

Good Enough for Me

written by

Teddy McCormick

teddyhwmccormick@gmail.com
(478) 238-3339

1 EXT. STREET INTERVIEW MONTAGE - DAY 1

An UNSEEN REPORTER interviews a series of BYSTANDERS. This is the raw, unedited footage, so it's a bit slow and awkward.

2 INTERVIEW A: CRITICAL AND SYMPATHETIC 2

UNSEEN REPORTER (O.S.)
Don't worry about the camera, just talk to me, like we're having a conversation. Because we are!

CRITICAL BYSTANDER
I get it.

UNSEEN REPORTER
And last thing is, I'm gonna be editing out my questions, right? So please try to answer in complete sentences - if I ask "What's your favorite color?" don't say "Red," say, "My favorite color is red." You can just completely restate my question if that helps.

CRITICAL BYSTANDER
Okay.

UNSEEN REPORTER
You guys ready to get started?

SYMPATHETIC BYSTANDER
Sure, go for it.

CRITICAL BYSTANDER
Yeah, man.

UNSEEN REPORTER (O.S.)
(reading from a card)
Sonora claims her latest attack outside city hall was done in order to "encourage police reform." Would you say-

One of the bystanders interrupts.

CRITICAL BYSTANDER
No, dude, no way. Like, I get the ACAB thing, sure, but that doesn't give you license to just start blasting every cop cruiser you see.

UNSEEN REPORTER (O.S.)
Sorry, can I have you say that again in a complete sentence?

CRITICAL BYSTANDER
Sonora's a psycho. Complete
sentence.

UNSEEN REPORTER (O.S.)
No, I'm sorry, that was great, I
just need you to-

SYMPATHETIC BYSTANDER
Aren't some extreme measures needed?

UNSEEN REPORTER (O.S.)
You would agree with Sonora?

SYMPATHETIC BYSTANDER
I don't, like, "agree" with her, but
looking at what she's trying to
accomplish-

CRITICAL BYSTANDER
She flattened the truck, man!

SYMPATHETIC BYSTANDER
I get that, but-

3 INTERVIEW B: CHIPPER AND ELDERLY

3

ELDERLY BYSTANDER
And this'll be on TV?

UNSEEN REPORTER (O.S.)
At about 7:30 on NBC, yes it will.

ELDERLY BYSTANDER
(to Chipper Bystander)
How about that?

CHIPPER BYSTANDER
Right?

ELDERLY BYSTANDER
I've always wanted to be on TV!

4 INTERVIEW C: CYNICAL

4

UNSEEN REPORTER (O.S.)
Sword Saint's Extreme Security
Prison has recently expanded to
holding unpowered criminals in
addition to supervillains. Do you
agree that additional measures
needed to be taken for villains such
as The Fiddler, or is this a step
too far?

CYNICAL BYSTANDER

The prison even existing is a step too far, man.

UNSEEN REPORTER

Elaborate on that, please.

CYNICAL BYSTANDER

Sword Saint's prison is like... yeah, we need somewhere to lock up the supervillains, yeah standard prisons couldn't handle it, but so we hand the whole thing over to one dude, whose name we don't even know?

UNSEEN REPORTER

So you don't trust Sword Saint?

CYNICAL BYSTANDER

Trust is a two-way street. He wants us to trust him, he can mask off and face the world naked like the rest of us.

5 INTERVIEW D: VANESSA AND ANNE

5

VANESSA WHITTAKER (28, short hair, dressed cheap but well) looks a little bored; ANNE (38, business casual, heavy on the casual) is excited.

UNSEEN REPORTER (O.S.)

(reading)

Sonora claims her latest attack outside city hall was done in order to "encourage police reform."

Vanessa's not bored anymore. This is interesting.

UNSEEN REPORTER

Would you say Sonora has a point, or are such extreme measures uncalled for?

VANESSA

Some extreme measures are called for, definitely, but maybe not those ones.

UNSEEN REPORTER (O.S.)

In a complete sentence?

VANESSA

Right, sorry. Sonora does have a point, but she's going too far. Violence should be a last resort. A step beyond a last resort, even.

ANNE

Now, hang on, to play devil's
advocate-

Vanessa rolls her eyes.

VANESSA

Here we go.

Anne steams ahead.

ANNE

-I think we are approaching...
police violence is at an
unacceptable level, and has been for
years. You have to understand that
some people are going to respond to
violence with violence. "A riot is
the language-

VANESSA

"A riot is a language of the
unheard," I know, which is why I
think the solution lies in opening
dialogues, not blowing holes in
buildings.

UNSEEN REPORTER (O.S.)

This is great, thank you so much,
but if it's okay, I want to move us
on to my next question...

FADE TO:

6 EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

6

Vanessa and Anne walk away from the reporter.

ANNE

I'm not saying it's okay, I'm just-

Vanessa groans.

VANESSA

Let's talk about something else?

Anne waggles her eyebrows.

ANNE

Okay. Let's talk about your date.

Vanessa laughs, blushes a little.

VANESSA

Actually, let's talk more about
politics. What's your stance on-

ANNE

Ooh, that's a "things went well" smile. After work we're going to Siam Classic and you're going to tell me all about it.

VANESSA

Um...

Anne stops, looks at her. That was a very pregnant "um."

Vanessa stops, smiles politely, but won't meet Anne's gaze.

ANNE

Tonight? You're going out again tonight?

Vanessa shrugs.

VANESSA

Kinda. Yeah.

ANNE

Eight months. Eight months I have been trying to set this up with you two.

Vanessa starts walking again. Anne follows her.

7 INT. OFFICE - DAY [CONTINUOUS]

7

A small office; no cubicles, just desks, and a skateboard rack on the wall because they're "fun!"

The elevator DINGS, and Vanessa and Anne walk out.

VANESSA

I don't know what you want me to say! I have work to do. His mom says hi.

ANNE

You met Carol?

VANESSA

She happened to be there. I don't think it was planned.

Brief moment of horror. Vanessa looks at Anne.

VANESSA

Oh god, was it planned?

Anne shakes her head.

ANNE

If you knew them, you'd believe it.

They reach Anne's desk. Vanessa tries to keep walking, but Anne stands in her way.

ANNE

Where's he taking you tonight?

VANESSA

We didn't make any plans. Just, meeting after work.

Anne glares at her... decides she's telling the truth.

She sits.

ANNE

I hope you have a great time and I want to be one of your bridesmaids.

Vanessa walks away.

VANESSA

It's not like that, don't take it too far.

Anne puts her hands into a heart shape, holds them over her shoulder.

Vanessa rolls her eyes.

Vanessa's phone DINGS with a text message.

ANNE

If that's him, tell him I say hi.

VANESSA

It's not him!

But it is him. She has his name saved as "DANIEL (ANNE'S FRIEND)."

Vanessa sits at her desk across the room, reads the text message: "Do you want something classy or casual?"

Vanessa considers.

Responds: "Casual."

Daniel: "Casual like dinner or casual like bowling?"

Vanessa: "I hate bowling."

Daniel: "Batting cages? Roller skating? Gym?"

Vanessa: "You want to take me on a date to the gym??"

Daniel responds with a gif of a guy in 80s spandex giving a thumbs up.

Vanessa laughs.

Another text, this one from ANNE: " "

Vanessa looks up, sees Anne smiling at her from across the room.

VANESSA

Shut up!

8 EXT. GYM - EVENING

8

Vanessa stands out front of a gym, dressed for a workout. She's smiling even as she shakes her head.

VANESSA

This is dumb. Why am I doing this?
This is so dumb.

DANIEL (30, clean-cut) jogs around the corner, covered in sweat.

DANIEL

Hey!

She sees him, waves. He jogs over.

VANESSA

(playful)
This is already the dumbest date
I've ever been on.

DANIEL

You don't want to work out with me?

VANESSA

As a date.

DANIEL

Yeah! It'll be fun!

Vanessa rolls her eyes and laughs as they walk into the gym.

9 INT. BOBA PLACE - NIGHT

9

Vanessa and Daniel drink boba tea across from each other after a long workout.

VANESSA

I'll say this: I don't think I'd
ever suggest it myself, but I would
accept another gym date if it was
suggested to me.

DANIEL
Fair enough. What do you want to do next?

VANESSA
Next?

Daniel is disappointed, but gets it.

DANIEL
Oh, sorry. No, duh, we can be done. You've probably got things to do.

VANESSA
No, I... do you not have anything else to do?

DANIEL
Yeah. But I'd rather keep doing this.

Vanessa smiles, doesn't know how to respond.

10 EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

10

They walk down the street together; Vanessa wears a light sweater now.

VANESSA
Favorite... type of pet?

DANIEL
Dogs.

VANESSA
You're such a dog person. I don't know why I asked.

DANIEL
You can just tell from looking at me?

VANESSA
You act like a golden retriever. You're so excited about everything.

They walk past a massive crater in the center of the street, construction crews cleaning it up. Vanessa nods at it.

VANESSA
Ooh, superheroes or supervillains?

DANIEL
Surely nobody roots for the villains?

Vanessa is disappointed, but hides it quickly.

VANESSA
There are a lot of weirdos in this
city.

Daniel shrugs. "I guess."

DANIEL
But okay, who's your favorite hero?

Vanessa tries to pretend, but is clearly uninterested.

VANESSA
I don't know if I have a favorite.
They're all so...

DANIEL
("I'm an idiot")
Ohhh no, you root for the villains!
I'm so sorry, I didn't-

VANESSA
No, it's fine, I don't really,
they're-

DANIEL
I don't get it, but you're not a
weirdo, I'm just-

VANESSA
Let's talk about something else.

Vanessa takes Daniel's hand, and it's like they've been holding hands all their lives.

Daniel nods, smiles.

DANIEL
Okay.

11 INT. KARAOKE PARLOR - NIGHT

11

A private room. Vanessa sings *Bye Bye Bye* by NSYNC. She's doing the dance and everything, it's awesome.

Daniel laughs and laughs.

CUT TO:

Daniel absolutely nails *I Wanna Dance with Somebody* by Whitney Houston. Vanessa is blown away.

The song ends and Vanessa cheers and claps.

VANESSA

That was amazing! I wish I could sing like that!

DANIEL

Yeah, but you did all the moves for your song! I couldn't dance if my life depended on it. I'm all-

He starts dancing like an middle-aged aunt at a wedding.

Vanessa HOWLS with laughter.

Her phone BUZZES. She checks it.

VANESSA

(quiet)

Oh, shit.

DANIEL

Everything okay?

VANESSA

Um. Yeah, I just... I forgot about a meeting I have?

DANIEL

At...

He checks his watch.

DANIEL

Two in the morning?

Vanessa laughs, gathers her things.

VANESSA

At seven. But I would like to get some sleep beforehand.

DANIEL

Right, duh, obviously. Sorry. I'll-

Daniel starts to get his stuff together too, but Vanessa's already ready.

VANESSA

It's all good, this was great, I had a fantastic time, I'll call you.

And she's gone.

DANIEL

Bye?

His phone BUZZES.

12 EXT. ALLEYWAY - EVENING**12**

Vanessa jogs down an alley, finishes an energy drink and crumples the can.

She talks to herself, practices a conversation.

VANESSA

"I didn't forget, I was occupied."

(doing a dumb voice)

"This was your op, and you were too busy boning to show up on time?"

(her voice)

Nope. "Sorry. Is everyone in position?"

(dumb voice)

"Sorry? You're sorry?"

She throws her can away in a dumpster, takes the opportunity to look behind her; nobody's around. Nobody can see her.

VANESSA

"This is my op, I decide when it starts."

She pulls a bundle of white fabric out of her purse, ducks behind the dumpster.

She emerges wearing a SUPERHERO OUTFIT - a white jumpsuit with leather boots and symbol of a bell on her shoulder. She pulls on a mask and becomes SONORA.

She shoves her previous outfit behind the dumpster, then steps back and kneels.

SONORA

Damn it.

Her whole body vibrates with energy, which builds to a BRIGHT HUM as she soars into the air.

13 EXT. SKYSCRAPER ROOFTOP - EVENING**13**

MOB RULE (30s, superhero - rugged punk look, blank mask) stands on the rooftop.

He GRUNTS with effort... and SPLITS INTO TWO IDENTICAL COPIES OF HIMSELF.

