

INT. REC ROOM-EVENING

The team sits on the couch while Nightlurker stands before them, performing card tricks and other small magic tricks. Jayde and The Brawn are taken by his tricks, clapping enthusiastically after each one. Hero looks bored. Ivan is sitting on a chair nearby, staring into the distance.

NIGHTLURKER

All right, Theodore. Tell me your card.

THE BRAWN

Six of spades.

Nightlurker reaches behind his head and pulls out the six of spades slowly. The Brawn and Jayde cheer.

NIGHTLURKER

What is wrong, Hero? Not impressed?

HERO

Vlad, you use magic every day! It kind of takes the wonder out of doing magic tricks when you know it's literally magic.

NIGHTLURKER

I haven't been using magic.

The audience gasps.

JAYDE

You haven't?!

NIGHTLURKER

No. These are tricks I learned as a performer. The only magic here is slight of hand.

Nightlurker holds out his hand. He makes a quick movement with his wrist, and there is suddenly a card in his hand.

THE BAWN

I didn't know you were a performer.

NIGHTLURKER

Indeed. That was before I put my
mastery of the black magics to
better use by coming here.

Jayde sees Ivan and calls to him.

JAYDE
You alright, Ivan?

Ivan looks up at them, snapping back to reality.

IVAN
What? Oh. Yeah, I'm fine.

Ivan turns his eyes back to the floor, looking pensive.

BLACK (V.O.)
We're not a very good liar.

Ivan brushes a hand past his head in annoyance.

BLACK (V.O.)
You can try to ignore me, but I'll
still be here... We can't quit
moping, can we?

A memory flashes in Ivan's mind. It is of Sarah waving
goodbye to him.

BLACK (V.O.)
We had a pretty good life started
for us, and we just walked away.

Ivan tenses.

BLACK (V.O.)
Oh? You think our life here isn't
so bad? What about this?

Another memory flashes. It is of Lucia saying goodbye to
Ivan for the last time, before casting herself away to save
everyone from the explosion. Ivan holds pieces of the lamp
in his hands, looking sad and confused.

BLACK (V.O.)
And this?

A third memory flashes. It is of when Hero broke up with Ivan.

BLACK (V.O.)
And these!

Other brief memories flash. Legend telling Ivan that he can't investigate Inner Eye any longer, Ivan being pushed into the bay by Zampano, Ivan saving the mother and her son from the train wreck, only to be called a freak, Noel pretending to be Ivan's mother, Ivan dying several times in the medical wing after being poisoned. Ivan suddenly stands up, holding his head in his hands.

IVAN
SHUT UP!!

The heroes all stare wordlessly at Ivan, frozen. Ivan looks back at all of them apologetically.

IVAN
Ah, I'm sorry. I-

NIGHTLURKER
Is the voice in your head causing
you grief, Ivan?

Ivan just nods.

JAYDE
I wonder if there is anything that
can be done about it?

IVAN
You mean... take the voice in my
head away?

JAYDE
Well, think about it! Zampano
implanted himself in your brain,
and was able to remove himself!

Ivan looks uncomfortable.

IVAN
I dunno... As stupid as he is, he's
still useful sometimes.

Nightlurker snorts, slightly amused. He looks sarcastically at Ivan.

NIGHTLURKER
Reminds me of someone else.

The Brawn stands.

THE BRAWN
Come on, Ivan! You've been in this funk ever since you came back from the desert. We gotta do something to lighten up your mood.

The others agree.

NIGHTLURKER
As much as I hate to admit it, I do somewhat miss that obnoxious personality of yours.

Ivan looks around at his friends. They all smile at him. Ivan slowly starts to smile, until a grin spreads across his face. He looks slyly at Nightlurker.

IVAN
Aww, Lurky! You mean it?

NIGHTLURKER
Tch! Well, you recovered quickly for someone who-

Ivan walks towards him with open arms.

IVAN
Come on! This calls for a hug!

NIGHTLURKER
What?! Get away from me, fool!

