

STRETCH ARMSTRONG

EPISODE #101

"CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE SUPERHERO"

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A-STORY: While taking a rare break to "let off some steam", three friends cause a lab accident that results both in giving them superpower (hurrah!) - and unleashing a monster on their city (boooo!).

B-STORY: Jake Armstrong struggles between the rigid expectations placed on him by his father and school - and his desire to cut loose.

THEME: Facing up to your mistakes can make you a hero.

TEASER

*

INT./EXT. CHARTER CITY - VARIOUS

A TOURISM VIDEO opens with a MONTAGE of SPECTACULAR VIEWS of CHARTER CITY - SWEEPING HELICOPTER SHOTS of DYNAMIC SKYLINES!

1 NARRATOR (V.O.)

Welcome to Charter City! Once an urban blight - now the fastest growing metropolis in the world! A high tech hub, Charter City is headquarters to Rook Unlimited, the most cutting-edge and successful company of the new century!

The MONTAGE continues in the background as a WINDOW opens, showing interview footage of QUENTIN ROOK.

2 ROOK

I'm Quentin Rook, founder and CEO of Rook Unlimited, and I couldn't be more ecstatic that my city has found its place on the world's stage.

*

*

WINDOWS open showing various locations as they're mentioned.

3 NARRATOR

Thanks to Rook Unlimited's support, Charter City is home to such landmarks as Cleo Stadium, the Academy of Future Leadership, and the newly opened Central Station - the heart of our state-of-the-art maglev train system.

CUT TO: Quentin Rook walks out of the new Central Station and down the magnificent front steps.

4 ROOK

Charter City - The city of tomorrow... TODAY!

<BOOM> <BOOM> Suddenly LOUD STOMPS shake the image, and the picture SHATTERS down the center! We PULL BACK to find--

INT. MAGLEV TRAIN CAR - CONTINUOUS

--The video was playing ON-SCREEN inside a modern, sleek maglev TRAIN CAR!

The screen <SPARKS>, falling from the wall as the train car <SHAKES>! COMMUTERS struggle to hold on, trying to look out their windows--

--to get a glimpse of a hideous BEAST (four-legged and three stories tall that we'll come to know as MULTI-FARIOUS)! He's <STOMPING> right at the train!

EXT. CENTRAL STATION - CONTINUOUS

The train races on an ELEVATED track, headed right into Central Station, but it <SQUEALS> to a halt as Multi-Farious <ROARS> and-- *

--<SLAMS> into the bridge, SMASHING THROUGH IT!!! The nose of the train TIPS off the edge! Commuters <SCREAM>! Multi-Farious prepares to charge the train, when--

--STRETCH ARMSTRONG (in full ROOK gear) LANDS on top of the vehicle! Multi-Farious sees him - and <ROARS LOUDER>!

5 STRETCH

Hey ugly, remember me? Name's Stretch. Wanna guess why?

Multi-Farious REARS UP to smash Stretch, but Stretch LEAPS--

6 STRETCH (CONT'D)

Whoa, I said "guess", not "smash"!

--We see his AMAZING STRETCH ACTION for the first time EVER!!! Stretch GRABS a light-post and SWINGS around Multi-Farious! The Monster SWIPES after Stretch, just missing him - and <STOMPS> away from the train!

ON THE TRAIN: Commuters <CHEER> and take pics of Stretch.

7 COMMUTERS

(overlapping walla)
It's him!-- He's real!-- We're saved-- (various, etc...)

Stretch STRETCH-SWINGS and EVADES Multi-Farious' every attempt to swat him!

8 STRETCH

Attacking the trains during rush hour? Don't you know people have places to be?

A random swat CONNECTS and <SLAMS> Stretch to the ground!

9 STRETCH (CONT'D)

Okay, maybe punctuality's not that important to you.

*
*

Multi-Farious pins Stretch to the street with one limb, and raises the other to crush him.

10 STRETCH (CONT'D)

"Oh no! You've got me trapped"
...is what I *would* be shouting if I wasn't part of an awesome team...
Any time, guys...

Above Multi-Farious, MEGA-MASS leaps off of a balcony!

11 MEGA-MASS

How about less talking, Stretch,
and more butt-kicking!

In mid-air, he sends all his mass to his FISTS and <POUNDS> Multi-Farious, KNOCKING the creature away from Stretch!

12 MEGA-MASS (CONT'D)

Now *THAT* is what I'm TALKING ABOUT!
ME-GA-MASS! ME-GA-MASS!

Now on the ground, Mega-Mass keeps hammering at the creature with MASS PUNCHES that hit like PISTONS! But Multi-Farious is too strong - and NAILS Mega-Mass across the road!

13 WINGSPAN (O.S.)

Guys, let's not forget about the last time we fought this thing.

Eyes up in the sky as WINGSPAN flies into the scene.

14 WINGSPAN (CONT'D)

I'm still sore in weird places.

15 STRETCH

Just hit him! Are you a Flex Fighter or not, Wingspan?

16 WINGSPAN

Ask me when this is over.

