

SCENE 1

SFX: The radio turns on.

MUSIC: Slowly by Tokyo Music Walker.

SU-JIN:

What about this color? Hm... actually, no let's do this.

SFX: Pen scratches.

SU-JIN:

Yeah, that looks pretty good. Okay.

SFX: Knocking.

MOM:

Su-jin!

SU-JIN:

Yeah, mom?

MOM:

Will you help your sister with her homework? Eun-hee's not back yet.

SU-JIN:

What—I'm working on something!

MOM:

You have plenty of time right now, help her out!

SU-JIN:

(GROANS) Okay, okay.

SFX: Su-jin turns off their music and walks over to Min-seo's room.

SU-JIN:

Knock knock, Min-seo, time to do your homework.

SFX: Door opens.

MIN-SEO:

Oh, come on, Su-jin. Can't I wait until—!

SU-JIN:

No, because Mom said this homework was due tonight, so I'm helping you with it or she's gonna end us both. You need to stop stalling, it's already almost 8:00 p.m.

MIN-SEO:

Yeah, but how much good is it gonna be when I get the *dropout* to help me?

SU-JIN:

(THEY HISS) Yeowch.

JI-YEONG:

That's not nice, Min-seo.

SU-JIN:

Ji-yeong's right. Besides, I got good grades before I stopped going to school, so that's rich coming from the girl with straight C's.

MIN-SEO:

(SIGHS) I just don't like calculus. What good is that gonna do for me? Actually, wait, don't answer that.

JI-YEONG:

It's supposed to teach you critical thinking... or something? I don't know.

MIN-SEO:

Blech.

SU-JIN:

Look, I passed that class two years ago with flying colors, so just let me help you till eomma and Eun-hee are back from the shop, okay?

MIN-SEO:

Fine.

SU-JIN:

Uhh, let's see... okay, see, we're just gonna estimate this using the secant, so then... (THEY CLACK THEIR TONGUE)

SFX: Pencil scratching.

SU-JIN:

So yeah, there you go! That's the answer.

JI-YEONG:

That was fast.

MIN-SEO:

(SARCASTIC) Hm. I see.

SU-JIN:

I didn't explain it very well, did I?

MIN-SEO:

You didn't explain it at all. Maybe you'd better just do all my homework for me. (SHE LAUGHS NERVOUSLY)

SU-JIN:

I would if it wouldn't be a "detriment to your education."

MIN-SEO:

Ugh.

JI-YEONG:

Su-jin... you're really smart. It's only been a couple months. You could probably go back to school.

SU-JIN:

Well, to be honest, I don't think it's in the cards for me. I'm good at hardware stuff and it makes me happy, but the whole college thing didn't really work out. And Eun-hee's supposed to get back on the engineer track, so, in the end, I'm helping her save cryptos for that.

JI-YEONG:

Right...

SU-JIN:

And the two of you are supposed to go to college too, so there's that.

MIN-SEO:

You know you don't have to do that. I mean, I appreciate you looking out for me and Ji-yeong, but—

SU-JIN:

Ah, don't sweat it. Makes me happy that I can focus on my art, too!

SFX: Tap on the glass.

SU-JIN:

Mars!

MIN-SEO:

Focus on your "art", huh?

SFX: Su-jin opens the window.

MARS:

I have some news. You wanna hang for a bit, walk around?

SU-JIN:

Do you even have to ask?

JI-YEONG:

Are you leaving right now?

SU-JIN:

Only for a bit.

MIN-SEO:

What about my homework?

SU-JIN:

I thought you didn't want me to help you with it to begin with.

MARS:

What, Eun-hee's not back yet?

JI-YEONG:

She's back at 9:00 p.m.

MIN-SEO:

And she'll be worried if you're not home by then.

SU-JIN:

Then I'll be back in, uh, 45 minutes. She doesn't have to know.

MARS:

Unless you wanna stay with me longer.

SU-JIN:

Maybe.

You guys can use my room until I get back, but don't start moving stuff around.

JI-YEONG:

Can I borrow your paints?

SU-JIN:

Yeah, why not?

MARS:

Come on, babe, I've only got so much time with you.

SU-JIN:

Coming!

SFX: Su-jin hops out the window.

EXT. A CITY STREET SOMEWHERE, MOSTLY EMPTY - NIGHT

SFX: Footsteps.

MARS:

Haha, oh man. You should have seen his face.

SU-JIN:

Oh my god, I can't believe you did that!

SFX: Footsteps. Wind blows.

MARS:

You're not cold, are you? We've been walking around for a while.

SU-JIN:

Nah. I like being outside.

So, hey. What's this big news you wanted to tell me about?

MARS:

So, I got an invite to this party tomorrow night.

SU-JIN:

Mars, you get invited to a *lot* of parties.

MARS:

Hold on, hold on. This is legit—they say a lot of big names are there. Lots of artists.

SU-JIN:

By big names you mean... Glasshouse names, right?

MARS:

You sound disappointed.

SU-JIN:

Not really disappointed, I'm just like... why are you so excited about that?

MARS:

I mean, it's a chance to network.

SU-JIN:

I guess I'm happy for you? Are you gonna take your black book, or do you need a legit portfolio, or...?

MARS:

Oh, no, not for me, babe. For you.

SU-JIN:

Wait, what?

MARS:

Let's face it, of the two of us, you're the better artist.

SU-JIN:

Aw come on, I wouldn't say that.

MARS:

You're dedicated to the craft. Hell, you wanted to spend all your time on it! I'm still an idiot working a boring-ass job. I wanted to get an invite to this party for you so that you get a chance to shine.

