

Without Heroes

By

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Much Ado Productions

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SCENE 1 - INT. LIBRARY - DAY

MR.MEGALOS sits in front of a small gathering of people. He has a book on his lap and the crowd is waiting expectantly. He smiles at the last few to take their seats in the front row. Mr.Meagalos stands up.

MR. MEGALOS

Thank you all for coming; it is a pleasure to be here with you this evening. (Beat) I have to say I never thought my writing would touch this many people. I never thought I could be where I am today. (Beat) Adversity confronts us all, some it leads on the road to better things; success, love, acceptance ...others fall victim to its embrace; sorrow, regret, depression. For some adversity is the closest you can be to drowning without water. (Beat) The story I am about read to you is both factual and fictitious. It's a true story because in some way it has happened to us all, and it is fictitious only because our minds refuse to believe it. It's about truth, coping with truth and the ability endure the unbearable. Be forewarned, this story is not about a hero or a villain, just a boy who hopes that there is something greater...something to grab hold of in the darkness...

SCENE 2 - EXT. STREETS - DAY

A crowded city street; Men and women, children with their parents, the old and the young pass a dark alley without looking at it.

MR. MEGALOS

(V/O)

What do you wish for when all your dreams have been beaten out of you? What can you cling to when all hope is gone? What can you believe in when no one has ever believed in you? Where can you turn for help, in a world where no one even sees' you, where no one cares...

(CONTINUED)

ALEX an orphan walks out of the alley into the busy streets of a city. Walking past a cafe table money has been left on the table. As ALEX walks away the money is gone.

MR. MEGALOS

(V/O)

...In a world without heroes.

Alex walks the water front, looking out across the water. Alex walks the alleys. Homeless are all around him their faces masked. It begins to rain.

MR. MEGALOS

(V/O)

If you asked Alex his last name, he couldn't tell you. It's just a long-forgotten artifact shut away in some caseworkers' file cabinet. He lives among the shadow people. The Gray-faced discarded souls who clutter up the alleys and sleep above the steam grates; the homeless and the hopeless.

Alex makes his way to the corner of the alley he calls home. Sitting with his back against the wall for the meager shelter it provides.

MR. MEGALOS

(V/O)

He keeps to himself. He learned that lesson long ago. Having people notice you is asking for trouble. But some secret part of him deep down, wonders why it has to be this way. He dreams of better things, but can't quite imagine what they might be.

Alex pulls a book from beneath the trash

MR. MEGALOS

(V/O)

Alex knows the streets like the back of his hand. He knows every inch of them by heart, just as he knows every word of the story book he found in a garbage can when he was five. There are no secrets here.

Alex's imagination takes over as scenes of dragons and knights and princesses fill his head.

(CONTINUED)

MR. MEGALOS

(V/O)

But somewhere, sometime, there must have been a better world than this. A world of adventure and of great deeds. A world of beauty and honor and sacrifice. Is there anything crueler than hope that cannot be fulfilled? A hunger that can never be sated? What if one night, all that changed...

A ticket blows onto ALEX's lap. Picking it up it reads "ADMIT ONE". Darkness engulfs ALEX.

SCENE 3 - INT.THEATER - NIGHT

When the darkness fades Alex is on the top step of a theaters stairs

ALEX

Reveal the secrets you keep inside.

Alex walks down the stairs. On the stage is a cage from a zoo with a family inside. They are talking to each other.

BOY

...I got an "A" on my math!

MOM

That's wonderful, dear.

DAD

I'm proud of you, son.

Alex steps up onto the stage to read the sign affixed to the bars

ALEX

'The Functional family: Last known specimen in existence'

Alex turns, a booth with dartboards has appeared but the darts are gone, replaced with syringes lining the table top. Prizes hang on the wall, drugs of various sorts. A sign hangs from the top.

ALEX

'The Great Escape: You can't miss'.
It's all the same; I've had this
Nightmare before.

(CONTINUED)

Warm light blares behind Alex, he turns towards it. A 'ZOLTAR' machine has appeared. Alex steps up and pushes the button. A fortune pops out. Alex grabs it.

ALEX
((Reading))
'You're A Lucky Winner - Make A
Wish'

Alex puts the card in his sweater pocket .Fire erupts behind Alex, he turns. A man sitting the audience beckons him forward.

DEMON
What shall it be then, boy?

