

Zero to Hero
by
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FADE IN:

EXT. NEW HOUSE

A car pulls in to the new house. AUBREY steps out, and starts picking up bags from the trunk, moving them into the house.

AUBREY (V.O.)
Moving to a new place is like
erasing the past and starting
fresh.

INT. SCHOOL

A teacher introduces Aubrey to the class. Aubrey sits down in the middle of the class, surrounded by students talking and conversing in their own little worlds.

AUBREY (V.O.)
Nobody knows me, and I don't know
anyone.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - NOON

Aubrey sits by herself, eating a homemade lunch.

AUBREY (V.O.)
When you're new, you might think
you're stuck as an outcast forever.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - AFTERSCHOOL

Aubrey is walking to her next class, and she notices a group of kids bullying another kid, ARTHUR. As she walks by, the Arthur and Aubrey exchange looks, and their eyes meet.

AUBREY (V.O.)
But then you meet that one person
that changes your life forever.

However, the connection is broken when the bullies lands a punch to Arthur's face, and Aubrey turns to ignore it.

AUBREY (V.O) (CONT'D)
And that's how I met Arthur.

INT. SCHOOL - SCIENCE CLASS

As students pair up to do projects, Aubrey is left lonesome. She notices that Arthur does not have a partner either, and moves to sit next to him. Arthur is covered with bruises and bandages from earlier.

AUBREY

Hey! You're names ... Arthur!
Right?

Arthur does not reply, and merely nods his head. Skeptical, Aubrey begins the project.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

Can you hand me the ruler?

Without speaking, Arthur hands her the ruler.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

How do you do this?

Arthur wordlessly solves the problem, albeit rather quickly. Aubrey looks at Arthur, who writes the solving method for her.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

You don't talk very much, do you?

Arthur shakes his head.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

Well, you should. Those guys would
have left you alone if you said
something about it.

Arthur writes something down on her paper, which reads in big letters "WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE?". Arthur gets up out of his seat and walks out of the room. Aubrey is left sitting, regretting her unsympathetic words.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD - AFTERSCHOOL

Arthur leaves the school as Aubrey catches up behind him.

AUBREY

Hey listen. Sorry about earlier. I
didn't mean to-

Arthur pulls out another paper, quickly scribbles something, and shows her "YOU DON'T LISTEN DO YOU? JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!". Arthur runs ahead, once again leaving Aubrey, who is a bit confused but intrigued.

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

Aubrey is already halfway home when she notices Arthur being bullied again on a street corner. Concerned, she races to the scene.

BULLY

Silent Arthur! Why don't you ever
talk Arthur? Cat got your tongue?

The group laughs as they bear down upon Arthur.

BULLY (CONT'D)

Talk Arthur! Talk!

The bully punches Arthur hard, who winces, but remains silent.

BULLY (CONT'D)

Talk! TALK!

The bully punches him again, this time harder. Arthur falls to the ground. Aubrey comes running, shoving the bully off.

AUBREY

HEY! Why don't you leave him
alone?!

The group laughs.

BULLY

Ooh, now Arthur's got a girl
protecting him! I'm so scared!

Aubrey punches the bully hard in the face. The bully staggers and falls, and Aubrey quickly grabs Arthur's hand and takes off running. The bully quickly recovers, and starts chasing after them.

EXT. STREET DEAD END

Aubrey leads Arthur into a dead end. As she looks around, wondering what to do, Arthur grips her hand. She looks back at him, and he points toward another way. She smiles, nods, and he starts running as well, leading her. Arthur and Aubrey run up to a house, and race up the steps and into the building.

INT. ARTHUR'S HOUSE

Slamming the door shut, they slump to the floor, panting. A woman, SALLY, walks to them.

SALLY
Never expected Arthur come running
home with a girl!

AUBREY
You must be Arthur's mom?

Sally helps them up, and leads her to sit on the couch.
Arthur grabs some food and sits on the couch as well.

SALLY
I'm his foster mother. He hasn't
told you?

AUBREY
Well, actually he hasn't talked to
me at all.

SALLY
Yes, well, he doesn't talk much.