Nightlurker runs out of the room. The rest of the team laughs. Ivan smiles at them.

IVAN
You guys are right. This is my home.

Ivan looks outside at the city, still under repair from Jenkins's rampage.

IVAN
And right now, it needs me more
than ever.

INT. THE TOWER HALLWAY-NIGHT

Nightlurker walks back to his room briskly, muttering to himself.

NIGHTLURKER
The skinny little idiot! I had to
go and encourage him, even! things
were a lot quieter here when he
was-

Nightlurker opens the door to his room. He freezes. His window is wide open, and his possessions are scattered everywhere.

NIGHTLURKER
... gone.

INT. REC ROOM-NIGHT

Jayde is reading a book. Hero is polishing one of her guns. The Brawn and Ivan are playing a video game. Suddenly, Nightlurker explodes back into the room, looking mortified. He is gripping a small paper in one hand.

IVAN
Lurky! Back for that hug?

NIGHTLURKER
Shut up, you idiot!

IVAN
Charming, as always.

JAYDE
Vladimir! What happened?

NIGHTLURKER
My room was broken into! I've been
robbed!

THE BRAWN
Someone broke into the tower? But
it's heavily guarded!

HERO
Really, Ted? Ivan's had his room
broken into twice!

IVAN
Literally broken. I've had that
window replaced so many times.

NIGHTLURKER
No! Whoever did this came and left
without detection! There is only
one person who could do that!

Nightlurker throws the paper in his hand down on the table.
The team gathers around. On the paper, is the letter R,
written in beautiful calligraphy.

IVAN
Rubella!

JAYDE
Vlad, do you know what she took?

Nightlurker heaves a great sigh, pressing a shaking hand to
his forehead.

NIGHTLURKER
Volume one. She took volume one.

HERO
Your magic book?

THE BRAWN
But what does Rubella want with
magic?

NIGHTLURKER
Don't you see?! One of the other
villains must have sent her to get
it!

JAYDE
Jaqui!

IVAN

No, she's too far gone. Hodolph. He must want to find a way to resore her.

JAYDE

Vladimir, are you alright?

NIGHTLURKER

I'm fine. Unlike Jaqui, I can withstand having my book taken away.

HERO

But without your book, you can't use magic, right? Just like Jaqui?

NIGHTLURKER

Of course not! Jaqui may have delved deeper into the black magics than I have, but I did something she never took the time to do!

THE BRAWN

And what's that?

NIGHTLURKER

I memorized spells! Book or not, I can still use magic! I keep the books to study them further and keep them out of the wrong hands!

Nightlurker slumps into a chair.

NIGHTLURKER

But it looks like I failed.

The room is quiet for a moment. Then Ivan puts on an annoyed face.

IVAN

Really? REALLY?!

NIGHTLURKER

What do you want, you creep?!

IVAN

Some little girl takes your book away and all you do is sit there moping?! You're Vladimir Bartinski! You're Nightlurker! You're the most powerful magic wielder with the most light in the world! The Vlad I know is gonna go out there and find his book! Then he's gonna knock the socks off the one who took it!

Vladimir stands.

NIGHTLURKER

Yes! You are right! we must stop Rubella from unleashing whatever nefarious plan she has with my book! I will not allow abuse of such power!

JAYDE

Come on, team! We've got a thief to catch!

The team heads for the window. As they leave, Nightlurker glances gratefully towards Ivan.

NIGHTLURKER

Thanks.

IVAN

Don't mention it.

NIGHTLURKER

I won't.

EXT. ARBEIVILLE-NIGHT

The team rides in The Unstoppable Car, sailing over the city. Jayde drives, and everyone else is looking out the windows, scanning the city below.

JAYDE

Does anyone see her?

HERO

It's too dark. I can't see anyone!

NIGHTLURKER

This is hopeless! She could be anywhere!

THE BRAWN
You sure you're alright,
Nightlurker? Losing your book isn't going to turn you into a basket case like Jaqui, right?

