

Angel World

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written by

Anson Gordon-Creed

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75 John F Kennedy Boulevard,

Philadelphia, PA. 19104

5-710-3040

fg56@drexel.edu

3175 John F Kennedy Boulevard,

Philadelphia, PA. 19104

5-710-3040

fg56@drexel.edu

Philadelphia, PA. 19104

5-710-3040

fg56@drexel.edu

415-710-3040

fg56@drexel.edu

Afg56@drexel.edu

INT. KALASH ACADEMY - CEREMONY ROOM

In a small class-like room ASH DASH (female, 21, military garb) stands at salute in between a Calsin flag and a Calsin National Sustainment Force flag. Ash smiles and shudders in excitement.

ASH
I, Ashley Dashell...

EXT. GRANDOR - SLUM DISTRICT - BEFORE SUNRISE

JERST (Male, 30s, attractive) runs through the streets of a run-down factory district. It is too dark to see the color of his skin, but it's obvious he's running from something.

INT. KALASH ACADEMY - CEREMONY ROOM

Ash's smile widens as she takes her oath.

ASH (CON'T)
Accept this power and
responsibility...

EXT. GRANDOR - SLUM DISTRICT - BEFORE SUNRISE

Jerst looks back at what's chasing him; a RAPTORUS; a combination of a human and a velociraptor. Terrifying, bloodthirsty, and getting closer.

INT. KALASH ACADEMY - CEREMONY ROOM

Ash holds a knife by its golden blade in her bare hand.

ASH (CON'T)
...To fight for the nation of
Calsin.

EXT. GRANDOR - SLUM DISTRICT - MOMENTS LATER

The Raptorus jumps at Jerst, and he falls down in fear, but in midair, a rainbow blur torpedos down onto the Raptorus, driving it into the pavement.

CLOSE ON: Jerst's face. Looking back in awe, we can see now his skin is reflective and colored purple; he is a Cryst.

The rainbow blur was Ash, now dressed in a rainbow-themed outfit cobbled together from various clothing articles. She's standing on top of the stunned Raptorus and winks at Jerst.

INT. KALASH ACADEMY - CEREMONY ROOM

Ash crushes the knife's blade, then drops it.

ASH (CON'T)
I'm an Angel!

EXT. GRANDOR - SLUM DISTRICT - SAME

The Raptorus hisses and tries to swipe at Ash with its hand-talons, but Ash flying-flips off it.

Ash then grabs one of its feet and throws it into a nearby jungle gym.

ASH (CON'T)
(To Jerst)
Only one?

JERST
(pointing to Raptorus)
Yes! Please, just--

Jerst, still terrified, points to the Raptorus that gets back up despite obvious pain.

Ash draws twin rainbow-finished 1911 pistols and shoots the Raptorus repeatedly. The shots appear to scratch its skin instead of penetrating it, but it flees inside the jungle gym.

Ash holsters her guns and draws twin butterfly knives with a flourish.

Ash flies to the other side of the jungle gym.

The Raptorus jumps out from the jungle gym and claws at her, but she dodges, then stabs it in the side. The blow makes some sort of forcefield around the Raptorus flash for a second.

The Raptorus howls and clutches his wound.

ASH
Slow and sharp wins the race--

The Raptorus slashes Ash across the chest. The same forcefield effect happens to her and she reacts with pain, but no visual damage is done.

ASH (CONT'D)
--For both of us.

The Raptorus attacks again, but Ash counters, stabbing it repeatedly, then jump-kicking it in the head so hard it bangs into the jungle gym with a sickening crack.

The Raptor's body convulses, then goes still and turns into dust. Green energy drifts away from the body, some of it going into Ash, who snaps a selfie with the monster's fading remains.

INT. DIAMOND KAY MILL - JUD'S OFFICES - AFTERNOON

Ash's selfie with the Raptorus is on a computer screen next to a selfie of her with Jerst, who looks uncomfortable and sad. The caption reads "First night, first monster, first dude in distress. Triple three for Angel superstars."

The pictures are on a website called "ASHDASH.IP" The page scrolls up from the bottom where the pictures are, to the top where there's Ash's Angel Oath video. The website is not professional and filled with rainbows and pictures of Ash.

