

CHAPTER 17: A HERO



[GLITCH]



"Brother, slow down. You're gonna make me drop a lung."

My younger brother continues to drag me down the path without a care for my weary stamina. It's a miracle he can see anything in front of him at all. His locks have grown so long that they cover his face. Not that he seems to mind after being dropped on this no-name planet.

Guess it beats living in the city, always asking for work just to get a bite to eat or ducking in the gutters just to get a bit of shut-eye.



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It was always the same for us. Two discarded boys who grew up into men that the world had pre-labeled as dangerous thugs that no one wanted. We leaned on each other through the good and the bad. But ever since we've woken up on this planet with superpowers, my brother has been different. I've never seen him so happy. Everything catches his interest, and he's warping in and out of portals faster than I can keep up with. It's rare to see him running around without a care in the world.



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As refreshing as it is, it's also too dangerous when we don't know where we've ended up.

"Can't you smell it?" he asks over his shoulder.

"What, nature?" I ask through my gasps for air.

"The beach, Glitch! I can smell the ocean on the breeze."

I didn't even notice until he mentioned it. Now it's all I can smell as a warm gust of wind smacks me in the face.



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“Warp!” I yell, but he’s already back to yanking me through portals until we’re in the shade of a palm tree on a sandy beach.

“Finally!” he cheers in triumph before gathering his locks into his hands.

“Warp, there could be sharks in there,” I start, but he’s already tied them back and is now ditching his shoes in favor of the ocean.

We’re only a handful of years apart in age, and yet he’s jumping through waves like he’s my toddler.



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It's been a while since I've seen his full face, even longer since I've seen him smile. Have I ever seen him smile?

"Hurry up before something bad happens," Warp yells before diving below the surface. He always says that. Probably because bad things always happen to guys like us. But we have superpowers now, so maybe things could be different. Maybe I can finally be seen as a hero instead of a predetermined villain.



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Even if I only protect my brother in the end, that's enough for me. Just once, I'd like to be seen as the good guy. Not because I asked, but because they saw it for themselves.

