

Ninjago: Neon Warfare

Episode Three: "A Change in Leadership"

By
Yasur

Based on
LEGO Ninjago

EXT. NINJAGO CITY - SUNRISE

JAY is running through the city in a hurry. He RUNS past pedestrians as he covers his eye with one hand. It is raining and absurdly cold.

LLOYD (V.O.)
When you are a leader, you are
responsible for your team.

JAY (PRE-LAP)
(Quietly) Is she..

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Jay is laying on the floor covering his eye. ZANE is kneeling down in front of the Mayor checking her pulse. Zane does not respond to Jay, but he lowers his head.

JAY
Is she dead?-- The Mayor is dead isn't
she--

As Jay is starting to lose his cool, Zane stops thinking and moves Jay away from the Mayor and kneels down to scan Jays body.

ZANE
Besides your black eye, you
seem to be fine physically-

JAY
The Mayor- I tripped over
the mayor's body.

ZANE
Jay please stay calm.

JAY
She is dead. The Mayor is
dead- and they took a
picture!

ZANE
I- I can't concentrate with
you-

JAY
She was alive less than
twenty-four hours ago and-

Zane grabs Jay's face, startling him...

ZANE
(breathing heavily) Please!

Jay nods silently.

EXT. MONASTERY STEPS - SUNRISE

Jay is running up the steps of the monastery.

ZANE (V.O.)
Okay...Okay...We need to call the
police.

JAY (V.O.)
(Quietly) Then call them.

Jay slips on the steps but quickly recovers.

JAY (V.O.)
Zane call the police!

ZANE (PRE-LAP)
I can't!

Jay pushes open the gate of the monastery.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Zane looks away as he fiddles with the cap over his core.

ZANE
...I am unable to connect to the cell
towers.

Jay looks at him confused before he realizes...

JAY
It's not just the dents-

ZANE
We need another way to call the
police.

JAY
Lets send a distress signal to the
others, they could call the police.

ZANE
I uh...can't do that either.

JAY
Zane?! Why did you go on this mission
knowing you've sustained more damage
than dents on your plating?

ZANE
I just wanted- We need to find someone
to call the police.

Jay shakes his head out of frustration.

JAY

You need repairs, I don't care what Pix says.

ZANE

I don't need repairs, we need to find someone to call-

JAY

We don't need someone, we need you. I can probably fix your signal if you let me just...

Jay REACHES for Zane's chest, prompting Zane to grab Jay's hand, startling him.

ZANE

Don't you dare touch me.

JAY

(Stuttering) Zane I am going to repair you, if not now then-

As the temperature of the room falls, their chilly breath can be seen...

ZANE

Last time someone reached for me with that look in your eye, I became a heartless dictator. Before that...Mr. E bugged me, putting everyone in danger. The MECHANIC opened me up to scrap me for parts, and you...you messed with my voice for weeks to entertain yourself. And my father destroyed everything we built together with the flip of a switch...(whispers) I can't take it anymore. I don't want to be touched, I don't want to be opened up and prodded by anyone because I always seem to lose myself in the process. So no you will not repair me, and you will NOT touch me.

The door of the building opens, the COMMISSIONER walks in with two other officers. Their flashlights beaming on Jay and Zane.

THE COMMISSIONER

What in Ninjago is going on here?

INT. MONASTERY - SUNRISE

PIXAL is on the couch watching tv as Jay BURSTS through the entrance of the monastery door and stumbles onto the ground. He is soaked and his face is bloody...

LLOYD (V.O.)

As a leader you need to know your team
like the back of your hand.

PIXAL

(Worried) Jay?

Pixal RUSHES over to Jay to scan his vitals. She runs across the room and pushes the intercom.

PIXAL (INTO-INTERCOM)

This is an emergency. I need everyone
into the living room now!

LLOYD (V.O.)

As a leader you have to know where to
go, and who to trust. You can't miss
anything.

Pixal runs back to Jay and wraps his arm around her shoulder, helping him to a chair. LLOYD, NYA, COLE, and KAI rush into the room. At the sight of Jay, Nya runs over to him.

NYA

What happened?!

JAY

They were there and then gone, and
then I tripped.. I tripped over-

Kai runs over to the fridge and grabs an ice pack and hands it to Nya, who puts it over Jays eye.

NYA

(Softly) Use your words Jay, we can't
understand what you are saying.

Jay takes a deep breath.

JAY

We were attacked, by the HOURGLASS
AUTHOR. We tried to fight them off
but...they moved so fast...too fast.
And then...and then we found the Mayor
dead!

Everyone gasps at Jay's last statement. Worry and concern are written all over their faces.

