

Behind The Hero:
The Webcomic

by
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STRIP ONE:

PANEL 1

Joshua is in his living room setting up his camera on a tripod so that it faces the couch.

JOSHUA
I've almost got the camera set up.
Are you ready for your interview,
Lawrence?

PANEL 2

Joshua looks confusedly over towards Speedee's room. Speedee's door is closed. Where could he be?

JOSHUA
Lawrence?

PANEL 3

Speedee bursts through his door a la Kramer from Seinfeld. He's wearing his full costume, including the ridiculous pillow-case-mask. He's the most excited person in the universe. And he looks incredibly ridiculous.

SFX
WHAM!
SPEEDEE
Call me... Speedee!

STRIP TWO:

PANEL 1

Joshua stands in his living room - motioning towards his camera set up on a tripod facing towards the couch. Joshua is annoyed. He's holding a stack of interview cards.

JOSHUA
I wasn't joking, Lawrence. I want
to do a legitimate documentary
about superheroes.

PANEL 2

Joshua puts his interview cards into his trench coat pocket. He's disappointed.

JOSHUA

But I won't interview you if you can't take this seriously.

PANEL 3

Speedee standing in the doorway to his bedroom, still wearing his ridiculous pillow-case-mask. He's confused. He legitimately doesn't understand what Joshua is upset about.

SPEEDEE

But Joshua - I AM taking this seriously.

STRIP THREE:

PANEL 1

Speedee is upset. Joshua's comments have hurt his feelings.

SPEEDEE

I'm absolutely taking this interview seriously, Joshua. I even made a costume.

PANEL 2

Speedee is holding out his cape and looking himself over, examining his costume.

JOSHUA (OFF PANEL)

It looks more like a bad Halloween getup to me.

SPEEDEE

But it's got a cape and everything! What's wrong with it?

PANEL 3

Joshua smacks his face with his hand. He can't believe he has to put up with this idiot.

SFX

SMACK!

JOSHUA

Uuugh...

STRIP FOUR:

PANEL 1

Speedee is holding out his hands, examining his gloves.

SPEEDEE

I'm willing to make some changes.
What is it you don't like about my
costume? Is it the gloves?

PANEL 2

Speedee is questioning Joshua, trying to figure out what's wrong. Joshua is annoyed. He can't believe Speedee can't see the incredibly obvious problem.

JOSHUA

It's not the gloves.

SPEEDEE

Is it the shoes? Do you not like
the special modifications I made to
them? Are you worried about the
cape? Do you think it's too much?
Should I add a utility belt? Does
the color scheme hurt your eyes?

PANEL 3

Close on Joshua skeptically eyeing Speedee (who is off panel). He's no longer upset. Could Speedee actually be this oblivious?

JOSHUA

You really don't see it - do you?

SPEEDEE (OFF PANEL)

See what?!

STRIP FIVE:

PANEL 1

Speedee gives up. He really doesn't see what's wrong and he wants Joshua to just tell him.

SPEEDEE

I give up, Joshua. Just tell me. This interview is really important to me, so whatever it is you don't like about my costume - I'll change it.

PANEL 2

Joshua is slightly upset and a little annoyed. He's thinking, "Come on - do you really need me to spell this out for you?"

JOSHUA

It's that ridiculous pillow case covering your head!

PANEL 3

Speedee is shocked! How could it be the mask? This is terrible. He clutches his face protectively, thinking, "Please don't take my mask away."

SPEEDEE

No! Not my mask! It makes me look totally awesome!

STRIP SIX:

PANEL 1

Speedee, standing in the living room, is pleading with Joshua.

SPEEDEE

But I need my mask! It completes the ensemble.

PANEL 2

Joshua calmly and comfortably sits down onto the couch.

JOSHUA

Alright - let me put it to you this way: I'm not starting the interview until you remove that pillow case. And I'll bet my camera against your comic books that I can wait here longer than you.

PANEL 3

Speedee - still standing - glares angrily at Joshua. It's ON! Joshua is resting comfortably on the couch (legs not crossed) looking up towards Speedee, and returning Speedee's angry glare with a calm and confident "Bring it on" smile.

STRIP SEVEN:

PANEL 1

Joshua sitting comfortably on his side of the couch - just like in the comic book - but without a TV screen frame. He's leaning back with his hands resting behind his head. He has his legs crossed and is very calm. He looks overconfidently over towards Speedee (in the next panel.)

JOSHUA

I can wait all day.

PANEL 2

Speedee sitting anxiously on his side of the couch. Again - just like in the comic book - these two panels appear to make a single wide-shot picture of Joshua and Speedee sitting on either side of the same couch.

Speedee's super fidgety - shaking his leg and tapping his finger super fast (with his super speed). He's trying to insist with his face that he can be patient - but we can see from his body language that he won't be able to wait very long.

SFX

Tappitty-tappitty-taptap-tap-tap!
Tappityy-tappitty-taptap-tap-tap!

SPEEDEE

Ditto.

SPEEDEE (CONT'D)
(under his breath)
Not like I have anything better to
do.