NIGHTLURKER
It is not me I am worried about. Volume one has some of the more dangerous spells. I am worried what it might be used for.

IVAN
Rubella is practically a ninja. We won't find her if she doesn't want to be found.

HERO
Are you complimenting her?

IVAN
I respect her skill. I've been working hard at honing my ninja skills, and I know how difficult it is.

THE BRAWN
But you're already a ninja.

IVAN
My old master told me that a lot of my skill was locked away with my memories. I'm trying to get it back.

JAYDE
But isn't that dangerous?

IVAN
Not if I play my cards right.

NIGHTLURKER
Sometimes you need all the cards to play a convincing bluff, my friend.

THE BRAWN

Wait, I see her! Rubella's down
there! By the prison!

JAYDE

I'll bring down the car.

Jayde steers the car to the ground. Everyone gets out and starts towards the prison. Ivan pulls out his sword, but Jayde grabs his wrist.

JAYDE

We need to be careful. We don't want to cause a scene. If the prisoners see us here, it could start a riot!

THE BRAWN

What should we do?

Jayde thinks for a moment.

JAYDE

You said you've been honing your ninja skills, Ivan?

IVAN

Sure have!

JAYDE

Do you think you can follow Rubella and stay out of sight?

IVAN

You want me to find out what she's up to?

JAYDE

And get back the book, if you can.

Ivan nods and puts his sword away. He sneaks toward the prison and disappears into the shadows.

NIGHTLURKER

Are you sure that was wise? Ivan was locked away in this very prison.

JAYDE

Hopefully he'll have the sense not to get put back in there. Let's go through the front way and alert the police to everything that's happened.

The team walks toward the entrance.

INT. ARBEIVILLE PRISON-NIGHT

Rubella walks quietly down the hallway. Inmates are sleeping on either side. She comes to a certain cell and uses the magic book to tap on the prison bars. Hodolph appears behind the bars.

HODOLPH

You got it. I'm impressed.

RUBELLA

Don't be. It was easy enough.
Nobody even noticed I was there.
The heroes were all partying
together.

HODOLPH

The lot of them sicken me. They call themselves heroes, yet they took my wife away from me and drove her mad. But this book will fix all of that.

Hodolph reaches for the book, but Rubella jerks it away.

RUBELLA

Don't even think about double crossing me! I want the translation first! Then you can have this book! This book doesn't make any sense to me. You spent enough time with Jaqui, you must be able to translate it!

HODOLPH

I need the book to translate it.

RUBELLA

I made a copy of the pages I want
translated. Give me the
translation, then I'll give you the
book.

She gives Hodolph the pages. Hodolph glances at them and throws them down.

HODOLPH

What do you take me for?! I am
nobody's fool! I refuse the
translate this! A spell this
heinous should never be used! You
don't want to be double crossed,
but you have no problem double
crossing me!

RUBELLA

Relax! As long as you stay out of
the way, the spell won't touch you.
Do you want to save your wife, or
not?

Hodolph slowly picks up the pages again. He reads them over, then chuckles.

HODOLPH

I knew you were full of hatred,
Rubella, but I never expected you
to resort to this kind of violence.
Manicide indeed.

RUBELLA

Less talking, more translating.

Around a corner, Ivan is hidden in the shadows. He looks thoughtful as he turns away.

IVAN

Manicide?

INT. ARBEIVILLE PRISON OFFICE-NIGHT

The heroes sit in a waiting area.

HERO

Come on, how long does it take to
steal a book?!

NIGHTLURKER
Street Ninja is obnoxious, but he
does take his skill very seriously.
He must be cautious in a place like
this.

IVAN (O.S.)
Well, your faith in me has
certainly improved, Lurky!

Everyone looks up to see Ivan hanging from the ceiling. He jumps down in front of them.

NIGHTLURKER
Things used to be so peaceful...
Did you get the book?

IVAN
Too many prisoners around. I
couldn't get anywhere near her. But
I did hear everything she said.

JAYDE
What did she want?

