

The Confederation of Radically Altered People.

By Brent Holland

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(As the Lights come up, a woman runs on clutching a small pendant, she is breathing hard and has been obviously exerting herself. She is looking around frantically.)

Superion: *(From offstage)* You know you can not escape us Mysteria!

Mysteria: You will never take me alive!

(Mysteria prepares to fight as Superion, and Galaxy Girl enter and cut off her exit)

Superion: Looks like Hard Block Prison will have another guest this night!

Mysteria: I won't go back! This city is mine!!

Galaxy Girl: Be careful Superion, this one is more dangerous than she looks and she still has the cursed Millard Fillmore diamond!

Mysteria: and with it, the world will be mine! *(maniacal laughter)*

Superion: Not if we have anything to say about it. *(He moves to strike)*

Mysteria: *(As he moves, Mysteria pulls out the diamond and starts to make hand gestures around it, then she quips mysteriously...)* In the netherworld I was taught to control the minds of weaklings like you... bend to my will Galaxy Girl! *(as she does this, Galaxy Girl stiffens and faces Superion.)*

Galaxy Girl: *(Struggling to resist)* Must protect.. must kill Superion...

Superion:*(Confident)* Galaxy Girl... I know you would never harm me. This pathetic weakling could never make you hurt me...

(Galaxy Girl makes an exaggerated pushing motion, a sonic boom sounds and Superion is knocked off his feet. Galaxy Girl starts to make the motion again.)

Superion: *(Melodramatically)* Nooooo! Galaxy Girl! What are you doing? ... remember! Remember your love for our cause! Remember your love for Truth! And Mysteria... you should remember as well...

Mysteria: *(playing along)* What should I remember Inferion??

(The samurai steps out of the shadows and uses the pommel of her sword to knock Mysteria unconscious. Mysteria immediately drops her hands. As Mysteria falls...)

The Samurai: You should remember that there are THREE of us in the Alliance of Justice!

(Black Out)

(Theme music plays. When the lights come up, the Alliance of Justice are at a press conference in full costume with Mysteria. She is an unhappy hostage. The reporters are trying to get their questions in.)

Reporter 1: Superion!

Superion: *(Finding someone to call upon)* Yes, you. The one in the hat.

Reporter 1: This makes three super villains this month! Congratulations on another victory for the American Way!

Superion: Thank you.

Reporter 2: There was quite a reward offered by the city for the capture of Mysteria.,

Galaxy Girl: Our true reward is knowing that Justice has been served and the streets will be safer tomorrow than they are today.

(The audience cheers)

The Samurai: And villains be warned! If you plan to do evil in our city... we will be here waiting for you. The Alliance of Justice never sleeps!

Reporter 2: Will Mysteria be taken to Hard Block Prison?

Galaxy Girl: *(dramatically)* Of course! Hard Block Prison is the only facility on the east coast that can keep miscreants like Mysteria from escaping and re-infesting our streets with their crime and villainy.

Reporter 1: One more question...

Superion: No time for questions now. We must take this prisoner to face her punishment and we must get back to watching the streets.

The Samurai: When Villains and Criminals Dare...

All Three: The Alliance of Justice will soon be there!!

(The members of the alliance exit with Mysteria and the reporters disperse, one member of the crowd remains on stage, he speaks to the audience.)

Dave: The Alliance of Justice... Three super heroes right out of the super hero mold. Superion is incredibly strong, invulnerable to almost everything tough as nails... Galaxy Girl is from another planet and can fly and has all kinds of advanced technology. The Samurai and her mystical far eastern training can disappear in shadows and her incredible sword is imbued with... but you have heard all of this before. It's normal "Super Hero" stuff. Every big city has their heroes, and Tyler City is no exception.

(he pauses)

Dave: But have you ever noticed that these heroes... they all have these incredible powers... Everyone is SUPER strong, SUPER fast, AMAZINGLY Tough. Some are refugees from another planet, some are genetic freaks and others are bitten by radioactive insects...but they all have one thing in common. They are super. *(another pause)* But not me. You see, I am a super hero of sorts...or at least super powered.. A few years ago, when I was in high school I was working on my research project for my sophomore English class... I was at my computer when lightning hit our house. It was one of those blasts that pretty much wrecks anything plugged

in...anyways... I felt the electricity shoot from the keyboard through my hands and right into my brain. I let go and when my mom came into the room to check on me I was laying on the ground and I was changed.

(He struggles to figure out how to explain it now)

Dave: So here I am, on the floor.. I was fine, but things were different. I can't really explain it, but I could feel inside my mother's mind. I couldn't really do anything about it...I couldn't tell what she was thinking...but I could feel inside her head just like it was a part of my own body. At first I thought I was imagining it, but when my dad got home I could feel his mind too... and my sister's... It was like I could feel the energy there, but that was all.

(A man walks on talking on a cell phone, oblivious to what Dave is saying.)

Dave: I thought I had hit the jackpot... maybe I could read minds! Maybe this blessing would let me control the thoughts or actions of those around me! But try as I might, none of that happened. Months of experimenting and disappointment... just when I thought that I could do nothing to affect the minds that I could so vividly feel I found my "calling."

(Dave looks at the man intently, the man on the phone is suddenly in pain... fairly severe but he stays on his feet. The pain lasts for a few seconds and then subsides.)

Man: *(into phone)* No, I'm fine. I just had a shooting pain in my head. It's gone now... anyways... I actually saw Superion with my own eyes! *(he exits)*

Dave: Yup. That's it. Lightning rained down from the heavens and chose me for this gift. I have super powers...or a super power. Erica, My fiance, and the only one I have told about this said that it made her feel like she was having an ice cream headache. I can only keep it up for a few seconds, but there you have it.

(Dave crosses and enters his apartment, Erica is on the couch)

Erica: Hey babe, how was work?

Dave: About the same. Saw Superior and Galaxy Girl take down some criminal on 11th avenue.

Erica: *(excited)* I just saw that on the news! You were there? That's pretty awesome.

Dave:*(not really interested)*I guess so.

Erica: What's wrong babe?

Dave:*(aggravated)*It's work... this is just not what I dreamed I would be doing in high school... fresh out of college and I already hate going there.

Erica: It will get better..

Dave: I don't know. It's accounting... math. It's just not exciting stuff.

Erica: Well, you knew this before you graduated.

Dave: I know...but by the time it really sunk in, it was too late to do anything about it.

Erica: *(soothingly)* I am sure it will get better... at least you have a job!

Dave:*(resigned)* I know. I just want to do something more. *(remembering)* Oh yeah. Hold on a sec Erica. *(he looks at her intently.... A few seconds pass)*

Erica: Nothing.

Dave: Damn. I thought I may be on to something.

Erica: Look doll, it's been seven years right? I am sure if there was more to what you can do, you would have found it by now right?

Dave: Yeah... sure.

Erica:*(cheery)* Hey... I think it's pretty awesome. My fiance can literally go into people's brains and make them suffer.

Dave:*(bitter)* Just like if they drank a slurpee too fast.

Erica: It's more than I can do!

(Lights dim, time has passed)

Erica: It's getting late.. I have to be at the hospital at 7:00am to be ready to scrub in by eight. *(she gets up and prepares to leave)*

Dave: Call me when you get home okay? *(he walks her to the door)*

(at the door)

Erica: Will do. Go on to bed yourself though... you have an early morning.

Dave: I will try... but I am not tired. What time are you off tomorrow?

Erica: Five. Same as you. Dinner at Reagan's Deli?

Dave: Sounds great. See you then.*(suddenly)* Wait...

Erica: Babe?

Dave: You know there have to be others out there like me right?

Erica: Sure. We have discussed it a hundred times... for every super hero out there, there could be a dozen people like you.

Dave: But no one ever talks about it.

Erica: And?

Dave: I was just thinking... how come there is no support group? No internet communities or anything? It's like people are embarrassed to talk about it.

Erica: You've only told me right?

Dave: Yes... that's my point. It's embarrassing to admit you're different, but not in the ultra cool way that Superior is.

Erica: And your point is?

Dave: I think it would be cool to have some friends...or contacts that have gone through the type of things I have.

Erica: Sure babe... If that would make you feel better.

Dave: I thought about starting up an internet group, but that seems reckless... I dunno... I want to do something. Maybe I could find someone just like me and we could bounce ideas off of each other... maybe figure out new benefits to what I can do...

Erica: You know I have your back and I'll support anything you do baby. Just don't go fall in love with some girl who can shoot roman candles out of her nose or make their legs turn invisible.

Dave: *(realizing..)*I hadn't thought about that... I could really be opening myself up to some freaks.

Erica: I am just kidding Dave. I think you should do it. What could go wrong in trying?

Dave: Thanks doll. *(He kisses her)* Go home and get some sleep.

Erica: Will do. Reagan's after work right?

Dave: Yes ma'am. Call me when you get home!

Erica: Yes sir!

(Erica kisses him on the cheek and closes the door.)

(After Erica leaves, Dave sits back on the couch to watch T.V. but after a few seconds gives up on that. He gets his laptop out and starts to type.)

