

HH

ANI & BRADEN & TEAM

OR SO THEY THINK

25c 1981

VENICES MIGHTIEST HEROES!

TV'S NEW HERO



THE BATTLE AGAINST
THE EVIL OF THE...
DARK SHADOW

HIDDEN HEROES

DON'T REMOVE FROM PLASIC

HIDDEN HEROES

v05

Story & Characters by Ani + Braden

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

22+ Minutes, 11+ Episodes, (Action, Comedic - Sci-Fi) 1

Our HIDDEN HEROES... 1

The Question

Our Setting: Venice Beach California 4

Our Story Starts Up...

Mystery / Suspense / Comedic 9

Structure

Icon / Branding 11

Tone, Our Style...

Our Rules.. 12

Super People 13

Comedy & Mystery

COMEDY & MYSTERY 15

REAL PEOPLE

Comedic / (not so) Super Powers 18

Potential

No Longer Hidden Heroes

Back Cover 20

INTRODUCTION

22+ MINUTES, 11+ EPISODES, (ACTION, COMEDIC - SCI-FI)

SUPERMAN

BATMAN

THOR

CAPTAIN AMERICA

IRON MAN, and

That **BLUE DUDE** with an infinity-stone glued to his forehead.

Have you met any gods from above?

Billionaires with the will to save us from muggers?

Do you think heroes would look & dress like that?

Do you think any would help given half the chance?

Are you expecting one soon?

'No' --*not holding your breath.* Neither are we...

Our HIDDEN HEROES...

is about us. Real people, doing the things we all dream of doing. Fighting the impossible fight, righting wrongs, leaving our world a better place than when we arrived. H.H. isn't about gods battling other malevolent gods, while we mere-mortals look up to them.

Rather it's a show about people like us, "*do'n the right thing,*" or at least trying.

This isn't a show about what super heroes do, rather about the way the we become heroes. How we perceive and deal with the world crumbling around us. It's about confronting real obstacles that life throws at us. Some are simple, some not so simple, but always with comedic outcomes. E.g. "**Shut-up crime!**" More on that later...

Ostensibly about super crime-fighters, yet at the show's root It's about perception...



THE QUESTION

...More precisely, it's a show about misperception. The age-old, belief verses knowledge question. Our heroes, **Jack & Christy's** judgment is skewed. They want to *do the right thing* but aren't willing to think the problem through. The comedic result is their good-deeds are punished usually by the situation blowing up in their faces, literally.

Misperception is the main arc for season one. It will take us all the way to the final episode. However, each episode shell be self-contained with its own mini-arc. Which will be theme derived; and will force our heroes to grow, thereby enabling them to unravel the main show dilemma. To defeat the Villain of Venice Beach, **The Dark Shadow**.

For the audience, the fundamental question of our show is: Does Jack and Christy really have super powers or are they delusional? This is the **truth** or **lie**, our entire season narrative-spine pivots on. We will leave this question unanswered until the last episode; and still the question will hang in the audiences' mind. Each show will swing one way then the other. In the end, we will answer the question, but its an unexpected one. The reality or unreality doesn't matter, it's more about the journey of discovery.

Our **Spoiler**: Only when Jack & Chris are in harmony do their powers raise to superhero levels. The reverse is also true: discord nullifies their power. Which is the norm, until episode 7. Lots of hints along the way, though.

