





CODY?

LITTLE CODY BREMNER IS THE CRIMSON SHADOW?

-SIGH-

WELL, I'M ONE OF THEM, ANYWAY.

THE LATEST ONE.

PROBABLY THE LAST ONE.

AND I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I'M NOT TWELVE ANYMORE, MINA GUTIERREZ.

FUNNY HOW WE BOTH CHOSE THIS SHOP AS A TOUCHSTONE, ISN'T IT?



OUCH.

OH

I FORGOT THE BABY.

OH OH LET ME FIND YOU A CHAIR.



IT'S FINE, CODY. I'M FINE.

BUT...SERIOUSLY, THE CRIMSON SHADOW? YOU'RE THE WORST OF ALL THESE

I ALMOST TOOK YOU OUT MYSELF A COUPLE TIMES.




YEAH, THE CRIMSON SHADOW, FORMER SCARY HERO, NOW SCARY PSYCHO, RIGHT?

EXCEPT IT'S ALL A LIE, MINA.

I STARTED THOSE RUMORS MYSELF.





"I WAS THERE, MINA. I WAS THERE WHEN THAT... THAT *THING* CAME THROUGH.

"WHATEVER IT WAS, WHEREVER IT CAME FROM. WHATEVER IT *DID* TO THEM.

"I WAS RIGHT THERE.

"FIGHTING BESIDE MY FRIENDS. THE *HEROES*.

"ONLY, IT DIED, JUST KEELED OVER, LIKE IT WAS *PLANNED* TO GO AT THAT MOMENT.

"AND I FELT THE AIR GO BAD IMMEDIATELY. LIKE *SULFUR*.

"AND THEY WEREN'T MY FRIENDS ANYMORE."

BUT I DON'T GET IT. YOU WERE THERE WITH THE REST OF THOSE

I DON'T HAVE POWERS, MINA. THE WHOLE "CRIMSON SHADOW" THING?

WHY DIDN'T YOU TURN?

IT'S *STAGE* MAGIC. GOOD FOR SCARING THE RUBES, IS ALL.

I'VE BEEN LYING TO THEM, MINA.

AS LONG AS *THEY* THINK I'M ONE OF *THEM*...

...I CAN HELP THE *INNOCENT*.

LIKE, WELL, LIKE YOU'VE BEEN DOING.

SHADOW...?

OH, *ME*.





I THOUGHT I HEARD YOUR VOICE.

WHAT...

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

AND WHO, DEAREST, IS THIS DUSKY