

## **CHAPTER 60: THE SECOND COMING**

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### **INTRO**

Graham: Hello and welcome everybody to the 10<sup>th</sup> Wonder Podcast. This is our chapter 60 for the Heroes episode "The Second Coming." We're so excited to have Heroes back on the air and we know you guys are, too. I'm Graham.

Derek: And I'm Derek.

G: What a night Monday night was. You just can't ask for more excitement than that. We've got a two-part podcast this week. Our first episode this week is covering "The Second Coming" and part two will cover "The Butterfly Effect." That means even after we're done with this week's episode, we've still got work to do. If all's gone according to plan, this episode will drop around Thursday or Friday and part two of our podcast for "The Butterfly Effect" will be out during the weekend. Splitting up the podcasts allows us to get out our information to you sooner, so I think that this was the best way to do it. We've had so much fun. We've already talked about it. We did a live show. But first let's go over some of our highlights from Monday night. We have some non-Heroes related highlights as well as some that relate to the show. For me, I think the live show was the most fun we've had in a long time doing podcasts. It as a new experience for us. I think that would go at the top of my list, how much fun we had doing that. Also, we were able to get Heroes in hi-definition, even though I don't have NBC in HD. Somebody contacted me a couple of hours before the premiere and said, "Well, why don't you try hooking up an antenna?" I said, "That's a good idea!" So, I went out and bought a 30 dollar antenna that allowed us to get Heroes in HD on premiere night.

D: That's not a bad deal for \$30.

G: I know, I was very surprised it worked at all because our NBC station is like 60 miles away. I can't believe it worked. But as far as scenes from the show go, my highlights had to have been the Sytar and Claire scenes. I think that I liked it the 2<sup>nd</sup> time around even more than I liked it the first time. Of course, this time I wasn't liveblogging everything and I got to pay really close attention to the episode. Also, the future Peter stuff. I loved how they kind of played with our minds and making us think that Peter is really Peter and when he's really future Peter. I think that they did that very well. But those were some of my highlights. What were yours Derek?

D: Just like you I thought the live show was a lot of fun, doing that interacting with the hundreds of folks in our chat room, or in Ustream that was completely overloaded in the first part of the evening. So much so that we were several

minutes lagged behind in the chat than we were livestreaming. All of us being together, you me and Tucker getting to talk about the show, we haven't done that in a while. I think my highlight of the evening was just—I had a great experience seeing “The Second Coming” at Comic Con, but I'd much rather be in the comfort of my own home, not around people to enjoy things.

G: You're a private television watcher.

D: Yeah, I don't need 6500 people to enjoy it so while I was anxious to see that again, I couldn't wait to see 3-02 and it did not disappoint. “The Butterfly Effect” did not.

G: Right, we had no idea what was going to go on in 3-02 and unfortunately, we're not talking about that right away. We're doing a separate podcast for 3-02, but I would have to agree 3-02 kind of topped 3-01 in my eyes. I kind of think that they took it up a notch with 3-01 and took it up even higher for 3-02 and that is what we want to see as far as the progression of Heroes. Let's talk a little bit more about the live show. All in all, about 200 people tuned in. That is amazing to us that we were able to get the word out to that many people and have that many folks chatting and reacting to all of our live show stuff. I think that was so much fun. We're definitely going to try and do that more often. Supposedly, I think we're going to try and go live at least as soon as the show goes off on the west coast. Because now they're not showing two episodes and it will actually go off at a reasonable hour for us to go live and everybody can participate. I think that's going to turn out really well. And that will be our Reactions-type shows that we started doing last year, except now they're going to be live. So we've taken things up a notch ourselves. We'll also try and get Skype working for the next one. We had a problem with Skype last week and I think that once we get that working, we'll be able to include other voices and more people. I think it's going to be a great thing to try and do. What did you think about the live show? I know you said a little bit, but what was your favorite thing about it?

D: I think we had a lot of fun. We had a lot of laughs. It was fun seeing friends that we made over the past couple of years in the chat room talking back to us. Some new folks we haven't seen before and basically, just talking about the show, kinda being like everybody else is. Not having a whole span of 3-4 days to go back and watch everything and take down every little note and sit in front of mikes and do everything, but just go off the cuff and talking about it is kind of fun.

