

Mist sighed as he looked over the Vampire Diaries. "I'd forgotten how much of a CP sink the Vampire Diaries jump is."

Hermione asked, "Can you still make it work?"

"It would be a lot easier if I was starting as a witch."

Selena smiled as she thought about the free perks she'd get if Mist started as a witch. "Having more magic would be nice."

"Which is a problem considering starting as a witch costs 300 points," Harry pointed out.

"Pretty much, I could make it work if we spent two years in the jump and took some flaws." Mist didn't really have a problem spending two years in the jump as he had a couple of projects that he wanted to work on.

Genie spoke up, "That's certainly an option and there should be enough stuff to keep you busy for two years."

Harry said, "The worst part is going to be spending two years without any new powers."

Abby rolled her eyes. "We should go to Final Fantasy 6 first and pick up the ability to empower people with magic. That way we can boost the Mystic Falls gang and ourselves and have something to experiment with for the two years we'll be spending in vampire land."

"It would certainly help," Mist admitted.

Ranma said, "It would also give us the ability to empower our friends back home which is something we don't really have right now."

"In that case, let's see the jump for Final Fantasy 6."

Genie tossed up the jump.

OoOoO

Mist

Background: Magiteknician [100]

Mechanist [Free] You know how regular technology and magitek function and can repair it if it breaks down.

Selena, Abby

Background: Magiteknician [Free]

Mechanist [Free] You know how regular technology and magitek function and can repair it if it breaks down.

Abby said, "It's always a little disappointing seeing our rather short list of abilities."

Mist reached out and patted her on the head. "Don't worry, we'll be able to boost your magic after this jump."

"Which will be rather awesome," Selena agreed.

Hermione asked, "Do we have a plan?"

"Sneak into the capital, stop a war and steal a bunch of magitech supplies." Mist was also planning on murdering Kefka to make sure certain events never happened like him nuking the planet.

Genie asked, "Are you ready to go?"

"Where are we starting?"

"Veldt, basically a land of monsters."

Mist winced. "In that case, can I grab my FF6 maps now so I don't have to open a warehouse portal in monster territory?"

Genie snickered. "Sure, that gives me a chance to chat with people."

"Thanks." Mist turned and headed for the door that lead to his warehouse so he could pick up his maps and assorted gear that he'd need.

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Mist blinked as Selena, Abby and him appeared on a grassland that seemed to stretch endlessly. He frowned as he saw several rather nasty looking monsters moving their way. He scooped the girls up then turned and flew up and toward the hills he could see in the distance.

Abby shouted, "I hate this part!"

Selena snickered as she looked down at the various monsters on the cursed fields. "We'll have to come back after we get some protection against status effects."

Mist stopped after thirty seconds or so of flying and let go of the girls.

Abby dropped several feet with a squeal before she stopped herself and hovered in place. "That was mean."

Mist smiled at Abby innocently. "What was mean?"

Selena hovered in place. "Dropping us."

"I just figured you were already using your flight power, sorry." He pulled his map out of his inventory and tried to match the rather crappy game map to the terrain he could see in the distance. "If I'm reading this correctly, we need to go north and east to get to Mobliz."

"And if you're not reading the map correctly?" Abby asked.

"Then we'll just fly back the other way." Mist put the map back in his inventory then held out his arms for the girls to grab as he could fly faster than they could.

Selena grabbed his left arm with both hands. "Where are we going after Mobliz?"

"Narshe as I'd rather stop things as quickly as possible." He had a feeling that the empire would fall apart without Kefka and the Emperor. It would certainly fall apart without the magitek research facility that he was planning on having Harry steal if at all possible. He waited until Abby had grabbed his right arm then slowly started heading toward the hills until he was sure the girls had a decent grip then he sped up to about sixty miles an hour as he didn't want to fly too fast with the girls.

Thankfully it only took about ten minutes to reach the town and another five to talk their way past the gate guards. "We should probably check the shops then continue on our way."

Abby asked, "Why the hurry?"

"Because I'm not sure how long we have before the empire attacks Narshe," Mist admitted.

"Which we're trying to stop, right?" Abby asked curiously.

"Pretty much." Mist turned and headed for the accessory shop to see what he could find. He wasn't all that impressed with the selection as the only magical accessories they had in stock were spirit shoes and white capes. The shoes let you run a bit faster but were nothing compared to his boots. The white cape on the other hand granted immunity to imp and silence spells which was worth buying. "How much for the white cape?"

The shopkeeper said, "5,000 gil."

Mist was just glad that he still had a decent amount of gold from Diablo and an exchange ability. "4,500?"

The man snorted. "No haggling."

"Fine," Mist grumbled as he set fifty 100 gil coins on the table.

The shopkeeper smiled as he handed him a white cape. "Pleasure doing business with you, do you need cloaks for your friends?"

"Not right now but we might be back." Mist collected the white cape and used his identify ability to make sure that it was actually magic. "That should stop imp and silence attacks, now I just need half a dozen other magic items to protect against the rest."

Selena asked, "Where to?"

Mist gestured toward the door. "More shopping." He pulled his phone out of his pocket as he headed outside. He scrolled down to Hermione's number and hit connect.

Hermione answered after the first ring. "Can we teleport over?"

"You might as well. I need someone to head east to the town of Thamasa while I fly north to deal with the empire and pick up a magical shield."

"Is it safe to teleport to you?"

"Give me five minutes to get out of the town, I'd rather not freak people out by using magic, never mind the fact that the shops sell magical items," Mist complained as he headed for the town's gates.

"We should probably ask someone the difference at some point. I'll see you in five."

Mist closed his phone and put it back in his pocket. "Harry and Hermione should be able to scout out Thamasa while I fly north to Narshe. Are you going with them or back to base?"

Selena glanced at Abby. "I'm feeling pretty squishy, you?"

"Yeah, I think teleporting back to the house and looking through the strategy guide is probably the best use of our time," Abby agreed as they walked through the gates.

"That works, I'll call you when it's safe." Mist gave both of the girls a kiss and a smile before they took out their phones and teleported back to the companion housing. He pulled his strategy

guide out of his inventory and started looking through it to see if he could figure out what he needed to grab from Narshe before Hermione showed up.

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Mist made a mental note to look into grabbing some type of spy satellite when he had the chance because matching the crappy game map to actual landmarks had been a pain in the ass. He wasn't sure if he should be annoyed or happy about the fact that there was an army camped a half day's march from what he was fairly sure was Narshe. 'At least I found them before they got to the town.' He renewed his invisibility spell then flew down to the imperial camp to see if he could find Kefka.

Amusingly enough, having megalomaniac tendencies resulted in having a rather impressive tent which made it stupidly easy to track Kefka down. Mist reached into his pocket and pulled out his stopwatch as he floated over the muddy path. He reached out with his telepathy and winced slightly as he caught some of Kefka's mad ramblings. He pushed the button on his watch then slipped past the two frozen magitek walkers and into the lunatic's tent.

Mist studied the frozen and rather creepy looking clown dressed in a mismatched jumble of stripes of red and yellow fabric with polka dots painted all over it. The red and white striped ruffle around his neck didn't do anything to make him look like anything other than an insane lunatic. The man's white face paint reminded him a bit too much like the joker. He walked up behind him and ripped the man's ruffles off then stuffed as much of the man's ruffles into his mouth as he could.

"If you weren't such a problem, I'd just leave you to choke." He grabbed Kefka's neck with his free hand then put his hand with the watch in his pocket and unfroze him. He squeezed his fingers around Kefka's neck until he was holding Kefka's spine. He brought his other hand up and cast soul trap then twisted his neck back and forth until his head came off in a messy shower of gore a book appeared out of thin air and fell to the ground.

He reached back into his pocket and pushed the button to stop time. He turned to look at the two men in magitek suits that were staring at him, frozen in shock. "It's not a good day to be in the empire." He walked over and picked up the book and looked at the title. 'Orose. I wonder how close this version is to Sin's version.' He put the book in his inventory then opened a portal to his warehouse and spent a couple of minutes looting Kefka's research notes and various trinkets.

Mist smiled as he turned to look at the frozen pilots then walked over and 'helped' them out of their magitek armor. He smirked as he picked up the first set of magitek armor and walked it into his warehouse. 'This is going to take forever.' He knew that it wouldn't take more than a couple of hours to empty the base of the best magitek but it was somewhat boring and repetitive

hauling things into his warehouse. On the plus side, it saved him the trouble of building an army's worth of magitek suits to use in Masters of Magic.

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Mist wasn't sure how he was supposed to feel about freezing time and stealing the cursed shield and ragnarok magicite from the merchants in Narshe. On the one hand they weren't his to take, on the other hand they were very useful magical items that would help him pick up some valuable skills and he was planning to hand the Ragnarok magicite over to Locke as soon as he figured out how to copy the esper's ability to morph monsters with copycat. He'd left a copy of the cursed shield behind so the merchant probably wouldn't notice.

He'd almost managed to leave town without any complications when a young man with brown hair and a blue bandana spoke up from the roof of a shop, "Neat trick walking through the wall of the shop, what did you steal?"

Mist turned to look at the man on the roof of the building. "I copied a cursed shield so that I can restore it to it's former glory and learn a really neat magical attack."

Locke tilted his head. "Magic?"

"Espers aren't the only way to learn magic. Speaking of espers, I know where the empire is holding a few of them but I need help to spring them." Technically that was a lie though not much of one as Terra's presence would make things a lot easier. He'd been content to just avoid the plot for a year and leave but seeing Locke had given him a better idea.

"What do you get out of it?" Locke asked suspiciously.

Mist concentrated and conjured a magicka book of town portal. "I picked up the ability to conjure magical books that can instantly teach spells that I know, I'd like to propose a trade. I'll share the secret of creating magic books so that you can share spells with your friends easier and in exchange, you create books for the spells you've already learned."

Locke asked, "What spell does that book teach?"

"Town portal, it lets you open a door to any town you've been to and step through."

"Just towns?"

Mist shrugged. "Yeah, I didn't design it."

"How do I know, you're not just after the espers?" Locke asked.

Mist held out the book. "I guess you don't. You're trying to stop the empire, I'd like to help."

Locke jumped down from the roof and walked over. "One step at a time, let's head to the inn and we'll see if Celes recognizes you."

Mist handed him the book. "Consider it a sign of good faith."

Locke accepted the book. "Thanks." He turned and walked into the pub.

Mist smiled as he followed Locke into the pub. He smiled as he saw the girl with mint green hair at a table with a blond girl in her late teens that he recognized from his new 'memories'. He wasn't surprised when Locke walked over to their table.

Locke stopped in front of the table then whispered something to the girls.

Celes turned then frowned slightly as she looked at Mist, there was something familiar about his face that she couldn't quite place.

Terra asked, "Where are the espers you know about?"

"Vector, the imperial city, in the magicka research facility," Mist admitted.

Celes blinked as everything clicked into place. "You were one of Cid's apprentices."

"I was a kid learning to build interesting devices, I left when I realized where the magic was coming from."

Locke asked, "You were with the imperials?"

"No, I left before I was assigned to any tasks or jobs beyond basic repair work. Read the book, learn the spell and figure out if you want to make the trade. I'm going to grab something to drink while you discuss things." Mist turned and headed for the bar to see if they had anything drinkable. He wasn't sure if Locke's group would take him up on his offer or not but it was bound to be an interesting couple of weeks while they tried to stay ahead of the empire. He knew that the empire wouldn't stop until the magitek factory was destroyed and the emperor killed. Still, running around with some heroes for a bit sounded like fun.

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The next couple of weeks were rather busy for the combined group of heroes as they worked their way toward the imperial capital to take out the magitek factory. He could have reached the capital faster by flying there but he wanted to get a better feel for the monsters in the world and for the abilities Locke's team brought to the table before they snuck into a heavily guarded

facility in the middle of the capital city of the empire they were trying to bring down. They seemed like nice enough people and he remembered them being decent people in the game but this wasn't a game and he wasn't sure how close things were or had been before he murdered Kefka. Thankfully as the weeks wore on and the group got to know each other they were able to build up some trust which helped when they raided the magitek facility.

Thankfully things worked out better than the game, though the facility was still destroyed. On the upside, he managed to do some looting while time was stopped which let him grab a bunch of notes and magitek armored suits that he was planning on rebuilding into something decent when he had the time and skills. The best part of the raid other than the magicite that Locke recovered was either the blood sword he'd stolen while the swordsman boss was frozen in time or the fact that he'd managed to fly up and toss the emperor off the balcony to the street several stories below with only a couple of seconds of actual time lost.

The best part was that he'd managed to grab the emperor while invisible so it had just looked like the idiot jumped to his death. Sure it was a bit suspicious but he was dead and gone which would hopefully cause the empire to collapse or at least start falling apart without the driving force behind the expansion. Either way, if they didn't stop he'd come back and have a chat with the next in line and the next until they gave up their idiotic dreams of world domination.

He wasn't sure when Locke and Terra's group would hear about the emperor's death but he didn't want to open that can of worms until after they managed to learn all of the spells they could from the magicite as it meant admitting he could probably bring them all back to life with revive.

Hermione walked over to where Mist was leaning against the railing. "Penny for your thoughts?"

Mist turned to look at Hermione. "I'm just wondering what we're going to do next, without magitek and Kefka, the empire isn't nearly as dangerous as it was. We've got another nine months here, I sort of want to go monster hunting but I don't want to leave our new friends in a lurch."

"Same," Hermione agreed.

Mist blinked. "Really?"

Hermione grinned as she studied his face. "In case you're forgetting, monsters have a chance to drop books thanks to our perks."

"That makes more sense," Mist admitted with amusement.



Hermione glanced back toward the cabins where Ranma was talking to Locke. “That and I want to see if Ranma can redeem the cursed shield or if we need someone that is actually susceptible to the curse to redeem it.”

“We shouldn’t but anything is possible.” He knew it didn’t matter in the game if you stacked protective items but this wasn’t a game.

“When are you going to tell Terra that you can bring the dead Espers back to life?” Hermione asked softly.

“I was hoping to do that after the next round of monster hunting but I should probably tell her before they head to Thamasa to talk with the Esper world which was supposed to happen at some point in here. I’d rather not have a bunch of espers flying around destroying everything if I can help it.”

Hermione winced as she thought about what had happened in the game. “We should probably start with one of the saner espers. We should probably see if we can teach them how to conjure magicka books while we’re at it. That way they could share the spells they want to.”

“Sounds like a plan. If that doesn’t work, we can always wander off and hunt monsters.”

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Genie smiled as the group reappeared in the blackstone room. “Welcome back.”

Mist smiled at Genie. “Nice to see you again.”

“Congratulations, you saved the world from becoming a rather boring place without magic.”

“I’m just glad the remaining leadership in the empire wasn’t nearly as idiotic as the emperor.”

Genie held her finger and thumb a centimeter apart. “I was sort of looking forward to seeing a couple of Espers level the capital.”

Hermione looked down her nose at Genie. “Too much collateral damage and not everyone in the empire was evil.”

“I know which is why I’m not that upset with the results.”

Mist wasn’t all that concerned about the empire, he’d stolen a lot of their magitek in different raids and brought back to life every esper he could get his hands on which should make it harder for someone to repeat the empire’s actions. Either way, time was frozen on that world

until he came back to it or finished his chain which meant that he shouldn't have to worry about the empire for a long time. "How many points did I get?"

"2800." Genie tossed the jump dock up on the wall.

Mist signed in relief as he had a couple of things he really wanted to buy. "Sweet. Let's see what I need to grab." He smiled as he looked over the list of perks and items.

Harry asked, "How much are we getting?"

Mist scrolled down to look at the companion import option again. "A thousand points should give everyone 800 cp to spend."

Ranma asked, "Any suggestions?"

"That depends on what you want, if you want to boost your magic ability then you'll probably want to buy the half esper background as it gives you innate magic for free and is a pretty solid choice. The magitek knight comes with some horrific memories and doesn't offer anything particularly noteworthy other than runic."

Laura snorted. "Which sucks because it messes with our spells."

Beth asked, "Who gets left behind this time?"

Rose sighed. "I'll be fine, Mist can make Abby, Selena and I a magical item with the magic boosting talent."

"In theory we can figure something out." Mist had a couple of ideas including repurposing some of the magitek supplies he'd grabbed from the empire to boost his friends.

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Tool King [100] (Discounted Magiteknician) With the right parts, you can make goofy but powerful items with technology and magitek, just through a little tinkering and experimentation.

Uncrowned [200] (Discount Half-Esper) Your willpower is far greater than that of a normal person, preventing you from being enslaved or manipulated by others without monumental effort.

Magicate Creation [200] (Discount Magiteknician) Turn to any spirit or magic-based creature into magicate.

Innate Magic [400] Boosts all my magic.

Magitek Mastery [300] (Discount Magiteknician) Infuse magic into people and technology.

Items:

The Soul of Thamasa's true value only reveals itself to those who can cast magic, for the relic holds the ability to duplicate any spell cast while wearing it. Can use summon spells while it's on your person.

Companions: 8 (800 cp) [1000]

Umy, Hermione, Sin, Tiffany, Harry, Beth, Ranma, Laura.

Half Esper: [300]

True Humanity [Free] (Free Half-Esper)

Uncrowned [100] (Discounted Half-Esper)

Innate Magic [Free] (Free Half-Esper)

Trance: [300] Change to a temporary boosted form, doubles damage and takes half damage.

Opera Virtuoso [100]

Genie looked over the list. "Let me guess, you're grabbing the Soul of Thamasa rather than the Celestriad because you already grabbed one?"

Mist shrugged. "I don't see a reason to pay points for it when I can just use the copy I got from Terra. It worked with my Diablo spells and I'm planning on ways to increase my mana pool enough that it isn't absolutely necessary. The Soul of Thamasa on the other hand is something I wasn't able to pick up a copy of and who doesn't love tossing two overpowered spells at monsters and watching them explode."

Sin piped up, "Just as long as you don't expect me to clean up the mess."

Mist turned to look at his demon maid. "I thought you liked cleaning?"

"I'm not a house elf, you don't need to make messes for me to clean up," Sin replied with amusement.

Mist grinned at Sin.

Hermione asked, "Now that we've got that sorted, where to next? Vampire Diaries?"

"Might as well get it out of the way unless someone has a better idea?" Mist asked as he glanced around at his friends.

Beth glanced at Genie as she asked, "Are there any quick gauntlets that offer anything interesting?"

Genie turned to look at Beth. "There is a haunted museum that isn't too horrible and a jump where you're trying to figure out some secrets before the government bombs it because of reasons."

Mist frowned slightly as he thought about the jump that genie was talking about. Technically speaking it was survivable and he had magitek armor which would go a long ways toward making the fight against the zombies survivable. "The ability to combine vehicles into weird combinations would be fun to play with."

Genie raised an eyebrow. "Wait, really? You're actually considering going to a zombie filled city without your most of your powers?" She tossed the jump doc up on the screen.

"It's a gauntlet, that means I can't fail my chain and I have magitek armor which means the zombies don't really stand a chance."

"In that case, best of luck this should be amusing, just know that I'm keeping your companions with me so we can watch the fun and eat popcorn."

Sin smirked. "Extra buttery, right?"

"Of course."

"I see how it is," Mist replied with amusement as he looked over the backgrounds, perks and drawbacks to see how many drawbacks he needed to get what he wanted out of the jump.

Ranma laughed. "Nothing wrong with popcorn and blowing up zombies should be fun."

Harry grinned. "Better you than us but if you get the chance, steal some nice sports cars."

"Harry!" Hermione snapped. "Don't encourage him."

Genie shrugged. "I'm fairly sure that the owners of any cars he finds are dead so feel free to collect everything."

Hermione frowned slightly. "In that case, you might want to rob the bookstore and bank."

Mist shook his head. "I won't have my warehouse which pretty much makes looting pointless though if I find a truck or a van, we'll see."

Sin said, "I'm with Harry, I want a sports car."

“So noted. Let’s see, I need to be a mechanic if I want the nice kit bashing ability which means I need 200 points for that and 100 points for the combo ability.”

Genie nodded. “That leaves you human.”

“Which means I really should avoid them biting me. My durability goes from I shrug off nukes to most guns are still not a problem.”

“Yeah well they could bleed on you...” Genie trailed off as the group looked at her. “Okay, I’ve got nothing. I didn’t make the jump.”

“I know. I just need to make it from my starting location to the shop where I can get one of my magitek armor sets, they count as a vehicle, right?”

“Yep,” Genie agreed.

“In that case, can I grab my strategy guide for Dead Rising?”

Genie pouted. “That would make it way too easy.”

“I could always do a different jump first and come back to this.”

“Fine, ten minutes starting from the time you hit accept on the build.”

Mist pictured where he’d left his strategy guides in the warehouse, he should be able to grab them in less than ten minutes. “Deal.” He scrolled down to the flaws section. “I’m not taking the flaw for bringing previous enemies here. I don’t want a chip stuck in my head so the government knows where I am. The so called ‘special’ zombies don’t look fun to deal with and forgetting everything from the jumps and losing my powers for more than half of the gauntlet sounds like a good way to die which leaves bad timing and the people I meet are stupid to cover the 300 points I need.”

“You’re willingly subjecting yourself to stupid people?”

“For less than a week and it doesn’t say I fail if they go splat. I’m going to have a guidebook and what passes for power armor, I think I’ll be fine.”

Selena reached out and punched Mist in the shoulder. “Nope, not happening, you are not taking a flaw that makes us stupid.”

Genie snickered. “I was wondering if you were going to catch that.”

Mist sighed. "Right, sorry, I figured Genie would be kidnapping both of you."

"Nope, the mechanic is a decent background."

Abby asked, "We get the free duct tape right?"

"Of course," Genie replied with amusement.

Laura shook her head. "I'm not sure I want to know."

Harry shook his head. "Me either."

Sin wiggled her eyebrows. "I can think of some uses for duct tape."

Mist looked down his nose at Sin. "Bad demon. I guess that means we'll be swapping things to the interesting zombies."

Genie raised her arms over her head as she jumped up in the air, "Yes! Zombie death trap is a go!"

"Uh, huh, who gave Genie coffee?" Mist with amusement.

Genie pouted as she summoned her #1 Jump Chan mug filled with coffee. "Mine, you can't have it." She took a sip with a look of delight on her face.

Mechanic: [200]

You know your way around machinery; you are a practical engineering wizard able to repair anything right on the spot. Additionally a lifetime of hard practical work has made you physically fit, on par with a professional athlete.

Everything Is A Weapon: [Free] You are a master of improvisation, quickly able to categorize everything you can get your hands on into the nearest approximate instrument of mayhem, and use it thusly.

Waypoints: [Free] You'll have an absolutely perfect range sense and ability to navigate by dead reckoning. In addition, you perfectly remember any map you have seen from now on, and are even able to make annotations in these maps mentally.

Combo Vehicle: [100] Combine vehicles in a minute flat.

Gear:

Transceiver: Free and Mandatory: Provides advice and objectives.

Welding Torch, Duct Tape and Multi-tool: [Free Mechanic]

Mist glanced over the perks and gear. "That's actually not too bad."

Abby said, "I wouldn't have expected to end up as gear monkeys but it's probably the best choice."

"You have ten minutes, ready?" Genie asked with amusement.

"Yep." Mist pushed accept then ran for the warehouse door so he could get the strategy guide that he needed to finish the gauntlet.

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Mist frowned as he looked around the street filled with creepy looking zombies, including some zombies almost as large as Hagrid which was cheating as far as he was concerned. He picked up the two girls then flew up off the ground twenty feet. "Okay, that's a lot more work than I remember."

Abby frowned as she managed to float under her own power if very slowly. "Okay, our speed sucks."

"If you can avoid falling for a minute, we need to find a parking garage or a mechanic's shop so that we can grab our vehicles." Mist smiled as he saw a parking garage two streets over. "Does everyone have enough mana to cast invisibility?"

Selena nodded. "I don't know how long it will last but sure, we can do that."

Mist said, "In that case, go for it. That way we won't get shot out of the air by gangs. There is a parking garage two blocks that way." He gestured toward the parking garage he could see. He waited for the girls to turn invisible or at least mostly invisible then cast his own invisibility speed and used his stranger power. It looked a bit more like a disillusionment charm than actual invisibility but every little bit helped and they only had to go a couple of blocks. He carefully started flying toward the parking garage while trying to keep his eyes out for zombies and thugs. He figured he could look through the strategy guide once he was actually in his mech.

Thankfully nothing jumped out or shot at them as they made their way to the parking garage though part of that was because there were several gang members running from a hoard of zombies. He landed then made a dash for the office. He was rather happy and sort of amused when he got there and a menu popped up so that he could grab a suit of magitek armor.

Selena was rather relieved to grab her own suit of magitek armor. "Now what?"

Abby snickered as she reappeared in a suit of magitek armor. "Now we blast the ever loving shit out of everything that moves." She brought her weapon up and sent a blast of lightning at a zombie as it walked around the corner of the building.

