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To my father and my best friend Sarah-Jane.

Changing The Future

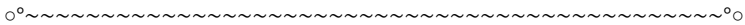
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# Prologue| Changing The Future



People with special abilities already existed centuries ago. Of course, no one knew that they existed back then. They hid among the common folk, hiding the fact that they could do things others couldn't. They either used their abilities when no one was looking or never used their abilities, too afraid that they would get caught. Of course, a few were brave enough or stupid to show their abilities to others and got hunted down and killed. Humans fear what they don't know or can't control. So, what do they do to something that threatens them? They eliminate it. But all that was centuries ago. As years went by, humans changed. They found ways to understand what they couldn't. They have become more accepting of what the world would give and the people around them. So, it wasn't a surprise that when a few years ago the first person to show signs of having abnormal abilities at birth was born. After the mother gave birth, she began to have a heart failure but the moment she touched her child she got

better. The child unconsciously healed their mother. When the news about this miracle spread all over social media the world went into chaos. People all over the world showed different reactions. Some were amazed, some jealous and some were scared. In the end, they concluded that the baby wasn't dangerous as long as they wouldn't use their abilities to do bad things. When the child was older, they became a healer. After that, more and more people revealed that they also have abilities and were accepted into society. But of course, not everyone wants to use their abilities for good. A few used their abilities to commit criminal acts and this group of people gained the title villain. Of course, the normal police force couldn't take down these villains so a group that also had abilities volunteered to help. They are known as heroes. This group of heroes and villains were known as the first generation of ability users.

When the second generation of ability users was born more and more people became more accepting and almost fully used to the concept of ability users. They now welcomed the heroes with open arms and started building special schools for the next generations to come. Naturally, people never knew the real identities of most of these supers as it could bring them in danger. The villains and even some other people wanted them gone or used them as test subjects.

What they didn't know was that when the third generation would be born a group of supers and non-supers would change what the world knows about these abilities and the connection it has with everything that they thought they knew.



shrink and turn into a child. He looks around and sees an empty bed. *Well, if that's a hero.* He was just about to get in the bed when a table is sent flying toward him and knocks him into the wall. *Then I'm more of a hero than they are.*

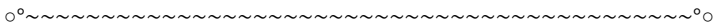
The children wake up to the sound of the table breaking and the now child colliding with a wall. They look around terrified and some even screamed at the sight of a child having collided with a wall. "There is nowhere to run now." A woman in a black, purple and blue hero costume says walking towards him. "I don't think heroes are allowed to send tables flying at children Lillian." The man says with a smirk turning back to his original figure. "But you're not a child so stop whining." Another hero in a green and black suit says, also walking towards the man. "Come back with us peacefully or we'll have to do this the hard way." The two heroes have cornered him. There is nowhere for him to go. He could fight the heroes but there are children in the room and they could get hurt. He also doesn't want to let himself be captured by the likes of them. With his ability, there isn't much that he can do. He can either go with them, but he didn't go on the run for so long just to get captured and to go to jail. Or he can kill them, but he doesn't kill those who haven't stepped out of line yet.

He has no choice but to go with them for now. He'll find a way to escape somehow anyway. He groans because he knows that this decision is going to be a pain. He was ready to go with the heroes when he saw a girl standing in front of the window he came through. Because the light from the moon shines through



the window he can't see her features clearly. He noticed that the other children are looking at her with fear in their eyes. They are all trying to get to the furthest corner of the room or try to cover themselves completely under their bedsheets to get the furthest away from the girl as fast as possible. 'Why are they so scared of her?' The man thinks to himself. She seems to be staring at the heroes with an emotionless expression. He looks at the heroes and they seem to be focused on him. The heroes don't seem to have noticed the girl yet. Suddenly the heroes are laying on the ground, groaning in pain and the girl is now standing between him and the heroes with her back to him. "Sweety what are you doing? He's a villain, you shouldn't protect him." Lillian says confused. "Well, it's too bad that I hate heroes." She runs up to the man and grabs his hand and they disappear. The heroes look dumbfounded at the spot the man and the girl were just a second ago. "Damn, this is going to be a problem." The other hero says. Lillian runs towards the window "They couldn't have gotten far. Let's go!" The two heroes both jump out of the building. Little did they know that the man and the girl were far gone.

