

*Kluczynski Federal Building, Dirksen Courthouse, Defendant's Lobby #7- May 15th, 3:47 PM*

Jenna, Candice and Texas Tilly were lounging inside the lobby, resting on a leather sofa. Several portraits lined the walls, showing the prestigious judges and individuals in the history of the city. Potted plants lined the walls with a couple of uniformed guards standing by the entrance. A coffee table was in front of the sofa and a bench was at the other side of the room.

Jenna looked over at Texas Tilly, who was leaning back and placing her feet on the coffee table. "Thanks for gettin' that DVD, Tilly. It means a lot ta us, mate."

The cowgirl looked over at the wolf with a grin. "Pshaw, 'taint no trouble 'tall! 'Sides, I don't think someone like that rabbit could have done that crime."

Candice nodded in agreement. "Indeed... But it's not over yet. We still need ta find out who those men were. Also, we need ta get the rest of that hard drive decrypted."

"Right... Somethin' tells me that whatever is on that thin' will be the key ta provin' Bryon's innocence," Jenna said.

Texas Tilly sighed as she looked at Candice and Jenna. "Hopefully, the eggheads in the Tech Lab ain't too hammered to do the job."

Jenna and Candice shook their heads. "Yes... But I tinnie understand why they could be doin' that. After all, it isn't every day the Director is on sick leave."

The three ladies then closed their eyes as events of the last two days came to them...

*Jenna, Candice, and Texas Tilly, who arrived as her civilian identity Matilda, had arrived in Chicago two days ago to check on the BOS station there. Ranger, the deputy director of the Colmaton BOS, had selected them to be its representatives. Although Tilly and Candice were glad to visit the Windy City once more, they along with Jenna were not looking forward to the trip for one reason.*

*The director of the Chicago BOS branch was a "hero" named Atomic Ape. He was only a hero in name and not in character. To call him a jerk was actually speaking lightly of his behavior. The man was known to have an incredibly short temper. He would constantly yell at other heroes for "incompetence" and spoke rather poorly to them, sometimes hitting on the female supers. All in all, he was the epitome of arrogance.*

*The three ladies arrived at the main entrance, waiting for clearance from the door guard. As the sentry gave the three clearances, they walked inside and headed towards the lobby. What they found there was completely baffling.*

*Music was blaring in the air, coming from a jukebox in the corner. A raccoon in a blue jumpsuit and a white minkin a red jumpsuit were dancing with one another, laughing merrily. In another part of the room, a pair of muscular rhinos in black costumes was downing cans of beer in the middle of the room while other heroes were cheering them on. In the middle of the room, another crowd had gathered with*

*a large piñata being hung in the air. Strangely enough, it was made in the shape of Atomic Ape. A gorilla was holding the piñata up, while a blindfolded cobra was swinging at it.*

*The three ladies were completely dumbfounded on the scene, having not expected such a sight.*

*“What in tarnation...?”*

*“The bloody hell...?”*

*“What on Earth...?”*

*The ladies then heard someone chuckling behind them. “Ah... I told them not to go nuts, but they didn’t listen.”*

*Turning around, they saw a green skinned frog smiling at them. He was wearing a pair of purple pants with a purple shirt. The shirt had the letters “PF” in the middle of his chest. A large brimmed purple hat was on his head with some short black hair visible underneath it. A matching domino mask covered his face, hiding his identity. A purple cape was fastened on his person, falling behind his back.*

*“Hey, Phantom Frog! Mind tellin’ us why there’s a hootenanny goin’ on?”*

*The amphibian merely shook her head in mirth. “You three are looking at the Acting Director for this base. At least until Atomic Ape comes back.”*

*Jenna blinked in confusion. “What happened to him?”*

*Phantom Frog let out a sigh before he spoke. “Atomic Ape was yelling at some new recruits last night. He was trying to intimidate them, actually.”*

*Matilda’s ears flattened against her head. “That snake in the grass! I wish he didn’t have to do that.”*

*“Well, according to him, he’s doing that to weed out the ones he feels can’t do the job. But...”*

*The frog shakes his head in mirth. “It turns out all that yelling got to him, because he suddenly fell flat to the floor. The medical staff in here examined him and found that he burst a blood vessel. They sent him home on sick leave until he gets better. He’s also been suggested to take anger management classes so that it wouldn’t happen again.”*

*Jenna and Candice stared at Phantom Frog, unable to believe what they heard. Matilda, however, was snickering before she started to laugh uncontrollably. “That’s the funniest thing I’ve ever heard! Dern right that idjit gets what’s comin’ to him.”*

*Phantom Frog shakes his head at the bobcat with a smile. “Yes. I was told by the doctors to keep quiet, but... Well, word tends to travel fast around here.”*

*Jenna shook her head in mirth. “Ah, I can’t say that that was somethin’ I expected to hear.”*

*Candice then said, "Yes... I must say that bloke was rather unpleasant ta be with, sometimes." She then fixed the collar of her shirt. "But enough about that... Shall we head ta your office?"*

*The amphibian nodded in agreement. "Yes, let's do so. This room is rather... noisy."*

*Jenna and Candice watched as Matilda walked over to the rhino pair, yelling out, "Hey, boys! Mind if I join in?"*

*Chuckling to themselves, Jenna and Candice followed Phantom Frog to his office...*

The three ladies chuckled to themselves, shaking their heads in mirth. "Heh heh... I gotta admit, I didn't expect that lickspittle to be on sick leave," Texas Tilly said. "Serves him right for tryin' to make my steed Silver into a fridge!"

