SUPERHEROES ANONYMOUS

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Ep. 1 - FADE IN:

INT. Conference Room – Night

BATMAN looks at the floor, his shoulders hunched, holding back tears. He speaks in a low gravelly voice, telling the same story as he has a million times before.

BATMAN

…they were lying there, dead.

I was 6 years old, and my childhood was taken from me. No one knows what it’s like, to grow up without the love of a parent.

Around him is a circle of chairs. Seated in the chairs are

SPIDERMAN Lets out an exasperated sigh.

NICK FURY is shifty eyed and scribbles in a notebook.

SUPERMAN looks up grinning, fists at his hips.

JEAN GREY cocks her head to side as if listening for something and smirks.

CATWOMAN types on her phone.

ROGUE plays with her gloves.

THE THERAPIST leans forward staring intently at BATMAN

BATMAN

None of you know! The pain… of… being raised… by a butler… in a mansion.

THERAPIST

Bruce, we really appreciate you sharing. I believe there are many people in this room who understand what you’re going through. How are all of you feeling about what Bruce just said?

Everyone shifts in their seats uncomfortably.

SPIDER-MAN leans forward as if to speak then raises his hand slowly.

SPIDER-MAN

 …My parents are dead.

SUPERMAN sits perfectly straight in his chair, big goofy smile on his face despite the seriousness of the subject matter.

SUPERMAN

 My whole planet was destroyed.

ROGUE

My momma tried to kill me once.

THERAPIST

Can you tell us more about that?

ROGUE

Well, I never met my real Momma and Daddy, on account of them abandoning me as a baby and all. I ain’t even sure what my real name was. I was raised by a super villain by the name of Mystique, shape-shifter and what-nots. We battled to the death all kinda times. She didn’t take kindly to me becoming a superhero.

THERAPIST

Well that is why we’re all here at Superheroes Anonymous. All of you have trauma outside the realm of normal human experience, now this is an opportunity to be heard and understood. To help you deal with these issues and become better heroes together.

INSERT THERAPIST.

THERAPIST

I’m not sure I can help any of these people. They come in, with the most outlandish stories; I don’t even know how much of it’s true.

BACK TO SCENE*.*

BATMAN

So I toured the world to become the world’s greatest detective. And ninja, scientist, martial artist billionaire who also has an awesome car and a helicopter that is also a boat. But nothing can replace the loss of my parents’ love. That’s the nightmare I battle. Alone.

NICK FURY

I’m sure the helicopter boat helps.

SPIDER-MAN

My parents died and all I got was this lousy T-Shirt.

(Beat)

And then when my Uncle died, all I got was a crippling guilt complex and the ability to use humor as a defense mechanism.

BATMAN

 (ignoring Spider-Man)

I channel the suffering in my heart, that only I know, into an instrument of vengeance.

THERAPIST

Bruce, are you listening to the group? Everyone here has had some their share of tragedy-

BATMAN

Shut up Alfred!

INSERT THERAPIST.

THERAPIST

Batman may be the most self-involved patient I’ve ever had.

BACK TO SCENE.

BATMAN

I’m sorry, I thought I was alone.

On a rooftop. Talking to myself.

Like I do sometimes.

JEAN cocks her eyebrow judgmentally.

JEAN

Sometimes?

BATMAN

All the time.

SPIDER-MAN

Hanging on rooftops and talking to yourself is cool though, right? I’m pretty sure it’s cool. I thought it was cool. Oh god, am I wasting my life?

INSERT THERAPIST.

THERAPIST

Spider-man has self-esteem issues.

BACK TO SCENE.

SUPERMAN

No, being a super hero is the greatest thing in the world! From the asteroid we punch out of the sky, to the kitten we rescue from a tall tree. We’re making a difference.

THERAPIST

Thank you Clark, I think that is a very healthy attitude.

SUPERMAN

I’m sorry, you must be mistaken. My name is Superman. Clark is my friend and he isn’t here today.

THERAPIST

Clark, we talked about this in our individual session.

INSERT THERAPIST.

THERAPIST

Superman is in massive denial that he even has a problem.

BACK TO SCENE.

SUPERMAN

I’m glad you and *Clark* have been meeting. *He’s* very depressed. He’s afraid that none of his friends know who he really is and he’s horribly, terribly alone. *I’m* Superman, I solve problems. With justice!

ROGUE

I can see where your, uh, friend,

Clark is coming from. I know what it’s like to be alone.

INSERT THERAPIST.

THERAPIST

Rogue has… slight intimacy issues.

BACK TO SCENE.

ROGUE

I never had much of a family. I even joined a cult once just so people would have to talk to me. On the first day we joined hands to pray and I sent Prophet Steve to the hospital. He still won’t talk to me, on account of the coma and all. I don’t think anybody’s ever been kicked out of a cult before.

NICK FURY

My family was a liability, knew too many secrets. I had to have their minds wiped and rewritten. Now they’re a Korean couple that owns a deli in Newark. The perfect cover.

THERAPIST

 That must be very lonely for you.

NICK FURY

 You might say that.

INSERT THERAPIST

THERAPIST

Nick Fury has been coming for months and barely says anything, and when he does it’s vague and terrifying. I’m worried he might just be here to spy on everyone.

BACK TO SCENE

NICK FURY scribbles something quickly in his notebook.

CATWOMAN

Can we talk about me or something? This is so boring.

INSERT THERAPIST.

