelsea, and who knows what he’s going to do to her.

JAKE
Listen to me, Matt. What if he’s baiting you? He wants you to come after him. Let me figure things out, and then we can go after him, together.

PULSE
Fine.

Pulse sits down on the couch, and puts his head between his knees. Jake exits.

Pulse waits around for a bit.

PULSE (cont’d)
Forget this! I’m going after Chelsea!

INT. RORSCHACH ENERGY PLANT - NIGHT 61
Surge teleports into the plant. Chelsea is screaming.

CHELSEA
Let me go! Let me go! I’ll kick your ass!

SURGE
Sure you will, now just shut up and sit.

Surge forces her down into a chair and ties her to it, then puts a gag into her mouth.

SURGE
I’m not going to hurt you, you’re just bait for, Pulse. You see this around you? When Pulse shows up, I’m going to absorb all of the energy in this place and become the strongest human to ever walk this planet. And then I’m going to kill, Pulse, right in front of you. I’m going fry all of his organ and pound his bones into dust. No one will stop me. Not (MORE)
SURGE (cont’d)
Pulse, not his brother, not the police, and not the mayor. Man think’s that he can tame me, control me, hold my father’s death over me head! No! His fate will be the same as Pulse’s. Tonight I’ll teleport into his office, break his spine so that he can’t move, and then I’ll spend hours torturing him with my powers. Only once he’s begging for release, begging for the angel of death to come and save him, will I grant him his wish. One, final, blast, to his skull. And then it will all be over for this city. Everyone left will be my plaything.

PLANT WORKER
Hey, who’s down there?

Surge smiles

INT. JAKE’S CAR - NIGHT

Jake is driving his car down the road, his cell phone rings.

JAKE
Hello? Oh hey, thanks for returning my call.

D.A.
Wouldn’t be Rorschach D.A. if I didn’t return calls quickly. Anyway, we’re moving in on James Harrington’s house in a few minutes. Thought you might want to tag along.

JAKE
Sure, I’m on my way.

Jake takes a turn on the next street.

EXT. JAMES HARRINGTON’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Three officers and the D.A. are standing on James Harrington’s home porch. One knocks on the door several times, but no answer.
D.A.
Rorschach Police, open up! Bust it down.

OFFICER ONE busts down the door. The three rush into the house, guns out, and search for anyone. Nobody is found. Outside, Jake pulls up.

JAKE
Glad to see they got started without me.

Jake walks into the house. The D.A. is standing in the living room.

D.A.
Thanks for coming, what exactly are you after?

JAKE
Something that connects Harrington to whoever ordered the murder of my brother.

D.A.
I thought the commissioner closed the case?

JAKE
I reopened it.

Jake enters the office of the home, sits down at the desk and turns on the computer. He begins going through files.

JAKE (cont’d)
Damn, nothing here.

Jake opens up the desk drawer and finds an opened envelope. Inside is a letter.

James,

It seems one of the police officers, Jeremy McGinnis found out about our little get together at the mansion. This story cannot get to the press. He has already refused a payoff. Take him out. Tonight. Once you’re down I’ll make sure the city pays for you to take a vacation.

Mayor *smudge*

JAKE (cont’d)
Holy shit, the Mayor is at the head of all of this.
Jake pulls out his phone and sends a text message to Pulse.

JAKE (cont’d)
(in text)
The Mayor murdered Jeremy. Meet me at his mansion.

SFX: Gun cocking

JAKE
You’ve got to be kidding me.

D.A.
I got paid a hefty sum to make sure you didn’t find anything. Let’s go.

Jake puts his hands behind his head and walks out, with the three officers following him.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Pulse is wandering around, wondering what to do. His phone goes off, it’s the text message from Jake.

JAKE
(in text)
The Mayor murdered Jeremy. Meet me at his mansion.

Pulse’s face grows tight and angry. He looks up towards the sky.

PULSE
Tonight, I will have my vengeance.

Pulse takes a look around him, finally spotting a car parked on the side of the street. He rushes over to it and energy punches out the driver’s side window. He gets into the car and begins to hot wire it. It starts and he drives off.

EXT. MAYOR’S MANSION - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

Pulse arrives outside of the Mayor’s mansion. There are many cars parked outside and many people entering the mansion dressed in formal attire.

PULSE
Of course, the ball is tonight. The Professor was supposed to receive his award.

Off to the side of the mansion, Pulse notices two men with M16’s. He sneaks up towards them.
THUG TEN
That Surge character just showed up.

THUG ELEVEN
Oh yeah?