The doors to the defendant's lobby suddenly opened, drawing the attention of the women. Inside walked Bryon with two police officers walking beside him. Jenna and Candice got onto their feet and walked over to the rex rabbit.

"Mr. Walden! Fancy seeing you again," said Candice. "But what are you doing here?"

The rex rabbit looked over at the police officers, who were guarding the entrance. "They've allowed me a few minutes to talk to you two. I need to tell you something important."

Jenna crossed her arms as she listened to the rex rabbit, her interest peaked. "All right... What was it you wanted to say?"

The rex rabbit furrowed his brow as he spoke. "You know that video footage of the imposters? Well... When I was looking at it with everyone else in the courtroom, I think I recognized a couple of the guys on there!"

Candice and Jenna looked at one another before the canine hound replied, "You recognized some of them? How come you didn't mention this earlier in the trial?"

"I didn't realize it until just now... Besides, I haven't seen that footage before in my life until today."

He cleared his throat before he continued. "The two guys I recognized were a couple of the wolves that took off their disguises. I remember what they looked like, though. One of them was Matthew Felini, while the other was called Danny Pelinski."

Jenna had taken out a small notepad and was writing down the information. "I see. How did you know them?"

Bryon shook his head in disgust. "They were my lab partners back in my chemistry class. The two of them were party animals, preferring to drink instead of reading. When I got partnered with them, they didn't take the labs seriously. They drove me nuts!"

*"Sounds like someone I once knew in me class," Candice thought to herself.*

“However, they still managed to get good grades in the course. I was baffled about the whole thing until the day of the finals. Turns out the idiots didn’t study the night before and were planning to cheat. I was walking to my desk when I accidentally bumped into them in the classroom. They got annoyed at me despite my apology, but then started frantically looking for something. At that moment, the professor had picked up a pack of gum from the floor and found something written on it. He recognized the hand writing on it and had Danny and Matthew thrown out of class, flunking them.”

The rabbit shook his head again as he continued. “An investigation by the Board revealed they had actually cheated through a couple of their other classes too. Cheat sheets, writing on gum and the inside label of water bottles, fake wounds... Whatever means to cheat, they used it. The Board decided to expel them from the campus.”

Jenna finished writing down the information that Bryon provided for them. “Hm... So you think the two males you saw in the video were your former classmates?”

Bryon nodded fervently. “I’m positive. I recognize their faces and hair anywhere... I already told the police about this.”

“Good idea. If they are involved with this, then there’s a chance we can identify whoever had them sneak inside the Institute.”

The police officers walked up to the rex rabbit and stood by his side. “Mr. Walden, it’s time to head back now.”

Bryon nodded somberly at the officers before he looked back at his attorneys. “It looks like I’m heading back now. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your help!”

Candice shook her head slowly at him. “It’s no trouble, Mr. Walden. But I think you should hold that off until we prove your innocence.”

“I understand,” replied the rabbit. “Still, I hope to treat you two sometime...”

As the police officers were escorting him out, Bryon looked back at the ladies and smiled at them. Jenna and Candice shook their heads, smiling to themselves. Texas Tilly stretched herself and got up from her seat. “Welp... I best mozy on down the dusty trail. Those city streets don’t protect themselves.”

She gave Jenna and Candice a tip of her hat before she walked through the lobby doors and towards the city streets.

“Looks like we’ve got our yakka cut out for us,” Jenna said to her partner. “What will you do now, Candice?”

The female canine bent down and picked up her briefcase. “I’ll be headin’ back ta HQ and see how the techs are doin’ with the hard drive. I’ll also look for more information about those two men Bryon identified.”

Jenna picked up her briefcase and looked over at Candice. "Actually... I reckon I'll go look for somethin' ta eat. That trial dragged on for some time."

The canine nodded at the tribal wolf. "All right... but please be careful out there. This isn't Colmaton."

Jenna smirked at her and replied, "No need to worry, mate. I can handle a few thugs in this city."

With a one handed salute, the tribal wolf walked through the lobby doors.

*"I hope your right, Jenna... Somehow, I can't shake this strange feelin' of dread,"* Candice thought to herself.

The Loop (Inside the Armored Truck) – May 15th, 4:07 PM

Two metal benches were parallel to one another, while there was only a small window in the back of the room. Four guards sat down in front of the rabbit, watching him carefully. Their hands were clutching on their weapons, ready to use them in case Bryon decided to try to anything.

"As if I'd try to escape," he thought dryly. "I'd only make myself look guilty if I ran away..."

One of the guards looked over at the window and yelled at the driver, "Hey, how much longer until we get there?"

"There's a bit of traffic here, so about 10 minutes," replied the driver. "Besides, it's almost..."

