

## ***Digital Rain***

By: Taylor Miley

The rain slammed down onto the concrete of the dimly lit alley. The bright neon lights bounced off every surface, coloring the puddles in various shades of blue and red. Kaiya tucked further into her raincoat, water dripping off of her hood in streams. Glancing behind her, she hurriedly pushed past droves of people. When she passed a gap in the buildings, a firm arm yanked her into the darkness. Kaiya opened her mouth to scream, a cold hand covering it before a sound could escape. The face in front of her was just barely lit by the passing lights.

“What the hell Devon!” she spit out, removing his hand from her mouth. He looked at her with panicked eyes, raising a finger to his lips. She instinctively quieted.

Yells echoed down the street, growing louder with each passing moment. Two men wearing plated black gear rushed past them, traces of blue light running along the edges. The two retreated further into the shadows.

“Listen to me, we don’t have much time” Devon rushed out, nervously glancing over at the opening.

“I don’t understand, who are they looking for? Why are we hiding?” Kaiya prodded.

“I want to explain everything. I will, but please you have to listen to me. You have to get out of here. *Now.*”

“What are you talking ab-”

Devon yanks his sleeve up, revealing a pulsing blue light under the skin of his forearm. He holds it up.

“Holy shit.” Kaiya breathed out. She studied Devon’s face for any hint as to what he was thinking. His eyes met hers. Was it sorrow? Regret? She couldn’t tell. She let out a shaky breath, “You’re one of them.”

A twinge of hurt crossed his features. “Does it matter?”

She furrowed her brows. He had *lied* to her. They promised to not keep secrets from one another.

“Of course, it matters!” she whispered aggressively. “Do you really trust me that little?”

“I was trying to protect you!” he urged, gesturing to the glowing of his forearm. He took a deep breath, yanking off his hood. It revealed a long scar down the left side of his face. Gleaming silver shone through the crack, hints of blue glowing from underneath.

Kaiya gasped, pausing for a moment before reaching towards his face, “Devon-”

“I’m fine” he stated, pulling away from her. “I don’t want your pity.”