

Oh Ms. Believer

GlitchtheSystem

Snow fell from the sky outside; it was another cold, wintery day. The room was silent, not a sound could be heard. Glitch covered his face with his hands as he started to rock. Panic was rising in his chest, as it had been hours and Cole had yet to wake up. It had been three months since his white haired friend was attacked, and he had slowly been declining. He took a breath and looked up toward Cole. His breathing was slow and heavy, his heart rate dropping. He knew any minute now, he would shut his eyes and never wake up. There was nothing he could do to save him. No one could cure the disease, no matter how hard they tried. It was too late.

Tears slowly dripped down his face as he stood up next to the bed. Seeing Cole this way scared him. He didn't know how to react. He wiped his face off and inched his hand to the bed. Cole's hands were freezing, it was like he was a corpse. He gently tried to take his hand away, but suddenly felt a light squeeze.

"Cole?" He looked at him both in shock and confusion.

"Hey bud," Cole slightly smiled at him, trying to cheer him up.

Glitch was speechless, he couldn't keep down the pain this sight brought him anymore. He looked at Cole and broke down, tears streaming down his face again.

"Hey- Glitch, I'll be okay. I promise, we can fix this."

"Don't lie to me, I know that we can't fix this" Glitch mumbled under his breath as he looked down at the floor, clenching his fists.

Cole stopped and stared blankly at Glitch. He took a breath as he started to speak, trying to fight against the pain. "I know this is a lot to take in, and I'm

sorry this had to happen so soon. I'm sorry I couldn't fix this, being with you has been amazing, an adventure of a life-time. So thank you Glitch."

"I don't...I don't want you to go yet, Cole- Please-"

"You know that is impossible dude, I'm sorry."

He stopped again, not moving as he began to shake. "Will things still remain the same? I don't think I want things to change yet-"

"Yes, yes they will. Just- without me, you can do this Glitch. You are brave. You really are a true hero, Glitch." He moved his hand up to his chest as he started to have a massive coughing fit.

"Promise?"

"I promise." Cole smiled at him as he lowered his arm.

Glitch stopped again and thought to himself how he would get past this. Tears rolled down his face as he ran up and hugged Cole quickly, but lightly. "Don't go, Cole, please don't go."

Surprise was written all over Cole's face as he felt guilt course through his body. He didn't know how to explain to Glitch that he was dying. His time was running out, and he didn't know how much of it he had left. He lifted his arm weakly and patted him on the back. "It'll be okay Glitch, I promise," he smiled as he lowered his arms.

"Please Cole, I swear I can fix this-"

"Glitch... there is nothing you can do. You've done enough for me, and I thank you."

"*Please* let me try?"

He shook his head, "I'm sorry Glitch."

"Does this mean it is the end forever?"

"For me...yes, but you will still have memories of me right? Everything will be okay." Cole started shivering, clenching his teeth in pain as he tried to hold back tears.

"Thank you for everything Cole."

He patted Glitch back one more time and smiled, "No, I should be thanking you Glitch. You've done so much for me, so thank you. But... there is one more thing I need to give you."

"What is that?" Glitch wiped his face off as he let go of Cole.

"I love you, you know that right?"

"You said it," he smiled at him, "yes- I love you as well."

Cole smiled one last time at Glitch as he felt his eyes get heavy again. His facial expression changed from smiling to suddenly upset. He was surrounded in blood from his power malfunctioning as he went silent.

"Cole?" Glitch asked, panic overtaking him.

Cole didn't respond. The heart monitor had dropped to a straight flat line. The beeping alarm rang through Glitch's ears as he stood there frozen in place. He knew what had happened, Cole was gone. Tears started to roll down his face again as he started trembling. He clenched his fist in pain, wishing he could fix this. He wished this was all a bad dream, one where he would wake up any minute as Cole smiled at him.

Glitch just took a heavy breath, clenching his fists tighter as he looked down. He tried to calm himself down, trying not to cry this time, but his mind was fixated on the fact his best friend was gone. Gone for good. Never coming back.

Where did it all go wrong? Glitch repeated to himself.