JUD MASTERS (Human, 23, corporate dress-shirt) sighs and leans back at his desk. He's in a small, somewhat dirty office only notable for how one wall is glass, giving a view of the factory floor below.

The factory floor is like a steel mill. Countless WORKERS move, smelt and pour green metal in conditions more than hazardous.

Jud changes tabs to a spreadsheet but then pauses.

Jud looks at a picture on the wall of him and the factory's other twenty workers. Jud wears a power suit that's colored and built like if Master Chief and Iron Man had a son that went into construction, and holds two men, including NATE FIRES (Male, Red Cryst, 22) aloft on a green metal rod.

Jud looks out at the factory floor.

INT. DIAMOND KAY MILL - FACTORY FLOOR - SAME

Nate, the cryst from the picture, wears the same power suit, but with the face-concealing visor down. He carries two large blocks of the green metal underarm.

Nate looks up at Jud's office while moving.

NATE
How could you hog this awesomeness
for so--

Nate runs into the path of a large crane mechanism that hits him and sends him flying.

INT. DIAMOND KAY MILL - JUD'S OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Jud looks horrified at the accident.

JUD
Nate!

Jud runs out the door.

INT. DIAMOND KAY MILL - FACTORY FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

The Workers all crowd around Nate, who collided with a railing hard enough to leave a dent. The suit is slightly damaged, but Nate sits up.

JUD
Nate! Nate?!

Jud runs across the floor and moves through the workers to reach Nate, who pulls his visor up.

JUD (CONT'D)
Are you alright? Anything broken?

Nate checks his body.

NATE
No. I mean, I don't feel like I've
been liquified.

Nate stands up dizzy, then looks at the suit's hands.

NATE (CONT'D)
I'm like an Angel in this thing!

Jud's face turns angry.

JUD
I told you to be careful!

Worker #1 points at Nate.

WORKER #1
Crane's smashed. Now that suit's
gotta stand in for two machines.

Nate and Jud look over at the damaged crane.

NATE
My bad.

JUD
(Sighs)
Doesn't matter.

WORKER #1
I say it does. Out of the suit,
now, Fires.

The radio on Jud's hip blares to life.

KREN (RADIO)
Masters, where are you? Meeting,
now.

As Jud takes his radio, all the workers start talking at once
to him, telling him to tell this and say that.

JUD
(To workers)
Quiet. Quiet!

They quiet down.

WORKER #2
Power drunk already?

NATE
(To Worker #2)
Shut up, he earned it.

JUD
(Into Radio)
I'm sorry. Accident on the floor.

KREN (RADIO)
No excuse for missing a meeting.

NATE
I can feel the company love.

JUD
Uh, we'll need a new- we've got
repairs to make.
(Beat)
Hello?

KREN
 Just get to the meeting room now.
 It, uh, pertains to the entire
 floor.

Every face on the floor becomes afraid.

KREN CON'T
 Kayits, that pretty much gives it
 away, doesn't it? Just get up here.

Worker #3 tries to sneak a cube of green metal into his
 pocket, but the weight rips his pants open.

JUD
 (To Nate)
 Take the suit off.

NATE
 Why? Last few minutes--

JUD
 --I don't want you smashing things.

NATE
 I don't smash things!
 (looks at damage)
 Out of anger.
 (Beat)
 I promise I won...

Nate's voice trails off as Jud gives a stern face.

Nate pulls two levers and the suit shrinks into a gauntlet on
 his left arm.

Jud takes the gauntlet.

JUD
 (To everyone)
 Nobody do anything stupid. I'll
 sort this out.

Jud runs for the stairs.

NATE
 Sort out whether we leave willingly
 or get kicked out?

Nate looks up at the floor's "Days Without Injury" sign, that
 reads zero.

Nate looks to WORKER #5 by a large button.

NATE (CONT'D)
Change it back.

WORKER #5
Don't remember what it was. It
changes everyday.

NATE
Save disturbingly long periods were
it remains at zero.

INT. GROUND BEAT - 6 PM

Nate sits in a booth in a fast-food restaurant and waves to
the last WORKER as he exits. On the table is a duffel bag. A
Cryst TEENAGER sweeps up from the recent feast.

Jud comes through the door with his own duffel bag.

