

Small Town Heroes

By

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"SMALL TOWN HEROES"

BY NEAL HEATHERLY

FADE IN:

INT. GYM - DAY

JIM is wearing a garish costume with the letters "JJ" on the front, and standing in front of some ATHLETES working out.

JIM

Hi, everyone. Justice Jim here to tell you about an incredible opportunity to get yourself in shape the quick, easy, and fun way, all at an affordable price! Here at Justice Gyms, our specially trained staff knows how to get you in the shape you want.

Jim walks by one of the Athletes who is talking to a TRAINER.

TRAINER

Alright, now, if you want to look like Fly Guy, he's built more like a gymnast, so that means lots of aerobics.

JIM

Or, you can always join one of our many classes.

Jim walks by a roomful of ATHLETES learning Kung Fu from a MAN dressed like he just stepped out of a bad '70s Kung Fu movie.

JIM

And of course, you're always welcome to just use our machines and weights. Besides, you never know who you might run into.

Jim stops walking next to GRIM JUSTICE, a man dressed all in black with a full face mask, working out on a machine.

GRIM JUSTICE

Leave me alone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

2.

JIM
Alright, I will.

Jim turns around and looks straight into the camera,
pointing at it as well.

JIM (CONT'D)
But you come join me at Justice
Gyms, where you can be a hero too.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

The alarm clock radio goes off and Jim, dressed in pajamas,
wakes up startled. His brother, JOE, wakes up in the bed
next to his.

JIM
Oh man, why do I feel like I got
hit by a freight train last night?

JOE
Maybe because you did.

VOICE ON RADIO
The source of the accident is still
unknown. Luckily, the Conductor
was in another car when the unseen
force stopped the train completely.

JIM
Oh yeah. I guess that'll do it.

JOE
I guess. But Jim, if I'd known why
you'd wanted to go to the tracks, I
wouldn't have taken you.

JIM
I'm sorry. I didn't mean to hurt
anyone.

JOE
And you didn't. But you could
have. I know you're upset about
the buyout, but we've still got
jobs at the gym. We're going to be
fine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

3.

JIM

That gym was the only thing Dad left us. Now that it's a chain we should be rolling in money, not just staying afloat.

JOE

Well as long as we're not drowning, I'm fine. Oh, and Norm called last night, while you were out. You should probably go talk to him.

JIM

You just finished chastising me for throwing myself in front of one freight train, you really want me to throw myself in front of another?

JOE

Yes. Now put some clothes on, eat some breakfast, and go meet your friend.

Joe exits the bedroom, while Jim picks up some clothes off the floor next to his bed, and considers putting them on.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Jim walks up to the door and rings the doorbell. After waiting a moment, he turns to walk away.

NORM (OFF-SCREEN)

Come on in, it's open.

Jim grimaces, then turns around and enters the door.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jim walks in to find NORM sitting at the computer.

JIM

Hey.

NORM

Hey.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

4.

JIM

So, you playing Hero Town, or something?

NORM

Villain-Ville. I'm not that into heroes, lately.

JIM

Yeah, that's what I thought. So... why'd you ask me to come here?

Norm swivels around in his chair.

NORM

I figured, now that you're going to be back in town, we should try and work some things out.

JIM

Really?

NORM

Yeah. I feel bad about the way we left things.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Norm is standing between Jim and the door as Jim is trying to leave.

NORM

You can't do this, Jim!

JIM

I have to, Norm. Look at us. We're pathetic nerds. No one trusts us or respects us.

NORM

But everyone's going to respect some guy who can take a hit? You're a punching bag in more ways than one, Jim.

JIM

I've spent my whole life being bullied and ignored, and I can't put up with that anymore. It's time for me to be the hero.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

5.

Jim pushes Norm to the side and walks through the door.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

JIM

I guess you were right, Norm. I shouldn't have left.

NORM

Actually, I think you did the right thing. When you were in the city, you saved lives.

JIM

Have you ever watched the news? For every life I saved, there were twenty I couldn't get to in time.

NORM

But in your comics, you always win.

JIM

Yes, and they make twelve of those in a year. But I fought more than that in a day. There's no way I could win them all.

NORM

You made a difference, and you can't give up on yourself. You can still be a good guy.

JIM

Yeah? A good guy wouldn't have used his real name as part of his superhero name.

NORM

Since you bring it up, why did you do that?

JIM

Wasn't my decision.