THERAPIST

Catwoman is kind of like a real cat in that she’s aloof, withholding, mean, selfish, doesn’t think the rules apply to her.

(Beat)

I don’t like cats.

BACK TO SCENE.

CATWOMAN reaches over and pulls the therapist’s wallet out of her purse, finds a bit of string, and puts the wallet away to play with the string.

INSERT THERAPIST.

THERAPIST

She also may have stolen my wallet.

JEAN

 (Off-screen)

 She did!

THERAPIST

Jean Grey is psychic and has boundary issue and shouldn’t be listening to private conversations.

JEAN

*(From off-screen)*

I do not, and I can’t help it if your thoughts are loud.

THERAPIST Sighs.

BACK TO SCENE.

THERAPIST

Jean, the ability to read minds must have been a stress on your family life. Would you like to tell us about that?

JEAN

 I don’t care, they hated me.

THERAPIST

 Jean I’m sure that’s not true.

JEAN

No literally, they hated me. My Dad thought I was a pain in the ass and Mom wished I had never been born. Like, all the time.

 SPIDER-MAN

 Holy crap!

JEAN

 I know, right?

ROGUE

Aww darling, I wish I was never born all the time!

SUPERMAN

So does Clark.

THERAPIST

Selina, you’ve been very quiet today. Is there anything you would like to share with the group?

CATWOMAN

I’m just here so I don’t have to go to jail. It’s part of my parole.

SUPERMAN

That’s not very super-­­­heroic.

SPIDER-MAN

You know I’m starting to think your parents aren’t even dead.

CATWOMAN

 Oh they’re not. And they love me.

BATMAN lets out a sad moan and SPIDER-MAN boos.

THERAPIST

Now I understand Selina isn’t “one of you,” but I feel she has a lot of potential, and she could learn a lot from all of you. Selina, what are you hoping to get out of our meetings?

CATWOMAN

Well, I want people to give me what I want. All the time. Can you teach me to manipulate people better? Help me, to help myself.

SUPERMAN

That’s not super-heroic at all! I bet you would leave a cat in a tree!

CATWOMAN

 I would never leave a cat in a tree!

ROGUE starts sobbing quietly.

JEAN

Rogue it’s okay, you did everything you could for Captain Cuddles.

ROGUE

 Dangit Jean, stop reading my mind!

JEAN

You are literally screaming sadness at me right now.

ROGUE

 I just wanted to pet the cat!

NICK FURY

Ah, that explains everything.

NICK FURY makes a note in his notebook.

SPIDER-MAN

That explains nothing! Can someone who is not a mind-reader or a super spy tell me what happened with the cat?

ROGUE

I just wanted to pet the cat! I had my gloves on and everything! I didn’t know it’d scratch my face and fall over dead. On my birthday.

SUPERMAN

Aww jeez, your cat killed itself on your birthday? That’s awful…

Batman looks up from his tears.

 BATMAN

 Oh sure, now you’re supportive.

CATWOMAN crosses her arms furious.

CATWOMAN

I can’t believe you killed a cat.

You are a monster.

The therapist looks at the clock.

THERAPIST

And I believe that’s all the time we

(MORE)

have for today. Great work everyone. Hope to see all of you back here next week.

FADE OUT.

INSERT – Hallway. CATWOMAN is talking to her parents on her phone. BATMAN and SPIDER-MAN look huffy behind her.

CATWOMAN:

Hi Daddy! No, yeah, I’m at my support group thing. I’ll be home for dinner. Love you too!

FADE OUT.

Ep. 2 - FADE IN:

SUPERMAN

And then Clark says, “I wish I could be more like you, Superman. You’re confident, and cool. You’re my hero.” And you know what, I am.

JEAN

You are so pathetic inside.

SUPERMAN

No, Clark is pathetic inside

SUPERMAN points to his own chest.

SUPERMAN

 He wears glasses.

THERAPIST

Would anyone like to share something about how they balance their career as a superhero and their everyday life?

JEAN

 I don’t have a secret identity.

THERAPIST

 And why is that?

JEAN

I already have everyone’s thoughts in my head all the time. Adding a second identity would be too confusing.

ROGUE

I can understand what that’s like. Whenever I absorb somebody’s powers I take some of their psyche too, or at least that’s what the Professor says. It can get awful crowded in here.

CATWOMAN

How many cats do you have in there, cat murderer.

ROGUE

Dangit, Selina!

THERAPIST

Selina, we don’t want personal attacks here, this is a safe space. And we’re getting a bit off track. I want everyone to have an opportunity to share.

BATMAN

Batman is who I am. When I become Bruce Wayne I put on the mask.

THERAPIST

Bruce why don’t you let everyone hear your real voice?

BATMAN

This is my real voice. I always talk like this. Even when I’m alone, or on a rooftop.

THERAPIST

As an exercise, for the rest of this session, why don’t you try not talking in the bat-voice and see how that feels? You can trust us.

INSERT THERAPIST

THERAPIST

I’m really just tired of hearing him whisper-growl. He literally does it all the time. And he never stops talking about his parents. I mean it’s been decades. They’d probably have died of old age by now. I’m sorry, was that insensitive? I’m so glad no one can hear this.

JEAN VO

You are a terrible therapist.

THERAPIST

[Sigh] I’m just going to stop doing these.

The camera cuts to close up shot of JEAN’s eyes. She looks around the room judgmentally.

