

High School Heroes For Hire

Written By

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Based on the short story Title Goes Here by  
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INT. MIA'S MAIN HOUSE - NIGHT

Mia's house is a mansion. Hip-hop music blares from high-end speakers in the living room.

Hundreds of partying high school kids fill the rooms. Many dance to the music wildly. A beer pong game plays to a cheering audience in the connected dining room. Others talk and lean against the walls, drinking from red plastic cups.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

A girl and two boys sit on a couch, staring down the hallway toward the bathroom. All around them, people are talking, dancing, drinking, partying.

One of the boys on the couch, MATT (17), short and wearing a tall t-shirt and fitted baseball cap, looks toward the other two.

MATT

(dry, sarcastic)

I don't want to alarm anyone, but I think there's a party going on around us. And we just seem to be sitting here like a bunch of dicks instead of enjoying it.

The girl, LIZ (17), athletic and pretty, dressed in form-fitting jeans and leather jacket, looks at Matt and raises an eyebrow.

LIZ

We're waiting for our client to get out of the bathroom.

MATT

The guy's been in there for like half an hour.

LIZ

So what?

MATT

So he's a spoiled rich douchebag.

LIZ

Which is why he can afford to pay us so much. Bodyguard work, remember? So again, what's your point?

MATT

That is my point. He's been in there for like half an hour. Either someone killed him or he snorted so much cocaine that he overdosed and killed himself. Either way he's already dead.

LIZ

You're ridiculous.

MATT

Am I? Because that guy is a prick to everyone for like, no reason. Forget about the two gangsters we were hired to protect him from. Literally anybody could have killed him in there.

LIZ

No one else is in there. We cleared the place before he went in. And we've been watching the door.

MATT

Again, probably overdosed. Have you seen how much money that kid drops on coke? Every time he sneezes he's wasting more money than we've ever made off a job.

LIZ

Again, he's paying us a small fortune for this job. Which you took, by the way.

Liz nods toward OHIO (16), the other boy on the couch, tall and muscular, hair long and shaggy and ending just below his ears.

LIZ

Back me up, Ohio.

OHIO

I don't know, Liz. I'm kind of with Matt on this one.

LIZ

Aw, geeze kid. Et tu, sophomore?

OHIO

That's part of it. You guys are

(MORE)

OHIO (CONT'D)

juniors, it's easier for you. I don't get a lot of chances with seniors, but Angela said she wanted to hang out at this party and I told her I would-

MATT

(interrupting)

And you should, Ohio. This is your big chance. Maybe your only one. We should be partying. Come on, Liz. Isn't that the guy you like?

(pointing at a handsome boy across the room)

The new guy that transferred here a couple months ago. You should be talking to him.

LIZ

(awkward)

What? No. I don't. Why would you think I like that guy?

MATT

Because you always stare at him in class. It's weird.

OHIO

And you always start grinning whenever he walks by you.

MATT

Also, you told us last month that you had a crush on him.

LIZ

(embarrassed)

What?

OHIO

Yeah, when that kid in your English class hired us to get his stolen skateboard back. We got that bottle of whiskey after as payment. You got pretty drunk.

MATT

You kept going on about the new guy. And you were acting, like,

(beat)

All giddy. Like giggling and stuff.

OHIO

But I've never seen you talk to the new guy. Don't you have to talk to someone to really know if you like them?

MATT

Nah, she's all about the mystery of it all. He's like some kind of Mona Lisa Man. But she should get to know him at some point. Like now would be a good time, for example. Instead of waiting by the bathroom for some douchebag that's probably already dead.

Liz stares across the room at her MONA LISA MAN (17) and bites her lower lip. She waves and he gives her a weird look, then looks away and keeps talking with others at the party.

Liz blushes and quickly puts her hand down. The bathroom door opens and ANDREW (17), exits. Liz nods toward him.

LIZ

I say we get rich. We took a job and we're working.

Andrew walks up and stands over them.

MATT

Holy shit. The prodigal client returns.

ANDREW

(ignoring Matt)  
This party is tits!  
(grinding his teeth)  
I gotta get a drink. Come on, to the kitchen!

OHIO

(motioning toward the bathroom)  
We thought you died in there.

LIZ

No we didn't.

MATT

I did.

Andrew ignores the group as they head toward the kitchen.

AT THE GREETING AREA

The group tries to push through a packed crowd of partying high school kids blocking the path to the kitchen.