IVAN
We were right. Hodolph did send her
for the book to save Jaqui. But she
did it for a price.

HERO
Which was...?

IVAN
She wanted a spell translated for
her. Manicide, or something.

Nightlurker immediately pales. Ivan notices.

IVAN
What's wrong, Lurk? You look like
you've just been shot!

Nightlurker suddenly stands.

NIGHTLURKER

Where is Rubella?! We must find her at once!

IVAN

Cool it! We're in a prison, remember?

NIGHTLURKER

Subtlety is the least of our worries! Rubella is planning a mass execution!

JAYDE

What?!

Nightlurker runs into the prison. Everyone follows.

INT. ARBEIVILLE PRISON-NIGHT

The heroes run down the hallway, inmates shout at them angrily as they pass. A cop follows them.

COP

I'm sorry, Unstoppables! But nobody is allowed in here after visiting hours!

Nightlurker runs right to Hodolph's cell. The cell is empty, and the prison bars are mangled.

NIGHTLURKER

Gone! Blast it!

Nightlurker pounds on the wall with his fist. Jayde grabs his hands and pulls his attention to her.

JAYDE

Nightlurker! Calm down and tell us what's going on!

Nightlurker looks into her eyes, and his shoulders slump. He takes a deep breath.

NIGHTLURKER

Manicide is an ancient black magic spell. It was designed by a

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NIGHTLURKER (CONT'D)
sorceress who was wronged by many
men in her lifetime. The spell is a
ritual performed during a full
moon, which will then steal the
souls of every male in the
vicinity.

THE BRAWN
Steal souls?

NIGHTLURKER
It instantly kills every man, every
boy, all of them! Tonight is a full
moon! Rubella is going to murder
half of the city in a single night!

HERO
We have to stop her! This is crazy!

JAYDE
Nightlurker! Does the spell say
where the ritual should take place?
We need to find her!

NIGHTLURKER
Alas, it does not. I fear the spell
can be performed anywhere. We have
but an hour before the full moon is
at its peak.

THE BAWN
You mean.... I'm gonna die in an
hour? All of us guys are?

HERO
Well, Street Ninja can't be killed.

IVAN
The spell will steal my soul. No
amount of healing can fix that.
I'll be killed along with the rest
of them.

JAYDE

No! This is ridiculous! I'm not just going to stand here and let this happen!

Jayde grabs Nightlurker by the collar of his shirt and glares at him.

JAYDE

And if you have any respect for our love, then you're gonna help me!

Jayde walks off in a huff. Everyone looks stunned. Nightlurker's face turns red.

NIGHTLURKER

She... She just said love!

Nightlurker runs after her. Hero sighs.

HERO

That was pretty adorable.

IVAN

Yeah. Let's hope we all live long enough to appreciate this later!

Ivan runs after them. The Brawn and Hero follow.

EXT. ARBEIVILLE-NIGHT

The Team is spread out across the city. All looking for Rubella. The police are helping, too. They are knocking on doors and asking citizens if they have seen her. Jayde is standing on a street corner. Her eyes and the air around her are glowing teal. Nightlurker approaches her and gently takes her hand.

NIGHTLURKER

Do you sense her aura, my dear?

JAYDE

No. She must not be in this area.

INT. RUBELLA'S DEN-NIGHT

Ivan enters the club. There are only a few women there. Anna runs up and hugs Ivan.

ANNA

Street Ninja! What in the world are you doing here at this hour?

IVAN

Hello, Anna. I'm afraid I came with bad news. Rubella is somewhere in the city, and she has one of Nightlurker's magic spells. She's going to use it to kill every male in the city in about a half hour if we don't find her.

ANNA

Oh dear! That would mean... You would be one of them, wouldn't you?

IVAN

I'm afraid so.

ANNA

We have to find her!

IVAN

Thank you.

EXT. ARBEIVILLE-NIGHT

The Brawn and Hero are in another part of the city, helping in the search. They ask several people, but nobody has seen her. They walk out of the building and meet up with the rest of the heroes. They sadly shake their heads. Jayde looks upset.

