

Ninjago: Neon Warfare  
Episode Fourteen: "History in Red"

By  
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Based on  
LEGO Ninjago

EXT. NINJAGO CITY - DAY

The wind blows green tinted snowflakes around in the greyed sky.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

In a realm filled with unfairness,  
ones victory is a loss for another,  
and ones mourning is justice for the  
other.

The snowflakes fall from the clouds to reveal Ninjago city underneath. Everything seems DULL, the sky an especially dull grey- or green. We aren't quite sure.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

Just like death and victory, good and  
evil are two sides of the same coin.

The sun hides from us and a chill is sent throughout the city. The snow falls..

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

Yet, everyone spends their lives  
trying to differentiate between the  
two. I say it's bullshit.

...and falls and falls until its trajectory is interrupted by someone QUICKLY passing by.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

It's all bullshit, in fact.

ON THE PASSERBY

NELSON peddles frantically as the snow blows past him. He grabs a newspaper from the basket in front of him and THROWS it. The newspaper HITS DARETH in the face.

DARETH

OW!

NELSON

Sorry!

Nelson turns in front of him.

NELSON

Keon stop! You're going too fast!

ON KEON

We see KEON booking it down the street of Ninjago city. He is fast and burning rubber. Keon quickly swerves to the right and throws a newspaper. The newspaper falls right next to the mailbox of the convenience store, exactly where Keon wanted it to go.

KEON

Am I going too fast? Or are you going too slow?

NELSON

Antonia said to be careful on the ice!- And I'm not slow! (panting) Just small-

KEON

A little ice never hurt me. C'mon, let me show you a thing or two!

NELSON

Show me what?!-

As they approach a downhill road, Keon peddles faster and FLIES off the road into the air. Keon switches gears mid-air until he hits the ground and DASHES down the road at full speed.

NELSON

Whoa- Okay- We're doing this!

Nelson copies Keon. He is successful but much less precise than Keon. The road levels out and Keon swerves through cars and traffic, Nelson following close behind. Keon pops a wheelie and yells out an excitable laugh. Nelson watches nervously. Keon looks back to check up on Nelson and slows down.

KEON

You can do it Purple Ninja! Just follow me!

Keon pops another wheelie, Nelson watches, then successfully pops a wheelie. He yells out triumphantly.

KEON

See!? What'd I tell you?

NELSON

(Smiling) Thanks, Silver Ninja!

Keon turns to his front and his smile fades sharply.

KEON

Careful Nelson, we're headin' into the  
darkness.

Nelson frowns and grips the handles on his bike.

NELSON

Right.

WIDE SHOT: As Nelson and Keon peddle away from us, the camera pans away from them to reveal a large part of the city under a SHADOWY DARKNESS. The camera pans out more to reveal the cause of the darkness. The four enormous SPADE SHIPS float over the city.

ON NELSON AND KEON

The boys make their way into the darkness. The city in their surrounding area feels as if it's been engulfed in the winterly night. Very few people are out and the traffic seems to suddenly lighten. The road is icier within the darkness. Keon sees the light near them and picks up his pace.

KEON

C'mon, let's get outta here.

As they are about to re-enter the light, they pass by store with a series of televisions in the window. The televisions are on NGTV News. As they draw near, something from the televisions grabs Keon's attention. He whips his head toward the TV.

ON TV

From outside we can hear the voices of Gayle Gossip, but we cannot make out what is being said. However, we can see next to her is a photo of ZANE and the NINJA. Their photo is greyed out. A text rolls in from the bottom:

"The defeat of the Emperor and his allies: One month later."

Keon widens his eyes at the sight of Zane on screen. Suddenly the wheels on Keon's bike lose traction and Keon's bike spirals out of control as they enter the light.

NELSON

(Screams) Keon!

Keon PANICS as he slides across the ice. Keon struggles and

fails to gain control of his bike, he is about to hit a traffic pole. Keon JUMPS off his bike, HITS and TUMBLES onto ground as his bike CRASHES into the pole. Nelson quickly rides over worried about his friend. Nelson gets off his bike to hold out a hand to Keon.

NELSON

A- Are you okay!?

Keon grabs Nelsons hand and is pulled up by his friend. Keon grabs his shoulder. We can see scrapes on his chin and knees.

KEON

I think I'm okay-

Keon looks over to his broken bike. We can tell that it is unusable.

KEON

My parents are gonna kill me if Irys  
doesn't first-

Keon picks up his bike and quickly examines it. Nelson walks over to him, but his gaze shifts to the gigantic Spade Ship in the sky.

NELSON

What do you think Mayor Aristos is  
doing?

KEON

(Messing with bike) I don't know and I  
don't care. Spade isn't cool.

Nelson tilts his head down and balls his hand into a fist. He turns to Keon who's attempting to stand his bike up.

NELSON

But the Ninja weren't cool either-

Keon stops what he is doing immediately. He widens his eyes and turns to Nelson utterly bewildered.

KEON

What.

Nelson turns to Keon, tugging on his black backpack.

NELSON

That's what my mom keeps telling me.  
The Ninja are- were the bad guys.