Sonora hovers over the roof behind them; Mob Rule is startled, and one of the copies POPS out of existence.

SONORA

(off the copy
disappearing)

Oh, shit, are you really here?

Sonora drops to her feet.

SONORA
I figured you'd just have a double
waiting for me.

Two of the Mob Rules disappear.

MOB RULE
(pissed)
This is a double. You're late.

SONORA
I didn't think your doubles could
make-

MOB RULE
You're late.

Sonora drops the pleasant tone. "Fine, boss mode it is."

SONORA
This is my op, I decide who's late.
Everyone else is in position? The
heroes are all downtown?

MOB RULE
They've been in position for half an
hour now. And most of the heroes are
occupied, yes.

SONORA
Most of them?

Mob Rule sighs.

MOB RULE
No sign of Jupiter, but that's a
good thing.

SONORA
A good thing? The plan literally
revolves around him.

MOB RULE
I'm just saying, if all that happens
tonight is we get a truckload of
gold bars, I'm a happy camper.
Villainy doesn't have to be
complicated.

SONORA
We're not villains-

MOB RULE
..."Not villains," I know.

Mob Rule shrugs.

MOB RULE

I just want to be rich.

Sonora walks to the edge of the roof, scans the city.

SONORA

If Jupiter doesn't show up, Hexa's gonna be trouble.

Mob Rule grunts.

MOB RULE

Hexa's always trouble. You know, for claiming we're the good guys, you sure don't mind teaming up with-

He pauses, like he's just realizing something.

MOB RULE

Truck's rounding the corner.

And Sonora's already leapt from the rooftop.

A HIGH-PITCHED WHINE grows and fades as she circles around to buzz the rooftop, and then she's gone.

Mob Rule sighs. POPS out of existence.

14 INT./EXT. ARMORED TRUCK - NIGHT

14

Two armed guards man the truck as it drives through surface streets. The PASSENGER (24) is nervous, but the DRIVER (39) couldn't be more relaxed.

PASSENGER

But they said the Devourer is out tonight, and-

DRIVER

And nothing. He's on the other side of the city. Hearing he's there and not here makes me feel safer.

The passenger nods, tries to calm down.

A keen eye will notice a woman dressed in heavy furs and leathers leaning against a wall.

The driver has a keen eye.

DRIVER

(under his breath)
Oh, shit.

PASSENGER

What? What's wrong?

DRIVER
Get on the radio, tell-

A huge armored fist SMASHES through the passenger side door and grabs the passenger, yanks him outside.

15 EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT [CONTINUOUS]

15

BJORN (50s, bear-themed medieval armor) clings to the side of the truck, and throws the passenger onto the sidewalk. He ROARS with laughter.

The truck FLOORS IT and tries to speed off, when HEXA (50s, the woman in furs and leathers) breaks a small runed stone, and the truck SMASHES into an invisible wall.

SONORA drops from the sky behind the truck; she SCREAMS at the back of it, and blows the doors open with a sonic shockwave.

Hexa and Bjorn walk up on either side of her, looking at the interior of the truck - full of gold bars.

Sonora looks with distaste at Bjorn's right hand - carrying the terrified driver.

SONORA
Put him down.

Bjorn snarls at her.

HEXA
He does not take orders from you.

SONORA
That's not what we're here for,
Hexa.

BJORN
It's not what you're here for.

A set of bolas whip out at Bjorn; he drops the driver to catch them in a meaty fist.

The trio turns to face:

JUPITER, champion of justice. He wears a thick armor-plated suit; lightning bolts arc down both arms, leading to oversized gauntlets with spinning electrical turbines.

JUPITER
You should listen to her.

He clenches his fists, and electricity arcs around them.

Sonora adopts a relaxed pose, brushes some nonexistent dirt from her shoulder.

SONORA
You guys handle the gold, I've got
Thunderpants.

Bjorn takes a step towards Sonora, but Hexa lays a hand on his back and he stops.

HEXA
(to Sonora)
I hope you do.

She hands a bag to Bjorn, and they both start loading the gold into bags. (Hexa does so by magically lifting the gold; no manual labor for her.)

SONORA
I'll be weighing the sacks later,
you know.

Sonora moves towards Jupiter. Jupiter squares off against her.

JUPITER
I don't want to hurt you. If you'll
just come with me, I'm sure-

Sonora GROANS.

SONORA
Every single time with you. What
will it take to get you to just
fight me without the spiel?

Jupiter shakes his head.

JUPITER
I know there's good in you, Sonora.
If you'd only-

SONORA
Ohmigod I'm so BORED!!

She SCREAMS the word BORED in a massive sonic blast; Jupiter dives out of the way, tucks into a roll, and comes out of it throwing another set of bolas at her.

The bolas catch Sonora's wrist, give her a light shock before she can rip them off.

By the time she does, Jupiter is in her face. He throws punches with the speed and precision of a trained boxer, and even with her sonic shields it's all Sonora can do to keep from getting hit.

She barely manages to look back at Bjorn and Hexa, now with most of the gold bagged.

SONORA

Go!

Jupiter tries to leap past her, but she blasts him with sonic energy, hurling him up into the air and onto:

16 EXT. A NEARBY ROOFTOP - NIGHT [CONTINUOUS]

16

Jupiter lands in a roll and spins around to throw a heavy haymaker at Sonora as she lands on the far side of him. Sonora blocks with a wave of sonic energy pressing against his fist; Jupiter throws a punch with his other hand, which Sonora catches in another sonic field.

Sonora strains; this is taking a lot out of her.

Jupiter presses forward; he manages to take a step, forces Sonora to take a step backwards.

SONORA

This is a lot of power, Jupiter.
You'd take my head clean off if I
let you.

JUPITER

What can I say? I have faith in you.

His gauntlets SURGE WITH ENERGY, and Sonora is forced to throw herself backwards; she hurtles back, slams into the ground across the street, barely manages to slow herself with another sonic shield.

17 EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT [CONTINUOUS]

17

Jupiter doesn't take a break; he's already falling at her, full speed.

Sonora, now legitimately scared, takes off into the air.

Jupiter hits the ground in a crouch, then leaps into the air himself with a lightning-powered jump, easily reaching Sonora as she's 30 feet high.

Sonora SCREAMS a sonic wave at him; he manages to block with his electric gauntlets, but the force still sends him crashing down to the ground.

He lies on the ground, unmoving.

Sonora hovers in the air, stares at him, holds her breath.

Jupiter shifts, GROANS in pain.

Sonora relaxes, just a little bit. Lands next to him.

SONORA
Really? Just like that?

Jupiter flexes an electro-gauntlet; Sonora pins his wrist with her foot.

SONORA
We had a whole plan. Mob Rule's got a bunch of doubles a few blocks south of here. I was gonna lure you in, Hexa was gonna-

JUPITER
Don't count me out just yet.

His gauntlets charge with energy...

Sonora blasts both gauntlets with sonic beams; the gauntlets glow with power, press against the energy...

Then they break.

JUPITER
Oh, that's bad.

Sonora leans with a knee on Jupiter's neck, waggles her fingers excitedly.

SONORA
Let's take a peek.

JUPITER
I'd really rather you didn't-

She takes off Jupiter's mask...

It's DANIEL!

She stumbles backwards.

SONORA
WHAT. No, no no no. Why are you...

Daniel leaps to his feet, tackles Sonora, then nimbly flips around to hold her in a wrestling pin.

SONORA
Daniel, wait!

DANIEL
How do you know my name?

Daniel is confused.

DANIEL
Do I know you?

Sonora doesn't know what to do.

SONORA
 Damn it.
 (defeated)
 Yes.

Daniel releases her, but keeps his dukes up, wary of a trick.

SONORA
 This is a bad idea.

She hesitates... pulls her mask up, and now it's Daniel's turn to stumble backwards.

DANIEL
Vanessa?!

He's excited and confused and freaked out and excited.

Sonora pulls her mask back on, tosses Daniel back his.

SONORA
 The others are already looking for us. You need to get out of here.

Daniel puts his mask back on, becomes Jupiter again.

JUPITER
 What do we... what do we do about this? I had a great time tonight.

SONORA
 Definitely not that. I... We just...

She GROANS.

SONORA
 I don't have time for this. Run or hide, just don't let them know I let you go.

She flies off.

18 EXT. SKY - NIGHT [CONTINUOUS]

18

SONORA
 Shit. Shit!

She pauses in mid-air.

SONORA
 This is okay. I can spin this. "You guys were right, he was too much for me, he got away."

She mocks Hexa's voice.

SONORA

"I told you this plan was terrible. Now we'll do whatever I want. And I want to... blow up an orphanage, or something else outrageous."

She GROANS.

She turns around and flies back.

19 EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT [CONTINUOUS]

19

Daniel has taken off his uniform and is lounging against the wall in his civvies.

Sonora lands in front of him.

SONORA

Why are you unmasked? They'll see you!

Daniel wags a finger at her.

DANIEL

As long as I was alone, they'd just see an average guy. It's only now that you're here talking to me that I'd be suspicious.

SONORA

So what, you were just gonna stay up here forever?

DANIEL

I figured I'd chill for an hour or two, wait for things to die down, then head home. Why are you back?

SONORA

You gotta... you gotta give me something. If I don't bring you to them, they're going to... I won't be able to keep them in check.

Daniel is relieved.

DANIEL

Mmmmm. So it's like that. I'd been wondering, like, "Vanessa seemed-"

SONORA

Please don't say that name right now.

He holds his hands up apologetically.

DANIEL
You're right. My bad.

Sonora looks around, nervous.

SONORA
Can we... We need to talk.
Privately.

DANIEL
Do you wanna go get some coffee?

20 INT. WAFFLE HOUSE - NIGHT

20

Vanessa and Daniel sit across from each other in their civvies. A SERVER takes their order.

VANESSA
I'll have a coffee. Black is fine.

SERVER
(to Daniel)
And you?

DANIEL
Can I get... hashbrowns, all the way?

VANESSA
You're getting food?

DANIEL
Yeah, I'm starving.

VANESSA
I thought you said we were just getting coffee.

DANIEL
You can eat if you want?

Vanessa scoffs.

VANESSA
You talk stuff out over coffee. Now this is... it's not just coffee.

The server looks between them; "Do I leave, or...?"

DANIEL
Do you want to order food?

The server looks at Vanessa.

Vanessa chews on her tongue.

VANESSA
I'll have a cheeseburger. Very well
done, no toppings.

Daniel gives her a look; he disapproves of her choices.

The server quickly shuffles off.

DANIEL
That's not why you go to Waffle
House.

VANESSA
You didn't get waffles either.

DANIEL
Who gets waffles? Who gets anything
other than hashbrowns?

He laughs. Vanessa doesn't.

DANIEL
If it's not just coffee, what is it?

VANESSA
Not a date, if that's what you're
asking.

DANIEL
Okay. Is this an outing?

VANESSA
Not enough people. I think of
outings as group things. Maybe it's
hanging out.

DANIEL
Too intentional to be hanging out.
Hanging out is, like, chilling.

VANESSA
No, chilling is chilling. Hanging
out is...

She stops.

DANIEL
Is what?

Vanessa sighs.

VANESSA
Daniel, what are we doing?

DANIEL
That's what we're talking-

VANESSA

Not... no. This can't work.

Daniel's smile fades.

DANIEL

Yeah. I know.

VANESSA

You're not gonna... My family
doesn't know about... me.

Daniel leans forward.

DANIEL

You've met my mother. My
defenseless,
stiff-breeze-could-knock-her-over
mother.

Vanessa is offended at the implication.

VANESSA

You know I would never-

DANIEL

Exactly! I know you wouldn't. Just
like I wouldn't. When I'm Daniel,
you're just Vanessa. When I'm
Jupiter, you're just Sonora. No
crossover.

Vanessa relaxes, leans back.

VANESSA

Agreed. Good.

DANIEL

Good.

VANESSA

But if there's no crossover...

DANIEL

Yeah?

VANESSA

Never mind.

Beat.

The server drops off Vanessa's coffee.

VANESSA

Thanks.

Vanessa takes a sip, glad for the excuse not to talk.

DANIEL
Can I ask you a question?

VANESSA
Shoot.

DANIEL
Why do you do it? You're not...
like, you're not evil.