NATE
Hey, man. Uh...

Nate trails off as he looks at Jud's duffel bag.

JUD
Come on, man. You think I was gonna
stay there after they lay you all--

NATE
--You quit?!

JUD
Yeah, I... well, wanted to talk to
you alone. Didn't think the other
guys would understand.

NATE
I don't understand...

Behind the counter, a Cryst CASHIER points towards the door.

CASHIER
Gentlemen, we're closing.

NATE
Now you're kicking us out? We've
had happy hour here instead of a
bar for three years, and--

JUD
--Because we got company coupons.
Kind of proving my point.

NATE

You don't have a point. You dodge the lay-off bullet by days, but you quit?

JUD

Let's talk outside.

EXT. GRANDOR - SKYLINE - EVENING

Ash floats above the city of Grandor; a truly massive city with one area with large, monumental buildings, a skyscraper-heavy downtown next to whole swathes of factories and slums.

Ash spins around gently as she flies.

ASH

What do you think, my new flock? The beautiful city of Grandor from above, and it now it's our playground.

Ash lands atop a skyscraper and looks at her phone.

CLOSE ON: Ash's phone. She's livestreaming herself, and a graph shows her follower count steadily increasing throughout the day.

ASH (CONT'D)

Bet you all thought Life Day came early when you learned the first Angel to livestream their work was the super-sonic, super-sexy Ash Dash, but I'm not done spoiling you. When I come back, you'll all get to vote on what ongoing incident you'd get to watch me respond to.

Ash switches to an app with the CNSF logo that shows a map of Grandor with multicolored dots.

ASH (CONT'D)

(tapping)

Boring... boring... oh, Kayits, that's illegal?

INT. SUBWAY STATION - SAME TIME

Nate and Jud walk into a tightly packed subway station, towards the turnstiles.

JUD

I just couldn't work at a company
that laid my friends off.

NATE

We'll survive. I don't need you
looking out for me, anymore.
Kayits, maybe I should be looking
out for you, mister 'throw thirty
thousand away cause I'm angry.'

They pass the turnstile, but Jud stops.

A LARGE MAN behind Jud lifts the lower turnstile bar, causing
it to swing up and hit Judd's butt, knocking him forwards.

LARGE MAN

Boohoo. Move!

Nate chuckles as the two step aside.

NATE

See? Can't even afford the three
bits to go back and beg for your
job.

JUD

You'd have gotten that promotion if
you were human.

Beat.

NATE

Maybe. But where do you get off?
Every time you struggle to pay
rent, I gotta know it's my fault
cause you felt sorry for me.

JUD

No, I--

Nate turns and walks towards the platform as a subway train
arrives, and Jud chases.

INT. SUBWAY CAR 4 - MINUTES LATER

The car is packed wall to wall. Nate and Judd are invisible,
save their arms holding the railing.

Nate grips another person's hand.

NATE

You just threw your life away.

Nate feels the wedding ring on the hand he's holding.

Nate grunts and his hand spasms.

NATE CON'T

(pained)

Sorry. Wrong hand.

JUD

Working there wasn't life. Our hours were boring, and then the wrong kind of exciting.

NATE

You didn't act like the floor was the right kind of exciting when you were on it. Just what do you want from your job?

JUD

I don't know.

(beat)

Maybe a little--

SUBWAY WOMAN

--Ew! Creep!

The crowd backs away from the SUBWAY WOMAN, creating space around her and MUDD (male, 40s, loose clothing).

Subway Woman shoves Mudd back and points at him.

SUBWAY WOMAN (CONT'D)

He poked me with his--

Mudd draws a sawed-off shotgun from his pants.

SUBWAY WOMAN CON'T

Oh, thank Mother, I thought it was--
uh, oh.

MUDD

For Rockaras!

NATE

No!

Before Mudd can fire, Nate grabs the gun.

Nate and Mudd struggle for the gun and it goes off, shattering a window.

INT. SUBWAY TUNNEL - SAME

While the subway train continues to run, muzzle flashes, gunshots and screams erupt from all four cars.

INT. SUBWAY CAR 4 - CONTINUOUS

Mudd and Nate wrestle over the gun while the gunshots around cause everyone else in the carriage to scream or fall over.

