

THE LEGEND OF MASTER LEGEND

Written by

Micah Fitzerman-Blue & Noah Harpster

(Based on the article by Joshua Bearman)

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OPEN ON:

INT. LAS VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT

Utter chaos.

A CROWD is gathered around four drunk, middle-aged second-wedding BRIDESMAIDS, who scream at a Sikh CAB DRIVER.

In the middle of it all, a MAN in a silver spray-painted suit of armor tries to intervene.

The man is MASTER LEGEND. He's late 30s with a paunch. His scraggly hair sticks out from under his helmet. Bright blue eyes sparkle behind his mask.

CAB DRIVER
Just pay your fare!

LOUDEST BRIDESMAID
Suck my dick.

MASTER LEGEND
We can easily untangle this little knot here.

DRUNKEST BRIDESMAID
Fuck off, Star Track.

MASTER LEGEND
Ma'am, I am a real life super hero. Registered in two counties.

LOUDEST BRIDESMAID
(to Cab Driver)
You took us all the way around the strip to jack up the price.

CAB DRIVER
There's no U-turns! I can't break the law. I had to go around --

MASTER LEGEND
He's correct. U-turns are illegal.

LOUDEST BRIDESMAID
So is he, proolly.

DRUNKEST BRIDESMAID
I'm gonna walk away from you bitches like my BEST FRIEND CHLOE walked away from that cheating cheater!

The Bridesmaids CHEER, then march toward the CASINO.

MASTER LEGEND

You're free to go on with your
carousing and libations -- *after*
you do the right thing.

Master Legend moves in front of them, blocking their way,
chest puffed. The moment is tense.

DRUNKEST BRIDESMAID

You're not gonna move?

MASTER LEGEND

No ma'am.

The Drunkest Bridesmaid swings her bag like a mace, NAILING
Master Legend in the temple. The Loudest Bridesmaid KICKS him
with her heel.

Master Legend stiff arms them, trying to keep them away.

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)

Folks -- you can see that I'm not
using force, okay! I'm just trying
to restrain these law breakers
until --

Master Legend takes a bag strike to the mouth and crumples.

Phones are out, recording. The Loudest Bridesmaid hits Master
Legend again and again until -- SNAP -- her strap breaks.

LOUDEST BRIDESMAID

I should make you pay for my bag,
you bitch.

They're gone. Master Legend brushes himself off, dignity
unflagging, and walks over to the Cab Driver.

MASTER LEGEND

How much is the fare?

CAB DRIVER

Don't worry about it, buddy.

Master Legend reads the meter: \$12.50. He takes out his
wallet and hands him fifteen dollars.

MASTER LEGEND

Just take it.

The Cab Driver admires the Battle Suit.

CAB DRIVER
You make that outfit?

MASTER LEGEND
By hand. It won't stop a bullet --
but it will deflect knives.

The Cab Driver fake stabs Master Legend who deflects it with kung-fu.

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)
Not that any villain's knives have
ever gotten that close!

The epic chords of 80s Norse mythological rock group MANOWAR kick in --

Master Legend SPRINTS out onto the Vegas Strip, looking for the next evil doer -- his hair and cape flowing behind him.

TITLE: THE LEGEND OF MASTER LEGEND

INT. FLAMINGO-DURANGO SELF STORAGE - BATHROOM - MORNING

Master Legend bathes himself in the sink, splashing cold water on his armpits. His back is bruised.

He hums along to the song, which is playing in his head.

Moments later, Master Legend mops the bathroom floor with a spare towel -- leaving the room spotless.

EXT. FLAMINGO-DURANGO SELF STORAGE - MORNING

Master Legend struts out from the bathroom, holding a bar of soap in a plastic baggie.

His white flesh bakes in the hundred-degree Vegas sun.

He reaches his unit. He squats down and raises up the door --
clack-clack-clack-clack-clack.

INT. MASTER LEGEND'S STORAGE UNIT - DAY

A charming DIY apartment crammed into a 10' x 10' unit.

A cot, mini-fridge, two swamp coolers, and a small TV. The Battle Suit hangs from the wall.

He gets dressed. Shorts, a heavy metal tank top, blue-blocker sunglasses, and a camo bucket hat.

Master Legend cracks open the fridge: Busch Beer and a bottle of hot sauce.

All alone, there is a sadness to Master Legend, but he pushes on.

He pops a beer and chugs.