He was interrupted by a sudden guttural roar echoing in the air, freezing everyone in the truck. The vehicle started to rock and shake as thunderous steps were heard, followed by people screaming in panic. The driver looked around for a moment before he spots something in the distance.

"Wh-What the hell?! Everyone, get out! "

The guards and prisoner were about to evacuate from the vehicle when they suddenly felt a sense of weightlessness. The entire room was spinning as Bryon and the guards yelled out in shock. The rex rabbit's head slammed against the wall hard, knocking him out.

The truck had come to a stop on the sideway, having been flipped over by a powerful blow. The guards groaned as they climbed out of the vehicle, their vision swimming slightly. Before they could clear their senses, however, they were suddenly tackled to the ground by creatures with long claws and hoodies on their body. They took out the guards, clawing at their chests until they were either knocked out or killed.

One of the creatures, whose wolf like snout stuck out from under the hoodie, had walked up to the armored truck and pulled out the unconscious rex rabbit. With a feral grin, he signaled to his comrades and fled the scene, carrying their prize.

Meanwhile, Jenna was searching for a good meal to bring back to Candice at HQ. *"Hm... What ta pick? We've had Chinese last night, so that's a nah bloody go. Maybe we should try Italian? I wanted to see what their pizza was like..."*

She turned into an alleyway and blinked as she stared at a brick wall right in front of her face. "Guess I should have gone left instead," she thought to herself. The lady wolf was about to leave when her sensitive hearing picked up the sounds of something crawling along the walls. Tensing up, the wolf reached inside of her coat pocket, acting as though she was looking for her phone. Her nose picked up the scent of another wolf...

Just then, she heard the sound of clothes flapping in the air from up above. At the last moment, she leaped backwards and saw a hooded figure land right in front of her. Her ears flattened against her skull as she stared at the mysterious attacker, noticing his incredibly long claws on his hands. He turned his head towards the lawyer, gazing out at her with a pair of glowing blue eyes.

*"Whoever this bloke is, he's certainly not normal... Could he be a super?"*

Jenna then heard growling above her head. Her eyes quickly scanned the area, noticing at least four more pairs of glowing blue eyes staring out at her. "Great... I'm outnumbered here and I don't have my gear with me. I think I can hold my own, but I don't know what these thugs will do."

The tribal wolf spotted the creature tensing up for another attack, its body crouched low and clawing at the ground. She carefully set herself in a pose, holding her hands out and staring down the wolf with her eyes glowing green. The creature lunged forward, its claws stretched out to tear the woman to pieces.

With a look of determination, she ducked down below her attacker and gave him an uppercut, sending the wolf flying into a dumpster and knocking the creature out. At that moment, the remaining creatures rushed at Jenna, hoping to overwhelm the woman. She tucked and rolled, avoiding the impromptu dog pile. Two of the creatures climbed up on the walls while a pair of them tried to tear her apart with their claws.

Jenna ducked and weaved their attacks with relative ease, noting how uncoordinated they actually were. They were like wild animals: Powerful and ferocious, but lacking style. She was able to land a powerful kick into one of the creatures' stomach, knocking the wind out of it. As the other attacker lunged for her, the tribal wolf swiftly sidestepped the lunge and slammed the back of his head with her fist, knocking the target out. At that moment, the remaining two creatures let out a guttural roar, which echoed in the alleyway.

Jenna covered her ears to block out the sound of their cries, feeling her head pounding from the noise overload. By the time she had recovered, one of the creatures had jumped from the walls and slammed down into the woman. The back of her head smacked against the asphalt hard enough to knock her unconscious. The other creature jumped down to the ground and looked at its comrade. The two of them then stared at the prone figure of the tribal wolf, their eyes shining in the shadows.

*Unknown Location- Unknown Time*

Byron's head was throbbing as he slowly came to, his vision swimming in front of him. Shapes and colors danced in front of him before coming into focus. The stars and moon shining down from the sky told the rex rabbit it was night. The buildings before him seemed familiar to him, as did the layout in the street.

*"Wait a minute... Those look like the universities in my old neighborhood! But that would mean..."*

He looked up towards the sky and spotted the same statue from a couple of days ago.

*"That's the tip off. I'm in Hyde Park now... But why am I here?"*

The rabbit then felt something wrapped around his body. It felt rather heavy and he could feel something metal and cold around his wrists and ankles. Looking down on himself, he could see that he was kneeling down with his hands behind his back and his feet in front of him. He felt and saw a heavy chain wrapped around his legs and wrists, making him unable to escape

The rabbit's ears twitched as he heard a woman moaning softly to his left. Turning his head to look, Bryon saw Jenna kneeling down to the ground and tied up in a similar manner to him.

"Jenna? Jenna, wake up!"

The tribal wolf groaned as she roused herself awake, her vision clearing. She could see Bryon right in front of him, chained up and kneeling to the ground. She looked down on herself and tugged on the chains, testing their strength.

"Don't bother struggling, Miss Ronfauni. Those chains are unbreakable."

Both of them perked up to hear someone approaching them. From behind the monument wall, a familiar chimpanzee appeared under the light given from the lamppost.

"Boris! What are you doing here," exclaimed Bryon. "Think you can let us go?"