Insert JEAN’s POV

SUPERMAN VO

[To the tune of the Superman theme] *Dun-Dun-Dun-Dunnna! Dun-Dun-Dun-Dunnna! I’m okay! No sad thoughts, everyone looks up to you, smile and nod! Dunna-na!*

BATMAN VO

I just want to talk in my voice. Why doesn’t anyone just listen to me? Why can’t we just talk about me? I miss my parents.

NICK FURY VO

Potential hostiles on my 2 and 10. Take out the psychic first, she’ll give away my movements. Then escape through the window, three story fall, only break my legs. If an attack comes from the window, I dive for the ground, use the therapist as a human shield…

SPIDER-MAN VO

I wonder if anyone’s mad about that joke I told last week. Nobody laughed. Not that they normally laugh. I’m funny, right? I think I’m funny. Super funny. Heh, super. Have I gone too long without talking? I feel like nobody’s talking.

CATWOMAN VO

I want to go shopping. Or, I could go shop-lifting. Sparkles and Mr. Fluffington could use new diamond collars. I wonder if Daddy bought me my pony yet… I like stealing things.

ROGUE (CAROL) VO

I don’t appreciate when you talk about me like I can’t hear you. I didn’t ask to be shoved into your brain, okay. I’ll just leave! Oh right, I can’t!

ROGUE VO

I’m sorry Carol; while we’re both in here we might as well get along right? And can you please stop rearranging the stuff in my room? It ain’t funny no more.

ROGUE (CAROL) VO

 I think it’s pretty funny.

Back to Scene.

JEAN

I know everyone else’s secrets, only seems fair not to hide mine.

THERAPIST

 That’s a very healthy outlook.

JEAN

And if anybody thinks bad thoughts about me I’ll make their brain explode.

JEAN makes pointed eye contact with NICK FURY

NICK FURY

You don’t have the power to do that. I would know if you had the power to do that.

JEAN rolls her eyes

JEAN

No, but you’d be surprised how many people think I do.

SPIDER-MAN

 I did think that. I was very afraid.

JEAN

Don’t worry, you don’t matter enough for me to want to kill you.

SPIDER-MAN

Why thank you, I could use more people that don’t want to kill me.

THERAPIST

Now is that as Spider-Man or Peter?

SPIDER-MAN

Metaphorically, both. My Aunt thinks I’m a bum because I still live at home and I’m 30, my girlfriends are all dead or evil, and me constantly coming into work late has not endeared me to my boss. But literally as Spider-man people do try to kill me. Daily.

THERAPIST

I’m sure the community appreciates you risking your life every day.

SPIDER-MAN

Oh heck no, everybody still hates me. I still get arrested for trying to stop bank robberies. Destruction of property, disturbing the peace, loitering, it’s like they see me and immediately assume I must be breaking some law.

NICK FURY

 I didn’t know you were black.

SPIDER-MAN

Neither did I! Except everybody loves Superman.

SUPERMAN

I am very handsome.

SPIDER-MAN

And Batman’s rich enough he can just buy his way out of all his problems.

BATMAN

I couldn’t buy back my parents, I tried.

THERAPIST

Bruce, remember, use your inside voice.

BATMAN growls.

CATWOMAN

A couple million dollars and you can have my parents.

BATMAN growls but then shrugs like he’s considering it.

 SPIDER-MAN

That gives me a great idea. Bruce you can give me like, a million dollars, and then we can both be like Batman.

BATMAN struggles to eek out words without using his whisper growl.

BATMAN

Batman… is… more than just… money. He’s… a symbol.

SPIDER-MAN

 Symbol for being cheap.

SUPERMAN

Jeez Pete, I’d love to help you out but I don’t make any money either.

SPIDER-MAN

What happened to your day job as a reporter?

SUPERMAN

Nobody reads newspapers anymore. Clark got laid off. Chief said he wasn’t pulling his weight

SPIDER-MAN

Which is funny because you can lift so much!

SUPERMAN

 I don’t think I understand.

JEAN

Can we please talk about this? He is clearly insane.

SUPERMAN

 That’s not very nice.

ROGUE

I think we should let Clark call himself whatever he wants. We don’t get to judge. Lots of people have extra people living in their head. It’s completely normal.

THERAPIST

I wouldn’t exactly call it “normal,” though it does seem to be common in your line of work. Although Clark’s situation is a little different from yours Rogue.

SUPERMAN

Why do you guys keep changing the subject to talk about Clark?

NICK FURY

Boy, you do understand that Clark Kent is an alter-ego you invented for yourself. No one here believes he is another person. You just wear a damn pair of glasses, it isn’t even a disguise. Do you think all humans are stupid?

SUPERMAN

I don’t think humans are stupid. Clark is human and he isn’t stupid.

CATWOMAN

 I’m definitely not stupid.

SUPERMAN

 Good for you!

CATWOMAN

 (Dismissive)

 I also don’t care.

THERAPIST

Superman, why don’t you tell us more about Clark. Why do you need him?

SPIDER-MAN

 I am definitely curious.

JEAN

Yeah, all I hear is singing. What is wrong with you?

NICK FURY

 Out with it man!

SUPERMAN sighs.

SUPERMAN

Look, Superman can’t have a dark side, okay. He can’t have a temper, he can’t hurt anyone, he can’t get depressed. Can I ever have a bad day? No, I have to smile, like this, all the time! Where’s my release! Spider-man gets to crack jokes. Batman gets to be all moody and depressed. What do I do? Nothing. I have to be Superman. So sometimes I need to visit my friend Clark, because he gets to feel that way.