ANDREW

So this coke I bought, damn purest powder you've ever seen in your life. I'm so fucked up it's-

(pushing through crowd)

Damn this place is packed. Excuse me! Get out of the way!

Liz grabs Andrew and pulls him down to the ground.

ANDREW

(angry)

What are you doing?!

LIZ

You hired us to protect you from a couple gangsters at this party. Corey Getz and his pal.

ANDREW

Yeah, so why did you pull me to the ground?!

LIZ

Because you said they were all we had to worry about tonight. They aren't.

Liz grabs the back of Andrew's shirt collar and lifts him up just enough to see through the crowded party to the front door. Eight gangsters walk through the front door, two high school-aged kids and six others in their early 20's. One of the high school-aged gangsters, COREY (17), scowls and pushes his way through the crowd, looking around the party.

ANDREW

That's Corey and...wait who are all the other guys?

LIZ

Those are Corey's older brothers and their friends. We ran into them once. On another job. And they were not part of the deal tonight.

Liz taps her hands against Matt and Ohio's legs.

LIZ

Matt, Ohio, what do you see?

Matt and Ohio, acting casually, stand above Liz and Andrew and recon the area.

OHIO

Oh, they're definitely moving through the place. Seems like they're looking for someone.

MATT

(sarcastic)

Gee, I wonder who it is they're trying to find? Maybe some rich kid they said they'd beat to death if they saw him at this party?

LIZ

(sarcastic)

Very helpful, Matt, thanks.

(looking at Andrew)

The deal was to stop Corey and his goon from fighting you. There are too many now and these are dangerous people. We can't protect you.

ANDREW

Whoa, wait. But that's what I hired you for. Come on, I can't leave this party! Look at this place! Come on. I'll double what I'm paying you. Figure something out.

Liz hesitates.

MATT

You can't seriously be considering this, Liz.

OHIO

We can't beat them.

LIZ

No. They'd slaughter us. But I think there's another way.

The group pushes past the crowded area, heading away from the kitchen.

LIZ

Mia's family spared no expense on this party. A lot of the areas of the house are themed. The garage is a dance floor.

ANDREW

What? I don't want to spend the party in the garage!

LIZ

It's not like that. Mia's garage is a freakin' structure of wonder. Her parents use it to store their classic car collection, but they moved everything out and converted it into a dance club for the party.

The group reaches the door to the garage. Liz puts her hand on the doorknob.

LIZ

They even got a DJ in there. Trust me, kid. It's not a garage tonight.  
(opening the door)  
It's definitely still the party.

#### INSIDE THE GARAGE

Feel-good Electronic Dance Music blares, coming from a DJ on a small stage near the back corner. Disco and strobe lights shoot rays of vibrant colors through the room. Fog machines go off. The space is big enough to fit thirty cars. It's packed to the walls with high school kids, drinking and dancing.

Andrew grins. The group does too.

LIZ

(yelling over the music,  
close to Andrew)  
So what do you say? Give us the pay raise and keep partying here?

ANDREW

(grinning wildly and  
shaking Liz's hand)  
Yeah! Deal!

Andrew starts dancing, the group stays close but far enough that he can't hear them.



LIZ  
 What do you think boys? Glad we  
 decided to work?

MATT  
 He's paying us twice as much? I'm  
 happy.  
 (nodding at Ohio)  
 You happy?

OHIO  
 I'm great!

LIZ  
 All we gotta do is hide out here  
 and then cash in.  
 (smiling slyly)  
 We might as well make the most of  
 it.

Liz starts to dance a little bit.

MATT  
 Yes! That's what I'm talking about!

LIZ  
 (still dancing a little)  
 We have to keep eyes on Andrew and  
 have his back still though, so  
 don't get too crazy.

MATT  
 Of course! We're professionals.

The group starts wildly partying. Other kids pass around a  
 bottle of vodka. Andrew gets it and drinks from it as the  
 group cheers him on. He hands it to Liz, and the group takes  
 turns taking shots from the bottle.

They dance and pass around more bottles of various spirits.  
 Andrew takes a bump of cocaine off a key, and offers some to  
 the group. Liz and Matt turn it down, Ohio takes a bump.  
 They keep dancing and partying.

The door into the house opens, Liz looks toward it. She  
 looks frightened, then determined. Corey and his gang walk  
 through the door and into the garage. She grabs Andrew and  
 the group and pulls them deeper into the crowd.