JAYDE

We... We can't give up! Do we have anyone checking the sewers? The outskirts? The warehouses?

NIGHTLURKER

Jayde.

THE BRAWN

Yeah. I sent search parties there myself.

JAYDE

Well what about... We haven't...

NIGHTLURKER

Jayde.

JAYDE

This isn't fair! We've looked
everywhere! But she could still be
anywhere!

NIGHTLURKER

Jayde! Look at me.

Nightlurker puts a hand on her cheek and gazes at her evenly.

NIGHTLURKER

We did our best. That's all we can
do.

Tears begin to well up in Jayde's eyes.

JAYDE

But... I can't... I can't lose you!
I just can't!

Nightlurker pulls her into a hug.

NIGHTLURKER

Jayde, if I am going to die in five
minutes, there is nowhere I would
rather be than right here with you.

JAYDE

Vladimir...

NIGHTLURKER

I can die happily knowing you love
me too.

The other team members look at them, smiling. Ivan glances at Hero, who is looking at him sadly. They both quickly look away. Ivan looks up at the moon. Suddenly, he gasps.

IVAN

I- I see her!

THE BRAWN

What?!

Ivan points to the top of a tall building. Rubella is holding the translation in her hands, looking up at the moon. The team jumps into action. Ivan runs up to the building and begins climbing it quickly. Jayde uses her psychic powers to lift herself upwards, and Vladimir uses his magic to do the same. Hero pulls out a grappling hook and shoots it at the building, jumping away. The Brawn watches them all go.

THE BRAWN

I- I'll use the stairs!

Ivan practically runs up the side of the building. He gets to the top, and a bolt of purple lightning strikes near his feet, almost knocking him off.

RUBELLA

I brought a couple of attack spells with me! I knew you heroes would come after me!

Ivan sees that Jayde, Hero and Vlad have almost made it to the top. Ivan holds a hand out to them.

IVAN

It's a trap! Don't come up here!
I'll handle her!

RUBELLA

Will you, now?

She shoots more lightning from her hand. Ivan simply disappears and reappears somewhere else.

RUBELLA

What?! How are you so fast?

IVAN

Ninja. Duh.

RUBELLA

Grr... Leave me alone! It's almost time to begin!

IVAN

I can't let you do this!

Ivan rips the papers out of her hands. She smiles.

RUBELLA
Too bad! I memorized it!

Ivan takes out an enejatō.

RUBELLA
Go ahead! It won't stop me from
saying the spell! It's time, now!

Ivan looks guiltily at his blade. He throws it down and grabs Rubella by her shoulders just as she lifts her voice to say the spell. He kisses her on her lips, long and hard. She tries to pull herself away. Jayde, Hero and Vlad land on top of the building and see what is happening. Hero looks mortified.

HERO
What is Street Ninja doing?!

Nightlurker smiles.

NIGHTLURKER
He's keeping her mouth busy.

Rubella finally wrenches herself free and looks at the moon. She gasps.

RUBELLA
No! The moon's peak is over! There
was only a short window for me to
cast the spell, and you made me
miss it, you-

Rubella looks at Ivan, who stares at her blankly.

BLACK (V.O.)
We... We just kissed her.

Rubella touches her lips. Her face turns red.

RUBELLA
I... Street Ninja...

Ivan lets go of her shoulders.

IVAN

I'm sorry. I know men in your past have treated you poorly, but that doesn't justify Manicide.

Ivan turns to leave, but Rubella stops him.

RUBELLA

No, wait! Don't go!

NIGHTLURKER

Oh, dear.

RUBELLA

I... I never realized how...
incredibly handsome you are!

HERO

What?!

IVAN

E-excuse me?!

RUBELLA

Yes! You're the first kiss I've had in years! It... It gives me a new perspective! Not all men are bad, and you...

Rubella smiles at him and leans closer to him, trailing a finger on his chest. Ivan grimaces.

IVAN

I'm not falling for one of your tricks, Rubella.

