

Super Nancy

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INT. NANCY'S KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

NANCY (68) and ANNETTE (65) sit at a small, round dining table playing rummy. Annette picks up three cards and lays down a run of four.

NANCY

Really? I've been waiting for a ten half the game.

ANNETTE

Sorry, not sorry. Isn't that what the cool kids say?

NANCY

I know how you are. I've been playing with you 40 years.

ANNETTE

Not possible. I would've been an infant.

Nancy gives Annette a look.

NANCY

You don't get carded for the senior egg white and spinach crap you order at Bob Evans.

ANNETTE

Yeah... why bother being vain? There's no one left to impress.

NANCY

You're still married.

ANNETTE

Richard's a cheater, Nance.

NANCY

I wasn't about to be the one to ruin your life by telling you. Guess you're not so oblivious after all.

ANNETTE

Ruin my life? At this point I'm just glad he has a hobby. Keeps him out of my hair. He's been at it since the very beginning.

NANCY

Why don't you just get a divorce?

ANNETTE

Insurance.

NANCY

Really? Yours isn't even that good. Seriously, the insurance isn't worth it, Annette. Just leave him.

ANNETTE

Honey, I'm past the cougar stage. And I don't do well with lonely.

NANCY

I'm always here.

ANNETTE

Right. But not in my bed.

NANCY

You still sleep with him? Annette! You could get herpes!

ANNETTE

Richard always uses a condom.

Nancy covers her ears and winces. She gets up and walks toward the fridge.

One of her cats sits on the floor. She stoops to pet it.

NANCY

Hey Carter, honey. You feeling okay?

Nancy opens the fridge and pulls out a pitcher of iced tea, which she brings back to the table.

ANNETTE

Enough about me and Richard. Let's turn the tables. Now, I hate to speak ill of the dead...

NANCY

Then don't.

ANNETTE

But Everett had a mistress too.

NANCY  
He would never.

ANNETTE  
His lab was his mistress.

NANCY  
Oh. Well I suppose you could make an  
argument for that.

ANNETTE  
You suppose?

NANCY  
That's a lot different than taking  
your secretary to Aspen.

ANNETTE  
Did he have a mattress down there in  
the basement?

NANCY  
A couch.

ANNETTE  
Exactly.

NANCY  
It's not the same.

Annette gives her a look, then finishes her iced tea.

ANNETTE  
We should drink.

NANCY  
It's one o' clock in the afternoon,  
Annette.

ANNETTE  
Doesn't matter. We have nothing to do.

Nancy walks to the front door and looks out the window.

NANCY  
Everyone knows us.

ANNETTE  
They won't know.

NANCY  
Church people find out anything worth  
knowing.

Annette opens the fridge and stoops low, checking behind  
things.

ANNETTE  
There's vodka, Nance!

NANCY  
Don't touch it.

Annette pulls it out and holds it up to the light. It's about  
half full.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
I said don't touch it.

ANNETTE  
Everett's?

Nancy snatches it from her.

ANNETTE (CONT'D)  
Oh, come on. You have something better  
to remember him by. A scrapbook or  
something. You can't leave a perfectly  
good bottle of vodka.

NANCY  
I can, actually.

ANNETTE  
Okay!

She goes back to looking for alcohol.

NANCY  
Are we going to finish our game?

Nancy sits back down and picks up a hand of cards while  
Annette produces a nearly empty bottle of spiced rum.

ANNETTE  
Do you have Coke?

Nancy huffs and throws her cards on the table.

NANCY  
It's not right to drink in the day.

Annette laughs.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
Just take the rum.

ANNETTE  
You want me to leave?

Nancy stares at the front door silently. Annette pats Nancy's shoulder on the way out.

INT. NANCY'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Nancy goes to her room and flops on her neatly-made bed, next to two more cats. She pets them both.

NANCY  
I don't need people.

She starts to cry.

There is a picture of Nancy and Everett on the end table by the bed. It looks recent, and they appear very happy.

INT. BASEMENT LABORATORY - EVENING

Nancy goes down the basement stairs. Everett's laboratory is a sight to behold, full of electronic devices.

He has data charts mounted on the wall, beakers and burners and open-face cabinets full of chemicals.

