

BIRTH OF A HERO (RADIO PLAY)

Written by
Kris Thompson

Kris Thompson
1710 S. Main Street
Georgetown, TX 78626
281-253-3488
kriskt@outlook.com

CAST LIST (please double cast as necessary)

RANDY STONE (30's) Gay, Male, mild-mannered computer programmer, applying to be a superhero

B.A. (50s-60's) Retired female superhero, owns talent agency that specializes in superheroes which are, of course, totally real

BREN (20's) Bored non-binary agency receptionist, New Jersey accent, chews gum

RAINBOW MAN (40's) Unappreciated male superhero

TWIN #1 (20's) Female sidekick (can be played by BREN)

TWIN #2 (20's) Female sidekick (can be played by RAINBOW MAN)

SCENE (1) INTERIOR OFFICE OF B.A. HERO TALENT AGENCY

FX: FRONT DOOR OPENING & CLOSING

BREN

(bored) Welcome to the B.A. Hero Talent Agency. It's a great day to be a hero. I'm Bren. How can I help you?

RANDY

Hi. I'm Randy Stone. I'm here to submit an application.

BREN

An application for...

RANDY

To be a superhero? Isn't that what you do here?

BREN

It's been slow. We recently branched out into construction and entertainment. Can you hold a tune?

RANDY

I'd only be interested in the superhero side of things.

BREN

Figures. (shouting) B.A.! Superhero client!

FX: DOOR OPENING

BREN

B.A. this is Randy Stone.

B.A.

Hello Mr. Stone.

RANDY

Nice to meet you. Wait. I recognize you! You're Beautiful Avenger! So that's what the B.A. stands for.

B.A.

Perceptive, this one.

RANDY

You were one of my childhood heroes. The way you could climb buildings. And spit fire! But I thought you died fighting that government villain, Taxusmorphus?

B.A.

Taxusmorphus was but a pimple on the face of society and easily defeated. No, I actually took early retirement and used my 401K to start this agency. Mr. Stone, step into my office. Bren, hold my calls.

SCENE (2) B.A.'S PRIVATE OFFICE-IMMEDIATELY AFTER

FX: DOOR CLOSING

B.A.

So, Mr. Stone, tell me why you want to be a superhero.

RANDY

I've always dreamt of being a superhero. I grew up reading comics about the old superheroes. You know, Superman, Batman, Spiderman. As I got older, new superheroes were always in the news. You, Ball Buster, BAM, Flower Girl, Little Big Man-

B.A.

So, you want to be in the news. Listen, there's more to it than-

RANDY

Oh, I don't care about publicity. I want to help people. I want to make a difference.

B.A.

Alright. Tell me about yourself.

RANDY

I'm 32. I'm a programmer for-

B.A.

Any family?

RANDY

My parents just moved to Florida and I have a brother in upstate New York. I've been married for three years and-

B.A.

Married? Too bad. Well, describe your superpowers.

RANDY

I can fly!

B.A.

(unimpressed) Really. Anything else?

RANDY

Superhuman strength. Cars, buildings, trains.

B.A.

Let me be honest. You're a young non-descript male with super strength. You can fly. That describes 95 percent of people who walk through my door. The public is looking for something new, something unique.

RANDY

Oh.

B.A.

Don't get me wrong. You're good looking and articulate. That works well, despite your lackluster superpowers. Back in the day you would have been a shoo-in. But in the here and now you're a white guy, which is nothing new, and married, which is boring.

RANDY

I really don't see how my marital status relates to-

B.A.

Perception is everything. How the public sees you. How relatable you are. If you're going to get anything done as a superhero, you must have an adoring fanbase in order to get representation, endorsements, liability insurance-

FX: QUICK KNOCK AND DOOR OPENING

B.A.

Bren! I'm in the middle of an interview!

BREN

I know! But I have Mr. Stone's resume!

FX: PAPERS RUSTLING

RANDY

Wait. I didn't bring a resume. Your website said-

B.A.

Bren, you know I don't give two squats about resumes.

BREN

I know! But his husband delivered it!

B.A. (excited)

Your husband?

RANDY

He must have thought I forgot it. Sweet guy.

FX: OFF-OFFICE PHONE RINGING

BREN

Back to the salt mines.

FX: DOOR CLOSING

B.A.

Randy, why didn't you tell me you're gay? This changes everything! Our agency's first gay superhero! It's timely. It's hip. It's totally relatable. It's perfect!