Keon begins walking his bike down the street, Nelson follows suit.

KEON

The Ninja weren't bad. They were the good guys, and whoever thinks otherwise is wack.

NELSON

But. You have to admit, we hadn't seen them do any good for a while.

Keon frowns.

KEON

That's not true.

NELSON

(Not listening) The only reason I am even allowed at work is because Spade defeated the Ninja-

Keon frowns and PULLS Nelson into an alleyway.

NELSON

Hey! WH-

KEON

The Ninja did do good. I saw it.

Nelson widens his eyes and Keon nods.

KEON

The day Dewei got hurt- the Titanium Ninja saved him.

NELSON

(Excitedly) I knew it! I knew the Ninja were still good I-

Keon shushes him as he looks around.

KEON

Yeah- I don't think a bad guy would go out of their way to save my brother, but something was off about him.

NELSON

what do you mean?

KEON

I mean- the Emp- the Titanium Ninja  
looked out of it. Like he was  
distracted.

Keon shoves his hands in his pockets.

KEON

That entire night is a blur to me- and  
I spent most of it at the hospital-  
but I do know he did some good- even  
if he may or may not be good anymore.

NELSON

...None of this adds up. I wish we  
could ask them.

Nelson widens his eyes.

NELSON

That's it! Let's ask them!

Keon turns to him bewildered.

KEON

What? Nelson, they're dead-

Keon interrupts himself as he has the same realization as  
Nelson.

KEON

But we've thought that before.

NELSON

If they are alive we can find  
them!...I've sort of done something  
like this before.

KEON

Where did you go?

NELSON

The monastery!

KEON

(Smiling) Then we'll start there! And  
If not! Me and you will become the new  
Ninja!

NELSON

WHAT?! But we're just kids!

Nelson and Keon peep out of the alleyway and stare up at the large Spade Ship.

KEON

The Green Ninja was younger than you  
when he became a Ninja.

Nelson and Keon pull their Ninja masks on.

NELSON

You're right. Let's do this.

EXT. ROOF OF BORG TOWER - "DAY" WITHIN THE DARKNESS

We see two glowing green eyes pop out of the vent from the roof. It is EVEN. Even gets onto the roof and looks around. We see shards of glass being illuminated from her eyes.

EVEN

Huh. (scratches head with wrist) Is  
this where my hand is?

Suddenly, a glass bottle HITS Even in the head. She falls unconscious and collapses onto the ground. We can hear a laugh echo from far away.

EXT. BALCONY OF SPADE SHIP - DAY

We see the HOURGLASS AUTHOR laughing hysterically as she stares down at the roof of Borg tower.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

That's the third time this week!

The HA grabs a glass bottle and drinks the rest of its contents, we can assume it's some sort of alcohol. She spins the bottle and THROWS it down below. The bottle hits the glowing Borg Industries Logo and SHATTERS on impact. The HA laughs, she is very amused. The HA sees a bird in the distance, she grabs another bottle and THROWS it at the bird. she misses and GROWLS. The bird flies by and SHITS on her jacket. The HA stops moving. Nothing but her pupils straining to the right as the bird flies by.

INT. SPADE SHIP HALLWAY- DAY

It is dark but we can still make out the HA storming down the hall. She walks hunched over, incredibly peeved. The HA is no longer wearing her jacket. She holds it in one hand and the DEAD BIRD in the other hand.



INT. SPADE SHIP THRONE ROOM - DAY

She enters a LARGE ROOM. The room is a warm orange color. Vast and empty with a beautiful chandelier at the top. At the end of the room is a THRONE. The HA's footsteps echo and fill the silence. Blood drips from the bird and onto the floor. The HA walks over to the throne. She THROWS the bird INTO the wall. Feathers fly as the corpse HITS the wall and falls to the ground. Leaving a splatter of blood on the wall. The HA plops down on her throne, holding her jacket.

From the other end of the large open room, a door opens. DARWIN walks through. Darwin is a small man with dark skin and braided hair. He walks hastily holding a multitude of files and other important papers. He seems stressed and tired. Upon the sight of the Hourglass Author, he abruptly shifts. Attempting to look more put together and hiding his fear.. He approaches the throne and desperately tries to ignore the dead bird and blood across the floor.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

What do you want, Darwin?

DARWIN

I am here to give you the annual monthly report, Mayor.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

Don't call me that.

DARWIN

Apologies, Author.

There is an awkward silence as the HA stares at Darwin. She taps her foot waiting.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

Well?? Spit it out!

Darwin starts flipping through the files in his hands.

DARWIN

Apologies. (Clears throat) Spade Recruitment is up 50% from last month with a total of 229 new members in training...Overall public approval is up 30% from last month...

The HA slouches in her throne, she looks bored.

DARWIN  
 Project Checkmate is underway,  
 although going much slower than  
 anticipated...

The HA growls.

DARWIN  
 ...F- Finally, we have encountered  
 some problems with the excavation  
 process at the-

The HA GLITCHES to a standing position.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
 What do you mean...Problems?

