

INT. BLACKNESS-NIGHT

The screen is completely black.

ANYA
How are you feeling?

HERO
You mean pain wise, or emotion
wise?

ANYA
Let's start with pain.

INT. MEDICAL WING-MORNING

Hero is laying on a stretcher, her arm is bandaged. Anya carefully unwraps the bandages to see that Hero's arm is broken. Hero winces as she does so.

ANYA
Sorry.

HERO
I've had worse.

ANYA
These bandages...

HERO
Ivan used his mask. I told him not
to.

ANYA
He did the right thing. Your arm is
swelling, and it needed a splint
badly.

HERO
Can you fix it?

Anya sets to work.

ANYA
It'll take time. What happened out
there?

Hero laughs a little.

HERO

What didn't happen out there?
Rubella almost kills half the city,
and then Ivan kisses her to stop
her, then-

ANYA

He did what??

HERO

Yeah. I know. But it worked out, I
guess. See, Nightlurker's room was
broken into last night by Rubella.
She took one of his black magic
books. She brought it to Hodolph in
exchange for a translation of one
of the spells, which would kill all
of the men in the city.

EXT. ARBEIVILLE-NIGHT

As Hero speaks, a flashback takes place of what she
describes.

HERO (V.O.)

To stop her, Ivan had to prevent
her from saying the spell during
her window of opportunity. So, he
up and kissed her. Then she fell in
love with him on the spot.
Something about black magic turning
into white magic. So she kidnaps
him!

INT. MEDICAL WING-MORNING

ANYA

She did?! But how did he manage to
bring you back here?

HERO

I'm getting there. Aah!

Hero winces in pain as Anya works on her arm.

ANYA

Sorry!

HERO

So, Ivan said Rubella took him to the bay and told him about her past. She told him that she wanted to give up her life of crime. So Ivan decided not to arrest her, but sent her away to live in his ninja village.

ANYA

He sent Rubella to live with the ninjas?

HERO

Yeah. He said that if she ever decided to turn back to crime, the village can take care of itself.

ANYA

Then what happened?

HERO

Well, while Ivan was talking to Rubella, the others and I had to go after Hodolph, who had Vlad's magic book.

EXT. INSANE ASSYLUM-NIGHT

The heroes walk towards the building from The Unstoppable Car. Nightlurker points at the door.

NIGHTLURKER

Look! The front entrance is broken!

JAYDE

And there's a security guard on the ground just inside! Thank goodness he's alive!

The team runs inside.

Hodolph strides down the long hallway, magic book in hand. He is twirling a ring of keys around his fingers. He uses the keys on the door at the end of the hallway. He slowly opens the door.

INT. JAQUI'S MENTAL ROOM-NIGHT

Jaqui sits in the middle of the white room. She is restrained by a straight jacket, and fastened with straps to the place where she is sitting. She is singing and mumbling to herself, swaying back and forth. She turns her head as Hodolph enters.

JAQUI

Hodolph! You've come for me! I just knew you would!

HODOLPH

Hello, my dear. I brought you something.

JAQUI

A present? For me? Ooh! What is it?

Hodolph presents the book. Jaqui gasps. She shrieks.

JAQUI

The magic book! Magic! Give it to me!

JAYDE (O.S.)

Not so fast!

Both villains turn to see the heroes enter the room. Hodolph puts himself protectively between them and his wife.

HODOLPH

No! You won't lay a finger on my wife! You've done enough damage to her already!

NIGHTLURKER

Hodolph! That book is what destroyed her, long before she met you! Giving it back to her will only make things worse!

HODOLPH

She needs it! This book will save her! Make her normal again! Then we can be together again at last!

Hodolph opens the book and lays it in front of Jaqui. She giggles with delight.

JAQUI

My magic! You've come back to me!
Olivierdatanos!

The straight jacket rips itself from her body. She stands up slowly.

JAQUI

Oh, it feels so good to use magic
again! I'll make sure I never go
without it ever again!

Jaqui lifts her hands into the air. The magic book floats before her, pages flipping rapidly.

JAQUI

Matron of the black magics! Hear my
cry!