Wingspan DIVE BOMBS from the sky (his signature move), NAILING Multi-Farious! The creature falls back - seemingly down in a cloud of smoke. The team regroups on the ground.

*

17 MEGA-MASS

I think Ugly McStoneFace here's had enough. Who's up for a Snow Cone?

Wingspan pats himself down.

18 WINGSPAN

You paying? I don't have any pockets in this outfit.

19 STRETCH

Might have bigger concerns, guys.

Stretch looks up as a large shadow crosses over them - Multi-Farious rises from the dust, raising two LIMBS, ready to SMASH down on the team!

FREEZE-FRAME: The image freezes, and we move around (Matrix-style/Bullet time) toward Stretch's face.

20 STRETCH (V.O.)

I know what you're thinking: how did these three awesome dudes get to be the baddest heroes of Charter City? Well, it was no accident... Scratch that, it was *totally* an accident...

*

SMASH CUT TO OPENING TITLES

ACT ONE

INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING (TWO DAYS EARLIER)

BLACK: TITLE - "TWO DAYS EARLIER". An <ALARM> CLOCK sounds!

21 JAKE (O.S.)
<TIRED GROAN>

JAKE POV: Eyes open. He <SLAMS> his clock into snooze.

Jake rolls over in bed - but the computer monitor on the desk behind him FLASHES to life! ON-SCREEN: Jake's Dad, MARK ARMSTRONG, peers out at his son from a webcam in his office. **

22 MARK (ON-SCREEN)
Time to catch the worm, son! You weren't still sleeping, right? *

Jake, startled, JUMPS out of bed.

23 JAKE
Of course not, dad! I was... mentally planning my day.

24 MARK (ON-SCREEN) *
Great! I'm sending this morning's before-school schedule to your Rook-Pad now. Remember: Rigid structure bears great rewards! Go get 'em!

<PLINK> His dad hangs up. Jake picks up his tablet and looks at his schedule, his shoulders slump. ON-SCREEN we see a dense and packed calendar.

25 JAKE *
Ugh, wind sprints today?

INT. NATHAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Nathan's sound asleep - peaceful, in dreamland - when <BAP-BAP> two younger BROTHERS <SLAM!> down from an upper bunk!

26 NATHAN
Ah!!! What?! Why?!

The Brothers RACE out of the room, ignoring Nathan!

27 NATHAN (CONT'D)
Don't eat all the cereal! Guys?

No response. Resigned, Nathan <SIGHS> and gets up.

INT./EXT. VARIOUS - MORNING

A dynamic MONTAGE (cuts, wipes, etc. - Possibly with a CLOCK running in the corner): Jake grabs a bite of an apple while practicing violin. He is not smiling. Nathan is at the end of a LONG line of his siblings (including ISABELLA) for the bathroom - he <SIGHS>. *

--Jake, checking his watch, gets on the train. Nathan is STILL at the end of a line of his siblings - one spot closer. *

--Jake runs wind sprints on his school's track, exhausted. Nathan takes a cereal box from a sibling who just poured a big bowl - but now it's empty! Dust falls out! *

--Jake puts on his school tie in the mirror of the school's empty locker room - using a ruler to make sure the length is precise. Nathan hunts through a pile of shoes to find his - and can only find two completely mismatched shoes. Great. *

END MONTAGE *

EXT. SCHOOL - MORNING

Jake, shouldering through a diverse crowd of uniformed STUDENTS, heads toward the main building when he hears: *

28 NATHAN (O.S.)

You look more zombie-ish than usual, Jake. Kettle bell morning?

Jake turns, finding Nathan (in mismatched shoes and a plastic bag with books in it). The boys have an easy familiarity between them - they've clearly been friends for a long time.

29 JAKE

No, Nathan - wind sprints. My dad insists this schedule's good for me. Tell that to my muscles.

30 NATHAN

At least your books aren't in a plastic bag. This is what happens when one of your dozen siblings accidentally takes your backpack.

31 JAKE

I thought you only had six brothers and sisters. *

32 NATHAN

Maybe. I lost count.

The principal, LEWIS WILSON, approaches Jake.

33 WILSON
Mr. Armstrong! Forget something?

Jake gets nervous - it's not like him to forget anything.

34 JAKE
I don't think so, Principal Wilson.

35 WILSON
Then it must have been a different
Jake Armstrong who volunteered to
give tours to new students. *

36 JAKE
There's a tour today? My dad signed
me up, but I have a lot-- *

Wilson fixes a look at Jake, raising eyebrow. Jake squirms.

37 JAKE (CONT'D)
And I'd love to do that right now.

<RIP!> Nathan's books fall out of the bottom of his bag.

INT. SCHOOL OFFICE - MORNING

Jake and Wilson wait in the office as RICARDO TORRES (his
uniform tie loose, his sleeves rolled up) rushes in.

38 RICARDO
This has gotta be the main office,
right? I can always tell 'cause
it's the place all the other
students avoid. I'm Ricardo Torres. *

39 WILSON
And you're late. On your first day.

40 RICARDO
15 minutes. There are, like, 75
thousand minutes in a school year.

41 WILSON
At the Academy of Future
Leadership, every minute counts.
I'm sure Jake will point that out
on his tour. He's one of our top
students. And he's never late.