EXT./INT. THE JUSTICE VAN - ON THE ROAD - DAY

A white 90s Ford Econoline. A crudely painted LOGO on the side reads: THE JUSTICE VAN.

Manowar now blasts from the tape deck as Master Legend accelerates out of Self Storage.

EXT. NORTH LAS VEGAS - DAY

Working class. Crumbling, squat stucco houses with brown lawns. A far cry from the glitz of The Strip.

The Justice Van rumbles through.

EXT. TANA'S HOUSE - DAY

Dead grass in the yard of this tiny two-bedroom. The Justice Van is parked out front.

MASTER LEGEND (PRE-LAP)
This crack head comes at me. Ice
cold malice in his eyes.

INT. TANA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

TANA, late 30s and African-American, in a GOLDEN NUGGET CASINO uniform, stuffs frozen waffles in the toaster.

Master Legend dances around, lotta gesturing.

MASTER LEGEND
I look around. No one else on the
street. He stares me down. "YOU,"
he says -- and he smashes his
bottle on the side of the Luxor.
Now it's a deadly weapon.

TANA
Can you remove your sunglasses?

MASTER LEGEND
It's not my preference.

TANA

Well it's rude. Gotta be able to
look a person in the eyes.

Master Legend takes off his shades.

MASTER LEGEND

So I'm thinking I'll use the No
Mercy Punch. But then I think --
this guy's on crack. He's *hurting*.
Not just in his body. In his soul.
So I decide to administer The
Healing Touch.

Master Legend kneels down, placing a hand on the imaginary
body on the floor, and one hand in the sky.

TANA

Don't expect me to give you a
waffle. Cody gets one and I get
one. I don't got any additional
waffles.

MASTER LEGEND

Are you hearing me, Tana? I saved a
man's life.

TANA

Did you leach the crack out of his
veins with your hand?

MASTER LEGEND

I know it sounds crazy, but I did.

DING. Tana lifts out the waffles, butters them.

TANA

(calling)

CODY.

(then)

Did an ambulance come?

MASTER LEGEND

Eventually, yes.

TANA

Sounds like a team effort, Frank.

MASTER LEGEND

I don't like when you call me that.

TANA

When you come in this house, you're
Frank.

(MORE)

TANA (CONT'D)

When you're sleeping in your storage facility you can be whoever.

MASTER LEGEND

You know I don't wanna sleep there. I want us to be back together -- as a family.

TANA

Well then -- stop this shit.

MASTER LEGEND

I can't do that. People need Master Legend.

TANA

You give your money to bums instead of us -- wandering the streets like a hooligan -- you stop that -- then maybe we can chat about you sharing my bed again.

(then)

CODY. I'm late.

CODY, early teens, a tomboy, emerges from the bathroom.

MASTER LEGEND

Code Red!

Master Legend hugs Cody -- then turns it into a headlock, which Cody quickly parries, throwing a hammer punch! They spar around the kitchen while Tana watches, annoyed.

The phone rings. Nobody answers it.

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)

You gonna get that?

TANA

Nobody good calls me on that phone.

CODY

When can I go out on patrol with you?

MASTER LEGEND

When your mama says you can.

TANA

She says hell no.

(then)

You gotta quit that.

They do.

TANA (CONT'D)

This place is too damn small for that cowplop.

CODY

We already stopped. I always do what you say and then you keep explaining why I need to do it, but I already did it.

MASTER LEGEND

Your mama's a thorough lady. And beautiful.

Tana listens to her message.

TANA

(to Master Legend)

You're gonna wanna hear this.

She puts it on speaker. A RASPY VOICE floats in.

VOICE (O.C.)

So anyway, Frank --

Master Legend freezes.

VOICE (O.C) (CONT'D)

I'm wondering if you got time to pick me up today. Getting out at one, and the bus don't come out here. If you get this -- I'm gettin' out at one.

FRANK

Goddammit.

Tana looks at Master Legend with some genuine sympathy.

CODY

That Uncle Peanut Head?

Master Legend nods.

CODY (CONT'D)

You gonna get him?

MASTER LEGEND

No.

(then)

Let's go.

Cody takes a bite of her waffle.

CODY

Yuck.

Cody tosses the waffle in the trash, grabs her bag and heads out the front door.

Master Legend fishes out the waffle.

INT. THE JUSTICE VAN - ON THE ROAD

Cody's hands are on the wheel. Master Legend's locks flap in the breeze.

MASTER LEGEND

I've never told you this, Cody, but it's time I do -- seeing as your womanhood is rapidly approaching. I know this sounds crazy, but you are marked for greatness. From the time you were born, I knew it. For you were born -- with The Veil.

