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**Key:**

[...] = Stage directions (SFX)

(...) = Voice direction

\*...\* = Silent insert / Listener's reaction

<...> = Emphasis

^ = Short Speaker's pause (No Listener's reaction)

**Notes:** (For VA's): This one turned out a little longer than planned, so feel free to split it into multiple parts! Hope you like it <3

**[M4A] Stuck between secrets and storms [Hero Speaker x Sidekick Listener] [allies to ?]  
[Fantasy] [Sci-fi] [weather control] [protective] [betrayal] [guilt] [angst] [trust] [emotional]  
[TW: Strong anger towards Listener / Deception / Near-Death of Character]**

**Summary:** You've waited your whole life for a chance to be a hero, and now you're finally at the side of the most powerful one alive. But the gun in your hand isn't really yours. And neither is the trust you've earned. So when he finds out about the secrets you've been keeping... will he forgive you, or will it destroy everything?

**Speaker (Zeke) Information:** (Background info): Zeke has the power to control the weather and summon the elements tied to it. For years he's worked as a solo hero and protects the country from Shadowrunners. But despite his immense abilities, Zeke never unleashes the full force of his powers, too afraid of losing control and causing destruction that could harm innocent lives. Because of that, no one truly knows the full extent of what he can do, but many are desperate to find out. His emotions are tied directly to the weather, which forces him to keep up a cheerful, playful front, so he doesn't cause any unwanted storms.

[An interrogation room at the Hero Association's headquarters. The Listener is sitting at the table, the H.A. captain standing in front of them. A file is being tossed onto the table]

**Captain:** (gruff) So... You again. How many times have you tried to apply to the Hero Association now? Five, six times? (huffs) I'd be close to calling it pathetic, but then again it seems you're about to get what you wanted after all...

\*pause\*

You'll be assigned as a sidekick. Open the file.

[The Listener takes the file and opens it]

His name is Zeke. Better known as Stormknight. I'm sure you've heard of him before.

\*pause\*

Correct. The most powerful hero alive. Which means, his life is of the utmost importance. Importance that must never, under any circumstances, be forgotten or neglected. That's why, from this day forward, it'll be your duty to protect him and make sure he doesn't die.

\*pause\*

(scoffs, mocking) Now that's a question I've been dying to get the answer to myself. But it appears being a Quick is going to work out for you once in your life. You're fast and have quick reflexes. Two powers that are useless on their own, but for this mission, they are the key to

success. Not for fighting, obviously. All you have to do is keep him alive, no matter the cost. Even if that cost is your own life.

\*pause\*

(smirking) You wanted to become a hero. This is your chance to be one. Make sure Stormknight doesn't get hurt. And if you have to jump in front of him every ten seconds, you'll do so. Because no one will buy it if you say you weren't fast enough.

[The captain pulls out a gun and places it on the table]

Stormknight is a solo fighter. This gun here will make him believe you're worthy of being his sidekick. You don't need any magical powers to deal with threats. The gun has a built-in system that constantly scans the surroundings and targets any nearby danger. Pull the trigger, and the bullet will hit, no matter how far off you aim. If you can make Zeke believe this power is yours, we're certain he'll give you a chance. After that, you need to win his trust, make him like you.

\*pause\*

Why him? Because when war comes, we'll need his powers. Which we won't get without putting him on a leash. And the first step in making him more... controllable, is to get close to him and figure out the limits of his abilities. That means you're going to stay in constant contact with us. Anything he does or says that could give us more information about him, must be reported back to the H.A. immediately. The closer you get to him, the closer we will be.

\*pause\*

(sighs) Zeke is... How do I put this... Too kind. He never uses his powers to their full extent, too scared he might hurt the innocent. But if we want this country to stay strong and become stronger, we need him to be willing to unleash the true power of his abilities.

\*pause\*

(scoffs) The details are none of your concern. Your job is to keep him alive until we figure out a way to get him to work for us. And to make him understand that his powers are not just his anymore.