(Black out)

(We are now in the apartment of Barry and Gina... Barry is at his computer)

Barry: *(Excited)* Gina! Come here a sec... you need to see this.

Gina:*(off stage)* What is it?

Barry: Something on craigslist... you gotta see this.

Gina: *(Coming to the computer)* I am trying to finish dinner... couldn't it wait?

Barry: *(Pulling her to the computer)* No... read this.

Gina: *(reading aloud)* Can you do something no one else can do? Have you been struck by lightning, bitten by a radioactive snake, or otherwise been given some minor ability that you don't understand or are ashamed of? Well you aren't the only one! I am looking to start a group of likeminded and like-powered individuals for friendship and more! If you are interested please contact me at psionicman3675@gmail.com or ... and he includes his phone number. *(Skeptical)* Sounds kinda sketchy to me.

Barry: Are you kidding?? This is exactly what I have told you that I wanted to do a dozen times! This guy wants to start a group with people just like me!

Gina: But darling... this might be a hoax. Don't get your hopes up. I don't think there are a lot of people like you out there.

Barry: Well, maybe it's time to find out. *(to himself)* wants to start a group... *(to Gina)* Just imagine Gina, I might be a superhero! Fighting crime, doing press conferences!

Gina: *(back to reality)* But Barry... you... you.. I just don't see how what you can do could be used to fight crime.

Barry: Not by myself maybe... but as part of a team I could. *(Gets out his cell phone)* I am sending this guy a text message.

Gina: Do what you want to honey, but just don't get your hopes up.

(black out)

(at Reagan's Deli- in mid conversation)

Erica: Craigslist?

Dave: Why not? I thought about a social media site, but I thought it would be better to see if there was anyone local first. I thought it would be better connect with someone face to face as opposed to online.

Erica: That makes sense. I guess.

(A waiter walks in and refills their drinks...he is listening to the conversation)

Dave: You sound concerned.

Erica:*(hesitantly)* No, no... It's just... what if some kind of psycho answers your ad?

Dave: That won't happen. This is Tyler City... not New York.

Erica: Crazy people live in Tyler City too, Dave.

Waiter:*(interjecting)* Tell me about it! I see them all the time in here.

Erica: See?

Dave: *(defensive)* There is a big difference between seeming a little crazy in Reagan's Deli and being an axe murderer.

Waiter: Were you born yesterday? Wake up man, the crazies are everywhere.

Erica: That's what I'm afraid of.

Waiter: Why are you afraid of the crazies? Your man here out looking for them?

Erica: No, he has a... *(looking for words)* hobby... and he put an ad on craigslist to...

Waiter:*(laughing)* Are you serious? You want to meet total strangers in person off of the internet? Sounds like you are... *(he breaks off mid-sentence in obvious pain)* Aaaaahhhhhh! Jeez... *(it starts to wear off)* Whoa... I need to go get a Tylenol or something. *(he leaves)*

Erica: *(to Dave)* That was rude.

Dave: He totally earned that.

Erica: You shouldn't go around doing that to people, you don't know if there are side effects. You might make someone's brain explode.

Dave:*(dreamily)* If only I could... but seriously... if there were side effects then Mrs. Davis would be dead as a doornail by now.

Erica:*(laughing)* God, she was evil.

Dave:*(enjoying remembering)* and I had her for U.S. History right when I figured out how to make it happen. She must have taken a dozen sick days trying to figure out where these instant migraines were coming from. *(his phone beeps. He takes it out and reads the message.)* Ta da! *(shows her the phone.)*

Erica: What?

Dave:*(triumphantly)* Someone has answered my listing. Let's get out of here. *(They leave)*

(The waiter comes back on, washing some pills down with water as he bussess the table, he then leads Kristen and Lindsay to the same table.)

Kristen: *(getting situated)* So are you thinking about answering this guy?

Lindsay: *(on the fence)* I don't know.. It could be a great outlet... Being around other people...

Kristen: Like you.

Lindsay: Yes... like me! Imagine...being able to work with other people that can do stuff like I can...without any fear that they will laugh at me. You know how much it pisses me off when people laugh at me.

Kristen: *(in hearty agreement)* Do I ever! You have been like this ever since we were little Linds. That's why you never do it when people are watching.

Lindsay: *(embarrassed)* Yes.

Kristen: Well if you think this is a good idea then I'm with you. It might be therapeutic..ever since the wreck you have been getting worse.

Lindsay: I know...

(The waiter comes back on to take their order)

Waiter; Welcome to Reagan's! Are you ladies ready to order?

Lindsay: *(defensive)* What do you mean by that? You in a hurry?

Waiter: Nothing! I just want to know if...

Kristen: Lindsay... calm down....

(The waiter, not sure what to say, is staring at Lindsay)

Lindsay: *(Noticing)* Do you want me to punch you in the throat?

Waiter: Uh... No....

Lindsay: Cause I am about...

Kristen: *(Interrupting)* Yes... we would like to order. Sorry about that. I will take a medium triple mount with no onions and she'll have a bread bowl of tomato soup with an extra baguette.

Waiter: and to drink?

Kristen: I'll take a water with lemon and she will have a sweet tea.

Waiter: Very good. *(he leaves)*

Lindsay: *(Angrily muttering)* I wanted a Dr. Pepper.

Kristen: When he gets back we will tell him.

Lindsay: *(Yelling to the waiter)* Hey! I want a Dr. Pepper!

Waiter: Fine...fine... I will get you a Dr. Pepper. *(he exits)*

Lindsay: *(Clearing her mind)* Anyways... so do you think I should shoot this guy an email?

Kristen: *(quickly)* Yes!!

Lindsay: *(surprised)* wow... don't be so excited about it.

Kristen: It's just that I think you could be right... it could be good for you to be around other people...

Lindsay: Like me.

Kristen: Yes... like you. It couldn't hurt could it?

Lindsay: I guess not. Should I shoot him an email now? *(gets out her phone)*

Kristen:*(encouragingly)* Do it!

(Lindsay is typing an email on her phone as the waiter comes back. He places the drinks on the table.)

Waiter: One water and one sweet tea.

(As he says "sweet tea" Lindsay looks up from her phone and gives him a murderous look)

(black out)

(When the lights come back on, the scene has shifted to another press conference, the mayor of the city is standing with Superion, Galaxy Girl and the Samurai)

The Mayor: It is an honor to be standing at this podium with our city's three greatest citizens. Superion, who single handedly ended the threat of Master Meat Cleaver and Galaxy Girl our transplant from beyond the stars! As beautiful as she is powerful! And the Saumurai! Powerful, mysterious and deadly! So today we come together to pronounce this day as Alliance of Justice day and to give each of you, the key to our beloved city.

(The crowd goes crazy)

Superion: Thank you my brothers and sisters of Tyler City! On behalf of the Alliance I want to thank each of you and...

Galaxy Girl: To assure each of you that we will be here to keep our streets safe from all who would thwart justice!

Samurai: *(confidently)* We are here for each of you! For we are not just incredible super heroes capable of destroying evil at our leisure, but we are also tax paying citizens just like you!

(The crowd cheers again)

The Mayor: We will now break for a short reception with the Alliance, they will be available for pictures, autographs and to kiss babies!

Superion: Thank you Mr. Mayor.

Galaxy Girl: And remember citizens...

The Samurai: When Villains and Criminals Dare...

All Three: The Alliance of Justice will soon be there!!

(Biggest applause yet)

(The crowd starts to disperse and in the confusion, Dave comes on trying to get through. In the tumult he runs right into Superion.)

Dave:*(embarrassed)* Excuse me.

Superion: No problem friend. *(misunderstanding the situation)* Are you here for an autograph...picture?

Dave:*(Confused)* Huh?? Oh, no... no I'm not.

Superion: Well, I don't see a baby *(laughing)* I hope you don't expect me to kiss YOU!

Dave: Kiss me??

The Samurai:*(interrupting)* There you are! Punch and Cake are this way, there is quite a crowd forming. *(aggravated)* Bunch of brainless simpletons wanting to fawn all over *(notices Dave)* uhhh... I mean... good citizens, wanting to uh...stand aside their heroes...

Superion: *(Takes Dave's hand and shakes it)* It was nice meeting you... uh...

Dave: Dave... the name is Dave.

Superion: Nice meeting you Dave. You sure you wouldn't like a picture?

The Samurai: *(impatient)* They are going to start without us and Galaxy Girl is going to be pissed!

Superion: Okay okay... *(They leave)*

(Dave stands there for a moment, taking in what just happened... black out takes the scene back to Reagan's Deli)

(at the Deli, Lindsay and Barry are already seated waiting for Dave to arrive, Dave tentatively walks up to their table)

Dave: Are you two Lindsay and Barry?

(They both stand to shake his hand)

Barry: Barry Streszoff, I take it you're Dave?

Dave: Dave Capps. Sorry I am late... I got held up by the... *(He looks at Lindsay)*

Lindsay: By the announcement of super hero suck up day? Me too... I have only been here a couple of minutes. I'm Lindsay Poole. *(They shake)*

Dave: Thanks for meeting with me... I had been wanting to place an ad like that for a long time.

Barry: Sounded fascinating to me... I always knew there had to be other people out there like... well...