Selena gulped as a dozen zombies charged around the corner then unleashed her own blast of fire on the zombies. "Shit."

Mist pointed his armor's cold gun at them and blasted away as he set the guide on a mostly clear section of the dash so that he could try to figure out where he needed to go. "Okay, we need to find the various secrets then get the hell out of here."

"As long as the guide is accurate, that shouldn't be too hard," Abby replied as she continued blasting away at the zombie horde until they stopped moving.

Mist grinned when he got to the section in the guide that listed where all the information packets were. "Okay, this shouldn't be this bad, hopefully."

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Mist stared at the armored car that he'd just kitbashed together with an older though nowhere near mint condition Camaro which had turned it into an armored sports car of doom. "That is a bit horrifying and broken as hell."

Selena frowned as she looked at the metal plates over most of the windows other than a small section of what she hoped was bulletproof glass. "You might need to refine your technique."

"Nah, I just need to replace the windows with indestructible glass once I have the time and maybe add some road lasers."

Selena glanced over toward where Abby was watching the door to the mechanics shop in her magitek armor. "I can't tell if you're joking or not."

"Are you telling me you never wanted road lasers?" Mist asked in disbelief.

"We grew up on an island with pokemon, I wouldn't have needed road lasers so no, that's just you," Selena replied with amusement as she walked around the car examining the bulletproof tires and armor. "Are we going to take it for a test run?"

"No, we had enough trouble clearing out the area so we could take a nap and get something to eat out of a vending machine that hadn't been tampered with-" Mist brought his hand up and tossed a holy bolt at a zombie that jumped through the shop's back window. "Shit! Abby!"



Selena opened the passenger door to the car and jumped in as more zombies burst through the shop's windows. She pulled the door shut and locked it then scrambled for the driver's seat.

Abby scowled as she turned and managed to catch part of the wall with her suit's weapon. "Damn it!" She really wanted something a bit more like Iron Man than a walker.

Mist scowled as he launched a flame wave at the zombies that did a pathetic amount of damage and ate a fair amount of his remaining mana. He tossed up a flame wall then ran for his suit. Thankfully his bodymod wasn't reduced which meant that he was faster than the zombies. "Abby!"

Abby slammed her hand against the controls and offered up a silent prayer that her weapon ripped through the wall enough to be pointed in the right direction. She opened fire trying not to hit Mist's new car as she didn't want to toast her sister.

Mist jumped/climbed up into his magitek armor then took aim and started blasting away at the zombies. 'This is the last time I take any improved zombies flaws.'

Abby finished blasting the various zombies inside then moved back outside to make sure more weren't coming from outside. "We should head out."

Mist glared at the various windows of the ruined shop. "Agreed. It's clear!"

Selena opened the driver's door and slipped out then shut the door and ran for her magitek suit. "I'm starting to hate this place."

"Same, we should be able to grab the rest of the information we need then leave." Mist figured he could kitbash a couple more vehicles on the way out of town after they collected everything.

OoOoO

Genie snickered as Mist, Selena and Abby reappeared. "I thought for sure that you'd get turned into a zombie or blown up by the military when you tried to sneak out."

Mist shivered as he thought about some of the close calls with some of the nasty and rather fast zombies. "Thankfully the military are trained to look for people and aircraft, not nearly invisible flying through the air at twilight. As for the damned zombies, I'm really not amused by the mutant zombies of doom. They were also annoyingly intelligent for zombies."

Genie chuckled. "Yep."

Hermione pulled Mist into a hug. "I'm glad that you didn't get torn to pieces."

“So am I. More likely would have been losing because I got infected blood on me but we blasted things from range for the most part.”

Harry looked at Genie. “You sterilized their clothes, right?”

“Oh hell yeah, that stuff is nasty,” Genie agreed enthusiastically.

“How many points do I have?”

“1000, not bad for a zombie killing romp that only took two days.”

“It would have been less but we had to track down one of the gang’s that had stolen some of the information we needed to prove that it was a government screw up.” Mist was just glad that he’d managed to win because being able to combine ships in a minute flat was awesome and totally worth having to deal with a city filled with zombies.

Beth snickered. “So, what are you grabbing?”

“I want to pick up book smarts which gives me some bonuses if I have a book on my that relates to what I’m trying to do. I mean if a cooking book lets me heal from eating and a hobby book makes the things I build more durable then I’m curious to see what type of boost I get from my artifact book.”

Genie sighed. “Paperwork.”

Mist turned to look at Genie. “I get paperwork or you have to deal with paperwork?”

“I’m fairly sure I’m going to have to fill out a glitch report on this,” Genie replied half joking.

“Sorry, it’s too nice not to use. I think I’ll grab the ability to know where I need to go next for a task, it doesn’t narrow things down more than a large room but in a lot of cases, that’s enough. That leaves 400 points for importing four people with the mechanic’s background.”

Harry raised his hand. “Sounds fun.”

Laura shook her head. “No thanks.”

Beth raised her hand. “It would give me something to work on while the rest of you are adventuring.”

Rose nodded. “Same unless someone has any objections?”

Ranma shook his head. “I’m good not being a mechanic considering I’m more combat oriented.”

"I have repair spells if I need to repair things," Sin admitted.

Mist said, "That works, Harry, Beth, Rose and Tiffany gets mechanic skills."

Genie snickered. "Don't forget endless duct tape and a blowtorch that doesn't run out of fuel."

"I wouldn't mind a copy of the duct tape to study," Hermione admitted.

"Sure."

Harry asked, "Where to next?"

Mist said, "Doom, I want to pick up a BFG9000 and a couple of other perks like the ability to basically create a pocket world arena where we can practice without worrying about hurting each other. It also has the advantage of being rather short."

Ranma smirked. "Count me in, I wouldn't mind tearing through some demons."

Hermione said, "Do we have a plan for the best way to deal with the monsters?"

"I was planning on tossing up a mana shield, charging in and using a staff of apocalypse to wipe out the demons." Mist looked at Ranma. "Either that or we just let Ranma rip them apart with his staff, they are demons after all."

"That sounds easy enough." Ranma had played the games, he'd seen what they used for weapons and how much damage exploding barrels did to some of the end level demons, he wasn't impressed.

Genie shook her head. "Honestly, you just like beating Doom up, I mean what do you even get out of it?"

Mist laughed. "A BFG9000 and some other interesting trinkets. Not to mention the ability to become completely immune to damage for half a minute every jump. Sure, that doesn't seem like much but it's pretty awesome when you transfer the ability to something that won't disintegrate in thirty seconds."

Genie shook her finger at Mist. "Nope, not happening. You have to try harder than that to get complete indestructibility."

"Ah fine," Mist replied with amusement. He hadn't thought it would work but he wanted to make sure before he wasted the points on the ability. He smiled as he picked out what he wanted. He

didn't have enough points to get what he really wanted but he was hoping that he'd get enough points after the jump to afford the a really cool monster form.

Drop in:

Breakdown screen: [Free]

Altdeath: [200]

Source Port. [300] You may import up to 8 companions, or recruit up to 8 Space Marines or Monsters at the normal price. You may buy perks that are not available to your Background for double their CP cost.

Walnut Creek CD-ROM: [600]

A BFG9000 and 40 Cells. [600]

Class 0: [0] Sexy Magic girl that tosses fireballs.

Class 0: [0] Sexy Magic girl with a gun with limitless ammo.

Dead Weight: [+100] You cannot jump or climb for the duration of the Jump.

Shareware: [+100] Cancels and overrides the Registered and Plasma Rifle/BFG9000 perks

Fast: [+100] All monsters move and fire three times faster.

Respawn: [+100] All monsters respawn 30 seconds after dying.

Infighting: [+100] For others, you tend to wander into your allies line of fire often, and they yours.

Overenthusiastic Drill Sergeant: [+100] You instantly consume, activate, equip, or use any non-weapon object you pick up if it would have any noticeable effect or benefit at the moment you touch it.

Ultra-Violence: [+100] All monsters are twice as hard to kill. There are also more of them.

Genie frowned as she looked over Mist's choices. "Seriously? You want regenerating, respawning, fast and durable monsters? Seriously, why?"

"Because I needed the points and farming an endless number of demons gives me a decent collection of magicite." Mist grinned at Genie.

"Magicite?" Genie asked in disbelief.

"They're demons which are magical creatures. They probably don't have the best abilities in the world but learning to toss a fireball that doesn't cost mana could be useful in certain worlds and if we can make dozens of them or hundreds. I could give them out like candy to PRT agents in Worm or in Masters of Magic to my minions though I'd probably go for something more impressive than just imps, maybe the nightmare imps that can also turn invisible."

Laura piped up, "Looks like a solid plan to me."

Ranma grinned. "Sounds like fun to me."

"You're going to try for Romero's head so you can spawn monsters aren't you?" Genie asked warily.

"Eh, magical demon girls but yeah," Mist admitted.

Genie shook her head. "You like causing me paperwork, don't you?"

"Maybe," Mist replied teasingly.

"In that case, have fun killing demons, you'll probably want to send the girls back to the companion housing as soon as you get there considering the difficulty level."

Selena nodded. "That's the plan."

Ranma said, "At which point, I'll be teleporting in so I can have fun."

"Right, so what do you want your magical minions to look like?" Genie brought up a 3d modeling program.

Abby piped up, "Hot redheads!"

Hermione glanced around at the rest of the group. "Seriously, what about the moral issues, they die if he changes form."

Mist shook his head. "I'm actually planning on using generous donation and avatar to separate my minion creation ability from the messed up head alternate form."

"That still doesn't fix everything, you're creating minions with a shelf life."

Genie shrugged, "To be fair, they're more like spirits creating a temporary body and you're giving them the chance to run around."

"In other words, we shouldn't feel bad that they die if he changes form?" Hermione asked.

"Nope," Genie replied.

"In that case, I still think you're a little insane but having the ability to summon minions might save lives at some point."

"In that case, let's get to designing them, I'm assuming you want them cute, right?"

Selena said, "He better."

“Eye candy for the win,” Abby agreed.

Laura snickered.

Hermione looked at Harry. “Thoughts?”

Harry turned to look at Hermione rather than the life sized 3d models on the screen that Genie was working on. “Cute monster girls are better than ugly monsters.”

“You’re all perverts,” Hermione muttered to herself.

Sin snickered as she hugged Hermione from behind. “I seem to recall a certain magic girl with skimpy outfits.”

“That was Luna’s fault,” Hermione replied defensively.

Genie snickered. “The minions should probably come with skimpy outfits to match.”

Sin snickered as she set her chin on Hermione’s shoulder. “Unless you want them naked?”

Hermione blushed slightly as she considered Sin’s suggestion. “No, that’s okay.”

Mist smiled slightly as the girls gave suggestions for the magic girls and their outfits. “In that case, I’m going to grab some bags and such while you’re working.”

“Sure,” Genie replied absently as she played with the sliders for the monster girls.

OoOoO

Abby shivered as she looked around the area where they’d appeared, thankfully it was free of monsters at least at the moment. “Now what?”

Mist pulled a sword out of his inventory. “You and Selena head back to the companion housing and I see how many monsters I can kill for magicite.”

Selena gave Mist her most stern look. “Call if you run into problems.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll be fine.” Mist used his free hand to pull Selena in for a kiss.

“You should probably save that for a safer location,” Abby pouted out.

Selena snickered as she stopped kissing Mist then turned to look at Abby. “In that case, maybe we can talk Hermione into having fun with us while Mist is working.”

Mist rolled his eyes. "Now you're just being mean."

Abby snickered as she pulled her phone out of her pocket. "Don't worry, we'll take pictures." She grabbed Selena's hand then pushed the button to teleport back to the companion housing.

Mist smiled as he watched the two girls vanish then turned and walked down the rather creepy hallway. His smile slipped off his face as a zombie soldier stepped around the shoulder and shot him. He ignored the second shot as he charged forward and cut the zombie in half. He reached out with his magic and twisted the zombie into a piece of magicite. He frowned as he looked down at the tiny piece of magicite that looked like a pebble. "I guess that means I can ignore the zombies."

Ranma dodged to the side and brought his staff up to block as Mist turned and slashed at him. "Hey!"

Mist stopped his slash and backed up a step. "Sorry about that."

"You're nearly indestructible, how the hell are you that jumpy?"

"Probably the gauntlet where I actually had to care about getting attacked," Mist admitted.

Ranma blinked as a zombie soldier appeared out of thin air then dashed forward and slammed his staff into the zombie head causing it to explode in a shower of gore. "Respawn?"

"Pretty much, yeah. Thirty seconds."

"In that case, let's go." Ranma grinned as he cast this mana shield spell then dashed down the hallway in search of monsters to kill.

Mist dashed after him. Sure, he could have just used his watch but he didn't want to turn into a one trick pony.

OoOo

Ranma shook his head as he watched Mist dash over and pick up the backpack from the hidden cubbyhole where it was stashed. "Seriously, must you pick up every single item?"

"Actually, yeah, it's a flaw," Mist replied absently as he walked back over to the window so that he could look out at the small army of demons. "This isn't nearly as easy as I was expecting."

Ranma snorted. "What were you expecting?"

"I wasn't expecting the monsters to be able to fire their plasma rifles in a nearly continuous stream of blue fire or the rockets to be near constant."

"If it makes you feel better, I can always teleport back and you can freeze time on each level," Ranma pointed out.

Mist shook his head. "Aren't you still having fun?"

"Lots," Ranma replied with amusement.

"In that case, let's work our way toward the end of the level so I can get a magicite from the boss." Mist wasn't sure if the magicite from the tougher monsters would be all that useful but they had to be more useful than the magicite he'd turned the zombies into. He stopped at the entrance to the large room with at least two dozen imps around the edges of the room. "I really wish they'd set the respawn timer for longer."

Ranma watched the various imps turn in their direction. "I'd suggest blowing up the barrels again but unlike the monsters, they don't respawn. Don't worry, I've got this." He grinned as he charged into the room and started slaughtering the various monsters as he made his way toward the other side of the room.

Mist laughed as he stepped into the doorway, raised his hands and started casting flame wave into the room.

Ranma was just glad that his shirt caused him to get healed by fire damage. Mist's flaw made sure they wandered into the line of fire but nothing in the flaw said they had to use anything that would actually hurt. "We're going to need to find an actual challenge at some point."

"Best of luck with that," Mist called out as he dashed over to the imp that had dropped a book and picked it up. He glanced at the strange and creepy looking words on the front of the book then stuffed it into his inventory so that Hermione could look at it later. He put on a burst of speed to make it to the empty hallway with Ranma before the demons respawned. "Might as well keep going."

OoOoO

Mist scowled as he felt claws hit him and knock him back, more from surprise than anything as he'd been trying to grab a magazine of shotgun ammo. He blinked as he realized that he could make out a barely visible demon. "Nice." He stepped forward, punched his fist through the demon's skull, grabbed the twitching creature's brain and ripped a large chunk of its brain out. He reached out with his magic and turned the creature into magicite.



Ranma killed a second invisible demon then turned back to see what the holdup was.

“Problem?”

“I was thinking of farming the invisible demons for a bit if you want to head back and grab a snack or something.” Mist put the magicite in his bag then shook the blood and brain matter off his other hand.

“Seriously?” Ranma asked.

“Unless you want to scout around for the exit?” Mist asked.

“We already know where it is, more or less.” Ranma didn’t see a problem with breaking some windows and taking the shorter way to the exit. “I might as well head back and give the girls an update.”

“Thanks, I’ll stay here and see how long it takes me to get bored.”

“Or pile the bodies up to high you can’t fight,” Ranma replied.

“I can always toss them behind me down the hall.”

“Any preferences for food?” Ranma asked as he pulled his phone out of his pocket.

“Sin’s spaghetti or tacos or whatever she’s cooking as long as it isn’t fish.”

“Call if you run into a problem.” Ranma pushed the button and teleported back to the companion housing.

Mist looked down at the barely visible demon. ‘I could use some invisible leather and I should work on my skinning and leatherworking skills-’ He cut off that train of thought as a mostly invisible demon appeared in the dead demon’s starting location. He reached out and killed the demon with a blow to the head then reached out with his magic and turned it into a magicite as it died.

He stepped forward and punched the second demon to appear in its eye and into its brain then turned it into magicite. He pulled a knife out of his inventory then went to work skinning the demons as best he could. It was rather slow going to start with on account of him not being able to see the demons clearly and on account of the fact that he only had a vague idea of how to actually skin a demon.

Twenty minutes later he’d been forced to smash a hole in the wall and start tossing bodies through so he wouldn’t be buried by demon corpses. Five minutes after that, he got a phone call from Sin. “Hello?”

“Dinner should be ready in twenty minutes, can you get somewhere safe?” Sin asked curiously.

“Probably, if nothing else, I’ll toss the two demons in here outside and they can find the long way back while someone drops off food.” He had a feeling that would bring half the level to him but in some ways that would make things easier as it would let him burn them all down at once then freeze time and just walk to the end of the level.

“In that case, I’ll give you a ring in twenty or twenty five minutes.”

“Thanks, got to go.” Mist closed the phone and stuck it in his pocket. He glanced down at his clean hand. ‘Evercleansed his almost cheating.’ He punched the mostly invisible demon, killing it instantly then turned it into magicite. He finished off the second demon then looked down at the pile of mostly invisible demons piled beneath the window. ‘Makes me wish I had a better inventory...’ He muttered, “Damn it,” as he realized that he could just shrink the demons and stick them in a bag to get them back to the warehouse so he could harvest their bones and such later for invisible material.

He concentrated on the dead demon in front of him then cast his shrink spell. He smiled as he managed to shrink the demon down to the size of a teddy bear. It wasn’t as small as he’d like it but Hermione had charmed the bags with undetectable expansion charms so there was plenty of room and he had a decent number of bags. He stuffed the dead teddybear sized demon into the bag then repeated the process on the next demon which left him enough time to levitate one of the dead demons from outside back into the room before the demons respawned and he had had to repeat the process again.

0o0o0

Mist scowled as he found himself on the ground looking up at the sky after crashing through a concrete wall. “What the fuck?” He rolled out of the way of a ball of plasma that the goatman like demon tossed at him. “Fuck you!” He raised his hands and tossed two ultima spells into the building where the two Barons of Hell had just kicked his ass and sent him through a wall. ‘They hit like freight trucks.’ It wasn’t enough to actually hurt but he’d have been pasted by a glancing blow without his FISS enhancement.

He stared as his spells destroyed that section of the building with an explosion of blue and black energy that ripped through stone and shredded the metal support beams leaving behind nothing but a shallow ruined crater where the building was and two rather pissed off and half dead looking Barons of Hell.

He dove and rolled a couple of times to avoid the two nearly continuous streams of plasma from the pissed off Barons. He rolled to his feet then blasted the mostly dead barons with two more ultima spells which thankfully finished them off in a massive blue and black explosion of energy.

He reached out with his magic and turned them into magicite. 'Worst part is they'll be back in thirty seconds.'

Mist quickly summoned the two new magicite stones and put them in smaller bag he'd been using for interesting magicite then took the chance to take a couple of breaths as he tried to figure out the best way to kill the barons repeatedly. He knew that he should just run past them to the exit but he wanted a magic book from them and he wanted more magicite crystals. As long as he didn't get cocky again, he should be able to farm the Barons for a while.

OoOoO

Mist blinked as he appeared in the blackstone room and realized that he was in his boxers. "Where are my clothes?"

"In the wash, they were covered in demon goo and stuff," Genie replied firmly.

Selena pulled Mist into a hug. "You made it!"

"Of course I made it, I can tank a strategic nuke and all I had to do was make it to the end of the dungeon." Mist looked over Selena's shoulder at Genie. "How many points did I get?"

"1,900 points, more than enough for your crazy plan," Genie admitted.

"Sweet." Mist grinned as he spun Selena around. "I want Romero's head or the equivalent."

Genie snapped her fingers. "Done, 700 points for later."

Selena let Mist go after he set her down. "I'm glad that you survived, what took you so long?"

"I was farming the two Barons of Hell for Magicite and books."

"Any luck with the books?" Hermione asked hopefully.

"I picked up a couple of books," Mist admitted.

Ranma shook his head. "Where are we heading next?"

Mist glanced at Hermione. "X-Men. Being able to give people regeneration would help a lot for keeping various people safe in the Vampire Diaries."

"Let's do it," Laura agreed.

Genie tossed the X-men movie jump up. "Not a bad idea."

Mist turned to look at Selena and Abby. "I was thinking experiment for a background but we'd get some less than fun memories."

Abby asked, "What's the upside?"

"The upside is 200 more points for powers which would give you 600 points for powers."

Selena winced. "How bad are the memories?"

Genie spoke up, "A bit on the traumatic side."

Abby shook her head. "In that case I think I'd rather stick with drop in."

Selena nodded. "I'm fine with drop in or even student."

"I guess student/professor works. I can bring two people for the jump, any takers for experiment so we can pick up adamantium and omega regeneration?" Mist scrolled down so that everyone could read the omega level version of regeneration.

Harry blinked. "You could hand out a permanent version of regeneration?"

"Pretty much, they'd have to basically destroy your body or decapitate you and move your head away from your body even with the lesser form of regeneration."

Harry would have loved to have that ability when he was younger, he still would. "I'll do it. I already have a bunch of horrifying memories, a couple more won't be so bad." He was planning on tossing the new memories in a pensieve and then washing them down the drain if they were too problematic so it wasn't that big a deal.

"That works for me," Mist agreed.

Rose looked at Beth as she asked, "Any objections to Beth grabbing a student background for the memory upgrade considering she doesn't have enhanced mastery?"

Mist glanced around the group to make sure no one had an objection then focused on Beth. "We can do that if you want?"

Beth spoke up, "Or I could grab the experiment background, pick up the free pain tolerance perk then spend a hundred points on an improved memory and have a hundred points for something else."

"If you want to get stuck with painful memories."

"I'll be fine, worst case, I'll just dump the worst memories," Beth replied.

"What mutant power should I grab?"

"It's up to you but power amplification is pretty cool, it lets you boost the power of someone by double. It says you'll be able to eventually boost more than one person which is useful."

"In other words with enough practice I might be able to boost the entire group, that's pretty cool and probably the most useful to pick up during the jump rather than after, sort of like Harry's power."

"Pretty much."

"In that case, I think I'll grab the combat boost for using my powers in melee." Beth filled in her selections then stepped back. "What are you spending your 400 points on?"

"I was considering beta technopathy which I can upgrade after the jump."

Hermione spoke up, "That would be useful for science fiction jumps."

"Not to mention hacking if we have to," Laura pointed out.

Mist didn't add that he could use it to rob ATMs or alter bank computers and a bunch of other unethical things. "I can cover a lot of the other powers with magic, I don't have any hacking spells yet."

Tiffany snickered. "You'd just get into trouble."

"Do we have a plan?" Rose asked.

Mist said, "Yeah, drop in, sign up with Xavier and take out apocalypse when he comes so that I can pick up the very nice ability to permanently boost four people a jump that aren't companions. Beyond that, I don't really have any plans."

Genie turned to look at Selena and Abby. "What do you want to spend your free 400 points on?"

"Super Vision and Phasing for me," Abby replied enthusiastically.

Selena had to agree with Abby, the other cheap options didn't look that amusing, venom claws might be useful for temporarily paralyzing someone but she had magic for that. She didn't have a spell for phasing through things nor looking through walls or clothes. "Same."

"I'll add it to the list..." Genie trailed off as she looked at Mist's background and perk choices.

Mist

Background: Professor (magitek/magic instructor)

Companions: [100] 2 companions

Clear Memory: [Free]

Technopathy: [400]

"You're going to be a magitek instructor?" Genie asked in disbelief.

"Eh, why not? We have the book from Magicka which means that I can teach people how to access that style of magic, elixirs and spellbooks from Diablo I can copy and I should have enough equipment to build a magical infusion chamber. The X-Men could use the help, between giving them regeneration and magic, they might be able to help keep the world a little safer."

"I guess that makes a certain amount of sense. I have a feeling the students are going to hate you and Logan when they find out about your Altdeath ability."

Laura snickered. "Or they'll appreciate being able to go full blast without worrying about destroying everything."

Hermione shook her head. "We'd have to clear that with the professor."

"On of the things on my list of things to talk to him about." Mist was hoping for a decently peaceful jump outside of Apocalypse and issues with Magneto.

"If that's everything, shall I send you on your way?" Genie asked.

"Where are you sending us?"

"Xavier's school. You'll be dropping in a week before Wolverine meets Rogue. That should give you a week to prepare for the start of the fun."

"Works for me, I want to steal Magneto's machine that turns people into mutants. Just because he can't make it work, doesn't mean I can't after I pick up a couple of perks."

Genie winced. "Great, more paperwork. Have fun dealing with Magneto, Apocalypse should show at some point before you leave."

"Good, I guess," Mist admitted. He wasn't looking forward to dealing with the overpowered mutant but he wanted the power boost.

"Do you think the professor wants a martial arts instructor?" Ranma asked.

