

## "SuperGuy" - Series Bible

It's almost hard to believe, but mankind has never once stepped foot on another planet. 'hard to believe because, almost daily we go everywhere in the universe on TV, at the movies, or in books. Now, try to remember that the many, many super heroes that live in our minds are only found in that very same place. There's no such thing as Superman, Aquaman, Green Lantern, etc. But what if, one day, there appeared a single person with extraordinary powers? What would really, truly happen? After the fanfare settled, the "soup" would hit the fan. This is our world. The world we know and live in day to day, with only one exception, there exists a single person who can fly through the sky, lift a truck, and take a medium caliber bullet.

Sure, we'll take a look at the near-endless social and global problems this will introduce, but the real story, the one that we can all relate to, lives in his personal life and workplace. "Five alarm fire? -no sweat. Bank Robbery? -child's play. Getting through Thanksgiving dinner? -impossible."

The trouble-makers turn out to be his family and the American public. The super villains might be the occasional terrorist but are more often institutions and the establishment.

This story is about the life and times of "SuperGuy," the world's first and only being with three super powers: flight, immense strength, and resistance to heat and pressure. His birth name is Mark Trent. He took on the heroic name of "SuperGuy" because, let's face it, "Superman" would incite a lawsuit.

His super power origins are mysterious and shrouded in secrecy. His international, commercial corporation, "SuperGuy, Inc.," itself a super-power, would have everybody believe in romantic origin fables (be they exotic or accidental) like those of most comic-book super heroes. His own secret, the unglamorous truth, in-sync with his hillbilly family and up-bringing, is that he was involved in an experimental drug study when he was just a boy. His mother needed the cash and, according to her, Mark needed some fixin'. Truthfully, how it all came to be is not the real story. The real story is "Now what?" The reality is that anyone placed up on a pedestal will surely be knocked off. Sure, he can help a few people, but now society, institutions, and establishments are disoriented and dangerously off-balance. And the money to be made or lost is staggering.

He chooses to live in Los Angeles, land of super-stars and La-La. He has typical Hollywood Celebrity "issues" yet he is needed, touted, condemned, and celebrated as a savior. Surely he represents the "good" and "best" in all of us, but he struggles daily with the same "mediocre" and "small" that's inside us all as well. He's got issues. He's got problems--family problems, tax problems, idiots-everywhere problems. And he's called on relentlessly. Do you know how to get him? "There's an APP for that!"

The series is shot similar to "The Office" in a cinema vérité style. We "peer into" our hero's world and occasionally address the camera in a documentary style fashion.

The series has an overall story arc involving an immense and menacing pharmaceutical company, yet each episode will have its own episodic story. Sometimes these will focus on one part of the greater arc and other times they will be separate events from the continuing story. The episodic stories involve challenges with his family, his business (rescuing, marketing), and "common" emergencies. The overall series will have a thread involving our hero's use of a "harmless" mood booster pharmaceutical as well as the pharmaceutical company that really begins to pull all of

society's strings through that psychotropic drug's use and misuse...and their abuse of that extreme power. Surely there's a pun about a flying hero "getting high" in here somewhere--maybe everywhere.

Super-power Bible:

**Flight:**

SG can fly briefly at altitudes up to the top of the Earth's Troposphere (17km at the equator) but can only achieve sustained flight within 15,000 feet of sea level. This limitation is not due to his inability to fly higher, it's because of temperature and air pressure. He would either suffocate or freeze to death. This can be slightly remedied with a pressure and heat suit, but, in general it's not practical nor necessary.

**Strength:**

SG can lift up to 8 tons and withstand pressures of up to 30,000 psi. That's a lot, but a bullet will surely still cause some pain. That's no big deal, but some rifles (and plenty of other heavy duty weapons) can shoot a projectile with an impact of over 40,000 psi. That's a problem. SG does not routinely wear bullet-proof clothing, but he will if he knows he'll be in range of any heavy artillery.

**Breath:** He continuously trains himself in holding his breath, much like a free diver. He can hold his breath up to 5 minutes, still far below that of the 22 minute world record. The time, of course, reduces as physical exertion rises. The point is, however, this is not a super-power. He constantly works at it so that he has more time and options in certain emergency situations (like a fire) where his actual super powers are only limited by his breathing endurance.

