

THE SHEET METAL GIRL

Superb Heroes

Author: Ray Adam Basaldua

Website: TheSheetMetalGirl.com

Email: ERCdevelopmenttool@gmail.com

Phone: 210-385-0831

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SYNOPSIS

Maria is now an adult and known as The Sheet Metal Girl, the Superb Hero, who carries The Sheet Metal Girl Shield. Maria's Superb Hero Powers are brainpower, The Code of 3-ERC. It turns out that Maria is not just all brains. She is also a master in the hand-to-hand combat fighting form called Maka-Do Fu. This AI generated form emphasizes winning wherever possible without fighting.

Maria finds herself in the big city of San Antonio, Texas, and is looking for her fraternal twin brother Francisco. She finds Francisco in a Mexican -American/Hispanic barrio called Dog Town. Maria explains to Francisco how she was raised and educated by MACA (pronounced MA-KA) an AI-Robot. More importantly, Maria tells Francisco all about The Code of 3-ERC.

Francisco, who just aged out of the city's foster care system, is overwhelmed to have his sister in his life. Therefore, he takes an oath to protect Maria, learn from her, and help her in the mission to revolutionize education for all children. Maria grants Francisco the Superb Hero name The Sheet Metal Man, and then together they began their journey.

In their journey, the two Superb Heroes seek out an elderly wise man named Wico (pronounced We-Ko) the Welder, who lives in the 78207-area code. Wico the Welder mentors Francisco and helps him protect Maria while they navigate the mean streets of Westside San Antonio.

The two Superb Heroes eventually meet up with a team of well-known early childhood educators in Elmendorf Park; and this is where Maria starts to integrate The Code of 3-ERC into the education community.

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Introduction

“With all my heart and soul, and with all the knowledge and courage MACA has inculcated into my mind and body; I am ready for my mission.

I accept the challenge and I welcome the coming test of life. The fight and the fear are the fuel that energizes my willpower.

I will fight until all children are presented with the seed of knowledge: The Code of 3-ERC; because this is the greatest Super Power of them all.

I will fight to plant the seed of knowledge and I will fight to water the seed of knowledge; and when the time is right, hopefully those who obtain the seed of knowledge will grow and come to walk with God.”

-Maria

The Sheet Metal Girl

Chapter 1: The Sheet Metal Man

I turned eighteen years of age a couple of days ago and in Texas, the law states that I am now an independent adult.

MACA and Ms. Montes have raised and educated me well, but the time has come for me to move on and head for San Antonio.

As I sat in the van that was taking me to the big city, I looked out the window towards the migrant shelter in search of some closure.

I tried reminiscing about all the good times, but nothing was coming to me. The fact is, my mind has become channelized.

The mission to revolutionize education for all children is all I think about now; my passion has become an obsession.

Out of the corner of my eye I saw MACA and Ms. Montes walking towards the van. They positioned themselves outside the van window from where I was sitting.

Their faces read focused and determined as their eyes were locked onto me. Neither of them showed any emotion.

They did not smile nor shed a tear, they just stood there stone-cold with a strong disposition.

As I looked at them, I deeply analyzed the situation.

I processed... Perhaps they know I am so focused that they don't want to disrupt my train of thought or perhaps this is their way of letting me know that the cord has been cut.

Needless to say it's all irrelevant. Their mere presence and parental expectation of me is powerful enough.

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“It’s time to Rock and Roll, Ms. Maria.” -The driver Henry yelled out as he closed the van door.

Together with what Henry said and the sound of the van door closing, reality started to kick in.

The time has come to take on the challenges of life all on my own now.

Closing my eyes, I envisioned and processed...

I am Maria-The Sheet Metal Girl... The greatest Superb Hero of all Super Heroes, because I have the greatest Super Power of all Super Powers.

I possess the Super Human Algorithm: The Code of 3-ERC.

I possess the power of knowledge-Brainpower!

I have The Sheet Metal Girl Shield which represents strength, beauty, and uniqueness; and I am a master in the hand-to-hand combat fighting form of Maka-Do Fu.

As I took a couple of deep breaths, I slowly opened my eyes and turned my attention back to MACA and Ms. Montes.