NYA

The Hourglass Author? What do you mean they were moving too fast?

JAY

It's hard to describe...But they definitely weren't moving around normally. They were almost...*glitching*.

LLOYD

Why didn't you call for backup? And where is Zane?- Did he?

JAY

Of course not! We couldn't contact you because Zane's interface and connection to the cell towers is broken.

LLOYD

Wait a minute-

PIXAL

Where is Zane?

JAY

Zane...was arrested.

KAI

What?!

COLE

What?!

LLOYD (V.O.)

As a leader, you must know when to act, and what to do.

LLOYD

I knew I should have gone...and what is this about Zane's interface not working?

JAY

I didn't know at first...Pixal, he is a lot worse off than I thought.

Lloyd turns to Pixal.

LLOYD

I thought Zane was repaired weeks ago?

PIXAL

I am not sure what he told you, but Zane has refused repairs since he arrived home.

Lloyd is baffled...

LLOYD

I can't believe Zane would go on a mission in his current condition. He should have told me...you should have told me.

PIXAL

And if I had? what would you plan on doing when he said no? Force him?

LLOYD

Yes? No? It's not like Zane to do this, it's irresponsible. You should have pushed him-

PIXAL

I should?? I have been trying for weeks...months even to clean up the mess that all of you caused! When you sat on your ass for six months I made vehicles for you. When you opened Aspheera's tomb I was there. I even opened the portal for you all to go through with the very staff that banished him. I have been trying, and now I am trying to help him. You didn't notice he had no repairs done. So do not scold me like you are my leader Lloyd, I am not in the mood for it.

Lloyd opens his mouth to say something, but the tv channel changes, grabbing everyone's attention.

ON TV

Gayle Gossip is on screen, she is visibly sad.

GAYLE GOSSIP

It has been reported to NGTV news that...the Mayor of Ninjago city has been assassinated. The main suspect is-

Gayle Gossip looks away, attempting to hold back tears.

GAYLE GOSSIP

The main suspect is the Titanium
Ninja, Zane Julien. The suspect

and the Lightning Ninja were reported
to be at the scene of the crime when
Police found her.

ON JAY

Jay seethes as he stairs at the tv...

JAY

I told them he didn't do it, but they
wouldn't believe me. And of course,
Zane complied because that is how he
is.

ON TV

Two images are displayed next to Gayle Gossip. One of the
Hourglass Author and the other images displays the SAME man
Lloyd had conversed with at the parade, ARISTOS, who now
wears a nice suit and tie.

GAYLE GOSSIP

The deputy Mayor, Aristos Lash, and
his assistant, the anonymous Hourglass
Author, will be making a speech today
in response to the news.

Cole pauses the tv on the image of Aristos and The Hourglass
Author. Lloyds eyes go wide at the face of Aristos as Jay
cringes at the sight of the Author.

JAY

The Author thought it was a
game...they were playing with us.

JORGE excitedly bolts in from the open door of the monastery
holding a very large bag.

JORGE

Ninjaaa! I have a surprise for you-

Lloyd turns to Jorge, angrier than ever.

LLOYD

You.

JORGE
 Me? Nah I'm not the surprise, but I am
 flattered really-

LLOYD
 (yelling) You!

Lloyd runs up to Jorge and pins him onto the wall.

JORGE
 If this is about Kai's card-

LLOYD
 You are working with the Hourglass
 Author!

JORGE
 (Chuckles) What?! No I have never
 worked with that person in my life!

Lloyd continues to look at him angrily, and Jorge's smile
 fades quickly when he realizes that Lloyd is doesn't believe
 him...

JORGE
 I'm serious! I don't know who they are
 or what they are trying to do. I know
 as much as I told you. I promise.

Lloyd drags Jorge over to the TV.

LLOYD
 Do you know who that is?

Lloyd gestures to Aristos and watches Jorge's face drop. He
 clearly recognizes the man on the tv...

JORGE
 (Shocked) I- He's alive?

LLOYD
 Answer me. *Who is he?*

JORGE
 (Frightened) Yes! I do know who that
 is. That man is my dad.

Lloyd yanks Jorge back and lets go of him. Jorge turns as
 everyone circles around him...

LLOYD

Your father is associated with the Hourglass Author. Who just so happened to be at the crime scene where the Mayor was found *dead*.

JAY

Are you the Hourglass Author? Did you do this to me?!!

Jay gestures to his eye, Jorge looks back, shocked at the sight of the Lightning Ninja.

JORGE

No!- I- The Mayor is dead?

KAI

Were you just trying to distract me from your real plans?