VANESSA
I could ask you the same thing.

DANIEL
No, come on. You can disagree with
me, but I'm working with the law.
I'm on the side of justice. You
can't ask why.

Vanessa rolls her eyes.

VANESSA
You think just because you're
working with the mayor, you're on
the side of justice?

DANIEL
At least I'm not breaking the law.

VANESSA
What if the law needs to be broken?

DANIEL
Then you do it the right way! You
vote, you protest! You don't-

He stops himself, calms down.

DANIEL
You've hurt people.

VANESSA
You're so naïve.

DANIEL
You work with sociopaths! The whole
"keeping them in check" thing only
goes so far when you could keep them
locked up where they can't hurt
people.

VANESSA
You work with people who abuse their
authority on a daily basis without
batting an eye.

Daniel sighs.

DANIEL

Society doesn't work if we can't trust it.

VANESSA

I don't understand how you can say something so right and use it as an argument for something so wrong.

DANIEL

You think I should what? Decide that I know better than people whose literal jobs are to research the entire issue and figure out where justice lies?

VANESSA

And when those people are the ones breaking the law?

Daniel groans, rubs his eyes.

DANIEL

I don't know. Okay? I don't know. But that's the point. I don't want to take action in a situation where I can't know for sure I'm doing the right thing.

VANESSA

And you think supporting a system that oppresses and destroys is-

DANIEL

I think stopping Lord Kailon from destroying the city is for sure the right thing.

VANESSA

Obviously Lord Kailon was bad, but he's not the only villain you've stopped. Hundred-Arms wasn't trying to destroy the city.

DANIEL

You're right, I guess I'm crazy for thinking that stopping murderers is good for human life.

VANESSA

That's not what I...

She sighs. Backs down a bit.

VANESSA

You're wrong. You are. But I
(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)
 understand why you want things to be
 that simple.

DANIEL
 What about you? You never have pangs
 of conscience? You're always
 convinced you're doing the right
 thing?

VANESSA
 Obviously not. I wish I could see
 the world like you do. Trust the
 world like that. I just... I can't.

Daniel almost responds... sighs instead.

Beat.

VANESSA
 You don't, like, secretly beat up
 old ladies, do you?

DANIEL
 (offended)
 What?

VANESSA
 No, just, this would be a lot easier
 if you were, like, a conscious part
 of the problem.

DANIEL
 (still offended)
 Instead of an oblivious part of the
 problem.

VANESSA
 Exactly.

DANIEL
 I'm sorry that I-

VANESSA
 I like you.

Daniel considers.

DANIEL
 I like you, too.

VANESSA
 No, not like...

She takes a risk.

VANESSA
I really like you.

DANIEL
I think I love you.

Oh damn.

The server arrives with their food.

SERVER
Here you go. Hashbrowns all the way...

She puts them in front of Vanessa.

SERVER
And a cheeseburger.

It's got a bunch of toppings. She puts it in front of Daniel, then walks away.

VANESSA
Um-

DANIEL
Yeah, here.

He swaps the plates.

DANIEL
Didn't you ask for no toppings?

He raises his hand to get the server's attention, but Vanessa pulls his hand down.

VANESSA
You love me?

DANIEL
...I don't know. Yeah.

VANESSA
We've been on two dates.

DANIEL
Three if you count this.

VANESSA
Even if we did! You can't say you love me after three dates!

DANIEL
I can say whatever I want.

VANESSA

Saying you love someone after three dates is insane.

DANIEL

I disagree. Falling in love with someone after three dates, that's insane. Saying it when it's true is just-

Vanessa looks away; she's getting upset.

VANESSA

Stop. Seriously. It's not funny.

Daniel eats his hashbrowns; he's hard to read for the moment.

Vanessa picks the toppings off her burger.

Picks the burger up.

Puts it back down.

VANESSA

We are enemies. Sworn rivals with mutually exclusive goals.

DANIEL

We're not. Jupiter and Sonora are. We talked about how there's no-

VANESSA

There's crossover, Daniel.

DANIEL

Well, then, fine. I love Sonora, too.

VANESSA

Stop it.

Daniel looks sorry, backs down.

Eats more hashbrowns.

Vanessa takes a bite of her burger.

She swallows.

VANESSA

I think I love you too.

Daniel smiles. Vanessa doesn't, but her attitude lightens.

VANESSA

This is dumb. We're dumb.

Daniel takes another bite of hashbrowns.

DANIEL

Yeah.

Vanessa smiles.

21 EXT. CITY PARK - NIGHT

21

Vanessa is Sonora now; she leans against a tree as Daniel gets dressed as Jupiter in some bushes.

SONORA

If this is going to work, we're gonna need some ground rules.

DANIEL (O.S.)

Agreed.

SONORA

No revealing each other's identities.

DANIEL (O.S.)

That's a given. And no acting on the knowledge ourselves. I won't turn you in to the police, you won't kidnap my girlfriend.

Sonora snorts a laugh.

SONORA

I'll try not to. No milking each other for information. If the city's putting together a task force to hunt me down, don't tell me.

Jupiter emerges from the bushes, reaches into a backpack to pull out his gauntlets.

JUPITER

I mean, I would tell you.

SONORA

You can't. We don't want them to suspect you were working with me.

Jupiter puts on his gauntlets. Flexes a bit and they spin before stopping with a WHINE. Still broken.

JUPITER

Dang it.

(to Sonora)

I kind of am, though? I'm definitely enabling you.

Sonora laughs.

SONORA

Yeah, but we don't want them to know that.

JUPITER

I'm not gonna... I won't volunteer the information, obviously, but even that feels weird. If they figure it out, I won't deny it.

SONORA

You would go to prison. And unlike me, you wouldn't be willing to escape.

JUPITER

I know.

Sonora rolls her eyes. She thinks he's an idiot, but for the moment he's a likeable one.

JUPITER

The big question: what if we bump into each other in... like this? We don't fight, do we?

SONORA

It's not like either of us has changed our mind about what's right and wrong. We still have opposing goals.

This is wiggling Jupiter out a bit.

JUPITER

Are we sure about... is there some way we can...? I don't know.

They stop. Look at each other.

JUPITER

I know it has to be a secret. I just don't like that.

SONORA

Yeah.

The sky gets a little brighter. Morning is coming.

22 EXT. OFFICE BREAK ROOM - DAY

22

Vanessa and Anne eat their lunches - Vanessa has a sandwich from Starbucks, Anne packed herself a salad.

VANESSA

We get along yeah, but it's not, like, a sure thing. I don't know.

ANNE

Oh, please. Look at yourself.

Vanessa sighs. "I know."

VANESSA

I'm worried we're moving too fast.

ANNE

How old are you now?

Vanessa barks a laugh.

ANNE

I'm just saying! I don't know if you want kids, but-

VANESSA

Not even thinking about that right now.

Anne bites her tongue.

VANESSA

We just have some... political incompatibilities.

23 INT. VILLAINS' LAIR - NIGHT

23

A dark room with exposed beams and no decoration.

Sonora, Mob Rule, Hexa, and Bjorn argue around a large stainless steel table, along with THE PROFESSOR (40, sweater and khakis and an opaque face shield) and THE DEVOURER, a mostly-human-shaped living shadow.

HEXA

And after all that bravado, you let him escape.

SONORA

I did not let him escape, he escaped. There's a difference.

THE PROFESSOR

Really? You're arguing semantics?

Hexa gets up in Sonora's face, but Sonora doesn't back down.

Parts of the room have been coopted by the various villains: the Professor has a tiny lab with a computer and various gadgets, Hexa and Bjorn have some medieval torture implements and magical reagents, and Mob Rule has several wardrobes of outfits and disguises.

SONORA

The plan worked. We got him right where we wanted him. But there were unforeseeable-

Hexa scoffs.

HEXA

"Unforeseeable?" I told you that you were underestimating him!

Mob Rule's a little sheepish - he likes Sonora more than anyone else here, but...

MOB RULE

We all did, actually.

Sonora glares at Mob Rule; he doesn't like it, but he doesn't hide from it either, which shakes Sonora.

She might be in trouble, here.

SONORA

So what? I was wrong once. The fact remains that without me, none of you would be here right now.

THE PROFESSOR

But what have you done for us lately?

Sonora snaps a look at him.

SONORA

Got you a truckload of gold?

The Professor, at least, shrinks back from her ire.

The Devourer speaks up, with a voice like a dozen strained whispers.

THE DEVOURER

a side benefit, and you know this. i performed my task perfectly. if you are incapable of performing yours, i do not benefit from our alliance.

HEXA

I agree with the shadow thing, for once. This alliance of convenience is growing decidedly less convenient.

Bjorn chuckles darkly.

Sonora sees opportunity.

SONORA

Maybe you're right. Maybe-

Mob Rule tries to interrupt the tension.

MOB RULE

Or maybe we've just been going at this the wrong way.

SONORA

(startled)

What?

MOB RULE

Look at our powers. Some of us can hold our own in a fight, sure, but:

He points at each of them in turn.

MOB RULE

Hexa's got all sorts of crazy divinations. Can't you talk to dead people?

HEXA

My spirits are not "dead people."

MOB RULE

The Devourer can literally inhabit peoples' shadows. The Professor can hack just about anything given enough time.

THE PROFESSOR

(bashful)

You're being a little generous.

MOB RULE

I can be everywhere in the city at once, and Sonora can hear anywhere in the city if she concentrates.

Mob Rule looks at Bjorn; thinks for a second.

MOB RULE

And Bjorn can... punch people, really, really hard.

BJORN

I'll show you how hard.

HEXA

He's making a point, dear, let him finish.

But she glares at Mob Rule. "Finish quickly."

MOB RULE

My point is, yes, we got together because, let's be honest, we were each getting battered by the heroes and we wanted to start winning brawls.

Hexa snarls, but doesn't disagree.

MOB RULE

But forget brawls: there is literally no team, hero or villain, better suited for espionage.

SONORA

You want to turn us all into super spies? Stop fighting heroes and start getting into blackmail?

MOB RULE

Stop fighting heroes, and start hunting them.

Oh, shit. Sonora's getting nervous.

MOB RULE

We find their secret identities from the civilian side instead of from unmasking them, and-

HEXA

Of course! It's so simple. We simply find their secret identities.

Sonora relaxes a little now that she can see Hexa's not on board.

SONORA

Mob, I get where you're coming from, but Hexa's right: there are millions of people in this city. How would we even start?

Mob Rule is surprised, a little upset. He expected Sonora to be on his side.

MOB RULE

It's not a full plan yet, but I think it's at least a good start.

HEXA

Ignore her. It is a good start.

Sonora looks at Hexa.

SONORA

You were just arguing against it.

Hexa shrugs, smirks. "Then you started arguing against it."

THE PROFESSOR

Mob Rule is right! This is even better than before. If they don't know we know their identities, that opens up some fascinating possibilities.

Everyone looks at him.

THE PROFESSOR

Think about it. If we killed Jupiter or the Marshal - much less both - the other heroes would retaliate. But if something should happen, some complete accident kills their alter egos...

Mob Rule gets excited.

MOB RULE

Any retaliation would be half-hearted at best, and wouldn't last nearly as long. They won't even have a target to go after.

HEXA

This is a plan I can respect.

Mob Rule looks at Sonora.

MOB RULE

Come on, give this a chance. It can work.

Sonora feels cornered. She rolls with it.

SONORA

Fine. Don't let anyone say I'm not a team player.

She glances at Hexa. Takes a risk.

SONORA

Mob and I will take the Marshal, Hexa and the Devourer can hunt for Jupiter, and the Professor will play secretary and coordinate leads. Sound good?

THE PROFESSOR

Secretary?

HEXA

Tch. I will hunt the Marshal. You will hunt Jupiter to atone for your previous failure.

Sonora glares at Hexa.

SONORA

Fine.

THE DEVOURER

i do not take orders from you. i will hunt who i please, how i please.

THE PROFESSOR

But if you-

SONORA

If he wants to play all alone, let him. We'll manage.

The Devourer HISSSES at Sonora, but she ignores him.

THE PROFESSOR

(hopeful)

I can help Hexa, then?

HEXA

I need no help from the likes of you.

The Professor's face falls as he accepts his role.

