

SUPERHERO GIG

Written by

J.H. LONG

EXT. URBAN ROOFTOPS - NIGHT

HISS, age indeterminate, in a dark grey super-suit with black accents and a cowl that hides his features, runs across a rooftop with large sacks in each hand.

A helicopter pursues Hiss with a spotlight.

Hiss jumps down to the next roof, a drop that would have broken a normal human's legs, and keeps running.

He leaps up to the roof of the next building and runs across the rooftop but stops short as figure lands in his path.

APEX, 30s, muscular, in a red and yellow super-suit, poses.

APEX
End of the line, Hiss.

HISS
Apex. What a gift.

Hiss drops the bags, and banded packets of money spill out. He extends cat-like claws.

HISS (CONT'D)
This time, I'll end you for good.

Another superhero uses fire from his hands to propel himself up from the alley and lands on the roof.

HOTSHOT, teens, in a red hoodie and bandanna facemask, poses.

HOTSHOT
Not this time, Hiss.

APEX
Get back, kid. Hiss is dangerous.

HISS
New sidekick? How many must I kill before you learn?

APEX
Leave him alone, Hiss. I've never seen him before. Kid, run.

HOTSHOT
I'm here to help you, Apex. We can take him, together.

Hiss emits a high-pitched sound. Apex and Hotshot hold their heads and fall to their knees.

Apex leaps and punches Hiss. Hiss claws Apex's face.

Apex jumps straight up and slams down. He and Hiss crash through the roof. HOTSHOT walks over.

Grunts and crashes sound from the hole. Hotshot jumps in.

Silence. A crash. Another. Hotshot shouts. A gout of flame lights the hole orange for an instant.

Struggle. Another flash of flame. Quiet.

Hiss cartwheels out of the hole and flops onto the rooftop. Apex jumps from the hole.

Hiss rolls aside just before Apex's fist cracks the roof.

Hiss stands and emits the sound again. Apex recoils with a splitting headache. Hiss kicks Apex down and runs.

HISS

You haven't seen the last of me!

Hiss jumps into the alley and rounds a corner. The helicopter loses him and turns the light on Apex.

Apex jumps down the hole in the roof and returns with Hotshot, limp, in his arms.

Apex lays Hotshot on the roof and cradles the boy's head. Hotshot's eyes bulge up at Apex.

Apex removes Hotshot's bandanna, and blood bubbles between the boy's lips.

APEX

Why, kid? Why didn't you run?

Hotshot reaches a hand up to Apex. It glows red with his power. Apex pushes the hand down.

APEX (CONT'D)

Save your energy.

Hotshot's eyes lose focus and slide shut. Apex grits his teeth and cries to the heavens.

INT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

HAROLD, 20's, a boyish young man in casual clothes, stands next to Ishaan, 40s, in a polo shirt and nametag, and gapes at a TV in the corner of the convenience store.

On the T.V., video from a helicopter camera shows Apex martyred in the spotlight.

ISHAAN

What a shame. When will all of these wannabes learn?

Harold and Ahmed share a look.

ISHAAN (CONT'D)

Sorry.

He walks back to the cage that surrounds his checkout area.

ISHAAN (CONT'D)

I know you want to be like Apex, Harold, but only he has ever survived a battle with Hiss.

HAROLD

Gotta be someone on their level. Don't know until you try.

Ishaan enters the cage and locks it behind him.

ISHAAN

An experiment that invariably ends in death, like Greek boy, Ivan, flying too close to the sun. Buying something, or what?

HAROLD

Yeah, yeah.

Harold walks deeper into the store.

A life-size cutout of Apex stands next to a stack of energy drinks with a speech bubble that reads: "Take Charge!"

Harold takes a can. The front door dings. A HOODED MAN enters the store and sticks a gun in Ishaan's face.

HOODED MAN

Give me all the money in the register. Do it, fast.

ISHAAN

Not again. Uh, a little help?

Hooded Man points the gun over the aisles at Harold.

HOODED MAN

You! Don't move!

Harold puts his hands up. He still holds the can.

HAROLD
Hey, man. Easy. You could still
back out of this.

HOODED MAN
Shut up and get on the ground!

Harold whips the can at Hooded Man's face, runs at superspeed around the aisles, and knocks the gun out of the man's hand.

Hooded Man stumbles out the door and sprints into the night.

ISHAAN
What are you doing? Why you don't
arrest him?

HAROLD
It's fine, Ishaan. He's gone.

Harold picks up the gun and ejects the magazine. No bullets.

ISHAAN
For now. You should knock him out
and give him to police.

HAROLD
Knocking people out's messy.
Macho's in jail because he killed a
guy like that. Manslaughter.

ISHAAN
Then you make a citizen's arrest!

HAROLD
I would, but a criminal who gets
arrested is twice as likely to sue.

ISHAAN
What's the point of superpower if
you cannot beat up bad guys?

Harold shrugs.

ISHAAN (CONT'D)
Look, I'm sorry. I'm glad you were
here. I could have been killed.

Harold hides the empty magazine behind his back.

HAROLD

Right. Hey, you ever thought about hiring a powered person to help protect this place? I'm available.

ISHANN

I would, but I'm staffed. I can give you the security footage for your reel--and consider that drink on the house.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Harold stares out the window, can in hand. A passenger with wolfish features scrolls through his phone.

A kid listens to his music out loud on a speaker. An annoyed passenger waggles her fingers. The speaker fritzes and dies.

The kid shakes the speaker and hits the power button. His eyes cloud over as he glares at the other passengers.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Harold enters the small living room and squeezes past DAKOTA, 20s, husky young man, hunched over his laptop.

Dakota's bed sits in the same room, next to the kitchenette.

DAKOTA

Hey, man. You're home late.

HAROLD

I stopped a robbery at the gas station. Missed the bus.

DAKOTA

Why didn't you run home?

HAROLD

Can't afford the shoes I have, Dak.

DAKOTA

Ishaan give you anything?

Harold waggles the energy drink. Dakota chuckles. Harold grabs a half-eaten bag of chips from the cupboard and sighs.

HAROLD

I'm sick of it never amounting to anything. I was the fastest kid in school, you know?

DAKOTA

Yep.

HAROLD

I was even faster than the
other speedsters.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

Even faster than the other
speedsters.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

I have to do something big.

DAKOTA

Don't say it.

HAROLD

I should fight Hiss with Apex.

Dakota stands.

DAKOTA

I'll go get the list.

HAROLD

You don't have to get the list.

Dakota stops and pulls out his phone.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

No, don't--ugh.

Dakota presses play, and a recording starts.

DAKOTA (V.O.)

Okay, say it.

HAROLD (V.O.)

If I ever talk about helping Apex,
I want you to pull out the list of
superheroes who died trying and
make me read it.

DAKOTA (V.O.)

Even if you tell me not to.

HAROLD (V.O.)

Even if I tell you not to.

Dakota grabs a posterboard leaning against the wall and holds
it for Harold to read. Superhero names cover it.

HAROLD

I'm chasing a dream, here. I wasn't
meant to work at a hardware store--

Dakota clears his throat and taps the first name.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Magic Man. Beating up muggers isn't
getting me anywhere.

Dakota points to the second name. Harold sighs.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Flying Squirrel. Dakota, you're
making your own game because that's
what you have to do to stand out.

DAKOTA
Making my own game won't get me
killed--I hope.

HAROLD
Real heroes face danger. I have to
chance it to be like Apex.

DAKOTA
Next name.

HAROLD
Senora. Ugh, that was a bad one.

DAKOTA
We never should have went looking
for those pictures on the internet.

HAROLD
You gotta see where I'm coming
from. You graduated with honors,
and zero developers care.

Dakota sighs and points to the next name.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
The Elder. "No guts, no glory."
There's a reason people say that.

DAKOTA
No one who ever fought Hiss got any
glory. They usually didn't have
guts either, by the end.

Harold deflates.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)
You have that powered-people mixer
coming up at the end of the week.
Maybe you'll find something there.

HAROLD

And work in manufacturing? I don't want to get hired just because I can do a normal job faster.

DAKOTA

That's how they hire people.

HAROLD

Red Letter. But I'm a super.

DAKOTA

So is everyone else there.

HAROLD

Exactly! When you're a super begging for a job surrounded by supers begging for a job, believe me, you've never felt less--

DAKOTA

Special?

HAROLD

Dak, you make games. That's your calling. Could you settle for less?

DAKOTA

Does being special have to end with you on this list?

Harold sighs. Dakota lowers the posterboard.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

Success is a canyon, bro. Evel Knievel might get to the other side fast, but walking the trails ends in fewer splats.

HAROLD

Solid nugget, Dak.

DAKOTA

Gotta have a collection of wise and earthly aphorisms if I'm gonna be an old Indian one day.

HAROLD

Yeah, I think I heard the call of a majestic eagle just now.

Dakota laughs.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Alright, I'll- I'll sleep on it,
Okay? Meditate on your words.

DAKOTA
Just want you to be safe, bro.

Harold enters his room, opens the window, leans on the sill,
and stares at the moon. The can sprays when he opens it.

EXT. EXPO CENTER - DAY

Harold stands in a business casual shirt and slacks and
stares up at a banner draped over the entrance that reads:
"JOB FAIR TODAY: SUPERS WELCOME!"

Colorful characters of all kinds pass on their way inside.

INT. EXPO CENTER - DAY

Booths for hiring businesses line the hall. Currents of
powered people flow this way and that.

Harold's eyes light up. A booth labeled "Iron Solutions"
boasts "Home of APEX" under their logo with a picture of the
man himself accompanying. Only one visitor and no line.

Harold moseys over. MOONSHADOW, 20's, an edgy woman in a
studded leather jacket and jeans, leans on the rep's table.

MOONSHADOW
Come on. Can't you do anything now?

The REP, an unremarkable man in a suit, gives Moonshadow a
smile both disarming and greasy.

REP
We're only hiring supers with two
or more years of powered law
enforcement experience right now.

MOONSHADOW
That's why I'm trying to work for
Iron, to get experience.

REP
You should upload your resume to
our online portal and join our
hiring network.

MOONSHADOW

I did. I get nothing but newsletters.

REP

They're a great resource for staying informed. Our needs frequently change.

MOONSHADOW

That's what the other guy said the last time I was here. How am I supposed to get experience if no one will let me?

REP

I understand your frustration. Do you have any other questions? I need to make sure all visitors get the attention they deserve.

Moonshadow looks over her shoulder at Harold.

MOONSHADOW

Right. Fine.

Moonshadow leaves and stares Harold down on her way by.

REP

Hello, sir. What can I do for you?

HAROLD

Well, I'm interested in opportunities at Iron Solutions.

Rep types on his laptop.

REP

Exciting. Hope you don't mind if I take notes of our interaction.

HAROLD

No, not at all.

REP

Great. Name, please?

HAROLD

Harold Stanz.

REP

Thank you, and what interests you in super-powered law enforcement?

HAROLD

I want to use my powers for good.
Iron's the best way to do that.

REP

We sure are. Shame that the police
keep getting their funding cut.

HAROLD

Right. Plus, I'm a big fan.

Harold points at the picture of Apex.

REP

He's the best, isn't he? Who knows
what damage Hiss would do if not
for him. And what are your powers?

HAROLD

I am a speedster.

Rep's enthusiasm vanishes as he makes a note on his laptop.

REP

Uh-huh.

HAROLD

Do you hire speedsters?

REP

Hm? Oh, yes, we certainly have our
fair share of speedsters. Any other
powers? Super-durability, maybe?

HAROLD

Uh, yeah, I have strong ligaments
and bones. Helps with inertia.

Rep types notes.

REP

No extra powers. You wouldn't
explode, would you? You're
atomically stable?

HAROLD

I haven't exploded yet.

REP

Excellent, and what about
experience? Have you ever enforced
the law with your powers?

HAROLD
Well, yeah, I--

REP
Officially?

HAROLD
Uh, no, not quite officially.

REP
How about clerical experience? How fast can you make a spreadsheet?

HAROLD
Uh, I don't really know anything about spreadsheets. I was hoping to become a contract law enforcer.

REP
I see, and do you know anybody that works with us? Friends or family?

HAROLD
No.

REP
Well, then I think I have a good idea of your qualifications. I would definitely recommend that you submit a resume online.

HAROLD
I joined the hiring network a while back. I get the newsletters.

REP
They're a great resource for staying up to date, as our needs change frequently.

HAROLD
Right.

REP
Any other questions?

Harold back at a guy with blue skin waiting in line.

HAROLD
No, uh, thanks.

REP
No problem. Have a nice day, sir.

Harold leaves.

EXT. EXPO CENTER - DAY

Harold leans on the railing of the expo center's second-floor terrace and stares at the city. He sighs.