G: Right, for me that's kind of the scary part because it's like we've just seen the episode, we don't have any time to get our thoughts together and here we are in front of 200 people talking about it. So it is kind of more off-the-cuff than our podcasts and when you're listening to the 10<sup>th</sup> Wonder, you're listening to us after we've had hours to prepare and to think about what we're going to say and think about the larger picture of things, but the live show, you're getting to see us coming up with those theories as soon as they're forming in our heads, so it's a

different kind of show and that's why we should keep doing it. But that's all for the top of the show, let's go ahead and get into our headlines.

### **HEADLINES**

Derek: Our first headline is NBC.com has won an Emmy for the Heroes online content for the past few seasons. This is something we're very excited about because I love the 360 online stuff.

Graham: I know, and it's amazing how much goes into it. I don't think when all of the Evolutions, Heroes 360 stuff started we had any idea how much stuff they were going to put out there.

D: It goes really deep and I don't think you can even scratch the surface being on the site for a matter of hours. You have to definitely dig through everything to find out how far back it goes. It goes back in the graphic novels. Now, do you remember the Emmys last year, Graham?

G: Yes, I'm trying to forget.

D: Heroes was nominated for 8 Emmys last year and went home empty handed. I don't really understand that.

G: Disappointing night and I vowed not to watch the Emmys this year because of that and I didn't. I actually forgot about them.

D: And everybody kind of said it was a little bit disappointing telecast.

G: I'm sure it is. It always is.

D: So, you know, whatever. This year, NBC and Heroes ended up walking away with the "Outstanding Achievement in Interactive Media" as we said, which is a very prestigious award and very new to new media platforms of television media and things of that nature.

G: I think it's great that that's even an award.

D: I do, too. Up to this point, I wasn't even aware it was a category and I don't think you did either.

G: No.

D: But it's still great to see it used in all these facets and it's bringing all kinds of new people to the show who just come across the website, see the graphic novels. I think they had the market cornered, though, because I don't see another show delving this deep into their own content like Heroes does.

G: I think Lost definitely is in the running for something like this. They had, like an ARG thing going on. Maybe 24. I'm not really sure of what they're doing online.

D: Not really 24. Lost does at during certain points of the season, but usually they don't have this like overall thing going on like Heroes does. Definitely not as many things as Heroes does.

G: If the Dark Knight were a TV show and it was in the running for this Emmy, they would probably have won, if you were following any of that online stuff. But, it is great to see NBC.com being recognized for the mountains of online content that they have provided to us with the Heroes stuff. So that is exciting. Our next headline is not quite as exciting to us. Entertainmentweekly.com calls the Heroes ratings from Monday night "unheroic." Ouch.

D: Well, you know, it's hard coming back after 9 months.

G: I know.

D: It is. Even though it's been nine months and most every fan was ready for it to come back, it's still hard to find your spot in the world after being gone for so long.

G: Well, Entertainment Weekly reports that the clip show came away with around 6 million viewers Monday night and the two episodes together netted about 10 million viewers. And they call this a distant cry from the 14 million that Season Two premiere's pulled. Which, I think, wow, 10 million's pretty good, maybe not quite so much to Entertainment Weekly. Of course, a show like Dancing with the Stars got around 20 millions viewers Monday night. I don't know if Heroes was directly competing with them.

D: Yeah, it was up against the clip show.

G: Yeah, and so I think it's always that reality show vs. TV drama battle. The reality shows for some reason always have more viewers.

D: I'll never understand that. To this day, I've never watched a reality TV show. I think I watched the Pilot of Survivor the first time it ever came on and was like "eh, that's enough of that."

G: I mean, if you could see Deal or No Deal's ratings compared to Heroes readings on the same Monday night, you'd be like, "Why?"

D: I know!

G: Why is this show so much more popular?

D: Because Deal or No Deal topples Sarah Connor every Monday night and just don't understand why some of those things can outrank something that's gripping television.

G: But, putting aside our utter hatred of the Nielsen rating system, I think that we have a plan for world domination and that is to sign up all of our listeners as Nielsen families.

D: I'm not taking this on myself, but if you want to do this, go right ahead.

G: So head to Nielsen.com and sign up.

D: This is going to be Tucker's off-job this season.

G: We're going to make Tucker sign every single one of you up as a Nielsen family and that way Heroes will get a boost in the ratings. I think that they're kind of looking at Heroes and saying, "Well, this show used to get 14 million people a night or 16 million people a night." They're just dogging on Heroes because the premiere didn't do as well as they thought it would. But I still think 10 million viewers for the 2 premiere episodes is absolutely fantastic, though maybe not everybody shares my thoughts on that. And Tucker had a really good point during our live show. He said "Even the folks who didn't turn into this week are going to hear from their friends how good those episodes were and next week is going to be even better.

