

WELCOME ABOARD!

If you're reading this, you've officially joined a superhero pirate crew! Well...not quite, but this is the next best thing. You're now a part of the *Super Scallywags* official pre-launch team, meaning you get to help me realize my dream of creating an off-the-wall adventure featuring super-powered pirates (and plenty of other quirky characters).

So what do I need from you, super crew mate and all-around awesome person?

First, read (and hopefully enjoy) the story you'll find after this letter. It'll introduce you to two of the book's main characters: NarWall (a superhero with super strength and an impressive beard) and Upper Crustacean (a supervillain with high-tech armor and a killer mustache). Remember, it's a work in progress and may or may not look like the final version, so don't get too upset if you find a mistake. Also, this is only the prologue- a sort of introduction that comes before the main story. The finished book will be much longer, much cooler-looking, and much more piratey (yes, that's a real word...I think).

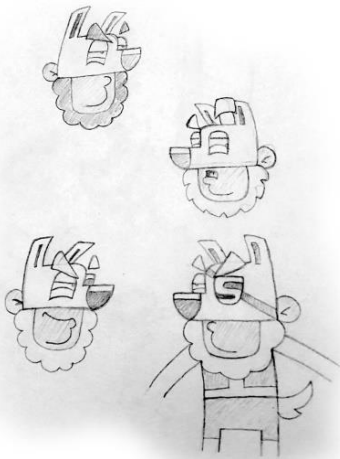
Second, when you're all done reading please take a few minutes to answer the questions you'll find on the last page at the end of the story. Once you know what you want to say, head over to superscallywags.com to submit your answers or just email them to me at superscallywags@gmail.com. Do your best to be honest about what you think, even if you don't like something. I promise I won't be mad at you, and your real opinions are important to help make sure my book is the best that it can be.

Got it? Now get reading! I'm glad to have you on my team, and I can't wait to hear what you think!

Thanks so much for your help!

Your Proud Captain,

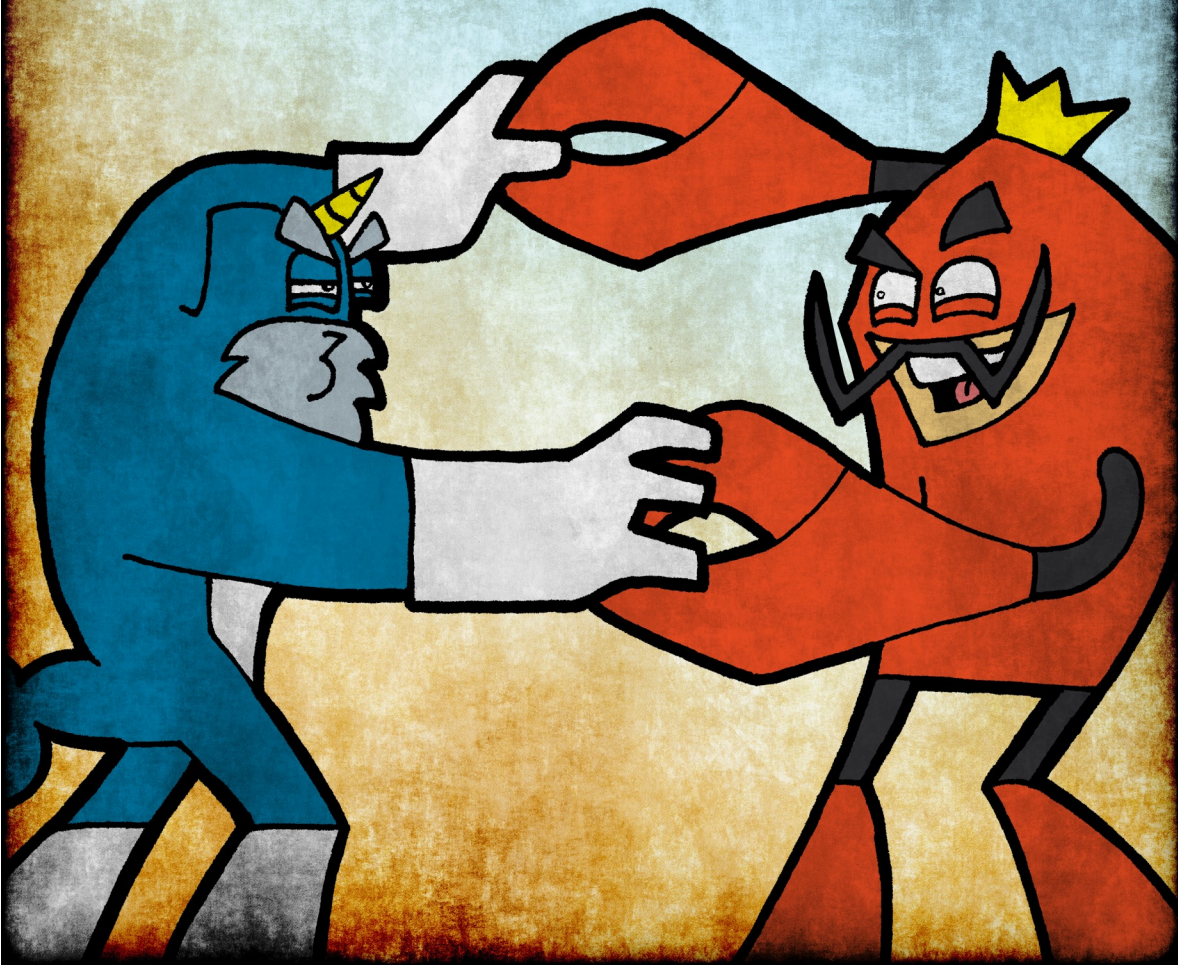
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PROLOGUE