His walls are decorated with superheroes of all kinds. Batman, Superman, The Avengers, Spiderman, and a large wooden sign above his work area says, "You don't have to be very strong to be very brave."

Nancy walks through the laboratory. She picks things up and looks at them, sometimes smells them, and sets them back just as she found them.

At his computer, there is a little paper banner taped to the top of the computer monitor that reads, "THERE IS A CURE."

Nancy wiggles the mouse, and the screen lights up. She puts in the password: "screwcancer67"

His desktop background is a picture of the two of them when they were much younger.

She clicks an icon on the desktop, a Word document labeled

"Log." It reads, "2-21-2017. I'm closing in on the answers. I've had great success with serums 82 and 83."

Nancy walks up the stairs.

INT. KITCHEN- EVENING

Nancy fills a line of 8 cat food dishes along one wall. She picks up Carter and puts him in a room by himself with his food.

She cooks bacon and pops bread in the toaster, slices tomato and pulls a large piece of lettuce off the head.

She sits at the table, alone with her BLT, and prays.

NANCY (V.O.)

Dear God. Take me, if you would,  
please. I just want to be with  
Everett.

GOD (V.O.)

No.

Nancy's eyes pop open. She looks scared. She waits, and hears nothing else. So she closes her eyes again.

NANCY (V.O.)

Okay. Tell Everett I love him, and I  
love you too. And thank you for the  
BLT.

She waits, opens one eye and looks around, then opens the other.

NANCY

(whispers)

Amen.

INT. SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOM - MORNING

Nancy sits at a low table with five little kids (6 or 7 years old). They all have their heads bowed, eyes closed, and hands folded.

ALL KIDS IN UNISON

Amen.

NANCY

Who here has heard of David and  
Goliath?

A few kids raise their hands. Some of them look excited. JONI (18 years old) comes in with a box and sets it on a nearby counter. She begins to pull out Y-shaped sticks, rubber bands and koosh balls.

NANCY

Who was David?

KID 1

A warrior!

NANCY

He wasn't exactly a warrior.

KID 2

King.

NANCY

He wasn't a king yet. He was just a boy. Not much older than you. That's what makes his story so incredible.

Annette comes in with a notepad. She counts the kids and writes in her notepad while Nancy is talking.

NANCY

The Philistine army had a super strong giant named Goliath and the Israelites were afraid because they didn't have anyone strong enough to defeat him.

Annette looks at Joni and at the slingshots. She taps Nancy on the shoulder and Nancy stops speaking.

ANNETTE

(whispers)

You can't give them slingshots in church.

NANCY

It's a craft, Annette.

ANNETTE

Yeah... you're crafting weapons though.

NANCY

They don't have rocks. They have koosh balls.



ANNETTE  
They'll find rocks.

NANCY  
(standing)  
And then, little David defeated  
Goliath, the giant! Joni? The crafts?

Joni passes the slingshots out to the kids. Nancy hands them each a koosh ball.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
Don't do anything with these yet. We  
will go over the rules.

ANNETTE  
Rules aren't going to stop them from  
putting each others' eyes out.

NANCY  
All David had was a sling and five  
stones. But he was brave.

Annette storms out.

ANNETTE  
(out loud to herself)  
Slingshots in church!

The door shuts behind her.

INT. NANCY'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

The doorbell rings. Nancy answers it. It's Joni.

JONI  
Hi Mrs. Roland.

NANCY  
Hi Joni. You know you can call me  
Nancy.

JONI  
Okay.

NANCY  
Are you ready?

Joni nods. Nancy ushers her in.

NANCY

I don't know exactly how long I'll be gone. Will you be available for all of June?

JONI

Yes. I don't leave for college until August.

NANCY

Oh, good.

Nancy and Joni walk to the kitchen. On the floor is a black and white cat, lying on its side.

NANCY (CONT'D)

This is Carter. He's diabetic. I'll show you where I keep his insulin and needles.

Joni looks worried.

JONI

I have to give him shots?

NANCY

Yes, two a day. You can practice on an orange. I'll show you. And he's used to it. Don't worry.

JONI

Okay.

Joni looks worried. She scribbles on her little notepad.

NANCY

He has to eat his food in a separate room so the others don't snag it. It would throw off his sugars.