NIGHTLURKER

This is not a trick, Street Ninja.

IVAN

What?

NIGHTLURKER

She began to cast a black magic spell under a full moon. When it was interrupted by an act of affection, it was turned into white magic.

IVAN

White magic?

NIGHTLURKER

Yes. Black magic was created initially for evil purposes. White magic is the opposite. It takes form in happiness, gratitude, and love.

IVAN

Love?!

JAYDE

You mean, it's like the spell Jaqui cast on Ivan to fall in love with his lamp?

NIGHTLURKER

That was not real love.

Hero raises her voice. She points accusingly at Rubella.

HERO

Hold on! You're telling me that this is real love?! You don't know the first thing about him, Rubella!

RUBELLA

I don't have to! Love is love! You don't have to be jealous!

HERO

Jealous?!

IVAN

Hero, calm down! What just happened?

Everyone is just about to say something, when the door to the roof swings open. The Brawn appears, panting heavily.

THE BRAWN

Hey, guys! I'm still alive! Does that mean we won?

Rubella takes this opportunity to link arms with Ivan. She then throws a black ball at the ground and they both

disappear in a cloud of smoke.

HERO
She- she just stole Street Ninja!

Jayde sighs.

JAYDE
Wonderful. Now we need to keep looking for Rubella for a different reason.

NIGHTLURKER
I'm afraid we have other matters to attend to. There is still the matter of preventing Hodolph from using my magic book to bring Jaqui back.

The Brawn sighs.

THE BRAWN
Another sleepless night. Time to go back downstairs, I guess.

Jayde jumps onto his shoulder and she uses her psychic powers to begin lowering both of them to the city below. The Brawn happily expresses his gratitude. Hero looks back at where Ivan disappeared.

HERO
He... He didn't argue. He just let Rubella take him.

NIGHTLURKER
Hero, you broke up with him, did you not? Is there still something between you two?

Hero sighs.

HERO
I... I don't know. Last time we talked, we agreed to let each other go our separate ways, and if things looked better for us later, then we would date again.

NIGHTLURKER

I trust Street Ninja's judgement.
As obnoxious as he is, he has a
brain in his head.

HERO

I guess... I guess I'm just not
completely ready to let him go. I
thought I was, because of what
happened in his past, but...

NIGHTLURKER

Hero, you know that his past does
not define who he is today.

HERO

I know. But every time I look at
Anya...

NIGHTLURKER

Anya told me herself that she
released him. You must do what you
feel in your heart is best.

JAYDE (O.S.)

Nightlurker? You coming, Honey?

A small smile appears on Nightlurker's face.

NIGHTLURKER

That is what I have done.

Nightlurker leaves, and Hero mulls his words over for a
minute, then follows.

EXT. BAY AREA-NIGHT

Ivan coughs a few times, while Rubella looks on at him,
completely smitten.

IVAN

Jeez, what is in those smoke balls
you use?

He looks at her.

IVAN

Look, Rubella-

RUBELLA

Call me Bella! I don't want to go by that name anymore. I'm different, now.

IVAN

Just like that? One minute you want to kill half the city, the next you're walking away from your past of crime forever?

Rubella looks sad.

RUBELLA

I... I only did those things because I was breaking free from what happened to me before.

Ivan still looks slightly wary, but humors her.

IVAN

What did happen before?

RUBELLA

I... I come from about as broken of a family as you can get. My father was always drunk, beating my mom and I when he was home, drinking when he wasn't. One night, mom decided she had enough. We were going to leave him. When she told him, he got so angry that he... He killed her.

IVAN

That... That's awful.

RUBELLA

After that, I was moved to an orphanage. I was there until I was 18. While there, I met Dameon. We looked out for each other. As we grew up, we fell in love. I ended up as a waitress for a horrible boss, and Dameon seemed to rescue me from my dead-end life when he

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RUBELLA (CONT'D)
asked me to marry him. The day
before the wedding, I found out
that he was cheating on me with
four other girls. Four!