Dave: *(finishing his thought)* Like us. So... since you two answered my message I assume that you have some sort of ability?

Lindsay: Sure... but maybe you should go first. I am not totally sure if this is the right thing for me. *(realizing she may have been a little forward)* No offense... but I just want to know that you guys are... *(lost for words)* I just want to see what you can do.

Dave: This is weird... I have only told my fiance... even my parents don't know. When it happened, I was scared that it had damaged me.

Barry: What happened?

Dave: Well... back in high school I was working on a paper and the house got hit by lighting and the computer I was working at got fried and the electricity actually went into me. I was almost electrocuted.

Lindsay: *(interested)* Wow... then what?

Dave: *(looks around before continuing)* Well... when I got up I found that I could feel inside people's minds.

Barry: *(impressed)* Cool. So you can feel inside my head.

Dave: Yeah... like it is a part of me.. *(To Lindsay)* and in yours ..and pretty much everyone in this restaurant.

Barry: So you can read minds?

Dave: No.

Lindsay: Control people?

Dave: No.

Barry: So what can you do?

(The waiter is coming up)

Dave: I can do this.

(The waiter has a tray and all of the sudden he is wracked in pain and drops the tray. The pain subsides)

The Waiter: I am sorry about that... I will be right back to get your drink order. *(He leaves)*

Barry: You did that?

Lindsay: You can make people hurt?

Dave: Well...kinda... I mean, that was actually a pretty good reaction. It's actually very limited...it only lasts for a few seconds.

Lindsay: Do it to me!

Dave: What?

Lindsay: I want to know what it feels like.

Dave:*(not wanting to)* Are you sure?

Lindsay:*(aggravated)* YES! *(calmer...)* Yes. Please. I want to know what you can do.

(Dave looks at her...nothing happens for a second and then)

Lindsay: *(Grimacing in pain)* Holy Hell that hurts! *(pounds the table)*Grrrr.... *(it subsides)* Wow... that felt like I just woofed down a snowcone too fast. Can you make it last longer?

Dave: No...that's about it. And once I do it...it's like the brain develops a temporary defense against it. I can't do it to the same person more than once every ten minutes or so.

Barry: *(Sincere)* Fascinating. *(To Lindsay)* how about you?

Lindsay: You first.

Barry: Mine is probably easier to show than explain.

(The waiter is coming back up with menus)

Waiter: So, about that drink order.

Barry:*(Standing boldly)* You know what, I don't think I want a drink! I want this! *(He tweaks the waiter's nose and jack slaps him right across the face... Dave and Lindsay look horrified. He then screams right in the face of the waiter. Then there is a pause. Barry looks at Lindsay and Dave and then all of the previous action reverses itself and each action is done backwards up until the point that the waiter walks off set in reverse, Barry now looks very fatigued)*

(The waiter approaches)

Waiter: So, about that drink order...

Dave:*(Still blown away)* Uh...can we have a minute please?

Waiter: Sure thing! *(He leaves)*

Dave: Holy cow! What was that?

Barry:*(Exhausted)* It's what I do. I don't know why, but I have always been able to do it.

Lindsay: He has no clue that just happened!

Barry: I know... *(He is drained)*

Dave: But wait... why do we know? Why weren't we just like him?

Barry: It's hard to explain really... I can mentally decide who is immune from having their memory erased. The problem is, the more people I include the more it drains me. The whole process wears me down and I can only do it a few times max before I am totally spent.

Lindsay: How long can you reverse time? Can you make it longer?

Barry: 16 seconds. It's always 16 seconds. Never more, never less. I can do anything for 16 seconds and then totally erase that it was ever done.

Dave: That's incredible. That would be so useful!

Barry: Not as much as you would think... I can blow off some steam when angry and I always mysteriously know the final jeopardy question... but enough about me. *(To Lindsay)* We've shown you ours, time to show us yours.

Lindsay: Not here. Mine shouldn't be seen in public. Mind if we take a walk?

Dave: Sure, let's just pay for our drinks first. *(He looks for the waiter)*

(The waiter is by the cash register as the man paying pulls out a gun, another man in the restaurant also pulls out a gun.)

Robber 1:*(To the waiter)* Empty that drawer! Do it! Now!!

Robber 2:*(To everyone else)* Everyone else, Down! On your stomachs!

Dave: What the?

Robber 2: Down!!

Lindsay: Oh my god... oh my god....

Dave:*(whispering to Barry and Lindsay)* Are you ready to be heroes? Be ready to move...

Barry: When?

Dave: Now!

(Dave looks at Robber number 2 first and that robber is wracked in pain... Barry immediately jumps up towards him, but Lindsay doesn't move Barry punches Robber number 2 as Number clutches his head in agony. Number 1 then recovers right as the waiter goes to grab for the gun, Robber 1 pulls the trigger and kills the waiter)

Dave: No!!!!

(Robber number 1 turns his gun on Dave...just then everything reverses itself. The waiter jumps back to life and the restaurant patrons go back to eating. The trio are back in their seats. Barry looks even more exhausted)

(back to the action)

Robber 1:*(To the waiter)* Empty that drawer! Do it! Now!!

Robber 2:*(To everyone else)* Everyone else, Down! On your stomachs!

Barry: That didn't work.

Dave:*(quickly)* Lindsay...this time I am when I hit the robber by the register, you need to get him before he shoots. Barry...if this doesn't work can you do your thing again?

Barry: *(breathing hard)* Yes. At least one more time. Maybe we should just let them rob the place.

Dave: We can do this! Get ready!

(Just as before Robber 2 is overcome with pain, Barry takes his gun and uses it to knock the robber unconscious...Lindsay has jumped up with a roar as the 1st robber is hit with the headache. She takes his gun, which is made of balsa wood or some other destroyable material. She crushes the gun in her hand, the robber then punches Lindsay to no effect. She picks him off the ground and throws him across the restaurant. He is unconscious)

(Lindsay is now crying uncontrollably)

Dave:*(To the waiter)* Call 911! *(He and Barry have collected the duo and Barry has the gun pointed at them, but both are totally out)*

Lindsay:*(Crying)* I didn't want to do this in public!

Dave: Did you crush that guy's gun??

Barry: and that guy hit you... you didn't even flinch!

Lindsay: *(crying harder)* I...I...I can make myself super strong... as strong as Superman and as tough too. Nothing can hurt me. It lasts for a minute...maybe two and then THIS!

Dave: You start crying?

Lindsay: Sometimes... sometimes I pass out...sometimes I start laughing or I can't move my legs. I go blind, I...I... never know what is going to happen!

Barry: So you can become super strong, invulnerable but afterwards you are hit with some kind of random side effect?

Lindsay: *(Still crying)* Yes!! And I can't use my strength again until whatever it is that happens to me wears off!

(Sirens are heard in the distance)

Lindsay: Ever since the accident! I was in a car wreck and in surgery I had a bad reaction to steroids and other medication... I have been like this ever since *(sobbing piteously)*

Dave: The police are pulling in now... you two stay cool. Let me do the talking.

(Black out)

(back in Dave and Erica's apartment, Dave is entering)

Erica: So how did it go?

Dave:*(Excited)* Oh my god!!! It was awesome. *(Very fast)* There was a robbery and we stopped it... me and the guy who can rewind time and the girl with the super strength...

Erica: *(lost)* Slow down! Take it from the beginning.

Dave:*(gaining composure)* Ok.. so we met at Reagan's.

Erica: You and the two others right?

Dave: Barry and Lindsay.

Erica: And you said you were robbed?

Dave: No! Reagan's almost got robbed but we stopped it!

Erica: You stopped the robbery?

Dave:*(getting excited again)* Yes! It's going to be on the news tonight! It might already be on their website!

Erica:*(getting out her lap top)* Did you use your um mind...thingy?

Dave: Yes! That's part of how we did it! You see Barry... well he can rewind time for 16 seconds and Lindsay can have super strength!

Erica: So how did you stop the robbery? *(has it now on her laptop)* Here it is! Local Heroes... three customers stop robbery at local deli. *(reading)*

Dave: It was soooo awesome!

Erica: Just says you three subdued two gunmen... gunmen? Are you crazy?

Dave: No! It was awesome! Right when it was happening I knew we had to do something so I hit both guys with a headache and Barry and Lindsay jumped up and disarmed them. Well...not at first. The first time Lindsay just stood there and that annoying waiter got shot.

Erica: They shot Doug??

Dave: Yes! Well, technically no. You see... like I said, Barry can literally take time back sixteen seconds, so when the guy got shot he did his thing.

The second time through Lindsay jumped in and literally crushed the one guy's gun. It was intense.

Erica: I don't know if I like the idea of you going up against guys with guns.

Dave: But Erica! This is the most alive I have felt ever! This was the best night of my life.

Erica:*(not convinced)* But, baby... you could get hurt.

Dave: Not if Barry is there! It's like having a "get out of a screw up free" card on you at all times!

Erica: What if Barry gets hurt? And I thought this was just going to be a support group!

Dave: It was...but don't you see? We could actually do something to make our city safer!

Erica: Shouldn't you leave that for the real super heroes?

