



Reynard City Writing Collection

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Cover art by NJ Dreamwarrior

### Intro

This collection is all the entries in our 2019 writing collection. We wanted to open up the competition in order to get a range of stories and expand the Reynard City universe and I'm very happy to say the writers featured rose to the challenge, offering a variety of writing styles that tie into our characters.

Angelica “NirvanasAngel” was chosen as the winner, chosen by our awesome guest judge writer Avery K Tingle (<http://averyktingle.blogspot.com>). We also want to say thank you to writer Lucy “Torathena” Myatt (<http://www.torathena.com>), who inspired our writing prompts (which we have included if you want to write your own stories.)

For the latest news on our comic and to learn more about our characters, go to [www.reynardcity.com](http://www.reynardcity.com)



# WRITING PROMPTS



1. PEN
2. TRANSFORM
3. MIRROR
4. COFFEE BREAK
5. AUDITION
6. MONSTER
7. MIDNIGHT
8. ADVENTURE
9. BELT
10. FRAMED
11. PLAYTIME
12. THRONE
13. TRAPPED
14. BAKING
15. FIST BUMP
16. SUNSET
17. CLOCKWORK
18. MEDITATION
19. TALENT SHOW
20. COSTUME
21. GROUP THERAPY
22. LEADERSHIP
23. SLIME
24. FIGHT NIGHT
25. ROOFTOP
26. POWERS
27. WAR
28. PARODY
29. TEMPTATION
30. DETERMINATION

**ARTWORK BY ELIE RENARD  
DELISLE LAFORTUNE**

*Elie*

## **Chicken Poker by Warren Woodhouse**

==

It's a cold crisp night in the Old Quarter, where neon lights glisten. This part of the city looks very much like 50's Las Vegas, only a little more runned down, feeling sad for its self from the days that have passed. Not many people out tonight except for a few friends of the local Misty Fox Speakeasy Club.

This club is a very old Grade I listed Speakeasy from the prohibition period that was and still is selling illegal alcohol on the sly and poker games. People tend to bring random stuff to these poker games in Reynard City, specifically some people bring glass eyes instead of dices and stuffed animals instead of friends. Frankie brought his prized chicken, Max, to the poker game. Max won Reynard Barn 2088 Farm Yard Animal Of The Year Award. Max often plays poker illegally at gambling dens.

Here, many folks flock to have a few pints of the old ale, in a prohibition period cavern.

It's here that a poker night changed an old man's life. Old Man Herbert. He loves poker and a pint of bread ale - made for filling people up.

Old Man Herbert was drinking as usual and a couple of locals offer a poker game that Herbert doesn't refuse too.

He was on his way to getting some money back in his pocket after an unfortunate layoff at work at the power plant.

Out of nowhere, a patron called Frankie Whiskers brings in a chicken, a real chicken, who for some unknown and bizarre reason, that Frankie thinks that his prized chicken will win at poker yet again!!

Unfortunately and very surprised Herbert, wasn't happy about this, as he's heard about this chicken thinking it was just a joke. Then, out of no where... wham!!! The chicken wins with a royal flush!!

"No doubt it's my bad luck again!" says Herbert, but he finds out that the chicken cheated at poker!

So, a few hours later and a charcoal stove turned off and a meal of chicken ramen was making everyone happy in the speakeasy.

Often unfortunate events can make fortune for the brave folk.



Name: Claudia Springworth  
Age: 24  
Height: 5'7"  
Species: Rabbit

Likes: good people & peaceful scenes.

Dislikes: magical hypnosis techniques that can be used as a strength against her.

Weaknesses: low mana, hi soul mana, sometimes loses focus, crowds (sometimes).

Strengths: Pretty due to her bunny feet, when hypnotized she believes she is part of magical looking her best which helps her control and makes her believe she is a better (and better) person at times when hypnotized to fight enemies but usually prefers using her feet to get over enemies (changed to a less painful weapon after magical influences she escaped from with help. Claudia prefers not to fight but if push comes to shove (usually) she will do her best.

Story: When she was a young one Claudia along with her brother (brother not known if magical woman and later that magical woman good. Megalia saw potential in Claudia and her brother Johnny, however instead of fighting on the good side, Claudia was tricked, found out through an injury with the man being sick. Caught by Megalia she was then hypnotized for a while and had to fight and on. After a long fight Claudia came to her senses and then chose to fight with and on the good side. In order to make sure Megalia didn't let her brother, she hypnotized and now a dangerous enemy but Claudia is hopeful she can get him back. While part of her hypnotized to kill her Claudia now aims that so strongly with and only help it, now to write any wrongdoings she did in the past due to manipulation from Megalia. We want to see the whole story, for a magical world and something like that, something something in her magical world.

**Claudia Springworth: How It Began by Martin Williams**

What.....what day is it....?

(As i looked around, i looked down, suddenly a hand on my right with someone in the shadows came towards me).

Mysterious person in shadow: It's a tuesday, you're in hospital, you're very lucky we found you when we did.

But where...(sitting up a bit, looking uneasy i ask)...where is my brother (another person came out of the shadows)

It's ok sister, i'm here.

But you're

Yes....i'm ok now, better then ever infact....i'm (looks down)...i can't change what happened...when i was controlled...but i want to help those i've wronged....but i can help you me

(Her brothers eyes suddenly change and the room changes colour and everything starts to distort)

Help you...to die (hand goes towards his sisters chest, screen goes black).

Arrgh (gets pulled down by some hands).

Friend: woah hey, calm down, i'll leave your water over here...remembered why we never get to close to ya (laughs).

Uhhh my head.

Friend: take it easy, we got you out of there, it may take a while for you to adjust but you'll be back to your old self soon.

What of...

Friend: your brother...sorry but he's Dead?

Friend: no...he's still in that bunker with some of the lab staff who work for megafox. Megafox (tries to get up)

Friend: Hey...you can't get up....not in your condition

My...my eye...what happened to my eye

Friend:...i'm sorry, i really am, we tried to get to you earlier...but we were ambushed by some of megafox's goons, we'll get him for this Claudia

Claudia: (starts remembering some torture, screen goes white then back to present, claudia grabs head and injured eye)...what happened to me, just what did he do to me..Jakec ollie?.

Jake collie:...i saw one of megafoxs scientist goons torture you, trying to get you to be like them...i think they were hoping for you to join them.

Claudia: Is that right (grabs head again, claudia groans in a bit of pain), i need to get up, get back out there...find my brother

Jake collie: NO, not like this

Claudia:...you're right, this is no time for me to get up and do something stupid.

Jake collie: Good....glad you're seeing things my way, now get some rest.

Claudia: Ouch...good idea....one more thing though...can you escort me to the bathroom...heh, seems i've developed a bit of a limp with this leg

Jake collie: well that doesn't surprise me at all, that's just how reckless you can be at times

Claudia: heh i know...say, could you wait just outside, privacy and all that, seeing that i have this hospital gown as well.

Jake collie: ..oh er...of course, let me know when you want me to get you back to your bed.

Claudia: thanks Jakec ollie, you're a true friend (claudia changes into her old clothes she hid in the bathroom under a tile, with her baseball bat weapon, tears off a bit of an old black sock, gets a rubber band and makes an eye patch)...yep this will do

Jake collie: everyting ok in there claudia, i heard something tear...did you fall over.