MOONSHADOW
How'd it go?

Moonshadow already stands next to Harold.

HAROLD
Jesus! Where did you come from?

MOONSHADOW
Sorry. Get anything out of him?

HAROLD
Out of who?

MOONSHADOW
The Iron Solutions guy.

HAROLD
He just told me to submit a resume.

MOONSHADOW
Yeesh, sorry.

HAROLD
For what?

MOONSHADOW
For you getting the cold shoulder.

HAROLD
It's not the cold shoulder. They just want me to submit a resume online. They say it to everybody.

MOONSHADOW
Yeah, everybody except ex-police supers, nepo-babies, or on rare occasion, supers with a power on their shortlist.

Moonshadow makes a camera frame with her fingers.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Looking at you, I'm guessing that you have, uhh, ice powers.

HAROLD

No.

MOONSHADOW

Shrink down really small.

HAROLD

No.

MOONSHADOW

Make amazing horchatas.

HAROLD

I'm a speedster. What do they say to people they actually want?

MOONSHADOW

Oh, they give 'em a card with a number to call. Looks like this.

Moonshadow digs a card out of her pocket. Harold takes it.

HAROLD

Doug Reath: talent. How'd you get this? What's your power?

MOONSHADOW

Oh, it's not mine. This dude came in with invincible skin, and they hooked him up. I just swiped it before he left.

HAROLD

Then, could we call?

MOONSHADOW

Sure, if you can magic up some experience, a rich mommy, or some completely different powers, I'm sure the call will go just fine.

Harold hangs his head.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

Sorry. I don't mean to be negative. I'm Moonshadow, by the way.

HAROLD

Harold.

MOONSHADOW

Nah, come on. What's your name?

HAROLD
Sometimes I call myself The Goner.

MOONSHADOW
Goner?

HAROLD
Yeah, you know. I'm fast. I'm there, and I'm gone.

MOONSHADOW
Did you workshop that at all?

HAROLD
Yeah, I spent a long time on it. What's wrong with it?

MOONSHADOW
No, nothing. I think it's great.

HAROLD
It's ironic.

MOONSHADOW
No, yeah, very clever. Hey, I'm headed to a bar a couple blocks away. Want a drink?

HAROLD
What? Now?

MOONSHADOW
Yeah.

HAROLD
It's kind of early.

MOONSHADOW
Oh, what else are you gonna do? You gonna go home and have a tug?

HAROLD
What? No!

MOONSHADOW
Way to sound defensive. Alright, don't let me hold you up.

HAROLD
I'm not-- I'll go get a drink with you, okay? Fine.

MOONSHADOW
Cool. Cool, cool. Come on.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Harold follows Moonshadow down the sidewalk. Moonshadow adjusts her path to avoid other pedestrians time and again.

HAROLD

Hey, so what's your power?

MOONSHADOW

Hm? Oh, I'm stealthy.

HAROLD

Is that a superpower?

MOONSHADOW

Oh yeah, people have a real hard time noticing me.

She steps around someone paying no attention to her.

HAROLD

That sounds kind of cool.

MOONSHADOW

Yeah, I like it--now. Didn't seem so great in high school. Imagine being a teenage girl, and suddenly, you escape everyone's notice.

HAROLD

Sounds like a nightmare I had once.

MOONSHADOW

It was my every day. Bet running real fast was a blessing in school.

HAROLD

Yeah, I guess it was, at first. Later, I realized--

MOONSHADOW

That super speed is actually one of the more common powers? Funny how everyone seems to have trouble standing out. This is the place.

Moonshadow opens an old bar just as a guy in a bike helmet and leather exits with a food delivery bag in hand.

Moonshadow holds the door. The man takes off and flies away.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

The joint sports a short bar, few tables, and a couple regulars hunched over their drinks.

A pool table stands alone in the back. Enny, 40's, rough woman in a sleeveless shirt, serves.

QUIVER, 20s, a girl in thick, black-framed glasses and curly hair, sits with GOLDEN TERMITE, 30's, a heavy-set man.

Quiver shakes like a chihuahua. Golden Termite holds a spoon poised near his mouth.

GOLDEN TERMITE

I can prove it to you right now.
I've been training.

QUIVER

Can you train your teeth?

GOLDEN TERMITE

Bet you a thousand bucks.

QUIVER

I don't have a thousand dollars.

GOLDEN TERMITE

Me neither. That's how sure I am I
can chew this like celery.

Moonshadow and Harold walk up.

MOONSHADOW

Hey, party people. What's all this?

GOLDEN TERMITE

Hey, Moon. Didn't see you come in.

MOONSHADOW

Har har.

QUIVER

Termite thinks he's trained himself
to eat this spoon.

MOONSHADOW

And swallow it?

GOLDEN TERMITE

Exactly.

MOONSHADOW

Remember when you ate that CD?

GOLDEN TERMITE
I chewed that CD just fine.

QUIVER
But then you swallowed it.

MOONSHADOW
He couldn't digest it.

QUIVER
The screaming.

GOLDEN TERMITE
I've had worse nights after Thai.

MOONSHADOW
Guess we can't stop you. Go ahead.

Golden Termite eyes the spoon and sets it down.

GOLDEN TERMITE
I'll do it later. Who's this dude?

MOONSHADOW
Fellow do-gooders, this is Goner.

QUIVER
Ooh, what's he do? Teleport?

GOLDEN TERMITE
Resurrects from death!

Moonshadow scoots into the booth opposite the duo.

MOONSHADOW
Superspeed. I met him at the mixer.

GOLDEN TERMITE
Ah.

MOONSHADOW
Have a seat, man. This is Golden
Termite and Quiver.

Harold sits.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Termite can chew and metabolize
wood--and nothing else.

GOLDEN TERMITE
Yet.

MOONSHADOW
Quivers body vibrates.

Quiver offers her trembling hand for a shake. Harold starts to accept it, but hesitates.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
We don't know if the urge to not touch her is a secondary effect, or just, you know.

QUIVER
It's okay.

HAROLD
Have you seen a doctor?

QUIVER
For what?

MOONSHADOW
Going all out tonight, right dudes?

GOLDEN TERMITE
Oh yeah!

MOONSHADOW
Enny, three of the usual. What do you want, Goner?

HAROLD
Just a beer.

MOONSHADOW
Four of the usual!

GOLDEN TERMITE
So, Goner, you want to be a legitimate superhero, too, huh?

HAROLD
Yeah, you?

GOLDEN TERMITE
Yeah, I've been trying to break into that business for years.

HAROLD
Years?

GOLDEN TERMITE
Even graduated from a certifications course.

MOONSHADOW

That was a scam.

GOLDEN TERMITE

It wasn't a scam. I woulda been set if Iron Solutions hadn't pushed out the other contractors.

MOONSHADOW

They wouldn't have taken that stupid certificate, either.

GOLDEN TERMITE

I'm the only certified superhero at this table.

Enny sets down four open beers.

MOONSHADOW

Okay, okay. Goner doesn't need to hear your sad story. Lord knows we do enough complaining here.

Enny scoffs and leaves.

MOONSHADOW

Let's just try to relax today, think about something else. Who's up for pool?

MONTAGE--The group gets drunk and plays pool.

--Moonshadow grabs a pool cue.

MOONSHADOW

Goner's on my team.

Golden Termite frowns.

--Moonshadow breaks.

--Quiver tries to hold her arms steady to shoot. Golden Termite tries to help.

QUIVER

I got it.

--Harold shoots. Moonshadow gives him a disapproving look.

--Moonshadow takes a drink.

--Golden Termite shoots.

--Golden Termite takes a drink.

--Quiver shoots.

--Moonshadow watches as Harold Shoots. She rolls her eyes.

--Enny drops off another round. Harold tries to pay.

MOONSHADOW

No, no. I got you tonight.

HAROLD

What, you sure?

MOONSHADOW

Yeah, yeah.

--Golden Termite shoots. He gets mad and acts like he's going to bite his pool cue.

--Quiver takes a drink.

--Golden Termite knocks on the door to the men's bathroom.

GOLDEN TERMITE

Goner, c'mon, man. You're supposed to be fast.

--Moonshadow leans over the bar and tugs down her shirt a bit to show some cleavage.

MOONSHADOW

Enny, how about a free drink?

Enny smirks, but keeps cleaning a glass.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

Enny, look. Enny, come on. You know I got a thing about being ignored.

Enny shakes her head and fetches Moonshadow a beer.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

There she is: Saint Enny.

--Moonshadow shoots.

--Quiver shoots.

--Golden Termite shoots.

--Quiver drinks.

--Harold drinks.

--Moonshadow and Harold play "Red Hands." Harold moves his hands before Moonshadow can slap them.

Moonshadow giggles, and they switch places. Harold slaps her hands. Then again.

--A man sets a stack of quarters on the pool table. Quiver picks them up.

QUIVER

Ooh, thank you.

--Harold shoots.

MOONSHADOW

How are you so bad at this?

--Quiver shoots and knocks the 8-ball in. She and Golden Termite almost share a double high-five.

Moonshadow looks at Harold, smirks, and shakes her head.

END MONTAGE

Harold and Golden Termite sit across from each other in the booth and nurse their drinks.

HAROLD

My powers felt so cool when I got them. Felt like I was destined for great things.

GOLDEN TERMITE

I feel you, man. Being able to chew through a desk, I thought I could be the bite of justice.

They share a chuckle.

GOLDEN TERMITE (CONT'D)

I wanted to be Derby's sidekick. You remember Derby?

HAROLD

I heard of him. I don't think I was even alive the same time he was.

GOLDEN TERMITE

If he got hit by a car, the car would lose. He was so cool.

He takes a drink.

GOLDEN TERMITE (CONT'D)
Yeah, even after he died, I kept
training, fighting; I got my hero
certification. No one cared.

Moonshadow and Quiver exit the bathroom.

GOLDEN TERMITE (CONT'D)
And then one day you find ten years
have got behind you.

HAROLD
No one told you when to run.

GOLDEN TERMITE
Run? Sheesh. Couldn't even get on
the track. It's invite only.

HAROLD
No, I meant-- I thought you were
doing a-- Never mind.

They both look up at a TV over the bar. Apex gives an
interview on a talk show.

The bottom graphic reads: "APEX: 'IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME.'"

GOLDEN TERMITE
We can't all be special, I guess.

Moonshadow and Quiver watch the TV.

QUIVER
Apex.

Quiver's shakes worsen. She blushes.

MOONSHADOW
Mmm. Hurts to see a man that pretty
look that sad. That kid should have
just stayed home.

On the TV, the HOST and Apex gaze past the camera and listen.
Their expressions grow grave. Apex jumps to his feet.

QUIVER
What's going on?

MOONSHADOW
I don't know. Hey, Enny. Can you
turn that up, please?

Enny turns up the TV. Apex says something to Host and walks
off camera. Host collects herself.

HOST

I'm sorry, ladies and gentlemen.
Apex had to cut our time short.
Apparently, the archvillain, Hiss,
has attacked the National Financial
branch on Westbrook.

The studio audience gasps.

HOST (CONT'D)

We all pray for the safety of Apex
and indeed for all the brave men
and women in our city's police as
they lead this fight. We'll be back
after these messages.

The crowd claps, and the camera switches to a wide shot of
the studio and the live audience.

MOONSHADOW

Man. Hope everyone's smart enough
to stay away this time.

Harold relaxes his grip on his beer.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

So, what you mopes talking about?
Aw, man. Were you telling him your
doomer stories?

HAROLD

It's fine.

MOONSHADOW

No, it's not fine. It's hard enough
keeping our spirits up between each
"Thank you for your interest."

A HUSBAND, 30s, a big man, enters the bar and scans around.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

We don't need to dwell on that
crap. We have to keep the faith.
We're superheroes.

HAROLD

Like everyone else.

MOONSHADOW

Not like everyone else. They might
be super, but they're not heroes.

Husband spots WIFE, 30's, dainty in tight jeans and tank top,
slumped over her drink at the bar and walks over to her.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
How often do you see people who
could help instead just standing
around when there's trouble?

Husband shakes Wife and urges her to come with him. Wife
shakes her head. The man pulls on her. Quiver takes notice.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Powers or not, we have the stuff,
the stuff you need to do more than
just record on your phone.

Wife pushes Husband in a drunken stupor. The man grabs her.
Quiver elbows Golden Termite.

QUIVER
You guys.

MOONSHADOW
I mean, haven't you guys always
known you were put on this Earth--

QUIVER
Hey.

MOONSHADOW
I'm giving a speech here, Quiver.

QUIVER
Look.

The group watches as Wife allows Husband to lead her across
the bar, half-conscious.

MOONSHADOW
You gotta be kidding me. Duty
calls, team.