**Heat:** Just as his skin can uphold the 30,000 psi of pressure, it can also sustain relatively high temperatures for short periods of time: (e.g. 1800 degrees Fahrenheit for maybe five minutes.) That's fairly useful in most house fires, but he can be burned, especially in any exotic chemical fire.

## Characters

**SuperGuy**, aka Mark Trent, 25. Born sometime around 1990.

A dysfunctional super hero with less than adequate self-esteem, friends, and family.

SG was born in rural Indiana, at home in the double wide. His parents were anything but idyllic. They were barely capable or functional as people let alone parents. SG's drunk father took off when he was 4. SG showed signs of being a typical, active, troublesome boy, which local quacks, er, doctors immediately recognized and diagnosed as ADHD. His mom enrolled him in an experimental ADHD drug program at Pfizix labs. His family would agree the ADHD did not improve, but SG began to exhibit some side effects other than flatulence or headaches. Eventually, he could fly, and he became extremely strong and resilient. But that's it. There's no exotic talents like heat vision or super-breath. And his flight, strength, and endurance to heat and pressure have surprisingly "reasonable" limitations. He does not really know his limitations, but he knows where he is most useful and where he is not. He can absolutely help rescue/save people. He wants no part of "crime fighting," especially since he rightfully knows he can get hurt. He's known pain. SG rightfully figures that his super powers are some bizarre side-effect from the experimental drugs, but it's his own "little secret." The Pharmaceutical company never knew about it; and his family couldn't put it together, particularly after SG made up so many vexing stories about it. His cousins still believe aliens landed near the creek. His only power-killing weakness, like most of the human race, is depression.

**Frank Trent**, 33

**The "Real Crime Fighter" of the family.**

SGs older brother. Can you just imagine being the older, 'wiser' sibling to a know-it-all, win-at-everything kid who could never be "taught a lesson," "told what to do," nor "lose at anything physical?" Frank's not just bitter, he's incensed. The only thing he could do to be "better" than his brother was to become a cop --an "officer of the law." DEA. Now he can "be right." He's no longer a "black and white," but that's how he sees everything. Frank uses the law as leverage whenever confronting SG.

### **MaryJo Trent 59**

"Tammy Faye Bakker meets a Vegas Show Girl"

SG and Frank's mother. I'd say she's an Evangelical Christian, but that too may only be as deep and authentic as the make-up that covers her sun-damaged skin. Her "tool of choice" to use as leverage over SG is God. "I was his role model growing up." It's true. SG still smokes and drinks and swears. Luckily, the apple did fall far enough away from the tree, and he did receive some level of education and world-awareness. Although MaryJo will be first to spout chestnuts like "Pride goeth before the fall" to her beloved son, she takes immense pride in being his mother. Like the Jeffersons, she "moved on up!" But she has a deluxe mansion in the sky-- of Hollywood Hills. Like televangelists, she has mysteriously reconciled wearing diamonds, tiaras, sables, and the-like with "doing the lord's work." Curious. However, MaryJo's love, fondness, and complete color-blindness of Monique Ritter is a testament to MaryJo's decency and deep-down "goodness" and character strength.

### **Cindy Trent 20**

SuperGuy's younger sister.

Cindy doesn't have her brother Frank's bitter grudge, but she does have a horrible case of "LaToya Jackson Syndrome" and desperately wants attention. She occasionally supports herself by exploiting her relationship to SuperGuy. She's been in Playboy, done tell-all interviews, and surely has several high-paying media contacts on speed-dial for a quick expose'. But, where Frank has a hard, cold heart, hers is still warm. SuperGuy loves her even though she often disappoints him. Unfortunately, she gets her taste in fashion from her mother. She has quite a collection of exotic-print tube-tops and fish-net stockings, for starters.

### **Sam Trent 62**

SuperGuy's father. Drunkard. He left the family when SG was a boy.