RANDY

Excuse me?

B.A.

The world is clamoring for LGBTQ superheroes. So many possibilities. Your superhero name, for instance. (wistful) By what name will the world know you?

RANDY

I was thinking Power House.

B.A.

No, no, no. We'll need to play up the gay aspect.
Something like Homo Man!

RANDY (mortified)

Homo Man? No!

B.A.

How about...The Gay-A-Nater.

RANDY

What? That makes it sound like I have the power to
make people gay.

B.A.

Do you?

RANDY

Of course not!

B.A.

Well, we can't help what people read into a name now
can we? The Gay-A-Nater.

RANDY

Absolutely not!

B.A.

No? How about Agent Queen?

RANDY

That is extremely insulting!

B.A.

Captain Gayhab?

RANDY

What is wrong with you?

B.A.

Too much? OK. Maybe something simple. Gay Man.

RANDY

I really don't think-

B.A.

And the costumes. I'm thinking a rainbow cape.
(yelling) Bren! Send in Rainbow Man!

RANDY

Rainbow Man? I've never heard of him.

B.A.

One of my early recruits. (wistfully) I really thought there would be more of a demand for rainbows.

FX: QUICK KNOCK ON THE DOOR & DOOR OPENING

BREN

Presenting Rainbow Man!

FX: DOOR CLOSING

RANDY

Wow! That is some outfit. Like a rainbow explosion.

RAINBOW MAN

Boss! Do you finally have an assignment for me? Just tell me where you need a rainbow!

B.A.

Sorry George. I'm afraid I'm retiring you. I need the costume for our first gay superhero!

RAINBOW MAN

What? This guy?

RANDY

Nice to meet you, Rainbow Man. I'm-

RAINBOW MAN

I can be gay!

B.A.

I'm almost positive you can't just decide to be gay, George.

RAINBOW MAN

What am I going to tell the wife?

B.A.

George, before you go...

RAINBOW MAN

Yea?

B.A.

The cape?

RAINBOW MAN

Really? Alright. Here. Take the cape.

FX: FABRIC RUSTLING

RAINBOW MAN (Cont)

I'll go clear out my locker.

B.A.

George?

RAINBOW MAN

Yea?

B.A.

The applique?

RAINBOW MAN

(gasps) Not my rainbow!

B.A.

Technically, it belongs to the agency.

RAINBOW MAN

Fine!

FX: VELCRO RIPPING

RAINBOW MAN

Here! Take my rainbow. Happy? Now, I'm leaving before you take my dignity too!

B.A.

Oh George?

RAINBOW MAN

What!?!

B.A.

The tights?

RAINBOW MAN

And...so goes the dignity.

RANDY

Woah! Stop right there. Pull 'em back up big fella.
I'll get my own tights.

RAINBOW MAN

What? Don't want to see what's at the end of my
rainbow? Makes me wonder if you're really even gay!

FX: DOOR OPENING & SLAMMING

RANDY

I feel so bad.

B.A.

Forget him. Let's get this rainbow cape on you.

FX: FABRIC RUSTLING

There. That looks great! And here's your rainbow
applique. Whoops. Not sticking. Guess you'll need
some Velcro. Now, what else? Ohhh! Sidekicks! You
want one or two?

RANDY

(confused) Two? Sidekicks?

B.A.

Right! Go big or go home. (shouting) Bren! Send in
the twins! (to RANDY) The most versatile sidekick
team on the market.

FX: DOOR OPENING

BREN

Presenting, The Twins.

FX: DOOR CLOSING

TWIN #1 & TWIN #2

(singing to the tune of The BEATLES "Birthday" or other tune)

You say you're a gay man!
Well, we can be gay too!
They say you're a gay man!
We're gonna be so gay with you!

RANDY

Oh. My. God.

B.A.

I know, right! How's this sound? Gay Man and the
Lebitian (pronounce la-bee-shin) Twins!

TWIN #1

Sweet!

TWIN #2

Awesome!

RANDY

You can't be serious!

B.A.

No? OK, how about Homo Man and the Dyke-Namic Duo!

RANDY

Unbelievable!

B.A.

It's like dynamic but instead it's dyke-namic. Get
it?

TWIN #1

Clever!

TWIN #2

Love it!

RANDY

Oh I get it. I just don't believe it.

B.A.

