

Pulse

by

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YOUNG MATT, YOUNG JAKE, and YOUNG JEREMY are playing football with a large group of children. Young Jeremy is playing quarterback, Young Matt is playing wide receiver, and Young Jake is on the other team.

YOUNG JEREMY

Hike!

The ball is snapped to Young Jeremy, who takes a few steps back, looking around for a pass. Jeremy sees Matt open and makes the pass. Matt makes the catch and begins to dash through the other players before being tackled to the ground by Jake. Matt is hurt.

Jeremy rushes over to Matt.

YOUNG JEREMY

What'd you do to him?

YOUNG JAKE

What'd I do to him? I tackled him,
it's football!

Jeremy sits Matt up.

YOUNG JEREMY

You alright, little bro?

YOUNG MATT

Yeah Jeremy, I'm fine.

Jeremy brushes some dirt off of Matt's shoulder and stands him up.

YOUNG JEREMY

Alright, let's play some football!

The two sides line up again.

YOUNG JEREMY

Hike!

JEREMY

Hike!

The ball gets snapped back to Jeremy, who hands it off to Matt. Matt bursts through the defenders, Jake right at his side, blocking for him. Matt runs all the way down for a touchdown.

JEREMY (cont'd)

Yeah!

Matt throws his arms into the air. Jake takes a few bows.

JAKE

Thank you, thank you. None of this would have been possible without my stupendous blocking. I'd like to thank the...

Matt forces the football into Jake's chest.

MATT

(laughing)

Shut up already.

Jeremy runs up to the two of them, wrapping his arms around them.

JEREMY

Nice play, guys, they didn't stand a chance.

The three of them walk over to the sidelines and collect their things.

Jake is putting on a blue dress shirt and a tie. His police badge is hanging on the left side of his chest.

JAKE

Jeremy, are we still coming over for dinner tonight?

JEREMY

Yeah, Sergeant gave me the night off so everything should be fine. What time do you get off?

JAKE

Around 7-ish I believe. Matt you're coming right?

MATT

Yeah, I've got to go down to the lab to help out the professor with something, but I'll head over tonight when we're done. Shouldn't be much later than seven.

JAKE

Awesome. Well I'm running late for my shift. I'll see you guys tonight.

JEREMY AND MATT

See you Jake.

Jake walks away with his duffel bag.

JEREMY

So what do you help the professor out with anyway?

MATT

Umm, he's trying to come up with a new source of energy. It's really complicated stuff, but, he's trying to excite electrons within the body and be able to transfer them.

JEREMY

I have no idea what you are talking about.

MATT

Neither does anyone else.

JEREMY

(Laughing)

Alright kiddo. Hey let's get out of here.

Jeremy and Matt leave.

EXT. PARKING LOT - A FEW MOMENTS LATER.

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Jeremy waves and gets into his car. Matt continues walking through the lot towards his car. Next to his car are three men listening to loud rap music. Matt ignores them and opens his car door. One of them shuts it. Matt turns around to see the three have surrounded him and that one is holding a knife. He punches THUG ONE in the face while the other two grab him and start punching him.

THUG ONE

Oh, you're feisty. I like that.

Thug ONE punches Matt in the chest and holds the knife against Matt's face. The man with the knife feels a tap on his shoulder from behind him. He turns around to see Jeremy.

JEREMY

Stay away from my brother.

Jeremy punches the man in the stomach, then again in the face. Matt gets out of the two men's hold and punches one of them. Jeremy knocks the knife from the hand of the man and pulls out his own police badge and a pistol.

JEREMY (cont'd)
Rorschach Police! Keep your hands
where I can see them and don't
move!

The three men kneel on the ground. One of the grabs sand and throws it into Jeremy's eyes. While Jeremy is momentarily blinded the three take off. Matt begins to take off after them.

JEREMY (cont'd)
Matt stop!

Matt returns to his brothers side.

MATT
Why? We could of stopped them?

JEREMY
Don't worry about them. Are you
OK?

MATT
Yeah I'm fine, don't worry about
it.

JEREMY
You sure?

MATT
(Mockingly)
Yes dad, thanks.

JEREMY
Shut it.

Jeremy brushes blood from Matt's face.

JEREMY (cont'd)
I'll see you tonight right?

MATT
Of course, I'll see you tonight.

The two brothers hugs and then leave.

INT. RORSCHACH ENERGY LABORATORY - LATE AFTERNOON

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PROFESSOR GEE, a man in his mid fifties, wearing a long, gleaming, white lab coat is sitting at a table, working on a large silver contraption. A spark flies.

PROFESSOR GEE

Dammit!

Matt enters and closes the door behind him. The professor looks up to him and removes his goggles from his eyes.

MATT

How's it going professor?

PROFESSOR GEE

Matt, good to see you.

MATT

I heard the Mayor was awarding you with the Rorschach Academic Grant for Science. Congratulations!

PROFESSOR GEE

Thank you very much, Matt. The ceremony is in a week. Will you be there.

MATT

For sure, Professor. So what's this?

PROFESSOR GEE

This Matt, is the future of warfare.

MATT

(puzzled)

I don't understand. What is it?

PROFESSOR GEE

Now Matt, before I tell you what this is, you must swear an oath of secrecy. If anyone finds out about this I could be arrested and thrown into jail for the rest of my life. Do you understand.

MATT

Of course! I won't tell anybody I swear.

PROFESSOR GEE

What I'm working on here is the second generation of EMP weaponry.

MATT

Electromagnetic pulse. An E-Bomb.

PROFESSOR GEE

Very good. All modern day weapons are based around electricity now-a-days, not gas. Drop an E-bomb on an enemy city or base, you've negated about anything they can use without killing them. Which means 1) it wouldn't be a war crime to use on a city that is full of civilians, and 2) any enemy resistance is reduced to hand-to hand combat.

MATT

So what do we need to do with it right now?

PROFESSOR GEE

Get it working. There are three that I've already completed.

MATT

Alrighty then, let's get to work.

Matt and Professor Gee begin to pull out tools and get to work.

Matt looks out the window and see's a meteor shower taking place.

ZOOM IN on the meteor shower.

INT. ANTHONY LABONTE'S WORK SHOP - NIGHT

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ZOOM OUT from meteor shower. We see Anthony Labonte, an elderly man, asleep in his bed. The other half of the bed is empty. He is tossing and turning, suffering from a nightmare.

ANTHONY

No, Dad, don't let them in. They have weapons. No dad!

Anthony wakes up violently, shooting straight up in his bed.

CLOSE UP on Anthony's face, he is sweating profusely.

Anthony gets out of bed and heads into his workshop. He sits down at his workbench where there is a large TV sitting. He looks over to a picture of his wife that is sitting on his desk.

ANTHONY

You'll be better soon my
dear. I'll find a way to cover
your bills.

Anthony gets back to work on the TV but drops his wrench underneath his desk. When he goes down to retrieve it, the whole house shakes like an earthquake, and Anthony hits his head on the bottom of the bench.

ANTHONY

Dammit! What the hell was that?

Anthony looks out his window and sees a column of smoke rising from the ground a few hundred yards away.

EXT. CRATER - CONTINUOUS

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Anthony gets into his pickup truck and drives along the country roads to the flames. In the background is Rorschach City.

When Anthony arrives at the flames he sees a large crater surrounding the flames, which are beginning to die down. But in the center of the crater, is a black sphere, floating about five feet in the air. Anthony looks around before climbing down into the crater.

He slowly approaches the black sphere, using extreme caution. He gets up close to it, and it begins to spark. After a few seconds it stops. Anthony stretches out one arm and touches the sphere, nothing happens. He grabs hold of the sphere with both hands cautiously, and still nothing happens. He looks around again before pulling the sphere out of the air.

ANTHONY

What are you?

Anthony gets back into the truck and heads back to his workshop.

INT. ANTHONY LABONTE'S WORK SHOP - CONTINUOUS

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Anthony takes the sphere to his workbench, pushing the t.v. he was working on earlier over. Anthony pulls out a screwdriver and begins to look for a crevice along the sphere. He finds one and inserts the screwdriver.

The sphere begins to spark and again, then shoots large bolts of electricity out, one of which hits Anthony in the arm, which travels through the entirety of the right side of his body. He falls unconscious while the house erupts in flames.

INT. RORSCHACH ENERGY LABORATORY - NIGHT

8

Matt and Professor Gee are hard at work on the EMP bomb, outside, it begins to rain. A hole the size of a basketball provides access to the inside of the bomb.

PROFESSOR GEE

I'm going to go and grab a cup of coffee. Put in these three capacitors and when I get back we'll take a look at what still needs work.

MATT

Yes Professor.

The Professor walks out of the room. Matt checks his watch, 6:30 PM. Matt goes back to work on the E-Bomb, putting in two of the capacitors. While Matt has his entire arm inside of the E-bomb, his hand gets stuck. His eyes widen as he realizes.

MATT (cont'd)

What the?

Matt sticks his other arm into the hole and all of the sudden the e-bomb begins to beep. Matt looks up and see's that the bomb has activated and is counting down from fifteen seconds.

MATT (cont'd)

(yelling)

Professor! Professor help!

Matt struggles to get his arm out.

MATT (cont'd)

(yelling)

Professor!

The bomb has five seconds remaining. The door bursts open and the professor comes running in.

PROFESSOR GEE
(yelling)
What happened!

An intense ray of blue light emits from the bomb and a wave of hot energy bursts out. Both men are thrown against the wall. Fade out.

INT. RORSCHACH ENERGY LABORATORY - A FEW MOMENTS LATER 9

Fade in. Matt opens his eyes and see's the room has collapsed on top of himself and the professor. On top of him is a large steel beam. Matt uses all of his might and strength and manages to just barely lift the beam off of his chest. He looks down at his hands and see's that they glowing red. He pushes even further against the beam until red beams of energy burst for each of his palms, sending the beam flying away.

MATT
(panting)
Pro- Professor? Professor can you hear me?

Matt begins to search through the rubble. An ambulance and firetruck can be heard approaching in the background.

MATT (cont'd)
Professor!

PROFESSOR GEE
(quietly)
Matt? I'm... over... here.

Matt runs over to the source of the professor's Man, and begins to dig through the rubble. After removing a few pieces of rubble he finds the professor's hand. He pulls on the professor's hand, bringing him out from the rubble.

Professor Gee falls unconscious on top of the rubble as MEDIC ONE & TWO rush into what is left of the room.

MEDIC ONE
We'll take it from here kid.

MEDIC TWO
You OK?

MATT

Yeah, yeah. Just a few scratches.

INT. RORSCHACH GENERAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT

10

Anthony's bed is wheeled into his room. He is covered in bandages, is missing his right arm, his right leg, and has a tank of oxygen breathing for him. As the nurse leaves the room, he awakens. In the bed next to him is the woman from the picture on his desk. She is now very weak looking, and bald from chemo.

ANTHONY

(quietly, in pain)

Cecelia? Is that you dear?

CECELIA

Yes Anthony, it's me. They told me what happened. Are you OK?

Anthony stretches his left arm out and grabs her hand, holding it gently.

ANTHONY

I am now that I'm with you.

Cecelia smiles at her injured husband and then looks up towards the ceiling and closes her eyes. Anthony can feel Cecelia's grip begin to loosen.

ANTHONY (cont'd)

Cecelia?

Next to Cecelia's bed, the heart monitor flat lines and begins a loud beeping.

ANTHONY (cont'd)

Cecelia!?

Anthony drops Cecelia's hand and uses all of his might to sit up in his bed. He uses the one good arm he has to remove his oxygen mask.

ANTHONY (cont'd)

Cecelia! Somebody! Somebody help her!

Doctor's rush into the room and surround Cecelia's bed. One doctor tries to assist Anthony and put his oxygen mask back on for him.

ANTHONY (cont'd)
No! She needs help!

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS grabs the defibrillator and opens up Cecelia's shirt. DOCTOR TWO is assisting him.

DOCTOR TWO
Charging 1000!

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
1000! Clear!

Doctor Calmedias sends an electric charge through Cecelia's body, which causes it to lurch into the air. The monitor is still flat lined.