Ricardo looks down at Jake, his posture and uniform perfect.

42 RICARDO
Of course he's not.

INT. ACADEMY OF FUTURE LEADERSHIP - HALLWAY - MORNING

Jake holds Ricardo's paperwork, pointing to a locker.

43 RICARDO
Bro - you don't have to do this. I
can figure out this place myself.

Ricardo jerks the locker handle - but it doesn't move. Jake
points to a THUMBPRINT PAD on the locker door.

44 JAKE
Thumbprint recognition. See, this
school's not always easy to figure
out.

Ricardo sticks his thumb on the lock, and the door <POPS>
open. He shrugs.

45 RICARDO
Fancy locks, meh. My parents move a
lot. I've been to five schools in
three towns in two years. Spoiler
alert: under the paint job, all
schools are exactly the same.

*

46 JAKE
Not the Academy of Future Leader-
ship. Rook Unlimited sponsors us.
We have the best science labs, best
theater, there's nothing like it.

47 RICARDO
Labs? Unimpressed. I can read this
school like an ebook. Watch this--

Ricardo turns, looking at the hallway (including a lobby/hang
out area with benches and tables) that's filled with STUDENTS
who are gathered in little cliques - JOCKS, CHEERLEADERS,
DRAMA CLUB, SLACKERS, and NERDS. Ricardo scans the crowd.

48 RICARDO (CONT'D)
Jocks? They're on top, always. Then
it's survival of the fittest:
cheerleaders rule over the drama
geeks, who try to ignore the
slackers. Last and also least - the
science nerds. Nailed it.

49 JAKE

Well, if I had to grade your theory-

Jake points to the "nerd" table. KING NERD messes with an RC CONTROLLER while the others try to control their excitement--

--At the JOCK table, an RC ROBOT ties together the shoelaces of KING JOCK, then <WHIRS> away. When the Jock stands he--

--FALLS flat on his face! The nerds <LAUGH>! Then they HI-FIVE one of the passing CHEERLEADERS who sits on the lap of one of the Slackers, hugging him and playing with his hair.

50 JAKE (CONT'D)

--you failed. Like I said, this school? Not always easy to figure out.

Ricardo looks at the students in shock.

INT. BOTONY CLASSROOM - MORNING

Jake and Ricardo slip into chairs around Nathan as MR. SAVIC returns papers to seated students, handing one to Nathan. The classroom is decorated with posters that feature plant anatomy. Random potted plants sit throughout the room. (PROD NOTE: RIYA DASHTI is seated in the back of the class, though we will not be introduced to her until Ep. 102)

*
*
*
*
*

51 MR. SAVIC

Mr. Sohn, B-. Your brothers were brilliant at botany. I figured your family had an inherent understanding of the plant world. But... Oh well.

*
*
*
*
*

Mr. Savic moves to Jake as Nathan quietly FUMES.

52 MR. SAVIC (CONT'D)

Mr. Armstrong, A+.

53 RICARDO

<COUGH> Nerd. <COUGH>

54 MR. SAVIC

And you must be Mr. Torres. I've checked your transfer grades, and I have to say I'm more than a little surprised the Academy accepted you.

55 JAKE

<COUGH> BURN <COUGH>

56 MR. SAVIC

So you can catch up, I'm assigning you to a group report with Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Sohn here. We don't want to *leaf* you behind. HA!

*

Jake, Nathan, and Ricardo deadpan at Savic's flat joke.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Jake, Ricardo, and Nathan exit the class.

57 RICARDO

Great, two things I hate combined: *Groups* and *Reports*. Let's get this over with, I managed to schedule four study halls in a row.

58 NATHAN

Jake doesn't have a free period. For the next three years. I'm Nathan by the way.

Ricardo nods to Nathan, acknowledging his introduction, then eyes Jake.

*

59 JAKE

I do have twenty minutes between swimming and chores. Cool?

*

60 RICARDO

Twenty whole minutes? I think prisoners get more free time.

Jake's shoulders slump. His life is overwhelming.

INT. ROOK UNLIMITED WAREHOUSE - DAY

ESTABLISHING on a WAREHOUSE in an industrial part of town.

61 DON (O.S.)

No way. I've got thirteen class-A chemicals that all need processing.

INT. ROOK UNLIMITED WAREHOUSE - DAY

Inside a warehouse FILLED with SHELVES OF CHEMICALS, DON ROBERTSON scans barcodes, while talking into his bluetooth.

62 DON

Does the main lab even remember I'm down here? They're piling work on me like I've got a full staff - wait, I'll call you back.

Don spots two Rook WORKERS pulling in a pallet with barrels of FLEXIUM. He hurries up to them.

63 DON (CONT'D)

No, no, no! We can't accept any more shipments down here--

64 WORKER #1

Order's from Quentin Rook himself.

65 DON

That guy thinks cuz he owns the company he can overload me? ...Fine. Put it there, I'll get to it later.

Worker #2 pulls a barrel off the pallet, but tips it too far--

66 DON (CONT'D)

Watch it! That's pure Flexium!