The chimp chuckled and shook his head at the bound furs. "I'm afraid not, Bryon... My boss specifically asked for me to bring you here."

The rex rabbit was feeling confused about the whole thing. "Wait, your boss? Why would a prosecutor's boss want us here?"

Jenna, however, scowled at the chimp. "I don't believe that's what he meant, Bryon. He's working for someone else."

The chimp mirrored her scowl. "Oh, how astute of you, Miss Ronfauni! It's that wit of yours that gets you victories in the courtroom. Honestly, you're an incredibly annoying attorney!"

He walked over to where Jenna was and got behind him. "But I must admit, you're quite the attractive woman. A shame this had to happen, but..."

The chimp reached down from behind and grabbed her chest, causing her to growl. "Get your bloody hands off of me, you wanker!"

Boris chuckled to himself and continued to fondle her chest, feeling her up. "Hm! Such a soft texture... I'll bet you're even more beautiful in bed."

The rex rabbit scowled at the chimp, while Jenna struggled in her bonds hoping to get free. Boris' hand slowly snaked down her front, heading to her crotch. With a chuckle, he started to head down under the band of her skirt and her panties.

At that moment, another voice called out, "That's enough, Boris!"

The chimp froze in place, sliding his hand out from under her skirt and looking to his left. At once, an insidious odor filled the air, making Jenna and Bryon gag. From the other side of the wall, a mysterious figure emerged from under the shadows. The figure walked under the streetlamp, revealing itself to the three of them.

The figure was a large female rat, garbed in an outfit that looked like a hazmat suit and had the yellow and black colors of one. A breathing mask was fastened to her face and a large tank device was slung on her back. In a holster on her side was a large needle that was attached to a hose coming from the tank. A pair of black gloves was adorned on her hands.

Boris hastily got to his feet, looking very nervous. "B-Boss! I wasn't doing anything! Honest!"

The rat woman folded her arms and scowled at the chimp. Her voice sounded garbled as she spoke through the breathing mask. "Don't lie to me, Boris. You were only supposed to bring them here, not try to get laid."

She then pointed out at the streets. "Your part is done for now, Boris. Go home and get ready for the trial tomorrow. Otherwise..."

The rat then held out her gloved hand over the sidewalk. A strange, foul smelling substance formed on the tip of her fingers before some of it fell to the ground. Steam and hissing filled the air as the sludge started dissolving the concrete next to her, forming a hole in it. Jenna and Bryon watched the phenomenon in shock, while the chimp quaked in fear.

*"Bloody hell! That rat is a super," Jenna thought to herself. "This could get bad real quickly!"*

"Do you understand now, Boris?"

Nodding quickly, Boris hastily left the area to go home. The rat woman watched the retreating ape and shook her head.

"Such a complete fool... I give him a simple task and he gets blinded by arrogance. I should have picked another prosecutor..."

Jenna and Bryon perked up at the rat's words. "Prosecutor," asked the rex rabbit. "Wait, you hired that guy?"

The rat looked over at Bryon, smirking at him behind the mask. "That's correct, rodent. He was supposed to get an easy win in the trial. However..."

She then looked back at the tied up tribal wolf. "I didn't anticipate Jenna and her friend to defend you. I would have thought she'd believe in your guilt. But no matter..."

The rat woman looked over at the two captives, smirking at them. "So... Here we are, face to face. I suppose I should introduce myself. For the last moments of your life, you can call me Hazmat."

The rabbit and tribal wolf scowled at Hazmat. "You do realize that there are security cameras in the city, right? If one of them spots Bryon, the police will be on their way here."

Hazmat shook her head and chuckled at the captives. "No, I think not. I've already had the cameras in the city disabled. Also..."

She snapped her fingers, causing several figures to appear beside of her. They were the same wolves from before, only they looked like normal fursons now. Their eyes shone out as they smirked at the captives.

"These wolves are but a few of my men in this city. As we speak, hundreds of them are causing chaos in the city, fighting the police force and heroes of this city. They'll be too busy dealing with them while I set things in motion."

At that moment, thunderous footsteps echoed the streets, causing everything to shake. Turning to look, the rex rabbit and tribal wolf could see two large figures approaching them. As they stepped under the street lights, Bryon could only stare in shock.

The two creatures appeared to be gorillas, only incredibly muscular. Their forearms and chests were massive, while their heads and legs appeared to be rather small. The only pieces of clothing that were on these creatures were pants and shoes. Between the two of them, they carried a large box shaped object hidden under a tarp.

Hazmat smirked as she spotted the creatures. "Ah, good... Looks like they've brought what I asked for without any trouble."

The gorilla creatures carried the object over to where the others were and set it carefully down to the ground. The two apes then stood behind the others, standing tall amongst them and not saying a word. With a smirk, Hazmat walked over to the mystery object. "These gentlemen here are some of my work. However... What's under here is my most brilliant yet!"

She grabbed the tarp and pulled it away, revealing a bizarre contraption. It had the appearance of an old boom box, but had numerous tubes flowing out of the device. A pair of vials was attached to the device, filled with strange liquid. One of the vials was filled with a blue liquid, while the other one had a red liquid instead.