ALEX
What do you mean?

DEMON
You've come here to bargain, have
you not? What are you willing to
give to change your world?

ALEX
I...I don't understand...I have
n-nothing to give.

DEMON
You waste my time then, boy! There
is no fight left in you, you're
world crumbles and you can only
watch!

The Demon stands and point.

DEMON
Be gone from my sight!

Alex walks away with his head down. The darkness slowly fades back to the streets where Alex continues walking. He pulls the card out from his pocket

ALEX
Why. One wish? I want to remember.
I want to know the truth.

SCENE 4 - EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Alex walks down a dark alley

MR. MEGALOS

(V/O) The city glitters with a thousand un-kept promises. What is it that makes us so jealous of the things we cannot have?

From the rooftop the Demon looks down.

MR. MEGALOS

(V/O) Alex can feel the world changing around him, as he steps from the known into the unknown.

The Demon watches as Alex is consumed by the Darkness

MR. MEGALOS

(V/O) And in the great heart of darkness be careful what you wish for.

SCENE 5 - INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Mr.Megalos, sitting in front of the Library audience reading from his book.

MR. MEGALOS

There will be trials to be endured...dragons to be slain...and great demons to be wrestled with.

Mr.Megalos closes the book. Pauses for a second then continues.

MR. MEGALOS

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your time. I will leave off here for now; next chapter will be tomorrow night, same time.

The Crowd begins to disperse; a women stands up and waits as the crowd moves around her. She approaches Mr. Megalos when everyone has gone.

ELIANA

Excuse me Mr. Megalos?

(CONTINUED)

MR. MEGALOS

Yes?

ELIANA

I'm sorry to bother you, I'm sure you're eager to leave but-

MR. MEGALOS

On the contrary, Ms...?

ELIANA

Mirus, Eliana Mirus.

MR. MEGALOS

On the contrary Eliana, I could spend a lifetime here.

Mr. Megalos motions around the library at all the books.

ELIANA

They truly are wonderful, books I mean. So easy to get lost in, such good companions.

MR. MEGALOS

As they say: "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read." Now, what can I do for you?

ELIANA

You can tell me more about Alex. Your writing fascinates me, you paint such a bleak world and you throw someone so helpless into it. I need to know-

MR. MEGALOS

How it ends?

ELIANA

Yes.

MR. MEGALOS

It doesn't. But if you must know the rest I'll oblige..

SCENE 6 - INT. HALLWAY- NIGHT

Alex walks down a bleak corridor

MR. MEGALOS

(V/O)

Alex has made his wish. He has opened himself to the darkest recesses of his mind. He remembers the orphanage, all those years ago. And he remembers his choice...

Alex comes to an exit at the end of the corridor. To his right there is an office door. As he looks from one to the other a MAN appears.

JANUS

(Excited)

Decisions, decisions.

ALEX

I-I don't know you.

JANUS

(Excited)

Oh but you do! You Do! We've met before, and that door-

JANUS points at the exit, Alex looks and when he looks back Janus clothes appear to be on backwards

JANUS(CONT)

(Somber)

-You want that door. To leave, to go back to the world you know. You know what lies behind door number two, why burden yourself? why hurt yourself? This door-

Janus points at the office door, his clothes back on straight.

JANUS(CONT)

(excited)

-holds the truth! The answers! The key to who you are!

ALEX

Who are you?

JANUS

We are Janus, and we want you to chose that door!

Janus points at both doors.

SCENE 7 - INT. CAFE - EVENING

Eliana and Megalos are sitting at a window seat in a cafe.

ELIANA

Janus?

MR. MEGALOS

Janus.

ELIANA

The Roman god of choices?

MR. MEGALOS

Of tough choices. He's very much real. We'll all face him at some point.

ELIANA

So how does he chose? What does he chose?

MR. MEGALOS

He-

Megalos is distracted. Through the window a huddled figure emerges from the alley and slumps to the ground.

MR. MEGALOS (CONT)

Excuse me a moment.

Megalos walks to the cafe counter, exchanges a few short words with the Barista then heads out the door. Megalos walks across the street and returns with the huddled figure whom he sits at the table. He goes to the counter and returns with several sandwiches. The Barista follows with a full pot of coffee.

BARISTA

You're a good man you know that?
Not to often you see an act of kindness like this, not in this city anyway.