SONORA

That's fine. You and Bjorn on the Marshal, Mob and I on Jupiter, the Professor coordinates, and the Devourer jerks off in the wind. Sounds like a plan to me.

Hexa snarls at Sonora. She can't shake the feeling Sonora got the better of her in this argument.

HEXA

Very well.

She turns and stomps away, Bjorn close behind.

Everyone else disperses too.

24 EXT. DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

24

Sonora and Mob Rule confer in the shadows.

MOB RULE

What the hell was that? I thought you were in my corner!

SONORA

I was in your corner! You saw how Hexa was. Anything I suggested, she'd do the opposite. If I'd been behind your plan from the start, she never would've gone for it.

Which is kind of depressing. Could've saved herself a lot of trouble.

Mob Rule chews on that for a beat, then GROANS.

MOB RULE

Yeah. Yeah, I guess so. Some team we have.

SONORA

You just have to know how to work with them.

MOB RULE

And you do?

Sonora snorts a laugh.

SONORA

Sometimes.

Sonora sees an angle.

SONORA

Honestly, though, I am worried. Hexa and Bjorn have never really been big on the team. Them off doing their own thing...

MOB RULE

You don't think they'd turn on us?

SONORA

Turn on us? No. Cut us out of the loop?

She shrugs.

MOB RULE

To what end? They can't pull off anything big on their own.

SONORA

Do they know that? You think Hexa thinks she needs us?

He looks away.

MOB RULE

Shit.

SONORA

Leave Jupiter to me. You keep an eye on them.

MOB RULE

Yeah. I think that's for the best.

He POPS out of existence.

Sonora lets out a heavy sigh.

25 INT. MALL FOOD COURT - DAY

25

It's crowded for the lunch rush. Vanessa and Daniel eat lunch together near one corner.

VANESSA

I know we said no feeding each other information...

DANIEL

You gonna start milking me?

VANESSA

No. I actually have something you might want to know.

DANIEL

It's fine. I'm alright.

Vanessa is surprised.

VANESSA

You don't even know what it is.

DANIEL

I know you really wanted to keep a wall between our identities. It's fine. I've survived this far.

VANESSA

...Okay. Thanks.

Beat.

26 EXT. DOWNTOWN MALL - DAY

26

Vanessa and Daniel leave the mall, prepare to separate.

DANIEL

This was nice. Can this be a regular thing?

VANESSA
If you're cool with Anne whining
about you stealing me.

DANIEL
She can come too! That'll be fun!

Vanessa laughs.

VANESSA
I don't want to eat out every day,
either.

DANIEL
That's fair. Once a week? Twice a
week?

VANESSA
Twice a week sounds great.

Beat.

DANIEL
Okay, well-

VANESSA
My team is planning to
figure out your secret
identity and kill you.

Daniel cocks his head, leans in closer, talks quiet.

DANIEL
What?

VANESSA
I'm actually... I'm in charge of
finding your identity.

Daniel smiles.

DANIEL
That works out well.

Then he realizes:

DANIEL
But what are you gonna do? Are you
gonna be okay? What are you gonna
tell them?

VANESSA
Nothing, obviously.

DANIEL
They aren't gonna get suspicious? If
you need to give them something, I
can-

VANESSA
I'll burn that bridge when I come to
it. I'll be fine.

PAUL (O.S.)
Hey, Vanessa!

PAUL (33, battered hoodie and jeans... familiar voice?)
walks out of the mall, heads over to Vanessa and Daniel.

Vanessa is rattled, but recovers fast.

VANESSA
Hey, Paul. Daniel, this is my friend
Paul. Paul, this is my boyfriend,
Daniel.

Paul shakes Daniel's hand.

PAUL
(to Vanessa)
I knew you were seeing somebody.
(to Daniel)
Nice to meet you, man.

DANIEL
Likewise.

Paul nods to Vanessa.

PAUL
Fancy seeing you here.

VANESSA
(fuck off)
We just ate.

Daniel can tell Vanessa's not happy about this.

DANIEL
Yeah, we went a little long, so...

PAUL
I won't keep you. Nice to meet you,
Daniel. See you around.

DANIEL
You too.

VANESSA
See you.

Paul walks away. Vanessa watches him for a beat, like
she's making sure he's leaving.

DANIEL
That was-

VANESSA

I gotta go. I'll text you later.

She hustles across the street, then turns the same direction as Paul.

27 **EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY**

27

Vanessa walks into an alleyway. Paul is leaning against a wall, waiting for her.

Vanessa hisses at him, keeps the volume down.

VANESSA

What the hell are you doing here?

PAUL

Relax. I'm not following you.

VANESSA

(spooked)

Then who are you following?

PAUL

You really didn't want me to know about this guy, did you?

VANESSA

I asked you a question.

PAUL

Hexa.

VANESSA

Why the hell was Hexa here?

Paul frowns, shakes his head.

PAUL

I don't know. Probably just a coincidence, but you should be careful.

Vanessa nods. She's worried, but carries it well.

VANESSA

I do have to get back to work.

She turns to leave.

PAUL

Daniel seems like a cool guy.

Vanessa looks at Paul.

VANESSA

Don't.

She leaves. Paul chuckles.

He POPS out of existence.

28 INT. OFFICE - DAY

28

Vanessa works on a text to Daniel: "Paul is kind of a"...

She deletes it all. Swears under her breath just as Anne arrives and sits at the desk behind Vanessa.

ANNE
Everything okay?

Vanessa jumps.

VANESSA
Y-yeah.

Anne doesn't buy it. Waits.

Vanessa spins to face Anne.

VANESSA
...We bumped into Paul at lunch.

ANNE
Oof. How was that?

VANESSA
(It was terrible.)
It was fine.

ANNE
Do you think it was a coincidence?

VANESSA
I don't know. I talked to him after
and he said yes.

ANNE
He's not going to tell you if he's
stalking you again. You should think
about a restraining order.

VANESSA
That's not necessary. He's an
asshat, but he comes by it honestly.

Anne laughs.

ANNE
What does that mean?

VANESSA
It means I'll talk to him.

ANNE
You said you did.

Vanessa spins around, gets back to work.

VANESSA
I need to make sure he got the message.

29 EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

29

Sonora pins Mob Rule to the wall, hand on his neck.

SONORA
Disappear again, and I'll just track down the real you. You can't hide from me.

MOB RULE
Shit, fine! What the hell is your problem?

SONORA
How many of you are tailing Daniel right now? And you know I can tell if you lie.

MOB RULE
None! I swear!

Beat.

Sonora releases him.

SONORA
I thought we were past this.

MOB RULE
We are. I'm telling you, it was an honest coincidence. I was following Hexa. You know I'm telling you the truth, so why are you freaking out?

SONORA
Alright. Okay.

She leans against the wall.

MOB RULE
You really like this guy that much?

SONORA
What's that supposed to mean?

MOB RULE
I mean, you're... look at yourself.

SONORA

Don't put this on me. This is about you and your shit. If you hadn't been a bitch after we broke up-

MOB RULE

Oh please, complain some more.

SONORA

Screw you.

MOB RULE

Never again.

Sonora looks at Mob Rule.

Sighs.

SONORA

I do like him that much.

MOB RULE

That's good. I'm happy for you.

SONORA

Now you're lying.

MOB RULE

Only half lying. I can be happy and jealous at the same time. I contain multitudes.

Sonora snickers at the pun.

SONORA

Yeah, well, thanks.

MOB RULE

You're not just spending all your time with him and blowing off the hunt for Jupiter, are you?

Sonora stiffens. Mob Rule notices.

MOB RULE

I thought so. Look, we're cool, you and me, but the others... We gotta give them something.

Sonora grimaces.

Mob Rule stands up straight.

MOB RULE

Oh, shit. Speak of the devil.

Sonora stands up, ready for action.

SONORA

What's up?

MOB RULE

I kept a double on the Devourer,
just in case. He's slippery, but-

SONORA

Get to the point.

MOB RULE

The Devourer's fighting Jupiter.

SONORA

Shit.

(thinking fast)

He'll ruin everything. Where are
they?

MOB RULE

Commercial-Broadway. Don't do
anything stupid.

SONORA

I'm just gonna watch.

And with a BRIGHT HUM, she takes off into the air.

30 EXT. COMMERCIAL-BROADWAY TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

30

Jupiter stands on elevated train tracks, gauntlets surging with electricity. He looks around himself, trying to predict the next attack.

The Devourer is a horrifying shadowy thing; it slithers like a serpent before it bursts out as a demonic beast and charges from behind Jupiter.

Jupiter spins around, punches the Devourer across the jaw; it SCREAMS like an angry animal, swipes at him, and he's forced to jump down to the ground below.

31 EXT. NEARBY ROOFTOP - NIGHT [CONTINUOUS]

31

Sonora lands on a rooftop nearby, but she's too far to get a good view of things - especially once the Devourer chases Jupiter underneath a bridge.

SONORA

Shit.

She looks around for a better vantage point, but she's at the highest spot for a mile. There's nowhere where she can see what's going on and hide at the same time.

MOB RULE (O.S.)
 Jupiter's a big boy, he can handle
 himself.

Sonora jumps; she didn't notice Mob Rule was already
 there. He walks up next to her.

SONORA
 (I hope you're right.)
 I know.

There's another SHRIEK, and Jupiter soars into the air.

32 EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT [CONTINUOUS]

32

Jupiter tucks into a neat front flip and lands on the
 bridge in a crouch - then immediately dives out of the way
 of an oncoming car.

He holds a finger to his ear.

JUPITER
 Where's that roadblock?! I've still
 got civilians here!

Before he can get a response, a car is THROWN AT HIM from
 the other side of the bridge.

Jupiter narrowly dodges out of the way of the car. As it
 passes by him, he sees the terrified DRIVER, trapped in
 her seat.

As the car hurtles over the side of the bridge, Jupiter
 grabs the corner of the car with both hands.

The car's weight drags him to the edge of the bridge, but
 he throws one foot on the barricade, and SPINS THE CAR
 BACK ONTO THE BRIDGE.

The car lands on the bridge with a heavy CRUNCH. It's
 totaled, but the driver is alive.

As soon as Jupiter can see the driver is safe, the
 Devourer TACKLES HIM OFF THE BRIDGE.

33 EXT. NEARBY ROOFTOP - NIGHT [CONTINUOUS]

33

Sonora steps towards the edge of the roof, but Mob Rule
 grabs her.

MOB RULE
 What are you doing?

SONORA
 He's gonna kill him!

MOB RULE

I know, but-

SONORA

(floundering)

The plan is good, Mob, but it all goes to shit if-

MOB RULE

Let the Devourer do it. He'll bring all the heat down on himself, the heroes take him down, we kill two birds with one stone.

Sonora can't come up with an excuse fast enough.

34 EXT. BELOW THE BRIDGE - NIGHT [CONTINUOUS]

34

The Devourer has pinned Jupiter with a dozen shadowy tentacles.

JUPITER

(in pain)

You don't have to do this, Nicholas.

THE DEVOURER

do not speak.

The Devourer solidifies into DOCTOR NICHOLAS THOMAS (75): a leathery-skinned, wiry old man; shadows still hold Jupiter to the ground.

His voice is more natural now, but still raspy.

DOCTOR THOMAS

You're finally going to pay for what you did to me.

A shadow coalesces into a dagger in his hand.

SONORA (O.S.)

NOOO!!

A sonic wave hits Doctor Thomas like a truck, knocks him back into his shadowy form as he flies back underneath the bridge.

Jupiter gets to his feet - he's hurt, but he's still gonna fight.

Sonora walks over to him, hands up and ready for when The Devourer comes back.

JUPITER

What are you doing?

SONORA
Saving your ass.

JUPITER
But what about-

SONORA
Now's not the time.

Jupiter punches his fists together, and they ignite with electric flames.

JUPITER
You're right.

The Devourer has regrouped, turned into a massive tide of darkness.

Sonora does some stretches, loosens up.

SONORA
I've been wanting to do this for a
long time.

The Devourer charges.

Sonora throws up a sonic barrier, which The Devourer crashes into.

Jupiter charges in; Sonora drops the wall at the last second, and Jupiter lands a tremendous uppercut that knocks The Devourer into the air.

Sonora takes off and soars over of The Devourer, then screams a sonic blast from above him that knocks him straight back down.