THUG TEN
Yeah, boss seemed pleased.

THUG ELEVEN
Betcha Pulse shows up any minute.

THUG TEN
Betcha he already has.

THUG ELEVEN
Well, we should start looking for him then, don’tcha think?

THUG TEN
I’m thinkin’ we should.

The two thugs move away from the door that they are guarding.

PULSE
This is too, easy.

Pulse goes up to the door and enters it. On the other side is a long staircase leading down. He climbs down the stairs, and at the bottom is a large dark room, with concrete floors, walls, and ceiling. At the far wall is a large computer station with a man sitting at it. One one of the monitors he see’s Jake tied to a chair, while the Mayor circles him.

A small noise occurs in the background, the man turns around, but nobody is there. He turns back toward the monitors and Pulse is standing in between him and the monitors. Pulse punches the man in the face, and then blasts him in the chest, sending him flying into the far wall.

Pulse turns up the audio on the monitors showing Jake and the Mayor.

THE MAYOR
You know what you are?

JAKE
One of the few people in the city who isn’t afraid of the mob?
THE MAYOR
Perhaps. Either way, you’re a nosy little rat. And I can’t have rats running around in my factory, now can I?

JAKE
Factory?

THE MAYOR
Rorschach City. My city! And then you and your brother, Jared, decide to stick your little noses where they do not belong.

JAKE
His name is Jeremy!

THE MAYOR
I apologize, Jeremy. Have people ever told you that you two are a lot alike? Just like you, Jeremy got in over his head. He went snooping around, sticking his head in business that was not his and he found some things that might make me to look out like a bad guy. Now, shh shh shh, don’t interrupt. You’ll get your turn to talk. I’m in charge around here, and we play by my rules. I speak, and then, If I decide, it’s your turn, understood? Now, where was I? Ah, yes! Now Jeremy, he found out about a little get together I was having here at the mansion, and, at this get together, certain activities had to take place. Some people got hurt. Some died. Now, as the Mayor of Rorschach City, I have to do my best to keep this place of mine running as smoothly as possible. Now, I know that I’m the best man for the job, but there are some, like yourself and your brother, who feel that maybe somebody else would be better. They’re wrong. They don’t know what it takes to run a city like Rorschach. It takes cunning, courage, the ability to do what is necessary. When I ordered the "hit" on your brother, I was doing (MORE)
THE MAYOR (cont’d)
what was necessary. I had to remove him, to keep things stable in my City. And it’s beginning to look as if I’m going to have to do the same to you...

The Mayor pulls out a shiny pistol and plays with it.

THE MAYOR (cont’d)
And then there is the young Matthew. Don’t think I don’t know about him either. I have been aware for sometime now about his escapades as the wonderful Pulse, parading throughout My City in his red and black pajamas. My Civilians have sure taken a liking to him, calling him, "the savior of Rorschach." Just as easily as I killed your brother, and you, I will kill him. But not before, of course, exploiting him as the villain he truly is, wreaking havoc on me and My City. I am Rorschach’s hero. It’s only hero! You see how this all works? I run this city.

What I say, goes. However, when people like you, and your brother, and you’re little girlfriend, Emily, get in the way...that things start to go bad. That’s when I have to take matters into my own hands...

Pulse blasts the monitor and moves on into the next room. Several thugs are inside.

THUG TWELVE
He’s here! Get him! Get him!

The thugs rush on Pulse.

JAKE
(V/O)
That’s what you think. My brother is going to put a stop to all of this. You and Surge are going to jail.

Pulse punches the first in the face, and the second in the stomach. He throws the first into the second, both go tumbling down.
THE MAYOR

(V/O)
Jail? You really think a jail could hold me? I have half the city bought and paid for. I wouldn’t even go to trial.

The third thug goes to punch Pulse, but Pulse blocks the punch and blasts the man in the chest, sending him flying.

The Mayor pistol whips Jake in the face.

Pulse flips the fourth thug as he passes by.

Pulse breaks down the door and enters the next room, which has several more thugs inside. Pulse quickly flips over a steel table that is near the door and takes cover. The thugs begin to fire at him.

When they stop shooting at him he flips the table back over and blasts a flurry of energy beams at the thugs, hitting all of them.

Pulse takes a moment to listen, he can hear the Mayor and Jake above him. At the other end of the room is a staircase. Pulse climbs the staircase and busts down the door at the top.

He enters a long and nicely decorated hallway. He busts down the first door he comes to, inside is Jake and the Mayor.

THE MAYOR
So nice of you to join us, young Matthew.