\*pause\*

(chuckles) Of course you can refuse. You can leave this room and never come back. But so will your chance of being something more than just a Quick. You can prove you're worthy of our time and maybe we'll even let you join the hero training program... But if you go, don't come crawling back when we choose someone else to do the job. ^ This is your chance to matter. Do you want it or not?

[The captain's voice slowly fades out while Zeke's voice fades in, switching the scene. The Listener is sitting in the backseat of a car, next to Zeke who's been talking and cracking jokes the entire time]

**Captain:** (fading out) Very good. I wouldn't have expected anything else. ^ Oh, and one more thing: Whatever story you make up about why you want to be his sidekick, make sure it doesn't involve the truth...

**Zeke:** (fading in over the captain's voice, playfully) Hellooooo? Earth to Speedy. Did someone put a freezing spell over you? Man, you're not even blinking. Are you dead? Hello-

[The Listener snaps out of their thoughts Zeke's voice clear now]

Ah, there we go. I was close to losing hope.

\*pause\*

(chuckling) Yeah. "What." That's what I'm asking you. How long have you been zoning out? Because I've been talking for the past ten minutes, and now I'm not sure if the "mhm"s and "yeah"s I got as a response were your usual 'talk-less-listen-more' responses, or if you weren't listening at all. This drive is already long enough, don't make me die of boredom before we even get there.

\*pause\*

Eh, don't apologize. Can't say I blame you for escaping into daydreams with all the nonsense I dump on you daily. Still, you seemed really lost in thought. Is everything all right?

\*pause\*

You're not nervous because of the mission, are you?

\*pause\*

Good. Because that would've been surprising. You're usually the one who jumps in head first. I'd be very concerned if there was anything causing you to be all tense and scared.

\*pause\*

Well, if you say so. ^ (sighs) Man, I can't believe it's already been a year since we started working together. How time flies, huh?

\*pause\*

(excited) Oh my, we should totally do something for our one-year anniversary! What do you say? You, me and some drinks at the bar where we first met? Or do something a bit more... fancier? We could go out for dinner.

\*pause\*

(amused) All right. I'll ask you again later. Seems like you're still stuck in your fantasy world. But hey, as soon as this car stops, I need you fully focused. Can't have you make stupid moves like last time, chasing after a Shadowrunner without waiting for my backup.

\*pause\*

Uh, no. <I> had it under control. <You> just threw yourself into danger like you didn't even expect any outcome other than death.

\*pause\*

Sure, you can handle yourself. You're just doing a terrible job convincing me of it.

\*pause\*

(chuckling) Oh, come on. I'm just teasing. What's up with you today? Usually you know better than to take anything I say seriously.

\*pause\*

I'll try to believe that for now. As long as you don't screw up this mission I won't pry.

\*pause\*

Good. Then let's get this over with. We're here.

[The car stops, Zeke and Listener step out of it and walk towards an abandoned mansion]

(teasing) Looks scary doesn't it? Sure you're not nervous, Speedy?

\*pause\*

Hey now. I'm <never> scared. I'm so ready for this.

[They walk up to the building, Zeke stops]

Oh, but before we go in, I need you to promise me something.

\*pause\*

In the briefing it said this place might be a nest, right? So... don't do anything stupid. Seriously, you've had me short of a heart attack several times now. Let me tell you, it doesn't feel good. And the weather won't be happy about it either.

\*pause\*

(sighs) I... Just be careful, okay? We've got each other's backs, like always. But that doesn't mean we have to fight for the spot in front of the bullet – ... or... shadow claw... Whatever, you get my point, right?

\*pause\*

Good... (overly excited) Then let's do this.

[They step into the mansion, door creaking]

(impressed) Damn, this mansion is huge. If it wasn't so dark and dusty I wouldn't be opposed to living here.

\*pause\*

I'd share the rent.

\*pause\*

With you of course. It could become our little base, you know? You, me, the guy in the chair.