IVAN
Despicable.

RUBELLA
No man in my life has ever showed
me an inch of respect! Anything I
wanted was quickly taken out of my
grasp. One day, I saw a beautiful
ring. Much like the one Dameon
proposed to me with. I wanted it. I
deserved it! So I stole it!
Finally, something beautiful that
was all mine! I made friends with
other girls who had been mistreated
like I was. I felt like it was my
duty to provide them with things
they deserved, too. No man in my
life had ever done that for me!
Until... Until today.

IVAN
What do you mean?

RUBELLA
Today, I tried to take revenge on
the whole city for the people who
ruined my life. And in the moment I
was about to succeed, I... I got
what I deserved. Failure.

IVAN
Bella, I-

RUBELLA
And in that same moment. I got
something else. Something I have
always wanted, but never got.

Rubella draws near to Ivan, who takes a cautious step backwards.

RUBELLA
Affection.

Ivan swallows hard.

IVAN
Bella. I... I kissed you to stop you from killing half the city. As a ninja, it is my duty to protect the innocent and uphold justice. As part of being a ninja, I should have killed you. But I couldn't bring myself to do it, so I just kissed you instead.

Ivan turns his back to her.

IVAN
I didn't mean to play with your feelings. I know you have suffered. I see it on the faces of the women you used to provide for. I go there myself to help them make ends meet.

RUBELLA
You... You help my girls?

IVAN
Taking revenge for your suffering just causes more suffering. You have to break free.

RUBELLA
I have broken free! I don't want to go back to being a criminal! I just want you!

Ivan closes his eyes and turns away. Rubella deflates slightly.

RUBELLA
It's... because I was a criminal, isn't it?

Ivan lets out a sarcastic chuckle.

IVAN

Surprisingly, no. I'm just...
having some relationship struggles
of my own.

RUBELLA
With Hero?

IVAN
We used to have so much. Then one day, she just... broke it off. I still don't know the reason why. We still both want to be together, but... something's holding her back.

RUBELLA
I understand.

Rubella looks sad. She starts to turn away, but Ivan puts a hand on her shoulder.

IVAN
I don't know about all this white magic stuff, but I do know that you're free to make your own choices. Even though you're technically wanted for several thievery crimes, I'm going to let you go, because I want to believe that you've changed.

RUBELLA
You're... letting me go?

IVAN
Yeah, but if my friends and I ever have to cuff you for a jewelry heist again, I won't be so kind.

He ends this sentence with a smile. Rubella smiles a little too.

IVAN
On the other hand, I'd like to give you an offer. I grew up in a village where they taught me the

(MORE)

IVAN (CONT'D)
ways of the ninja. With your
skills, I think you might be happy
there.

RUBELLA
R-really?!

IVAN
Yeah. I'll tell you how to get
there, and just ask for Obasaan and
tell her Keno sent you.

EXT. BAY AREA-NIGHT

Ivan and Rubella sit on top of a warehouse together.
Rubella looks at a small drawn map and points at the
mountains.

RUBELLA
Just head that way?

IVAN
Yeah. Once you get to the edge of
that forest, you'll find a path
that will lead you straight there.

They both stand up.

RUBELLA
Thank you, Ivan. For everything.

IVAN
Just make sure to take care of
Obaasan for me. I don't get to
visit as much as I would like.

RUBELLA
I will.

Rubella starts to leave. Ivan stops her.

IVAN
Bella?

RUBELLA
Yes?

IVAN

Just... As nice as it is to have someone to share love with, the most important thing you can do is to love yourself, first.

Ivan takes her hand and kisses it. Rubella smiles and nods, then leaves. Ivan watches her go.

BLACK (V.O.)

You know, when she's not trying to ruin the city, she's a real nice girl.

IVAN

Yeah.

Suddenly, there is a boom in the distance. Ivan looks to see a torrent of purple lightning and smoke rising from the East.

IVAN

I've got a bad feeling that that's where I'm supposed to be right now.

END.