

EPISODE TEN - "CATCH A SPEEDSTER"

WRITERS:

JOHN DORSEY & MAX CLARK & TONY ASSANDE

EPISODE TEN - NEWS ONE

INT. NEWS STUDIO

In the studio.

FIONA VAUGHAN

Good news for Cyborgs across the nation as Man-Droid has won his case against Babble computers, earning Cybernetic heroes the right to repair their implants using third party parts. Man-Droid said he will celebrate the occasion by replacing his legs with newer, more metal legs.

UNDERWRITER

That was Fiona Vaughan reporting from SPR Palo Alto.

WENLING CHEN

Live from SPR News in Washington, I'm Wenling Chen.

(then)

Following a steep drop in its stock price in the wake of multiple controversies, the Heroic Legion has announced a merger with popular super-ware brand Spandexo.

(then)

Spandexo's CEO Jake Bindle will hold a press conference this afternoon to discuss details of the merger.

(then)

Bindle has made headlines recently speaking out against Steel Trap's Detection Rings.

JIKE BINDLE

How can a free country demand its citizens do the bare minimum? Today it's rings tomorrow it's handcuffs!

WENLING CHEN

SPR would like to remind listeners that the Rings have been approved by the CDC, WHO, and Heroic Legion in order to combat the Doppelgänger Threat.

(then)

(MORE)

WENLING CHEN (CONT'D)

In one week SPR will hold a Ring Drive in Paradise City to encourage citizens to get ringed. See website for details.

UNDERWRITER

That was Wenling Chen reporting from Washington, it's 74 degrees here in Paradise City. And now for 100% Invisible.

EPISODE TEN - END NEWS ONE

EPISODE TEN - ACT ONE - 100I GLADYS

INT. TAS STUDIO

In the studio.

ARES GRECO

This is 100% invisible. I'm Ares Greco.

(then)

In the early days of caped crusading, heroes were called to action in all kinds of ways: Spotlights. Ravens. Magic Conch Shells. These days it's a little simpler.

SFX: Phone ringing. Answered.

911 OPERATOR

9-1-1 what's your emergency?

SFX: Screams, running, giant footsteps.

MALE CALLER, GLADYS, EP 10

T-Th-There's a freakin' g-giant robot spider attacking the city!

911 OPERATOR

Ok sir, I'm going to escalate this. Stand by for Legion Support...

Note: Gladys has a matter of fact manner of speaking.

GLADYS

This is the Heroic Legion, I hear that you're dealing with a giant robot?

MALE CALLER, GLADYS, EP 10

Yeah, yeah, yeah it's almost here.

GLADYS

That sounds very stressful. What's your name citizen?

MALE CALLER, GLADYS, EP 10

D-D-Dennis.

GLADYS

It's nice to meet you Dennis, my name's Gladys. Don't worry, the Legion is here to save you.

SFX: Baller Music Cue

ARES GRECO

Gladys Williams are the Heroic Legion Dispatch center. If you've ever needed a superhero, you've probably heard her voice.

SFX: Giant footsteps.

GLADYS

I've dispatched Gargantujan to save your day. He should be arriving in a Legion Drop Jet now, please stay clear of the drop zone.

SFX: Sound barrier breaking. Jet passing by. Something huge landing.

GLADYS (CONT'D)

You see him?

MALE CALLER, GLADYS, EP 10

I do! Gargantujan is here!

GARGANTUJUAN

(huge voice, singing)

La pequeña araña. Subió, subió,
subió. Vino la lluvia
y se la lleva.

SFX: Gargantjuan punches the spider. Buildings crumble.

GLADYS

Alright Dennis it sounds like the tide is turning. We know you have many options when it comes to rescuing, thank you for choosing the Legion.

SFX: Boom!

MALE CALLER, GLADYS, EP 10

Thank you, oh my god, thank you so much!

SFX: Call ends/fades out.

ARES GRECO

At the same time Dennis was being helped in New Jersey, Mariam needed saving in Savannah...

SFX: Hissing.

MARIAM

I think they're vampires...

GLADYS

Well don't you worry none, I'm dispatching Ron Frankenstine...

ARES GRECO

As well as Li You in Los Angeles...

SFX: Sci-fi noises.

HAE-WON

(in native Mandarin)

I'm pretty sure he's a brain in a jar.