(to Carter)

It would throw off your sugars, yes it would.

Nancy kisses the top of Carter's head. She continues to lead Joni through the house.

NANCY

This is Maisy. She lost her leg because she got curious when someone was mowing the lawn. But she's very playful.

NANCY (CONT'D)

(to cat)

You don't let no stubby stub hold you back. No you don't. You can do anything!

Joni sports a nervous smile. Nancy points at an orange cat across the room.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Little Miss Sunshine is the orange one over there. She's grumpy as hell. Don't touch her. She bites.

Joni nods.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Huntington is the black one next to her. I found him by the ATM. Little Miss Sunshine lets him around but I wouldn't let Moxie or Posie near her, or Lulu.

JONI

Moxie, Posie, and Lulu?

NANCY

Yes.

Nancy moves toward a tabby backed into a corner.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Lulu has anxiety. She gets a little kitty Prozac, don't you Lu?

JONI

How do I do that?

NANCY

Tuna and bread. You wrap the pill in a little ball; she'll scarf it right down.

JONI

Didn't you say there were eight?

NANCY

Posie, Moxie, Lulu, Huntington, Carter, Maisy, Little Miss Sunshine. Oh, how could I forget Queenie?

Nancy leads Joni down the hall to her bedroom. She opens the door to reveal a massively obese long-haired cat lying on the bed.

NANCY

I present Queen Lucinda Sophia Anna Maria the fifth. You can call her Queenie. I have their pictures on fridge magnets, and I will post all their special instructions. So don't worry. You'll be okay.

JONI

Okay.

Nancy leads Joni out to the living room.

NANCY

Just come by 2 or 3 times a day. Keep them fed, pet them a little bit, change the litter.

JONI

I can do that.

Nancy leads Joni to the front door and opens it.

NANCY

I'll see you Monday, then.

JONI

See you then.

Nancy shuts the door and turns to her cats.

NANCY

Mommy's off to do something special!

Nancy goes back to her bedroom.

INT. NANCY'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

There is a one-piece magenta body suit in the closet, with black and purple accents. Nancy works to get it on.

NANCY

(to Queenie)

It's worse than Spanx!

She stands before her full-length mirror with her arms on her hips and her chest puffed out. The doorbell rings.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Shit!

She tries to get out of the suit, but she can't get it off. The doorbell rings again. She throws her bathrobe over it.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Coming!

She runs to the door. It's Joni. Nancy answers.

JONI

Sorry! I left my bag.

Nancy hands it to her. Joni smiles, then turns and leaves with a wave.

Nancy shuts the door. She turns and throws her robe to the floor dramatically, then punches and kicks the air a few times. She squats to test the stretch of the suit.

NANCY

Do you think rayon blend would breathe better, Moxie? I'm sweating like a hooker in a chapel!

She goes to her desk and pulls out the main drawer, grabbing a letter from inside.

CLOSE UP OF LETTER

WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Dear Nancy, you have been selected to participate in an elite, top-secret program!

INTERCUT SHOTS OF NANCY'S FACE WITH THE LETTER

WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O, CONT'D)

You may wonder why you've been selected. You may even be suspicious that this is a scam, but we assure you we are not con artists. In fact, con artists, counterfeiters and general lowlifes are just a few of the many types of villains covered in our first-term courses at the Top Secret Super Hero Academy of Tulsa, Oklahoma!

Nancy looks amazed.

WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O, CONT'D)  
 You will be trained in ultimate world-saving! After taking our summer courses, you will be able to take down a bad guy of your very own. And if you do, please tell us because we could use some testimonials.

Nancy looks at the letter in disbelief. She flips it over and holds it up to the light, then resumes where she left off.

WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O, CONT'D)  
 Sincerely, Cheryl, Administrative assistant at the T.S.S.H.T.A. We're trying out Tsh-ta. I don't know about it. It sounds Jewish.

At the bottom of the page, in blue pen, is scrawled a post-script message.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)  
 P.S: Cheryl really needs help writing these letters, but she's sensitive and we can't afford to hurt her feelings. She brings a lot of donuts. So when you get here, we're open to ideas. Signed Captain Torpedo.

Nancy holds the letter and paces back and forth in her living room.

