







LUCKY I SMELLED A SCOOP AND FOLLOWED SIMON HERE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

SCOUGH! FINE. THOSE THINGS ONLY HAVE ENOUGH VOLTAGE FOR SHOW.



HOW WOULD YOU KNOW—WHO DID THIS?

HELMHOLTZ SCOUGH! AND HIS GUNBELS. HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW I'D BE HERE. IT WAS A TRAP—FOR ME.



YOU WILL HAVE TO BEAT ZE MEN AWAY WITH STICKS.

I BETTER BE. I THINK I'M BEING FIRED FROM THE DINER.



YOU'RE ZE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS.

I WONDER WHAT SANTOS WOULD THINK. HE'S NEVER SEEN ME LIKE THIS...



YOUR OLD BOYFRIEND? WHY'D YOU CARE?

I DON'T KNOW, SOBRIGUET. HE'S BEEN ON MY MIND A LOT. HE'S COME TO MY RESCUE SO MANY TIMES--

I THINK MAYBE YOU WANT HIM BACK, NO?



HE'S JUST A GOOD FRIEND.

MAYBE TOO GOOD, OUI?

UM--I THINK I'LL PAY MY SHRINK A VISIT ON THE WAY TO MY AUDITION.



"Simon Helmholtz was a man of integrity and purpose..."



"Not to mention that he's the first eligible bachelor I've met in years that isn't an empty suit. Or a self-obsessed Oedipus. I couldn't believe that he could have done what Mister X had accused him of."



"I knew that he could clear things up if I simply asked him."

SO, WHILE YOU DIDN'T GET ANYTHING ON THE ARCHITECTS, I CONCENTRATED ON YOUR OPPONENTS.



WELL, I THINK HE WAS GETTING CLOSE TO DISCOVERING THAT YOU'VE RETURNED TO RADIANT CITY, MY DEAR...

YOU THREW HIM OFF THE SCENT, I ASSUME.



WELL, I... NEVER MIND HIM. YOU WERE SAYING?

IT'S ALL BEEN PLANTED AT THE TIMES. IT'LL BE FRONT-PAGE NEWS BY TOMORROW.

YOU'RE TOO SWEET. NOW, ABOUT THE MINOLON... LET'S HOPE YOUR BOGUS RANSOM NOTE IS ENOUGH TO GET THE ACADEMY ARCHIVISTS TO PRODUCE THE ARCHITECTS.

CRUX'S BRIBERY IS ABOUT TO SURFACE, AS IS AHAB'S PLOT TO DRUG THE CITY'S RESERVOIR ON ELECTION DAY. NOT TO MENTION THAT THE AMAZING STARO ISN'T WHAT HE SEEMS.

CONSUELO, YOU MINX, YOU'RE THE BEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO ME--



THE VOTERS WILL ELECT ANYONE THAT OFFERS AN ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTION, SIMON.

SPEAKING OF ARCHITECTURE... SEE ANYTHING YOU LIKE?

WOW! IS THAT A LEATHER NEGLIGEE?

I GOT IT FOR YOU, BABY. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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YOU'RE LUCKY MY NEXT PATIENT IS RUNNING LATE, MERCEDES. I DON'T NORMALLY SEE ANYONE WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT.



I THOUGHT IT WAS WORTH A CHANCE.

I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT SANTOS--



SANTOS. HE'S YOUR SO-CALLED MISTER X...

YEAH. THESE OLD FEELINGS... I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HIM, YOU KNOW, IN THAT WAY.

THIS TROUBLES YOU BECAUSE...?

BECAUSE I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHO HE IS. THAT'S WHY WE BROKE UP.



TELL ME ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP BEFORE THAT.

WE MET AT THE NINTH ACADEMY--

THE MYSTERIOUS THINK TANK-CUM-REHAB-CUM-ASYLUM FOR UNBALANCED GENIUSES--

THAT'S THE PLACE.

"WELL, I ONLY WORKED THERE, IN THE LUNCHROOM. HE WAS ONE OF THE LEAD ARCHITECTS FOR THE CITY OF DREAMS.

HE WAS A QUIET MAN, OBSESSED WITH HIS WORK. TROUBLED, BUT SWEET. HE WAS HAVING MARITAL PROBLEMS. WE KINDA JUST FELL IN TOGETHER, KINDRED SPIRITS."

"HOW DID HIS WIFE FIT INTO THIS FOR YOU?"



"I DIDN'T KNOW HER VERY WELL. SHE WAS KIND OF A SLUT. FOOLED AROUND WITH ALL THE BRAINIACS."

"YOU TOLD ME HE REMINDS YOU OF YOUR FATHER."

"HE DID AT THE TIME. HE WAS A VERY, VERY DIFFERENT MAN THEN. BEFORE THE PROJECT RAN INTO PROBLEMS.



"THAT'S WHEN HE AND SOME OF THE OTHERS GOT INVOLVED WITH THE FRIEDKINS AND THEIR EXPERIMENTAL DRUGS... THEIR CHANGED HIM."

"IN WHAT WAY?"

"IN EVERY WAY. WEIGHT, HAIR, EYESIGHT, SLEEP, PERSONALITY. YOU NAME IT."





"EVENTUALLY HIS GOLD-DIGGER WIFE DIVORCED HIM BEFORE THE FRIEDKINS COULD GOBBLE UP HIS FORTUNE. I THINK SHE WAS ALSO JEALOUS OF ME. ANYWAY, KATSUDA--THAT'S HIS LAWYER--DID HER BEST, BUT CONSUELO--THAT'S HIS WIFE--TOOK HIM TO THE CLEANERS."



"I DON'T KNOW WHAT BECAME OF HER, EXACTLY. I HEARD SHE WAS INVOLVED IN THAT GHOST TOWN REAL-ESTATE SCAM AFTER THAT. I THINK THE ACADEMY CLOSED ITS DOORS AROUND THEN. THAT'S ALSO WHEN HE DISAPPEARED."



YEARS LATER HE RETURNED. TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

WITH YOU?

GOD, NO. WITH HIS CITY. HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ME ANYMORE.

AT LEAST I DIDN'T THINK SO. UNTIL LATELY...



ANNOUNCING CLIENT ARRIVAL



WELL, LET'S PICK THIS UP NEXT TIME. MY NEXT APPOINTMENT IS HERE.



THANK YOU, DOCTOR.