D: Heroes is a big water cooler show, but not only that, we have many other ways of getting Heroes now than just having to watch it on NBC when it comes on. We've got iTunes again, we've got Hulu. We've got several ways you can get a hold of it.

G: And Nielsen doesn't count any of that. They just count the Nielsen families and they say, "well, this one household watches this and they count for 600,000 people." I don't understand why the Nielsen system works the way it does. I have studied it a little bit since I do broadcasting, but it's a confusing system that almost makes zero sense to me as a person, but maybe to broadcasters and ratings and advertisers maybe it means a lot more.

D: And I think a few people might have been confused and this is probably more of an NBC gripe than anything else, because when commercials and ads have been airing for the past two months that said "three hour event" when people turned on the TV at 7 PM and saw the live show and saw the countdown, they may have turned away and not come back.

G: I don't see how the live show would have turned someone off of the premiere event, but maybe it did.

D: Some people just don't want to watch that kind of stuff. I'm not one of those people. They did a really good job in the clip show of making it not seem like a hokey, oh, here's everything from the past. They used the clips very well. They had a fun feel to it.

G: I wonder what it was like being there. If maybe if felt a little hokey when they were there, because it seemed like they taped a whole lot of the segments specifically inside of the party. Might not have been a real party.

D: No. I don't think those people were talking. I think that was all...

G: I think they were all mouthing words. It was the quietest party I ever saw.

D: Like any other party scene on a TV show. But even the way they used the clips for every character and did the graphics and everything. I just really enjoyed it.

G: Right, and so I still agree that the Heroes rating were very acceptable, I mean, 10 million people and you throw in the 6 million people that watch the clip show, I don't see any thing to gripe about and I think it will get even better as we go along, especially talking about Tucker's point talking about these past two episodes. Next up, we have a little discussion about Greg Beeman's blog. Of course we mentioned last week that he's back. He's doing blog posts again and this week he did two blog posts. He even put in one of them, he said "This means I have to do two posts and I'm so busy with other stuff in Heroes." It was pretty funny the way he was explaining it. But he did an entry for "The Second Coming" and an entry for "The Butterfly Effect" and this week we'll read what he had to say about "The Second Coming." Greg interviewed series producer and director Alan Arkush for this blog entry and they talk about the certain specific challenges in Heroes and how they scout locations and stuff. Arkush talks about directing the Sylar and Claire scenes from this past episode and you need to go and read that. I think they're really interesting. I think Kring told him to direct it as if it were a teenage slasher movie/horror film and going back and watching that, I think it translates pretty well. He also said that he shot a scene involving Sylar and Mr. Muggles and it got cut for time. Mr. Muggles was going to run up to Sylar as he was shaking on the door, trying to get Claire out of that closet and he was going to do his hand to the camera, like he was going to cut off the top of Mr. Muggles' head, and that was going to get the audience all riled up, but all he was going to do was flick the dog out of the doggy door with telekinesis. He said that got cut out, even though it was a really funny scene. Also, Greg Beeman posted a ton of pictures on this post. One of which is extremely spoilery and has lots to do with Niki's storyline that we can't talk about until maybe our next show. And as we mentioned, Greg also posted an entry for "The Butterfly Effect," which

we'll read and discuss in our next podcast. But, that's all for our headlines and top of our show. Let's move on.

[RECAP OF EPISODE]

## **TOPICS**

Graham: All right. Welcome to our Topics for "The Second Coming." It's kind of tough, actually, to just narrow things down to only talking about this episode because so much was discussed in the second episode which most of you, I would bet, have already seen. So we're going to cover some of the topics that this episode brought up specifically. And if there's anything we don't cover, just wait until we release our next part of the podcast later this week and we most likely will have covered it in there. As far as this episode, we want to talk about how the new season of Heroes has shown us that the future is uncertain for all of our characters. We're kind of, we kind of have a theme to our topics this week, and it's called "An Uncertain Future." First, we want to talk about our first topic:

### The Futurelli Factor

G: Now, I'm just happy I was able to fit the "Futurelli" name in the Topic title.

Derek: It's ain't easy to say "Futurelli Factor," too. Say that three times fast.