"Lovely, isn't it? It's the very thing that will carry out my plan."

Jenna furrowed her brow as she looked between Hazmat and the device. "What plan? What are you up to?"

Hazmat chuckled at the two captives. "Normally, I wouldn't waste my breath on such things. But considering the two of you will be dead soon..."

She walked over to the device and placed her hand on the top of it. "This, my friends, is a special device constructed by my own hands. What it does is combine two or more biological agents and disperses the mixture into the air."

Hazmat then gently slides her hands over the red vial. "This is a reagent I concocted on my own. It increases the lethality of a virus or other biological compound..."

She then rubs the blue vial tenderly, as if it was a cherished pet or child. "And this... is my pride and joy. It's something I worked really hard to keep safe. You two already know what it is. After all..."

Her face bore a sadistic grin as she said, "It's what nearly destroyed this city."

Bryon's eyes were wide with shock as he stared at the device. Jenna merely kept quiet and listened to the lunatic. *"How did that blighter get a hold of somethin' like that? ! She might be bluffing, but I get the feeling she's all sixes and sevens."*

"W-Wait a minute," stuttered the rex rabbit. "It's impossible to get a hold of that virus! The CDC had all samples of that destroyed!"

Hazmat merely chuckled at his words, shaking her head in mirth. "Oh, you silly little rabbit... They didn't get all of them. Yes, the samples were destroyed... But I managed to keep mine safe."

The rat stroked the blue vial as she spoke. "When the CDC gave the order to dispose of all the samples, I knew, they'd come for mine. So, I hid it in a place where they wouldn't find it. Once the last of the other samples were destroyed, I recovered my virus and continued my research on it. I eventually found a way to increase its lethality using the reagent I crafted from several compounds extracted from other incredibly deadly viruses."

Jenna furrowed her brow as she took the new information in. Something about all of this seemed to click. It was as though there was only one thing that would make sense of all of this. "I've read the files about the virus. Several samples had been given to different research institutes in the country. But..."

She narrowed her eyes as she stared at the rat. "The only way someone could get a sample at the institute is if they either worked on a project for it or..."

"Or if they were the head of the institute itself?"

Hazmat smirked at the tribal wolf as her arms were crossed. Bryon stared at the rat, wondering how she knew such a thing. "Wait... Were you... Were you involved in a project with the New York Virus?"

The rat looked over at the rex rabbit, shaking her head at him. "For someone who studied at the Institute, you're not a very bright young man. I wonder why I bothered letting you work there."

She chuckled at her captives and added, "I was involved with a project of that virus. In fact..." Her face bore a feral grin as she added, "I was once Hillary Chambers, the director of the Callahan Institute."

Bryon's eyes were wide with shock, his mouth hanging open. Jenna's ears were laid back as her suspicions were proven correct. "There's something bothering me about all this... Why exactly did you take the virus?"

Hazmat focused her attention on the wolfess. "Silly dear...I had already told you. I wanted to make the virus more powerful. I read about how it performed in New York. I merely wanted to give it a boost and test out the results."

"However... Even with my status as Head of the Institute, people would have gotten suspicious about me. I needed to find a way to draw attention to myself. In short, I needed a scapegoat."

Jenna scowled at the rat, baring her fangs at her. "And that's where Bryon comes in, right?"

The rat merely shrugged her shoulders. "Of course, my dear attorney. After all, I had cameras secretly installed in the building to find someone. When I spotted Bryon Walden on the monitors, I noticed how bored he was reading papers. I would catch him staring forlornly at the compounds and lab equipment, as if he was dying to use them. After a quick hack into his computer, I managed to find his precious blog and read a few articles he posted. At that moment, I found my man."

She chuckled to herself before she continued. "After that, it was a simple matter of accessing his bank account. Once I located it, I then got a credit card in his name and started buying supplies for making explosives. Thankfully, I managed to pay the companies before he and his parents cancelled it."

"The next thing I did was alter Bryon's ID. The virus samples were in the virus containment room. As the head of the institute, I had full access to the ID records. I could easily alter the levels of security access for each person in the building. I merely changed the security access for him to the entire building. I then made a copy of his card and used it to enter the specimen room and take a sample of the virus myself."

"After a few weeks, I was able to create several explosives that would release the virus into the city. To do that, I needed to hire a few thugs to see that they helped me frame the rabbit. Luckily for me, a college student who bore a grudge against Bryon was more than happy to have him and a few of his friends help out."

At that moment, one of the wolf creatures stepped forward and pulled off his hood. Underneath it was the same wolf from the security video. He looked at the rabbit and growled at him, baring his fangs.

"D-Danny? Danny, is that you?"

Hazmat chuckled at the rabbit. "Indeed, Bryon. It turns out he was rather cross with you for getting him booted off of the university. He found out my plan to frame you and he was more than eager for

revenge. He gathered a few of his friends to help plant the explosives in the institute. I even gave them disguises for the act.”

The rat then shook her head at the wolf as she continued, “The young man was as much of an idiot as some of his classmates said he was... Even though he planted the bombs, he tore off the disguise before he cleared off. Still, he and his friends managed to get the job done. When the virus infected them, they became fierce predators that I gained control over. They’re now my soldiers to do as I ask.”