When Nate looks towards the other cars in horror, Mudd pushes Nate into the broken window, trying to either force him out or choke him.

Seeing his friend in danger, Jud swings his bag at Mudd's head, but containing only clothes, it bounces off harmlessly.

NATE

Next time steal metals!

Jud drops his bag and puts Mudd in a headlock while pulling him back, allowing Nate to get the gun.

Jud pulls him back and gives Nate, now with the shotgun, a clear shot.

Nate's trigger finger twitches.

Mudd elbows Jud.

Nate shoots Mudd.

A new set of screams and gunshots erupts from the other side of Car 4. Nate and Jud look that way, only for the mob of Passengers fleeing the emerged gunman to knock them over.

INT. SUBWAY - CAR 1 - SAME

In the most-comfortable and least populated car on the train, an unseen figure shoves well-dressed Passengers aside on their way towards the cabin at the front of the main car.

The Passengers she touches all fall over into their seats revealing TEMPEST WAVES (human, female, 26). Every person she touches gets hit by a spark of red electricity before falling down.

Tempest reaches the front of the Car past the terrified, but trapped few who cower in their seats.

INT. SUBWAY - CAR 4 - MOMENTS LATER

Crushed between Passengers, Nate catches a glimpse of what they're fleeing from.

Another shooter, LADO, blasts Passengers with an Uzi until it clicks.

Nate shoves the few living passengers between him and Lado aside and shoots Lado, killing him.

Lado falling down, though, reveals, through the window between cars, the shooters killing Passengers in Car 3.

INT. SUBWAY - CAR 1 - MOMENTS LATER

Reaching the train's cabin, Tempest shoots the CONDUCTOR through the glass with a 1911.

Tempest punches through the glass and unlocks the cabin door, then turns around to face the terrified Passengers.

They have twice as many reasons to be terrified when another shooter (SAM) enters from Car 2.

RED
End of the line.

Tempest enters the cabin while gunshots sound.

EXT. GRANDOR - SKYLINE - SAME

Ash, floating around, takes out her phone when it vibrates.

Her eyes go wide at the screen, and she flies down towards the ground.

INT. SUBWAY - CAR 4 - MOMENTS LATER

Nate shoots the two shooters in Car 3 through the window.

NATE
Die! Die!

Nate keeps cocking and pulling the trigger well after both shooters are dead and his shotgun clicks.

While most of the other Passengers duck or clutch their wounded or dead loved ones, Jud drops down to check Lado and Mudd's bodies.

Nate looks at his shotgun.

NATE (CONT'D)
What are we doing? This isn't
combat sports!

JUD
We fight or we all die!

Jud hands Nate a few shells then loads Lado's Uzi and stands in cover by the door.

Nate takes cover on the other side and loads his shotgun.

NATE
Alright. At least there's no
mystery in this train based murder
case. Train's gotta stop. We'll
just stay here like good third-
class riders.

By now, it's obvious that the train is speeding up. The train makes a sharp turn, and Jud looks out the window.

JUD'S POV: With the train turning sharply, Jud can briefly see muzzle flashes and commotion in the front two cars that accompany the ongoing screams and gunshots.

Jud looks back at the dead and wounded in their car.

JUD
They won't wait.

Jud goes through the door into Car 3.

NATE
Hey, wait!

Nate follows Jud.

INT. SUBWAY STATION 2 - CONTINUOUS

The subway zips past Civilians waiting on the platform.

A rainbow blur zooms over the head of the Civilians, chasing the subway.

INT. SUBWAY - CAR 1 - MOMENTS LATER

Sam is about to shoot another Passenger when he spots Ash flying outside the train, looking in on him.

SAM
 (To Tempest)
 You said shoot people in the train.
 What about people--

Ash shoots Sam dead then flies in through the broken window.

Tempest stands up from her seat and turns around.

Tempest and Ash's eyes lock. Ash is astonished, Tempest is surprised, but amused.

ASH
 Tempest?

INT. SUBWAY - CAR 3 - SAME

Jud, wielding his Uzi, enters Car 3, which is a decisive step-up in quality from Car 4, with there being cushioned aisles of seats.