Pulse says nothing, he blasts the pistol from the Mayor’s hand and tackles him down the ground. He punches the Mayor several times in the face. After a few moments, Pulse stops, and looks down at the Mayor.

THE MAYOR (cont’d)
You really, didn’t want to do that.

The Mayor takes a strong swing at Pulse, catching him strait in the head, causing him to collapse.

Jake manages to free a pocket knife from his back pocket and cuts the ropes tying him.

Pulse stands up, as does the Mayor. The Mayor removes his suit jacket and takes off his tie.
THE MAYOR
I’ve been waiting a long time for this moment, Pulse. You’re been a thorn in my side for far, too long.

PULSE
You killed my brother.

Pulse goes to tackle the Mayor again, but the Mayor sidesteps him and throws him through the glass window behind them. Pulse falls two stories and lands hard on the ground below.

The Mayor rips off his shirt and jumps out of the window, right next to Pulse. Pulse stands up and sends energy blasts towards the Mayor, most missing, but some hitting, and slowing down his approach.

Jake looks out the window, but the recedes back into it.

The Mayor continues his approach, Pulse sends another blast of energy at him, hitting him in the face. The Mayor stops, holding his face in pain. Pulse charges at the Mayor jumping up and energy punching him in the face.

The Mayor takes a few steps backward, Pulse walks towards him, determined. When Pulse get close he tries to punch the Mayor, but the Mayor’s fist envelopes Pulse’s. Pulse tries to punch with his other hand but again the Mayor grabs Pulse’s hand. The Mayor headbutts Pulse, knocking him back. Pulse sends a blasts of energy at the Mayor, hitting him straight in the chest.

The fight continues down towards the river, with the Mayor coming back and holding the upper hand over the young superhero. Pulse’s lip is bleeding, his suit it dirty. The Mayor is much the same, covered in filth, gushing blood from his nose.

Pulse blasts energy at the Mayor’s knee, knocking him down to just one. Pulse runs up and punches the Mayor in the face.

PULSE (cont’d)
That was for Jeremy!

Pulse punches him again.

PULSE (cont’d)
That was for Jake!

Pulse kicks him in the stomach.
PULSE (cont’d)
That was for this city!

Pulse winds up, energy circling around his hand and forearm.

THE MAYOR

Pulse punches the Mayor one final time, killing him.

PULSE
And that was for me!

The Mayor’s body falls to the ground, lifeless. Pulse looks around, he is now several hundred yards away from the mansion where the fight began.

PULSE (cont’d)
I’m running out of time.

Pulse’s phone goes off, it is a text message from Chelsea.

CHELSEA
(in text)
If you want to see this girl ever again, come to the Rorschach Energy Plant.

PULSE
The Plant is on the other side of the city!

Pulse looks around him, and then gets an idea. He cautiously points his palms down towards the ground, and blasts energy from them. The blast sends him soaring high into the sky, and away from the scene.

INT. RORSCHACH ENERGY PLANT – NIGHT

Pulse enters the nuclear plant, finding the unconscious body of the plant worker on the floor in front of him. He walks up slowly to the body, investigating it.

A burst of lightning comes flying from the ceiling. Pulse dives in order to get out of the way of the blast. Pulse rolls and fires a blast back at his attack, but nobody is there. Another burst of lightning emits from another side of the ceiling. Pulse again rolls out of the way and fires another blast at the invisible attacker.

PULSE
Come out, Surge. This is between you and me, let Chelsea go.
SURGE
(V/O)
Oh, don’t worry about the
girl. She’s tied up nice and safe.

PULSE
Where is she?

A light turns on and reveal Chelsea, unconscious and
strapped into a large circular apparatus.

PULSE
Chelsea!

Pulse rushes over to the large apparatus, when he gets
close, Surge appears in front of him. Pulse goes to energy
punch him but misses. Surge retaliates with a punch to
Pulse’s chest, sending him to the ground.

SURGE
You put up more of a fight last
time we met.

PULSE
I’m just getting started.

Pulse sends a flurry of energy blasts into Surge’s
chest. Surge’s chest plate dents but Surge himself in
unaffected. Surge teleports behind Pulse, grabbing onto
Pulse’s shoulder and shocking him. Pulse falls to the
ground again.

PULSE (cont’d)
Why are you doing this?

SURGE
I worked hard my entire life to
provide for my, Cecelia, and do you
know what I got in return? My wife
died. We did everything right,
everything the way it was supposed
to be. The people of the city
steal, murder, and rape, and do you
know what happens? They get you,
the hero, to come and save them
when things go wrong. The world
doesn’t deserve a happy ending.