DARWIN  
 (Hesitates) We are getting reports  
 that it is too cold over there. The  
 equipment is malfunctioning and some  
 of our Agents have gotten  
 frostbitten...They say it's way too  
 dangerous-

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
 (Scoffs) Too dangerous!! (laughs) I've  
 seen colder...felt how deadly and  
 suffocating the cold can be, and  
 that's not it. Nowhere in Ninjago is  
 it that cold. They're pussies.

DARWIN  
 Perhaps we should halt the excavation  
 process and re-evaluate, Mayor-

The HA GLITCHES in front of Darwin.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
 I am not the Mayor! Aristos is!

DARWIN  
 ...But Aristos is dead-

The HA GRABS him by the collar of his suit with her bloodied  
 hand. Darwin widens his eyes in fear. Files and papers fly  
 everywhere.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
 And who do you think told you that  
 hm?!

DARWIN

Y- you did, M- Author.

The HA GLITCHES in and out. Darwin falls to the ground and the HA's brows furrow. Darwin looks up at the HA as she glitches in and out again.

DARWIN

Permission to speak freely, please?

The HA seems a bit distracted and grunts in approval. Darwin stands.

DARWIN

I am incredibly grateful for you and Aristos' work to avenge my mother, may she rest in peace-

Darwin takes a photo from his pocket and looks at it. The photo is of the previous Mayor.

DARWIN

However I don't understand why you are keeping this from the public, you said yourself that everyone deserves the truth!

The HA glitches in and out. We can tell she is frowning despite not being able to see her mouth.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

The people will get their truth soon.  
For now they trust him and I-  
(glitches) I need to- (glitches)

The HA glitches again and growls in frustration. Darwin looks concerned.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

Damn it! (glitches)

DARWIN

Author- are you-

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

Go do whatever the hell it is you do!

ON HA

The Hourglass Author is outlined in a glitchy red as the background changes to a SPADE HALLWAY. She sways and knocks

into the wall as she glitches in and out. She hastily makes her way down the hall fazing in and out. Her breathing quickens as she makes her way down another part of the hallway and in front of a LARGE circular door. She pulls a series of levers to the side and opens a keypad, slowed by her powers.

She enters a password onto the keypad. She glitches away for a long moment, before coming back and entering the last digit of the password. The door opens to a DARKROOM illuminated in red light.

INT. DARK ROOM - DAY

She enters and CLOSES the door. The door locks and steam emits from the door as it locks. The HA falls to her knees as the glitchy red surrounding her POURS from her and spreads out across the room. The HA leans over putting her hands on the floor. We can see nothing but the white-red silhouette of her hair. She takes off her metal mask and THROWS it away from her as she takes in a deep breath. Her identity still hidden by her hair.

INT. CAR - DAY

We see IRYS in her car and on her phone. She looks annoyed as she texts someone. We hear a text send and then another. She sighs. Irys presses on her phone and we hear the phone ring from the speakers on her car. The phone goes to voicemail.

IRYS

Keon! Where are you?! I told you we  
had to meet mom at the hospital today!

She hangs up the phone irritated. She sits for a moment, then turns her car off and gets out.

EXT. NEWSPAPER GARAGE - DAY

Irys makes her way to the open garage. Someone is there about to close the door.

IRYS

Hey wait!

The boy turns to her, he recognizes her.

IRYS

Have you seen Keon?

## NEWSPAPER GUY

Keon and Nelson said they were having a sleep over. They left an hour ago.

Irys frowns. She looks worried but also incredibly annoyed. Irys' phone RINGS. She checks it expecting Keon, instead the phone reads "Mom <3". Irys widens her eyes and answers. We can immediately hear yelling through the phone, the Newspaper Guy widens his eyes and walks in the other direction.

## IRYS

(Stammering) Yes! I- Mom!...I'm sorry we're late-

Irys turns in the other direction as she struggles to get a word in with her mom. In the far distance we can see a mountain. The mountain where the Monastery is. Irys squints her eyes.

## IRYS

Yes- yes- I know where he is...I've got everything under control. Yes we will be there!

Irys' mom hangs up. Irys frowns as she looks toward the monastery.

## IRYS

You better not be doing what I think you are doing.

INT. BUS - DAY

We see Keon and Nelson riding on the bus. They have their bikes with them. Keon is attempting to fix his broken bike. Nelson is looking out the window toward the monastery in the distance. He turns to Keon.

## NELSON

Do you think what Spade has been saying about the Ninja is true?

Keon immediately and silently shushes him. Nelson mouths "I'm sorry" and they begin to speak quietly.

## KEON

...I used to think Spade was lying, but after that night...I don't know.

## NELSON

What do you mean?

A woman in the background sitting a few seats away eyes the boys.

KEON

Like- he looked confused.

NELSON

What was he confused about?

KEON

(Shrugs) Not sure, but it looked like he was trying to decide whether or not to save my brother- even though he was obviously about to get hurt.

Nelson raises his eyebrows, confused about Keon's statement.

NELSON

(To himself) Why would anyone be confused about saving someone's life-

KEON

Yes! I fixed it!

Nelson looks over to Keon who has just grabbed everyone's attention on the bus. Keon slouches in embarrassment and smiles awkwardly at the people on the bus who seem less than amused.