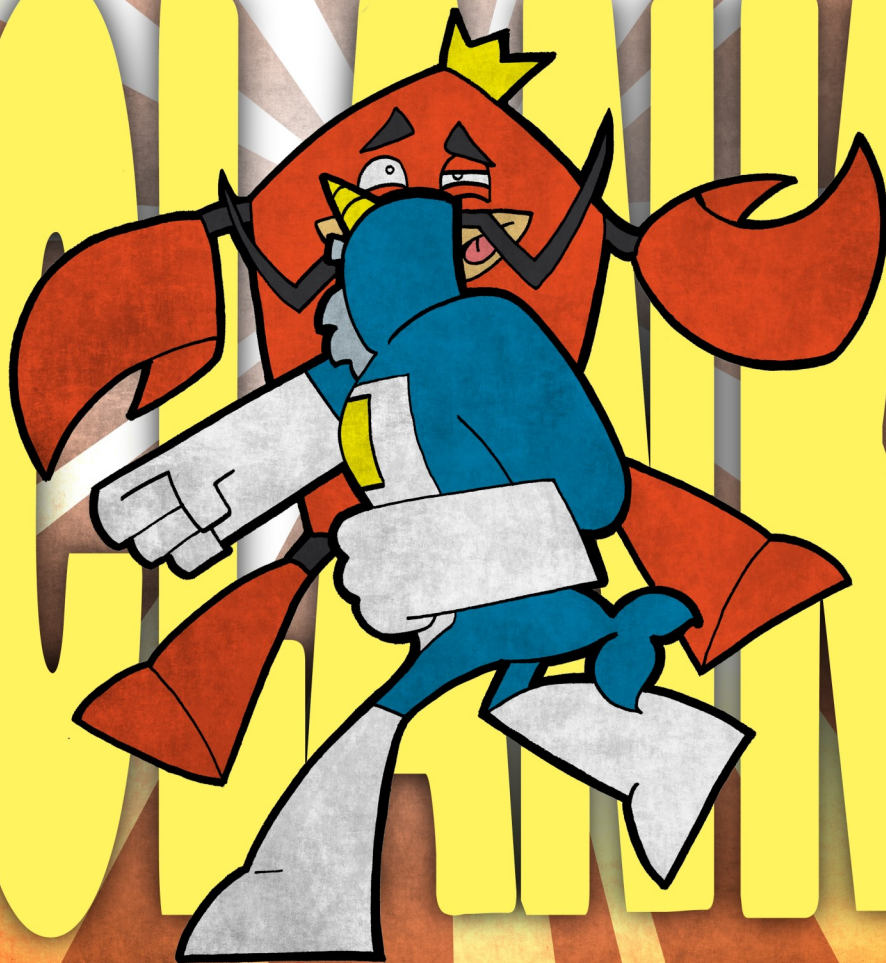
THE STORY BEFORE THE STORY

Police sirens blared, seagulls cried loudly overhead, and a crowd of people screamed in fear and amazement- but the loudest sounds outside of the Doubloon City Bank came from the epic battle taking place. **NarWall**, the small city's only superhero was once again facing off with the city's only supervillain, **Upper Crustacean**.



The loud clank of fist hitting metal rang out as the large, whale-themed hero used his super strength to punch the armored, crab-themed villain in the face, sending him flying across the road into the side of a brick building. Small pieces of rubble fell from above, bouncing off of Upper Crustacean's metal crab suit as he stood up and brushed himself off. The crab-man laughed evilly as his opponent started walking towards him.