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Jim is sitting at a desk facing Grim Justice sitting on the other side.

GRIM JUSTICE

So, you're the kid from the commercials right? Justice Jim?

JIM

That's just publicity for my family's gym. People think it's all an act. If I'm going to join the Justice Squad, I should have a more discreet name, like Invinci-Boy, or something.

GRIM JUSTICE

No. You will be Justice Jim. If you're going to join the Justice Squad, you have to have "Justice" in your name.

JIM

What about Fly Guy?

GRIM JUSTICE

He's a probationary member. Now about that gym of yours. I was thinking, maybe we could franchise it out and use the money to run our operations.

JIM

Well, I'll have to talk it over with the family, but I guess you need money from somewhere, so sure.

GRIM JUSTICE

Alright then. Welcome to the club.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

NORM

So you wanted the whole secret identity thing?

JIM

Of course. I didn't want anyone coming after you guys to get to me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

7.

NORM

Like you'd even know if they had.

JIM

I might not have been the greatest super hero, but I think I'd know if one of my villains came back here.

NORM

Really?

JIM

Really.

NORM

Because Dr. Destructo came back here once.

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

DR. DESTRUCTO, a mad scientist with big sunglasses, is in a room full of crates, standing in front of ANNE, GAGGED, wrists tied together with ROPE, as Norm stands facing them.

DR. DESTRUCTO

Ha ha ha ha ha! Now I have you right where I want you!

NORM

Seriously? You really talk like that?

DR. DESTRUCTO

You dare mock Dr. Destructo? With my Kinetic Energy Ray, I will take your lives and make Justice Jim pay!

NORM

And now you're rhyming. Do you seriously expect me to feel threatened?

DR. DESTRUCTO

Yes.

He points his kinetic energy ray at a crate near Norm and shoots. Suddenly, the crate simply falls over, close enough to Norm to make him worry.

(CONTINUED)

NORM

So that's what Kinetic Energy Ray means.

DR. DESTRUCTO

Yes, I'm glad you caught the reference before I killed you.

He aims at another crate to shoot, but before he can, Anne kicks him in the back of his knee, causing him to fall to his knees and drop the kinetic energy ray. Norm grabs it.

NORM

I highly recommend surrendering now.

Dr. Destructo gets up, quickly backs around Anne, and grabs her so she can't move.

DR. DESTRUCTO

So do I. Either you drop my energy ray, or the girl gets it.

NORM

How are you supposed to hurt her without this?

DR. DESTRUCTO

You can't become a super-villain without learning some very bad things, young man.

NORM

Maybe, but I don't think you'll hurt her.

DR. DESTRUCTO

Oh? Why not?

NORM

Because you love her. You have for a long time, and that's why you hate Justice Jim.

DR. DESTRUCTO

How--

NORM

The way you grabbed her just now. It's not an effective way to restrain her, and that knot looks loose.

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9.

DR. DESTRUCTO

Are you some kind of mind reader?

NORM

I don't have to be... Joe.

Anne breaks free as she pulls the rope off her wrists in one fluid motion, then pushes Dr. Destructo to the ground. Before he can get up, she ties his wrists together, then removes the gag and uses it on him.

ANNE

And to think, he had five years of Boy Scout experience on me. Thanks for nearly getting killed for me, by the way.

NORM

Thanks for not letting me get killed.

ANNE

No problem. Man, I need to cool down a bit. Want to hang out a bit?

NORM

Sure.

They walk away together.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

JIM

My God. You're a hero.

NORM

No, I left him there and he got away. I'm just a good guy.

JIM

I'm glad Anne had someone to save her.

NORM

Truth be told she really saved me. I just talked him down. And actually, about Anne...

(CONTINUED)

JIM
You're dating now?

NORM
No, but if you're cool with it I'd like to ask her out.

JIM
Sure. I left. Stuff happens. I get it. Guess I should talk to her next, huh?

NORM
Before you do that, you should know, Destructo gave me some story and said that that philanthropist, Maxwell Kord, sent him.

JIM
Max Kord? That's... that's Grim Justice. I was supposed to lose it over Destructo, and get kicked out of the squad so they could keep the name Justice Gyms. That must be the only reason they let me in at all! We had it copyrighted! If he sent Destructo here--

NORM
I get it. Go grab your costume. It's time for you to be the hero.

JIM
No. It's time for me to be a good guy.

Jim leaves as Norm watches him go away.

FADE OUT:

THE END