DOCTOR TWO
Charging 1500!

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
1500! Clear!

They send another charge through Cecelia's body, but with no luck.

DOCTOR TWO
Charging 2000!

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
2000! Clear!

They send one final shock through Cecelia's body. But again Cecelia does not awake. Doctor Calmedias wipes his forehead and sighs.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS (cont'd)
We've lost her.

Doctor Calmedias pushes through the other doctors over to Anthony, who is still sitting there, completely focused on Cecelia's body, shaking and breathing heavily.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS (cont'd)
I'm sorry Anthony. We've done all we can. I'm afraid, she's gone.

Anthony continues to stare at Cecelia's body. CLOSE UP on Anthony's face, followed by an EXTREME CLOSE-UP on Anthony's eye, which shed's a single tear for his wife.

EXT. RORSCHACH ENERGY RUINS - NIGHT 11

Professor Gee is being lifted into an ambulance and then driven to the hospital. Matt is sitting in the back of another ambulance and being attended to by MEDIC THREE. Medic Three puts a final bandage on Matt's arm.

MEDIC THREE

Alright kid, you're all set. If you feel any numbness or pain call that hospital right away, OK?

MATT

Yeah OK.

Matt hops down off the ambulance and walks over to his car. He brushes debris off of the windshield and drives away.

INT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - CONT 12

Jeremy is sitting at the dinner table, Jake is pacing through the hallway, still wearing his police uniform. Lighting is low.

JAKE

Where is Matt at? He's running really late.

JEREMY

Did you try his cell phone?

JAKE

Yeah, it was turned off.

A car is heard rumbling down the street.

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - CONT 13

Matt's car begins to stall and then stops. It is beginning to lightly rain.

MATT

This day really couldn't get any worse.

Matt gets out of the car and begins to walk. At the corner in front of him, three black men were standing. Matt recognizes them as the thugs from the hockey rink.

EXT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - CONT 14

The rumbling car stops outside of the house. THUGS FOUR & FIVE, dressed in sweats get out of the car and walk up to the porch. Thug Five knocks, while Thug Four holds a small pistol behind his back.

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - CONT 15

The THUGS see Matt and make their way for him. Matt tries to cross the road but they cut him off.

THUG ONE

Where do you think you're going?

MATT

Leave me alone.

THUG TWO

Where's big brother to help you now?

INT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - CONT 16

SFX: Knocking.

JEREMY

That must be him.

Jeremy gets up to answer the door.

JEREMY (cont'd)

(continuously)

Matt?

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - CONT 17

The three thugs surround Matt and begin to beat down on him. Matt throws his arms over himself for cover.

INT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - CONT 18

Jeremy opens the door.

THUG FOUR

Jeremy McGinnis?

JEREMY

Yes?

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - CONT 19

Matt's fist clench and begin to glow red. Matt jumps up and his arms shoot out to their sides as he screams with rage. His fists open up and a red wave of energy emits around him, sending them all flying away into a nearby building wall.

INT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - CONT 20

Thug Five shoots Jeremy right between the eyes. The two thugs take off for their car. Jake comes running to the door, discovering the body of his fallen brother.

JAKE

Oh my God.

Jake runs out into the street, drawing his gun as he does so. He fires several rounds into the car as it speeds away. He runs back to the house, grabbing his police radio.

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - CONT 21

MATT

Oh my God.

Matt then runs from the scene.

INT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - CONT 22

JAKE

(into radio)

I've got an officer down! Repeat, Sgt. Jeremy McGinnis is down! Victim has a gunshot wound to the head! I need backup and a bus! Suspects are two men, white, mid 20's, driving a beat up, red, Ford Taurus. License plate is R-H-7-0-1-1.

DISPATCHER

(from radio)

Roger Officer. Bus and backup are on their way.

Jake drops his radio on the porch and holds onto Jeremy's body.

EXT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT 23

Matt comes running from down a side street. He sees the flashing lights of cop cars and stops dead. A look of fear runs through his face. Matt rushes up to the scene where POLICE OFFICER 1 stops him. Matt pushes past him and up to the porch of the house, where Jeremy's body is being put into a body bag. One lone tear falls from Matt's face.

EXT. CEMETERY - EARLY EVENING/SUNSET 24

Matt and Jake stand around the grave plot for Jeremy, surrounded by their closest friends. Everyone is wearing suits for the funeral, solemn faces are everywhere. This is followed by a shot of the two of them walking away from the cemetery while the sun sets.

INT. JEREMY'S HOUSE - NIGHT 25

Matt and Jake are packing up things, preparing to sell Jeremy's house. Matt picks up a box labeled "HALLOWEEN 2009" Inside are old costumes, and a picture Jake, Jeremy, and Matt from their childhood. Jake is dressed as Superman, Matt is dressed as Spider-man, and Jeremy is dressed as Nightwing. Matt looks back into the box and see's the Nightwing mask that Jeremy had been wearing that night. He holds in to his face.

MATT

Rorschach City could really use a superhero these days.

Matt then drops the mask and looks down at his hands. He holds out his right hand and then faces it away from him, towards the open window. Without meaning to, a burst of red energy fires from his palm outside the open window. Matt looks back down at the mask, excited.

Matt puts the mask on his face and steps outside onto the roof of the house. Matt sends a blast of energy up towards the sky. He then looks to the ground, takes a deep breath, and jumps from the rooftop, and runs out into the dark.

INT. ANTHONY LABONTE'S WORK SHOP - NIGHT 26

Anthony limps into his workshop, now sporting a plastic arm and a plastic leg. He is pushing a wheeled oxygen tank. His face is expressionless. He does his best to pick the broken T.V. off of the floor, but drops it before he lifts it up even a foot.

Anthony sits down at his desk and looks into the mirror on the wall. Taped on the mirror is a picture of himself and Cecelia from their wedding day. Anthony stands up and punches the mirror.

ANTHONY
 (While punching)
 Arrrrggggghhhhh!

The glass shatters and Anthony's one good hand is now bloody.

He get's up and limps over to a chest. Inside is tubing, wiring, and other small electrical objects. He grabs as much of it as possible and heads back to his bench and gets to work.

Various shots of him piecing things together. After which he then pulls out his prosthetic arm and leg. The final shot then shows what he has constructed, a robotic arm, leg, and a new breathing apartments.

He then looks back into the broken mirror.

SURGE
 Why was I the only person who lost anything? I'm going to even the playing field God made.

SURGE then walks out of the workshop door.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

27

Jake is sitting at his dining room table, drinking a cup of coffee, dressed in his police uniform, it looks like he didn't sleep at all the night before. Matt comes walking through the front door, wearing the mask he found the previous night.

JAKE
 Where the hell did you go last night? And what are you wearing?

MATT
 I took a stroll through the city last night I guess.

JAKE
 What?

MATT
 You know the explosion that happened down at the lab?

JAKE

Yeah?

MATT

Something happened to me during it.

JAKE

What are you talking about?

MATT

Watch.

Matt heads for the backyard and Jake follows. Matt extends his arm towards a trash can and then fires a blast of energy towards it, knocking it back into the fence surrounding the yard. Jake jumps back a few feet.

JAKE

What the hell was that?

MATT

I don't know. At first it just kind of happened. But I think I'm learning how to use it.

JAKE

What are you planning on doing?

MATT

Going after the guys who killed Jeremy.

JAKE

And the mask?

MATT

Well I don't want them to know who I am. Then they would come after you or the professor.

JAKE

Alright, I'll go into the station and see what I can find out. Meet me tonight at the corner of 2ND and Grand, and we'll figure out whats going on.

MATT

Sounds good. I'll see you tonight bro.

Matt then pulls the mask off his face and makes his way back into the house.

JAKE

Where are you going now?

MATT

I'm going to go see the professor at Rorschach General. I'll see you tonight.

JAKE

One more thing.

MATT

Yeah?

JAKE

I wouldn't tell anybody about this "power" you have. I can see a lot of bad things happening if you do.

MATT

Right.

INT. RORSCHACH GENERAL HOSPITAL - DAY

28

Laying unconscious in his bed is Professor Gee. A heart monitor steadily beats. Sitting in a chair next to his bed, is his daughter AMY. DOCTOR CALMEDIAS comes into the room to check on Professor Gee. Amy stands up.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS

Vitals seem OK.

AMY

Do you know when he's going to wake up?

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS

I'm sorry, but we're not sure. To be honest with you, I'm surprised he came through. At his age, surviving an explosion is very lucky.

Amy nods.

The doctor exits the room just as Matt enters.

AMY

Excuse me, do I know you?

MATT

I'm Matt McGinnis. I know the professor.

AMY

You were the one who was with him during the accident.

MATT

(scratching his head)

Uh... yeah.

Amy offers Matt her hand, Matt shakes it.

AMY

Thank you, so much. If you hadn't been there...

MATT

It was nothing, he would have done the same for me.

Amy sits back down in the chair. Matt pulls up another chair and sits next to her.

MATT (cont'd)

So, how is he doing?

AMY

The doctors say he's recovering, but they aren't sure if he is going to come out of his coma.

MATT

Well at least he's getting better instead of worse.

AMY

But what about you? Weren't you in the same explosion? How did you only come out with a few scratches?

MATT

I don't know. My arm was caught when the explosion happened, I was actually closer to it than he was. We both flew back into the walls and the room collapsed on us. I woke up with a beam on me and he was under a bunch of rubble. I guess it was just all of the adrenaline, I pushed the beam off of me and lifted the professor out of the rubble.

AMY
Wow, that's amazing.

MATT
Really, it was...

AMY
(interrupting)
Hey, I've been in this hospital
room since last night, do you want
to go get some food or something?

MATT
(looking down)
Well...

Amy grabs Matt by the hand and they exit.

INT. DOCTOR CALMEDIAS' HOUSE - NIGHT 29

Doctor Calmedias is sitting down to dinner with his wife and
three kids, two girls and one boy.

Ad lib various small talk between the family.

SFX: Knocking

The family looks up towards the front hallway.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
I'll get it.

Doctor Calmedias gets up from his chair and walks over to
the door. When he opens it nobody is there. He closes the
door and turns around to make his way back to the dining
room.

SFX: Knocking

Doctor Calmedias turns around again and opens the door,
again there is nobody there. Doctor Calmedias closes the
door. Surge appears right behind him and bashes Doctor
Calmedias' head into the door (a la The Dark Knight).

The family hears the bang.

MRS. CALMEDIAS
Oh my God!

MRS. CALMEDIAS comes running into the front hallway,
followed shortly by the kids.

MRS. CALMEDIAS
Oh my God! What's going on.

Doctor Calmedias gets up groggily.

SURGE
I'm going to do to your family
exactly what you did to mine.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
What? What are you talking about?

SURGE
You let my wife die. You let her
die just to get a little bit more
money from our insurance
company. I watched my wife die
under your care.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
Anthony?

SURGE
The name is Surge now.

MRS. CALMEDIAS
What is he talking about Eugene?

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
I have no idea.

SURGE
Liar!

Surge punches the Doctor in the stomach with his human arm.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS
OK, OK. I've been watering down
some of the medication, so that
patients will remain sick for a
while longer than usual, and
collect a little more from the
insurance agents.

SURGE
And Cecelia died because of
it. How many other people died
because of you?

Surge punches the Doctor once again. Surge then turns and
walks to Mrs. Calmedias and grabs her by the hair, forcing
her into the kitchen with him. He walks silent over to the
counter and slams her head into it. The doctor regains a

bit of his strength and tries to punch Surge in the back of the head, but with a flash of smoke, Surge disappears and the doctor ends up punching his own wife. Surge appears behind the doctor, grabs onto his shirt, and throws the doctor across the room. All of the kids run from the room.

SURGE (cont'd)

Are you prepared to watch your wife die, right in front of your eyes?

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS

(groggily)

Please, please don't do this. I'm sorry for what happened to your wife.

SURGE

No. No your not. Not yet.