BATMAN

 That was beautiful man.

THERAPIST

 Bruce…

BATMAN

I don’t care, I’m being myself! I’m Batman!

THERAPIST

And I believe that’s all the time we

(MORE)

have for today. Great work everyone. Hope to see all of you back here next week

FADE OUT.

INSERT - SUPERMAN sits alone, across from the therapist, wearing glasses.

SUPERMAN (As Clark)

Losing my job was really hard. And Superman stood me up for drinks again. I don’t know why I bother putting up with him. I don’t think he even likes me.

THERAPIST

 I’m pretty sure that’s not true.

SUPERMAN takes off his glasses and becomes Superman again.

SUPERMAN

 No, it’s true.

FADE OUT.

Ep. 3 - FADE IN:

SPIDER-MAN

So I’m single now. Yeah, me and Gwen had to split up on account of her being murdered again.

JEAN

 Again?

SPIDER-MAN

Twice this month. Yeah, she is not good at being alive.

ROGUE

Aww I’m sorry Peter, I’m sure she’ll be back soon.

THERAPIST

I don’t understand how this keeps happening.

CATWOMAN’s eyes are buried in her phone.

CATWOMAN

Multiple lives are more common than most people think.

CATWOMAN holds up nine fingers and mouths that she has nine lives to BATMAN

BATMAN

That doesn’t seem fair. My parents only got one each.

SPIDER-MAN

Well you went twelve minutes without mentioning your parents, that’s a new record.

BATMAN glares at SPIDER-MAN

THERAPIST

Losing your girlfriend… so many times… must be very difficult for you Peter.

SPIDER-MAN

 It gets easier with practice.

THERAPIST

You know you don’t have to use humor as a defense mechanism, this is a safe place.

SPIDER-MAN

 Your face is a defense mechanism.

THERAPIST

That’s okay. If you’re not ready to share we can move on. Would anyone else like to talk about how their work affects their relationships?

ROGUE

I kept landin’ boys in the hospital every time they got fresh. Now I just stay home. And watch Netflix with the voices in my head, but they always complain.

SUPERMAN

You need to be more assertive.

JEAN

Tell them, “This is my life, and I’m allowed to be as sad as I want.”

ROGUE

 I don’t think I’m that sad.

JEAN

We both know that isn’t true.

ROGUE

How am I supposed to feel when everybody I love dies?

SPIDER-MAN

 Word up.

SPIDER-MAN goes to high-five ROGUE, when she doesn’t respond the turns to BATMAN instead and is given a dirty look, then turns to SUPERMAN and receives his high five and shakes his hand like it hurts.

ROGUE

I still can’t even get a pet. Dogs be trying to lick my face. I try to train them not to, but they never learn. They wake up and just do it again!

CATWOMAN

 Dogs are gross.

SUPERMAN

Uh, dogs are man’s best friend. Loyal, Brave, self-sacrificing, always happy…

JEAN

 Brain-dead, delusional…

SUPERMAN

 Yes! Wait, no, you’re not helping.

BATMAN

 Dogs are cool.

The sound of a door swinging open is heard. CAPTAIN AMERICA enters pushing IRONMAN.

IRONMAN

Wow, this takes me back to my AA days. Only with less fun company.

IRONMAN flops down in a chair, and swings the only other open chair around to use as a foot rest, leaving CAPTAIN AMERICA standing awkwardly.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Sorry we’re late. Somebody insisted we stop off for food.

IRONMAN

Saving the world from heart disease, one burger at a time.

THERAPIST

I’m happy you were able to make it.

(MORE)

Everyone, this is Tony and Steve, you may know them better as Ironman and Captain America.

IRONMAN

You don’t have to do that, I’m pretty famous. How you doing sweet-cheeks?

JEAN

Say that again and I will erase your brain.

IRONMAN

 Can she do that?

CAPTAIN AMERICA

 Maybe?

IRONMAN

Righty-o, backpedalling, a bit. Good to see everybody.

CAPTAIN AMERICA pushes IRONMAN’s feet off the chair and takes the seat.

THERAPIST

We’re glad you could join us today. Would you like discuss some of the issues that brought you here? Tony why don’t you start?

IRONMAN

Oh, I don’t have problems. I’m awesome…

SUPERMAN

Me too!

IRONMAN

And rich…

BATMAN

Me too! Do you have cool toys?

IRONMAN

Oh yeah! Want to compare? I bet mine are better.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

We’re here because of how you treat other people Tony. Pepper asked me to bring you. You forgot her birthday. Again.

IRONMAN

Well she makes my schedule! She should’ve put in it there!

THERAPIST

We try not place blame here. This is a safe space to be open about our feelings.

IRONMAN

Hear that? You’re stifling my emotional growth.

THERAPIST

So what do you feel you could do better in your relationship with Pepper?

IRONMAN

Oh crap, test time. What could I do better? I do so much perfect already. Well, Pepper is always saying we don’t spend enough time together. So I was thinking, I could build a life size body double she could talk to while I’m busy doing stuff I want to do.

ROGUE

Can... Can I buy one of those? And can it look like him?

ROGUE points meekly at CAPTAIN AMERICA. JEAN looks grossed out.

CATWOMAN

You’d find a way to suck the life out of that too.