--a little SPILLS OUT. When it hits the ground it BOUNCES like a ball all around the room at HIGH SPEED, RICOCHETING off racks and equipment!!! The workers DUCK, <ALARMED WALLA>!

Don, wearing protective gloves, GRABS the Flexium Ball as it shoots past!

67 DON (CONT'D)

Leave those barrels by the door - carefully, you morons!

The workers start to move the Flexium barrels to the door.

INT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Jake, Nathan and Ricardo sit around - each looking at Rook-pads. Jake, tired, runs his hands through his hair.

68 JAKE

So what is the phylum? *Cycadophyta* or *Ginkgophyta*?

Jake and Nathan hear soft BEEPS coming from Ricardo's pad.

69 NATHAN

Are you... playing games?

70 RICARDO

Trying to - if you guys would stop
distracting me with all this botony
talk.

71 JAKE

I only have fifteen more minutes.

72 RICARDO

Not my problem you're some big
overachiever. I'd burn out after
one day as you. Half day. An hour.

*
*
**

73 JAKE

My dad's very... encouraging. He
wants me to "make the most out of
every moment". Winning.

*
*

74 RICARDO

I'm not a real doctor, but let me
prescribe a little medicine called
"fun". Every hear of it?

*

75 JAKE

There IS something I've wanted to
do-- but I never have time to just
goof around.

*
*

76 NATHAN

Not parkour. We'll break our faces.

77 RICARDO

Parkour? Don't know what that is,
but if Nathan thinks it's too
dangerous, then we need to do it
right now.

*

Jake looks at both boys, weighing each one's point of view.

78 JAKE

This report's not going to write
itself...

*
*

Ricardo frowns. Nathan smiles.

79 JAKE (CONT'D)

...but maybe we could try being a
little flexible.

*
*

Nathan frowns. Ricardo smiles.

EXT. ROOK UNLIMITED WAREHOUSE - EVENING

The same Rook warehouse as earlier, now empty, with low balconies, fire escapes and other obstacles. A parkour DREAM! *

MONTAGE: Jake jumps from balcony to balcony. Ricardo and Nathan follow suit. The teens LEAP, FALL, FLIP and <CRASH> from one part of the building to another! Before long they're all smiling, especially Jake! This is freedom! END MONTAGE.

Jake takes one final JUMP - LANDING on the other side of a rooftop SKYLIGHT, but he starts to SLIP. The boys GRAB him, but he just PULLS THEM down with him--

--Into the skylight, which unlatches, FLIPPING OPEN (hinging downward)! The boys FALL through the skylight, leaving the hatch hanging from its hinge on the ceiling. *
*
*

80 ALL BOYS
<SURPRISED/PANICKED SCREAMS!>

INT. ROOK UNLIMITED WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The boys LAND in a cart of LAB COATS! They're FINE!

81 RICARDO
See? Nothing to worry about.

But the cart ROLLS forward and <BUMPS> a shelf. That shelf TIPS forward and <SLAMS> into another, which starts a DOMINO EFFECT on row after row of shelving.

82 JAKE
So much for being flexible. *

The final shelf FALLS and <SLAMS> into barrels of Flexium still over by the vault door!

The barrels <EXPLODE>, blasting a tide of FLEXIUM out towards the kids! Everything goes to WHITE!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. ROOK SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

ROOK SECURITY GUARDS monitoring a bank of terminals see a FLASHING <ALARM> on one of the panels.

83 ROOK SECURITY #1
Sir, a break-in at one of the
secondary storage facilities.

*

From out of the shadows at the far side of the office, MALCOLM KANE sweeps in.

84 KANE
Is it him... *Blindside?*

85 ROOK SECURITY #1
Unconfirmed. We don't have a
visual.

*

86 KANE
Call up the TAC team.

INT. ROOK UNLIMITED WAREHOUSE - EVENING

The boys lie on the floor of the warehouse covered in GOOP. They <GROAN> as they <STRUGGLE> to their feet.

87 JAKE
So that happened. You guys okay?

*

88 RICARDO
Other than being covering in three
gallons of weird slime, awesome.

*

Nathan SPITS the slime out of his mouth.

89 NATHAN
<BLECH!> Why in the mouth? Why?

Jake and the boys look around at the room. It's a disaster.

90 NATHAN (CONT'D)
We are going straight to prison.

91 RICARDO
Maybe no one'll notice.

<BOOM!!!> Kane KICKS THROUGH THE DOOR and ROOK SECURITY GUARDS (including Kane's right-hand man - OFFICER REYNOLDS) flood the room on the far side, behind the boys.

92 KANE

Rook Security! Hands up NOW!!!

SHOCKED, the boys JERK their arms into the air--

--But Jake's arms unexpectedly STRETCH OUT like BUNGEE CORDS, shooting his hands up towards the ceiling!! They quickly <SNAP> back to normal, like rubber bands returning to their original shape.

Nathan is SHOCKED. Ricardo is SHOCKED. Jake is SHOCKED.

