

brave warriors who have been through a great adventure together.

"Thank you for making our city safe!" a woman in the crowd calls out to him.

"You're a very cool man!" someone else shouts.

I tell Phoenix it is time for me to leave.

"When you write this be sure to tell everyone that what we do is dangerous," he says.

"I think you're great," I say. "But I'm worried you're going to get yourself killed."

"Well, don't make it seem like I'd be dying for a choice," he replies. "I couldn't quit if I wanted. You know how many people in this city look up to me? I'm like the state's hero."

And I suddenly realize that I feel about Phoenix the same way everyone here does. I think he is an awesome superhero.

As I walk out I hear a father whisper to his young son, "That's a *real* superhero."

"Are you a *real* superhero?" the little boy asks Phoenix.

"I'm real as you can get," Phoenix replies.

## Afterword

Six months pass and then, one day in mid-October 2011, Phoenix is everywhere. My first thought when I see, via my Google news search, that four hundred and thirty-three media outlets have in a matter of hours published articles about Phoenix, is that he must be dead.

It turns out that he isn't dead.

Self-proclaimed Seattle crime fighter "Phoenix Jones" was arrested early Sunday morning when he pepper sprayed a group of people leaving a club. Now, in the aftermath, his identity has been revealed. Phoenix Jones is actually Benjamin Fodor. He is 23 years old, lives in Seattle and is a Mixed Martial Artist. Seattle police detective Jeff Kappel said the group was leaving a club near 1st Avenue about 2:30 a.m. when Fodor, in costume, intervened.

"They were dancing and having a good time," Kappel said. "An unknown adult male suspect came up from behind and pepper sprayed the group."

— Seattle's Q13 Fox News Online, 10 October 2011