Surge grabs Mrs. Calmedias by the throat and begins to choke her. Doctor Calmedias gets to his feet and makes is way over to Surge and his dieing wife. When the Doctor gets within a few feet of Surge, Surge tightens his grip on the wife's neck, breaking it and killing her in the process.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS

(screaming)

Nooo!

SURGE

Say it!

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS

I'm sorry!

SURGE

For what?

Surge turns back towards the doctor, who is now down on his knees.

DOCTOR CALMEDIAS

Letting your wife die. I'm sorry.

SURGE

Yes. Yes you are.

Surge then grabs the man by the collar of his shirt and throws him through the kitchen window, killing him.

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - NIGHT

30

Jake is standing at the corner of 2ND Street and Grand River, wearing normal street clothes. From the shadows Matt walks out, wearing his mask and a dark gray sweatshirt.

MATT

How's the investigation going?

Jake turns around to see Matt.

JAKE

(shocked)

Shit you scared me. It goes exactly the way I thought it was going to.

MATT

How's that?

Jake turns back to the road.

JAKE

It isn't. I've been told not to ask any questions. But I do have a lead you should check out.

MATT

OK.

JAKE

One of my contacts says that one of the men involved is down by the docks right now.

MATT

Kind of late to be out by the docks at this hour. What's he do there?

JAKE

You're pretty clueless about the under city of Rorschach aren't you? Nobody goes to the docks after sunset unless they're bringin' in guns or drugs.

MATT

Why don't you guys do anything about it?

JAKE

Because the majority of the police force is crooked. I'm sure that

(MORE)

JAKE (cont'd)
 some of the guys down there are
 cops themselves.

MATT
 Why aren't you?

JAKE
 Jeremy and I were one of the few
 that weren't crooked. Why? I
 don't know, some sort of heroism
 that runs through the McGinnis
 blood, I mean, look at yourself.

MATT
 Right. Well, I guess I'll be
 heading down to the docks now.

JAKE
 Good luck.

Jake turns around to Matt but Matt is already gone.

EXT. RORSCHACH DOCKS - NIGHT.

31

Several THUGS are unloading a large shipping freighter of
 crates and moving them to a few semi-trucks parked in front
 of the ship. One of the the thugs is alone. When the thug
 is alone in the back of the truck, Matt makes his way into
 it, and shoves the man up against the wall face first.

MATT
 (yelling)
 Who ordered the hit on Jeremy
 McGinnis?

THUG FIVE
 I don't know nothin' bout no
 McGinnis.

MATT
 (yelling)
 Who do you work for?

THUG FIVE
 I'm jus' a hired hand I swear!

Matt throws him out of the semi back and blasts a few bursts
 of energy at him, narrowly missing him.

MATT
 (yelling)
 Who do you work for?

THUG FIVE
 He's a crooked cop who runs a gang
 down here by the docks. I don't
 know his name!

Matt leaps towards the man, coming down a foot in front of him, and launches a blast of energy at the side of the thug's head, barely missing.

MATT
 Where is he?

THUG FIVE
 He uses the old train station as a
 base. He spends most of his nights
 there.

Matt looks off into the distance and sees the old train station.

MATT
 Thanks.

THUG SIX
 Who's that?

Several thugs see Matt and pull out their pistols. Matt gets behind a car for cover and shoots several bursts of energy over the car towards them. One of the blasts hits the car that the thugs are standing next to and it explodes, killing several and injuring all remaining. Matt runs from the scene.

EXT. RORSCHACH TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

32

Matt is standing in the shadows next to the old beaten down train station. He looks down at his hands, which are beginning to blister.

MATT
 Ah piss!

Matt looks around the corner and see's two thugs with machine guns. Matt quickly rounds the corner, kicking the closer of the two in the face and sending a blast of energy towards the second. The first man falls back unconscious. Matt runs of to the second and blasts the gun from his hands. He then pins him down against the ground.

MATT (cont'd)
 (yelling)
 Who do you work for?

THUG SEVEN
 I ain't tellin' you shit. You're
 just a freak in a mask.

Matt positions his palm a few inches from the mans chest and unleashes a few bursts of energy, burning a hole in the mans shirt and then burning his skin.

THUG SEVEN
 (yelling)
 Alright! Alright!

Matt stops.

THUG SEVEN (cont'd)
 I don't know his name, I was just
 hired by a friend. But the guy has
 an office on the top floor. Always
 wears a dark suit, I never seen his
 face though.

Matt leaves the man on the ground and walks towards the station. He goes up the side steps and through the main entrance. He steps into the shadow behind a large, decaying stone pillar. THUG EIGHT is standing on the stairs leading up. Matt thinks to himself for a second, and then sends a blast of energy to the far wall.

THUG EIGHT
 What the...?

The thug goes to investigate the blast that hit the wall and Matt takes the opportunity to make his way up the stairs.

INT. RUSSEL MURPH'S OFFICE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER 33

RUSSEL MURPH is standing, looking out the large window that dominates one wall. Below is the sparkling Rorschach River. The room's only source of light is a lamp on Russel's desk. Russel's hands are deep in his pockets and a Cuban cigar hangs from his lips. THUG NINE enters.

THUG NINE
 We're almost finished boss. Two of
 the trucks are loaded and gone to
 the dealers, the third is almost
 finished, but we ran into some
 trouble.

Russel doesn't look away from the river down below.

RUSSEL MURPH
What happened?

THUG NINE
Well you see boss. Some of the
guys are, well...

RUSSEL MURPH
Dead?

THUG NINE
Yeah.

RUSSEL MURPH
How'd they die?

THUG NINE
This man, I don't know how to
explain it. He was like shooting
light out of his hands.

SFX: Walking up stairs.

RUSSEL MURPH
(yelling towards stairs)
I thought I told you to guard the
steps.

SFX: Walking up stairs.

Russel turns around to the door, then walking SFX stops.

RUSSEL MURPH (cont'd)
Jim?

There is no response. Russel and Thug Nine ad lib small talk. Matt is crouching in the stairwell, spying through the open door. Matt pulls out his cell phone and takes a picture of Russel. He picture messages Jake. Russel and Thug continue to talk. Jake messages back.

JAKE
(in text message)
Detective Russel Murph, dirty
cop. He served under Jeremy.

Matt closes his cell phone. He then bursts the door open and blasts the Thug in the face with a blast of energy, knocking him into a side table with a vase on it. The vase falls on the thugs head.

Russel pulls out a pistol from his suit jacket.

MATT
Who was it that murdered Jeremy
McGinnis?

Russel aims and cocks the pistol. Matt's eyes fill with
rage as he sends a blast of energy from his hand, forcing
the pistol from Russel's hand and down into the stairwell.

MATT (cont'd)
I asked, who was it that murdered
Jeremy McGinnis?

RUSSEL MURPH
(scared)
What are you?

Matt blasts away the window.

RUSSEL MURPH (cont'd)
Look, the order came from up the
food chain. I passed it along to
two of my men.

MATT
Why was he killed?

RUSSEL MURPH
I don't know, ask whoever put out
the hit.

Matt grabs Russel by the shirt and hangs him out the window.

RUSSEL MURPH (cont'd)
Hey!

MATT
Who were these guys? Where can I
find them?

RUSSEL MURPH
To be honest with you, I don't know
their names.

MATT
There seems to be a lot of that
going around.

RUSSEL MURPH
They play basketball in Liberty
Park most nights. You can find
them there. The court lights are
out by eleven though.

MATT
One more thing, who gave you the
McGinnis order?

RUSSEL MURPH
You'd have to kill me before I gave
you that.

MATT
Fine.

Matt drops him out the window.

INT. CITY OFFICE - DAY

34

CLOSE UP on TV screen.

TV ANCHOR
Dr. Eugene Calmedias was found dead
late last night after what
witnesses say was a break in by a
robotic man.

MAN
(sarcastic)
What a shame.

TV ANCHOR
Police found the doctor in his
backyard bloodied. His wife was
also found dead. Several windows
and walls were smashed.

SECOND IN COMMAND enters.

SECOND IN COMMAND
Boss, Murph is in the hospital.

MAN
What happened this time?

Man lights a cigar.

SECOND IN COMMAND
Somebody threw him through a
window.

MAN
Probably deserved it.

SECOND IN COMMAND
And there was a bit of a
disturbance, down at the docks.

MAN

And what was that?

SECOND IN COMMAND

There was a man who showed up, and he could blast energy from his hands. A few people got hurt before he took off.

Man looks back at the TV.

MAN

Find the man they're talking about on the news. And bring him to me.

SECOND IN COMMAND

Yes boss.

SECOND IN COMMAND exits.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

35

Matt is asleep on Jake's living room couch. Jake enters.

JAKE

Matt, it's two in the afternoon! Don't you have class today?

MATT

(groggily)
Canceled indefinitely. Professor's in hospital due to freak lab accident.

JAKE

Either way, wake up. I'm leaving for work in a bit.

Matt sits up on the couch.

MATT

Wait a minute.

Matt looks down at his hands and is reminded of the night before.

MATT (cont'd)

(continued)

Did the police recover anything from the ruins?

JAKE

Well yeah, but the investigation isn't over, I wouldn't be able to find out much about it.

MATT

I thought you said the city was filled with dirty cops, I'm sure you can get into it.

JAKE

What are you after?

MATT

There are these gloves we used in the lab. There were thirty or so pairs in a locked cabinet. They're a bright white color.

JAKE

What are you going to use them for?

Matt shows Jake his hands.

JAKE (cont'd)

What happened to you?

MATT

My new powers are tearing up my hands.

JAKE

Ouch. I'll see what I can do about the gloves, and then I'll give you a call.

MATT

Thanks.

Jake exits. Matt gets off of the couch and walks into the kitchen.

SFX: Cell phone ringing

Matt picks up his cell phone.

MATT (cont'd)

Hello?

AMY

(phone)

Hey Matt it's Amy.

MATT
Oh hey what's up?

AMY
I was just wondering if you wanted
to go and maybe get a bite to eat?

MATT
Yeah that sounds fun. I'll be over
in a bit.

AMY
Awesome!

INT. RORSCHACH POLICE STATION - DAY

36

Jake walks into the police station and is greeted by
COMMISSIONER ROHDE.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
Afternoon McGinnis. How're you
feeling?

JAKE
Afternoon, Commissioner. I've been
getting better.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
Good to hear. I've got a meeting
down at city hall, I'll see you
later alright?

JAKE
Yes, sir.

Commissioner Rohde exits. Jake heads down a flight of
stairs into the basement. Halfway down the hallway is the
evidence locker. DETECTIVE MOCK enters the hallway.

DETECTIVE MOCK
Hey, hey, hey! Look who's becoming
one of the rest of us.

Jake laughs.

JAKE
Yeah, yeah.

DETECTIVE MOCK
So what do you need to get into the
evidence locker for?

JAKE

I want to look at some of the stuff from the lab accident the other week. I'm sure some of the stuff could fetch for a pretty penny.

DETECTIVE MOCK

Ah, yeah I bet a lot of it could.

JAKE

And I'd rather you keep this between us, don't go telling the rest of the guys. I don't want them getting in on this.

DETECTIVE MOCK

(laughing)

Oh of course, officer.

Mock opens up the locker and he and Jake enter.

DETECTIVE MOCK (cont'd)

Just one thing before you really get started.

JAKE

What's that?

DETECTIVE MOCK

I want a cut of whatever you sell from this locker.

JAKE

How much?

DETECTIVE MOCK

Quarter.

JAKE

10.

DETECTIVE MOCK

20.

JAKE

15, not a cent more.

DETECTIVE MOCK

Fine.

Jake looks around the locker a few times before seeing the gloves that Matt had mentioned.

JAKE

I think that's what I'm looking for.

DETECTIVE MOCK

Really? There's all this techno mumbo jumbo around in here and you want to try and sell a pair of gloves?

JAKE

Let's see how these go and then maybe we'll move on to the bigger stuff.

Jake and Mock exit the locker and Mock locks it back up.

DETECTIVE MOCK

See you around.

Mock exits. Jake pulls out his cell phone.

JAKE

(in text, to Matt)

Got your gloves, see you tonight.