Seeing Nate and Jud enter, A BYSTANDER (LIZ) and a CONDUCTOR take aim at them, the Bystander with a shooter's pistol, the Conductor with his ticket puncher.

Jud raises his hands.

JUD
 Good guy!

Liz and the Conductor lower their "weapons."

The door between Cars 3 and 2 opens, and the one of Car 2's shooters, RUCH, shoots the Liz in the back.

While the Conductor turns around and impotently "fires" his ticket collector at Ruch, Nate and Jud split apart and return fire, killing Ruch.

INT. SUBWAY - CAR 1 - MOMENTS LATER

The second shooter from Car 2, NOHE, enters behind Ash as she backs away from Tempest.

Before Nohe can get a shot off, Ash spins around and disarms him, but Tempest uses the distraction to shoot at Ash.

Ash uses Nohe as a human shield, and the bullets strike and kill him. But when his body falls down, Tempest is right in front of Ash, having closed the distance supernaturally fast.

ASH

Tempest--

Tempest grabs Ash and paralyzes her with her powers. Ash starts to fall, but Tempest catches her like one might a swooning lover.

INT. SUBWAY - CAR 3 - SAME

Nate and Jud check the injured Liz.

NATE

You should live.

Nate looks at Jud's arm, which is bleeding.

NATE (CONT'D)

You okay?

Jud looks around.

JUD

Shooting's stopped.

NATE

Train hasn't.

Jud moves toward Car 2.

NATE (CONT'D)

(Following)

Hey! Again?

INT. SUBWAY - CAR 1 - SAME

Tempest cradles Ash.

TEMPEST

Of course, you're the first Angel
on the scene.

Tempest brushes Ash's hair while using her powers again.

TEMPEST (CONT'D)

So romantic.

Ash's eyes are wide with terror, but she mouths words.

TEMPEST (CONT'D)

Something to say?

ASH
 (mouthing)
 I'm so sorry.

Tempest blinks in surprise

JUD (O.S.)
 Hey!

Tempest looks up at Jud and Nate in Car 2 pointing a shotgun and Uzi at her.

Tempest tries to throw Ash out the broken window, but Nate and Jud open fire.

The bullets bounce off Tempest's shield but do stun her, making her let go of Ash.

Nate and Jud cease fire.

NATE
 She's an Angel!

Tempest kneels down to pick up Nohe's shotgun, but on the floor, Ash, still weak, moves it away from her.

Before Tempest can paralyze Ash again, she gets another round of gunfire to the face, pushing her back.

Nate and Jud's guns click empty.

NATE (CONT'D)
 Oh, Burst.

Jud grips his gun as a melee weapon.

JUD
 Blunt force!

NATE
 More than that'll deliver!

There's shrieking noise, and all the characters stumble.

INT. SUBWAY TUNNELS - SAME

Sparks fly from the train's wheels as the brakes apply.

INT. SUBWAY - CAR 1 - MOMENTS LATER

As Nate, Jud and Tempest stumble about, Ash sits up and points Nohe's shotgun at Tempest.

ASH
Please...

NATE
What?

Tempest jumps out the broken window.

EXT. SUBWAY TUNNELS - CONTINUOUS

Tempest jumps out onto the tracks. She rolls and skids before coming to a stop looking beat up while the train continues down the tunnel.

In obvious pain, Tempest gets up and runs towards a tunnel.

INT. SUBWAY - CAR 1 - MOMENTS LATER

Jud, Nate and Ash all hold on while the train stops.

Jud helps Ash stand up while Nate looks out the window. Nate and Jud hold their cuts and bruises.

NATE
She's gone.

JUD
(To Ash)
Thank you so much.

NATE
Who was that?

ASH
Are you two alright?

JUD
They- they shot everyone.

Ash stands on her own and grips her shotgun.

ASH
Everyone?! Are there any more?

NATE
I think we got them all...

A wounded Passenger reaches towards the trio.

PASSENGER #4
Help us...

ASH
 I will, I promise.
 (looks around)
 Station must've applied the breaks.

Ash breaks away from Jud and stumbles to the train's front cabin.

ASH (CONT'D)
 (Into radio)
 This is Angel Ashley Dashell. I
 have wounded people on this train,
 you need to release the breaks and
 drive us to the nearest station.