The Devourer lashes out; a shadowy tendril wraps around Sonora's ankle, whips her down.

Jupiter jumps back and catches Sonora, then snaps the tendril with an electric karate chop.

SONORA
Give me a boost!

Jupiter chucks Sonora like a shotput, hurling her at the Devourer.

The Devourer grows until the underpass is completely filled with shadows.

Sonora hurtles into the darkness, disappears...

...Then reappears on the other side, dragging Doctor Thomas out of his shadows with her!

She slams him on the ground. His shadows surge towards her, trying to return to him, but Sonora's entire body vibrates with sonic energy; all the shadows are shredded as soon as they get close.

Soon they're all gone, leaving only her and Doctor Thomas. Jupiter jogs towards them, but he's far off for the moment.

SONORA

I knew I could take you, but I didn't think it'd be that easy.

DOCTOR THOMAS

Wh... why?

SONORA

Because you're an asshole and I've never liked you.

She leans in close, whispers to him.

SONORA

I'm not going to let you ruin everything because you needed to land the killing blow yourself.

DOCTOR THOMAS

I deserve this! He-

Sonora stands.

SONORA

Oh, boo-hoo. We all have tragic origin stories, asshole. Jupiter probably does too. You don't see him whining about it.

Jupiter arrives, stands next to Sonora.

JUPITER

Good work.

SONORA

Don't get the wrong idea, Sparky. This was me settling a score, not helping you.

Jupiter's not used to lying; it takes him a second to realize why she's talking like that.

JUPITER

Oh... well. Whether it was your intention or not, you helped the cause of Justice today. I couldn't have defeated Doctor Thomas without you. I'm going to make sure he-

SONORA

Yeah, yeah.

She takes off and flies away, leaving Jupiter and Doctor Thomas behind.

35 EXT. NEARBY ROOFTOP - NIGHT [CONTINUOUS] 35

Mob Rule POPS out of existence.

36 INT. VANESSA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 36

Vanessa sits on the sofa, holding a beer. Daniel paces the room, gesticulating wildly.

DANIEL

And when I knocked him into the air and you just shot up there and blasted him back down?! It was like I knew you'd be there to follow up, I just felt it! And you asked for a boost, and I didn't even have to think about it, I just chucked you as hard as I could, and... and... oh, man.

He crashes on the sofa next to her, pulls her in for a kiss.

DANIEL

It was awesome.

VANESSA

We fought pretty well together.

DANIEL

Is this, like... can we do this more? Are there other bad guys you have beef with?

VANESSA

I have beef with all of them. They're conspiring to kill you.

Daniel leans back.

DANIEL

Wait, this didn't, like, blow your cover, did it? You just saved my life.

She shakes her head, puts her beer down.

VANESSA

It didn't help, but part of the plan is to kill, like, you. Daniel. Not
(MORE)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Jupiter. To avoid drawing heat from other heroes.

DANIEL

That's still gonna draw heat, though. Most of the other heroes in the area know who I am.

VANESSA

That doesn't matter, what matters is... wait, hang on, really?

DANIEL

Yeah. It's a secret from... well, from you. Not the good guys. I'm not worried about Quasar or Sword Saint coming after my friends and family.

VANESSA

I hadn't really thought about that. The only secret identity I know is...

She realizes maybe she shouldn't say.

DANIEL

Who?

VANESSA

Uh... I don't... you're not gonna, like... go after him?

Daniel shakes his head, then reconsiders.

DANIEL

Actually... I might. If he's hurting people, I'm going to do what it takes to stop him.

They both shift - just a little bit away from each other.

Daniel clears his throat.

DANIEL

So, but... can we do that again sometime? Really? Sonora was always, like... you have a code, everybody knows that.

Vanessa lays back on the sofa, puts her legs on Daniel's lap.

VANESSA

I don't know.

DANIEL

You worked with The Centurion a few years ago, didn't you? What happened there?

Vanessa laughs.

Daniel settles in, excited to hear the story.

But no story comes. Vanessa sighs.

DANIEL

What's up?

VANESSA

You know I started out as a hero.

DANIEL

What? Really?

VANESSA

I got my powers from a lab accident in college, joined a little campus group.

DANIEL

What group? Where was this?

VANESSA

That's not... the important thing is, the others were so okay with beating the tar out of villains - we were the ones who hospitalized Nightqueen, if you heard about that - but they wouldn't move on a crooked DA I found unless I had ironclad proof.

She sits up.

VANESSA

And then even once I had that, they handed everything over to the police. Trial took years, he got like six months in prison, by now he's reinstated, running a private practice and making six figures.

DANIEL

That's messed up.

VANESSA

It is.

DANIEL

But then... I don't want to, like... but you work with some bad people.

VANESSA

I'm trying really hard not to make a snarky comment about you working with the police.

Daniel opens his mouth to respond... doesn't know what to say.

VANESSA

You're not... Someone needs to stop people like the Devourer and Hexa. But someone needs to stop the bad guys who wear ties instead of costumes, too.

Vanessa shifts to lean against him, zones out a bit.

VANESSA

I liked fighting the Devourer today. It was simple. No moral quandries.

She zones back in, looks at Daniel.

VANESSA

If you ask me to team up with you like that again, I'll want to say yes. I probably will say yes.

(Off Daniel's growing excitement)

Which is why I don't want you to ask me to.

DANIEL

Oh.

VANESSA

Does that make sense?

DANIEL

Of course. I mean, no, but it's fine, I won't ask you to...

He shakes his head.

DANIEL

I like things to be black and white, you're really stretching my brain with this stuff.

VANESSA

I know. Thank you.

She nestles in to him, and they cuddle on the sofa.

37 EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

37

Sonora looks out at the skyline. Mob Rule stands behind her.

MOB RULE

I'm not saying I don't understand,
I'm saying...

"What the fuck, Vanessa?"

MOB RULE

I'm saying the optics weren't great.
Saving any hero would look bad, but
Jupiter-

SONORA

"The optics?"

Mob Rule sighs, paces.

MOB RULE

Hexa, and Bjorn especially...
they're not super forgiving.

SONORA

Which is why I don't like working
with them. You do one thing wrong-

MOB RULE

(getting angry)

Yeah, but we are working with
them. Shit, man, this is why the
heroes keep beating us: they fight
us instead of each other. And now
you-

He throws his hands in the air.

MOB RULE

Now you're literally fighting us.
(before Sonora can object)
I know! I already said I understand!
Just-

He freezes.

Sonora notices.

SONORA

What's wrong?

MOB RULE

Hexa's jumping a double. I can't-
SHIT.

Mob Rule's in pain, like something's drilling into his head.

SONORA
Where are they?

MOB RULE
They've got me trapped, I can't drop
the double! Alleyway, half a mile
north-

Bjorn leaps onto the rooftop from below.

Mob Rule POPS out of existence.

Sonora leans back to jump off the rooftop, but Bjorn grabs her ankle and throws her back onto the roof.

She tucks into a roll and back to her feet, but Bjorn tackles her and pins her to the ground, choking her.

BJORN
Heard what you did to The Devourer.

Sonora struggles to breathe.

BJORN
Heard you helped Jupiter.

Sonora gathers a ball of sonic energy in her hand, then Bjorn slams her head against the ground and rattles her - she loses the energy.

BJORN
Odd. I thought the plan was for you
to hunt him.

He pulls out a black rock with a glowing rune, and presses it onto her forehead - it locks on tight.

Then he releases her, stands up.

She rolls back onto her feet in a combat stance, but Bjorn looks relaxed.

Sonora tries to speak, just coughs. Tries again:

SONORA
I'm gaining his trust, asshole.

Bjorn nods.

BJORN
Then you will be fine.

Sonora feels at the rune.

SONORA
What the hell is this?

HEXA (O.S.)
Insurance.

Hexa appears from behind Bjorn.

HEXA
I'll remove it once you've found
Jupiter's secret identity.

SONORA
Are you crazy? I just said I was
working on it!

Hexa examines her fingernails. They're very long, very sharp.

HEXA
If you know who he is, I can remove
it right now.

Sonora shifts.

SONORA
I don't know yet, obviously. Or I
would've told you.

Hexa knows she's hiding something.

HEXA
Surely you're close.

SONORA
I... yeah, I guess, but-

HEXA
Then there is no problem. We have
discovered the Marshal's identity.
Once you have Jupiter's, we're ready
to initiate the plan. Bring the name
to us in a few nights and all will
be well.

SONORA
Like hell.

Hexa SNAPS her fingers; the rune FLARES, and Sonora gasps in pain.

Sonora drops to all fours, struggles to even breathe.

Another SNAP, and she can breathe again - she takes in heavy swallows of air.

Bjorn laughs at her.

Sonora gets to her feet.

SONORA
(defeated)
What did you do to Mob Rule?

HEXA
I don't like being followed.

She flies away, and Bjorn leaps from rooftop to rooftop, following her.

Sonora picks at the rune on her forehead, watches them leave.

She takes off in the direction of Mob rule.

38 EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

38

Mob Rule is chained to the alley wall with manacles matching Sonora's choker.

He tries to vanish; his entire form wavers, goes transparent, then the bindings flash and he comes right back.

Sonora drops from above into the alley.

MOB RULE
What happened? Did you get away?

He sees her forehead.

MOB RULE
Shit.

SONORA
You can't, "poof?" Disappear?

He tries to disappear again, demonstrates it failing.

SONORA
Okay, hang on, I'll get you out of these.

She holds her hand out flat, starts a dull vibration around it - making a sonic blade.

She tries to cut Mob Rule free, but the cuffs are strong.

She looks at him.

SONORA
I don't think I can.

MOB RULE

Cut off my hands. This is just a double.

SONORA

Won't that hurt?

Mob Rule nods. Tenses.

Sonora slices his hands off just below the cuffs. Mob Rule GROANS in pain, but drops down, free.

Sonora helps him to his feet.

MOB RULE

Gonna be harder to fix yours.

SONORA

Get out of here, I'll catch up with you when it's safe.

Don't have to tell him twice; he POPS away.

Sonora WHISPERS, but her voice ECHOES and STRETCHES, reaching futher than it ever could naturally.

SONORA

Daniel...

39 EXT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

39

Daniel lives in a tiny house in an okay part of town. Big iron fence, bars on the windows, but everything is clean and the yards are taken care of.

SONORA (O.S.)

Daniel... Daniel, I need you. I need Jupiter.

Daniel all but leaps out of the front door, already shrugging on his Jupiter uniform.

40 EXT. SKYSCRAPER SPIRE - NIGHT

40

Sonora waits on the highest skyscraper for miles around.

With a small flash of light, Jupiter jumps from a lower ledge to land next to her.

JUPITER

What's with the...

He gestures to his forehead.

SONORA

Hexa and Bjorn.

JUPITER
What does it do?

He moves in to examine the rune.

SONORA
Hurts when she wants it to. I was only able to get matching cuffs off Mob Rule by cutting his double's hands off.

JUPITER
Why is she coming after you? I thought you were all working together?

SONORA
This is... well...

JUPITER
Oh, no. They're on to you.

Sonora nods.

SONORA
They're suspicious.

Jupiter thinks.

JUPITER
I know someone who might be able to help. But...

SONORA
It's a hero.

JUPITER
Do we take you as Sonora? Or as...

He looks around, cautious.

SONORA
Relax. I control sound. Nothing we say is even reaching my forehead, just in case it's bugged. But if they are following me...

JUPITER
Right. Masks on. Sword Saint mostly operates on the other side of town. Bit of a hike for me, but...

Sonora smiles.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. THE SKY - NIGHT**41**

Sonora carries Jupiter as she flies through the sky.

Jupiter is loving it.

42 EXT. CITY PARK - NIGHT**42**

SWORD SAINT, a hero wearing a cyberpunk take on traditional samurai armor, complete with a pair of glowing swords on his belt, sits chatting with a couple cops as they put two handcuffed men into a police cruiser.

JUPITER (O.S.)

Sword Saint!

Jupiter steps out of some nearby shadows. Sword Saint stands up.

SWORD SAINT

(to cops)

Excuse me.

(to Jupiter)

Don't normally see you around here.

Everything okay?

JUPITER

Don't freak out, she's with me.