The wolf replaced his hoodie and walked back to where his comrades were.

“I was watching the cameras from a safe distance that night, Bryon. When I saw you sneak into my office right before the explosion, I knew I had you. However, I also knew the Institute’s hard drive would have stored the video feed as well as all relevant and important information in the institute. So, I had to go into the hard drive and delete the files that would incriminate me.”

The rat walked over to the rabbit, flashing an evil smirk at him. “I altered and saved copies of the data from the hard drive so that it would look like this rabbit was the one that did it. Once news got out, the military and police would be looking for him. I expected him to be captured, but...”

With a scowl, she punched the rabbit in the face. “I didn’t think he’d be a big enough coward to actually flee the city. Even though I had kept the damning information from him, there was a chance he’d find a way to uncover the truth. To make matter’s worse; he didn’t even carry a kind of technology I could track him with.”

“Then... I struck gold a couple of weeks ago. I was visiting Colmaton in disguise when I had spotted the rex rabbit heading towards a friend’s house. I followed him to his abode and kept the address to myself. Once I made it back to Chicago, I made those files for him and sent them along with a note to Bryon. I had hoped he would take the bait.”

She chuckles at the rabbit and said, “And you know... I was right. When he came back, I had my men track him down and tell me where he went. Once I found out he’d been caught and arrested, I could pull off my plan.”

Jenna’s ears were laid back against her head as she spoke. “And that’s where Boris Karloff comes in?”

“Correct. Karloff is a weak little man, but he is very good with being a prosecutor. All I did was feed him some data from the hard drive as well as information from his old computer and he’d have won the case. Against any lawyer, the chimp would have won. During Bryon’s trial, I would work on constructing the device you see before you. Once the rabbit was found guilty, I would then carry out my plan for this city. However...”

Hazmat’s fist was clenched in anger as she looked at the tribal wolfess. “I didn’t anticipate either you or Candice Merryweather to be his attorneys. When Boris told me what happened, I knew we had to go to Plan B. I would capture both you and the rabbit and bring you here to this memorial.”

She then walked over to the device and pressed several buttons. "This device, which I'll call the Hazaat Compounding and Distribution Machine or HCDM, will start drawing in the virus and reagent. The two will mix, creating a more lethal version of the New York Virus. It will wipe out every living thing in this city if my calculations are correct. Once I activate this device, it will carry out my plan and destroy this city."

"And do you know what the best part is? People will think Bryon had done it. His dead corpse along with yours will be next to the device, thus proving he is a terrorist. Meanwhile, I will have escaped and be in the clear. And unfortunately for you two, there's nothing to be done to stop it!"

The rex rabbit was frozen in place, unable to believe what he had just heard. His head swam from the information he had received, making him sway slightly in place. *"This whole time... I... I had been nothing but a puppet? And she... she wants to kill again? Just so she can test out that virus?"*

Unknown to Bryon, the wolf merely chuckled at Hazmat, shaking her head in mirth. "Hate to disappoint you, mate... But your plan has failed already."

Hazmat looked back at the wolfess and raised an eyebrow at her. "I don't necessarily think so, dear. Everything has been thought out, Jenna. I've calculated every move they could make."

"Really? Then I guess you'd know about the tracker and wire on my person."

The rat froze up once she heard the tribal wolfess speak. "Come again?"

Jenna chuckled and shook her head at the rat. "I'm wearing a bloody wire and tracker! The BOS gave me these things in case I got captured. They've recorded every single word you and Boris said and are also on their way here. Face it, rat! You have failed!"

The wolves and gorillas tensed up as they suddenly heard something approaching the group. They crouched to the ground and growled fiercely as the apes pounded their chests. Before the rat knew what happened, there was a powerful lightning bolt crashing down towards the villains. The wolves and Hazmat, quickly dodged the attack, while the apes took it without breaking much of a sweat.

"Jenna! Bryon! We're here to help you!"

Turning their heads, the rex rabbit and tribal wolf could see a team of supers approaching them. Jenna recognized them as the agents from before. And running beside them was a familiar beagle dressed like Lady Justice.

"BOS?! But that's impossible! You shouldn't be here," Hazmat yelled out.

The raccoon in the blue jumpsuit pointed his finger at the rat. "It'll take more than some of your pups to stop us! The police are taking care of the other calls for us!"

The rat hissed to herself as she heard the raccoon speak. "Fine... But you're not interfering me, you fools! My men shall take care of you!"

She pointed her finger at the heroes and yelled, "Get them!"

The gorillas and wolves let out powerful roars before they charged towards the heroes. At that moment, they broke off to combat the creatures. The rhino twins flexed for a moment before they let out a roar, their bodies growing larger and muscular like the gorillas. They charged at the creatures, going fist to fist against them. The raccoon stretched his arms out and wrapped one of the wolf creatures before slamming him to the ground.

Legal Beagle, meanwhile, had rushed over to Jenna and Bryon and was working on their chains. The tribal wolf was grinning at the beagle as she undid the bindings. "Am I glad to see you," Jenna said. "Who knows what that nutter would have done..."