Ivan, in full gear, enters the room. He looks flabbergasted.

IVAN

What's going on?!

HERO

Finally decided to join us, have
you?

Ivan looks about to respond, but Nightlurker shouts.

NIGHTLURKER

Hodolph! You must stop her!

HODOLPH

Never!

JAYDE

Nightlurker, what's happening?

NIGHTLURKER

Jaqui is calling upon the creator
of black magic! She's going to sell
the rest of her soul for near
limitless power!

THE BRAWN

How do we stop her?!

Nightlurker looks slightly helpless.

NIGHTLURKER

We... We cannot! Anyone who touches her will be part of the spell!

JAQUI

I, your humble servant, call upon you to offer the remains of my soul, in exchange for your blessing!

NIGHTLURKER

Hodolph! She's selling away her soul! Is this what you want?!

HODOLPH

If it makes her happy, I'll do anything!

JAQUI

Grant me your power, so that I may show all your greatness!

Jaqui begins floating. The roof of the building rips off, showing a purple and black cyclone outside. Purple lightning strikes the ground. Jaqui's clothes melt into a beautiful black and purple dress, and her eyes glow purple.

JAQUI

Now, Vladimir Bartinski! I am finally a more powerful magic user than you!

NIGHTLURKER

But at what a cost! Your soul is gone! When you die, the Black Matron will cast you aside like garbage! Your soul will cease to exist!

Jaqui laughs.

JAQUI

The Black Matron can't touch me if
I can't die! That's the beauty of
selling my soul for limitless
power! There really is no cost!

NIGHTLURKER

The cost is greater than you could
possibly imagine! There is no
escaping the Black Matron!

Jaqui cackles. Hodolph moves to stand beside her, but she waves a hand, flinging him to one side. He crashes into the wall and slumps to the ground, unconscious.

JAQUI

Get out of my way! I have a city to
destroy!

She vanishes. Nightlurker looks defeated. He slowly moves to pick up the magic book on the floor. He turns to the last page, which has something written on it. It reads, "To my son, please make better use of this book than I did. Your father, Nikolai." He closes the book quietly, gripping it in his hand tightly. Jayde puts a hand on his shoulder.

JAYDE

We'll figure this out, love. Don't
worry.

IVAN

Um, shouldn't we be going after
them?

THE BRAWN

She said she's more powerful than
Lurky, here. Are we strong enough
to take her on?

NIGHTLURKER

We are not.

JAYDE

Vladimir...

Suddenly, his eyes brighten with determination.

NIGHTLURKER

But we don't need to defeat her! We
just need to stop her! Let's go!

Nightlurker pockets the book and leads the way out. The others exchange glances before following him.

IVAN

I'm assuming this means he has a
plan!

EXT. ARBEIVILLE-NIGHT

The sky is covered with purple and black clouds. The Unstoppable Car flies over the city. Ivan points at a purple cyclone ahead.

IVAN

This is just a guess, but I think
she's over there!

JAYDE

I'll land on the roof of this
apartment complex over here.

NIGHTLURKER

Before you do, let me out here. I
need to begin immediately!

HERO

You seriously can't wait for the
rest of us to come with you?

NIGHTLURKER

The spell I plan to cast requires
at least fifteen minutes of
preparation! I must begin
immediately! It could mean lives!

Jayde opens the door. As Nightlurker gets out, a black aura surrounds him, taking the form of wings. Ivan suddenly disappears from his seat and reappears hanging on a building outside.

IVAN

You're not doing this alone!

The Brawn looks at the suddenly empty seat beside him.

THE BRAWN

Whoah! That kid moves fast!

Nightlurker flies over buildings with Ivan running in close pursuit. Nightlurker spots a building top with plenty of space and lands on it, kneeling on one knee and putting a hand on the ground. He begins mumbling spells and a magic purple, glowing, magic circle appears around him. Ivan stops short right before he steps into the magic circle.

BLACK (V.O.)

Whoa! We've got a feeling that's dangerous.

Ivan calls out to Nightlurker.

IVAN

Hey, Lurky! I'm here to help!