NANCY  
 Do you think I should get a cape? I wonder if they provide capes. I'll never know if I don't ask. Well, Huntington... this is the craziest thing I've ever done. But wouldn't Everett have loved it? I'm sure if he's looking down from Heaven, he's giving me googly eyes.

Nancy grabs her cell phone and settles on the couch with the letter. She calls Cheryl.

NANCY  
 Here goes nothing!

She makes the call. KATHERINE answers.

INTERCUT CALL BETWEEN ACADEMY AND NANCY'S HOUSE

INT. SUPER HERO ACADEMY, RECEPTIONIST DESK - DAY

A bubbly young lady with a pixie cut and gaudy earrings sits at a desk. She answers the phone.

KATHERINE  
Hello, this is Katherine.

NANCY  
Katherine? With...

KATHERINE  
(confused)  
Just Katherine, by myself.  
(looks around)  
With no one.

NANCY  
No, like, with what company?

Katherine doesn't answer. She bites her lip.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
Okay Katherine. I have a letter  
regarding a special training  
opportunity.

KATHERINE  
Oh, that sounds nice.

NANCY  
Would you happen to know anything  
about that?

KATHERINE  
Ummm... no. But I know how to connect  
you to an extension, if you have one  
of those.

NANCY  
Oh. Right. Okay. It's 3-6-7.

The line rings. KELLY answers. She is straight-faced.

KELLY  
Hello, this is Kelly.

NANCY  
Not Cheryl?

KELLY

No, it's Kelly. Do you need Cheryl?

NANCY

Well, I don't know if I need Cheryl. I just called to accept an invitation.

KELLY

Oh, to the suspenders party?

Nancy looks at the other side of her letter and inside the envelope in case there is another note.

NANCY

Is that code? Can you elaborate please?

KELLY

No. It's really not appropriate to elaborate. But I can put you through to Cheryl's voicemail.

NANCY

Well, I wanted more information about the academy.

KELLY

What's the password?

Nancy's shoulders drop and her face sinks with disappointment. She sighs. Then she looks up in hope.

NANCY

Tsh-ta?

KELLY

There's no password. I just like to screw with people.

NANCY

Really? So are you Cheryl?

KELLY

No. I'm still Kelly. Here. Go ahead and leave her a voicemail. She'll call you after our suspenders party.

NANCY

Oh, that's a thing?



KELLY  
Of course. Here you go.

There is a pause as Kelly connects Nancy to CHERYL'S voicemail.

INT. NANCY'S HOUSE - DAY

Nancy holds the phone and pets her cat.

CHERYL (V.O.)  
Hello, you've reached the voicemail of Cheryl Houseworth. Please leave a message after the beep.

BEEP.

NANCY  
Hi, this is Nancy Roland. I'm ready... to accept the invitation. I want to be a superhero. Heroine. Superheroine. Is that? Umm... if you could call me back with details please, I would appreciate it. My number is 555-878-9033. Thanks! Bye.

Nancy hangs up the phone.

NANCY  
Ugh. Did I make a fool of myself?

She looks to her cats, but the felines visibly give no fucks.

EXT. ANNETTE'S PORCH - DAY

Nancy rings the doorbell. A dog barks. Annette comes to the door and opens it. She looks at Nancy coldly.

ANNETTE  
Can I help you?

NANCY  
Okay. You're still mad about the slingshots.

ANNETTE  
Forget me. They aren't even my kids. Just wait. I'm sure you'll get a call from a parent if you haven't already.

NANCY

Come on...

ANNETTE

When they put an eye out.

NANCY

With a koosh ball?!

Annette puts her hands up like she's giving up.

ANNETTE

I'm just trying to warn you.

NANCY

Come on. Let's go for a walk.

ANNETTE

Fine.

Annette steps out and closes the door. The two of them go out to the sidewalk and begin walking.

NANCY

What do you want me to do? Quit--

ANNETTE

Weapons dealing? Weapons dealing to six-year-olds?

NANCY

You're so dramatic.

ANNETTE

That's fine. I'm dramatic, then.

NANCY

Just let it go already. I came because I wanted to tell you something. I'm going somewhere for the summer.

ANNETTE

You are? By yourself?

NANCY

Yes.

ANNETTE

Are you taking all the cats?

