

HOURMAN

"PILOT"

by

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COLD OPEN

OVER BLACK:

"RIGHT NOW"

MALE VOICE (MAXI)  
No such thing as a hero, okay?

CLOSE ON AN OLD, GRAINY TELEVISION SCREEN WHERE-

MAXI ZEUS (60s), a sunburnt real estate tycoon and TV personality holds a press conference.

CHRYON: ZEUS TAKING SUPERMAN TO COURT?

MAXI  
I got people work for me, smart people. Brave people. The best people around. The best, okay? But they don't call themselves superheroes.  
(incredulous)  
I don't call myself a superhero.

THERESA (O.S.)  
Because you're a soggy dick-sack.

INT. ZOO - VETERINARIAN WARD - NIGHT

Theresa (30s), the Assistant Veterinary Officer, watches the television with disgust while she fills out paperwork.

Her pressed, khaki uniform stands in stark contrast to her partially shaved head and bright blue hair.

MAXI (ON TV)  
I worked for what I have. No labels, no capes. No dollies with my face on them. Just my nose and a grindstone. Hard work. The hardest.

THERESA  
You're rock hard right now, aren't you? Behind that podium-

MAXI (ON TV)  
Guy who calls himself a superhero is lying to you okay? It's a lie.  
(MORE)

MAXI (ON TV) (CONT'D)  
He wants to distract us with the  
jingly keys so we don't notice his  
world falling apart. Our world.

Theresa CLICKS the TV off.

THERESA  
Fuck. You.

Theresa shakes her head and RATTLES a tube of nicotine gum  
out of her pocket. *Better than nothing.* She opens her mouth-

BOOM!

Theresa spills her gum-

*What the fuck was that?* She waits. Did she imagine it?

BOOM! Closer this time, a sound of carnage and wrecked metal.

Theresa picks up her walkie talkie-

THERESA (CONT'D)  
Theresa to Gus?

The walkie SQUAWKS-

GUS (V.O.)  
Police are on their way. I think  
it's just some drunk assholes. I  
don't know how they got that truck  
of theirs in here...

THERESA  
Truck? What was that sound?

GUS (V.O.)  
Sound?  
(notices something else)  
Shit... These motherfuckers tore  
out the fence on Khan's cage!

BOOM! It's in the hallway outside.

GUS (V.O.)  
I'll call you back.

THERESA  
Gus!

The walkie is quiet. Everything is. Maybe. Theresa strains  
her neck. *Are those footfalls?* She leans against the door...

The handle JINGLES.

THERESA (CONT'D)  
 (on edge)  
 Shit-stop it!

VOICE/REX (O.S.)  
 It's me. It's okay.

The handle JINGLES again.

VOICE/REX (CONT'D)  
 Let me in, okay?

THERESA  
 Go away - the police are coming!

Theresa fishes for a syringe and wields it like a knife.

VOICE/REX (O.S.)  
 What? No. Hey. I injected myself.  
 On accident. I'm high, but- I just  
 need propanol and cyclobenzaprine.  
 (beat)  
 I'm going to break the door, okay?

THERESA  
 (lowers syringe)  
 ...Rex?

BOOM! The door flies off the hinges and cracks Theresa across the temple. She drops, blood pooling out around her head as-

A COSTUMED SUPERHERO - we will come to know him as REX (late 20s) - enters the room. *Oh no, what has he done?*

REX  
 Theresa...!  
 (jittery)  
 I'm sorry. It's going to be okay.  
 I'm going to be okay. I'll fix it.

He scans the locked glass medicine cabinet - empty. *Shit.* He looks past his shaking hands and back at Theresa.

REX (CONT'D)  
 What the fuck am I doing?  
 (to the room/world)  
 I'm a superhero.

Rex gathers himself and dashes off. Silence until-

A TIGER lopes into view through the open doorway, licking its chops as it considers Theresa. Mercifully, it walks off.

END COLD OPEN