Surge sends another lightning bolt at Pulse, by now the
costume has degraded, the mask is only half there and there
are several rips and tears throughout. Pulse shrieks in
pain as the lightning courses through his body.
Pulse slowly gathers his composure, standing on his feet. Pulse winds up and sends a blast of energy at Surge. Surge waves his arm and "catches" the blast. Absorbing into his body. Surge extends his other arm and the blast fire back at Pulse, hitting him square in the chest and sending him flying.

Chelsea’s eyes open and she see’s the fight between Pulse and Surge.

CHELSEA
Matt?

Pulse hears her, looks in her direction and reaches out towards her.

PULSE
Chelsea!

Surge bends walks over to Pulse, who is now crawling across the floor. He grabs onto Pulse’s shoulder and Pulse is instantly in pain. Surge laughs.

SURGE
You feel that, Pulse? That’s the feeling of your power being sucked away from you. You’re now fueling my own power.

CHELSEA
Leave alone you old jerk!

Surge let’s go of Pulse and looks up at Chelsea.

SURGE
Oh, do you want a turn?

Pulse rolls over onto his back, checking over his body. Surge, without looking back at Pulse, enters the spherical apparatus, merely a few inches away from Chelsea.

SURGE (cont’d)
Now, Pulse. I’m going to take away what is most dear to you. Just like my sweet Cecelia was taken from me.

Surge reaches out with one of his hands, just an inch away from Chelsea’s chin. A blast comes from behind Surge and hits him in the back. Surge turns around angrily to find
Pulse standing strong. Surge teleports right in front of Pulse. Pulse energy punches Surge in the face, knocking him back. Surge quickly sends bolts of lightning at Pulse, bringing him back down to the ground. Surge unmercifully electrocutes Pulse.

SURGE (cont’d)
Why won’t you die?

Surge looks over to his left and sees a large control panel.

SURGE (cont’d)
If I can’t kill you, the raw power of this place will.

CHELSEA
No!

PULSE
(weak)
No!

Surge sends bolts of lightning at the console, causing all of the gauges to enter the DANGER zone before breaking. The entire facility is about to explode. Pulse stands up to his feet once again, blood running down his face. A field of energy surrounds Pulse as he charges at Surge. He tackles the larger Surge to the ground and then fires blast after blast into the cyborg.

Surge teleports behind Pulse and goes to punch him in the back, but Pulse quickly elbows Surge in the mouthpiece. Surge is knocked back a few steps.

CHELSEA
Matt, quick! This place is going to blow!

Pulse again charges at Surge, energy punching him again in the face, knocking him unconscious. Pulse grabs onto the black sphere embedded in Surge’s chest plate and yanks hard, removing it. Pulse quickly rushes over to Chelsea as a part of the roof falls in.

PULSE
Are you alright?

CHELSEA
I don’t think now is the time for small talk.
PULSE
Good point.

Pulse unties Chelsea. Pulse rushes back to Surge and grabs a hold of his body by the waist.

PULSE (cont’d)
Hold on, Chelsea.

Chelsea grabs Pulse around the waist. Pulse extends one arm towards the ground while angling his other palm towards the ground. They fly out of the Plant as it explodes. The land safely outside of it.

Almost as soon as they land, Jake and a team of SWAT Members rush onto the scene, all pointing their guns at Surge.

JAKE
I’ll take care of Pulse and the girl. Make sure this guy gets put into a maximum security facility before he wakes up.

SWAT MEMBER
Yes, sir.

Pulse, Jake, and Chelsea walk away from the scene, the sun is beginning to come up.

JAKE
You actually did it. You stopped, Surge.

PULSE
Couldn’t of done it without you, bro.

A voice comes over Jake’s police radio.

VOICE
Sergeant McGinnis, one body was found inside of the plant, he’s being taken to Rorschach General for severe burns and radiation. You should come take a look at this.

JAKE
(into radio)
I’m on my way.
JAKE
I’ve got to go. I’ll see you back at the house, Pulse.

Matt and Jake hug and Jake leaves.

CHELSEA
So all of those jokes about being a superhero, they were all true, huh?

MATT
You know me, can’t resist dressing up and fighting bad guys.

CHELSEA
I always knew you had a thing for tights.

MATT
Shut it.

CHELSEA
I never did thank you for saving me.

MATT
No better time than the present.

Chelsea and Matt kiss.

MATT (cont’d)
I could get used to this superhero thing.

Chelsea pushes Matt, they both laugh.

FADE TO BLACK