GLADYS

(in fluent Mandarin)

Oh that's probably Brain Pipe, I've got The Stupefier en route to your location.

SFX: Call ends/fades out.

ARES GRECO

Over 15,000 times a day, Gladys dispatches the perfect hero for each situation. Which raises the question.

(then)

How?

Music cue.

GLADYS

It's like herding cats, you know? Superpowered cats.

ARES GRECO

As a cat owner, that is my constant nightmare.

They share a laugh.

ARES GRECO (ASIDE) (CONT'D)
I spoke to her from Tower One
Dispatch.

ARES GRECO (CONT'D)
How long have you been with the
Program?

GLADYS
Over thirty years. I started as an
researcher--
(correcting)
An intern really, that they dragged
down to dispatch on a particularly
chaotic night...

SFX: Phones ringing.

ARES GRECO
The Villainous League had put a
bounty out on anyone with the name
"Jennifer."

SFX: People answering 911 calls.

GLADYS
Jennifer was the most common name
for babies that year, so it was
pandemonium.

SFX: Panicked voices.

GLADYS (CONT'D)
The dispatch center looked like the
pits on Wall Street. Folks running
around, crashing into each other.

ARES GRECO
How did the program work then?

Note: The next two lines may be cut in the edit.

GLADYS
We had "The Catalogue." You
remember phone books?

ARES GRECO
Our younger listeners might not
remember. But in pre-internet days,
phone companies would deliver giant
books filled with the phone numbers
of everyone listed in your city.

GLADYS

We had a hundred of these books,
one set by region, one by name, one
by powers, and only thirty people
scrambling to find the right person
for the job. Which they couldn't.

(then)

They were sending healers to fight
kaiju, rage monsters to rescue
children. They had Green Thumb
dispatched to an apartment fire.
Plants do not like fire.

(then)

The whole east coast was
overwhelmed. Everyone in the
building was called in to help, but
Dispatch needed more than just a
couple extra hands to fix it.

ARES GRECO

Fortunately, Gladys has some to
spare.

GLADYS

They call my ability Symbiotic
Duplication. I can replicate
myself.

(she does so)

Split into any number of copies
(splits again.)

And we communicate with each other
psychically.

(then normal again)

They say two heads are better than
one, but why stop there?

ARES GRECO

With your gift, why not have you
working in dispatch all along? It
seems perfect for you.

GLADYS

Well dispatch is on the third
floor.

SFX: Thunking the chair

GLADYS (CONT'D)

The Legion didn't know what to do
with disabilities back then.

(then)

(MORE)

GLADYS (CONT'D)

They looked at me, but what they really saw was the wheelchair, so they parked me behind a desk and they might have left me there if not for the Jenny-cides.

(then)

We were all called up there. A couple guys carried me up to the pits and I got my shot. I had never split myself so many ways back then. Usually two or three was enough.

ARES GRECO

She made dozens of herself.

GLADYS

The floor manager had them bring in chairs from the whole tower. They carried MEs to the catalogue, when they didn't have people to bring me places, I crawled.

(then)

It took around ten minutes for me to get the situation under control.

Music cue. (Something like Dry Air by Podington Bear)

ARES GRECO

Gladys was awarded the Cape of Honor, and given control of the Dispatch Program by then Legion Leader, the Crimson Torch.

(then)

Today, she doesn't just run the dispatch center, she IS the dispatch center.

CRIMSON TORCH

In some ways, Gladys Williams is our highest priority asset.

ARES GRECO

This the Crimson Torch **themselves**. We recorded this three weeks before the Rehab scandal broke.

CRIMSON TORCH

If Gladys retired, the legion would survive, but I don't think they've found anything that works as well as her. We've been trying since the nineties.

(MORE)

CRIMSON TORCH (CONT'D)

The only alternative that came close is now locked in the basement of Tower One.

ARES GRECO

You mean Franklin? The AI supercomputer?

CRIMSON TORCH

I'll give Billy this much: his future-predicting, all knowing computer super-mind was at least able to keep pace with her. But Gladys has never tried to take over the world.

GLADYS

A lot of people ask me what the best part of my job is, and I tell them its getting to help heroes be the best versions of themselves.

Music cue. (Something like Inside River Pt. 2)

GLADYS (CONT'D)

The old system placed supers on anonymous lists, filled with meaningless rankings and two line descriptions.

(then)

I can't imagine what that book would have said about me.

