

**Bowling Alley Heroes**  
by Macha Lopez

Marcus is ranting. That's how he is. Boosting morale is half the job, he says.  
*"Hold the line, gentlemen! There's a chance this one will miss us again!"*

Earthquake.

I hold tight.

Left, George is hit, collapses. Jim follows. Billy.

Then all hell breaks loose and, before I can blink, I am the last man standing.

Times stutters.

The ten of us are lifted up in the airs. Rapture! Finally! ...

But a breath later we're all here again, shoulder to shoulder. Bracing for next throw.  
Marcus is ranting. That's how he is. Boosting morale is half the job, he says.

*Written for the 2022 100-word NYC Midnight Challenge*

*Assigned genre: Action Adventure*

*Assigned word: "rant"*

*Assigned action: lifting someone off the ground*