SU-JIN:

Eh... I don't know. Like you said, this is Glasshouse we're talking about, not just a couple of guys down at the Numitron.

MARS:

You might get to rub shoulders with Masta Ravenkroft.

SU-JIN:

Ravenkroft is not a Glasshouser and you know it.

MARS:

They're anonymous! They could be anyone.

SU-JIN:

You just say that to get a rise out of me.

MARS:

I mean, my theory could be right! The whole bats and spiders motif could be a scathing commentary on what they believe is representative of the rest of the Metropolis.

SU-JIN:

I doubt it. But yeah, Mars... I just kind of feel like maybe it's not the best idea? I mean my art is kind of... not super Glasshouse friendly, to be honest.

MARS:

They might think it's cool. Shocking. Daring, even.

SU-JIN:

Uh-huh.

MARS:

Just give it a shot? Look, I know you, better than anyone. Your art is amazing! You could seriously have a career in art. I mean, isn't that what you dropped out for?

SU-JIN:

...Something like that.

MARS:

Make it worth it!

SFX: Mars pats Su-jin's back.

SU-JIN:

I'll sleep on it.

SCENE 2

SFX: Knocking.

SU-JIN:

(YAWNS) Come in.

SFX: Door opens.

EUN-HEE:

Morning, sleepyhead.

SU-JIN:

What time is it?

EUN-HEE:

Almost 11 a.m. I didn't see you last night.

SU-JIN:

You were at the shop pretty late.

EUN-HEE:

And somehow, I'm still up earlier than you.

SU-JIN:

Ah well, you don't look this good by staying up all night.

EUN-HEE:

You don't look like you rested very well. Plus you have glitter on your face still.

SU-JIN:

Really? Aw, man.

There we go. Did Ji-yeong and Min-seo leave for school already?

EUN-HEE:

Yep. Mom squared are out too, so it's just us. You want breakfast?

SFX: Su-jin drops their roller skates on the floor and packs their bag with the spray paints.

SU-JIN:

Maybe. I'm supposed to go to the Numitron with some of the other taggers today. Then maybe I'm supposed to go to this party thing.

EUN-HEE:

Oh great. With who?

Don't tell me you're going with Mars.

SU-JIN:

I can neither confirm nor deny that Mars will be there.

EUN-HEE:

Really.

SFX: Su-jin pulls a pillow over their face.

SU-JIN:

(MUFFLED)

Ugh, Eun-hee, can we not have this discussion right now? I just woke up.

EUN-HEE:

There's not a "discussion" I just don't... get it. They're kind of a dick sometimes.

SU-JIN:

They can be nice too. And they're like the only person besides Ji-yeong who gets the whole art thing, but Ji-yeong's, like, 13.

EUN-HEE:

Su-jin... look, I know it's hard when it feels like you're the only one doing what you love. Believe me, when I was studying for engineering, that was every day for me. But just because someone's your support for it at first doesn't mean—

SU-JIN:

So, there is a discussion.

EUN-HEE:

Okay, I'll drop it.

SU-JIN:

Maybe we can just talk about it some other time.

EUN-HEE:

Whenever you're ready.

You still up for breakfast?

SU-JIN:

Eh, I'll grab something before I head down to the Numitron.

EUN-HEE:

If you're skating, you're gonna need to eat.

SU-JIN:

Yes, yes, I promise I'll eat something.

EUN-HEE:

When are you coming back?

SU-JIN:

Lunchtime, maybe?

EUN-HEE:

Don't forget your comms.

SU-JIN:

I won't.

MUSIC: Snow Butterflies In Our Warm Attic by Artificial.Music.

SFX: Su-jin skates after turning on music.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

Yo, Su-jin, over here!

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

Hey, there they are!

MARS:

Hiya, hon. How are you?

SU-JIN:

I'm good.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

I have your black book here.

SU-JIN:

Oh, awesome! Wow, this is fantastic! I love the way you did the "M" here, that's a great shape. Thank you so much.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

Nah, *I'm* honored. Don't be so humble.

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

Think maybe I could let you write something in mine? Even something small would be cool.

SU-JIN:

Of course!

SFX: Su-jin tags their book.

SU-JIN:

There you go.

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

Nice! We're heading down to Station Quux today. I think they're planning on constructing something there, but it seems pretty empty. Wanna come?

SU-JIN:

Why not? Mars, you down?

MARS:

Yeah, but we gotta be headed out by five o'clock.

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

You two headed somewhere?

SFX: The train pulls into the station.

SU-JIN:

Maybe? Some party in Gla-

MARS:

Mizio. Gilded Alley, you know the works.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

Oh, I've been staying away from there. Bunch of Correctors cracking down there again.

SU-JIN:

Yeah...

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

Hey, that's our train. Hop on.

SFX: They get on the train. Su-jin turns off the music.

SU-JIN:

Hey, what was that about?

MARS:

Hm?

SU-JIN:

Uh, hello? Not telling them that party's in Glasshouse.

MARS:

Oh, come on, Su-jin, you know these people are sticking around 'cause they're your fans. You don't want them getting into situations they can't handle.

SU-JIN:

And you're okay with us getting into this?

MARS:

Oh, you decided you're not going?

SU-JIN:

I haven't totally made a decision yet.

MARS:

Yeah, it's just... I dunno, I went through a whole lot of trouble to figure out that invitation.

SU-JIN:

I mean—well—!

MARS:

It's fine. We'll figure out something else out, right?