CODY

Like a bride?

MASTER LEGEND

It's part of the birth bag that stays on your face when you come out.

CODY

Gross.

MASTER LEGEND

No, my daughter. It's got mystical properties. Gives you "Sight Beyond Sight."

He glances up the road. Empty.

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)

I want you to close your eyes. I'll show you what I'm talking about.

CODY

I don't even have my permit yet.

MASTER LEGEND

Close your eyes.

Cody closes her eyes. Master Legend stares hard at the road, nostrils flared, then at Cody, willing her to fulfill her destiny!

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)
 (chanting)
 Sight beyond sight. Sight beyond
 sight. Sight beyond sight.

The van drifts into the next lane.

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)
 Now open.

Cody steers back into her lane.

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)
 Mystical.

They CACKLE together.

EXT. DESERT ROSE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Master Legend gives Cody a squeeze.

MASTER LEGEND
 Pick ya up after school. Maybe
 we'll work on non-lethal weaponry.

Cody melts into the crowd of STUDENTS. Master Legend watches her go, heart bursting with love.

Master Legend opens the trunk and grabs a MAGNETIC DECAL. He slaps it onto the side. It reads: **PALM HERO TREE TRIMMING.**

INT. GOLD NUGGET CASINO - BUFFET - DAY

Tana waits behind LIANNE, the hostess, who greets some elderly Chinese GUESTS. She speaks in a polite, over-enunciated shout.

LIANNE
 KONICHIWA. THE BUFFET IS ALL YOU
 CAN EAT.

Lianne pantomimes eating all that you can eat.

LIANNE (CONT'D)
 (to Tana)
 Table fifty-eight.

Tana escorts the Guests to their table.

TANA
 Folks you can grab plates by the
 hot entrees. All we ask is that you
 use a new plate when you return.
 (MORE)

TANA (CONT'D)
It's for hygiene. No more norovirus
at Golden Nugget.

A Guest tips Tana a five.

TANA (CONT'D)
Oh. Thank you very much.

Tana walks back to the hostess stand. She hears a COMMOTION from the gaming floor. Three SECURITY GUARDS escort out a YOUNG MAN with a chinstrap beard and Oakleys.

Tana's attention is focused on one of the guards, a wiry guy. This is LARRY.

Lianne grabs a jar, holds it out to Tana.

LIANNE
We pool tips, dear.

Tana drops in the five dollars.

EXT. NICE HOUSE - HENDERSON - FRONT YARD - DAY

A manicured lawn of somebody in "the other half." Master Legend climbs up a date palm.

RAY, 40, overweight, trims an adjacent tree. They both swig beers, stashed in their work belts.

RAY
You gotta read your scripture. This prophet, Elisha -- it's not a girl like Alicia Silverstone, but a dude. He rolls into town and these boys come out of their huts or whatever and make fun of his bald head. Guess what The Lord does? He sends a she-bear. She Fucks. Those. Boys. Up. Full-on berserker.

MASTER LEGEND
She-bears don't mess around. You know they climb trees?

RAY
You know they can run forty miles an hour when provoked?

MASTER LEGEND
You know who used to be full-on berserker? Brimstone.

RAY

Hush it.

MASTER LEGEND

What if we recruited you a sidekick? Would that entice you back to the battle against evil?

RAY

I've got another outlet for the battle against evil. He's a superhero named Jesus Christ.

MASTER LEGEND

Rowena's in your head, man.

RAY

Don't bag on my lady. She buys my beer. I have a warm bed. Laundry.

MASTER LEGEND

Sometimes I feel like that she-bear. Lone wolfing it.

(then)

Think about it.

Ray clips a frond. It flutters twenty feet to the ground.

RAY

This one's done.

Ray scootches down the trunk and starts gathering up the debris.

Master Legend stares out over the rooftop. The city's sprawled out before him, blanketed in haze and smog.

He looks down at Ray -- he's small from this distance.

Master Legend's vision narrows and BLURS. He loses his footing on the trunk and slips a few feet, then catches himself.

EXT. NICE HOUSE - LATER

Work done, Master Legend waits at the door.

Ray loads up the truck.

The owner, SUZE, 40s and bored, stumbles out.

MASTER LEGEND

Morning. We took care of the palms
in front and the yuccas in the
drive.

Master Legend studies her. Her eyes aren't fully focused.

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)

That'll be forty.