Dave:*(That stung...)* But... it's just that it was so right tonight! We were a team. Afterwards we talked and we want to expand the group... put out a new ad for a new super team. We can't take down the big guys but we could do our part!

Erica:*(still not totally sold)* But what if no one else answers?

Dave:*(optimistic)* They will! I just know it. Come on babe... *(jokingly)* Can I be a super hero... please???

Erica: Write the ad. Let's see who answers.

Dave:*(excited again)* Awesome! *(He kisses her and grabs her laptop. He starts to type as the lights go out)*

(When the lights come back on we are in a dark, spooky room. Hellbender, Countess Countless and the Crimson Ninjas are impatiently waiting. Hellbender is all in black and has a very snake like demeanor about him. The Countess is dressed in old aristocracy type faire, and the Crimson Ninjas are in all crimson karate attire.)

Hellbender: How long have we been here?

Countess Countless:*(her voice is airy)* Long enough. We are grateful for our release from Hard Block Prison, but we are not to be played with and made to wait.

(A voice booms from offstage)

Academian: You may wonder why I have freed each of you.

Hellbender:*(Angry)* Who said that? Show yourself!

Crimson Ninja 1: Hiding in the shadows is our game, friend.

Academian: You have each been chosen, after a masterful analysis to take part in the destruction of the Alliance of Justice and the forced capture of Tyler City.

Countess Countless: We have never heard of this Alliance of Justice.

(The Academian enters, atop his head is a giant brain)

Academian: Ahh...Countess Countless. Originally from Bavaria, you now reside in Chicago do you not?

Countess Countless: Yes, we haunt the grounds of Chicago.

Academian: Within you resides the souls of hundreds of your ancestors and you wield their combined power, your skills are needed.

Countess Countless: Thousands! If it is you who freed us, then our skills and power are yours...for now.

Academian: Hellbender! With the blood and strength of the endangered amphibian. Your viciousness and skills are needed.

Hellbender: *(Not playing along)* Well that's too bad, because I work alone!

Academian:*(placating)* My apologies, but that is simply not an option. Your power and skill set are crucial for the plans I have placed in motion. Your participation is required.

Hellbender: Well, Mr. Fancy pants, that is your problem, because I am leaving.

(There is a slight humming noise and the air around Hellbender turns red... he is obviously in severe pain.)

Hellbender:Aaaaaaahhhhhhhhh!!!!

(while Hellbender is hurting)

Academian: This can go one of two ways... you can participate and bask in the rewards of my master plan, or you can be forced to participate and this will be your reward!!

(the red light intensifies and Hellbender screams...then suddenly...the light goes out. Hellbender drops to the ground.)

Academian: The choice, is yours.

Hellbender: *(Broken)* I will do as you say.

Academian: Excellent.

(Looking to the crimson ninjas)

Academian: The Crimson Ninjas... from the orient. You know Tyler City well, do you not?

Crimson Ninja 2: This is the adopted home of our arch nemesis.

Crimson Ninja 1: The stink of the Samurai is in the very air of this place.

Academian: Your imprisonment in Hard Block came at the hands of The Samurai and her friends, did it not?

Crimson Ninja 2: Indeed. For three years we have rotted in that asylum.

Crimson Ninja 1:*(angrily)* Revenge has been on our mind every minute of our imprisonment.

Academian: Your lust for revenge and the skills you possess are needed.

Crimson Ninja 1: If working with you will gain our revenge, our swords are yours.

Academian: You have each been chosen, and freed at some effort to participate in my master plan. *(hands out flash drives)* On these drives you will find dossiers on each of Tyler City's beloved heroes. I will need you to memorize their skills, their strengths and their weaknesses. *(exultant)* Know thy enemy!

Hellbender: Who are you?

Academian: Ahhh... yes... I guess an introduction is in order. I am, the Academian and it was through my actions and planning that each of you have been released from your locked cages. My intellect is second to none and if you choose to align yourself with me there is no limit to what you can achieve.

Countess Countless: and what is the goal we fight for?

Academian:All in due time, Countess. For now, let us retire to our studies. *(Henchman enters)* My servant will show you to your rooms here at my headquarters. Please, make yourself at home. You have full access to all of my accommodations. *(Pause)* Just do not try to leave.

(Academian exits, black out.)

(The lights come back up in Dave's apartment, Erica is busy setting up finger foods on a table and Dave is busy straightening the apartment. Extra chairs have been set up for the meeting)

Erica: You said seven right?

Dave: Yes, Barry is bringing his wife...the others should be by themselves, one didn't confirm though. The Japanese lady... I didn't understand whether she was actually going to be able to make it. *(He continues straightening things)*

Erica:*(soothingly)* Calm down baby... everything's going to be ok.

Dave: I know, I know... these types of things always make me nervous even when I am not dealing with people answering a post to join a super hero team. *(The doorbell rings. Dave goes to answer. It is Barry and Gina.)*

Barry: Glad we found it! I have the worst sense of direction. Dave, this is my wife Gina. *(They shake hands)*

Dave: and this is my fiancé, Erica. *(She shakes both of their hands)*

Gina: Nice place you have here.

Erica:*(Graciously)* Thank you. *(to them all)* If you will excuse me, I need to take the crab dip out of the oven.

Gina: Need help?

Erica: That would be great.

Barry: Did the Japanese girl get back with you? The email you forwarded me wasn't too clear on it.

Dave: The phone call was worse.

Barry: and what did she say she could do?

Dave: I have no clue. I was hoping we could ask her in person.

(They leave and the doorbell rings. Dave goes to answer as Barry sits.)

Dave:*(opening the door)* You must be Brandi.

Brandi:*(entering)* I am. Dave I presume? *(they shake)*

Dave: And this is Barry. *(Barry waves)*

Brandi: I didn't mean to be too early... glad I am not the first one here.

Dave: Come on in and make yourself comfortable.

(Gina and Erica come back in with food and more drinks...throughout the scene they will be pouring drinks for the guests and talking together. Brandi moves to get a drink)

Barry:*(to Dave, privately)* She's the one with the static electricity right?

Dave: *(stage whisper)* Yeah. No idea how it works, said she would show us.

Barry: If she can control it, she may be out of our league.

Dave: I thought so too, but she assured me that she wouldn't be.

(doorbell rings. Dave answers and Lindsay and Carl walk in.)

Dave: Hey Lindsay, come on in and *(to Carl)* you are?

Carl: I'm Carl! We spoke yesterday on the phone. I totally think this is the best idea ever! I could hardly wait to get here. Can you really give people headaches? That is too cool. *(Carl enters the house immediately going over to Barry)* Hi! I'm Carl!

Lindsay:*(to Dave)* I met him at the curve and he has not shut up since he figured out we were going to the same place.

Dave: Yeah... I thought I was going to have to fake a heart attack to get off of the phone with him yesterday. I think he is just excited about our idea.

Lindsay: That better be it. If he talks like this all the time I am voting him off the team.

(She goes to close the door and a hand stops her. The hand belongs to Gavin, he enters)

Gavin:*(asking)* Super hero meeting?

Dave: Sure thing. I'm Dave. You must be Gavin.

Gavin:*(obviously nervous)* I am. Nice to meet you.

Dave: Come on in and make yourself comfortable. Drinks and snacks are on the buffet.

Gavin: Thanks.

(Barry approaches Dave)

Barry: I think this is everyone.

Dave: Guess we should get started. You want to be the one who does the talking?

Barry: *(escaping)* Are you kidding? No thanks. Your house, your show.

(Dave puts himself in a position to speak to the crowd)

Dave: There might be one other joining us, but I am not sure. With that in mind maybe we should get started. As you know, my name is Dave. I have spoken with you all and linked you guys the article from the attempted Robbery at Reagan's last week. I have also told you all what really

happened there and how we...that is Barry, Lindsay and I, came up with this idea.

Carl:*(to Barry)* You are the one that can rewind time right? Oh, man, that is so useful.

Dave: Carl, we will get to intros and about what each of us can do in a minute. Does everyone understand the story?*(The doorbell rings. Since Dave is addressing the group, Barry goes to the door to answer it. Yukiko is there.)*

(An arm appears handing Barry a heavy coat. When Yukiko speaks it is with a very thick Japanese accent.)

Yukiko: You Dave?

Barry: Uh...

Yukiko: Dave-san, it is very pleased to meet you in real life. *(she bows)*

Barry: I am not Dave... he is over there. *(Gestures)*

(Yukiko moves to Dave... Right as she gets to him she looks off at an angle, like someone is there and speaks very loudly.)

Yukiko: Watashiwaanata o hajimetekiita!*(then to Dave)* Dave-san. It is very pleased to meet you in real life.

Dave: You must be Yukiko.

Yukiko: *(bows)* Hai. Meeting start?

Dave: Just getting started now. Please have a seat. Help yourself to refreshments?

Yukiko: *(confused)* Help to what?

Dave: (*gesturing*) Food... drinks...

Yukiko:(*understanding*) Arigato Dave-san.(*She looks at the same spot as before and says very loudly*) Anataoro kanayūre ihitori de watashi o nokoshite!

Gavin: What did you just say?

