



## The logo features the text "IH HEROES" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The "IH" is colored red, while "HEROES" is black. A red diamond shape is positioned within the letter "O" of "HEROES". Below this, the tagline "Tales from the IH Experience" is written in a smaller, red, italicized font.

### Tales from the IH Experience



**THE HUMAN FACTOR**

**FEATURING:**  
CERE 201

**FEATURING:**  
REBECCA,  
EPIDEMIOLOGIST  
AND IH PROFESSIONAL



# Rebecca

## Hometown

Winter Park, Florida

## Alma Maters

University of Central Florida (BS);  
University of South Florida (MPH, PhD)

## Certifications

Epidemiology, CIH, CIC

## Specialties

## Interests

community volunteer work, local theater, travel



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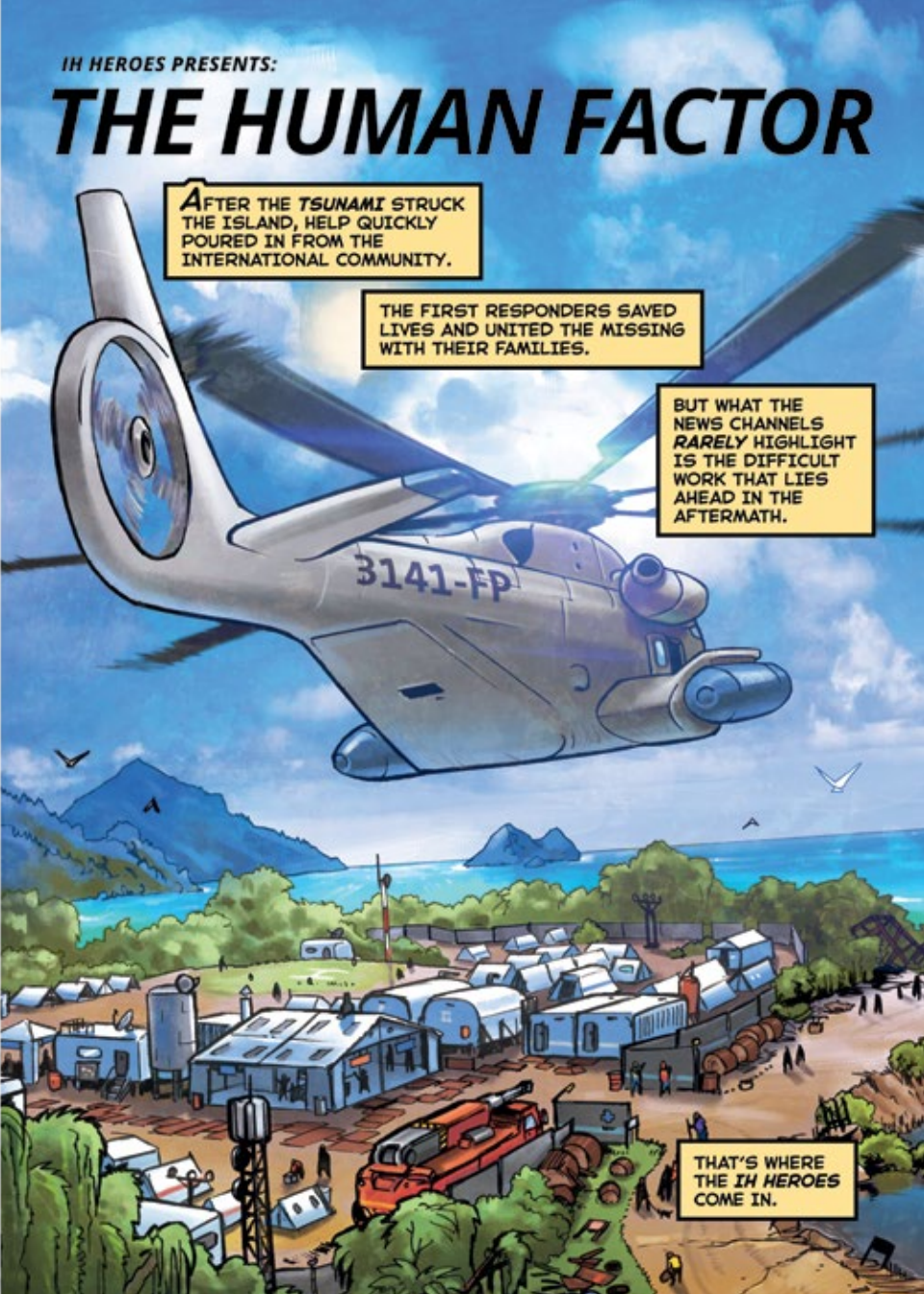
## Background

