

FIND THE LINK!!

*Author's Note:*

*Phoever (pronounced like Fever) is a short story set in the world of RED. It is inspired by Romeo and Juliet, but I make no claims about it being a retelling of that story. My intention in writing this story is to give you as an audience a better understanding of what the world of RED is like. Now that it's been revealed that the characters are not human, I wanted to give some insight into what their lives are like. Without any further ado, please enjoy Phoever (Also, if you have a suggestion for a better title, I am open. I am not especially happy with Phoever and I am terrible with titles, so please give me any suggestions you have.) Okay, Phoever it is. No, this mini-story is not going to stop coming. It's happening. Deal with it.*

## Chapter One

### Changes

River sat on her bed, staring at an old stain on the wall. For the third time in as many days, she found herself reconsidering whether this relationship was worth it. She had barely known Phoenix for a week, and yet she had somehow found herself in love. River had never felt quite like this before, and nearly every part of her wanted to explore it further. She wanted to explore these feelings, despite her knowledge that no one else would ever understand.

Phoenix was barely keeping her composure. With everything going on in her life lately, she didn't need something else to worry about. She didn't need a relationship, especially one that could never work out. She stared at the web page she had bookmarked on her computer and saw the same words staring back at her. The same words that had always been there, and the same ones that always would be. The same words that had tortured her since she found River on the *#IntegrateHighSchools* page:

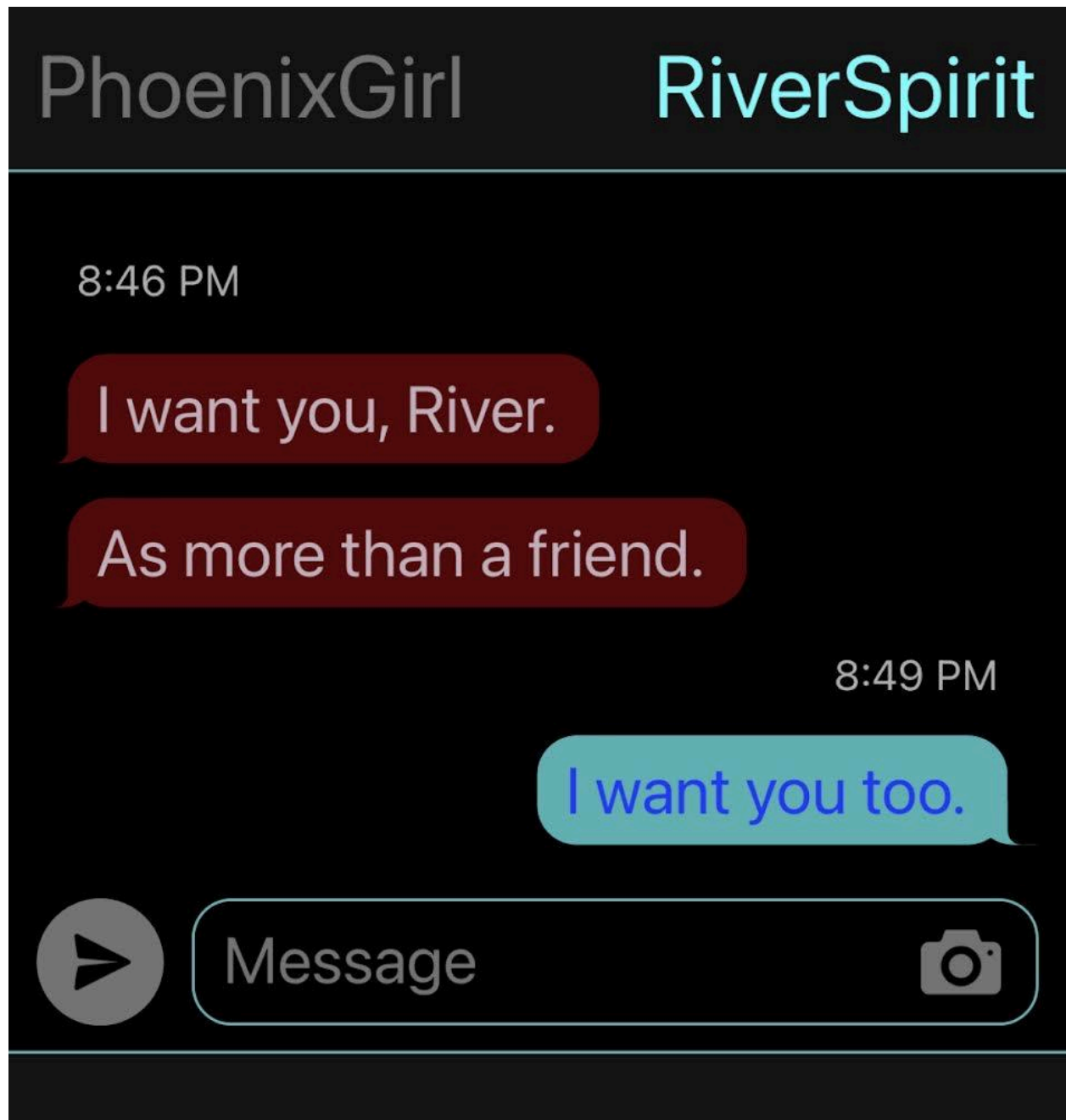
**Fire and Water elements are incompatible.**

It was only six words, and yet somehow it represented so much pain. River remembered when Priam was taken away. How could she not? There had been no fighting it. How could she, a single teenager stuck in her small town, ever expect to fight a system that seemed designed to keep her away from people like Phoenix? She doubted that she could handle the barrage of invasions that would occur if she went ahead with this

**And yet...**

People *had* done it. Phoenix had seen the articles. She had seen the blogs where conservatives raged against their kids and friends who had the audacity to question the structure of society. Phoenix knew that, if she did decide to pursue something more with River, she would be making a mistake. She would be starting something that many

people would condemn her for. Her parents would not be happy. But somehow, she found herself pulling up ElectroniChat and beginning to type.



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It had been almost a week since that exchange, but not much had changed. It wasn't like Phoenix could tell her parents about something like this, and she had never really had anyone else to confide in. That had never bothered her

before, but she found herself wanting someone to gossip and celebrate with. She could talk to River, of course, but it wasn't the same as having a friend that she could just sit and chat with.

River felt like she had barely stopped smiling this past week. Even if nothing had really changed, knowing there was someone she could call her girlfriend had done something to her that she couldn't really describe. She was more confident, more engaged. She only felt herself zoning out about half as much as before. Her parents must have noticed, but they hadn't brought it up yet. River felt more *alive* than she had in a long time.

With a sigh, Phoenix closed out of the ElectroniChat tab. She cleared her search history. She went through the rest of the familiar steps to ensure no one could know what she had been doing that night. She closed her computer and relaxed into the exhaustion that preceded a long night.