Sword Saint cocks his head.

Sonora steps out from behind Jupiter, with her hands raised.

Sword Saint draws his swords faster than you can blink.

JUPITER

I said don't freak out!

SWORD SAINT

I haven't attacked yet.

SONORA

I-

SWORD SAINT

That changes if you speak a single word.

Sonora grimaces, but doesn't speak.

JUPITER

She needs our help.

SWORD SAINT

I will gladly help her find her way to prison.

JUPITER

She's gonna die if we don't help her. Hexa and Bjorn have a collar on her. They're forcing her to figure out my secret identity.

Sword Saint considers carefully, but can't intuit the answer to his question:

SWORD SAINT

Why her?

Jupiter looks at Sonora. She shrugs at him.

JUPITER

We're... kind of an item.

Sword Saint is shocked. He takes a step back, and his grip on his swords tightens.

SWORD SAINT

It's a trick. She's-

JUPITER

Saint... I love her.

Jupiter puts his arm around Sonora's shoulders. She puts an arm around his waist.

Sword Saint processes that.

He sheathes his swords.

JUPITER

You're... cool with this?

SWORD SAINT

Of course not. But you're foolish enough to have given her ample opportunity to ambush you before now, and I have no reason to believe she'd use you to reach me, of all people. Whatever her ulterior motive is, I doubt it involves attacking me here.

SONORA

Mob Rule always said you were too clever to be worth tussling with. He wasn't exaggerating.

SWORD SAINT

You would do well not to remind me of the reprehensible nature of the company you keep.

Sonora slides out from under Jupiter's arm.

SONORA

If I get close enough to let you
examine my new accessory, are you
gonna flip out?

Sword Saint rests his hands on his swords, says nothing.

Sonora approaches him. Sword Saint examines the rune.

SWORD SAINT

They want Jupiter's identity?

SONORA

There's more than that. I can tell
you the whole plan if you help me.

SWORD SAINT

(to Jupiter)
You really trust her?

JUPITER

I do.

SWORD SAINT

Even though she hasn't told you
the whole plan?

Jupiter hesitates.

SONORA

It hasn't come up.

Sword Saint snorts.

SWORD SAINT

I can help you. But not here, and
I'll need time to set things up.
Regardless of how much Jupiter
vouches for you, I will not take you
to my lab.

SONORA

(genuinely relieved)
Thank you. I know you don't have to
do this.

SWORD SAINT

(disgusted)
Of course I do. I value all life,
even the lives of my enemies.

JUPITER

All the same, thank you.

SWORD SAINT

I haven't done it yet. Leave me for
now, I have much work to do.

He walks away.

Sonora and Jupiter look at each other.

JUPITER
That went well.

SONORA
He's gonna betray us.

JUPITER
I know villains all like to stab
each other in the back-

SONORA
Daniel, I'm telling you. I don't
think he'll kill me, but...

Jupiter puts his hands on her shoulders.

JUPITER
Do you trust me?

SONORA
Of course I trust you, but-

JUPITER
I trust him with my life. If you
can't trust him, trust my faith in
him.

Sonora growls.

SONORA
Fine. But if I have time to kill
anyway, I'm setting up some
failsafes.

JUPITER
Failsafes? Like-

Sonora kisses Jupiter.

SONORA
Like to keep you safe if I'm not
around to protect you.

She steps back.

SONORA
I'll see you soon.

And she takes off into the air.

Jupiter looks around.

JUPITER
I should've taken my bike.

43 INT. SWANKY APARTMENT - NIGHT

43

Whoever lives here is quite wealthy.

Mob Rule creeps in.

The lights turn on. He jumps, sees Sonora is standing in the corner behind him.

SONORA
Mob.

Mob Rule relaxes. Walks around the house bagging anything that looks expensive.

MOB RULE
I'm not single right now either, if this is a-

SONORA
This isn't a social call.

Wait.

SONORA
Who are you dating?

MOB RULE
No one you know. What is this, then?

SONORA
I'm about to do something stupid.

MOB RULE
That's not like you.

SONORA
I'm calling in all my favors. I've already destroyed any evidence I had left about your identity. You and me, we're square now.

That gets his attention, but he tries to play it cool.

MOB RULE
I haven't agreed to anything yet.

SONORA
If something happens to me in the next 24 hours, you're Daniel's bodyguard for a year. Nobody comes after him.

MOB RULE

Only for a year? What happens to him after that?

SONORA

He can take care of himself. I just need to make sure he doesn't get blindsided.

Mob Rule considers. This is too good a deal.

MOB RULE

What don't I know?

SONORA

A lot.

MOB RULE

He's somebody important, isn't he? The president's nephew or something? Foreign prince?

Sonora smirks.

SONORA

He doesn't have money, if that's what you're thinking.

MOB RULE

If something happens to you twenty-four hours and five minutes from now, it's not my problem?

SONORA

And you're free and clear for life, either way.

Mob Rule GROWLS. He knows there's something he's missing, but he wants this.

MOB RULE

I hate this. You're fighting so dirty.

SONORA

Deal's off the table in ten seconds.

MOB RULE

So that's how it is, huh?

He swears under his breath.

MOB RULE

Fine. Fine, deal. But if this is some sort of trick, you and I aren't going to be friends anymore.

Sonora turns to leave, but hesitates.

SONORA
This isn't... the deal's already
been made. But-

MOB RULE
Of course I'll keep an eye out for
Anne. Come on.

Sonora relaxes. Nods.

Leaves.

44 INT. SWORD SAINT'S TEMPORARY WORKSHOP - MORNING

44

A high-tech workshop has been pieced together inside an abandoned warehouse.

Sword Saint leans over a workbench, preparing something.

Sonora walks in. Looks around.

SONORA
Where's Jupiter?

SWORD SAINT
I gave him the wrong address.

Sonora stops, gets into a defensive posture, but doesn't strike yet.

SWORD SAINT
I wanted to have a chat with you
first. Without him here.

SONORA
He told me I could trust you.

SWORD SAINT
I'll keep my word, villain. Sit.

Sonora's gut tells her to run, but she sits anyway.

The chair reclines.

SWORD SAINT
I imagine you know his secret
identity.

Sword Saint grabs a laser scalpel, starts working on the rune.

SONORA
He knows mine, too. We actually met
in real life, first.

SWORD SAINT
This is real life.

SONORA
That isn't-

SWORD SAINT
You think you can put on a mask and
consequences don't apply to you.

Sonora grimaces.

SONORA
I really do love him.

Sword Saint looks up at a monitor.

SWORD SAINT
Huh.

Sonora rolls her eyes.

SONORA
You have me hooked up to a lie
detector?

Sword Saint goes back to work on her collar.

SWORD SAINT
Only seemed fair. You can hear
micro-quivers in the voice to detect
lies as well, no?

SONORA
I can.

SWORD SAINT
Then you trust me when I say this is
a trap, and you have already fallen
into it with no hope of escape.

Sonora tenses... then relaxes.

SONORA
You wouldn't tell me about it if I
had a chance.

SWORD SAINT
Indeed not. I still expect you to
resist, but it will accomplish
nothing.

Three more superheroes emerge from the shadows around
them.

SONORA

And that's the real reason Daniel isn't here.

SWORD SAINT

It is also a reason he isn't here. I find the secret to lying successfully is to do so entirely within the truth.

Sonora sighs.

SONORA

You're still removing the rune?

SWORD SAINT

I have no wish to harm you, especially knowing your feelings for each other are sincere. But all the same, you must face justice for your many crimes.

Sonora opens her mouth to respond, but doesn't.

Sword Saint finishes. Plucks the rune off.

Sonora takes a deep breath, and immediately Sword Saint slams some strange technological gag around her mouth. The other heroes leap into action, grabbing her arms and legs and holding tight.

Sonora struggles, but there's nothing she can do.

CUT TO:

45 INT. VANESSA'S CELL - DAY

45

The room is covered in thick soundproof padding, including the floor and ceiling.

The room is bisected by a thick barrier made out of a translucent foam. A small glass porthole in the center allows the only clear sight of the other side.

Vanessa stands on one side of the room. She wears a white prison jumpsuit, with glowing electronic bands around her wrists and her neck. Daniel, in his full Jupiter getup but with his mask off, is on the other, visible only through the porthole.

Daniel's voice comes in staticy and distorted as if through a hidden speaker.

DANIEL

Of course I'm being careful, but now that I know to be on the lookout,
(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I'm not too worried. Ouroboros even hooked me up with some talisman he says will ward off Hexa's spirit spies or whatever.

Vanessa relaxes, just a bit.

DANIEL

On that note: the Marshal has come around to our side of things now that she knows the whole story. She's supporting your case to the other heroes, but-

VANESSA

They can't do anything now.

DANIEL

Sure they can. If all the big heroes in the city speak up as character witnesses on your behalf-

VANESSA

Then I can get out after twenty years instead of thirty?

DANIEL

Be reasonable, Vanessa. You're not exactly innocent. You deserve to serve *some* time.

VANESSA

Excuse me?

DANIEL

That's not... that came out wrong.

A BUZZER sounds. Daniel puts his mask back on, becomes Jupiter again.

JUPITER

I'll be back in a few days. I'm helping the Defensive Alliance of New York deal with some stuff, I'll be out of town.

VANESSA

They wouldn't be happy with you telling me that.

Jupiter is hurt by her implication.

JUPITER

You know I trust you with my life.

VANESSA
You trusted Sword Saint, too.

The BUZZER again.

Jupiter lingers for a beat more, then leaves the room.

46 INT. PRISON REC YARD - DAY

46

The rec yard is completely enclosed, with armed guards patrolling and guarding each of the doors.

Vanessa lifts weights, dressed the same except with the addition of a technological mask over her mouth and nose.

A few other supervillains are in the yard, all wearing various technological restraints to match their powers:

- HUNDRED ARMS, a villain who can grow additional limbs, wears a straightjacket with glowing bands reinforcing the restraints;

- UNICLOPS, a one-eyed villain with laser vision, has a thick metal eyepatch and is led around by a guard acting as her seeing-eye dog;

- RED DRAGON, a massive man with scaly skin, a thick reptilian tail, and a large finned ridge on his head, has thin glowing bracelets that seem to somehow be impossibly heavy, dragging his arms down. He wears a mask similar to Vanessa's, but this one is made out of a thick fireproof canvas.

And finally, Doctor Thomas (AKA The Devourer) sits in the corner, glaring at Vanessa. He wears no extra restraints, but his jumpsuit glows faintly, and he doesn't cast a shadow at all.

Vanessa stops lifting weights, sits up. Looks at Doctor Thomas.

He snarls at her. She gets up, walks over to him.

Vanessa can speak through the mask, but it's distorted and staticy like Daniel's voice was through the speaker.

VANESSA
You have a problem you need me to
fix?

Doctor Thomas smirks.

DOCTOR THOMAS
Nice mask.

VANESSA

Everyone keeps thinking they can
take away my voice. Never sticks.

DOCTOR THOMAS

I, too, find their defenses to be
less limiting than they'd hoped.

Vanessa grimaces. That's a scary thought.

DOCTOR THOMAS

Jupiter certainly visits you a lot.

Vanessa turns to walk away.

VANESSA

I don't know what you're talking
about.

DOCTOR THOMAS

I have a theory.

Vanessa stops, but doesn't turn around.

DOCTOR THOMAS

I don't think you failed at all. I
think you discovered his identity.

VANESSA

That's absurd. I would've told Hexa
right away, not needed to turn
myself in to the heroes.

DOCTOR THOMAS

You'd think so, wouldn't you?

Vanessa scoffs and walks away, but she's rattled.

47 INT. VANESSA'S CELL - NIGHT

47

Vanessa lies on the padded floor, no need for a bed.

She hears a small, quiet HISS, and sits up straight.

VANESSA

Hey. Hey!

She looks around, panicked.

VANESSA

HEY! GUARDS! HEY!

She yells loud enough, long enough, a prison GUARD comes
in her cell. The lights automatically turn on as he
enters; he walks up and looks in the porthole.

GUARD
What do you want?

VANESSA
The Devourer is out of his cell.
He's got his shadow back.

The guard glares at her for a beat, then pulls out a radio, whispers into it.

Beat.

He holds the radio to his ear. Nods. Puts it away.

