

Ortho Man

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful, charming and happy kingdom, known as Park Ridge. But Park Ridge was not always such a wonderful place. In fact, not too long ago, this land was a dark and crooked place. Of course, the families and schools were still there (though in those days we had one grocery store instead of four). But the town was cursed, and adults and children alike repeatedly fell victim to the evil sorcerer of Genetics. Choosing his prey at random, Genetics struck mercilessly and pitilessly, afflicting the population first when at their most vulnerable: puberty. Some, the lucky few, sailed through this time unscathed, blessed with perfectly positioned teeth. Others, not so lucky, became aware of their affliction staring in the mirror. Once chosen, Genetics' victims were enslaved for life, shackled by their shameful gum line and forced to live a life of closed smiles to hide the mark of his curse. And so for centuries, the pattern continued for, as the people knew, there was nothing to be done.

Or so the world thought. But you see, what the world thought had no bearing on a certain, very special man, who came to Park Ridge from a far-off Nordic country and was intent to end Genetics' reign of terror. He knew Genetics, and had studied his habits and methods for many years. Because he knew him and possessed super human cleverness, he figured out how to beat him. But still, armed with little more than a couple rubber bands and his own intuition, it seemed that this single man had no chance. Who was he to possibly stand up to the terrible but constant villain, Genetics?

He knew he would not be able to do it alone. Slowly, he began assembling his team, searching the length and breadth of the realm to find the best and the brightest team of hygienists: men and women who were not only the best in their industry, but had the dedication and bravery to declare war on such a formidable foe.

With his team beside him, there was nothing he couldn't do. It wouldn't be easy, but he would not rest until every man, woman and child of Park Ridge was safe and free – free to laugh and smile without the shame of having been touched by Genetics. And so, a hero was born. You may blindly know him as Dr. Gartner. He'd prefer it that way. So intent is his humility that few realize him for the super hero he is. But still, Ortho Man and his team moves among us, slowly but surely, one mouth at a time, making smiles just a little bit brighter each day.

Ortho Man: A Hero in Scrubs

The sun was slowly setting on a tranquil day in Molar Park Township when, from out of the woods, crept a most insidious group of criminals. This gang was led by the infamous Butyl Rubber (known as Gum on the street) and consisted of a wide range of food groups from Apples to Milk Duds -- all united under the sole purpose of breaking braces. They had a long history of success across the United States, and had now set their sights on the good people of Molar Park Township.

As they quietly skulked through the window of a local teenager's bedroom, it looked as if all hope would be lost. There sat Timmy, a boy who had recently received braces and still had a cache of sweet, gummy treats lying in his nightstand. As the gang surrounded him and whispered encouragement in his ear, Timmy began to forget what his orthodontist had said and moved to grab the candy from his drawer.

Suddenly, a shape flies in through the window. KAPOW! WHAM! ARGH! The gang members struggle, but this mysterious figure in navy blue scrubs is too strong. He quickly throws them out of the window and warns them not to come back. As the gang withdraws into the forest, the man turns to Timmy and asks if he's alright.

"Y-yes," he stutters, "b-but who are you? And who were they?"

"I am Ortho Man. I'm committed to protecting you, and your braces, from harmful food like them," he proclaims, gesturing towards the window. "Now Timmy," he continues, "you need to remember what you should and shouldn't eat with braces. You can fight that gang off all by yourself, as long as you keep good hygiene and use this list to remember. I can't do it all by myself, but with your help you'll soon have a sparkling smile."

"Oh wow, thanks Ortho Man!" Timmy exclaims as he tries to make out Ortho Man's face. But the light from the setting sun obscures his view, and Ortho Man is gone as quickly as he came—leaving a toothbrush and the list in his wake.

Superman, Batman, and Spiderman, might have saved the day at some point, but who saves forgetful teenagers and frustrated parents from broken braces every day? Ortho Man.