93 JAKE

AHHH! Did you just see that? *

94 NATHAN *

Saw it. Didn't believe it. You *
hurt? You have to be hurt. *

Jake rubs both arms with his hands, trying to feel for broken *
bones. They seem normal and uninjured. *

95 JAKE *

I don't feel anything broken. But I *
mean: AHHH! Right? *

96 NATHAN *

Never do that again, please. *

Across the room, the guards saw Jake's stretching arms too. *
They look at Kane, confused. But Kane doesn't miss a beat. *

97 KANE

On the ground! *
(to his men) *
Set weapons to restrain. **

Ricardo looks at Jake, who is still staring at his arms. *

98 RICARDO

Dude-- DO THAT AGAIN, like pronto! *
We need out of this sitch! *

Jake hurls his hand at Ricardo - it stretches, wrapping *
around him, then bends around to grab Nathan! Jake THROWS his **
other arm towards the stair railing, grabbing on! He holds
the boys tight--

99 KANE

Don't let them get away!

--yanking the kids up and out through the skylight as Kane's
men open <FIRE>! But it's too late, the boys have escaped!

[PROD NOTE: The accident that gave the kids their powers also allows the clothes they were wearing at the time to stretch.] *
*

EXT. WAREHOUSE ROOF - CHARTER CITY - CONTINUOUS

Jake and the boys LAND on the roof, skidding to a halt, totally amazed and confused by what just happened. *

100 NATHAN
Um, could you *always* do that?

101 JAKE
Of course I couldn't always do that!

102 RICARDO
I'm no scientist, but I'm thinking that tidal wave of gloop might have something to do with it.

103 NATHAN
Ugh! It was in my mouth!

Nathan starts spitting on the roof, when suddenly the sound of <CLANKING> as Kane and his men hurry up the fire escape!

104 NATHAN (CONT'D)
I don't think we're gonna have time to test our hypothesises.

105 JAKE
"Hypothesises" isn't a word! Run! *

Jake and the boys rush towards the other side of the building, leaping on a series of awnings down to the street.

EXT. CHARTER CITY - VARIOUS - CONTINUOUS

Jake and the boys run past a MAN walking into a laundromat carrying a load of dirty clothes. The man PANICS when he sees the oncoming kids, tossing his clothes into the air!

106 NATHAN
Then what's the plural of "hypothesis"?

Jake and the boys grab pieces of falling clothes as they run.

107 JAKE
Hypotheses! We need disguises - could we borrow these? *
*

The shocked man nods, confused, as Jake, in motion, wraps a scarf around his head. Ricardo grabs a ski mask--

108 NATHAN (O.S.)
Wait, this is a T-shirt, right? It doesn't feel like a T-shirt.

Still running, Ricardo and Jake look back to see Nathan is wearing UNDERPANTS on his head. Ricardo tries not to laugh.

109 RICARDO
Totally a T-shirt, bro.

The boys continue to rush through alleys. Behind them, they hear the <SIRENS> of Kane and his men! [*PROD NOTE: in the alley, we see graffiti for the hacker PHANTASM (Ep. 104)*] *

Ricardo rushes forward, preparing to kick a garbage can blocking their way--

--and suddenly the MASS of his body slides down to the bottom of his LEG and NAILS the can, knocking down the alley.

110 RICARDO (CONT'D)
What the what?!

Everyone skids to a stop. Ricardo is in SHOCK. Nathan's eyes go wide: *What?!* Jake is also surprised, but snaps out of it more quickly. *

111 JAKE
Just-- go with it for now! *

112 RICARDO
"Go with it"?!? I just-- blew up or something! *

The lights and sirens are getting closer! *

113 JAKE
We'll figure it out together--
AFTER we get out of this! *

Ricardo nods, getting it. As the boys start running again, Ricardo MASS-KICKS and MASS-PUNCHES more obstacles out of the way, but the boys turn a corner - into a dead end! *

114 NATHAN
They'll send *me* to jail - and you guys to a freak show! For freaks.

115 JAKE
No one's going to jail. Come on.

Jake hurls his arms to the top of the one-story building, pulling himself up. He throws his arms down, grabbing Ricardo and Nathan, sling-shotting them all towards a higher building! Ricardo manages to grab on to the ledge--

--but Nathan barely misses, and starts to fall!

116 JAKE (CONT'D)
Nathan!

CLOSE ON: Nathan, <SCREAMING!> as he falls towards the ground! He puts his arms out, flailing--

--but suddenly we WIDEN to reveal his body has stretched into WINGS - and Nathan takes FLIGHT!!

--Right over Kane and his force's vehicles, who skid to a stop as this boy with underwear on his head flies over them.

117 OFFICER REYNOLDS
That did not even happen.

Kane scowls.

CLOSE ON: Nathan catches air, lifting him up above the surrounding buildings.

118 NATHAN
We're all going to a freak show.

IN THE ALLEY: Kane looks up as Nathan disappears into the sky. Jake and Ricardo have hurried off on the rooftops. Kane <POUNDS> the roof of his car in frustration.