Claudia:.....yes clumsy me...i can get up though, glad you told me to rest (claudia opens window).

Jake collie: that's what friends are for, anyway better get you back to your bed...hey claudia...you in there. Seems to be a bit of a breeze in her.....(opens door, looks at window)

Jake collie: Dammit claudia, you'll get yourself killed like that.

Claudia: Sorry jake, but i can't risk endangering you or anyone else...i need to find my brother and megafox and his lab goons are going to pay

(runs into sunset with baseball bat over holster on back and looks determined at screen).

(Character in background sees claudia, camera turns toward face).  
SPRINGWORTH... (grins, red eyes start to glow).

Claudia: I need to get back to my flat, come up with some sort of plan (claudia groans in pain a bit and stops for a few seconds)...but first i really need to rest a bit more.

(Character comes out of the shadows, almost dressed like a ninja and tries to attack claudia, claudia defends with bat, and uses her feet to spring out of the way).

Claudia (pointing bat at thing in shadows): WHO ARE YOU...  
SPRINGWORTH...

Claudia: How....how did you know my surname..  
CLAUDIA

Claudia: Also that..i never give away my..  
(Person in shadow runs off)

Claudia: HEY....WAIT (Claudia almost falls, someone catches her).  
You need to be a bit more careful

Claudia: Heh.....you're not the first person to tell me that today...hey  
you're..YOU'RE

AK GIRL at your service, thank me later...just don't give me caramal,  
AWFUL...awful stuff.

Claudia: er....you ok

Ak girl: yep (face turns serious, pans on ak girls face)...just don't  
like caramel, anyway (carries claudia by arm)

Claudia: thanks...but i can get back (few more goons show up)....(claudia  
looks around, gets bat ready, eye under her armpatch starts to glow a bit  
for some unknown reason)  
...get ready.

(claudia takes out 3 on her right, uses bat to flip over enemy, hits  
enemy in face with her foot, another enemy comes towards claudia, claudia  
springs out of the way, uses her feet to jump to stairs outside flat,  
then springs back and headbutts two goons to the floor, claudia then  
grins and gets a bit too cocky).

ak girl: want to play huh....fine i could use a warm up (grins) STRENGTH  
MODE (ak girl dodges two goons punches, picks them up and throws them in  
skips, grins)...i dont usually recycle...but when i do (looks at screen,  
another goon attacks). Claudia: what are you doing?

Ak girl: nothing, thought i'd joke with whoever's seeing this on that  
security camera.

Claudia: look out (claudia jumps in, uses fist to knockdown enemy next to  
ak girl)

Ak girl: sorry...got a bit carried away, thanks

Claudia: claudia

Ak girl: claudia, cool, say want to hang out with me and the gang, this  
is sort of our thing, fighting crime, being cool, along with megafox who  
i despise.

Claudia:...megafox...you've seen him as well. I have a qualm with him  
too....and the scientist who tortured me...and as he may have something  
to do with my brothers disappearance.

(Another goon jumps out of the shadows, tries to hit claudia, claudia  
sees it turns around and her eye glows and her voice changes a bit),

Claudia: TELL ME....do you enjoy breathing (grins), that wall there  
(looks at wall, puts a hole in wall)....will be you shortly unless i get  
answers... goon: i'm...i'm sorry, please let me go (claudia snaps out of  
it)

Claudia: what...huh, what just happened..(head hurts again).

AK girl: let him go..claudia



Claudia (looks back at goon, drops him, goon tries to run off) ak girl: before you leave...why did you try to attack us....and what do you want with this woman?.

Goon: i...was told not to say anything

(Another shadow comes out of the distance), think you might want to tell her...or you could tell this one (other shadow with bowstaff comes out)..

Goon: ok...ok, claudia. I was after you because i have information on your brother you see he (goon in the shadows, kidnapps goon about to say something) claudia: tell me what.....wait.

(Much bigger goon comes out of shadows)...he can't tell you, he's...somewhere else, allow me to introduce myself i'm

Claudia: no need Zeran claw.

Zeran claw: how's the eye.

Claudia: you...

AK girl: stand back, so you know this woman. She's with us and you mess with her, then you'll have to deal with us (ak girls friends get weapons ready).

...may want to listen to my sis, also this close with my range, i could easily take out your squad up theres weapons and my other friend here has had a pretty bad day too. zeran claw: huh...all of you stand down (orders men back). I will met you again next time, then claudia, you will not be so lucky.

Claudia: when i've recovered...i will get you (clenches fist, claudia almost stumbles).

AK girl: hey again, you need to rest.

Claudia: my flat is near here..i can get there on my own...also this is not your fight..those who help me aren't usually that lucky.

Ak girl: who did you used to fight with.

claudia: my brother but..we ended up getting the wrong kind of people...we were used. (Some time later). Claudia: This is my flat..thanks for your help ak.

AK girl: ak girl, don't mention it and this is rob...well hyper rob and wondervixen Hyper rob: hey wondervixen: hello

Ak girl: also anyone who's an enemy of old megalo sorry megafox is a friend of ours (shakes hand with ak girl). Claudia: thanks but i can take fight on my own.

Ak girl: i find it's better with others (grins) besides i always like giving some of megafoxs goons a good ole can of aks special brand of whoopbutt. If you ever need us just call.

Claudia: sure, thankyou, all of you. By the way...how do i call you.  
Ak girl: well all you need to say is...

Claudia: what the fox says (laughs, ak girl rolls eyes and changes expression).

Ak girl: anything.....just not that, you will know what it is.  
(Sometime later).

Claudia: my flat....good to be back (goes into bathroom washes face, flashback)....look after your brother, you are the oldest now....(flashword, sees her brother walk off looking not himself, claudia puts hand up then faints, screen goes back to claudia, water dripping off claudias nose, hair and eyes).

Claudia: brother.....i'm sorry, i failed you, our mother....however (looks up at mirror determined)....I WON'T FAIL YOU ANYMORE, i'll find you and get our revenge, story ends...to be continued).



*Becky Bat OC by John Paul Guerra, art by Pirpintine*

# Contest winner: Future That Wasn't Meant To Be by Angelica "NirvanasAngel" Honeycutt

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It was just another regular day in the Animal Kingdom. AK Girl, Wondervixen and Hyper Rob were just hanging out in the park going over their daily training. Suddenly the earth shook with a thunderous tremor. The ground split apart and a rocky formation crept out rising through the ground in front of their eyes.

"What the hell is that?" Wondervixen pointed at the giant new structure.

Before anyone could respond, a window opened up in the tower-like structure and the Warp King's head poked out.

"Greetings, my furry friends. A fine day for destroying worlds, is it not?" He mused.

AK Girl sprang into action as she takes to the sky. "What evil deeds are you up to this time, Warpy?"

The Warp King sighs and rubs his fingers against his arm, "Evil deeds? Me? I am just trying to open up new dimensions so that we can get some much-needed tourists into the Animal Kingdom. Look!"

He points up into the sky where a giant, spinning wormhole has opened and all sort of tentacles and nefarious being are peeking out.