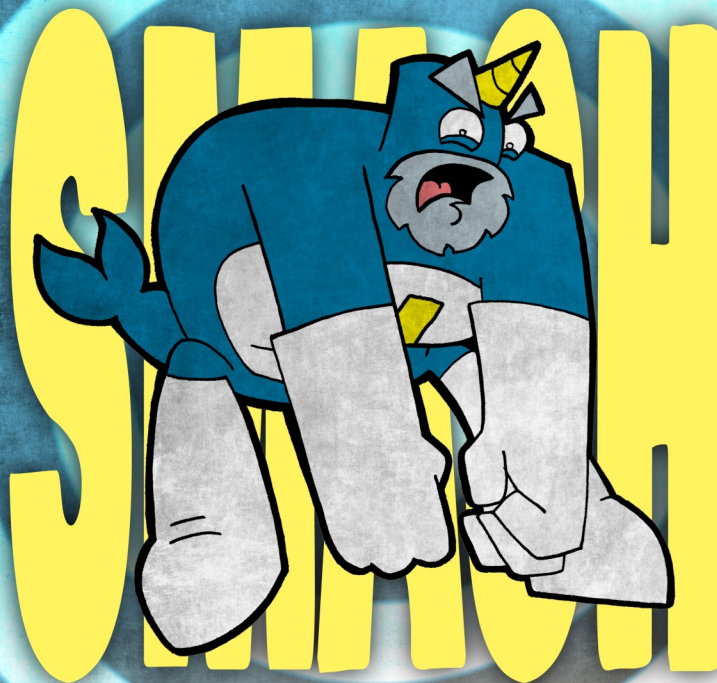
"I barely felt that! You must be getting tired. Need a nap, old man?" asked Upper Crustacean.



NarWall frowned behind his bushy, gray beard but didn't answer. Instead he jabbed the taunting crab-man in the stomach with one hand and then quickly followed up by smashing his other hand into the villain's chest. Metal clanged loudly again as Upper Crustacean flew through the brick wall and disappeared inside the building. NarWall paused to catch his breath, but his rest was soon interrupted by more villainous laughter coming from the large, crab-shaped hole in the brick wall. Upper Crustacean soon stepped out through the opening, a wicked grin still on his face.

"That was a bit better, but you seem a little cranky. Maybe you need a diaper change instead?" laughed the supervillain.





With an angry growl, NarWall rushed forward and grabbed Upper Crustacean with both hands. The hero easily lifted the armored crab-man above his head and started spinning him in circles. Then, roaring loudly, NarWall used all of his strength to throw Upper Crustacean straight up into the air. The supervillain laughed crazily as he soared out of sight. After a moment he reappeared, still cackling as he fell from the sky. With a mighty leap, NarWall jumped up to meet Upper Crustacean as he fell. Clapping his hands together, the superhero smashed down on the supervillain with both of his fists. The armored crab-man slammed into the city street with a tremendous crash, cracking the ground and sending pieces of asphalt and dust flying.



For a moment, everything was quiet. The police sirens cut off and the crowd of bystanders hushed. Even the seagulls seemed to be holding their breath while they waited to see if the fight was finally over.

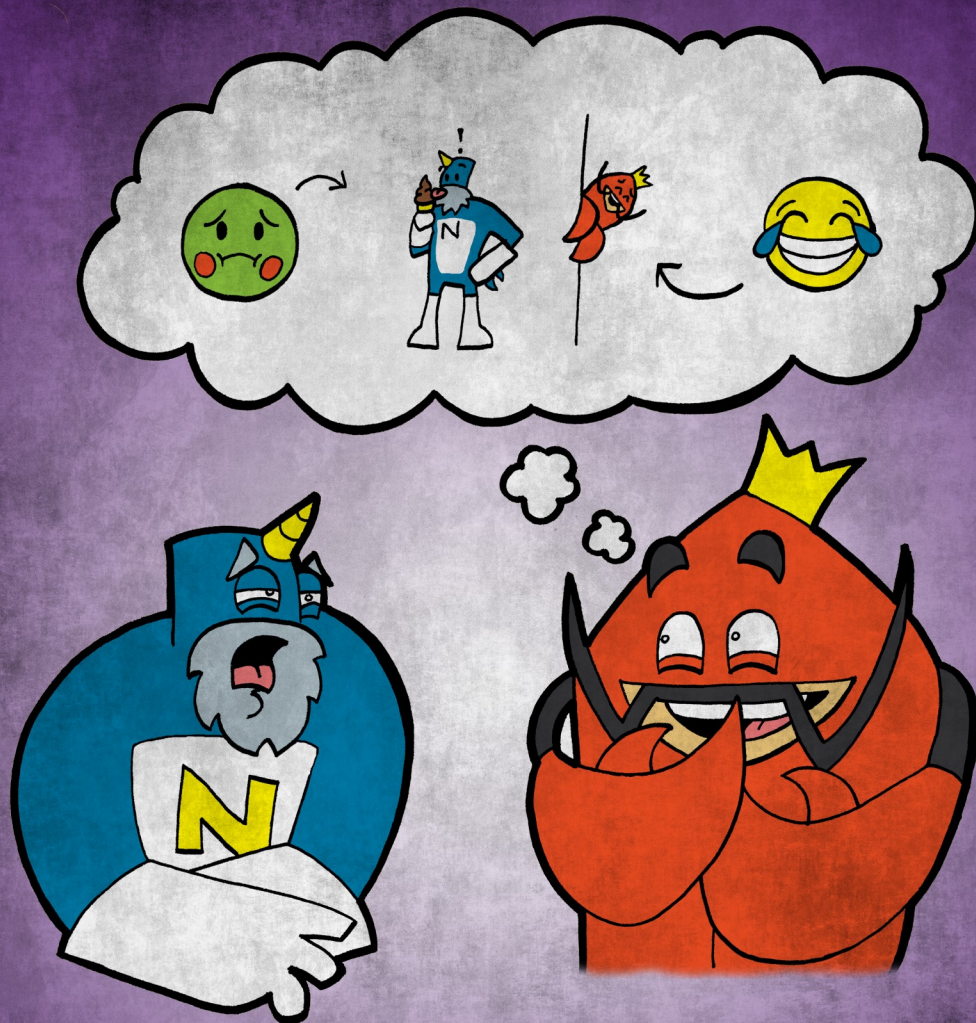
Then the familiar sound of villainous laughter broke the silence.