"I don't see why not and it would save you from being bored," Genie replied as she looked over the choices for the rest of the imports.

Harry

Background: Experiment

Every Time [Free]: Your pain tolerance is at the peak of what a human can achieve.

Omega Regeneration: [800]

Item: Adamantium [200] Still in the container.

Selena and Abby

Background: Professor

Clear Memory: [Free]

Phasing: [200]

Super Vision: [200]

Beth

Background: Experiment

Every Time [Free]: Your pain tolerance is at the peak of what a human can achieve.

Clear Memory: [100]

We'll Show You Ours [100]: You're naturally skilled at using any powers you have into melee combat,

Power Amplification: [800]

"Everything looks good, seen you in a year." Genie smiled at everyone then teleported them to Xavier's.

OoOoO

Jean Gray looked up as Professor Xavier wheeled himself into the institute's medical center.

"The initial tests are promising."

Charles smiled at Jean. "That is good to hear."

"We need to run a few more tests but hopefully you'll be walking by the end of the month." She was looking forward to seeing the Professor get out of his wheelchair. She was hoping a blood transfusion would repair the damage in Scott's brain that kept him from being able to control his power.

"I'm looking forward to it." Charles was trying not to get his hopes up. He'd tried a number of 'crazy' solutions over the years but he'd mostly come to terms with not being able to walk years ago. "Any idea how the mushrooms work?"

Jean scowled as she thought about the various inconclusive tests she'd ran on the so called magic mushrooms the new 'magic' professor had handed her for testing. "No, just that they do much like the ring he gave me for testing that blocks my powers," she complained.

"Life is full of surprises. At least it reminds us of the need to be flexible." Charles had met a couple of amoral telepaths over the years so having a method for his students to stay safe wasn't a bad thing especially if the ring couldn't be mass produced by a third party.

"What do you think of his magic infusion device?" Jean asked warily.

"Considering how dangerous being a mutant is, I doubt having more abilities will change things in that respect. Having the ability to heal, create shields and put enemies to sleep without hurting them should help keep everyone safe."

"I have to admit, being able to heal people would be nice." Jean still wasn't sure if she believed Mist about some of his abilities being magic but he'd let her borrow one of his magic rocks and she'd tossed a fire small ball of fire which lent some credence to his claim that at least some of his abilities were learnable.

"Keep me informed for what you find out about the mushrooms." He wouldn't mind having the body of a twenty year old version of himself.

"I'll keep working on it. Anything else?" Jean asked.

"Not right now." Charles had a feeling the next couple of weeks would be interesting. He turned his chair around and headed back to his office.

0o0o0

Beast frowned slightly as he looked over the strange machines that Mist was setting up. "How sure are you that no one can get in here without your help?"

Mist didn't bother to look up from assembling various pieces of the magic infusion chamber he was putting together in his warehouse. "I'm almost completely sure that my warehouse is safe while the portal is closed considering time is frozen until I open the portal. I have force field generators to block the entrance while the portal is open. It would take a teleporter or someone like the Juggernaut running at my forcefield and even then, someone would be around to deal with them."

"You have a way to deal with the Juggernaut?" Beast asked in surprise.

"Sure, he can't fly and besides, if I close the portal everyone else gets tossed out. It's not a perfect system but it's the best I have right now and safer than just storing the device in the



school.” Mist was less worried about the device than he was about Apocalypse showing up and causing problems before he managed to steal Magneto’s device for turning people into mutants. Sure it was unstable but he was hoping he could fix that at some point. “Can you hand me the wrench?”

Beast handed him the crescent wrench. “Here.”

“Thanks,” Mist replied absently as he went back to work setting everything up. He was just hoping that his arrival didn’t screw things up for Rogue. He was just glad that everyone was setting in as teachers or students.

OoOoO

Wolverine looked Mist over in the staff room. “You’re supposed to be our magic teacher, where’s your staff and pointy hat?”

Jean sighed as she glanced back and forth between Mist and Logan. “Don’t mind him.”

Mist pulled his staff of the magi out of his inventory. “Right here though I don’t currently have a wizard’s hat.” He put the staff back in his inventory.

“Neat trick,” Wolverine admitted.

“It makes traveling easier,” Mist agreed.

“How many powers do you have?” Jean asked with a hint of annoyance.

“More than a few,” Mist admitted as he grabbed another slice of pizza from the pizza box on the table.

Wolverine asked, “More of your magic?”

“Most of my tricks are magical in nature.”

“Can you help the kid?” Logan asked.

Mist sighed. “Short answer, no, slightly longer answer, yeah.”

“Explain,” Logan demanded gruffly.

“I’ll be here for most of a year then I’m off to another world, once I leave here. My ride should have a serum that can fix her powers and give her control.”

“What about Beast and Scott?” Jean asked hopefully.

“The serum should be able to fix Beast. Scott’s problem should be cleared up once he gets a blood transfusion.”

“And you can’t call them early?” Logan asked suspiciously.

“I wish I could,” Mist admitted.

Jean asked, “Any idea why Magneto is after Logan?”

Mist considered lying then decided he’d made enough changes over the last couple of weeks that he might have already screwed things up enough that not telling them could get someone killed. “He’s not, he’s actually after Rogue.”

Logan narrowed his eyes as he glared at Mist. “Explain.”

“It might be easier if I just showed you a video of what might have happened.”

Jean asked, “A video?”

“Sure.” Mist reached into his inventory and pulled out a DVD case and handed it to Jean.

“X-men?” Jean asked dubiously.

“Yep, it’s basically a what might have been,” Mist admitted.

Logan scowled at Mist. “If this is a joke, you’re going to regret it.”

“It’s not a joke. Basically Magneto has a machine that turns people into unstable mutants. You should just want the movie. We should probably talk to the Professor about it, maybe he can stop Magneto from going off the deep end.”

Jean glanced over the back of the case. “Let’s find a DVD player.”

Mist had a feeling he was going to be answering questions for a while but he didn’t want to be responsible for a lot of dead people if something went wrong. He followed Jean and Logan to one of the empty classrooms where she put the movie on.

OoOoO

Mist almost felt bad as he finished packing up Magneto’s mutant creation machine while Magneto and Sabertooth stood frozen in time. ‘I should probably leave him a note about how

the machine doesn't work.' Thankfully it hadn't taken all that long to use the movie to find his base which had allowed him to slip in and steal the machine. He knew Charles wanted the machine destroyed but he'd have to settle for locked away in his warehouse. He smiled as he walked over and untied Sabertooth's boots then tied the laces together. "Have fun with that."

He pulled the note he'd written explaining the problems with Magneto's device out of his pocket then taped it to Sabertooth's forehead. He would have taped it to Magneto's head but he wanted to give Magneto another reason to hate him. He moved the last crate into his warehouse then closed the portal and walked out of the 'secret' base. He would have loved to get a picture of Sabertooth tripping but he didn't want to chance Magneto sensing the camera or his watch.

He headed back to where he'd left Ranma and Harry then unfroze time.

Harry twitched slightly as Mist moved a foot to the right. "We're going to have to get immunity to that one of these days. Did you get what we came for?"

"Yeah, we're good to go."

Ranma asked, "Do we have a plan?"

Mist shrugged. "I'm planning on heading back to the school and teaching until Apocalypse shows up, after that, I might go on vacation if he doesn't manage to kill us."

Ranma shook his head. "Any ideas of how you're going to kill him before he kills us?"

Mist glanced at Harry. "I have a couple of ideas."

Harry gestured and created a town portal to take them back to New York so they could apparate or catch a taxi the rest of the way. "Let's head back, we can discuss the idea with Hermione."

OoOoO

Harry scowled as Apocalypse finished his rant about how they were nothing and how he was going to destroy the world then possibly remake it in his own image. The group and the X-men had traveled to Cairo to stop the power mad mutant from ruling the world with his horsemen, sadly the fight wasn't going according to plan, he didn't have a god killing weapon, his BFG9000 hadn't done more than scuff Apocalypse's armor if that and even Harry's death spell hadn't managed to get through the mutant's armor of doom. His ultima spells hadn't managed to do much of anything either which was more than a little disturbing as he was quickly running out of ideas.

Abby shouted, "I call on the ancient goddess Bast to smite you!" as she reached into her pocket and pushed the button on her copy of Mist's watch. She sighed in relief as the entire world froze

including Apocalypse. "Try to kill me friends, fuck playing nice." She phased out then walked around to the back of the nearly unstoppable mutant and stuck her free hand into his head. She pushed the button on her watch then phased back in causing her hand to explosively mix with Apocalypse's brain matter. "Fuck!"

Mist stared in shock at Apocalypse and Abby's missing hand and wrist. "What the hell!"

Abby grabbed her arm as tightly as she could to cut off the flow of blood as she ran over to Wolverine and held her arm out. "Hack my arm off at the elbow!" She really didn't want to chance any of Apocalypse's blood mixing with her own and taking her over.

Wolverine used his claws to cut her arm off at the elbow knowing that she'd regenerate.

Jean stared at Wolverine. "What the hell?"

Mist caught Abby as she staggered. "She'll regenerate."

Rogue asked, "How sure are we that he's dead?"

Xavier spoke up, "His mental presence is gone."

Selena stared at her twin. "You're insane, you know that, right?"

"Yell at me later," Abby complained as she stared at her missing stump.

Beth rolled her eyes as she swapped her power amplification over to Abby. "You're just being overly dramatic. I boosted your regeneration, your arm should be good as new in..." she trailed off as Abby's arm was already half regenerated. "Seconds."

Abby wiggled her fingers as they finished regenerating. "Remind me not to do that again."

Mist hugged Abby to him. "Don't ever do that again... unless you have to," he admitted reluctantly.

Selena hugged Abby and Mist. "I think we were at the point where our options were limited."

Cyclops watched warily as Apocalypse's armor and body turned to dust. "Nasty self destruct system."

"It could be worse, it could have been a nuke or something," Laura pointed out.

Mist was just relieved that Abby's gamble had paid off as he'd tried everything else including sending a bunch of magical demon girls at him. He had a feeling he was going to spend the last

month of the jump trying to relax and get over the fact that he'd almost gotten his friends killed in his quest for power. It was more than a little sobering to realize just how badly he'd underestimated Apocalypse's power or rather his armor. He twitched slightly as a blue popup window appeared with various options he could buy. He glanced up at the top of the window where his point total was. '200 points.'

Laura winced as she glanced around the battlefield at the dead demon magical girls scattered around. "Drinks are on me as soon as we get back and hit the strip club."

Xavier decided that he wasn't going to remind everyone that some of them weren't old enough to drink as they'd just saved the world. While he felt bad about losing the eight mutants that had joined Apocalypse he was relieved that they hadn't lost anyone other than temporary troops. "Let's head home."

Mist selected the Mutant Stabilisation Serum then closed the window. 'At least I'll be able to help Rogue and Beast before I leave.'

OoOoO

Mist smiled as he returned Rogue's hug. "Better than a cure, isn't it?"

Rogue laughed as she let him go. "Best of both worlds."

Beast looked away from the lab's mirror that he'd been staring at for the last couple of minutes. "Is this permanent?"

Mist resisted the urge to shake his head as Beast asked the same question he'd asked a bunch of times already. "Yes, it's permanent. Your feet might change back temporarily if you need to grab something but other than that you should be good."

"This is going to chance a lot of people's lives."

"Hopefully for the better. I'll leave you with six doses and twenty copies that might work or might not. The copied formula shouldn't be harmful but I'm not sure how effective it will be." Mist was fairly sure the copied formula would work just fine on mutants but wanted to add the disclaimer just in case. Beast should be able to synthesize more of the serum with some work.

"Thank you," Beast replied firmly.

Rogue smiled at Mist. "It's nice to have my life back."

"You're welcome." Mist was just glad he could help Rogue and Beast.

Beast asked, "Now that your year is almost up, where are you going to go?"

"To help a different world."

Rogue shook her head. "It still sounds impossible, traveling to alternate worlds every year so that you can help various worlds."

"I try to leave every world better off than when I got there while having fun."

Beast glanced back at the mirror at his human looking face. "Considering the number of inhuman looking mutants your serum can help, I'd say you succeeded, at least for this trip."

"It could have been worse," Mist admitted as he thought about the fight with Apocalypse and how badly it could have went.

"I'm going to go hold my boyfriend's hand and maybe sneak a couple of kisses now that I know I won't kill him." Rogue smiled as she almost ran out of the lab.

Mist chuckled as he watched Rogue leave. "What about you Hank?"

"I'm torn between grabbing a drink at the bar and looking at the serum to figure out how it works," Beast admitted.

"The serum will still be here in the morning," Mist replied as he headed out of the lab. He wanted to make some more copies of various spellbooks before he left in the morning.

"Good point."

0o0o0

Laura frowned slightly as Angel's wings grew from his back to full size in three seconds then vanished the same way in another five seconds. "That's a little creepy and totally cool."

"It makes passing for normal a lot easier," Angel replied as he glanced around the party. There were a few people that had expressed interest in the serum that Beast had been nice enough to share with him.

Rogue smiled as she reached up and touched Bobby's face. "I'm just happy I can touch people."

"I was happy before but this is better," Bobby admitted.

Tiffany walked up behind Laura and rested her chin on her shoulder as she pulled her in for a hug. "I'm glad that we could help."

"I'm just surprised that your formula worked. Hopefully Hank can design cures for everyone that wants one."

Laura had a feeling it wouldn't be quite that easy but they could always come back with more serum if they had to. "If nothing else, I'm sure Mist will keep working on making it easier to duplicate."

"I'll make sure that he has enough funding," Angel offered.

"We'll keep that in mind if we need the funding. Let's grab some darts and see if Beast is drunk enough to lose."

Bobby glanced over at where Logan and Beast were playing darts as Beast hit a bullseye. "Not even remotely."

Laura laughed. "In that case, I'm going to grab some more soda and get him another beer."

Bobby grinned as he held out his hand to Rogue. "Shall we?"

Rogue smiled as she grabbed his hand after a second's hesitation. "Of course."

Angel turned and headed toward the part of the floor they were using for dancing, he had a future, he might as well enjoy it..

OoOoO

Mist smiled as he reappeared in the black stone chamber with the rest of the group. "Hey Genie."

Genie sighed. "Hey, you cut that one a bit close didn't you?"

"I was hoping that my various spells would cut through this armor, I'm going to have to work on that," Mist admitted.

Abby said, "It worked out."

Ranma was just glad that no one in the group had died. "More or less at least."

Genie said, "On the upside, you have 2800 additional points to spend on perks and powers which means you have 2900 points."

Mist sighed in relief that the number wasn't tiny. "That means I can upgrade my technopathy, grab a couple of student perks and pick up a couple of powers."

"Pretty much."

"And hopefully let the rest of us pick up some powers," Harry reminded Mist.

"Yeah, point."

OoOoO

Companions: 300 points 6 additional people.

A Brilliant Mind [300] You're a certifiable genius. Creating most any tech in available in the modern world, machines that amplify or dampen mutant abilities, robots, or a danger room with hardlight holograms is child's play for you.

Gene-ius [300] You're a genius in the field of genetics and a near untouchable prodigy.

Technopathy Omega: [400] (Boosted from Alpha)

Power Amplification: [800] Boost other people's powers by double. Starts at one person and increases with time.

Teleportation: [800] 150 mile range and the ability to telefrag and teleport things without physical contact.

Hermione: [Student] Omega Telepathy

Ranma: [Experiment] Omega Regeneration, Super Vision

Laura: [Student] Omega Teleportation

Tiffany: [Student] Omega Telekinesis

Sin: [Experiment] Magnetism Manipulation, Super Vision.

Umy: [Student] Energy Absorption.

Genie looked over the lists of powers and perks for the group. "Looks workable, where are you going next?"

"Worm has some pretty decent abilities and everyone gets one for free when they're imported." Mist was hoping to get the twins a solid power each.

Selena said, "I'm looking forward to it."

"I think we all are looking forward to having some decent powers," Beth agreed.

"You've mentioned the world a couple of times, how bad are the gangs?" Hermione asked.

Mist shrugged. "Nothing we can't deal with if we're reasonably careful. The worst of the bunch is probably the ABB, their leader gets larger and strength the longer he's in a fight. Oni Lee can



teleport and make temporary clones of himself which is a bit of a problem as he's a sociopath and likes playing with explosives. Bakuda is their tinker who specializes in exotic energy bombs."

Rose asked, "Exotic energy?"

"Her bombs that can do things that border on magic, like turning people and things in the blast radius into glass or other very nasty things like liquify things. I'd rather deal with her at range and before she knows we're there."

Harry winced. "That sounds unpleasant."

"Yeah. I'll be a lot happier once we take her down. Still, it has some decent powers."

Hermione looked at Genie. "Can you bring it up?"

Genie smiled as she replaced the X-Men jump on the board with the Worm jump. "There. Oh, we should roll your powers."

Mist frowned slightly as Medical and Biological Science Tinker came up for his power. He winced when Abby ended up with a Inference Engine as it was basically Tattletale's power and twitched when Selena ended up with Biosculpting which was basically a copy of Amy's power. "Not the powers I would have picked but they should be useful."

Abby frowned slightly as she looked over her new power. "I think Selena wins the lottery, figuring out mysteries is nice but not nearly as useful as the ability to rewrite a person's genetics."

Selena said, "You can't win them all."

Rose asked, "What about the rest of us?"

"The import option is 300 points, that means we'd have to spend two years here and take a couple of flaws. All things considered, we probably should as it would give us more powers to play with," Mist admitted.

Hermione looked at Harry then over at Ranma and Laura. "Any objection to spending two years here?"

"Do we have to go to school?" Ranma asked hoping that he didn't have to.

Genie shook her head. "Nope, everyone is nineteen for this jump which means you've already graduated high school. If you take something other than drop in, you'll have records showing

you've graduated from high school and community college. If you want to play around at the university, have fun. To answer your next question, you're starting in Brockton Bay."

"Ah, I'd wondered," Mist replied as he scrolled down to the flaws section. "If we stay two years flaws would be divided by five and I'd start with 200 which means I can pick up the 300 point team option, any objections to helping save the world?"

Harry grinned. "When you put it that way, I'm in."

"Save it from what?" Hermione asked warily.

"Some nasty giant monsters and a massively powerful eldritch abomination that is pretending to be a hero," Mist admitted reluctantly.

"Seriously?" Laura asked in disbelief.

"I know how to kill Scion, I know who to talk to and how to deal with him. I have a reasonable idea on how to deal with the giant monsters. If nothing else, the world doesn't end until after we leave which means we can come back to fix things if we have to."

"This isn't going to turn into another Apocalypse is it?" Abby asked hoping that he actually had a solid plan this time.

"No. With the right power, I know how to kill him within an hour of getting to Worm without anyone knowing that we did it."

"Inside an hour?" Laura asked in disbelief.

"Sure, it's all about using out of context solutions. The endbringers are actually harder to deal with. Still, as long as we stay away from them, we should be fine as long as we don't take a flaw that attracts them."

Selena nodded. "I'm a fan."

"Which flaws are you going to grab?"

"Wanted ABB, On the Radar which lets a secret organization know about us but that shouldn't be all that much of a problem as their information doesn't update and it doesn't imply knowledge of our powers."

Genie spoke up, "That's because it doesn't. They just get the basics, weird powers and knowledge. They'll keep an eye on you but that's about it, at least to start with. Once you start shaking things up, they'll likely show more interest."

"I can live with that. I think I'm going to go with the Leet and Uber flaw that makes Leet's shard actually useful. Then I'll just stun him and stuff him in a stasis pod until we leave."

"That's five hundred points which is reduced to a 100 which gives you enough for the party invite."

"Sounds good."

"Who are you leaving behind this time?"

"I'll grab a power next time." Rose figured she was still ahead of Beth for jumps so she didn't have a problem picking up a power the next time.

Genie nodded. "Probably for the best to have someone that doesn't have a shard to bounce ideas off of." She snapped her fingers and randomly assigned powers to the eight people being imported. She snickered as she looked over the list of powers.

Hermione: Contractor

Harry: Power Well

Ranma: Geist

Tiffany: Inorganic Avatar

Laura: Thanatos

Sin: Thanatos

Beth: Enhanced Mastery

Umy: Compounded Computation

Mist winced as he noticed that his sister and Sin both had a power that summoned a shadowy servant that got better the more people it killed. "Not too horrible."

Tiffany pouted as she read the description on her power, "Pulling in inorganic material and using it as armor... yeah no, unless you can think of a compelling reason not to, I'm picking something else."

Ranma said, "I don't really care for mine either, turning into a ghost and possessing people isn't something I really want to do."

Mist said, "We need someone to pick up doormaker so that we can deal with the main bad guy, other than that, feel free to swap powers." He scrolled down to show the doormaker power.

"That looks a lot better," Ranma agreed. He wouldn't mind being able to travel to alternate dimensions and rescue other versions of himself or just wander so that he could learn new techniques and help out. "I'll take it."

Tiffany asked, "Do we need anything else or should I just grab another copy of contractor?" She looked at Hermione. "Unless that's a problem?"

Hermione shook her head. "No, it looks like a pretty solid power."

Mist considered his strategy for dealing with Scion, he needed a portal power and a bomb for the quick and easy fix, the more hazardous solution was to shoot him with something enhanced with sting so that it cut through his barriers and kill him. "It's that or Sting. Sting might be useful for breaking shields and such things but it doesn't do much against magic."

"We fight a number of magic users." Tiffany look at Genie. "Would both contractor powers stack if I took it as well?"

Genie shrugged. "I don't see why not."

"In that case, yeah, I'll swap my power to contractor."

"No problem." Genie glanced between Tiffany and Hermione. "Do you want the ability to hand out five high powered powers or ten moderate powers?"

Hermione said, "I'd rather be able to hand out better powers than more of them."

"Same," Tiffany agreed.

Beth grinned. "I'm just happy that I picked up a version of enhanced mastery so I can keep up with the rest of you."

Laura grinned. "I'm just happy to have a bodyguard that gets scarier the more monsters it kills."

Sin smirked, "We're going to have to go hunting in the cow level some more."

Mist shook his head. "Just be careful that place is dangerous."

Umy frowned slightly as she read through her power. "I wonder if my power would work on magic research, the more complicated a problem is, the smarter I get."

Genie said, "As long as whatever problem you're working on has some basis in logic, it should work."

"I guess I'll keep it."

Harry wasn't sure about his new power. "I'm not particularly impressed by my power either, I mean sure the ability to level a city block with a blast is somewhat impressive but I could do it with magic and a little time."

Hermione said, "Having the ability to unleash that level of firepower every blast is decent."

"At least until I run out of power and have to recharge for a week."

Genie spoke up, "That's only if he completely drains his well of power, that shouldn't happen all that often."

"I guess that works. What are we thinking for backgrounds?" Harry glanced around the group.

Hermione turned to look at Mist, "I'd rather be a hero than a villain unless there is a pressing reason not to be a hero?"

"The drop in option has a nice capstone perk for being immune to precog."

"I meant as a job."

"Oh, yeah no, as long as you're independant heroes, I think we'll be okay. The PRT has a lot of issues and moles so I'd rather avoid them knowing who we are at least until we can plug some holes."

Sin shrugged. "I don't have any problem with being a hero or a drop in. I mean we still get to steal from criminals, right?"

Mist smirked. "Yep."

Hermione frowned at Mist. "Why are we stealing from people?"

"Money," Harry replied.

"It's not like we need the money, right?" Hermione looked at Mist.

Mist shrugged. "Not particularly. The Monopoly jump made sure we've got more than enough money unless we go completely crazy. Not to mention the gold coins we can sell from Diablo and Final Fantasy if we have to. Mostly the more conflict we cause the less our shards will screw with us. In other words, if we're out there causing problems for the gangs, we'll be less likely to get pushed into doing crazy things."

Ranma said, "In other words, we should push things as much as we can."

“To a certain extent, yeah,” Mist agreed. He wanted to push things against the capes that couldn’t hurt him so that he could avoid going too insane.

Sin piped up, “Besides, we have magic, faking different powers and putting on different costumes shouldn’t be that hard if we have to pretend to be criminals.”

Hermione shook her head. “Only if we have to.”

“We’ll have plenty of things to work on for two years,” Mist pointed out as he scrolled up to the items section.

Genie glanced around the room. “Have you figured out what you’re going to spend your points on?”

“I wouldn’t mind some armor,” Harry admitted.

Genie shook her head. “You might as well save your points. Your magical armor is already pretty decent, you might as well wait for the end of the jump when Mist can include a bunch of things in his armor then duplicate it.”

“I guess that works,” Harry admitted. He didn’t mind spending his points on something more useful.

Beth spoke up, “I wouldn’t mind grabbing the Breach Controller so we have backups if Ranma is busy.”

“Sounds like a plan,” Mist agreed.