NANCY  
 Joni's sitting. So, you'll see me  
 sometime in July.

ANNETTE  
 Really? That long? What am I supposed  
 to do?

NANCY  
 Maybe you'll get good at solitaire.

Annette whacks Nancy on the arm.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
 Ow!

ANNETTE  
 Where are you going?

NANCY  
 Tulsa.

ANNETTE  
 What the hell is in Tulsa?

Nancy doesn't answer.

ANNETTE (CONT'D)  
 You're not Internet dating, are you?

NANCY  
 Oh God, no. You think I want to be  
 turned into a skin suit?

Annette looks Nancy up and down, assessing.

ANNETTE  
 Lampshade or luggage.

Nancy returns her friend's arm whack.

ANNETTE (CONT'D)  
 Ouch! You got me hard.

NANCY  
 What else could they want from a 68-  
 year-old with special needs cats?

ANNETTE  
 Baked goods.

NANCY

No. I'm not Internet dating. I can't tell you what I'm doing.

ANNETTE

You have to! You tell me everything.

NANCY

No I don't.

ANNETTE

You do! Okay, I'm guessing. I'll start with the most common things on everyone's bucket list: underwater basket weaving.

NANCY

No. underwater... really?

ANNETTE

Slam poetry!

NANCY

Stop guessing.

ANNETTE

No. I know! Posing nude for a PETA fundraising calendar!

NANCY

Stop. I would never pose nude for anyone.

ANNETTE

That's right. Because you're no--

NANCY

Ha! You almost said I'm no fun, but you're the one who can't handle a toy slingshot. I'm no fun because I won't pose nude? Or drink during the day?

ANNETTE

I hate you.

NANCY

You don't.

EXT. SUPER HERO TRAINING ACADEMY - DAY

Nancy walks up to a brick building with no markings on it.

She has a rolling suitcase.

NANCY

(mumbling to self)

It shouldn't have to be this top-secret. I can't even find the door.

A man arrives: HANK, 45, buff but balding. He has no suitcase, just a backpack.

HANK

Excuse me, miss. Do you know where entrance 11 is?

NANCY

No. I'm looking for it too.

HANK

(eying her)

Really?

NANCY

(offended)

Yes, why? What are you looking for?

HANK

Oh. I... uh...

NANCY

Secret?

HANK

Maybe.

NANCY

You think I'm putting you to a test or something? How do I know you're not trying to test me?

HANK

Well, I suppose the only way to go is to go together.

NANCY

(thinks a moment)

I guess so.

HANK

I always figure if I'm gonna get lost, I might as well get lost with a pretty lady.

NANCY  
(rolls her eyes)  
Oh goodness.

Hank and Nancy walk together.

HANK  
Maybe we should just call and ask for  
directions.

NANCY  
I've never heard a man say that in my  
life!

HANK  
What's that supposed to mean?

NANCY  
It's kind of refreshing is all.

HANK  
You think I'm refreshing?

NANCY  
Now, don't let it go to your head.

HANK  
Like Sprite? Or like a nice scented  
body wash?

NANCY  
No. No. None of that.

Hank smiles. They find a door and Nancy tries to open it.  
It's locked. They keep moving.

HANK  
This should be 11.

NANCY  
Should be.

Hank tries the handle. It's not budging. He slams his weight  
into the door.

NANCY  
What are you doing?

HANK  
Entering through door 11.

NANCY

What if we were supposed to count the other way?

Hank kicks the door near the handle. It remains unmoving.

HANK

They have really strong doors.

NANCY

Should we try the others?

He backs up to get a running start toward the door. This time it swings open and he tackles Kelly as she opens it from the inside.

HANK

Damn! Dammit. I'm sorry.

He helps her up.

KELLY

Oh, yeah. I-it's okay. I'll recover. Probably just a couple of broken ribs.

She winces in pain.

HANK

If it makes you feel better, you can break a few of mine.

KELLY

(looking confused)

I'm not really into that sort of thing.

Hank raises an eyebrow at her, grinning.

HANK

What sort of thing are you into?

KELLY

(deadpan)

Collecting glass lamps. Also, I eat a lot of cheese.

Hank looks disappointed.

HANK

You know your way around this place?

KELLY

I do. Are you Hank?