KEON

(To Nelson) Not sure about that either, but we can ask them real soon once we get to the monastery.

The bus stops and people begin getting off the bus. Keon and Nelson pull their hoods back down.

NELSON

Let's go help the Ninja.

They give one another a fist bump, and get off the bus. The woman in the back watches them leave and then gets on her phone. We hear ringing from her earbuds.

SPADE (OVER-DEVICE)

Hello, you've reached Spade's Office of Administration.

WOMAN

Hello...I am led to believe you are about to have a problem.

SPADE (OVER-DEVICE)  
What kind of problem, ma'am?

WOMAN  
A Ninja problem.

INT. DARK ROOM - DAY

We see the Hourglass Author laying down on her side, head laying to the side so we can't make out her identity. We can tell she is thinking and deeply conflicted. The HA grunts to herself and puts her hand in front of her face. Her hand OUTLINES itself in a glitchy red for just a moment. Coming and going as if the HA thought about doing something but hesitated. The HA lays on her back, her hand still hovering above her face. The HA's hand shakes and the glitchy red outlining her hand returns.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
(Glitchy) I promised myself I'd never  
do this again-

The HA lowers her hand shakily toward her face, the outline around her hand becomes thick and more noticeable. She closes her eyes.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
But I need your help.

GLITCH MONTAGE

The HA touches her face...We hear a STATIC noise as her eyes are FORCED open...Her pupils dilate...her breathing quickens...her eyes fill with the glitchy patterns as the camera zooms in on her pupil, filling the screen with glitchy red patterns.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)  
I need to remember what he said.

The glitchy patterns that fill our screen shift and move as we continue to zoom in. The patters start to make out shapes of a room and a man. The glitchy patterns slowly fade away, revealing a large office room with ARISTOS sitting down.

INT. OFFICE ROOM (FLASHBACK) - DAY

The office room is seen from a tiny keyhole. The Hourglass Author is looking into this room.

ON ARISTOS

Aristos sits straight up at the end of a table. There is a file and some papers in front of him. He appears to be waiting for someone and in deep thought. His train of thought is interrupted however when the HA GLITCHES into a chair next to Aristos, promptly startling him.

ARISTOS

(Irritated) What are you doing here?

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

(Puts feet on the table) What? I'm a Spade Agent now, shouldn't I be allowed in your super top-secret meetings?

ARISTOS

Get your feet down! We've been over this, you aren't exactly suited for-

The intercom on the ceiling of the room turns on.

INTERCOM

He is ready for you, sir.

Aristos quickly turns to the HA.

ARISTOS

Don't move. Don't look at him. Don't talk.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

You act like I look at people weird.

The HA stares at Aristos with her head tilted to the side and her elbows on the table.

ARISTOS

Don't do that and get your elbows off the table!

The HA pulls her arms off the table and slouches. The door opens and a woman walks through. She has a slicked back brown hair and blue eyes that appear to be a little too bright to be normal. Right behind her wheels in CYRUS BORG. Aristos smiles and turns to the woman that is about to sit down.

ARISTOS

Might I ask-

BAILEY

Bailey Borg. Cyrus' lawyer.



CYRUS

Also known as my daughter. She insisted I bring someone with me.

BAILEY

Of course. After learning the hard way that my father is sought after even by elemental masters. It only makes sense to have someone accompany you at all times.

ARISTOS

I'm so sorry about what happened.

CYRUS

I am here, and that's what matters now.

ARISTOS

(Nods) I completely understand. I was in an accident myself that left me on my deathbed, and my children would not leave my side. Even when I wanted them to!

Cyrus and Aristos share a chuckle. Bailey frowns as the HA stares at her from across the table in an uncomfortable manner.

CYRUS

You have kids?

ARISTOS

Yes. Twin girls, and I had a son.

CYRUS

(Frowns) I am so sorry.

ARISTOS

I am too, but-

BAILEY

Who is the human staring at me?

Aristos and Cyrus pause.

ARISTOS

...This is my assistant.

BAILEY

(Writing in notebook) Their name?

Aristos is about to speak before being interrupted.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

You can call me the Hourglass Author.  
And why do you wanna know me so bad,  
Pal?

The HA puts her hands on the table and leans toward Bailey.  
Aristos give the HA a death stare.

ARISTOS

I apologize on behalf of my assistant.  
The Author would prefer to remain  
anonymous.

The HA squints her eyes at Bailey who is writing in her  
notebook.

BAILEY

Why have you set this meeting with my  
client?

Aristos slides a file to the other end of the table to Cyrus.  
The file has text that reads "The Equilibrium Project by  
Spade".

ARISTOS

I am Aristos, head of the S.P.A.D.D.E  
branch of Ninjago cities federal  
government.

Bailey and Cyrus begin to look through the files. The HA  
slouches in her chair. Aristos presses a button on the table.  
The lights dim and a hologram of Ninjago appears.

