

POWERLESS: MEETING THE DIRECTOR

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[The following cutscene occurs after an introductory gameplay scene where the player character, the superhero known as the PLAGIARIST, aids fellow hero MORRÍGAN in a destructive fight against villain GRAY OGRE. During the battle, Morrigan loses her powers. The cutscene begins after the player defeats Gray Ogre and gets Morrigan to safety.]

EXT. RUINED CITY STREET - EVENING

Rubble covers the pavement. Feds and first responders mill around a fleet of emergency vehicles, conducting interviews and treating the injured while their FOOTSTEPS CRUNCH on the street's rubble. Helicopter ROTORS THRUM overhead, then recede. A TV reporter is on the scene. Somewhere offscreen, a CHILD CRIES.

And in the middle of it all, the PLAGIARIST stands lost in thought, his back to the camera. His dark costume, a long coat and cowl mask, is caked in grey concrete dust. He watches as federal agents in tactical gear load Gray Ogre's stasis pod into an armored truck, bound for prison.

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

What the hell just happened?

Plagiarist stiffens, then turns clockwise to face the speaker, the DIRECTOR. His boss.

TWO SHOT - PLAGIARIST AND DIRECTOR

The Director's face is expressionless under her sunglasses, her clean business suit and earpiece out of place alongside the debris and emergency equipment. She crosses her arms. She's angry.

PLAGIARIST

(shrugs)

I don't know. One minute Morrigan was holding her own, the next she was helpless. I want-

DIRECTOR

I saw what happened to her. You should have called for backup.

She points accusingly, her dark lenses reflecting the red and blue lights of a nearby police car.

PLAGIARIST

(shakes head)

There was no time. And it wouldn't have come to that if she hadn't been depowered. We need to-

DIRECTOR

What you need is to follow protocol. A response team would have gotten Gray Ogre out of the city for a cleaner arrest.

For the first time in the conversation, her expression changes. To a scowl. Plagiarist is the one crossing his arms now.

PLAGIARIST

And given him a chance to escape. I didn't. Isn't that worth something?

DIRECTOR

(gestures around)

Why don't you ask someone who lives here? You're lucky no one died!

WIDE - RUINED CITY STREET

Multiple buildings on the block have been leveled, and PAN down the street to firefighters working tirelessly to put out CRACKLING FLAMES in one building with ROARING HOSES.

CAMERA PANS again to EMTs loading a person into the back of an ambulance nearby, then SLAMMING DOORS shut.

CLOSE - PLAGIARIST

Plagiarist glances around before looking at the rubble beneath his feet. His face hardens under his cowl, and his hands drop to his sides.

PLAGIARIST

I just- No, you're right. What happened to Morrigan rattled me. It won't happen again.

TWO SHOT - PLAGIARIST AND DIRECTOR

The director crosses her arms again, her face returning to its familiar blank slate. Plagiarist looks up again.

DIRECTOR

Good. If you engage without my approval again, I will suspend you.

PLAGIARIST

(quietly, nodding)

Understood.

He relaxes, absentmindedly brushing dust off the front of his jacket for a moment before continuing.

PLAGIARIST

About Morrigan: powers don't just disappear on their own. I want to look into what happened.

DIRECTOR

(nods)

And the board will want to hear about it. It's unfortunate, but at least she's the only one.

She glances off to the side, placing a finger on her earpiece and listening for a beat. Plagiarist brushes more dirt off his costume sleeve before responding.

PLAGIARIST

Right now. If every hero is taken out of commission, who'll stop the next nutjob who gets powers?

DIRECTOR

Funny. I was just thinking how much easier my job would be if people like you couldn't topple buildings.

CLOSE - DIRECTOR

She turns to leave but touches her earpiece again. After listening for a moment, she looks back at Plagiarist.

DIRECTOR

Morrigan's medivac has reached HQ. She's not conscious, but I suggest you be there when she wakes.

With that final message, she disappears into the crowd.

MED. SHOT - PLAGIARIST

Plagiarist is alone once again despite being surrounded by people. He lets out a sigh of relief before turning into the crowd of people himself.