Nightlurker doesn't move, but stops mumbling long enough to answer.

NIGHTLURKER

Cover me! I need to concentrate.

IVAN

Right!

Ivan pulls out both of his swords and turns to the purple cyclone. He watches as The Unstoppable Car flies near it and parks on another rooftop.

Jayde, Hero, and The Brawn get out of the car and Jayde marches right up to the cyclone.

JAYDE

Jaqui!! You must stop this! We will fight you to protect our city!

The cyclone gradually disappears, and Jaqui is seen hovering midair. Jaqui turns her glowing eyes on Jayde. She frowns.

JAQUI

You really think you stand a chance against me? My pinky is more powerful than The Brawn!

THE BRAWN

Hey, now! That's uncalled for!

Jaqui simply nods her head once, and the cement The Brawn is standing on suddenly lurches upward, wrapping itself around him. The Brawn struggles to break free, but is unable to. Jaqui then waves her hand at Hero, whose gun suddenly transforms into a water pistol. Jaqui slowly lowers to the roof, smiling.

JAQUI

Now that your lackeys are out of the way, what do you say to a little one-on-one?

JAYDE

If I agree, will you leave the city alone?

JAQUI

Oh, darling, I can't make any promises. But in all honesty, you don't really have a choice.

Jaqui tosses a hand in Jayde's general direction. Jayde's limbs become pinned outwardly. She tries to move, but can't.

JAQUI

Looks like I win!

She giggles at Jayde's defiant expression.

JAQUI

You know, it's obvious why Vlad likes you. Such a cute face...

Jaqui reaches out and draws a finger across Jayde's cheek. Jayde recoils uncomfortably, but can't move away.

THE BRAWN

Don't touch her!

JAQUI

Quiet! I'll deal with you in a minute.

Jaqui turns back to Jayde, putting on her sickly sweet smile back on her face.

JAQUI

I guess I really should get a move-on. Destroying the city is going to be fun! And I want you to watch with me! But first...

Jaqui cocks her head to one side with a smile. As she does so, Jayde's left arm snaps at an angle. She screams.

JAQUI

That's for stealing Vlad away from me!

Nightlurker momentarily looks up from his muttering.

NIGHTLURKER

That sounded like Jayde. Street Ninja! What is happening?!

IVAN

It looks like the others are in trouble. I'll go investigate.

NIGHTLURKER

No! If she sees you running to help them, she'll put you under her spell as well. I need you to lead her this way! I'm almost done with the trap!

IVAN

Got it!

Ivan runs halfway to Jaqui and stops. He waves a sword at her.

IVAN

Hey, Jaqui! Hey! Over here!

Jaqui snaps her head in his direction.

JAQUI

What do you want, you little fool?!

IVAN

I was wondering if you could teach me how to sell my soul for magic?

JAQUI

What?

NIGHTLURKER

What?!

JAYDE

What?!

IVAN

I mean, look at me! I'm nothing compared to your strength!

JAQUI

However true that may be, why would I teach you? You would just use it against me!

IVAN

In all honesty, I was hoping I could join you.

HERO

What...?

IVAN

Truth be told, this city hates me. I've been framed, banished, sent to prison, you name it.

THE BRAWN

The city doesn't hate you anymore! Since you defeated Jenkins-

IVAN

You really think that's gonna change, Theo?! Jayde even said my aura sets people off!

At the mention of Jayde's name, Nightlurker looks up at her.

NIGHTLURKER

Jayde?! Your arm! Are you alright?

Jaqui looks down at Nightlurker, putting on a wicked smile.

JAQUI

Vladimir Bartinski. I'm surprised at you. Hiding behind the mutant after I've just broken your beloved's arm? It's a shame!

Nightlurker's eyes flash dangerously.

NIGHTLURKER

You despicable...

IVAN

Ignore him, Jaqui. We were having an important discussion.

Jaqui suddenly looks at Zivan with interest.

JAQUI

Very well. Let's pretend I take you up on your offer. Why do you want magic?

IVAN

Revenge. What else? Besides, you can't say no. You're obviously a better magic user than me. If I were to betray you, you could easily defeat me.

