

Scene 2

(The Thurber kitchen. DAD sits, reading a newspaper, while Mom prepares dinner. Martin enters, and tries to sneak past unnoticed.)

DAD - Marty, boy!

MARTIN - Oh, hey, Dad.

DAD - Have a seat, kiddo. You wanna tell your old man about your day?

MARTIN - Uh, actually, Dad, I think I'm just gonna head up to my room, if that's okay.

MOM - Oh come on now son, don't be a stranger! Tell us about your day.

MARTIN - I went to class, ate some lunch, and rode the bus home. It was just like any other day, Dad.

DAD - Well, chin up, kiddo. Tomorrow's a new day! Hey, maybe this weekend I can take you out for a few rounds of putt-putt. Just like old times.

MOM - Better watch out, Paul! Martin here might put you in your place!

DAD: You're right, honey. The way this kid is growing, pretty soon I'll be looking up to him!

(Mom and Dad share a chuckle.)

MARTIN - Oh, come on, Dad, I don't think putt putt is-

DAD -I know what you're gonna say kiddo, you don't want your old man cramping your style. I get it. How about you bring Ben along with us. It's been a few weeks since you've gotten together with him.

MARTIN - Uh... I don't know Dad, Ben's busy with band practice. Besides, we're in highschool now. I think we're too old to be playing putt-putt.

MOM - Martin is right, dear. After all, our Martin is about to be sixteen. Growing up so fast!

MOM embraces MARTIN

MARTIN - Moooooom! C'mon...

DAD: Now, now, sweetie. So Marty, anything special you want for the big day?

MOM- We could get you some new shoes! I hear all the boys in high school wear those high-top Adidas shoes!

MARTIN - Really, I'd just like some new comics.

DAD - Well, we can't *just* get you comics.

MARTIN - But really, there's not anything else I want and I'm starting to run out of comics to read.

MOM - Oh yeah that is right! You sure do love that... Captain.. Planet Guy!

MARTIN - Mom, for the hundredth time, It's Captain Nebula.

MOM - Right, right Captain... yeah. Oh! I found your little costume in your room, it's pretty cool. Are you going to wear it when you go trick or treating this Halloween?

MARTIN - Mom! (*takes costume back*) I'm almost 16 I'm not going trick or treating. Why were you in my room?

MOM - I was just.. cleaning up a little. It's such a mess in there. Don't forget, your brother's coming home for a visit next weekend. Did we tell you? Tommy's pitching coach says he stands a good chance of being drafted! Can you believe that? Your brother pitching in the major leagues! Anyway, let me help you out with this. I can sew these patches on better for you (*taking costume back*).

MARTIN - Thanks, Mom. I've got a lot of homework. I'll be upstairs.

(*MARTIN exits*)

DAD - Boy, he sure has been distant lately. Teenagers, am I right?

MOM - He just needs some more friends, I'd say! He's so used to his anti-social ways, Paul, he's forgotten how to talk to us!

DAD - He'll find his niche, Linda, but he's got to find it himself. You can't push the boy too hard. After all, he's not his brother.

MOM - I know, I know. I'm sure Martin has got some potential just bottled up inside him. He needs to find out what it is! After all, his brother took to baseball like a fish to water. Ooh.. they *are* having swim team tryouts next week.

DAD - Honey, the kid can barely tread water.

MOM - Hmm... you're right.

DAD- It took me a while to find my way in high school, don't forget. I wasn't born debate team captain, you know. But when I finally found my talents, I managed to persuade the junior class homecoming court attendant to go to prom with me. And look where we ended up! Who knows? Maybe he's been acting so odd because he snagged himself a girl frie-

(*doorbell rings*)

MOM - Oh! I'll get it!

DAD- *(to himself)* Debate team captain, 1972. I affirm the resolution. Resolved: President Nixon has the moral and legal duty to sign the Clean Water Act into law. Yeah, still got it.

(ELLE and MOM enter).

DAD - Well, hello Elle. What's new, kid?

ELLE - Hey, Mr. Thurber. I just came to drop something off for Marty, is he home?
(Mom and Dad exchange glances.)

DAD - *(stands up excited)* Why, yes he is! Marty! Your "friend" is here.

MARTIN - I'll be right down.

MOM - So, Elle, how is school going? Anything new?

ELLE- Well, Mary was elected SGA president. Again.

MOM- Oh, well. That is exciting. But how about with you? Any news to report? Anything special happening with you?

(MARTIN enters)

DAD- Well, look at the time honey. We better get moving or we'll miss our reservations.

MOM- We don't have-

DAD - You kids be safe now. No drinking, no smoking, all that good stuff.. Bye, bye, now!

MOM and DAD exit

MARTIN - Well, that was weird.

ELLE - *(Laughing)* Yeah. Oh! I brought the comic you wanted.

MARTIN - *(Excited)* Oh, sweet! I've been wanting to read this one for so long! I can never find a place that sells it.

ELLE - It's so good! It's the first time we see Artemis and Captain Nebula team up and there's this one fight scene with Taurus that's so freaking cool!

MARTIN - That sounds really awesome!

ELLE - So did you ever finish that cosplay you were making for the Hero Con?

MARTIN - Almost.. My mom found it today, wants to help me sew on some of the patches. It just needs some final touches. Well, a lot of final touches. It still needs a lot of work.

ELLE - No, no! It looks amazing!

MARTIN - Nah, you don't have to be nice about it. It's definitely a work in progress.

ELLE - Who is it supposed to be?

MARTIN - It's actually a character I made up. I know this sounds cheesy because it's like Captain Nebula's young ward... The name's pretty bad.

ELLE - It can't be *that* bad.

MARTIN - I was thinking.. "Stargazer!"

ELLE - (*laughing*) Ok.. That is the cheesiest thing I have ever heard.

MARTIN - (*laughing*) Shut up, it's a work in progress.

ELLE - We've known each other for years, did you not expect me to be honest with you?

MARTIN - You're right.. I really hope I'll get it ready before Hero Convention.

ELLE - So, tell me about this "Stargazer" guy... What's his deal?

MARTIN - (*gets up*) Well, I first started thinking about my own kind of hero, like who I would be if I was in a comic. Then I thought maybe he could be Captain Nebula's sidekick that helps him save the day from time to time. Of course, he's not as powerful as Captain Nebula. He's like the underdog. Even though he may not be as strong as Captain Nebula, Stargazer could be fast and use his wits to save the day! He'd fight against the villains alongside the Captain - Taurus, The Golden Fool, Red Giant. The two of them would go on missions together, stopping crime in its tracks. Like in Issue 237, imagine Stargazer helping the Captain rescue the mayor's daughter from Copycat! Just when it looks like evil will win, as the Captain arrives just too late to rescue her, Stargazer would swoop in and save the day, get the girl, then Mary and I would live happily ever after... I mean he and the girl would...

(*ELLE is wide eyed and happy while listening but her whole demeanor changes after the mention of MARY.*)

MARTIN - H-he and the girl would...

ELLE - (*gets up, looking heartbroken*) Yeah, that's a great character, really. Uh, geez, sorry... I forgot my mom needed help with dinner tonight. So, I um, got to go. Here's the comic. Enjoy.

(*ELLE gives MARTIN the comic.*)

MARTIN - Oh, okay? Well, I guess I'll see you tomorrow, then.

(*ELLE exits. MARTIN sits down and reads his comics.*)