"Lookout!" Cries Wondervixen as a purple squid-like arm grabs Hyper Rob. He starts punching, shooting, and cursing at the tentacle but to no avail.

"What the hell", The AK Girl powers up super strength and punches at the giant squid arm as a ray shoots out of the wormhole and hits Wondervixen who gets trapped inside it and gets surrounded by flames.

"Hmm," the Wark King rubs his chin. "Strange greeting customs. Well, as long as we are getting a nice cultural exchange through the dimensional gate, it's all good, eh AK Girl?"

"You fiend!" AK Girl waves a fist at him. "No one hurts my friends....but me!" She powers up super speed. "Close that gate right now!"

The Warp King sighs, "No fun. Very well." He opens up a control panel next to him and works on some levers. He scratches his head after a while and looks at AK Girl. "Well, the machine is still in the experimental phase. I still haven't put in a portal closing feature in it. Haha."

“Let me take a look.” Says AK Girl who is already standing next to the control panel. She raises her powered up fist and KA-BAAAAM!

The panel is left a pile of junk.

“WHAAAA!! Why did you do that?” The Warp King screams as he looks up at the sky where the portal starts fluctuating. Lightning bolts and strange dark winds start to pour out from it. Everyone watches in horror as it fluctuates and covers the whole sky.

And then, it completely vanishes in the blink of an eye.

“That’s it,” exclaims Hyper Rob looking up at the sky as he rubs his body for the bruises that the monstrous squid arm left on him. Wondervixen also seems a little disappointed despite her burns, “That seems anticlimactic.”

“You FOOL!” He cries, pointing at AK Girl. “DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU’VE DONE?!?”

AK Girl shrugs her shoulders as she starts tying up Warp King.

“That machine was controlling dozens of dimensional gates in the multiverse. By destroying it, you have unleashed untold horrors upon many worlds.”

“Well...as long as it isn’t unleashing any horrors upon us...”

Before she could finish there is a blast nearby that sends everyone flying off their feet. As the dust settles, they look up. They find a well-built male human standing upright, with hands on his sides where twin pistols are hanging from his belt. His face is covered by the brim of his hat. He lifts up his face and his eyes are like fire.

“Justin Ceberus. I am here to stop the future that wasn’t meant to be.”

-End Chapter 1-

“Oh hello,” Hyper Rob waves. “I’m Hyper Rob. A pleasure ta...yah!!” He is pushed out at the last moment by Wondervixen as the ground where he was standing on is reduced to a smoldering hole.

“Not very friendly!” Wondervixen narrows her eyes at the stranger as she tends to Hyper Rob who is still shaking from the blast.

The strange human aims for her head as AK Girl turns on super speed and kicks at the gun. Her second kick connects with Justin's head and he's thrown off his feet. He glares at AK Girl.

“You! You must be this Queen Chaos who caused all the destruction on our planet!”

“Well, I do like to cosplay as a Queen sometimes....but Chaos? What are you talking about...”

She powers up her shield at the last moment as Justin is already blazing away at her. His dual guns shoot powerful pulse lasers and impact bullets that explode against AK Girl’s shield.

“That shield won’t protect you against my weapons for long, evil Queen!”

He takes out a long sword that was sheathed on his back and jumps high into the air. He lands right next to AK Girl’s shield and his sword punctures through her shield, causing a blast that throws both of them back.

“What the??” AK Girl dodges left and right as Justin tries to slice her in half. No one had ever managed to break through her defense shield that easily.

“She needs our help. C’mon!” Wondervixen and Hyper Rob lunge at the strange human and start punching and kicking. He parries and dodges their blows while hitting back. At first, it appears that Ceberus is getting tired, but he manages to pistol whip Hyper Rob who passes out from the shock. He also cuts and injures Wondervixen severely with his sword. Warp King manages to slip away during the battle.

The fight goes on between Justin and AK Girl for the whole day. Both of them are severely bruised and bleeding, exhausted from the fight. Neither of them is willing to give up. Finally, AK Girl finds an opening and lands a somersault on him which takes Justin completely by surprise. She manages to knock the lights out of him. AK Girls ties him up and puts his weapons away and helps her friends recover.

-After a While-

When Justin comes back to his senses, AK Girl grills him for answers. He starts cursing at first, but some roughing up by Hyper Rob, much restrained by Wondervixen, causes Ceberus to reveal his story.

Justin’s planet was a peaceful society of humans that lived in a pre-modern, Victorian era before a portal opened up and a host of man-eating, humanoid creatures jumped out. These monstrous creatures ravaged the land and destroyed most cities, forcing humans to live in shelters.

An Oracle appeared in the sky one day and declared that the creatures were sent by Queen Chaos. The Oracle told them that the only way to end the creatures was to go back in time and vanquish the demonic queen. The people gathered to select and train their best warrior, Justin Ceberus, who passed through the gate to kill the queen.

“But I'm not the evil Chaos Queen. What made you think I am this queen and attack me?” AK Girl raises an eyebrow.

“Oh please, do not *lie* to me. I know it's you. I was told your description in great detail.” Ceberus glares at her with contempt.

Meanwhile, Hyper Rob, who is rummaging through the stranger's backpack, pulls out a hand-drawn portrait. “Whoa, look at this Sal.” He pushes the paper to Wondervixen who gasps and shows it to AK Girl.

It is a portrait of AK Girl drawn in great detail. Written on the top of the portrait are two words: “Chaos Queen.”

-End of Chapter 2-

“This isn't right! Someone's trying to set me up. I am not some evil Chaos Queen.” AK Girl is clearly unhappy with her portrayal as a villain.

“Well,” Hyper Rob munches on dry jerky that he pulled out of Justin's backpack, “You are evil to me sometimes.”

“Quiet you!” AK Girl slaps his hand, sending the half-eaten jerky flying away. Wondervixen speaks up, “I've known AK Girl a long time. I know she can get mean sometimes but she is no evil queen. Look at her. Does she look evil to you?”

Justin looks thoughtful. “Well...”. He looks around and then looks at AK Girl. He finally speaks, “If you are not the evil queen, then why did I get your portrait? Why did the prophecy say I would find you here?”

“Those are some good questions”. AK Girl scratches her head before she realizes something and looks around. “Hey now! Where did Warpy go?”

Everyone looks around and notice that the Warp King is gone, along with the giant tower-like structure.

“Do you... do you think he is behind all of this? That machine of his created all those dimensional gates he was talking about” Wondervixen wonders out loud.

“Who? You mean that guy with the hat?” asks Justin.

“Grrr! When I get my hands on him...” AK Girl clenches her fists before looking at Ceberus. “Look. I am not this Chaos Queen. I don’t know who caused the creatures to appear on your planet. But I feel that somehow I was responsible because I destroyed some stupid machine that could have led to this.”

“But I think I can help. We can go to your planet and send those creatures back to sort out this mess. Ok?”

Justin is unsure, “I don’t know if I should trust you. What if you're just trying to get to my planet and cause more chaos?”

AK Girl throws her arms up in exasperation, “Oh for cryin’ out loud!”

Wondervixen picks up Justin’s backpack and weapons, “What if we give you your stuff back? We wouldn’t give it back if we were trying to hurt you, right? Ceberus nods, “Yeah, maybe then I could trust you.”