While Ash gets a response, Nate looks over the wounded and dead in their seats.

Ash grabs the train's intercom.

ASH (CONT'D)
 (Amplified by intercom)
 This is Angel Ash Dash. Everyone,
 stay on the train, we're going to
 move again.
 (Into radio)
 While I give you my badge number,
 people die. Reapply the breaks when
 we get to the station, just move
 us.

With the sound of breaks releasing, the subway starts up again. Nate and Jud rip parts of their clothes off and run to a wounded Passenger, who they bandage.

NATE
 What the hell did we just do?

Jud looks at his gun, his hands shaking.

JUD
 We killed them.

Ash comes back with a first-aid kit and helps another Passenger.

ASH
 (To Nate and Jud)
 It was self-defense, right?

JUD
 I know, but--

ASH

--You sweet things saved my ass. I owe you big time.

NATE

Who the hell was Red? An Angel? You knew her?

ASH

Yeah, I... I'll explain later. You and everyone on this train needs help.

NEWS REPORT:

A brief intro to Wall Watch News plays.

Two REPORTERS (LAWTON and TEELA) sit at a desk.

LAWTON

Welcome back to Wall-Watch News, where we continue to cover the horrible attack that took place less than two hours ago on one of Grandor's eastbound subway lines.

INSERT: helicopter footage of the emergency workers taking injured people out of the subway station.

Ash flies a person on a stretcher out.

TEELA (V.O.)

Over twenty-five are confirmed dead, with more than a dozen in critical condition.

NEWSROOM

LAWTON

But early police reports say both numbers would be far higher were it not for the intervention of three local heroes.

INSERT: Diamond Corp employee ID photos of Nate and Jud, and Ash's most recent selfie.

TEELA (V.O.)

Recently licensed Angel Ashley Dashell, with flight abilities that let her respond quicker than any other Grandor Angel.

LAWTON (V.O.)

And two Diamond Corp employees, who
have no military or police records.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 1 - NIGHT

Nate sits on a bed, a male NURSE checking his bandaged wounds while Nate holds his head in his hands. Jud, also bandaged, watches the Wall Watch news report on his bed-mounted TV, his face pale and arms shaking.

TEELA (TV)

Though details are sketchy at this
point, the duo reportedly fired
back at the shooters.

Nate gags and leans over the bed reaching for the
wastebasket.

The screen shows an interview with the Subway Woman who
initially screamed, outside the station. Jud watches closely.

SUBWAY WOMAN (TV)

Those two saved all our lives.
Whoever you are, thank you so much.

Nate stops and looks up at the TV.

NATE

Alright, alright. I- gotta call dad-

-

Jud shushes Nate.

LAWTON (TV)

A group calling themselves
Hellstorm claimed responsibility
for the attack in a posted video in
which they pledge allegiance to the
King of Rockaras, though their
actual connection to the feudal
country remains unknown.

Now curious himself, Nate gets out of bed.

NURSE

Hold still!

NATE

Or what? You'll get fired?

Nate staggers over to the TV, which shows Tempest's Angel ID
picture.

TEELA (TV)

The attack's one Angel participant has been identified as Tempest Waves, and though the CNSF has yet to release her full records,

Jud squeezes the screen hard enough to crack it.

EXT. HOSPITAL - SKY - NIGHT

Ash floats above the hospital, looking at a picture on her phone of her kissing Tempest as the two goofing around.

TEELA (CON'T) V.O.

Reports confirm she attended Kalash Military Academy with Ashley Dashell. She is still at large, though a citywide hunt is underway.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 1 - SAME

The Nurse approaches.

NURSE

Hey, that's coming out of my paycheck.

JUD

We've been shot at, killed people, watched half our commute die tonight--

NATE

--Which is not as cathartic as it sounds.

Beat.

JUD

I'm sorry. I'll pay. Here.
(Looks around)
Where are our bags?

NATE

In terms of excuses for leaving stuff on trains, you can do a lot worse than there was a terrorist attack.

Beat.

Jud laughs.

JUD
Of course you're still joking.

NATE
And puking, too. See? I'm not
burying all my trauma.

EXT. HOSPITAL - SKY - NIGHT

At the noise of commotion, Ash looks down to the hospital's main doors, where dozens of REPORTERS swarm around two figures exiting the hospital.

