

DELETED SCENE – Ori's basement

Ori, Vela, and Vela's friends

So I jumped into O.A.R.'s "Shattered (Turn the Car Around)," hitting the lyrics pretty hard when it came to "But I'm good without ya, yeah, I'm good without you."

When I was finished, I heard clapping.

Vela and her friends, Toni and Jacqueline, were sitting on the bottom step.

"I love that song," Jacqueline said. "You're as good as O.A.R."

I laughed.

"Play something else," Toni said.

"Yeah," Jacqueline said. She put her chin in her hands without waiting for an answer.

Vela sighed. "Come on, guys. Let's go up to my room."

The girls looked at me expectantly.

"I'm just messing around," I said. "Nothing interesting."

"Play that song you goofed up on at the FX Lounge," Jacqueline said. "You promised we'd get to hear it all the way through."

Vela sighed. "Will you just do it already so we can leave."

I hid a smile. Then I strummed the opening to "Waiting for You."

When I was finished, Jacqueline and Toni sighed in unison.

"I wish someone was waiting for *me*," Toni said.

"Like *Peter*?" Jacqueline asked.

"Shut up," Toni said, giving her the evil eye before looking back at me. "You playing that at the Battle?"

"Hopefully," I said.

“You won’t screw up this time,” Jacqueline said. “I can feel it.”

“Thanks,” I said, giving her a half smile.

“Come on, guys,” Vela said, tugging at Jacqueline’s shirt.

“Okay, okay.” Jacqueline stood up, not taking her eyes off me. I had to admit that, even though they were young, it felt pretty good to have the attention. This was how Del felt all the time, having girls look at him like they wanted him, would do anything for him – except that they were three years younger than I was.

Del. Why did he keep popping up?

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