

—one of Lower Town’s veiled entrances.

away by cigarette butts, or muddied from where he’d been kicked and shoved.

Her clothes and long flowing hair was unceremoniously plastered to her face. She’d obviously

They probably tried to extract some information from him

Information about me...

“I didn’t think you’d show,” the one on the left mocked in a raspy
“risking your life just for this garbage? How unbecoming.”

“Electricity doesn’t do so well in the rain!” The kidnappers laughed with each other, as if they’d

That gave the kid the perfect opportunity to gaze into the woman’s eyes. He may have been
bound and gagged, but they hadn’t blindfolded him. The woman’s murderous

—

He knew he was going to die here. He wouldn’t let her die, too.

Not for someone as stupid and weak as me.

—

She’s going to try and save me. He didn’t want to be saved. He
really didn’t want to be saved. He knew what powers his master had... but he could also feel the raw

Please don’t waste your time on me. Please save yourself. Leave me.

I don’t deserve your kindness.

I’m not worth it. I’m not worth it!

If he wasn't gagged, he'd have yelled, screamed, shouted nasty things, *anything*

even if he had... wouldn't have . She'd
at her out of the corner of his eye, as if he didn't deserve to catch a glimpse of

A god shouldn't be treated like this!

enemies that stood to the boy's left. Their laughter

"Ooh, scary," the female kidnapper chuckled. "Oh! I get it! I know why you're so mad!" She
secret. *"Is this little brat your , Aurora?"*

Aurora took a step forward. "I can take you both. At once."

"Really?" He removed his . "How
about now?"

"You!" Aurora

toothed grin. "Hello *cousin*."

"You slimy bastard. *You died!*"

"I almost did, yeah. Nice try back there in Paris though. It almost worked." He walked over to
Garic and squatted down on his haunches, pushing Garic's face back into the mud. "And how's your
brother now days, hmm?" He asked, as if he were passing an old friend on the street, and not killing

"I hear someone
that?"

"None of your business, ." She muttered, clenching her fists.

"Ooh, she called you by your real name!" The other kidnapper snickered.

"Ah, good good. Sounds nice." He nodded a few times, ignoring his partner. After a few
moments he pulled Garic's face out of the mud, by his ha

returned his attention to Aurora. "So. You think you can take two
Apostles... at the same time, in a fight? Hah. *Even for a god, that's conceited.*
this?"

Aurora grinned ferociously. "Like this." She flashed to Garic's side at the speed of light, right in

Aurora

"Dual manifestation?"

him. "Drop your weapon, Aurora," cooed, "You don't wanna to do this." The other kidnapper came

And then, to their utter surprise... *she did*. She dropped Erasmus's Dual Manifestation onto the

"What the—!"

"Burst! Sora!" She called. An Uzi

"Cut the sho boy gets it... and you only get ta' choose *onea those per lifetime*, . And you're no Original! Haha "

"Sneaky sneaky!" He hollered.

"Now drop the weapon!" The woman ordered. " r I'll kill him!"

She's undeniably insane.

She'll kill him anyway.

just as Garic cried out in pain, Aurora's gun
's

Aurora's side

"Intangibility? From an Airmaster? Impressive." Aurora commented. "But I can still *feel* electricity going through your body, girly."

"You okay, Trin?"

"Just like new." She sneered in Aurora's direction.

"You can't escape Aurora. Give it up." . "You can't beat two... as
you say... '*Major Players*,' "

"You're no Major Player."
Garic protectively. " " She muttered.

somebody's

"What'r

arts us?!"

Aurora grinned, materializing another Uzi in her other hand. "Come and find out, *cousin*." She
west cowboy. "I was the one that taught my punk
and how to use a gun
just fine. It can't be that hard then, can it?"
's face turned a shade of red. "Why you—" "I'll make you a bet." Aurora stated simply.

"Bet?"

"Yep." She said, a grin spreading across her face, raising her foot off the ground. "See this sword
on my foot? My main? I bet I can fight both of you... *and balance this on my foot at the same time.*"

The two Apostles frowned. "You conceited bitch." Trin responded, making the
Aurora's

"Don't underestimate me." Trin

under Trin's exposed armpit.

"*You* don't underestimate *me*." Aurora his
. Aurora hopped back on one foot, blood trickling down her face. "*I expected more.*" She lulled.

shook his head sadly. "I see. You're pretty good Aurora. Pretty damn good. I'm sure if you
really wanted, you could've been a much more powerful Major Player..." he sighed. "... and yet... you
little brother of yours. How pathetic."
, scratching at her armpit. "I owe you for that." She said, referring

Aurora smirked. "Come and get me you two. Maybe if you go serious, I'll pull Erasmus's *true form* from its sheath."

turned his head to one side. "Really. See... *I anticipated this.*"

Aurora's eyes widened. "What?"

. "Mistress, look! Over there."