AUBREY
I noticed.

SALLY
Its not that he can't talk, its
just that he doesn't want to.

AUBREY
Why?

SALLY
Thing is, he doesn't remember his
parents, or anything that has
happened to him prior to 5 years
ago.

AUBREY
He doesn't remember anything from
before he was 10?

SALLY
Doctors say some severe trauma
keeps him from wanting to remember.

Arthur bites loudly on a cracker he is eating.

SALLY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, but you're going to have
to leave. We have business to
attend to.

Aubrey is surprised by the sudden change, but ignores it.

AUBREY

I'm sorry to have bothered you.

Aubrey picks up her bag, and walks out the door. Sally walks off, but Arthur stares intently at where Aubrey was, finishing his cracker.

INT. SCHOOL - SCIENCE CLASS

Aubrey enters class, and sits next to Arthur, who appears confused at the sudden company

AUBREY

What did you have to do yesterday
that was so important?

Arthur remains silent, not facing Aubrey. After a moment of awkward silence, Aubrey pipes up.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

Arthur?

Arthur scribbles something down onto paper, and shows it to Aubrey, which reads "WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?"

AUBREY (CONT'D)

I thought we were cool? What
happened to yesterday?

Arthur again scribbles something down onto paper, and shows it to Aubrey, which reads "DOESN'T MATTER".

AUBREY (CONT'D)

Doesn't matter?! What do you mean
doesn't-

Arthur slides another paper that says "STOP TALKING TO ME". Aubrey, put off, storms back to her own seat. Arthur turns back around, and looks at Aubrey, who is distraught.

EXT. SCHOOLYARD

Aubrey sits with a crowd of friends, who laugh and joke together.

AUBREY (V.O.)

After that, I kind of got the
message. I made new friends; moved
on with my life. I wasn't a nobody
anymore; I became a somebody.

Aubrey glances at Arthur, still sitting by himself.

AUBREY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 He never really changed. Still
 didn't talk, still didn't have any
 friends, still got picked on.

Arthur looks up at Aubrey, who smiles and waves. Arthur
 stares for a moment, then looks back down. Aubrey stops
 waving, shrugs, and turns back to her group.

EXT. SCHOOL - AFTERSCHOOL

Arthur walks from school as Aubrey catches up behind him.

AUBREY
 Arthur!

Arthur remains silent, merely acknowledging her by looking at
 her face to face, then turning back around.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
 How've you been?

Arthur shakes his head.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
 I guess you still don't want to
 talk to me, huh?

Arthur shakes his head again. Aubrey sighs and stops walking.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
 What's your deal, Arthur?

Arthur stops walking, listening to Aubrey

AUBREY (CONT'D)
 What is it with you? We could have
 at least been friends or something.
 But not even a thank you?

Arthur remains silent. Aubrey grows angry.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
 Still the silent treatment?! See if
 I care! You've got problems Arthur,
 and I hate you.

Aubrey storms away. Arthur turns around, concern on his face.
 He opens his mouth as if to say something until-

REPORTER
 -killed by multiple knife and
 gunshot wounds.
 (MORE)

REPORTER (CONT'D)

The perpetrator evaded capture and
the police have issued a warrant
for his arrest-

A television set around the street reports news of a robbery.

Arthur stops listening in to the television, only to realize
Aubrey is long gone. Shrugging, he turns and walks away.

EXT. PARKING LOT - LATE AFTERNOON

Aubrey walks up to her car in the parking lot, which seems
basically empty. She searches through her purse for her keys,
finding them at last and opening her car door. Suddenly, a
man, JAMES grabs her from behind, covering her mouth and
pushing a gun into her back.

JAMES

Shh. Quiet. If you scream, I'll
shoot. Okay?

Aubrey, visibly fearful, nods. James walks around to the side
of the car, opening the door and ordering her in.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Good. Now get in the car and drive.

Aubrey slowly gets into the car, her eyes searching for
someone, anyone to help, but to no avail. She starts the car
and drives away, James sitting in the passenger seat.