After serving in the U.S. Army for four years after high school, Rebecca took advantage of the educational opportunities offered to achieve a college degree. Working for a software developer that specialized in health information technology, she made her first forays into epidemiology. She soon found that she had a knack for data research and a passion for public health, receiving her master's and doctoral degrees in short order.

An active leader within the AIHA Local Section, Rebecca taught future professionals for several years at UCF before leaving academic life. She is now with a private consulting firm that works in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on a long-term health technology initiative.

IH HEROES PRESENTS:

# THE HUMAN FACTOR




AFTER THE **TSUNAMI** STRUCK THE ISLAND, HELP QUICKLY POURED IN FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

THE FIRST RESPONDERS SAVED LIVES AND UNITED THE MISSING WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

BUT WHAT THE NEWS CHANNELS **RARELY** HIGHLIGHT IS THE DIFFICULT WORK THAT LIES AHEAD IN THE AFTERMATH.

THAT'S WHERE THE **IH HEROES** COME IN.






ONCE THE SITUATION  
IS UNDER CONTROL...




WE NEED TO MAKE  
SURE PEOPLE  
STAY SAFE.

WHEN THE CALL  
COMES, I DON'T  
HESITATE TO  
RESPOND...



BECAUSE IT MEANS KEEPING  
FAMILIES SAFE.



IT'S WHY I DO  
WHAT I DO.



MY NAME IS REBECCA.  
I'M AN INDUSTRIAL  
HYGIENIST. IN SHORT,  
I WORK IN IH.

MOST PEOPLE HAVE  
NO IDEA WHAT THAT  
MEANS, AND THAT'S  
OKAY. IT'S WHAT I DO  
THAT'S IMPORTANT,  
NOT MY JOB TITLE.

FIRST THING AFTER  
TOUCH DOWN WAS  
THE SAME AS ALWAYS:  
REPORT TO STAFF HQ.