\*pause\*

Every good trio has one. I already got you clinging onto me like a lost puppy. One more doesn't make a big difference there.

\*pause\*

(scoffs playfully) Yeah, right. When we met you practically begged me to take you as my sidekick. Like you were desperately searching for a purpose in life.

\*pause\*

(chuckles) I'll admit, you did make a good impression with your magical abilities. If I remember correctly, the first thing I said after your little demonstration was "Where did you learn that, and can you teach me?" And you, all nonchalant, said "It's my power, get your own." (content sigh) I immediately knew you'd be great as a partner.

\*pause\*

I <did> enjoy working alone. But I've come to realize how refreshing it is to not be the only person I talk to all the time.

[They hear a crack coming from somewhere in the mansion]

Oh. Seems like we've woken up the hosts of today's visit. Gun at the ready?

\*pause\*

Good. (grinning) Hey, how about we play a game?

\*pause\*

Yes. We'll split up. And the first one to kill a Shadowrunner gets a drink on the other.

\*pause\*

(groans, whiny) Come ooooo. You never play any games with me. Let me have some fun here.

\*pause\*

Yeah, yeah. Sticking together is safer. It's a lot less exciting too...

\*pause\*

(teasing) All right, fine. I'll stay by your side if you're soo scared.

\*pause\*

(laughs) Of course. Not at all. ^ Why don't you lead the way then, my little hero?

[They walk down a dark, dusty hallway, the planks creaking below their feet]

(quietly, amazed) Wow. I can almost feel the tension in this building. There must be a lot of Shadowrunners. Look at the walls. Black veins sprawling everywhere. It's also pretty cold... Here, give me your hand.

\*pause\*

What? You still scared of it? I've never burned anything... Anything that wasn't supposed to burn. Just give me your hand, I'll lend you some warmth.

[Zeke grabs their hand]

There. Doesn't that feel better?

\*pause\*

(smirks) Oh, yes, I know, I'm great at temperature control. Thanks for the compliment.

\*pause\*

Don't roll your eyes, keep complimenting me instead. It boosts my confidence.

\*pause\*

Ouch. You're being very grumpy today. You haven't even smiled once yet. Are you mad at me?

\*pause\*

Promise?

\*pause\*

Good, what is it then?

\*pause\*

(groans) Saying "nothing" is the most suspicious answer you could give. If you want me to believe you, try a little harder. Are you going to tell me now?

[Suddenly, there's a loud crash coming from inside a room]

(annoyed) Perfect timing. Interrupting our conversation like a child begging for attention. Did you hear where it came from?

\*pause\*

That big door? All right. I'll go in first. Ready?



[Zeke pushes the door open and steps inside, the Listener right behind him. The walls groan and crack under the pressure of dark energy pulsing through them. From that darkness, Shadowrunners begin to take shape, breaking free from the walls, ceiling and floor]

Now that's quite a show. I've never seen so many Shadowrunners in one spot. I don't even know where to look first.

\*pause\*

Hm? Oh, right. Fight mode. Hey, what do you say I show you that new trick I taught myself?

\*pause\*

Yeah. I'll create a mini tornado and throw in some lightning. That would look amazing.

\*pause\*

Ugh, okay, okay. I'll concentrate. Then I'll show you la- [A Shadowrunner attacks, aiming their black claw at the Listener]

Oh, okay. We're starting already. Fine. First one's yours, Speedy!

[The Listener aims the gun and shoots, the shadow claw bursts into dust]

Nice shot.

[More Shadowrunners emerge, swarming Zeke and the Listener. Zeke summons a bolt of lightning and unleashes it, striking several of them at once]

(panting) Man, are these things learning? My lightning bolts aren't hitting as hard.

[The fighting continues, both of them firing constantly at the Shadowrunners]

(calling out) Speedy, on your ri-... (amused) Apologies, I don't know why I still try to warn you when your reflexes are a hundred times better than mine.

\*pause\*

(playful) Don't be so arrogant. At least let me try and protect you.