119 KANE
Unacceptable!

EXT. SKYSCRAPER UNDER CONSTRUCTION - CONTINUOUS

Jake, stretching, yanks Ricardo to a FLOOR on a partially constructed skyscraper, hiding out safely.

120 JAKE
We should be safe way up here.

121 NATHAN (O.S.)
Incoming!

The boys look up to see Nathan flying at them. He lowers his legs to land - but then trips himself and tumbles all way across the floor into cinder blocks.

122 NATHAN (CONT'D)
<IMPACT - GROAN> My body's not
supposed to work this way. We
should go to the hospital, right? *

Ricardo uses his MASS FORCE to shatter the cinder blocks.

123 RICARDO
And tell them what? We've come down
with a bad case of awesomeness? We
should get a talent agent or
something - we're superheroes!

124 JAKE
We destroyed a Rook building. Maybe
we're super *villains*. Either way,
this stays a total secret. Lay low
until we figure out what happened
to us, OK? Maybe the effects of
that slime will wear off. *

125 RICARDO
But we could make some serious bank-
(off Jake's look, bummed)
...OK. Wanna be lame, that's cool. *

Jake checks his watch, and panics.

126 JAKE
Oh no, I'm 15 minutes late to my
tennis lesson.

127 RICARDO
You're worried about your schedule?

128 JAKE
All of this happened because I
broke the rules. My dad still has
the power to ground me even if now
I have the power to stretch across
the city. *

Jake LEAPS from the building, stretching himself down while
Ricardo watches. Suddenly--

129 NATHAN (O.S.)
You jerk-face! These are underwear! *

Nathan HURLS the underpants right into Ricardo's head.

EXT. ROOK UNLIMITED WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Quentin Rook is setting up a PRESS CONFERENCE outside the building as Kane and his men examine the site. Kane enters.

INT. ROOK UNLIMITED WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Kane and his men investigate the accident, yellow caution tape around the area. They use a handheld scanner.

130 OFFICER REYNOLDS

Can't find any fingerprints, Mr. Kane. Whatever this slime is, it wiped any evidence.

*

The Security Guard goes to TOUCH the Flexium, but Kane GRABS his arm, inspecting the slime closer.

131 KANE

Don't touch it! ...Flexium. This compound should be under lock and key at our main lab, not out here. Who's responsible for this?

*

*

DON steps forward, carrying two phones and a clipboard.

132 DON

So now it's a problem? It wasn't when Quentin Rook assigned one person, me, to do the work of ten.

Kane gets up in Don's grill.

133 KANE

Mr. Rook is outside, right now, about to address the media. How fast can you get this cleaned up?

*

134 DON

It'd go quicker if Rook stopped posing for the cameras and came in to help me himself.

*

135 KANE

Just get it done.

Kane, fuming, stomps off, his men following. Don approaches the Flexium. He doesn't see, in the far corner, as OTHER CHEMICALS leak from containers and MIX with the spilled Flexium, causing a REACTION that <BUBBLES>--

Don, unknowingly, STEPS in the reacting chemical cocktail...

136 DON

What the-- <CRIES OUT>.

The chemicals GROW up Don's leg - spreading over his skin and starting to CHANGE HIM...

INT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - LATER

Jake sits alone in his apartment, studying on his computer. He tries to take a drink from his cup - but it's empty. He looks up and sees bottles of water in the kitchen. Maybe?

Jake looks around, then WHIPS his hand toward the kitchen. It STRETCHES across the room, but not far enough to get the water. He tries it again with more force, and manages to GRAB the water bottle-- **

--just as <CLICK> Jake's DAD enters the apartment, carrying his ROOK TABLET and his suitcase! Jake's arm WHIPS back into the dining room - NAILING himself in the face with the water - all before his dad looks up. **

137 MARK

Hey Jake - you okay?

Jake, a little stunned by accidentally hitting himself in the face with the water bottle, covers.

138 JAKE

Uh, yeah, just studying physics.

139 MARK

That's my boy. Looks like you still have 97 minutes for homework before bed. Way to be on schedule. You make me proud. *

Mark puts his stuff down and heads into the kitchen.

140 MARK (CONT'D)

You won't believe the day I had. Some hooligans actually broke into one of our facilities and busted it up. *

Jake's eyes go wide.

141 JAKE

Really? Uh... any idea who did it?

142 MARK

Not sure. I'm in management, not security. *

(MORE)

MARK (CONT'D)
But who would do something like
that? Everyone loves Rook.

143 JAKE
Maybe it was just an accident. *

144 MARK
Accident my foot, I-- Hold on.

Mark's ROOK-PHONE <BUZZES>. He grabs it.

145 MARK (CONT'D)
Mark Armstrong... A giant what? No,
let me turn it on.

Mark turns on the TV, where QUENTIN ROOK is speaking at a
press conference outside the SAME WAREHOUSE that Jake and his
friends accidentally busted up earlier. *

146 NEWSCASTER (V.O.)
The shocking scene only moments
ago, as Quentin Rook made a public
appeal for information about the
culprits who sabotaged a Rook
Enterprises storehouse. *

147 ROOK (ON TV)
We're offering a reward for any--
WHAT?!?

Suddenly MULTI-FARIOUS, gigantic and FIERCE, <BURSTS> out
through the wall! The cameras pull out as the monster stomps
after Rook, crushing anything in its path. *

148 MULTI-FARIOUS (ON TV)
ROOK! THIS... BECAUSE OF... YOU!
MUST... GET... ROOK!!!

Rook, blocked by Kane and his men, is rushed out of frame as
the MONSTER <STOMPS> off into the distance.