Standing up, I placed The Sheet Metal Girl Shield against the window, as it was part of our personal bond with one other.

As the van started to slowly drive away, I shouted out to them, “God bless you!”

And then as quick as a circuit pops, MACA and Ms. Montes were gone, they were no longer in my view.

The drive to San Antonio was a little over three hours away, so I had plenty of time to get my thoughts together.

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Though I went through my checklist several times, I went through it one more time for peace of mind.

I had my shield, phone, wallet, ID, debit card, and two backpacks with cloths and my hygiene bag.

Lastly, to complete my checklist; I swallowed a big gulp of water from the bottle of water I always carry with me.

I processed... MACA and Ms. Montes always made sure that I downed plenty of water... It's a fact, the human mind and body functions better when hydrated.

As we headed north on a small county road, there were only two things on my mind.

The mission to revolutionize education for all children, and finding my fraternal twin brother Francisco.

Henry had instructions to drop me off at the Gonzalez residence which was in the inner Westside of San Antonio.

The Gonzalez's were kin to Ms. Montes, and this is where MACA and Ms. Montes had set me up to live for the time being.

Perhaps I could talk Henry into helping find Francisco before dropping me off at the Gonzalez's.

Francisco, who grew up in the City's Foster Care System, always lived with a family in or near the Mexican-American/Hispanic barrio known as Dog Town.

Hopefully, Francisco still lives somewhere in that area, so I can find him with no trouble.

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“Hello Henry, how have you been?” -I asked, starting up a conversation. “So, you got the job of dropping me off in the big city huh?” Henry was smiling from ear to ear as he looked back at me through the rear-view mirror as he responded, “All’s good Ms. Maria, we are all so proud of you, you will do great things for the children.”

I processed... Henry has been driving for the migrant shelter ever since I could remember... I trust Henry, we have a candid understanding with one another.

“Henry, have you ever heard of Dog Town?” -I asked, “It’s off of Pinn Road by Rodriguez Park on the far Westside of San Antonio. I would like to go there before you take me to the Gonzalez residence; it’s possible that I have a brother there and I would like to find him.”

Henry nervously questioned the request - “Dog Town?” “That’s a rough part of town Ms. Maria, are you sure you want me to take you over there?”

“Of course, Henry” I responded confidently. “We’ll be just fine; you can stay in the van and I will do all the talking, okay?”

“Well okay Ms. Maria, you are the boss; I’m just the driver.” - said Henry.

Henry looked a little timid about the Dog Town situation, so too ease his mind, I quickly changed the subject.

“How about the Gonzalez family Henry, do you know them?” -I asked Henry started to giggle a little bit as he grinned from ear to ear. He then replied - “No, Ms. Maria, but I hear great things about Prudencio and Suse Gonzalez.”

Henry continued as he kept his eyes on the road, “Mr. Prudencio is very well respected throughout the community, but most know him as Wico or Wico the Welder.” (Wico pronounced We-Ko) “Why is the Westside of San Antonio referred to as the 78207, Henry?” -I asked, to keep the conversation going.

Henry started to hum a rhythm then replied, “I’m going to let that be a surprise Ms. Maria; but don’t you go worrying any. I promise you will feel right at home.”

Henry went back to humming as he continued to drive. I noticed that he would stop humming every now and then to let out a giggle while slightly shaking his head.

For some reason when Henry giggled, it made me giggle, it was contagious in a good way; anyhow, Henry’s mind isn’t concerned about Dog Town anymore, so I let him be.

To utilize my time, I closed my eyes to gather my thoughts and strategize on how to find Francisco. Every time I had an idea, I would open my eyes and do some research on my phone to verify my train of thought. I processed... The Code of 3-ERC... The Code of 3-ERC.

I processed, then researched... I processed, then researched... I did this over and over until I visualized as many probable outcomes as possible.

And then as quick as a circuit pops, my body started to feel tingly, the van started to vibrate, and a deep moaning and high-pitched whistle tone came over me.

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Before I could process the situation; I noticed the sky getting darker and darker as the vibration of the van was getting stronger and stronger.