"No worries, love. At least we were able to find you two in time. Now then..."

The beagle finished removing the tribal wolf's chains, freeing the young woman. Jenna rubbed her wrists and ankles as Legal Beagle was undoing Bryon's bindings. Over at the battle, the heroes were holding their own against the creatures.

However... One of the wolves let out a guttural howl that echoed throughout the city. Hazmat smirked at the heroes and gloated, "You didn't think I came unprepared, did you? I've got dozens of them waiting on our beck and call!"

The snarling creatures were swarming the streets, climbing down buildings and charging towards the heroes with glowing blue eyes. The heroes tensed up at the sight of the creatures, but gathered themselves to prepare for the incoming onslaught. Legal Beagle muttered a curse to herself as she spotted the swarm. After freeing Bryon from his chains, the beagle stood up and spoke to him and Jenna. "You two get to the alley for safety! We'll deal with these blighters!"

Jenna grimly nodded at the beagle before she got to her feet. Grabbing Bryon by his arm, she yanked him up to his feet and led him away from the battle. The rabbit looked back at the defending heroes, watching the beagle zap some of the wolves with a silver sword in her hand before knocking them out. The rhino twins had finished taking out one of the gorillas and was going after the other one.

Jenna and Bryon ran down the street and ducked into the alleyway not far from the memorial. The two ducked down behind a dumpster. The wolfess cringed at the horrid smell coming from it before looking into the rex rabbit's eyes.

"Bryon," she whispered. "I want you to stay here and keep out of sight, OK? Don't make any sounds!"

"But what about you, Jenna? What if those things catch you," he replied.

"I'll be fine, mate... I'm going to get help. Stay here and don't move."

The tribal wolf ran down the alleyway, disappearing into the shadows. He looked down the street, feeling concerned for her well-being. However, he was also curious as to how the battle was doing. Cautiously, he crept out from behind the dumpster and peeked out of the alleyway.

It seemed that the heroes were feeling the strain from fighting so many combatants at once. A white mink sent out a shockwave with a powerful clap of her hands, stunning a group of the wolves. Her costume was torn in places. The rhinos had finished off the gorillas, but were having trouble fighting off the swarm of creatures clambering over them. Legal Beagle was constantly blocking the creature's attacks, stunning a few in the process. Her toga had a huge tear in the front with a claw mark on her chest between her breasts.

Bryon's ears perked up as he heard something growling behind him. He slowly turned around to see what was there, only to be tackled to the ground. His eyes were wide in horror as a wolf creature glared at the rabbit with glowing blue eyes, growling at him. Memories of the incident flashed before him as the creature raised its claws up to tear him apart...

The sound of a gunshot rang in the air right before the creature started convulsing on top of him. Then, it was given a powerful kick to its head, knocking it off of Bryon and knocking the creature out. The rabbit kneeled up to see a shadowy figure approaching him.

"It's a bonzer thin' I found ya, mate. I do believe Jenna told you ta stay hidden."

The figure emerged from the alleyway, revealing a familiar wolfess in a black and yellow costume. A pistol was gripped in her right hand as she looked down at the rabbit, shaking her head ruefully.

"S-Strikira!"

The heroine cocked an eyebrow at Bryon as she holstered her pistol. "So you've heard of me? Good... That saves introductions."

She helped the rabbit up onto his feet, who looked down at the prone wolf. "Did you...?"

"He's only stunned. I used a tazer round on the blighter."

Bryon nodded slowly at the wolfess before he asked, "Wait... Where's Jenna? Is she all right?!"

Strikira replied, "She's fine... She's contactin' the police now."

The rabbit let out a sigh of relief. "That's good... I'd hate to see something happen to her."

At that moment, there were yells and grunts coming from nearby. Turning to look, the two of them could see the heroes lying on the ground, clutching themselves. A powerful yellow cloud was clearing up over them, revealing Hazmat standing in the middle of them.

"Hmph! If you want something done you have to do it yourself!"

The wolfess growled at the sight before looking over at Bryon. "Listen... You stay here and keep out of sight. I've got a pest problem ta take care of."

Strikira rushed towards the memorial, holding out her tonfas. The rex rabbit, despite her orders, followed after her. As he got closer to the memorial, he could see that most of the heroes had passed

out from the paralysis agent. Legal Beagle, however was lying on her back with her eyes still moving. She was staring at Hazmat and Strikira, straining to try to move.

“Well, what have we here? Another wannabe heroine here to try to stop me... You do realize you don’t stand a chance against me.”

Strikira gripped her tonfas tightly as she scowled at the poisonous rat. “I only have one thin' ta say ta the likes of you...”

She holds her tonfas closely as she gets into a pose, her eyes glowing green. “Do you dare?!”

Hazmat lunges towards the wolf, her fist raised to pummel the wolfess. Strikira blocked the attack with her arm and struck at the rodent with her tonfa. The rat, in turn, blocked the blow with her arm as well. Bryon peered from behind the memorial wall, watching the two ladies fighting each other. Hazmat had studied a form of kickboxing, using her legs and tail to try to pummel Strikira. The wolfess, in turn, would block her blows with her arms, legs and tonfas. Having studied more than one field of martial arts, she was able to use a variety of techniques to wear down the rat. Of course, Hazmat had scored a few shots on Strikira’s face.