OoOoO

**Mist:** [Drop In] Tinker Medical and Biological Science

Well-Adjusted: [Free]

Munchkin: [Free]

Item:

Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

Tinker cache

Item: Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

**Selena:** [Drop in] Bio-sculpting

Well-Adjusted: [Free]

Munchkin: [Free]

Item:

Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

Item: Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

**Abby:** [Drop In] Inference Engine

Well-Adjusted: [Free]

Munchkin: [Free]

Item:

Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

Item: Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

**Hermione:** [Drop In] Contractor.

Well-Adjusted: [Free]

Munchkin: [Free]

Spanner in the Works: [300] Immune to precog.

Item: Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

**Harry:** [Drop In] Power Well

Well-Adjusted: [Free]

Munchkin: [Free]

Spanner in the Works: [300] Immune to precog. Item:

Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

**Ranma:** [Drop In] Doormaker

Well-Adjusted: [Free]

Munchkin: [Free]

Item: Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

**Tiffany:** [Drop In] Contractor

Well-Adjusted: [Free]

Munchkin: [Free]

**Laura:** [Drop In] Thanatos

Well-Adjusted: [Free]

Munchkin: [Free]

Spanner in the Works: [300] Immune to precog.

Item: Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

**Sin:** [Drop In] Thanatos

Well-Adjusted: [Free]

Munchkin: [Free]

Spanner in the Works: [300] Immune to precog.

Item: Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

**Beth:** Hero] Enhanced Mastery

No Such Thing as Collateral: [Free]

What I Fight For: [Free]

Dimensional Breach Controller: [300][

**Umy:** [Drop In] Compounded Computation

Well-Adjusted: [Free]

Munchkin: [Free]

Spanner in the Works: [300] Immune to precog.

Item: Tablet Computer with the Worm Serial on it. [Free]

Genie snorted as she read the list over. "We have a bunch of drop ins and one hero?"

Beth smirked. "Don't worry, I'm going to drag then into the hero business."

"I'm looking forward to watching the fun."

"I'm looking forward to not worrying about teaching or classes." He was planning on teaching some of the various parahumans magic but not until after Scion was dead.

Hermione asked, "Do we have a plan for dealing with Scion?"

"Yeah, we raid Bakuda's lab with some avatars then Ranma opens a portal to the dimension that Scion's body is in and we toss the bombs through and hope for the best."

"How bad is he?"

"His partner and him would travel to a world, give out powers, farm the various aliens for ideas and refinements to abilities for a couple of hundred years then destroy the planet and every alternate version of the planet for resources and to make sure that no one grew powerful enough to challenge them."

Random blinked. "Destroy the planet?"

"Yeah, don't worry, unless we screw things up a lot, the destruction of the world doesn't happen for at least two years. Besides, we're going to kill him so that won't be a problem."

Hermione asked, "How are you going to kill something that can destroy planets?"

"Because having the power to destroy a planet doesn't mean you're indestructible. The entities hide their true bodies on an empty dimension that they lock. The upgraded version of Doormaker that Ranma has says it can go anywhere."

Genie shrugged. "Yep, in other words there is nothing stopping you from reaching his actual body with is stupidly squishy to the point of a girl being able to stab a certain place after one crashed on a version of Earth and basically lobotomizing his partner."

Hermione shook her head. "That doesn't make sense."

Mist said, "They're aliens, they don't really think like us. It would be energy inefficient to make themselves more durable all the time so they don't or maybe can't. Either way they lock themselves away and make sure that no one power can reach the dimension they hide their body in. If we didn't have an upgraded version of Doormaker's power it would take some tricks



to reach Scion's dimension or killing him via a different set of powers. Either way, he's not as indestructible as he'd like people to believe."

Genie nodded. "That part I find insane is there is far more energy and material in suns and massive planets than there is in life bearing worlds, they're just wasteful blowing up worlds with sentient life. Either way, are you reading to go to Brockton Bay yet?"

"No, I need to spend some points from the generic Hentai jump," Mist admitted.

Genie raised her eyebrows. "Oh?"

"Yeah, I want the cell phone and the modification package so that I can remove fetishes and various personality traits."

Genie frowned slightly. "You realize that your friends are immune to mind control, right?"

"I wasn't planning on using it on them, certainly not without their permission. I just think that being able to fix various personality issues is probably a good thing considering most of the parahumans are screwed up one way or another."

Hermione frowned as she thought about the ethical issues of having a device that could edit bits of people's personality. She could understand why Mist wanted it and that it was safer than use using obliviate and suggestion spells to 'fix' people, "Just be careful."

"Don't worry, I'll be careful."

Genie snapped her fingers and upgraded Mist's phone. "Done. Is that everything?"

Mist nodded. "That should be everything."

Genie snapped her fingers and sent the group to Brockton Bay.

0o0o0

Mist smiled as they appeared in his office in his strip club holding a tablet. "Let's take care of the flaws that we can take care of then I want to see about introducing myself at the hospital so we can help one of the local healers out before she burns out."

Harry smiled slightly as he glanced through the 'one way' glass that overlooked the stage at where various cute waitresses in bunny outfits were already setting things up for the afternoon shift. It was always sort of interesting to see how the club changed, some days the girls dressed as bunny girls, some days catgirls and other times they just wore cute little skirts. He pulled his attention off the various women and over at Mist. "Burnout?"

“Yeah, her home life sucks. I’m hoping that I can defuse things but we’ll see how it goes.”

Hermione looked down at her tablet. “We should probably read the story before too long.”

“Feel free to work on that while I try to deal with the ABB and Leet and Uber. The rest of the problems can keep a couple of days but the less time we give the ABB and Leet the better.”

Ranma asked, “What type of stuff should we expect from Leet?”

“Game themed nightmares? The flaw said that he’s at the top of his game and his tech is working again. In other words, he’s more than a little dangerous and will get worse the longer he’s running around. They were small time villains in the story, nothing overly impressive but if we can get them out of here, we might be able to turn them into heroes.”

“In other words, we don’t want to kill them, we want to capture them?” Hermione asked.

“Basically, if we can fix his mental issues and stabilize his powers by leaving with him, he could be incredibly useful to have as a tech.”

Laura glanced around. “Where did Beth go?”

Harry said, “Probably wherever her counterpart was when we dropped in. She dropped in as a hero which means that she actually has a life here.”

Ranma rubbed his chin. “We should probably grab some maps and figure out what we want to do for costumes.”

“I vote armor, cloaks and matching masks.” Sin figured having everyone on the team look similar would keep people guessing on their powers.

“I don’t mind the idea of matching costumes as long as the costumes are reasonable and don’t make us look like jokes,” Mist replied.

Hermione asked, “Do you need help with the ABB?”

Mist shook his head. “I’m going to be abusing stealth and my watch.”

“In that case, we’ll work on the costumes and reading through the story...” Hermione trailed off as Mist’s phone rang.

Mist pulled his phone out of his pocket, glanced at the caller ID then opened it and brought it up to his ear. “Beth.”

“Hey Boss, where are you?” Beth asked curious where the rest of the team was.

“At the club, you?” Mist asked.

“At the market, I’ll be there in a couple of minutes, the club isn’t too far.” Beth changed directions and headed toward the ‘new’ strip club. “Do we have a plan?”

“I was planning on copying your breach controller so I could drop Lung into an alternate dimension in case we actually needed him.”

“Try to be careful he’s dangerous,” Beth replied.

“I’m not planning on giving him the chance to ramp up,” Mist admitted.

“I’ll see you when I get there.” Beth closed her phone and stuck it in her pocket.

“She’s on her way, I have a feeling this is going to be a busy couple of weeks.”

Hermione looked up from the tablet. “Who is Taylor?”

“The main character of the story, a villain, a hero and a girl trying to do the right thing in a broken corrupt world.” Mist worked on explaining some of the basics of the world while everyone got started with the costume ideas or reading the story

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Mist was a little disappointed in the ABB’s security as it only took twenty minutes to track down someone that knew where Lung was, then again it wasn’t like Lung had all that much to worry about from the locals and none of the people that could actually deal with him wanted to for some reason. It wasn’t like he helped against the Endbringers, all it would take was putting a bullet in his head and he wouldn’t be a problem.

He walked past the heavily armed guard, thankful that his muffled boots, invisibility spell and the casino’s music kept the man from even noticing him. He glanced around the illegal casino as he used his telepathy to sort through the thoughts of the various people scattered around the room. Amazingly enough only about a third of them weren’t what he’d consider mostly decent human beings, half of those were ABB sympathizers or working in the casino as muscle, still even most of the girls working the tables or dealing were only doing it because it paid the bills.

He guessed he shouldn’t be surprised that people took the jobs they could get considering the economy was crap. He frowned slightly as he looked at the path he’d have to take to get to Lung’s office and realized that he wasn’t going to be able to make it there without bumping into

someone. He pulled out his watch, pushed the button and smiled as everyone froze. He worked his way across the floor, stealing wallets from the actual ABB members or sympathizers as he made his way toward Lung's office.

He smiled as he opened the door and saw that Lung was alone watching television. "This makes it easier." He walked in and closed the door then walked over and stole Lung's wallet and keys which were on the table next to him. "Trusting sort."

Mist walked around behind Lung as he pulled his wand out of his inventory. He shifted to his catgirl form and tossed a couple of muffling spells around the room then put his wand back in his inventory. "Sorry but you can't stay in Brockton Bay."

He pulled his copy of Beth's Dimensional Breach controller he'd duplicated out of his inventory then pushed the button on his watch and unfroze everything after pointing the portal controller at the ground under Lung. He lifted the combination to his safe and the location of a couple of stash houses then pushed the button and opened the portal which dropped the rather shocked man and his lazyboy into a world that was being invaded by aliens where he could be a hero. He quickly closed the portal to keep him from jumping back through or him tossing a fireball through though the former wasn't likely as the exit point was twenty feet up in the air. 'One problem solved.'

Mist pushed the button on his watch and paused time. He stuck the portal device back in his inventory then walked over to the safe against the wall and used the combination he'd grabbed. He grinned as he opened the safe and saw the stacks of money. 'This should make sure the girls don't take losing their jobs too badly.' He grabbed a bag off the table and stuffed the money into the bag.

He smiled as he headed back into the casino proper and started stealing weapons from the guards and tying them up with bandanas. He figured he'd finish tying them up, stuff money in the girl's pockets that weren't evil or die hard ABB members then unfreeze time, open a portal and toss the ABB members through to the same world he sent Lung to. From there it was just a matter of tracking Oni Lee down and tossing or luring him through a portal. He had a feeling the rest of the gang would collapse which would take care of his flaw rather nicely. From there, it shouldn't be hard to track Noelle down and fix her powers which would hopefully net him a grateful cape.

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Noelle turned and stared as a small window opened on the wall in her vault. "What the hell?"

Ranma stared at the monstrous centaur like creature. "Noelle?"

"Yes? What do you want?"

“We want to help, we have a shot that can restore your human form and allow you to control your power, are you interested?” Ranma asked hoping that she wasn’t completely crazy yet.

“If this is a trick, I’ll kill you,” Noelle stated firmly.

“It’s not a trick,” he assured her.

“In that case, please help, don’t want to be a monster,” Noelle admitted.

Ranma tossed a cloth wrapped bundle through the doorway. “In that case, use the syringe, it shouldn’t take more than a minute to stabilize your power.” Normally he would have just handed her the shot but he really didn’t want her touching him and copying him.

Noelle walked over and carefully bent down and picked up the cloth bundle as carefully as she could.

Ranma had to resist the urge to jump back as she moved closer to pick up the bundle, he knew he was faster than she was and that the window was far too small for her to fit through but Noelle was rather large and creepy looking or at least the bottom part of her was, the top part looked like a moderately attractive human woman in her early twenties. He watched as Noelle took the syringe out of the bundle and injected herself with it. He wondered how desperate you had to be to trust something a stranger tossed you.

Noelle shivered as her legs started twitching and feeling like her skin was crawling. “This feels weird.”

He watched as Noelle’s bottom half twisted and shrank down so that by the end of the thirty seconds she looked like a perfectly ordinary woman wearing a shirt that was barely long enough to conceal her modesty or would have been if she hadn’t been sprawled on the ground. He tossed her a pair of sweats then turned so that he could only sort of see her out of the corner of his eye. He knew the polite thing to do would be to turn around completely but her main power was creating evil clones of people and he really didn’t want to fight his evil clone.

Noelle stared down at her perfectly human legs and toes modesty forgotten as she tried to convince herself that this was real and not a dream. After a couple of seconds she remembered that someone was watching her and grabbed the sweats and pulled them on. “Okay, I’m decent... where the hell did you find that formula?”

“A friend of mine picked it up. It should also stabilize your powers so you can touch people.”

“Why help?”

“Because everyone needs a little help now and then,” Ranma replied as he enlarged the doorway. “We should probably go before Coil’s men decide to come in there shooting.”

“You’re not with him?” Noelle asked in surprise.

“No, I’m with a new group of local heroes, we have a job offer for you, if you’re interested?”

“Was Coil ever going to help?” Noelle demanded.

“He’s a dishonest villain, you were his insurance policy. I’m sure you can do the math.”

Noelle sighed as she realized that she wasn’t really surprised. “Let’s go before I rip through his base and kill him.”

Ranma took a step back and gestured for her to come through to the breakroom. “You probably shouldn’t touch me just in case you don’t have complete control of your power until we can test your control with some lab rats.”

“Don’t worry, I’m careful.” Noelle stepped through the portal and glanced around the break room. “Where are we?”

“In a break room in Brockton bay.” Ranma closed the portal.

“What do you want in exchange for helping me and is this permanent?” Noelle asked hopefully.

“It’s permanent, we have another dose for Oliver if he wants it.”

Noelle raised her eyebrows. “You know about Oliver?”

“We also know you’re from Earth Aleph and want to return. As for what we want, we want to make a clone of you so that we can create heroes using your power and cloning tech.”

Noelle shook her head. “My power creates monsters.”

“We can probably fix the clones by rewriting their memories or by altering how your power works.”

“You can alter how powers work?” Noelle asked in disbelief.

“I can’t but we have a bio-tinker on the team who can probably figure something out. He figured out the serum that restored your humanity.” Ranma felt slightly guilty for the lie but he doubted she’d believe him if he said that the closest thing to a god handed Mist a case of the syringes.

“Why take the chance?”

“Because the world is a mess. Your clones have slightly different powers than the originals. Can you imagine would it would mean in endbringer fights to have five more capes with powers like Legend or a thousand with the ability to heal people spread around the world?”

“We’d have to start with parahumans that aren’t on that scale but I owe you for helping. What about my team?”

“We also have someone that can fix Jess’s legs. We can get you home so you can see your family, we can also set up a permanent door between the two worlds if you want the best of both worlds.”

“You’d just let them go?”

“From what I understand, they were trying to help you and things spiraled. Now that you’re safe and healthy, they don’t have to be villains. We’d be willing to hire them to go after other villains and to help with other projects.”

“I’ll have to talk it over with my friends,” Noelle admitted.

Ranma pulled a burner phone out of his pocket and handed it to Noelle. “Here.”

“Thanks.”

“While you’re of course free to go, if you agree, I’ll be on the second floor with the rest of the team.” Ranma gave her a smile then left the break room and headed for the second story. He was hoping Noelle joined them because the more he read of the story the more he was sure they were going to need the help.

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Harry frowned slightly as he watched the tinker working on something that looked like the old Nintendo Power Glove that Dudley had ruined when he’d punched a wall after losing at a boxing game. He pulled his wand out of his inventory and stunned Leet. He felt slightly guilty as the tinker collapsed unconscious. It wasn’t nice and it certainly wasn’t fair but he really didn’t want to spend the next two years dealing with a moderately insane tinker that wanted to cause them pain and suffering because he was jealous about them having the ability to jump to different worlds. He couldn’t really even blame the guy either, there was a time when he’d have done pretty much anything to get away from the Dursleys. “He’s down.”

“Almost done,” Tiffany replied as she finished duct taping Uber’s hands and feet together just in case the stunner wore off.

Harry smiled as he grabbed Leet and hauled him into the main room in the villain's base. "I think you and Hermione might have the best power."

"I just wish I could use the powers I can lend people," Tiffany admitted.

"At least you and Hermione can swap," Harry pointed out.

"True. We should probably pack up their lab before we head back." Tiffany wanted to get Leet into the stasis pod before he woke up. She was less concerned with Uber than she was Leet because his shard wasn't terminally stupid.

"Can you give me a tinker ability so I can understand what everything is?" Harry asked hopefully.

"I should be able to." Tiffany swapped Harry's power from the ability to locate people to a general purpose tinker power. She doubted that Harry could build anything too impressive with it but it should be enough to safely pack up the lab. "That should do it."

"Thanks." Harry smiled

Tiffany worked on stripping the tinker just in case he had some gadget that could free him or zap her or do something else sneaky.

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Mist glanced around the desert then back at Ranma and Harry. "Ready?"

Ranma turned and looked at Mist and Harry. "More or less. Have you used dragon break?"

"Yes."

Harry spoke up, "Did Beth boost your power?"

Ranma grinned as he put his earplugs in. "Yeah, I wanted to make sure I could actually open a door to his world."

Mist handed Harry the stop watch. "Are you ready?"

Harry moved his left thumb to the button on the edge of the watch as he pointed his other hand in front of him. "As ready as I'm going to be. A hundred feet up, leave it open for two seconds then close it."



“3, 2, 1.” Ranma opened a door to the dimension where Scion’s real body was hiding.

Harry pushed the button on Mist’s watch then unleashed his new power at full power sending bolt after bolt through the doorway. He unfroze time just before the first blast hit. “Close it.” Harry pushed the button on the watch again freezing time. He sent another dozen bolts through then stepped to the side and pushed the button to unfreeze time.

Ranma closed the doorway.

Mist reached out with his power and teleported the three of them a hundred and fifty miles north then did it again just to make sure they weren’t anywhere close to the place they’d opened the portal just in case they hadn’t managed to finish off Scion. “That was fun.”

Ranma snorted. “You’re insane, you know that right?”

“It’s not insane if it works,” Mist pointed out.

Harry shook his head. “I have to agree with Ranma.”

“What are we going to do if this worked?” Ranma asked as he looked around the empty sky, half expecting to die in a blast of nuclear fire any second.

Mist relaxed a touch as Scion still hadn’t found them. He hadn’t really been expecting it considering the anti Scion precog they had but this wouldn’t be the first time he’d screwed up. “Use the person finding power Tiffany or Hermione can give us and go after the Slaughterhouse Nine. I want to have Rose or maybe Sin or Laura’s projections kill Jack and I want to see if we can fix the rest of them.”

“Why Rose?” Harry asked.

“One of Jack’s powers is a form of precog that works against parahumans. We might be able to kill him despite his power but it’s more of a hassle than I want to deal with when Rose should be able to sneak in and kill him.”

Harry asked, “Do you want to try another door?”

Mist frowned as he considered Harry’s plan. They hadn’t been killed, the Earth was still spinning which probably indicated that they’d killed Scion but he could just be waiting to kill them the next time they opened a door. “No, let’s find a television and see if there are any reports of his death. If he fell apart we can probably assume that he’s dead. If he’s not then we might have to try something else like using fiendfyre.”

“That would probably do it,” Harry agreed.

Ranma said, "Just as long as you don't abandon the other timeline until we're sure."

"I'm not planning on it," Mist admitted as he opened a town portal back to Brockton Bay.

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Alexandria smiled as she watched the video clip showing Scion falling apart, despite her nearly perfect recall she'd watched the clip three times already, once in shock, twice to make sure and the third time with a sense of satisfaction she hadn't felt in decades. "Rest in pieces."

Legend glanced away from the monitor. "How sure are we that he's dead?"

The Number Man nodded. "I've ran the numbers, the chance of this being a trick is extremely small."

Eidolon demanded, "How? I mean how was he killed, unless you just think he fell apart for the hell of it."

"My guess would be Mist and his friends found his real body," Contessa suggested.

Eidolon snorted. "If the information we were given is accurate, he hasn't even been here 24 hours. How did he do something in less than 24 hours that we couldn't do in decades?"

Legend looked at his friend in concern. "I thought you'd be happy."

"I'm happy, I'm just worried about someone walking around with enough power to kill Scion."

Alexandria frowned slightly. "It wouldn't take much if they had access to his real body."

"How? Doormaker can't get there."

"That doesn't mean that he doesn't have ways to travel between dimensions that we don't. Of course, it's entirely possible he has powers beyond anything we've ever seen. If what the woman that dropped off the folder said is true, he'll be gone in two years."

Legend said, "Let's not assume the worst."

Contessa nodded. "Legend has a point. If I was jumping between worlds and landed on a world with Scion, I'd take him out the first chance I got. He hasn't claimed credit, he hasn't done anything else Earth shattering yet, he might just settle in and play hero for two years."

Eidolon asked, "Are we at least going to talk to him?"

Legend glanced at Alexandria. "What do you think?"

The Number Man said, "There was a phone number in the information packet. I tracked it down to Brockton Bay so at least we know where he is."

Eidolon shook his head. "You mean where he made a call from?"

"I did some digging, he owns a strip club that is set to open tonight. Registered to one Mist O'Shadows."

"Because that's not suspicious."

Alexandria frowned slightly. "How long has he owned it?"

The Number Man said, "The paper trail says three months, before that it was an empty lot according to records. Of course, there aren't any records of the man before that."

"We need someone to take a look at his club and see what they can find out."

Contessa glanced at Eidolon then Legend then Alexandria. "Which means myself or Jacob."

Eidolon frowned. "Why not me?"

"You don't do subtle, Legend wouldn't appreciate the show and Rebecca is a bit too recognizable."

Eidolon asked, "If he's actually from a different dimension, how would he know Rebecca's face?"

"By looking up her civilian identity, the PRT has a webpage. He knew enough to kill Scion, he probably knows who we are."

The Number Man frowned as he considered the numbers. "If he knows who we are, I'd rather not run into him considering my past."

Contessa nodded. "It might be better if we tap some local talent to check things out."

Legend frowned. "No, we have his number we might as well just use it. He managed to take out Scion one way or another, maybe he knows something that will help with the endbringers."

"In that case, you should make the call." Contessa knew that he was the most heroic of their capes which might be an asset in this particular case.

The Number Man slid a note card with the number on it. "Here."

"Thanks. Is there anything else?" Legend asked.

"No, I need to get back and calm people down about Scion's disappearance," Alexandria said as she stood up.

Contessa wanted to check her various paths for dealing with the endbringers and a couple of other projects now that Scion was out of the way. "Let us know what you find out."

"Of course." Legend turned and left the room.

OoOoO

Mist was rather amused at the shock on Coil's face as he stepped out of Ranma's portal into his home. "Hello, shit head or should I say Coil?"

Coil stared at the cloaked and masked cape that was in different places in both timelines. He'd been making some calls in his base in the other timeline to figure out how Noelle had vanished when the masked man had stepped out of the same type of door in thin air. "How?"

Mist glanced down at his watch, "Wait for it?"

Coil twitched as the version of him in his office died as the cape blurred. "Shit!"

Mist smiled as he saw the other path in Coil's mind. "Excellent, now that I have your undivided attention, if you reach for a button or a phone or anything to contact anyone I will kill you. I'd rather not but these things happen." He wasn't terribly surprised when Coil split his timeline again or rather used his power to try to predict the proper path he needed to save himself.

Coil asked, "What do you want?" in one and tried for his panic button in the other only for that version to die messily. He split the timeline again.

"I want your account numbers and everything on your mercenaries. I also want to know how to keep the Empire's real identities from going public if you vanish for an extended period of time."

"You work for the Empire 88?" Coil asked as he tried to get information that might give him leverage.

Mist snorted. "No, there are just a couple of people on that list that I'd rather didn't get screwed over because they're useful. I like useful people, are you a useful person?"

"I can be," Coil lied.

Mist had to work not to laugh as he listened to Coil's mental plans on how to salvage the situation. "Excellent, as I said, I like helpful people. If you give me everything I want, I'll drop you off on an alternate world and you can try to set up shop."

"Even if you could do that, how do I know you won't kill me anyways?" Coil asked.

"If I wanted you dead, you'd be dead."

"Why attack me in my home? There are unwritten rules for a reason."

"Because I didn't want you blowing up your base which is why I set up a plan before I used my power to find you, if you were in your base, I'd kill you within five seconds, if you weren't you got to live for at least ten seconds." Mist smirked behind his mask as Coil's face drained of blood.

"How?" Coil demanded.

"Because I'm Batman," Mist replied with amusement as he looked through Coil's mind for his various passwords and secrets.

Coil twitched as he lost his second timeline when he reached for his gun.

Mist stepped forward and knocked Coil out then frowned as his phone rang. He pulled his phone out of his pocket and looked at the caller ID. "Unknown, interesting." He opened the phone and brought it to his ear. "Hello?"

"Mist?" asked an unfamiliar male voice.

"How did you get this number?" Mist asked curious how someone that gotten his number.

"It was in a file a woman dropped off a couple of days ago."

"Ah, do you have a name to go with the voice?" Mist was curious which Cauldron member was calling him.

