

National Novel Month Write-In

 LIBRARIES

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[Untitled]

by **Anonymous**

PROMPT: You were one of the most powerful superheroes, and always in constant conflict with one of the most powerful supervillians. Then the day after you retire from the superhero business, you get a phone call. It's your arch-nemesis. They say, "Hey um, do ya wanna hang out later? It's cool if ya can't."

Omega-Man was the son of Super-man with the mind of Stephen Hawking and the strength of Hercules. Every time his arch nemesis, Theta Mayhem, an average build half human half alien villain tried to ransack Volapolis he'd stop Theta Mayhem right at the last second before one of his schemes was going as planned.

During New Year's Eve Omega-Man told the people of Volapolis that he was going to retire when the ball dropped at midnight on January 1, 2019. The crime rate had been on the decline as most criminals were afraid of Omega-Man and the fact that Theta Mayhem always lost.

Naturally any other villain would take advantage of a hero-less city and cause mayhem in the city, but Theta was depressed after so many defeats—1,244 to be exact. The two mythical figures have been fighting since 2005, and 14 years of fighting really takes a toll on people—even when they are not human, they still wear out and control their respectable human feelings.

One snowy night in November, two weeks before Thanksgiving, Theta-Mayhem called Omega-Man. "Hey, man, don't call the cops or anything—but it's me, Theta-Mayhem. I don't have any plans for the holidays and I thought I'd reach out to you, because you are the only person I know. I understand if you hate my guts and you don't want to hang out."

That was the voicemail that hit Omega's inbox and that really put him in a bind. "Should I call him back? He seemed depressed...maybe he's not evil anymore."

I just happened to be in the exact place at the right time—I went to a cafe downtown around 6:30 on November 17, 2019, and I saw Omega-Man using his phone as I was going to take a selfie.

"Theta, I'll be in the brown cafe downtown from 6 to 8 p.m. Let's meet up and chat." I was perplexed and I asked Omega-Man if he was alright.

“Are you out of your mind? What if Theta-Mayhem robs everyone?”

Omega-Man sharply and calmly said, “Trust me, young man. Theta doesn’t have the will or the strength to do any harm.”

Ten minutes later Theta parked his car and entered the cafe, and he ran towards Omega and they hugged. Theta leaped and Omega caught him, and they embraced each other.

“Theta, I always admired your grit. You were ruthless, mean, self-absorbed, and just a complete menace to society, but I always knew deep down that you were a good guy—deep inside of your soul.”

Theta starts sobbing uncontrollably, and he sits down, and so does Omega. A waiter stops by, “May I take your order?”

Theta and Omega both say, “Water, please,” and they look at each other in awe.

“We always had many things in common, huh?” Theta said nervously.

“Yeah, you had it all.” Omega exclaimed.

“Actually, I had a tough childhood. My parents neglected me; no one loved me, so I decided to fill the void in my soul by tearing the city to pieces.”

Omega laughed—“Oh, sorry, I thought you were a spoiled kid who used daddy’s money to try to control the city.”

Theta sips his water as he trembles and shakes—“No, I am just like any other villain. I get lost in hopelessness, someone pushed me over the edge, and I never looked back. I just wanted to be loved.”

Omega-Man said, “I always loved you, man. I always saw you as a little brother that needed me, and I hoped that one day you’d grow up and be a good guy.”

Theta replied, “I always thought I was a good guy but my real self got lost along the way.”

Omega-Man smiled and said, “Let’s go find that true self and be best friends! Come on over for Thanksgiving at my house!”

Theta smiles, “I’d like that very much! I never got to eat with a family during the holidays!”

From that day on, Omega-Man and Theta-Mayhem became best friends. I got to witness the first hero-villain friendship in history!