LIZ  
 (nodding toward Corey's  
 gang)

(MORE)

LIZ (CONT'D)

We got a problem.

OHIO

Oh, shit.

LIZ

Keep dancing, act natural.  
(beat, as group starts  
dancing again)

It looks like they're blocking the  
door back in. They probably assume  
(motioning at Andrew)

you're out here and are trying to  
force you to run into them on your  
way back in. That means we need to  
find another way out.

The group starts looking around the garage for another way  
out. A girl runs through the crowd and pushes past Liz,  
shoving her as she runs by. Liz glares at the fleeing girl.

LIZ

What the hell?!

The girl pushes herself to the dark wall of the garage where  
she seems to disappear. Then, part of the dark wall opens to  
what looks like the backyard. It's a side door. The girl  
pushes it wide open and vomits heavily right outside of the  
garage. She wipes her mouth off and closes the door, then  
goes back to dancing.

OHIO

(looking at the girl,  
scowling)

That's disgusting!

LIZ

That's our way out! Everybody get  
to that door!

The group pushes through the crowd and reaches the door.  
Matt and Ohio jump outside. Andrew starts to get pulled back  
into the bustling dance crowd and panics. Liz grabs him and  
shoves him through the door as she jumps through.

EXT. MIA'S SIDE YARD - NIGHT

Liz jumps over the puke, but she accidentally drags Andrew  
through the slippery pile of upchuck and he slips and falls.

LIZ

(helping Andrew up)

(MORE)

LIZ (CONT'D)

Sorry. We can take the door from the backyard back into the main house.

OHIO

(shaking his head)

There is no door back into the main house. This is just some side-yard, not the backyard.

LIZ

(frustrated)

Shit.

(beat, calm)

Okay, then we should take the gate out to the front yard. Head back in through the front door.

MATT

I dunno Liz, it's getting kind of risky. Maybe we should just leave.

ANDREW

Hey, I had a pretty good time. I'm actually okay with leaving.

LIZ

I guess it is getting pretty dangerous. And you'd still pay us?

Andrew nods.

LIZ

Okay.

(hesitant)

Are you sure you guys don't want to stay?

ANDREW

Yeah. Why? Do you want to?

MATT

Yeah. She has a crush on that new kid. He's here.

LIZ

(embarrassed)

No. Hey. That's not it. Okay? Let's just go. We'll go, come on.

Liz leads the group to the gate that leads out to the front yard. The gate is part of a tall fence made from large

pieces of wood. Ohio reaches for the gate latch, but Liz grabs his hand and stops him.

LIZ

Wait.

Liz points through the cracks in the wood boards of the fence at a few police cars parked right outside the house.

OHIO

What are they doing?

LIZ

They're waiting to stop anyone that leaves here for underage drinking. We can't go out there.

ANDREW

So what do we do?!

VOICE FROM BEHIND THE GROUP (O.S.)

Hey!

The group whirls around to see a boy, JOHNNY (17), holding a red plastic cup, walking through the side door of the garage. He closes it and starts to slip on the puke outside the door, but catches himself. His drink goes flying. He throws the plastic cup at the fence. He is short and has long hair curling out from under his fitted baseball cap.

LIZ

Oh, hey Johnny.

JOHNNY

(shouting and slurring)

Are those?! Did you see them? Are those cops still there? Those pigs!

MATT

Yeah. Still there.

JOHNNY

(shouting and slurring)

I'll fucking, you know what I'll do? I'll fuck em' up!

The group bursts out laughing.

LIZ

Sure, Johnny.

MATT

You're drunk, Johnny. Go home.

JOHNNY  
 (shouting and slurring)  
 I will! I'll take em' all on!

OHIO  
 (taunting)  
 You won't do it, Johnny.

MATT  
 Yeah man. You're not gonna do  
 anything.

JOHNNY  
 I'll show you what I'll do!

Johnny's hand scrapes at the ground cover. He comes up with a palm-sized rock in his right hand. He cocks his arm back while pointing over the fence toward the cop cars with his other hand. The group looks at him in silence and absolute terror.

Johnny throws the rock. It flies through the air in a perfect arc over the fence, smacking against the door of a police car.

The police car's spotlight buzzes on and shines directly at the gate to the side-yard, spilling bright light through the cracks in the fence. Police officers get out of their cars and start walking toward the house.

LIZ  
 (pointing at the door to  
 the garage)  
 Everyone back inside, now!