Henry started to frantically hoot and holler with excitement. “Look, Ms. Maria, look!” - he shouted at me.

As I looked out the window and up towards the sky, I marveled at its beauty and strength; It was awe-inspiring.

And then as quick as a circuit pops, The US AIRFORCE C-5 passed right over us with an incredible roar, rattling the glass windows in the van.

My heart was pumping with adrenaline, and I quickly moved to the other side of the van so I could watch the C-5 flying away.

With authority The US AIRFORCE C-5 continued to roar as it was ready to land.

“ROARRRRRR!” – I screamed back at the C-5, as I held up The Sheet Metal Girl Shield up to the window.

“I am Maria – The Sheet Metal Girl!”

“God bless you; it was nice to meet you!”

I’m not sure what came over me, but the energy that the C-5 had sent through me was electrifying!

It was as if The US AIRFORCE C-5 was talking to me.

I took a couple of deep breaths, then swallowed a big gulp of water from my water bottle.

I processed... that was powerful; almost as powerful as MACA and Ms. Montes’s stone-cold stare of parental expectation.

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As I gathered myself, Henry started shouting at me as he looked back through the rear-view mirror with excitement.

“Roar!” “Roar!” “Welcome to Military City USA, Ms. Maria!”

“That C-5 knows who you are now, she knows your name!”

Henry continued shouting as he hit the steering wheel with the palm of his hand – “That’s Right, The Sheet Metal Girl is in the big city of San Antonio now!”

“Roar!” “Roar!” – Henry shouted out again. “First stop, Dog Town; here we come!”

“That’s right Henry, first stop Dog Town.” “Now drink this, I need you hydrated.” - I said, as I handed Henry a bottle of water.

looking out the window I noticed Henry turned off the highway; peeking at my GPS I see we are on Pinn Road heading north towards Dog Town now.

Henry’s right, by the looks of things this side of town is rough.

I’ve seen neighborhoods like this before in South Texas though, some even rougher.

I also noticed that it was extremely hot outside as the heatwaves above the asphalt roads swirled through the air.

Curiously I peeked at the local news weather App.

Today is going to be over 100 degrees with the humidity level at 77 percent and no rain in sight.

A high-pressure system has stalled over south-central Texas.

“We are getting close now Ms. Maria; do you have an address?” – Henry asked as he grinned at me through the rear-view mirror.

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I gave Henry the address to enter in his Global Positioning System app, took a couple of deep breaths, and gulped down some water.

As Henry slowly turned from Pinn Road into Dog Town.

I processed... this is it, time to find Francisco.

Henry was driving slowly as he looked back and forth from left to right.

I could sense that Henry was back to being a little nervous.

I felt right at home myself because I could sense the danger of the neighborhood; I could sense the fear.

And then as quick as a circuit pops...

We came across an empty lot where four guys were fighting.

“Stop Henry!” - I yelled out as I slowly rolled down the window in the van.

It was three against one, and the one guy who was fighting alone was taking a whopping, but boy he sure was tough.

The three guys would knock him down, and he would get back up and fight back.

He was going to lose the fight, but he wasn't going to lose without fighting back; I could see that he was a warrior type of guy.

I started processing to myself... Do a Maka-Do Fu roll and knock the big guy down to the ground... This will position you to side kick the guy on the right.

I felt bad and wanted to help the one guy, but I knew MACA would not approve of me getting involved, especially when I didn't fully understand why they were fighting in the first place.

I processed... Stay in the van... Don't get involved... call the police and tell them what's going on.

"Come on Frank, is that all you got Frank!" - I heard the big guy yell out to the guy taking a whopping as he slowly picked himself off the ground.

I stopped dialing the police because when I heard the name Frank, this triggered something inside of me.

I opened the van door and got out to take a closer look.

"No, Ms. Maria stay in the van Ms. Maria" - Henry shouted

I don't know how to explain it... something inside of me told me that Frank was my brother Francisco, and now I could literally feel the pain as my brother was trying to pick himself up off the ground.

One of the residents yelled at me from their front porch - "Stay away from those guys, get out of here!"

