

(Every character depicted in the story below is a consenting legal adult over the age of 18)

A/N: Back to Jason as he waits to see if Legend will do the right thing.

-x-X-x-

Feat Achieved: Take down your first Parahuman Conspiracy! 100 Points Earned!

Feat Achieved: Rescue a Parahuman Damsel in Distress! 200 Points Earned!

Feat Achieved: Become 'known' to an S-Class Cape! 100 Points Earned!

More points. Jason assumed the two hundred was because he'd rescued two 'Damsels in Distress' instead of just one. But truth be told, he had more important things to worry about in the moment.

They said you should never meet your heroes. And to be fair, growing up in Brockton Bay had thoroughly disabused Jason of the PRT and Protectorate's abilities to protect and serve him and his fellow Brocktonites. His whole life it had just been one thing after another. It had never gotten better, only worse.

But this... this was Legend. And Legend was incredible. Honestly, if it wasn't for Lisa's final question before the Triumvirate member's arrival, Jason suspects he and Taylor would have begged off and left the area ages ago. At least as soon as they no longer needed him to hang around because he'd unsealed Coil anyways.

However, with Lisa's words ringing through his ears, Jason hadn't been quite sure what to do. In the heat of the moment he'd spoken without thinking when he'd told the blonde that they wouldn't let anyone hurt her ever again. But at the same time, he'd meant every word. He'd been completely sincere. And then...

"... Not even the PRT? The Protectorate?"

Obviously, they hadn't gotten a chance to ask her what she was afraid of before Legend's arrival, but it had ate at Jason all the same and kept him around the site of Coil's Lair a lot longer than he would have normally intended. And Taylor, of course, had stuck with him every step of the way.

Now? Now Jason was kind of glad that they had stuck around. Because if there was one thing he was sure of, it was that he wasn't going to let this Nameless Suit get their way... Legend or no Legend.

... At the same time, Legend had been nothing but a boon so far, so Jason was disinclined to pick a fight before it was absolutely necessary. Of course, there was also the issue of Lisa's latest suggestion.

Did the blonde know about his and Taylor's connection to Amelia thanks to Vicky's presence? She hadn't come right out and said they were planning to be sponsored by the Lavere Clinic thankfully, but it did seem like she was implying that she knew more than she let on.

Regardless, Jason was content to wait for Legend to make a call before he felt any particularly pressing need to step in himself. And fortunately... Legend makes the right call, in the end.

“Of course, though I’m given to understand we’re currently outside of the Lavere Clinic’s operating hours. Glory Girl, do you think that Ms. Lavere would be up for visitors this late at night?”

Jason raises an eyebrow, recognizing that Legend is playing the field, so to speak. If Vicky says ‘no’, then he’ll have an excuse to send Lisa and Dinah to a PRT medical facility after all. But that was never really in any danger of happening, all things considered.

“She’ll be up for it, yeah. I’ll call ahead, make sure she’s up.”

Legend nods amicably, which of course prompts the PRT Agent to clear his throat.

“Sir, the Chief Director...”

But he trails off when Legend holds up a hand and shakes his head.

“I’ll speak with the Chief Director myself. These young women have been through enough already and have just managed to escape months of captivity as it is. They deserve to feel safe and secure. Regardless of Coil’s machinations, the PRT and Protectorate exist to safeguard people, not tyrannize them.”

The crazy thing is, Jason is pretty sure Legend means every word. That’s confirmed a moment later when Lisa can’t help but open her mouth.

“Wow. You really mean it. That’s... special.”

Legend offers the blonde a soft smile.

“I do, Ms. Wilbourne. You don’t have to worry anymore. You and Ms. Alcott are free.”

Lisa makes a noise in the back of her throat and hesitates for a moment before shrugging.

“Well, if it makes you feel any better, you’re likely going to split the difference on all of this.”

Legend gives her a curious look at that, but Lisa just grins and then mimes zipping her lips shut. After a moment, the leader of the Protectorate just sighs and shakes his head ruefully before getting serious again.

“Of course, I would be remiss in my duties not to send someone from the Protectorate with all of you.”

Grinning, Lisa nods.

“Yeah, that’ll work.”

The look Legend gives her is decidedly dry before he continues on.

“Given she called me on your behalf in the first place, I believe Fletchette is our best option for a chaperone at the moment. I hope that’s alright?”

