

THE SECRET ORIGIN OF MOJO MAN

by WALTER WYKES

CHARACTERS

MICKY

VICK

BREE

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THE SECRET ORIGIN OF MOJO MAN

[A brick wall outside a school.]

Shut up. MICKEY

I'm serious. VICK

You have powers? MICKEY

One. One power. VICK

So you're like a superhero or something? MICKEY

Yeah. Sort of. VICK

C'mon. MICKEY

It's the truth. VICK

Oh. Right. Okay. MICKEY

You calling me a liar? VICK

We've known each other how long? MICKEY

Since second grade. VICK

MICKEY
Second grade.

VICK
That day I saved you on the playground.

MICKEY
You didn't save me.

VICK
I totally saved you.

MICKEY
I could've taken her.

VICK
She had you pinned, man.

MICKEY
I didn't want to hurt her.

VICK
Bree's tough.

MICKEY
That's not the point.

VICK
What's the—

MICKEY
The point is, all those years, and you never bothered to tell me you have super powers?

VICK
It's not like that, dude.

MICKEY
I think it would've come up.

VICK
It just did. You're the first person I told. You're like my Kato.

MICKEY
The Green Hornet is lame.

VICK
My Robin.

MICKEY
Robin? Seriously?

VICK
What?

MICKEY
He wears green underpants.

VICK
I just found out. Okay? About my powers.

MICKEY
Just now?

VICK
I came straight to you.

MICKEY
So ... this is like your origin issue?

VICK
My what?

MICKEY
Your origin issue. The Secret Origin of ...

VICK
I don't get it.

MICKEY
Every superhero has an origin. It's the first issue. Something happens, they discover hidden powers, battle some evil villain who falls accidentally into a vat of radioactive waste or something, swears vengeance, becomes their arch nemesis ...

VICK
Dude!

MICKEY
What?

VICK
You don't still read those things—do you?

MICKEY
What? Comics? No way.

VICK
You do!

MICKEY
Pfff. Comics are for kids.

VICK
Let me look in your backpack.

MICKEY
No. Look. What's your secret power?

VICK
My power?

MICKEY
Yeah. What can you do? Fly? Freeze time? Shoot lasers out of your eyes?

VICK
No. Better. It's like the ultimate super power.

MICKEY
Well?

VICK
My mojo. It's enormous.

MICKEY
Huh?

VICK
Chicks can't resist me.

C'mon! I'm your Robin!

MICKEY

You said Robin was lame?

VICK

No, I said the Green Hornet was lame. Robin's just ... look ... who'd you make out with?

MICKEY

Bella, Rosemary, and Bree.

VICK

Bree?

MICKEY

Yeah.

VICK

Bree?

MICKEY

Uh-huh.

VICK

You made out with *Bree*?

MICKEY

Bella, Rosemary, and—

VICK

Dude!

MICKEY

What?

VICK

You know I like her!

MICKEY

Bree?

VICK

MICKEY
Yes!

VICK
You barely even talk to her.

MICKEY
Because I like her!

VICK
That's some twisted logic.

MICKEY
I've liked her since like second grade!

VICK
Since she beat you up on the playground.

MICKEY
I talk *about* her all the time!

VICK
All right. Calm down.

MICKEY
No! I won't calm down! I can't believe you used your powers on the one girl—

VICK
So you admit I have powers?

MICKEY
No! I don't admit you have powers! I admit you're a backstabber! I admit you stabbed your best friend in the back!

VICK
Those are harsh words.

MICKEY
If you had powers, you wouldn't be the hero! You'd ... you'd be the villain! The Joker! Dr. Octopus! The Red Skull!

VICK
And you're Captain America?

MICKEY

Maybe! Maybe I am! Why not?! Maybe I have powers too! Maybe I'll use my powers to counteract your powers! To steal Bree back! To end your reign of terror!

VICK

My reign of terror?

MICKEY

Yes!

VICK

I just kissed a few girls.

MICKEY

A hero doesn't use his powers for personal gain!

VICK

Okay. Fine. We can have like a showdown or something.

MICKEY

Yeah! That's right! A showdown!

VICK

Whoever wins gets the girl.

MICKEY

She has a name!

VICK

I know.

MICKEY

Bree!

VICK

I'm aware of her name.

MICKEY

So. When do we do this?

VICK

Right now.

MICKEY
Now?

VICK
Yeah.

MICKEY
Here?

VICK
Why not?

MICKEY
I ... I don't know. I should probably go practice my powers or something. I mean, it isn't fair. You've had time to—

VICK
Powers never show up until the hero's in real trouble. That's how it works. Right? Mine didn't manifest until I was alone with Bella in detention. Until I really needed them. Hot cheerleader. No adult supervision. Private cubby.

MICKEY
Here she comes!

VICK
Who?

MICKEY
Bree!

VICK
Perfect. We'll use our powers. Both of us. It'll be a contest. To see who's strongest. Who has the most control.

[Enter BREE.]

BREE
Hey guys.

VICK
'Sup.

MICKEY
Hi, Bree.

VICK
We were just talking about you.

BREE
Were you?

MICKEY
No!

BREE
No?

VICK
I'm pretty sure we were.

MICKEY
Not ... not specifically.

BREE
So you were or you weren't?