SPIDER-MAN

Are you kidding me? Your girlfriend is alive and you don’t want to spend time with her? And she’s alive?

CAPTAIN AMERICA

I agree with our new Spider-friend. You should appreciate what you have while you had it. I had a gal once, during the war. She had hair like Ingrid Bergman, and eyes like Vivian Leigh.

SUPERMAN

I don’t know who that is, but I’m sure it is lovely imagery.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

If she were here, I’d take her dancing every night. And during the day we’d save the world together, hand in hand.

IRONMAN

I can’t believe… you’re still a virgin.

ROGUE

 You let him speak!

JEAN

 Wow, you actually think that. That is actually what you believe. I’ve never met anyone so genuinely… nice.

CATWOMAN looks up from her phone for the first time.

CATWOMAN

 Wait a second, you’re not Nick.

IRONMAN

 A+ observation, gold star.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Nick couldn’t make it this week. He had an important mission with SHIELD.

IRONMAN

 Can’t be that important. I’d be there.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

The team has a life when you’re not around Tony. And some missions require a certain amount of finesse and stealth, not showboating and monkeyshines.

IRONMAN

Hey now I do other things. Important things. World saving things. And I’m the only one who has a life, by which I mean I have a girlfriend. Who is still alive.

JEAN

Dude, what the ~~fuck~~! He just poured his heart out about his dead girlfriend like two minutes ago.

SPIDER-MAN

You missed my speech at the beginning, but for the record you also hurt my feelings.

IRONMAN

What about you Red, what’s your situation?

JEAN

 None of your business is what it is.

IRONMAN

 Ahhh, lonely spinster. Got it.

 What’s wrong? Can’t find a man?

JEAN

If you must know, I’m in a healthy committed relationship…

IRONMAN

 Sounds boring.

JEAN

Which I’m sure you know nothing about.

IRONMAN

Right, psychic. Let me guess. He is so milquetoast and bland his head is just full of white noise.

JEAN

 Better than listening to you.

IRONMAN

 So it is white noise!

JEAN

After a lifetime of listening to people like you, silence is a pleasure. You think I don’t know exactly what you’re thinking about me right now?

IRONMAN

 Oh, I’m counting on it.

IRONMAN winks.

CATWOMAN

 You’re gross.

SUPERMAN

 I am very uncomfortable right now.

IRONMAN

Just putting myself out there, hello kitty.

JEAN

A relationship is about more than just sex. It’s about being partners and supporting each other. It gives you a reason to go out and save the world.

Otherwise life is just chaos. Or just sad and lonely like Rogue and Spider-man.

IRONMAN

Hm, that’s one point of view. Here’s another: a relationship is like a suit of armor. They’re fun, flashy, great

(MORE)

at parties, but most importantly, they’re disposable. There’s always room for a little upgrade.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Tony, I’m going to have to tell Pepper that you feel that way. It’s the right thing to do.

THERAPIST

Actually, everything said here has to be kept confidential.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

 Gosh darnit. Rules are rules.

IRONMAN

So I guess I can say whatever I want, and there’s nothing any of you can do about it.

(Beat)

ROGUE removes her glove and gently touches IRONMAN’s forehead.

IRONMAN

 Huh.

IRONMAN collapses in a heap.

THERAPIST

And I believe that’s all the time we have for today. Great work everyone. Hope to see all of you back here next week.

FADE OUT.

INSERT - NICK FURY singing Eye of the Tiger at Karaoke.

NICK FURY

*“And the last known survivor stalks his prey in the night, and he’s watching us all with the eye, of the tiger.”*

FADE OUT.

Ep. 4 – FADE IN:

THERAPIST

Unfortunately, Captain America and Ironman won’t be joining us. Tony is still physically unable to attend. Steve said that while he enjoyed meeting all of you, he got everything he needed from the session, but he *did* want to apologize for his friend’s behavior.

ROGUE

What do you mean Cap ain’t coming back?

JEAN

 Thanks a lot, Rogue.

ROGUE

I did it for you! He was getting ornery. Stupid mustache face wouldn’t stop saying stupid things.

NICK FURY

You do realize you nearly killed a man. With your bare hands. Like an animal.

ROGUE

Yeah, I did feel bad about that. I even visited him in the hospital to apologize. He said he had a better place I could touch him so I knocked him out again. Doctor says he should be back on solid foods soon.

CATWOMAN types vigorously on her phone.

THERAPIST

Selina, can you put your phone away? Rogue is trying to share something very important with us.

CATWOMAN

I can’t! I’m live tweeting this! I have 10,000 followers!

JEAN

How do you have that many followers? What do you even post? Updates about feeding your cats?

CATWOMAN

No, I’m posting about you people and your lame lives. Twitter is eating it up! Oo! My hashtag is trending!

THERAPIST

Selina, these sessions are confidential. You’re not allowed to tweet anything said here.

CATWOMAN

I am so tweeting that.

THERAPIST

 No, Selina, really.

CATWOMAN

Why is this coming up now? I’ve been doing this since the beginning.

THERAPIST

*Every* session?

CATWOMAN

Uh, yeah?

NICK FURY

Oh hell no! Do you realize you may have compromised national security with your tweets!

SPIDER-MAN

Do people think I’m funny? I’m shooting for colorful with a hint of dry whimsy

BATMAN

It’s a good thing I have such a well concealed secret identity. No one will ever know Batman’s weaknesses.