Yukiko: Huh? Me? Oh. I uh...say... shut up...leave me alone stupid... (*lost for the word*)...ghost.

Gavin: (*even more confused*) Uh... ok. Gotcha.

Dave: (*attempting to resume the meeting*)Ok... where was I?

Lindsay: The thing at Reagans.

Dave:(*on track*) Ah...yes... Ok. Did everyone understand what happened to Barry, Lindsay and I?

Brandi: Yeah... if it happened like you said, it sounds pretty awesome. I had always wondered if there were other people out there like me, I think it's really great that you set this up.

Dave: Thank you. I guess we should go ahead and start with the introductions since not all of you know each other. As I said, I am Dave and most of you already know that I can feel inside people's minds and give them a sort of headache.

Carl: Can we see an example?

Dave: I hadn't really thought of that...but I guess it might be a good idea to let people give a demonstration if possible... Mine hurts though and I don't want to...

Carl: Do it to me!

Dave: You sure?

Carl: Absolutely

(*Dave looks intently at Carl and Carl starts to freak out in pain*)

Carl: Ahhhhhh! Holy crap! (*as it reaches its crescendo, he starts smacking his own forehead...then it subsides*) Wow... I mean... WOW!

Yukiko: (*particularly astonished*) You do that?

Gavin: Are there drawbacks? Can you make it last longer?

Dave: That was pretty much it. It hurts.

Carl: Like hell!

Dave: But it's over pretty quick. I can't hit the same person again for a few minutes.

Gavin: Weird.

Dave: Anyways... moving along... as you guys read in my email about the robbery... this is Barry and he is the one who can zap 16 seconds back in time.

Barry:(*to the group*) What's up guys.

Brandi: So how do you do it?

Barry: I dunno really... I was born able to do it. I think... I have just always been able to. To show you, I am going to ask my wife to help. (*to Gina*) Ready babe?

Gina: (*warning*) You had better not do anything too stupid to me.

Barry: What? You don't trust me?

Gina: (*to Erica...whispering*) Let me know what he does to me.

Erica: (*nods*)Will do.

(Barry walks up to Gina...who looks nervous and he says)

Barry: I love you.

Gina: *(nervously)* I love you too...

(but as she says this Barry pins her arms to her side and blows a big slimy raspberry on her neck, she screams and tries to get away but he does it again and again. Then the action stops and all of it happens in reverse, When it is concluded everyone looks astonished)

(Barry is smiling, although tired)

Barry: I love you.

Gina:*(simply)* What did you do to me?

Barry: Nothing.

Gina: *(To Erica)*What did he do to me?

Erica: *(honestly)* I have no clue. *(something beeps in the kitchen)* Second Crab dip is ready. *(she exits)*

Gina: *(pointing her finger)* I will find out what you did to me. *(she exits as well.)*

Carl: *(excited.)* that was too cool.

Barry: Now, you six all saw the events played forward and in reverse. I excluded my wife and for my own protection Dave's Fiance from the reversal process.

(Gina storms back into the room.)

Gina: *(re-entering and looking at the group)* Did he slime me?

Brandi: What?

Gina: Did he do the slobbering neck thing? I feel like he did.

Barry: *(innocently)*Naaaahhhh...

Gina: *(leaving again)* you know I hate that...

Barry: Before you ask... I can only do 16 seconds... never more...never less. Also, it wears me out. Every time I do it, it is like I have run five miles. I have never been able to do it more than 3 times without passing out.

Carl: But, can you...

Dave: For the sake of time, let's discuss questions at the end if that is okay? I am sure we are all going to have questions.

Lindsay: I will go next. My name is Lindsay and I was at Reagan's Deli with these two. I can generate great strength for short bursts...also it makes me really tough during the time...almost invulnerable.

Brandi: How strong?

Lindsay: Superion strong...and superion tough. But then...

Gavin: Then?

Lindsay: When it wears off I am struck with a random physical sort of side effect. At the Deli I couldn't stop crying...for almost half an hour. The cops thought I was a crazy emotional moron, but stuff like that always happens and I can't use it again until whatever happens after, wears off.

Carl: That is fascinating... real physical drawbacks to using your power? What else has happened?

Lindsay: I have fallen asleep, started drooling, had lock-jaw, been paralyzed.

Carl: Can you show us?

Lindsay: No! You are just going to have to take my word for it. It's freaking embarrassing and I am not going to do it now.

Dave: Ok... so... Brandi...

Brandi: Ok. My turn. Well, I only have one trick. Apparently my body is constantly storing static electricity.

Carl: So what good is that?

Brandi: Care for a demonstration?

Carl: Yes!

Brandi: Carl right? *(he nods)* Stand up.

Carl: *(somewhat fearful)* On me? Uh... well... ok....

Brandi: Now I can feel how much is built inside of me and right now I have a moderate charge...maybe 50 percent. But I can only discharge it through the chi point right here on both of my palms. *(she points to her palm)*

Dave: Well, that sounds useful.

Brandi: Hardly... sadly enough I can only discharge it into the same chi point on another person.

Lindsay: and how do you do that?

Brandi: Like this. *(she reaches out to shake Carl's hand)*

(as they touch hands the lights flicker and Carl looks like he was hit with a stun gun. Gina and Erica have re-entered the room)

Carl: Uhhh..... *(he hits the floor)*

Brandi: *(helping him up)*... I am so sorry... you wanted a demonstration...

Dave: and you choose when to discharge?

Brandi: Yes.

Barry: How long does it take to build a charge?

Brandi: Depends... if I wear the right clothing almost no time at all.

Gavin: I thought we weren't going to ask questions.

Dave:*(realizing)* Oh yeah... Sorry. Your turn Gavin.

(Gavin produces a box... he then pulls a black lizard out of his pocket and puts it in the box. Everyone looks in the box...they are amazed and confused.)

Yukiko: Dancing Lizard in a box. This make you super hero?

Gavin: It's more than that. And this is not a lizard, it's a salamander.

Yukiko: *(off to the same spot as before)* Konoyūrei o sanshō shite kudasai? Karewato kagegao dorimasu!

Lindsay: You make salamanders dance?

Gavin: Well, yes..and more. *(he pulls the salamander out and puts it on the table)* Now I am going to turn my back to you and I want each of you to raise fingers so that the salamander can see them.

Lindsay: *(interested)* Like this? *(holds up 2 fingers)*

Gavin: Exactly. I see two fingers.

Lindsay:*(changes to three)* How about now?

Gavin: Three. *(she changes to four)* Four.

(she holds up a fist)

Gavin: None. *(she gives him the finger.)* Well...one now... and back at you.

Barry: Mind explaining it to us?

Gavin: I am control the minds of salamanders... any salamanders. As a kid, my older brother dared me to eat one and when I did it made me really sick... I was too scared to tell my mom what I had done so I didn't go to the hospital. When it ran its course, I found out I could do all of this.

Dave: All of this?

Gavin: I can make them dance, sit still and I can see through their eyes, hear what they hear. If the salamander senses it, I sense it. In high school I used them to spy on girls I liked... one time this girl dumped me for this other guy so I rounded up a bunch of salamanders and made her life hell. One morning she came out to her car and they had spelled her name out in live salamanders on her windshield. Every time her folks came around I had the salamanders go back to normal. She pretty much thought she was going crazy.

Dave: well, I can see how that may be handy in a group.

Gavin: *(interrupting)* I already have picked out a superhero name for myself.

Dave: That may be getting ahead...

Gavin: Commander Salamander!

(The group chuckles...fade to black out)

(The scene is now on the street... Galaxy Girl is in another confrontation with a criminal. The Criminal is running, frantically trying to get away... she is at a dead end.)

Galaxy Girl: It's the end of the line, vagabond. Time to surrender and face justice.

Henchmen: I am not scared of you, Galaxy Girl! *(He pulls out a gun, pointing it at galaxy girl.)*

Galaxy Girl:*(humorously)* They always pull out a gun. Ok... put down the pop gun before you get hurt.

Henchmen: Don't come any closer! I will blow you away! I swear I will!

Galaxy Girl: How about a game of hot potato? *(She reaches out her hand toward the henchmen concentrating. After several seconds the gun is obviously burning the henchmen's hand.)*

Henchmen: Ahhhhhhh!!!! *(He drops the gun, in pain)*

Galaxy Girl: *(cheerily)* I win!

(Galaxy girl walks to the criminal who takes a swing at her, she easily dodge the blow, counters with one of her own...the criminal staggers back and then Galaxy Girl pushes both hands forward sending a mental wave of energy that knocks the henchmen off of his feet. Galaxy Girl grabs the bag he was carrying and looks through it.)

Galaxy Girl: The Jiffy Mart had 52 dollars... you did this for 52 dollars? Are you nuts? *(She goes to pick up the henchmen)*

(An echoing laughter fills the air)

Galaxy Girl: Who's there? *(to the Henchmen)* So you have friends?

Henchmen:*(Scrambling out of the way)* More than you know Galaxy Girl!

(The Crimson Ninja's emerge from the trash and rubble of the street as Hellbender enters through a door and Countess Countless closes off escape)

Galaxy Girl:*(Laughing)* Four on one? I hope you have reinforcements available!

