

# Hero High

by Bryan Schuder

"Oh. My. God! Are you seeing this?! Darkela! Get in here! You won't believe this shit!"

An athletic buxom woman with flowing raven black hair walks in wearing a over-sized t-shirt nightshirt and holding a coffee mug and stands behind the white haired muscular man in a bathrobe sitting on the couch.

"What did they do now, my dear?"

"Listen to how those heroes cocked this one up!"

The man grabs a remote off the coffee table and presses a few buttons, before the television starts playing...

"... Today after a week long investigation by the league, the UltraBad was implicated in the recent rash of kidnappings and robberies that have taken place. Due to the length of the investigation, many kidnappings were resolved by paying out ransoms and stolen property is at this point considered to be beyond recovery. But the league assures citizens that processes were maintained to ensure the accuracy of the information found out by the investigation. They are currently tracking down UltraBad at the moment and hope to apprehend the villain soon. ..."

Darkela takes a sip of coffee, slightly tilting her head to the side, "It took them a WEEK to figure it out was UltraBad behind it all?"

"I KNOW! One of the worst villains around! The guy color coordinates and logos all his henchmen down to the bullet casings! His idea of hiding his hideout from heroes is clearing out the info of the building from Google Maps! He has an official sign outside the place!"

The man settles back into the couch cushions holding his face for a few moments before throwing his arms out. Darkela leans beside him from over the couch and holds the mug of coffee in front of him. He takes it into his hands, sighs, and drinks a bit.

"My dear... Lord Nox..."

"I so miss hearing that from a hero. There's just something to hearing your name called out... Mistress Darkela."

"I know."

Darkela slides over the top of the couch and lays on the unoccupied side, her legs bent, and head resting on the arm of the couch.

Nox sits back up, placing the coffee mug on the table, "This has got to change. The people are getting WAY too used to this level of garbage!"

"I know. It's been over six months since the last hero even figured out where one of our many hideouts were. At this point the various business fronts we've set up are getting established enough that many are paying better than the operations we are hiding!"

"You've got to be kidding me!"

Darkela reaches out to the coffee table and pulls a tablet off the top and begins tapping through various menus and eventually gets to a spreadsheet. She turns the tablet around for Nox to see.

"I wish you were kidding me! Has the demand for lasers blasters gotten THAT low?!"

"Without any competent heroes seizing equipment from the various crime syndicates, there's just too much supply. And the various sleeper agents in all the organizations we've infiltrated are so far up the chain of command, they practically run them."

Darkela flips the tablet around and taps on it a few more times before flipping it back around for Nox to.

"Agent 543 is... THE CEO of DynaCorp now! How did anyone let that happen!? Not that Agent 543 isn't good, I just thought some hero investigator would have found him out by now! What the hell..."

The two sit quietly on the couch as the television plays report after report of lackluster superheroes barely getting crimes solved and address.

Darkela takes a moment from playing a game on her tablet to see the latest news story on the screen and disappointing groans, "Someone needs to show these heroes how it's suppose to be done!"

Another quiet moment... Simultaneously the expressions on both Nox and Darkela change as they both ponder. They turn to look at each other.

Nox raises a brow, "You don't..."

"I do."

"Really? Me?"

"I could see it and me by your side."

"Well, what theme? You always need a theme for these things."

"Well, we want to teach these heroes, so... How about... The Principal."

"Oh, that's double entendre territory there. I like it. But, what would you be?"

Darkela, biting her lower lip, "The Vice."

"I think we got something here. We'll go out, teach these heroes how it's done, get things working like they should, and we get the satisfaction of showing up these hacks."

"... I can't wait!"

"I know!"

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"Sir! Ma'am! You've just foiled the plans of UltraBad, Atomic Terror, Super Wrong, Badger Lord, and the entire Wet Bandits organization in a week! Recovered almost all stolen property. Seized half a billion dollars of contraband. And exposed the corruption in many corporate and government offices! Just who are you!"

Standing before the sea of microphones, reporters, and camera is a man and woman. The man stands tall wearing a mask, but prominently dressed in a nice suit with a cape waving in

the breeze with "Hero High" written on it. Right beside him is a woman sharply and orderly dressed in a business jacket and skirt, carrying a paddle in front.

"We are representatives from Hero High, an organization that has been formed to educate and shape up the sad examples of heroes the people of today have to suffer and show them how proper superheros are suppose to act! I am the Principal!"

"And I'm... The Vice!"

"We are the leaders of Hero High! Our school's motto: Leave no citizen behind!"

The scene fades into camera flashes and reporters continuing to ask more questions.

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The duo are resting back in their lair after a busy month.

"This is working better than I ever expected! I'm really like the whole Principal persona, too! And I can tell you are loving the Vice thing, too."

"Some would think too much."

"Bah! Most of these heroes wear skin tight suits and leather... It's about time someone show them a how to class it up a bit. Let's bring back some subtlety to kink."

"I just compiled the monthly reports..."

"And..."

Darkela grins and excitedly turns her tablet towards him, "See for yourself!"

Nox leans over and his eyes widen as they scroll through the information on the tablet. "Holy. Shit. Business is up everywhere! Even the fronts are still doing good!"

Nox sweeps in and picks up Darkela in an embrace and twirls her around.

"I know! But, there's more!"

"Well, what is it!"

"Let's sit down for it. It's good!"

Nox lets down Darkela and the two rush over to the couch where Darkela taps a few things on her tablet and hands it over to Nox.

"Oh my..."

"I know!"

"They are shit bombing the hell out of those hacks!"

"About the only people not getting trashed are the indies. Ionis, Animelia, Brutus, and Bioletta."

"Good! Those guys are actually really good, they just never get any press for half of what they do. Seriously, Ionis is on the emergency commission for the local power company and Bioletta helps administer vaccines in low income neighborhoods. And they have like NO resources."

"And yet they still have foiled our plans in the past. And with style too!"

"I know! I didn't realize the Dark Beam Cannon had been disabled until I tried to fire it. I was so pissed right then, but damn... I can't be mad anymore at the skill it took to sneak through all the defenses and then quietly remove the one key part to that device. It's amazing how talented they are, but they get so overshadowed the likes of Super Omega and Golden Czar."

Darkela sits up and giggles, "We should totally have an Honor Roll."

Nox's jaw drops momentarily and then he grins, "YES! Oh-Oh-oh! We'll call it the Principal's list and we'll have a list for all the bad ones and call it... The Vice's List."

Darkela smiles darkly, "I like it."

"We'll get these heroes straightened out soon enough."

"Oh! Guess who called today!"

"Who?"

"Mechalord."

"Holy shit! How's he doing these days?"

"He's fine, has been enjoying retirement. Jenny and Bruce are in college. Mechalady just finished her big art exhibit. And.."

"And?"

"Mechalord figured out it was us behind the Principal and The Vice."

"Oh... Damn that old man is good."

"He wants in."

"What?"

"He wants in on it all. We got to talking and he's pissed at the state of heroes these days, too. He asked if there was an opening for The Shop Teacher at Hero High."

Nox eyes wander around as he ponders the situation... "There is now!"