

EPISODE THREE

WRITERS:

JOHN DORSEY & MAX CLARK

EPISODE THREE - NEWS ONE

INT. NEWS STUDIO

In the studio.

APOORVA SINGH

Malcom Tent longtime sidekick of Ms. Liberty has revealed himself to be a member of the Villainous League. The Sidekick Association of America has issued a press release stating "Wow, what a twist. Did not see that coming." They have promised to reevaluate their screening process for future members.

UNDERWRITER

That was Apoorva Singh reporting from SPR Cambridge.

In the studio.

WENLING CHEN

The NLRB, the National Labor Relations Board, has ruled in favor of freelancers employed by the app LAKY paving the way for those workers to unionize.

(then)

Kirby King, the current president of the national Henchman's Union, IHGOR, made this statement to the press:

**SFX:** Press walla.

KIRBY KING

We build the lairs, we take the hits, we make doomsdays happen.

(then)

When minions need someone, they know IHGOR has a hench's back.

(then)

So to the villains who think they can muck with this vote...

Remember: We know where the bodies are buried.

(then)

Because we did the digging.

WENLING CHEN

When asked to justify its decision, a rep for the NLRB said quote: "Don't worry about it," while counting a stack of non-sequential small bills.

UNDERWRITER

That was Wenling Chen reporting from Washington, it's 76 degrees here in Paradise City. And now we enter the Speech Bubble.

**EPISODE THREE - END NEWS ONE**

EPISODE THREE - ACT ONE - TSB GARY

INT. TSB STUDIO

In the studio.

KELLY CLOSE

From JDHC Houston, this is the  
Speech Bubble, I'm Kelly Close.

(then)

Super powered Americans were  
shocked earlier this month by the  
passage of HB 1.14, the SUPER Act.

(then)

This act requires the registration  
of any citizen with powers big or  
small, from the mild mannered to  
the spectacular.

(then)

With me to discuss the potential  
fallout from this bill we have  
student activist from the Future  
People Academy, Juhi Singh.

JUHI SINGH

Hey.

(beat)

Oh were we supposed to wait--

KELLY CLOSE

We are also joined by Director of  
Superhuman relations from the  
Heroic Legion, Elizabeth Lizard. As  
well as Gary Guinness, the founder  
of anti-super citizens group,  
NormCore.

GARY

Pro-normalcy. Not anti-super. We  
love supers, we just love equality  
more.

KELLY CLOSE

Okay, Gary we'll start with you.

(then)

Your organization has been in the  
vanguard of the movement to  
register supers, but you are also a  
vocal proponent of individual  
rights, especially the right to  
privacy. Isn't there a  
contradiction there?

GARY

NormCore was founded to protect the little guy. If you're unpowered in this country you are a second-class citizen. We protect people from bullies whether it's big government or big capes disrupting the safety and security of normal Americans.

JUHI SINGH

(scoffs)

So we're not normal?

GARY

Is shooting lasers from your hands normal? Don't remember too many of our founding fathers running the speed of light.

KELLY CLOSE

-- Liz I wonder if you could speak -  
-

JUHI SINGH

Maybe it had something to do with the fact that if I had powers back then, your founding fathers would've burned themselves a witch.

(then)

And isn't that what's happening now? NormCore gathers up mobs to run down NORMAL super powered kids, for what?

GARY

What about the innocent children who go to school every day afraid that they'll be melted in their seats?

JUHI SINGH

That never happens. A kid with powers is 10 times more likely to be bullied, 25 times more likely to commit suicide than your NORMAL, BORING, UNSPECIAL, kids.

KELLY CLOSE

Alright, I think tensions are a little high, let's return to the bill.

(then)

(MORE)

KELLY CLOSE (CONT'D)

Liz, the Heroic Legion has been seen as tipping the scales in getting this bill passed.

