

Superhero Debate

by

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INT. COMIC BOOK STORE - DAY

CHARACTERS:

ALEX: An enthusiastic comic book nerd who is powerless

SAM: A less enthusiastic comic book nerd who is equally powerless.

Cuts to:

SAM

Forget it, it's too dangerous. Im not going through with that shit.

ALEX

C'mon man. You say the same shit everytime! "Im through with you", "never again", "its too dangerous".

SAM

Yeah, and im always right too.

ALEX

But you're still here arent you? You still go along with it.

SAM

Yeah well, my days of going along with it are over, and my days of going AGAINST it have just began.

ALEX

You know what you sound like right now?

SAM

A guy who has a brain, is what I sound like.

ALEX

You sound like a bitch.

SAM

Yeah well, I'd take that over being DEAD any day.

ALEX

But like, think about it, I mean REALLY think about it. We could be heroes, man. Superheroes!

SAM

No we can't! Thats the dumbest shit I've ever heard, and you say a lot of dumb shit.

ALEX

Man, why the hell not?! We've always fantasised about it since we
(MORE)

ALEX (cont'd)
were kids, so why not actually do it?

SAM
Because, Al, its impossible. We don't have any powers.

ALEX
So?

SAM
So you can't be a SUPER hero without SUPER powers.

ALEX
Man, who's to say we can't? Batman doesn't have any super powers.

SAM
Batman's also a billionaire with high tech gadgets. You're a regular guy who works at a comic book store and has student debts.

ALEX
Rorscach's broke as shit, he still fights crime. And with home-made gadgets too.

SAM
Rorscach's a brawler, dumbass. You haven't even been in a fight.

ALEX
But thats the beauty of it! We could learn!

SAM
STOP SAYING "WE"!!!

ALEX
I mean, everyone has to start somewhere. You think Peter Parker got bit by the spider and beat The Chameleon the next day? He didn't. We just need an origin story.

SAM
What you NEED, is to lay of the damn comics and start thinking realistically.

ALEX
Man think about it, don't you wanna make a difference? Like a REAL one? You get your ass beat everyday out there, don't you wanna prevent that from happening to others?

Sam sits up straight and points at Alex sternly

SAM

Now thats too far...

Alex pauses

ALEX

Youre right, I'm sorry. But I'm serious, man. The world's a messed up place right now. And it's not getting any better. You know, you look around and it seems the world has too many problems for one person to solve. But what if I told you, that we had the potential to change things for the better?

SAM

I'd say pull your head out of your ass. Its not so simple.

ALEX

I'm not saying that it'll be simple, I'm saying that its possible. Being a hero isn't about having powers. It's having an ordinary person choose to do an extraordinary thing. It's about being someone who refuses to stand by when they see shit go down. Being someone who steps up to protect the vulnerable, someone who embodies the values of courage, compassion, selflessness...

Sam loosens up

ALEX

Being a hero doesnt mean shooting lasers from your eyes, or running faster than the speed of light. It means making a choice. A choice to lend a helping hand to those in need. To be a beacon of light in a dark tunnel. Its about doing whatever you can to make the world a better place. THAT, is what a superhero is. And man, we can be superheroes.

Sam pauses

SAM

Look, I appreciate the enthusiasm. I really do. I would love nothing more than to become what we read about in these books. And in a

(MORE)

SAM (cont'd)

perfect world, we could be. But this isn't a perfect world. Its far from it. Shit like crime and evil..they've been apart of the human experience since the very beginning. It's harsh, but it's the truth. No matter what you do, no matter how hard you try to prevent it, it'll never truly go away... evil will always exist in some form. It'll just find new ways to manifest itself the more we try to stomp it out. It's just not worth putting yourself in danger for.

Alex is silent

SAM

Look, being a hero isn't as straight forward as you think. We've read about this shit enough to know that you'd have to be making the hard choices. Sometimes you cant save everyone. Shit like that will mess you up.

ALEX

(sighs)

Yeah...guess you're right...

SAM

For now, how about we leave to the guys without capes or masks.

ALEX

Yeah...

Alex and Sam go back to reading their comic book, before Sam eventually leaves the store. Alex goes back to work