# Chapter I



2019

Asher is laying in his bed, wide awake staring at the ceiling. He usually relies on his alarm to wake him up but today he managed to wake up early even though his alarm hasn't gone off yet. He couldn't sleep. Today is the entrance exam for the new hero school. SSS (Super Secret Society) built a new hero school for the new generation of potential heroes. The school looks like a normal school to outsiders but it couldn't be further from the truth. You need a special invitation to go there. Most of the time only the children of heroes get such an invitation because they are the most likely to have abilities. Under normal circumstances, Asher would have been happy to go there, but his middle school bullies are also invited and he was sure they would make it in. He wished he could stay home. Maybe even say that he wasn't feeling well and skip it, but he didn't want to let his parents down. His parents don't have abilities. He met the headmaster while practicing his abilities in an abandoned building. The

headmaster personally gave him an invitation. No one in his family has abilities. He would be the first hero in his family and because of that, his family is counting on him. He doesn't like his ability because his bullies say it's a villainous ability. He has the ability to control cards at his will. He can make them float in the air and make them form into almost any object. If it's a blank card he can trap people in the cards. He can also summon life-size chess pieces as his servants. But that's not the reason they think it's a villain's ability. The reason is that the cards he uses have edges that are razor sharp and he accidentally wounded his classmates with them. If he was a villain, he could easily kill a person just by throwing one of the cards at them and the card would easily slice through the person and end up killing them. It's also the reason he doesn't have any friends. People are either scared of him or bully him. But that doesn't matter to him. He feels lucky that his family supports him.

Asher is suddenly brought back to reality by the sound of his alarm going off. He sits up and swings his legs off his bed. He takes a deep breath and goes to the bathroom to get ready for the day. When he's done he walks out of the bathroom in only boxers while drying his hair with a towel. The uniform he has to wear at the entrance exams is neatly folded on a chair next to the body-length mirror next to his bed. His mother must have put it there while he was in the bathroom. He puts on the uniform and looks at himself in the mirror. He's wearing a Black long-sleeved jacket with white stripes around the waist and black pants with a dark gray t-shirt. The jacket has the school's logo on the sides of the

sleeves. He takes a deep breath and mentally prepares himself for the day before he walks out of his room. When he comes down the stairs his parents are already in the kitchen. His father is standing drinking his coffee while reading the newspaper just like always before he goes to work. His mother is making breakfast just like always. Everything was always the same: go to school, get bullied, get home, study, eat, study and sleep. Every day was the same and he is hoping that going to a new school would change something. He looks at his parents. His mother has pitch black hair and his father has hair as white as snow. He always thought it was weird. He questioned them about it and they said that it was just hair dye but he doesn't believe them. He never saw any hair dye supplies and in every photo of them, they have had black and white hair. Asher himself has dark gray hair. Most of the time his hair looks black but you can see that it's gray when the sun shines on it.

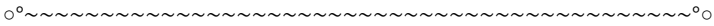
*A girl is walking behind a boy with the same uniform as her. Suddenly two people start walking towards the boy angrily and start yelling at him. "Asher, what is the meaning of this?" One of them yells at him angrily. The other one grabs him by the collar and drags him into an alley. She shouldn't get involved in this. Just look ahead and act like nothing's happening. When she walks past the alley, she sees one of them levitate a piece of stone out of the ground. "You should have stayed at our old school, now we will make your life a living hell." One of them yells at the boy. She quickly looks away and runs towards the school gates.*

"Good morning mom, good morning dad." Asher says walking towards his parents. "Good morning, Asher." his parents say at the same time. He sits down at the dining table and his mother pushes a plate with eggs, avocado, and toast towards him. "Eat up. You're going to eat this because you're going to need a lot of energy today." He sighs and eats. His mother gives him a sad smile. She knows her son's bullies are also going and because of that her son isn't looking forward to this, but she is the one that told him that maybe at his new school it wouldn't be as bad as before and he could try to make friends. He finishes his breakfast and walks towards the door. "Wish me luck." "Good luck." "Don't forget. No matter what happens we're proud of you no matter what." He smiles at his parents and walks out the door. A new day, A new start.