They'd

had to have been shielded by a damn good Lightmaster to avoid my senses...

"So you *did* kup?" Aurora phrased it as more of a statement than a question

"That's so like you. Can never fight your own battles. What a loser."

" — nd so I did. Let's face it, Aurora. You're just too damn good. Even with a lower pulse
n the top Major Players... you just... *know your shit too damn well.* And we can't have that, now can
we? You'll have to die here first."

"Tch." Aurora muttered. She knew all three. "G , Reiya, and Christ." Sh
"Who's the newb? You into that kind
" She made a sweeping motion with her Uzi hand. "That goes for all of you."

They didn't respond to her banter. Instead, Reiya and G

"Garic," she muttered. He looked up at her with tears in his eyes. "Garic. There's no time for
move I taught you?"

. "You mean the one to call—"

"Yes," she interrupted, "Use it. Now. Make sure you stay with it the whole way."

"What about you mistress?"

"I can handle myself." She sounded offended that he even had to

"Yes, !" He responded

sword's handle

her approaching enemies, protecting Garic's back

They didn't waste any time.

, pulling her arm back... *and the sword along with it*

shing!

urora's Erasmus came whistling through the air. It would've sliced the fool Trin clean in
half, had she not gone intangible. Erasmus's blade passed right through her. Trin resolidified, laughing;

The others weren't so stupid, and timed their rush so that Aurora was assaulted simultaneously,

Glacis, dodged a swipe of his foot, only to run into Trin's claws. She

... all the while

They couldn't

" !" He shouted

Aurora didn't even hear him. If she lost focus on what she was doing even for a second, and

her

Disgusting.

hardest to tug free of Garic'

I'm screwed

Unless...

Shit! Did I do it wrong?! Oh no!

cking. True, he didn't have a

call technique

—

"That's it? That's your big master plan? Did you get senile while I was away, Aurora?"

She rolled her eyes, doing a few back flips, landing by Garic's side.

gs... formulating an escape plan. She'd have already made it
out of here by now if she didn't have Garic around, but light sn't an option

sing Aurora's intentions, Christ stood. "That's enough analysis. We've gathere

alive."

"Hah!" Aurora laughed, grabbing Garic's hand.

To tell the truth, she'd never tried jumping light speed with a passenger before, so she didn't

*Would we be conjoined, or switch body parts, or some other freaky
sci-fi teleportation crap? Who knows. Who cares I don't*

"I don't think so." Christ smirked.

"What the hell?" She tried again. And again. "Where is my power?" She hissed.

Christ clapped his hands. "My kid here. He's an Angelmaster,

I've even got him

specific zone, instead of his whole Pulse now. Guess who he's canceling out , hmm?"

" , Trin. If you will." Christ asked, pointing at

bribery. Aurora couldn't tell. She shook her head, assessing her options.

had come quite a bit closer, leering. "You play with fire... you're gunna get burned. You ever hear that saying, cousin?" He asked.

"Let die forever!" He shouted, eyes mad with glee

flames were licking up Aurora's back. Her once glorious hair was on fire. Her clothes were burning. Glacis lay under her, protected by her body... *for now*

"No!" Garic cried, as he watched the very flames themselves eat away at Aurora's flesh. "Wait! Don't do this for me!"

"Garic," Aurora wheezed. "Garic, listen to me, damnit. Listen. I've chosen you as my sole heir. You must carry on where I could not."

"Empress—!"

"This is my fault. I sent you on that errand, and you got caught because of it. Do not blame yourself."

"But—!"

"Garic! That's an order.

You'll see him soon. I promised you I'd save you right? You'll meet him one day. Tell him that for me, okay."

"Be safe. I will always be with you, *Lightning Emperor Garic.*"

—

—

Angelmaster's Pulse

"What the hell?!" Trin exclaimed

"What are you doing you flames. Aurora's voice. It was weak.

here!" Came a shout f

towards him. She was out of the Apostles' visibility range in a matter of sec

“ Demonmaster Talus. Why is he here?”
“ ...
” Christ bellowed . “Apostles! Don’t let him get
!”

*I didn't expect an aerial battle. If we can't get the Anti-Pulse airborne, or
at extreme long range... we'll be vulnerable to fliers like him ... unless the Skyking joins me.
I'm sure he'll join me*

What have I
done? sky as he was, he couldn't see a thing on the ground except a few specks

“Gluttony,” Talus murmured to a

“Lust, Envy, Sloth, Greed, Gluttony, Pride... an
flames. We're going to save her—”

“Go, Talus.” Aurora shouted. “Or I'll kill you! *Please!*” Were Aurora's final words
. She'd never said “please” in her life.

, eyes screwed shut. “It is her wish.” He muttered. “I will honor it.” He turned
. “N *death curse.*”
It's all my fault . He'd just killed the only person that'd ever

*But it wasn't over
The sky will open... and everybody dies.*