JORGE

No I actually made-

PIXAL

Were you planning to frame Zane from the beginning?

JORGE

I would never! I am not who you guys think I am!

LLOYD

Then who are you!?

Lloyd's eyes begin to glow.

JORGE

I am Jorge!

LLOYD

Who are you really!?!?

JORGE

I am telling the truth! Please don't hurt me!

Cole steps into the circle with his arms out in between Jorge and Lloyd.

COLE

Enough!

Lloyd's eyes stop glowing and everyone directs their attention to Cole.

COLE

Zane has been wrongfully arrested remember? If the Hourglass Author is working for the government, it means they have Zane. We need to help him.

LLOYD

Right. We need to go to the police station.

Everyone nods and prepares to go to the police station. Jay walks up to Pixal.

JAY

(Quietly) I need to tell you something about Zane.

PIXAL

(Quietly) You can tell me on the way.

Lloyd overhears Jay as Jorge grabs his large bag and turns to Cole.

JORGE

Thanks, Earth Ninja!

COLE

Don't thank me. I didn't do that for you I did it for Zane. We aren't done with you.

Cole grabs Jorge and pulls him over his shoulder and carries him out of the monastery.

JORGE

(Bewildered) Oh god. This is happening.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - MORNING

There is a table in the middle of the room. On one end, ZANE is sitting with his head down. He has his cloak on and his hair is in his face. He is messing with the cap on his core. An OFFICER sits on the opposite end of him, she is looking through what seems to be a case file. The Officer writes something down and looks up at Zane.

OFFICER
Repeat it for me again, please.

ZANE
(Softly) I have already told you...17
times.

OFFICER
This will be the last time.

ZANE
You said that two hours ago.

OFFICER
I am just trying to understand.

Zane toys with the cap on his core more rapidly.

ZANE
(Frustrated) And you couldn't get it
after the second time? The third time?

OFFICER
Mr. Julien, you are not in any
position for smart remarks. Repeat
your story.

ZANE
Someone reported suspicious activity
in an office building. Jay and I went
to investigate. We were attacked by
the Hourglass Author. They moved
throughout the floor almost like they
were teleporting. Then Jay tripped and
that is when we saw...the body.

OFFICER
Upon seeing the body, why didn't you
call the police?

ZANE
I am unable to connect to the cell
towers. They were damaged in the Never
Realm.

OFFICER
You have been home for three weeks.
That is an adequate amount of time to
fix that. Am I right, Mr. Julien?

Zane nods.

OFFICER

So you went on a mission with the knowledge that you were damaged?

Zane nods.

OFFICER

Why did you have your hand on Jay when the Commissioner found you?

Zane does not respond. The officer writes something down in her file.

OFFICER

To recap. On the same day the Hourglass Author releases information about your whereabouts the last few months, you are found that night with the mayor's dead body. With your hand on Jay, who has a black eye now? And you blame everything on the Hourglass Author, an anonymous political figure. Claiming they were teleporting in the building?

ZANE

I know what it sounds like- but I am telling the truth.

OFFICER

Did you kill the Mayor, Mr. Julien?

ZANE

No!

OFFICER

Did you hurt Jay because he was trying to stop you?

ZANE

(Yelling) No! I did not!!

OFFICER

Why didn't you tell the public about what you did Zane? Were you trying to hide?

ZANE

No- I'm-

OFFICER
Hide the fact that you are a
murderer?

ZANE
No!

OFFICER
A dictator?

ZANE
(Screaming) Stop!

Zane slams his fist on the table as ice crystalizes on his fist and on the surface of the table. The officer turns to a man standing in the back.

OFFICER
Go grab the cuffs.

The man nods and leaves the room.

OFFICER
Your story is hard to believe, Zane.
You didn't report the murder, you had
your hand on Jay, and you claim the
hourglass author was...teleporting?
The exact same day they expose you for
crimes you committed realms away. It
sounds like you are trying to frame
them.

ZANE
I am not trying to frame
them.

OFFICER
It angered you when they did
that didn't it?

Zane's hands start to shake. The temperature of the room drops

OFFICER
Angry that you were caught?
With no excuses and no
evidence.

ZANE
(Yelling) I am telling the
truth!!

OFFICER
Where is the evidence Zane? Witnesses
have reported that the Hourglass
Author was at the court house the same
time you claim to have been fighting
them. You're a nindroid, don't you
have some sort of recording?

ZANE
That doesn't work either.

OFFICER
Doesn't work or are you hiding

evidence?

ZANE

I don't have any recordings!

OFFICER

So if we pry into that head of yours
we won't find you killing the Mayor?