SFX: The train comes to a stop.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

This is us.

MARS:

Let's roll.

SFX: The train door opens and the group walks away as the train pulls away. The thoughtful tagger opens a squeaky gate.

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

I found this neat spot, literally just a service flight of steps down this way. Huge wall, plus no Correctors. There's a couple construction things going on in the area, a bunch of plugins, but it's probably just hackers.

SU-JIN:

Ugh, I have got to stop wearing skates to places with stairs.

SFX: They take some stairs.

MARS:

(WHISTLES) Wow, you weren't kidding! This is great.

SU-JIN:

Oh my gosh! And Rocketeer's tagged here too! That's incredible!

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

I guess so! Wow, I didn't even see that.

SFX: The taggers pull out their paint cans.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

Okay, I have an idea for a piece, but feel free to add on to it, yeah?

SU-JIN:

Okay. I'll, uh... sit back for a sec and let you get the sketch out first.

SFX: They paint.

MARS:

What's wrong?

SU-JIN:

I don't even know where this party is supposed to be? Glasshouse ain't the Metropolis really, but it's still big.

MARS:

Where else? It's in the Valley, their art neighborhood. Fancy bar. You'd like it.

SU-JIN:

Kind of far, isn't it?

MARS:

That's why we have to be out of here by 5:00.

SU-JIN:

Am I supposed to talk to people?

MARS:

Just one person, technically. Young dude, bigshot gallery curator. Goes by Ryder Stauss. Take a look.

SFX: Mars plays a video.

RYDER:

The most important thing to me is that I make the world a better place. I think I can do that through art. Making things beautiful is my mission, my calling.

SFX: The video ends.

SU-JIN:

He seems like an interesting guy. Bigger art scene there than I expected.

MARS:

He's who you really have to charm.

SU-JIN:

Because...?

MARS:

Because he's gonna put your art in a gallery.

SU-JIN:

I don't know.

MARS:

It's good enough to be in one.

SU-JIN:

Not that.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

Done. What do you think?

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

Awesome. You gonna do this part in lime green?

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

I think so. Maybe this'll be in, uh, yellow...

SU-JIN:

I mean look at us. Our art is supposed to be in places like this. Not just be—our art *lives* in this city, just like we do. Putting it in a gallery doesn't feel right.

MARS:

But it makes it legit. Nobody's gonna take us seriously, Su-jin, not until we make them. Do you want what we make to be erased?

SU-JIN:

Um...

MARS:

And besides, it's money! Of all the people in the Metropolis, we deserve more cryptos, right? You know, saving up for Eun-hee's college fund, giving your kid sisters some spending money...

SU-JIN:

Hm...

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

Su-jin, Su-jin! Are you getting in on this?

SU-JIN:

Yeah! Just a second!

MARS:

So you're coming with me tonight?

SU-JIN:

I gotta go home first, but you know what? I'll come.

MARS:

I mean, you don't have to.

SU-JIN:

I mean, what's the worst that could happen right? Oh wait, I shouldn't say that. That's basically shooting myself in the foot.

MARS:

You're funny.

SU-JIN:

Hehe.

SCENE 3

SFX: Su-jin skates up and brakes.

JI-YEONG:

Ah? Su-jin?

SU-JIN:

Hey, kiddo. What are you doing out here?

JI-YEONG:

Waiting for you.

SU-JIN:

Oh, what? I hope you haven't been waiting long.

JI-YEONG:

Eun-hee said you'd be back around lunch.

SU-JIN:

Aw, geez, now I feel like a jerk. It's been hours. Come on, let's go inside.

SFX: They walk up the steps.

SU-JIN:

How was school?

JI-YEONG:

Boring. As usual. I drew a bunch of stuff during class.

SU-JIN:

Let me see it.

SFX: Ji-yeong hands a paper to Su-jin.

SU-JIN:

Oh, very nice. This is for your comic?

JI-YEONG:

Yeah. I was wondering if I could use your paints?

SU-JIN:

You've been asking that a lot.

JI-YEONG:

Ehe. Sorry.

SU-JIN:

No, no, you don't need to apologize, I was just observing.
You can use them even without asking me, you know.

JI-YEONG:

But they're—they're yours.

SU-JIN:

Yeah, but you're the only person in the family I trust to
use them too.

MOM:

Hi Su-jin, food's in the fridge.

SU-JIN:

Thanks mom.

MOM:

Are you heading out? Or did you just come back?

SU-JIN:

Kind of both? I've been back for all of five minutes, but
I'm going to a thing tonight.

JI-YEONG:

(DISAPPOINTED)

Oh.

SU-JIN:

Hey, I have a feeling it won't be too exciting. Maybe I'll even come back early.

JI-YEONG:

I don't know...

SU-JIN:

What?

JI-YEONG:

It's just... you were supposed to come back at lunch today and you didn't. And you keep leaving—

(SHE WHISPERS) You keep leaving with Mars at random times. I don't know.

MUSIC: Day's End by Purrple Cat.

SU-JIN:

Oh, man. I'm sorry, Ji-yeong. I'm doing a bad job of being an older sibling, huh?

JI-YEONG:

No. You're not a bad one. I guess I just thought when you dropped out of college, we'd spend more time together.

SU-JIN:

I... yeah. I'm sorry. I'll make it up to you. After tonight, I'm gonna spend all weekend with you guys. You, me, Min, and Eun-hee. That sound good?

JI-YEONG:

Yeah.

SU-JIN:

I know it doesn't really make up for the time I spent away, but I want you to know I do care for you. And I'm looking out for you, so if anything happens, you can tell me, okay?