JEAN

 Shut up Bruce.

SUPERMAN

I think we should let her play Twitter, self-expression is very healthy!

JEAN

She just tweeted that the only thing more out of touch than Superman is his day job at the daily planet as Clark Kent.

SUPERMAN

Selina I need you to delete your internet.

THERAPIST

If you can’t be trusted to keep our meetings confidential then I’m going to have to take your phone.

CATWOMAN

 What? No!

THERAPIST

You can give me it now or you can leave. And I will have to notify your parole officer of your failure to cooperate.

THERAPIST reaches her hand out and holds it open.

CATWOMAN

 Twitter or jail, twitter or jail…

CATWOMAN hands the THERAPIST her phone.

CATWOMAN

 I’ll just tweet about it later.

THERAPIST

So Rogue, you were discussing how you felt about using your powers to harm others?

ROGUE

I used to feel bad about it, but ever since I absorbed some of Tony I don’t feel bad about anything.

JEAN

I think you took a little of Tony’s power to be a giant douchebag.

ROGUE

Golly, that’s mighty fine! I’ve been living with all this guilt in my life; it feels great to not give a dang. You know what, to not give a damn.

SPIDER-MAN

 Well someone’s a sassy Sally today.

ROGUE

 Bless your heart.

THERAPIST

I think, for you, that is a very positive development, though typically putting people in comas is not a sign of personal growth.

JEAN

I don’t know. Too much power and confidence can go to your head. The temptation to abuse it is hard to resist. Just look at Nick.

NICK FURY

 I do my best.

SPIDER-MAN

You know, there’s a saying that with great power…

CATWOMAN

 (Interrupting)

 …you can take whatever you want!

SPIDER-MAN

“No, it’s that with great power comes…”

Everyone proceeds to drown Spider-man out as he continues to say that catchphrase everyone is sick of hearing.

NICK FURY

Technically she is right. Might makes right. And history is written by the victors.

SUPERMAN

 I don’t understand.

CATWOMAN

If you’re strong enough, you can do whatever you want. Because nobody can stop you.

SUPERMAN

My parents taught me you had to use your powers to protect others, and help people.

CATWOMAN

Or… you could just not do that. And have fun, and break stuff, and take things, and have like 50 cats, and actually be a cool person instead of losers like Spider-Man.

SUPERMAN

 Huh.

THERAPIST

I think what Selina is trying to say is that power has a dark side. And we have to try not to embrace it.

NICK FURY

Had it really never occurred to you that temptation existed?

SUPERMAN

No, not at all. So what you’re saying is I can do… anything I want. All the time. Like…

SUPERMAN grabs BATMAN by the throat with one hand and starts moving him around like a rag doll.

SUPERMAN

I can just do this, and it’s totally okay.

CATWOMAN

I mean, yeah! Rogue knocked a guy out last week and it was totally cool.

SPIDER-MAN

Uh, guys. Batman’s turning purple

BATMAN is choking and barely audible.

BATMAN

It’s cool, I’m fine. I can totally take Superman. Just ask the internet.

SUPERMAN

I hate the internet! Where is it so I can smash it! I want to smash things now.

CATWOMAN

*(Sarcastic)*

That’s not very super heroic.

SPIDER-MAN

You can’t do that! We’re better than that! Great power! Responsibility! It’s a thing!

BATMAN hangs limply from SUPERMAN’s hand.

SUPERMAN

But you guys just said I could! I don’t understand. Can I smash things?

Or not?

SPIDER-MAN

No! If you don’t use your powers for good, bad things will happen to you and the people you love. You can’t be selfish! You have to be Superman!

JEAN

 Yes! Remember? Sunshine. Puppies.

 (To the tune of the superman theme)

*Da da da daaa. You’re fine. Everything is great. Saving people because you’re Superman. Everyone loves you. Especially Lois.*

SUPERMAN

Am I good? Am I bad? I don’t know who I am anymore. What’s the point of life? Do I save people? Or just let them down again. It’ll be ok Clark. Shut up I’m Superman!

An uncomfortable silence falls on the group. With his head down pouting, SUPERMAN releases BATMAN from his grip and BATMAN falls back into his chair gasping for air.

BATMAN

 I think I saw my parents…

THERAPIST

And I believe that’s all the time we have for today. Great work everyone. Hope to see all of you back here next week.

FADE OUT

INSERT - Low res shot of CATWOMAN sitting at her laptop at home, as if she was talking to a webcam.

CATWOMAN

Hey guys, Catwoman here. So, I got my phone back! My “therapist” said I can tweet to you guys as long as I don’t use real names. So a certain superhero lost it today. We’ll just call him Muper-man. And Whiny McWhine face nearly got choked to death. And it’s all thanks to me! Don’t forget to follow me on Twitter and Instagram for all my super updates! Hashtag nine lives! Please like, comment and subscribe!

FADE OUT

Ep. 5 - FADE IN:

ROGUE

Magneto and Mommma threw a bus full of people off the Brooklyn Bridge. And I caught it, cuz I was flyin’, but then everybody just thanked Wolverine and Cyclops. Like Jean and I weren’t even there! All they said was how pretty I was. I was the one lifting the bus! I saved ya’lls life!! Ain’t no way Wolverine can catch a bus! He’s tiny!

BATMAN

I could’ve caught it with a grappling hook. Or my BatCoptor.