INT. ARTHUR'S HOUSE

Arthur lays on his bed, staring at the ceiling and thinking
to himself, when suddenly the blurry visions of James
threatening Aubrey appear to him, causing him to sit up. He
jumps off his bed visibly confused and surprised. Standing
straight, he closes his eyes in concentration, and suddenly,
he disappears from the spot.

EXT. SIDE OF THE WOODS - SUNSET

JAMES

Pull over here.

Aubrey brings the car to a stop on the side of the road, in
front of the woods.

AUBREY

Where are we?

JAMES
Get out of the car.

As Aubrey obeys, she spies her cell phone still in the car. Checking to see if James is watching, she slides it into her sleeve, hiding it from view. She gets out, and James quickly leads her into the woods.

INT. WOODS - SUNSET

As James walks through the woods, Aubrey follows, trying to type into her phone. As she manage to dial 911, she listens to the rings, James stops. As she tries to cover the speaker-

OPERATOR
911 emergency.

James whirls around, running towards Aubrey.

JAMES
What was that?!

In his haste, he pushes down Aubrey, who drops the phone to the ground. James sees the phone and picks it up, listening.

OPERATOR
Hello?

James quickly throws the phone to the ground, smashing it under his feet. He quickly draws his gun, pointing it straight at Aubrey. James cocks the gun.

JAMES
And now they know where I am, thank
you very much.

Aubrey closes her eyes as James pulls the trigger, and Aubrey screams. After a second of nothing happening, Aubrey opens her eyes. The bullet has stopped in midair.

As Aubrey looks up at the confused James, she turns to see Arthur, hand raised in a clenching fist. James turns to see what she is looking at and spies Arthur as well.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Who the hell are you!?

With a wave of his hand, Arthur telekinetically throws the gun out of James's hands. Arthur walks toward James, who appears a bit frightened but tries to sham courage.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Hey. Stop! Get back!

Arthur walks up to James, who brandishes a knife and tries to stab Arthur, who simply blocks and punches James in the abdomen. James is sent flying and falls to the ground quite a distance away.

Arthur turns to face Aubrey, visually checking for any injuries, and begins walking away as Aubrey watches him go. Aubrey is dumbstruck, unable to speak, save for one word.

AUBREY

Arthur!

BOOM! Arthur staggers. James has drawn another pistol and fired at Arthur. BOOM! BOOM! James manages to fire twice more until suddenly the pistol is wrenched from his hand. Arthur turns to face James, who suddenly starts grasping his neck as if someone was choking him.

James chokes and sputters. As the stunned Aubrey looks on, James' eyes begin to roll back, and his face starts to turn pale. Arthur does nothing to stop. Aubrey, grasping the situation, quickly runs over to Arthur. She grabs Arthur and they look face to face.

AUBREY (CONT'D)

ARTHUR! STOP!

Suddenly, James slumps onto the floor, unconscious. Arthur relinquishes his telekinetic grip on James, and slowly gets up.

His shirt is bloody, his face ragged, his arms and legs wobbly. He begins limping away, heaving and difficult breathing apparent. Aubrey, at a loss of words, finds herself frozen on the spot.

As Arthur disappears from view, Aubrey regains her composure, quickly getting up and looking around. She runs in the direction in which Arthur left, and quickly disappears into the darkness. Soft thunder is heard in the background, and rain begins to trickle down.

EXT. WOODS - SLOWLY RAINING NIGHT

Aubrey bursts out from the wood. Rain has begun to fall, getting harder with every moment. As she looks around in the rain, she spies Arthur, already quite far away.

AUBREY

Arthur! ARTHUR! ARTHUR!! ARTHUR!!!

Arthur turns to look. With his wet hair stuck to his face, and the dim light around him, he exudes a sullen brilliance.

He appears sad and gloomy, and his body shakes from the cold and blood loss. Arthur swallows, and whispers softly.

ARTHUR

Goodbye.

The rain begins to pour, and with the flash of lightning, he is gone. Aubrey sinks to her knees, crying, her regrets and unspoken words pouring out through her tears.

AUBREY (V.O.)

After that night, I never saw him again.

FADE OUT.