[The Listener dashes at a Shadowrunner attacking Zeke from behind and shoots them]

(mock offended) Really? You're such a show-off. Rushing to my side like I wouldn't have seen that Shadowrunner coming. Did you do that to emphasize your point?

\*pause\*

(scoffs playfully) Well, I'm glad to see you're at least having fun. It's much better than your thoughtful, serious side I saw in the car earlier.

\*pause\*

I <am> focusing. Here, look.

[Zeke flicks his hand, unleashing a blast of wind that crashes every Shadowrunner into the wall]

Did you see that? Totally concentrating. All Shadowrunners knocked out.

\*pause\*

Are they? Oh... Well fine, I'm sure if I use stronger wind and slam them against the wall a few more times, they'll stop recovering.

\*pause\*

(confused) What's what?

\*pause\*

Oh... I... That's... new...

\*pause\*

(slightly nervous) Yes, I can see they're merging!

[The Listener fires a few shots, unsuccessfully]

What do you mean your bullets can't hurt it? It's the same Shadows as before, just keep shooting it.

\*pause\*

Wait... Look at the walls... Is it just me or are those veins... pulsating?

\*pause\*

The hell do I know? Who sent us here again?

\*pause\*

You don't remember? You're the one who keeps track of that stuff, you should know. If they knew about this new kind of Shadowrunner, I would've appreciated a little heads up.

\*pause\*

Sure. We can discuss that later. Get behind me, I'll finish this.

\*pause\*

You just said your powers aren't working on this thing. So don't be an idiot and take a step back.

\*pause\*

(more serious) Speedy. Do it.

\*pause\*

Thanks.

[Zeke summons another lightning bolt, hurling it at the Shadowrunner. It explodes on impact... only to reform instantly]

(stunned) What the... How is this possible? It just exploded and now it's putting itself back together, just like that??

[He unleashes a barrage of wind and lightning attacks at the Shadowrunner, but it keeps rebuilding itself]

(frustrated) Just die already!

\*pause\*

(angry) Yes, I can see that it's not working, thanks for pointing it out!

[The sky outside darkens, and a loud thunder rumbles directly above the building]

Shit, I...

\*pause\*

I am calm! Fuck, okay, I... I'm calm. Happy thoughts, happy weather... Calm and relaxed and focused...

\*pause\*

(tense) What?

\*pause\*

(shocked, stiffly) Use my storm? I... N-no, I don't think that's a good idea.

\*pause\*

You know I hate using it. If it gets out of control...

\*pause\*

I'll find another way. There has to be one. I'm not going to put you at risk by using those powers. They're far too dangerous.

[He keeps the Shadowrunner away, firing lightning bolt after lightning bolt]

\*pause\*

I can hold it at a distance but if we don't find a way to defeat it soon, it's going to be a long day... Or a very short one.

\*pause\*

(sighs) Speedy, I know you trust me. But you've never seen me use a storm before. Hell, it's been so long, I don't even know if I still have it in me.

[Zeke fires another lightning bolt]

(shocked) What the... That's not possible! How is it holding the lightning bolt??

\*pause\*

It shouldn't be able to! It should be impos- (in shock) N-no, wait. It's aiming at us, it's aiming at us! Speedy! Wait! Get out of the way!

[In the blink of an eye, the Listener is in front of Zeke, taking the hit for him. The lightning bolt slams into the room, tearing it apart and reducing everything to debris. The Shadowrunner vanishes as the walls crumble. Zeke calls on his wind powers, blasting the roof aside before it can crush them]

(desperate) Speedy! Speedy!

[Thunder growls, lightning splits the sky, and heavy rain begins to pour. Zeke falls to his knees, cradling the Listener in his arms. The Listener hears his voice, faint and distant]

(panicked, voice breaks) Oh god... Speedy, please. Look at me, Hey. Come on, open your eyes... Spe-... Speedy...

[Zeke uses his powers to absorb the energy from Listener's body]

There, come on, let it work. Please...