GUARD
We've got eyes on him right now.
He's locked away and fast asleep.
Now shut up.

VANESSA
I'm telling you, he's got his powers back, I don't know how. He was just in here. Can you at least leave the light on?

The guard considers... hits a button on his radio. He leaves the room, and the lights stay on.

Vanessa lies back down, but she can't relax.

48 INT. DOCTOR THOMAS'S CELL - NIGHT

48

Doctor Thomas's cell is filled with vibrant light from all angles, preventing anything from casting a shadow.

Thomas lies with his back to the door, facing the wall.

He's awake.

And smiling.

49 INT. VANESSA'S CELL - DAY

49

Paul visits Vanessa. He looks nervous as hell.

PAUL
I told you, I'm watching out for him.

VANESSA
Have you noticed anything... strange?

PAUL
Yeah, Vanessa, I figured that out pretty damn quick.

He swears under his breath.

PAUL
I've agreed to a lot of stupid
things, but-

VANESSA
But nothing. Even in here, I can
hold you to your word.

Paul grimaces.

PAUL
You think I don't know? Counting the
days to the end of the year, I
promise.

Vanessa nods.

VANESSA
There's something else.

PAUL
The hell else can there be?

VANESSA
The Devourer. I don't know how, but
he's... he's got some of his mojo
back, even in here. And he...

She looks around her. It's not safe.

VANESSA
He's pissed at the people who put
him in here.

PAUL
I would be too, if I were him. I'll
keep my eyes peeled, but...

VANESSA
But?

PAUL
But, he's... I'm just a normal guy,
Vanessa. I've got a lot "friends,"
but nobody with super strength.

Vanessa sighs.

PAUL
Besides, you're the one locked up in
here with him. Are you gonna be
okay?

Vanessa grimaces. "I hope so."

50 INT. PRISON REC YARD - DAY

50

Vanessa lifts weights again.

The room darkens, fades away; Vanessa remains, standing in a sea of black.

VANESSA

About time, you son of a bitch.

She gets to her feet, but she's lost in a black void now.

51 BLACK VOID - DAY [CONTINUOUS]

51

Vanessa looks around her, arms raised in a defensive posture.

VANESSA

I've been waiting for you to-

She turns around and is face to face with Hexa.

VANESSA

You?!

HEXA

Our mutual friend sends his regards, and says you may have held up your end of the bargain after all.

VANESSA

You and I have no bargain.

HEXA

I beg to differ.

She grabs Vanessa's head forcefully, and the air around Hexa's head ripples with psychic energy.

Vanessa drops to her knees in pain.

VANESSA

Get... out... of... my... HEAD!

She leaps to her feet, shoves Hexa back.

But Hexa just hovers in the air and laughs.

HEXA

Oh, my. Devourer said he thought you knew him, but, this...

Vanessa is terrified.

VANESSA

No! NO!

And suddenly the darkness disappears, taking Hexa with it.

52 INT. PRISON REC YARD - DAY [CONTINUOUS] 52

Vanessa stands in the middle of the yard, yelling.

VANESSA
NO! Get back here! Stop!

The guards rush her, aim their rifles at her.

GUARD
Down on your knees! Now!

They tackle Vanessa and pin her arms behind her back. She doesn't resist.

Doctor Thomas watches from nearby, grinning.

53 INT. VANESSA'S CELL - NIGHT 53

Vanessa sits in her cell, eyes closed, concentrating.

She HUMS, and the band around her neck GLOWS, lets out an ELECTRONIC WHINE.

The process is difficult, maybe painful; Vanessa grimaces, stops.

She takes a deep breath.

Tries again.

She HUMS, the band on her neck WHINES, and Vanessa modulates her hum to match the whine.

Once it matches exactly, she hums louder, LOUDER, until the band sparks and fizzles and falls off!

An ALARM goes off somewhere outside the room.

Vanessa stands, steels herself.

She looks at the porthole. Backs up to put as much distance as possible between it and her.

A guard charges in the room, rifle ready.

GUARD
Hey, you-

Vanessa charges towards the porthole, YELLS as she does; the porthole BURSTS in shards of plastic, startling the guard; Vanessa leaps into a perfect dive, sliding right through the now-empty hole and into a roll on the other side.

The guard tries to raise his rifle, but she's too close; she disarms him and slams the butt of the rifle into his face, knocking him out.

54 INT. PRISON HALLWAY - NIGHT

54

An ALARM blares as Vanessa walks down the hallway, removing her bracers with a key. Once they're all removed, she drops them and the key to the floor.

A group of guards run around the corner. They don't wait to shout a warning, just open fire on her.

Vanessa throws her hands forward, and the air in front of her vibrates with a sonic shield that stops all the bullets before they can reach her.

She SCREAMS, and the sound reinforces the shield until it's a raging wave of sound that bowls the guards over.

VANESSA

I always wondered if it was as easy to break out as The Fiddler made it sound.

SWORD SAINT (O.S.)

It's not that easy.

Vanessa wheels around to see Sword Saint behind her, swords drawn.

VANESSA

Hexa knows Jupiter's identity. And she's pissed. They're going for him right now.

SWORD SAINT

How could you possibly know that?

VANESSA

She came to visit. Ripped it out of my head.

SWORD SAINT

My sensors would have-

VANESSA

Not with The Devourer blocking them. Don't ask me how, but he got his-

SWORD SAINT

Enough!

Vanessa stops.

Nods.

VANESSA

You're right.

She gathers sonic energy in her hands.

Sword Saint tightens his grip on his swords.
Half-crouches, ready to pounce.

A tense beat.

Everything happens at once: Vanessa shoots a sonic blast at Sword Saint; Sword Saint dodges to one side and bounces off the wall at Vanessa, closing the distance between them in a single stride.

Sword Saint swings both swords simultaneously, one low, one high; Vanessa ducks beneath the high one, and shatters the other with a sonic slap.

She then has to duck flying shards of metal, as the pieces of the sword magnetically vibrate and zip back into place on the hilt.

VANESSA

Neat trick!

But Sword Saint doesn't do banter; he was already swinging the empty hilt, knowing the sword would be there before reaching Vanessa.

Vanessa falls flat on her back, catching herself on a sonic wave, and shoves herself back twenty feet.

Sword Saint runs, keeps pace with her; his boots glow brighter as he runs superhumanly fast.

Vanessa's back on her feet as Sword Saint unleashes a flurry of attacks; Vanessa blocks each one by shattering the blades, which just reform before each new attack.

Vanessa finally shoves a huge wall of sound at Sword Saint, pushing him all the way back 50 feet to the far wall.

Vanessa looks around herself; there's nothing, just cells, no exits. If she wants out, she's going to have to go past Sword Saint.

He knows it, too; he stands there, waits for her to make the approach.

SWORD SAINT

I know this prison complex like the
back of my hand. You can't
outmaneuver me.

VANESSA
You've miscalculated. I've already won. Let me leave now, before I do something you're going to regret.

SWORD SAINT
You're bluffing.

VANESSA
Kinda wish I was.

She SCREAMS at the door next to her.

55 EXT. SUPERVILLAIN PRISON COMPLEX - NIGHT

55

A thick concrete wall, miles outside the city.

The wall EXPLODES, and Sonora soars out into the city.

Sword Saint charges out over the rubble, watches her fly off.

He speaks into a radio on his gauntlet.

SWORD SAINT
Sonora is out and airborne. I've got to look after the hole she blew in the wall.

A woman's voice comes in over the radio.

CRIMSON (O.S.)
I see her, Saint.

Sword Saint prepares his swords as Red Dragon and Hundred Arms advance on him, freed in the explosion.

56 EXT. SKY - NIGHT

56

Vanessa flies through the sky. She WHISPERS into the air, her whispers vibrating with a curious strength.

VANESSA
Daniel.... Daniel, they're coming for you. Daniel-

A red streak slams into Vanessa from below, sending her tumbling before she's able to catch herself.

She looks around. Doesn't see anything.

The streak slams into her from behind, and stays this time - it's CRIMSON, a flying heroine with superspeed. She wears a deep red jumpsuit with a prism as her logo.

Crimson has Vanessa in a half nelson hold.

VANESSA
Crimson, now is not the time.

CRIMSON
I've been waiting for you to stumble
back on my turf again, Sonora. I've
picked up a few tricks since the
last time we-

Vanessa SCREECHES, the sound deafening. Crimson drops her
and covers her ears.

Vanessa slams her feet into Crimson with an extra sonic
OOMPH, and sends her hurtling towards the ground.

VANESSA
So have I!

Vanessa hurtles away.

VANESSA
(vibrating whisper)
Daniel... Daniel!

She LISTENS, filtering through all the sounds of the city.
She hears children LAUGHING, car horns HONKING, music
BLARING, people TALKING...

And she hears Daniel's voice, quiet, but clear. She
focuses in on it.

DANIEL (O.S.)
...nessa? Where are you?

VANESSA
Hexa knows. She's coming for you.

DANIEL (O.S.)
I just got off the plane, are you
still in-

Crimson slams into Vanessa again, tackling her down
towards the ground.

57 **EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT [CONTINUOUS]**

57

They smack into the ground with a sonic shockwave, leaving
a large crater and a cloud of dust.

Beat.

A SHRIEK, and Crimson is sent flying out of the dust
cloud. The shockwave leaves a tunnel through the dust,
revealing Vanessa, somewhat battered, vibrating with angry
energy.

Crimson skips across the ground, manages to land on her feet. She squares up at Vanessa; they stare each other down.

Vanessa's voice is almost unrecognizable; it booms and vibrates with barely-contained power.

VANESSA

This won't end well for Jupiter.

CRIMSON

Tough talk, but... what? What does he have to do with-

VANESSA

He's in danger. You and I are the only ones fast enough to get to him in time to help.

Crimson has doubts, but Vanessa's words are landing.

CRIMSON

How do you know?

VANESSA

You know how I always know you're coming? I can pick sounds out from across the city.

Crimson smirks.

CRIMSON

You didn't hear me coming this time.

Vanessa GROWLS; it echoes across the street, vibrates building windows.

VANESSA

I was occupied trying to save Jupiter's life.

Vanessa cocks her head.

BJORN (O.S.)

(faint)

He doesn't have his gauntlets. This will be easy.

Vanessa's eyes widen. She SHOUTS at the top of her lungs, the shout bowling Crimson over and echoing across the entire city.

VANESSA

DANIEL!

58 **EXT. AIRPORT PICKUP ZONE - NIGHT**

58

Daniel waits with a large backpack; he looks around, alert for signs of danger.

Vanessa's shout echoes all around.

VANESSA (O.S.)

DANIEL!

Everyone around him looks up, trying to find the source of the shout.

DANIEL

Vanessa?! Are you-

Sparkling dust drops all around; everyone but Daniel freezes in time.

Bjorn drops in from above Daniel, grabs his backpack, and rips it off his back.

With one hand, Bjorn shoves Daniel to the ground; with the other, he throws the backpack far enough away that you can't see it land.

Bjorn laughs, looks down at Daniel.

BJORN

Hello, Jupiter.

DANIEL

Oh, that's bad.

Bjorn picks him up by the neck. Holds him at eye level.

Hexa flies in from above them, hovers just over Bjorn's shoulder.

HEXA

"Vanessa" was kind enough to point us in your direction.

Daniel chokes out his words.

DANIEL

I thought you were going to make it look like an accident.

HEXA

Look around you. They'll see what we want them to see.

Daniel does look around; everyone is spellbound, staring wide-eyed at nothing. Colors dance in their eyes.

HEXA

I'm thinking car accident. Bjorn
always did hit like a truck.

Bjorn tightens his grip, cutting off Daniel's air supply.

Vanessa comes out of nowhere and slams into Hexa, tackling
her into a wall; she holds a vibrating sphere of sonic
energy to Hexa's head.

VANESSA

Not so fast.

Hexa laughs merrily.

HEXA

You don't have time to kill me and
save your lover.

VANESSA

Try me.

HEXA

Okay. Bjorn?

Time slows to a crawl.

Bjorn lifts Daniel up to better slam him into the ground.

Vanessa's eyes widen. She turns around, releases Hexa;
Hexa teleports away.

Vanessa tries to run to Bjorn, but she's too far away;
Daniel is already halfway to the ground.