JI-YEONG:

Actually, something did happen at school today.

SU-JIN:

What's up?

JI-YEONG:

Got in an argument.

SU-JIN:

Whoa, whoa—are you okay? Are you hurt?

JI-YEONG:

I'm fine. I said it was an *argument* not a fight. Just a couple of the higher tier Deltas just got weird about the Epsilons who attend.

SU-JIN:

So, what'd you do?

JI-YEONG:

Just told 'em off, that's all. I'd do more, but *you* told me not to get into fights.

SU-JIN:

Well, it's not always the right way to resolve things. I'm proud of you for speaking up.

JI-YEONG:

It's just the right thing to do.

SU-JIN:

You're a good kid, y'know that?

JI-YEONG:

Hehe.

SFX: Ringing.

SU-JIN:

Ah, shoot.

SFX: Su-jin picks up their comms.

MARS:

Hiya. When'll you be ready by?

SU-JIN:

I just got home, but I'll be out in 15 minutes.

MARS:

Alright, don't be too long.

JI-YEONG:

You're leaving already?

SU-JIN:

Oh, uh... hey, it's cool to be fashionably late, right? Or do people not do that anymore?

MARS:

You're funny, but we gotta be there on the dot. See you in 15.

SFX: Mars hangs up.

SU-JIN:

I gotta get ready.

JI-YEONG:

I know.

SU-JIN:

I'll see you tonight?

JI-YEONG:

Okay. I love you.

SU-JIN:

I love you too.

SCENE 4

SFX: Mars' motorcycle rumbles.

MARS:

We're coming over the hill, hold on tight, babe.

SU-JIN:

There it is. Prettiest waste of space in the whole Metropolis.

You ever think how weird it is that they keep it permanently evening in there? Do they just wanna ignore the whole radiation thing?

MARS:

You don't have to be so critical. It's an aesthetic thing.

SU-JIN:

Right.

SFX: Mars parks their motorcycle.

MARS:

Here we are. Go ahead and give me your helmet, babe.

SU-JIN:

Thank you. Oh god, now that we're here I'm starting to get nervous. Is it obvious my hands are shaking?

MARS:

It's fine, you're fine. You look killer, by the way. The glitter eyeliner is a nice touch.

SU-JIN:

Think it'll net me some points?

MARS:

Probably. Now, don't let anyone fall in love with you or I'll get jealous.

BOUNCER:

Comms, please?

MARS:

Hi, I'm Mars. This is my partner, Su-jin. We should be on the list?

BOUNCER:

Last names?

MARS:

Oh-right-Mars Atwood and Su-jin Yi?

BOUNCER:

You're good. Come on in.

SFX: The doors open.

MUSIC: Eric Disco by tubebackr, J u p i t e r by Deoxys Beats, Play Easy by tubebackr.

MARS:

I'm gonna go find my friend. You go find Ryder!

SU-JIN:

Alone?!

MARS:

You can handle it. Call me if you need me, knock 'em dead!

SU-JIN:

Mars? Mars!

Oh, screw it.

SFX: Su-jin pushes through the crowd.

SU-JIN:

Excuse me. Excuse me. Oh, for the love of—okay, whew. Come on, Su-jin, you can do this. You love parties! Just loosen up!

BARTENDER:

Hi honey, you want a drink?

SU-JIN:

As long as I'm here, why not? I'll take a Paloma.

RYDER:

Make that two. Here, scan my comms.

SU-JIN:

Oh. Hi? And thank you?

RYDER:

Hi there. You look nervous.

SU-JIN:

I'm just supposed to be talking to someone important.

And you are him, apparently! That was easy.

RYDER:

(LAUGHS) You think I'm important? I'm flattered.

SU-JIN:

Now comes the hard part.

You're a gallery curator, aren't you, Mr. Stauss?

RYDER:

Please, call me Ryder. Or even Ry. Everyone's doing it. But yes, I'm a curator. I suppose next thing you're going to say is that you're an artist.

SU-JIN:

Isn't everyone here? I think that'd be pretty boring conversation.

RYDER:

What's your name?

SU-JIN:

Su-jin.

RYDER:

No last name? Doing the avant-garde thing, I see. I haven't seen you in any collections or galleries.

SU-JIN:

Yeah, well... that's not really my scene.

BARTENDER:

Your drinks.

RYDER:

Shall we take this to the dancefloor?

SU-JIN:

Uhhh, yeah, I'm just gonna go ahead and pound this drink real quick. (GULPS) Coming.

RYDER:

So, what kind of art *do* you do?

SU-JIN:

Painting. I do a lot of... what did you say? Avant-garde stuff. Like, street art.

RYDER:

So I guess the next thing you're going to ask is if I'll put you in my gallery.

SU-JIN:

No, actually. I heard what you were talking about in this one interview... your whole mission. Maybe tell me more about that?

RYDER:

Ah yes. Beauty, you know, is such a fleeting thing. It's hard to see something beautiful in the midst of everything here in the city, but I like seeking it out, capturing it. Even better, I like seeking out people who do that in ways I couldn't even dream of. Art has the power to do so much—to change the world. I'm just doing something to respect that.

SU-JIN:

Honestly, I feel the same way. I mean it's like, there's so much that could be different in Metropolis West—so many things that could be made better for everyone. I'm kinda surprised Glasshouse people feel like that.

RYDER:

What?

SU-JIN:

What?

RYDER:

You're actually from the Metropolis?

SU-JIN:

Yes...?