(then)

I've gotten to know each of the 12,000 members in our system, so I can do what others can't. I dispatch heroes based on their personality, their grit. What terrain they prefer, their people skills.

(then)

They're all heroes. All I do is put them in position to show it.

SFX: Ring ring.

GLADYS (CONT'D)

Excuse me I have to take this.

(then)

Hello this is the Heroic Legion... Your husband turned into a black hole? Don't worry, the Legion is here to save you.

Music.

ARES GRECO

Special thanks to Gladys Williams for speaking with us. In addition to working full time as Legion Dispatch, Gladys teaches her techniques to dispatchers working for the Southern Battalion and other Heroic Organizations. She works 24/7 and still finds time for volunteering, family and her first love, birdwatching.

(then)

We'll be back next time with more stories of design.

EPISODE TEN - END ACT ONE

EPISODE TEN - NEWS TWO

INT. AD BREAK

In the studio.

ADS

Support for SPR comes from...

(then)

Metal Bone Club.

(then)

Are you tired of your bones being made out of bones? Join Metal Bone Club.

(then)

Just six excruciatingly painful surgeries later and you can finally have the shining skeleton of your dreams.

(then)

Metal Bone Club.

(then)

After receiving the bone replacement surgery, you will be unable to go through metal detectors, swim, fly on airplanes or walk near magnets. BUT YOUR BONES WILL BE FREAKIN METAL. See website for details.

INT. NEWS STUDIO

In the studio.

WENLING CHEN

Live from SPR News in Washington, I'm Wenling Chen.

(then)

We go live to Legion Tower One in Philadelphia, where Spandexo CEO Jake Bindle is addressing the media

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE

SFX: Press walla. Camera whine.

JIKE BINDLE

I know many of you were expecting to hear from Iron Barracuda.

(then)

(MORE)

JIKE BINDLE (CONT'D)

Following a vote by the Legion's new board of trustees, her leadership of this organization has been terminated. She's gone. Out.

SFX: Murmurs in the crowd.

JIKE BINDLE (CONT'D)

I want to be the first to thank her for all her years of service. Let's give her a round of applause.

(clapping)

Come on, this is a press conference not a funeral.

SFX: Meager applause.

JIKE BINDLE (CONT'D)

But it is past time for a change.

(then)

A change is coming. Yes yes yes. It's here. Aren't you tired of The Legion playing politics? The board wants to return us to what the Legion used to stand for: Truth, justice and the American way. How about that? How about a little *American* way for a change? eh??

(then)

This is why I am pleased to announce, the new Legion Leader. He's my good friend, (**ALT: Joining us via satellite**) and true American Superhero, Goat Man.

SFX: Crowd doesn't clap. Jake does. Maybe some supporters on his side.

GOAT MAN

"Do Good" has been the Legion's motto for over 75 years. But good isn't good enough anymore. While the Legion did good, anarchy and disrespect ruled our streets. The Legion did good, but people went to bed scared for their lives, scared! The Legion did good and yet there is still evil in our world.

(Then)

Villains will know that if they cross the line, we will dive down on them like God's own hammer. It isn't enough to do good anymore. We have to do great acts of heroism.

(MORE)

GOAT MAN (CONT'D)

We have to be ready to strike for
the heart of this country!

(then)

Now when people look to the skies,
they will know we are up there
protecting them

(then)

So starting today, we take on a new
motto: "We are above you."

(then)

Thank you for coming. And may God
Bless America.

REPORTER CHORUS

Goat Man!

JIKE BINDLE

We won't be answering any questions
at this time.

REPORTER #1, NEWS 2, EP 10

Mr. Bindle! Why wasn't Iron
Barracuda here?

REPORTER #2, NEWS 2, EP 10

Did you kill Phillip Dodd?

REPORTER #3, NEWS 2, EP 10

When will the Legion respond to
attacks by NormCore? Any plans for
Tower Two?

WENLING CHEN

We're getting reports that Iron
Barracuda has been seen swimming
off the California coastline
heading west.

UNDERWRITER

That was Wenling Chen reporting
from Washington. It's 74 degrees
here in Paradise City. And now
These American Supers...

EPISODE TEN - END NEWS TWO

EPISODE TEN - ACT TWO - TAS DOCTOR DOCTOR

INT. TAS STUDIO

In the studio.