ARISTOS

I know you are pressed for time so I  
will make this presentation quick.  
Over the centuries, Ninjago has faced  
countless villains and evildoers who  
have thwarted any chance of human  
development across the continent.  
Leaving most of the population stuck  
in poverty for generations. That being  
said, in our darkest hours after the  
first defeat of the Overlord, you  
managed to singlehandedly create one  
of the most bustling and  
technologically advanced cities to  
ever exist, and just under a year at  
that.

CYRUS

Thank you, but there was a grave cost to that, one that I and many others suffered from.

ARISTOS

There was an unfortunate cost yes. A cost that we can avoid this time around.

CYRUS

I'm not following.

ARISTOS

I want to do what you did, but on a much larger scale.

Large dots representing towns on the hologram appear.

ARISTOS

I want to bring technology to these rural areas and help them develop as you did with Ninjago city. These people do not deserve to live in poverty because of wars fought before their time. We can change things.

CYRUS

I'm intrigued, but I am unsure how this involves me?

ARISTOS

The federal government does not have the resources, or the brains to make my vision a reality, but you do.

Cyrus Borg frowns.

ARISTOS

If Spade and Borg Industries work together then we can spread our wealth across the-

CYRUS

Absolutely not.

Everyone turns to Cyrus in shock at his statement.

ARISTOS

I don't think you understand Mr. Borg. We can break a cycle here-

CYRUS

I understand all too well. I will not have my technology spread out in that manner again, only for it to result in more destruction. There are consequences-

ARISTOS

I understand the consequences, but there are real people out there that don't have to suffer-

CYRUS

I will not work for someone to produce their vision, I will not make the same mistake.

ARISTOS

Mr. Borg please-

BAILEY

That is enough. My client has spoken.

Aristos looks defeated.

ARISTOS

(Nods) Very well, thank you for your time.

Cyrus nods back as he and Bailey Borg leave the room. There is silence. Aristos gets up and walks out the door. The HA TELEPORTS next to Aristos. They walk down the hallway. We can tell Aristos is angry.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

You're angry, and yet you were so kind to them. They didn't deserve that kindness.

ARISTOS

If you're rude, no one will listen to you, or like you for that matter.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

And that matters how?

ARISTOS

When it comes to the game of politics, how you are perceived is everything. It can make or break your career.

The HA thinks to herself.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
Is that why you lied?

Aristos stops in his tracks.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
We both know who the Borg children  
are, and yet you acted like we didn't  
know who she was.

ARISTOS  
I didn't lie, I withheld information.  
I value the truth almost as much as  
you, but sometimes information can be  
dangerous and we needed them to trust  
us.

The HA doesn't respond and Aristos continues to walk.

ARISTOS  
...We need to find him.

The HA's brows furrow immediately.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
No. I want nothing to do with him.  
Dead or alive.

ARISTOS  
We need those blueprints Author, our  
alternative plan failed.

The HA growls.

ARISTOS  
Sometimes you need do to things you  
don't want to do in order to meet your  
goals...and I think we both want to  
know what happened to him.

The HA grimaces. The screen becomes glitchy and the screen  
FILLS with a glitchy red as the HA growls.

INT. KRYPTARIUM (FLASHBACK) - DAY

Footsteps can be heard. The glitchy patterns on-screen form  
two walking figures. The red patterns fade into ARISTOS and  
the HOURGLASS AUTHOR. We see a security guard at the end of  
the hall. Footsteps fill the silence. The HA and ARISTOS walk

toward the guard. The guard looks ready to stop them before Aristos whips out his ID card.

GUARD

Ah- Mayor Aristos. It's a pleasure to meet you. Though the circumstances are less than desired.

Aristos nods.

GUARD

What brings you here? I know you have a lot on your plate, with the Emperor and all.

ARISTOS

I am here to speak with the prisoners.

GUARD

They're in the middle of lunch, and while I believe Kryptarium is well guarded- I don't think we should-

ARISTOS

(Adjusts cuffs) It will be fine, trust me.

The guard, though reluctant, allows for Aristos and the HA to pass, and leads them to the main room. General cafeteria commotion can be heard getting increasingly louder as they walk and open the door. Upon entering, the commotion comes to a HALT, and silence fills the air unsteadily.

In no rush, Aristos takes a good look around the room and begins to walk to the other side of the room. The HA follows and watches prisoners eye him, attempting to figure out who he is, and who the HA is.

Aristos turns to the prisoners and the HA stands next to him. Aristos opens his mouth to speak, before being interrupted by someone in the crowd.

KILLOW

Who are you?

Aristos adjusts his collar calmly, then speaks.

ARISTOS

I am Aristos. The Mayor of Ninjago City.

We can hear whispers from the crowd of prisoners.

KILLOW

The mayor's a girl, so again, who are you?

ARISTOS

The Mayor was a girl, yes. Unfortunately, she has recently been assassinated.

The prisoners express their shock verbally and physically.

ARISTOS

By who most of you know as, the Titanium Ninja.

The commotion increases. The Hourglass Author looks into the crowd.

THE MECHANIC

As much as I hate Zane the pain, that scrap of metal wouldn't go killin' folk for the hell of it...much less the Mayor of Ninjago city.

CAPTAIN SOTO

Why is the Mayor paying us a special visit, the previous Mayor did no such thing.