### **Derek Ritter aka "Friday" 23**

Derek has been there "from the beginning." He's SuperGuy's best friend, confidant, buddy, scape-goat, food-tester, largest personal expense, and guilty pleasure. Derek is rather slovenly and really doesn't "give a darn" about most anything. SuperGuy admires if not covets Derek's carefree, care-less lifestyle. Derek is many things SuperGuy is not. He's out-of-shape, disheveled, cynical, satirical, witty and funny. SuperGuy loves having him around. Most everybody else in SuperGuy's life DOES NOT! Derek is black. Derek's mom used to babysit for SuperGuy. Derek, albeit disheveled, is a genius. (That's his "super" power.) But he's also lazy. There was no way he was going to "do time" in college. I'm not so sure if he's street smart, nor even book smart, but he's math smart. Derek is a wiz at topography, logistics, and strategy. (Derek and SuperGuy's first "joint venture" business was a SUPER FAST EXPRESS COURIER service. Derek calculated all routes and the sequence of deliveries. SuperGuy did the delivering.) This ability made Derek an indispensable asset to SuperGuy, Inc.---because it is Derek who can quickly, off the top of his head, delineate exactly which crises should be addressed, and in what order each should be attended, in order to deliver optimum results and minimum loss of life. The only issue was, by default, he chose

who lived and who died. That burden was too much, so Derek quit so that those decisions were "left to fate"---or at least they weren't his call. And, he will no longer be held accountable by the media and tabloids.

### **Charles Roberts 56**

The hands-on COO of SuperGuy, Inc.

His disposition is rather grumpy, surly and curt...but he cares....he really does. He's probably the closest thing SuperGuy has ever had to a father-figure, and he's responsible for "getting the hero out there!" He's less interested in the marketing and other bullshit (his words, not mine) and more interested in saving as many lives as possible. He does not suffer fools lightly and he has no time for chit-chat, lovey-dovey, nor nonsense. "Get in, get out, move on." "You win some, you lose some. Big deal."

### **Joan Hanson 28**

CCO of SuperGuy, Inc. She's way too young, way too beautiful, and way too shallow. She's all about image and marketing and spinning the rescuer into a true-to-comic-books, limelight-bathed, super-star/super-hero and brand. She can easily make the "tough choices" over who lives and who dies by answering a few simple questions: "Where are the cameras pointed?" She knows where the real money is: licensing! Aside from the obvious action-figures, every lunch box, poster, tote, you-name-it, has the SG-shield and "SuperGuy" name on it. She thought of the APP that uses GPS on a smart phone to "call" SuperGuy for a rescue. Not because it's incredibly quick and useful (actually it overwhelms the team and enables false alarms all day long), but because now she has a direct marketing link to every man, woman, and child who has it...and they all do! She has two kids: Jack 6, and Belle 5. We rarely ever see them or her husband. Neither does she. Not only does SuperGuy part company on Joan's priorities when it comes to where and what SuperGuy should be doing, SuperGuy thinks that Joan should be spending more time at home with her kids.

### **Martin Stuart 29**

"Queer eye for the heroic guy." He's the flamboyant assistant for SuperGuy. And SuperGuy thought a woman would be way too controversial! The tabloids devour that relationship like manna from heaven. But it's strictly a business relationship. Joan Hanson can always count on Stuart to dress SuperGuy "just right." "Image is everything" to both Joan and Stuart, but Stuart is at "ground zero" - "Where the rubber meets the..." enough of that. He's in charge of SuperGuy's physical appearance, the appearance of those around him, and the appearance of his home. He can "pitch in" and do SuperGuy's mother's hair at a shoot, darn a satin cape, or make a sassy tea in a pinch. He detests SuperGuy's slovenly best buddy, Derek. Martin secretly has the hots for SuperGuy. He's mostly good at hiding it. Mostly.

### **Albert Flanders 73**

MaryJo's live-in butler. No one can be sure why he stays on or puts up with MaryJo, other than perhaps he's far too old to get work anywhere else. He bemoans most everything MaryJo has him do. Granted, most of it is ridiculous. MaryJo always wanted a butler because, in her mind's eye, that was the ultimate symbol of wealth. Albert has all the pleasantries of an old curmudgeon, but SuperGuy can see that wink in his eye. It's quite probable that Albert is mostly "playing" that role because he actually finds it quite amusing. Cynicism and sarcasm can be fun exercise for an aging mind and body. And what else would you have him do for exercise? The thigh-master?