ON GROUND:

Nate and Jud exit the hospital but a dozen reporters block their way and shove microphones and cameras in their faces.

REPORTER #1
What does it feel like to be
national heroes?

REPORTER #2
Where did you get your training?

REPORTER #3
How did the incident start?

JUD
Uh, well, Nate here who grabbed the
first guy's gun.

The Reporters all turn their attention to Nate, who's taken by surprise.

REPORTER #2
Where did you learn to fight?

NATE
Uh, well, we play Combat Sports,
and--

ASH (O.S.)
--Coming down!

The Reporters look up, where Ash floats just above them and lowers down to stand next to Jud and Nate.

ASH (CONT'D)
These two are human badasses.
(Beat)
Why are you leaving already?

NATE

Basic care's done.

(checks wound)

So I'm told. We could never afford to stay the night when we had jobs.

REPORTER #3

--Angel Dashell, what can you tell us about Tem--

ASH

(To Nate and Jud)

--I can handle your bills. I think. I, and Calsin owe you that. Head inside now, and I've got an even better offer.

Nate and Jud exchange looks.

ASH (CONT'D)

(pushing them)

Move! I won't watch you bleed out.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAYS - MINUTES LATER

Ash leads Nate and Jud towards the front desk in the lobby. Ash snaps her fingers to get the attention of the RECEPTIONIST, then flashes her Angel license.

ASH

Hey, Angel here with two dashing men. I need a checkout undone, stat.

Nate is distracted talking into Ash's phone.

NATE

(Into phone)

Yeah, Jud's okay, too. Be home soon. I love you, dad.

RECEPTIONIST

Oh? Uh, yeah, just go back to your rooms.

Ash hands the receptionist a credit card.

ASH

I think you can do a little better.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAYS - MOMENTS LATER

DOCTOR NLITE (Female, human, 40s) leads Ash, Nate and Jud through hallways filled with INJURED PEOPLE and STAFF, many of whom stare at or congratulate the three heroes in some way. Both boys react to the praise with pleasant surprise.

DOCTOR NLITE
Come in here.

Nlite leads them through a door into:

INT. HOSPITAL - VIP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The trio walks into a larger, cleaner, better furnished version of the room Nate and Jud were previously in.

NATE
Kaynits!

DOCTOR NLITE
Lie down.

Nate and Jud comply and take places on the beds.

NATE
You'll cover this with an Angel's salary?

ASH
Like I said, I owe both of you.

Ash extends her hand to Nate, who gives her phone back.

Doctor Nlite heads for the door.

DOCTOR NLITE
I'll be right back.

Nlite leaves, and Ash turns on her phone's camera and puts it in her pouch.

ASH
So you two hunks saved a lot of lives tonight, but now I'm hearing you're unemployed?

NATE
Yeah, but I'm putting "unofficial Angel Wing" on my resume.

ASH
 Unofficial? How'd you two like to
 be my firsts?
 (beat)
 My first Angel Wings, not my
 first... We could announce it to
 our--

NATE
 --Angel Wings?

JUD
 As in, fight with you?

NATE
 As in do that over and over? We're
 not bulletproof!

JUD
 Nate, wait!
 (To Ash)
 We're bulletproof in Angel Armor,
 right? Its three times tougher than
 industrial suits?

ASH
 Uh, you boys have done more than
 enough for this country tonight
 alone. I'm not investing in all
 this so you can go and die, I'll
 keep you off the front lines.

Nate and Jud's expressions reverse; Nate becomes intrigued,
 Jud disappointed.

JUD
 Investing?

ASH
 We love us some non-Angel heroes.
 What you guys got out there; I can
 make that a brand. Three of us will
 get sponsorships and TV appearances
 to match Brick West, and can't
 promise it'll be easy, but it can
 get you both set for life.

Beat.

JUD
 Do we-- can we get Angel Armor?

ASH

What? To fight with me? I'm no more pumped to see you die than the public is. Stay back and look pretty, I'll handle the scary stuff.

Jud jumps up and approaches Ash.

JUD

You kidding me? Tempest is still out there, and--

Nate gets up and crosses to Jud.

NATE

--Jud, are you mental?!