G: The events set in motion this season are direct result of future Peter coming back to stop the future that Nathan would have created with his press conference, at least, that's what we gather. Now, there was a scene between Future Peter and Angela in this episode where he says to her: "The formula that you and your friends buried? It gets out. You know this because you have this ability to dream and see the future. And it destroys everything!" And Angela says: "Well, something different happens now and it's all your fault, so go back to where you came from and where's my son?" That scene has so much in it, if you go back and watch it. But, specifically, he's talking about the formula. The formula gets out and that coupled with the fact that Nathan spilled the beans about the specials has just created this awful future and he came back to stop it. Well, it seems that the future that we saw in the beginning of the episode wasn't just created by Nathan's actions. It was also because of the formula and the Company must have also played some type of role. Now, what I think is that the Company would have had to change drastically after Nathan made his announcement. We all know that they've enlisted help from specials to do their bidding in the past, which means specials might have had to turn against their own kind in this future that Peter is from and that I guess that is leading us to getting an explanation of why Peter was running in the beginning of the episode?

D: Well, there's different futures, but they all kind of interact the same way. Definitely what we saw in "Five Years Gone" is something like, it's not the same future, but it's a variation of it. You know, Noah trying to help specials, trying to help them keep them hidden from people trying to find them, people they were on the run from. So, it's all kind of loosely based around the same string, if you will, it just shoots off in different directions.

G: But I think that specifically the future that Future Peter has come back to change, is the one where there's just specials being hunted down by somebody, we don't know who yet. And I imagine, if not the Company, that we have known about for a while now, if not that Company, than a new one.

D: Well, it's a little disheartening because every future we've seen is them being hunted. It's almost like it's inevitable.

G: Pretty much. I would say that's a great point because if these powers are coming to light, it's not long until someone finds out. And what is the knee-jerk reaction to something like this happening? Oh, people can fly, now, this is not something the public needs to know about and it begins to become a suppression kind of thing with the world governments and world powers. So, I think every road and every path and every future that we can think of eventually leads down this road of specials being hunted down in some way. Unless, there's a way to change that, but I can't immediately think of one off the top of my head. So, what I think is maybe this future that we saw in the first few minutes of this episode is a future created not only by Nathan's press conference, but also by a new version of the Company, what the Company had to become after Nathan made his announcement and also, maybe it's not just our old Company. Maybe it's a different entity that's giving chase to our Heroes or maybe they have some other agenda. Maybe they want evil powers to get out and be more prominent. That kind of sheds more light on why Peter was running and why Claire was holding Future Peter or Future Claire was holding Future Peter at gunpoint. Was she acting on orders?

D: Is that who he was running from, in the beginning?

G: I don't know if that's who he was running from. I honestly don't think it was. I think that he was running from someone, but it wasn't Claire or maybe Claire was part of the team that was chasing him. But he wasn't running from her specifically, and so he ducked into this warehouse and she happened to be there because she knew he would try to hide there and that's when we get the scene that happens at the very beginning of this episode.

D: The way they shot it almost, it seems like some point in Season Three, we could go back to five minutes before that point and see what happened.

G: I think we will. That's great. And I think a lot of people want to see that. We want to see who he was running from, why he was running and we also want to know how Claire got to the point where she was. He even mentioned that. He said "How did you get to this point? You used to be so innocent." And now she's trying to kill him. So, I think it's going to be interesting to learn about that as we go forward. The future that he went back to change, we find out he really hasn't affected much other than making things a lot worse. And we learn more in 3-02 just why his presence there in the present is making things worse. Angela is very quick to remind him that "Oh, this happened because you did this and this happened because you're here." And it's very clear to us that future Peter just being in the present, just being in this timeline is what is making things go horribly wrong and why Angela is so upset. They had plans to go forward, even after Nathan was going to say what he said. Because they knew he was going to spill the beans and then when Future Peter came back and changed the timeline, now something different happens and no one knows what's going to happen.

D: Well, it's not only what Peter intentionally went back to change by stopping Nathan. It's all the things that happened as a result of that. Obviously being found out by Matt and thrusting him into some other place, drastically changes the things that happened with him. Obviously being found out by Angela, everything! In Peter's mind, he went back to shoot Nathan and was gonna jump after he made sure Nathan was dead and that was taken care of, he was going to go back to his own time. But that didn't happen the way it was expected.

G: That's what makes it very interesting to me is all he wanted to do was go back and stop the future Nathan had created. Easy way to do that? Shoot Nathan, teleport back. I don't know if he could teleport back, because where would you go if you stopped that timeline? And I don't want to get into a huge time discussion.