Countess Countless: How did you say it Galaxy Girl? Time to surrender and.... Face justice.

(At this Hellbender takes a swing and is knocked back by Galaxy Girl's mental energy)

Hellbender:Ahhhh!!!

Crimson Ninja 2:*(Brandishing her sword)* It would be a shame for us to have to cut that pretty face.

Galaxy Girl: I remember you. The Samurai put you in Hard Block.

Crimson Ninja 1: We remember, and we remember how you and Superion came to rescue her when we had her beat!

(Crimson Ninja 1 cuts, Galaxy Girl dodges and heats the ninja's swords both drop their weapons in time for Countess Countless to walk into the fighting area.)

Countess Countless: It is time to end this farce Galaxy Girl.

Galaxy Girl: Your friends did a good job warming me up. Who are you? Captain Emo?

Countess Countless: *(dryly)* Very funny. You can call us the Countess and there is a big difference in my friends and those whom you see before you.

Galaxy Girl: What's that? Fashion sense?

Countess Countless: The difference between us and the ones before you is simple...

Galaxy Girl: Do you always talk of yourself in the plural?

Countess Countless: We were brought here specifically to deal with you.

Galaxy Girl: Deal with this! *(She goes to send a mental wave of energy and nothing happens)* What?

Countess Countless: Inside of us are the spirits of hundreds of generations. We know all and we sense and can control the very energy around us. Your plutonian energy wave is like a whisper raging against a thunderstorm.

(Galaxy Girl tries again and fails.)

Galaxy Girl: We will continue this another day... You have not seen the last of me Countess! *(She goes to fly off and falls on her rear)*

Countess Countless:*(talking down to her)* Oh... We are indeed sorry, but you will not be leaving us... now, or ever. Hellbender, take our friend...if she resists try not to hurt her... too much.

Hellbender: My pleasure. *(He walks up to Galaxy Girl who takes a feeble swing at him which he doesn't even dodge. He absorbs it)* Silly Girl.

(Hellbender punches Galaxy girl who goes to the ground unconscious)

(Laughter is heard as the Academician walks onto the scene.)

Academician: Wonderful, wonderful! This glorious night is just the first step. I promised you the city my friends and we shall have it. Congratulations on proving yourself worthy to play a part in the brilliant end I have in mind for the heroes of Tyler City.

(Black out)

(Back at the Meeting...)

Lindsay: *(Laughing)* Commander Salamander?? That's pretty funny.

Gavin: I wasn't joking.

Lindsay: Then you're an idiot.

Dave: (*quickly*) I hadn't thought about names...but I am sure salamanders would come in handy... so would the shocking grip and...

Carl: And me!

Dave: Oh...sorry. Carl... what about you?

Carl: I am a genius of trivial information!

Lindsay: That sounds like a crap ability.

Carl:(*dismissingly*) At least when I use mine I don't start crying.

Lindsay: (*menacingly*) Say that again and you will.

Dave: Trivial information?

(*through all of this, Yukiko is having a conversation with someone no one else can see...it is understated, but going on throughout the scene.*)

Carl: Like a human encyclopedia!

Barry: I am not sure how that would be useful to a group like this.

Carl: Ask me any question... for instance pick a country.

Dave: Uh... Paraguay?

Carl: What do you want to know about it?

Dave: The capital?

Carl: Too easy. That's Asuncion. How about this...all from up here (*points to his head*) The president is named Horacio Cartes and Paraguay has a population of slightly more than 6.8 million people. Declared for independence from Spain on May 14th, 1811 and the GDP is 53.1 billion. Anything more?

Erica: What is the state bird of Utah?

Carl: Oddly enough, the California Gull.

Erica: (*to Dave*) It's true.. I lived there.

Barry: Who is the world record holder in the Javelin throw?

Carl:(*thinking*) From the old Czech Republic. In 1996 he threw for 98.48 meters.

Barry: Amazing.

Lindsay: Is that true?

Carl: (*Confidently*) Look it up.

Lindsay: I still don't see how that would be useful to us.

Carl: I thought you might say that. I have more to offer than my brain...

Lindsay: What, can you make gecko's sing?

Carl:Haha. No, but I have money. A large trust fund left to me by my late grandmother. I also have a 1600 square foot apartment, fully loaded and renter free that we could use as a base of operations.

Dave: And you would let us use it?

Carl: Assuming I am a part of said super group, I don't see why not.

Yukiko: Pardon please Dave-san.

Dave: Yes... Yukiko... I am sorry, you should be next.

Yukiko: Do you know a Chuck?

Dave: A what?

Yukiko: (*off to another invisible spot*) Ok. I tell him. You quiet now!

Dave: Pardon me?

Yukiko: Not you. Chuck. Chuck quiet now! *(To Dave)* You know a Chuck Cole?

Dave: *(uncertain...)* Uh..yeah...he owned this place before us... we bought it from his kids.

Yukiko: He does not like what you have done with the master bedroom. *(To chuck)* Happy?

Dave: *(confused)* You must be mistaken. Chuck Cole has been dead for two years.

Yukiko: *(to chuck)* Huh? *(to Dave)* He say, two year, two month.

(At this point everyone is intently looking at where "Chuck" is supposed to be)

Dave: *(dubious)* So... I guess you talk to dead people.

Yukiko: *(exasperated)* Yes! And they talk to me! Even when I do not care what they say! Like this guy, Chuck. He been complaining to me from the second I walk in the door. Does not like bedroom, the crap you watch on T.V... sorry his word, not mine. He say your girlfriend should find someone better than you.

Dave: I have been surprised a lot this evening, but I just can't believe that there are dead people around and that Chuck Cole is haunting my house. *(testing her)* Ask Chuck what color the bathroom used to be.

Yukiko: *(to Chuck)* You hear that? *(pause)* He say, light green and you also changed out the bathtub after your girlfriend broke hot water faucet.

Dave: *(astonished)* Good God. Chuck still lives here...

Erica: Are you freaking kidding me?? Chuck Cole is here? Now?

Yukiko: Right over there *(pointing)* Maybe.

Erica: Dave... you have a dead guy in your house. We are not living here after the wedding.

Dave: Let's talk about that later baby...

Erica: We need to talk about this now!

Gina:*(To Barry)* We need this chick to come check our house for dead people. That's just gross thinking someone might be in the bedroom with us...

Barry: *(Disgusted)* Yuck. Why did you go and put that in my head?

Dave: Can we focus for a minute?

Brandi: Can you talk to any dead person?

Yukiko: What you mean?

Brandi: Like, my granddad passed away last year... can you talk to him?

Yukiko:*(simply)* He not here.

Brandi: *(trying to explain)* I know... he died last year.

Yukiko: No.. I mean he not here. *(points to room)* Chuck here, Ryoto here. Ryoto always with me. He follow me around all the time because he no speak English and most of the time have no clue what is happening. He found me and now will not leave me alone.

Lindsay: So you have a dead Japanese man with you at all the time...

Yukiko: Yes. *(to Ryoto)* Hai, watashit achiwa anatani tsuite hana shiteiru. Punkandama~tsu! *(to the group)* He pretty much never shut up.

Gavin: Can you see them?

Yukiko: No, only hear.

Carl: *(excited as ever)* That is really awesome. I have never heard of anyone that could do that!

Yukiko: My grandmother and hers both also do. Skip every other generation. Whole village happy to see me born. Have name for us... translate uh...to... bone mistress. I hated it... so I come to United States and I work at Harris Teeter. So, am I good enough to be super hero? It get lonely only having dead people to talk to.

Barry: I think that pretty much qualifies. I think that all of us could have something to offer a group. So how are we going to do this? Should we just go out and look for crime happening?

Lindsay: What about the brain nerd over there. I don't think he would be useful unless we plan to go on Jeopardy.

Carl: I tried out for Jeopardy! But they have a screening that figured out that I wasn't just smart, but freakishly overpowered.

Lindsay: Still... I can't see how knowing the square mileage of Panama ..

Carl: A little over 29 thousand square miles.

Lindsay: *(annoyed)* Shut up.

Carl: *(oops)* Sorry!

Lindsay: I can't see how that could help.

Dave: I don't want to exclude anyone at this point...so...what's next to talk about?

Gina: I think you guys need a name.

Gavin: I have a name.

Gina: I mean a group name... like the Alliance!

Erica: *(excited)* Something catchy.

Carl: Ooh! Ooh! We definitely, definitely need a name!

Dave: Come on... sounds kind of hokey to me.

Lindsay: It needs to be something fitting.

Brandi: The Alliance is a great name...we need something like that... a group name!

Barry: How about the Conglomerate?

Lindsay: That name sucks. Sounds like a bank.

Barry: *(Apologetically)* Sorry...

Dave: What are some other words for group?

Carl: Ooh! Platoon, Bevy, Band, Consortium, Cluster, Clutch, posse, congregation, syndicate, pack, parcel, confederation, faction...

Dave: Hold on a sec... I kind of like Confederation...

Gavin: You think we should be called the confederation?

Dave: Well, not just *(makes quotations)* "The Confederation"

Barry: How about the Confederation of Superheroes?

Carl: Or the Confederation of Awesome Super Heroes!