Pilot quote: JACK *"I'm just a real-boy, no imaginary powers, Doctor."*

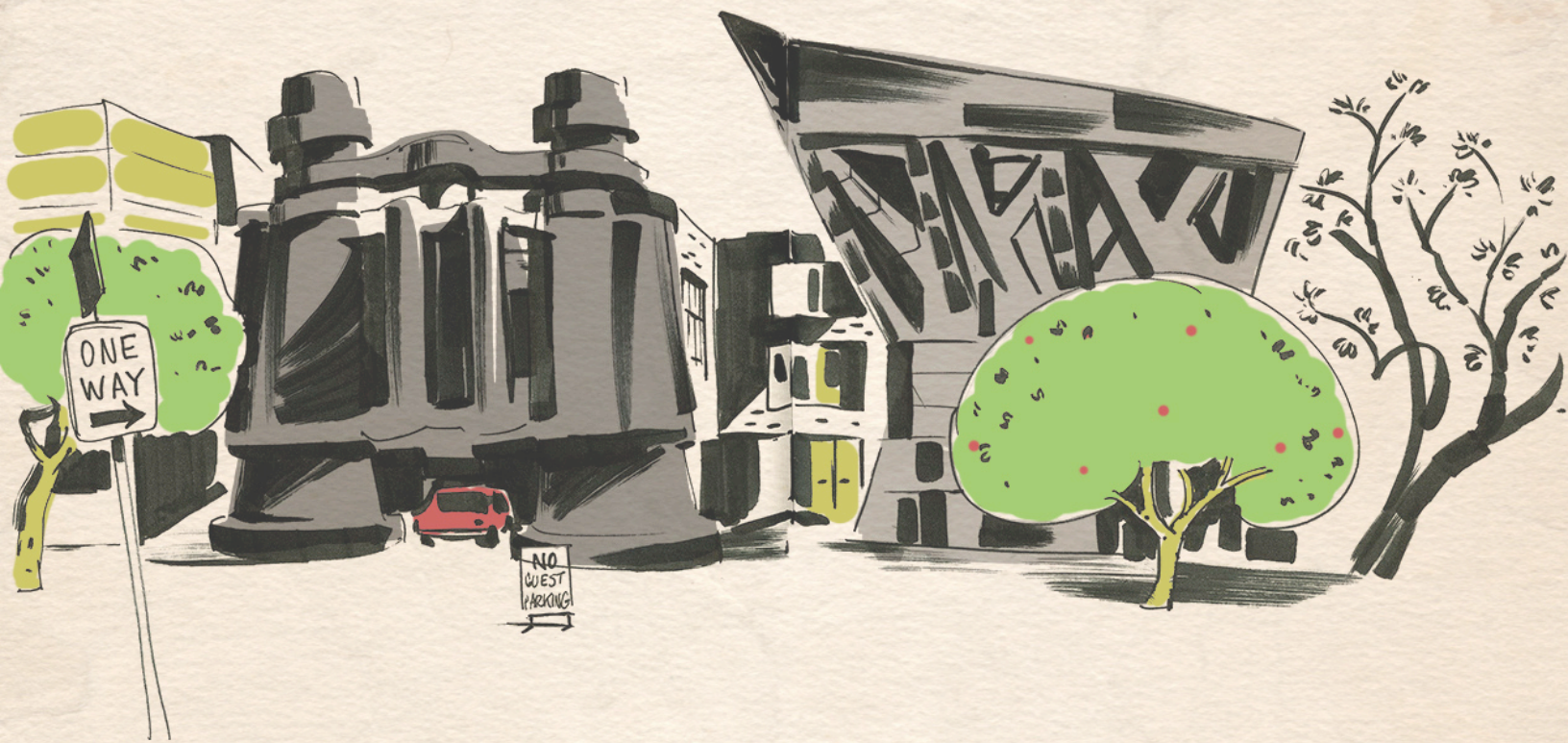
NOTE
A LIVE ACTION
INCREDIBLES

NOTE
ROMEO JULIET ISNT A LOVE STORY
AS MUCH AS ITS ABOUT FATE. AND
FATE IS KEEPING JACK CHRISTY
APART.

NOTE
IN THE END,
PERCEPTION CREATES
REALITY.



Our Setting: Venice Beach California



OUR STORY STARTS UP...

On LA's tallest building. A vision of an expected SUPER HERO, (Sure why not) then the unexpected, as he trips & FALLS over the edge of the high-rise. As he plummets towards the ground we jump into **Act One**. We meet our hero, young JACK, as he first receives his super powers; *well, so he thinks*. We see little Jack probe his new capabilities, that's until they backfire on him. Jack learns to hide his powers. That is up to the point that he must save his older brother from an icy death. Yet, Jack is blamed for the accident.