ROGUE

That ain’t the point! I’m stronger than they are!

JEAN

Get used to it. For years every time I said something I’d have to have Scott repeat it before the team would listen. Like a human sock puppet. Then everyone thought it was a great idea. Like he could come up with that. I’m the brains of this relationship. I know! I’ve listened!

 ROGUE

I just hate feeling like I’m the one in the group nobody sees.

THERAPIST

On that note, we have a new addition to our group this week. I’d like you all to welcome Sue Storm.

THERAPIST gestures to empty chair.

SUPERMAN

Your new friend is a chair. Hello chair.

JEAN

 Hi Sue.

INVISIBLE WOMAN

 Hi everyone!

SUPERMAN

 AH!

SUPERMAN dives behind BATMAN to protect him.

SUPERMAN

The chair is talking. Is it a super chair?

BATMAN

 It’s okay, I’ve got this.

NICK FURY

Have you two never seen an invisible woman before?

SPIDER-MAN

Technically no one has seen an invisible woman. Otherwise she’d be the translucent woman, or opaque woman.

NICK FURY

 Don’t talk back to me, Parker.

SPIDER-MAN

 Yes poppa.

JEAN

 So Sue, how’s the family?

INVISIBLE WOMAN

Sometimes I feel like I don’t even exist. Thing will come and drink milk out of the carton or spill it everywhere and just leave it, right in front of me! I saved Johnny the other day, coming between him and a freeze ray with my force field. He didn’t even thank me! But mostly, I just want someone to tell me I’m pretty…

SUPERMAN

 I think you’re very pretty.

NICK FURY

You are a damn liar. You said not two minutes ago that you can’t even see her.

SUPERMAN

 I just want everyone to be happy.

INVISIBLE WOMAN

 It’s still nice to hear.

JEAN

You are actively setting women back decades. Next you’ll tell me you miss being cat-called.

CATWOMAN

I think it’s great. People treat me awesome because they think I’m hot. It’s like one of my super powers. Women should really just stop complaining. We’re already more powerful than men anyway. They’re so easy to control.

SPIDER-MAN

 I don’t think that’s true.

CATWOMAN places her hand on SPIDER-MAN’s leg.

CATWOMAN

 (Seductive)

 Yes, it is.

SPIDER-MAN

 Yeah, that sounds about right.

NICK FURY

For God’s sake man, have some self-respect.

SPIDER-MAN

 I don’t wanna.

JEAN

 What is wrong with you?

CATWOMAN

 Literally nothing.

THERAPIST

I’m not sure this conversation is productive. Let’s go back to Rogue. Does anyone have suggestions of how she can feel more recognized by her team?

BATMAN

 Easy answer, work alone.

THERAPIST

Bruce, we’re here to support each other and build relationships.

BATMAN

I was trying to help! That was a real suggestion.

SUPERMAN

I don’t mean to be a Grumpy Gus, but I also work alone.

SPIDER-MAN

I team up with people all the time, they just don’t stick around. Like I’m annoying or something. Hey Batman, you want to team up?

BATMAN

 (Dismissive)

 I’m cool.

NICK FURY

Rogue, I can’t do anything about civilian attitudes, other than bang their heads together. But your team will respect you when you respect yourself. We don’t do this for acclaim or recognition. We do it to help people.

JEAN

And because the average person is a helpless idiot. As annoying as it is, there’s nothing you can do to change them. As long as you know you’re the strong one, that’s what matters. Like I know I’m smarter than everyone on my team.

CATWOMAN

And I know I’m better at everything and hotter than all of you.

JEAN

No, that’s called being delusional.

ROGUE

I never thought about it like that before, but I guess it makes a lick of sense. Do you think it’d help if I picked Wolverine up and tossed him somewhere?

SUPERMAN

 Well you won’t know until you try!

THERAPIST

 No, you really shouldn’t do that.

INVISIBLE WOMAN

Did everyone forget I was here? Nobody has been helping me with my problem at all!

SUPERMAN

Super-chair, we’re talking about Rogue’s problems right now. You have to wait your turn.

INVISIBLE WOMAN

 This is ridiculous, I’m leaving!

The sound of footsteps is heard drifting away. Then there’s a brief silence.

SPIDER-MAN

 Is she, is she still here?

INVISIBLE WOMAN

 You people suck!

The door slams.

JEAN

Now she’s gone. We are not good at welcoming new people to the group.

CATWOMAN

At least this one’s not in a coma. Right, cat murderer?

ROGUE gives CATWOMAN a death stare and slowly pulls off her glove.

CATWOMAN

 Don’t hurt me I’m pretty!

THERAPIST

And I believe that’s all the time we have for today. Great work everyone. Hope to see all of you back here next week.

FADE OUT

Insert – Iron Man is in a hospital bed. Cap sits next to the bed reading a book. Tony slowly wakes up.

IRONMAN

 ..ugh, what happened?

CAPTAIN AMERICA

You got a little mouthy, and the X-Woman put you in the hospital, twice, remember?

IRONMAN

That’s ridiculous. Some girl knocked out Ironman. Just ridiculous.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

 I could call her.

IRONMAN

 No please.

FADE OUT.

Ep. 6 – FADE IN:

CATWOMAN

My business is really starting to take off. I’m finally getting something out of this hero BS. I just had these printed up and they are selling like crazy.

CATWOMAN is wearing a T-shirt with her face on it.