The group sprints for the door to the garage. Johnny gets there first, reaching for the door handle, but slips on the puke and lands on his face. Matt opens the door and Ohio and Andrew jump in. Liz picks up Johnny and jumps through the door with him. Matt follows and closes it.

BACK INSIDE THE GARAGE

Hectic Electronic Dance Music plays. Matt locks the door and the group pushes their way into the dancing crowd.

LIZ  
 (shouting over the music)  
 Push your way into the crowd! When  
 the cops bust in they won't be able  
 to tell who was outside when that  
 rock hit their car.

Liz pushes through the crowd, coming face to face with Corey. He looks over at Andrew and grins.

COREY

Andrew! Yo man, we've been looking all over for you!

LIZ

Back off, Corey.

COREY

(condescending)

What the?

(to his gang)

Did you hear this bitch?

Liz's hands tighten into fists. Matt and Ohio take a nervous fighting stance.

The song changes to a crowd favorite and the dancers start cheering at the sound of it. Everyone but the group and Corey's gang starts dancing like crazy. In all the excitement, the boy Liz has a crush on is pushed into Corey. Corey gets knocked back. He looks at the Mona Lisa Man with disgust.

MONA LISA MAN

Oh, sorry.

Corey punches the boy in the face, sending him back, stunned. Corey's gang jumps in and they start hitting him. The boy falls to the ground and they start kicking him.

MATT

(grabbing Liz's shoulder)

Hey, this is it! Perfect distraction, let's get Andrew into the house and we'll get outta here once the cops break up the party.

Matt and the others start to turn toward the door that leads into the main house, but Liz hesitates.

LIZ

(beat)

Get Andrew inside and keep him out of sight until the cops come!

Liz runs toward Corey's gang. She grabs one of the guys and pulls him off the boy. He looks at her surprised, and she punches him in his chin, his left temple, and his nose. She grabs his head with both hands and pulls it down, shoving

her right knee into his face. She lets go and he falls to the ground, groaning.

She pulls another guy off the boy and punches him in the stomach, kidneys, and face. He falls back stunned, but starts to get up.

One of the other gangsters notices Liz and whirls around. He grabs her by the shoulders and she knees him in the stomach and punches his kidneys, but he doesn't let go.

MATT  
(sighing)  
Aw hell.

OHIO  
(to Andrew)  
Get inside and stay out of sight.

Matt and Ohio jump at the guy digging his fingers into Liz's shoulders. They rip his arms off her and punch him consecutively. The others get up and turn their attention toward the group. Liz roars, Corey yells. They charge at each other.

The door to the main house swings open. An attractive high school girl in a designer dress walks into the garage, followed by several police officers. The high school girl turns the main lights on and the dance lights off. The music stops and the crowd groans in complaint.

The group and Corey's gang stop fighting. They look toward the girl and the police officers.

The girl is MIA. 17 years old.

MIA  
(shouting)  
Cops are here! Everyone out!

Mia slams her hands against three separate garage door openers, and three garage doors right next to each other start to open.

The crowd, no longer dancing, briefly looks at the police officers in stunned terror. They start panicking and rushing out the garage.

MATT  
Jesus, would you look at this?  
Everyone's just rushing to get out  
alive. It's like a zombie  
apocalypse movie.

LIZ  
Where's Andrew?

Andrew approaches the group.

LIZ  
Perfect! Get him out of here, okay?

OHIO  
What about you?

LIZ  
We're right behind you.

OHIO  
We?

MATT  
You know who she's talking about.

Matt nods toward the open garage doors. Matt, Ohio and Andrew escape amidst the crowd.

Liz rushes over to the boy she has a crush on. He is lying on the ground, groaning and battered. She kneels down next to him.

LIZ  
Hey, the cops are here. I can help get you out. Can you stand?

MONA LISA MAN  
I think so.

LIZ  
(reaching her hand out to help the boy)  
Come with me if you don't want the cops to call your parents and get you in trouble.

Liz puts her arm around him and helps him up. He puts his arm around her for support and she starts walking him to the garage doors.

MONA LISA MAN  
You helped me earlier. When they were beating me, you jumped in to save me. Thank you.  
(beat)  
You're the girl that's always smiling at me, right? Who are you?



Liz and Mona Lisa Man approach the open doors. Around them others are picking up their drunk friends and escaping as well.

LIZ

(beat, smiling)

I'm your knight in shining armor.

Mona Lisa Man looks at Liz. She kisses him and winks. The boy grins and they exit the garage.

END OF FILM