LIZ

The Heroic Legion stands with superhumans from every walk of life. While we recognize this bill will have a wide range of effects, it is important to note that the Legion is apolitical. Our only concern is keeping citizens safe. Our only opposition is the Villainous League. As such, we are grateful that our active members have been given immunity, but only because of their unique vulnerabilities that villains could otherwise exploit. That undermines safety. For all of us.

GARY

Totally agree.

(then)

We actually stand with the Legion on this 100%. Those capes are exactly what we want from the super community: Regulated. Properly supervised they are essential in keeping violent supervillains under control.

(then)

Now we can all dream of a world without Deathguzzler and Psychobeam and Cosmos. But in the meantime, organizations like the Legion are a necessary evil. That's why we pushed for the SUPER Act and why Norris is a champion of people's rights --

LIZ

Well I wouldn't --

GARY

Can I, can I just finish here? I let you speak, can I speak? Don't silence me here.

(then)

The SUPER act does what the Legion does. It keeps everyday citizens protected.

(MORE)

GARY (CONT'D)

I think it's great that the government is finally putting its citizens' safety and security ahead of super-special interests.

JUHI SINGH

So it's okay for my dad to give his life to bring down Babylon, but if he wanted to just be a reporter, you'd have him tagged and watched?

KELLY

To remind our viewers, Juhi's father was SPR News Anchor Stephen Singh, better known as the hero Quantum.

(then)

And to expand on that point, there are many citizens who don't want their life defined by their powers.

(then)

While superhumans like me and Juhi have been quite public about our gifts, there are plenty of people who say this law will bring them into the spotlight unnecessarily.

JUHI SINGH

Thank you.

LIZ

Well I think --

GARY

I think that last bit was directed at me.

(then)

At the end of the day. It's a website. If these people who can vaporize you with their minds want be mini-gods one minute and act like victims the next, they can try, but they're not fooling us any more.

JUHI SINGH

I think you meant to say:

**Note:** The SFX that happens when Juhi uses her powers near a microphone see To Catch a Speedster.

JUHI

I don't mind fascism when it affects people that are different than me. I usually call them "freaks" to my crowd but I'm on the radio and I want to seem reasonable.

GARY (JUHI ILLUSION)

I don't mind fascism when it affects people that are different than me. I usually call them "freaks" to my crowd but I'm on the radio and I want to seem reasonable.

GARY (CONT'D)

Ha, exactly my point. Without the SUPER Act, listeners may not know that little Juhi Singh can make these illusions. And while it's a cute party trick, look how dangerous even that could be to our national discourse. What's stopping her from impersonating the President or Cosmos?

JUHI SINGH

More dangerous than your thugs threatening children when all they want is to live a normal life.

GARY

A normal life? Good luck! (**ALT: There's nothing normal about you genetic fr --**)

KELLY CLOSE

(clears throat)

Tempers are high, but we're running out of time. In our final minute, I just want to give everybody a chance to speak.

(then)

Question of the day: What are we going to see in the months after this bill passes. Gary you can start.

GARY

A safer, freer America. For all this fear talk, the SUPER Act is going to bring us together and start a real conversation about the role of supers in our society.

KELLY CLOSE

Juhi?



JUHI SINGH

A lot more bullying, drop outs,  
discrimination. A lot of good  
people being chased out of their  
jobs. Hate crimes going up and a  
lot more misinformation.

KELLY CLOSE

Liz.

GARY

Hate crimes? It's called self-  
defense.

KELLY CLOSE

Okay, it's Liz's turn.

JUHI SINGH

It's not self defense if you start  
it.

GARY

If you walk into a school with a  
laser, isn't that starting it?

JUHI SINGH

You walk around with that mouth.

KELLY

Ok everyone lets just calm down!

**SFX:** Kelly Close Calming Beam!

JUHI SINGH

(Dreamily)

Sorry. That was rude.

GARY

Did you just TOUCH me with your  
powers? Wow cool. I feel pretty ...  
Okay about it. You'd think I'd be  
mad, but. You're right. Carry on.