RYDER:

Fascinating. Are you an Epsilon?

SU-JIN:

Delta, actually.

RYDER:

Wow. What a rare find.

SU-JIN:

Uh...?

RYDER:

Well, it's just... mostly people are Epsilons or Gammas. Deltas are few and far between now. So you're painting? You can't possibly be doing that as a job if you're not selling anything yet.

SU-JIN:

More of a hobby, yeah. I'm usually helping in my mom's mechanic shop. But what I'm known for is tagging.

RYDER:

Have you got any samples of your work?

SU-JIN:

I've got a black book.

RYDER:

Perfect. Let's just scoot on over to the side here..

SFX: Ryder flips through the book.

RYDER:

Wow. (WHISTLES) I mean, this is... (LAUGHS)

SU-JIN:

I guess it's not for everyone.

RYDER:

No, Su-jin, hey—this is great.

SU-JIN:

Really?

RYDER:

Look, I don't work with just anybody, but I could use you for a special project I'm doing.

SU-JIN:

Tell me more.

RYDER:

Here's the thing, I need an artist—someone from the Metropolis who really knows the art style of the place, you know, has the right vibes. We've got this spot in the Numitron all laid out.

SU-JIN:

Uh-huh. Wait, where in the Numitron?

RYDER:

It's called Station Quux. Seems pretty quiet.

SU-JIN:

Oh yeah! I think I've been there.

RYDER:

You're pretty brave, aren't you?

SU-JIN:

Not really. I hang out in the Numitron a lot.

RYDER:

Don't sell yourself so short. You are brave. Not to mention, you're talented. I'm gonna make your work shine, Su-jin.

SU-JIN:

But what exactly are you going to do down there? You just want me to paint something? I've kind of already done some pieces down there.

RYDER:

Well, we want a new gallery in a new zone. Open it up to new people. Of course, we want to keep the spirit of the old place, just clean it up a little, you know. So you'll be there with us to inaugurate us busting down some of the old walls—symbolic of change, rebirth, all that—and then we'll sign you on for the actual gallery when it's done! How's that sound?

SU-JIN:

...Okay. I'm in.

RYDER:

Excellent. Here, let me give you my comms information.

SU-JIN:

Yeah, thank you.

MARS:

Hiya, can I steal you?

SU-JIN:

Mars!

RYDER:

Is this your friend?

SU-JIN:

Yeah.

MARS:

Partner.

RYDER:

Ah. My mistake.

MARS:

Come on, babe. Let's go.

SFX: Su-jin and Mars head outside.

SU-JIN:

Well! I did it! Honestly that wasn't even that hard. I'm kind of shocked. Or well, I guess you were right! Just turning on the charm.

MARS:

...Yeah.

SU-JIN:

You're not mad at me, are you?

MARS:

No, no, I'm thrilled!

Did you say anything about me?

SU-JIN:

Not... yet? We didn't really get the chance.

MARS:

Aw geez, Su-jin. Come on.

SU-JIN:

So you are mad at me? Like, you kind of pulled me away—

MARS:

Well, you just looked like you were getting too comfortable with him. And like you said, he's from Glasshouse. You don't have to be laying it on so thick.

SU-JIN:

He asked me to come paint something at Quux tomorrow. Maybe you can tag along?

MARS:

You seriously didn't mention me to Ryder. At all.

SU-JIN:

It just didn't really come up in conversation.

MARS:

Whatever.

SFX: Mars starts putting on their gear.

SU-JIN:

Mars, what's wrong?

MARS:

Well, shit, Su-jin, we're supposed to be in this together.

SU-JIN:

What?

MARS:

Su-jin. This whole fame and riches thing, you're supposed to bring me up with you! I'm the one who got you into this party in the first place—it's the fair thing to do. Sheesh.

I know you like playing dumb to be cute, but you gotta stop kidding around.

SU-JIN:

What? I'm never playing dumb. Like, I'm not dumb, period.

MARS:

You know what I meant.

SU-JIN:

No, I really don't. See, you kept pitching this whole party like it was something you were doing for me. Then you don't take me or my concerns seriously, but then you bring them up against me. And you start getting jealous about this guy you specifically asked me to get close to and chat up! I honestly never know what you mean, Mars, and that makes me feel... bad. You seriously just wanted to use me to get famous?

MARS:

Can we talk about this later?

SU-JIN:

No, we can't! This conversation needs to happen now!

MARS:

What do you want, Su-jin? You wanna take a break or something, so you can have some fun with Ryder?

SU-JIN:

That's literally not what I want to do at all!

MARS:

Okay, fine. Let's go home!

SU-JIN:

Just listen to me—we either figure it out now, or it's over.

MARS:

Well, what the hell do you want me to do, Su-jin?

SU-JIN:

I want you to say you're sorry for treating me like an idiot after I did what you told me to do!

Do you even believe I'm a good artist?

MARS:

(SCOFFS)

SU-JIN:

Eun-hee was right about you. You are a jerk.

MARS:

Lighten up, Su-jin—!

SU-JIN:

It's over, Mars.

MARS:

You can't be serious.

SU-JIN:

I am.

MARS:

Tch. Fine.

Find your own way back home.

SU-JIN:

I will!

SFX: Mars speeds off.

SU-JIN:

Mmm—! Shoot. I shouldn't have done that.

RYDER:

Hey.

SU-JIN:

Ryder?

RYDER:

Need a lift?

SU-JIN:

No, I'm fine.

RYDER:

Please, don't worry about it. You can come back to my place for a bit. It's closer. And you look like you need to sit down for a bit.