Asher is on his way to the new school where the entrance exams are being held. As he walks, he looks at the ground, too afraid to accidentally look people in the eyes. After all that has happened to him, he doesn't dare to look at people's faces scared of what their reaction would be toward him. He finally looks away from the floor and looks up towards the sky, standing still. He closes his eyes and thinks about all the things that can go right and wrong. He takes a deep breath and mutters reassuring words to himself before he finally dares to look in front of him, but how he wished he hadn't done that. His two bullies, Joshua and Rose, are walking toward him and looking angry. The twins have tormented Asher since the day they found

out that he had abilities. They, of course, also have abilities. Joshua can levitate and control anything earth-related and Rose has the ability to control nature. The twin's parents are quite famous. Their father, Mr. Bluewhi, a famous superhero known to be able to control earth and nature. And their mother, Mrs. Bluewhi, is a famous model. "What is the meaning of this?!" Rose yells at Asher. Joshua grabs him by the collar and drags him into a nearby alleyway and pushes him hard against a wall. "Why are you wearing the same uniform as us?! Tell me this is a joke!" Joshua yells in his face. "Don't worry he's not even going to get in with his abilities. Why would a hero school accept a villain." Rose says smirking with her arms crossed. "We shall punish you for trying to enter the school." Joshua lets go of Asher and takes a step back before he levitates a piece of stone out of the ground. "You should have gone to a normal high school. Now we will make your life a living hell if it wasn't already." He sends the rock flying towards Asher. In a blink of an eye, Rose is suddenly standing in Asher's place and Asher is now standing next to a girl who's standing behind Joshua.

## Chapter II



The rock hits Rose and Joshua's eyes widen from shock. She falls to the ground and holds the arm she used to protect herself as she groans in pain. Joshua runs towards his sister and kneels next to her holding her in his arms. "Rose, are you okay? Why were you standing there?! Where is Asher?!" He asks frantically looking around. He turns around and sees Asher standing next to a girl he has never seen before. Joshua narrows his eyes. Who is she and why is she helping Asher? "How are you standing there?!" He yells while walking toward them. "You." He says pointing at the girl. "What did you do?" She smacks Joshua's hand away. "Let's just say I hate bullies." She grabs Asher's hand and walks away dragging him with her.

Asher and the girl are now walking towards the school still holding his hand. "Uhm.... thank u no one has ever done that for me." Asher says nervously looking at the ground. The girl stops walking and turns towards him. "Let's get one thing straight. I didn't do it for you. I just hate bullies." Asher nods his

head slightly blushing. He's still grateful for what she did. Even if it wasn't done for him. "Uhm can you please let go of my hand." She looks at her hand still holding Asher's. She quickly lets go and says "Goodbye." He watches her walk away. He wants to know her name but doesn't know if he should ask. "Wait, I don't know your name." He asks with what little courage he still had left. She stops walking and he can see her sigh. "And why should I tell you my name?" She's right. She has no reason to tell her name to some stranger she just met. "I just want to know the name of the person who saved me." She groans and turns around walking up to him. "Alice." "What?" She rolls her eyes. "My name is Alice." He feels embarrassed for not knowing what she meant. "Well, my name is Asher." He holds out his hand waiting for her to shake it. She walks closer to him and he walks backward until his back hits a wall. He feels intimidated by her, especially how she's a few centimeters taller than him. "Just so you know we are not friends. I don't want friends and I don't need one so when we are at school you don't know me. Understand?" Well, there goes his chance of having a friend Asher thought to himself. Who would want to be friends with him anyway? Even if she wanted to be his friend, she would leave him when she would find out that he has villain-like abilities. Just like the others did.