Jake continues down the hallway and enters the forensics laboratory. EMILY MOX is sitting at a microscope.

JAKE (cont'd)

Hey, Em.

EMILY

Oh hey, Jake, how's it going?

JAKE

Good, what are you working on?

EMILY

There was a shooting down at the courts today yesterday, I'm doing a little ballistics work.

JAKE

Yeah I heard about that on the news. Judge Fathom was shot wasn't he?

EMILY

Yeah, but he's recovering in the hospital.

JAKE

Do you think it was set up? I mean, do you think the mob had anything to do with it?

EMILY

I'm almost positive they did. I guess you can never really know for sure though.

Jake looks around and sees a silver body suit.

JAKE

(pointing at the suit)
What's that?

Emily turns around to see what Jake is looking at.

EMILY

Oh that. That is a military test suit. Capable of stopping small arms fire and knives. It can handle small amounts of larger arms fire.

JAKE

What's it doing here? Why would the military send us a combat suit?

EMILY

Sent here by mistake. I don't think it'll see mass production. From the documents that came with it, it costs about three hundred thousand dollars.

Jake thinks to himself.

JAKE

What if I told you I needed it?

EMILY

What?

JAKE

You and I both know how corrupt this city is, and how its getting even worse.

EMILY

Well yeah.

JAKE

Change is coming. There's a man who's going to put an end to it all.

EMILY

What are you talking about?

JAKE

There is a man who is going to stop the mob, and put an end to corruption.

EMILY

A politician.

JAKE

No, he's literally going to fight the mob. But he needs help, and this suit could really do it.

EMILY

I can't just make this thing disappear, the commissioner knows as well as a few of the other detectives.

JAKE

Well, we'll just have to stage a break-in.

EMILY

Jake, I'm not so sure about this...

JAKE

Em, weren't your parents murdered last year?

EMILY

Yeah.

JAKE

And don't you have a pretty good idea that the mob was behind it?

EMILY

Yeah.

JAKE

Well I'm sure that Jeremy's death was also because of the mob. When I'm not allowed to ask questions about the investigation of my

(MORE)

JAKE (cont'd)
 brother's death, it's pretty
 obvious. But we have a chance to
 put and end to the mob. You can
 help. Won't you?

EMILY
 Alright. Take the suit with you,
 and I'll tear this place up tonight
 before I leave. There's no
 camera's down here.

JAKE
 Thank you Em, I owe you.

EMILY
 Maybe dinner sometime?

JAKE
 For sure.

Jake exits.

EXT. OUTSIDE A COFFEE SHOP - AFTERNOON

37

Matt and Amy are leaving a coffee shop, with a cup in hand
 each.

AMY
 How's your coffee?

MATT
 (stuttering)
 It's a... well...

AMY
 (giggling)
 C'mon! It's just a simple
 question.

MATT
 It's pretty good, but I should've
 gotten the orange mocha
 frappuccino.

AMY
 I love orange mocha
 frappuccinos! They're my favorite!

MATT
 Really? I thought I was the only
 person who liked them.

AMY

You seem so familiar to me. Did we know each other before we met in the hospital?

MATT

Uh, yeah actually. I sat behind you in chemistry junior year.

AMY

Oh my gosh, really?

MATT

Yeah, I was in your math class too.

AMY

Wow, I feel so embarrassed.

MATT

Don't, you were one of the popular girls, and I was one of the nerdy guys, you had no reason to notice me.

AMY

Maybe I should have, you're kind of cute, in that nerdy sort of way.

MATT

Thanks?

SFX: Cell phone ringing

Matt checks his phone, it's Jake calling. Matt puts the phone back in his pocket.

AMY

Aren't you going to answer it?

MATT

It's my brother Jake, I'll just call him back when we're done.

AMY

OK.

SFX: Text message tone

Matt pulls his cell phone out of his pocket again. He has a text message from Jake.

JAKE
(in text)
Give me a call, it's important.

Matt puts the phone back into his pocket and checks his watch.

MATT
Shit, I didn't realize how late it was getting. I've really got to be going.

AMY
Aw, why? We were just getting to know each other.

MATT
I've got plans with Jake, that's probably what he was calling about.

AMY
OK. What are you doing tomorrow?

MATT
Nothing that I know of. Why?

AMY
Would you want to go get lunch or something.

MATT
Yeah, definitely.

Amy and Matt hug and then Matt turns down a side street. He quickly pulls out his phone and calls Jake.

JAKE
Hello?

MATT
What'd you call for?

JAKE
I got a present for you.

MATT
What are you talking about?

JAKE
For your personal war. I got you something to wear.

MATT
Please tell me it isn't tights.

JAKE
(laughing)
No, not quite.

MATT
Well what is it?

JAKE
An armored suit.

MATT
You want me running around
Rorschach City dressed as a knight?

JAKE
No, you'll understand when you see
it. I spray painted it and your
mask. You're going to love it.

FADE OUT

INT. ANTHONY LABONTE'S WORK SHOP - AFTERNOON 38

Surge enters his workshop and looks around. Various broken electronic items lay about, and pictures of himself with his wife hang on the walls. Surge's eyes narrow.

FLASHBACK INT. LABONTE ELECTRONICS - 45 YEARS AGO, NIGHT 39

RICHARD LABONTE and YOUNG ANTHONY are working in the back of the electronic shop, fixing a radio.

YOUNG ANTHONY
Dad, that's not where that's
supposed to go.

RICHARD LABONTE
Good catch, Anthony.

Richard pulls a part out of the radio and puts another part in its place. Young Anthony looks on interested.

At the front of the shop, two men in suits wait outside. Richard notices them, performing a double take.

RICHARD LABONTE
Stay here.

YOUNG ANTHONY

OK, dad.

Richard goes to the front door and lets the two men in. He looks nervous and begins to sweat.

MOBSTER ONE

You're late.

RICHARD LABONTE

I know I am, but please, just give me more time.

MOBSTER ONE

You know the deal. Every week, we come and take what you owe us.

MOBSTER TWO reveals the baseball bat he had behind his back.

RICHARD LABONTE

(frightened)

I can get the money. Come back tomorrow, I'll have it then.

MOBSTER ONE

Sorry, no deal.

Mobster Two hits Richard in the stomach with his bat.

RICHARD LABONTE

I need more time! Sales were low today! I'll have it tomorrow.

Mobster Two hits Richard in the head with the bat, knocking him unconscious.

MOBSTER ONE

You better.

The mobsters exit.

Young Anthony runs out to his dad, who is bleeding from the ears.

YOUNG ANTHONY

Dad, wake up, dad.

Richard opens his eyes and looks at his son.

YOUNG ANTHONY (cont'd)

Dad!

RICHARD LABONTE
 It's going to be OK, son. It's
 going... to... be...

Richard dies.

INT. ANTHONY LABONTE'S WORK SHOP - PRESENT

40

Surge's right hand recedes into its forearm socket, leaving a large gun barrel where the wrist is located. He points it around the room, and large lighting bolts fire from it, blowing things up and setting the room ablaze. He moves out from the room, into his actual home, electric blasting everything until the entire house is on fire. He then teleports back into his burning workshop, and hovering in the center, above what used to be his desk, is the black sphere.

He holds out his left hand, blue bolts of electricity travel from his hand and the sphere, and the sphere miniaturizes. Surge grabs the sphere and then teleports outside.

Waiting in the road is a limo, and leaning up against the limo is the SECOND IN COMMAND.

SECOND IN COMMAND
 Gasoline would have been faster.

Surge teleports again, landing right in front of the second in command.

SURGE
 What did you say?

SECOND IN COMMAND
 Somebody important wants to talk to you. Says he has something to offer.

SURGE
 And what is that?

SECOND IN COMMAND
 That's for you two to talk about. Only one catch.

SURGE
 What's that? And where can I find this man?

SECOND IN COMMAND

City Hall, room 401. But you're going to have to promise to play nice, and not use your pretty little electric gun here.

SURGE

No guarantees.

Surge teleports away.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

41

Matt enters Jake's living room, where Jake is sitting on the couch.

JAKE

Took you long enough. It's up in your room.

Matt runs up the stairs with Jake following him. Matt enters his room and the body armor is laying on his bed. It is a mostly black suit with a red upper body. The mask was painted with the sides red, gradually turning black as it reaches the center of the mask.

MATT

Nice.

JAKE

It'll stop small firearms and knives. You're going to have to try and avoid machine guns though.

Matt takes off his pants and shirt and gets into the suit and puts on the mask.

MATT

I'm going after the guys who killed Jeremy tonight.

JAKE

How will you find them?

MATT

Murph told me where they'll be.

JAKE

You think Murph hasn't already warned them?

MATT
He's in a coma.

JAKE
What the hell did you do?

MATT
I dropped him out a window.

JAKE
Oh... well then...

MATT
I don't know what came over me. I was just so angry about Jeremy. I couldn't control myself. It's like I change when I put that mask on.

JAKE
I know Jeremy's death has been hard on you. Hell it's been hard on the guys down at the station. But you can't let it control all of your emotions like that. You've got to try and move past it, especially if you're going to try and find his killers. Blind rage isn't going to get you anywhere.

MATT
Yeah I know, it's just been tough.

Jake puts his arm around Matt, who has taken the mask off.

JAKE
You'll get past it bud.

MATT
Thanks Jake.

JAKE
Listen, I've got to get back to the station. You going to be OK?

MATT
Yeah, I'll be fine. When are you getting off?

JAKE
I'm not sure, sometime tonight. Why?

MATT
Just wondering.

JAKE
Alright, don't go dropping anybody
off of anymore buildings alright?

Matt smiles.

MATT
Yeah, yeah.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURTS - NIGHT

42

Thug Four and Thug Five are playing basketball. Off in the background Matt approaches the two. Matt enters the court and steals the ball, taking a shot and making it.

THUG FOUR
Yo kid, you in the wrong
neighborhood!

MATT
Who me? I just wanted to play some
hoops with y'all.

THUG FIVE
You better get outta here if you
know what's good for you.

MATT
And why's that?

Thug Four pulls out his pistol and points it at Matt.

MATT (cont'd)
(slowly taking steps forward)
Hey man, there's no need for
that. Can't we all just get along?

THUG FOUR
Let me ask you something. Have you
ever killed someone? Have you ever
taken a life?

MATT
Almost.

THUG FIVE
Yo don't get smart.

THUG FOUR
I killed a cop.

MATT
(inching forward)
Really?

THUG FOUR
On his front porch, while his
brother watched on.

Matt's mocking smile fades away, and becomes serious.

THUG FOUR (cont'd)
Shot him, right between the
eyes. And you're next.

Matt's right arm shoots forward, sending a blast that knocks the gun from Thug Four's hand. Thug Five takes off running. Thug Four takes a few steps back and falls over on his ass. Matt pulls the mask out of his pocket and puts it on as he stands over Thug Four. He takes off his sweatshirt and jeans.

MATT
That cop you killed was a very
important friend of mine.

Matt punches the man in the face and kicks him in the stomach.

MATT (cont'd)
You were willing to take a life to
gain acceptance. We'll I'm willing
to take a life to gain revenge.

Matt grabs the man by his hand and begins to drag him away.

THUG FOUR
No!

Matt continues to drag Thug Four away.

THUG FOUR (cont'd)
(continued)
They forced me to do it! I said
no!

Matt stops walking and punches the man in the face again.

MATT
Don't lie to me!

Matt goes into a rage and begins to pummel on Thug Four. Behind Matt, a light turns on. He turns around to see a man with a video camera. Matt looks back down at Thug Four and see's that the man is bloodied, missing teeth, and just inches from death. He stands up, still looking at the Thug, and then takes off running.

Matt runs until he's far away from the scene. He ducks behind into an alleyway and takes a few deep breaths. Matt looks around and see's a fire escape ladder. He quickly climbs up to the roof of the building and stares off at Rorschach City.

FADE OUT

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

43

Matt wakes up on the couch of Jake's living room. Jake enters.

JAKE

You know you have a room upstairs right? You don't have to sleep out on the couch every night.

MATT

Hmm?

JAKE

Never mind.