"Legend."

"Ah, how can I help you?" Mist asked

"That's it?" Legend asked faintly surprised that he didn't have to prove who he was.

“Eh, the only people that should have this number are my people and Cauldron, you’re either Legend or you’re not. I can’t see Eidolon pretending to be you and the Number Man wouldn’t bother.”

“You’re remarkably well informed.”

“About some things, not so much on others,” Mist admitted.

“I don’t suppose you’d agree to a face to face meeting?” Legend asked.

“With you, Alexandria or Contessa sure.”

“But not Eidolon or the Number Man?”

“No, I’d be tempted to do something drastic and I’m not actually sure Eidolon deserves it.”

“Meaning?” Legend asked.

“I’ll tell you in a face to face meeting as long as you promise not to bring Eidolon anywhere near us.”

“Why are you worried about Eidolon if you could kill Scion?”

“Scion had a critical flaw that Eidolon doesn’t. I’ll explain when we meet but seriously it’s in the world’s best interest that you keep Eidolon away from the meeting. Feel free to bring Alexandria for backup.”

“Where do you want to meet?” Legend asked curious where the other cape would want to meet.

“Over the Boat Graveyard in Brockton Bay in ten minutes.” Mist wanted somewhere reasonably public without the chance for someone to overhear them. Besides, they could always go elsewhere if they had to.

“We’ll be there.” Legend ended the call.

Mist closed his phone then picked up the unconscious villain and walked back through the door and into his office.

Ranma asked, “How hard did you hit him?”

“Hard enough that he should be out for a while, have Hermione rip his mind apart for all of his secrets then toss him off Earth Bet.”

Ranma let the door close to Coil's house. "Best of luck at your meeting."

"Thanks." Mist teleported above the boat graveyard and spent the next couple of minutes working out the best way to clean up the bay until Legend showed up for the meeting.

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Mist was rather relieved when Legend and Alexandria flew in that he couldn't sense anyone else. "Welcome to the Bay, I'd say we have cookies but I'd be lying."

Alexandria frowned as she looked at the black clad cape. "How did you kill Scion and why?"

"I killed him because he's a wasteful idiot plugged into a supercomputer that goes around destroying worlds with sentient creatures on it when he could get everything he needed by eating asteroids or parking near a sun for a few weeks or years. As for how, I had a friend open a door to his particular world then had another friend toss enough energy through to level a city. His actual body isn't all that well defended, just locked away."

Legend asked, "Why didn't you want Eidolon to come?"

"I need you to turn any recording devices off. Alexandria has a perfect memory anyways so it shouldn't matter."

Alexandria reached down and turned off the recording device she had. "There."

"The entities don't hand out all of their powers. Contessa and Eidolon both have powers that should never have been given out. Eden's path to victory shard is better than Scion's shard and takes less energy than his did but he could use it if he had to. The reason I didn't want Eidolon here is that in a possible timeline I know of Scion used his Path to Victory against Eidolon."

Legend asked, "Why should that matter?"

Alexandria asked, "Why would he need to? Eidolon doesn't have enough power to be a threat anymore unless he found a way to boost his powers back to near their original level."

Mist sighed. "As far as I know you're working under a misconception about Eidolon's power."

"What is that?" Legend asked.

"There is nothing wrong with his power, it's working as intended."

"It's supposed to get weaker then?" Legend asked dubiously.

“His power is the same as it always was, he just has less energy because he’s been draining the well for decades.”

“So there is a way to recharge his powers then?” Alexandria asked.

“There are probably several. However, I’d really rather you didn’t tell him that right now.”

“Why?” Legend asked.

“In the possible future Scion used his version of path to victory because he was losing against Eidolon and the Faerie Queen. I’m not sure if he lied or told the truth but he told Eidolon that his subconscious desire for worthy enemies had caused the endbringers to wake up early and hit the targets they did.”

“You’re saying Eidolon caused the endbringers?” Legend asked in disbelief.

“No, I’m saying that Scion said it and it fucked Eidolon up enough that Scion managed to kill him. I don’t know if he lied or if it’s actually true. I know that Eidolon had some mental issues before he got powers, I don’t know how much therapy he’s gotten over the years. Either way, I’d rather Eidolon not have the power of a god until we figure out if Scion was lying.”

Alexandria raised her hand to cut Legend off. She could tell from his tone and a dozen other things that he wasn’t lying. “That makes a certain amount of sense. What can you tell us about the endbringers?”

“They’re basically giant puppets, they have a nearly indestructible orb somewhere in their body that is the actual control mechanism.”

“How nearly indestructible?” Legend asked.

“As in we’d need Flechette or the Siberian.”

“How do you expect to get her to help?” Legend asked.

“She’s a projection, if I clone the cape that projects her, I might be able to get something close to his power without his insanity.”

“You can clone capes?” Legend asked warily.

“I’m a bio tinker, much like Bonesaw only she has a lot more experience with her power. I’d really rather not have to walk the same path she did which is why I’m planning on getting her therapy and recruiting her. I’d like to have Contessa’s help with getting her to turn over a new leaf.”



Alexandria asked, "Why her?"

"Because she was a kid, Jack has a master power in addition to his knife trick which is why he's been able to keep a group of sociopaths together. Now that Scion is dead, I'm planning on dealing with the rest of them."

"I've wanted to go after them for years but I've never gotten the green light from our thinkers," Legend admitted.

Mist nodded. "Either way, my team and I will be dealing with them in the next few days."

"What else do you want?" Alexandria asked.

"You have a director or employee named Tagg, I want him shitcanned."

Alexandria asked, "Why?"

"Because he got you killed in the other timeline," Mist admitted.

"How the hell did he do that?" Legend asked.

"He decided to make an example out of a villain who was only a villain because that was the only way she could save her city because of how screwed up things had gotten. He wanted a win so badly that he publically outed her in the middle of a school with hundreds of potential hostages out of spite."

Legend stared at Mist. "That's insane."

"Pretty much, after she walked out with a large group of students that were willing to shelter her because she'd fought for the city when no one else would, he devised an even stupider plan to deal with her."

Alexandria frowned as she thought about how stubborn Tagg could be. "What did he do?"

"He had you fake killing a member of her team and tell her that you'd kill the rest unless she surrendered. I'm not sure how the hell you thought that was a good idea but it went drastically wrong. She killed Tagg and then rendered you braindead."

Legend frowned. "She was powerful enough to kill Alexandria?"

"She still has to breathe," Mist replied absently as he studied her face.

“What happened after that?” Alexandria asked curious how things worked out.

“She went on to be a hero and save the day against Scion. Either way, none of that really matters as Scion is dead.”

Alexandria said, “Tagg is rather rigid. Are you the reason that Lung was dropped off on a different Earth?”

“He’s a rather useless villain, he doesn’t fight the endbringers and he brings drugs into the city. He’s only slightly better than the Merchants who my team will be dealing with shortly.”

“What about the Empire?” Legend asked curious how they were planning on dealing with Kaiser.

“I have a few ideas. Mostly it boils down to offering them a new world to colonize away from the rest of humanity. I can’t cure their behavior without ripping their minds apart but I can banish them from Earth so that I don’t have to deal with their shit.”

“So you’re rewarding them for being scum?” Legend asked a bit annoyed at the idea of Neo Nazi scum getting their own world safe from the endbringers.

“There are millions of alternate Earths, I couldn’t claim them all if I had a thousand lifetimes even if I had the inclination and I don’t. I’m going to be jumping worlds a lot over the next two years, I’m going to fill their world with a bunch of hate filled racist scum and let them choke on it. Either way, they won’t be here to cause everyone else problems.”

“In other words, it won’t be sunshine and roses.” Legend wasn’t sure if he should be relieved or not but at least he was offering them the choice.

“Not even close,” Mist agreed.

“What does that accomplish?” asked Alexandria.

“Cleaning up the city is it’s own reward. I’m planning on making the same offer to various other groups around the world. Not to the same world but to other empty worlds. If we can’t deal with the endbringers, society will eventually collapse. I’ll be long gone by the time that happens but I try to leave worlds better than I found them.”

Legend asked, “Were any of the endbringers killed in the other timeline?”

“Behemoth was killed by Scion for various reasons that aren’t important.”

“Aren’t important?”

Mist shrugged. "Someone managed to talk him into killing Behemoth, who that person is doesn't matter because Scion is dead and not coming back. Anything else you want to know?"

Alexandria asked, "Is there anyone else that we need to fire?"

"I'd take a good look at the sanity of having Emily Piggot in charge of Brockton Bay. She needs dialysis, she could have that fixed in less than five minutes by Panacea and yet puts up with a painful disease because of her hatred against parahumans. "Speaking of injuries, if you want your eye healed, my team can fix it."

"How?"

"One of my teammates can set up globes that temporarily swaps powers while you're in the circle, then it's just a matter of having someone heal you."

"I might take you up on that, provided you'd agree to set things up at a Protectorate base," Alexandria replied.

"I don't have a problem with that. I won't even charge you, provided I don't run into an undue amount of trouble cashing in the bounty for the Slaughterhouse Nine."

"Deal, we could use some good press with Scion's death. As much as it pains me, he was a hero in the eyes of the public."

"Probably for the best that he stay that way, at least for now."

"Are you planning on hunting down every villain you can find?" Legend asked.

"No, just the worst of the worst. We still need villains to step up with the Endbringers, at least for now." Mist knew he couldn't fix everything so he wasn't going to bother with anything other than the worst criminals.

Legend glanced down at the Boat Graveyard. "Do you want us to help with the wrecked ships?"

"Thanks for the offer but I'm planning on getting the city to pay my team to clean it up, being an independant hero doesn't pay all that well." He also wanted to buy a bunch of property around the docks before he cleaned them up and caused the price to skyrocket.

"In that case, we should get back." Alexandria was left feeling hopeful about the meeting as Mist was certainly more human than Scion.

"Have fun." Mist teleported back to the club.

Legend blinked. "That's one way to make an exit."

"Yes. Do you think he was right about Eidolon?"

"I don't know, it's something to look into," Legend admitted.

"Yes, door my office." She flew through the door that appeared.

Legend turned and flew off toward home as he tried to get this thoughts in order.

OoOoO

Panacea stared at Selena in shock. "You weren't joking?"

"Nope," Selena replied with amusement as she pulled her hand away from the man she'd just healed of a gash on his arm.

The doctor smiled at both of the healers. "Any issues?"

Panacea stepped forward and checked the man's vitals. "No side effects."

"That's good to hear," Selena admitted. She hadn't expected any problems but practicing on rats was different from healing people if only because of nervousness.

The doctor asked, "How often can you stop by and help?"

Selena said, "That depends on Panacea."

"What do you mean?" Panacea asked as she looked at the girl with a silver mask and black cloak.

"Healing is your gig, I'm not a hero, I'm a biokinetic rogue. I'm only here to get my paperwork taken care of. I don't mind healing children or the poor for free now and then but I can't really afford to give my time away."

The doctor said, "I wouldn't expect you to, I get a paycheck."

Panacea sighed as she thought about Carol and her rants about civic duty. "What does that have to do with me?"

Selena said, "I'm perfectly willing to accept lunch with you for a certain amount of time spent healing so that you don't burn out."

“Why?”

“I’d love to talk shop and you look like you could use some food and an excuse to take a break.”

Panacea considered the other cape’s offer, she wouldn’t mind having someone that could help her out and she had to eat. Besides, this might be a way to get Mark some help without Carol finding out that she could work on brains if she wanted. “Let’s clear the wing first then we can grab something from the cafeteria and we’ll go from there.”

“Sounds good.” Selena was looking forward to seeing what Panacea thought about some of her custom pet ideas. She had a feeling she could sell glow in the dark puppies and kittens for a decent amount to say nothing of selling cosmetic surgery.

OoOoO

Mist looked up from his tablet as Selena walked into his office. “How are you doing?”

Selena yawned. “You weren’t joking about Amy having issues, were you?”

“I wish I was.”

“How are we going to fix it?” Selena asked as she walked over and sat down on his desk.

“I was thinking about trying to find a world where her father became a hero rather than a villain or something and do some recruiting.”

“That might help, I’d like to beat her mother upside the head with a clue bat.”

“When did you run into her?” Mist asked in surprise.

“When I healed Mark’s depression when he showed up to pick her up from the hospital, apparently Glory Girl had a date. She ranted at me for wanting to charge for healing people, I told her to pull the flagpole out of her ass and how Amy should at the very least accept donations for her college fund. I think that was the first time I saw an actual smile on Amy.”

Mist chuckled. “We might need to get the pensieve out.”

Selena snickered. “It was sort of funny. If you need help recruiting a more heroic version of Amy’s father, I’ll help.”

“Sounds like a fun project, you should probably get some sleep first, I want to see if I can narrow down a couple of worlds while I’m thinking about it,” Mist replied.

“Sounds like a plan...” Selena trailed off with a yawn.

“Get to bed before you fall asleep in your chair again.”

“I fell asleep in the recliner, not an office chair.” Selena stuck her tongue out at Mist as she pulled her phone out.

“Sleep well.” Mist smiled as she vanished then sighed. ‘Great, now I just need to make sure someone is at Winslow in the morning to capture the video of Taylor getting stuffed in a locker.’ He made a note to get a sealed face mask before he explained things so she didn’t send bugs down his throat and into his lungs. He looked up as Ranma walked into the office. “Hey. Did you drop him off on a deserted world?”

“That was the plan, but Hermione killed him after Laura made a couple of copies with her staff so that her and Sin’s shadow minions could try to pick up some version of his powers.”

“Wait, what?” Mist asked to make sure he’d heard Ranma correctly.

“Yeah, apparently he’d done some rather horrible things so after she scrubbed his mind clean she killed him to make sure he couldn’t come back or hurt anyone. I dropped the body into a volcano on an alternate world.”

“I guess that’s one way to dispose of bodies. Do you want to help take out the Slaughterhouse Nine?”

“Do we have an actual plan?” Ranma asked curious if they were going to have to wing it.

“Sure, I use my Dragon Break ability then you open a portal reasonably close to William Manton. We can sneak in silent and invisible then stun him and collect a genetic sample. I’ll grab his memory of what passed for a trigger then you can drop him on a world without people in case we need him for something.”

“And the rest?”

“Without the Siberian everything else gets easier. Rose doesn’t have powers which means that she should be able to put a bullet in Jack’s head without triggering his precog. After that, we can drop Crawler into another world and stun the rest of them. Selena should be able to remove all of Bonesaw’s modifications and damage or remove Shatterbird’s voice box.”

Ranma asked, “What are you going to do with Hatchet Face?”

“His ability shouldn’t work on anything that isn’t shard based at least until the end of the jump which means that I shouldn’t have any problem breaking his arms and legs then having Laura copy him so we can create materia and so Laura and Sin’s projections can pick up abilities from him.”

Ranma shook his head. “I’ll take out Hatchet Face while you stay back, if his power works on my strength and speed then you can take the better path and we’ll try again.”

“That works. I’ll go drag Laura away from watching the strippers and we can get started.”

Ranma laughed. “Good luck. I’m going to zap some of the leftover pizza.”

Mist pushed his chair back then stood up and headed for the door. He doubted it would actually be all that hard to deal with the Nine, most of their success came from the fact that they were decent at hiding and Cauldron had been helping them escape justice so they stirred up trouble.

OoOoO

Assault frowned as he looked at the computer screen showing the scan of Shatterbird’s skull. “Is that a rock?”

Armsmaster scowled. “It looks like someone teleported a rock into all of their heads other than Jack’s.”

Assault shivered slightly as he looked at the corpse with half a head. It looked like they’d blown the back  $\frac{3}{4}$ ’s of his head off with an elephant gun or something of similar size. “Any idea what they hit Jack with?”

“Some type of high caliber rifle. Hatchet Face was beaten to nearly to death then hacked apart with an axe by the look of his body.”

“Can’t say I blame them,” Assault admitted as he looked at the mangled pieces of Mannequin. He wasn’t sure how much strength would be required to rip the man’s tinkertech armor apart like that but it was significant. “Any evidence of the Siberian or Bonesaw.

“No, the cape said they teleported Bonesaw into orbit so the plagues inside her would vaporize but we don’t have proof that she’s head other than a video clip of her unconscious next to Jack and Mannequin’s shattered body.”

“How did they kill Crawler?”

“Teleported a small boulder into his head and destroyed his corona pollentia.”

“That’s more than a little disturbing. Did the cape said how they found them?” Assault was hoping he didn’t have to right a teleporter that could teleport things inside of him or him into things.

“No, just that he tracked them down and dealt with them because they were mass murdering sociopaths that didn’t help with endbringers. I wouldn’t have believed it but I got a call from Legend this morning to expect the bodies.”

“Damn, I was still half expecting this to be a joke,” Assault admitted.

“I’ve compared their blood samples against the records the PRT have, they match. Any word on Lung?”

“No, just that him, his cash in the safe and his chair vanished from his office in his casino without a trace or anyone seeing him leave. Oni Lee is trying to hold the gang together but someone told the Merchants and the Empire that Lung was gone, there have been some probes but nothing major. It’s going to be a bloodbath once they decide that his disappearance isn’t some type of trick.”

Armsmaster frowned as his PRT phone rang. He pulled it out of his pocket, “Armsmaster, here.”

Miss Militia said, “Sophia Hess is being held at the hospital on suspicion of attempted murder.”

“Hospital? Attempted murder, how did that happen?”

“She stuffed a girl into a locker filled with filth, some Empire recruits objected violently and beat the shit out of her before she stuffed a chair through him. It phased back in when someone hit her from behind and knocked her unconscious. After that, they proceeded to kick her repeatedly until the teachers finally managed to break things up.”

“Shit,” Armsmaster complained.

“It gets worse, several videos have already gone viral including her phasing the chair through the other student. This is going to be a PR nightmare.”

“I’m on my way to the hospital,” Armsmaster replied as he headed for the door. “Make sure no one else comes in here without the proper paperwork and if they have the proper paperwork, call me.”

One of the PRT agents guarding the door said, “Of course.”

Assault briefly wondered if it was too late to take the afternoon off before deciding that it most likely was.



OoOoO

Armsmaster glared at the new healer. "What do you mean you won't heal her?"

"I have a standard policy of not healing villains outside of endbringer battles," Selena replied firmly.

"She's not a villain, she's a ward."

"She stuffed a girl in a locker filled with used feminine products which is attempted murder and stuffed a chair through an innocent bystander that was trying to help. I had to put him back together before he became a cripple for life or died. Do you have any fucking idea how much work that took?"

"Surely it wasn't that bad," tried to minimize the situation.

"The girl could have died or been scarred permanently. The boy wouldn't have walked again if I hadn't saved him. So, yeah no, ward or not she's a villain."

"You're withholding healing from a critical patient."

"I'm not a doctor, I'm a healer. I don't have a responsibility or legal duty to use my power for helping people. Now if you'll excuse me, I'm going to grab a soda and see if there is anyone that actually needs a cut healed or you know a papercut because right now some random guy with a hangnail is higher on my list of people that deserve healing. Look at the bright side, at least in this condition she's far less likely to run from the cops." Selena turned and walked past Armsmaster or tried. She looked down at his hand on her wrist. "I understand that you're worried about your charge but you have five seconds before I call the cops or my boyfriend. Both of those will end badly for you. Besides, the chief of police asked that she be left as she was as long as she's stable, she's stable. Now take your hand off of me and get out of my way."

Armsmaster let go of the healer's hand. "Where is Panacea?"

"At school, where she'll be staying." Selena handed Armsmaster a copy of the chief's request to leave Sophia injured at least until they could take photos to use as evidence against the gang members that attacked her. She was fairly sure that the request had more to do with the cops getting some revenge for the work she caused them as a vigilante but she wasn't going to point that out. She headed down the hall to check on Taylor and tell her about the bugs so that she didn't think she was going crazy.

Armsmaster scowled as he pulled out his cell phone to see who he could track down that might know what the hell happened.

OoOoO

Mist blinked as a tall skinny woman opened the door holding a shotgun pointed at the ground in front of them. "Ah, hello?"

Annette glanced between the two men in their early twenties that were standing on her porch, they didn't look like drug users, one was Asian and the other white which pretty much ruled out any of the local gangs. "What do you want?"

"Are you Annette Hebert?"

"Yes, if you want to get eaten by rats you should probably leave, we're not doing interviews."

"Rats?" Mist asked in confusion.

Annette blinked as she realized that the two minute didn't seem to actually know who her daughter was. "Wait, you really don't know do you?"

"I'm sorry, we're not from around here, why would we need to be worried about rats?"

Ranma frowned as he saw dozens of rats scurrying up the stairs and glaring at them. "Great... at least it's not cats."

Taylor stepped out of the kitchen in a rather strange costume that looked one part kevlar and two parts jester. "Because I'm the Pied Piper and I can control rats."

Ranma studied Taylor's power. While she wasn't lying, she could control all mammals that weren't sentient, not just rats. "Interesting power, one of my powers is the ability to identify powers. Your power is better than that."

Taylor opened her mouth to deny it then sighed as she realized that the man wasn't guessing. "What do you want?"

"We're from an alternate Earth, we're looking for heroes to recruit."

"That isn't supposed to be possible," Taylor replied.

Annette asked, "Even assuming that you're telling the truth, why Taylor?"

"Because in another world Taylor lost her mother," Mist replied.

“But not father...” Annette felt her heart skip a beat. “Are you saying Danny is alive in the other world?”

“Yes.”

“If this is a joke, I’m going to shoot you,” Annette replied firmly.

“It’s not a joke, I can open portals between worlds.”

“Why us?”

“The other version of Taylor just triggered with bug control, she’s going to be a bit unstable for a while so we searched for a world where you didn’t die in an accident but your husband was gone on the off chance that we could talk you into coming with us for a bit to help the other Taylor.” Ranma wasn’t going to mention he’d also searched for a world where she was inclined to come with them.

Annette thought about the various problems she had here, the gang wars, the death of the rest of her family for various reasons, Danny getting murdered a year ago by the Teeth because he’d refused to pay them protection money. “How close are the worlds?”

“I’m not sure, that’s something we’ll have to figure out. Are you interesting in at least coming for a visit?”

Annette stepped back and glanced at Taylor then looked back at Mist and Ranma. “I don’t have anything keeping me here.”

“Job for the college?” Mist asked.

“I was let go when people found out my daughter was a cape.”

“How did that happen?” Ranma asked.

Taylor shivered slightly as she remembered how she’d become a cape. “A couple of bitches pushed me into the lion enclosure in the zoo. Things got a bit fuzzy after that but the lion ended up nearly killing the bitch that attacked me. The lion would have gotten her if she couldn’t phase.”

Ranma twitched slightly as he thought about getting stuck in a lion cage.

“That doesn’t sound fun,” Mist admitted.

Annette scowled. "An ex-friend sued us for endangering his daughter with an ability which means I had to take out a mortgage on the house and Taylor got drafted into the wards to avoid trumped up criminal charges."

"Where I found out the bitch that tried to kill me is a ward, I wasn't happy but a contract is a contract," Taylor complained bitterly.

Mist said, "We can certainly help with the money side of things if you want to come help us out for a bit."

"We're going to need some proof but I'd like to see a version of my Dad again." Taylor was really hoping they were on the level because she missed her father.

"I'm not sure how the other Danny will take things but we can certainly try. You might as well come inside so we can compare notes," Annette replied warily as she stepped back from the door.

Mist had a feeling it was going to take a while to convince Annette and Taylor they were on the level.

OoOoO

Mist wasn't sure if he should be amused or horrified by the alternate world they'd jumped to after he spent some time at the library while Ranma took Annette and Taylor back to their starting Earth Bet to 'meet' Danny and Taylor. As far as he could tell the changes had spiraled from Marquis having sent his daughter somewhere else that fateful day when the Brockton Bay Brigade had attacked his home or at least that was what he was assuming happened as Marquis managed to drive them off then disappeared without a trace only for masked cape to show up a few years later who had healing powers that were identical or nearly identical to Panacea.

"What are you doing here?" A blonde girl asked from a couple of feet behind Mist where he was floating above the hospital.

Mist jumped slightly as he turned and saw the blond haired teenager in a short white dress with white boots floating in the air. "You wouldn't believe me if I told you."

"Try me," Glory Girl replied.

"I'm trying to figure out how recruit Remedy to help with a project on an alternate Earth."

Glory Girl snorted. "You're right, I don't."

Mist lifted the information he wanted out of Victoria's head include some less than PG rated memories of her and Amelia together in bed. "Wait, you and Remedy?"

"I don't know what you're talking about, I have a girlfriend, Amelia."

"Who just happens to be Remedy."

Glory Girl tightened her fists. "Who are you?"

"Oh right, my name is Mist, I'm a medical tinker. My friend has the ability to open doors to alternate worlds. My world has a different version of your girlfriend and she needs some emotional support and advice."

"Alternate dimensions, I know I'm blonde but seriously?"