As Wondervixen tries to hand it to him, AK Girl puts a hand on the stuff, “I don’t know if we should trust him. What if he blasts us with his guns when our backs are turned?”

“You know what?” Hyper Rob scratches his head looking at the two. “You two act a lot like each other. I can see the romance blossoming already.”

“Shut up Rob!” Both AK Girl and Justin cry out in unison.

And so, after a bit of bickering back and forth, it was decided that they would all head to Ceberus’ planet to fight the monsters and end the reign of terror spread by the creatures.

-End of Chapter 3-

The four of them manage to find the portal that brought Justin to the Animal Kingdom not too far from them. It is still flickering and buzzing with strange sounds. Wondervixen and Hyper Rob are a little reserved about going through at first. After Justin takes a leap in, followed by AK Girl, the duo follow them in.

The portal is like a giant whirlpool of colors and odd shapes. It feels like they are falling down a rabbit hole, descending into it, slowly but surely. They see numerous large portals, similar to the one they came through. Ceberus explains that the portals are doors leading to other worlds in the universe. After a while, he points to a big black hole with strange marking and tells them that it is the door to their planet. Justin jumps through it and the others follow.

AK Girl lands on her hands and feet and looks around. The ground is covered in lush yellow grass and there is a small river flowing to her right. The first thing she notices is the sky which is a shade of pink and there are two large stars on the horizon one blue and the other orange. The portal that she fell down from is about fifty feet up. She sniffs the air and there is the scent of flowers and moss in the air. Something else as well, acid perhaps?

As she looks around, Wondervixen and Hyper Rob fall down in a heap close to her.

“Oof! Rob! Get off of me!” Wondervixen pushes Rob away who is still dizzy from the inter-dimensional travel and mumbles something about safety gear.

“Shh, you two.” AK Girl’s ears twitch as she picks up the sound of muffled growls coming not far from them.

“Where are we? Where’s Ceberus?” Wondervixen looks at AK Girl. Before she can respond a strange, misshapen creature jumps out from behind a grove of trees. Its body is covered in scales and an oozing liquid that seems to be coming out from its back. It has long crooked limbs with sharp claws that move in an erratic fashion. It has a big round head, with protruding horn and dark ghastly eyes. It throws its head back as it bears out its jagged, red, pointy fangs and lets out a deafening roar.

“What the hell is that?” AK Girl raises an eyebrow. The creature snaps its head in mid-roar, eyes fixed on AK Girl. Then it charges as more of those creatures start popping out from behind the trees around them.

“Look out!” AK Girl cries and turns on her powers. She pulls her fist back just as the creature leaps on her and then punches hard. Her fist connects with its face and the sound of breaking bones is loud enough for everyone to hear. As the creature goes away flying, the rest of them roar and charge.

“Sal! A little help!” Before she is even finished, Wondervixen jumps into the air and takes on the creatures coming from the right as AK Girl slams into the monsters coming from the left. Hyper Rob pulls out his guns and starts blasting away.

“What are they?? They’re sure not dying!” He shouts as one of the creatures that he blasted gets up from the ground, ignoring the gaping, charred hole his weapon left on its chest.

“Say hello to the Ithaqua, or Wind Walkers. Wendigo is what we call them for short. Watch the teeth, these guys won’t hesitate to make you into a midday snack.” A familiar voice comes from above. The three look up and find Justin sitting on a high branch with his legs hanging down. His guns are out and he’s resting them on his shoulders looking down at the fight carelessly.



“What the hell are you doing up there? Come down and help us!” Hyper Rob shouts as he narrowly avoids a Wendigo and kicks it away.

“Why not ask the Chaos Queen to control them?” Justin asks with sarcasm. “They're her minions.” Ceberus narrows his eyes at AK Girl, who is busy punching and avoiding them.

“Oh, not this again.” AK Girl gets angry and takes it out on a nearby creature by splitting its head in two.

“If she was in control of the creatures, why would they be attacking her?” Wondervixen shouts as she uses one of the creatures like a bat and hits another one with it.

“Good question. I'm, uh... still trying to figure that one out mysaaa...” Justin loses his balance and falls down as AK Girl kicks the tree that he was perched upon. He falls on top of a Wendigo and others pounce on him. He shouts out and starts blasting the Ithaqua away. Between the four of them, it doesn't take long to clear the area.

After the fight is over they check for the portal they came through and find that it's gone. This infuriates AK Girl, who turns on Ceberus to smack some sense into him. He quickly pulls out his guns and aim them at her. Wondervixen and Hyper Rob have to focus all their energies to get the two to back off from each other.

-End of Chapter 4-

Hyper Rob is severely injured in the fight and Wondervixen tends to his wounds. AK Girl refuses to help Ceberus with the monster problems any further. Hyper Rob agrees with her, for the first time in his life. Wondervixen is more thoughtful, however.

“How do we go back home? Justin?”

At first, he doesn't respond but finally turns towards her. “The Oracle. She knows how to create those portals. She can make one for you to go back home. That's how I got to your planet as well.”

“Ok, good. How do we get to her?” Asks Wondervixen.

Justin looks to their left. “Her sanctuary is near the capital city on an island. It isn't far from here. I could lead the way. We can get to the shore and take a boat from there. It will take us two days to get there.”

AK Girl shakes her head, “We don't have two days. How do we even know that he is not leading us to another trap or something?”

Hyper Rob rubs his chin, “This Oracle of yours. She's the one who told you about the Chaos Queen and gave you that drawing of hers, right?”

Cerberus nods his head, face wary.

“Is there any other way of making a portal J.C.?” Hyper Rob asks.

“None that I know of”, Justin replies. Then, after a pause, he raises an eyebrow. “Did you just call me J.C.?”

Wondervixen ignores the two and looks at AK Girl.

“Well, it looks like we don't have any other options. C'mon Vibes. Don't you want to know why that Oracle declared you the Chaos Queen here?” She asks AK Girl, who has her arms crossed against her chest. At first Vibes protests and refuses to be led by Justin after he betrayed them, but finally relents as there are no other options. She demands that he hand over his weapons. At first, Justin refuses but after a while Wondervixen convinces him to hand them over to her for the journey.

“I think it would be quicker if we flew there,” Wondervixen notes. Hyper Rob shakes his head. “No can do. One of them creatures hit me real bad. I can't fly for a while.”

Wondervixen checks his wounds and lifts him off the ground. “I can carry you G. Don't worry.”

“I hate to ruin the party here”, Justin says, “but...I can't fly.” Cerberus looks at AK Girl who is already up in the air. “I guess we *are* traveling together Chaos Queen. Must be your lucky day!”

AK Girl's eyes are light up like fire.

“How about we just leave you here until more of your freaky friends come back, hmm?” She muses.

Wondervixen shakes her head, “We need him to show us the way, Vibes.” AK Girl rolls her eyes and then descends to pick Justin up, whose grin probably couldn't get any wider.

“So...Vibes is it? I'm getting a good *vibe* about this.”

“One more word out of you and I am dropping you as soon as we reach that VERY high peak over there.”

She glares at Justin. “One more word..”

Cerberus decides it would be best not to push his luck.