Alice backs away from him and walks away. 'Wait, did she say school? They will be going to the same school?' He thinks to himself bewildered. How can he not have noticed her uniform? Of course, that's why she was walking in the same direction as him. He backs away from the wall and continues walking while



looking down. A mysterious teenage boy was watching everything that went down from under a tree. He is wearing sunglasses and a mouth mask to cover his face. He was watching them from the moment they walked out of the alleyway. He wanted to know what happened in it but he couldn't risk getting exposed. He narrows his eyes at Asher and follows him for a while before he decides he's seen enough and walks away disappearing into the crowd.

*A girl is teleported into a round arena. She is waiting for the person she is supposed to be paired with to fight. A guy appears in front of her. "So, I'm fighting a girl. This is going to be easy." He says grinning. He's going to be sorry when she's done with him. They both go into their fighting stances. Black ropes appear from the guy's hands going toward the girl at a rapid speed. In a blink of an eye, she appears behind him and kicks him to the ground.*

When Asher arrives at the school gates there's already a big crowd of students who are there for the entrance exams. Asher looks around to see if Rose and Joshua have already arrived but mostly to see if he can find Alice so she can maybe help him or keep him company even if she told him to pretend like they don't know each other. Cliff the number one hero steps onto a stage in front of the school gate. Cliff has super strength. But that's not why he's the number one hero. He's also very good in combat and strategist. He has dark brown hair and a black, turquoise suit. Cliff may sound like a weird hero name but he chose the

nickname his friends gave him to be his hero's name. "Welcome students. You all already know why you're here." A second hero, Devine, steps on stage and stands next to her husband Cliff. 'For the test, we'll be testing your strength and intelligence.' The crowd is talking to each other about how easy this is going to be. "But this is your only test to get in." The crowd goes quiet. Asher isn't good with physical strength and he doesn't plan on using his powers. "When you enter through that gate to your right the gate will automatically teleport you to an arena with a random student." "You will have 15 minutes to have to fight each other and we will observe." Asher is panicking. This is one of his weaknesses. Fighting. He is scared of who he will be paired with. What if he will be so beat up that they won't accept him. What if he will be paired up with one of his bullies. "Good luck everyone and remember, even if you don't pass this entrance exam you can still try out at the other schools" The reason that a lot of people want to go to this school is because this is supposed to be the all-new better school for people with abilities. All the best teachers will be teaching at this school and it's supposed to have all the new technology that the other schools don't have. People start walking through the gate. Asher takes a deep breath and walks through the gate. He immediately felt pain, as if something was squishing him so he closed his eyes. He stumbles as his feet touch the new ground. "So, I'm fighting you." A female says. He opens his eyes and looks at his opponent in shock. He already thought that she sounded familiar.

It's Alice. "Sooooo...Uhm I'm fighting you?" He asks, scratching the back of his head. He's nervous. She looks at him and smirks asking "Are you afraid?" Of course, he's afraid. He's thinking about whether he should tell her the truth or lie. Screw it he's going to tell her the truth. Maybe she'll hold back. "Y..yes." She looks at him with a blank face and starts to think. They're both standing in silence for a few seconds before Alice decides to speak again. "I want to make a deal with you." "W..what deal?" She walks towards him and whispers in his ear: "I'll use this test to teach you how to fight and in return, you don't tell anyone about my real abilities."

## Chapter III



She takes a step back. “So, deal or no deal?” She offers him her hand waiting for Asher to shake it. Asher stares at her hand. He doesn’t know if he should do it. “No offense but you look weak. But I know with the right training you can reach your full potential.” She lets her hand fall to her side and walks towards Asher again and whispers: “And about my powers... I slipped up. You were supposed to be frozen just like them. If anyone asks you what my power is, just say teleportation.” He wasn’t going to tell anyone about her real power anyway. He can use this opportunity to get stronger. Unlike the others, his parents didn’t help him with controlling his powers. Or physical training. But is this cheating? He is surely not the only one with bad physical strength and no fighting experience. He looks her in the eyes. She still has that emotionless expression on her face. This could be his only chance. “Deal.” She smirks. “Good. Smart choice.” For the