### **Dr. Nancy Robbins 44**

Psychotherapist / Life coach / Cougar

Robbins can no longer practice as a doctor as her medical privileges were removed in a conviction involving psychotropic drugs. She now makes five times what she earned as a shrink by motivational speaking and life coaching. Who needs drugs? "Life is to be lived!" She's a veritable fountain of hackneyed motivational quotes that make the indoctrinated roll their eyes, but any sniff of sanity or wisdom is a touchstone for SuperGuy. She strives to get SuperGuy off of his medication and replace it with yoga, meditation, and positive thought. She's a sincere guide and mentor in SuperGuy's life and has "been there done that" with many of the pitfalls that SuperGuy experiences. Ok, she's attracted to him.

### **Sunny Ritter 22**

Derek's sister. She really is a rocket scientist. And she's a babe. It happens. She occasionally "helps out" at SuperGuy, Inc. in a way that "Q" does for James Bond. If SuperGuy, Inc. just can't get something "off the shelf" or their own in-house team fails, she lends a hand—although it always takes some doing. Of course, SuperGuy has known her since childhood and has always known her as a "friend" and as Derek's sister. He's never really thought of her "that way"---if you know what I mean. But perhaps--subconsciously--he fancies her. That may rise to the surface in season 2 or 3. But Derek and their mother will hear nothing of this. "Hell no!"

### **Monique Ritter 55**

Sunny and Derek's mother. She babysat SuperGuy as a child. She comes off as somewhat a stereotypical Baptist, but she's no fool. She's a good person, a good mother, and has truly been a mentor, voice of reason and heart of gold to SuperGuy, MaryJo, and the whole Trent family. And just look at her kids! (Well, Derek's not much to LOOK at.) They're both geniuses. Okay, so Derek refused to go to college, but Sunny has a PHD in astrophysics. Derek has that rebellious nature against "the man," institutions, and, well, hard work. "I don't need no diploma to prove I can out-think you. Now. Get me a beer."

### **Jackie Razor 21**

Pop Star and Teen Idol. SuperGuy's girlfriend. She's a SUPER star. She can handle that just about as super immaturity as SuperGuy can handle being a super hero. They have many things in common in dealing with their relationship to/with the public.

### **Dr. Max Wilson - "Mirthrax Max" 39**

College Professor. Drug Distributor. "Cook." This guy cuts Mirthrax and makes it addictive. He's SuperGuy's dealer. He secretly works for Pfizix Labs.

### **Cyril Sturmwetter 64**

CEO of Pfizix Pharmaceuticals

A rather obscure and mysterious figure who watches and calmly issues chilling dictates that clearly affect the lives of myriad people. What is he up to?

He makes large donations to the "SuperGuy Rescue Fund." He secretly knows that SuperGuy is hooked on his miraculous happy pill, "Mirthrax." He's yet to discover that one of his experimental drugs accidentally created SuperGuy. His company makes immense amounts of money from the proper and improper use of Mirthrax--"druggies" are converting it into the potent recreational drug, "Mirth."

With all this money and mirth, you'd think he'd be happier!

# Series Samples

Each series is comprised of 4 to 6 five-minute episodes.

## "Driven"

SuperGuy must confront his fear of...driving. SuperGuy must finally learn how to drive. He never learned how. Why would he ever need to? Well, going on a date has proven catastrophic. One might think being flown through the air is romantic. SuperGuy's few failed dates can assure you otherwise. The family takes to helping him learn this colossal task.

## "White Lies"

SuperGuy can't tell a lie, but everybody else can. Of course, SuperGuy is fully capable of avoiding the truth and keeping secrets. For one, he's addicted to Mirthrax to keep himself happy and in a tip-top flying mood. Mirthrax is made by the pharmaceutical giant that manufactured the ADHD drug that inadvertently gave SuperGuy his powers.