Time returns to normal speed as a red streak blasts past
Bjorn; Crimson stands a dozen yards away, holding Daniel.

Vanessa is flooded with relief.

Bjorn ROARS. Vanessa SCREAMS at him, blows him a few
blocks away.

Daniel looks towards where Bjorn threw his bag.

DANIEL

Nice timing. My stuff is over-

Crimson bolts away; she returns a moment later holding
Daniel's gauntlets.

Vanessa runs to Daniel; they embrace tightly. Crimson is
surprised.

CRIMSON

You guys really are a thing? Like,
really?

DANIEL
It's a long story.

CRIMSON
I didn't see your suit or mask. Are you-

Daniel and Vanessa's hug finally ends.

DANIEL
Got damaged in New York. Looks like my identity's out now anyway; we'll deal with that tomorrow.

VANESSA
The others involved were The Professor, the Devourer, and-

MOB RULE (O.S.)
And me.

Mob Rule walks over from around the corner. Everyone takes defensive postures towards him.

Mob Rule shakes his head.

MOB RULE
Really, Vanessa? Is this really how things are shaking out?

VANESSA
You said you knew who he was.

MOB RULE
That doesn't mean... you're on their team, now?

VANESSA
It's not a team thing.

MOB RULE
And yet there you are squaring up at me, Jupiter on one side and Crimson on the other.

A small EARTHQUAKE rattles the ground.

DANIEL
Bjorn and Hexa are regrouping.

CRIMSON
On it.

She disappears in a blur.

DANIEL
She's gonna need help.

VANESSA
Go. I can handle him.

MOB RULE
"Handle me?" You can "handle me?"

Daniel charges his gauntlets, wraps himself in lightning, and runs off at 50 MPH.

A dozen more Mob Rules walk out from various corners.

VANESSA
We don't have to fight.

MOB RULE
It says something about me that I thought we were friends up until this point. Says something about you, too.

VANESSA
Help us. Help us beat Hexa, tell us who else is coming.

MOB RULE
You were the goddamn idealist of the two of us, do you remember that? I was the opportunist, you were the one who insisted we were right and they were wrong!

The Mob Rules each double.

Vanessa notices.

VANESSA
I'm not giving up the fight. But I'm not letting anyone hurt Daniel, either.

The talking Mob Rule hangs his head.

MOB RULE
You know what the difference is between you and me?

Mob Rule looks at her again.

MOB RULE
I know I'm a bad guy.

CUT TO:

59 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

59

Bjorn stands in the middle of the highway, swinging wildly at Daniel as Daniel weaves in and out of range.

Crimson flies through the sky as Hexa shoots bolts of dark energy at her.

DANIEL
Crimson, can you-

CRIMSON
Kinda busy!

Bjorn jumps at Daniel, and Daniel barely dives into a roll to avoid the attack.

Daniel yells at Bjorn.

DANIEL
Bring it on, big guy!

Bjorn ROARS, swings another meaty fist, and Daniel can't get out of the way fast enough; Bjorn knocks him a dozen yards across the pavement.

Bjorn LAUGHS.

BJORN
Are you even trying?

Daniel tries to stand, but the shadows coalesce around him and pin him to the ground.

The Devourer's HISSES come from everywhere at once.

THE DEVOURER
hello, jupiter.

Daniel's gauntlets surge with lightning, but the darkness strangles them, shuts them off.

A WAVE OF BLUE ENERGY shoots out from the other side of a hill and blasts Crimson from the sky; The Professor emerges with a backpack-mounted energy cannon.

DANIEL
I thought things were going too well.

Bjorn stomps over to Daniel. Grabs him by the head and lifts him. Hexa telekinetically lifts Crimson, pins her in midair.

DANIEL
Your plan has already failed! What do you think you can accomplish here?

HEXA
You're right. Might as well go all-in.

Hexa twists her wrist, and Crimson's neck SNAPS.

DANIEL

JANE!

Hexa tosses Crimson's body aside. The Professor walks up to Hexa.

THE PROFESSOR

You shouldn't have killed her. We could have salvaged the plan.

Hexa shrugs.

Mob Rule drives up on a motorcycle. Stops next to them.

MOB RULE

I have Sonora. I'm carrying her over now.

The Professor looks at Daniel, grim.

THE PROFESSOR

(to Hexa)

I suppose you want her to watch us kill him.

Mob Rule looks at Hexa.

MOB RULE

Don't be stupid. Kill him now before something goes wrong.

HEXA

Jupiter's powerless without his gauntlets. Nothing can go wrong.

Mob Rule growls.

MOB RULE

Whatever. I did everything you asked. You and me, we're square now.

HEXA

We're not "square" until she's dead, fool.

Three of Mob Rule's doubles appear from towards the airport, carrying Vanessa's body.

They toss her in front of The Professor and Hexa.

THE PROFESSOR

Is she dead?

MOB RULE

She's unconscious. Sue me.

Hexa sighs.

HEXA

I'm not waiting for her to wake up.
Might as well kill Jupiter now.

The Mob Rules all disappear.

Hexa's eyes widen as she realizes she's been tricked.

Vanessa's eyes snap open, and she SHRIEKS. It's deafening.

A shockwave blows Hexa and The Professor back; Bjorn drops Daniel to cover his ears.

The Devourer's shadows quiver across his frame, revealing Doctor Thomas beneath them.

Vanessa flies forward, slams a sonically-charged fist into Bjorn, sending him flying into a nearby hill; he hits so hard he leaves a crater.

The Devourer charges Vanessa; she leaps forward, a sonic sheathe protecting her from his shadows; she pushes through them to grab him by the neck, then grabs his shadows with her other hand; she vibrates the shadows into nothingness, then she tosses the now-defenseless Doctor Thomas aside.

Hexa flies towards Vanessa's exposed back, a mystic dagger in her hand-

Then Sword Saint drops from the sky on top of her! He deftly disarms and cuffs her in the same motion.

The other heroes who helped him arrest Vanessa arrive and cuff The Professor and Bjorn.

HEXA

Fool! You think these can hold me?

Shadows gather around Hexa... then fade, having accomplished nothing. Hexa is surprised, angry.

SWORD SAINT

I do.

A flying truck lands, and Sword Saint and the others load Hexa, Bjorn, and the Professor into the back.

Vanessa runs to Daniel and checks on him.

VANESSA

Daniel! Are you okay?

Daniel is dizzy, but conscious.

DANIEL

Holy heck that was loud!

Vanessa smiles and cries and hugs him tight.

Daniel hugs back, still dazed.

Sword Saint walks up behind Vanessa.

Daniel pushes Vanessa off of himself, tries to get to his feet; Vanessa has to help him.

As soon as he's up, Daniel steps between Saint and Vanessa.

Vanessa squares up for another fight, but it's clear she's wiped.

SWORD SAINT

You need to step aside, Daniel.

DANIEL

I will not.

SWORD SAINT

She's a criminal. Everything else aside, she just broke out of prison, let a few other villains out with her.

DANIEL

She broke out to save me.

SWORD SAINT

From villains that she enabled to harm you.

Vanessa pushes past Daniel.

VANESSA

I would never have-

Sword Saint draws his sword and stops it at Vanessa's throat.

SWORD SAINT

If she speaks again-

DANIEL

(angry)

Saint, I swear to you, put that sword down or you and I are going to have a big problem.

Daniel and Sword Saint stare each other down.

VANESSA

I am not a threat to you.

Sword Saint GROWLS at her, but doesn't attack.

SWORD SAINT

Crimson is **dead**.

VANESSA

And you have the murderers! Daniel's identity is public now; let us go, you'll never see us again.

SWORD SAINT

No. No!

(to Daniel)

I will not let you ally yourself with this villain!

DANIEL

I would be dead right now if not for this villain.

SWORD SAINT

She started all of this! Does she get credit for stopping a crisis she caused?

The other heroes take up flanking positions around Daniel and Vanessa.

VANESSA

If we're gonna do this, let's do this.

Vanessa's hand vibrates with sonic energy. She and Sword Saint stare each other down.

Daniel turns around to face the heroes behind them, covers her back.

A long beat.

Sword Saint sheathes his swords.

SWORD SAINT

If I see you in my city again-

VANESSA

Then we'll reevaluate the situation and talk things over like rational adults? Because I think that would be the proper course of action.

Sword Saint snorts a laugh. "Maybe so."

He walks away.

The other heroes are confused, surprised, but also relieved.

Vanessa faces Daniel.

VANESSA

So what do you think? You wanna get out of here? See the world?

DANIEL

I've always wanted to visit South America. I don't speak a word of Spanish, though.

VANESSA

No te preocupes, amor, yo te enseño.

Vanessa grabs Daniel and flies away.

60 ROLL CREDITS 60

As they roll:

61 EXT. BELIZE STREETS - DAY 61

Vanessa and Daniel hold hands as they walk through a touristy area.

A sharp eye will notice them both wearing wedding rings.

VANESSA

I get it. I really do. But does she have to, like, live with us?

DANIEL

Not forever, just, while she's getting used to living in a new country.

CAROL (O.S.)

Oh! Daniel! Over here!

Vanessa rolls her eyes, but she's got a smile on her face.

CAROL (55, Hawaiian shirt and fanny pack) runs through the crowd, gives Daniel and Vanessa both big hugs.

DANIEL

Mom, you have to stop calling me that. I'm John, now.

CAROL

I'm an old woman, you have to give me time to get used to that.

VANESSA
You're not that old.

CAROL
Oh, hush.

But she liked hearing it; she holds Vanessa's hand as they all walk away.

CAROL
I was talking to one of the shop owners, he said there's a nice restaurant over on the beach that...

62 INT. DANIEL AND VANESSA'S NEW BEDROOM - NIGHT

62

It's cramped, not fully decorated. But it'll be nice once they're finished getting settled.

Vanessa sits on the bed, watches Daniel show off a pieced-together super outfit made out of various scraps and cloths.

DANIEL
I think it'll work.

VANESSA
I'm so bad at this. I'd need to see the finished product to judge.

DANIEL
At least tell me what you think of the color palette.

VANESSA
Did you really put this much effort into your old outfit? Because... it did not show.

DANIEL
That's why I want to get this one right!

CUT TO:

Now Daniel sits on the bed, shirtless and in pajama pants, while Vanessa models an all-black outfit with a towel for a cape.

Carol stands in the doorway and TUTS.

CAROL
I think you should-

Vanessa jumps.

VANESSA

Shit! Oh, sorry, ma'am, I didn't see you there.

CAROL

You don't have to call me mom, but you also don't have to call me "ma'am."

VANESSA

I don't... I could call you mom.

Carol smiles.

63 EXT. DARK BELIZEAN ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

63

A CROOKED COP struts towards an OLD MAN, forcing him into a corner. They speak in subtitled Spanish.

[The English translation of Spanish dialogue is in <angled brackets>]

OLD MAN

<Help! Help!>

CROOKED COP

<There's no reason to yell. Nobody can hear you.>

OLD MAN

<I don't have the money, I'm sorry->

The cop draws a billy club.

CROOKED COP

<I really hope that's not true.>

RELÁMPAGO

(thick accent)

<Stop!>

RELÁMPAGO, Daniel's new hero identity, drops down from the rooftop; he wears a uniform much like the one he was modeling.

CROOKED COP

<Who the hell are you?>

RELÁMPAGO

<I'm feeling Relampago!>

Vanessa, in her new identity as TRUENA, drops down on the other side of the cop, between him and the man.

TRUENA

(perfect accent)

<No, you are Relámpago.>

RELÁMPAGO

Right. <I are Relámpago!>

Truena laughs. The cop is very confused.

RELÁMPAGO

Come on, I'm trying.

CROOKED COP

<What's going on?>

TRUENA

(to Relámpago)

You know we can't just send this guy to prison. He's a cop.

She blasts the cop right into Relámpago's arms.

RELÁMPAGO

We're not gonna hurt him, though. I don't want us to be bad guys.

Truena walks over. Crosses her arms.

TRUENA

He was robbing the old man. We rob him instead? Take his money, give it to charity. That's a good guy move, right?

Relámpago spins the cop into the wall, zip ties his hands behind his back.

RELÁMPAGO

Good enough for me.

64 FADE TO BLACK.

THE END

64