\*pause\*

Can you hear me? Why did you do that? Please. I'm begging you, wake up. Come back to me...

[The Listener slowly regains consciousness, Zeke's voice gets clearer]

(relieved, worried) H-hey, there you go. Come on, keep your eyes open, Speedy. Please. Don't do this to me. Eyes on me...

\*pause\*

It's okay. I'm here. I took the energy out of your body, you'll be fine... I...

\*pause\*

I don't know. It's gone. I think its energy was connected to the veins we saw on the walls. It disappeared when the room collapsed.

\*pause\*

(desperate, tense) Oh god, Speedy... What the hell were you thinking? Throwing yourself in front of me like that? You could've died!

\*pause\*

(panicking) Shh... No talking. Don't. Fuck, I... I don't know what to do... I can't... think...

\*pause\*

([Loud thunderclaps], snapping) What about the weather?! Do you think I care about that right now?! You just took a hit meant for me! That Shadowrunner wanted to hit me, and you... You

IDIOT jump in front of me like you're a human shield! I've explicitly asked you to not do anything stupid today! I told you it would be dangerous! Why the hell can't you listen FOR ONCE!

[A lightning bolt strikes close by]

\*pause\*

(scoffs) Don't fucking tell me to calm down! You shouldn't have done this. I can take a hit! I'm stronger than you!

\*pause\*

(confused) Wh-what do you mean that's the reason?

\*pause\*

(angry) No. No! That's not a reason to throw your life away for me! Your life is not less important than mine! The fact that you'd even think that... I... I can't even begin to understand why you'd do something like this!

\*pause\*

(desperate) Yes! Of course I would've done the same! You're my partner, damn it! But I can handle a hit like that. It's my freaking element, I should be able to handle it! You're not supposed to throw yourself in front of me just because you can!

\*pause\*

(disbelief) What?? Why would you say that, of course you're my partner!

\*pause\*

"Sidekick"? (scoffs) And you think that means you have to sacrifice your life for me? I don't fucking care what you call yourself, there's not a single reason for you to do something so stupid. Being a Quick doesn't mean you have to use your speed to throw yourself between any danger and me. That's not all your powers are good for. Imagine I... Imagine I would've lost you! Goddamnit Speedy, I couldn't bear losing the one person I... I love more than anything else in this world!

\*pause\*

It's true... I love you. So please- [Listener interrupts]

\*pause\*

Wh-what? What's wrong?

\*pause\*

Speedy... What are you talking about? I... It's okay if you don't feel the same, but...

\*pause\*

(shocked, worried) H-hey, why are you crying? Please, Speedy, tell me what's wrong...

\*pause\*

Why shouldn't I love you? I don't understand... Say something, please...

\*pause\*

No! Don't turn away from me, I-... Oh... Your... Your gun? Y-yes, I... can reach it...

[Zeke picks up the gun from the ground, holding it in his hands]

And now?

\*pause\*

(sighs) Speedy, I don't understand what's going on. Why don't you just tell me? Please...

\*pause\*

Okay... Okay. I'll do as you wish. Wh-where do you want me to aim?

\*pause\*

(worried, skeptical) You're not making any sense... I-... Wait... Are you...? Is this...? (shaky breath) Are you trying to say that it'll hit wherever I want it to, no matter in which direction I aim?

\*pause\*

Fuck, Speedy... What is going on here? I... I thought this was... I mean, you told me... You said this was your power. So why... Is this even <your> gun?

\*pause\*

Who gave it to you?

\*pause\*

Speedy. Tell me. Now.

\*pause\*

(shocked, speechless) What?! The... H... H.A... The H.A??

\*pause\*

No... No, no, no. That's... That's not true. You wouldn't...

\*pause\*

(desperate) Tell me this is some kind of joke. Tell me you didn't...

\*pause\*

(sudden anger) No! Don't touch me. You lied to me. For a whole fucking year. (scoffs) And I fell for it like an idiot. Fuck!