SU-JIN:

(SIGH) Yeah. Okay.

SCENE 5

SFX: Door opens.

RYDER:

Here we are.

SU-JIN:

Thanks.

RYDER:

You want something to drink? I've got water, soda, more alcohol—not synthetic, I mean the real stuff.

SU-JIN:

Uh... I'm good.

No offense, it's just... a little weird being here. In some Glasshouse person's place. It's very... fancy.

RYDER:

Aw, it's just an apartment. I'm not all that rich.

SFX: Su-jin sits on a couch.

SU-JIN:

Dude, I'm pretty sure this place is bigger than my house.

RYDER:

Hahaha, right.

SFX: Ryder cracks open a soda.

RYDER:

You sure you don't want anything?

SU-JIN:

Yeah. I'll probably head back to my place in a bit. Like... I dunno, walk to a bus stop or something.

RYDER:

You can feel free to stay the night too. The couch is open.

Did you live with... Mars, was it?

SU-JIN:

Oh, no. That would've been bad news for me. I live with my family.

RYDER:

Still? You're *that* tight on money?

SU-JIN:

Uh, no, not really. Actually, it's mostly because I sort of recently... dropped out of college.

RYDER:

That's surprising. Were you pursuing art?

SU-JIN:

No, actually. Hardware engineering. Just wasn't my thing. Not that I'm bad at it, the classes were just stressing me out.

RYDER:

I see.

SU-JIN:

But yeah, it also just... I don't know, it wasn't really that meaningful for me. Art just feels like a better way to reach out to people.

RYDER:

Well, I don't want your talents to go to waste. A lot of people don't really respect art. Not the way we do.

SU-JIN:

Yeah, Mars said something like that too. They said I'd never be legit unless I got in a gallery.

RYDER:

Heh. I'm glad I can help you there. You are gonna be legit, I swear it. You'll have a reputation the size of the Dome when we're through.

SU-JIN:

I just want it all to mean something.

RYDER:

It will. It does. Su-jin, I'm not kidding when I say what you make is really special. Super original. That's one of the most important things you can be as an artist.

SU-JIN:

I kinda wonder. Ry, do you think... do you think my art's gonna reach the right people?

RYDER:

Well, that begs the question—who exactly do you think the right people are?

SU-JIN:

I don't really know.

RYDER:

I think your art will make people see beauty in places that we often think are ugly. Something wonderful from the most brutal and frightening parts of the Metropolis. I mean, you

face incredible violence every day and you still manage to make something gorgeous out of it.

SU-JIN:

Honestly, my life's pretty sheltered. And I think a lot of people call the Metropolis violent, but there's just a lot of hurt. And a lot of inequality. I don't think people are inherently bad anywhere. You should give them a chance.

RYDER:

(LAUGHS) You're a curious one, aren't you?

SU-JIN:

Is that a bad thing?

RYDER:

Not necessarily.

SFX: Ryder sets his can down.

RYDER:

Whew. I gotta get an early start tomorrow. I've got a bunch of schematics to look over, paperwork to sign, all the logistics before we put on that event. You excited?

SU-JIN:

I am.

RYDER:

Are you sticking around tonight, then?

SU-JIN:

Uh... I'll think about it.

RYDER:

Well, I gotta go shower. If I don't see you when I'm out...
I'll see you tomorrow?

SU-JIN:

Yeah.

RYDER:

Night, Su-jin.

SU-JIN:

Good night.

SFX: Ryder leaves.

SU-JIN:

Schematics, huh? Sounds interesting.

SFX: Su-jin scrolls through them.

SU-JIN:

Station Quux, gallery showcase... aha. "Useful for power potential?" What does that mean?

"Station Quux is one of the two main power suppliers for the Tollbooth district, so pulling power for Figure 4 should be sufficient for..." Crypto generation?

Where are the figures in this document? Oh, amateur, they stuffed them all in the appendices...

SFX: Su-jin scrolls.

SU-JIN:

Oh boy. That's bad.

SCENE 6

SFX: Su-jin opens a window.

EUN-HEE:

Su-jin.

SU-JIN:

Hiii, Eun-hee.

EUN-HEE:

It's two a.m. Mind telling me what's going on?

SU-JIN:

Can I tell you the truth or are you gonna get mad?

SFX: Someone clicks on a light switch.

JI-YEONG:

Su-jin?

MIN-SEO:

(YAWNS) See, I told you they were gonna do something weird.
Why are you breaking in?

SU-JIN:

Hey, you guys are supposed to be asleep!

JI-YEONG:

We were really worried about you. What's going on?

SU-JIN:

Okay, look, I'm heading down to the Numitron right now.

MIN-SEO:

At this time of night? Are you *trying* to get yourself killed?!

EUN-HEE:

Great. My younger sibling's gotten into the adrenoshot trade.

SU-JIN:

Oh, cut it out you two! There's something really important I have to do, so can you just tell me some info before I get down there?

EUN-HEE:

Fine. What is it?

SU-JIN:

So, hypothetically, if there was a big device for, say, generating cryptos at a frankly irresponsible rate for artistic purposes, what would be the best way to wreck it? And also maybe make it impossible to hook it back up to the power source there?

EUN-HEE:

What have you gotten yourself into?

SU-JIN:

Can you please just let me know?

EUN-HEE:

Did Mars put you up to this?

SU-JIN:

(SIGH) No. I just... ugh.

MIN-SEO:

Ah, shit.

SU-JIN:

Hey. Language.

