

CARTOON CHARACTERS: Spider Man, Betty Boop, Plasticman, Superman, Bat Man, Invisible Man, Daffy Duck, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Yosemite Sam, Quick Draw McGraw, Babalooie, Minnie Mouse, Felix the Cat, Droopy, Tasmanian Devil, Goofy, Sylvester, Tweety, Roger Rabbit, Jessica Rabbit, Porky Pig, Elmer Fudd, The Flash, Darkman, Baby Huey, Dick Tracey, Charlie Brown, Schroeder, Snoopy, Lucy, Lil Abner, Doonsbury, Dennis the Menace, Sneezy (not a cartoon character, a fictional character, very different styles and powers), Lois Lane, Luthor, Deputy Dawg, Flintstones, Jetsons, outer space guy, Mutt and Jeff, Barney Google, Snuffy Smith, Calvin & Hobbes, Bill the Cat,

hard of hearing  
arthritic  
hypocondriac  
allergic to cats, dust, mold  
loves children  
talks in sleep  
hypersensitive to clothing

# **CARTOON HEROES by Gary Young**– excerpt

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Sitting around in the living room of a middle-class apartment, CLAUDE, age 30, is dressed in sweats, with a Superman cape. KAREN, age 28, is also dressed in sweats, no cape. Geoff, age 60, is dressed as Spongebob and is asleep.

Claude

*(As Superman)* I have just the solution.

Karen

What would that be?

Claude

*(Grand)* Get a cat.

Karen

Naturally.

Claude

They are a great source of spiritual strength.

Karen

And fur balls.

Claude

*(Tweety)* Well, someone has to do fur balls. Puddy Tats.

Karen

What about your allergy? I put up with this.

Claude

You willingly play along. It's fun you know.

Karen

It can be fun, at the right time. But with you, there's no inkling of such a thing as timing.

Claude  
Timing can be so...limiting, predictable.

Karen  
But timely.

Claude  
At times. (*pause*) Karen.

Karen  
What?

Claude  
Test me.

Karen  
Another test? You need more verification? Or is it that you want to impress me. I'm far beyond that, Claude.

Claude  
No, this is therapeutic.

Karen  
Meaning?

Claude  
Well, you probably think that it's all so grand and wonderful feeling and powerful feeling and special feeling and...cool. And it is! But there is another side to it also. It's a...how should I say...it's an insecure feeling. Like it could...go away. At the worst possible time, or any time for that matter. I need to...I feel I need to...test myself.

Karen  
I don't know how to do that. Do you want a written exam or should I just throw myself out of the window as a practical lab experiment?

Claude  
No! What if that were the very moment I'm talking about, when suddenly nothing works, or the wrong thing works, and the actual thing I need doesn't work. You'd die (*looking out the window*) or get hurt. Even with a basement apartment, you'd certainly trip over something and hurt your ankle or whatever. Especially if you threw yourself out.

Karen

Claude. You are the wimpiest superhero I've even met.

Claude

You know others?

Karen

Wouldn't that just be too cool. I'd get to compare you with a non-wimp superhero.

Claude

You try it.

Karen

I might just do that. *(She slaps his butt, hurting her hand)* Ouch.

Claude

You get it.

Karen

It wasn't the door. It was your butt. Super hearing never was one of your better traits. Did you mean that? Of course you didn't mean it.

Claude

Mean what?

Karen

The "You try it" part.

Claude

Of course I didn't mean it. Look what it did to me and to my life...what life.

Karen

Maybe we could both be Superheros and be a team, like Batman and Robin...

Claude

Or Beavis and Butthead.

Karen

No. Really. I might want to try to save the world with you for a while.

Claude

You don't do superhero "for a while." It's like the Supreme Court, for life and too conservative.

Karen

You don't think I'm neurotic enough.

Claude

I'd never insult you by denying your neuroses. Or mine.

Karen

Oh, back to you and your neuroses now. Where is the Arthur stone?

Claude

You know I can't tell you that. That's the only secret I keep from you and I am sworn to secrecy.

Karen

Maybe there isn't any Arthur stone.

Claude

Interesting thought. Then how did all of this happen? Explain these powers in a way that makes any more sense than the touch of the Arthur stone. Well, more than the touch...you know. Karen. We've gotten off track. I need a test. I'm like...itching where I can't scratch. It's like doing the dum dum dum dum dum with out the last dum dums. Like the New Yorker magazine with only intelligible vocabulary.

Karen

I think it's time you showed me the Arthur stone.

Claude

*(yelling)* No! *(picture falls off wall and the front door opens violently. THEY look at each other.)* That was the test, wasn't it?

Karen

No. Last time that happened to you, you were in the bathroom.

Claude

Last time that happened to me (closing door and replacing the picture), I was in the White House. Twenty-five Secret Service agents tried to wrestle me to the ground. *(proudly)* And failed.

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