149 MARK
Is this real? A *monster*? I can't
believe it-- I'll be right in.

Mark hurries towards the door, gathering his suitcase again.

150 MARK (CONT'D)
This is insane, but that creature
came from our damaged facility!
Some mixture of chemicals maybe?
They're still trying to figure it
out. I've gotta to head back in. *

151 JAKE

There's a real-life monster out there and you want to go back to work?

152 MARK

I can help, Jake. They need me in damage control mode. It's what any responsible person would do.

*
*

As Mark closes the door behind him, <BING> Nathan's face appears on VIDEO CHAT.

153 NATHAN (ON-SCREEN)

You're seeing this too? We are so dead. We have to confess.

*

<BING!> Suddenly Ricardo's face appears online. Both he and Nathan are clearly watching the same news footage as Jake.

*
*

154 RICARDO (ON-SCREEN)

Whoa, whoa. First rule of superhero club - we don't talk about superhero club, remember?

*
*
*

Jake watches as MULTI-FARIOUS attacks the city.

155 JAKE

That was before a giant monster exploded out of the place we destroyed.

*
*
*

156 RICARDO (ON-SCREEN)

Accidentally destroyed.

*
*

157 JAKE

Accident or not, it means that taking down this creature is OUR responsibility. Are you with me?

*
*
*
*

THREE-WAY SPLIT SCREEN: In the eyes of all three boys we see reflected images of Multi-farious as seen on the screens that they are each watching. In the center, Jake looks determined. On either side, Nathan and Ricardo look concerned.

*
*
*
*

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. CHARTER CITY - VARIOUS

MULTI-FARIOUS stomps through the city. People RUN and PANIC as the creature tears through the streets.

158 MULTI-FARIOUS
ROOOOOK!!!

Kane and his men open FIRE on the creature--

--Which doesn't even slow the monster down!

INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM/NATHAN'S BEDROOM/RICARDO'S ROOM - MONTAGE

CROSS-CUT MONTAGE: The boys "gear up" (a la RAMBO) but using whatever stuff they have on-hand. [PROD. NOTE: They put their new gear OVER the clothes they wore at the time of the accident - the clothes that can stretch with them]. Jake puts on a track suit, combat boots, and mirrored safety-goggles. *

159 JAKE (V.O.)
We never wanted or expected to get these strange powers. *

Nathan raids one of his brother's closets, putting on goalie gloves and a goalie mask, as well as a cape.

160 JAKE (V.O.)
So far we've only used them to run from the authorities and keep ourselves out of trouble-- *

Ricardo puts on a Mexican wrestler mask, a catcher's vest, and a karate gi.

161 JAKE (V.O.)
--But now's the time we find out: Are we supervillains? Or superheroes? *

END MONTAGE *

EXT. JAKE'S BALCONY - EVENING

The boys gather on JAKE'S BALCONY, finally revealing themselves in their FULL COSTUMES - and they look INSANE - but the shot is still MASSIVE and HEROIC (which makes them look crazier). Jake looks out over the city with BINOCULARS.

162 RICARDO

We need a team name. No problem, already got it. The Super-Awesomes.

163 NATHAN

No, the Legion of Specially Gifted Individuals with Powers.

164 RICARDO

You're specially gifted at horrible names. Four words: Su. Per. Awe. Somes.

<BAM!!> Suddenly the city shakes as MULTI-FARIOUS can be seen attacking in the distance! *

165 JAKE

Stop arguing. We need to work together, just like on the botany report we did. *

166 NATHAN

We never actually did the botany report. *

167 JAKE

But we will! And when we do, we're going to stay focused and work together. Guys, my dad isn't just a schedule-freak-- he's a good person. He taught me if someone can help, they should. Charter City's counting on us. And that means it's time for us to step-up. *

Nathan and Ricardo share a look. It's go time! **

EXT. CHARTER CITY - CITY STREETS - LATE EVENING

OVER-THE-SHOULDER: AWESOME action footage (as if GoPros are mounted on the kids) as the boys <WHOOSH> through the city, stretching, flying, and bouncing--

EXT. CHARTER CITY - STREET BARRICADE - LATE EVENING

Kane and the security forces have erected a temporary BARRICADE by lining up security cars and trucks. His men POUR FIRE on it, but the monster doesn't stop!

IN THE SKY: QUENTIN ROOK arrives, flown by a Rook PILOT in a high tech Rook Unlimited Hover-copter. He's headed toward the creature. BELOW: Kane sees this and gets on his comms.

168 KANE

Mr. Rook. For your safety, I cannot recommend this course of action.

INT./EXT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Quentin Rook isn't hearing it.