In the end of **Act One**, Jack's parents place him with a child psychologist. Jump Twenty years later, he is still in treatment. Now Jack's life revolves around his fiancé, Beverly. Unfortunately, she takes him to Dumpsville, population: Jack. Moving into **Act Two**:

A devastated Jack comes up with a hair-brained idea to get Beverly back. He will use his Super Powers to fight venice street-crime, dazzling her once more. Jack adds injury to insult when he finds his powers are absent. He receives several generous beatings. Thank the stars, (spinning around Jack's head), he is saved by a mysterious woman who dispatches the street-bandits. Jack is too Dazed & Confused to see who saved him. He calls out "Beverly?!" --*No Jack, it's not her.* 😬

While recovering Jack meets some new friends, including Christy (Chris) who is Beverly's polar-opposite. Jack is drawn to Chris; perhaps sensing under her sweet southern girly exterior she is as damaged as he is. Possibly a bit dangerous. Jack and Chris uncover a company plot, dumping toxic chemicals into the L.A. river. They decide to join forces, & report the crime to police. Only to find that the detective so willing to help them is one of the conspirators. --Oh shit. At Chris's prompting, Jack takes matters into his own hands and receives another beating at the hands of the Chemical Villains.

Act Three opens with what looks like Jack as a Super Hero fighting against several Henchman with ease, power and perfection. --WOW That's when the Super Villain rises up. We'll call him, "The Annihilator!" He is right behind the Hero. *-Could this be the end of the Hero?!* --Thankfully, No! Out of nowhere appears a Super Hot Heroine. She annihilates The Annihilator in one flawless strike. To the Hero, "Sorry honey, but traffic was a bitch." Smashing the forth-wall, she turns to the...

Camera and ask “*WHAT WILL YOU DO TO FIGHT EVIL, JACK?* ---Smash. It was just a movie. Jack is alone in a theater, transfixed by the hackney film. Later at home:

Jack asks for help from God. He falls asleep in his bathtub, dreams, or perhaps has a vision. (who can say) We go to the flashback when we saw him as a young boy. He discovers his buried truth: that his brother Mike drowned. Little Jack was not able to save him. Now we get why Jack has been in treatment for so many years. Welcome to denial. We end the pilot on the Super Hero still falling. As he tells us a quote from Douglas Adams, “The trick, or knack of flight...!” --**We END Pilot Here.** (+)

EP 2: A **Shadowy** figure watches Jack through his window. Jack experiments with several costumes to hide his identity. He fails to make anything that’s not comically ridiculous. He settles on a simple approach. That night Jack returns Ms. Pinsky’s proper pink purse. Afterwards, Jack in his new outfit prevents a liquor store robbery. Only to find out it was a student film shoot. He runs out and literally runs into the mysterious masked-woman we met in the pilot. As they SMASH into each other a wave of power is released. That night, Sad Jack makes the 5 o'clock news; he has become the joke of Venice Beach. The Chemical Villains are inadvertently caught on the same footage. The **Shadowy** man still watching Jack, waiting, biding, baiting his time. (-)

Arcing over the first episodes Jack calls himself **Cupid Man**, (CM) however ‘fans’ miss read his logo as “Stupid Man.” By the end of season one, Jack embraces this distinction in the same way as his name Jack Kass is painfully confused.

EP 3: The City is going to cut down the oldest tree in Venice. Chris chains herself to it. Jack promises to help her but get suck working with his best friend **Link**, the slowest cashier in Venice. Jack appears at the last moment, the tree is saved. A limo appears, an obscured voice orders, “*Fine, then cut the rest down, leave that one! We’ll Call it “giving-a-shit tree!”* Jack & Chris save all the trees but at great cost. (-)

EP 4: Jack gets in trouble. He is cooling his heels in a cell in the center of the police headquarters. Times running out: **Sheriff Chuck** is about to search his bag containing his SUPER-SUIT. Out of options, he calls Chris. Wacky events rain down, the two get off scottfree. The Sheriff finds a part of Jack’s suit. Jack discovers that the “mysterious woman” calls herself **CRAZY GIRL**. (CG) He doesn't like her, not one bit. (+)