They take in the sights as the four of them fly over the countryside. Much of it appears to have been neglected and turned into overgrown forests and wildlife; here and there Wendigos trudge about. Ceberus explains how they were once a happy and prosperous kingdom, governed by a wise ruling dynasty. One day a giant portal opened up in the sky and the strange man-eating creatures started pouring out. This happened more than a century ago.

At first, the kingdom tried to fight back and managed to push the creatures away into the wilderness. The kingdom was attacked occasionally, but things were relatively peaceful. In the last ten years, however, more and more of these creatures started to appear. They destroyed full towns and villages that didn't have enough defenses against them. Many fell to the teeth and claws of the Ithaqua. The only place that could survive was the capital city, which had the protection of nearly impenetrable city walls.

Shortly after this massive destruction, the Oracle appeared. She was a benign healer who helped the people with her magical abilities. They built her a small tower on an island where she could conduct her magic in peace. She told the people that Chaos Queen was responsible for the Ithaqua and helped the people build special defenses against them. She also crafted Justin's weapons and sent him to eliminate the Chaos Queen or prevent her from starting the scourge of the Wendigo.

Just as his story finishes, they arrive at a large settlement that looks like a human city. They easily fly over the city walls and see the markets and streets with people going around carrying out daily chores and assignments.

"What's that?" Hyper Rob points at a larger building in the center.

"That's the king's keep where the royal family lives. They are the ones who decided to push back against the Wendigos and asked the Oracle to help us with the problem. They held a tournament to pick the best warrior from our land who would go through the portal and bring about lasting peace for our people." Justin explains as they fly past the settlement and reach a big lake.

"And let me guess. You were that warrior?" Asks Wondervixen.

"Precisely." Ceberus nods. He points to another tower-like building in the distance, built inside a small island deep within the lake. "Over there. The Oracle's tower, on that island."

AK Girl and Wondervixen land in front of the tower.

"How big was this tournament?" Hyper Rob asks.

“More than ten thousand warriors took part in it.” Says Justin solemnly as he pushes open the tower’s doors and leads the group inside. Their entrance is immediately announced with a ringing of noisy bells and names echoing through the corridors as they walk through the hallway.

-Justin Ceberus-

-Veronica Hannah McAllister- -

Sally Joanna Sabrina- -Guillermo

Roberto del Zorro-

The names echo over and over as they begin to fade. Justin looks at the group apologetically.

“I should have mentioned. The Oracle is quite wise but she is rather..err..”

“Crazy?” AK Girl offers.

“...eccentric,” Ceberus replies as he pushes through another set of double doors. The room is mostly empty except for a throne-like a chair on a high platform in front of them. The back of the chair is facing them.

“Esteemed Oracle?”. Justin asks.

“Justin? Is that you? Did you get rid of the Evil Chaos Queen?” A voice boom from the other side of the chair.

AK Girl looks towards her friends. That voice. It sounds familiar.

“I brought her here. It seems like she isn’t the Chaos Queen.” Ceberus replies.

“WHAT?!?” The chair turns and faces the group. Sitting on top is the oracle.

The Queen of Arts.

-End of Chapter 6-

“Becky Blaire Bat?!?”

AK Girl raises her fists. The others look shocked. Justin is confused.

“What the hell are you doing here?”

The Queen of Arts throws her arms up in defense.

“Oh, I can explain. Haha. It is all just a big misunderstanding.”

AK Girl takes a step towards her. “You sent this guy here to get rid of me? Is that correct?”

“Oh who? Him? No! I did NOT send him after you. I sent him to kill whoever caused all those monsters to appear here. Honest.” Queen of Arts starts to back away.

“Is that right? G! Where’s that portrait?”

Hyper Rob reveals the portrait he recovered from Ceberus earlier. “Here you go.” He throws it at the Queen of Arts face who grabs it and the blood drains out of her face.

“You little...” AK Girl is furious. She throws a punch at the Queen of Arts who barely manages to dodge and her paintbrush goes flying out of her hand. She runs around the room with AK Girl chasing after her until Justin grabs AK Girl. “Hey, Queen Chao...I mean Vibes! Wait. What’s going on? Don’t hurt the Oracle!”

“She’s no oracle J.C.” Hyper Rob glares at the Queen of Arts. “She’s a trouble maker. The real Queen of Chaos if you asked me.”

“Guys! I didn’t do it. I didn’t draw that portrait. I’ve been stuck here for a long time and didn’t know what was going on.” The Queen squeaks as she hides behind her throne cowering. Wondervixen picks up the portrait. “Did you draw this Blaire?” She asks.

The Queen looks at the portrait and clears her throat. “I used my magic brush to draw the portrait of whoever caused those monsters to appear here. But I didn’t look at the portrait. I didn’t know AK Girl opened the portal and unleashed hell here. Honest.”

“But I didn’t open any portals.” AK Girl grits her teeth. Wondervixen speaks up, “Do you remember that machine from the Warp King, Vibes? Maybe that’s what has caused all these monsters to appear here.”

“What machine?” The Queen of Arts asks. Wondervixen explains what happened back at the Animal Kingdom to her and she nods. “See. The problem started because AK Girl broke that machine and it must have opened up the portal of monsters. I didn’t know she did it. I just used magic paint to help these folk identify the culprit and opened up a magic portal that took Justin exactly where it all started. That is what must have happened.”

AK Girl’s shoulders slumped when she realized that she was responsible for the problem, even if indirectly.

“Is there a way to solve this?” She asks resignedly.

The Queen of Arts perks up at this. “Oh, I can help. Now that I know what caused the portal to open, I can fix it with my magic paint. You guys have a link to that machine, you see? I can use your energies to draw it on one of the walls and shut the control from here.”

Everyone looks at her and Ceberus asks in a shaky voice,

“That will stop the monsters?”

The Queen of Arts nods. “If I repair the machine and shut the portal, it will stop the monsters from coming to this world. No problems.”

“Really? You would help us?” AK Girl asks a bit skeptically, “Just like that? Where's the catch?” “Yep. Just like that.” The Queen of Arts smiles from ear to ear. “We *are* friends right?”

-End of Chapter 7-

At first, they're a bit reluctant to trust the Queen of Arts. She is known for causing chaos and all sorts of problems for them. However, as they don't have many options left they decide to go with her plan. She tells them that she can also open up a portal for them by drawing it on one of her walls so that everyone can go back to the Animal Kingdom after the monsters are stopped.

“Justin. Are you ok with this plan?” Wondervixen asks.

“Well. We trust the Oracle. She has helped us before and I'm fine with that plan as long as the monsters stop coming.” He nods.

“Wonderful!” The Queen of Arts claps her hands and grabs her brush to begin drawing a portal on the wall. As she adds strokes to it and the image appears to form on the wall, there is a loud earth-shattering tremor. Monstrous roars fill the room and her brush falls from her hand.

“What is that?” The Queen of Arts asks visibly shaken.

“The monsters. They're here!” AK Girl looks at the party. Wondervixen and Hyper Rob are not in any shape for an all-out fight. Ceberus looks ready to kick some butt. The Queen is shaking with fear.

“But, that's impossible. We are on an *island*. How did they get here?” The Queen of Arts is trembling already.