STRIP EIGHT:

When looked at as a whole, this strip shows Joshua (on our left) and Speedee (on our right) leaning in towards each other. Panels 6, 5, and 4 will read from right to left so that Joshua's and Speedee's eyes will meet in the middle of the strip for a staring contest of epic proportions.

PANEL 1

Full body shot of Joshua with his arms crossed leaning back on his side of the couch. He's looking to our right, staring down Speedee - trying to out-stubborn him.

JOSHUA
Take.

PANEL 2

Much closer on Joshua. He leans towards Speedee, staring a little harder. This panel should be about half the size of Panel 1 and centered vertically so that there is a bit of white space above and below it.

JOSHUA
It.

PANEL 3

Super tight on Joshua's eyes. He's glaring at Speedee. This panel should be fairly small - a rectangle just large enough to surround Joshua's eyes. It should also be centered vertically with a fair amount of white space above and below it. The right side of this panel should be exactly in the center of the strip.

JOSHUA
Off.

PANEL 4

A reflection of Panel 3: same exact size, same vertical positioning, same amount of zoom. But this time we're super tight on Speedee's eyes.

We can see a little sweat forming on Speedee's face (which we can see through the eye slits in his ridiculous pillow-case-mask.)

SPEEDEE

Happen.

PANEL 5

A reflection of Panel 2: same exact size, same vertical positioning, same amount of zoom. But now it's Speedee who's being stubborn, leaning to our left, towards Joshua. This Panel happens BEFORE Panel 4.

SPEEDEE

Gonna.

PANEL 6

A reflection of Panel 1: same exact size, same amount of zoom. A full body shot of Speedee sitting on his side of the couch. He has his arms crossed, mimicking Joshua's body language in Panel 1.

SPEEDEE

Not.

STRIP NINE:

PANEL 1

Joshua is getting up off the couch. He's had enough of this.

JOSHUA

Fine. You win.

PANEL 2

Speedee celebrating, but also relieved. He wasn't going to be able to wait much longer.

SPEEDEE

Ha! I knew it! I knew you'd fold first! Speedee 1 - Joshua 0!

PANEL 3

Joshua is packing up his camera.

JOSHUA
I'll just find a different
superhero to interview.

PANEL 4

Speedee suddenly realizes he has lost this argument. He's worried.

SPEEDEE
Wait... what?

STRIP TEN:

PANEL 1

Speedee is desperate. He's looking straight at the audience, pleading.

SPEEDEE
No, Joshua, don't do that!
Anything but that!

PANEL 2

Joshua has stopped packing up his camera, but it's already half away. He's being firm.

JOSHUA
Either that mask comes off, or I'm
walking away.

PANEL 3

Speedee reluctantly pulls his pillow-case-mask off. His hair is a matted mess. He's got the worst case of hat-hair ever. He also has the biggest reddest zit smack dab on the tip of his nose.

SPEEDEE
Fine - there - happy.

PANEL 4

Joshua is cracking up.

JOSHUA
Hahahahaha! Yes - quite happy.

STRIP ELEVEN:

PANEL 1

Joshua is cracking up. Speedee is standing there, super embarrassed, unsure how to react. He still has a horribly huge red zit right on the tip of his nose and super-messy hat hair. His arms are dangling down at his sides, holding his pillow-case-mask.

JOSHUA

Ha!Ha!Ha! You should see your face! I wish I was filming this.

PANEL 2

Speedee covers his nose with his hand, which is still grasping his mask - so the mask sort of dangles in front of his face. Speedee's eyes are open wide with horror at the idea of being filmed in his current condition.

SPEEDEE

No! You see? This is exactly why I wanted to wear a mask.

JOSHUA (OFF PANEL)

Because you have a heinous zit problem?

PANEL 3

Speedee's looking off towards the ground. He's too embarrassed to make eye contact with Joshua.

SPEEDEE

No...

SPEEDEE (CONT'D)

(under his breath)

I'm also having a bad hair day.

STRIP TWELVE:

PANEL 1

Joshua and Speedee are sitting on the couch. We're zoomed out more than usual so that we can see both of them in the same panel. Joshua is calmly looking over towards Speedee.

Speedee is sad and moping. His pillow-case-mask is resting on his lap.

JOSHUA

It's fine, Lawrence. We'll just wait to do the interview until your zit goes away.

SPEEDEE

I guess.

PANEL 2

Same. Speedee and Joshua are looking at each other with a sort of "What do we do now?" look on their faces. Speedee is twiddling his thumbs.

PANEL 3

Same. Speedee is thinking really hard. He's not confident that this is a good idea - it's more of a hesitant suggestion.

SPEEDEE

Should we maybe do something besides sitting here while we wait?

STRIP THIRTEEN:

A single wide-shot panel.

This panel is basically identical to the "What Speedee Did Yesterday" panel from page 24 of issue #1. However, there should be a bit more detail in the background of this panel, because it shouldn't have that same Will Eisner style.