**SFX:** Speech Bubble outro plays early.

KELLY CLOSE

That is actually all the time we  
have, apologies to Liz Lizard. A  
contentious debate on a contentious  
bill. From the Speech Bubble, I'm  
Kelly Close.

**EPISODE THREE - END ACT ONE**

**EPISODE THREE - NEWS TWO**

INT. AD BREAK

In the studio.

ADS

Support for SPR comes from Hyelp.

(then)

Was that landing a little bit rougher than you like? Need a place to vent? That's why we founded Hyelp, a place you can anonymously rate the superhero who just saved your life.

(then)

Hyelp puts you in command of your local super community.

(then)

Supers with low ratings on Hyelp often hang up the cape, needing professional help to regain the confidence you just crushed with nothing but a snide paragraph. During a rescue, post pics, habits, weaknesses you've noticed... A villain wrote this. This was made by villains. Apologies. Please do not use this app.

INT. NEWS STUDIO

In the studio.

WENLING CHEN

Live from Washington I'm Wenling Chen.

(then)

After the Heroic Legion became exempt from the SUPER Act's public registry, many expected the Legion's competitors to have a rough quarter. However you wouldn't know it looking at the Southern Battalion's annual Field Day.

(then)

SPR Junior Reporter Apoorva Singh is on the scene.

EXT. SANFORD STADIUM

APOORVA SINGH

It's a sunny day here at Sanford Stadium in Athens GA, and the field is filled with students from the Southern Battalion's School to Sky mentorship program.

**SFX:** Apoorva Speedster Zip.

APOORVA SINGH (CONT'D)

In center field, Battalion hopeful Gina Rollands is attempting to throw a school bus using only her hair.

**SFX:** Creaking, whoosh, distant crash.

APOORVA SINGH (CONT'D)

30 meters. Her hair is twisting itself into a dab. And that's her mentor, Bayou Beast coming in for the celebration. Let's see how she's feeling.

**SFX:** Apoorva Speedster Zip.

GINA

AAH! Oh, hello again.

APOORVA SINGH

Gina, great throw! What does this program mean to you?

GINA

It's straight up my entire life, I've been in it since I was like ten and Luci -- I mean Bayou is the best mentor in the world. I want to be just like her.

**SFX:** Beast sounds.

GINA (CONT'D)

Me too.

APOORVA SINGH

Are you going to stay with the Battalion if you become a hero?

GINA

Sure 'nough. Not gonna trust the Legion now.

APOORVA SINGH

Thanks Gina.

(then)

Over all of this stands Battalion Leader Steam Engine Jackson, the world's first and only steam engine hero.

**SFX:** Apoorva Speedster Zip. Kids yelp, small laser sound, air whip. Small explosion of steam.

STEAM ENGINE JACKSON

May want to slow down a bit, Ms. Singh.

APOORVA SINGH

Sorry Uncle-- Mr. Jackson any comments on this year's field day?

STEAM ENGINE JACKSON

I think now more than ever it's important to make kids feel proud to be empowered. And we're seeing some pretty mighty young people here.

**SFX:** TOOT TOOT.

APOORVA SINGH

A lot of people were expecting a mass exodus from the Battalion after the SUPER act passed, but looking around here it seems like everyone is in high spirits.

STEAM ENGINE JACKSON

I don't blame those that left. I never hid behind the mask myself, I move straight at a thing. But some of my heroes' lives depend on it. They came to me and did it right. That Eel is lucky to have them.

APOORVA SINGH

What do you have to say about the Battalion's low recruitment rates this quarter?

STEAM ENGINE JACKSON

Ah, I'm not too worried. Give it a few months and things'll balance out. Got a lot of fine talent here on this field.

(then)

(MORE)

STEAM ENGINE JACKSON (CONT'D)

People come here because we live by a code. I think young heroes judge an organization by the principles it stands by. I seem to remember a little girl who promised she'd take one of my spots someday.

APOORVA SINGH

Life's funny sometimes.

STEAM ENGINE JACKSON

Well I'm still glad to see you following in your daddy's shoes.

APOORVA SINGH

Well. One of them.