ETHAN SCHWARTZ

From QSPZ Baltimore, it's These
American Supers. I'm Ethan
Schwartz.

(then)

The legendary heroes who founded
the Heroic Legion all had one thing
in common.

(then)

Tragic origin stories.

(then)

The death of a parent, the failure
to save a lover, a flagrant OSHA
violation.

(then)

Calamity forged these supers into
the first professional superheroes.
But nowadays. . .

INT. SCHOOL

SFX: Student walla. Murmurs. Bell.

ALIYAH

Hi welcome to super school!

SFX: Seats.

ETHAN SCHWARTZ

This is Aliyah Joy, teacher at the
Team Hero camp in Arlington,
Virginia.

(then)

It's 9am, and today is the first
day of the Learn to Fly program.

ALIYAH

Everyone have their seats? Great.
Who here wants to be a superhero?

ETHAN SCHWARTZ

Nearly everyone raises their hands.

STUDENT #1, DOCTOR, EP 10

Hey when do we get to punch stuff?

STUDENT #2, DOCTOR, EP 10
Yeah I want to learn kung fu!

STUDENT #3, DOCTOR, EP 10
Do you give us powers or do we
bring them from home?

STUDENT #4, DOCTOR, EP 10
-- Same but like utility belts.

ALIYAH
We'll get there. For now open your
text books to page five, we're
going to go over Chapter One: Power
and Responsibility.

STUDENT CHORUS
Groans.

ALIYAH
(to Ethan)
It's one of the most popular
electives. Doesn't matter if you're
powered or unpowered, people just
want to be heroes. We've got a
waiting list as long as my arm.

SFX: Stretching.

ETHAN SCHWARTZ
Aliyah stretches her arm down the
hallway to drive the point home.
(then)
But you don't actually teach them
to fly?

ALIYAH
It's more of a metaphor. Like,
letting them reach their potential.
(then)
There are some disappointed faces
on the first day, but they come
around.
(then)
For most of them, it's the closest
thing they'll get to real training.

SFX: Fireball.

ETHAN SCHWARTZ
A pair of kids run past with foam
shields and swords.

SFX: Fireball.

ALIYAH

Hey! Hey! No powers outside the danger-zone! You know that Shelby!

STUDENT #2, DOCTOR, EP 10

Sorry Ms. Joy.

ALIYAH

It's alright. Get the extinguisher.

SFX: Fire alarm.

ALIYAH (CONT'D)

Second time this month...

ETHAN SCHWARTZ

Super-Camps like this can be found in nearly every state, earning millions of dollars every year from young supers who are trying to break into the industry.

ALIYAH

If you have the money you can send your kids to one of the cushy Silver Age Schools full time, and they're set for life. Poor kids who want to go pro, usually end up on the vigilante track and wind up in jail. But Team Hero balances that out we have loads of scholarships and -- put the laser down.

ETHAN SCHWARTZ

Detractors claim that hero camps are focused on profit rather than helping kids control their powers. Debates like this question if super-heroism can in fact be taught.

(then)

But while the credentials of superheroes are typically proven not in academic accolades, but in daring deeds, for villains there has been an long tradition of pursuing higher education.

(then)

Producer Ellen Spiegel has the story.

NOTE: The following is an ALT opening for editing purposes:

INT. LECTURE HALL

SFX: Paper rustle. Projector hum. Slides click.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Uther University, Illinois. Patrick Moran, a pale, gangly PHD student stands behind the podium defending his dissertation.

PATRICK

As you can see the data indicates the application of hyper-focused depolarized tachyon beams upon the emotional cortex of the human brain leads to increased experiences of hopelessness, existential dread, and a general sense of ennui...

ELLEN SPIEGEL

His audience of tenured professors give nothing away in their stoney silence.

SFX: Audience coughs. Silence.

PATRICK

(clears his throat)

It's possible that correctly harnessed, this could be used to destabilize whole nations.

(then)

It is my sincere hope that with the committee's support, the world will rue the day I set foot on this campus. Thank you.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Patrick is one of a handful of students pursuing their doctorate in Malevolent Philosophy.

(then)

Or as the kids call it: The Supervillain Track.

DEAN WELLES

We are not training people to become supervillains.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

This is Morgan Welles, Dean of Uther University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

DEAN WELLES

The thing that sets Uther University apart is our focus on small classes and close mentorships. We don't put limits on our student's education, that's a good thing in my book.