MIN-SEO:

Ugh. Get out of the window.

SFX: Su-jin jumps off into the room and closes the window.

MIN-SEO:

Are you okay?

SFX: Su-jin sits on the couch.

SU-JIN:

I'm fine.

MUSIC: Day's End by Purrple Cat.

JI-YEONG:

Su-jin, you can talk to us about this, you know. We're your family.

SU-JIN:

Uhhh...

EUN-HEE:

She's right. But if you don't wanna talk, that's okay too.

SU-JIN:

Ugh... look, I was wrong about Mars and you were right, and I just feel stupid, so maybe we shouldn't talk about this.

MIN-SEO:

Oh, I'm gonna punch that smug look off their face.

SU-JIN:

No, no, don't. I appreciate it. But don't do that.

MIN-SEO:

Only 'cause you said so.

EUN-HEE:

I'm sorry. You two aren't together anymore?

SU-JIN:

No. And now I kind of wish we were 'cause I have to do this thing and I need someone who knows the Numitron.

JI-YEONG:

But you already know the place. You're down there all the time.

SU-JIN:

But—ugh—I'm so stupid! The only thing I go down there for is art! I don't even have enough engineering under my belt to do anything! And now I'm gonna have to go to that dumb gallery thing all by myself and watch them screw over the poorest place in the Metropolis.

EUN-HEE:

Slow down. What?

SU-JIN:

It's kind of a long story. Look, I got invited to this party by Mars to go talk to this gallery guy, Ryder. He wanted me to do this piece for this new thing they're building, but I snuck a look at the schematics, and it turns out they're establishing this art gallery in one of

the Numitron stations that feeds power to the Tollbooth. So they're basically redirecting power from there for more cryptos. I'm probably the only person going to that thing that cares!

EUN-HEE:

So... what next?

SU-JIN:

I just know I have to do something. But I don't know what...

MIN-SEO:

You gotta stop doubting yourself, dude.

SU-JIN:

I'm not!

MIN-SEO:

You are. Su-jin, I know I was making fun of you before, but you are smart! Way smarter than I wanna admit sometimes. I'm only ribbing on you because that's what younger sisters are supposed to do. But you're gonna figure it out.

EUN-HEE:

Let's stop and think for a second. Most crypto mining rigs are just one in a chain of several. Breaking them is pretty easy but guaranteeing they can't connect down there is gonna be harder. Numitron's pretty unregulated, which is probably why they were able to grab a station down there anyways. Probably bought it out from the district representative because of course they did. But you could try to lock off their power grid with something.

SU-JIN:

I'm not much good with encrypting.

EUN-HEE:

Don't do it with encryption, then. You're an engineer!

MUSIC: Wishing Well by Purrple Cat.

JI-YEONG:

More than that, you're an artist. That means you have creativity on your side.

SU-JIN:

Awww. Thanks, you guys.

EUN-HEE:

When's that gallery show?

SU-JIN:

In... like six hours?

EUN-HEE:

Well then, no use in you staying up all night trying to find a solution. Sleep on it—for real this time.

SCENE 7

SFX: Su-jin steps through a vent.

GALLERY GOER 1:

It's so badly lit here. And it smells weird.

GALLERY GOER 2:

I'm glad Stauss is changing this into a gallery.

SU-JIN:

Are all Glasshouse people this stuck-up?

SFX: Su-jin opens up a panel.

SU-JIN:

Whoo, that's dangerous. We'll just go ahead and shut that off.

SFX: The lights go out.

SU-JIN:

Oops, oops, oops, not that one.

SFX: Su-jin turns them on again and switches a different one.

SU-JIN:

There we go. Solder this here, here, and... here. Guess I was panicking over nothing, this was put together by amateurs. All we have to do is a little power redirect here. (SU-JIN HUMS) And... done.

SFX: Su-jin closes the panel and jumps out.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

Su-jin?

SU-JIN:

Whoa! Uh. Hi guys.

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

Shouldn't we be more surprised than you are?

SU-JIN:

I guess.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

Did you see what was going on in there? They totally took over Quux. Kind of a shame. I was only half done with what I was doing in there.

SU-JIN:

Yeah.

RYDER:

Su-jin!

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

Who's that guy?

RYDER:

SU-JIN!

SU-JIN:

Ugh...

RYDER:

I thought you weren't gonna show. You scared me. I tried to call you, but this place barely has comms service. Crazy. We'll change that.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

You know this guy?

SU-JIN:

Kind of.

RYDER:

Su-jin's only the best artist from the Metropolis.

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

Well, we already knew that.

RYDER:

(SCOFFS) Hipsters. Su-jin's coming with me.

SU-JIN:

I am? Oh, shoot. I am.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

You're doing this whole Glasshouse gallery thing?

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

That's... wow.

SU-JIN:

No, wait. Ryder, can't they come in with me?

RYDER:

..Fine. But only because you're asking.

SU-JIN:

Come on, guys.

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

(SIGHS) If you say so.

SFX: A small crowd in Station Quux.

SU-JIN:

Ryder, I kind of wanted to talk to you about something—

GALLERY GOER 1:

There he is! Stauss! Ryder Stauss!

GALLERY GOER 2:

Who are those people with him?

RYDER:

Everyone settle down. You two, stay in the back. And everyone else, this is Su-jin! They're going to be our newest artist for this gallery. You might not believe it, but they're from the Metropolis!

SFX: Microphone whines.

SU-JIN:

Hi there.

RYDER:

Give them a warm welcome! And watch for our reveal of our crypto mining rig on our second stage over there!