MICKEY
Well, I ... I mean ... your ... your name may have ... you know ... come up ... in conversation. Along with several others. Several other names. We may have mentioned you. Casually. In passing. A casual reference. But nothing weird. We weren't, you know, *talking about you*.

BREE
It's okay, Mickey. You can talk about me.

MICKEY
Can I?

BREE
We've know each other since—what? Second grade?

VICK
You used to beat him up. On the playground.

BREE
I didn't beat him up.

See. MICKEY

I just sort of rubbed his face in the dirt. BREE

We were playing. MICKEY

So how did I come up? In this mysterious conversation? BREE

We were trying to decide which of us should take you to the dance. VICK

Yeah? BREE

What?! That's ... that's not— MICKEY

What did you decide? BREE

We didn't. Not yet. It's still sort of up in the air. VICK

Do I get any say? BREE

That's not how it works. VICK

No? BREE

We're having a showdown. VICK

A showdown? BREE

Yeah. VICK

You're like gunslingers? BREE

Superheroes. VICK

He ... he has powers. MICKEY

We both do. VICK

Powers? BREE

That's right. VICK

Well ... mine haven't manifested. Not yet. It's sort of an experiment. Listen. This is stupid. Forget it. MICKEY

No. I'm fascinated. BREE

Really? MICKEY

See! It's working! VICK

So you're like duking it out for the pretty little helpless girl? BREE

Ahh ... no ... no ... that's not— MICKEY

I have to fall into your arms? Whoever wins? BREE

VICK

You won't be able to help yourself. He's got powers.

BREE

Why didn't you say something, Mickey?

MICKEY

Huh?

BREE

I've known you since second grade, and you never bothered to tell me you had super powers?

MICKEY

Well, I ...

VICK

He just found out. Origin issue.

BREE

What is it? Your power?

MICKEY

My ... oh ... it's ...

VICK

His mojo. It's enormous.

BREE

Yeah?

VICK

Chicks can't resist him.

BREE

Really?

MICKEY

It's kind of a new power.

BREE

I'm a chick.

VICK
That's true. She is.

BREE
Your power ought to work on me—right?

MICKEY
Yeah. I ... I guess. I mean—

VICK
No problem. It'll work.

BREE
Tell me to do something.

MICKEY
Huh?

BREE
Bend me to your will.
[Pause.]

MICKEY
I don't know what to say.

VICK
Ask her to the dance.

MICKEY
What?

VICK
The dance. Ask her. Use your power.

MICKEY
The dance?

VICK
Yeah.

MICKEY
Okay. You ... you ... want to ... ahhh ... go ... go ... with me ... to the ... ahh ... to the ... the ...

Dance? BREE

Yeah. The dance. MICKEY

Sure. BREE

Really? MICKEY

Yeah. BREE

Are you serious? MICKEY

Pick me up at seven. BREE

Wow. MICKEY

Don't be late. BREE

It worked. MICKEY

Told you. Irresistible. VICK

I can't believe it. MICKEY

What time? BREE

Seven. MICKEY

BREE

Seven sharp.

MICKEY

Got it.

BREE

If you're late, my dad won't have time to scare you. If you're not scared, he won't let me go.

MICKEY

I won't. I won't be. Late. I'll be right on time. Seven o' clock. On the dot. Maybe a couple minutes early.

BREE

Good. That'll give him more time to mess with your head.

[Exit BREE.]

VICK

Dude! You were awesome!

MICKEY

I know! I was like *hey, you wanna go to the dance?* And she was like *yeah, pick me up at seven!*

[Silence. MICKEY seems troubled.]

VICK

What's wrong?

MICKEY

Nothing.

VICK

What is it? Tell me.

MICKEY

I ... I feel kind of bad.

VICK

Why?

MICKEY

I shouldn't have used my powers on Bree like that.

Why not?

VICK

I've known her since like—

MICKEY

Second grade.

VICK

I should have just asked her.

MICKEY

You did.

VICK

NO. I used my powers. I manipulated her mind somehow. Against her will. I've broken the most basic of all superhero oaths. I've abused my powers for personal gain.

MICKEY

What powers?

VICK

My ... my powers. You know.

MICKEY

Are you serious?

VICK

What?

MICKEY

Your powers?

VICK

Yeah.

MICKEY

You don't have any powers.

VICK

I don't?

MICKEY

VICK
Please.

MICKEY
But you said—

VICK
I made all that stuff up so you'd ask her out. I knew she'd say yes.

MICKEY
You ... you made the whole thing ...

VICK
Yeah.

MICKEY
You didn't make out with three cheerleaders?

VICK
Nope.

MICKEY
Did you make out with anybody? Bella? In detention?

VICK
Not unless by *make out* you mean shoot spit wads at each other behind Mr. Zeccola's back.

MICKEY
No way!

VICK
It was totally awesome.

MICKEY
Dude! That's so—
[Pause.]
Wait. So I just ... she really ...
[Pause.]
I have a date with ...
[Pause.]
Oh my god.

VICK
Yeah.

MICKEY
I have a date with Bree!

VICK
Tomorrow. At seven.
[MICKEY hugs VICK.]

MICKEY
Thanks, man! Thanks! You're the best!
[MICKEY exits.]
I have a date with Bree!

VICK
So. Once again. The day is saved. Thanks to Mojo Man! And his faithful
sidekick ...
[Pause.]
I need to find a sidekick.
[Blackout.]

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