Matt sits up and turns on the TV. The news channel comes on.

TV ANCHOR

Last night a man dressed in a red and black costume violently beat down a wanted criminal on Rorschach's east side.

JAKE

What the...?

TV ANCHOR

Please be aware, the image may be a bit disturbing.

The news station plays the video of Matt dragging the man and punching him in the face.

TV ANCHOR (cont'd)

Police Commissioner Rhode was unavailable for comment. It's also

(MORE)

TV ANCHOR (cont'd)
 been confirmed that this man busted
 a drug ring down at the Rorschach
 docks a few nights ago. Here is
 what some Rorschach citizen's are
 saying.

CITIZEN ONE
 I think it's great! Our own police
 don't bring in any real
 criminals. This guy brought down a
 corrupt cop and his drug ring and
 then took down a wanted criminal
 last night.

CITIZEN TWO
 He should get a medal!

CITIZEN THREE
 (in thick Southern drawl)
 It's just dandy! Rorschach has
 it's own superhero!

Matt and Jake look at each other.

TV ANCHOR
 It's clear that this man has a hold
 on the pulse of our citizens and
 the pulse of crime.

The show goes to commercial.

MATT
 Pulse, huh? I like it.

JAKE
 For a name?

MATT
 Yeah. Somebody just said I was
 Rorschach's superhero, I need a
 name don't I?

JAKE
 Yeah... Pulse.

INT. CITY OFFICE - MORNING

44

Man is sitting at his desk, watching the same newscast that
 Matt and Jake were watching.

MAN

This character is getting out of hand.

SECOND IN COMMAND

Yes sir.

A wisp of smoke appears in the room and Surge appears. The black sphere is in his hand.

MAN

You're late.

SURGE

And you're desperate enough not to do anything about it. Why?

MAN

I need you to do a favor for me.

SURGE

Why?

MAN

Because it's something I wouldn't trust my men to do.

SURGE

Why me?

MAN

Whether you like it or not, I know just about everything there is to know about you, Anthony, and I have something to offer you.

SURGE

Call me Surge.

MAN

Fine, *Surge*.

SURGE

What do you have to offer me?

MAN

When you were just a boy, you witnessed your father's death. And it's haunted you ever since.

Surge's hand retracts into it's socket, revealing the lightning gun.

SURGE
How do you...?

MAN
Calm yourself, *Surge*.

Surge's hand reappears.

MAN (cont'd)
You want to know what else I
know? You'll have to do some
favors for me.

CUT TO shot of Surge.

MAN (cont'd)
(continued)
I'll take that as a yes. I don't
know if you've been watching the
news lately, but a so-called
superhero has been thwarting some
of my operations.

SURGE
And you want me to kill him for
you?

MAN
Actually, I would like to speak to
him for a little before I watch you
kill him.

SURGE
What do I get for all of this?

MAN
You'll find out when you get the
job done.

SURGE
...Fine.

Surge disappears.

INT. RORSCHACH GENERAL HOSPITAL - DAY

45

Amy is sitting in a chair at her fathers bedside, reading a
magazine. Matt enters.

AMY
Oh hey!

MATT
How are you?

AMY
I'm good.

MATT
That's good, any updates on your
dad?

AMY
No, same old. Although, a few days
ago he was assigned a different
doctor.

MATT
Any reason why?

AMY
The hospital wouldn't say. I asked
and all they said was he was
removed from the case for personal
reasons.

Matt sits down next to Amy.

MATT
Really? What was his name again?

AMY
Eugene Calmedias.

Matt pulls out his cell phone and begins typing away.

MATT
(in text)
Jake, see what you can dig up on a
Dr. Eugene Calmedias.

AMY
Who'd you text?

MATT
Jake.

AMY
What for?

MATT
To see if he can find any source of
information on Doctor Calmedias
through the police station.

AMY

Do you think he'll be able to find out anything?

MATT

If Calmedias has a police record he will.

AMY

He's a doctor, and it's the most corrupt city in America. If he did commit a crime, he could of just paid a judge.

MATT

Yeah but you never know.

Matt's phone goes off. It's a text message from Jake.

JAKE

(in text)

Turn on channel 4.

Matt puts his phone away and grabs the TV remote from the bedside table and turns on the TV.

On the TV screen it shows Surge rampaging through the streets while cops chase him down.

AMY

Is that some lame action movie?

MATT

Not quite... I've got to go.

Matt stands up and begins to walk out.

AMY

Why?

MATT

Because that's actually happening... and one of those cops is my brother.

Matt exits.

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - DAY

46

Surge continues his rampage, flipping cars over and shooting arcs of electricity from his arm cannon. Anytime a police officer takes a shot at him, he teleports a few feet away.

JAKE

Rogers, get on the phone. Make sure the mayor, the commissioner, and Lieutenant Rupt are aware of the situation. Tell Rupt to get his SWAT Teams available as soon as possible!

OFFICER ROGERS

Yes sarge!

SURGE

Come out, come out, wherever you are.

Surge flips over another car. From behind a building, PULSE emerges.

SURGE (cont'd)

That's my boy!

Pulse is standing in the center of the street while Surge comes charging at him. When Surge gets close, Pulse grabs onto Surge's waist and throws him behind him. As Surge is flying through the air, he realizes where he's at and teleports behind Pulse. Surge punches Pulse in the center of Pulse's back, sending him flying.

Pulse stands back up, a bit dazed. He regains his composure as Surge is advancing on him. Pulse turns around to face Surge and launches a few blasts of energy at Surge. Surge teleports away from all of the blasts.

Surge reappears right next to Pulse and makes a powerful punch. Pulse ducks and Surge ends up punching through a car window. Pulse looks up at Surge and sends a blast into Surge's chest plate, knocking him back.

Pulse sends a few more blasts into Surge's chest plate, knocking him farther back. After taking four blasts, Surge teleports behind Pulse and half-nelson slams Pulse into the street.

Meanwhile, the police force is taking cover behind their squad cars.

OFFICER ROGERS
Sarge, Lieutenant Rupt has SWAT
teams in place on four buildings,
two on each side of the street.

JAKE
Thanks Rogers. Get all of the
civilians as far away as possible.

OFFICER ROGERS
Yes, sir.

On top of two of the buildings are snipers, both with their
scopes set on Surge. On the roofs of the two other
buildings are two squads of men with assault rifles.

Pulse rises from the street, holding his back. Surge
punches Pulse in the stomach, which sends Pulse to his
knees. Surge then punches Pulse in the face.

SURGE
You're coming with me.

PULSE
Not this time.

Without warning, Pulse sends a blast of energy that hits
Surge in his mouthpiece, destroying it. Surge falls to his
knees, gasping for air. A sniper shot goes off as Surge
teleports away. A bullet in the street is all that remains
of Surge.

Civilians emerge from the buildings cheering for
Pulse. Pulse smiles and takes in the applause. Jake comes
up to Pulse.

JAKE
Good work, Pulse.

Pulse smiles at his brother.

JAKE
(continued)
The Mayor would like to speak with
you.

PULSE
The Mayor?

JAKE
Yeah, we'll talk about it later.

Pulse smiles at his brother again.

FADE OUT

INT. CITY OFFICE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

47

FADE IN

CLOSE UP on Man, who is covered in shadow.

MAN

Failure.

Surge is breathing heavily, trying to repair his broken mouthpiece.

SURGE

(wheezing)

He was stronger than I expected.

MAN

I don't want excuses. Bring him to me.

SURGE

(wheezing)

Or what?

MAN

Or you'll continue to be haunted by the fact that you did nothing to save your father.

Surge regains his composure and approaches the Man.

SURGE

(wheezing)

You know nothing of what I've done. And don't pretend that you do.

MAN

I do things that would make your nightmares look like barbie doll commercials. I do the things that everyone thinks about but are too afraid of. Things you talk about quietly at party's but when they're brought up in the real world everyone cowers away and waits for someone else to get their hands dirty.

SURGE
(wheezing)
What makes you so special?

MAN
It's just good business.

The man stands up and crosses the room, opening a cabinet and retrieving a bottle of liqueur. He steps into the light, revealing himself to be an overweight black man in an expensive suit.

Surge's eyes narrow.

The man pours two glasses of the liqueur and returns to his seat, turning on his desk lamp so that he can be seen.

MAN
Care for a drink?

SURGE
(wheezing)
No thank you, *Mr. Mayor*.

THE MAYOR
You will eradicate this problem of mine for the sake of business. We cannot have a stray rock tumbling through the cogs of my great machine.

SURGE
(wheezing)
I'm going to need more than just an order. Tell me where he's going to be or who's under that mask.

THE MAYOR
I wonder that myself. I'm sure you can draw him out like you did just now.

SURGE
(wheezing)
You have no information for me to work with.

THE MAYOR
He's a young man, try the college, or a pot circle.

Surge disappears.

THE MAYOR (cont'd)
Nobody says goodbye anymore.

The Mayor takes a drink.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

48

Jake and Matt enter the living room. Both are smiling but Matt is holding his back.

JAKE
That was awesome!

MATT
I don't know about awesome, but it was exciting. Can you get me an ice pack?

Matt sits down on the couch.

JAKE
Sure thing.

Jake exits the room and returns a few moments later with an ice pack. He tosses it to Matt. Matt catches it and puts it behind him.

MATT
Who was that?

JAKE
I don't know. But he's after you. He showed up on Circle Drive and just started to rampage. He was going on and on about finding Pulse.

MATT
Well what do we know about him?

JAKE
He's insane. He has a lightning gun. And he can teleport.

Matt and Jake think for a moment.

JAKE (cont'd)
Didn't some electrician and his wife just die?

MATT
Like I watch the news. And it's Rorschach City, who isn't dying?

JAKE
Touché. But some electrician's
house burned down a few days ago
out on the edge of town.

MATT
Was his wife in the house too?

JAKE
No, she had passed away the day
before in the hospital.

MATT
Gunshot?

JAKE
Cancer.

MATT
Ah. Maybe he killed himself after
his wife died.

JAKE
Maybe Pulse should do some
investigatory work.

MATT
(not going to be in actual
script)
Maybe Jake should shutup and be
lookin' fine.

MATT (cont'd)
Maybe the cop should do some
detective work.

JAKE
I don't like you.

MATT
You're my brother, you have to like
me.

JAKE
Not true.

MATT
Which part, the brother part, or
the liking me part?

JAKE
Both.

MATT

What?

JAKE

I was kidding. I'll go take a look at the house, you should probably go to class today, you haven't been since Jeremy died. I'm sure your grades have been slipping.

MATT

OK Mom.

Matt gets up and exits.

INT. LECTURE HALL - LATE MORNING

49

CLOSE UP on professor pointing to a complex equation.

ZOOM OUT to show the lecture hall. Stop at upper right corner of room revealing CHELSEA GATES, hunched over her notebook. Focus changes to upper left of screen to show Matt entering the hall. He see Chelsea and starts towards her.

CUT TO Chelsea looking up and seeing Matt, she smiles. Matt walks behind her and sits to her right.

CHELSEA

Hey, I was beginning to think you died or something.

MATT

(taking out books and notebooks)

Nah, I've just been busy with family stuff... you know.

CHELSEA

I figured. How've you been?

MATT

Okay, I guess. Between everything that's happened with my brother and the explosion at the lab, I haven't had much time to think or do anything.

CHELSEA

Oh yeah, I heard about that, Matt McGinnis comes out of the burning building, unscathed, while carrying the unconscious Professor Gee. Way to go, Superman!

MATT
 (slightly uncomfortable,
 laughs.)
 Not quite. I just did what anybody
 else would have done.

CHELSEA
 Uh huh. I remember those days
 growing up, you and your brothers
 playing Batman out in the
 street. You were just reliving
 your glory days, I know what's up.

MATT
 (laughing)
 Yeah, that's exactly what it was.

Both go back to listening to lecture. Chelsea bites her lip
 and then turns back to Matt.

CHELSEA
 (nervous)
 Hey, listen, I'm throwing a party
 this weekend at my house. You
 should come.

The professor finishes his lecture and students begin to
 leave.