HAROLD
I don't think that's our business.

MOONSHADOW
You want to let that happen?

HAROLD
Let what happen? We don't even know
what that is.

MOONSHADOW
That girl could be in serious
trouble. Are we heroes or not?

Moonshadow jumps up and strides for the exit. The others share a look but follow.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Moonshadow emerges from the bar and finds Husband urging Wife into the passenger seat of a pickup truck parked by the curb.

MOONSHADOW
She doesn't look okay to go home
with anybody, bro.

HUSBAND
Mind your own business.

MOONSHADOW
Oh, this is our business. How about
you let her go?

Husband's eyes glow a fiery orange.

HUSBAND
I said back off.

GOLDEN TERMITE
Holy crap. Are those laser eyes?

MOONSHADOW
They probably just glow.

HAROLD
Maybe we should just call the cops.

MOONSHADOW
And let him leave with her?

HUSBAND
I'm her husband.

Husband closes the door and starts to walk around the truck. Moonshadow steps in his way.

MOONSHADOW
Expect me to believe that? We're
not letting you leave.

HUSBAND
Oh?

Husband pulls his phone and aims the camera at Moonshadow.

HAROLD
Woah. No, you don't need that.

MOONSHADOW

You trying to freaking record me?

Moonshadow tries to grab the phone a couple times.

Harold super-speeds over, but he misses the phone, flies past Husband, and lands in a pile of trash next to the street.

HUSBAND

Bunch of drunk clowns.

He records.

HUSBAND (CONT'D)

You want to say that again for the camera? You won't let me what?

Quiver approaches Husband with her grasping, shaking hands.

QUIVER

You let her go.

Husband recoils against the truck.

HUSBAND

Eugh, what the?

Wife opens the door and steps out. She gets in Quiver's face.

WIFE

How about you back off my husband?

MOONSHADOW

This is your husband?

WIFE

Yeah. What you want?

Wife sways on her feet, and husband catches her.

HUSBAND

Woah, you had too much, baby. Let's get you home--if we can.

Harold rights himself and sits on the sidewalk.

MOONSHADOW

I-I didn't know.

She backs away. Husband helps Wife back into the car, and they leave. Harold walks over to Moonshadow.

HAROLD

What were you thinking?

MOONSHADOW

What? That could have been a rape.

GOLDEN TERMITE

It was her husband.

MOONSHADOW

Husbands can rape.

HAROLD

And were you gonna beat his ass?

MOONSHADOW

If I had to.

HAROLD

And get us all thrown in jail?

MOONSHADOW

It was the right thing to do.

HAROLD

Whatever. I'm going home.

Harold starts to walk away.

GOLDEN TERMITE

There goes another one.

HAROLD

Another what?

MOONSHADOW

It's nothing. Forget it.

HAROLD

Another what? What did you bring me here for?

MOONSHADOW

I was just hoping you would join our team.

HAROLD

Team?

MOONSHADOW

Yeah, we all want the same thing. If we work together, people might actually respect who we are.

HAROLD

Drunk?

MOONSHADOW

Heroes.

HAROLD

Beating up crooks isn't more respectable in a group. The only real superhero is out there fighting a real threat right now.

MOONSHADOW

You mean Apex?

HAROLD

That's what you should be doing. It's what we'd all be doing if we were really serious.

QUIVER

But that's suicide.

HAROLD

Are you heroes or not? Stay here if you want, at the bottom. I won't.

Harold speeds away on foot.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Harold's legs blur, and he startles people as he blows past.

PEDESTRIAN

Jerk!

He blows past a food truck, where a SPEED COP, in a uniform like an in-line skater's, eats a chili dog.

Speed Cop drops the chili dog and runs after Harold. He speaks into a mic behind his face shield.

SPEED COP

Unit 91, 5-11 on Jefferson Avenue, in pursuit.

DISPATCH

5-11 on Jefferson, 10-4.

Red and blue lights flash from Speed Cop's helmet. Harold speeds up even more and gains distance.

SPEED COP

He's fast, really fast. Can't maintain pursuit.

DISPATCH
Stay on him, 91. He can't change
direction at that speed.

Harold slows down.

SPEED COP
Oh, yeah. Got you now.

Harold cuts down an adjoining road. Speed cop follows.

SPEED COP (CONT'D)
Suspect turned west on 34th.

DISPATCH
Copy. Helicopter on route.

EXT. YARD - CONTINUOUS

Harold runs into a storage area for construction tucked under an overpass. Connexes, piles of steel beams, and a bulldozer stand on hard-packed dirt.

Harold loops around and through the yard in an unpredictable pattern with Speed Cop right behind.

The two streak around and kick up dust until Harold makes a tight loop around the bulldozer, cuts behind a connex, and speeds away from the site.

Speed Cop stops and glances around.

SPEED COP
Dispatch, I lost him. I don't know
where he went.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Harold smirks as he runs.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Harold zips through the apartment and into his room.

He opens his closet and gazes upon his homemade super-suit: a tight, black number with yellow lightning bolt motif.

In a whirl of motion, Harold dons the suit. He grabs his old shoes to find the soles melted and tosses them out.

He leaves his room. Dakota blocks the apartment's exit.

DAKOTA
What do you think you're doing?

HAROLD
Hiss attacked a bank.

DAKOTA
I saw. Imagine my surprise when I
heard you blow through.

Dakota nods to the posterboard.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)
Mind getting that for me?

HAROLD
Get it yourself.

DAKOTA
That's a little too far away from
this door. You been drinking?

HAROLD
It'll metabolize fast.

DAKOTA
In time to come to your senses?

HAROLD
Dakota, if you don't move--

DAKOTA
How many times have I stopped you
from doing this, now?

HAROLD
A few times.

DAKOTA
Quite a few times.

HAROLD
And I appreciate--

DAKOTA
You asked me to, like a smoker
trying to quit cold turkey.

Harold deflates.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)
But your dreams aren't a cigarette.
I'm supposed to stop you from doing
anything foolish.

Dakota steps away from the door.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)
So I'm not letting you give up on
your dreams. Go get 'em, tiger.

Harold smiles. Dakota cringes through a hug.

HAROLD
You're the best, Dak. Strange as it
sounds, I'm glad we're both broke,
otherwise I'd never have met you.

DAKOTA
Yeah, well. Don't die, then.

Harold speeds out the door.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)
I still need you to pay your half
of the rent!

EXT. BANK - NIGHT

OFFICER #1 and OFFICER #2 stand among the barricade that
surrounds the old, free-standing, classically-styled bank.

Spotlights reflect off the dark windows.

OFFICER #1
It's been a while. How do we even
know he's still in there?

OFFICER #2
We got the place surrounded. Don't
see how he could have gotten out.

OFFICER #1
But he's slipped past cordons
before. We should just go in there.

OFFICER #2
You go in there, it'll be by
yourself. Hiss is a meat grinder.
We wait for Apex to check it out.
That's what he's paid for.

Harold crouches on the building above and gazes across the
wide boulevard. A rooftop door hangs ajar atop the bank.

Harold runs laps around the perimeter of the roof, builds
speed, and leaps all the way across the street.

He lands of the bank roof and slides through the gravel.

INT. BANK - NIGHT

Harold sneaks down through the bank's maintenance level and descends a railed, iron stair to a hall lined with offices.

The next door opens behind the teller windows.

HISS (O.S.)
Yes, you have made that point
enough times. Can we stop talking
about problems and start talking
about solutions?

Harold peeks over the counter. Hiss paces the lobby in the dark and talks on the phone.

HISS (CONT'D)
Well, I don't think I'm going to
make it out of here with the cash.

A security guard sits gagged and tied to a chair.

HISS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Yeah? How do you think I feel?

Harold spots a fire extinguisher on the wall.

HISS (CONT'D)
Yeah, he's right here.

Harold releases the bands off the fire extinguisher, quiet.

HISS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
He woke up. What do you want from
me? I'm not an anesthesiologist.
Hit the panic button before I saw.

Harold sneaks to the swinging oak half-door at the end of the counter and eases it open.

HISS (CONT'D)
You're going to have to take a hit
this time, like on the leg, maybe.

Harold zips up behind Hiss and clubs the villain over the head. Hiss flops on the floor. The security guard gapes.

A small voice calls over the phone.

VOICE (V.O.)
Hiss? Hiss, are you there?

Dial tone. Harold kicks Hiss and retreats, weapon up.

HAROLD
Well, that was easier than I
thought it was gonna be.

The front doors of the bank open, and Apex rushes in.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Apex. I did it! I knocked him out!

Apex strides over to Hiss.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
It was easier than I thought. Uh,
not that Hiss is easy. I must've
hit him in just the right way.

Apex just eyes Hiss.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
I'm Harold, by the way, but I
suppose you should call me "The
Goner." Or Harold, it's fine.

APEX
Goner? That your superhero name?

HAROLD
Yeah, 'cause I'm there--

Harold zips behind Apex.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Then I'm gone.

APEX
That's cute.

HAROLD
Sir, I'm a powered person, like
yourself, and I'm trying to become
a real superhero, like yourself.

APEX
Uh-huh.

HAROLD
I could do some good out there, and
I'm sure you know that the first
step to getting to your level is
getting noticed, so I was just--

Apex punches Harold in the chest. Harold flies across the lobby, smashes through the teller window, and lands on the other side of the counter. Apex kicks Hiss.

APEX
Wake up, idiot.

He kicks him again.

APEX (CONT'D)
Hiss, up. What, are you dead?

He glances over at the security guard and sighs. The guard trembles as Apex's shadow grows over him.

Apex grabs the guard by the throat and squeezes. The guard whimpers and wriggles in the chair.

APEX (CONT'D)
Sorry. I wanted to save you. This
is a real SNAFU.

A bone cracks, and the guard's eyes lose focus. Hiss stirs.

APEX (CONT'D)
About time, princess.

HISS
Ugh, what happened?

APEX
That's my line. You let some street-
rat punk you with an extinguisher.

Apex helps Hiss stand.

HISS
Where is he?

APEX
I took care of him. What's this
about me taking a hit on the leg?

HISS
Well, you can't keep coming away
from every fight without a scratch.

APEX
I'll just come out and say you were
already gone. You just have to slip
away with the cash.

HISS

The place is surrounded. Don't you think someone's gonna ask why I have a big bag of money on me?

Harold pulls himself up with the counter and holds his ribs.

APEX

I'll create a diversion.

HISS

And what about the dead wannabe?

APEX

I'll throw the guard over there--
Oh, look, still alive.

Harold blinks the blur out of his eyes.

HAROLD

What? What is this?

APEX

Don't worry about it, son.

Apex flies at Harold. Harold dives out of the way, and Apex shreds through the desk.

APEX (CONT'D)

You are quick.

Harold tries to jump through the hole in the counter, but Apex catches him and slams him against the wall.

Harold tries to run for the back door. Hiss emits his high note. Harold stumbles and clutches his ears.

Apex lifts Harold off the floor by his throat. Harold punches and kicks Apex twenty times in a second.

It only annoys Apex. Harold kicks Apex in the balls twenty times. Apex wails and collapses to his knees.

Harold wriggles out of Apex's grip. He opens the back door and sprints at super speed through the offices.

Apex bursts through the wall before Harold and grabs at Him, but Harold dodges him time and time again.

Harold slips past Apex. He runs up the iron maintenance stairs and opens the door at the top.

Apex grabs the staircase and rips it off the wall. Harold dangles from the open door.

Hiss sprints up the hall like a wraith and runs up along the wall toward Harold. Harold lets go of the knob.

Hiss's claws sink into the stone where Harold's head used to be. Harold lands and dodges. Apex's fist craters the wall.

Harold flees up the hall and through the hole Apex made back to the lobby.

Apex crashes through the wall and blocks Harold's path. Harold jukes left and right. Apex's speed nearly matches.

EXT. BANK - CONTINUOUS

Officer #1 and Officer #2 watch and listen as crashes, glass breaking, and metal rending echo from the building.

POLICEMEN #2
You wanted to go in there.

INT. BANK - CONTINUOUS

Tables, chairs, desks, walls, and the teller counter lie in ruins. Harold sprints up a wall, and Apex flies at him.

He misses and crashes into the wall, which buckles, and Harold falls. A crack webs up through the ceiling.

Apex lands on Harold, and Harold dodges another crushing blow aimed at his head. A chunk of the roof breaks free.

The stone slab breaks over Apex's back. Harold shoves Apex off and nearly runs right into Hiss's swiping claws.

Harold veers back into the offices, runs up the wall, and dives into the open door.

Hiss runs up the wall after him. Harold slams the door shut, and an impact rattles it.

Harold runs to the open rooftop door. Apex's hand punches through the floor and catches Harold's foot. Harold trips.