(then)

Besides, name me a college in America that hasn't had a graduate or two that's ran afoul of the law.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

The average number of supervillain alumni from colleges in the United States is three point two.

(then)

Uther has three hundred and fourteen.

DEAN WELLES

Only twenty-six of those are classified as threats to global security and only a handful are donors.

DR. DEVILLE

The administration became aware of the, *coincidence*, in the eighties.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

This is Alumni Association President, Dr. Lucian Deville.

DR. DEVILLE

Over the course of a few years, there were several high profile incidents with alumni from our University: Dr. Devastation, then Professor Pestilence, PhD-struction. **(NOTE: Improv many more doctors.)**

(then)

All evil, all recipients of doctorates from Uther University.

(then)

Applications double every time one hits the FBI's most wanted.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

And applications weren't the only thing on the rise.

(then)

(MORE)

ELLEN SPIEGEL (CONT'D)

As Uther increased in infamy,
donations also grew. A large
portion of which arrives in the
form of diamonds, gold bars and
untraceable bearer bonds.

DR. DEVILLE

It all goes to a good cause...

ELLEN SPIEGEL

With increased funding, the
university was able to bring on new
professors to match its ever
diversifying student body.

(then)

The most famous of these, was Dr.
Imelda Morales, fresh out of her
stint in Seguaro prison.

DR. IMMORAL

It was a second chance at taking
over the world. One student at a
time. **(ALT: I was just happy to be
a teach and advise these brilliant
young minds.)**

ELLEN SPIEGEL

You may know her as the villain Dr.
Immoral.

DR. IMMORAL

Our students have really found a
passion for human suffering.

(then)

They remind me of myself at that
age. Such drive, such ambition. I
really thought I could take on the
world.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Dr. Immoral rose to fame attempting
to take over her home city of
Buenos Aires in a giant mechanical
Andean condor.

(then)

Widely considered the most infamous
menace Argentina has ever produced,
at Uther, students seem to view her
a bit differently.

STUDENT 1, DOCTOR DOCTOR

She's a legend!

STUDENT 2, DOCTOR DOCTOR

A genius!

BETSY

She's my hero. Well, Role model.
Role villain. She's great.

DEAN WELLES

Dr. Morales is reformed and abundantly qualified. She has advanced degrees in engineering and robotics from the University of Buenos Aires. Insinuating that she was hired to draw in so called "villainy students" is an insult to her impressive academic credentials.

BETSY

I absolutely applied because of Dr. Immoral. Are you kidding?

ELLEN SPIEGEL

This is Betsy, a first year student focusing in advanced robotics.

BETSY

Half of the students here applied for her. They sell t-shirts in the student union that say 'Immoral U'. The administration says it's a joke of course, but everybody knows it's true!

(then)

My mom's family is Argentinian, and they knew people who were there when it happened.

(then)

My parents and their friends would joke that they had la próxima Dr. Inmoral on their hands when I would take apart my brother's RC cars to try and build bots. She's just so smart and ... so cool!

(then)

Did you know that she was rejected from every school in South America before she finally got to study in Buenos Aires? Everyone said her designs were insane, that she was insane. But she never let that keep her down. When everybody was against her, she told them 'I'll show you! I'll show you all!'

(MORE)

BETSY (CONT'D)

(then)

A lot of people here relate to that. I relate to that.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Unexpectedly, Uther University also has a reputation as one of America's most diverse and welcoming campuses. Bullying and hazing are almost unheard of, and there are a record number of student groups supporting social causes including accessibility, LGBTQI+ rights, and racial justice.

PATRICK

Outside it's always been us against them. We're the us. Everybody at Uther. If you came here, you're on the team, that's all it takes.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Again this is Patrick. We spoke about the college's reputation while the dissertation committee determined his fate.

PATRICK

We're the underdogs. The ones playing alone on the playground while the normies throw their stupid sportsballs around.

(then)

For the first time in my life I'm surrounded by people who just get it.

(adding)

I've never felt more at home!

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Patrick first came to Uther with his B.S. from another university, which he declined to name.

PATRICK

I don't want to give them the ability to 'claim' me as a prestigious alum once I graduate.

(then)

Or tie me to that mysterious dorm fire.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Speaking to Patrick, he seemed confident and at ease despite his inability to make eye contact. He told us he owed that to his time at Uther.