The fight appeared to be in the wolfess’ favor, her attacks striking true. The rat was doing everything she could to defend herself, barely getting one or two shots in. But just as it would seem that the wolfess would win...

Hazmat suddenly thrust her hand towards the tribal wolf’s face and sprayed a blast of yellow gas at the heroine. Upon breathing the noxious fumes, she could feel her muscles seizing up inside of her. She struggled to move, turning into a living breathing statue. She flinched as pain coursed through her body, the toxin flowing through her muscles.

Hazmat chuckled as she gazed at the struggling wolf. Legal Beagle was struggling to get up from the ground, barely managing to get herself in a way that she could see the two supers. “Quite the beautiful toxin,” said Hazmat. “This is a special kind of toxin I’ve made from the bacterium that causes botulism.”

The rat gently stroked the wolf’s cheek, chuckling as she heard Strikira growl. “Oh, don’t worry. You won’t die from this. I modified the toxin so that it only paralyzes the skeletal muscles below the neck. It’s rather lovely to hear them scream as I use this with other poisons...”

The rex rabbit could only stare in horror as the rodent lifted her hand up, forming the same green gunk from earlier. “I wanted to test this out on living creatures... To see how they react to their flesh dissolving before them.”

Chuckling darkly at the Strikira, she added, “Once I finish with you, I’ll let my little virus out into the city. It’s dying to travel the streets of Chicago again...”

Bryon felt an overwhelming scene of helplessness as he watched the rodent inching her hand closer to Strikira. The wolfess was straining to move her muscles to get away from her. He knew there was only one way to stop her...

Hazmat chuckled as her hand was mere inches from Strikira's arm. Suddenly, she felt her arm freezing up, not moving any closer to her prey. She then felt a sense of weightlessness as her body slowly lifted up into the air. The rat flailed as she struggled to get free from her prison.

"Wh-What is this?! I can't move! Who's doing this?!"

The rodent was suddenly turned around to have the memorial in front of her. Right in front of her, however, was a rex rabbit dressed in an orange prison jumpsuit. His hands were stretched out in front of him as he glared at the rodent. Her eyes were wide with shock as she saw Bryon performing this feat.

"H-How is this possible?! How could a fool like you do this?!"

Bryon scowled as he looked up at the floating rodent. "To be honest, I do not know. I somehow developed these powers during my trials both here and while traveling the country. I kept these to myself out of fear of being found..."

He pulled Hazmat close to him, her face mere inches from his. "But now... I don't care about that. The fact that a disgusting monster like you exists is enough to reveal myself."

The rodent was in a bit of a panic as she squirmed in front of him. "H-How are you doing this?! Unless..."

Her eyes were wide with shock as she realized something. "Wait... But that's impossible! When I injected the virus in you, I thought I had given you a defective batch! Not one that would give you this!"

With a grim determination, he lifted Hazmat high into the air, her pleas going unheard. Legal Beagle, who had managed to get herself kneeling, could only watch in awe as she saw the rex rabbit lifting the rodent higher and higher. Strikira, who was slowly fighting off the effects of the toxin, was shocked to see Bryon showing his telekinesis in front of her.

The rabbit suddenly thrust his hands down, causing Hazmat to be thrust towards the ground. She screamed out in horror as she fell, slamming down to the street with a powerful bang. The rex rabbit then looked back at the device and rushed towards it. With his mind, he tore off the back cover of the device and ripped out the wiring and circuits. The device groaned and shot sparks as its insides were torn out before dying out.

The rabbit let out a sigh as he discarded the wiring to the side, leaning against the memorial. His eyes were closed as he rested against the stone wall. "It's over... It's finally over," he said to himself. Bryon turned away from the monument and walked towards Legal Beagle, helping her get to her feet. Her body had fought off most of the toxin, allowing her to move around sluggishly. Strikira's body was also recovering from the toxin, letting her move again. The two heroines stared at Bryon, unsure of what to say.

“Hey, mate... Those powers you just used. How did ... How did they come to you,” asked Legal Beagle.

Before the rabbit could answer, he grunted as he felt a sharp burning pain in the back of his leg. The sensation spread throughout his leg and flow upwards. Lying on the ground, Hazmat had jabbed her needle into Bryon’s leg. A thick purple sludge was flowing from the device on her back and into the rabbit’s body.

“Heh heh... If I am going to lose... I’ll take you with me,” panted the rodent.

Legal Beagle rushed towards Hazmat and cleaved the hose in two, keeping more of the sludge from pouring into the rabbit. With a scowl, she zapped the rodent unconscious with her blade.

Bryon could feel his heart hammering in his chest as the poison racked his body furiously. His lungs were burning with every breath, his vision was swimming. His muscles shook and convulsed as he found himself falling backwards. He could hear voices calling out to him, but he didn’t know if it was real or not. He could feel a pair of arms supporting him as an otherworldly green light glowed in front of him. It was the last thing his failing vision could register before he slipped into oblivion...