"Yeah, it's a bit much to take in but I can prove it."

"Let's ignore the insanity for a minute, why wouldn't she have a version of me?"

"That's where things get sort of complicated. In that world she was raised by your parents."

Glory Girl shook her head. "That makes no sense, you're obviously confused."

"I'm not, in the other world they caught Amelia's father and adopted her."

"That's crazy, they hate Amelia's father, not that they know she's related to them, they'd never forgive me if they found out... but wait, you're saying my girlfriend is my step sister over there?"

Mist had to resist the urge to laugh at some of the naughty things running through Victoria's mind. "Yep, which is why I'd like to hire you and Amelia to show my version of Amy a good time and help her unwind."

Victoria raised an eyebrow. "A good time?"

"She has a massive crush on your alternate but they're sisters and Amy is a bit neurotic because that version of Carol hates her because of her father."

Victoria smirked. "I'll have to talk it over with Amelia but how much are you offering and do you have proof?"

"Let me show you." Mist pulled his dimensional breach controller out of his inventory then opened a portal back to the other Brockton Bay.

Victoria looked at the strange doorway hanging in thin air. "I guess that works for proof. How much are you paying?"

"How much do you want?" Mist asked curious how greedy this version of Glory Girl was.

"Considering it sounds fun to meet a different version of my girlfriend and she needs help, how about you just give us some spending money and we'll call it good?"

"That I can do," Mist replied as he closed the portal. He wasn't opposed to tossing some money at the girls so they could take Amy out to eat or have a double date with Selena or something.

OoOoO

Dennis stared in surprise and almost dropped his tray as he walked around the corner leading to the quieter side room in Fugly Bobs and saw two girls kissing. One of them looked like they were dressed up like Glory Girl and the other Panacea, remarkable likeness actually. He blinked as he realized that the real Panacea was watching red faced next to a hot redhead that was snickering. "Ah... damn, I think I just tripped into the twilight zone."

Amy's blush got worse as she spotted Clockblocker. "It's not what you think."

"It looks to me like you're on a double date with a couple of hot girls that like to dress up..." he trailed off as the two girls playing dress up stopped kissing and turned to look at him and he realized that the girls looked like Amy and Victoria. "Okay... neat trick and sexy as hell but how?"

Selena looked at the teenager with the half mask on. "Amy has having a bad day so we borrowed Amelia and Victoria from an alternate dimension."

Denis snorted as he set his tray on the second table then pulled his phone out of his pocket. "Right, okay, I'm not sure what is going on but I'm calling Dean, he can tell me where the real Victoria is."

Amy winced as Denis called her step sister. She knew this was going to end badly. "I'd rather you didn't tell her about the other version of her."

Dean answered his phone, "What's wrong?"

"Are you with Victoria?" Denis asked curious to see if this was just a trick of some kind.

"Yeah, why? We're at the mall, do you need something?" Dean asked hoping to have an excuse to leave with his sanity intact.

"I ran into Amy. She has a date, I just figured I'd call and say that Amy has better taste than Victoria, got to go." Denis closed the phone with a smile as he heard Victoria exclaim, 'Date?' before he completely shut his phone. He stuck his phone back in his pocket. "So, alternate dimensions? Can you fly?"

Victoria grinned as she floated up off the ground. "Yeah, I can."

Amelia smirked at Denis. "If you want, I can turn your skin purple."

"I don't recommend it, she's been known to 'forget' to turn people back."

"That was one guy and he pinched my butt," Amelia replied.

Denis turned to look at Selena. "How do you fit into this?"

"I volunteer at the hospital in exchange for lunch with Amy."

"So, alternative dimensions? What's my alternate like?"

Victoria said, "He's the prankster on the wards, same codename and all. You'd be surprised how often he hit on my girlfriend and I."

"Girlfriend?" Denis asked in disbelief.

Amy blushed bright red as she gestured toward the table where their food was. "You might as well pull up a chair, Victoria was just telling us about the gangs in her world."

"They're different?" Denis asked as he pulled up a chair. "Girlfriend?"

Victoria gestured toward Amelia. "Yeah, Amelia. We're not sisters in my world."

Denis grabbed his tray and took a seat, curious how the two dimensions were different and dreading the paperwork he was going to have to write up when he got back to base.

OoOoO

Ranma snorted as he looked at Mist's sign. "You're an ass, you know that right?"

"What's wrong with walking through Empire territory with a sign that says 'Down with the Empire!' while looking like a black person in a business suit?" Mist asked innocently with a twinkle in his eyes.

“Maybe the fact that you’re baiting stupid people into acts of stupidity so that you can justify sending them to an alternate world because you’re bored?” Laura asked with poorly concealed amusement.

Tiffany shook her head. “There is no way they’re that stupid.”

“Oh?” Mist asked curiously.

“It’s obviously a trap, a lone guy in a suit in Empire territory, it’s obviously a cape, I mean you’d have to terminally stupid to attack him.”

“I have a feeling we can find people that stupid, what do I get if I’m right?”

Tiffany said, “I’ll cover pizza.”

“Deal, we can have Hermione look through their heads to see if they actually deserve to be tossed through the portal.” Mist looked over at Hermione who was reading her tablet.

Hermione looked up from the story she was almost finished reading. “Fine, I’ll screen people before we banish them just in case they don’t deserve it. Where do you want to set things up?”

“My avatars have been buying up property and warehouses near the docks, we should be able to use one of them and build a cage with a portal that leads to a slide they can’t climb up. After that, it’s just a matter of walking around and teleporting any overly annoying people to the cage then sending them through.”

Laura nodded. “We can do the same for the Merchants.”

Hermione frowned. “The Merchants would likely die from withdrawals if we dropped them elsewhere.”

“Unless Mist can come up with something that can instantly detox them or Selena fixes them,” Ranma pointed out.

“They would make decent test subjects,” Mist admitted then frowned as he realized that his judgement might be a little suspect. “Maybe we should run our urban renewal plan by someone that doesn’t have a shard.”

Hermione nodded. “I’m sure Rose can help with that.”

“Sounds like a plan.” Mist pulled his phone out to call Rose and have a chat.

0o0o0



Assault shook his head as Battery and him walked across the street to where the black man in a business suit was holding a sign that said 'Down with the Empire!'. "You do realize that you're deep into Empire territory, do I need to call the men in the white suits?"

Mist turned to look at Assault. "Nope, this is America, free speech! Down with the empire!"

"You're going to get yourself killed," Battery replied as she glanced at the rather unhappy looking crowd.

Mist shouted, "They're way too chicken shit!"

Assault snorted, "Anyone actually buying your act?"

"I had a couple of idiots I duct taped to a light pole after they tried to stab me. Don't worry, I'm sure the cops will get them down before the tape gives out." Mist dropped his voice, "Mostly I'm just seeing if I can get one of their capes to come out and fight me."

Battery shook her head. "Do you have any clue how dangerous that is?"

"For them..." Mist trailed off as he saw metal wolf running down the street toward them. "Sucker born every minute. Hold this." He handed Battery his sign then charged at Hookwolf screaming, "For Sparta!"

Battery asked, "Do we save him?"

Assaulted snorted, "I'm not saving Hookwolf."

Mist laughed as he stopped and let Hookwolf slam into him. He smiled grimly as he grabbed a metal leg and ripped it off then stuck his other hand down the metal wolf's throat reaching for the flesh the swirling blades and metal concealed. He brought his free hand up and grabbed the creature's neck and worked on holding the thrashing cape in place as he tried to reach something that would actually hurt the metal cape. He cast Ultima in the middle of Hookwolf.

Battery blinked Hookwolf twitched exploded with a black and blue blast of energy that shredded Hookwolf from the inside out. "Shit."

Mist looked around at the crowd of people. "Down with the Empire, down with dogfights! Your Empire 88 is nothing! Nothing I tell you!"

Assault shook his head. "Right, we should probably head back before this turns into more of a bloodbath."

Battery stared at the tattered remains of Hookwolf. "We should probably hold him for questioning."

Assault called out, "Hey, the cops are going to walk to talk to you about killing Hookwolf, are you going to come quietly?"

"To the cops, sure, he attacked me, I defended myself. There are plenty of witnesses including both of you."

Assault muttered, "They're be less paperwork if we just let him go."

Battery shook her head. "Can't do that."

"I had to try."

Mist looked at the crowd of Empire thugs that were too scared to try anything on account of him killing Hookwolf. "Down with the Empire!" He turned and walked over to Battery. "Sure, let's go. Don't bother with the cuffs, you don't have any that would stop me from getting out." He was just glad that even his fingerprints changed when he used an alternate form.

0o0o0

The cop waited until his partner left to grab some coffee and the release paperwork then glared at Mist. "You can't just kill people."

"He hit me with his blades, if I hadn't been a brute he would have killed me. I merely defended myself and hey one less Nazi is a good thing..." Mist trailed off as he checked the cop's mind and realized that he was an Empire supporter. He dug through the man's mind for other Empire 88 members and corrupt cops in the police department then teleported the man to the warehouse to be sent off with the rest. He had a rather dim view of corrupt cops at the best of times. He waited patiently for the other cop to come back.

The other cop walked in and frowned. "Where did Ralph go?"

"He left a couple of minutes ago, didn't say anything to me," Mist admitted.

"You're free to go, try not to kill any more villains if you can help it."

"None of the rest of them promote dog fighting, they're probably safe."

"You ripped him apart because he promotes dog fights?" the asked in disbelief.

“Officially, no, I defended myself when he attacked me. I don’t care for bigots of any type and I happen to like dogs, some of them more than people. Now that I’m free to go, do you have any bounties in Merchant territory?”

“How indestructible are you?”

”Enough that I’m not really worried about anyone in the city that isn’t a hero.”

“Which hero are you worried about?” The cop took the cape’s handcuffs off.

“Armsmaster is tinker, never underestimate them, they’re sneaky.” Mist wasn’t sure if his nano-thornes could hurt him but he really didn’t want to find out.

“Sadly, you’d need an officer with you and we’re not interested in getting shot for going as deep into Merchant territory as we’d have to go. Especially not right now considering someone killed Skidmark ten minute ago and kidnapped Squealer.”

Mist blinked in surprise. ‘Huh, I wonder which of the girls got him.’ He sighed. “Ah, well, such is life. Can you show me out, I’d hate for someone to get the wrong idea.” Mist wanted to use this identity a few more times before he had to discard it.

“Of course, off the record thanks for taking care of Hookwolf. He caused almost as many problems as Skidmark and made it difficult and dangerous to shut down any of the dog fighting rings in the city.”

“You’re welcome.” Mist followed the man out of the station then headed down the street back toward the Merchant territory. He ducked into an deserted alley after a couple of blocks then used his invisibility spell after glancing around to make sure no one was around to see him. He didn’t want to show off too many powers for his toss away identity but he didn’t want his toss away identity connected to his name either. He teleported up again the Bay then changed back to his normal form and flew toward the hotel where he’d stashed Noelle.

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Noelle opened the door with a smile. “Mist, come in Jess and I were having ice cream.”

Mist stepped in and gave the girl standing/lending up against the counter in the tiny hotel kitchen a smile. “Hey.”

Jess smiled brightly at Mist. “Tell Selena thanks again for fixing my legs.”

"I'll tell her." Mist took another step inside so Noelle could close the door then glanced over at where Oliver or at least he was guessing the overly attractive man was Oliver was sitting with a guy in a mask playing a videogame on the hotel's television. "Oliver?"

The handsome man said, "Yeah."

Mist looked at the man in the mask. "Which makes you Ballistic."

Ballistic said, "I could be Trickster."

"Nah, he'd have been in my face the instant I stepped in the door."

Ballistic laughed. "True enough, him and Sundancer are picking up pizza. Thanks for helping Jess and Noelle."

"It was my pleasure, speaking of help, I brought another dose of serum if you want conscious control over your power Oliver."

Oliver grinned. "As long as it doesn't mess with the rest of my powers. I like being able to pick up skills quickly."

"That part of your powers should be fine, it will just let you turn your changer power off when you don't want it."

"That would be great, let's deal with before Trickster gets back and complains." Oliver held out his arm.

Mist pulled the syringe out of his inventory and walked over and carefully give Oliver and injection. "That should do it." He put the syringe back in his inventory.

"Thanks," Oliver replied as he sat up and headed for the bathroom to see if his face was still changing.

Ballistic asked, "If we were going to work for you, what's our first mission?"

"I want to kidnap Othala so we can copy her a couple of times then send her to the world where I've been sending the rest of the Empire thugs my team has caught."

Jess asked, "Kidnapping?"

"Of a neo nazi villain," Mist replied. "You don't need to kidnap her, just copy her a few times once I drop her off so that I can get genetic samples from the copies and we can figure out how to create a sane clone."

Noelle asked, "What happens if her clones go crazy?"

"We'll deal with it. We're going to be creating the clones on the other dimension so they can't come back here to cause problems. Having someone that can give people regeneration should help keep the group alive."

Ballistic asked, "Is there a reason you want them alive? I mean I know we're villains but we're not Nazis."

Jess said, "What he said."

"We're using them as test subjects. Basically, testing what skills and supplies we'd need to set things up on other worlds." He wasn't going to mention the fact that he was planning on infusing some of the Empire thugs with magic and changing their hair color to blue rather than green like most of them as a social experiment. He knew he wouldn't get to see the end results until he returned or until after his chain ended but he wanted to figure out the setup with people that didn't matter.

"As long as you're not planning on leaving them here or on Earth Aleph," Noelle agreed.

"Not until we figure out a way to fix that part of your power." Mist had a couple of ideas, including telepathically rewriting the clone's brains but he wasn't sure how much would be required. Either way, he should be able to fix it.

Jess used the table for support as she hobbled back to her chair. Her legs might be fixed but she still wasn't that comfortable walking yet. "I'm looking forward to getting back home but if you can connect Earth Aleph to a place in Earth Bet, I'd sign up."

Mist smiled. "Excellent, your creations should give Selena plenty of ideas on how to improve people or animals." He glanced over at Oliver who had just stepped out of the bathroom door. "Oh, speaking of powers, one of my friends can temporarily transfer powers between people, would you mind lending Jess your power for a couple of hours so she can learn to walk without having to go through months of therapy?"

Oliver blinked. "You can do that?"

"My friend can. A few hours with your power and she'd be dancing if she wanted."

Jess looked at Oliver. "Please?"

Oliver smiled at the idea of his friend saving herself months of therapy and hassle. "I don't seem to be changing anymore unless I want to so there isn't a danger of her looking different. I'll swap powers with you for a couple of hours."

"I don't know, I wouldn't mind using your appearance power a touch. Not enough to really change but enough to look better."

Mist nodded. "I'll have Sin bring a camera so she can take a picture in case you change your mind. Selena should be able to change you back or fix anything that Oliver's power screws up."

Ballistic paused his game and set the controller on the table. "As long as you aren't asking us to hurt children or innocents, pay us well and can open a portal between worlds, I'm in."

"That shouldn't be a problem," Mist didn't have a problem paying the group to stay together. He wanted access to Noelle's power and this was the best way to get it short of making a duplicate of her with his crystal torch or at least a copy of it. He wanted to see how viable her clones were before he wasted it in case the copy of the torch screwed up the original for some insane reason. He pulled out his phone and called Sin.

Sin picked up the phone, "Hey Boss, what's up?"

"I need you to swap a power for me so that Jess can learn to walk. Also who do we have that can pick up and knock out Othala that isn't busy?"

Sin said, "Hermione should be able to sneak in there and stun her without any problems."

"I'll grab her and bring her to the hotel." Hermione cast invisibility then teleported over Othala's house with a faint crack.

"Hermione's on it, I'll teleport to the housing then back to you. Be there in a minute." Sin ended the call then pushed the button to head to the companion housing.

Mist closed the phone and stuck it back in his pocket. "She'll teleport in, in a minute."

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Hermione would have felt worse about blasting Victor through the window with a reductio if he wasn't a villain and worse than a decent number of death eaters. His power was monstrous and twisted, it stole other people's skills and made them his own while leaving people with nothing in place of the skills he stole. The worst part was that he liked the fact that he left his victims with nothing. The fact that he went after masters was just one more reason to get rid of him before he targeted one of her friends. 'You're never going to hurt anyone else.'

She hit Othala with a stunner as she came running into the room to see what happened/save her husband. She floated through the shattered window and over to Othala. She ignored the alarm that was going off as she looked through Othala's mind for valuables to take, she wanted the cops to think it was just a robbery gone wrong so they wouldn't look for her. 'A ledger of names for the Empire and cash in the safe, jewelry upstairs and a various pieces of artwork that Victor painted with stolen skills.'

She headed to the safe and hit it with an unlocking charm then put the contents into her inventory. 'I need to remember to thank Mist for that spell.' She apparated up to the bedroom and looted her jewelry box as well as a decent collection of Othala's closet so that her clones would have stuff to wear.

She headed back down the stairs then cast a disillusionment charm on Othala before putting her wand away. She picked up Othala then apparated outside Noelle's hotel room. She glanced around then dropped her invisibility spell and hauled Othala over to Noelle's door. She reached up and knocked. "Can someone open the door?"

Noelle opened the door and frowned as she saw Hermione empty handed. "Weren't you supposed..." she trailed off as she sensed another cape. "Invisibility?"

"Disillusionment but close enough," Hermione replied as she hauled Othala inside the hotel.

Noelle waited until Hermione was a few feet from the door then carefully closed it to make sure she didn't catch any part of the cape's legs. "We should have gotten a larger room."

"It's not going to matter, as soon as Sundancer and Trickster get back, we'll be jumping to the other world to start making copies. Hopefully you can fix them being evil."

Hermione glanced over at the glowing blue globes that Jess and Oliver were standing in. Jess looked a bit strange as she walked back and forth staying in the globe of light while using the back of the couch for support. "Is it getting easier?"

Jess grinned. "It's getting less annoying the longer I do it."

"Good to hear." Hermione dispelled the charm on Othala that was keeping her hidden. "We should call Ranma and Selena for the next bit, Ranma can check her new powers and Selena can fix her eye."

"Sounds like a plan." Mist pulled out his phone and started making calls.

OoOoO

Mist yawned as he walked up the steps of the Hebert house. It had been an interesting last few days, they'd figured out a way to stabilize the clones or rather Selena and Hermione had by comparing the original and the clones. The problem was mostly 'software' with heightened aggression which required Selena to fix and Hermione to tweak memories.

After they'd figured that out, they'd had Selena purge Squealer of drugs, got her drunk and running on the beach naked while having a good time so that he could delete some of her more annoying personality traits and add a copy of Sin's exhibitionist trait. From there it was a simple matter to have Noelle make twenty copies of the tinker then purge a bunch of screwed up memories and rewrite the copies into decent human beings without screwing up their powers. The second to last thing in the process was having the girls swap powers temporarily with Oliver so that they could change their appearance into smoking hot supermodel quality tinkers. The last step was Hermione adjusting memories, creating false identities and leaving the girls with a desire to join the protectorate.

Mist pulled his attention back to the present as he knocked on the door. He didn't have to wait long before the door was opened by Danny. "Hello."

Danny gestured toward the house. "Come in and take a load off."

"Thank you." Mist walked in and glanced around. It looked freshly cleaned which was probably Annette's doing or maybe the other Taylor. He glanced at the two nearly identical girls on the couch that actually looked surprisingly happy or not considering they'd just gotten the other parent back or at least as close as they were going to short of him bringing his world's Annette back from the dead.

The Taylor on the left asked, "How did your super secret mission go?"

"If I told you it wouldn't be super secret anymore would it?" Mist teased.

The other Taylor shivered as more bugs entered her sphere of influence, she was still working on understanding everything. "No hints?"

Mist glanced at Danny then shrugged. "We managed to recruit twenty tinkers from various worlds that should be signing up with various Protectorate locations. Hopefully with any luck, I'll find someone that can help against the endbringers."

Danny asked, "Do you know anyone that can clear the Boat Graveyard?"

"Sure, I know a couple of people that can help clear it. I was just waiting until I could buy the ferry docks and most of the land around the bay."



Danny blinked. "I'd heard the city sold it but no one said who they sold it to... how much land did you buy?"

"The bounties on the Slaughterhouse Nine were extensive. That reminds me, I should take them of them on the other Earth too."

The Taylor on the left said, "That would be cool."

The other Taylor said, "I don't know how you can be so calm about this."

"You get used to it," Taylor replied.

Annette walked into the living room with a smile. "Dinner's almost ready."

Danny said, "In that case, let's eat, you can tell us your plans for the docks and how many jobs you'll be bringing to the union over dinner."

"Danny," Annette scolded lightly.

Mist laughed. "A fair number of them actually, I'm going to need people to restore and run the ferry as well process all of the steel we're going to be recovering from the boats. In short, the union shouldn't have any trouble finding honest work for the next couple of years."

"Glad to hear it, when can I tell people?" Danny asked.

"All of the paperwork is done so we can talk shop after dinner if you want."

Annette smiled at Mist. "At least the young man knows what's important."

"Thanks," Mist grinned as everyone followed Annette to the dining room to enjoy a well cooked meal. While they didn't avoid talk about the union completely they didn't talk about specifics at least not during the meal. He could tell that Danny really wanted to. He set his fork down on his plate once he'd finished eating. "Actually, before Danny drags me off to talk business, can I get a list of the teachers that need to be fired?"

Taylor blinked, "What?"

"I talked to the school board, they happily agreed to sell Winslow as long as they could continue to send students there until a new public high school can be built. That said, I have the ability to replace any of the staff." Mist pulled a list of the staff out of his inventory and handed it to the Taylor from this Brockton Bay. "If you could look it over and tell me who I need to replace, I'll be happy to get rid of them."

Both Taylors replied promptly, "Mr. Gladly."

Danny said, "Taylor."

Mist said, "That's a good start."

"You can't just, what are they going to do for jobs?"

Mist snorted, "Go elsewhere, light themselves on fire or ask if people want fries with their order. I've ran into enough horrible teachers over the years that I don't care what happens to them."

Annette spoke up, "I have to agree, Taylor's teachers were horrible in my world."

"Knotts wasn't bad," Taylor defended her computer teacher.

"Same," Taylor agreed.

Danny frowned. "Still, you're talking about people's lives."

Annette said, "He's got a point, give it some thought and write a paragraph on why they should be kept or fired or both." She looked at Mist. "Do you need it tonight?"

"Nah, take the rest of the weekend and think about it. I'm looking forward to firing Blackwell, so very much."

Taylor asked hopefully, "Can you record it when you tell her?"

Mist chuckled. "I'll think about it."

Danny asked, "Why the school?"

"Because it's a hellhole and people deserve a better education. Besides, if I own it, no one will complain when I repair it."

"It seems expensive," Danny muttered.

"I could run the place for years and years off what I have left from killing off the Nine and I get some money for the students that show up. I'm not overly concerned with money. I'm going to make the city a nice place to live again even if I have to scour alternate Earths to find decent teachers."

Annette smiled. "As someone you collected from an alternate world, thank you."

Mist glanced between Annette and Danny. "Does that mean you've decided to stay?"

"I'd like to keep the other house but we think we can make it work. It's a bit confusing with two Taylors but we'll figure something out."

Annette's Taylor said, "You can call me Piper, it's my cape name and I sort of like it, Piper Taylor Hebert."

"What are you going to use for a cape name here?"

"Shaman, I control mammals, it seems to work."

Mist grinned as he glanced between the two Taylors. "Skitter and Shaman."

Taylor asked, "Skitter?"

"You have bug control, the other option is Weaver and that just doesn't have the same ring."

Annette smiled as she saw the look on her other daughter's face. "We can figure it out later. Let Danny and Mist talk business before Danny explodes."

Danny said, "Sorry... I'm just happy about getting work for the guys."

"Don't worry about it Danny, I understand," Mist replied. Normally he wouldn't have wanted to deal with a union but Danny was honest enough or at least he'd seemed that way from the story and there was more work than he wanted to deal with.

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Mist spent the next couple of weeks dealing with cleaning up the school which involved a lot of repair and cleaning spells, telepathy, cameras and security guards and the occasional portal after one of his avatars followed a problematic student gang member home. Sure, it was mean on some levels but most of the gang or wannabe members really didn't want to be there and he didn't see a reason that everyone should have to put up with them. He ended up talking Oliver into letting Noelle clone him while asleep in exchange for magic books and lessons with the understanding that his duplicates wouldn't wake up until their memories were scrambled and Selena gender flopped. From there it was just a matter of having Hermione give them backgrounds so they could teach or work in the office or whatever else they needed them to do as he'd ended up gutting most of the staff on account of them being pathetic.

The best part was that without Sophia or the gangs causing problems and Emma getting mandatory therapy, the school was actually shaping up to be one of the best places to learn in the country thanks to them making copious use of copies of Oliver. Not all of them had the same

ability to quickly master skills but all of them retained the skills he'd already picked up which were considerable. Most of the clones had some type of ability related to skills and appearance so it worked out.