He screams and wriggles his foot out of his heavy-duty shoes, runs out onto the roof, and leaps across the street.

The policemen watch Harold's dark figure fly overhead.

Harold crashes on the opposite roof. Apex emerges onto the bank roof, and they lock eyes. Harold runs.

Apex snarls and disappears back into the bank.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

A blur streaks through the streets. He dodges between cars and people. He slows for turns and bolts away again.

The blur blows past a group at a bus stop and trips a guy. When the guy rights himself, he discovers a shoe missing.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dakota plays a video game with his headset on.

DAKOTA

Dude, shut up. You don't have the skills to back up that trash.

Harold enters, shuts the door, slumps against it, and slides to the floor. He wears the man's stolen shoe.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

Yeah, right. Like you've ever even stood near a girl.

Harold screams long and loud. Dakota jumps so hard that his headset pops off. He mutes the microphone.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

Dude, what're you screaming for?

HAROLD

They're bad. They're both bad.

DAKOTA

What?

HAROLD

Apex and Hiss. They work together.

DAKOTA

Dude, what are you talking about?

HAROLD

I have to get out of the city. I have to get out of the country. I have to get off the planet.

Harold hurries to his room. Dakota follows.

DAKOTA

What happened out there? Did you chicken out?

Harold packs his luggage.

HAROLD

Oh, I did it, Dak. I snuck up on Hiss. Apex showed up and saved him.

DAKOTA

Saved who?

Harold grabs Dakota by the shoulders.

HAROLD

Hiss! He saved Hiss. Then they both tried to kill me!

Harold stuffs more clothes in his bag.

DAKOTA

It sounds like you're saying Apex protected his enemy.

HAROLD

They're not enemies. I think Hiss was supposed to get away, but I messed it up for them.

Harold strips off his super suit.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

They had to silence me, cover it up, but I got away.

DAKOTA

Are you telling me that Apex is secretly a supervillain?

Harold stands in his undies with his suit around his ankles.

HAROLD

Have you been listening to me?

DAKOTA

Yeah, it's like, "Crap, dude!"

HAROLD

Yeah, no kidding, "Crap, dude!"

Harold pulls on a pair of jeans.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

I have to get out of here.

DAKOTA

Why? Do they know who you are?

Harold freezes.

DAKOTA (CONT'D)

Dude?

HAROLD

I might have told him my superhero handle and my real first name.

Dakota grabs Harold's shoulders.

DAKOTA

Dude, are you nuts?

HAROLD

I'm sorry.

DAKOTA

You told him your freaking name?

HAROLD

I didn't know he was a bad guy!

DAKOTA

Apex has Iron Solutions resources. Even the cops would help him. He'll totally freaking find you, dude.

HAROLD

That's why I've gotta go.

Knock at their door. Dakota screams. Harold slaps his hand over Dakota's mouth.

DAKOTA

Is that them?

HAROLD

I don't think they'd knock.

Dakota whimpers. Harold walks to the living room and peers through the peephole. A PIZZA BOY, teens, stands outside.

Harold opens the door a crack and peeks out.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

What do you want?

PIZZA BOY

Um, you guys waiting on a pizza?

HAROLD

No. Does it have my name on it?

PIZZA BOY
I don't know. This isn't 1423 Sunny
Dale Road, apartment 8?

HAROLD
No, this is 1421. You need the
place next to us.

PIZZA BOY
Oh, thanks. Sorry about that.

HAROLD
No problem.

Harold watches until the boy leaves the hall before he closes
the door. Dakota stuffs clothes into his own suitcase.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

DAKOTA
I'm not waiting here for Hiss to
decide he doesn't like anyone near
you breathing.

HAROLD
Hiss wasn't even that strong. I
knocked him out in one hit.

Dakota lights up.

DAKOTA
Wait, wait, wait. If they don't
even fight, that means Apex isn't
as tough as they say. Right?

HAROLD
I saw a piece of a building fall on
him today. It must have been two
tons of stone.

Dakota's eyes widen as Harold talks.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
It broke on his back. Only reason I
escaped, really.

Dakota resumes packing.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
That was after he punched a dent in
the support beams and ripped a set
of stairs out of the wall like a--

DAKOTA
I think I get it, man.

Harold grabs the posterboard from the kitchenette.

HAROLD
Magic Man, Flying Squirrel, Senora.

DAKOTA
Huh?

HAROLD
The Elder, Red Letter, Golden Hope,
Lunk, Farstrider, Mr. Shovel, Girl
Boss--so many names.

Dakota pauses in his packing.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Hiss isn't that strong.

DAKOTA
Oh my god, dude.

HAROLD
Apex killed them. For a lie. For
clout. For money.

Harold's hands tighten on the poster board.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
They just wanted to help.

Harold drops the poster.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
I'll see you later, Dakota.

He dons a fresh pair of shoes in his room.

DAKOTA
What are you thinking?

HAROLD
You get to safety, Dak. I'll make
sure Apex doesn't get away with it.

DAKOTA
You're gonna go after him?

HAROLD
Someone has to.

DAKOTA
How? What are you gonna do?

HAROLD
What I have to.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

HAROLD
I need police protection.

Harold stands in the lobby and addresses the DESK SERGEANT, female, 30's, that stands behind the counter.

Powered officers escort detainees to and fro.

DESK SERGEANT
Uh, okay. Do you feel like you're in some kind of danger?

HAROLD
Yes. You're not gonna believe this, but I think Apex wants to kill me.

DESK SERGEANT
Apex.

HAROLD
Yes, because of what I know. I need to file a report.

Desk Sergeant looks at something on her desk and tenses.

DESK SERGEANT
What did you say your name was?

HAROLD
Harold. Harold Stanz.

Desk Sergeant fights to keep her face passive.

DESK SERGEANT
Any aliases?

HAROLD
No. No official ones.

DESK SERGEANT
Unofficial is fine. Have you ever been called "The Goner?"

HAROLD
Um. No. No, that's not me.

Desk Sergeant takes a single stiff step away from the desk.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Is everything okay?

Desk Sergeant draws her gun and aims at Harold.

DESK SERGEANT
Put your hands up and don't move.

Harold raises his hands.

HAROLD
Woah, what--

DESK SERGEANT
Don't talk! I'll blow you away!

Another officer, OFFICER #3, puts his hand on his gun.

OFFICER #3
What's going on?

DESK SERGEANT
It's the guy from the BOLO. Don't let him talk. He can control minds.

HAROLD
I can't control--

DESK SERGEANT
Don't talk!

More officers surround Harold. OFFICER #4, with stone plates for skin, stands between Harold and the exit.

DESK SERGEANT (CONT'D)
Call the chief, call Apex, and get a gag on him.

HAROLD
Please--

Desk Sergeant's finger tightens in slow motion. Harold moves before she pulls the trigger.

The bullet bounces off Officer #4's skin.

OFFICER #4
Hey.

DESK SERGEANT
Sorry. Don't move and don't talk!

Officer #3 approaches Harold with handcuffs.

OFFICER #3
Do as she says, son.

Officer #3 pulls one of Harold's arms down to cuff it.

OFFICER #3 (CONT'D)
There you go, nice and easy.

Just before the cuffs snap on, Harold becomes a blur. The cop finds himself handcuffed to another cop.

Everyone moves at once. One cop after another grabs at Harold but find themselves cuffed together.

Harold tangles pairs of cuffed arms until the other officers stand in a circle with their arms overlapping.

Speedster Cop enters. Time slows to a fourth the speed. Speedster Cop grabs Harold's wrists. Harold shoves him.

Harold dives under the crossed arms of the tangled cops, grabs a can of pepper spray off an officer's belt, and sprays mace at Speedster Cop.

The spray leaves the can at a fourth of normal speed. Speedster cop waves it away.

HAROLD
Crap.

Speedster Cop pulls Harold from under the cops by his leg. Harold kicks him off and stands.

Speedster Cop shoves Harold back against Officer #3.

All the police squint while the speedsters zip around in a blur of motion too fast to comprehend.

Speedster Cop swings a right and left at Harold, who dodges both, and the punches hit either side of Officer #3's face.

Harold yanks Speedster Cop's pants down and flees the room.

Time resumes normal speed. Speedster Cop falls over. Officer number three rubs his jaw.

OFFICER #3
Oof. Ow. What happened?

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Harold speeds down the street and slows to a walk. His shoes smoke. A police car passes, and he hides his face.

EXT. ENNY'S BAR - NIGHT

Harold schleps down the street toward the blinking neon sign for the bar. The Front door sticks when he tries it.

He sighs, lumbers to the alley, and sits. He pulls his jacket tighter around himself and closes his eyes.

EXT. ENNY'S BAR - DAY

The sun rises in a clear sky. A shadow looms over Harold as he dozes at the mouth of the alley.

Harold wakes and squints at a haloed silhouette.

HAROLD
Are you an angel?

Enny moves her head to block the sun.

ENNY
A saint.

INT. ENNY'S BAR - DAY

Moonshadow enters with a camera bag slung over her shoulder. Harold sulks in their booth, the sole patron, with an untouched milkshake. Enny cuts lemons behind the bar.

MOONSHADOW
Well, didn't hear about Hiss
getting locked up. Chicken out?
What's with the milkshake?

HAROLD
She said I looked sad. Are the
others coming?

MOONSHADOW
They have jobs, dude. You're lucky
I'm my own boss. What do you want?

HAROLD
I need help. Apex is a villain.

Moonshadow smiles.

MOONSHADOW

What?

HAROLD

I did go to help Apex. I beat Hiss, but then Apex tried to kill me.

MOONSHADOW

For what?

HAROLD

To protect their secret. They aren't enemies; they work together.

MOONSHADOW

Goner, Apex has foiled Hiss time and time again.

HAROLD

Exactly. You should have heard them talking. They plan their feuds like sitcom television.

MOONSHADOW

But every time someone tries to help Apex--

Moonshadow covers her mouth.

HAROLD

Tried to go to the police. Apex convinced them I was a supervillain who could control minds.

MOONSHADOW

Are you?

HAROLD

Do you even believe my story?

MOONSHADOW

Not really.

HAROLD

Must not be very good at controlling minds, then.

MOONSHADOW

Alright, I'll give you that.

HAROLD

All I want to do is clear my name and stop Apex.

MOONSHADOW

I'm in.

HAROLD

You are?

MOONSHADOW

Yeah. Don't have to believe you.
Apex could be a villain? The most
terrifying villain ever seen?

Moonshadow swallows hard.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

Then you need a superhero. You've
got one. What can I do?

HAROLD

I need evidence.

MOONSHADOW

So, you need me to sneak in and get
the shot when Hiss crimes again.

HAROLD

He probably won't while I'm still
alive. I have to draw Apex out.

MOONSHADOW

How?

HAROLD

If he's looking for me, he'll be at
my apartment eventually. That's
when you get him.

MOONSHADOW

It sounds like your plan is to get
killed on camera.

HAROLD

At least I'll be his last victim.

MOONSHADOW

That plan sucks.

HAROLD

I don't have anything else. I'm on
my own here.

Moonshadow puts a hand on Harold's

MOONSHADOW

Not anymore. Let's go.

EXT. HAROLD'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Harold and Moonshadow gape up at the building.

MOONSHADOW

Holy crap.

Where Harold's corner apartment used to be smokes a crater blasted out of the side of the building.

HAROLD

That's my apartment.

MOONSHADOW

Holy crap.

HAROLD

Dakota.

Harold fishes his phone out.

MOONSHADOW

Dakota?

HAROLD

My roommate.

MOONSHADOW

Was he in there?

HAROLD

I don't know.

Harold puts the phone to his ear. The phone rings.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Come on. Come on.

AUTOMATED VOICE (V.O.)

You call is being answered by an automated voice messaging system--

HAROLD

Damn.

MOONSHADOW

What happened?

HAROLD

I don't know. He rejected the call.

MOONSHADOW

Maybe he's alright, then.

Harold's phone chimes. He finds a text.

CHYRON of Dakota's text: "Finally find the apartment?"

CHYRON of Harold's text: "Yeah u ok?"

CHYRON of Dakota's text: "Dakota's fine"

CHYRON of Dakota's text: "For now"

CHYRON of Dakota's text: "The bark. Tonight."

CHYRON of Dakota's text: "*bank"

CHYRON of Dakota's text: "Or he won't be fin for long."

CHYRON of Dakota's text: "*fun"

CHYRON of Dakota's text: "Duck"

CHYRON of Dakota's text: "Just b there."

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

We need a plan B. Goner, you okay?

Harold hands Moonshadow the phone. She reads.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

Holy crap.

Moonshadow doubles over.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

Holy crap. Holy crap.