HANK

How did you know?

KELLY

I read your profile.

HANK

Profile?

KELLY

You know, "likes long walks by the beach... must love butterflies... Sleeps with anything human..."

HANK

I didn't say any of that.

KELLY

Those were examples, although I have a feeling the last one's true.

HANK

Want to find out?

KELLY

(turning to Nancy)

Hi, I'm Kelly. Nice to meet you.

NANCY

Nancy.

KELLY

I thought so.

NANCY

And what's my profile say? Decrepit? Obsessed with needy felines?

KELLY

I think it says something about being the widow of the esteemed scientist Everett Roland.

NANCY

Oh.

KELLY

Let's go. This way.



Kelly leads Nancy and Hank down a hallway and through a door.

INT. AUDITORIUM AT THE ACADEMY - DAY

KELLY

Orientation is here in the auditorium.  
Get your name badges. You can check  
your bags at the badge table. They  
will be delivered to your room.

There are nearly 100 people in the auditorium. Most of them  
are talking excitedly to each other.

Kelly walks off to help other newcomers. Hank and Nancy  
approach CHERYL, who sits behind a table covered in  
paperwork, folders and name tags.

CHERYL

Welcome to the Top-Secret Super Hero  
Training Academy of Tulsa, Oklahoma!  
I'm Cheryl!

NANCY

Cheryl from the letter! Hi. I'm Nancy  
Roland.

HANK

Hi. Hank Arthur.

Cheryl hands them each a folder. Paper-clipped to the front  
of the folders are their name tags.

CHERYL

So glad you came! The keynote speaker  
is about to begin, and then we will  
proceed with orientation. Your  
schedule is outlined in your packet.

NANCY

Thanks.

Nancy heads to an empty spot near the front. There is a  
Gothic-looking young lady with plenty of empty space to  
either side of her.

Nancy takes a seat next to her. The goth girl looks at Nancy.  
Nancy smiles. The goth girl looks annoyed and scoots away.

The presenter, OLIVIA HANSHAW takes the podium.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Good morning! I am so excited to be here. As you know, if you are here today, you have been specially selected. Hand-picked. This is for a reason, whether it feels like it or not. By coming here, you've chosen to be brave. That's what it takes to be a hero. As you train, I want you to remember that. It's going to be hard. So remember why you came. Remember the world needs you. Thank you very much.

Applause.

HANK

(whispers to Nancy)

She was hot.

NANCY

What, am I your bro now?

Hank looks ashamed.

Olivia steps away from the podium; DR. COLTON SAER steps up.

DR. COLTON SAER

Thank you Olivia. Welcome. I am Dr. Colton Saer. You may have heard of me, if you know anything about cancer or the treatment thereof. I tend to run in circles of oncologists and treatment specialists. But I am here today because I want you to think about...

His voice fades out. Nancy appears to recognize Dr. Saer, and her face shows she isn't too fond of him.

DR. COLTON SAER (CONT'D)

(muffled)

Some people say doctors are heroes. Or police, or teachers. What makes a hero a hero?

Nancy gets up and walks toward the door, where she is stopped by a SECURITY GUARD.

SECURITY GUARD

Ma'am, I'm going to have to ask you to take your seat.

NANCY

I changed my mind. I don't want to be here.

SECURITY GUARD

We can talk about this after the presenter has finished, but you may not leave during the speech.

Nancy takes the closest available seat to the door.

DR. COLTON SAER

You must all be wondering about how you will get superhuman powers.

Hank stretches out a bit and scopes out the goth girl, who gives him a terrifying, almost murderous look. He looks away.

DR. COLTON SAER (CONT'D)

We have been working for years with the best pharmaceutical companies to research and develop successful medications that can activate different areas of the brain to accentuate natural abilities and even give us new ones.

Nancy is tuned in to what the doctor is saying.

DR. COLTON SAER (CONT'D)

While we believe you all have the potential for greatness, the next six weeks will be your chance to prove yourselves, and not all of you will make it. But I look forward to seeing which of you do. Good luck!

Dr. Saer smiles from behind the podium, raises a hand to wave, and mouths "thank you," inaudible beneath the applause.

Nancy looks at the security guard. He's staring back at her.