D: Well, he could jump back to the exact place, he would just have no idea what was changed until he interacted with it. I mean, until he found out what was going on. But it still goes back to the whole point that it's almost like, to us, it doesn't matter what you go back and change. They're still going to be on the run at some point down the road.

G: And will things always go bad if you go into the past, no matter where you go into the past from. If you're in the future from some other timeline and you want to go change that... Changing it doesn't do anything. Hiro learned this lesson early on in Season One that going into the past for any reason is a bad idea because the things you change can be way worse than the things as they were and the things you wanted to change.

D: But Hiro's also walking in with a little bit of time travel knowledge if you will. I mean, obviously it doesn't exist, but the whole idea of the comic book. He has a little idea of what he can affect by going back. You don't see a whole lot of that

with Peter. Peter just thinks he can mess around with what needs to be messed around with and he'll save the day.

G: Yeah, he wasn't taking into account the butterfly effect and that is what the second episode this season is very much about. It's about letting Future Peter know just how badly he had messed up.

D: I think that's why the scene and it's one scene I'm going to talk about over and over again in the next podcast, that scene between him and Angela in Peter's apartment.

G: Oh, that's such a great scene.

D: It's so important of him, putting the string theory together in a whole different light.

G: And in that scene, in the second episode, we learn that Future Peter doesn't have everything under control. He lost control of it when his plan changed at the station—when he stayed in the present instead of warping back to his timeline which would have changed because he shot Nathan. So, it's confusing stuff, but we know that everything that's happening this season is a direct result of the first five minutes of this episode. Pretty much. If Future Peter had not done that, eventually things would have gone wrong with the formula. The formula was going to get out anyway according to Future Peter and we see it happening already to Hiro, who is unaffected by Nathan's death. Hiro had already found the formula in this episode and it had already been stolen by Daphne and so things are already moving into place, despite it.

D: I mean, I like the title "The Second Coming" of this episode, but it really should have been called "The Chain Reaction." Because, there's not a scene in this episode that doesn't have to interact with the opening five minutes with Peter going back. Even Nathan and Tracy—that whole thing. Everything plays off of Peter going back in time four years.

G: We begin to realize how closely connected every single scene in these two episodes is. If this hadn't happened then this and this and this wouldn't have happened. And it trickles down from this opening scene. I can't imagine having an opening scene that is so important and asks so many questions or brings up so many things and having to base an entire season off of that one scene or two scenes from this episode. So, they're very important.

### The Formula and the Future

G: Let's move on to our next topic here that we want to talk about that was introduced in this episode and that is "The Formula and the Future." Obvious questions to us are what is this formula? Where did it originate? Why is it so important? Why was it torn in half and locked in two different places and what

does Kaito mean about the formula falling into the wrong hands? So, let's start with the first question: What is this formula?

D: I wish I knew.

G: I wish I knew, too. The whole time, especially, when we saw this episode so long ago, I've been thinking about: What is this formula? How is it applied? Is it like nuclear physics? If they create this formula, it just becomes a shining ball of white pure light that destroys everything or is this a formula that is part of something.

D: This is kind of what I thought—I don't know if it cheapens it or not, let me run this by you—what if it comes down and all it ends up being is what Mohinder figured out in 3-01?

G: I don't know if that's going to be exactly it. I think that this formula--

D: I don't want it to be that.

G: I don't want it to be that, either, but I don't think they'll go that route because I think this formula has a little bit more powerful than just giving people abilities. I don't think one person could have done what we saw happen to Tokyo.

D: Well, the ramifications, not one, but if you can inject this to anybody and you've got a billion people running around like this, I mean... It all goes back to the chain reaction thing. I don't think any one person would be the cause of that, but give it to the hands of the wrong people and it could screw everything up.

G: Thinking about this formula as long as I have after seeing this episode a few weeks ago, is that I think that it's nature has something to do with the powers themselves. Like this formula is exactly the chemical things that are going on inside specials' brains that make these abilities manifest. It may be related to what Mohinder has found out, but I also think that maybe it's something else. We're looking at a picture of it right now and it's just a whole lot of chemical bonds and a little chart of peptide bonds and stuff like that. I don't want to talk about Chemistry stuff because I don't know understand it a bit. I know the names of some of the symbols here just from going to class and stuff. But the interesting thing, if you look at a really close up shot of this formula, you see a few things. You see mathematical equations and formulas and variables. Also, a little drawing out of a chemical chart. And then, the only real readable thing other than the symbols, there's a written word on the page that says "Potential" and it's drawn up to a mathematical equations. Anyway, but it says "Potential." It makes me think, why would they write a single word on this sheet of paper and have it on a full screen if we weren't going to pick that apart.

