

Diary of a Superhero

by

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SCENE 1

We open with two chairs in two separate rooms. Two young men walk to sit in those chairs and face the audience. On stage right we have STANLEY and on stage left sits PARKER. As they sit, STANLEY suddenly bursts into tears. This is our first look at our heroes. After a short while the lights go down on STANLEY's side. We are left with PARKER.

PARKER

Hi... I'm Parker... And this is my video diary. The reason I'm starting this is because of the death of a recent superhero by the name of Icarus. Some of you might know him as the symbol of hope for our city and some of you, depending on the time you watch this, might not have a clue who he is. Icarus was-

The lights switch to STANLEY's side. He continues as if he has been talking the whole time.

STANLEY

...a hero above all heroes. No matter what, he would be there to save the day. If you threatened the safety of the people he would find you and bring you to justice. He was our symbol of hope in the darkest of days. He was a hero, a good man and-

At this time the lights come up for both sides.

PARKER & STANLEY

My Dad.

The lights shift to PARKER.

PARKER

It's been about a week now with dad being gone. I figured... Talking about it might help a little. His real name was Benjamin but of course that was a secret to most. The guy who murdered him was named Omega. I remember that day. The day he left I mean. It was a typical day. Typical for my family that is. My brother Stanley and I were eating breakfast when my dad, as usual, took off to fight whoever threatened the city that day. It was something we had gotten used to. To us it felt the same as if your mother or father were to go to work. We always assumed he would come back.

Unless otherwise noted it is assumed from here on the lights will switch to focus on each character as they speak.

STANLEY

Hello again... Uh, Stanley here... Again. It's been about 3 weeks I think since uh... Well, you know. Surprisingly things have been going... Better? As you can see I'm taking every day with a smile. Just like my dad used to tell me. Um... So, let me think... Parker and I have been talking and we think that it's time... Uh someone needs to... Someone needs to take dad's place and since I don't have any powers and Parker does... Well I think it's obvious who it should be.

PARKER walks onstage in a mask.

PARKER

So how do I look? Of course, it's not the same but I think it will do the job. When people see the powers they'll know. They'll know who I am. Super strength and flight. I mean I haven't quite gotten the whole flight thing down yet but I'll get there. I just... I just hope I can do a good job. I want to be just like him. I need to be the same as dad was. A symbol for the people. Someone they can trust.

STANLEY

Parker just started his first patrol today and I gotta say it's pretty cool to look up at a building and know that's your brother. He's still out right now. It's midnight so I'm sure he has plenty of criminals to fight. He's not so good at the flight thing yet but he has gotten better.

(Laughs)

Dad could make it look like he was walking on water. He never did it in front of the people though, you know. He didn't want them getting the wrong idea.

PARKER

This is my 23rd night of patrol and so far... So good. No big super villains, the people seem to be adjusting to the new look for Icarus. So yeah... Everything is... Good. I figured out the flying thing now, so I can zoom to the top of towers rather than float slowly. It's strange now that I'm allowed to use my powers. I remember when they first started showing up my dad was so excited. Mom was... Eh, let's just say she wasn't expecting it. Unfortunately, Stanley... He didn't get any powers.

STANLEY stomps into his room and sits down furiously ready to rant.

STANLEY

So, let me tell you this. Parker thinks I can't handle being a sidekick. You wanna know why? Because I don't "have powers", so what? He practically didn't have powers either. Like yeah super strength but he couldn't fly. I just want to help. I'm tired of sitting back and... Watching. I know... He afraid because of what happened to Dad, but I can help too.

STANLEY's frustration turns into realization and excitement. He has an idea.

SCENE 2

PARKER

Just figured I would make another entry. It's been maybe like a month since the last one? I would say... I'm better. Taking over as Icarus has really helped me I think. I hope that... Dad is looking down and seeing what I'm doing and thinking... You're doing a good job.

STANLEY

Okay. What I'm about to say is a secret. A little project I've been working on for the past month. I've been looking at everything I can find about Omega. He hasn't shown up since the fight with Dad. People are starting to think he died in the explosion too, but I don't think so. There was no body recovered. I got my hands on some old security footage of the fight. Maybe I can find a clue or something. It's worth a shot.