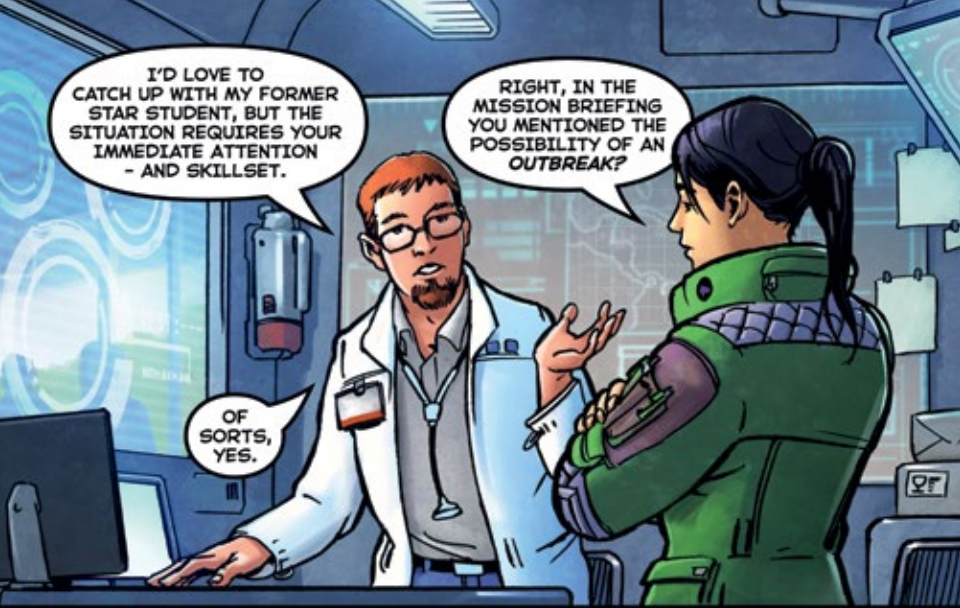


I'M SO  
GLAD YOUR COMPANY  
COULD SPARE YOU FOR  
A FEW WEEKS.

HOW COULD I  
TURN DOWN A CALL FOR  
HELP FROM MY FAVORITE  
MENTOR, DOCTOR  
HAMILTON?


PLEASE,  
IT'S ALEX.











THERE ARE FIVE STEPS TO A PROPER ASSESSMENT INVESTIGATION.


FIRST, **ANTICIPATE**. WITH THE FILES ALEX TRANSFERRED, I LOOKED INTO THE **MANPOWER, METHODS, AND MATERIALS** BEING USED.

SECOND, **RECOGNIZE**. I DOCUMENTED EVERYTHING I DID TO ESTABLISH A BASELINE FOR MY INVESTIGATION.


VOLUNTEER WORKERS HAD THE RASH ON VARIOUS PARTS OF THEIR BODIES. THERE WAS NO SET PATTERN.

THIRD, **EVALUATE**. I'LL APPLY SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS TO MEASURE THE BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL, AND PHYSICAL HAZARDS SO I CAN ESTABLISH AN EXPOSURE PROFILE.






AFTER A FULL DAY, I HAD CHECKED OUT ALL OF THE TOOLS, FOOD, CLOTHING, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT THE STAFF ACCESSED.



I EVEN SHADOWED THE DOCTORS AND AID WORKERS; NOTHING JUMPED OUT AS POTENTIAL VECTORS FOR THE RASH.



WHAT CONCERNED ME MOST WAS THE *POTENTIAL* THIS RASH HAD FOR MUTATION; THE REFUGEE POPULATION WAS AT RISK.

I'D NEVER REACH *STEPS FOUR AND FIVE* OF MY INVESTIGATION IF A KEY FACTOR WAS STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR.

CAMP CONDITIONS COULD TURN THIS RASH INTO SOMETHING DEADLY IF I COULDN'T FIND THE CAUSE.

AT THE END OF TWO DAYS, I STILL HAD NOTHING TO SHOW FOR MY EFFORTS.

NOTHING AT ALL.

STORAGE

I HAD TO BE MISSING SOMETHING SO SIMPLE...

MISS REBECCA?

IT'S IFIE. I THINK SHE'S SICK.

SOMETIMES, THE SOLUTION IS JUST OUTSIDE OF OUR PROVERBIAL BOX...

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HER?





SHE GOT THIS  
RASH YESTERDAY...IT  
LOOKS REALLY NASTY.  
SHE BARELY SLEPT  
LAST NIGHT.



\*SHE WAS SO PLAYFUL TWO  
DAYS AGO AND NOW SHE  
ISN'T FEELING WELL AT ALL.  
IS SHE GOING TO BE OKAY?\*




YES, SHE WILL!  
IN FACT, THEY'RE ALL  
GOING TO BE OKAY.  
THANK YOU!

YOU'VE  
JUST SHOWN ME  
WHAT I NEEDED  
TO SEE!




AHA!

\*OUR GLOVES?\*



SPECIFICALLY, THESE  
GLOVES. THEY'RE FROM  
PROTECT-O, RIGHT?

WELL,  
YES...