D: Well, that does go into that equation into that potential, but let's keep in mind a couple of things here. A) This is only half of what we need to see to understand more of this.

G: Right.

D: B) This was done in the 60s or 70s.

G: Had to be the 70s when the Company started I think. Future Peter knew that the formula originated with "Angela and her friends" which to us, means the Company roughly translated and maybe this is the research the Company was doing about maybe trying to cure the special things going on. Or, maybe trying to heighten them. And who knows? Playing around with chemicals, anybody who's taken Chemistry 101 knows that if you start screwing with certain chemicals, you could create disaster. And maybe this is they came up with this and it was so powerful that the person that created it said "This can't be given to any one person," and they ripped it in half and put it in two different places.

D: Definitely what you're saying at the end there. But I think, moreover that this was something that was meant to be used for good and got out of hand.

G: Much like the Manhattan Project. Much like the nuclear warheads of the WWII era. I would say that's definitely leading at what's going on, here. So, the formula, there's just so many questions. What is it? Where did it originate? We think maybe the Company. Why is it so important? We think it has something to do with just the basic origin of the special powers. Maybe that's why it's important. Maybe it's completely different. Maybe it's a defense program or some sort of chemical or weapon they were using the abilities. We remember the whole thing with the virus was that the Company or someone was trying to weaponize it. The virus was going to be a weapon for the military or for other operations. But that leads us to wonder why would Kaito say this formula could destroy the world if it fell into the wrong hands? What are the wrong hands? If the Company has it, I would think that's already the wrong hands.

D: I think the Company needs to stop screwing around with stuff they don't need to know about. Anybody's is the wrong hands that uses it for the wrong means. You can do the right thing for the wrong reason or the wrong thing for the right reason. Sylar would be the wrong hands. When you come down to the wire, anybody who wants to use it for personal gain.

G: We like to throw around theories on this podcast really haphazardly sometimes and I think that one of these theories that we're coming up with is that maybe there's not just the Company. Maybe there is some other organization that is in competition with or is directly enemies with the Company that is out there and is even more secretive.

D: Tucker made the allusion the other night of the Justice League to the Legion of Doom.

G: Exactly!

D: Yeah.

G: Are we going to see some other organization crop up who's very interested in getting both halves of this formula and using it for evil?

D: If that's true, I don't think there's going to be a question of will we—I think we already have.

G: That leads us to why did Daphne steal Hiro's half of the formula? Why did she want it and who was she working for? Was she working for this other company that we haven't heard about yet? Or is she working for one person in particular who is outright the most evil person we could have on the show? Who just wants to destroy the world? And it's not Sylar. Sylar isn't interested in destroying the world, I think. He's just interested in gaining absolute power with all of these powers. He wants everything. He's very greedy and psychotic. I mean, can we imagine someone who is more evil than Sylar? I think so. How does all of this involve Claire, people have been asking. What does the formula have to do with her? We're told in the episode that Claire is very special. She's different from all the others. Moments after Kaito mentions to Hiro that only someone with "pure blood" will be able to save the world if the formula falls into the wrong hands. We're told that Claire can't die by Sylar. He tells her "I couldn't kill you even if I wanted to." Maybe because she can't die, she's the only one that can confront this person who wants the formula or the organization that wants the formula.

D: And I think you feel the same way after we talked about it in San Diego after what Kaito says: Is Claire who he is referring to?

G: And does that lead us to believe that Claire is even more special than Adam? Adam, we've always said that he has Claire's ability. Maybe not. Maybe he has Claire's healing ability, but maybe Claire has some other level of ability that maybe we haven't even begun to see yet.

D: And we know that Claire at a very young age, her abilities surfaced. She was using them at a very young age and Adam, really, the first time was when he'd already reached a certain age with Hiro, so that comes into play as well.

G: It all leads back to our favorite tag line: Save the Cheerleader, Save the World. I think so. Claire has always been an important character in Heroes and we thought that the Save the Cheerleader Save the World stuff stopped when

our first season ended. Apparently not. Apparently, she's very important to this season as well.