## "Who's Gonna Pay For That?"

A lot of property gets damaged when people are being saved. Even worse, occasionally some people suffer minor injuries in rescues. Now, our hero must face teams of "ambulance chaser" attorneys, insurance adjusters, litigators, and laws. No insurance company in the world will insure him for malpractice, liability, damages, etc. So begins sponsorships and endorsements to pay for the staggering legal and settlement costs.

## "My New Fragrance."

SuperGuy must come to terms with "showing off."

If Mariah Carey, Justin Bieber, and most every other super-star can have a line of clothes, accessories, and an oakey fragrance, then so can our super-hero. Hey, it's big business. But what to call it? What should it smell like? Should he wear it? The whole thing blows up when two people being rescued have severe allergic reactions. Will the hero survive the flack? Will the scent survive?

## "Birth Certificate"

Conspiracy theorists, religions, and a disgruntled billionaire "take on" SuperGuy, claiming that perhaps he's the first of an invading alien race. What really sucks is that young Mark was born at home in the trailer park and his hillbilly parents never bothered with a birth certificate. Our hero must go back to his home town to trace, reveal, and dredge through his painful childhood, all while keeping his secret about the origin of his super powers.

## "A Hero in Jeopardy"

SuperGuy finally must accept that he's super strong, but not super smart.

Caught up in the excitement, his own seemingly undefeatable heroic prowess, and spectacular publicity, SuperGuy agrees to go on a game show. Bad idea. He's apparently not smarter than a Fifth-grader, at least not in spelling. SuperGuy's education comes under scrutiny, after-all Education is an American birthright. Derek helps him study-up as Joan spins the PR nightmare.

## "Setting the Thanksgiving Fable"

SuperGuy, his family, and assorted model actors gather around a sumptuous, cornucopia-like Thanksgiving table for a television spot that celebrates and blesses the American Family on this All American Holiday. 'Too bad reality is nothing like that. When the cameras stop rolling, the family

starts. But, of course, you can't spell dysfunction without 'fun'. The only possible difference between them and "non super" families is that they have super-sized issues. Can they find common ground upon which to be grateful?

#### "Soar Losers"

After SuperGuy commercially endorses an airline with his name on it, the other carriers band together to have him banned from most airspace claiming he is a risk to all of the air traffic in the sky. For the interim period, he's forced to where flashing red strobe "tail lights" in his heels. His own sister becomes the spokesman for another carrier and claims she would never fly her brother's airline.

#### "Hollywood Land"

First off, SuperGuy is tired of asking deep philosophical questions like, "If Captain America and you got into a fight, who would win?" But the real disaster is: Now that there actually is a super hero, Hollywood is largely screwed. Of course the studios are trampling each other to garner movie rights to his story, but his life is anything but heroic or inspirational. Is total fabrication, I mean artistic license, the only solution? Although his parents seldom role-modeled it, the one value SuperGuy was taught growing up was not to lie, but the publicly reported story of his life has become most anything but the truth.

#### "Royal Flush"

If you thought the rest of the world hated us before, now we have what everyone's calling "The American Hero." Forget the Eastern and Middle Eastern Cultures, he's in trouble with most of the West as well. If you thought the British Royal Family was ridiculous or losing steam before, now they're really bollixed. So much for SuperGuy ever seeing the world. (Nobody in the U.S. would let him leave for a New York second anyways.) Ironical that a man that can fly anywhere he wants on his own power is caged.

#### "Indig-Nation"

There could well be more ire now that there's a super hero in the land. The whole thing is inherently unfair if not cruel. Who gets rescued? Who dies? Does his presence undermine the established institutions/religions/governments? Sure there's a lot of big-picture issues here. Naturally, we'll take the small picture and low road to examine a lottery system and how SuperGuy fixates on the death of a parakeet in a Pet Store fire. Will our hero go into a tail spin? Can his life coach guide him to deal with reality or will his publicist Joan teach him distance?

#### "Tale Spin"

The public wants to know where SuperGuy came from or what serendipitous accident created his super powers. The trouble is, the real story involves drugs given to a child. No matter, Hollywood has their own story to tell. "The Origin Story" for SuperGuy becomes the next, huge Hollywood undertaking.