SUZE

I saw you on Action News 13 last
month. For tackling that pick-
pocket.

MASTER LEGEND

Just doing my part.

SUZE

You, uh, ever do handy work for
hire? Like, beyond trees?

MASTER LEGEND

Electrical and some cabinetry, but
my passion is for demo.

Suze laughs, flirty.

SUZE

I got a window that needs
resealing. At night, when the wind
blows -- it howls.

MASTER LEGEND

What does it sound like? Like a
high pitch howl?

Master Legend howls a little bit.

SUZE

No, it's more like this.

Suze howls.

MASTER LEGEND

Oh. Like this --

Master Legend howls like Suze. Suze nods.

SUZE

What do you think it is?

MASTER LEGEND

Have you considered the occult?
Dark forces? The Devil's due. Have
you wronged anyone in the past?

SUZE

Yes, I have. You wanna come in?

MASTER LEGEND

I got Ray with me and we got lunch
break and all.

SUZE

Maybe some other time.

Suze pays him forty bucks.

MASTER LEGEND

Thanks, Miss Suze.

Master Legend marches back to the van.

RAY

You shoulda gone in. She wanted
some Legend.

MASTER LEGEND

That doesn't keep me on the path of
doing good.

Master Legend notices three overflowing trash cans. He opens
one trash can.

RAY

Life could be easier for you my
friend.

Master Legend grabs a COFFEE MAKER, inspects it. Looks good.

INT. ROWENA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Shades of pastel. Crucifixes. Sambo figurines crowd the
coffee table.

Master Legend and Ray sit on the sofa munching ham
sandwiches.

ROWENA, 70, in a house dress, sets down a glass of milk in
front of Master Legend.

ROWENA

You boys are probably dehydrated.

Rowena sits down across from Ray, who massages her feet.

MASTER LEGEND
Dehydration's the only thing more
dangerous than a bullet!

Rowena studies Master Legend.

ROWENA
Son, have you ever had a
concussion?

MASTER LEGEND
Many times have I been knocked out
in the heat of combat.

RAY
He didn't talk for a year once.

MASTER LEGEND
But I've never left a fight in
worse condition than my opponent.

ROWENA
I think you might have the Post
Traumatic.

MASTER LEGEND
I don't believe that's the case.

RAY
She knows about that. It's all in
her family. Congenital.

ROWENA
The nurse at the VA named a
protocol after my eldest.

MASTER LEGEND
We all got battle wounds.

Master Legend's lost in thought. Ray massages away, making it
sensual.

ROWENA
Easy on the corn.

RAY
How's that?

ROWENA
Dee-vine.

The Sambo dolls grin up at Master Legend. He looks away.

INT. GOLD NUGGET CASINO - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Old promotional signs crowd the table where Tana sips coffee out of a Styrofoam cup.

Larry enters with his brown paper lunchbag.

TANA
Hi, Larry.

LARRY
Hey there Tana.

TANA
So who was that guy?

LARRY
He's on the blacklist.

TANA
Is he a card counter?

LARRY
I don't really know.

TANA
Did he put up a fight?

LARRY
Not really.

Larry unpacks his lunch, unwraps his turkey sandwich, and takes a bite.

Tana sips her coffee.

LARRY (CONT'D)
You seen that birds of prey
experience over at Treasure Island?

TANA
No, I haven't.

LARRY
It's pretty darn cool. They got two
bald eagles from Alaska.

TANA
That sounds cool.

LARRY
We could go.

Tana frowns.

TANA
You know I got a daughter, right?

Larry considers this.

LARRY
Does she like birds of prey?

INT. DESERT ROSE HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Cody sits in class, watching DEAD POET'S SOCIETY.

Her TEACHER plays Candy Crush on her phone, completely checked out.

This is not a good school.

INT. DESERT ROSE HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Cody hands her FREE LUNCH ticket to the ATTENDANT, then takes her tray and moves through the food line.

A group of PRETTY GIRLS with matching purses and ballet flats enters, grabs drinks, and then heads toward checkout.

Cody fixates on ASHLEIGH, one of the pretty girls -- her high pony tail, her clavicles.

Ashleigh meets her eyes.

And smiles.

On Cody, everything tingling.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Master Legend puts exactly \$10 in the tank. The meter creeps barely above EMPTY.

Ray struts out with two cases of BUSCH BEER. Master Legend hands him a ten. Ray waves it away.

RAY
Like I said. Beer's covered.

MASTER LEGEND
Well then I'm running an errand.