ARISTOS

I am glad you ask. In addition to being Mayor, I am the founder of S.P.A.D.D.E. In essence, we bring in people from all walks of life, and people who need second chances, to do good and help protect this city.

MYSTERIOUS PRISONER

I for one don't understand why a sleazy politician gives a damn about second chances! You all the same!

The prisoner has a hat on and leans down so we cannot make out his identity. The HA notices that Aristos seems to recognize this prisoner and Aristos' brows furrow immediately. Amidst the commotion, Aristos unbuttons his jacket and pulls his sleeve to reveal his Black-metal arm. He raises it and the metal parts move and adjust. This silences the prisoners.

ARISTOS

I too have made mistakes in my lifetime and was fortunate enough to get a second chance. So, I have come to offer you all a second chance at freedom.

KILLOW

What are you saying.

ARISTOS

I am inviting you to join Spade in an effort to defeat the Ninja, and in the process regain your freedom.

Silence continues, many unsure what to make of the invitation. A female prisoner eventually stands.

FEMALE PRISONER

I would like to join you!

Many prisoners soon follow the woman, we see the Mysterious Prisoner shake his head.

ARISTOS

A show of hands and we will pass around a form.

The HA watches the crowd, specifically near Killow.

ON KILLOW'S TABLE

CAPTAIN SOTO

There's something fishy about him (scratches beard with hook) Somethin ain't right. So I'll pass on this whole Spa-hoopla.

ULTRAVIOLET

Pass the chance to get out of this hell hole? You're insane.

Ultraviolet and Killow stand. Every prisoner is standing with the exception of the Mystery Prisoner and Captain Soto.

Aristos smiles and passes the form around. The HA turns to Aristos, she is not happy.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

I disagree with this Aristos. They're criminals, what if they turn on us?



ARISTOS

This is what Spade stands for, Author. Don't forget you are also fortunate to have gotten a second chance. We must offer the same to them.

Aristos' senses the Author's unease.

ARISTOS

I know trust is hard to come by, but if you give none you will receive none. And if no one trusts you, you're a dead man walking.

The HA blinks and tilts her head. Confusion written over the parts of her face we can see, before everything fades to a glitchy red.

INT. SPADE OFFICE - DAY

We hear PANTING as the glitchy red patterns that fill the screen slowly fade, revealing the HA. The HA RUNS as she periodically glitches in and out. She glitches into ARISTOS' office. She looks terrified and drops to the ground glitching in and out. Aristos rushes over to her worried.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

(Panting) I- I- found them, and they're coming b- back.

Aristos widens his eyes.

ARISTOS

What?!- Where-

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

(Glitching) In the- N- realm. Ice and- so-

Aristos quickly gets up and turns off the light and flips another switch. The room is filled with RED LIGHT. The HA slowly stabilizes. Aristos helps her stand.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

It was horrible. The Titanium Ninja took over another realm and enslaved thousands into an eternal winter. A winter so cold that life itself ceases to exist.

ARISTOS  
(Unconvinced) Show me...

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
(Shakes head) No- it's too-

ARISTOS  
I must see.

The HA's hand glitches with red and she places it on Aristos' forehead. Their eyes GLITCH with red. We watch them for a moment, Aristos' face grimaces. The HA pulls away and Aristos stumbles. He appears to be in fear.

ARISTOS  
So many innocent lives...he's a monster.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
They have just returned.

ARISTOS  
This changes everything. This could set us back years.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
What?! No! We've worked too hard to let the Ninja fuck everything up!

ARISTOS  
I only have so much power, Author. With the Ninja returning, the Mayor will back out.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
So we'll get more power.

ARISTOS  
The only way would be to run in the elections or...

Aristos turns to the HA.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
Or we take it...by force.

ARISTOS  
No. I will not take another life.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
Why not?! We just watched one of

Ninjago's greatest heroes take the throne and murder thousands in cold blood! It's just one in comparison-

ARISTOS

One life is not more valuable than the other! It doesn't matter if it's a thousand or one, it is a burden you carry for the rest of your own. I have no idea how that monster can even live with himself.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

I'll do it.

ARISTOS

You don't want that burden.

The HA removes her mask but we cannot see her face.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

(Glitching) I already carry lifelong burdens that weren't even mine to begin with!

Aristos looks away.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

I am tired of people getting away with doing horrible things, including you.

ARISTOS

Author I am trying to prevent-

The HA runs and turns the red lights OFF and the white lights return.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

The Ninja returning changes nothing!

The scene returns to a glitchy red.

INT. LASH MANOR (FLASHBACK) - DAY

The glitchy red clears, we are in LASH MANOR. We are seen in an office. The room is dark and has red and white lights in it. There are no windows. We see Aristos and a couple of other Agents on a few laptops with some papers around.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

What're you doing?

ARISTOS

We are making some changes to your reports, Author.

The HA's brows furrow, and strains of red run across her body.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

My reports don't need changing.

ARISTOS

Our approval rating isn't as high as it should be, so we are creating a story if you will.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

That is a flat out lie! Against what Spade is for, no? Why stoop to their level!