STEAM ENGINE JACKSON

Oh yeah? I've been hearing little rumors zipping around lately.

APOORVA SINGH

Any comment on the rumors that you're closing your Jacksonville offices?

STEAM ENGINE JACKSON

We're fighters down here. Don't see us scaling back until there's no other way. Why not stay and watch the games for a bit?

APOORVA SINGH

I have to be off soon.

STEAM ENGINE JACKSON

I bet you do.

**SFX:** Train toot.

APOORVA SINGH

If you're in the greater Athens area, the School to Sky Field Day is free to the public. The exhibition lasts every day this week until 6pm.

UNDERWRITER

That was Wenling Chen reporting from Washington. It's 74 degrees here in Paradise City. And now: Sequential.

EPISODE THREE - END NEWS TWO

EPISODE THREE - ACT TWO - SQ EP2. THE WARD

INT. SEQUENTIAL STUDIO

In the studio.

ETHAN SCHWARTZ  
Previously, on Sequential.

BEN BELTZER  
Tragedy in Chicago today. The Kid,  
beloved sidekick to Goat Man has  
been found dead...

SICKO  
As much as I hated that snot nose  
brat. No. I did not kill him.

CANDICE STRIPE  
So who did?

QUENTIN CRAWFORD  
...three of those deaths were of  
sidekicks of Goat Man...

AUTOMATED VOICE  
This is a World-Tel link prepaid  
call from:

SICKO  
Sicko.

AUTOMATED VOICE  
A patient at the Shady Acres Rehab  
Facility in...

Fade Out/Music cue.

CANDICE STRIPE  
From These American Supers and QSPZ  
Baltimore, it's Sequential, one  
tale, told bit by bit.

(then)

I'm Candice Stripe.

(then)

We're at Episode Two. You probably  
heard the first episode on These  
American Supers, or at our website  
SPRpod.com, but if you haven't,  
stop, and go back to our last  
episode, we're telling this story  
in Sequence.

(MORE)

CANDICE STRIPE (CONT'D)

The story is about Phillip Dodd,  
aka The Kid, Goatman's teenage  
sidekick who was allegedly killed  
by the their main adversary, Sicko.

(then)

Last episode we presented the key  
pieces of evidence for and against  
Sicko.

(then)

By the end we had begun to consider  
evidence of another possible  
suspect.

CANDICE STRIPE (CONT'D)

Now can you tell me what you just  
said on the record?

QUENTIN CRAWFORD

Yes. But I will preface that this  
is a matter of public record, if  
not widely publicized. But of the  
six deaths,

(sigh)

Three of them were apprenticed to  
Goat Man...

Music cue.

CANDICE STRIPE

Now I know what you're thinking:  
Did Candice Stripe just accuse Goat  
Man of murder? No.

(then)

But Sicko has definitely been  
implying it during our phone calls.

SFX: Rehab Center Walla.

SICKO

All I'm saying is it's weird right?  
Having a sidekick is like having a  
goldfish; your most basic job is to  
keep them alive. Not that I care,  
but jeez, Goat Man? When he gets  
bored he just sends them down the  
toilet.

(then)

Before Phil R.I.P. There was Jerry,  
and before Jerry was this girl, and  
besides her maybe a half dozen  
others who had the sense to run off  
before they could get flushed. And  
of course there's his first ward.

(MORE)



SICKO (CONT'D)

(then)

Tricky Ricky.

Patrick sounds like Kendall Roy from Succession. Music from this point on should be a parody of Succession.

PATRICK MASON

It's Patrick actually.

CANDICE STRIPE

Patrick Mason, the Original Kid. He's well into his forties now, but for a time, he was the face of side kicking in America.

SFX: The next dialogue is from a taped commercial.

KID PATRICK

Join the boy and girl sidekicks of America today!

ADS

Safety of sidekicks not guaranteed, call hotline for details.

PATRICK MASON

My father encouraged my side-kicking career and found every opportunity to profit from it.