ZANE

I did not kill the Mayor and you will
not touch me! I have no evidence!

The officer goes back to flipping through the case file and writing things down. She then closes the file and looks up at Zane.

OFFICER

Repeat it again for me please.

Zane looks up at her in disbelief. He just stares at her.

OFFICER

Repeat the story again for-

ZANE

(Screaming) No! Not again!

Zane flips the table onto the wall, it bends on impact. Papers go flying. The room starts to develop frost in the corners.

ZANE

Where are my friends!

OFFICER

No idea, but I am sure they are tired
of chasing after you.

INT. POLICE STATION - NOON

Large amounts of people are gathered in and out of the police station. Filled with news reporters, political officials and some worried citizens. Aristos and The Hourglass Author are at the center of the crowd in the police station, making a live speech.

ON VINNY'S CAMERA

We see Aristos and The Author. Pictures are being taken.

ARISTOS

I am incredibly saddened to learn of the passing of my beloved friend and Mayor. She was gone too soon. But as her right hand and as now acting Mayor, I promise to do her and her work as Mayor justice. I will get to the bottom of her assassination and secure the safety of the people in the city. Safety is my number one priority, this city has gone too long without it.

The door of the station flies open and the camera pans to reveal the Ninja have arrived. Jay walks up in front of them, now wearing a blue EYEPATCH and points to the Author.

JAY

You did this!

The crowd gasps, and commotion begins in the background.

JAY

It wasn't Zane! You killed the Mayor!

ARISTOS

Ninja, this is highly inappropriate.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

It's fine Mayor. I can assure you that I did not harm the Mayor. I am here to show the world the truth and the truth only.

The Author presses a button on a small remote. A picture of Zane's hand on Jay's arm is shown, with the mayor's body beneath them, is shown on an empty wall.

HOURGLASS AUTHOR

This. This is the truth.

The room goes silent at the sight of the image. The Ninja are stunned. Cole's grip on Jorge loosens, allowing him slip out and to turn to see his father.

JORGE

(In Spanish) Papa? What are you doing? Why are you associated with this person?

ARISTOS
(In Spanish) Excuse me, Do I know you?

JORGE
Papa? Papa, It's me Jorge? Your son?

Security guards step in front of Jorge.

JORGE
Why are you doing this? (In Spanish) I
thought you were dead!

ON PIXAL

Pixal nudges Kai to follow her and the two walk away into a hall. They find the Commissioner on his way to see what the commotion is all about.

KAI
Where is Zane?

THE COMMISSIONER
Hm? I was told he was released with
you and the others.

KAI
We haven't heard from him since
yesterday.

The Commissioner looks confused and then his face drops.

THE COMMISSIONER
He must still be in the interrogation
room.

The Commissioner leads Pixal and Kai to the interrogation room.

KAI
You've been interrogating Zane? For
how long?

THE COMMISSIONER
If they haven't released him as I said
to, he has been in there for 6 hours.

PIXAL
Six hours? It is illegal to
interrogate someone for over four
hours at a time!

INTERROGATION ROOM- NOON

Zane is sitting back in his chair with handcuffs on. Ice has frosted over the entire room and over himself.

ZANE

(Sobbing) I didn't. I'm sorry.

OFFICER

What are you sorry for Zane? Sorry for killing the mayor?

Zane does not respond.

OFFICER

Admit what you did and this can all be over.

Zane's mouth quivers, he opens his mouth but the door busts open to the interrogation room. Kai is standing with fire in his hands.

OFFICER

What is the meaning of this?

KAI

Step away from Zane!

OFFICER

I am in the middle of-

THE COMMISSIONER

Officer Dannie, you went against my directions and continued to interrogate the suspect illegally. Step away from him now.

The Officer steps out of the room with the Commissioner. Kai and Pixal step into the room noticing ice everywhere, including Zane's body. Kai uses his fire to melt the frost in the room as Pixal checks over Zane.

PIXAL

Zane? It's okay now, we can leave.

ZANE

(Whispers) I can't.

Pixal looks down to see Zane's ice has glued him to the chair. Kai looks over and begins to melt the ice on his body.

KAI

It's okay Zane, you are with us now.

INT. POLICE STATION - NOON

Jorge has calmed down now, but he is still visibly distraught and confused. The other Ninja, especially Lloyd, are visibly upset.

ARISTOS

As I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted. Due to recent findings about the Titanium Ninja, I have decided to relieve him from his ninja duties for now.

NYA

You can't do that!

COLE

He hasn't done anything!

ARISTOS

Why are you all defending him!?

LLOYD

He's our best friend! Our teammate!