"How many times have we done this, now?" asked Upper Crustacean as he climbed back to his feet. "I mean, I haven't been in the villain game *nearly* as long as you've been playing hero, but it feels like we've fought A LOT."

"Eighty-four...unless you count the time I snuck up behind you before our fight and gave you a super wedgie and you cried so much that I agreed to let you have a time out," answered NarWall, smiling a little.



Upper Crustacean frowned at the memory. "I still can't figure out how you managed to do that through my armor..." He looked grumpy for a moment, but then he grinned slowly. "Fine, we can count that, but then we also have to count the time I switched your ice cream with frozen walrus poo and you got so sick you couldn't get out of bed for a week."

NarWall stuck out his tongue and made a face. "I still can't stand to eat anything that looks like chocolate."

The two rivals just stared at each other for a minute, neither moving nor saying a word, and then the superhero gave a big sigh and sat down on the ground.



"Uh...what are you doing?" asked Upper Crustacean, clearly surprised.

"I'm tired of this," answered NarWall. "I can't keep fighting you forever."

"Y-You don't have a choice...!" stuttered the villain, not sure how to handle the unfamiliar situation. "I do something evil and you try to stop me...that's how this whole hero and villain thing works...! B-Besides, if you don't fight me I'll...I'll walk right into that bank and take everything!"

The hero chuckled and gave a half-smile. "You're assuming there's anything left for you to take."

Upper Crustacean frowned again, still confused, but after a moment he gave a half-smile of his own. "Wait, you mean you think those loser pirate wannabes already stole the money?" He threw back his head and laughed loudly. "Those idiots haven't managed to beat me in months...and they just got lucky the last time. They WISH they were on my level!"

"If you say so," replied NarWall, chuckling again. "It looked to me, though, like you brought twice as many of your shell-headed minions as you usually do. You know, like you were worried or something. But maybe I just miscounted..."

Upper Crustacean's face turned as red as his armor and his eyes bulged. His mouth kept opening and closing rapidly, like he was struggling to say something but couldn't find the words. Finally he blurted out, "F-Fine...! I'll wreck those stupid pirates and *then* I'll finish robbing the bank!" The villain spun around quickly and started stomping towards the bank entrance, but a strong hand suddenly grabbed him by the arm and spun him back around. Surprised, the villain was frozen in place just for a moment, and then the sound of fist hitting metal rang out again as NarWall's super-powered punch sent Upper Crustacean flying through the air once more.

"Okay...but you gotta go through me first," said the hero, hoping that he wasn't making a huge mistake.



DONE READING? I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

Please take a look at the questions below, then once you've got your answers head over to superscallywags.com to share them with me or just email them to me at superscallywags@gmail.com.

As a special “thank you” for helping me out, all members of my pre-launch team who send me answers to these questions and provide a contact email address will receive a digital download of the full book once it's finished!

Thanks again for your help! I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Still Your Proud Captain,



QUESTIONS FOR KIDS:

- What was your favorite part of the story?
- Was any part confusing? If so, which part?
- Were the pictures fun to look at?
- Do you want to know what happens next?

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS:

- Did your child seem to understand what was going on in the story?
- Did the vocabulary used and ideas conveyed feel age-appropriate for your child? If not, please comment.
- Do you feel like any part of the content was inappropriate for your child? If so, which part(s)?
- If you came across a completed version of this book online or in a store, would you be interested in purchasing it? Why or why not?
- If you did decide to purchase this book, which format would you prefer- Digital (to be read on a phone, tablet, or PC) or Physical (an actual book you could hold)?

