

HEROIC SENDOFF

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

JASON (15) stands outside of the reception room he hears cries and whimpers coming from the room. He grits his teeth trying to put himself together.

Eventually the reception room doors burst open with a large crowd of mourning people. Jason pushes past them to see COMMANDER JUSTICE inside the open casket.

Jason walks to the front row and sits to stare at the casket as he watches a ton of people pay their respects. He watches till day becomes night.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Jason is left alone with Commander Justice; the reception hall is completely empty. He gets up and walks towards the casket.

JASON

You're bigger than I remember.
Sir, you were my favorite *Triple Trooper*. Don't get me wrong Steel Stud and Mr. Peculiar are great
bu-

A loud thud is heard from behind Jason he turns around and sees STEEL STUD.

STEEL STUD

Damn it I wanted to hear the rest.

JASON

Steel Stud? What're you doing here?

STEEL STUD

I don't have a bedtime...speaking of which shouldn't you be home?

JASON

My mom let me stay out late this once.

A silence draws between the two.

STEEL STUD

He was your favorite right?

JASON

Yeah he was...I didn't mean to offend you.

STEEL STUD

Wanna hear a secret?

Jason nods

STEEL STUD (CONT.)

He was mine too. If you need me to leave I can.

JASON

No, I think the company is nice.

Steel Stud makes his way down the aisle and sits down in the first row.

STEEL STUD

Why was he your favorite?

JASON

He never backed down...a skinny kid from Chicago who grew up became a boxer...instead of fighting for titles. He fought for people. Never lost till-

STEEL STUD

He NEVER lost a fight. I can't clean up my own messes, and it costs the world its hero.

JASON

What do you mean?

STEEL STUD

I was afraid to face Flarecore in a fight. We fought once and almost melted me in my suit. I was dispatched after him, but Justice took the call instead.

JASON

I would've been afraid too, don't blame yourself.

STEEL STUD

Kid you weren't there...I should've handled it.

JASON

You're wrong

STEEL STUD

Oh! You think I shouldn't have handled it?

JASON

I was there.

Steel Stud is taken aback.

STEEL STUD

You're one of the Encino Theater survivors?

JASON

I was the last one to leave the building. I was trapped underneath rubble while Justice was fighting Flarecore. He had to make a choice and he chose me. Which ended up giving him a fatal blow.

Jason falls to his knees in front of the casket.

JASON (CONT.)

Everyone says never meet your heroes, but I did, he was everything and more, but because of me he's gone. Commander Justice we'll never know how grateful I am...he'll never know I wanted to be just like him.

Jason holds back tears but begins to sob uncontrollably. Steel Stud grabs tissues from his steel suit. He walks over to Jason and hands him the tissues.

STEEL STUD

I brought these for me, but I'd be a bad hero if I didn't help you.

Jason chuckles lightly.

JASON

Thanks.

STEEL STUD

What's your name kid?

JASON

Jason.

STEEL STUD

Jason, you were a kid in the wrong place at the right time. If Justice knew the outcome that would've happened he'd choose you over and over again.

JASON
Why? I'm one kid.

STEEL STUD
Who saves lives?

JASON
Superheroes.

STEEL STUD
Wrong people save lives. Doesn't matter if you wear a cape or not. One life saved could mean hundreds more live. You could solve the cure for cancer. Each person has a chain connecting to other people.

JASON
What's your point?

STEEL STUD
I'm getting there...Justice taught me this, and it was the last thing he thought when saving you.

JASON
Thanks, but I doubt that.

STEEL STUD
That's okay I'm certain.

Steel Stud helps Jason up off the ground.

STEEL STUD (CONT.)
Look, I'm here to bring Justice to his favorite spot in the city. Why don't you join us?

JASON
You're gonna carry a casket outta here?

STEEL STUD
That body and casket are fake, the real Commander Justice is right over there.

Steel Stud points over to an urn on a shelf in a far corner.

STEEL STUD (CONT.)

He always wanted to watch his funeral.

JASON

Where are you going?

STEEL STUD

We're going to the top of Willis Tower. He loves it there.

JASON

Are you gonna fly me up there?

STEEL STUD

Well, can you carry an urn?

JASON

I got it just please hold on tight.

STEEL STUD

Please Jason the only people I drop are ex's.

EXT. CHICAGO - NIGHT

Steel Stud walks towards the exit of the funeral. Jason quickly follows behind and is handed the urn as Steel Stud swings the doors open.

Steel Stud gets on the sidewalk as Jason jumps into his arms. Steel Stud's thrusters begin to rev up, and as soon as the thrusters turn red the blast off.

The night sky is dim and the stars are not shining. Going throughout the city all lights seem to be off in remembrance.

Steel Stud and Jason quickly approach the top of the building, and Steel Stud lands a little heavy on the building causing a dent.

STEEL STUD

Insurance covers that.

He lets Jason out of his arms.

STEEL STUD (CONT.)

I'll give you two a private moment.

Steel Stud walks towards the other side of the rooftop, and sits on the edge.

JASON

Commander Justice I want...I wish I could thank you. Because of you I get to go on. I promise I won't throw away this gift. Everyday I'll make up the debt I owe you. Thank you Justice for inspiring me and more importantly saving me.

Jason turns around and sees Steel Stud standing over his shoulder.

STEEL STUD

Sorry I couldn't resist.

JASON

It's okay I knew you were there. You aren't exactly quiet.

STEEL STUD

Yeah I know...do you wanna do the honors?

JASON

No you knew him I didn't.

STEEL STUD

I think he'd want this.

JASON

Are you sure?

STEEL STUD

Kid...I'm always certain.

Jason turns towards the edge of the building. He opens the top of the urn. He slowly pours it over the edge. The ashes blow in the wind; they spread in different directions almost looking like they are trying to cover the city.

STEEL STUD (CONT.)

Thanks for coming up here tonight. It means a lot to me.

JASON

It means a lot for the both of us...but I do have a question?

STEEL STUD

Shoot kid.

JASON

What kinda name is Steel Stud?

STEEL STUD

Justice was good at a lot, but not names.

THE END