Jaqui smiles, depending towards Ivan and extending her hand.

JAQUI

Fine. I'm satisfied with your answer. Come, I'll teach you how it works.

Vlad takes a step towards Ivan cautiously.

NIGHTLURKER

Ivan, what are you doing?!

Ivan casts a dark glance at Nightlurker.

IVAN

What does it look like?

Ivan takes Jaqui's hand. He smiles at her. Suddenly, he pulls her towards him and uses his other hand to push her past him and into the magic circle. She gasps in surprise.

IVAN

I led her over here.

The magic circle ripples, and Jaqui glowers at Ivan.

JAQUI

I should've known better than to trust you!

Nightlurker puts a hand on Ivan's shoulder.

NIGHTLURKER

And I should've known better than to doubt you.

Ivan winces while The Brawn and Hero come forward and help Jayde to her feet.

IVAN

Seriously? You actually doubted me?
I'm hurt, Vladdy!

HERO

In his defense, you did sound pretty convincing.

Nightlurker gingerly holds Jayde's arm in his hands.

NIGHTLURKER

This is my fault, Dearest. Let's get you home.

Jaqui stands.

JAQUI

You think this pitiful spell can hold me?! Aah!

Jaqui waves an arm, causing a crack in the magic circle. Nightlurker moves to put himself between Jayde and Jaqui.

NIGHTLURKER

Careful, everyone! With the magic circle weakening, Jaqui will be able to cast some spells!

Hero pulls out a gun.

HERO

A warning shot ought to keep her quiet.

Jaqui glares at her and points a finger at her. Suddenly, Jayde's broken arm heals, and Hero's arm breaks instead. She drops her gun with an anguished cry. Ivan runs to her.

IVAN

Hero!!

NIGHTLURKER

She can't hurt us directly, but she can cast injury manipulation spells!

JAQUI

Oh, I can do more than that, Dear.

Jaqui's eyes begin to glow. The wind picks up. Suddenly, the magic circle shatters, and Jaqui shoots up into the sky.

JAQUI

I told you that I am the most powerful magic user in the world, now! Nothing can stop me!

Ivan turns to Vlad, still holding Hero by her shoulders. He speaks above the wind.

IVAN

All right, Mister Wizard! What do we do now?

Vlad's face pales.

NIGHTLURKER

I... I do not know. I am at my wit's end!

IVAN

Well, that's just great.

THE BRAWN
Boss? Orders?

Jayde puts on a determined face and clenches her fists.

JAYDE
We fight! We all swore we would
protect this city with our lives!
Now it's time to make good on that
promise!

Ivan turns to Hero.

IVAN
Hero, your arm...

HERO
It's nothing. We're all gonna die
anyways.

THE BRAWN
Guys? We're not really gonna die,
right?

Ivan casts a guilty glance at Theo.

BLACK (V.O.)
Of course he's scared. He's just a
kid.

Ivan looks at Vlad, who has reached out to hold Jayde's
hand. Ivan pulls out a sword.

IVAN
No.

The others turn to look at him.

IVAN
You guys go. I'll fight her.

JAYDE
Ivan, what-

IVAN

I'm the only one of us who can't die. You need to leave.

THE BRAWN

But you can die, Ivan!

JAYDE

Ridiculous. We're not leaving. We're at team.

IVAN

You think this'll stop with Jaqui?! Once she finishes all of you off, what do you think all of the other villains will do?

HERO

It looks like we're all gonna get killed either way. Let's do this.

IVAN

But guys-

Vlad interrupts him by putting a hand on his shoulder.

NIGHTLURKER

Street Ninja. We are a family. We'll go out together.

Ivan looks at the others. They smile sadly back. Ivan nods his head.

IVAN

Alright.

The team strikes a fighting stance. Jaqui looks bored.

JAQUI

All you all finally finished? I want to look into your eyes when I kill you!

A dark aura surrounds her.

JAQUI

I'd love to kill all of you one by one, but it's faster just to kill you all at once.

Ivan puts an arm around Hero's shoulders.

IVAN
I'll miss you.