Go on and cover up whatever mess they've got going on that wall. Okay?

SU-JIN:

Ryder, listen. This thing you're doing today, it's gonna hurt a lot of people.

RYDER:

What, the feelings of whoever painted that mess? It's okay, Su-jin. New art overtakes the old.

SU-JIN:

I wanna believe you're not the one who okayed that rig. 'Cause making things better at the cost of other people isn't really making things better at all.

RYDER:

What are you saying? This whole project is my idea. I'm helping people, people like you, by coming in here and fixing things. Isn't that good?

SU-JIN:

No, not like this.

SFX: The crowd murmurs.

RYDER:

Su-jin, what they're saying is very anti-Glasshouse. That's no way to behave if you want help from us, is it?

SU-JIN:

I can't let this happen.

RYDER:

Just paint over it, Su-jin! It's *ugly*. Don't you get that? This place is disgusting, but I'm giving you the chance to make it better with me!

SU-JIN:

I really wanted to make this easier on both of us, Ryder.

RYDER:

What are you talking about—

SU-JIN:

One of you, toss me a can!

THOUGHTFUL TAGGER:

Catch!

MUSIC: Sun Over Ocean by Glitch.

SFX: The crowd gasps as Su-jin reveals the broken crypto mining rig.

SU-JIN:

Your mining rig's not gonna work anyways. I disabled it. And none of you are going to come down here and pull power from the Metropolis if I can help it.

You can hide your greed behind flashy art and fancy tech—whatever you want. But we see right through you. And you're not welcome here. So whenever you see this tag..

SFX: Su-jin spray paints on the crypto rig.

SU-JIN:

That's a sign that I'll be there. I'll break every rig, every wall, everything you put down here that's meant to exploit us. It'll all come down to zero.

SFX: The crowd gasps.

GALLERY GOER 1:

Did they say Zero? They're from that union!

GALLERY GOER 2:

Someone call the Correctors!

RYDER:

Comms don't work down here! Someone grab them!

ENTHUSIASTIC TAGGER:

Su-jin, this way! Run!

SFX: The can clatters to the ground. Su-jin runs.

SCENE 8

SFX: Su-jin climbs a ladder and pushes up through a manhole.
Dialing on comms. Su-jin walks through a crowd.

EUN-HEE:

(ON COMMS) I was starting to get worried.

SU-JIN:

Me too. But I'm okay.

EUN-HEE:

That's a relief. Where are you?

SU-JIN:

Kvadrata, I'm pretty sure. (SPITS, COUGHS) Blugh. If the sand in my mouth is any indicator.

EUN-HEE:

So everything went okay?

SU-JIN:

I guess. I tried to give Ryder a chance. But it turned out he was as bad as the rest of them.

EUN-HEE:

I'm surprised you had any faith in the guy.

SU-JIN:

Not faith, necessarily. I just think people deserve a chance. Even people from Glasshouse. No one's perfect.

EUN-HEE:

What about Mars? You gonna give them a second chance?

SU-JIN:

Ehh. I don't think so. That ship's probably sailed.

EUN-HEE:

Ah, don't start Kvadrataalking me.

SU-JIN:

Haha. I'll head home soon—try and catch a ride or something.

EUN-HEE:

Well, alright. Oh— (AWAY FROM THE COMMS) I'm coming, eomma!

Uh...I'll see you after work.

SFX: Eun-hee hangs up.

VIC:

Hey.

SU-JIN:

Whoa! Where did you come from?

VIC:

I've been tailing you since whatever you pulled in the Numitron.

MUSIC: Rush Hour by | e s c p.

SU-JIN:

You heard that?

VIC:

Just happened to be passing by. Lucky for me, too. You don't usually hear people getting accused of union activity.

SU-JIN:

Oh great. Are you gonna turn me in?

VIC:

God, no. Who do you think I am?

SU-JIN:

...A guy who's been following me, apparently?

VIC:

Ah, right. I'd probably better introduce myself. I'm Vic Vass. And you are?

SU-JIN:

Su-jin.

VIC:

Well, Su-jin. You ever heard of Zero Zero?

END EPISODE.

Hi, Eli Ramos here, creator and editor of Under the Electric Stars. If you liked this episode, please share it with your friends and rate and review it wherever you're listening to us. You can find us on our website at undertheelectricstars.com, or on social media: we're @utes_podcast on Twitter and [undertheelectricstarspodcast](https://www.tumblr.com/undertheelectricstarspodcast) on Tumblr. You can also find us on Patreon at [mxeliramos](https://www.patreon.com/mxeliramos), that's M-X-E-L-I-R-A-M-O-S. You get access to behind the scenes looks, annotated scripts, and early access to episodes—not just for Under the Electric Stars, but for all shows on Aster Podcasting Network. The money you give directly goes to supporting our editors, writers, and actors who make these shows possible. Please support us if you have the means. Our voice talents are as follows: Christine Kim as Su-jin Yi, Lauren Choo as Mom Yi, Megan Youmans as Min-seo Yi, Rachel

Lee as Ji-yeong Yi, Tim Briggs as Mars, Elissa Park as Eun-hee Yi, WhatNames as Enthusiastic Tagger, Su-Ling Chan as Thoughtful Tagger, and Vinay P. Nariani as Ryder Stauss. Additional voices were provided by yours truly.

Attributions for sounds and music used can be found in the show notes. Thanks to Fran Carr and Ezra Lee Buck, \$20 Patrons on our Patreon. And to everyone, thanks for listening, and see you in Metropolis West soon.