Oh... yeah, that worked perfectly. Unfortunately, nothing could ever be truly perfect.

“Sir, I believe I should also go... to represent the PRT and the Chief Director’s interests.”

Jason waits for Legend to shoot down the PRT Agent's request, but after looking at the other man for a long moment, he finally nods.

"Very well. If Ms. Lavere does not want you in her clinic, however, you will wait outside. Am I understood?"

The PRT Agent grimaces but nods all the same.

"Yes sir."

And just like that... it's settled. Fletchette is called over and they make arrangements for travel. Vicky winds up taking Dinah in her arms to fly her over to the clinic, while Jason starts to use Flash Air to get the rest of them across the city at a slightly slower but no less speedy pace.

As expected Amelia does indeed demand that the Suit stays outside. The PRT Agent doesn't protest this, simply posting up and taking out his phone to make whatever calls he might need to make. At least a quick check with Focus shows that the Agent isn't marked in red... if he were, Jason wasn't sure what would need to be done.

Regardless, once they're inside, Amelia is quick to treat both Lisa and Dinah. This involves flushing their systems clean as well as healing Lisa's finger and the general malnutrition both young women had been suffering from.

When she's done, Amelia speaks in a no-nonsense tone as she stands over the new and vastly improved beds that Lisa and Dinah are currently laying on.

“You’re going to both feel weak for a while after this. For now, I’m going to put you both to sleep so you can get a good night’s rest. Probably the first one you’ve had in months.”

Lisa nods before looking to Dinah for a moment.

“... That’s all well and good for Dinah, but leave me awake for a moment, will you? I need to have a chat with all of you.”

Amelia raises an eyebrow, glancing between the two. Wordlessly, still being careful not to look in Jason’s direction, Dinah holds out her hand towards the healer. After a long pause, Amelia reaches out and sends Dinah off to sleep with a single touch.

All eyes turn towards Lisa, who carefully sits up in bed and gets comfortable for a moment in the pile of pillows behind her.

“Right, so... in case it wasn’t obvious yet, I know you all have a plan regarding the Lavere Clinic and forming a team and whatever.”

There’s a pause as everyone exchanges looks before Fletchette clears her throat.

“Should I be hearing this?”

Lisa just grins. And then points to Taylor.

“It’s fine. She trusts you implicitly. Something about being able to burn you if you burn them or something.”

Fletchette opens her mouth... and then closes it for a moment before grunting.

“That’s a pretty dangerous power you have there.”

Smile faltering a bit, Lisa shrinks back.

“... Yeah. Sorry. I can’t help but poke and prod sometimes. Still, I managed to keep my mouth shut back there, right? I figured out from Glory Girl’s presence that you guys were planning on teaming up with the Laverie Clinic in some way... but I didn’t tell anyone. And I’m not going to. I just... I want in.”

Another pregnant pause as everyone looks at each other. Finally, Amelia repeats Lisa’s words with a rather dubious, questioning tone.

“You want... in?”

Lisa just nods, glancing over at Dinah.

“Dinah... probably isn’t going to want to stick around. She and Portent really don’t mix power-wise. So she’ll probably take the Protectorate’s first offer in order to relocate and avoid any questions involving Portent going forward. That’s why I told Legend back there that he would still get to split the difference. They’ll get one of us... but not both of us.”

Clutching at the sheets on either side of her, Lisa bites her lower lip.

“That is... if you’ll have me. I know I can be a bit much. I know I need to learn to keep my mouth shut sometimes. But you all saved me. I owe you big time for that and I aim to repay you, one way or another. I’d love to be able to give the PRT and Protectorate the middle finger and just... stay with you.”

Letting out a low, drawn-out sigh, Lisa shrugs.

“I also know you guys had a rollout plan in mind though for this whole... thing. What is it exactly? A sponsorship? Huh, that’s pretty cool. Anyways, I get that you didn’t want that out in the open just yet. So I understand if I’m too much of a hassle to-!”

“Lisa.”

Watching the blonde ramble on and on, Jason can’t take it anymore. Striding over, he sits down on the edge of the bed and reaches out, taking her hand in his. Lisa goes absolutely still when he does this, but when he goes to let go of her, she clings to him for dear life, staring at him with wide eyes.

Jason looks around the room for a moment and sees no objection on anyone’s faces, so when he looks back to Lisa, he smiles at her.