HAROLD

Are you okay?

MOONSHADOW

Ohh, I don't know.

Harold pats her on the back.

HAROLD

It's okay. Things are different now. You should go home.

MOONSHADOW

What? No. What are you gonna do?

HAROLD

Whatever I can.

MOONSHADOW

Alone? We should call the cops.
They'll believe me.

HAROLD

Apex could kill Dakota and be gone
before the cops have a clue.

Harold walks away. Moonshadow follows.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

He wants me. He'll get me. If I
belong in the big leagues, it's
time to prove it.

MOONSHADOW

We should at least bring in Quiver
and Golden Termite.

HAROLD

It's too dangerous.

MOONSHADOW

Oh, but not for you?

Harold wheels on Moonshadow.

HAROLD

Look at you. You're shaking. The
other two: they're the same.

MOONSHADOW

They just need a chance.

HAROLD

I need your help because you can
hide and record. If that's not
enough for you, you can stay home.

Harold walks away.

MOONSHADOW

You're not better than us. You're
not special.

Harold keeps walking.

EXT. BANK - NIGHT

Harold wears his normal clothes as he steps under the
streetlight on the dark boulevard next to the bank.

He scans the rooftops as he walks to the open front door of the bank. The police tape hangs loose.

Moonshadow emerges from the dark with her camera and follows.

INT. BANK - NIGHT

Harold creeps through the dark lobby. A light shines from the open vault at the back.

HAROLD

Dak?

Harold walks to the safe.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Dak?

Struggles and grunting sound from inside. Harold rushes over.

Dakota sits tied to a chair faced away. He tries to cry out around the rag in his mouth. Bruises cover his face.

Harold almost steps inside, but he stops. He eyes the vault and its only exit and scans up and down the hall.

Moonshadow presses herself against the opposite wall and records. Harold steps into the vault and removes the gag.

HAROLD (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

DAKOTA

Hell no!

HAROLD

Where did Apex go?

Dakota shakes his head.

DAKOTA

It was hiss.

Harold starts to untie Dakota.

HAROLD

Should've known Apex wouldn't risk revealing himself.

A shadow passes over Moonshadow, and her eyes widen. She almost calls out but chokes it off.

Harold turns to find Hiss in the vault doorway.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Apex should have come himself.

Hiss tilts his head.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
You didn't do so well last time.

Moonshadow pulls out her cellphone and texts: "NOW."

Harold zips over and punches Hiss a dozen times in a second.
He recoils and shakes his hands.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
What the--

Hiss strikes Harold in the chest. Harold flies into Dakota.
The legs on the chair break, and they fall in a heap.

Hiss pulls the vault door closed.

MOONSHADOW
No, no.

Moonshadow shakes as she puts her camera away. She tries to
pull the door open and presses a few buttons on the code pad.

It beeps rejection. Moonshadow whimpers.

Hiss stalks forward. Harold stands and punches him. Hiss
catches Harold by the throat and slams him against lockboxes.

HAROLD
You're. Not. Hiss.

Apex's baby blues stare out from the hooded cowl. He digs
into Harold's pocket and pulls out Harold's cellphone.

The timer on a voice recorder ticks away. Apex crushes the
phone like a cracker.

Dakota wriggles against his loosened bonds on the floor.

Harold kicks Apex in the nuts again. His feet hit a metal
plate. Apex's eyes show the smile behind the mask.

Dakota wriggles free and attacks Apex with ineffectual tugs
and kicks. Apex never takes his eyes off Harold.

Dakota gives Apex a wet willy. Apex recoils, drops Harold,
and backhands Dakota to the floor.

Harold grabs Apex's foot and yanks him off his feet.

Someone bangs on the vault door. Harold runs for the interior release and dodges as Apex punches a small dent in the door.

Apex swings punch after punch at Harold. Harold dodges away from the vault door and keeps his distance.

He bumps against the back wall. Apex's punches crush lockboxes. Coins, jewels, and other knick-knacks spill out.

Apex grabs Harold by the throat and punches him in the ribs. Harold cries and sputters.

APEX

Strong bones, street rat. No wonder
you didn't die from my first punch.

Apex slides his other hand around Harold's neck.

APEX (CONT'D)

If you had only known your place--

An alarm sounds. Dakota, face bruised and blood dribbling from his lips, holds the release lever.

Apex throws Harold across the vault at him. They slap into the door and fall.

Apex and Harold rush toward each other. Harold dives at Apex's legs and trips him.

Apex stands. Harold writhes and rubs his shoulder.

The vault door opens. Outside, Golden Termite shines in a crafted, golden, XL, vaguely insect-inspired super suit.

Apex raises his foot to crush Harold. Golden Termite rushes in, dives face-first, and opens his mouth wide.

He clamps his teeth on Apex's left butt-cheek. Apex wails.

GOLDEN TERMITE

Feel the bite of justice!

Apex waddles through the vault with Golden Termite latched on like a cartoon alligator.

Quiver appears outside the vault in a slim black and purple super-suit. Moonshadow records.

Apex snaps Golden Termite's helmet in half with a strike to the side of the head. Golden Termite flops to the floor.

Quiver rushes in and quivers at Apex with grasping hands. Apex recoils in horror.

APEX

Eugh. What the heck is with you?

Apex slumps against the wall. He grasps a knick-knack off the floor and whips it at Quiver. It breaks on her mask.

Harold runs in and dropkicks Apex against the wall. He tries to pull off Apex's mask. Apex blocks him and shoves him back.

Harold slides across the room on his butt. Quiver wipes the blood off a cut. Golden Termite lies on the floor.

Harold forces a mocking smile.

HAROLD

Too slow again, Apex.

Harold flees the vault. Apex launches after him. He turns just in time. Apex pulverizes the wall next to Moonshadow.

Apex digs himself from the wall. A fist-sized bit of rubble hits him on the side of the head.

Harold waits in the lobby with another. Apex stalks toward him. Harold throws the rock. Apex catches it and crushes it.

APEX

Punching above your weight, kid.

HAROLD

Sorry, fresh out of witty retorts.

Apex punches. Harold dodges and kicks Apex's ankle. He dodges another grasp and slaps Apex across the face.

Apex roars and slams his fists on the marble floor. The earth shakes, and Harold falls over. Rubble falls from the ceiling.

Apex chambers a punch. Golden Termite bites his arm, and he wails. Harold holds his other arm.

Apex grabs Harold and hits Golden Termite with him. Quiver lunges at Apex.

QUIVER

Back off! Rah! Rah!

Apex backs off. He steps on a palm-sized rock and kicks it into Quiver's stomach. Quiver doubles over and retches.

Moonshadow covers her mouth to stifle cries while she films.

Apex grabs another rock and winds up to throw it at Quiver. Harold dives in the way.

The force of impact spins Harold before he hits the floor. Apex walks over and steps a foot on Harold's throat.

A police car pulls up outside with lights flashing. OFFICER #5 and OFFICER #7 exit their vehicle and run into the bank.

One aims a gun at Apex while the other charges electricity between his fingers.

OFFICER #5
Freeze, Hiss! Get off him, now!

Apex looks at the exit, at the cops, and then at Harold. He steps off Harold. Dakota pokes his head out of the vault.

A normal car pulls up outside. CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD, 40's, a police captain in three-piece suit, steps out.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Stand down.

OFFICER #5
Sir?

OFFICER #7
Sir, it's Hiss.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Not quite. I think its time to reveal yourself. Go on.

Apex pulls off the hood. The officers gape.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
Apex here was on a mission of utmost secrecy. He posed as Hiss to lure out that man there.

Captain Underwood points to Harold.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
He can control minds. Gag him before he says anything.

Moonshadow almost speaks up, but she hesitates.

QUIVER
He can't control minds. He just came here to save his friend.

Dakota limps over.

DAKOTA

It's true. He took me hostage. They were just trying to save me.

OFFICER #5

Captain, what is this?

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

Looks like they're already under his control--or they're lying.

QUIVER

That's not true!

APEX

They could be dangerous, officers.

DAKOTA

Apex is lying. He came here to kill us, and he works with--

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

Alright, alright. We will get this sorted out at the police station. For everyone's safety, I think it's best if you come with us.

Quiver backs away. Her eyes dart like a wild animal's

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)

I'm sure Apex doesn't have a problem with it, do you?

APEX

No. No, not at all.

OFFICER #5

Ma'am, it's for the best.

Quiver shakes her head.

OFFICER #5 (CONT'D)

Ma'am.

Quiver bolts. OFFICER #5 chases and catches up to her but recoils from touching her.

OFFICER #5 (CONT'D)

I- eugh. Ma'am, stop.

Quiver scurries back and forth, and Officer #5 chases.

OFFICER #5 (CONT'D)

Ma'am, please.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
What's going on? What's with her?

APEX
I wish I knew. You try to touch
her, but it's-- eugh.

Quiver runs out the back.

QUIVER
No! Noooooo!

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Call for backup and EMT. Let's get
who we can.

EXT. BANK - NIGHT

An ambulance and a few police cars gather. An EMT prods at Golden Termite under the watch of Officer #7.

OFFICER #7
He gonna make it?

EMT
He has some pretty bad bruises, but
I think he can ride with you.

OFFICER #7
That's what you get for picking a
fight with the Apex.

EMT
Helmet probably saved his life.

GOLDEN TERMITE
I'm gonna bill the city for that.

EMT
Other one's fine. He has speedster
bones, and he heals fast.

Harold sits in a cop car, head rested against the window.

OFFICER #7
Sounds good. Time to hit the road.

Moonshadow zooms her camera on Apex and Captain Underwood.
They sit in Captain Underwood's Car and appear to argue.

Officer #5 moseys over and knocks on the window. They
exchange words, and Officer #5 goes back to his car.

The whole convoy departs.

MOONSHADOW
Enough sightseeing. Back to work.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Moonshadow unlocks her car and opens the door.

QUIVER (O.S.)
Hey!

Moonshadow glances around.

QUIVER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hey!

Moonshadow looks under the car and finds Quiver.

MOONSHADOW
Quiver? I was wondering how you got
away. How'd you fit under there?

QUIVER
I'm actually super stuck.

Moonshadow grits her teeth and averts her eyes as she grabs
Quiver's outstretched hands and drags her out.

MOONSHADOW
We got a mission. Goner and Termite
are busted.

QUIVER
Why didn't you say anything? Why
didn't you show the video?

MOONSHADOW
It wasn't the right time.

QUIVER
What better time was there?

MOONSHADOW
There's no telling what Apex will
do if his cover's blown.

QUIVER
We had cops.

MOONSHADOW
A few, Quiver, but now he's going
to a police station.

Realization dawns on Quiver's face.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Right? Plus, that cop was dirty.

QUIVER
What do you mean?

MOONSHADOW
He covered for Apex. You know what that means?

QUIVER
He's protecting him. He knows.

MOONSHADOW
And who else? Iron Solutions? The Mayor? Whole thing stinks.

QUIVER
Then we go to the FBI.

MOONSHADOW
That comes second. If they transfer Goner and Termite to Iron Solutions custody, they won't come back.

QUIVER
So what do we do?

MOONSHADOW
I'm done sitting back and recording, that's for sure. I have a plan. Well, more like a gamble.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Harold sits at a plain table, bruised and despondent. An improvised cloth gag fills his mouth. A clock ticks away.

Officer #3 watches him from behind the glass.

Apex enters the observation room with an apple and a cup in hand. Officer #3 sits a little straighter.

OFFICER #3
Sir.

APEX
Hey, pal. How's it going in here?

OFFICER #3

Fine. He's just been sitting. He doesn't look too good.

APEX

Well, what can I say? You cross the law, you pay the price.

OFFICER #3

Can I just say: it's real honor meeting you in person.

APEX

Hey, honor's mine. We're both just doing our jobs.

Officer #3 smiles, but the smile runs away.

APEX (CONT'D)

Something wrong, Officer?

OFFICER #3

Well, I feel a little weird about holding a guy we don't let talk.

APEX

It's for the best. He's already brainwashed at least three people that we know of.

OFFICER #3

That feels a lot like denying him rights because of what he is.

Apex claps Officer #3 on the shoulder.

APEX

I appreciate that concern. You're a credit to the force. Try not to worry about it. He's a criminal.

Officer #3's face sours.

APEX (CONT'D)

I'm actually here to take him off your hands for a bit. I could sneak in a few questions.

OFFICER #3

But he could control you.

APEX

Oh, no. I'm immune. Good thing, huh? Can you imagine if he got me?

OFFICER #3

I can't really leave you alone with him until we transfer custody.

APEX

Oh, that's only a matter of time. No one'll care.

OFFICER #3

I can't put my job at risk, sir.