And then as quick as a circuit pops... I was triggered and my blood started to boil as I started running towards the fight.

I could hear Henry shouting as I ran - "No, Ms. Maria no... you might hurt someone!"

For some reason real time had turned into slow motion. As I ran, I thought about MACA training me from a very young age with Maka-Do Fu.

I thought about how MACA and Chico gifted me The Sheet Metal Girl Shield.

My Maka-Do Fu algorithmic calculations were processing now-The Sheet Metal Girl was officially in Dog Town!

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I Maka-Do Fu rolled towards the big guy and pulled him down to the ground gaining control over him from the top position.

I pressed The Sheet Metal Girl Shield into his chest which dazed him and discouraged him from continuing to fight.

One of the other guys jumped on top of me, but I was expecting this already, so... I rollie pollied him to where I had him in a Maka-Do Fu triangle robo-lock.

“Okay-okay, I give... chill out girl!” - said the guy as I let loose of him and got back up to my feet.

“You and the big guy better not get up, do you understand?” -I yelled out

It was two against two now and Francisco was catching his second wind.

I processed... This is kinda fun... I like Dog Town...This mindset must be the native side of me coming out.

But the fighting was not over yet, so I had to get back to the fight.

“Do you want me to knock you down like I did your friends?” - I said to the third guy “Huh? do you? or do you want to stop fighting?”

Looking at Frank, the third guy started talking - “Yo Frank, what’s up with your sister Dog? She’s tripping Dog, seriously what’s up with this girl?”

The tone of this guy’s voice really changed my mindset, I could sense the fighting had come to an end.

“What are you talking about?” “I don’t have a sister Chubs.” - said Francisco as he was back up to his feet and dusting himself off.

“Look at her native face bro!” “Look at her hair!” - Chubs shouted as he walked over to help the other guys up.

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“Yo bro... look at what she did to Eddie bro, this girl is straight up tripping Frank!” “She knocked the wind out of Eddie with that fancy dancy shield bro!”

I couldn't keep my eyes off of him, I just knew that Frank was my brother Francisco... he looked just like me.

As I looked at him, I could see a story in his eyes... he was hungry, bruised, and dirty with a noticeable thin scar running down the left side of his face.

I could tell that his clothes were hand-me-downs or from a thrift store; he reminded me of those who lived in the small towns of South Texas.

“What's your name girl, how come you look like me?” - Francisco asked “Speak up girl, I'm talking to you!”

But before I could reply, the other two guys were helping Eddie back up to his feet and Frank turned his attention back to them.

“You guys get Eddie back to his house; I'll check with you guys later” - said Francisco as he directed the three guys to go on home.

Then Francisco turned his attention back to me.

But before he could ask me another question, I put him in a corner... I was too fast for him.

“How come you never came looking for me Francisco... You knew I was at the migrant shelter south of here... Don't play with me Francisco.”

Francisco replied - “What... What... What are you talking about girl?” “And what's up with that Mancy Dobbie shield and that Kung Fu fighting-girl?”

Then Francisco started doing some Kung Fu moves as if he was fighting with an imaginary person; and as he was pretending to fight with an imaginary person. He made Chinese fighting sounds.

“Cha! Cha! Wha-Wha-Wha! Chu-Cha... Whaaaaaa-a! Chu-Cha-Cha!”

I couldn't stop laughing, he was a character and then when he stopped joking around, he asked.

“Is Chubs right, are you my sister or something? I mean, you kinda look just like me.”

“I'll make you a deal,” I told him... “How about we get you all cleaned up and then I'll tell you all about it.”

“Okay girl, what's your name anyway?” - Francisco asked

“Maria, now where do we get you cleaned up at?”

“The park, I can get cleaned up at the park girl... I can show you a short cut thru this alley” - Francisco said as he pointed towards an alley behind the empty lot.

I shouted out to Henry who was still sitting in the van - “Hey Henry!”
“We are going to Rodriguez Park; I will catch up with later.”

Poor Henry, he looked back at me with a puzzled look on his face.

“Okay Ms. Maria, you are the boss, I will be waiting for your call.” – replied Henry

MORE COMING SOON...