EP 5: Masked Jack is duped by bank robbers. They get him to play the part of a distraction as they make off with the loot. Luckily Crazy Girl has been playing the robbers the whole time; they're captured. While the heroes argue about who should turn the robbers in, the crooks sneak away. During his hunt for the owner of the super-suit, Sheriff Chuck catches the robbers as they try to escape. CG & CM are safe for the time being; but Chuck isn't giving up, his pursuit intensifies. (-)

EP 6: Jack & Chris face a new threat. The **Shadowy Man** (We'll call him **The Dark Shadow**) is pissed about how his robbers got pinched. Our Heroes self-question about power, if its only in their heads. Strange occurrences take place almost 'outing' the secret identity of both CG & CM. (+)

EP 7: Jack and Chris go back to where it all started. We meet little-Jack again with his brother, 'Mike the Prodigy' (vanished underwater, the brother Jack couldn't save.) Next, We meet Chris who's a self-absorbed teen who makes a bad-call and loses everything. Meanwhile, The Dark Shadow & Chuck are closing in. [*yes-yes, this is a **flashback** episode, shut up!*] (SPOILER: Mike the Prodigy is the real Dark Shadow, the man behind the man. (-)

EP 8: A Dark & Hungry God Arises. CG and CM come face to face, a Super-battle ensues. It turns out to be a trap set by The Dark Shadow. A narrow escape, but they know there's a real villain after them. They almost learn each other secret identity. (+)

EP 9: Jack and Chris decide to 'lay-low' and plan things for once. Unfortunately, **Nallabu** has disappeared. They think its The Dark Shadow. A failed search. With all hope lost they go to Santa Monica Pier to throw a reef in the water. They see Nallabu dancing to Abba, while a homeless-man collects coins for the dogs performance. They try to help the drifter, but in an unexpected way he helps them. (-)

Arcing over the last few episodes we realize that the Falling Hero from the pilot's Cold Open is a wiser, and yes, an older Jack. The only question is how is he to survive?

EP 10: CG and CM befriend Sheriff Chuck that's been on their tail since day-one. Chuck knows of The Dark Shadow, but no one believes him. Jack & Chris almost kiss, almost. The Tagger (from EP one) has turned to a life of crime. (+)

EP 11: CG & CM showdown with Dark Shadow only to find he's Jack's therapist, Dr. Curtis. (Dr, Killjoy) CG & CM have finally come together, their power is in full-force.

Dark Shadow chips away at their armor by telling, he's been playing them since the beginning. All of Dark Shadow's gang attacks. A 4.4 earthquake saves them, (did they cause the earthquake or is this more odd fate?!) Dark Shadow falls to the edge of the building. CG & CM reach to save him but he plummets in true *Die Hard* form. CG & CM & Sheriff Chuck look for him but his body is nowhere to be found. **Denouement:** We see a caste-covered (in traction) Dr. Curtis talking to the real ***Dark'er'er Shadow***, (Suggest 'Mike the Prodigy' has become 'Mike the SuperVillain') "*you have failed me for the last*" --a SNAP-CRACK echoes!

1. **OVER CREDITS**, we see our Falling HERO heading for the concrete. When out of nowhere, in a Spider'wo'man fashion Crazy Girl swings into frame: saving him at the last fraction of a second. (+)

2. **OVER CREDITS**, we see the biggest-baddest gang member waiting in Chris's bathroom. Nallabu wonders in: door slams: CRASH BANG, SMASH! Just Nallabu comes out. Perhaps only the dog has super-powers?! (+ / -)

The final episode might be two parts or one hour, wait that's the same thing! --*Shut-up*. Are you asking what the (+) or (-) means? Well + means the show ends suggesting to the audience that 'Yes' they have real power, and the - mean they don't or it's left in doubt. And (+ / -) a bit of both!

We love the heart of Bill Bixby's...

BILL BIXBY

LOU FERRIGNO

THE DEATH OF THE INCREDIBLE

HULK



STRUCTURE

Hidden Heroes is a half hour long live-action comedic science-fiction show, yes. However, each 30 minute segment will revolve around one THEME that will ring true.

SHOW OPEN

Not unlike the *The Last Man on Earth*, we use this time to setup (1:00 to 1:45 second) an intro to the backstory / credits and setup the show. After that: each 20 minute segment must include...