169 ROOK

As incredible as it seems, that monster used to be one of my best men. Field DNA analysis confirms it. I have to try and help.

*

*

*

The chopper LOWERS closer to Multi-Farious's face. The monster <ROARS> but the chopper doesn't move. Quentin leans out of the side of it, speaking through a megaphone.

170 ROOK (CONT'D)

Don? Are you still in there? It's me, Quentin!

*

*

The beast stops in its tracks, turning directly to Rook.

171 ROOK (CONT'D)

That's it, Don. Fight this. You helped me build this city, don't destroy it. Come back and we'll find a cure--

Multi-Farious looks at Rook and opens his mouth.

172 MULTI-FARIOUS

Rook... push me too hard... made me into... monster! ROOK MUST PAY!

The beast gets up on its hind legs - and SWATS the helicopter! It spirals, diving out of the sky!

173 ROOK

<PANICKED YELL!>

BELOW: Kane watches helplessly as the helicopter SPIRALS toward certain destruction!

174 KANE

Rook! No!!!

But from out of nowhere -- JAKE bungees into the helicopter, grabbing Rook and YANKING him out! With one move, he roughly deposits Rook safely on top of a nearby building!

*

175 JAKE

Sorry for the rough landing! I'm
new at this!

*
*

Though partially unsteady in his flight path, Nathan SWOOPS through the falling chopper and grabs the PILOT, flying him to safety as well. Kane watches from below.

*

176 KANE

Oh no. It's... them.

*

ON ROOF: Jake leaps back into action as Rook watches, a charmed and amazed smile crossing his face.

*
*

The boys ATTACK Multi-Farious, who THRASHES around, still <BUSTING> buildings. He's going after Jake and the others - smashing buildings and almost hurting bystanders!

177 JAKE

We gotta get this monster away from
the buildings!

Ricardo runs towards the edge of a building!

178 RICARDO

Let me give that a shot!

Ricardo LEAPS, hurling all of his mass to his FEET--

--and <SLAMS> into the monster, sending it SPRAWLING--

INT. CHARTER CITY PARK - CONTINUOUS

--and into the park! The Monster <SLAMS> into a central fountain!

Jake flings between trees, hurling himself with wild, reckless abandon at Multi-Farious's FACE!

*
*

179 JAKE

I hope this is going to hurt you
more than it hurts me!

*

At the last second, Multi-Farious <SMASHES> Jake into the air, sending him flying!

180 JAKE (CONT'D)

(pained)

Nope.

*

Nathan FLIES toward Jake, extending his arm.

*

181 NATHAN

I got you!

Nathan reaches out - and completely MISSES Jake! Jake plummets toward the ground! *

182 JAKE
<SURPRISED YELL!>

Suddenly Jake is CAUGHT in the air by a leaping Ricardo!

183 RICARDO
Nathan gets picked last at
baseball, doesn't he?

Ricardo wraps his arms around Jake, who flings his arms to a large branch overhead! Jake flips himself and Ricardo into the air, aiming at Multi-Farious together!

184 NATHAN
Wait for me!

NEAR SLOW MOTION: Jake flies through the air, stretching out for one final attack on Multi-Farious! *

Ricardo swings his arms and legs forward, MASS combining in his limbs, turning into a human projectile!

Nathan flies at the creature, spinning himself to go faster and faster!

185 NATHAN (CONT'D)
WHOOAAOAOAOAAA!!

Multi-Farious, up on his hind legs, prepares for the attack!

186 MULTI-FARIOUS
ROOOOAAAARRRRRRR!!!!

He swats his arms, but misses the kids! They all SLAM directly into his chest, sending the monster sprawling!

It TRIPS to the ground, falling on its back with a huge <SMASH!> The park <RUMBLES> as the monster hits, sending up a cloud of smoke and debris!

Jake, Nathan, and Ricardo land, triumphantly! As the smoke clears, we expect a heroic pose from the boys - but they stand awkwardly, completely not used to these new powers. Nathan is hunched over, out of breath. Jake "stretches". *

187 JAKE
Guys-- I think we won. Is this is a win? It is, right? *

188 NATHAN

I vote yes. This is what you get
when you mess with the Legion of
Specially Gifted Individuals with
Powers.

*

189 RICARDO

<GROAN>

But suddenly the smoke CLEARS, revealing not the fallen Multi-Farious-- but TWO MULTI-FARIOUSES!! The confused creatures look at each other, inspecting the situation.

[PROD. NOTE: One Multi-Farious has GREEN EYES, the other BLUE.]

*

190 RICARDO (CONT'D)

It split in two?

191 NATHAN

You can do math. I'm actually
surprised.

The TWO Multi-Fariouses RUSH OFF into the woods! Jake and the boys prepare to chase after him!

192 JAKE

We can't let him get away! Move!

193 KANE (O.S.)

Don't move!

The boys look around and see they are SURROUNDED by Kane and his security GUARDS! Uh-oh. They boys raise their hands.

194 RICARDO

Just so I can keep track, is this
still a win?

CLOSE ON JAKE - as he realizes there is no escape.

TO BE CONTINUED!!!