Selena asked, "Now that the school seems to be shaping up and we have a reasonable principal for managing things, what's next?"

Mist was just glad that Annette had taken the job of principal because it freed them up to worry about other things now that the school was enchanted to stay clean and they had decent teachers and everything. It was amazing how far the budget stretched when duplicating a piece of expensive equipment a hundred times was a perfectly viable option. "I want to track down Agnes Court and see if I can bribe her into letting Noelle copy her."

"Why?"

"Because her power lets her create a wood like substance she can grow into various structures that harden into a stone like substance. If nothing else I want to use Laura's staff and create a temporary clone so I can turn it into materia and copy the spell."

Selena rolled her eyes. "Or we could just hit a world that has building spells."

"You're right, we could but we're here and we have most of two years to kill. Besides, she built a city in two days in the story. That would drastically improve our ability to create cities and bases in alternate primitive worlds. Set up a city in a couple of days, make some clones and move to the next area."

"Just keep in mind that your resources aren't infinite."

"Yeah, I know. Either way, this method doesn't require I pay her though I'm interested in seeing what type of clones she'd make." Mist wasn't all that worried about money considering the amount of gold he has stashed away and the fact that if he needed to farm gold he'd just open a portal to the cow level and kill them until he got bored.

"I guess it's worth a shot. Speaking of the Elite, we should probably deal with Bastard Son, the guy is almost as bad as the Slaughterhouse Nine and has a decent bounty on him. Heck, most of his team has bounties on them."

"Not to mention they should have a decent amount of money we can steal," Mist replied with amusement.

Selena playfully shook her finger at Mist, "You get way too much enjoyment out of your technopathy ability."

“Probably. Speaking of, we should grab Ranma and visit Saint so I can pick up the program to fix Dragon.”

“I found another cape we should capture and copy. Deva Yaga, she can tweak powers and doesn’t have the same issues with the test subjects going insane like some trumps that tweak powers.”

“Where was she based?”

“Alaska, she’s with the Russian mob and Bratva. They sell hard drugs and kidnap children for profit.”

“Yeah, grab Ranma, we’ll drop the rest of them off with the Empire on the other world and let Kaiser deal with them.”

“I’ll grab Ramna and collect Noelle.” Selena pulled her phone out of her pocket as she turned and walked out of the office to find collect Ranma.

Mist frowned slightly as he realized that Purity might be the perfect person to copy for dealing with the endbringers. She was a high end flying blaster and probably wouldn’t object to having some of her issues dealt with via his phone or telepathy as she’d wanted to be a hero before the lack of progress had driven her back to the Empire before she’d left again. Either way, sticking the clones in some gear that absorbed lightning and water damage and let them breathe underwater would go a long ways toward helping level the playing field. ‘That reminds me, I should work on making more water breathing gear and have Hermione waterproof the shelters just in case Leviathan still shows up.’ He pulled his notepad out of his inventory and made some notes while he waited for Selena to collect people.

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Mist wasn’t particularly happy when he got a call to help deal with the Simurgh in Canberra on the 24th because that meant he was either wrong about the connection with Eidolon or the therapy wasn’t working. Either way, they send a group of Avatars to help out as they wanted nothing to do with the Simurgh. Horrifyingly enough teleporting things into ‘her’ was one of the most effective ways to deal with the Simurgh, the horrifying part came after the Simurgh stopped jobbing and started ripping heroes and everything she could see apart with her telekinesis. Thankfully he’d used Dragon Break before he started teleporting things into her and set off a round of pain and suffering for the entire hero community.

He used his dragon break ability again then tapped his wristband in one timeline and said, “Plan, B.” In the other timeline he merely continued trying rescue heroes that had gotten trapped before time ran out.

Ranma waited until Mist slammed into the Simurgh then opened a door directly behind the Simurgh.

Mist pushed with all his avatar's considerably might and managed to get the Simurgh half through the portal before Ranma closed it cutting him and 'her' in half and dispelling the avatar. Mist winced as he suddenly felt like someone had just cut him in half. "Fuck that hurts." He tossed a regeneration spell up then focused on his other avatar that was healing people with Panacea in the medical tents a few miles from the city the Simurgh had been attacking. "We might have just won."

Panacea finished healing the cape with a gashing chest wound then looked at Mist for a second. "How?"

"We tossed her through a door to another world," Mist replied absently as he continued tossing regeneration spells on people followed by Esuna to make sure that any mental damage was taken care of.

"Hopefully she can't get back," Panacea moved to the next patient and started working.

"We can hope," Selena's avatar replied as she worked on a villain with a piece of rebar through his leg.

"At the very least it should work for today," Mist was just glad that they'd dealt with the Simurgh well within the window of acceptable exposure so they wouldn't have to condemn the city. Either way, he was calling it a win which was better than his first attempt which wasn't even close to a win.

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Mist spent the next couple of months kidnapping and relocating the worst villains in Earth Bet that weren't locked up in the birdcage to various other worlds after copying some of them. His weirdest experiment was probably relocating the Butcher and Spree to a world without humans and having Noelle make a couple of copies of each of them to see how their powers mutated. One of the Butchers had a similar power to the original Butcher where the person that killed him picked up additional powers but also picked up some rather disturbing personality quirks.

Things had taken a turn for the worst when one of the Spree copies that made stable if stupid copies of himself managed to kill the Butcher copy. The result had been weird, twisted and a spreading plague considering anyone that killed one of sprees copies was 'infected' and acquired the ability to copy himself and infect others in addition to a weaker copy of any powers the victim had. They'd had to confiscate Laura's dimensional breach device when she'd dropped one of the clones into the empire's world which had resulted in the plague spreading to the population on the Empire's world without anyone noticing until it was far too late. He was

blaming that lack of judgement on Bonesaw/Riley convincing her that it would give them test subjects for combining capes in interesting ways that were morally sound as they were just copies.

Still, if it hadn't been for the rather horrible mental side effects they probably would have grabbed the upgrade themselves but as it was Sin convinced them that dropping off problematic capes there would prove interesting if nothing else and was better than locking them up in jail.

The best or worst part for jumping down the rabbit hole was when they started collecting volunteers on that world and running them through the magic infusion chamber in order to give them magic. He was fairly sure that he'd put far too much magic into a couple of them but with the baseline insanity it was hard to tell what had caused them to morph into a culture that would have freaked out the dark elves.

Luckily for the team's sanity they'd hidden the portals behind fidelius charms so none of the insane capes could escape but they'd been forced to get a lot more careful about which capes were banished as they didn't want to give them a way to escape.

Still the best part of the trip was watching Skitter and Shaman work their way through the rest of the criminals in Brockton Bay. Mist had ended up recruiting the Undersiders and changing Bitch's appearance using Oliver's power. He was going to miss that option when they left as none of the Travelers wanted to go with them on their adventures which meant that he was going to have to figure out a way to copy Noelle or her copy powers like what he'd done with Agnes Court with a magical clone and his ability to create materia.

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Ranma pushed the button on Mist's stopwatch which froze everything including the massive beast that had been causing trouble for the town frozen in place. He reached out with his power and opened a portal under Leviathan to the Mars in the Empire dimension. He opened a number of thin portals around Leviathan that also led to the other world's Mars then pushed the button to restart time so that Leviathan fell through through the thin level of asphalt and down to the surface of Mars. He quickly closed the portals that he'd created. "That was far easier than I was expecting."

Eidolon stared at the place where Leviathan had vanished then looked at the man in black and a cape. "Where did you send him?"

"To the planet Mars in an alternate dimension. He shouldn't be a problem anymore," Ranma replied absently as he looked around at the flooded streets. They'd been hoping they could avoid having the city turned into a mess of salt water. Thankfully it wasn't worse and they'd stopped him before he got too far into the city. Most of the flooded area was scheduled to be

torn down anyways so it wasn't as bad as it could have been if they'd already started to rebuild yet.

"Can you do the same to Behemoth?" Eidolon asked warily.

"That's the plan," Ranma replied as he turned back to look at Eidolon.

"Good to know," Eidolon muttered then pushed the button on his communicator. "Leviathan has been sent to another dimension, the fight appears to be over for now."

Ranma focused on the other cape as he flew off without a backward glance. 'Crazy bastard has way too many powers.' He would have told him how to recharge but he didn't see a point in handing Eidolon back his full powers when wasn't willing to deal with his issues. He turned and smiled as a teenager in a green costume sort of stepped from elsewhere to close. "Vista."

Vista said, "I heard you got Leviathan, do you want to help do something with the water?"

Ranma asked, "What are you thinking?"

"If you open a door over the bay, I can twist things so the water will drain. If we get the worst of the water, it should help with recovery," Vista pointed out.

"Let's do it," Ranma agreed and opened a portal in the street.

Vista twisted space so to increase the flow of the water into Ranma's portal.

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The clean up took several weeks even with avatars and magic girl minions out in force but at least looting was kept to a minimum with dozens of capes out in force or at least the looting in this version of Brockton Bay was kept to a minimum. The other version of Brockton Bay had suffered a lot more damage and the gangs were taking advantage which had resulted in them sending the Undersiders over there with half their team to help the other Undersiders deal with the trash infesting their city. The only good thing was that the destruction meant property values were at an all time low so it was easy to buy up property, level the wreckage then transfigure it into building materials they could sell then grow stone replacement homes with the Agnes Court materia.

The most annoying part of the aftermath was that both versions of Aisha still managed to trigger, one thanks to her mother's new idiot boyfriend and the other to some idiot during the Leviathan fight. In short, they'd had to talk both Grues out of killing the idiots responsible. Still, having violent invisible ninjas with a raging hatred for drugs really cut down on the number of drug dealers in the city or at least functional drug dealers. It was amazed how fast the scum left the



city when they were liable to end up with shattered kneecaps and or crushed testicles for dealing drugs in either of the Brockton Bays.

Mist spent a lot of the next year and some dealing with problematic parahumans in both worlds as well as teaching magic to a decent number of local heroes, teammates and even some of the heroes in the other Earth Bet after they'd ganked the other Scion just for completeness sake. The downside of helping people and arranging things so that their lives were better was that it gave people less reasons to travel with him. On the upsides, he'd had a lot of fun running around solving problems and setting up a magical kingdom of parahumans.

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He blinked as he found himself back in the blackstone chamber. "Well at least I'm done with that."

Genie snickered. "Should I let Aisha, Leet and Uber go or do you want to drag them along?"

Mist blinked. "Aisha? Where did I get an Imp?"

"She sort of followed you into your warehouse."

"Shouldn't I be immune to that?" Mist asked curious how she'd managed to sneak into his warehouse.

"Her power, yeah, the fact that she's just that sneaky, nope,"

"Right, at least Grue will be frozen in time and can't kill me for kidnapping his sister. I need three hundred for the next group of companions, three hundred for the three of them, that gives me 2900 points to play with in a jump that isn't even close to a CP vampire. Actually before I agree to spend the points, can I have a chat with Uber and Leet?"

Genie snapped her fingers and teleported Leet out of the stasis pod and Uber out of the duplicated pod they'd put together. "Welcome to the black room."

Leet turned and looked at Genie and Mist. "You... what's going on?"

"You said you wanted to come on various jumps, can you behave?" Genie asked.

"Is my power going to get crippled again?" Leet asked hoping to hell it wasn't.

Genie snorted. "Fuck that, your shard was one of the most idiotic I've ran into which is saying something. All of the information was still there the shard was just messing with you because it didn't like you."

"Figures. I've lost track of the number of times things blew up on him," Uber agreed.

Leet asked, "So... where are we going next?"

"No clue, I need to figure out where to spend my points and talk to the rest of the crew about where to go next."

Genie said, "You should probably spend some points to bring Remedy, Panacea, Riley and Remedy's Glory Girl with you to kill their shards and Skitter and Shaman because they could stand to have some extra powers."

"I thought they didn't want to come?" Mist asked.

"I had a chat with them and pointed out how screwed up their shards are and that coming with you will be an interesting adventure. Clockblocker is another one that would benefit from his shard dying, I mean seriously how the hell is a random duration helpful on time stop?"

Mist happened to agree with Genie about Clockblocker's shard. "What will happen to Skitter's shard?"

"I'm sending her on her way to pick another host, she's actually helpful."

"In that case, I'm sort of thinking Disgaea could be fun."

Leet glanced at Uber then back to Mist. "That's the Earth Aleph import about a demon lord, right?"

"Pretty much, mostly the reason I want to go is because I can pick up the ability to jump into items with a group of people and make them better by killing monsters. Not to mention we can pick up some nice magical items."

"It has a game theme, I'm happy though it's not a true classic."

"I'm planning on going to a SNES land in a couple of jumps that I think you'll love."

"There is a video game land?" Leet asked excitedly.

"There are a number of them. I'm planning on going to a Zelda jump eventually that I think you'll like."

Leet asked, "For real?" Tears glistened in his eyes.

“Assuming that you don’t do anything that screws things up for the rest of us.”

Uber shook his head. “Can we still film things?”

Mist said, “As long as you don’t go into the bathrooms or film myself or one of my friends when they don’t want to be filmed, I’ve got no objection to you making videos of us fighting monsters as long as you’re helping fight them.”

“We’ve got drones,” Leet replied then frowned. “Or we used to before we got knocked out.”

“I packed up your lab, everything should be in my warehouse away from everything else with a tarp over it and a sign, ‘Danger, Leet’s shit!’”

Uber laughed at the look on his friend’s face. “That about sums it up or at least used to.”

Genie asked, “Are you willing to pay points for everyone?”

“Sure, that’s only 1,000 for the additional crew and 300 for another 8 people for Worm powers, that gives me 2200 points for abilities and items.”

Leet asked, “What power did you have anyways?”

“Basically a cross between Bonesaw and Blasto’s powers,” Mist replied absently.

Uber shivered. “Right, because that’s not creepy.”

“Eh, it’s not like I got to pick them,” Mist replied as he walked over to fill out his selections for worm.

Genie teleported all of the companions into the room including, Remedy, Panacea, Riley, Remedy’s Glory Girl, Skitter, Shaman, Clockblocker and Aisha.

Aisha grinned as she looked around. “Awesome.”

Hermione blinked as she noticed the new people. “How many people did you invite to come with us?”

“Ten, other than Skitter and Shaman, everyone’s shards were annoying shits for one reason or another. I’ve sent Skitter and Shaman’s shards on their way with a pat on the back, the rest with a stern talking to and a beating in Leet’s case, I mean seriously.” Genie shook her head. “Right, so I should probably explain the rules of jumping while Mist works on spending his points.”

Clockblocker glanced over at Uber and Leet, “I thought you died.”

Uber shrugged. "No, Mist kidnapped us, we sort of went a bit off the deep end when Genie told us the details about jumping."

"I can see where that might be a problem." Clockblocker wasn't sure how long he'd continue jumping but picking up a couple more powers sounded worth the investment in time.

Glory Girl asked, "How come I don't have my powers?"

"Powers don't work here for safety reasons," Genie replied smugly.

Remedy pulled Glory Girl in for a hug. "Don't worry, I still love you."

Genie worked on explaining the rules while Mist picked out perks and items for worm.

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Spanner in the Works [300]: You are the wrench which completely ruins the designs of others. You're completely immune to attempts to predict or plan for your future actions or events involving you rather than be from precognition or simply raw intelligence.

Best in the Business: [600] The greatest advantage you could have is having the best and brightest out there on your side, but sometimes that isn't possible. This perk causes everyone working for you to rapidly gain in skill and capability, reaching the levels of a top tier professional in a week or two, and from then on showing noticeable increases over time within the fields they are operating in. Even scraping the bottom of the barrel when it comes to human resources isn't a problem, they'll be the equal of anyone else in the business quickly enough, and with sufficient time will make the former best look like amateurs.

Powered Armor System [500]: A suit of power armor. The physical enhancements are enough to give you a mid-tier Brute rating. It also comes with flight, blaster, force field and stealth systems.

Cauldron Vials: [600]

Genie said, "That leaves you with 200 points, you should probably grab Vista and Noelle."

"Why Vista?" Mist asked.

"Because she's all sorts of awesome and could stand to get away from her family for a bit and unwind before she snaps. Noelle's shard is royally screwed up as I explained to her when I talked to her before I grabbed everyone."

“That’s fine.” Mist didn’t have a problem with Vista or Noelle joining them even if just temporarily, he was just glad that he didn’t have to deal with Trickster as he really didn’t like the guy. “Pull up the Disgaea jump, we might as well have some fun for a year.”

Genie brought up the Disgaea jump then teleported Vista and Noelle to the room. “Welcome to the blackstone room a place where everyone gathers to figure out where they’re going in jumps.”

Vista blinked then looked around. She paused as she spotted Leet and Uber. “I thought you were dead?”

Uber shook his head. “No, just kidnapped. We sort of went overboard because we wanted to jump to other worlds.”

Panacea said, “Don’t worry, they’ve promised to behave.”

Harry spoke up, “Actually, if we’re going to be hitting a world where we’re going to be acquiring abilities, grinding and generally just hanging out, shouldn’t we head back to PS238 so that we can pick up our folks and Sirius?”

Hermione nodded. “I wouldn’t mind passing out some of the safe cauldron vials we picked up.”

Noelle stared at Hermione. “Are you insane?!”

Genie said, “No, the vials she has are completely safe unlike the vials your team used.”

“Oh, sorry,” Noelle admitted.

Hermione flashed Noelle a smile. “Don’t worry, I understand. I wouldn’t hand out the other vials to friends and family.”

Vista asked, “What is PS238?”

“Basically a school for people with superpowers,” Selena piped up.

Laura said, “It’s amusing but don’t worry, we should just be in and out long enough to give my folks the vials and recruit them. We can probably snag everyone some interesting powers if they don’t already have some from there.”

“It’s worth a shot and it would give us a chance to share some stories with the folks,” Mist admitted. He wasn’t sure how many points he’d get for showing up and going on an adventure but it might be enough to recruit his folks and a couple more people.

Leet asked, "How long would we be there for?"

Mist shrugged. "A couple of days, we need to pick up some groceries, supplies, clothes and video games anyways."

Noelle glanced around. "I wouldn't mind more powers and a couple of days shouldn't be too horrible."

Leet said, "Hopefully they have some interesting videogames that we don't."

"Sounds like a plan." Genie snapped her fingers and sent the group to PS238.

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James looked at the two vials in the middle of the table. "Let me get this straight, if we come with you, the curse goes away, we get additional superpowers and we can explore the multiverse while time is frozen here?"

Mist grinned. "That basically sums things up."

Lily asked, "Does that mean we're not really your parents?"

"You're not our only parents but that doesn't make you any less our parents, Mom," Laura pointed out.

James looked at Mist. "How old are you?"

"Mentally? A bit older than you guys."

Lily sighed. "This is going to take some getting used to."

Harry spoke up, "Considering I grew up with my aunt and uncle and they hated me, I'm happy with everyone here as family."

"How do we know this isn't just an elaborate prank?" James asked warily.

Laura pointed at Lily. "Because we don't prank Mom, not after the first time."

James grinned as he realized that Laura had a point. "She has a point, what do you think?"

Lily said, "I'd love to be rid of the curse and get back to helping people or just exploring various worlds. Besides, it's not like we have any reason to stay."

James glanced around the apartment. "You've got a point. How much stuff can we bring?"

Mist reached out with his magic and opened a portal to the warehouse. "A decent amount, I need to organize my collection of magitech suits but we still have plenty of room."

Harry said, "Not to mention our bedrooms are decently large."

Laura grinned. "This is going to be awesome."

Lily glanced back down at the vial on the table. "Any idea what power the vial gives?"

"It's suited to the user but otherwise random," Mist admitted.

"In that case, we might as well try it and hope for the best." James picked up one of the vials, popped the cork and downed it with a look of distaste on his face. "Gah!"

Lily asked, "That bad?"

"Yeah, if this is a joke, you're grounded for a year," James stated firmly.

"Don't worry, it's not a joke. A friend of ours has the ability to identify powers, I'll give him a call while you're packing. I want to give Tyler a power then we can jump to a world that is a heck of a lot more fun than this one."

Lily frowned slightly. "I thought you liked school?"

"I don't mind bits of it but I have enhanced mastery, sitting in a classroom isn't the best use of my time."

Lily reached down and picked up her vial. "In that case, bottoms up." She drank the vial then scowled after she managed to swallow the foul tasting liquid. "That's horrible."

Laura said, "I'm just glad that I don't have to drink it."

"You and me both," Mist agreed.

Harry turned to look at Mist. "You have the portal to the warehouse, do you want me to hand a vial to Tyler while you pack everything?"

Mist glanced around the apartment. "That might be for the best. I know Hermione wanted to check out some of the magic shops before we jumped." He pulled a vial out of his inventory and handed it to Ranma. "That should get Tyler some type of power. You should probably put it in

your inventory to make sure it doesn't get broken, the universe seems dead set on Tyler not having powers or maybe that's just the comics."

Lily raised an eyebrow. "Comics?"

"You get to explain this one," Harry grinned as he put the vial in his inventory then turned invisible and apparated a block from Ranma's house as he wanted to pick Ranma up as he had the ability to identify what powers people had.

"Basically the worlds I jump to are based on books, videogames, comics or television shows. This particular world was a comic book where I'm from originally or at least a version of it."

Laura snickered at the looks on Lily and James' faces. "Don't worry, you're real enough and there are enough differences between the worlds that he might just have been unconsciously scrying on the world."

Lily sighed as she put the empty vial on the table. "I have a feeling you should start at the beginning."

"Okay..." Mist trailed off as he tried to figure out where to start without making things sound completely insane.

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Hermione's mother glared at Hermione as she absently pulled on the magical chains her daughter's trap had wrapped around her. "We're disappointed in you young lady, robbing the family vault."

Her father shook his head as he glanced at the various art pieces that were still in the vault. "And badly might I add, it's positively shameful."

Hermione's avatar let her downcast look turn into a smile as she looked up at 'her' villainous parents. "Oh, I'm afraid that you're mistaken. I've already removed everything remotely valuable, the remaining pieces were all stolen from various locations and have rewards posted. I'll make millions when I turn you into the authorities."

"That's more like it, betrayal and initiative, I like it," her father replied enthusiastically.

Her mother snorted. "Try to remember dear that she's selling us down the river for her personal profit."

"Of course, she's growing up." He turned to look at Hermione or rather her avatar since she was across town at the occult shop.



Her mother scowled at Hermione. "You're grounded. When I get out of these shackles, I'm sticking you on the rack."

Her father shook his head, "That seems a bit extreme. Honestly, it's not like we didn't have to move the artwork anyways."

Her mother stared at him. "What? How can you be so calm?"

Her father rolled his eyes at his wife then unlocked his shackles. "Seriously, you're being a drama queen." He turned to look at Hermione. "I want my half of the reward money in my Cayman Islands account by the end of the week, now if you'll excuse me, I've got a hot red haired secretary with DD that I wouldn't mind getting to know a bit better."

Hermione's avatar blinked as 'her' father teleported away as someone knocked loudly on the door upstairs and shouted, "Police!" She wasn't sure how she felt about her 'father' pulling a runner but at least 'her' mother was going to be off the street for a good long while if her ranting about cheating bastards and her demands to be let out were anything to go by. "Down here!"

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Skitter looked up as someone knocked on her door in the companion housing. "It's open."

Piper opened the door and flashed her alternate a smile. "Why are you hiding in here? We've got shopping to do."

"No money," Taylor admitted.

Victoria smirked as she peeked into Taylor's room. "Don't worry about it, Mist is picking up the tab."

"I have stuff..." Taylor trailed off uncertainly as she looked at her faded and slightly ragged sweatshirt.

"No, you have some clothes, none of them fit all that well. I know you wanted to talk to Amelia about increasing your breasts which means new bras unless you're not going to wear any which is also acceptable."

"I don't want to be a bother," Taylor admitted.

Piper shook her head. "He can open portals to a land with humanoid cows that drop gold coins and sell them to pawn brokers, he's not worried about money. In other words, this is a good opportunity to pick up clothes and have some fun."

Victoria smirked. "Don't worry, I'm a professional shopper or near enough, we'll have everything sorted out in a couple of hours."

Taylor sighed. "I'm not getting out of this am I?"

Piper grinned at her alternate. "This is a guilt free shopping trip."

"Fine," Taylor replied with amused resignation.

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Genie grinned as the party reappeared. "Welcome back, did everyone have fun?"

Leet smirked. "Oh yeah, they have entire libraries of super science on the net, for free."

Mist raised an eyebrow. "Free?"

"If they didn't want people to walk off with it, they should have designed their security better," Leet replied with amusement.

Vista opened her mouth then closed it as she realized that they weren't staying in PS238 and thus weren't competing with anyone. "I guess it could be worse." She looked at Riley. "Where did you go?"

Riley grinned at Vista. "Tiffany and I hit a couple of lectures on genetic engineering and Mist gave me money for lab equipment."

"They have some nice tech there," Mist admitted as he turned to look at Genie. "We should probably figure out which eight people want to get abilities first and which abilities from Disgaea they're picking up."