\*pause\*

Shut it. Spare me your apologies. Tell me why the H.A. sent you. What do they want from me, huh??

\*pause\*

Of course... So all this time you... you pretended to be my... my partner... my friend... just to help them learn about my powers? To tell them everything I told you about myself?

\*pause\*

I'm so stupid. I'm so <fucking> stupid!

[The thunderstorm grows stronger once again]

\*pause\*

No. Shut up. Shut up! You have no right to say anything right now. You lied to me, this whole time! Is that why you told me to use my storm?! Did they want me to lose control? Well, look above, Speedy! This is what I'm capable of! And do you have any idea how much it's scaring me?! And now... of all people, <you> are the one who... who causes me to fall apart like that. I



can't control the weather if I can't control my emotions. Is that what you wanted?! Was your mission successful now?! What do you get for it?! Is it money? Is that why you accepted to work for them?! What?! What is it?!

\*long pause\*

(stunned) What are you talking about? You told me-... Oh, fuck it, it seems I don't know a single thing about you.

\*pause\*

I swear to god, stop talking in riddles and tell me the whole story. What does "only chance" mean?

\*pause\*

(scoffs) You think working with me while also spying on me and telling the H.A. everything you know about me makes you a hero? No, Speedy. If anything, that makes you a villain. You know exactly why they're so interested in my powers. And yet... (sighs) You know what? It's my fault... I knew it was better to work alone...

\*pause\*

What? What could there possibly be left to say?

\*pause\*

(disbelief) You're sorry. You... (tense sigh) You really think that's gonna cut it? I... I thought we were a team. I trusted you. Hell, I fucking loved you. And now... I just don't understand why you'd agree to a deal like that. What have I done to you to deserve this?

\*pause\*

I'm not sure if there's any explanation that could possibly justify any of this, but sure, go ahead.

\*pause\*

That's your reason? They promised you could join the hero training in exchange for information? And?? Did you get what you wanted?? If you really think that was worth it, I... Fuck, I don't even know what to say.

\*pause\*

What?! What do I not understand?!

\*long pause\*

[The thunderstorm quiets down, only the rain is left]

(thoughtful, skeptical) So... they rejected you multiple times and then told you your only way to get in is by... by doing this? By playing human shield for me?

\*pause\*

(hopeless) God, Speedy... Why the hell did you agree to that? Do you really think your life isn't worth more than sacrificing it for others?

\*pause\*

Of course it is. No one's life deserves to be used in such a way. You shouldn't just throw yours away because of some empty promises. It's not worth it.

\*pause\*

(sad) I understand you wanted to be a hero so desperately it was hard to say no. But this isn't the way. You can be a hero. But this gun won't make you one. And the H.A. won't either. Our choices are what makes us heroes... And I saw you as a hero, Speedy. You stood by my side through it all. You fought alongside me like a hero would. But now I wonder if all this time you actually cared about me... or if you just did all of this because they told you to.

\*pause\*

And how do I know you're telling the truth?

\*pause\*

I'm not sure regret is enough to make up for this... (sighs) Speedy... if you would've told me... I would've found a way to get you out of this, you know that, right? I would've protected you from them. I would've... I don't know... I probably would've done anything for you...

\*pause\*

(quietly) What? No... I don't hate you, Speedy.

\*pause\*

Because I know how you feel... What you did... it was wrong. And yes, I am hurt. And mad. And I don't know what to believe anymore. Nothing makes sense. But... (sighs) I once was in that

same spot as you. I know what it feels like to... to so desperately want to belong, that you'd do anything to prove yourself, even if it's wrong.

\*pause\*

When I was young, almost everyone was scared of me. Of my powers. Everyone gave me a wide berth, watching my every move as if they were scared I'd suddenly lash out at them. The only ones who seemed to have a use for my powers... were a group of villains. They took me in and treated me like one of their own. And in that moment, I didn't care what they did was bad. I finally belonged somewhere, they saw my powers as something useful. So I worked with them, no matter who we hurt.