CANDICE STRIPE

Patrick was adopted from the boys home for abandoned acrobats by Goat Man when he was 13 years old.

PATRICK MASON

I didn't get to have your... Normal teenage experience. While other kids were bumming around the mall or going to arcades, I was learning kung fu in the mornings and blood splatter analysis at night.

(then)

The only other kids I got to hang out with were the other Juvenile Giants and even then it wasn't like they were normal.

(then)

Father kept telling me that all this was so I could replace him one day, that Chicago would always need a "Goat Man"...

CANDICE STRIPE

So at age eighteen Patrick expected to inherit the title of Goat Man, but instead he was fired by his own adopted father.

PATRICK MASON

He never intended to give up the horns. I don't think he can bare the thought of anyone else wearing them. You know he doesn't even have a will?

CANDICE STRIPE

After your time with Goat Man, he's had a string of young wards, all dead now. Does this have anything to do with his resistance to succession? Or is it just cosmic coincidence?

PATRICK MASON

The truth is... My father is a malignant presence on the super-heroic community.

(then)

He promises a chance at the cowl and everyone just gives him what he wants but it's never enough. That's the thing about goats: they eat everything.

(then)

I don't know if he killed those kids, but I wouldn't put it past him.

GOAT MAN

My son said that huh?

(laughs)

That I'm a ba-hah-had-man?

CANDICE STRIPE

This is ol'horny himself, Goat Man, who agreed to a rare sit down interview.

GOAT MAN

These sidekicks, they don't know how lucky they are.

(then)

I had to do everything myself, these kids, hell... they don't even have their own ba-hah-haddies, they inherit ours.

(MORE)

GOAT MAN (CONT'D)

(then)

My contemporaries trot out boy wonders for the cameras then throw them back in the hideout when the fighting starts.

(then)

I train soldiers, not mascots.

CANDICE STRIPE

So you're saying all the deaths were accidental?

GOAT MAN

I am saying that when you walk the cliff's edge, sometimes you fall.

(then)

I gave them everything. Millions in training. Billions in equipment. My priceless time and attention.

(then)

Phillip was hot-headed. You've heard the audio, he stole my car.

(then)

I did my best with him.

CANDICE STRIPE

A week before he was getting ready to put on the horns. What happened?

GOAT MAN

They all run once or twice. Teenage hormones.

CANDICE STRIPE

It seems like a lot of them tried to run pretty soon before their deaths.

GOAT MAN

What are you getting at here Candice? You want to say something to me?

CANDICE STRIPE

All of your sidekicks --

GOAT MAN

Children --

CANDICE STRIPE

-- Died just as they were rumored to take over as Goat Man.

GOAT MAN

Are you accusing me of murder young lady?

CANDICE STRIPE

I am just saying that it's suspicious.

GOAT MAN

It was baaaad luck.

CANDICE STRIPE

Sicko says that--

GOAT MAN

You're taking the word of a convicted murderer over a lifetime of service?

CANDICE STRIPE

Would you like to deny it?

(SFX mic rustle)

For the record, did you kill Phillip Dodd?

GOAT MAN

No. I did not kill my son. But tell me: If he's dead, where's his body?

CANDICE STRIPE

I'm sorry?

GOAT MAN

If Phillip is really dead, show me his bhhaaady.

CANDICE STRIPE

I know what you're thinking. It's the oldest rule in the book. If there's no body does that mean...

(then)

Could Phillip Dodd be alive?

CANDICE STRIPE (CONT'D)

Sequential is produced by Hailey Frond and me, Candice Stripe. Ethan Schwartz is our editorial advisor. Sequential is a production of These American Supers and QSPZ Baltimore. We'll be back next week, with our next episode: "The Body"

**EPISODE THREE - END ACT TWO**

**EPISODE THREE - NEWS THREE**

INT. NEWS STUDIO

WENLING CHEN

Live from SPR News in Washington  
I'm Wenling Chen. We now go live to  
the White House for President  
Norris' press conference regarding  
the recent violence at the March  
for Super Rights.