HERO
Then you better hurry up and die so
that you won't have to.

Ivan smiles at her. She uses her good hand to hold his. Suddenly, the ground shakes. A large, black crack appears in the sky. Jaqui whirls around.

JAQUI
What?!

A giant pair of black wings emerges from the crack, spreading across the sky. Then, the figure of a woman materializes before wings. She smiles at Jaqui.

MATRON
Jaqui, Vladimir. Good to see you.

Everyone stares at her in shock.

MATRON
Come now, you two. You both know
you must kneel before your goddess.

She snaps her fingers, and Jaqui disappears, and reappears near the others in a kneeling position.

MATRON
Now it's your turn, Vlad.

She points a finger at him. Vlad grunts and hunches over like he's in pain. Jayde gasps.

JAYDE
Vladimir!!

MATRON
I said kneel!

Vlad's knees shake. He finally drops to his knees, breathing heavily.

MATRON

Good boy. My, you are a defiant one, aren't you? Using my powers to "fight evil" and other nonsense. No matter. A part of you will always belong to me, in any case. Now, Vlad. I want you to do something for me.

Vlad claps his hand over his mouth, like he might be sick. Finally, he gives in, breathing heavily.

NIGHTLURKER

Anything... you wish... my lady...

MATRON

I want you to kill Jaqui.

Everyone gasps. Jayde steps forward.

JAYDE

I won't let you make him commit murder!

MATRON

I'm sure you would, if you could do something about it.

Jayde suddenly freezes to the spot.

IVAN

Jayde!

Vlad struggles not to get to his feet, but does so anyways. Ivan reaches for his sword.

IVAN

You don't have to kill her! I'll do it! I've already-

Ivan freezes as well. Vlad turns to the kneeling Jaqui.

NIGHTLURKER

I... I am sorry...

JAQUI

My lady... Why are you having him kill me?

MATRON

Let's call it an investment for the future.

Vlad places his hand on Jaqui's head.

NIGHTLURKER

fight back, Jaqui! I do not want to kill you!

JAQUI

Who am I to argue with The Matron? She owns us both...

NIGHTLURKER

M... Morté...

MATRON

Do it, Vladimir!

NIGHTLURKER

Mortédivantrium!!

Everything is still for a moment. Then, Jaqui slumps to the ground. Vlad gives an anguished cry and kneels down to lift her head in his hands.

NIGHTLURKER

Jaqui...?

Jaqui stares sightlessly up at Vlad.

JAQUI

V-Vladdie?

NIGHTLURKER

Jaqui, I am so sorry. I... I did not want to...

JAQUI

Thank you. Vlad... Thank you.

Jaqui goes limp in Vlad's arms, closing her eyes. Vlad looks mortified. The Matron smiles.

MATRON

Very good, my servant. Very good. I hope you've learned a very valuable lesson today.

She begins to disappear.

MATRON

I'll be back for you, Vladimir Bartinski. I like you.

She vanishes. Ivan and Jayde unfreeze. Tears stream down Jayde's face.

JAYDE

Vlad! I'm so sorry I couldn't stop her!

Vlad stands, and puts an arm around Jayde, looking wearied. Ivan pulls off his mask and ties the hilt of his sword to Hero's forearm.

IVAN

Does it hurt much?

HERO

It's sore...

JAYDE

Hero, I'm sorry.

HERO

Don't worry. I'd rather have this broken arm than you have it.

There is a short silence.

IVAN

I wanna go home. It's been a rough night.

NIGHTLURKER

I couldn't agree more.

HODOLPH (O.S.)

Not so fast!

Everyone turns to see Hodolph standing a little ways away, pointing a gun at them. He looks horrified. The sun is

beginning to rise behind him.

HODOLPH

You... You monsters! You killed my wife! You took her away from me!

Vlad stares at Hodolph in horror.

NIGHTLURKER

I... I didn't want to...

Ivan glares at Hodolph evenly.

IVAN

Your wife sold her soul for power. She loved black magic more than she loved you.

HODOLPH

I won't stand here and let you insult her!!

Hodolph shoots Ivan several times, but Ivan simply stands there. His wounds heal. He turns to Jaqui, bending down to her.

