

A Readers' Theater Adaptation of Mike Lupica's

Hero

by Nicki Stohr

Characters:

Narrator 1	Narrator 4	Zach
Narrator 2	Narrator 5	Kate
Narrator 3	Narrator 6	Knit Cap

Narrator 1: This script comes from the fantasy novel *Hero* by Mike Lupica.

Narrator 3: Zach could swear there had been plenty of joggers in the park only a moment before.

Narrator 5: Some of them had even passed him and Kate.

Narrator 2: Yet now he couldn't see any of them as they came around the west side of the reservoir.

Narrator 4: It was as if somebody had waved them off the running track all at once.

Narrator 6: Now it was just Zach and Kate.

Narrator 1: And the three guys blocking their way.

Narrator 2: Zach and Kate stopped.

Narrator 3: Instinctively, Kate reached for his hand.

Narrator 4: There was no mistaking what was about the happen with the three guys.

Narrator 5: Trouble.

Narrator 6: Two of them casually moved behind Zach and Kate.

Knit Cap: Empty your pockets.

Zach: I know you.

Narrator 2: He was sure he did, sure that the face underneath the black knit cap was the same one he'd seen the other night in the park.

Zach [staring at Knit Cap]: You were going to jump that woman that night, weren't you?

Kate: What night?

Zach [ignoring Kate]: I'm right, aren't I?

Knit Cap: Shut up, kid.

Zach: All I've got in my pocket is about four dollars and change.

Knit Cap: I don't want the four dollars, and I don't want the chump change. I want the coin.

Zach: The Morgan? How do you know ...?

Knit Cap [look around at two buddies]: I told you. Kid's clueless.

Kate: Well, I know I am.

Narrator 1: Kate was trying to sound normal, Zach knowing better, hearing the change in her voice.

Narrator 3: Hearing how scared she was.

Zach: I know this. My dad gave me this coin and there's no way I'm handing it over to some scrub like you.

Narrator 4: And just like that, he started to feel it.

Narrator 5: Not the fear he knew Kate was feeling.

Narrator 6: The other feeling.

Narrator 1: A roar inside his head - inside him.

Kate: Zach?

Zach: Its ok, Kate.

Kate [said in small voice]:Don't. Just give them what they want and let's get out of here.

Narrator 2: He turned to her, smiling now, actually enjoying himself.

Zach: See, their problem is they don't know how badly I've got them outnumbered.

Narrator 3: A lot happened then, seemingly all at once.

Narrator 4: Someone reached for Kate's arm, but she wheeled and dove away from him, off the track and onto the grass, rolling as she landed.

Narrator 5: Leaving Zach and the three men.

Narrator 6: Not really knowing how to do what he wanted to do, Zach wheeled and hit the guy who had reached for Kate with an elbow that caught him cleanly on the jaw.

Narrator 1: Direct hit.

Narrator 2: Zach heard a sound that reminded him of the crack of a bat in baseball.

Narrator 3: The guy staggered back but didn't go down, gave his head a quick shake and started to raise his fists.

Narrator 4: Too late.

Narrator 5: Without even feeling himself make the move, Zach was behind him reaching up, putting his hand on the guy's neck, knowing exactly what to do, finding the pressure point like it had an X drawn on it.

Narrator 6: He squeezed hard and put him out - one against two now.

Narrator 1: To learn more about Zach and Kate's adventure in the park and to see how "The Morgan" fits into the bigger picture you will need to read this exciting tale about superheroes from beginning to end.