JEAN

Naturally, everything has to benefit you.

CATWOMAN

 Thank you!

SPIDER-MAN

In fairness, my day job is taking pictures of myself and selling them.

CATWOMAN

Oh my god, you take selfies too! I didn’t know you were cool!

SPIDER-MAN

Super cool, I even develop the film myself!

CATWOMAN

Film? What are you, a million years old?

SPIDER-MAN

I’ll have you know young lady that the newspaper pays $0.50 more for them.

CATWOMAN

 What the crap is a newspaper?

SPIDER-MAN

See, this is why I’m broke. Why don’t I make money off every Spider-man outfit people buy? Then I’d make rent.

CATWOMAN

Yeah, if you didn’t wear that stupid mask. Nobody knows who you are. You can’t have a secret identity and collect royalties as Spider-Man.

SPIDER-MAN

But I like it. It’s comfy and I can still taste my lunch.

BATMAN

Our secret identities must be protected at all costs; it’s the only way to protect our loved ones.

NICK FURY

You have felt the need to remind us on a constant basis that you do not have any loved ones.

BATMAN

I could have loved ones. I’m just too busy being Batman.

SPIDER-MAN

We know Batman doesn’t need any more money. Wait, Supes you don’t have a real job or merch, what do you do for money?

SUPERMAN

Oh I don’t make any money. I can’t afford to live anywhere. At night I just fly until I find a place where it’s still light outside.

JEAN

 Don’t you need to sleep?

SUPERMAN

 I have been awake for 3 weeks!

SPIDER-MAN

Never mind, that is much worse than my life.

BATMAN

That’s the most horrible thing I’ve ever heard.

(Beat)

I could never deal with that much sunshine.

ROGUE

I don’t think it’s a good idea letting people know who you are. This one guy took to following me around everywhere. Sent me letters about wanting to lick my hair. Though mostly he just sat outside the gates and took pictures. I’m sure he was harmless though.

JEAN

I heard his thoughts. They were gross. I’m pretty sure the Professor overwrote his memory and now he’s a salesman in Idaho.

NICK FURY

That’s pretty good. It’s no Korean Deli, but I respect it.

CATWOMAN

Wait, they went to your house? How did they know where you live?

JEAN

We’re public figures, and people are assholes. It happens more than you think.

BATMAN

It’s basically the whole reason we have secret have secret identities.

CATWOMAN

Shut up and go back to talking about me! I don’t want creepy losers following me home!

SUPERMAN

I’d be happy to escort you home Selina!

CATWOMAN

See this is exactly what I’m talking about!

JEAN

This is what happens when you put your face on a shirt.

CATWOMAN

 (Panicking)

I’ll have to fake my own death, change my name, get plastic surgery…

NICK FURY

Have you considered managing a Korean Deli in Newark? I’m starting a chain.

SUPERMAN

I would like to revisit my suggestion of beating up the internet.

CATWOMAN

 (Frantic)

You can’t just beat up the internet stupid! You’re all stupid! My plan was perfect and you all ruined it!

ROGUE

 I was just sitting here.

CATWOMAN

No, you had to point out that my actions have consequences!

ROGUE

 They’re kinda supposed to.

CATWOMAN

Not for me! I stole her wallet like a month ago and nobody even said anything!

CATWOMAN gestures at THERAPIST

THERAPIST

Selina! I had to replace all my credit cards! The DMV alone took hours!

CATWOMAN

Whatever, you can have it back. It’s empty anyway.

CATWOMAN throws the wallet at the THERAPIS. There’s a brief silence.

ROGUE

I get hate mail too. Like about how we’re abominations and the devil is saving a place for me in hell next to the gays and women who vote.

CATWOMAN

(Escalating panic)

What was that story even about? Why are you telling me this? You’re making it worse!! I need to disappear! Nick help me, but I don’t want to be a Korean deli owner. Make me something fancy. Like the queen of Monaco.

NICK FURY

The queen of Monaco also gets hate mail.

CATWOMAN

 Nothing bad happens in Monaco!

SUPERMAN

Selina, you may be being a little naive.

JEAN

 (Snorts and then laughs)

 I’m sorry, you can keep going.

CATWOMAN

Ugh, you all suck, my life sucks, everything sucks.

SPIDER-MAN

You sound like you should join a support group.

CATWOMAN

 You’re not funny.

BATMAN

 That was pretty funny.

SPIDER-MAN

Bam, World’s Greatest Detective just detected I’m hilarious!

SPIDER-MAN and BATMAN high five. BATMAN shakes his hand like it hurt.

THERAPIST

Well everyone that’s almost all the time we have for today. I feel we made some real progress.

SUPERMAN is asleep in his chair and begins snoring.

ROGUE

 Should we wake him up?

BATMAN

 Clark, Clark, buddy we gotta go.

SUPERMAN

 (Muttering in his sleep)

 No, I’m Superman.

BATMAN

 I’ll wait with him.

Everyone begins leaving the room. Everyone says bye to BATMAN and SUPERMAN except Catwoman is still sulking. Without speaking she pulls her T-shirt off over her costume and throws it into the garbage.

THERAPIST

 Ok, just lock up when you’re done.

BATMAN

I wasn’t raised in a barn. I’m Batman.

FADE OUT.

INSERT – 3:00am

BATMAN sits quietly in the dark with SUPERMAN who is now snoring loudly. This goes for like 30 seconds.

FADE OUT.