D: Yeah. [laughs] Kring knew what he was doing.

G: Yeah.

D: Obviously.

G: We've heard all along that Kring has at least five seasons or so of the show planned out. Maybe he's tweaked it quite a bit since the beginning and since seeing how things play with the stories and the reaction of the audiences, but I think his overall plan for the series is intact. Maybe he made an outline where this is going to happen, this is going to happen and just a list of things that he wants to happen and we're just going down that list right now. Claire has always been a very important bullet point in that outline. That she is the main character to this show and probably one of the most important characters. So, those are our two topics and they all kind of relate to this season "Villains" is all about this new future that was created in the first few minutes of this episode, so this episode is very important. It's called "The Second Coming." Mohinder's dialogue at the end of the episode is very prolific and very scary, if you listen to it and I think they did a very good job restarting the series with this episode because it's such a loaded episode. That's all our topics for "The Second Coming." If we left something out or you think we left something out, we will be discussing a lot more in part two of our podcast that will release in just a few days. That's all for our topics, let's move on to our emails.

### **EMAIL**

Derek: All right and welcome to our email section. We got a couple this week. This one, I'm very interested about because since I read it, I've not gone back to look at what it refers to. This one is from Hyrulian Royalty and he writes in to tell us that those promo posters that we talked about so heavily in the last two episodes, basically, because I was so excited about them. They're kind of teaser images in the way that they show us what happens to our characters in the first couple of episodes.

Graham: Yeah, if you go back and look at them, they really do. If we see what we thought was Niki, but it's actually Tracy, and her promo image is icy. And we learn, in the next episode, that her ability has a lot to do with ice. And then if you go to Matt in his promo poster, he's doing his little mind trick in the poster, but in the background, he's in that desert in Africa. So, these promo posters were actually hinting at what was going to happen to our characters in these past two episodes.

D: And some of them are a little more subtle. You have Noah standing in front of Level 5 with a gun, obviously on the hunt for the villains. I want to know what's up with Peter's, then, if that's the case.

G: Yeah, and what was the more interesting ones that we saw, as far as background? Because the characters, it's their abilities, but in the background is what is telling. Nathan is pretty clean cut—wearing a suit, flying above the city with a, I don't want to be wrong, but I think it's an American flag pin on.

G: Maybe.

D: It might lead us to believe that he'll definitely be in the position that he's been approached for.

G: So, all of that to say, I just picked this email because it was just one of those moments where I was like, "Oh!"

D: Duh!

G: I like how they just kind of snuck that underneath our noses pretty much. Because we were talking about that two weeks ago and here are realizing now that it was talking about the kind of what was going to happen to our characters. Well, thanks, Hyrulian for that. Our next email is from Rachel. She says:  
Hey guys. Wow! Last night was insane! So, West was one of my favorite characters and on the episodes last night, there was no mention or sight of him at all. I looked up his character on IMDB and he's only be listed as being in the Second Season. So, I was curious if you guys think his story is done for good.

Well, I just don't think that West is going to be revisiting us anytime soon.

D: He might. I don't know if that actor—I doubt if that actor's going back to The Office, either. He was Jan's secretary and she's not with Dunder Mifflin anymore, so.

G: But, as far as West is concerned, I just don't see where his character is playing into what is happening now. Just yet. Maybe he'll be back for the next volume and maybe I'm wrong. Maybe he does play a big part in this. But, West is not the only character that we've seen leave the show suddenly because of this new direction Heroes is going in. We mentioned a couple of weeks ago in our headlines that Dana Davis was no longer going to be on the show and she played Monica. So, maybe we've got West and Monica no longer being on the show or will be changed or written off in some way because the Villains timeline doesn't require their characters right now. Maybe they'll come back later. I think the Villains timeline is all about having these villains be released, dealing with this problem, dealing with the formula and the Company and this uncertain future. Where does West and Monica and all that stuff play into this story? I just

can't see how it fits and I think that's why the writers have kind of left them behind. We also have to mention Caitlin. What happened to her?

D: Yeah. That got dropped, quick.

G: We haven't heard anything about Caitlin. We don't think we will. At least, for a long time because right now the focus of the season is what just happened this past week: these two episodes where the future has been completely thrown into uncertainty and we have no idea what's going to happen. Also, we have Bob, in 3-02, we're going to talk more about what happened to him. He's been pretty much written off the show, too, unfortunately. I mention that because this email is mostly about characters we might not see again and Bob is...judging by what happened to him, I don't think we'll be seeing him again, unless he shot a few scenes for a flashback episode that we have been hearing about in some of these news stories.

