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about 600 words

Inner Demons
by Skylar Duhe

Out of breath, Alex rolls to her side of the bed. The strange girl falls into a deep slumber.

Alex fumbles for her phone, but it slips out of her hand and falls to the floor. "Nooo."

Alex extends her hand with minimal effort. She looks to the phone and then abandons the idea of digital entertainment. She rolls onto her back and the room starts spinning. "Ahhh, nope."

Alex jumps out of bed and stumbles across the room. She disappears in her closet for a few minutes. She emerges in her crime fighting outfit and bolts out her door. "Jessss."

Alex slowly opens the door to her roommate's room. She crawls into bed and climbs on top of Jessica.

Jess wakes to Alex's face in the moonlight. "Alex? What's up?" Jess rubs her eyes and Alex suddenly kisses her. After a moment, Jess pushes her away. "How much have you had to drink?"

Alex holds her right hand up and counts to five on her fingers. She holds her left hand up and runs out of fingers.

Jess sits up. "Alright, alright. I told you, last time was a one-time thing."

Alex pouts. "But whyyyyy."

Jessica notices what Alex is wearing. "Are you in your suit?" Confused, she shakes her head. "Alex, you're not catching feelings for me are you?"

Alex considers this, with one eye open and sighs. "No, honestly I'm not."

"Then what's going on? I know there's a girl in your bed right now, so why are you in mine? In your vigilante outfit at that." Jess chuckles.

"Fuck her. She'll probably abandon me at some point." Alex turns over and remains silent. A single hiccup breaks the silence.

Jess chuckles and begins undressing her drunk friend. "Alex, we have grown up together our whole lives. You are like my sister. I know you inside and out."

Alex's face lights up. "I know! That's what I'm saying. It just makes sense." I don't have feelings for you, but it would be much easier I did."

Confused by this logic, Jess tosses Alex's gloves to the floor and looks into her eyes.

Alex continues. "Jess you're the only person in this world I trust." How do I move forward?"

Jess suddenly understands Alex's struggle. She grabs her hands. "Alex, I've seen you go through heartbreak after heartbreak. And every time I see you rise from the floor, stronger than before. You're a superhero for crying out loud. You are so strong that you fight grown ass men to protect the little guy."

Alex drops her head. "Just because I make it look easy doesn't mean the pain goes away. It's just stupid. Everything would just be easy with you."

"Just because I don't discriminate, doesn't make me any less straight."

Alex giggles. And tosses her pants to the floor. "I knowwww."

Jess crawls under the covers next to Alex and wraps her arms around her waist. The room grows silent.

Alex stares off into the distance. "Jess?"

Jess lifts her head. "Yeah?"

"I am a superhero. Who does that...Why? Normal people don't decide to put on a mask and face danger every night."

"Because, you're Alex. You might be a singer and performer but you're also a protector. You've always been a protector to me. You were bullied in high school and you rose above it. Your father was murdered. You want to protect the world from the pain you went through." Jess hugs her tighter.

A light snore sounds from Alex.

Jess pulls the covers up and closes her eyes.