ARISTOS

You already did that Author. So not only am I cleaning up the Ninja's mess but I am cleaning up yours too. You no longer have a say in this situation.

The HA opens her mouth to protest but is interrupted. The scene GLITCHES with red. The hourglass author pauses as the entire scene stops. She looks around.

DARWIN (V.O)

(Echoed) Author?

The scene completely fades into a glitchy red.

INT. DARK ROOM - DAY

We are back in the glitchy red room. The HA GASPS and slowly sits up.

DARWIN (V.O)

(Echoed) Author? Are you okay?

The HA slowly stands, grabs her mask, and puts on her face. She opens the door and pokes her head out as she emerges from the red mist to look at DARWIN.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU-....(clears throat) What do you need?

DARWIN

We received a call-

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

Well, go tell them to politically fuck off!

DARWIN

We got a report that two boys are breaking into the monastery.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

The monastery...

The HA looks away.

DARWIN

What should we-

The HA disappears, leaving Darwin alone.

DARWIN

-go.

EXT. MONASTERY - EVENING

KEON and NELSON ride their bikes and arriving at the bottom of the mountain. They come to a halt and Keon gets off his bike.

NELSON

What are you doing?

KEON

We can't ride our bikes up the stairs.

Nelson smiles cheekily.

NELSON

Well, let me show you a think or two, Silver Ninja.

Nelson pushes off and begins to ride his bike up the stairs. Keon's mouth drops.

KEON

Guess you do have a few tricks up your sleeve!

Keon gets back on his bike and attempts to ride on the stairs, but he isn't riding as smoothly as Nelson is. They

laugh and throw jokes around as they ride up the mountain. They both frown as they approach the top and notice some destruction. Their laughing fades immediately. They reach the top of the monastery and get off their bikes as both of the boys attention is fixated on the destruction of the monastery. The snow blows past as they look at one another and exchange similar worried and scared expressions. They begin to walk around the courtyard.

NELSON

Master Wu?!

They see the gate is completely missing...A large gaping whole through the center of the monastery, with the endless cloudy sky showing itself through the whole.

KEON

Green Ninja!? Hello?

Nelson STOPS and widens his eyes.

NELSON

Keon...

Keon quickly follows before stopping and gasping. The boys look to see BLOOD and ICE on the ground. Keon panics.

KEON

Maybe- maybe we should get outta here.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

What a coincidence!!

Keon and Nelson SPIN spin around to find no one there.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

I had the same idea!!

The two look around nervously to find the person to the voice.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

But I can't help but wonder-

The HA GLTICHES right in front of Nelson. She is leaning down so her eyes are on his level. Nelson screams and falls back.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

What are two little boys doing on our-  
my property.

Keon moves in between the HA and Nelson with his arm out. His arm is visibly shaking.

KEON

This place isn't yours, it's the  
Ninjas!

The HA grabs Keon by the collar of his shirt and picks him up, he struggles to fight her grasp.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

It's Spades! Which means it's mine!  
Now-

The HA raises her other hand that quickly becomes outlined with her powers.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

How am I going to be rid of you from  
this place?

Nelson stands.

NELSON

Let go of him!! We just want to know  
where the ninja are!

The HA pauses and directs her attention to Nelson.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

The Ninja are dead! Haven't you heard?

Nelson looks at Keon before looking back at the HA.

NELSON

What's the truth!...because I don't  
believe you!!

The HA widens her eyes and tilts her head up, eyes still directed at Nelson. She drops Keon.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

You are just like the Green Ninja, and  
I don't mean that in a nice way.

The HA glitches away. Nelson quickly helps Keon to his feet.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

But fine, since you don't believe me.

The HA GLITCHES behind the boys and GRABS their heads. Their

eyes fill with a glitchy red.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

I'll show you!

The boys scream as the scene around the three fills and changes with a glitchy red.

EXT. MONASTERY (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT

The two boys are OUTLINED in a glitchy red as the scene clears. They are witnessing the battle between Spade and the Ninja that took place one month ago exactly. The scene is FAST, as if the HA has sped up time. The boys stand in the middle of the CHAOS, powers being thrown every which way. FEAR shows itself through the boys skipping breath. Nelson and Keon can't make out what is happening, things are moving too quickly, and the scene seems to repeat itself again and again, before slowing down. JORGE RUNS at Keon. Keon yells as Jorge RUNS through him and out of the mist. Jorge turns around seemingly looking directly at the boys, and he smiles.

They watch as Jorge turns toward Aristos. They see the HOURGLASS AUTHOR and STEP BACK. However, she doesn't seem to be aware of them. The HA is staring at ARISTOS and JORGE. The boys watch as they engage in combat and in a conversation.

The scene SPEEDS UP and they watch as Jorge joins Aristos' side. The scene slows immediately as they hug. The HA becomes GLITCHY with red as she STEPS away from her position. The HA walks toward Aristos and Jorge and watches them hug, studying their faces.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

I don't understand how you could embrace him like that...

The HA walks over and looks at Jorge, she can see the tears in his eyes.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

Love him like that...after everything he did to you.