MATT
 (closes notebook)
 A party huh? Could I bring
 someone?

CHELSEA
 (taken aback)
 Like a date? (Regains composure)
 Yeah... sure, why not?

MATT
 (laughs)
 Alright, awesome. But hey, I have
 to run. I'll let you know about
 the party.

CHELSEA
 Okay, yeah. That'd be great. See
 you around.

Matt leaves the lecture hall. Camera focuses on Chelsea
 looking after him.

EXT. ANTHONY LABONTE'S RUINED HOUSE - DAY

50

Jake arrives at the house in his squad car and uniform. He exits his car and enters the burnt, destroyed house. He looks around the rubble, searching for clues.

Jake enters what used to be the workshop, watching closely where he steps. Jake looks down on the ground and sees a photo of Anthony and Cecelia, the protective glass shattered. Jake bends over and takes a look at it. After a moment he places it back on the ground and continues his search.

Outside of the house, Surge appears. Jake sees Surge through the workshop window and quickly takes cover behind an overturned desk.

JAKE

Maybe this wasn't such a good idea
after all.

Surge enters his former home and enters the workshop. He passes by Jake's hidden spot and makes his way towards the back. On the ground is a charred toolkit. Surge bends over and opens up the toolkit.

Jake peers over the table at Surge.

Surge reaches in and grabs a small wrench and a laser. He instantly gets to work on repairing his mouthpiece.

Once he finishes, he goes to the garage at the back of the property. Jake silently follows him. Surge enters the garage, and Jake peers through a window.

Up against the wall is an electric generator. Surge places his hand a few inches away from the generator. The generator begins to hum and then bolts of electricity fly from the generator, up through Surge's hand.

SURGE

What a rush!

Jake tries to silently creep away from the garage but trips when he gets close to the exit.

Surge turns around and immediately blasts lightning at Jake. Jake quickly gets up in time to get out of the way. He makes a dash for his car. Surge sends a few more blasts of lightning towards Jake, all of which miss. Jake gets into the police car and exits.

CLOSE UP on Surge's face, which is angry. Surge looks down at the ground and picks up something silver, which can't be seen by the camera.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

51

Matt arrives back at Jake's house, and sets his notebooks down on the coffee table in the living room. He walks over to the fireplace and looks at photographs on top of the mantle.

The first is of himself, Matt, and Jeremy as kids, huddled together and smiling. The next photo is of Matt's parents on their wedding day. The third photo is of Jake, Matt, and Chelsea and appears to be very recent.

ZOOM IN on Chelsea's face in the photo.

Matt picks up the photograph, looking at it intently, and then his phone goes off.

SFX: PHONE RINGING

MATT

Hey, Amy. (pause) No I can't hang out right now, I've got some stuff going on. (pause) Hey, do you want to go to a party my friend is having?

Matt sets down the photograph

MATT (cont'd)

(continued)

It's tomorrow night. (pause) Great, I'll pick you up at eight.

Matt hangs up the phone.

Jake enters.

JAKE

Had another run in with that thing.

MATT

What? Are you OK?

JAKE

Yeah, I'm fine. But get this. You know that guy I was telling you about? He and his wife died and his house burnt down?

MATT

Yeah?

JAKE

That's who this is. I went down to the house to poke around and he showed up, knew exactly what he was looking for.

MATT

What's his name?

JAKE

Anthony Labonte. He was a repairman, owned his own shop.

MATT

So what do we do now? How the hell am I supposed to stop him, I don't even know why he fled the first time we met with him.

JAKE

When he showed up, he started using some tools and was messing around with his mouthpiece. He doesn't seem one to be making a fashion statement, if you destroy it, I think you can beat him.

MATT

But we'll still have to deal with him disappearing.

JAKE

There was one other thing...

MATT

Yeah?

JAKE

When he showed up, he seemed like he was weak. He was limping around, and gasping for breath.

MATT

So I should just beat the snot out him?

JAKE

He went into his garage where there was a generator or something. I don't know what happened, there

(MORE)

JAKE (cont'd)
 were a lot of flashes of light, but
 afterwards, he seemed so much
 stronger.

MATT
 So he can absorb energy from
 electrical items maybe? So let's
 isolate him, take him out into a
 forest, or a field.

JAKE
 Right.

MATT
 Hey, I just noticed, where's your
 police badge.

Jake looks down at his shirt, noticing that the badge indeed
 isn't there. He pats himself down. Suddenly Jake realizes
 what happened.

CUT to Surge picking up the silver item, it's Jake's badge.

CUT back to Jake's face.

JAKE
 Shit.

INT. CITY OFFICE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

52

The Mayor is sitting at his desk, smoking a cigar and
 looking at a painting of himself. Surge appears from
 nowhere.

THE MAYOR
 Tell me, Surge. What do you think
 of this painting of myself?

Surge says nothing, throwing the badge onto the Mayor's
 desk.

The Mayor spins around in his chair and takes a look at the
 badge.

SURGE
 The cop who was watching me today
 left that.

THE MAYOR
 Officer Jacob McGinnis. Age 25,
 brother of deceased Sergeant Jeremy
 McGinnis. (pause) Hmm... I wonder?

SURGE

What?

THE MAYOR

Bring him to me.

SURGE

I'll rip him to shreds.

THE MAYOR

No. No, bring him to me, alive.

SURGE

What about Pulse?

THE MAYOR

Leave him for now, just bring me the cop.

Surge teleports away.

EXT. CITY SKYSCRAPER - SUNSET

53

Surge appears on the roof. He looks out over the city.

SURGE

I won't do this any longer. I'm more powerful than he is. The Mayor is just trying to distract me from destroying him.

Surge's eyes narrow towards the outskirts of the city, where there is a nuclear plant.

SURGE

The nuclear plant!

Surge's eyes grow wide. He then looks down to the city streets and notices two patrol cars parking next to the building.

Surge leaps from the building.

He lands in between the patrol cars, the one behind him is empty while the one in front of him has two cops eating donuts and drinking coffee.

Both are surprised, one throwing his coffee into the air. Surge approaches the side of the car and smashes the driver's side window.

SURGE
Where is Jacob McGinnis?

COP ONE
I don't know.

Surge electrocutes the police officer, killing him. He turns his attention to the other officer.

The other officer screams and runs away. Surge teleports and reappears in front of the officer.

SURGE
Where is Jacob McGinnis?

COP TWO
His house in Rorschach Heights! Please don't hurt me! I have a wife!

Surge's eyes narrow and his eyebrows arch.

SURGE
So did I.

Surge electrocutes the man and teleports away.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

54

Jake and Matt are sitting at the dinner table eating Chinese food. Matt seems distracted.

JAKE
You alright?

MATT
I don't know, Jake. I feel like I've gotten away from why I started this.

JAKE
You started this so that nobody would have go through what we did. So that nobody would fall to corruption and gangs like, Jeremy.

MATT
No, I started this because I wanted revenge. I did this to I could bring down the man who killed Jeremy.

JAKE

Well, maybe, maybe you're above
revenge now. You're out there for
justice, and protecting the
innocent.

MATT

Maybe.

They continue eating their Chinese food. Matt throws down
his food and gets up from the table.

JAKE

Where are you going?

MATT

The hospital.

JAKE

Why?

MATT

I'm going to go have another talk
with that cop I dropped out of a
building.

JAKE

Murph?

MATT

Yeah. I want to see if I can get
anymore information out of him.

JAKE

Don't drop him out another window.

MATT

No promises.

Matt smiles and exits out the front door. Jake looks at the
containers of Chinese food.

JAKE

There's too much food here.

INT. RORSCHACH GENERAL HOSPITAL - NIGHT

55

Russel Murph is being wheeled into his private room on his
bed. The nurse leaves him there and as she is walking out
she turns on the light and closes the door. Behind the
door, Pulse is waiting.

RUSSEL MURPH
Nurse!

PULSE
Nobody is going to come.

RUSSEL MURPH
What do you want, going to drop me
out of this building too?

PULSE
Not if you answer my questions.

RUSSEL MURPH
Again, what do you want?

PULSE
Who gave you the order to kill
Jeremy McGinnis?

RUSSEL MURPH
I ain't tellin' you.

Pulse pulls the I.V. from Russel's arm.

RUSSEL MURPH (cont'd)
Ow! Put that back in!

PULSE
Sorry, not a doctor. Tell me who
gave the order.

RUSSEL MURPH
Rohde.

PULSE
The police commissioner?

RUSSEL MURPH
Surprised?

PULSE
Not really.

Pulse hits the Nurse's call button as he jumps out of the
window.

EXT. COMMISSIONER ROHDE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

56

A silver Cadillac pulls up and Commissioner Rohde get's out, wearing a very expensive looking suit. He reaches his front door and pulls out his keys.

PULSE

Good evening, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE

Who's that?

Pulse steps out from the shadows.

PULSE

Why'd you put out the hit on Jeremy McGinnis?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE

I'd never do such a thing. Jeremy was one of my best Sergeants.

PULSE

Detective Murph begs to differ.

Pulse pulls out a digital recorder and plays back the conversation he just had with Russel Murph.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE

Just because I passed the order down doesn't mean I was the one who issued it.

PULSE

Who did?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE

I got the order from my boss. That's how this works, everybody has someone above them and a few below them. Nobody knows who's above or below those men. Nobody asks questions because it works.

PULSE

Keeps the bad men rich and the good men scared.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE

Exactly.

PULSE

So who is ahead of you?

Rohde pulls out a piece of paper from his suit jacket and hands it to Pulse. It is a written letter.

Dear Rohde,

This Pulse has become a nuisance to our operations. Do what you can to get rid of him. Call me when I get back into town.

James.

PULSE (cont'd)

What does, James want with me?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE

James wants what all of the gang leader want. You, out of the picture.

PULSE

Why? I haven't gone after the gangs, just the ones connected to police and public officials.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE

No, but you've scared the rest of them. If you haven't noticed, crime rates have been down a bit since you've shown up. In a way, I should be thanking you for making my job a little bit easier.

PULSE

So who is, James?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE

That depends.

PULSE

On what?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE

On what kind of information you're after.

PULSE

I'm looking for the top of the food chain. The one who put out the hit on, Jeremy McGinnis.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
James Harrington.

PULSE
I know that name.

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
Probably from your childhood. Big
shot lawyer. Used to coach youth
sports about ten years ago.

PULSE
So why did he hand you the hit?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
Normally, James is the type to
handle something like this
himself. But he took off for the
Bahamas right after he received the
hit, so he passed it along to me.

PULSE
Why?

COMMISSIONER ROHDE
He's afraid. He's been getting
paranoid. Thinks that someone is
always out to get him.

JAMES
I am not afraid.

Pulse and Rohde turn to see JAMES walking up the driveway.

JAMES (cont'd)
Good evening,
Commissioner. Evening, Pulse.

PULSE
Why'd you take off after getting
the hit?

JAMES
I went on vacation thank you very
much. And it wasn't me who ordered
the hit on McGinnis. But listen
here kid. You're getting deeper
and deeper into something you can't
handle. The mob doesn't go down
just because some freak in a
leotard says stop. They'll kill
you before you get much
farther. So I suggest you go home
and play with your train sets.

PULSE

Fine.

James and Rohde turn to Pulse but he is already gone.

EXT. RORSCHACH CITY STREETS - CONTINUED

57

Pulse is running through the streets. He stops in an alley way and pulls out his cell phone.

PULSE

Jake, Commissioner Rohde is working for James Harrington.

JAKE

Sound familiar.

PULSE

Can you get a warrant to search his house?

JAKE

Not without some evidence or a motive for some crime.

PULSE

I stole your digital recorder and have the conversation taped. Take it to someone you can trust. You might have some contracts put out on your head if the wrong people find out you're working with Pulse.

JAKE

I'll take it to the D.A. I'd trust her with my life.

PULSE

Alright, I'll be home soon.

JAKE

I'm leaving for Chelsea's party in a sec, when are you going to get there?

MATT

I forgot all about it. I'll head home and then take off.

As soon as Pulse hangs up, his phone rings again.

MATT

Hello?