“You don’t need to sell yourself to us like some sort of product. Weaver and I already promised to help you... if staying with us is what you want, then that’s fine. I’m sure we can even find room for you in one of our apartments until we can figure something else out.”

“I want to live with you!”

Lisa blushes bright crimson after blurting that out, even as Jason blinks, taken aback. Looking down at their hands, the blonde quiets for a moment before finally speaking again.

“Ah... I-I should probably say now that I’m probably going to try and hop in bed with you at some point, Portent. My powers made me asexual, giving me all the nasty details about anyone I was interested in. But... my powers

don't work on you. S-So... if you don't mind... I'd really like to have sex with you eventually."

Well now. That was certainly very forward. Of course, given how her powers worked, Jason suspected that Lisa already knew he was fucking pretty much everyone in here except for her, Dinah, and Amelia. Speaking of the healer...

"Okay wow, I think she might be experiencing a pre-crash bout of blunt honesty there."

Lisa furrows her brow as she looks over at Amelia and pouts.

"What do you- oh, that's what you mean by pre-crash..."

And then, just like that, the blonde tips backwards and passes out right then and there. Jason is worried for a moment but Amelia waves a hand.

"She's fine. Just everything finally catching up to her. She'll sleep for like twenty or so hours, just like Dinah, and wake up feeling a whole lot better hopefully. That... and also incredibly hungry."

Amelia delivers that last line with a crooked smile, prompting some chuckles from around the room. The amusement, however, is tempered by the events of the night. This was not exactly how Jason intended for tonight to go when he and Weaver set out to get actionable intelligence against Coil. The plan had always been surveillance and nothing more, but one thing had led to another and now here they were.

He really-

Ding!

Second Skin – Benevolence – 600 Points

In your hands, any mecha or vehicle is just a giant version of yourself. For every 1 foot larger than your natural size, the greater the boost in control, power, special abilities and performance without pushing it past the acceptable safety limits. This also allows you to move any Mecha or drive any vehicle like an extension of yourself making it that there's no time lag in the movements and reaction of the Mecha or vehicles. Each 1 foot marker acts as a multiplier. This caps out at 1000x of the base performance of your mecha or vehicle. This perk is coming first in determining a boost before any multipliers that various mechas or vehicles can bring on their own.

You now have 600 Points saved up!

Huh. And then there was this. Jason could use the distraction, so he takes a moment while everyone is still processing to read through this latest power's description. And then he does it again.

Honestly? He's not quite sure what to think about it. From the sound of things, it would make him an excellent driver, not just working on 'mechas' but also vehicles of any kind. The bigger the vehicle, the better it would perform, which certainly sounded... cool?

At the same time though, did he really need to spend 600 points on something like this? Not to mention he already had Lucky Charm in his bank slot...

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A/N: Remember to go back and vote!

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A/N: Will try to keep this up to date at the end of every chapter, get on me if I forget please. Though if it gets too out of hand, might have to change it at some point.

Jason's current banked points:

600 Celestial Points

Jason's current banked power:

= Lucky Charm (200 Points)

Jason's current powers:

= Flash Air (Gained in Chapter 1

= Transformation Pendant (Gained in Chapter 4)

= Keen Eye (Gained in Chapter 4)

= Blood, Death, and Demons (Gained in Chapter 6)

= Alchemical Prodigy (Gained in Chapter 8)

= Staff of Magnus (Gained in Chapter 13)

= Bind and Seal (Gained in Chapter 17)

= Hero of a Hundred Faces: Everyone's Leader (Gained in Chapter 20)

= Minor Regeneration via Blood Empowerment Ritual (Gained in Chapter 23)

(Taylor got Major Agility, Vicky got Major Intelligence)

= Restraining Order (Gained in Chapter 25)

= Focus (Gained in Chapter 28)

= Scarborough Fair (Gained in Chapter 30)

= Chaos Magic (Gained in Chapter 36)

= Major Regeneration via Blood Empowerment Ritual (Gained in Chapter 40)

(Taylor, Vicky, and Amy all got Minor Regeneration)

= A Collection of Magic Rings (x6 Cursed Rings, x12 Drawback Rings, x6 Buff Rings) (Gained Chapter 44)

= Jason: T3 Armor Ring + Blue Ring, Taylor: T3 Armor Ring + Expert's Ring, Vicky: Red Ring + T2 Heart Ring, Amelia: T3 Armor Ring + T2 Heart Ring (Handed out Chapter 46)