She stares at the robotic arm that embraces Jorge.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

Not everyone deserves second chances.

She raises her hand and SNAPS her fingers. She seemingly disappears. Nelson and Keon watch as the HA opens the portal,



they scream trying to warn Jorge before he and Aristos FALL through.

A glitchy red tear EMERGES and slides down the HA's mask.

Nelson and Keon turn around as they hear screaming coming from Lloyd and Zane. They witness the icicle, the ninja. They watch one by one as everyone jumps into the portal except for Lloyd. They watch as he rushes over to the portal.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
(laughs) They're dead!

LLOYD  
(Shakily) What do you mean!?

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
Just as I said!! They're all DEAD!  
What are you going to do Green Ninja!?  
Because either way, you're about to die!

They watch as the HA takes out her knife.

KEON  
No!!

NELSON  
NOO!!!

They watch as blood drips from Lloyd's hand as he looks back and forth between the portal and the HA. Lloyd's brows furrow, and he looks the HA in the eye.

LLOYD  
What is the truth!?!...because I don't believe you!

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
Belief and truth are not the same!

LLOYD  
I don't see a difference.

Lloyd JUMPS into the portal right as it closes. He disappears. We watch the HA stand at the portal. The Spade agents approach her.

SPADE AGENT 1  
(Hesitant) Where's Aristos?-

HOURGLASS AUTHOR  
I said. He is dead.

SPADE AGENT 1

But he-

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

What part of DEAD does anyone not understand?!

The HA TELEPORTS in front of the Spade Agent and PUSHES the knife DEEP into the Agents mouth. He GASPS and SCREAMS as blood sprays all over her. The Agent falls to the floor as everyone, including Keon and Nelson, back away.

We begin to hear an ECHO-like voice. The scene PAUSES. We can't make out what the voice is saying. The HA becomes outlined in a glitchy red and looks around. The voice starts to become clearer as everything begins to fade into a GLITCHY RED.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

You have your truth. Now never return here, or you'll meet the Ninja's fate.

EVERYTHING becomes glitchy with red, and the voice becomes recognizable. It's IRYS' voice.

KEON

(Looking around) I- Irys?

Everything fades to BLACK.

EXT. MONASTERY - SUNSET

OVER BLACK

IRYS (V.O)

Keon?! Nelson?

ON KEON

Keon slowly opens his eyes, we see IRYS looking over him.

ON IRYS

Keon and Nelson sit up in a panic.

NELSON

Where are they?!!

IRYS

Who?-

KEON  
The Hourglass Author!

IRYS  
What? Slow down because neither of you  
are making sense. You both just  
appeared out of thin air.

Keon and Nelson spring up.

KEON  
Not out of thin air- from the past.

NELSON  
The Hourglass Author used their powers  
on us!

IRYS  
P- powers?

KEON  
Mayor Aristos has been gone for  
weeks!-

NELSON  
They must be in charge!

IRYS  
What about the Mayor?!

KEON  
The Mayor is gone! Dead! Disappeared  
I'm not sure.

NELSON  
It's all their fault!

Keon looks at his sister, he can tell she is overwhelmed.  
Irys frowns.

IRYS  
Quit with the games guys, seriously.  
You both ran off and had our moms  
worried sick. Mom is pissed, Keon. We  
were supposed to be there for Dewei  
and you left to play hero.

KEON  
We aren't trying to play a game!

NELSON

Ninjago is in serious trouble and we  
are the only ones that know.

Irys' eyes widen as she presses her lips together.

IRYS

I'm taking you home, Nelson.

KEON

Irys come on!

IRYS

Ninjago is finally at peace now that  
the Ninja are gone! Don't go around  
scaring people for the hell of  
it!...and besides, we can't do  
anything. We aren't heroes. We don't  
have powers.

Keon looks past Irys, we can see a faded JORGE look at Keon,  
smiling at him before Jorge runs off and fades away.

KEON

(To himself) We don't need powers to  
try to be heroes.

IRYS

Huh?

Keon pauses before shoving his hands in his pockets.

KEON

Nothing. Let's go.

NELSON

What but we can't just-

KEON

(Looking away) Irys is right, and your  
mom was too. You know what we saw.

Nelson stops his protest. The boys frown as they follow Irys.  
A faint GLITCHING noise can be heard. Keon WHIPS his head  
back at the courtyard. He looks around, sees nothing and  
follows his sister down the monastery stairs.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

That's why, in this unfair realm, you  
need someone.

The glitching is heard again as we stay at the monastery courtyard. We see faint red sparks where the portal once was.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

Just one, to guide you, to help you,  
to tell you how to interact with this  
hell of a realm.

The camera pans closer as the glitching comes and goes again. Each time a human silhouette fades in and out, they appear to be laying on the ground.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

But when they drop dead, well, you're  
fucked.

We get close to the ground, the glitching becomes more frequent. Suddenly JORGE FADES IN. He is laying on his stomach. He opens his eyes with a GASP as his pupils constrict. He looks devastated.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR (V.O)

Especially when the killer roams free,  
and you're left alone to put the  
pieces together.

FADE OUT