“Sal, G. You guys stay here and defend her. Blair! You need to finish that drawing and shut the machine. Quickly.” AK Girl shouts out commands and then looks at Justin before she hands him his guns back. He nods. “Let's go and give them hell...Vibes.”

They nod, a slight smile lifting Vibe's face, and proceed to head out of the tower. Outside, they find hundreds of Wendigos rising from the water on all sides. Both of them immediately spring into action. Justin charges right into the fray with a battle cry and starts blasting. Meanwhile, AK Girl powers up super speed and super strength and sends the Wendigos flying in all directions.

It's a pretty messy affair.

-End of Chapter 8-

It takes quite an effort but with great teamwork, the two of them are able to hold the creatures and keep them from entering the tower. A few monsters do manage to slip in but Wondervixen and Hyper Rob make easy work of them. The Queen of Arts works quickly to draw the scene with the strange rock formation, Warp King, AK Girl and the rest of them. She draws the machine just as the monsters breach through the windows and doors and dozens of them pour in. AK Girl tries to hold them back and shouts, "HURRY!"

The Queen of Arts makes a few final strokes and the creatures scream as they start turning to dust and smoke. In a few moments, they all disintegrate and turn to dust.

"We did it!" Justin is ecstatic. The rest of them breathe a sigh of relief.

AK Girl looks at the Queen of Arts. "Are the monsters all gone?"

The Queen nods. "I shut the portal energy that was keeping them alive. They are all dead, disintegrated." She picks up her brush and starts drawing on another wall, "I'm creating a portal so that we can go away from this accursed place...err no offense to you, Ceberus."

"None taken," Justin says, just glad that all the Wendigo are gone. He grew up living in fear of them as a child, and now, for the first time in his life, there would be no more monsters on his planet. "It is a new dawn for my people. I should report back to the King. He will want to know what happened." He turns to leave.

"Are you planning to swim back?" Hyper Rob asks with a grin and Justin stops.

"Usually we take a boat to come here. Going back will be a problem."

"Well, swimming is good exercise." AK Girl offers some free advice. Wondervixen shakes her head. AK Girl sighs. "I can take you back, I guess. You did help out just a bit in the fight. Thanks!"

"That would be great." Justin nods. "And I should be the one to thank you guys for all your help."

“Don’t be late or I am leaving without you.” The Queen of Arts winks as AK Girl picks up Justin and they fly away.

The flight back to the city is much quicker as Cerberus and AK Girl are less hostile to each other. Justin is curious about the culture in the Animal Kingdom and asks a lot of questions. AK Girl does her best to tell him all the details. As they land in front of the King’s Keep, some guards surround them. They point their spears towards AK Girl thinking she is some sort of monster, but quickly lower their spears when they see Justin.

“Master Justin? What is this? The Queen of.. of..” A guard asks.

“Honestly, if one more guy calls me Chaos Queen I am going to break some heads!” AK Girl crosses her arms.

“It is alright. Lower your arms, soldiers. She’s a friend.” Cerberus beckons her to follow him into the court. The guards bow their heads as the two of them make their way into the court. AK Girl is visibly impressed by the discipline and deference shown by the guards.

“It appears you’re quite the popular guy here, Justin. The perks of being the best warrior in the kingdom, huh?”

“I guess so.” He laughs.

“What is this place called anyway?” She asks as they enter a grand hall that looks like it must be the royal court. All the people present in the court turn to them, heads bowed. The large man sitting on the throne, who is wearing a crown and appears to be the king, gets up on his feet.

“This place? You mean the city? It is the city of Ceberus.”

AK Girl raises an eyebrow. “The city of Ceberus?”

“Yes. Named after the royal dynasty.” Justin says, and then signals her to shush as the King approaches them.

“Justin.” He says in a voice filled with emotion and love.

Justin takes a knee and lowers his head, “Father.”

The rest of it is a blur.

-End of Chapter 9-



## Epilogue

“Well, it's open, ladies and gents.” The Queen of Arts declares gleefully. Her portal appears to be operational. Hyper Rob sighs in relief, “About time..thank goodness.”

For the past several hours AK Girl and Wondervixen had been going over and over about everything that happened at the court. As it turns out, Justin was the prince of his kingdom and AK Girl had been knighted by the King as a Lady of Ceberus, whatever that meant. All of them had also been given honorary citizenship in the world and could visit whenever they wanted if they could.

Justin couldn't help but be drawn to Vibes. Before she left the royal city, Ceberus declared how he never fought with anyone braver than Vibes, and considered her not only his equal, but his friend. After a short but rememberably sweet kiss, Justin gave AK Girl some kind of a trinket that was supposed to let them communicate whenever they wanted.

Hyper Rob shook his head at that.

“Ya' know Vibes, long-distance romantic relationships never work out.” He gets a punch to the shoulder. Wondervixen laughs at the two.

Suddenly, there is a strong vibration coming from the central hall. They all run in and find the Queen of Arts has opened a portal to the Animal Kingdom. “It's ready!” She beams happily.

“Well. Let's get going folks. I've had enough of this place.” Hyper Rob jumps into the portal without delay. Wondervixen follows him and they both disappear. As the Queen of Arts walks towards the portal, AK Girl blocks her path before looking straight at the Queen.

“Not so fast Blaire. What were you doing in this world anyway?”

“I umm.. I was taking a vacation.” The Queen of Arts begins to fidget.

“You are not a very good liar, I gotta say.” AK Girl declares, narrowing her eyes. “Earlier, you said you were stuck here for a long time. You couldn't open the portal to the Animal Kingdom for some reason? You needed us here to be able to go back to the Animal Kingdom? See where I'm going with this?” The Queen's eyes start to grow large and seeking.

“I uh..” The Queen of Arts looks back and forth between AK Girl and the portal, getting nervous. She quickly grabs her brush and palette and jumps into the portal before AK Girl could react. AK Girl curses and jumps in right behind her.

**End**



### **Confluence Call by Kalas Eruthain**

“Uh-huh.”

A pair of well-worn hands, permanent marker etched into the crannies of the forefinger and thumb curve of the right, scribble away at a small notebook, dimly illuminated from a halogen lamp hanging far above them. The right lifts to pull through a bushy beard, one that belongs to a man with an equally bushy mullet. Tired, blue eyes, and a crease over his eyebrows that said more than he ever could.

“I swear, it’s true. I saw this one actually go *down*. I’m driving past your place, and it’s just, THERE. This pile of... of garbage.” The skinnier man across from the bearded wonder, a wafe of an individual only in jeans and an afternoon grease-catcher, gesticulates madly with his hands at the one with the notepad. “It was stark brown! Like the septic company just dumped it at the office!”

“What’d it smell like? I have a few civil disagreements with people. I’ve had bags of flaming tookus on my doorstep before.” The arms of the man kept scribbling things down, just out of readable view of the other man. He looked more professional, a jacket with a solid polo under it, and a pair of khakis. Browns, to match the hair.

“...Smelled? Like, an, uh... Like a *bakery*.”

The scribbling immediately stops. The blue eyes of the man raise up to stare at the other, pad in hand.

“...A bakery.”

“Yeah! Like, like burned sugar.”

“...What, like confectioners syrup, or-”

“Nah! Nah, somethin’ else, but it didn’t smell like no septic issue.”