ARISTOS

Really? That is not the same attitude you had yesterday.

Lloyds eyes go wide, everyone directs their attention to him.

NYA

Lloyd what is he talking about.

ON ZANE

Zane, Kai, and Pixal enter in the background but no one notices them yet, except for a cameraman who moves to put Zane on camera. Aristos takes the remote from the Author and presses another button. This time an audio plays.

LLOYD (FROM-DEVICE)

We went away to help to find Zane and encountered a really bad place and saw some really bad stuff too. It was scary...and cold. Really, really cold. The cold almost killed me, and now he -- Now it feels like the really bad stuff

has followed me... laughing and cleaning like nothing happened- I am mad, mad at it, and mad at myself for being mad at it. I don't even know if it's gone for good, it could reawaken and finish the job at any time. The bad thing got away and I can't help but wonder if it should be punished..

COLE

Dude..

Aristos notices Zane and points to him. Directing everyone's attention to him. The cameraman gets closer to Zane.

ARISTOS

Does that sound like someone who is talking about a best friend? A teammate? No. Even the Green Ninja fears this man!

Zane looks devastated and hastily makes his way to the door of the police station. The cameraman follows close behind.

LLOYD

Zane- wait-

Zane leaves the police station. Lloyd runs after him. Kai tries to follow but Pixal stops him.

PIXAL

He needs to be left alone. If not he might hurt someone, or himself.

Aristos turns back to the camera.

ARISTOS

These are Ninjago's heroes?

EXT. OUTSIDE OF POLICE STATION- AFTERNOON

Zane is walking out of the police station in the cold rain...

LLOYD (V.O.)

When your teammates screw up, they look to you, and you help them.

The Cameraman hastily follows closely behind Zane as we see LLOYD run out of the police station.

LLOYD (V.O.)
 When the leader screws up and lets
 their guard down, even for just a
 moment...

Lloyd begins to catch up as he calls out for Zane...

LLOYD (V.O.)
 It can mark the demise of your own
 team.

ZANE
 Please get that camera away from me.

LLOYD
 Zane wait! I'm sorry-

ARISTOS (V.O.)
 For months they have been careless.

The cameraman continues to put the camera in Zane's face.

ZANE
 Please, get that away from me.

LLOYD
 Zane stop!

Zane turns to face Lloyd. The cameraman follows suit.

ZANE
 No.

ARISTOS (V.O.)
 They have been insubordinate.

LLOYD
 (Angry) No...No!?

The cameraman continues putting the camera in Zane's face.

LLOYD
 I am so tired of this!

HAIL begins to fall. the ground around Zane starts to freeze
 over. Zane has flashbacks to the ice castle!

ZANE
 Sir please if you would just
 move the camer-

LLOYD
 You can't just keep running
 off when you please!

As Lloyd is shouting the cameraman moves closer to Zane. Zane, angered, grabs the camera and THROWS it across the street, the impact shattering it to pieces. The cameraman falls to the ground in fear.

ZANE

I can Lloyd. Want to see me do it again?

ARISTOS (V.O.)

They are dangerous.

LLOYD

What is wrong with you!?

Zane notices the ice crystalizing everywhere. He turns and continues down the street.

ZANE

Lloyd.

Zane puts his hands to his head.

LLOYD

You're a ninja! Act like one!

ZANE

Leave me alone, Lloyd.

LLOYD

We can't keep running after you!

Zane turns to Lloyd.

ZANE

(Screaming) Then don't!!

The hail stops abruptly mid-air. Lloyd takes a step back in fear. The ICE EMPEROR'S reflection displayed on the ice beneath Zane catches his eye. He turns and hastily makes his way in the other direction as ice CREEPS from the soles of his feet. Lloyd gestures to follow him but stops when a sword is unsheathed in front of him. It is PIXAL'S sword.

ARISTOS (V.O.)

And this is why I have decided that not only will all your Ninja duties be discontinued. Including Samurai X and the- Neon Stallion!

PAN SHOT: We see Jay, Nya, Jorge, Kai, Cole and the people in

the police station. All in shock as they listen to Aristos' speech.

ARISTOS (V.O.)

You all will leave the city at once!

CLOSE-UP SHOT: We see Zane's feet walking through the rain. They are picking up speed as the ground turns to ice with every step he takes.

MID-SHOT: Pixal holding her sword out in front of Lloyd.

ARISTOS (V.O.)

You are putting the safety of the city at risk, I cannot have that!

MID-TO-CLOSE SHOT: Zane running in the hail.

ARISTOS (V.O.)

Get it together Ninja, or don't come back!

FADE OUT.