Master Legend runs across the street, into the parking lot of a 99 CENTS STORE.

INT. 99 CENT STORE - DAY

The CASHIER rings up fifteen TOOTHBRUSHES, fifteen TRAVEL SOAPS, and a tall can of RIGHT GUARD.

EXT. DESERT ROSE HIGH SCHOOL - METAL SHOP - DAY

Cody and Ashleigh sand their bird boxes.

ASHLEIGH

My mom is three quarters Paiute Indian. She has a blood card and everything.

CODY

Wow.

ASHLEIGH

I don't tell anyone that. Not even my boyfriend. I'm telling you because you're mixed.

CODY

So then we're both mixed.

ASHLEIGH

Yeah, but you can't really tell with me.

CODY

I can.

ASHLEIGH

No you can't.

CODY

Your skin looks like there's little flecks of gold in it. It makes you a little different.

Ashleigh looks at her arm, then smiles.

CODY (CONT'D)

Who's your boyfriend?

EXT. TANA'S HOUSE - DAY

Fresh beers in hand, Master Legend and Ray go around through the SIDE GATE into the BACKYARD.

EXT. TANA'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Overgrown.

Ray follows Master Legend to the back, behind a rusted corrugated metal wall, into another little yard, where a rickety shack leans heavily to one side.

This is the SECRET HIDEOUT. Master Legend and Ray enter.

INT. SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

A pile of empty beer cans in one corner, jury-rigged shelves full of EQUIPMENT and WEAPONS in another corner.

A row of BROWN PAPER BAGS line the wall. Master Legend drops a toothbrush and a soap into each bag then --

Ray and Master Legend pound beers and chuck them onto the pile.

MASTER LEGEND

I mourn the hibernation of
Brimstone, but I'm grateful that
you still train with me, if only to
keep my skills finely honed.

RAY

I mean, yeah.

EXT. SECRET HIDEOUT - MONTAGE

A THROWING STAR bites into the side of the Secret Hideout with a THWAP. The word "JUSTICE" is written on it in Sharpie.

Ray's drunk, laughing.

Master Legend's all business, locking onto an imaginary enemy. He throws three stars. THWAP, THWAP, THWAP.

MASTER LEGEND

TAKEDOWN. Ninja time's over. Hand
me the Master Blaster.

Ray brings a SILVER POTATO GUN over. He's wearing safety goggles. Master Legend loads it full of dirt clods and cactus needles. Ray sprays RIGHT GUARD into the end of the potato gun.

Master Legend tacks a poster that says ISIS to a tree.

Master Legend and Ray fire dirt clods at the poster.

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)
That's for the economy!

RAY
Man. Fuck ISIS.

Master Legend and Ray drink more beer. Then even more beer.

Master Legend waters a small PEPPER PLANT, while Ray takes a leak behind the Secret Hideout.

Master Legend puts on the IRON FIST, a crude steel gauntlet adorned with a PHOENIX decal.

He punches a hole in the side of the Secret Hideout.

RAY (CONT'D)
Boom Shakalaka!

Master Legend raises the Iron Fist to the sky and cries out.

MASTER LEGEND
Yeowwww!

Master Legend looks up at the phoenix decal. The decal COMES ALIVE -- FLAPPING ITS WINGS.

It takes us up and across the sky to --

INT. DESERT ROSE HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - 1985

STUDENTS pour out. Fourteen-year-old FRANK RIDEAU, leads TANA TUCKER by the hand upstream.

Frank is tubby, his clothing threadbare. He's got a black eye, and his lip is fat and cut. Tana's thin and lanky.

TANA
What is it?

FRANK
It must be seen!

TANA
Better not be a genital.

INT. DESERT ROSE HIGH SCHOOL - METAL SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Frank holds a towel over his latest project. He grins at Tana like a child magician.

FRANK
I give you -- the IRON FIST!

Frank pulls off the towel, revealing a crude metal gauntlet that fits around his forearm.

FRANK (CONT'D)

It's modeled on a drawing of a dream I had of it.

TANA

I hope you don't think you're gonna use that on yer daddy.

FRANK

I ain't looking for a fight. But if the fight comes looking for me --

TANA

What about your brother?

FRANK

He split town -- left me to fend for myself.

Frank puts on the gauntlet and approaches a half built BIRD BOX.

TANA

Frank --

Frank raises the Iron Fist high, his eyes filled with FIRE.

He SMASHES the bird box. Tana shakes her head, concerned.

