

Infiltrating The Palace

Characters: Lune, George Lopez

Well, at least her theory was right?

...No, she's not going to sugar-coat it. This entire situation is awful. She thought this was going to be a break from palaces, not an excuse to find another one. But no, here she is! Knee deep in more, alone no less! She's got the worst headache in the world and she just got here. How fun. She ducks off to the side of the hall she was running down, taking a moment to breathe and readjust her mask. So, how did she get here exactly?

From the getgo, she knew this "Ultimus Show" was a sham. It just wouldn't make sense given the content of the previous two White Noise tests. Besides, why would it take an extra week to prepare? It was nonsensical. At least, until she'd looked through George Lopez's file.

Multiple connections to crime across Texas, a notable resemblance to the rare appearances of a creature known only as "Mr. Electric", an unprecedented surge of electricity across 2005? It was an easy connection, at the end of the day. The question was, what caused the resurgence? That's what she's been trying to find out for the longest time.

And so that brings her here, to the middle of this giant, sprawling house that Lopez carried within his heart. Or at least... at one point, he had. The circumstances were jarring, there was little reason to believe this palace still existed in the real world. But here it was. Here, and putting the other contenders of the tournament in danger. She's not about to stand down to that. She's done putting her own safety first at this point, to hell with that.

Deep breath, turn the corner...

Immediately she's blown across the room, and she crashes right into the wall.

Cool, okay! That hurt like a bitch! The thief mutters something we can't say on live television as she pulls herself back to her feet, single eye rapidly scanning the hall

for any intel on what the hell just happened. And sure enough... there he is. The humanoid creature that covered the Texas newspapers of August 2015.

Mr. Electric, in the flesh, standing right in front of her. His face split into a wide grin, followed by a bout of fierce laughter.

“Ah, Miss Saito! I’ll be honest, I’m shocked that you managed to get this far this quickly!” His joke was met with dull silence as Lune simply stared him down, no reaction in sight. An awkward pause. “Y-you know. Shocking! Electricity, it shocks-”

“I understood the joke,” she returned, tone laced with a touch of venom.

“Ah.” Well. Returning to his previous stature, he began to step forward. “I thought you would have been stopped by the plug hounds, or the Shadows, but no! Color me impressed. Too bad it won’t last much longer.” His steps grew in volume, speed as his slow walk moved into a run. Lune, not to be deterred, barely made a move as he dashed forward, his laughter echoing through the halls.

But suddenly, in a flash of light, she jumped forward herself, mask being ripped off with a cry of “Come, Templar!” At command, a figure cloaked by shadow burst out from behind her, claws outstretched with a dangerous glimmer. The two larger figures clashed, pincer to claw, as Lune herself simply rolled underneath, gun quickly pulled from her pocket in a flash of silver.

Three shots, all to various joints, simply bouncing off and ricocheting lord knows where. Mr. Electric simply chuckled, a third hand ejecting from the top of his head to slam down right on top of Lune. She jumped quickly to the side, barely avoiding the slam, but she couldn’t dodge the way the electricity whipped across just afterward.

Templar let go with a growl as the thief lost control of the power he held, and Lune found herself being thrown back again for the second time in as many minutes. She manages to catch herself, though, and come up to her feet with a tight grimace. There needs to be a plan here, she can’t just throw herself at him and expect to pull through.

“Freila!” Immediately as she says this, a ball of blue flame explodes just at the metal man’s feet, sending him flying upward with a gasp. Good, so he’s not invulnerable at least. He lands hard, immediately pushing up with a bolt of lightning thrown in the

thief's direction. It's fast enough that she can't dodge it, but poorly aimed enough to where her brief motion after seeing his hand come up was enough to keep her out of harm's way.

Mr. Electric simply laughs, clearly not perturbed in any way.

"You're fast, ain'tcha? Quick as a jackrabbit."

"Why are you doing this? Why even come back like this? You have the world already and you're doing this?"

"...Oh, my precious Lune," the man nearly giggles, not missing the way said thief's fist curls a little tighter. "I never left."

"You're going to regret that choice."

Her Persona once again appears behind her, blue flame setting his hands ablaze.

"Then show me what you've got!"

The two figures rushed towards one each other once again, and the clash could be heard across the entire estate.