ACT 1:

Characters in a state of imbalance, define a clear conflict (Internal or External). Define a goal. e.g: wants something, needs something, or is denied something. Less than 25% (about 6 minutes)

ACT 2:

An adventure to solve the goal. Starts small, yet each attempt escalates the problem towards climax. 50% of the show (about 14 minutes)

ACT 3:

Story Climax. Characters solve problem, and are returned to a new state of balance with the conflict resolved. denouement will be a hook to the next episode. Less than 25% (about 6 minutes)

A MAJOR THING:

In our show, conflict is caused by whatever THEME is defined. It could be anything of contemporary meaning: e.g. loneliness, being misunderstood, feel'n like the outsider, etc. Today's society has no shortage of themes that cause tension.

Episodes will be 22/30 minute segments. We deliberately wish to avoid writing a hour show. Thirty minutes feels right for the ideas we wish to tackle. Add to this that 30 minute segments will take a lot less than the normal production cycle. Our first three seasons we'll produce ten 22 minutes episodes, depending on how you like to calculate it.



TONE, OUR STYLE...

...will be bright, cinematic, complex yet not busy; it should feel that we shot on film. Staging and blocking must be dynamic in keeping with an action film, however framing should be loose to allow comedic moments to unfold organically. Camera always *on-the-move*, without being shaky or distracting.

Hidden Heroes, should be timeless; yet, we like the feel of 80s shows. *Greatest American Hero*, *The Incredible Hulk*, & *The Fall Guy* should be considered as a reference of nostalgic retro tone, less the weak production value, please.

Tone in writing will be emotional yet in the end covered up by a joke. This keeps the show light and enjoyable even when touching on dark issues. i.e. *The Last Man on Earth* does this well even though the subject is the mass-extinction of humanity.

Soundtrack's job-one is to forward the story. Using clips of music that capture the heroes point-of-view at that moment. Sound & music must never be used as a spacer / filler. We don't want the composer's work sounding like they fell asleep on their synthesizer. Sorry Hans Zimmer.

Our Rules..