Dave: Are we really super?

Gavin: What? Do you want us to go by the Confederation of mildly powered individuals?

Dave: No... it's just...

Lindsay: The Confederation of people with semi useless powers!

(They all laugh)

Carl: How about the Confederation of radically altered people? We have all been altered from the norm in some way right?

Dave: No...that's...

Barry: *(interjecting)* I kinda like it.

Lindsay: Me too...in a stupid kind of way.

Yukiko: What we talking about?

Gavin: I can live with that I guess.

Carl: Any objections?

(Dave looks around, sees none and keeps quiet.)

Carl: Excellent! We shall be the Confederation of Radically Altered people... or "The Confederation" for short.

(universal approval from the group)

Brandi: So, what's next?

Dave: I think we should start with a regular meeting date.

Carl: We could use the apartment!

Barry: You really don't mind us using your place?

Carl: I don't live there... it used to be my grandmother's. Now it could be our secret lair!

Lindsay:*(to Barry)* I really don't like this guy.

Barry: He has an apartment...

Gavin: So what now?

Dave: Let's digest this all and meet... is everyone good for Thursday evening....say at 7:00?

(everyone consents)

Carl: Give me all your numbers and I will text you the directions. This is going to be soooo... awesome

(black out)

(The Scene opens with The Samurai at a booth signing autographs for fans)

Samurai: Thank you very much, your donation goes to feed homeless orphans right here in Tyler City.

Fan 1: Thank you so much for all that you do Mrs. Samurai!

Samurai: Safer streets are all the thanks I need miss.

Fan 2: *(Handing the Samurai an 8x10 to sign)* It is amazing to have a chance to meet you.

Samurai: The honor is mine. *(Signing)* Who do I make this out to?

Fan 2: Make it out to Bridget.

Samurai: Will do Bridget. Here you go. *(Hands here the picture)*

Fan 1: Mind if we get a picture? *(She hands a camera to Fan 3. Fan 1 and 2 Pose)*

Samurai: I would love to.

Fan 3: On three! One...two...

(During the count someone screams as the henchmen has snatched a purse and is running away.)

Fan 1: Get him samurai!

Samurai: (*Bowing*) I apologize for having to cut this meeting short, but duty calls. (*The Samurai goes off after the henchmen...who still has a black eye from the first encounter with Galaxy Girl.*)

(The fans all cheer)

(Lights dim and the henchmen is alone in the same alley as Galaxy Girl ended up in.)

Samurai: Drop the Purse and prepare yourself for imprisonment.

Henchmen: (*Less confident than last time*) Come and get it Samurai.

(As the Samurai comes forward, no one appears...)

Henchmen: (*on the edge of panic*) I said COME AND GET IT SAMURAI!

Samurai: (*somewhat confused*) I am coming now... I heard you the first time. It is impolite to shout. I should teach you some manners.

Henchmen: (*no help has appeared*) Uh... nevermind that... uh... here's the purse... (*He tries to run past*) Don't hurt me.

(The Samurai trips the Henchmen who takes a hard fall. She then kicks him in the head, almost knocking him out. The Ninjas appear behind the Samurai)

Crimson Ninja 1: There is no honor in defeating the unskilled.

Crimson Ninja 2: Maybe it is time for you to once again test your skills against more fitting opponents.

Samurai: I see Hard Block could not contain you, or did you have help in this escape? Matters not, I have defeated you before.

Crimson Ninja 2: And you have been defeated by us before.

Crimson Ninja 1: and rescued by your friends.

Crimson Ninja 2: And you friends are not here to save you this time.

Crimson Ninja 1: In fact, I don't think they will be able to save you now, or later.

(All have drawn their swords)

Samurai: Master Nakazato went to his grave in sorrow for having taught you how to use a blade.

Crimson Ninja 1:(*with disgust*)Nakazato was a fool.

Crimson Ninja 2: He could have had all of Japan, his power was limitless.

Samurai:Yet he used it for good.

Crimson Ninja 2: And died a peasant!

Samurai: He died with honor.

Crimson Ninja 1: (*with contempt*) He died penniless.

Samurai: And yet he died happy. He spoke about you often in the last days.

Crimson Ninja 2: Shut your mouth and defend yourself.

Crimson Ninja 1: We have waited three years for this.

Samurai: And once I have put you down again, you will have a much longer wait.

(The three begin fighting with their swords. The Samurai is a match for the two and eventually gets the upper hand by disarming Crimson Ninja 1 and knocking her breathless to the ground. While The Samurai is distracted with Crimson Ninja 2, Hellbender has snuck in behind her...Crimson Samurai 2 sees him and says...)

Crimson Ninja 2: NO! You are not to interfere!

(The Samurai turns around and slashes down at Hellbender, who grunts as he absorbs several blows and then, unhurt, strikes back. The Samurai falls to the ground.)

Hellbender: My orders were to capture this sword twirler in the event you two couldn't get it done.

Crimson Ninja 1: We were not defeated!

(The Samurai is on the ground, obviously injured)

Samurai: You could not defeat me alone.

Crimson Ninja 2: *(To Hellbender)* You have dishonored us.

Hellbender: Maybe you would have preferred your cell back in Hard Block.

(Both Ninjas draw their swords and look as if they are going to attack Hellbender, who is ready to defend himself. A red light immediately fills the air and all three drop to the ground in obvious agony. The Academian and Countess Countless walk on.)

Academian: You are never to strike against each other without my command. This is the penalty for breaking the rules.

Hellbender:*(in obvious pain)* Make it stop! Please!!

Academian: Do the three of you understand where you have run afoul of me?

Crimson Ninja 1: *(agonized)* Yes! We are sorry! We will obey you.

Academian: I cannot allow you to go renegade and mess up the events I have laid in motion. *(The red light and pain end.)* Now, you two get this pathetic creature up and take her with us. You may not have defeated her,

but you were smart enough to have friends to help you do so. There is honor in recognizing strength and aligning yourself with it.

(both ninja bow and pick up the semi-conscious samurai.)

(Black out)

(Back at Reagan's Deli. Barry and Gina are sitting as Dave and Erica walk up.)

Dave: Did you hear the news?

Barry: About Galaxy Girl? Yeah...that's kinda freaky.

Gina: Superion says she has been missing since last night.

Erica: Maybe she just went home *(points up)*

Dave: Without telling someone? I doubt it. So did you go by and scope out Carl's place?

Barry: Yeah...it's pretty nice. It will serve for what we need it for. If we really need a "base of operations"

Gina: He has the place all decorated up...says he went to Staples and ordered a bunch of stuff to fit your group design...he said it should be in for tomorrow night's meeting.

Dave: Cool. What did you think of the group Barry?

(The waiter walks up)

Waiter: Can I take your drink order?

Barry: I'll have a beer.

Gina: I will have a water.

Barry: Can I get you a beer Dave?

Erica:*(awkwardly)* Dave doesn't drink. He was an alcoholic in college and it almost cost him his scholarship. Then there was that accident...

Dave: *(obviously embarrassed by the attention)* It was a pretty dark time.

(The entire scene from the point the waiter walks on goes in reverse. Barry looks pretty spent.)

Waiter: Can I take your drink order?

Barry: I will take a Cherry Coke. A water for you darling?

Gina: Thank you. Yes. *(she looks at him suspiciously)*

Dave: *(Noticing he looks rough)* You okay Barry?

Erica: Yeah... you look pale.

Barry: It's nothing... just starving.

Waiter: I will be back in a few with your drinks and to take your order.

Erica: Thanks Doug.

Dave: So about the group...

(Black out)

(back in the alley, Superion has caught up with the Henchmen.)

(The Henchmen has a black eye, a sling on his arm and is in generally poor shape. Superion has him on his toes about to pound him.)

Henchmen: Please! This wasn't even my freaking idea!

Superion: *(with contempt)* Do not blame your actions on your circumstances weakling!

Henchmen: No...seriously... I can't do this any more. *(resignedly)* I was told to lead you to this alley and I have done it. Please, please don't hit me.

Superion: What are you talking about?

Henchmen: *(Calling out)* Come on out guys! I am not taking another beating for you! He is here! I was told to bring Superion here and I have done it. Now come on out.

Superion: *(Confused)*What is this trickery?

Henchmen: *(running around to the normal hiding spots and finding no one)* They are supposed to be here! This isn't funny! Where are the freaking ninjas??

Superion: Ninjas?

Henchmen: and the lizard man and the creepy emo chick! *(Coming back to Superion and shouting)* They are supposed to be here!

Superion: *(punches the henchmen knocking him out...muttering)* Apparently that one lost hold of reality...maybe instead of Hard Block I should take him to St. Benedict's home for the mentally deranged.

(at this, there is talking coming up the alley, the Crimson Ninjas are late)

Crimson Ninja 1: *(drinking a slurpee)* I could have sworn he said seven o'clock...but I don't see the countess or Hellbender so I guess you were right.

Crimson Ninja 2: He said 7:00 the first time, but changed it at the last meeting.

Superion: *(surprised)* Ninjas!

Crimson Ninja 1: Superion!

Crimson Ninja 2: Maybe it was 7:00!