FRANK

Yeeowww!

PEANUT HEAD (O.C.)

Frank.

BACK TO:

EXT. SECRET HIDEOUT - DAY

Master Legend turns. His face falls.

MASTER LEGEND

Peanut Head.

PEANUT HEAD's standing there with a twelve pack of MILLER. He's gaunt and wiry, a little older than Master Legend.

PEANUT HEAD

I can't believe you're still doing this shit.

MASTER LEGEND
Does evil still exist?

PEANUT HEAD
Evil is leaving your brother in a
lurch. Waited seven minutes until I
realized you were never coming.

Peanut Head pulls a throwing star out of the wall, tests its
weight.

MASTER LEGEND
Don't touch that --

PEANUT HEAD
Want me to drop it?

MASTER LEGEND
Don't drop it. Just hand it to me.

Peanut Head whips it into the wall.

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)
Horrible form.

PEANUT HEAD
Brought us beer.

MASTER LEGEND
I don't drink Miller and even if I
did I wouldn't drink it with you.

PEANUT HEAD
Well, I'm celebrating my
liberation.

RAY
I drink Miller. Sorry Master Legend
but we're out. Hey Paul.

Peanut Head tosses Ray a beer.

MASTER LEGEND
Don't open that beer. There's no
place here for crack heads.

PEANUT HEAD
No one does crack anymore.
Everybody's a meth head now.

Peanut Head sits on a stump.

PEANUT HEAD (CONT'D)
Maybe I could chip in some
expertise?

MASTER LEGEND
Justice Force is full.

PEANUT HEAD
Yeah, who else you got besides
Brimstone?

RAY
Oh, I'm retired. Got me a sugar-
nana.

PEANUT HEAD
What about Shakey James? Frog? The
Turdman? Everybody else retired,
too?

RAY
Or dead, or inside, or nursing
school in the case of Frog.

PEANUT HEAD
So, you got no one and I'm
available.

MASTER LEGEND
I don't want you here.

PEANUT HEAD
I ain't got nowhere to go.

MASTER LEGEND
You leave or I leave.

PEANUT HEAD
I think I'm gonna finish my beer.

So, Master Legend marches out.

EXT. DESERT ROSE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Cody follows Ashleigh out to the parking lot. Nearby, a SHY
KID looks on.

Ashleigh's boyfriend SLUG, 20s with muscles, and a couple
BUDDIES are waiting in his Jeep Wrangler.

ASHLEIGH
We're gonna get some pizza. You
wanna come?

CODY
I don't have any money.

SLUG
Let's go, Ash.

ASHLEIGH
It's fine. Girls don't have to pay.

Ashleigh gets in the car. Slug frenches her.

ASHLEIGH (CONT'D)
Cody's coming too.

SLUG
All right.

The Shy Kid watches as --

Cody hesitates, she knows she shouldn't, but still -- she GETS IN.

INT. JUSTICE VAN - ON THE ROAD - DAY

Master Legend speeds, his jaw clenched. Fucking Peanut Head.

He skids into --

EXT. DESERT ROSE HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

A few Students linger, but most are gone for the day.

Master Legend parks, turns off the engine, and waits.

He locks EYES with the Shy Kid.

INT. SLICE OF HEAVEN PIZZA - DAY

Slug's at the counter ordering. Slug's Buddies play pool in the back.

Cody and Ashleigh sit at the booth. Cody fiddles with sugar packets.

CODY
When did he graduate?

ASHLEIGH
He runs a desert tour company and all of a sudden it like took off so he didn't technically have time to graduate. Do you drink beer?

CODY

(no)
Yeah.

Slug arrives with two pitchers of beer and slides into the booth next to Cody.

ASHLEIGH

Hey. Sit next to me.

SLUG

If I'm sitting next to you I can't see you.

ASHLEIGH

You want to see me?

SLUG

Gimme your cup.

Ashleigh slides her and Cody's cups. Slug pours.

SLUG (CONT'D)

(to Cody)
You on the volleyball team?

ASHLEIGH

We're bench partners in STEM class.

SLUG

What the hell is stem class?

CODY

It stands for science technology engineering and mathematics. If you take the first letter of each word -

SLUG

I get it.

CODY

It used to be shop class.

SLUG

They should just call it shop.

Slug and Ashleigh swig their beer.

CODY

Have you guys ever had a three-way?

ASHLEIGH

What?

SLUG

Sure. I mean, I have, but not with Ashleigh.