I'D HEARD  
THEY WERE DEVELOPING A  
NEW PROTECTIVE LATEX USING  
NANOTECHNOLOGY...BUT LAST  
I KNEW IT WAS STILL  
IN TESTING.

WELL, NOT  
ANYMORE.

REALLY?  
WHAT DO YOU MEAN  
BY THAT?



ALEX EXPLAINED HOW A MONTH AGO THEY WERE CRITICALLY LOW ON BASIC MEDICAL SUPPLIES AT THE STAGING BASE, INCLUDING GLOVES AND COMMON MEDICINES.

HE HAD SEVERAL CONTACTS AT **PROTECT-O** AND HEARD THEY WERE JUST ABOUT READY TO PUT THESE GLOVES ON THE MARKET.

HE REACHED OUT TO SOME PEOPLE HE KNEW OVER THERE...

...AND THEY SENT OVER A BATCH OF THEM AS A DONATION.

WE'VE BEEN USING THEM FOR ABOUT A MONTH...

...AND THE RASHES STARTED SOON AFTERWARDS.

OH.



BUT HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? THEY DID EXTENSIVE PRODUCT TESTING. THEY'RE KNOWN FOR BEING STICKLERS WITH QUALITY CONTROL.

I DON'T THINK ANYONE THOUGHT OF THE COMBINATION OF EXTREME TROPICAL CONDITIONS, SALT WATER, AND HUMAN SWEAT.



FINALLY I GOT TO THE **FOURTH STEP** OF MY INVESTIGATION: **CONTROL**. APPLY KNOWLEDGE OF APPROACHES THAT MIGHT ALLOW FOR ELIMINATION OF A PARTICULAR HAZARD.

THOSE THREE FACTORS ARE CAUSING A SEVERE REACTION IN THOSE WHO HAVE SKIN SENSITIVITIES, SUCH AS NON-NATIVE AID VOLUNTEERS.

INITIAL TESTS SHOW IT'S TREATABLE WITH SOME ANTIBIOTICS AND CORTISONE CREAM.

THAT'S... GOING TO BE A PROBLEM.



WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO TREAT THE ENTIRE STAFF - AND I CAN'T SPARE ANYONE TO GO GET SOME.

THE NEXT AIRLIFT ISN'T FOR TWO WEEKS.

I KNOW WHERE WE CAN FIND SOME!





THE **FIFTH** AND LAST STEP: **CONFIRM**.  
DETERMINE THE OVEREXPOSURE AND  
ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR CORRECTION  
AND FUTURE PREVENTION.

THIS MEANT TAKING  
IMMEDIATE ACTION.




DURING MY MISSION  
BRIEFING, I NOTICED  
THERE WAS A MEDICAL  
WAREHOUSE LOCATED  
IN THE HILLS ON THE  
OTHER END OF THE  
ISLAND.

GETTING MAPS  
AND A TRUCK WAS  
EASY ENOUGH.




PROBLEM WAS, THE MAIN BRIDGE TO THE TOWN  
WAS DESTROYED; THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE WAS  
A BADLY MAINTAINED JUNGLE ROAD THROUGH  
THE WASHED-OUT VALLEY.

IT WAS ONE OF  
THE **SCARIEST**  
ROAD TRIPS  
I'VE EVER TAKEN.



THE LOCALS WERE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HELP THE RELIEF EFFORT IN THE LOWLANDS.



THE CAMP LET THEM KNOW I WAS COMING. THEY WERE READY WITH SUPPLIES WHEN I ARRIVED AT DAYBREAK.

ISLAND MEDICAL SUPPLY  
GLOVES  
ADULT 100

I ALSO RECEIVED ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES FOR THE CAMP AND FIELD HOSPITAL, THANKS TO THE GENEROUS AND CONCERNED LOCALS.



ALL LOADED UP!

...AND I BOUGHT A FEW THINGS MYSELF.