A bag of discarded napkins from a convenience-store-slash-donut-shop on the corner rolls by the two, a wind picking up. The man in the smock shivers visibly, and starts to head inside the building. “It’s gettin’ late out here, man. You usin’ the office tonight, or can I wrap it up?”

“Usin’ the office, Kyle. Told you. Civil disagreements aren’t usually good for staying in the apartment. S’probably even bugged or somethin’ by now.” He’s scratching off some things he’s written on the pad, eyes turning to the alley behind his several-storie office workplace. His gaze hangs on the alleyway, pen to paper.

“...Quartz, you gonna be okay?”

The notebook gets slid to the front cover, where the pen is stashed. The reflective surface of the writing utensil reflects the man’s driver’s license. Malcolm Quartz. “It’ll work out.” He waves a hand at Kyle, whom takes a moment to toss Quartz the keys to the building.

“Lock up when you get in here! I don’t want nobody stealin’ my DVDs!”

“Nobody’s gonna steal your DVD’s, Kyle.”

“Because you’re Lockin’. Up. Mister.” With a point, the man unhooks a two-pedal bike from a nearby step railing, and leisurely rides down the sidewalk, into the street.

Malcolm, however, has had his eyes on the lot, the entire time. He’s started to smell what Kyle had mentioned. How? Didn’t this happen a few days ago? He pockets the notebook, sliding it into his jacket, and pressing down the alley. The groan of old fire escapes and air conditioner units hum in the firmament of the rooftops above, lights from windows crossing the man as he approaches what can only be described as a “mass” of slowly settling purple... stuff. A slight snap occurs in the man’s vision, the mass disappearing, then reappearing in a fraction of a second. The hum of the machinery above grows louder, slowly pitching downward in tone. The mass, and the world around Quartz, flashes in unison with each other. Dirty buildings give way to sleeker looks, more saturated colors, and stronger sounds of machinery. Seemingly, the sights and vibrations are making the man lower his head, his hair obscuring his face in the night.

The metal is there in an instant. Five tall creatures of silicon and steel, suddenly surrounding the freelance technician. As the red lights of the beings light up and activate,

unnatural electricity zooms across their ears, their modelled muzzles, the paintings of teeth across bolted seams. One seems to raise some sort of postmodern chemical thrower, three others raising futuristic-seeming firearms. Quartz had seen enough science fiction in his day to at least understand what a future-gun looked like. During the grand powering up display, however, another light dimly flashes from under the technician's hair. A line of yellow, quickly seething across his face. His shadow's outline doesn't change, but his eyes seem further set apart than before.

“You boys aren't the reason that my internet's been down for the past couple days, has it? Or how none of my calls have been working. Or how people besides the one that sees me every day don't seem to catch on to me bein' here.”

**“You are a fugitive, Quartz.”**

One of the robots comically shudders in place, before its head spins about once. In the spin, it takes on the red, almost muscular features of a smiling vulpine.

**“A fugitive! The Mercury Mercenary, wanted for resisting and evading arrest! You are on the bad side of cyberlaw and I don't allow escapees! Nobody, escapes from Megafox! Nobody! Nobody! Nobody. No-”**

The exultations of the robotic creature suddenly halt repeating, as if communication cut halfway through. The pale blue eyes of Quartz stared up at the 'speaking' robot that had been transmitting Megafox's voice. Its head was frozen in fear, jaw hanging open. The robotic soldiers around Quartz began to shudder, and slowly raise their guns. Without apparent contact to Megafox, they kick back to their last directive. The silhouette of Quartz slowly stands, the guns following where his head raises. His hair falls further, a pair of grey horns appearing as his hair settles, a lizard-like nose in place of the bearded man's face, a quaffe of fur flowing under his chin among the scars and slices of previous injuries. As soon as the robot's hands begin to clench down on the guns, everything seems to rust to a halt.

Malcolm's eyes stare at the wall above where the mass of sugar was. His pupils shrink, jittering in place. His hands slowly raise up from his sides, now sporting grand grey-nailed claws. Words turn slowly in his head, nebulous beats and phrases. The guns pointing at Malcolm, one by one, part by connection, fall away in the hands of the metal men. As if the screws had been vaporized, or simply undone, the immaculately far-future firearms fall to ruin. Parts litter the ground about the shoes of the man. His next motion is deceptively quick, the robot with the crushed head seeming to slide into his swing, where the lizard-man hooks an arm about the robot's shoulder, and drags him in a sweeping circle, a continuous lariat that smashes the

metallic oppressors with one of their own. A grand sweep, hitting the others with the one. The circle of robots tumble with a cacophonous *thud*.

He lifts the held robot into the air, his claw in its chest closing into the steel, which bends into his fingers like a bolt of well-spun cloth. The machine's arms fall off, wires causing them to hang limply for a moment before clattering to the floor. He allows the body of the machine to topple out of his grip behind him, two of the knocked-over steelheads leaping back to their feet. Quartz brings his hands together, cracking his knuckles, eyes still focused on seemingly anything but the actual robots he's bashing. One machine has the chemical thrower, the other rushing with its fists pumping punches not unlike a line of engine pistons. Quartz turns to the flurry of blows, throwing up his arms across his chest. The knuckles of the robot land against his forearms, seeming to break and shatter as they land against his coat sleeves. Scrap and copper fly from the steel monster, until nothing is left of their fists save for the wire-haggard wrist holes. The robot leans back, wrists in front of its vision, two bright question marks blinking in its eyes, before Quartz' head smashes forward, caving in the muzzle of the automaton with a resonant **thunk**. It shudders, beeping in confusion, and crumpling to the floor. The one *behind* Malcolm, however, has been aiming and warming up the chemical thrower. Around the edge of it, however, a long and thunderous motion of a tail whips from Quartz' backside, slapping the end of the thrower with its swinging tip. The thrower's nozzle bends in a 180 right back into the face of the robot, which sprays itself with an intense salvo of purple, viscous material. The robot shudders under its own attack, sparking and fizzling under the weight of the sugary substance, allowing Quartz to sweep a leg against its underside. His kick connects, seamlessly removing leg from mechanical knee, taking the ground out from under the topheavy steel beast, causing it to smash to the floor under its own goop.

Silence and soft grumbling from the caramel material windlessly murmurs in the alleyway. Malcolm's eyes unfocus, almost spinning in his skull. He lurches forward. A sharp exhale, followed by slow breathing, brings Malcolm out of focus. His hands open, bolts and three-double-M screws toppling out of his hands like a split tin of sunflower seeds. He flexes his hands. His cellular phone slides up out of his pocket on its own accord, floating in the air beside his face. He flicks a claw up into the air, flipping it open with a snap. "Kyle."

Muffled on the other end is the voice of the man from the sidewalk. "It's been literally five minutes, my man! Did you get cold feet? What, miss your apartment that bad? Some hardened vet you're turning out to be, don't you think?"

"Megafox just died."

"...Mmmm-Excuse me?"

“Megafox. Just died. The thing you smelt in the alley, it was a squad. They had something going on, using... weird, stuff. To get into the building’s circuits, or, something. Maybe they just... shot at something else, and it missed. Somethin’s up, Kyle. The guy we run for our lives from- *across dimensions that weren’t remotely sanctioned by Big Daddy Time Face, might I remind you-* Just vanished in a moment. During a speech. Megafox never passed up a speech before.”