ASHLEIGH

Cody -- you're such a slut.

CODY

I'm not saying I want to. I was just asking.

ASHLEIGH

Ohmigod. I can't believe we're talking about this.

SLUG

What do you want to know about it?

Cody shrugs.

CODY

I don't know. What's it like?

A SHADOW falls across the table. MASTER LEGEND looms over them, in his full battle suit.

MASTER LEGEND

Hey. PEDOPHILE.

CODY

DAD.

MASTER LEGEND

I'm talking to you, ya crack head.

Slug turns to Cody.

SLUG

This is your dad?

Some CUSTOMERS notice him.

CUSTOMER

Wooh! Master Legend!

Master Legend is locked on.

MASTER LEGEND

How old are you?

SLUG

I don't have to answer that.

MASTER LEGEND
 HOW OLD ARE YOU?? I'm gonna guess
 twenty seven or twenty nine!

CODY
 I shoulda called you. Let's just go
 home.

MASTER LEGEND
 Did he kidnap you?

CODY
 NO.

ASHLEIGH
 Oh my god.

SLUG
 We're just having a snack, man.
 Everything's --

Master Legend gets in Slug's face, knocking over a beer in
 the process. The beer drips down onto the floor.

MASTER LEGEND
 You move one inch and you're gonna
 get an all night tour of fist city.

Master Legend pulls his phone off his belt and dials.

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 This is Master Legend and I've
 apprehended a sex criminal
 pedophile here at --

WHACK.

A POOL CUE breaks against Master Legend's back. Slug's
 Buddies are on him. Master Legend steps behind them, knocking
 into the SERVER holding their pizza. SPLAT. It's on the
 ground. Hot cheese and slippery sauce.

Now Slug's standing, fists clenched.

SLUG
 I'm not a sex criminal, asshole.

Cody's frozen, staring at the beer dripping onto the floor.

Slug pushes Master Legend. Master Legend stands his ground.

CUSTOMER
 Mess 'em up Master Legend!

Slug's Buddy punches Master Legend on the jaw. He goes down.

MASTER LEGEND
Pedophile!

SLUG
STOP CALLING ME THAT.

Master Legend's back up. He pulls SMALL PEPPERS from his utility belt.

He shoves them in his mouth and CHEWS in ANGUISH. He SPITS them in the Buddy's face.

BUDDY
Ahh!

MASTER LEGEND
Ghost pepper spray! I got more where that came from.

BUDDY
That really burns!

Suddenly a TRASH CAN crashes through the window. GLASS rains down around Ashleigh. She SCREAMS.

Peanut Head's standing on the sidewalk, HOWLING.

In his hand: the IRON FIST.

MASTER LEGEND
Get out of here, Peanut Head!

SLUG
Peanut Head? Holy hell. What is happening?

Peanut Head runs in, makes a break for Slug and takes a swing at his head, missing his skull by an inch.

MURDER is in Peanut Head's eyes.

Slug backs up.

MASTER LEGEND
Stop!

Peanut Head SLAMS the Iron Fist clean through the table. Splinters fly up around Cody.

MASTER LEGEND (CONT'D)
I got this. Scram!

PEANUT HEAD

I'm not scrambling. You need my help.

Slug and his Buddies hang back and snicker.

MASTER LEGEND

You never helped me before and you know that. My entire life you just stood by. You never defended me. And I don't need you anymore.

PEANUT HEAD

I miss you.

MASTER LEGEND

That's a falsehood.

PEANUT HEAD

How can it be false if I feel it?

The strobe of POLICE LIGHTS and the whine of SIRENS. Two SQUAD CARS squeal up.

PEANUT HEAD (CONT'D)

Shit.

Peanut Head wriggles out of Master Legend's grip and races out the BACK DOOR, dropping the Iron Fist with a clang.

He's GONE --

Just as four COPS enter.

SLUG

This man attacked us.

MASTER LEGEND

He's a sex criminal and that's my daughter.

CODY

I'm not with them.

MASTER LEGEND

What?

CODY

I said I'm not with them. This is all a mistake.

Cody searches Ashleigh's face. Ashleigh's mortified. She won't look at Cody.

One of the Cops, HIGGINS, moves in close to Master Legend.

HIGGINS
Put your hands behind your back.

MASTER LEGEND
What the heck, Higgins?

HIGGINS
I gotta take you outta here.

Higgins cuffs Master Legend.

MASTER LEGEND
Check that pervert out. I'm sure
he's got a record.