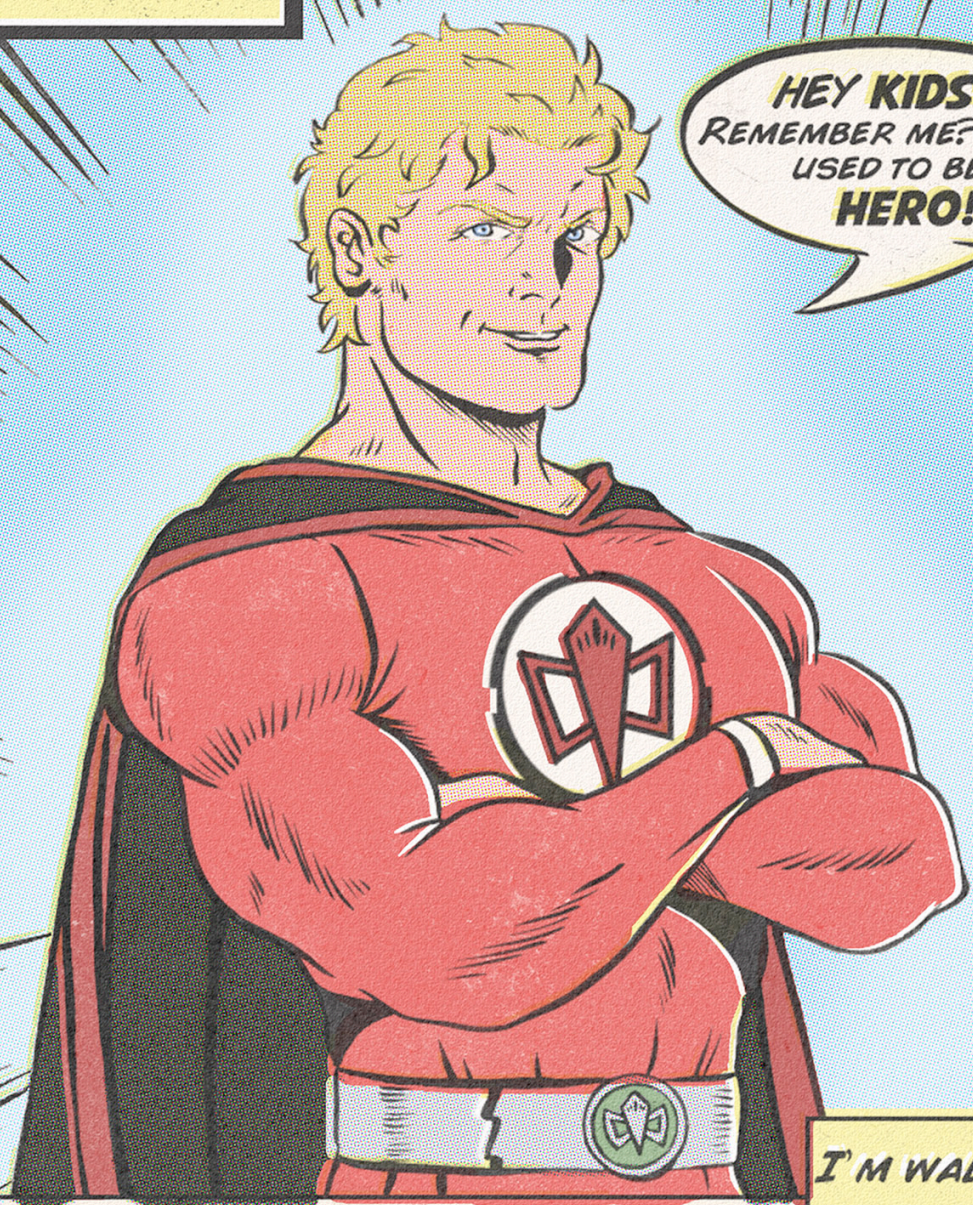
Amusing, light, focused on real-people (not characters, characters are characterizations of people, so by definition not truthful.) H.H. will bring us back to the love of those 80s shows we feel such nostalgic for; without the formulaic clichés or low production value.

Our show will be episodic, nonprocedural comedic drama. However shows must be standalone (mini) arcs, a beginning, middle, end, with a hook to next episode. Structure exegesis right after our first show. Enjoy...

Great American Hero... Believe it or not...

BELIEVE IT OR NOT...

HEY KIDS!
REMEMBER ME? I ALSO
USED TO BE A
HERO!!



I'M WALKING ON **AIR!**



COMEDY & MYSTERY

Comedy must be at the heart of HH. We will touch on important themes, yet the outcome will be played for laughter. Without comedy, we would be facing the barrel of preachy melodrama.

The types of comedy we see as fitting and that will draw from include Alternative to Word-Wit, yes, A to Z, however we will avoid: pop (topical), and Insult comedy. Cringe comedy will be used only as it relates to character-comedy and very seldom.

Mystery will be both internal to heroes and external to the plot. Mystery is a wonderful way to move our heroes through both personal and story arcs. Some include...

Does Jack & Chris really have super powers or not? Why do they fail?

Who is Dark Shadow, what bug crawled up his ass?

Do other characters in the show have super powers. "Yes," Season Two.

What lies are Jack and Chris holding, especially from each other?

Will Jack & Chris romance ever begin?

---Or are they Sam & Diana. What's keeping them apart?

We love the retro feel, & it doesn't take much time for Venice Beach street artist to capture the our Hero, while not missing the opportunity to **FUCK** with him...



