

The Aviator

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The Aviator

The story is set in contemporary America — exact details of time and place don't matter, other than it's early summer in a coastal area.

There are only three significant characters in the story.

Jenny

She is a typical American high-school senior. She will be wearing regular clothing for the time and season and shouldn't be portrayed as overly sexy or anything like that. Just the girl-next-door — cute but not a supermodel.

The Aviator

He is a young man — not much, if at all, older than Jenny. His costume should be very understated, more like normal clothing than a typical superhero costume. In keeping with his name, he wears a leather flying jacket, boots, leather gloves, and a pair of old-style aviator's goggles (which conceal his identity but only if you suspend your disbelief). His head is bare (as a windswept look should be visually more interesting than a flying helmet). It's a retro look, as if he's ransacked his (great-) grandfather's attic to make a costume.

Ben

Jenny's brother. Aged about 13. Just a typical kid.

Minor Characters

We will also see (or at least hear) a couple of Jenny's school friends, but these are not significant characters. Like Jenny, they are typical high-school girls.

There is also a cat. He's just a regular cat.

Page One

Panel 1

A cat is stuck on the narrow branch of a tree or small bush which grows horizontally out from the side of a cliff face, a few feet down from the cliff edge. Below it is a sheer precipice, a hundred feet down to a rocky shore. Above it, Jenny is using another branch (or root or bush or something) to hold on to, and stretching her other arm down towards the cat. She is clearly in a very precarious and dangerous position. Jenny's friends are above her, safe on flat ground (they don't have to be visible if it makes the panel composition too cluttered).

1: JENNY:

Good kitty. Hold still, kitty.

2: FRIEND #1:

JENNY! Leave it!

3: FRIEND #2:

Jen, you're **CRAZY!**

4: JENNY:

No, I've almost got—

Panel 2

Jenny's hand-hold tears free of the ground. She is falling towards the cat.

5: JENNY:

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

Panel 3

Jenny and the cat are plunging through the air with nothing between them and death on the rocks below.

6: JENNY:

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

Panel 4

An arm wraps itself around Jenny's waist as she falls. It's the Aviator's arm, but this needs to be a tight view so we don't show him fully until the big reveal on the next page.

7: JENNY:

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE—Eep!

Page Two

This is a full-page splash panel showing the Aviator in flight. One arm is wrapped around Jenny and she likewise has her arms around his neck, holding on for dear life, and her eyes screwed closed. His other arm cradles the very alarmed cat.

Page Three

Panel 1

They are still in flight. Jenny has now her eyes open and is looking down at the ocean.

1: JENNY:

You-you're **FLYING!**

2: AVIATOR:

I guess I am.

Panel 2

They are still in flight. Jenny is now looking up at her savior's face.

3: JENNY:

But—but—**HOW** are you flying?

4: AVIATOR:

Don't really know. Just woke up one day and found I could.

Panel 3

The Aviator is swooping towards a deserted stretch of the cliff (maybe Jenny's friends are visible in the distance – but not important).

5: AVIATOR:

But now I think I'll put you down. No offense but—you're a little heavy.

Panel 4

The Aviator hovers slightly above the ground while allowing Jenny to find her feet. Jenny still has her arms around his neck. The cat is leaping free of his other arm.

6: AVIATOR:

Your cat's safe too.

7: JENNY:

It's not my cat. I just saw it was in trouble and had to help.

Page Four

Panel 1

They are now both on the ground. The cat rubs around the Aviator's legs. Jenny still has her arms around the Aviator's neck. (So this will need to be a full-length view of them, obviously.)

1: JENNY:

What are you, a superhero?

2: AVIATOR:

No! I mean — I just saw you were in trouble and...

Panel 2

They are in the same positions, with Jenny still holding him.

3: AVIATOR:

You're on the ground. It's ok to let go.

Panel 3

Jenny has let go and looks a bit embarrassed.

4: JENNY:

What's your name?

5: AVIATOR:

I'd rather not... I mean, if people found out...

6: JENNY

But you should have a superhero code name.

Panel 4

Jenny watches as the Aviator takes off again — there is no flashy visual effect, he's still "standing" in the same posture, just now hovering three feet above the ground.

7: JENNY:

Something that matches your powers. What else can you do?

Page Five

Panel 1

Exterior of a typical suburban house in a nice neighbourhood. The caption comes from an upper window.

1: BEN:
He can **FLY**?

Panel 2

Interior of Jenny's bedroom. It looks like a typical teenage girl's room. Er... whatever that is...

Jenny and Ben are here. Jenny is by the wall, facing it, and has a newspaper clipping in her hand (there is no need to show it clearly just now). Another clipping is already pinned to the wall (again, no need to show this clearly yet). Ben is behind Jenny and acting very agitated.

2: JENNY:
Uh-huh.

3: BEN:
That's so... **LAME!**

Panel 3

Ben is enumerating superheroes on his fingers.

4: BEN
Centurion can fly **AND** he has his armor!

5: BEN
Supernova can fly **AND** he has all his heat powers!

6: BEN
Black Pearl can fly **AND** she has her energy constructs!

Panel 4

This view shows Jenny pinning the newspaper clipping to the wall. It should now be obvious what it is though it's not possible to read the text on it (yet). But the text on the clipping already pinned next to it should be clear. It's a front page from the **NEWPORT GAZETTE** and has the following headline:

FLYING MAN SAVES LOCAL GIRL

The story text under the headline doesn't need to be legible.

7: BEN (off-panel)
I can't believe my sister met an actual **SUPERHERO** and **ALL** he can do is **FLY!**

Page Six

Panel 1

Jenny has finished pinning up the new clipping and it is now clearly readable. It's another headline from the **NEWPORT GAZETTE**:

**THE AVIATOR
NEWPORT'S OWN SUPERHERO**

The story includes a photograph of the Aviator in flight.

1: BEN (off-panel)

That's **so** typical of this lame town!

Panel 2

Jenny has moved to the window and is looking out. Smiling.

2: BEN (off-panel)

I mean... **ANY** superhero can fly!

Panel 3

This shows what Jenny is looking at — the Aviator flying over the town (either this is framed in Jenny's window or the view has Jenny's house in the background).

3: BEN (off-panel)

What's so heroic about **THAT**?

END.