PATRICK

I found my place here. I found myself. I've learned so much from my advisor Dr. Immoral, my other professors, and my fellow students. I used to be so shy and insecure. But now I know that what I have to say is worth hearing, and I'm gonna say it. And the world is gonna listen. Or else.

(then)

Huh. Look at that. I'm monologuing.

He laughs.

SFX: Door opens. Footsteps.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

When the committee returns, Dr. Immoral approaches, and you can see Patrick's face start to fall...

DR. IMMORAL

Well. We've reviewed your work, and the committee has come to a decision.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

She shakes her head.

DR. IMMORAL

Your Depression Beam has the potential to destroy countless lives. I don't believe your test subjects will ever feel joy again. You understand me, Doctor?

PATRICK

Yes, Ma'am.

(then)

Wait. Doctor?

DR. IMMORAL

Doctor. Congratulations, Patrick.

PATRICK

This is the greatest day of my
life!

ELLEN SPIEGEL

A feeling that wasn't shared by his
test subjects, who shuffled past,
weeping.

DEAN WELLES

People love to point at us and say
that we create monsters - but so
does being abandoned or ostracized
or betrayed. We are proud of
creating an environment that
supports our students no matter
what their dreams are. And sure,
some of our graduates have created
actual monsters, but...

(then)

All I know is that once upon a time
this school was on the verge of
bankruptcy, and now we aren't. The
doors are open, the lights are on,
and the staff is paid. We're
renovating. We're putting out more
scholarships. Our social work
program is one of the best in the
world. That's a lot of good things.
That has to balance out the
occasional bad thing.

ELLEN SPIEGEL

Since our interview Patrick has
become currently wanted in four
states and three Canadian provinces
under the moniker Dr. Despair.

(then)

The Heroic Legion has asked that
anyone with information on his
whereabouts please reach out to
their anonymous tip line.

(then)

Applications for Uther University
are accepted on a rolling basis.
For more information, visit their
website, Uther.edu.

ETHAN SCHWARTZ

That was Ellen Spiegel reporting
from Normal, Illinois.

(then)

That's it for our program.

(MORE)

ETHAN SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)

To everyone who said I'd never do
anything with my Liberal Arts
degree, I have one thing to say:

PATRICK

I'll show you! I'll show you all!

ETHAN SCHWARTZ

We'll be back soon, with more of
These American Supers.

EPISODE TEN - END ACT TWO

EPISODE TEN - NEWS THREE - TCAS PT. 3

INT. NEWS STUDIO

In the studio.

WENLING CHEN

Live from SPR News in Washington,
I'm Wenling Chen.

(then)

As we continue to monitor the
change in leadership at the Heroic
Legion, we turn yet again to
Apoorva Singh, who has new updates
on her search for the vigilante
claiming to be Quantum in her
recurring segment: "To Catch a
Speedster."

APOORVA SINGH

Since seizing control of the
Legion's Tower Two, the unpowered
rights group Normcore has been
keeping quiet.

(then)

No rallies, no public appearances,
even their online presence has
stagnated. Not so with their super-
rights counterparts, the Incognito.

(then)

Across the country, flyers,
posters, billboards and graffiti
have appeared, encouraging supers
to go incognito. And then there are
the videos:

MUSIC: INCOGNITO AD

INCOGNITO JOHN, TCAS 3, EP 10

I am not just super strong

INCOGNITO JANE, TCAS 3, EP 10

I am not just telekinetic.

INCOGNITO KID, TCAS 3, EP 10

Not just a turtle boy.

INCOGNITO HUMAN, TCAS 3, EP 10

I am a human being.

INCOGNITO ALIEN, TCAS 3, EP 10

An Alien.

INCOGNITO FATHER, TCAS 3, EP 10
A father.

INCOGNITO DAUGHTER, TCAS 3, EP 10
Daughter.

INCOGNITO CHORUS, TCAS 3, EP 10
(Blending into each other)
Nurse / Student / Friend

INCOGNITO JERK, TCAS 3, EP 10
A jerk. *Laughs.*

INCOGNITO CHORUS, TCAS 3, EP 10
And we are stronger together

QUANTUM
We are incognito. Join us.

APOORVA SINGH
This version of Quantum has become a mascot for the vigilante group. A key part of their marketing, and a driving force behind their public appeal.