APEX

Okay. I hear you. Maybe I could just sit with him. Let him sweat. Might make the job easier, later.

Officer #3 nods. Apex enters the interrogation room, sets his apple and cup on the table, sits down, and sighs.

He and Harold eye each other. He looks up at the clock.

APEX (CONT'D)

Man, that's thing's annoying, huh?

He picks up the apple and kneads it in his hands.

APEX (CONT'D)

Dang. I forgot a knife.

He peels a thin red strip off the apple with his nail.

APEX (CONT'D)

Time never moves the speed you want it to. You can't wait, it crawls. You dread what's coming...

He juices the apple into the cup with his bare hand.

APEX (CONT'D)

...and it just won't stop.

Apex sets the pulp down and grabs the cup.

APEX (CONT'D)

Sorry. Should have brought two. You didn't want one, did you?

He takes a drink. A smile touches his lips.

APEX (CONT'D)

Tick tock. Tick tock. So annoying.

INT. POLICE STATION - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Captain Underwood sits at his desk and talks on the phone.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
I do know what time it is, but I
got a maniac I want off my hands.

Beat.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
Well, I don't care to chance it. I
would rather it was Iron's problem.

Beat.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
Exactly, sir. Better for everybody.

Desk Sergeant steps to the doorway and knocks. Captain Underwood holds up a finger.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
That's fine, sir. I appreciate you
doing it on such short notice. You
have my thanks. Mhmm. Buh-bye.

He hangs up.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
What is it?

DESK SERGEANT
I got a caller, says she has video
of a crime she'll only show you.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
And? Crank call. Tell them to go
through the usual channels.

DESK SERGEANT
She says it's about the bust at the
bank. She named everyone involved
and knew other unreleased details.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
The escapee?

Desk Sergeant shrugs.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
She still on the line?

DESK SERGEANT
Line two, sir.

Captain Underwood waves Desk Sergeant out, and Desk Sergeant closes the door behind her. Underwood answers the phone.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
This is Underwood.

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
Hello, Captain Underwood. Nice to make your acquaintance.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Pleasure's mine. What's your name?

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
Call me Moonshadow.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
If we're going to talk, I'd prefer to have more than an alias.

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
You could always hang up.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
You say you have a video of something at a bank tonight?

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
Is this line private?

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Yes.

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
It's video of Apex using a hostage to lure a hero to the bank and attempt to murder him.

Captain Underwood clears his throat and loosens his tie.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
That's quite the claim, ma'am. Will I get to verify this?

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
I hoped you would--also the part where you show up and lie for him.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
I don't know what you're saying.

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
Of course not, but maybe you'll
want to take a look just the same.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Just me?

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
You can bring friends if you want.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
No, I wouldn't want to spook you.

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
I've been reading up on you. Your
precinct has a closer relationship
to Iron solutions than any other.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
So?

MOONSHADOW
Your doing. And that relationship
resulted in lower crime.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
What's your point?

MOONSHADOW
That you now have your job, a big
house, fancy car.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
I think I get you.

MOONSHADOW
Carter park. Wait in your car.

The line goes dead. Captain Underwood looks at his email
inbox. He hits a key, checks his gun, and heads out.

EXT. CARTER PARK - NIGHT

Captain Underwood pulls his car into a parking lot next to a
municipal park with a children's jungle gym and other
amusements silent in the dark.

Underwood squints through the mist. The passenger door opens,
and Moonshadow hops in wearing a paintballer's facemask.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Moonshadow?

MOONSHADOW
You'd better hope so.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
What do you want?

MOONSHADOW
That's what we're here to discuss.
Maybe I want a million dollars.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
This isn't a joke.

MOONSHADOW
Is your life not worth that much?

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Maybe you should start by proving
to me that you have anything.

MOONSHADOW
Whatever.

Moonshadow pulls out her camera and plays the video.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
There's the hostage, all beat up.
There's Goner. There's Hiss.

She advances the video.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
It gets a little ugly after that.
Here's the important part. I got
the time stamp memorized.

She skips to the end.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
That's you.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
You were there? I didn't--

MOONSHADOW
See me. Yeah. Scary world, huh? I
mean, people believe that nonsense
about mind control.

Captain Underwood conceals his left hand.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
How long do you think that story's
going to hold up when Goner's
roommate doesn't change his tune?

Sharp secondary claws extend from under Underwood's nails.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
I'm probably barking up the wrong
tree. Walls are closing in on you.

She turns the camera off and slides it in her bag.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
In fact, if I were you, I'd be
trying to cover my own ass. Bet
lots of powerful people--

Captain Underwood strikes and grabs Moonshadow's wrist.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Who do you think you're
threatening, missy?

Moonshadow's eyes widen at Underwood's claws. Underwood
raises his other clawed hand.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
You think I spent a decade building
my legacy just to fold with a bit
of blackmail? You bottom feeders
need to learn your place.

Moonshadow sticks Underwood with a taser and shocks them
both. Underwood releases her. She tases him again.

Underwood catches her wrist. Moonshadow screams as the claws
dig in. They struggle. The whole car shakes.

Moonshadow shifts in her seat and kicks and stomps to keep
Underwood's attacks at bay.

A baseball bat shatters the driver's-side window. Quiver
reaches in with another taser and tases Captain Underwood.

Moonshadow wriggles free and opens the door behind her. She
hangs half out of the car. Captain Underwood slashes at
Quiver, but the hero jumps back.

Underwood unfastens his seatbelt, leaps on Moonshadow, and
tries to maul her. Moonshadow fends him off.

Quiver opens the driver door and tries to pull Underwood out
by his feet. He sinks his claws into Moonshadow's arms.

Quiver rams her taser right into Underwood's taint.
Underwood's scream descends into Hiss's sonic attack.

Moonshadow and Quiver clutch at splitting headaches.

Moonshadow pops Underwood in the nose and shuts him up. She
kicks and scrambles and runs from the car.

Captain Underwood leaps from the car with inhuman agility and
catches Moonshadow from behind.

Moonshadow screams as claws dig into her spleen, and she
blocks the other hand from her throat.

Underwood twists his claws into Moonshadow's back.

Underwood turns toward approaching footsteps just in time to
catch a baseball bat in his face.

Underwood collapses. Moonshadow nurses the claw marks.

QUIVER

Let me see. Let me see.

MOONSHADOW

Are you gonna touch me?

QUIVER

Close your eyes. You'll be fine.

Quiver lifts Moonshadow's shirt and jacket and finds nasty
gouges. She covers her mouth.

QUIVER (CONT'D)

Eugh, that's--wow. We should get
you to a hospital.

MOONSHADOW

You see any bright, flowing blood?

QUIVER

No, but--

MOONSHADOW

Then I'm fine.

Moonshadow pulls her shirt down.

MONSHADOW

He dead? How hard you hit him?

QUIVER

As hard as I possibly could. That
sound he made. Just like--

MOONSHADOW

Hiss. The claws, the speed.
Evidence is pretty conclusive.

Moonshadow checks Underwood's pulse. The man flinches in his sleep, and both women jump.

Moonshadow digs in his pockets and tosses his keys to Quiver.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

Search the car.

Quiver hops to it. Moonshadow grabs Underwood to drag him.

LATER

Underwood's eyes slide open and try to focus on a blurry Moonshadow squatted on the pavement.

His own cuffs restrain his hands behind his back.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

Where am I?

MOONSHADOW

Still at the park.

Underwood tries to stand. Quiver presses the business end of the baseball bat against his head.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

You shouldn't move. The new concussion on top of the one Goner gave you is a deadly cocktail.

Moonshadow holds up Hiss's mask.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

Phonebooths aren't a thing anymore.
Where do you change?

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

Who are you? What do you want?

MOONSHADOW

I want to know the deal between you and Apex. Iron Solutions in on it, too? The police?

Underwood ignores her.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

You're going down, Hiss. Nothing can stop that. Your best chance is to turn state's evidence.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

The world change while I was out? You can't touch me. That mask is a plant. The video's taken out of context. Go ahead, "take me down." I'll try not to suffer too much when they punish me with retirement and full benefits.

QUIVER

We'll see if you're still tough on the way to your cell.

MOONSHADOW

No, he's right. Our investigation's not over. I bet someone like you's been holding plenty of evidence in case you need to make a deal.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

Not with you.

MOONSHADOW

Yes, with me. Show us where it is.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

You're so far out of your depth.

MOONSHADOW

I was hoping it wouldn't come to this. Do it, Quiver.

Moonshadow walks away.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

What are you gonna do, break my legs? That'd look real great in...

Quiver leans the bat against the car.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)

...court.

Quiver reaches for Captain Underwood. Underwood recoils, even slides to the ground.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)

Eugh, what is she doing? What is that? Stop! Stop!

MOONSHADOW

Ready to deal now?

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

Think that's all it's gonna take?
You better bring the bat back.

MOONSHADOW

Okay. Hey, Quiver. Ever stick your
fingers in someone's mouth before?

QUIVER

No. No one will let me.

MOONSHADOW

Well, today's your lucky day.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

No. No, no.

Quiver reaches for Underwood.

QUIVER

Sounds good to me.

Captain Underwood flattens against the pavement and cringes
his eyes shut as Quiver creeps closer. Her fingers dance.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

Ohh. Ugh. No! No no no! Oh, God.
Okay! Alright!

Quiver stops.

MOONSHADOW

Spill!

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

I have evidence.

MOONSHADOW

Where?

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD

At my house. Videos, emails, bank
statements: they were my leverage.

MOONSHADOW

Then we're going on a trip.

Moonshadow loads Underwood in the back of the car.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Officer #3 drowzes in the observation room. Apex and Harold still sit on the other side of the window.

The door opens, and Officer #3 sits up. Officer #4 enters.

OFFICER #4

Hey, man.

OFFICER #3

Hey. What's going on?

OFFICER #4

Just thought I'd check in. Heard the man's hanging out in here.

OFFICER #3

Yeah, he and this dude have just been staring at each other. I think Apex whispers to him sometimes.

OFFICER #4

Whispers?

OFFICER #3

You know, now that I've been sitting around him awhile, he's kind of creepy.

OFFICER #4

How? Like in what way?

OFFICER #3

Like a Patrick Bateman kind of way.

OFFICER #4

Those other two we have, they haven't changed their story.

OFFICER #3

You know what's going on with them?

OFFICER #4

Only what I hear. You'd think mind control would wear off sometime.

OFFICER #3

We don't know that. It could never wear off.

OFFICER #4

Yeah, but their stories don't vary between tellings, and they match.

OFFICER #3
Someone's interrogating them?
Thought the captain delayed that.

OFFICER #4
Yeah, but they just shout it at
anyone who will listen.

The door from the interrogation room opens.

APEX
Hey, fellas.

OFFICER #3
Hi.

OFFICER #4
Hello, sir.

APEX
I interrupting something?

OFFICER #3
Nah, just jawing.

APEX
Cool. Hey, Captain Underwood come
back with that paperwork yet?

OFFICER #4
No, sir. He left somewhere.

APEX
Left somewhere? Where?

OFFICER #4
He got called away.

OFFICER #3
Government. I bet things get done
fast at Iron, huh?

Apex makes to leave.

OFFICER #3 (CONT'D)
Sir, are you leaving?

APEX
Why, am I under arrest?

OFFICER #3
No, sir. But we have to take every
accusation seriously.

Apex forces a smile.

APEX

I understand. I won't go anywhere.

He walks out to the bullpen.

OFFICER #3

It possible he has super-hearing?

OFFICER #4

I hope not.

Apex marches through the bullpen and finds Underwood's office shut. He tries the door and peers inside. The police whisper.

Apex side-eyes the room. Some officers avert their eyes the moment he looks at them.

EXT. SUBURBS - NIGHT

Quiver cruises through an affluent neighborhood.

Moonshadow sits in the front with the bat, and Captain Underwood sits cuffed in the back.

MOONSHADOW

This is where you live? How is IA not watching your every move?

A phone notification dings. Moonshadow digs a phone out of her pocket and checks it.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

Chief just sent you the transfer.

The phone rings.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

Ooh, popular guy.

She shows Underwood the number on the screen.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

They're not in your contacts. Want to answer it?

Underwood shakes his head.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

Maybe I'll make a new friend.

She moves to press the button.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Answer that, and everyone will die,
me the slowest.

Moonshadow lets it ring.

MOONSHADOW
I'll take your word for it.

They all sit in silence until the phone stops ringing.

EXT. UNDERWOOD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Quiver pulls up to a small manor.

MOONSHADOW
Any family home? A dog?

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
No.

MOONSHADOW
Really? I know money can't buy
everything, but it can buy a dog.
Well, alright. Let's rock this
bachelor pad.