Hermione asked, "What do we have for options?"

"The free import gives eight people one class pick, I'll upgrade that after the jump to two. We need to grab both types of magic and the geo panels ability, other than that, everything is gravity. I sort of want someone to grab the spandex or frilly dress option that boosts magic use."

Vista snickered. "Spandex?"

Mist stuck his tongue out at Vista. "I can move enchantments and copy items. I'm planning on shifting the enchantment to our clothes or power armor."

Dennis piped up, "I wouldn't mind my armor being upgraded."

"Same, I'm planning on copying my armor and then adjusting it for everyone." Mist was actually planning on getting Uber and Leet to help with the design and modification of his power armor for everyone but he wanted to prove that Leet's inventions were safe before he admitted that to the group considering his reputation for problematic inventions.

Laura said, "Let's take a look at the document and see where we stand."

Genie brought the PS238 jump up on the other wall. "The rest of you should look at picking up abilities for PS238 as well."

"How many points do I have?" Mist asked.

"1300, which means you can afford to buy more companion imports and grab Lily and James."

Mist glanced over at Harry. "Looks like 200 for our parents then 600 for sixteen people. Which should cover everyone with room to spare."

Clockblocker asked, "How many points does that leave us with?"

"A decent amount, I suggest Enhanced Mastery which drastically decreases the time it takes to learn something and keeps your skills from degrading. The Boy/Girl Wizard package and villainous legacy for a background boosts your magic from there and get you a contact perk. You'll also be able to pick out a fairly nice magical item and a rainmaker perk even if the rainmaker perk has a side effect."

Genie spoke up, "Yep, I'll give you a backstory and you'll get to experience a year of school in a cape school."

Beth asked, "Will that stack with my other Enhanced Mastery perk?"

"Yep, you'll be learning things a lot faster than the rest of the group."

"Cool, I'm game."

"It won't be a villain version of our parents, right?" Denis asked with concern.

Genie shook her head. "Nah, Harry got a villainous version of his parents because he took a flaw that made them decent human beings for parents."

Noelle said, "I'm fine with that trade off."

Mist glanced at Ranma. "Speaking of powers, what did Tyler end up with?"

"The ability to copy one person's power at a time which is strangely fitting for him," Ranma replied as he walked over to look at the Disgaea stuff..

Remedy said, "I wouldn't mind having skill mastery."

Uber grinned as he thought about having a power that kept his skills from degrading from lack of use. "This should make training a breeze."

Leet winced as he looked at his friend's face. "Why do I have a bad feeling about this?"

Ranma laughed. "Because you hate physical training?"

"You would too if you were a scrawny nerd...."

Remedy spoke up, "We can probably fix that."

Leet turned to look at Remedy. "What do you mean?"

"I mean Panacea and I can alter genetics, we can tweak your frame and with Uber's training and enhanced mastery power, you can probably look like an actual hero if you want."

"Oh, hell yes!" Leet replied enthusiastically.

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Riley, Taylor, Piper, Noelle, Denis, Leet, Uber, Amelia, Amy, Victoria, Aisha, Beth  
Background: Villainous Legacy: [Free]

Madam Vashti: [Free]

Boy/Girl Wizard [200]:

Mystery of the Mask: [Free]

Miscellaneous Meta [400]: Enhanced Mastery

Born to Privilege [Free] Contacts and understanding of polite society.

Rainmaker: Glowing globes that temporarily transfer powers.

Item: (Double discount, 400 point item magic item goes to 100)

Mist

Demon: [Free]

Drop In: [Free]

Hiding Your Power Level [100, Free for Drop-In] You can now hide the amount of energy, skill, or power you have that can be sensed by anyone else.

Moe [Free]: There's no such thing as an ugly main character! Okay, well, maybe not the monster classes...but don't judge! Point is, you look some form of beautiful, sexy, handsome, or adorable.

Professional Peanut Gallery [Free] – At least a day before a major event happens to you, or before a new jump begins, Etna herself (or some of your companions) will give a hilariously inaccurate 'next episode' preview of what will happen.

Onmyo Disciple: Instead of combat ability or direct support, they are able to navigate and alter Geo-Panels using their magic, changing the environment or battlefield to suit their needs.

Magic: Namely, you can form classic RPG elements – fire, water, and so on.

Items: [400 free points]

Hero's Scarf [Free] – It's a flowing red scarf that will manage to look good on you regardless of your outfit. Never gets caught in anything, either.

Useless Time-Wasting RPGs [Free]

Sweet Jacket [Free]: It's a really nifty jacket that looks good on you. Comes in white, black, and blue. Keeps you cozy even in extreme temperatures, though it won't stop you from freezing in the arctic or burning when you're on fire.

Rosen Queen Shop [400, Discount for Netherworld]

Selena, Abby

Demon: [Free]

Drop In: [Free]

Hiding Your Power Level [100, Free for Drop-In] You can now hide the amount of energy, skill, or power you have that can be sensed by anyone else.

Moe [Free]: There's no such thing as an ugly main character! Okay, well, maybe not the monster classes...but don't judge! Point is, you look some form of beautiful, sexy, handsome, or adorable.

Professional Peanut Gallery [Free] – At least a day before a major event happens to you, or before a new jump begins, Etna herself (or some of your companions) will give a hilariously inaccurate 'next episode' preview of what will happen.

Selena:

Gunnery:

Boring Magic:

Pair of Pistols: [100] These are a pair of pistols that can punch holes in a low-level demon and even some lightly armored vehicles. Never seem to need reloading,  
Mana Bazooka [200, Discounted for Drop-In] – Want something dead? Really dead? Or just out of the way of that nice view you had? Take a look at this puppy. Large and needing to be shoulder-mounted to be used properly, this fires a blast of pure destructive mana at a target. Can blow up a tank as easily as ripping paper. Has about 10 shots before needing an hour to recharge.

Suspiciously Functional Television [100, Discounted for Drop-In] – It's a small television that lacks a cable or any visible means to get a reception, yet it will access any sort of available TV channels available in the entire world you're in, with crystal-clear reception to boot.

Abby:

Weapon Master:

Archery:

Viewing Pool [400]: This is a pool of water contained in a stone fountain that's surprisingly easy to move around. If you view it and say the name of a companion or any location you've visited at least once, you can see it with crystal clarity into the pool. You can also view anyone you know the full name of and have seen their face at least once.

Vista:

Demon:

Drop In:

Ninja

Taylor:

Demon:

Drop In:

Brawler:

Piper:

Demon:

Drop In:

Onmyo Disciple:

Leet:

Demon:

Drop In:

Thief

Uber:

Demon:

Drop In:

Brawler:

Panacea:  
Demon:  
Drop In:  
Transforming Hero: Frilly Dress Physica.

Remedy:  
Demon:  
Drop In:  
Transforming Hero: Frilly Dress Magic

Denis:  
Demon:  
Drop In:  
Armored Knight

Genie finished looking over the group's choices. "Interesting choices. I was half expecting someone to grab the angel background or stay human."

Denis shrugged. "Demons live for centuries and they're more Saturday morning cartoons villains anyways and most of that seems to be environmental."

"Besides, we already have human forms." Vista had a feeling she was going to enjoy jumping. If nothing else she already had a skill mastery power that was awesome or would have it once they jumped.

"I have a feeling this is going to be interesting." Denis was looking forward to picking up some more tricks but living for a couple of centuries could be fun.

Genie said, "It should be. Considering you're all demons human looking demons with pointy ears, I'm sticking you on a nice quiet netherworld island. You shouldn't have too much trouble avoiding the attention of your overlord and having fun for a year, probably." She snapped her fingers and sent the group on their way.

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Mist glanced around the rather small town they found themselves in. Other than the strange anime style hair colors and pointed ears all of the townsfolk he could see looked fairly normal. He turned and smiled at the group that had teleported in with him. Everyone looked a bit more polished and pretty or in Leet, Uber and Denis's case handsome thanks to the moe ability. The changes were less jarring in Denis's case, little more than someone doing some light airbrushing of a picture but Uber and Leet looked different enough with their green hair and altered features that it was jarring. He was sure that he'd get used to it eventually but for the

moment it was odd. Panacea and Remedy had went from sort of cute to hot and exotic with their purple hair and improved features. Vista had blue hair which fit her fairly well. Taylor and Piper looked damned good with their dark almost blood red hair. He reached up and checked his own hair. "Purple and blue, I can live with that."

Amy glanced around. "Where is everyone else?"

"They start in the companion housing, I'm sure that they'll be..." Mist trailed off as his phone rang. He pulled his phone out of his pocket and answered it. "Hey."

Hermione asked, "Is it safe to teleport in?"

"Yep, we're in a medieval looking town with pointy eared demons. I'll see you when you get here." Mist closed the phone and stuck it back in his pocket. "They should be here shortly. We should probably head to the club and trade spells then figure out what we want to work on upgrading first."

Uber grinned as he thought about his new combat skills. "I'm looking forward to testing my new skills out."

Taylor stared at Piper, "Do I look like that?"

Piper turned and stared at Taylor, "I hope I look like you do."

Denis glanced back and forth between Taylor and Piper. "You both look amazing and yeah, you still look identical."

Piper smiled brightly. "Eat your heart out Emma."

Taylor had to agree, her ex-friend would die of envy.

Amelia frowned slightly as she thought about her outfit that boosted magic. "My ability is basically a spell that lets me swap equipment for a magical dress and slowly improve it over time. I should be able to teach people how to duplicate the transformation and the hammerspace but the costume is an actual costume."

Mist stretched his arms over his head. "Which means we should be able to duplicate and improve it..." He trailed off as Hermione and the rest of the crew teleported in. "Hey."

Sin snickered as she looked around at demons in the group. "Awesome, demons for the win."

Laura shook her head. "Only cute demons."



Lily glanced around. "Now what?"

Mist said, "Now we head to the club, grab some lunch and figure out how we're going to split up into teams and which items we're going to boost first. We have a decent amount of gear that we can improve. I have a magical anvil, I have adamantium, it's about time I actually started making some completely awesome magical weapons to use as a base." He looked at Uber. "Your skill ability should let you become a master at weapon design, right?"

Uber said, "It wouldn't tell me how to enchant anything but actually designing the perfect weapon for each person wouldn't be all that hard."

"In that case, I'd like a few hours of your time once we get settled and have had a chance to go monster hunting to give me some pointers on weapon design."

"Not a problem." Uber was looking forward to seeing what he could do with his power now that he had enhanced mastery.

James said, "I'm still trying to get over the fact that you don't look like a kid."

Laura snickered. "Nah, just a teenager."

Mist turned and headed for the strip club.

"Do we have anyone other than Mist and I durable enough to tank?" Noelle asked as they followed Mist.

Denis said, "I have my armor and I picked up the armored knight skillset."

Ranma frowned slightly as he thought about the mana bazooka that could destroy tanks like paper being described as a low level weapon. "I should be fine against the basic monsters but I have a feeling we're going to need to work on upgrading our equipment if we don't want to get splattered against the mid to high ranged monsters."

"To say nothing about the insane monsters we're probably going to find in the item world." Mist was looking forward to moving enchantments around so they could boost each enchant separately but that was going to take time to sort out. Mostly he just wanted to have some fun and get everyone enough levels and gear that they could use the free reincarnation ability to increase their already insane learning ability by a decent amount.

Lily blinked as she looked up and saw the strip club that Harry was walking toward. "Club? I think you have some explaining to do young man."

"Right... Harry made me do it?" Mist asked with some amusement.

Harry pointed to Laura. "It was her fault."

Laura glanced between her brothers. "Does that mean I own it?"

Mist briefly considered saying yes then sighed. "No, just think of it as a business that gives girls a nice well paying job with the occasional magic lesson tossed in."

"It also generates a decent amount of money," Hermione pointed out.

Laura spoke up, "That and we're older than we look."

Lily sighed. "It just feels like I missed a couple years of your life."

"It could be worse, we could have dropped in as twenty year olds."

"That would have been stranger," James admitted as they entered the club.

Vista shook her head. "I still can't believe you set up shop in a strip club."

Denis smirked. "I think it's a great place."

Amelia grinned as she watched a half dressed demon girl walk past. "No objections here."

Mist headed up the stairs. "Let's grab lunch while Hermione makes up a schedule." He figured he'd let Hermione make a schedule while he worked on making magic books of all of the spells that had been stuffed in his head.

Hermione smiled as she followed Mist up the stairs. "Sounds good,"

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The next couple of hours reminded Mist that he probably should have asked Genie a couple more questions, like where were the easy zones as they really hadn't found much that qualified, even the land surrounding the small demonic town they found themselves in wasn't all that safe as Leet had found out to his detriment when he'd gotten into an argument with a skull mage after wandering off to explore with Uber and Ranma. One spell star spell and their tinker had been reduced to a splattered mess or near enough. It was a bit disconcerting and reminded him that there were some rather large gaps in their protection magic. "I guess we'll go with plan B."

Harry looked away from the stage and back over at Mist who was sitting behind his desk. "Plan B?"

“Basically, we pick up a basic item and send people into it to kill low level monsters. Once they’ve got some experience and leveled up they can jump into something else and so on until they get to a level where we can upgrade some of our better equipment.”

“Or we go with Plan C,” Laura spoke up.

“Plan C?” Mist asked curiously.

“Yep, we cheat. We’ve got gear that absorbs various types of damage, jumping into a staff of fire might give us entire levels of fire creatures to fight or fire mages.”

“Or it might give us magic users in general,” Mist replied as he thought about the low level staff of firebolt he had that was mostly out of charges.

“It’s worth a shot. The entire item world is in a time dilation field which means you can’t use your watch to cheat.”

Mist sighed. “It would have been so much easier if my watch was working.”

Harry snorted. “If by easier you mean broken as hell, yeah.”

Laura said, “Look at the bright side, this just forces you to work on your magic and other skills rather than being a one trick pony.”

“But it was a really nice trick,” Mist complained as he stood up. “Fine, I’ll grab the firebolt staff and we can run some tests.”

“Don’t worry, I’m sure we can figure out something that works.” Harry was looking forward to upgrading his cloak and wand but he had a feeling that would take a lot of work and danger before they got to the point where they could upgrade some of their better gear.

“Awesome, I’ll round up some volunteers.” Laura headed for the door with a bounce in her step.

“Look on the bright side, once we get things working, we’ll be able to use the reincarnation ability and get a boost to our skills and abilities,” Harry pointed out.

“I wasn’t expecting things to be quite this painful,” Mist admitted. Sure, he hadn’t been hurt but he hadn’t expected Leet to get splattered with one spell either.

“No one died, well not permanently. As long as you don’t die, you can bring us back. Even if we die, we’ll come back. Worst case, we have Ranma open a portal to Earth and we use your magic mirror to go back in time and hide for a year. Once Amelia and Amy get some experience you can copy their costumes over and everyone will have better defense.”

“I guess you have a point. Let’s see how much we can improve the firebolt staff.” Mist walked out from behind his desk and headed down to collect some volunteers now that they had a plan that might work.

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Mist was fairly pleased by the progress the team made the second day once they stepped back from the idea of using three teams and just settled on equipping one team of ten people with copies of the mana bazookas and enchanted pistols. Between that and the durability Hermione and Tiffany could hand out, it was proving easier than he’d expected to upgrade the original enchanted pistols. He wanted to spend a couple of days upgrading the pistols then work on upgrading the mana bazooka so that he could hand out better copies so that they could walk through harder monsters, so they could level up faster. That and he was expecting the item worlds of their top end stuff to be terrifying. He looked up from his book as Vista walked into his office. “Any luck?”

“Yep.” Vista closed the door then warped space as she stepped over to the chair across from the desk. “We managed to complete ten levels of the original mana bazooka which increased the damage by a noticeable amount so I think your idea has some merit. Either way, we’re still working on improving our spells and abilities so I’m calling it a win. Even if we can’t upgrade the bazooka to the max until we get better gear, it should help us get better gear.”

Mist asked, “How is Tiffany and Hermione’s durability power holding up?”

“So far, so good other than the last boss managed to scratch Taylor,” Vista admitted.

“That’s what healing magic is for. How long do you think it will be until you start finding creatures that you can’t kill with the pistols?”

“We’re already there. We had to kill the item boss with a couple of blasts from our bazookas and each of the normal monsters needed at least a couple mana laced shots to put them down. How soon can you duplicate the upgraded pistol?”

“After dinner, Sin and Lily should have it ready in a couple of minutes,” Mist pointed out.

“Cool, we’re going to need better armor than we have.”

“I’ll work on copying my power armor, thankfully everyone has equipment slots thanks to their inventory spells so we don’t have to custom fit everything.”

“It helps,” Vista admitted.

“How is Victoria working out for a tank?”

“Between Hermione’s durability boost, her mana shield and her force field, I think she’s a pretty solid choice for end game tanking though I want to get her some better armor before that. Speaking of armor, Hermione mentioned the tube of armored paint, do you think we can upgrade it?”

Mist frowned slightly as he considered the question. “It’s worth a shot considering we’re supposed to be able to upgrade weapons, equipment and gear we. Any particular reason why you want to upgrade the paint?”

“You have magic girl minions, applying the paint would be easier than trying to keep a bunch of suits of armor around. Besides, it gives us something else to work on.”

“Sure, I’ll grab it after dinner.”

“Thanks.”

“Are you having fun?” Mist asked curious what Missy thought about things so far.

“I get to run around and blast monsters guilt free which is awesome. Besides, once we get things set up, it should be a walk in the park to reincarnate and grind our levels back to something reasonable and come out of it with a permanent boost to our ability to learn, what’s not to like?”

“Just keep notes of which items we need to jump into for that so that the rest of us can pull off the same trick.”

“Hermione has a lot of notes. Speaking of tricks, have you finished crafting a sword yet?”

“Nothing I’m exceptionally happy with but yeah, I’ve made a couple, why?”

Vista said, “Abby offered to show us a couple of tricks, I figured I might as well have a decent sword if we’re going to jump into melee combat.”

Sin’s voice came over the intercom, “Dinner is ready.”

“Cool, I’ll see what I can come up after dinner.” Mist stood up and headed for the door. He wanted to play with the anvil a bit then jump into an item barrier and get some more practice with geo panels in before he they played some video games with everyone.

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Vista smiled as she looked over the crystal blade that Mist had created for her. "It looks neat, will it break?"

"As much as any other blade that has been treated with magical oil to keep it from breaking," Mist replied with amusement.

Hermione looked away from the anvil and back at Missy. "In other words, no."

"Is it enchanted yet?" Vista asked.

"Just with the basics from the anvil, fire damage, skill, haste and it gives more mana. It took a minute to make and a piece of crystal to change into the oil to keep it from breaking. If you like it, I'll start adding enchantments on it once you've improved it in the item world."

"Cool." Vista was looking forward to seeing how far they could boost the sword.

Hermione asked, "Are you going to come with us this time?"

Mist wasn't overly enthusiastic about risking his life in the item worlds but with his durability and Hermione or Tiffany's boost, it should be safe enough for a while. "I might as well, I need to work on my spells and get a better idea how things are going. Besides, I need to work on my geo panels ability enough that I can make a protection panel for boss fights."

"That would be useful. What are we upgrading next?" Hermione asked.

"Vista suggested the paint tube so that the minions have better armor, I can't say I disagree."

Hermione nodded. "That would be useful for the girls."

"That's the idea," Vista agreed happy that people were taking her suggestions seriously.

"Let's go collect the others then we can play some card games when we get back," Mist replied absently as he looked over toward the companion housing door.

"You have hundreds of video games, why do you enjoy playing cards as much as you do?" Vista asked curious why he enjoyed something as mundane as playing cards.

"I grew up playing cards with my grandparents at various holidays. We'd gather around their glass table and tape newspaper over the mirrors so they couldn't cheat and for a couple of hours everything else would fall away. Playing cards reminds me of happier times before they died."

"Sorry," Vista replied uncomfortably.

Mist shrugged. "They've been dead a while, almost twenty years when I left my world, I'm over it or at least as over it as I'm going to get. Either way, we should collect people and go monster hunting."

"Okay." Vista frowned slightly as it sunk in that she wouldn't see her family or most of her friends for at least a year and maybe longer, then again she hadn't really had any real friends in a while. Being a cape meant that you couldn't tell you friends about a decent chunk of your life or it had. It was nice having friends that she didn't have to hide things from.

"Sounds good," Hermione replied absently as she thought about her family and the various trips she'd taken with them.

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The days turned to weeks and the weeks to months as the group fell into a routine, breakfast to lunch was for projects then lunch to dinner was for item worlds with the various groups. They normally spent the time after they ate dinner reading, watching movies, playing video games, cards, board games or going to various other events with the occasional visit to Mistville to hit the mall or see a movie on the big screen or just walk around in something close to civilization.

Sure, technically they could have visited the Disgaea Earth but it was a rather depressing place and the humans were rather intolerant of demons. Beyond an unexpected run in with Laharl, Etna and Flonne that had resulted in them doing a bit of horse trading for magic items and breast enlargement for Etna and Flonne, the remaining months were fairly low key and relaxing even if they were busy. Mist was just glad that they'd managed to stay on Laharl's good side because he was a rather scary demon lord.

Hermione and Tiffany used the reincarnate ability at the six month mark then hit a couple of higher leveled dungeons with the rest of the group for two weeks to recover their lost levels so that their ability to shield the rest of the party wasn't overly compromised. After that Mist and the rest of the people that had been imported used the reincarnate ability to reset their level to one. They'd promptly jumped right back into fighting high level monsters using their durability, gear, skill and geo panels to win the fights. From there it was just a bit of a grind to get back to where they were which wasn't that hard or even dangerous thanks to their upgraded equipment and skills.

The group spent the last month having fun, seeing the sights and working on leveling some of their gear from other worlds once they'd built themselves back up enough that it wasn't a death trap. Sadly, even with the upgraded mana bazookas, geo panels and Hermione and Tiffany's powers killing any of the monsters in the Paladin Shield or some of their other high end equipment was a massive amount of effort.

On the plus side, they'd avoided anyone else dying and Lily and James had basically adopted Vista, Riley and Aisha which helped turn the group into one large semi dysfunctional family. Still the most credit for keeping things together had to go to Dennis because of his sense of humor and general upbeat attitude.

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Mist blinked as he found himself in the blackstone room along with the rest of the group. "That went by faster than I was expecting."

Genie snickered. "Time flies when you're having fun killing monsters and making your items better."

"Yep, did he get enough points so we can get points?" Aisha asked hopefully.

"Plenty, he got 3300 points which should be more than enough to afford just about anything that he'd want."

"Should be," Mist agreed as he walked over to the screen and started making his selections.

Leet asked, "Where are we going next?"

"I was thinking about Stargate, Harry has been practicing with his snowglobe ability and we have magic to shrink things."

Hermione frowned slightly. "You're talking about shrinking a city sized ship down to something that Harry can stick in a snowglobe, I'm not sure that's actually possible."

"If not, we know where several ancient ships are, we can always steal one of them. I can ensoul an item to boost our ability to shrink things, then we merely jump into the item world and boost the item that boosts our ability to shrink things until i." Mist looked over his list of abilities.

Mana Burst: [300]

Item World [300]

Main Character: [500] Ability to give people lessor form of mana burst and level 1.

Only the Pure of Heart: [600] Extra damage to evil.

Dark Assembly Ticket: [200] Gender flipping item, once a day.

Netherworld Hospital Brigade [600] Hospital and brings you back to life once a jump.

Loyal Battle Monkeys: [200]

Send In The Goons! [600]

"I figured out what I want, what about the rest of you? You have 400 points and perks to take."



Aisha spoke up, "Any objection to grabbing the geo panel power and thief?"

"As long as you don't steal from us or innocents, I don't really care all that much. What about the 400 points?"

"I like the idea of going into item worlds too much to pass it up if I leave... or we get separated or something, not that I'm planning on leaving," Aisha finished quickly.

"I get it, it's a pretty sweet ability and there aren't that many nice abilities in the jump outside of maybe majin." Mist glanced around. "That reminds me, is anyone taking majin?"

Riley raised her hand. "I will. I can always have someone else open the item world and Mist can probably ensoul something if I needed to be able to create item worlds for some crazy reason. Besides, I've already picked up most of the tricks for the various classes anyways."

Amy said, "That should let Amelia and I check the genetics for improvements."

Victoria shook her head. "Just as long I don't end up ugly."

Amelia snickered. "I don't know, you had pretty cute ears as a demon."

Amy said, "On the upside, no one has to take either of the uniform abilities since we figured out how to duplicate them."

Denis snorted. "For which I'm glad, guys shouldn't wear spandex or frilly dresses."

James said, "Agreed."

Mist walked over to a clear spot on the wall. "Can you bring up the Stargate jump while everyone is looking over their options?"

Genie grinned as she brought the jump up. "Sure."

"Thanks, I appreciate the help." Mist gave Genie a smile then turned to look at the Stargate jump.

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