(To Ash)

Forgive my partner, he's apparently dead-set on dying broke today.

JUD

(To Nate)

Nate, I... Do what's right for you.

Jud moves for the door, but Ash blocks him.

ASH

Hey, now! What have I done except save your life and offer you stardom?

Beat.

JUD

That why you became an Angel? Movie deals?

ASH

Hey, jerk, I nearly died tonight for you.

JUD

And the woman who did that; who I assume was their leader, is still out there. These Hellstorm people; they're gonna do this all again.

ASH

And you're gonna go out there and fight them better than I can?

JUD

Maybe. I mean, we didn't do half bad even without armor.

NATE

Is this why you quit? Thirty-thousand a year wasn't enough, so you wanna be a martyr?

JUD

I want... Nate, what did you feel on that train?

NATE

Here's a clue.

Nate slaps one of Jud's bandages, making him shout in pain.

ASH

Hey!

Ash comes between the boys.

JUD

(Pained)

Yes, I know. But we're alive. And so are all those people outside because of us. That's real, not just something we're handed cause we look better in the part. I mean, Nate, what did we always want to be as kids in the neighborhood?

NATE

Rich.

JUD

Yes, alright, and Angels, who kick gang-bangers and monster ass, not make merch.

Beat.

NATE

Inspiring. How about I try fortune and fame, give it a review.

(To Ash)

Where do I sign?

Ash cuts Nate off by grabbing him and taking a selfie.

ASH

(typing)

That's good for now.

JUD
Keep your investment.

Jud exits the room.

NEWS REPORT:

A brief intro to the "Focused Lens" news report plays.

LENS LEVENDER (Male, human, 30s, attractive) sits alone at a news desk. Tempest's Angel License picture is in the corner.

LENS
I'm Lens Levender, and tonight,
we're focusing the lens on Tempest
Waves, an Angel and alleged
perpetrator of the recent Grandor
subway attack.

Footage of police cars driving, police roadblocks, and JOHNNY
(Cryst, male, 27, biker-aesthetic) flanked by two ANGEL WINGS
in armor similar to the factory suit, but sleeker and more
militarized.

LENS (CONT'D)
Police, Angels, and armored Angel
Wings have been deployed throughout
Grandor's Stand Hill district to
catch the suspect. But who is
Tempest Waves, really?

Switch to an interview of KATE SPARKS (Human, female, 24) in
the streets. Tagline reads: "Kate Sparks. Angel. Trained with
Tempest Waves and Ashley Dashell."

INTERVIEWER (O.S.)
What can you tell us about--

KATE
--She's got tactile paralysis,
which means she can touch you, even
through clothing of less than point-
five grams per cubic centimeter,
your entire somatic nervous system
will be disconnected from your
brain--

Stock Footage of Kalash Academy.

LENS (V.O.)

--The CNSF has yet to declassify
Tempest's Angel file, but she did
train at Kalash Academy before
being court-martialed and serving
time in Wells Prison,

Stock footage of the heavily-fortified Wells Prison.

LENS (V.O.)

Where multiple sources say she was
reported to have died last year.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - APT. 1211 - 4 AM

Jud, still bandaged, enters his tiny apartment, the door
swinging open freely due to the broken lock.

JUD

Again? Mother's sake.

Jud props the door closed with a nearby table.

Jud's phone rings, and seeing it's River Fires, Jud answers.

JUD (CONT'D)

(Into phone)

Hey, River.

NATE (PHONE)

Still me.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 2 - SAME

Nate lies in bed with a phone to his ear in a slightly better
hospital room. Behind him, his sister RIVER FIRES (Cryst,
female, 22) and father CASTLE FIRES (Human, male, 60s) talk
to Ash.

NATE (CON'T)

Just wanted to make sure you got
home okay. Can't quite explain it,
but commuting home tonight doesn't
feel safe tonight for some reason.
Anyways, while you come to your
senses I can pitch in with your
meds.

A zapping noise, followed by a brief commotion comes from the
phone.

NATE (CONT'D)

Jud?

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - APT. 1211 - SAME

Jud lies face-up on the floor. His eyes, seemingly the only part of him that can move, go to the phone, but Tempest, who stands above Jud, picks it up and hangs up.