Side Story Raven

Aion looks around the newsroom in a panic. “Where is it, Where is it?” He said in a panic Tristan looked at him confused. “What is it that you're looking for boss?” “Oh, it's a spare component for the camera. It's an older model and the old one just broke down. What rotten luck we should've updated all our equipment like yesterday.” Aion explained still frantically searching. “I can go try and find the part.” Tristan started to say only for Aion to interrupt. “No no, it's almost Founders Day I need you out on the streets covering it. Here take this phone camera it's better than nothing.” He said sighing shoving him out the door before he could say anything else.

“We did rely on the Aspects... a little too much. Who knows if we can get new cameras by Founders Day.” Groans sitting down on the couch next to Mia. “Well, I could try to find the part. I know you are busy.” Mia suggested. “It's too dangerous you're still getting used to walking around the room as it is.” Aion denies. “That's what blipy is for.” She raised a small robot that slowly activated floating in the air beeping. Aion sighed not wanting to put her in danger. “We will figure something out just stay right here I'll take care of it,” Aion said getting up and leaving to continue his work. She frowned looking down.

Ever since she had lost her sight and hearing again he had babied her a lot more. She knew he

didn't mean it that way, but it was starting to get to her she wanted to feel like she was still useful and contributing like before, but as it was now Aion was the only one she could really talk to although Tristan was trying his best to learn Tactile Sign to help out more too.

She stood up putting a device around her arm and tapping away on it. It seemed to be connected to the robot giving it the command “Please take me to a camera repair shop.” She would help out even if he didn't want her to. The little orb responded as a rope made out of light appeared pulling her in a direction lightly guiding her out of the building. She prepared her stick as well to avoid bumping into anything. On the bustling street of Porta Nexus, she Narrowly avoided a collision several times without even knowing. The little robot doing its best to keep her from doing so, and still take her to the destination. Some people started seeming to recognize her from the news.

The bustling streets of Porta Nexus were chaotic, though Mia couldn’t see the crowds or hear their noise. She could feel the vibrations of passing footsteps, the occasional rush of air as someone brushed too close, and the steady pull of Blipy’s guiding light. Blipy tugged her forward, its movements deliberate yet cautious. As she stepped onto the uneven pavement, her stick tapped against something hard—a crate, maybe? She adjusted, sidestepping as Blipy’s rope pulled her away from the obstacle. Her hand brushed against a cold, metallic pole, the texture familiar: a street sign. She paused, letting Blipy gently tug her in the correct direction. The vibrations in the ground shifted—a heavier, rhythmic thrum. A hovercraft above? She instinctively tightened her grip on the stick, her body tensing.

Crow walked the rooftops of Porta Nexus lost. They didn't know what to do anymore the Chimera Legion was finished, and Marcus was dead. The rest of the Legion content stayed on Flamecrest, but Crow didn't feel like they belonged. It's not that Cindy and the others rejected them, or didn't care about them they just didn't know who they were anymore. So so long Crow was content just being their perfect scout for Marcus following his every command. It was hard to imagine a world without him. Luna's words echo in their mind. “You'll always have a home here, but maybe you should go find out what you want to do.” That's what brought them here. They thought at the very least they

could find out about their people, and yet no one seemed to know anything about Astral Ravens at all. It was especially frustrating for someone like Crow. A noise below drew their attention. Mia seemingly bumped into a large fish-like man good yelled down at her in anger. She just looked confused not fully understanding the situation. “Hey, are you listening to me you little bitch! Pay more attention.” The Robot floated in front of them ready to explain that should couldn't hear but he swatted it away causing it to crash to the ground and break. Mia panicked knowing that she had been disconnected feeling the floor trying to find its remains, and hopefully turn it back on.

“Hey don't ignore me!” The man said furiously. Looking like he is ready to strike at her. Crow hesitated remembering her well. They may have not done it themselves but they were there when Marcus took her Sight, and Hearing was it right for them to interfere? Crow remembered what Luna said again flying between them and blocking the man's fist with their arm. “Who the hell are you?” The man asked in answer. Crow didn't say anything forming a blade out of shadows with Clear intent to kill if he didn't back off. The man quickly changed his tune running away.

