

Brand New Hero
(selected scenes)

Written by
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EXT. COLLEGE -- DAY

A young, relatively nerdy young man walks down the sidewalk, backpack slung over one shoulder, at a picturesque small, urban college. This is CRAIG (early 20s).

After a few steps, a voice from behind stops him in his tracks.

JENN
Hey, comic book boy. I need to talk
to you.

Running up behind him is a beautiful blonde student, JENN (early 20s). She's entirely out of his league, the knowledge of which causes Craig to turn around and give her a confused look.

CRAIG
Me?

Jenn pokes Craig in the chest.

JENN
I need to talk to you.

CRAIG
I don't know what you heard, but I
don't write papers for other people
anymore.

JENN
I don't care about that.

Craig begins walking down the sidewalk again, Jenn walks beside him.

CRAIG
You should care, good grades lay the
foundation for getting a good job
once you graduate.

JENN
Just shut up a minute.

Craig again stops and faces Jenn.

CRAIG
What?

JENN
You like those comic books, right?

CRAIG
I read and collect a few select titles, yes.

JENN
You can't tell anybody else what I'm about to tell you.

CRAIG
Okay?

JENN
No one else in the entire world. I swear to God if you tell a single soul about this, I will rip out your heart and feed it to your dog.

CRAIG
I don't have a dog.

JENN
My dog, then.
(beat)
Ew. No. That's gross.
(beat)
A random dog of my choosing.

CRAIG
Agreed. I guess.

Jenn leans in close and waits for Craig to lean in, as well. He reluctantly does.

In a whisper, she reveals her secret.

JENN
I think I have super powers.

Craig leans back and starts to walk away again.

CRAIG
I can't believe you came all the way over here just to make fun of me.

Jenn follows, a step behind now.

JENN
No. I'm serious. I think I have super powers.

CRAIG
Just leave me alone. I don't want to play whatever game you're playing.

Not used to hearing the word "no", Jenn sulks away toward the parking lot. Before she gets too far away, she turns back to Craig.

JENN
But I really do think....

CRAIG
Just go away.

Jenn lags behind, dejected, as Craig walks away.

She looks around and is suddenly struck by an idea.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- DAY

Craig reaches his car and puts the key in the door. But before he can unlock it, the car begins to move, seemingly on its own.

CRAIG
What the hell?

Craig looks over to see Jenn lifting the front end of his car completely off the ground and pushing it out of its space.

CRAIG
Sweet merciful crap!

Jenn just smiles as she continues to hold up the car.

JENN
You believe me now, comic book boy?

EXT. OUTDOOR CAFE -- DAY

Jenn and Craig sit across from each other on the restaurant patio. Craig freaks out a bit.

CRAIG
Oh my God. Oh my God. Superheroes
are real. They're real.

Jenn picks at a plate of french fries, bored.

JENN
Are you going to be freaking out all
day?

Craig stops and looks at Jenn. He's suddenly sober and disappointed.

CRAIG
Superheroes exist, and Jenn Morgan is one of them.

He sighs and runs his hands through his hair.

CRAIG
I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

JENN
I don't care what you do, I just thought you might be able to help.

CRAIG
Yeah, because helping you with your math homework in the eighth grade worked out so well.

Jenn gets a little angry.

JENN
Dude. Just. You think I want to be talking to you out here in the open where anybody could see the two of us... together... I'm here because I need help, and you're the only person I could think of who could possibly help me.

Craig considers for a moment.

CRAIG
Fine. I'll help.

He grabs a notepad and pen out of his backpack.

CRAIG
Okay. Were you bitten by any radioactive spiders recently?

JENN
What? No!

Craig pops a skeptical eyebrow.

CRAIG
Are you sure?

JENN
Yeah. I'm pretty sure.

CRAIG

Have you been unwittingly exposed to any kind of super soldier serum or secret government testing of gamma radiation? Anything like that?

Jenn just stares at him, flabbergasted.

CRAIG

Are you an alien from a far away galaxy with a red sun?

JENN

This was a mistake.

She gets up to leave.

CRAIG

You wanted me to help. This is how I help.

JENN

By being stupid?

CRAIG

By figuring out why you can lift a car over your head.

JENN

I don't care why. I just want to make it stop.

Craig is shocked.

CRAIG

Make it stop? Are you insane?

Jenn shakes her head no.

CRAIG

Super powers are like the coolest thing in the world. You want to know what I do in my room every night before I go to bed?