THE TRIP WAS EXHAUSTING, BUT I KNEW DEEP DOWN IT WAS WORTH EVERY BUMP AND GRIND.



I GOT ALL OF IT BACK TO THE CAMP, SAFE AND SOUND.

REBECCA, THIS IS OUTSTANDING!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WOULD'VE DONE WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

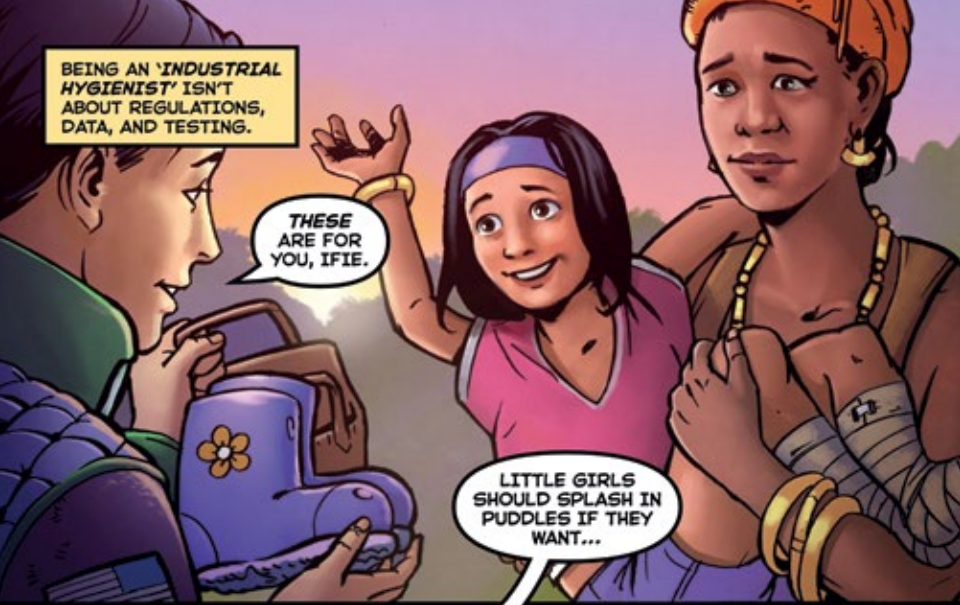
WE'LL PUT THESE TO GOOD USE RIGHT AWAY!



GOOD HEALTH CAN BRING GREAT JOY TO ANYONE.

OLD AND YOUNG.






BEING AN 'INDUSTRIAL  
HYGIENIST' ISN'T  
ABOUT REGULATIONS,  
DATA, AND TESTING.

THESE  
ARE FOR  
YOU, IFIE.

LITTLE GIRLS  
SHOULD SPLASH IN  
PUDDLES IF THEY  
WANT...



...SO HERE  
ARE SOME PROPER  
TOOLS FOR YOU TO  
DO THAT!



'IH' IS ABOUT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND  
WELL-BEING OF A FAMILY. THE HUMAN FAMILY.

IT'S MORE  
THAN MY JOB.

I AM IH.



## Rebecca

**"The Human Factor"**

Script: Ben H. Rome

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Layout design: Simeon Cogswell

Special thanks to Tom Armstrong, James Couch, and Chris Rennix for their expertise; Thursa La, Sue Marchese, Laurie Mutdosch, and Jenn Newell for development ideas;

For more information about IH Heroes, visit [www.ihheroes.org](http://www.ihheroes.org)

**Character design**



Join an IH Hero as she unravels a mystery plaguing a small island recently hit by massive flooding. Can her problem-solving skills save the day?

Learn more about these quiet workplace heroes and check out their latest adventures in AIHA's award-winning graphic series at [IHHeroes.org](http://IHHeroes.org)



**HEALTHIER WORKPLACES | A HEALTHIER WORLD**



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COMIC17-794  
ISBN 978-1-935082-82-8