The Barista fills the three cups on the table and leaves. There is silence for a moment.

ANDY

(shivering)

Th-thank you.

(CONTINUED)

MR. MEGALOS

What's your name?

ANDY

(shivering)

An-Andrea. Just call me Andy. Thank
y-you...if you hadn't come out
I...I don't know...nobody ever
notices, or cares...

MR. MEGALOS

We care. Here-

Megalos pushes the sandwiches and the coffee towards ANDY

MR. MEGALOS(CONT)

-You look famished, eat up, drink
up and don't worry. (Beat) I was
just recounting a tale to my friend
Eliana here, you wouldn't mind if I
continued would you?

Face full of food

ANDY

No.

MR. MEGALOS

Then I shall continue. Eliana, I
believe you wanted to know how he
made his choice? It's simple, he'd
made it once before.

SCENE 8 - INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Alex finds himself in an office.

MR. MEGALOS

(v/o)

Alex is five. The age when he
couldn't bare it any longer. But he
remembers how he couldnt just
leave, not with the answers so
close.(beat) He snuck into the
Matrons office,for in the back of
that dingy room he knew lay the
answers his heart ached for.(Beat)
The room stretched on, an eternity
to cross, his pilgrimage for truth
nearly over.

Alex steps closer to the cabinet

(CONTINUED)

ALEX

Reveal the secrets you keep inside.

As Alex' shaky hands reaches towards the cabinet a voices speaks from the shadows.

DEMON

I belive this is what you're looking for?

The Demon holds up an envelope

ALEX

(whispering)

Please.

DEMON

Tsk, Tsk. Such a heavy file! So much for such a short life!

ALEX

Please I-

The Demon flips through the folder

DEMON

Orphaned from birth? Mummy and Daddy must have met with an untimely fate (Beat) No? Oh, it is so much more!

ALEX

I-no...help...

The demon walks towards Alex, alex steps back

DEMON

Orphaned from birth...abandoned at birth! You're here because they didn't want you!

ALEX

Stop! I can't-help.

DEMON

Social orphan they call you! Child of the state! Your a burden!

ALEX

Help. Help!

DEMON

Nobody wants a burden! You're a waste!

Alex has back up to the door, his foot catches and he falls backwards, through the door. The light is blinding. Alex's screams for help reach a crescendo.

SCENE 9 - EXT. STREET - DAY

The streets are busy with people. The sun shines bright. Alex stumbles and falls onto his back, lying on the side walk.

ALEX

(feebly)

Help-Help me, please!

A crowd of people surround Alex. Just before he passes out he catches a glimpse into the alley, where the demons red eyes glow. It can't reach him.

MR. MEGALOS

(v/o)

Coming to grips with truth is the hardest thing any of will ever do. Alex fought with what he knew and what he wanted to know for far too long. But once you can accept and let go, you are free.

SCENE 10 - INT. CAFE - NIGHT

The cafe is quiet as Megalos recounts Alex's tale. Everyone is listening intently

MR. MEGALOS

For Alex, freedom meant letting go of his abandonment. He let himself fall and someone caught him, someone heard him...someone cared.

The room is silent, a long pause follows his words.

ANDY

He-He asked for help.

MR. MEGALOS

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

ANDY

And he got it? Can it really be that simple?

MR. MEGALOS

It can. But is it? (Beat)No. A man who chokes on his food at a restaurant rushes to the washroom where he is inevitably found dead. Why? Because sometimes the simplest things take the most courage and asking for another's help, to some, is a sign of weakness. It's only after we've lost everything, that we are free to do anything and that includes asking for help.

Megalos stands up.

MR. MEGALOS

And with that I will leave you all, except Andy of course. Come along.

ANDY

Where are we going?

MR. MEGALOS

That's up to you. I can take you home or friends of mine run a shelter for runaways, it's your choice.

ANDY

Thank you.

Megalos turns to Eliana.

MR. MEGALOS

Thank you.

ELIANA

For what?

MR. MEGALOS

For a great number of things; being a good listener for one. What's a story if no one is willing to hear it.

Megalos and Andy head for the door.

(CONTINUED)

ELIANA

But is it just a story?

MR. MEGALOS

Of course. (Beat) but that doesnt
make it fiction.

Meagalos and Andy leave. Eliana looks out through the window
and the dark alley.

End