Jenn turns up her nose.

JENN

Ewww. Definitely not.

CRAIG

I sit there and I think about what it would be like to be a superhero. To

(MORE)

CRAIG (cont'd)
make a difference in people's lives.
To have them look up to me, not
because I'm good looking or can throw
a football really far or have a lot
of money, but because I can help make
their lives better. You have no idea
how lucky you are, and you want to
just make it go away.

JENN
Yeah. So how do we do that?

Craig sighs.

CRAIG
I guess the first thing is to find
out what all you can do besides
lifting a car over your head.

JENN
Is that not enough?

CRAIG
Oh yeah. It's very impressive, but
it's not uncommon for a superhero to
have a whole bunch of different
powers.

JENN
Not uncommon?

CRAIG
Right.

JENN
Among the made-up people in a book
full of colorful drawings?

CRAIG
Do you want my help or not?

JENN
Yes. Yes. This is just so...

CRAIG
Overwhelming?

JENN
Stupid.

CRAIG
Just meet me tomorrow morning at the
park. I want to run some tests.

EXT. MAIN STREET GARDENS -- DAY

Jenn walks up, very obviously tired from the events of the night before. Sunglasses hiding her bloodshot eyes.

Craig stands tall, hands behind his back, huge smile on his face.

CRAIG
Sleep well?

JENN
Not at all.

CRAIG
Me, neither. Shall we get started?

JENN
What do you have behind your back?

Busted, Craig tries to play it cool.

CRAIG
Nothing.

JENN
Show me your hands.

Craig pulls out one empty hand.

JENN
And the other one.

He slowly pulls out his hand to reveal a gun.

JENN
You were going to shoot me?

CRAIG
No. No. No. No. No. No. No.
(beat)
Well. Yes.

JENN
Oh my God!

CRAIG
It's not what you think. Some
superheroes are bulletproof.

JENN
And to find out if I was, you were
going to shoot me?

CRAIG
It sounds stupid when you say it like
that.

Jenn walks up and punches Craig in the stomach. He doubles
over in pain.

CRAIG
We already knew you have super
strength.

JENN
It doesn't take super strength to
kick your ass.

She starts to storm away.

CRAIG
Oh, come on. Come back.

She shakes her head at the stupidity of it all.

CRAIG
It's only a 22. It wouldn't have
hurt you that much.

Craig pleads with her to stay.

CRAIG
Okay. Okay. No guns. I promise.

Jenn stops and considers for a moment before turning back to
Craig.

JENN
No guns.

CRAIG
Absolutely not.

JENN
So what's first?

CRAIG
The gun thing was first.

Jenn rolls her eyes.

JENN
Then what's next?

Craig lights up with excitement. He grabs hold of Jenn's
shoulders and positions her just right.

CRAIG
Okay. You stand right here.

Grabbing his backpack off the ground as he passes, Craig practically skips over a good forty yards away from Jenn.

CRAIG
You ready?

JENN
Way past ready. Already moved on to bored.

Craig smiles and starts digging through his backpack, eventually pulling out a small piece of wood.

He holds the piece of wood up high, above his head.

CRAIG
Okay. Now try to burn a hole in this.

A wave of confusion washes over Jenn's face.

JENN
How am I supposed to do that?

CRAIG
We're trying to see if you've got heat vision or some sort of optic blasts.

JENN
That's a super power? Heat vision?

CRAIG
Just concentrate.

JENN
This is stupid.

CRAIG
It won't be stupid if you can shoot burning beams of heat out of your eyes.

JENN
Yes. It will.

Craig sighs.

CRAIG
Just do it.

Jenn gives in, concentrating and squinting her eyes a little, trying to force something out.

Nothing happens.

JENN
Nothing's happening.

CRAIG
Try harder.

JENN
Try harder to shoot laser beams out of my eyes?

CRAIG
They're not laser beams, they're....

He trails off, giving up trying to make the distinction.

CRAIG
Just try harder.

Jenn does as she's told, concentrating harder, squinting her eyes a little bit more. Even bending over a little bit as she gets into it.

She tries as hard as she can, but still...

Nothing happens.

CRAIG
Okay. Stop. Just.
(beat)
Stop.

Jenn relaxes.

CRAIG
You're about to give yourself a hernia.

JENN
So no heat vision?

CRAIG
Mark it off the list.

JENN
So what's next?

Craig pulls a clipboard out of his backpack and consults it.