Right! Right! We can focus-group-it before deciding.
Girls, you can go.

TWIN #1 & TWIN #2

Aw man...

SOUND: DOOR OPENING & CLOSING

RANDY

I don't think this is going to work out. Your whole attitude about my being gay. It's so-

B.A.

Lord. Gay men can be so sensitive.

RANDY

That right there. It's like you're stuck back in 1990! Here. Take your rainbow cape and your rainbow patch-

B.A.

It's an applique.

RANDY

Fine. Applique. Take it. I'm outta here.

FX: DOOR OPENING

B.A.

Before you go, you'll want to hear me read these.

FX: PAPERS RUSTLING

RANDY

Nothing you could say would change my mind.

B.A.

(italics = reading) Dear B.A. Hero Agency. My name is Zack. I'm 10 years old. I want to be a superhero one day, but I like boys and kids at school make fun of me and say I could never be a super-hero. Is that true?

FX: PAPERS RUSTLING

B.A. (Cont)

Dear B.A. Hero Agency. My Dad laughed when I told him I want to be a superhero. He says no one wants to be saved by a sissy boy. What should I do? Christopher. 12 years old.

FX: PAPERS RUSTLING

B.A. (Cont)

Dear B.A. Hero Agency. Why aren't there any gay superheroes? My teacher said it's because people are afraid it's catching. She said I probably caught it from Tommy. Maybe she's right. Billy, age-

RANDY

Enough.

B.A.

This folder is full of letters. Shall I continue?

RANDY

You've made your point.

B.A.

I may not be eloquent in my approach, but I think you'll agree that the children of this world need you, Randy Stone, to lead by example.

RANDY

Perhaps I was a bit too hasty.

FX: DOOR CLOSING

B.A.

Please sit. Take your cape and your applique. And, as for your superhero name?

RANDY

I'll think about it.

B.A.

Think fast Mr. Stone. I'm sure we'll have an assignment for you in no time. Home decorating disasters. Musical Theatre recommendations needed! Bad fashion rescue emergencies!

RANDY

That's it! I'm done. Gay men are more than stereotypes. We are people. And if you can't get that through your thick, retired, superhero-head, then there's nothing more I can say!

B.A.

I was just rousing you. I think it's your sense of humor that needs rescuing! Now, you'll need to sign the standard contract. The agency's cut is 20 percent off the top. Endorsements, action figures, movies. Please, God, a movie. Better yet a TV series. Comic books, graphic novels, trading cards-

FX: DOOR OPENING QUICKLY

BREN

B.A., you'd better come quick before we have another fire! The Torcher and Tree Man are at it again!

FX: OFF-SCREAMING

B.A.

Oh, for heaven's sake! Bren, have Mr. Stone sign the 20 percent contract. I'll be back.

FX: DOOR SLAMMING CLOSED

FX: PAPERS RUSTLING

BREN

Here you go Mr. Stone. You can just sign there at the bottom. (long pause) Having second thoughts?

RANDY

Maybe. May I look at those letters for a moment? Guess I need a bit of encouragement.

BREN

Letters?

RANDY

The letters from the kids? They're in that folder there.

FX: PAPERS RUSTLING

BREN
These aren't letters.

RANDY
B.A. just read them to me. May I take a look?

FX: PAPERS RUSTLING

RANDY
Ticket. Ticket. Ticket. These are parking tickets!

BREN
She just keeps stuffing them in her to-do folder.
One day she's gonna get herself arrested.

RANDY
(threateningly) Or worse. (superhero voice) It's
clear, now, how I must use my superpowers. (regular
voice) Wait. Where's my cape?

BREN
Here it is. Let me help you with that.

FX: FABRIC RUSTLING

BREN (Cont)
And now the rainbow applique. Whoops. Just needs a
little Velcro. Still, you look good. Rainbow is
definitely your color.

RANDY
Thanks. Now where was I...

BREN
I think you were (mimicking) It's clear, now, how I
must use my superpowers.

RANDY
Right. Thanks. (superhero voice) It's clear, now,
how I must use my superpowers. I, Gay Man, will
fight dangerous stereotypes that permeate our
society. I will obliterate those who oppress and
repress people they do not understand. And I will
seek justice for those who've been marginalized,
used, and abused!

BREN

My hero!

RANDY

And I'm gonna start by kicking some Beautiful Avenger butt!

BLACKOUT