HIGGINS
Go. OUT.

MASTER LEGEND
(to Cody)
You stay where you are.

INT. POLICE CAR - DAY

Down the block from the Slice of Heaven.

Master Legend sits in the back. Higgins sits in front with
the IRON FIST.

MASTER LEGEND
I can replace the window. It's a
simple job. The table too. I'll do
it.

HIGGINS
What's this metal hand thing? If he
wants to press charges -- this's
assault with a deadly weapon. You'd
be fudged, Master Legend.

MASTER LEGEND
Those girls are under age. That
man's a SLUG.

HIGGINS
It may not look right, but there's
no proof they're doing anything
illegal.

MASTER LEGEND
There's the law, and there's true
justice.

HIGGINS
Yeah, I know. But, you're not
getting the hand back.

MASTER LEGEND
Higgins, please --

HIGGINS
No can do.

Ashleigh, Slug, and his Buddies walk out, get into the Jeep,
and drive off.

HIGGINS (CONT'D)
Alright. Exit the vehicle.

Higgins watches as Master Legend walks away, heartbroken. He
picks up the Iron Fist and takes a practice swing.

HIGGINS (CONT'D)
Woosh.

INT. JUSTICE VAN - LATER

Master Legend drives. Cody looks out the window.

MASTER LEGEND
If you wanna drink beer --

CODY
Stop talking.

MASTER LEGEND
All I'm saying is, there's a way to
drink beer, and a way not to.

CODY
You're a piece of shit.

Master Legend swallows the insult.

MASTER LEGEND
Well, you can still be a piece of
stuff and do something good in the
world.

Cody scowls.

CODY
I'm starving.

Master Legend makes a hard left. Cody closes her eyes.

INT. TANA'S HOUSE - EVENING

Tana thumbs through a stack of BILLS. Not good.

Master Legend enters with a bag of groceries, still in Battle Gear. Cody walks to her room, slams the door.

TANA
Where you been?

MASTER LEGEND
I'd really just like to make us
some dinner.

Tana looks at him hard. She can tell he's had a rough day.

INT. TANA'S HOUSE - CODY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cody jams her desk chair under the door knob, locking it.

From her backpack she pulls a GOLD EMBROIDERED WALLET with SLUG'S ID. She studies his face.

She finds an old RAINBOW SOCK OUT in her dresser. From it, she pulls a LARGE ROLL OF CASH. She adds Slug's cash -- and stashes it.

INT. TANA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Tana, Cody, and Master Legend eat jambalaya in silence.

Master Legend takes his plate to the sink. He takes his last few dollars and slides it under Tana's STACK OF BILLS.

Tana pretends not to see.

EXT. TANA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tana and Master Legend exit the house.

He pulls her into his arms. She leans in. It feels amazing.

TANA
I just want Frank. Can I just have
Frank?

He says nothing. She pulls herself away. Tana goes left. Master Legend goes right.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Tana wears an orange vest and waves cars into the lot. The second work day has started.

Larry approaches with two cups of coffee. A lump forms in her throat.

EXT. THE VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT

Weekend in Vegas. Neon. Skin. Sweat. The threat of violence.

Master Legend marches through, dressed in BATTLE GEAR.

In quick montage, he greets the crowd, poses for a picture, and flirts. Over and over, he gives the same greeting: "Master Legend, real live superhero."

The back of THE JUSTICE VAN is open and Master Legend hands BROWN PAPER BAGS to HOMELESS PEOPLE.

A HOMELESS MAN looks inside: Soap, toothbrush, a bottle of water, a few candy bars. He hugs Master Legend.

Master Legend pulls a couple cold ones out of a cooler. He finishes one, then the other.

Master Legend patrols alone. Higgins cruises by in his COP CAR. Master Legend salutes him. Higgins waves back.

The neon lights wink and shimmer in the desert dark. Master Legend looks up -- the lights coalesce into a PHOENIX.

INT. STORAGE UNIT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

The new coffee maker beeps -- but no coffee, just hot water.

Master Legend stands naked with his feet in a COOLER, under a bucket which is hanging from the ceiling. A nozzle is attached to the bottom of the bucket.

Master Legend pours in the hot water, and takes a very short but very satisfying hot shower. He grabs a beer, swigs it.

Slowly, we PULL BACK, out of the STORAGE UNIT.

EXT. STORAGE UNIT - DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

PEANUT HEAD comes around the corner, leading SLUG, bloodied and handcuffed.

They move slowly toward Master Legend's door.