AMY

(angrily)

Hey, Matt!

MATT

Amy! What's wrong?

AMY

You were supposed to be here half an hour ago to pick me up for the party.

MATT

Yeah I know, I ran into a bit of trouble, I'll be over as soon as I can!

AMY

Whatever. See you when you get here.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

58

Jake and Emily pull out of the driveway and leave. Surge appears a few moments later. Surge bursts down the door, knocking pictures down off of the hallway wall. Surge enters the kitchen and sees a note on the counter. The note reads:

Matt,

If you're hungry, there's meatloaf and vegetables in the oven. See you at Chelsea's party.

Jake

Surge rips the note into shreds. He turns around and notices a laptop on top of the kitchen table. He takes a closer look and finds mapquest on the screen, leading to Chelsea's house. Surge goes upstairs and into Matt's room and looks around, seeing pictures of Matt, Jake, and Jeremy. He takes a look down at Matt's desk and see's drawings of Pulse. Surge looks into the same crate of junk that Matt looked into in the beginning of the story and see's the picture of Matt, Jake, and Jeremy in Halloween costumes from their childhood.

SURGE

The little one does look remarkably like Pulse.

Surge teleports away.

EXT. AMY'S HOUSE - FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER

59

Amy can be seen in the window of the house when Matt pulls up in his car. Amy sees the car and comes outside. Matt gets out of the car and opens the door for Amy.

AMY

Is this what you drive? My last boyfriend had a Mustang GT.

MATT

Yeah, Jake took the other car.

They get into the car.

AMY

It's cool. So who is this Kelsey girl?

MATT

It's Chelsea - Chelsea Summers - but I've known her my whole life. She lived next door to me as a kid. We hung out all the time until my parents died...

AMY

(interrupting)

Ugh, I've had such a long day today. I hope Kelsey has a lot to drink. I need to relieve some stress.

MATT

I'm sure she will. *Chelsea* knows what's up.

INT. CHELSEA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

60

The party has already started. Music is playing loudly, several people are already drunk. Chelsea, Jake, and Emily are sitting on the couch when Matt and Amy enter.

CHELSEA

Well look who decided to show up, Matt's here!

MATT

You're real funny.

Chelsea gets up and hugs Matt. Jake and Emily raise their glasses to Jake.

CHELSEA

What took you so long, been out
pretending to be Batman again?

Chelsea laughs.

MATT

Something like that.

CHELSEA

What?

MATT

Nothing.

AMY

Hi, Kelsey. I'm Amy, Matt's date.

CHELSEA

It's Chelsea, actually.

AMY

(sarcastic)

Sorry.

CHELSEA

Well, drinks are in the kitchen,
there's pong in the family room,
and there are some other games
going on in the basement.

MATT

Thanks. Amy, why don't you go
ahead and see what's in
there. I'll be in a sec.

AMY

Mmmk.

Amy enters the kitchen.

CHELSEA

So where'd you pick up this one?

MATT

Look, I know she comes off as kind
of stuck up but she's really a
great girl once you get to know
her.

CHELSEA

Whatever you say, Superman.

Matt enters the kitchen.

AMY
So who is this girl again?

MATT
Chelsea, we've been friends for
forever. You start drinking
already?

AMY
A little at home. I don't like
that she hugged you the moment you
walked in the door.

MATT
What's wrong with that? We're just
friends.

AMY
I don't know, there's just
something about her.

MATT
Don't worry about it, I'm here with
you.

Amy and Matt each grab a drink and then return to the party.

"Burn it to the Ground" by Nickelback plays and a drinking
montage plays with everyone doing shots and playing beer
pong.

After the montage, Matt and Chelsea are in the kitchen.

MATT
This party was a great idea.

CHELSEA
Thank my roommates for leaving
town.

MATT
Cheers to that!

Chelsea and Matt clank cups and finish their beers.

Matt grabs another beer from the fridge and goes to exit the
kitchen but stops dead in his tracks.

CUT to Amy and another guy making out on the couch. Matt
can be seen in the background, standing in the doorway.

CUT back to Matt. Chelsea comes up behind Matt and puts a
hand on his shoulder.

CHELSEA

I'm sorry, Matt. I know you liked her.

Matt turns around.

Two men grab the keg from the kitchen and leave.

CHELSEA (cont'd)

Hey! That's my...

Matt kisses Chelsea.

CHELSEA

Well that's wonderful.

Chelsea kisses Matt back.

SFX: Crashing noise

Several people scream, Matt and Chelsea look into the family room from the kitchen. Surge is standing in the center of the room. Everyone is running out of the house.

MATT

Shit.

Surge grabs hold of Jake and then spots Matt and Amy. Surge grins. He teleports in front of Matt and Chelsea and grabs Chelsea by the waist.

SURGE

One for the mayor, and one for me.

Jake pulls a pistol out from under his shirt and fire a shot into Surge's arm. Surge immediately lets go of Jake.

SURGE

You son of a bitch, I'll get you for that.

Surge swings at Jake, knocking him into a wall.

Surge teleports away.

MATT

No!

Matt rushes over to Jake, who has been knocked unconscious. Jake wakes up a few moments later in a daze. Matt and Jake are the only ones left in the house.

JAKE
He got away?

MATT
Didn't spend much time here before
he left.

JAKE
Did he take, Chelsea?

MATT
Yeah, I'm going to go after
him. Why would he want, Chelsea
anyway.

A look of horror comes over Jake's face.

JAKE
He knows who you are.

MATT
What are you talking about?

JAKE
When I went to investigate his
house, my badge fell off of my
shirt. He must have found it.

MATT
But how could he connect you to,
Pulse?

JAKE
He must be working with someone in
the agency. The file on the fire
there was closed, which means that
either they solved it, or somebody
was paying for it not to be
solved. The only cop who would
show up would be one working with,
Pulse. So he knows I'm connected
to, Pulse. I don't know. You've
got to find him. I'm going to head
back to the station, and see if I
can figure something out. Sober up
a bit, and I'll give you a call.

MATT
No.

Matt pulls out the Pulse mask from his pocket and puts it
on.

PULSE

(While removing shirt,
underneath is Pulse costume)
I'm going to find, Surge. He has,
Chelsea, and who knows what he's
going to do to her.

JAKE

Listen to me, Matt. What if he's
baiting you? He wants you to come
after him. Let me figure things
out, and then we can go after him,
together.

PULSE

Fine.

Pulse sits down on the couch, and puts his head between his
knees. Jake exits.

Pulse waits around for a bit.

PULSE (cont'd)

Forget this! I'm going after
Chelsea!

INT. RORSCHACH ENERGY PLANT - NIGHT

61

Surge teleports into the plant. Chelsea is screaming.

CHELSEA

Let me go! Let me go! I'll kick
your ass!

SURGE

Sure you will, now just shut up and
sit.

Surge forces her down into a chair and ties her to it, then
puts a gag into her mouth.

SURGE

I'm not going to hurt you, you're
just bait for, Pulse. You see this
around you? When Pulse shows up,
I'm going to absorb all of the
energy in this place and become the
strongest human to ever walk this
planet. And then I'm going to
kill, Pulse, right in front of
you. I'm going fry all of his
organ and pound his bones into
dust. No one will stop me. Not

(MORE)

SURGE (cont'd)

Pulse, not his brother, not the police, and not the mayor. Man think's that he can tame me, control me, hold my father's death over me head! No! His fate will be the same as Pulse's. Tonight I'll teleport into his office, break his spine so that he can't move, and then I'll spend hours torturing him with my powers. Only once he's begging for release, begging for the angel of death to come and save him, will I grant him his wish. One, final, blast, to his skull. And then it will all be over for this city. Everyone left will be my plaything.

PLANT WORKER

Hey, who's down there?

Surge smiles

INT. JAKE'S CAR - NIGHT

62

Jake is driving his car down the road, his cell phone rings.

JAKE

Hello? Oh hey, thanks for returning my call.

D.A.

Wouldn't be Rorschach D.A. if I didn't return calls quickly. Anyway, we're moving in on James Harrington's house in a few minutes. Thought you might want to tag along.

JAKE

Sure, I'm on my way.

Jake takes a turn on the next street.

EXT. JAMES HARRINGTON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

63

Three officers and the D.A. are standing on James Harrington's home porch. One knocks on the door several times, but no answer.

D.A.
Rorschach Police, open up! Bust it
down.

OFFICER ONE busts down the door. The three rush into the house, guns out, and search for anyone. Nobody is found. Outside, Jake pulls up.

JAKE
Glad to see they got started
without me.

Jake walks into the house. The D.A. is standing in the living room.

D.A.
Thanks for coming, what exactly are
you after?

JAKE
Something that connects Harrington
to whoever ordered the murder of my
brother.

D.A.
I thought the commissioner closed
the case?

JAKE
I reopened it.

Jake enters the office of the home, sits down at the desk and turns on the computer. He begins going through files.

JAKE (cont'd)
Damn, nothing here.

Jake opens up the desk drawer and finds and opened envelope. Inside is a letter.

James,

It seems one of the police officers, Jeremy McGinnis found out about our little get together at the mansion. This story cannot get to the press. He has already refused a payoff. Take him out. Tonight. Once you're down I'll make sure the city pays for you to take a vacation.

*Mayor *smudge**

JAKE (cont'd)
Holy shit, the Mayor is at the head
of all of this.

Jake pulls out his phone and sends a text message to Pulse.

JAKE (cont'd)
 (in text)
 The Mayor murdered Jeremy. Meet me
 at his mansion.

SFX: Gun cocking

JAKE
 You've got to be kidding me.

D.A.
 I got paid a hefty sum to make sure
 you didn't find anything. Let's
 go.

Jake puts his hands behind his head and walks out, with the three officers following him.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT 64

Pulse is wandering around, wondering what do to. His phone goes off, it's the text message from Jake.

JAKE
 (in text)
 The Mayor murdered Jeremy. Meet me
 at his mansion.

Pulse's face grows tight and angry. He looks up towards the sky.

PULSE
 Tonight, I will have my vengeance.

Pulse takes a look around him, finally spotting a car parked on the side of the street. He rushes over to it and energy punches out the drivers side window. He gets into the car and begins to hot wire it. It starts and he drives off.

EXT. MAYOR'S MANSION - A FEW MOMENTS LATER 65

Pulse arrives outside of the Mayor's mansion. There are many cars parked outside and many people entering the mansion dressed in formal attire.

PULSE
 Of course, the ball is
 tonight. The Professor was
 supposed to receive his award.

Off to the side of the mansion, Pulse notices two men with M16's. He sneaks up towards them.

THUG TEN
That Surge character just showed
up.

THUG ELEVEN
Oh yeah?

THUG TEN
Yeah, boss seemed pleased.

THUG ELEVEN
Betcha Pulse shows up any minute.

THUG TEN
Betcha he already has.

THUG ELEVEN
Well, we should start looking for
him then, don'tcha think?

THUG TEN
I'm thinkin' we should.

The two thugs move away from the door that they are
guarding.

PULSE
This is too, easy.

Pulse goes up to the door and enters it. On the other side
is a long staircase leading down. He climbs down the
stairs, and at the bottom is a large dark room, with
concrete floors, walls, and ceiling. At the far wall is a
large computer station with a man sitting at it. One one of
the monitors he see's Jake tied to a chair, while the Mayor
circles him.

A small noise occurs in the background, the man turns
around, but nobody is there. He turns back toward the
monitors and Pulse is standing in between him and the
monitors. Pulse punches the man in the face, and then
blasts him in the chest, sending him flying into the far
wall.

Pulse turns up the audio on the monitors showing Jake and
the Mayor.

THE MAYOR
You know what you are?

JAKE
One of the few people in the city
who isn't afraid of the mob?

THE MAYOR

Perhaps. Either way, you're a nosy little rat. And I can't have rats running around in my factory, now can I?

JAKE

Factory?

THE MAYOR

Rorschach City. *My city!* And then you and your brother, Jared, decide to stick your little noses where they do not belong.

JAKE

His name is Jeremy!