INT. UNDERWOOD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They all enter a spacious living room with a large TV above a
stone fireplace and an expensive couch.

Windowed double doors lead to a den with a desk and laptop.

MOONSHADOW
There?

Underwood nods.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Perfect. Have a seat.

She rolls a chair over and Quiver shoves Underwood in.
Moonshadow rolls him over to the den.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Password?

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Teddy bear.

Moonshadow sneers at him.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD (CONT'D)
It's a movie reference.

MOONSHADOW
I'm sure it's very clever. What am
I looking for?

Underwood closes his eyes and sighs.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Cap, don't make me ask again.

Quiver eyes Underwood and wriggles her fingers.

CAPTAIN UNDERWOOD
Under program files, there's a
folder called "System Diagnostic."

Moonshadow clicks a few times and smiles.

MOONSHADOW
Made it look boring. Kind of smart,
like hiding a leaf in a forest.

QUIVER
It what we need?

MOONSHADOW
Recordings, logs--what're these?

She clicks.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Checks? And they say crime doesn't
pay. What's Wagon Train LLC?

No answer.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
That's fine. I don't mind following
a paper trail.

She works a bit. Her brow furrows.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Wagon Train is a subsidiary of
Vannett Global, which is a
subsidiary of Coord Logistics.

She grins.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Whose parent company is none other
than Iron Solutions.

(MORE)

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
So, you're not just working with
Iron Solutions, you're an employee.

QUIVER
Is that good?

MOONSHADOW
It means Iron Solutions was
creating their own demand. And as
long as the city had a boogeyman,
they could do what ever they want.

QUIVER
Then why are you smiling?

MOONSHADOW
Because I have the whole system in
my sights now, girlfriend. The
white whale falls today.

Quiver smiles to herself and tears up.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Quiver? What's wrong?

QUIVER
Nothing. It's just--my powers, they
finally did something good.

Her smile descends into teeth clenching pain.

QUIVER (CONT'D)
It was so hard, every day, to
convince myself that it was
anything but a curse.

MOONSHADOW
Quiver.

QUIVER
When no one would touch me. Alone.
I couldn't even fight crime.

Captain Underwood sneers at them. Moonshadow kicks the chair,
and he spins around.

MOONSHADOW
You're not alone, Quiver.

QUIVER
You don't know what I would give
even to just go unnoticed.

MOONSHADOW

No. No.

Moonshadow reaches toward Quiver. She takes a deep breath.

QUIVER

What are you doing?

MOONSHADOW

Here's what I know.

She grabs Quiver's suit in a white-knuckle grip.

QUIVER

You don't have to do that.

MOONSHADOW

Shut up. What I know is that,
whatever else you are...

She closes her eyes and psyches herself up like she's going to dive into a pit of cockroaches.

She yanks Quiver close and crushes her with a hug.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

...you are not alone.

She squeezes her eyes shut and speaks through clenched teeth. The hug only tightens.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

You're a hero. You're my friend.

Quiver smiles through the tears. Moonshadow releases her, steps back, and catches her breath.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)

Come on. Time to save the day.

INT. POLICE STATION - LOBBY/INTERROGATION ROOM - INTERCUT

Apex sits in the interrogation room with Harold.

Harold watches as Apex turns his phone on and off to check notifications while his foot bounces.

APEX

What are you looking at?

Apex fakes an attack, and Harold flinches.

APEX (CONT'D)
I'm wasting my time.

In the lobby, Moonshadow and Quiver lead Captain Underwood through the front door.

Desk Sergeant's eyes widen, but when she rounds the desk, Moonshadow presents her with an envelope of evidence.

APEX (V.O.)
Maybe I should just step on you
like a bug. End it.

Desk Sergeant pours out the evidence. Officers gather around.

APEX
There's nothing more irritating
than you.

A lieutenant peruses the evidence. He looks at Underwood.

APEX (V.O.)
Reachers. Mommy told you you could
be anything you wanted to be.

Officers march Underwood to the holding cells. Underwood looks into the cell closes his eyes.

APEX
And somehow you still believe that
crock, like Santa Claus. You just
refuse to see the truth.

The cell door closes on Underwood.

APEX (V.O.)
There's no such thing as equality.

The lieutenant returns to the lobby where everyone waits.

APEX (V.O.)
You'll never have the same
opportunities as me, and you don't
deserve to.

All the officers, one after another, turn toward the interrogation rooms.

APEX (V.O.)
You shouldn't even be breathing the
same air as me.

Officers with their weapons and their powers file up the hall, quiet and tactical.

Moonshadow and Quiver watch as officers pass the lobby.

APEX (V.O.)
But you keep popping up like a
stubborn bit of popcorn stuck
between my teeth.

Officer #3 opens the door to the hall. The whole precinct
stands behind the lieutenant outside.

Lieutenant leans into Officer #3's ear.

APEX
Here's the truth. I was born for
greatness. That's why I'm here.

Officers organize outside the interrogation room. Officer #3
and the lieutenant take point.

APEX (CONT'D)
If you'd just accepted what you
were born for, you--

No one knocks, but Apex's head snaps to look at the door. He
stands and opens it. Multiple officers hold him at gunpoint.

OFFICER #3
Apex, you're under arrest.

Apex sighs long and deep.

OFFICER #3 (CONT'D)
For conspiracy to commit robbery,
fraud, property damage, and
multiple second-degree homicides.

APEX
Nothing lasts forever, I suppose.

OFFICER #3
You have the right to remain
silent, anything you say can and
will be held against you in court.

Apex muses out loud as the officer reads his rights.

APEX
Maybe it's for the best. It'll be
healthier to stop pretending.

OFFICER #3
You have the right to an attorney.
If you cannot afford an attorney--

The officer swallows hard.

APEX
Better for my mental health.

OFFICER #3
Lay flat on the ground and put your
hands behind your head.

Apex sighs and shakes his head.

APEX
This whole cardboard world.

OFFICER #3
You're surrounded, Apex.

Apex meets his eyes.

APEX
I'm surrounded only by fear and
inferior beings.

Apex launches out of the room, tackles Officer #3, and plants
the man wholesale into a crater in the wall.

The precinct lights up with gunfire and superpowers. Bullets
bounce off Apex's skin. He punches out the lieutenant.

Golden Termite, in another interrogation room, jumps at the
eruption of sound.

Dakota sits in an inspector's office. He's sinks into the
back corner of the room.

Harold kicks the table over and hides behind it. He tries to
bring his cuffed hands down around his feet.

Moonshadow and Quiver stand in the lobby.

MOONSHADOW
We should go.

QUIVER
Goner and Termite are down there.

MOONSHADOW
We'll have to find them later.
Right now, we have to hide.

They run for the offices.

An officer shoots a pink beam at Apex from her hands. He
twists her wrist and aims her beam at the other officers.

He shoves the officer down and punts a kneeling officer like a football. The man flies a short length up the hall.

A beam of energy slices through Golden Termite's interrogation room. He falls out of his chair.

An officer bursts through the wall, unconscious.

Apex uppercuts an officer into the ceiling, where the man hangs like a cartoon.

Some officers flee. Apex swats away a couple brave souls.

Apex emerges into the lobby, and a whole printer hits him. A telekinetic officer tosses chair at him. He blocks it.

Apex charges at the officer, but she lifts him into the air with her mind. Apex flails and kicks.

Apex roars and claps his hands. It creates a pressure wave that explodes windows and tosses anything not nailed down.

Quiver and Moonshadow, under a desk, scream and cover their ears. The telekinetic cop falls to her knees. Her ears bleed.

Apex drops to the floor. He tries to stand, but Speedster Cop runs by, knocks him down, and disappears.

Speedster Cop runs by again and kicks Apex across the face.

APEX

Speedsters.

Speedster Cop runs by again, but Apex reacts and pops the officer in the gut. Speedster cop curls up on the floor.

Apex picks him up by the helmet and slams him into the wall.

APEX (CONT'D)

Oh, you're not Harold.

He cocks his fist.

APEX (CONT'D)

But a Goner either way.

Moonshadow and Quiver flinch at the horrible crunch. Apex steps back from his handiwork.

Speedster cop hangs from a head-sized hole in the wall.

MOONSHADOW

Okay. I'm gonna go get the boys.

QUIVER
What? He's still out there!

MOOSHADOW
I can slip past him.

QUIVER
But, Moon, what about me?

MOONSHADOW
Just stay hidden.

QUIVER
Moonshadow!

MOONSHADOW
Alright, come on. Stick right
behind me, and stay down.

Apex moves for the front door. Heavy footsteps thud closer.
Officer #4, with his rock-plated skin, walks the hall.

OFFICER #4
Hey, law ain't done with you, yet.

APEX
Don't remember seeing you in the
hallway. You hide?

OFFICER #4
Caught up in the chaos is all. Now
it's just you and me.

APEX
Should have counted your blessings.
This time, I'll crush you.

OFFICER #4
We'll see who gets crushed.

The cop steps in range and punches Apex across the lobby.
Apex crashes into an adjoining office.

MOONSHADOW
That's our cue.

She and Quiver crawl across the lobby on all fours.

APEX
Okay. Not bad.

The cop runs up, jumps, and slams his fists down on Apex.
When the dust clears, Apex just glares at Officer #4.

APEX (CONT'D)

Ow.

He boots the cop in the chest. The cop launches into the lobby ceiling and crashes to the floor.

Both men stand. Their fists connect, and the cop's hand cracks like a vase. He screams and falls to his knees.

Apex hoists the cop up in a gorilla press and bends the cop backward. The cop screams. His rock plates crack.

Moonshadow and Quiver pick their way over bodies strewn in hallway to the interrogation cells. Many writhe in pain.

Moonshadow stops by one to check her out. Harold kneels at the end of the hall and digs through an officer's pockets.

QUIVER

Goner!

Harold finds a pair of keys, unlocks his cuffs, and pulls his gag out. Quiver opens the interrogation room up the hall.

The table lies on its side. Termite pokes his head out.

GOLDEN TERMITE

Is it over?

The building shakes. Quiver shakes his head.

The team gathers in the hallway.

HAROLD

Has Apex gotten far?

MOONSHADOW

He tore right through this place.

HAROLD

No time to lose, then.

MOONSHADOW

The cops are fighting him now,
Harold. It's over. We exposed him.

HAROLD

Over? Listen to that. They need all
the help they can get.

Harold searches the heroes' faces. They have trouble maintaining eye contact.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Did you come this far just to let
others finish the job? What will
you think of yourselves if he gets
away while you stand here?

INT./ EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Apex stands in a moment of repose. Gray dust and soot mar his appearance, but no wounds.

Cars from other precincts skid to a stop outside.

Officers exit the cars and post up with weapons drawn and powers charged. Apex strides out the lobby doors.

OFFICER
Get on the ground and put your
hands behind your head!

APEX
Oh, just shut up.

Apex charges the line, and the officers open fire. One breathes a long stream of flame.

Apex flips a car over onto a cop, dashes through the flames, and catches the fire-breathing officer by the throat.

He tosses the cop into a building, and the other officers retreat. More cop cars pull up.

Apex spots pedestrians recording on their phones and throws a car them, but they hide in an alley before it hits.

The crowd in the square runs to safety.

APEX (CONT'D)
Gonna be a long night.

An officer fires a 40mm grenade that explodes with a flash-bang. Apex recoils and rubs his eyes.

Another officer fires a net gun. The net captures Apex and crackles with electricity. Apex rips the net apart.

Two strong officers tackle Apex to the ground.

Apex shoves one back, grabs the other by the legs, spins, and hits one officer with the other.

They fire another flashbang. Apex avoids the flash. He sprints toward the police line.

The officer fires another grenade. Apex catches it. It goes off in his hand to no effect.

The officer holding the grenade launcher tosses it down and runs. Other officers follow. Apex laughs.

OFFICER #7 runs in from the periphery, lassos Apex's ankles with a polyethylene rope, and yanks him off his feet.

He tosses a flashbang and covers his eyes. The flashbang leaves Apex blinking.

Apex tears through the rope and lunges at Officer #7.

The officer dodges. Apex rubs his eyes. Officer #7 bounces on the balls of his feet. Apex punches, and the officer dodges.

Apex strikes again and again but hits nothing. He tries to grab the officer. Officer #7 dances and spins to evade.

APEX (CONT'D)
You little--come here!

Officer #7 slides over a car's hood. Apex flips the car over. The officer dives and handsprings to safety.

APEX (CONT'D)
What's your power? Being annoying?

HAROLD (O.S.)
Apex!

Harold walks up the street. Golden Termite, Quiver, and Moonshadow follow a good distance behind.

APEX
Ohh, speak of the devil.

HAROLD
Did you forget something?

APEX
Think you still matter to me now?

Officer #7 runs for his life.