(then)
In the last two weeks, I have continued my search for them. Ironically, the Super Act's Database has been useful in tracking down potential speedsters. But, unfortunately, none of them fit the bill. Stumped, I sat down with the smartest person I know.

(then)
William Whizgig, boy genius and SPR's resident problem solver.

WHIZ KID
I think I'm out growing the "boy genius" phase. Please call me Whiz Kid.

APOORVA SINGH
Oh course Whiz Kid.
(then)
When I came to you last week, we had two theories.

WHIZ KID
Either this is something we've never seen before, or it is... Him.

APOORVA SINGH

But not another speedster?

WHIZ KID

They seem faster than you, and as far as we know, no one else is. If were to wager money, I would bet on you being right. I don't think this is a speedster at all.

APOORVA SINGH

Why not?

WHIZ KID

Rope burns, scorch marks, the sound distortion, the physics don't add up. Also, and this isn't great radio, but if you look at the video, the blur isn't quite right either.

APOORVA SINGH

So if it isn't a speedster what is it?

WHIZ KID

Good question. How could you fake it? Live, in front of another speedster? An illusionist couldn't do it, a telekinetic couldn't do it. There's too many layers. We might be dealing with a chimera.

APOORVA SINGH

A half goat, lion snake?

WHIZ KID

One hero with multiple powers.

APOORVA SINGH

So this is where we were stuck last week: how do you catch someone like that?

WHIZ KID

You can't. There's no way of knowing what they're capable of. Not unless you had--
(drumroll)
A super-genetic prohibitor.

APOORVA SINGH

A power blocker? Like in Paradise City? Scientists have tried for decades and haven't gotten close.

WHIZ KID

Yeah, it took me a full week

(then)

Stan helped.

(then)

But here it is.

(then)

It interrupts the DNA of anyone with superhuman abilities, that's everyone in the area. It should cause them to lose their powers. For... Some amount of time.

(then)

Which obviously isn't perfect but since the technology didn't exist last week I think it's pretty --

APOORVA SINGH

It's amazing.

WHIZ KID

Quantum--

(catching himself)

Stephen was always good to me. He helped me find a place after I got kicked out. Honestly. I kind of hoped it was him.

APOORVA SINGH

Whiz kid...

SFX: Beeping. Phone unlocking sound.

WHIZ KID

What is that?

APOORVA SINGH

Tower Two. The speedster is moving in.

WHIZ KID

Remember that's a last resort. If you use it, you'll lose your powers too.

APOORVA SINGH

I know.

WHIZ KID
Hold fast, Apoorva Singh.

APOORVA SINGH
Thanks, Whiz Kid.

SFX: Apoorva Singh speedster zip.

SFX: We're inside Tower Two.

SFX: Quantum zips. Punching. Kicking. Guys groaning.

GARY
This place is off limits, speed-
freak.

QUANTUM
I break limits every day. And now
I'm going to break--

APOORVA SINGH
Stop.

QUANTUM
Poorva? What are you doing here?

APOORVA SINGH
You're one to talk.

QUANTUM
I'm ending this, Rabbit. Let me
handle it.

APOORVA SINGH
Yeah *Dad*. You want to handle it? Do
you remember what you told me right
before you died.

QUANTUM
I told you that I love you, and
that I'd always be there. And I am.
Now get out of here.

SFX: Apoorva zip.

APOORVA SINGH
That's what I told people he said.
But sorry, stranger. I lied.

QUANTUM
What's that--

SFX: Button press. EMP sound. Bodies collapsing.

APOORVA SINGH
They're children, Gary.

GARY
No, Singh. They're corpses.

APOORVA SINGH
Run Juhi! Run!

SFX: Clattering.

SFX: Feed goes dead.

WENLING CHEN
Apoorva? Are you there? Apoorva??

UNDERWRITER
Today's show was written and produced by John Dorsey and Maximilian Clark. Additional producing by Brendan Sokler and Carla Lerner, This episode's cast include (see website). With special thanks to Brenna Killeen.

(then)

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Outro:

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)
Coming up next...

(then)

Cutlass the Ghost Hunting Pirate has dedicated his life to fighting the undead. Now that he's dead, he's dedicating his afterlife into protecting the spirits he used to hunt. Inside his amazing journey on The Speech Bubble.

SFX: End Music.

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)
This is SPR

EPISODE TEN - END NEWS THREE

END EPISODE 10