Speedee - moving super fast - is all over the place, playing 3 video game systems and reading a whole collection of comic books all at the same time. He's giddy!

Make sure that he's still got that ugly zit on the tip of his nose.

SPEEDEE

Best! Superpower! Ever!

STRIP FOURTEEN:

PANEL 1

Suddenly, Speedee stops and thinks. There are all sorts of comic books strewn about his room and all of his video games are still going, but the controllers have fallen to the floor.

SPEEDEE
(thinking)
Man - there's gotta be some way I
can get out there and start heroing
right away.

PANEL 2

Super tight on Speedee's face as he goes cross-eyed and looks at the zit on the tip of his nose. His face should fill up the entire panel.

SPEEDEE
(thinking)
But what am I gonna do about this
evil plague on my face?

PANEL 3

Speedee, once again wearing his pillow-case-mask, is standing in a make-up store, holding up two different cases of blush. He's talking to a lady who works at the store, who is looking at him like he's crazy (because let's face it - he is).

SPEEDEE
Do you think my complexion is more
of a peach or an alabaster?

BUCK-O'S ORIGIN I:

PANEL 1

An innocent little boy from the suburbs (Buck-O as a child, maybe 5 years old) is sitting on the ground and playing with his piggy bank like it was a pet pig. He's dressed up with a cowboy hat and a super cute farmer outfit.

BUCK-O
Hi Mr. Piggy. How was your day
today?

PANEL 2

Buck-O pretends to make Mr. Piggy talk, tilting him so that Mr. Piggy's snout is facing up towards Buck-O.

BUCK-O
Oink! Oink!

PANEL 3

Buck-O's older brother, Seth, shows up. Seth is somewhere around 10 years old - still a child but a monstrous bully compared to the 5 year old Buck-O. He's holding something behind his back with both of his hands. Buck-O is happily and innocently smiling up at his big brother.

SETH
Hey there Buckeroo - what's up?

PANEL 4

Close up on what Seth's hiding behind his back - a hammer.

SETH
Mind if I play with Mr. Piggy for awhile?

BUCK-O'S ORIGIN II:

A single panel wide-shot. On the left side of the panel is Mr. Piggy, sitting on the floor. Seth is standing to Mr. Piggy's right, holding up his hammer, ready to strike. Buck-O is behind Seth, dangling from Seth's arms, holding on for dear life, trying to stop Seth from killing his best friend.

BUCK-O
Run, Mr. Piggy! RUN!

BUCK-O'S ORIGIN III:

PANEL 1

Buck-O is clutching onto Seth's leg, pleading with him. Seth is facing to our right, hammer poised to strike Mr. Piggy (who is on the far right side of the panel.)

BUCK-O
PLEASE don't hurt Mr. Piggy, Seth!
He's my bestest friend!

SETH

Sorry Bro - but the ice-cream man
cometh.

PANEL 2

Close on a hammer crashing down on and shattering Mr. Piggy. His head remains in a single piece, put falls down to the ground titled at an odd angle, as though Mr. Piggy had just been beheaded. There are only a couple dollar bills and some change inside the bank.

SFX

KER-SMAAASH!

PANEL 3

Buck-O holds up the smashed remains of Mr. Piggy and starts crying. Seth walks away (towards the right side of the panel) counting the money.

BUCK-O

NOOOOOOO!

BUCK-O'S ORIGIN IV:

PANEL 1

Buck-O is still crying and holding onto the pieces of Mr. Piggy. We can see some of Mr. Piggy's remains, including his dismembered head, laying sadly on the floor.

BUCK-O

sniff *sniff*
I'm sooo sorry Mr. Piggy.

PANEL 2

Seth comes back in with two ice-cream cones. He's eating one and holding the other out towards Buck-O as a sort of peace offering.

SETH

Here you go, Bro.

BUCK-O

Where'd you get that, Seth?

SETH

I used your money to buy it.

PANEL 3

Buck-O reaches out to take the ice-cream cone from Seth. The shards of Mr. Piggy that Buck-O had to drop in order to grab the ice-cream are shattering as they fall to the floor. Buck-O's eyes have gone wide. He has no more tears. This ice-cream is THE greatest thing that could have ever happened.

BUCK-O

You mean... money can be turned into ice-cream?

BUCK-O (CONT'D)

Money is the greatest thing in the world.

BUCK-O'S ORIGIN V:

PANEL 1

A few moments later, Buck-O is in the kitchen talking to his Mom. Just like in Charlie Brown, we can't see all of his Mom - just her legs up to however high a 5 year old would be.

BUCK-O

Mommy, when I grow up I wanna have ALL the money in the world.

MOM

That's great, Dear.

BUCK-O

Do you know what I gotta do to get it?

PANEL 2

Buck-O is disappointed. His dreams just got shattered.

MOM

Study hard and do well in school.

BUCK-O

Oh.

PANEL 3

Seth enters on the left side of the panel, still eating his ice-cream cone. Buck-O's eyes go wide with inspiration. He's thinking, "That is the greatest idea I have ever heard."

SETH

Why not just rob a bank?