IVAN

Her addiction to power drove her to madness, and eventually claimed her soul, and then her life. What a waste...

Ivan bends down and scoops Jaqui's lifeless body up in his arms. He approaches Hodolph, and gives her to him. Hodolph looks down at her face in despair.

IVAN

The police will find you soon. The least you can do is ask that she gets a proper burial.

Hodolph sinks to his knees and cries. He holds his wife in his arms and rocks back and forth, his shoulders shaking with sobs. Ivan turns back to his teammates.

IVAN

Come on, guys. Let's go home.

The others turn to leave, but Nightlurker doesn't move. He stares at Hodolph, and tears spring to his eyes.

NIGHTLURKER

I killed her...

JAYDE

Vlad, you had no choice. The Black Matron made you.

NIGHTLURKER

Indeed. And I have learned the lesson she meant for me well.

THE BRAWN

What lesson was that?

Nightlurker pulls volume one out of his coat pocket and stares at it.

NIGHTLURKER

I... I was so young and foolish when I first found this book. I had no idea of the cost... My lesson was... that no matter how much I deny it, black magic is evil, and always will be. I try to use it for good, but the portion of my soul I sold to learn magic belongs to The Black Matron. I am merely a puppet in her eyes. I can pretend to be a hero alongside all of you, but I would not be able to stop myself if she decided to turn me against you.

JAYDE

Vladimir...

NIGHTLURKER

I look at Hodolph, and all I can see is the love that I have destroyed... Jayde...

Nightlurker turns to her, his voice tightening as a tear runs down his cheek.

NIGHTLURKER

I could never forgive myself if I found myself in a situation similar to his! I... I love you too much! If I lost you, I-

Jayde wraps her arms around Vlad and hugs him tightly. She rests her head on his chest and smiles faintly.

JAYDE

You won't have to worry. I love you too. Love is a form of White Magic, and White Magic is always stronger than Black Magic! You can learn to overcome The Black Matron's influence, I know it!

Jayde looks up at Vlad.

JAYDE

I have faith in you.

Nightlurker's eyes overflow with tears and he puts his arms around Jayde as well. The other teammates look on with smiles on their faces. Ivan hears sirens on the streets below and looks at Hodolph.

IVAN

It's heartbreaking, seeing him like that.

Hero and The Brawn look at Ivan.

HERO

It was inevitable, but yeah, I have to agree.

IVAN

I know I've never faced anything like that... Heck, Legend told me himself I have no family of my own other than the ninjas...

Ivan bows his head and puts a hand on his chest.

IVAN

But I... I can't help but feel like
I can empathize with him... Weird,
I know.

A memory flashes through his mind, he is holding the hand
of the woman in the hospital bed as he cries.

IVAN (V.O.)
Don't leave me here alone!

Ivan wipes away a single tear and turns around.

IVAN
We all ought to go. You guys have
missed out on sleep, and Hero needs
her arm looked at.

The team walks away.

INT. MEDICAL WING-MORNING

Hero has a cast on her arm, and she and Anya sit in silence
for a moment.

ANYA
Goodness... It's been quite the
night for you, hasn't it?

HERO
I'll say.

There is another silence. Hero remembers what Vlad said to
her.

EXT. ARBEIVILLE-NIGHT

The two of them are standing on the roof after Rubella had
just vanished with Ivan.

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.

INT. MEDICAL WING-MORNING

Hero looks at Anya.

HERO

Anya?

ANYA

What is it, Hero?

HERO

I... I need to talk to Ivan... But
I'm also... scared.

Anya smiles warmly.

ANYA

Hero, I told you. Ivan and I have
no past together. Besides, I think
you two make a cute couple. You
should do whatever you feel is
right.

Hero sits up.

HERO

R-really? Are you sure?

ANYA

Of course!

Hero gets up.

HERO

Thank you! Those are just the words
I needed to hear! I feel lots
better, Anya! You're a great
doctor!

Hero leaves. Anya's smile fades and she rubs the ring on
her necklace with her thumb.

ANYA

No past whatsoever...

END.