HAROLD
If you want to run, go ahead. I'll consider our rivalry resolved.

APEX
What rivalry? You have to be equals to be rivals. We're not.

HAROLD
Suppose that explains why you want
to run from me.

APEX
I'm not--grr. You're not even a
rock in my shoe.

Apex turns away.

HAROLD
Whatever you say.

He squawks like a chicken. Apex turns back.

APEX
Did you just--?

Harold does it again.

APEX (CONT'D)
Are you serious?

Harold adds a head bob and continues.

GOLDEN TERMITE
We are about to die.

MOONSHADOW
We just have to last until
reinforcements arrive.

Harold marches around like a chicken.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Quiver, use your power to keep him
off balance, but keep safe. Do your
thing and back off.

QUIVER
Got it.

APEX
You think I'm gonna fall for this?

MOONSHADOW
Termite, you're the only person
I've ever seen hurt this guy.

Harold gets louder.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Aim your bite at his weak spots.

GOLDEN TERMITE
What weak spots?

MOONSHADOW
The back of his ankle. He can't
fight if he can't stand.

GOLDEN TERMITE
Cool, I'll try not to get my head
kicked off.

MOONSHADOW
Solid plan.

APEX
Such an idiot.

Harold intensifies his act.

GOLDEN TERMITE
How do we actually finish him off?

MOONSHADOW
I super wish I knew.

APEX
Shut up. Shut--shut--shut up!

Apex lunges at Harold. Harold sidesteps the attack, and Apex
flies past. He runs right into Quiver.

QUIVER
Boo!

Apex screams and recoils. Harold trips him. He falls on his
back. Golden Termite tries to bite Apex, but Apex grabs him.

Harold kicks Apex to no effect. Moonshadow leans into Apex's
ear and whispers.

MOONSHADOW
Magic Man.

Apex shivers and looks over his shoulder.

Moonshadow moves to the other ear.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
Senora.

Moonshadow dips out and back in.

Harold kicks Apex and yowls in pain.

MOONSHADOW (CONT'D)
We're waiting.

Apex releases Golden Termite and flails around at nothing.

APEX
What is that? What is that?

Golden Termite latches onto his ankle with a bite of justice.
Apex screams. Harold knocks him over.

Golden Termite grinds his teeth on the tendon.

Apex kicks Golden Termite twice. On the second hit, Termite slides across the pavement and rolls to a stop.

Quiver steps between Golden Termite and Apex.

APEX (CONT'D)
Get away from me, you freak.

Apex tries to stand. His leg buckles. He screams in rage.

Faces in the crowd light with hope. They grow bolder and emerge from their hiding places to film closer.

A news van pulls up to the scene behind the crowd. A NEWS REPORTER and her crew hop out.

MOONSHADOW
The Elder.

Moonshadow ducks Apex's wild swing.

APEX
Who's there?

HAROLD
Maybe it's your conscience.

Apex fights to stand on both legs.

APEX
I'll turn you to paste. I'll tear
down this whole cardboard world!

Apex roars and thunderclaps. Everyone in the square recoils in pain. Car alarms go off. He does it again.

He goes for a third, but Harold leaps on him like a ape. Apex punches Harold in the ribs, and they crack.

Apex grabs Harold by the shirt and slaps him across the face. The sound echoes around the square.

Harold struggles to stand. His eyes lose focus. Apex slaps him again. Quiver runs over with her wagging fingers.

Apex roars at Quiver. She hesitates, and Apex throws Harold into her. Moonshadow rushes over.

MOONSHADOW

Judgeme--

Apex swings a backhand before Moonshadow utters a whole word and catches her on the arm. She ragdolls across the pavement.

Apex's looks right at her.

APEX

Ah, a voice from beyond.

He pushes his boot down on Moonshadow's chest.

APEX (CONT'D)

Bet right now, you're wishing you had a real power.

Harold crawls off Quiver, his face bloodied.

The crowd on the perimeter of the square record on their phones and watch in awe and terror.

APEX (CONT'D)

Maybe you wish for stronger bones.

Apex pushes down. Moonshadow chokes.

APEX (CONT'D)

Too bad.

HAROLD (O.S.)

What are you doing?

Apex makes a face and turns to Harold.

APEX

What am I--

Harold looks, not at him, but at the crowd.

HAROLD

Are you just going to stand there?
A city full of people with power--
dozens of you, right here.

The crowd's chatter lessens. A couple phones lower.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
You could do something. What's the
difference between us?

Apex smiles and shakes his head.

APEX
You can't blame them. You can't
judge them for knowing better.

He moseys over to Harold.

APEX (CONT'D)
For knowing the way of things. For
knowing where they belong.

He hoists Harold up like a dead pheasant.

APEX (CONT'D)
They know what happens when you
stick your neck out. It's time you
learned as well.

Two laser beams hit Apex in the back. He drops Harold.

APEX (CONT'D)
Ow. What the?

Husband and Wife stand amongst the crowd. The glow in
Husband's eyes fades away.

APEX (CONT'D)
Maybe some of them don't.

Apex stalks over. The crowd recedes from Husband and Wife.

APEX (CONT'D)
Maybe this whole city needs an
object lesson!

Wife jumps in front of Husband and screams. The long shriek
creates a pressure wave that stops Apex in his tracks.

Wife runs out of breath. Apex shakes off the rattles and
continues. Wife takes a breath and does it again.

Husband fires his eye lasers. Apex blocks the lasers with his
arms and pushes forward through the pressure.

A pure white beam shoots out of the crowd and hits Apex in
the chest. Apex howls in frustration.

A lady with glowing white eyes shoots the beam from her hand.

APEX (CONT'D)
You animals!

Apex makes to charge forth, but something crunches, and he screams. Golden Termite gnaws his other ankle.

Apex wails and falls to his knees.

Golden Termite rolls away from the cataclysm. Another colored beam shoots from the crowd. News Reporter stands in awe.

Officer #7 watches as more beams hit Apex. A lightning bolt strikes from above. Birds circle overhead.

The pavement moves and reforms to imprison Apex's legs.

Apex rages. His suit catches fire. His skin sings. His cries of rage peter down to tired near-whimpers.

All the powers aimed at Apex cease at once. He kneels on the ground, eyes unfocused, and keels over.

The whole square stands silent. A moment passes.

Officer #7 emerges from the crowd and approaches with caution. He stands over Apex and pulls out his cuffs.

He tightens one cuff on Apex's wrist and waits. With no reaction, he tightens the other.

OFFICER #7
You're under arrest.

A gradual acceptance grows in the crowd. A cheer swells to outright celebration. Officer #7 helps Harold stand.

Golden Termite offers Quiver his hand. Surprised, Quiver takes it, and Termite pulls her up. They share a moment.

The team reforms. The crowd converges on them with adulation.

LATER

A half-dozen officers lead a cuffed Apex to a paddy wagon with thick, steel walls and tank tread instead of wheels.

Harold and the team stand to the side with the rest of the crowd and observe. Apex locks eyes with Harold.

APEX
You haven't seen the last of me.

The officers force Apex inside and close the doors on him.

MOONSHADOW
How original.

QUIVER
Hope he's wrong.

News Reporter runs up to Harold with her crew.

REPORTER
Sir, you and your team's heroics
spurred this crowd to action and
assisted in Apex's arrest. Can you
tell us who you are?

HAROLD
Uh, I'm The Goner.

REPORTER
Are you a police officer for the
city or Iron Solutions?

HAROLD
No, I'm--I actually think of myself
as part of more special team.

Harold puts one arm around Golden Termite, and his other arm
gropes around until he finds Moonshadow and does the same.

REPORTER
What is your superhero team called?

HAROLD
I don't think we have a name. Maybe
you should ask our leader.

Harold looks to Moonshadow. The reporter's eyes focus.

REPORTER
Are you the leader of these heroes?

GOLDEN TERMITE
Yes.

QUIVER
You bet.

REPORTER
Do you have a name for your team?

Moonshadow blushes.

MOONSHADOW
Not really. We're just do-gooders.

Officer #7 chants and looks to the crowd to do the same.

OFFICER #7

Do-gooders! Do-gooders! Do-gooders!
Do-gooders! Do-gooders! Do-gooders!

The crowd chants in unison. The team smiles, abashed.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Fanfare and confetti abound as the team stands in a neat row atop a stage erected in front of the ruined police station.

A crowd of people with little flags and "I'M A HERO" pins gather for the ceremony.

The city's MAYOR stands at a podium and gives a speech while officers in dress uniforms stand in a neat row behind.

MAYOR

...heroics showed our fair city
that, if you have the courage, you,
too, can be a hero.

An officer presents a case of medals to the mayor.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

It's my honor to present the first-
ever Citizen Superhero awards to
Moonshadow, Golden Termite, Quiver,
and The Goner.

The crowd cheers as Mayor slips a medal over Harold's head.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

You're a fine example of a hero.

HAROLD

Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor grabs the next award but squints at the row of heroes.

MOONSHADOW

Right here.

MAYOR

Oh, thank you, Ms. Moonshadow.

He slips the award over her head.

MAYOR (CONT'D)

For stellar investigation and
leadership. You have a fine team.

MOONSHADOW
Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor grabs the next medal, but hesitates in front of Quiver.

QUIVER
I can do it.

Quiver takes the award and puts it on herself.

MAYOR
You're an idol to all those in this
city who must overcome adversity
and personal challenges to rise up.

QUIVER
Huh?

Mayor moves on.

MAYOR
Golden Termite, this city would be
lost without the bite of justice.
Thank you.

GOLDEN TERMITE
Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR
Oh, I have something else for you.

Mayor takes an embossed sheet of paper from the officer.

MAYOR (CONT'D)
Your leader insisted we also make
this special for you.

He gives the certificate to Golden Termite.

MAYOR (CONT'D)
She thought you would appreciate an
official certificate.

Golden Termite glares at Moonshadow, who fights to keep a
straight face. Harold and Quiver chuckle laugh.

The Mayor gives the team a quizzical look.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Harold, in a brand-new tactical super-suit, leans over a
parapet and scans the area below with binoculars.

Below, people move boxes from a warehouse onto trucks. Supers of various types pull security.

Golden Termite's voice sounds over the radio.

GOLDEN TERMITE (V.O.)
Man, I can't see anything on the east side. You have anything?

HAROLD
Boxes, trucks, muscle.

GOLDEN TERMITE (V.O.)
So, you think Moon was right?

HAROLD
Oh, crime-ers are crime-ing here, that's for sure.

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
Ex-Iron contractors?

GOLDEN TERMITE (V.O.)
Speak of the devil.

HAROLD
Don't recognize any faces, but I can say that they have the look.

Harold stows his binoculars.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Gonna miss Quiver hard on this one.

GOLDEN TERMITE (V.O.)
She wishes she could be here.

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
No, she much prefers her new job. How is the little scamp, anyway?

GOLDEN TERMITE (V.O.)
He's a handful. I can't imagine how it'll be when he gets his powers.

HAROLD
Is that working out? You know, with her, uh, condition?

GOLDEN TERMITE (V.O.)
It's the craziest thing. Kid cries more in my arms than hers.

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
That's great.

CRISS CROSS, a young woman in a slim, red super-suit, lands on the rooftop behind Harold.

Harold spins around to face her. Criss Cross wears a big grin. She wipes her hands on her pants.

 CRISS CROSS
Hi.

 HAROLD
Hello.

 CRISS CROSS
Wow, the Goner. It's an honor to meet you. I'm a big fan.

 HAROLD
Uh, likewise. Who are you?

 CRISS CROSS
Oh, my name's Shelly, but I suppose you should call me Criss Cross. I'm trying to be a hero, like you.

 MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
Your backup reported in. Ready when you are, Goner.

 HAROLD
Copy that. Stand by one.

 MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
For what?

 GOLDEN TERMITE (V.O.)
Looks like another one's caught him on the rooftop.

 MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
Again?

 CRISS CROSS
I bet you're taking care of hero stuff. I could help, if you don't mind helping someone like me get a little experience.

 HAROLD
Oh, looking to climb the ladder?

Harold stands and looms over Criss Cross.

He claps her on the shoulder.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
It's tough being new, isn't it?

Criss Cross smiles and nods.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Been there. Sure you want to help?
Know what you're getting into?

CRISS CROSS
Yeah. Yeah, I've never wanted
anything else. I'm a hero.

HAROLD
Then let's see what you can do.

Harold and Criss Cross kneel behind the parapet.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Moon, we're ready.

CRISS CROSS
Moon? Moonshadow? Oh, man.

Criss Cross grins like a fiend.

MOONSHADOW (V.O.)
Good. All teams, engage on my mark.
3, 2, 1, mark.

Harold and Criss Cross leap down to the pavement.