Olivia Hanshaw returns to the mic. Nancy turns to watch, but remains standing by the door.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Thank you Dr. Saer. Next, you're going to break into small groups for a little exercise.

Hank rushes up to Nancy.

HANK

Nancy. Do you want to be in my group?

NANCY

No. I don't think I'm staying.

HANK

Of course you are. We're here for a reason. Weren't you listening?

NANCY

Why do you think they picked you?

HANK

Well I mean... I can fight. I've been boxing since I was 19.

NANCY

Okay... how do you think they know that?

HANK

I don't know.

NANCY

Do you think I've been boxing since I was 19?

Hank stares blankly at her.

NANCY (CONT'D)

No. I haven't.

HANK

Well, I don't really care why they invited me. I'm just glad to be here and I'm going to do what it takes.

NANCY

Okay.

She turns back toward the guard.

HANK

Come on. Give it a chance.

NANCY

(turns to Hank, fighting tears)  
Sorry... my husband loved super heroes.

Hank smiles at her and offers her a hug, which she accepts.

INT. SCREEN ROOM AT SUPERHERO ACADEMY - DAY

There is a huge screen wall, where there are icons, each with words describing a power:

Invisibility. Super strength. Time travel. Telepathy.  
Healing. Super speed. Flight. Electric manipulation.  
Breathing underwater. Super hearing. Raising the dead.  
Photographic memory. Teleportation. Weather control.

Olivia Hanshaw is near the wall, at the front of the room.

Hank, Nancy, the goth girl (JANE) and two others are there: a young man who looks like an IT nerd, African American (TOBY) and a middle aged mother, pretty but tired (BETH).

OLIVIA HANSHAW

When you look up here, what catches your eye? You first, Hank.

HANK

Super strength or super speed.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Tell us why.

HANK

I just think it would feel amazing for my body to be that strong or fast. I'd like to know what it feels like.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Okay, fair enough. Jane?

JANE

Teleportation.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Why?

JANE

I want to travel and see the world.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Sounds nice. Just running around? Or running away?

JANE

Not running. Teleporting. I don't run.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Toby?

TOBY

I like the idea of manipulating electricity. Or another power that interacts with technology in some way, because I love technology.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Good. How about you... is it Beth?

BETH

Yes. Beth. I think I'd go for healing.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

What draws you to healing?

BETH

Well, I have four boys, so I go through band-aids like toilet paper. I was a nurse too. I can see just how helpful it would be.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Makes sense. And last but not least. Nancy?

NANCY

Raising the dead.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

I'm guessing you've lost someone important to you.

NANCY

My husband.

HANK

Don't go making zombies, Nancy. It's a bad idea.

JANE

Shut up Hank. She's romantic.

HANK

I'm surprised you know anything about romance.

Toby laughs. Jane gives him a death glare.

JANE

Don't laugh at me, Pocket Protector.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Alright, alright. Let's be nice.

HANK

We can be nice, but still. Zombies are always a bad idea. Just pick a different one, Nancy.

NANCY

Then time travel.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Okay. I assume it's for the same reason?

Nancy nods.

OLIVIA HANSHAW (CONT'D)

I asked what you were drawn to. Not all of these powers are necessarily available to us yet. We're still working on the formulas that allow access to different parts of the brain and body.

JANE

What's the point of showing us all these, then? Why don't you just show us the ones that are ready, that we can actually pick from?

OLIVIA HANSHAW

Well, none of them are 100% ready, and that's part where you fit in.

HANK

I came here to be a superhero. Not an experiment.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

And you will be a superhero. But you see, everything has a cost.

JANE

Are you saying we're paying for our abilities by being part of your fucked up pharmaceutical trial?

TOBY

Yes. That's what she's saying.

OLIVIA HANSHAW

No, I wouldn't say it that way.

Olivia takes a covered cage from under a desk and sets it up where everyone can see.

OLIVIA HANSHAW (CONT'D)

I would like to remind you all of the nondisclosure agreements you signed upon acceptance into the program.

She makes solemn eye contact with each of them. Then she pulls the cover off the cage to reveal a rat that is floating in mid-air.

Everyone looks impressed or excited, except Beth, who looks worried.

OLIVIA HANSHAW (CONT'D)

Because things around here are only going to get crazier.