PARKER

Stanley has been acting weird lately. He doesn't leave his room much anymore. I caught him watching the video of the fight between Omega and Dad one time. There's not much he can do without powers. It's strange, I know how to save people I don't know from almost anything but I can't save my own brother from the past.

STANLEY

I tried talking to Parker about Omega and he flipped out on me. Told me I needed to let it go. How can I let it go? Omega killed our dad and there's a chance he's still alive.

(Pause)

Is it selfish to say... I wish I was the one with powers. I wish I could do something, anything but I can't. I don't have... He doesn't get what it's like to be helpless, to know you couldn't do anything even if you wanted to. I found something that could lead to our dad's murderer. If Parker won't help, then I guess it's just me.

PARKER

Today I met my first super villain. A guy named Inferno. He can throw fire from his hands. He was robbing a bank but while we were fighting, he started the building on fire. I had to get the civilians out of there and while I was doing that he got away. It's just money though. The important thing is no one got hurt. I'll probably go out tomorrow and track him down. Bring him in. The usual. When you boil it down, these "Super Villains" are just thugs with bigger guns. He's scared of me though... I can tell. He has to hide behind others.

(There is a vibration from Parker's phone.)

Well what do you know? Inferno has been spotted at an old warehouse. And let me guess... Yep, hostages. All in a days work.

STANLEY walks into his room with a ball of light. He sits excited to speak.

STANLEY

Okay, okay. I didn't find Omega, but I did find something even better. There was this machine with these orbs of light. I picked one up and something amazing happened. I gained powers but only while I was holding one. This one, give me super strength. This one flight and with this one I can understand animals. What if Omega has a power like the ability to copy other powers and that machine lets him store them in these orbs. What if Omega planned to give everyone powers thus making more super villains? It's just a theory but... If it's true...

PARKER's room is empty. He then walks in crying. He is breathing heavily.

PARKER

I... I didn't know what to do. They were just... There.

(He takes a few heavy breaths.)

I didn't know that... That things like this would happen... That things like this could happen. It's my job... My job to save them... And I failed. I wasn't... I didn't...

He is too broken to finish.

SCENE 3

STANLEY

I saw it on the news. I didn't know what to think. Then people... God. I don't know what I... What I would have done. That's just... Insane. Who does that? What kind of sick person does that? This is just...

Both rooms are not lit. We see PARKER sitting in the chair looking emotionless at the audience.

PARKER

It's been a week now since...

He stops and realizes he is right back where he started. He get up and furiously leaves.

STANLEY

The people are starting to notice. Crime is going up in the city. They need their hero. I don't know if they have one right now thought.

The lights come down on Stanley's side and we return to normal cycles of focus.

PARKER

I've heard what they've... What they're saying. That I couldn't have done anything. When I got to the warehouse I was expecting something. A heroic moment where I would defeat the villain and save the people. It had become something I was used to. Then I walked in. First thing to hit me was the smell. Burning... Burning flesh. The guy I said was "just a bank robber", got annoyed that I wasn't giving him enough attention. So you know what he did? He burned ten people to death. Everyone says there wsa nothing I could have done but that's a lie. I could have found him earlier. I could have stoped him before.

(Pause)

I was angry... And confused. I grabbed him and beat him and I didn't stop until he was dead.

(Pause)

I killed him... Does that make me a villain too?

PARKER & STANLEY

A hero is supposed to resist the temptation for revenge.

STANLEY

I know Parker. He'll blame himself. But he needs to remember that when he puts on that mask, he is a symbol of hope for the people. And if Inferno ever

shows up again, Icarus needs to be there to bring him to justice.

PARKER

Today I reappeared to the people. I went in front of city hall and... And I hugged the families of the victims. Mothers, Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, Friends, Sons and Daughters. In a way it helped. It showed something to the people, I think. That despite the fact that I have powers like super strength and flight... I'm still human.

(Pause)

They don't know that I killed Inferno. I wonder if things like this happened to Dad and if they did... How the hell did he continue to smile?