(The crimson ninja draw their swords and surround Superior)

Superion: I remember you! We put you in Hard Block Prison!

Crimson Ninja 2: Well, our time there is finished.

Superion: *(to himself)* I am going to have to talk to the parole board on who they are letting out... this is madness.

Crimson Ninja 1: We have your friends.

Superion: Then you will tell me where they are or I will make you regret having ever been born!

(The ninjas attack but it quickly becomes evident that they are no match for Superior. Their blades do little damage...it looks like he is about to come out victorious when Countess Countless and Hellbender walk up. Hellbender has a Burger King bag and is eating some French fries.)

Hellbender: *(To the Countess)* I TOLD you he said 7:00!

(he runs towards Superior)

Superion: *(punching out Crimson Ninja 1)* Fiends! Release my friends immediately!!

Countess Countless: *(to Crimson Ninja 2)* How does he know that??

Crimson Ninja 2: *(embarrassed)* Uh... we told him.

Hellbender: Why in the hell would you do that?

Crimson Ninja 2: We kind of got caught up in the moment.

(Superion has grabbed the Countess and is shaking her violently. Crimson Ninja 2 and Hellbender rush to save her)

Superion: *(Shaking the Countess)* Where are my friends??

Countess Countless: *(To Hellbender)* Help us you fools!

Hellbender: You really pissed him off.

Crimson Ninja 2: Yeah... Ok. It was a bad idea!

(at this, Superior flings Countess Countless aside and goes to chase the Crimson Ninja 2 when Hellbender steps into his path.)

Hellbender: *(regaining his composure)* That will be enough.

Superion: You will take me to Galaxy Girl and the Samurai or I will rip your head off.

Hellbender: *(dismissively)* No you won't.

Superion: I am going to count to three. One...two... THREE!

(Superion rushes Hellbender and punches him in the stomach...Hellbender absorbs the shot, staggered a bit...grunts and then stands up.)

Hellbender: Not bad. Want to try again?

(Superion hits Hellbender across the face...he absorbs it and regains his composure)

Hellbender: Is that all you've got?

(Superion unleashes a barrage of attacks with the same effect each time. Eventually Superior starts to tire a bit.)

Superion: By the Gods! You WILL fall! *(punches him again)*

Hellbender: No, big guy, I won't. I'm going to let you in on a little secret. I was brought to Tyler City to handle you and only you. Perhaps only I can...of all the people out there.

Superion: *(breathing hard)* Who are you??

Hellbender: My name is Hellbender and I have this little trick I can do...
(gets face to face with a spent Superior) All energy that is transferred into my body I can deal back out again...so I appreciate all of your efforts here because now you are going to feel them... All...at...ONCE!

(Hellbender lets loose a magnificent shot that sends Superior sprawling across the alley unconscious. You hear the Academician's laughter before he enters)

Academician: Well done, well done! Our efforts will now be rewarded as we move on to the second phase of our plan. With the pathetic alliance of justice out of the way, there will be no one, not a single soul in all of Tyler City, that can stop us!

(All of the villains are laughing as the lights go out)

END OF ACT I

ACT II

(The lights come up in Carl's apartment... there is someone knocking on the door. There are tables set up in a V pattern with three chairs on each side and one in the middle. Each spot has a name plaque. Hanging above the Table is a giant banner that says in Bold Letters: C.R.A.P. Carl enters to answer the door.)

Carl: *(excitedly)* Hi Dave! *(dramatically)* Welcome to our lair!

Dave: *(enters)* Hi Carl..am I the first one here?

Carl: Yes! Now make yourself at home while I go get the cookies out of the oven. *(he exits)*

(while Carl is gone Dave looks around and does a double take when he notices the "C.R.A.P" sign.)

Dave: What the??

(There is knocking on the door. Dave, shaking his head answers. Brandi and Barry enter)

Barry: *(friendly)* What's up Dave?

(Dave doesn't say a word, he just points to the sign.)

Brandi: Oh God.

Barry: Crap?

Brandi:*(Giggling)* Oh my god!

Barry: *(laughing as well)* Well...the name kinda fits doesn't it? Weird that none of us caught that. Guess we need to come up with a new name huh?

(The door is still open. Gavin walks in.)

Brandi: *(laughing pretty hard)* Welcome to Crap headquarters!

Gavin: What?

(Dave points)

Gavin: Yuck. How did we miss that? *(sarcastically)* Freaking awesome acronym guys.

Brandi: I think it's great!

Gavin:*(imitating an announcer)* So.. Commander Salamander, how does it feel to be a piece of crap?

(laughter from all but Dave)

(Carl re-enters with cookies)

Carl: Fresh Cookies everyone!

Dave: Uh... Carl?

Carl: *(innocently)* Yes Dave?

Dave: We can't call ourselves CRAP.

Carl: *(embarrassed)* Yeah.. about that... uh... well, we need to talk about that.

Brandi: I think it's fantastic. Fits us to a T.

Carl: Well, about the name...

(There is a knock on the door. Carl Answers it.)

Carl: Hi Lindsay!

(She enters as you hear Yukiko screaming at Ryoto from off stage.)

Yukiko:*(angrily)*Iya,-ba no dansei wakei kandatta!

Carl: *(to everyone)* Ok guys... you will see that I have each seat labeled, with Dave as our leader up front.

Dave: I'm not the...

Carl: I took some liberties with some nicknames based off of our abilities...

Lindsay: Side effect? What is this, some sort of joke?

Carl:*(placating)* Well, no... it's just that...

Lindsay: I don't think it's funny.

Gavin: *(holding up his plate)* Commander Salamander... sweet.

Barry: *(looking at his)* Rewind... I kind of like that. Cool.

Carl: and Yukiko is Bone Mistress... that's what you said you are right?

Yukiko: No. I work at Deli. Harris Teeter.

(He seats her in her place)

Carl: and Brandi, you are here... *(leading her)*

Brandi: Handshake? That doesn't sound very intimidating...

Carl: It was either that or Static Cling.

(Gavin laughs at that)

Carl: Now everyone sit, please, Dave you will be here. *(points to the front seat)*

Barry:*(see Dave's plaque)*Brain Freeze! Great idea Carl!

Carl: Thanks!

(there is a moment of awkward silence and Yukiko raises her hand)

Dave: Yes?

Yukiko: Pardon, Dave-san. What is... CRAP?

(Brandi starts laughing again as Lindsay sees the sign)

Lindsay: Oh HELL no!

(Generally commotion,Brandi laughing)

Yukiko:*(To Gavin)* What Crap mean?

Gavin: *(trying to keep a straight face)* Uh..um... *(makes a gaseous sound on his arm and pantomimes sitting on a toilet)*

Yukiko: Gomi? *(she looks disgusted)*

(There is a lot of banter, laughter and Yukiko has her hand in the air.)

Carl: Ok, ok! About the name...

Lindsay: *(not kidding)* You need to get that off of there!

Dave: Seriously... we can't go by that.

Carl: Well...about that... now everyone listen for a sec... Yes Yukiko?

Yukiko: Crap, uh..not good name.

Carl: Well guys, I have to admit that one slipped by me when I suggested the Confederation of Radically Altered People... and well, just like these plaques and such I kind of took an initiative...

Gavin: What kind of initiative?

Carl: I sort of sent out press releases about our new group to the newspaper?

Barry: The Newspaper?

Carl: *(embarrassed)* and the monthly and weekly periodicals...

Lindsay: Oh God.

Carl: and I meant this to be a surprise, but I also did an interview for Channel 6. It should be on any minute.

Lindsay:*(peevd)* You did a freaking interview??

Carl: Well, what with the disappearance of Superion, Galaxy Girl and the Samurai they jumped at the chance to interview a new super team member.

(He turns the T.V. on)

Carl: Ah... good timing, it's just coming on.

(in this segment, the piece can either be recorded and played on a t.v., sound recorded or even acted out live on stage. Carl is Dressed in a blue morph suit with a trivial pursuit pie filled on the chest. He is wearing a Zorro style mask.)

Anchorman: Tonight on the 11 O'Clock news, more on the mysterious disappearance of the Alliance of Justice! Who is behind this? Does this spell doom for Tyler City? Well, tonight we are here to tell you about a new super group that has popped up in the wake of the AoJ's disappearance! Welcome to the WREP studio Factoid.

Carl: Thanks Erin.

Anchorman: It says here that you are a part of a new group whose goal is to help keep our streets safe for everyone.

Carl: That's right! There are seven of us in the group and we are excited to get to work for our city.

Anchorman: Your group calls its self the Confederation of Radically Altered people...or CRAP for short. CRAP? That's an odd choice for a name...

Carl: *(obviously flummoxed by the fact that the acronym is CRAP)* Wow... Crap... I hadn't thought of that.

Anchorman: So tell me a little about the members of your team... Tell me a little bit about CRAP.

(Lindsay jumps up and turns off the T.V.)

Lindsay: I can't listen to that. We are not going to be CRAP.

Carl: Hey! I wanted to watch that!

Brandi: *(still amused)* I think its an awesome name.

Lindsay: Shut up. *(threatening)* I will slap you. *(to Carl)* and you too.