REAL PEOPLE

JACK KASS

30s, Dorky, tries to be hip, never succeeds. Being smooth isn't his strength. He's clumsy. Off-beat jokes are his go-to. Fails with the girls that enter his life. Struggles at whatever he tries. A bit of a jerk, but a lovable jerk. Since childhood Jack believes he has super powers. On his 30th B-Day he suits-up and becomes **CUPID MAN**. (Unclear suit design confuses his name for Stupid Man.) After years of psychological treatment of relating fears, fantasies & adventures. Jack will face real adventures, evil villains with the help of his friend Chris, will discover power and internal strength he didn't know he had. He might even get the girl!/? As **CUPID MAN** (aka STUPID MAN) Jack's smooth, strong, confident & articulate. Sharp as a knife, he laughs in danger's face. Well, at least he thinks so?! (Captain Hammer type)

CHRISTY DEL REY (Chris for short)

30s. Raised to be a lady. Dresses sweet & soft, a **PINK** ribbon in the hair, the girl you wanna take home. But hang on, look into her eyes, you'll see the contradiction boiling below the surface: Soft & Strong. Forgiving yet quick to anger. Fragile but with internal power to save her whole city. She'll find herself facing her dark-side, & she will be both thrilled & terrified by it. In the beginning she truly hates: **CRAZY GIRL**. This person is not the kind, she was raised to respect. Arcing over the first season, she finds CG to be like a drug, she wants to be the monster more & more. The only thing she hates more than becoming CG is Cupid Man, she calls him, "*egotistical male chauvinist super dick!*" This is ironic since she finds Jack to be a warm & charming man, in his own weird way. (She's Catwoman wrapped in Shirley Temple's **PINK** ribbon)

SHERIFF CHUCK CHEVAPRAVATDUMRONG, 55, Sheriff Chuck, half Thai, half American. A hard-boiled cop with a *heart of 'mold.'* On the hunt for the "*vigilante criminals!*" yet as we move through the show, he is the only one that believes there is a 'Dark Shadow.' --Chuck will have to face: "*It's not the ends justifying means, but the creation of new means & new ends.*" Word to the wise kiddo don't mispronounce his name.

LINK REYNOLDS

Link, 35, a cashier. *"The slowest in the West."* His speech matches it - always has things to say, or 8-bit wisdoms. Arcing over the first season, he becomes the **BLACK FLASH**. Hinting that his talent for speed & wisdom will bind the Hidden Heroes together. He will become the moral compass: *"Whatever you do, do it well."*

DOCTOR CURTIS (Jack's Therapist)

60s, Deep accent makes Jack smile, but don't be fooled by his classic English-gentleman mantle, Doc Curtis has ulterior motives, he's been pushing Jack into imbalance between believing he's delusional & tapping into his hidden power, if any. Doc Curtis has two sides, he truly loves the boy, but as **THE DARK SHADOW** wants to manipulate & use him for his own ends. He's Dr. Jekyll but take a look into those smart eyes & see Mr. Hyde waiting to strike. Curtis as the...

DARK SHADOW...

Is taking over the city. We don't meet him till episode **FIVE**, but we see his effects & hear about him, à la Marsellus Wallace. A dark fog that over-comes the city. --literally. But it is a force much stronger with hands gripped on the metropolis. In the end, we will feel it's "The eyes in the sky." The overall movement of complete disaster; and in later seasons the world. Fueled by greed. It's never enough, and its never ending.

NALLABU (Chris' Therapist in the shape of a little white dog)

A walking muppet. Pure love exuding from her. Always has a smile on her face. (If dogs could smile, she would) Can't help to dance to the beats of ABBA. But watch out, like all our people, she has hidden powers; meet **WONDER PUP**, she's full of surprises.

We shall expand the group of Heroes once CM & CG breakdown the walls....
It's fine to be different, maybe even better!

Comedic / (not so) Super Powers



POTENTIAL

Hidden Heroes will be built on levels. Level one is coming to grips with both raw power and a lack of power. The lies we tell ourself & others must come into the light. In a nutshell, season one is a realtime origin-story (yes I know, it's an oxymoron, but so are we all.)

LEVEL TWO is about raising the stakes, now that CG & CM are outed they will have to face real super villains. Which is overwhelming until they realize they aren't alone.

Subsequent seasons will both expand the world and the hidden heroes in all of us.

Yes, We all have **HIDDEN HEROES** inside, waiting to come out. --*Giggity-Giggity*

Thanks for reading, guys. Lets save the day. SUPERMAN, BATMAN, THOR, CAPTAIN AMERICA & IRON MAN are late for the party.

No Longer Hidden Heroes



HIDDEN HEROES WILL RETURN,
THIS TIME TO SAVE US ALL!