“Mal! Stow your ramblin’ rumpus, buddy. If... If Megafox ain’t a problem anymore, then, what’s the issue?”

“The world ain’t right. It’s moving around, messing up right here. In the alley. In the alley we used to *get here*. One of those weak spots in the dimensional fabric.”

“Maaaaal. You’re usin’ words I don’t like again. You aren’t thinking about goin’ back to Reynard, are you? It... It sucks out here, but this place has done us a good turn!”

His claw is carefully gripping the phone. It’s almost trembling.

“...I want to go home, Kyle. Megafox is dead. Parts of space are obviously broken, and... Yeah. Maybe I want to go back to Reynard.” There’s silence on the other end of the line. “You don’t have to come with me. I can set off the resonant frequency with the bots Megs left here. You can stay.”

“...And leave your stupid freelancin’ butt without a lawyer? Sure. Yeah, fine. Kyle Langley ain’t leavin’ a friend high and dry. I’ll... I’ll be down in the morning. Getcher stuff.”

“There’s enough here for maybe a suitcase and two bags.”

“...Two suitcases, one bag?”

“I am *not*, breaking my horn for you again. Just got this one regrown, and it is *not* easy to find someone in a normal spacechunk that’ll one, not scream at the sight of a dragon-man, and two-”

“**Alright!!** Jeheheezus, Quartz.”

“...Two suitcases. One bag.”

“You’re a peach!... You’re not, thinking about being Mercuriel again, are you? That whole, Mercury Mercenary thing.”

“...Don't know.”

There is a slow, almost agonizing silence. If sound could move, this cold nothingness would be at a standstill. The line clicks off from Langley's end.

Malcolm Quartz, the man that used Megafox's own machines to spirit him and his best friend away from a robotic uprising across time and space, stares down a shifting corridor of confusing masses. Women, men, animals, robots, unknowable futures and untenable pasts. He closes his flip phone with a gentle turn of his thumb. The golden glow passes across his hand, turning it back into the white knuckle of a humble computer repairman, facing the impossible. The view of the alley pans backward to show the office building, among the business' being Crystal Clear Computer Consulting on the third floor. Directly under this, on the second, is Private Langley's Private Practice. Malcolm, a small shadow in the alley from this view, slowly raises a hand, and closes his fist. The metal signs of both businesses crumple, and flatten against the building, shooting sparks and debris. They hang, sizzling, but unreadable. The smell of neon covered up the sickly sweet rot of that pile of, whatever. Where did he remember that smell from? He lowers his arm, giving a gentle, but heavy sigh.

“...Just want to go home.”



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### **Dead World by Ilyas Khan**

On a bright, sunny city in Reynard City. The 3 fox heroes had a mission to beat and arrest a strange Doctor named 'Dr. Tiny' his story is to set the world into a different timeline where there no heroes in the city. As the heroes head to the factory, Dr. Tiny only had 2 sidekicks which Sal think it is too strange. Guillermo suggest to attack straight away before the Doctor do anything else, AK Girl agrees and all 3 jump in the factory. Unfortunately, Dr. Tiny laughed and said 'you fools'. AK Girl looked down and look back up at the Doctor, she quickly figured out that they were standing on a teleportor. As the Doctor hit the switch, the heroes teleported into another world.

AK Girl and Sal looked around and they figured that their powers have disappeared but their transformation is still active. The 3 heroes walked around in the strange world known as 'Shinda Sekai' Dead World. Guillermo releases that he heard gun fire across the block and found another fox character. As the new character finished attacking the unknown suspects, he started approaching to the heroes and said 'How did you get here?!' Sal replied 'We were teleported by Dr. Tiny, what about you?' AK Girl look directly at him and started releasing who he is but she never seen him in her life. As AK Girl was about to ask a question, all 4 characters looked back and heard a strange sounds and incredible amount of zombies.

The new character quickly said his name and replied 'I'm Gideon if you want to help me, I can help you get home!' They quickly run to the safe zone and Guillermo said 'How do we get out of here?!' Gideon replied 'We need to find a teleporter and set things right.' Sal looked outside the safe house and quoted 'Set things right? How long have you been here?' As Gideon was about to ask the question, AK Girl quickly answered 'Have I met you in my dreams? It's like we met before in this WWE Story.' Gideon was getting confused and Sal seem to get worried about her best friend.



Gideon questioned and answered 'Is this a Rob Turner question? I have been here since you got here, Dr. Tiny teleported me as well. If you want to get out of here, we need a find some kind of device known as the Power Rod. That Rod is located in the middle of the city full of the undead.' Sal replied 'We will do it! But this place? Is this?' Gideon answered 'Reynard City? Yes, it is.'

The 4 fox characters took a journey to the middle of the city where they won't be spotted on sight. Guillermo looked around on finding a way to get into the Quack Towers, he questioned the building 'Quack Towers?' Gideon replied 'Doctor Quack, he worked with Dr. Tiny. After the accident they both worked alone. Tiny decided to take his subjects too far then wanted a world where there is no heroes, good guys, just chaos.' AK Girl answered 'Doctor Quack, he's dead.' Gideon looked at AK Girl and said 'It was Dr. Tiny's plan. Do me favour, if you guys teleport back to the normal world. Do not arrest Tiny, just.... just. Kill him!' The 3 heroes was shocked and Sal replied 'But, we don't kill... We can't!'

Guillermo looked straight to the building and asked the heroes 'Guys, we need to go! We can decided about Tiny after we get back!' Gideon and AK Girl took the underground to get inside the generator of the building to shut down the power. Sal and Guillermo took the zipline to the 30th floor of the building to find the Power Rod. As Gideon found the generator, AK Girl looked up at Gideon and said 'Come with us, we don't mind having a forth member in our group.' Gideon grined and replied 'Whatever happens do not stay here, your place is a better world.' Gideon started to find the nearest door to the higher ground, AK Girl looked down and started to have a tear on her eye. She quickly wiped the tear away and followed Gideon.

Guillermo and Sal found the Power Rod, Guillermo looked at Sal and said 'That was easy!' Sal laughed and looked at the lift being activated. AK Girl and Gideon came out of the lift and started activating the teleporter. The hordes of zombies run through the building and Gideon quickly get the 3 heroes to the middle of the teleporter. Gideon started the machine and closed the door, AK Girl quickly looked back and shouted 'Open the door!' After shouting she had another tear and started crying like she cried before. Guillermo tried to open the door, but Gideon quickly smiled and pressed the button. The 3 heroes saw a peak of Gideon getting attacked and got teleported back to the normal world.

As Dr. Tiny got back from his choirs, he was shocked about the event. Guillermo releases a furious punch and picked up Dr. Tiny on his shoulder. AK Girl took little steps and looked back at the teleporter, soon after Sal questioned 'Do you know he was about to do that?' She hugged her as she shed a tear. Later on tonight, Dr. Tiny got arrested and AK Girl questioned both Sal and Guillermo 'Can we make a time machine?' The both foxes got confused and they have never giving an answer.

# REYNARD CITY CHRONICLES

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