CRAIG
X-Ray vision. And then telescopic
vision.

JENN
More eye stuff? What kind of weird
eye fetish do superheroes have?

Craig holds a fist straight up in the air.

CRAIG
Just tell me what I have in my hand.

JENN
Even if I could see what was in your
hand, I can't imagine that I'd care.

CRAIG
Just concentrate.

JENN
Enough with the eyes. X-ray vision?
Laser eyes? Those are lame
superpowers. I only want to do cool
stuff.

Craig lowers his hand and returns his attention to his
clipboard.

CRAIG
Super hearing?

Jenn shakes her head no.

CRAIG
How about super breath?

Jenn rolls her eyes and shrugs her shoulders.

JENN
I think I'm going to go home now.

She turns to leave.

CRAIG
Wait. Wait. Wait.

Jenn turns back around and waits impatiently for what comes
next.

Craig grabs a coffee mug out of his backpack and holds it
straight out from his body at shoulder level.

JENN
Checking to see if I have super
coffee making powers?

Craig smiles.

CRAIG
Catch it before it hits the ground.

JENN
What?

CRAIG
Catch the coffee mug before it hits
the ground.

JENN
You're like 100 feet away.

CRAIG
More like 120.

JENN
How am I supposed to catch it before
it hits the ground?

CRAIG
Go real fast.

With that, Craig lets go of the coffee mug.

Jenn takes a quick step, suddenly the whole world around her seems to slow to an extreme crawl. As she runs at what seems to her to be regular speed, the coffee mug and the rest of the world around her moves in super slow motion.

She gets closer and closer as the coffee mug slowly falls.

Closer and closer.

With the mug still halfway through its fall, Jenn grabs it from the air and zips past Craig.

A burst of wind from Jenn's wake nearly blows Craig over as the world returns to normal speed.

Stunned, Craig looks to where Jenn was, seeing nothing.

He looks to where the mug was and sees nothing.

JENN
Over here.

Craig turns around to see Jenn, coffee mug in hand, huge smile on her face, standing a few yards behind him.

CRAIG
Sweet merciful crap!

JENN
Pretty cool, huh?

CRAIG
Yeah. Pretty cool.

Craig has to take a second to regain his composure.

He consults his clipboard, pulls out a pen and makes a check.

CRAIG
Super speed. Check.

A very excited Jenn rushes over to Craig and hands him the coffee mug.

JENN
So what's next?

Craig takes a long look up at the sky.

CRAIG
I think it's time to see if you can fly.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE ROOF -- DAY

EXT. DOWNTOWN DALLAS -- NIGHT

The prototypical scary dark alley that always seems to hide the worst kinds of vagrants and criminals stretches off in the distance.

A twentysomething couple stagger down the street next to the alley. The male of the couple, DEREK (22), a pretty typical douchebag starts to turn into the alley. His girlfriend, TANYA (21), hesitates.

DEREK
C'mon. This way.

TANYA
No way.

DEREK
We're just parked over there. This
is so much faster.

TANYA
I'm not trudging through a dark alley
in the middle of the night. That's
like asking to get raped or killed.

Derek scoffs.

DEREK
You watch too much TV.

Derek starts off down the alley by himself.

TANYA
You're leaving me?

DEREK
I'm not taking the scenic route. The
car is right there.

He points down to the other end of the alley.

Tanya weighs her options for a moment.

TANYA
Hey.

Derek stops.

TANYA
Wait up.

Derek smiles as Tanya dashes over to him and takes his arm.

DEREK
You know I wouldn't let anything
happen to you.

Arm in arm, they take off down the dark alley.

About halfway down the alley, a NOISE startles them. Tanya
grabs hold of Derek's arm tightly and looks around
fearfully.

DEREK
Geez, woman. Squeeze my arm off why
don't you?

He smiles at his girl as she releases her vise grip and
relaxes a little.

Something... or someone... moves in the shadows, unseen by the couple.

Just as the end of the alley is in sight and Derek and Tanya begin to lower their guard, the an armed street thug pops out from the shadows and directly in front of them.

THUG
Gimme your money.

The couple stands motionless, paralyzed with fear at the sight of the gun pointed directly at them.

THUG
I'm not screwing around. Give me
your money.

The muffled RING of a cellphone fills the air, distracting the Thug.

Dressed in full superhero costume with a stylized "A" on her chest, cape on her back and mask hiding her identity, Jenn slowly steps out of her hiding place and into the alley.