During one mission, everything went wrong. I got scared, I freaked out and... lost control. I summoned a storm and it grew so strong, it almost destroyed the entire city. I was so frightened of myself and I... I finally realized all of them were right. All those people who were scared of me... I finally understood why.

Ever since then, I swore to myself I'd never use those powers again. And I tried to redeem myself by fighting for the city since the Shadowrunners appeared. But what I did back then... I was never able to forget it... nor to forgive myself for it.

\*pause\*

So no. I don't hate you. Because I know how you feel. As much as I want to blame you for everything... I know it's not that easy. You did what you thought was best for you. A chance to belong, to show them you're capable of more. But Speedy... You don't need their approval. Especially not if this is the cost.

They might have phrased it as a chance for you to be a hero. But that's not what this is. Those people, they made you think your life was worth being thrown away to protect mine. Like that was all you could do.

\*pause\*

It's not. Because you're not just your powers. You have a beautiful soul and a big heart. How many times have you tended to my wounds after a fight, or stayed up with me all night because I couldn't sleep? Your powers didn't cause you to make that decision. And the H.A. didn't either. That was you. And I've been so grateful for every second we spent together, I wouldn't want to miss any of it. So please, don't throw your life away for me. Because I don't want to live a life without you in it.

\*pause\*

I <am> mad... And yes, it might take some time to recover from that. But the anger I'm feeling right now is not your doing. It's the H.A. They're monsters for using your dream of becoming a

hero against you. For using your ambitions for something so devious. They knew you'd agree after you've waited so long to be accepted. They did you wrong. And no one messes with the person I care about the most.

\*pause\*

Of course you're still important to me. We all make mistakes. And with them we're also being faced with a choice. Do we learn from them? Or do we keep making them? So... all I need to know is... What's your answer?

\*pause\*

Good. I don't think I would've accepted anything different. ^ Now come here and let me hug you. You must be freezing.

[Zeke pulls the Listener into a hug, the rain softens]

I forgive you. Even if you can't forgive yourself yet. Maybe you became my partner for all the wrong reasons. But you're still here now, right? And if you let me help you, then I promise, I'll never let anyone hurt you like that again. There's nothing in this world I wouldn't do for you. Because I love you...

\*pause\*

Hey. This is my choice, isn't it? I know my feelings pretty well, even when I tend to suppress them all the time. But I don't want to hold this one in anymore. We've been through so much, I won't let this tear us apart. So if you want to stay, then stay. Just know that you'll never get rid of me if you do.

\*pause\*

Hm, I'm glad to hear that. Now come on. We're both soaked. Let's get you somewhere dry and warm. Also... I think we can forget about moving here. There's practically nothing of this mansion left. What a shame.

\*pause\*

Them? Oh, rest assured, I'll have a talk with the H.A. And I won't keep my emotions inside then.

\*pause\*

Don't worry about me. They won't be able to lock me up and use me for their twisted war plans. I've played the villain once. And that was already more than enough.

\*pause\*

Speedy, you don't need their stupid training program and earn a certificate to become a real hero. I don't care what any paper says. You're <my> hero. So fuck them, fuck everyone. Being a hero isn't something others make us. They don't get to choose what we are. They can't make you a hero or me a villain. What we want to be, and how we get there, is up to us. Don't let anyone tell you who you are, Speedy. Because they only ever see what they want to. We're the only ones who know the truth, and we need to remind ourselves not to let others manipulate that truth. As hard as it may be at times.

\*pause\*

Well, I'm not saying you can't trust anyone. But make that choice with your heart, not with your head that remembers how often you've been told you're not good enough. If you trust me, then I promise, whenever you doubt yourself, I'll be here to remind you of who you really are.

\*pause\*

Of course, Speedy. We're a team. And whatever happens, we'll catch each other when we fall.

\*pause\*

Now, come on, let's get out of here. I have a feeling the rain isn't going to stop any time soon.

[The End]