STANLEY

I was right. Omega is still alive and after what happened at the warehouse I'm sure he knows Parker is not at his best. I thought Omega planned to give everyone powers to make more supervillains but I was wrong. He plans to take all the powers in the world and store them in himself. He wants to be the sole protector. He thinks that if there's only one person with powers then something like what happened at the warehouse would never happen again. It was perfect time. Too perfect. Parker is out there now. Trying to stop him.

PARKER

Omega is alive. My Dad's murderer... The reason I had to become a Hero. Him showing up now is not a coincidence. He set this up! He made Inferno and told him to kill those people I know he did! I'm going to find him and I'm going to kill him! I'll make sure he and every other villain in this goddamn world fear the very mention of the name Icarus!

The lights come up for STANLEY and we see him crying while holding the Icarus mask.

STANLEY

Parker... First Dad and now Parker. It doesn't stop! People keep... Getting hurt... Dying. I can't do this anymore!

(Parker looks up at the power orbs on the table. There is a White and Red one.)

I'm done... Losing people. I'm done watching the villains win!

(He places the Icarus mask on his face.)

But that's what Heroes do. They run into the impossible and make it possible.

Omega stands on Parker's side. His

mask completely covers his face. He then slowly removes it.

PARKER

Shocking isn't it? Don't worry I can explain. I beat Omega. I killed him. He's paid for his crimes against not only my family but the world. But I decided that it was time to let Icarus go. Heroes don't kill... Or so they say. I've decided to become not the hero people want but the hero people need. Omega had the right idea but he was hypocritical with his actions. I agree only one person should have all the power. This way powers can't be abused. I faked my own death and took his place. Despite this fact a new Icarus has risen once again. An imposter. Someone else with super strength and flight. I'll have to get rid of him first.

PARKER puts the mask back on and the light goes dark.

The light comes up to reveal STANLEY on the ground and Omega standing looking at the fallen hero. Omega holds the white orb of light.

PARKER

So, this is how you did it? An Orb with the powers of Icarus. You're a thief, an imposter. You are nothing without this.

STANLEY

I'll still stop you!

PARKER

(Laughing)

And how will you do that? In a short few minutes the world will be cleansed of powers.

STANLEY

You think taking powers away from the people will prevent them from hurting others? Think of all the good that's come from those powers. Powers that can purify water, powers that can heal people, powers that can build homes for people, powers that can save people.

PARKER

A price I'm willing to pay to protect.

STANLEY

Stop pretending you're some hero!

PARKER

Says the man wearing the mask of two dead superheroes.

STANLEY removes the mask and throws it aside.

STANLEY

I don't need powers or a mask to stop you. Even if you take all the powers in the world... I'll still be there to bring you to justice.

PARKER

Stanley?

PARKER removes his mask. The two brothers stare at each other as the lights go dark.

SCENE 4

We see stairs in the center of the stage. STANLEY walks onstage clearly injured from a hard fought battle we will never get to see. He is carrying the Omega mask and the White orb. As he walks, He speaks.

STANLEY

What makes a hero? Is it someone who saves people? Someone who defeats the villain? I often wondered that as I sat by and watched my dad... And Parker.

STANLEY takes the Omega mask he is holding and places it at the bottom of the stairs, sitting next to it.

When someone is in need of help and all hope seems lost for them, the person who stands up and is there for them, in my eyes is a hero. Someone who despite the troubles in their own life... Decides to help someone else.

He stares at the mask. He then stands and climbs the stairs.

When the villain is destroying the city, the hero arrives saying "I am here". When the fire spreads trapping the people at the top of a building, the firefighter arrives and says, "I am here". When the father sits next to his dying child in the hospital he smiles and says, "I am here". When all hope seems lost and death seems like the only option a friend arrives and says, "I am here!" When a force of evil threatens people, a community, the world, someone arrives with a

smile and says the words that spring hope into all our hearts! We tell them to have no fear...

He thrusts his fist to the sky with the white orb in hand.

I am here!

He brings the orb down and looks at it.

Anyone can be a hero. The world is filled with heroes big and small. You don't need a special name, a mask or powers. You just need to give others hope when they need it most.

The lights come down. Only the bright shining light of hope can be seen in the dark. It is small but enough to keep moving forward.