

Page sides- There's a mischievous quality to Page that you can see in her smile - She's a smart, driven, fiery, proud and fiercely independent young woman. A genius for innovation and invention – Page has a talent for fixing problems beyond the mechanical. She lost her mother when she was just a child and blames her death on the underground war between the Smith Coal Company and the Johnson Gas Company -- who control the city and have outlawed exploration of any alternative technologies. Page ignores those rules and is experimenting with electricity -- a forbidden activity. Joining Page in her covert research is AJ Johnson, son of the gas titan who controls one half of the city.

INT. THE CLOCKWORK DINER - STOCKTON

Page and AJ are at a bustling diner, staffed by an enthusiastic waiter.

Page is fuming - But also confused -

PAGE

Get this straight - This, right here - Not fun.
Not flirty. Not will-they- won't-they. I do not like
you, Mr. Johnson. I do not like your family –
Understood?

AJ

Loud and clear. Business it is - What do you know
about my invention?

PAGE

Well, mostly I know that it's mine.

AJ

Who else knew about it?

PAGE

No one. The real question is how the hell you knew
about it?

AJ

My family bought the patent in 1901...It described
a machine capable of providing free, unlimited energy
for the world. Those are scary words for a power company
with control issues – And my family will stop at nothing to
make sure those ideas never see the light of day.

PAGE

Is that a threat?

AJ

Just setting the scene for you.

PAGE

If your family bought the patent in nineteen-whatever –
How was I able to find it at the library?

AJ

Because that's where I put it.

PAGE

Why would you—

AJ

It was bait. I tried figuring out the Device on my own –
But no luck. I'm street smart - I need book smart - So I
slipped it somewhere where it might be found - By an
inquisitive little ant like you.

PAGE

Why not just hire someone?

AJ

Too risky. All those detectives sniffing about. You know
what they're like.

Page does know what they're like - But she's not about to agree with him –
She's too pissed at being used -

PAGE

All these run-ins we've been having -
You've been following me, checking in on my progress.

AJ

I can see you're disappointed - I know, you were hoping
it was a kismet, star-crossed-lovers thing--

PAGE

Oh, please—

AJ

Were you able to get it to work?

Page has gotten it to work but she hesitates imperceptibly, AJ doesn't even notice - she just doesn't trust this
guy - So she covers her tracks.

PAGE

No. It didn't work - So don't worry, it's not going to bring
down your family's empire.

AJ

That's a shame - I was rather hoping it would.

PAGE

Interesting. So what little part of you did your family break?

AJ

I know you believe this City is broken.

PAGE

And your family is one of the broken parts. Leave me alone.

AJ

I have the patent you need to finish it. You need my help.

PAGE

You have nothing that I need!!

AJ

What is your problem?

PAGE

When I was six, I watched my mother die - Your family murdered her...It was winter - The Johnsons used the cold as an excuse to raise the price of gas. Three hundred people froze to death, because of you. So I do not want anything to do with you - Or any other Johnson. Understood?

AJ

Absolutely....I just hope the police don't figure out what you're up to.

PAGE

You may know my secret- But now I know yours. Do not screw with me.