INT. WHITE HOUSE

SFX: Cameras snapping. Murmurs dying.

PRESIDENT NORRIS

Good afternoon. Please be seated.

SFX: People taking seats. All noises beside room tone fade.

PRESIDENT NORRIS (CONT'D)

My administration has always worked  
to create a more honest, more  
transparent America. Working with  
Superhuman Services Secretary Rick  
Remaney, and Iron Barracuda of the  
Heroic Legion, we've now created a  
process so that Masks wind up in  
the hands of a trusted few instead  
of the many.

(then)

We have seen in the past few weeks,  
the danger that anonymity can have.  
The damage that can be wrought when  
there is no recourse against those  
who perpetrate it.

(then)

Let me declare this.

(a beat, then)

I condemn, in the strongest  
possible terms the recent wave of  
lawlessness and ill-feeling that  
has taken our streets.

(then)

We will have your face, we will  
have your name, we will know who  
you are and you will not get away  
with this.

(then)

(MORE)

PRESIDENT NORRIS (CONT'D)  
 I want to thank everybody for being here. God bless you. God bless these United States.

(then)  
 I will now take questions.

**SFX:** Press Clamoring.

PRESIDENT NORRIS (CONT'D)  
 Yes in the front.

REPORTER #1, NEWS 3, EP 3  
 Which group are you condemning?  
 Because there's ample evidence of NormCore causing violence, but most other groups such as Incognito. . .

PRESIDENT NORRIS  
 (annoyed)  
 I've said it once, I'll say it again. I believe that this is a matter for local law enforcement. Superheroes are meant to fight Space Aliens or Monsters, not peaceful protesters.

(moving on)  
 Yes, in the second row.

REPORTER #2, NEWS 3, EP 3  
 Following up on (Reporter #1)'s question, these are not peaceful protesters, members of NormCore have explicitly called for members to quote: "arm themselves for a wolf hunt."

PRESIDENT NORRIS  
 I have not heard that myself, so I cannot comment on that quote.

(then defensive)  
 What I do know is these citizens are exercising their right to assemble, while this new group the ...Incognito?

(then)  
 They are using their superpowers without license, which is illegal.

REPORTER #2, NEW 3, EP 3  
 That has often been in self defense

--

PRESIDENT NORRIS  
 Next question! You in the back.

REPORTER #3, NEWS 3, EP 3

This administration has made trust a central issue, yet polling shows that American citizens trust Cosmos over you almost two to one.

(then)

What do you say to that Mr. President?

PRESIDENT NORRIS

Cosmos. What can I say to that?

(then, a beat)

Only the truth.

(then)

This planet owes a lifelong debt to the hero Cosmos. I understand the trust he has earned. Unfortunately our intelligence community has concluded that he isn't the man you think he is. This information has been regarded as classified, but I feel I must confirm it now.

(then)

The hero once known as Cosmos has been replaced by a doppelgänger just as my predecessor was.

REPORT CHORUS, NEWS 3, EP 3

Mr. President! Please! Elaborate!

PRESIDENT NORRIS

This is not how I would have liked to have shared this information, but it is vital that we all understand the existential threat this imposter presents.

(then)

This creature undermines the security of all nations, and if we do not address it now it will only throw the world into further chaos.

(then)

The pentagon will prepare a full briefing on this situation in the coming days but for now, I must act how I must to provide security for the people of this great nation.

(then)

No more questions.

**SFX:** Norris leaves clipping the mic causing feedback.

UNDERWRITER

That was Wenling Chen reporting  
from Washington.

(then)

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

(then)

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(then)

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(then)

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Outro:

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)

Coming up next...

(then)

Why do so many inter-dimensional  
time traveling aliens have British  
accents? Meet the multi-space  
colonizers that brought the English  
language here to Earth 718. Next up  
on 100 percent invisible

SFX: End Music.

UNDERWRITER (CONT'D)

This is SPR

**EPISODE THREE - END NEWS THREE**

END EPISODE 3