If only he had been there for him when Vortex attacked him. If only he could have found a cure in time. But he couldn't, he couldn't be a hero to the person he cared about most. He couldn't do it.

Doctors and nurses passed through the room in a panic. He backed up away from the bed, but he didn't know what was happening anymore. Everything was a blur, moving all together, time was just an illusion at that moment.

At some point, Allister tried to come up and talk to him, but his eyes were focused on the hospital bed. The spot was empty now, gone. Gone forever. Glitch fell to his knees, covering his face as he rocked back and forth.

Glitch was not known to understand the concept of death, a little part of him hoped Cole would come back by some miracle. But he couldn't, he was gone.

"Glitch?" Allister spoke calmly as he crouched down in front of him.

Glitch took a deep breath, looking up at Allister. He wiped his face off from the sleeve, doing the same thing he always does when he isn't okay. He was trying to deny he was upset.

"Hey buddy," Allister spoke in a calm manner, even if he wasn't doing okay either. Allister knew how much Cole meant to Glitch, he tried with all his power to comfort him over his death. "Glitch, they want us to leave the room soon bud, but they want to give you some time. Just take your time, okay?"

Glitch didn't speak, his mind was on shut down. He couldn't get himself to speak even a single word. He just nodded silently in response.

"Alright...I'll be outside when you're ready," Allister stated, clearly worried about Glitch. He stood up and took a breath, quietly walking out of the room.

The room was silent again, time was a concept once more. Glitch hadn't felt this much pain since his brother died. It was like losing him all over again, but instead his best friend. If Cole was still there, he would know how to calm him down. He would know... but he's gone.

No more going on dangerous missions, fighting villains like an inseparable duo. No going to Arctic Circle for slushies then going to the park to swing together. No more of those calm talks when he felt overwhelmed, or just talking about his interests. Gone, all gone. All of it was over.

At some point, he took a breath and finally stood up. He wiped his face off again, inching slowly to the door. Glitch examined the room one more time, and

his eyes landed on something: Cole's jacket. It was hanging up on the coat rack in the corner.

He quickly walked over to it and examined it briefly. This was all that was left of him. Hugging that jacket made it seem like he was still there.

He examined the jacket over and over again, until an idea popped in mind. He took a breath and gently put it over his arms. Of course it was too big for him, but he still felt comfort in wearing it. He felt his body sink to the floor again. The world was moving now, but it still felt off without him. He took a breath and pulled his knees up to his chest, his face now hidden.

"Ow-" he spoke as he felt a sharp object stab him on the arm.

Glitch moved his arm slowly in confusion, examining where he felt the stab. It was something in the jacket pocket, something small, but sharp. He dug through the pockets, searching through the many things in that jacket pocket. Cigarettes, lighters, some cash, but nothing that was sharp enough to stab him. He continued to search, until his hand felt it.

He pulled the object out, it was a small object wrapped in newspaper. Definitely from Cole, he wasn't known for his wrapping skills. Glitch silently and carefully examined the object. This wasn't for him, was it?

It was. Not only did it have his name, but the "L" was backwards, the only way Cole knew how to write "L's".

His eyes landed on the note taped to the side, a letter from Cole. He carefully set the object down and opened the letter, laughing slightly as he did so. Yep definitely Cole. His hands shook as he held that letter. He was afraid of what it said. His eyes were reading it quickly, as to take every word in carefully.

Once he finished, he sat there silently. Tears dripped down onto the paper. He didn't want to cry again, but he did. He felt so many emotions at that moment from the letter, comfort, sadness, and even a small bit of joy.

He wiped his face off again, looking down and taking a breath. There was one more thing though, the object that was wrapped in the newspaper. He set the note down, and picked the wrapped object up again. The object felt smooth, he didn't know what it could be.

Carefully, he undid the wrapping, wondering to himself over and over again what it could be.

When the last flap of paper was left, he took a breath, preparing himself for what it could be. He gently tore the paper back, eyes widened in surprise. He looked at the object in awe, feeling overrun by emotion once more.

Glitch felt his head hit the back of the wall, crying from joy now.

"I will miss you, Cole."