THE MAYOR

I apologize, Jeremy. Have people ever told you that you two are a lot alike? Just like you, Jeremy got in over his head. He went snooping around, sticking his head in business that was not his and he found some things that might make me to look out like a bad guy. Now, shh shh shh, don't interrupt. You'll get your turn to talk. I'm in charge around here, and we play by my rules. I speak, and then, If I decide, it's your turn, understood? Now, where was I? Ah, yes! Now Jeremy, he found out about a little get together I was having here at the mansion, and, at this get together, certain activities had to take place. Some people got hurt. Some died. Now, as the Mayor of Rorschach City, I have to do my best to keep this place of mine running as smoothly as possible. Now, *I know* that I'm the best man for the job, but there are some, like yourself and your brother, who feel that maybe somebody else would be better. They're wrong. They don't know what it takes to run a city like Rorschach. It takes cunning, courage, the ability to do what is necessary. When I ordered the "hit" on your brother, I was doing

(MORE)

THE MAYOR (cont'd)
 what was necessary. I had to
 remove him, to keep things stable
 in *my* City. And it's beginning to
 look as if I'm going to have to do
 the same to you...

The Mayor pulls out a shiny pistol and plays with it.

THE MAYOR (cont'd)
 And then there is the young
 Matthew. Don't think I don't know
 about him either. I have been aware
 for sometime now about his
 escapades as the wonderful Pulse,
 parading throughout My City in his
 red and black pajamas. My Civilians
 have sure taken a liking to him,
 calling him, "the savior of
 Rorschach." Just as easily as I
 killed your brother, and you, I
 will kill him. But not before, of
 course, exploiting him as the
 villain he truly is, wreaking havoc
 on me and My City. *I* am Rorschach's
 hero. It's *only* hero! You see how
 this all works? *I run this city.*
 What I say, goes. However, when
 people like you, and your brother,
 and you're little girlfriend,
 Emily, get in the way...that things
 start to go bad. That's when I have
 to take matters into my own
 hands...

Pulse blasts the monitor and moves on into the next
 room. Several thugs are inside.

THUG TWELVE
 He's here! Get him! Get him!

The thugs rush on Pulse.

JAKE
 (V/O)
 That's what you think. My brother
 is going to put a stop to all of
 this. You and Surge are going to
 jail.

Pulse punches the first in the face, and the second in the
 stomach. He throws the first into the second, both go
 tumbling down.

THE MAYOR

(V/O)

Jail? You really think a jail could hold me? I have half the city bought and paid for. I wouldn't even go to trial.

The third thug goes to punch Pulse, but Pulse blocks the punch and blasts the man in the chest, sending him flying.

The Mayor pistol whips Jake in the face.

Pulse flips the fourth thug as he passes by.

Pulse breaks down the door and enters the next room, which has several more thugs inside. Pulse quickly flips over a steel table that is near the door and takes cover. The thugs begin to fire at him.

When they stop shooting at him he flips the table back over and blasts a flurry of energy beams at the thugs, hitting all of them.

Pulse takes a moment to listen, he can hear the Mayor and Jake above him. At the other end of the room is a staircase. Pulse climbs the staircase and busts down the door at the top.

He enters a long and nicely decorated hallway. He busts down the first door he comes to, inside is Jake and the Mayor.

THE MAYOR

So nice of you to join us, young Matthew.

Pulse says nothing, he blasts the pistol from the Mayor's hand and tackles him down the ground. He punches the Mayor several times in the face. After a few moments, Pulse stops, and looks down at the Mayor.

THE MAYOR (cont'd)

You really, didn't want to do that.

The Mayor takes a strong swing at Pulse, catching him straight in the head, causing him to collapse.

Jake manages to free a pocket knife from his back pocket and cuts the ropes tying him.

Pulse stands up, as does the Mayor. The Mayor removes his suit jacket and takes off his tie.

THE MAYOR

I've been waiting a long time for this moment, *Pulse*. You're been a thorn in my side for far, too long.

PULSE

You killed my brother.

Pulse goes to tackle the Mayor again, but the Mayor sidesteps him and throws him through the glass window behind them. Pulse falls two stories and lands hard on the ground below.

The Mayor rips off his shirt and jumps out of the window, right next to Pulse. Pulse stands up and sends energy blasts towards the Mayor, most missing, but some hitting, and slowing down his approach.

Jake looks out the window, but the recedes back into it.

The Mayor continues his approach, Pulse sends another blast of energy at him, hitting him in the face. The Mayor stops, holding his face in pain. Pulse charges at the Mayor jumping up and energy punching him in the face.

The Mayor takes a few steps backward, Pulse walks towards him, determined. When Pulse get close he tries to punch the Mayor, but the Mayor's fist envelopes Pulse's. Pulse tries to punch with his other hand but again the Mayor grabs Pulse's hand. The Mayor headbutts Pulse, knocking him back. Pulse sends a blasts of energy at the Mayor, hitting him straight in the chest.

The fight continues down towards the river, with the Mayor coming back and holding the upper hand over the young superhero. Pulse's lip is bleeding, his suit it dirty. The Mayor is much the same, covered in filth, gushing blood from his nose.

Pulse blasts energy at the Mayor's knee, knocking him down to just one. Pulse runs up and punches the Mayor in the face.

PULSE (cont'd)

That was for Jeremy!

Pulse punches him again.

PULSE (cont'd)

That was for Jake!

Pulse kicks him in the stomach.

PULSE (cont'd)
That was for this city!

Pulse winds up, energy circling around his hand and forearm.

THE MAYOR

Pulse punches the Mayor one final time, killing him.

PULSE
And that was for me!

The Mayor's body falls to the ground, lifeless. Pulse looks around, he is now several hundred yards away from the mansion where the fight began.

PULSE (cont'd)
I'm running out of time.

Pulse's phone goes off, it is a text message from Chelsea.

CHELSEA
(in text)
If you want to see this girl ever again, come to the Rorschach Energy Plant.

PULSE
The Plant is on the other side of the city!

Pulse looks around him, and then gets an idea. He cautiously points his palms down towards the ground, and blasts energy from them. The blast sends him soaring high into the sky, and away from the scene.

INT. RORSCHACH ENERGY PLANT - NIGHT

66

Pulse enters the nuclear plant, finding the unconscious body of the plant worker on the floor in front of him. He walks up slowly to the body, investigating it.

A burst of lightning comes flying from the ceiling. Pulse dives in order to get out of the way of the blast. Pulse rolls and fires a blast back at his attacker, but nobody is there. Another burst of lightning emits from another side of the ceiling. Pulse again rolls out of the way and fires another blast at the invisible attacker.

PULSE
Come out, Surge. This is between you and me, let Chelsea go.

SURGE

(V/O)

Oh, don't worry about the girl. She's tied up nice and safe.

PULSE

Where is she?

A light turns on and reveal Chelsea, unconscious and strapped into a large circular apparatus.

PULSE

Chelsea!

Pulse rushes over to the large apparatus, when he gets close, Surge appears in front of him. Pulse goes to energy punch him but misses. Surge retaliates with a punch to Pulse's chest, sending him to the ground.

SURGE

You put up more of a fight last time we met.

PULSE

I'm just getting started.

Pulse sends a flurry of energy blasts into Surge's chest. Surge's chest plate dents but Surge himself is unaffected. Surge teleports behind Pulse, grabbing onto Pulse's shoulder and shocking him. Pulse falls to the ground again.

PULSE (cont'd)

Why are you doing this?

SURGE

I worked hard my entire life to provide for my, Cecelia, and do you know what I got in return? My wife died. We did everything right, everything the way it was supposed to be. The people of the city steal, murder, and rape, and do you know what happens? They get you, the hero, to come and save them when things go wrong. The world doesn't deserve a happy ending.

Surge sends another lightning bolt at Pulse, by now the costume has degraded, the mask is only half there and there are several rips and tears throughout. Pulse shrieks in pain as the lightning courses through his body.

SURGE (cont'd)
Get up and fight me!

Pulse slowly gathers his composure, standing on his feet. Pulse winds up and sends a blast of energy at Surge. Surge waves his arm and "catches" the blast. Absorbing into his body. Surge extends his other arm and the blast fire back at Pulse, hitting him square in the chest and sending him flying.

Chelsea's eyes open and she see's the fight between Pulse and Surge.

CHELSEA
Matt?

Pulse hears her, looks in her direction and reaches out towards her.

PULSE
Chelsea!

Surge bends walks over to Pulse, who is now crawling across the floor. He grabs onto Pulse's shoulder and Pulse is instantly in pain. Surge laughs.

SURGE
You feel that, Pulse? That's the feeling of your power being sucked away from you. You're now fueling my own power.

CHELSEA
Leave alone you old jerk!

Surge let's go of Pulse and looks up at Chelsea.

SURGE
Oh, do you want a turn?

Pulse rolls over onto his back, checking over his body. Surge, without looking back at Pulse, enters the spherical apparatus, merely a few inches away from Chelsea.

SURGE (cont'd)
Now, Pulse. I'm going to take away what is most dear to you. Just like my sweet Cecelia was taken from me.

Surge reaches out with one of his hands, just an inch away from Chelsea's chin. A blast comes from behind Surge and hits him in the back. Surge turns around angrily to find

Pulse standing strong. Surge teleports right in front of Pulse. Pulse energy punches Surge in the face, knocking him back. Surge quickly sends bolts of lightning at Pulse, bring him back down to the ground. Surge unmercifully electrocutes Pulse.

SURGE (cont'd)
Why won't you die?

Surge looks over to his left and sees a large control panel.

SURGE (cont'd)
If I can't kill you, the raw power
of this place will.

CHELSEA
No!

PULSE
(weak)
No!

Surge sends bolts of lightning at the console, causing all of the gauges to enter the DANGER zone before breaking. The entire facility is about to explode. Pulse stands up to his feet once again, blood running down his face. A field of energy surrounds Pulse as he charges at Surge. He tackles the larger Surge to the ground and then fires blast after blast into the cyborg.

Surge teleports behind Pulse and goes to punch him in the back, but Pulse quickly elbows Surge in the mouthpiece. Surge is knocked back a few steps.

CHELSEA
Matt, quick! This place is going
to blow!

Pulse again charges at Surge, energy punching him again in the face, knocking him unconscious. Pulse grabs onto the black sphere embedded in Surge's chest plate and yanks hard, removing it. Pulse quickly rushes over to Chelsea as a part of the roof falls in.

PULSE
Are you alright?

CHELSEA
I don't think now is the time for
small talk.

PULSE

Good point.

Pulse unties Chelsea. Pulse rushes back to Surge and grabs a hold of his body by the waist.

PULSE (cont'd)

Hold on, Chelsea.

Chelsea grabs Pulse around the waist. Pulse extends one arm towards the ground while angling his other palm towards the ground. They fly out of the Plant as it explodes. They land safely outside of it.

Almost as soon as they land, Jake and a team of SWAT Members rush onto the scene, all pointing their guns at Surge.

JAKE

I'll take care of Pulse and the girl. Make sure this guy gets put into a maximum security facility before he wakes up.

SWAT MEMBER

Yes, sir.

Pulse, Jake, and Chelsea walk away from the scene, the sun is beginning to come up.

JAKE

You actually did it. You stopped, Surge.

PULSE

Couldn't of done it without you, bro.

A voice comes over Jake's police radio.

VOICE

Sergeant McGinnis, one body was found inside of the plant, he's being taken to Rorschach General for severe burns and radiation. You should come take a look at this.

JAKE

(into radio)

I'm on my way.

JAKE

I've got to go. I'll see you back
at the house, *Pulse*.

Matt and Jake hug and Jake leaves.

CHELSEA

So all of those jokes about being a
superhero, they were all true, huh?

MATT

You know me, can't resist dressing
up and fighting bad guys.

CHELSEA

I always knew you had a thing for
tights.

MATT

Shut it.

CHELSEA

I never did thank you for saving
me.

MATT

No better time than the present.

Chelsea and Matt kiss.

MATT (cont'd)

I could get used to this superhero
thing.

Chelsea pushes Matt, they both laugh.

FADE TO BLACK