D: You got to wonder, a lot of the characters we're not seeing again are Season Two characters.

G: That were brought up in Season Two.

D: And for the general—you and I enjoyed Season Two, but a lot of people didn't—from a certain dislike of Season Two, if we're losing a few of those to make way, to put our regular heroes and villains in the limelight.

G: I've always said of Season Two that they were trying to branch out storywise and they brought up all these new characters to explore different aspects of the story and the emotional side of Heroes and where it could go. Apparently, some folks didn't like that. They wanted more of the action and more of the thrill of Season One and so right now, as far as all these characters that we were introduced to in Season Two, maybe they're all on the back burner until later, until they can be brought into the main story once again after all of this villains stuff gets taken care of. Interesting stuff.

D: Very much so. I think some of them have played their part and what was needed—West was one, I think he was there for the parts he needed to be there for. I don't really see a use for the character at this point.

G: Probably not.

D: Maybe down the road, but where Claire's at right now, where Noah's at, I really don't see a need for him.

G: What's scary is now Claire has this problem. It's expounded upon in 3-02, but Claire has been absolutely devastated by Syla and now she has pretty much no one to talk to. She doesn't have West, she doesn't have Zack.

D: She doesn't have her dad, technically.

G: Pretty much because her dad is going to be looking for all these villains. So, I think we may see Claire kind of go down a dark road. We did see a much darker Claire at the beginning, maybe this is just the beginning of it. We also need to mention that we heard from someone that Stephen Tobolowsky who plays Bob was injured over the break.

D: Yeah, his neck was broken.

G: And so, if you notice in these last two episodes, whenever we saw scenes with Bob, he was sitting straight up in a chair and wasn't moving his head very much.

D: He had the cast on and when they yelled action, they took the cast off and did the scene and put it back on him, which is devotion, sir.

G: I'd say so. So, they had to do away with his character as far as any big, moving action kind of scenes pretty soon in this season, but I hope, I definitely hope that they bring him back in some sort of capacity as far as explaining the history of the Company. I hope he was around for that flashback episode despite his injuries and we hope that he has a speedy recovery. We're not sure how long ago this happened.

D: It's been a while now. He's back to full health.

G: Good deal.

D: But it does suck very much.

G: Yeah, I wish Stephen Tobolowsky was still on the show, and hopefully, like I said, he could still be in the show in some capacity. But that is all for the emails this week. Guys, be sure to email us at [heroespodcast@gmail.com](mailto:heroespodcast@gmail.com). We love getting email with theories from you guys and it always helps us as we piece together the podcast of what you guys want us to talk about, what we need to cover. Once again: [heroespodcast@gmail.com](mailto:heroespodcast@gmail.com). And, it seems like we're at the end of this week's podcast. We do have part 2 coming at you very soon, in a couple of days. As soon as we're done recording here, we're about to start planning and start up the new episode and hopefully that will be over to you guys in a couple of days.

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Graham: Also our website: [www.heroespodcast.com](http://www.heroespodcast.com). It's turning into a great resource for all of our listeners and Heroes fans. We have a new news contributor, Joe, who's sending a ton of stuff our way. So, thanks, Joe for helping us out and be sure to go to [www.heroespodcast.com](http://www.heroespodcast.com) and check out all the news and updates on Heroes and our podcast. You can also find our forums there: [www.starkvilleforums.com](http://www.starkvilleforums.com). We have moved all of our forums communities into one, and I want to thank Stuart for that. Stuart is the guy that helped us put that all together and helped us configure our new forums and I forgot to thank him last week, so thanks Stuart for all of your help. It took a long time. It took about 5-6 days to get them working he was very helpful. Also, our voicemail: (206) 350-7159. We got lots of voicemail this week and we're going to spread them out in our two podcasts so if you didn't hear your voicemail, at the end of this week's podcast, be sure to check out the one that's coming in a couple of days. Once again, (206) 350-7159. Well, that's all! Stay tuned for part 2 of the podcast in a few days where we'll recap and discuss "The Butterfly Effect" the second episode from premiere night. We'll also go over the latest spoilers and go over the trailer for 3-03 in that episode as well. We expect to have part 2 in our feed very soon. Until then, I'm Graham.

Derek: And I'm Derek.

G: We'll see you later!