Crow turned to face Mia picking up Blipy's broken frame and placing it in her hands. They started to tap on their other palm asking. “Are you ok?” Mia looked surprised someone was there who knew how to talk to her. “You know how to sign? What happened?” She signed back still very confused. Crow explained what happened as she lowered her head seemingly disappointed she failed to do something as simple as this. Crow looked at her with empathy, but also with fear should they even be doing this? Even with the mask on others around could see as much. They took her hand again tapping into it saying. “How can I help?” She looked to the side hesitantly but ended up accepting their help.

They held her hand leading her to the store she was heading to as she smiled glad they agreed to help. The shop keep looked at them confused crow taking the lead. “She needs a camera part for an older model. X-2341” Crow explained. The man rubbed his chin racking his brain to think if he had that from the top of his head. “I can double-check but that is an outdated part most cameras aren't even

manual anymore you know, and well it's bound to be expensive. It might just be better to get a new set of cameras.” The man suggested. He left to find the part as Crow translated that information back to her. “I'm not sure if it's in the budget, but that's alright it's something I think we need. I'll use my own money.” She said this time with her voice.

Crow paused for a moment debating whether they wanted to do it or not but without another word they placed a large stack of central credits in her hand. She rubbed her fingers against them curiously unable to tell how much it was but assuming it was what she needed. “Thanks but why would you do this?” She asked again with her voice. He tapped her arm explaining. “It's the least I can do for the trouble I caused you.” She tilted her head not understanding having no idea that it was him still with her lack of sight. “Well ok... if you sure, but I'll pay you back sometime ok.” She said confidently.

When the repairman returned they informed them of her choice to go ahead with a new set of cameras. “You're in luck I have some LX-2033s right now It's the latest model. It has all sorts of settings automatic, and dynamic angles a normal cameraman can't do, and of course, live streaming functions.” The man explains. Crow again translated for her as she nodded in approval. “We will take it!” She said happily.

The four cameras floated behind them as Mia clung to Crow using them as their lifeline as they guided them back to the New's tower Crow managed to repair Blipy as they walked reattaching it to her and ready to take their leave only for her to tug on their sleeve. “Where are you going don't leave I want to thank you somehow.” She said still feeling a bit disappointed in herself. “Mia!” Aion said from the distance sounding worried and sick as he got closer. Crow pulled away from her grasp but couldn't get away in time.

“You! What the hell are you doing here? What are you trying to do to Mia?” Aion said with both anger, yet trembled a little in fear knowing Crow was strong. “What are you talking about Aion don't be rude they saved me!” Mia said defending them. “Is this some sort of sick trick to torment us?” Aion asked still not convinced. “What is wrong with you? How could you say that to them.” Mia said

more angry than normal. Aion calmed down getting closer to her. “Mia that's the Neo Empires scout Crow.” He explained hoping she would understand. Her eyes widened first looking fearful, but then thinking over their actions and words to her. It all started to make sense.

Crow had enough they expected this reaction and now that Mia knew, and was safe with Aion they had no reason to stick around. “They are just a kid, they probably didn't know any better. Even if they were with them they aren't around anymore, and they helped me out when I needed it. I think you should give them a chance.” Mia said Crow stopped in their tracks unsure what she was getting at but surprised all the same that she is still defending them. Was it because there weren't a lot of people she could talk to?

“A chance for what stab us in the back. I'm calling the Port Authorities.” Aion said prepared to do just that Mia reached out her hand finding his stopping him from doing so. “I don't know I just have a feeling. Like they were misguided, Isn't them helping me enough to prove that? Let's return the favor.” She urged. Aion looked conflicted he didn't want to let Crow in, in any way but Mia's instance made it hard to say know. “Well, I suppose they are pretty good at gathering information from what I've heard that's valuable in our line of work, even more now that we don't have your eye and ears. Alright, but only because you are so adamant, and if they do anything funny we are kicking them to the curb.”

Crow looked shocked backing away not sure how to respond why was he suddenly so willing was his faith in Mia that strong? It reminded them of the strong bonds of the Chimera Legion. “So what do you say, kid? Want a job?” Aion said smiling reaching out his hand to shake. Crow hesitated reaching out their hand but pulling away unsure. “Is that really ok?” Crow asked. “Sure it is,” Aion said. With that Crow took his hand forming a strange and unusual partnership.