

HOW I GOT MY SUPERPOWERS

By John C. Havens

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CAST: *one male or female*

NOTE FOR PERFORMANCE: *This monologue is told from the perspective of a young boy or girl who has been teased on the playground. If a girl is playing the part, Hefty Girl works fine. In an effort to try and keep positive, HE/SHE has invented an alternate personality: Hefty Man (or Woman). Obviously, HE/SHE has been teased about being overweight, and this is a story of a victory over long-time enemies one day on the playground. Performance-wise, actors are encouraged to act out all of the action described, and to try and take on the characteristics of Hefty Man and all of his enemies. Also, the style of vocal delivery could be compared to the characters on the old cartoon, "Superfriends" who deliver all of their lines in big deep tones and say everything that they're going to do before they actually do it. Also, Hefty Man usually talks about himself in the third person, but at times breaks into first person when he's excited. These pronouns can be exchanged accordingly, depending on the actor's preferences.*

The playground is my domain, and I am its superhero. My name is Hefty Man, for I am of exceptional girth and bring heavy tidings. Woe to all those who would defy me for I have superpowers, and they're really scary.

This is the story of Hefty Man's battle with an evil gang of bullies called, "The Cold Shoulder Crew." As an effective story telling tool I will now speak of myself in the third person, like Spike Lee or the artist formerly known as Prince.

Hefty Man was patrolling the playground while riding his trusty sidekick, "Boomer." Boomer was Hefty Man's honorable and trusty Schwinn three-speed bike with the long red banana seat shaped like

a saddle. Boomer also had those plastic things that clicked in between his spokes, which made Hefty Man feel cool. Some kids think they're girly, but Hefty Man knows they inspire fear and envy in all those who don't have them.

Hefty Man's sharp vision was aided by his trusty wondergoggles with the 17 billion power magnification and laser-stopper powers. They also functioned underwater to help battle the evil powers of excessive chlorination. On this particular morning, Hefty Man's 'pudgo' senses were tingling: something was amiss on the playground? Could the Cold Shoulder Crew be near by?

Hefty Man dismounted Boomer and began to walk in a tight figure-eight pattern which would protect him from tennis-ball projectiles or red playground balls thrown in anger. **(This is his walk)** The Cold Shoulder crew could only be trusted for one thing: To be evil! **(lifts glasses)**

The Cold Shoulder Crew consisted of a number of heartless heathens whose sole purpose in life was to torment the ever vigilant Hefty Man. As separate villains they were highly irritating and occasionally physically harmful. But when they combined their forces, like those Japanese Robot things from Battle of the Planets, they were a horrible force to reckon with.

First off is Tommy Griffin, known to Hefty Man as Creepy Cortex. He, as you may have surmised, is the brains of the CSC. His skill lies in his ingenuity for cruelty; his powers include wonderwedgies and monster-moonings. He puts the 'P' in peer pressure.

Next is Jeffrey Young, known to Hefty Man as Sir Snotsalot. He always smells like poop and can hurl boogers a distance of fifteen feet. His power lies in annoyance.

Eddie Doyle is the silver-tongued member of the CSC. I call him the Weeniehead. He will point at Hefty Man and say cleverly phrased things like, "You tooted, you totally farted!" and everyone in the class laughs at Hefty Man, even though Hefty Man did not in fact fart. Weeniehead's power lies in an apparent sense of humor which is actually just a disreputable gift for being loud and gregarious for a bunch of giggling lemmings.

And lastly, there's the scariest enemy of them all. Albinoid. Hefty Man doesn't even know the name that regular people call him. But he has very blonde hair and white pupils and for years people made fun of him almost as much as they teased the portly Hefty Man. Because of this, Albinoid is full of rage. They say the worst bully is the one who's been bullied the most. Albinoid's power lies in unpredictability. And he's really big.

The gang is called the Cold Shoulder Crew for one simple reason: they like to give Hefty Man the cold shoulder. It's pretty simple, really. Surrounding him like a foul-smelling cloud, they'll talk to each other like Hefty Man's not even there. They'll say, "Hey, Jeff, how's it goin'?" "Fine, Tom, how about you?" And then Hefty Man will try to leave, because the law of the Jungle Gym states that where there are four, and you are but one, your butt will be kicked unless you flee. This law is sacred. But the CSC will not permit Hefty Man to leave. They will jostle him and continue to taunt him until he tries to speak. Then they will say, "Hey, did you hear somethin'?" And the other one will say, "No, I hear the wind, and it's really fat and smelly."

They're very clever, the CSC's. Technically, they're talking about the wind, but their cruel words actually refer to Hefty Man. They know another law of the Jungle Gym: If you make fun of another kid to his face, that kid can challenge you to a fight. One-on-one. This law is sacred.

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