JENN
Sorry. Sorry.

She pulls out her cellphone and answers as the Thug and the Young Couple look on confused.

JENN
Hello?

WHITNEY
(on phone)
Where are you? You were supposed to
be at my house an hour ago.

JENN
I'm kind of busy right now. Can't
talk. Call you back later?

Whitney is mucho offended by the blow-off.

THUG
What the hell are you?

Jenn holds up her index finger to the Thug, signaling that it will just be a second.

WHITNEY

Uh. What is up with you? You ditched us as Neiman's and now you're blowing off movie night.

JENN

Really. I'm sorry, but I just can't talk right this second.

WHITNEY

We rented The Notebook, you know. The Notebook. And you're not going to be here to watch it with us?

JENN

I will call you back in just a minute. I....

WHITNEY

You know what? Don't bother.

The line goes dead.

JENN

Hello? Hello?

She hangs up her cellphone and puts it in her pocket.

JENN

Sorry about that.

Jenn walks directly up to the Thug, putting herself right at the end of the barrel of the gun.

JENN

Is this guy bothering you?

The Thug puts on his best Angry Thug Face and jabs his gun into Jenn's chest.

THUG

Since you're here, I'll go ahead and take your money, too.

JENN

You guys go ahead and go. I've got this one.

The Couple stands completely still.

JENN

Seriously.... Go.

She makes a shooing motion.

THUG
They're not going anywhere until I
get my money.

JENN
Your money? Really?

THUG
Really.

The Thug pulls back the hammer of the gun shoves it directly under Jenn's chin. He leans in and gets right in her face, teeth gritted and eyes squinted.

Jenn begins to laugh.

JENN
Whatever, dude.

The Thug tightens his grip on the trigger, squeezing ever closer to firing.

TANYA
It's okay. We'll give him the money.
It's no big deal.

Jenn stares deep into the Thug's eyes. She is the picture of calm despite the gun pressed against her flesh.

THUG
I'm going to count to three, and if I
don't see hands reaching for wallets,
I'm pulling the trigger.

Tanya doesn't even wait for one as she dives into her purse and begins to dig for her wallet.

THUG
One.

Tanya digs frantically for her money as Derek reaches for his wallet.

THUG
Two.....

Before the Thug can finish getting the word "TWO" out of his mouth, Jenn slaps the gun out his hand.

Jenn turns to the couple.

JENN
You should probably run.

The Thug looks down at his now-empty hand.

THUG
Shit.

Jenn rears back her fist and swings, punching the Thug right in the nose.

He flies to the ground as Tanya grabs at Derek's arm to try and get him to run away.

TANYA
C'mon, Derek.

Derek doesn't move, preferring to watch the fight. Tanya eventually gives up and leaves him behind, running out of the alley at full speed.

THUG
You bitch.

The Thug gets up off the ground and wipes a little bit of blood from the side of his mouth.

JENN
I'm the bitch? You're the one
getting his ass kicked by a girl.
(beat)
Bitch.

Enraged, the Thug launches himself toward Jenn with a head full of steam.

He tackles her to the ground.

With an easy heave, Jenn pushes the Thug off of her and into the air.

He lands with a CRASH on some trash and debris a few feet away.

JENN
You're going to mess up my outfit.

Jenn straddles the Thug as he lay on the ground. She grabs him by the shirt and lifts him up, bringing his face right to hers.

The Thug is barely conscious. He groans in pain.

THUG
No more. No more.

Jenn lifts the Thug into the air and stands him up.

JENN
Run away.
(beat)
Now!

The Thug hightails it out of the alley as fast as he can.

Before the Thug reaches the end of the alley, Jenn calls out after him.

JENN
Don't forget to tell all your friends
you got your ass kicked by Awesome
Girl!

She notices Derek still standing there and leans in to him.

JENN
He's not going to tell his friends.

DEREK
What the hell, lady?

JENN
Lady?

Derek stomps around the alley, very agitated.

DEREK
I totally had that. I was going to
bust out some karate moves on that
asswipe and impress the hell out of
that girl.

JENN
I saved your ass.

DEREK
You kept me from getting laid.

JENN
If you need somebody to hold you at
gunpoint to get laid, then you've got
bigger problems than me.

DEREK
Screw you!

Derek stalks off out of the alley, trying to find his date.

JENN

You're welcome.

(beat)

Asshole!