

Radioactive

by  
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Dedicated to my brother

Thank you for creating  
this world with me.  
I promise to tell our story,  
no matter what.

## **Abstract**

This creative project serves as a pre-production for a large-scale animated series based upon characters invented by my brother and me during childhood. The long-term goal of this project is to create the world with which I grew up, and perhaps show that siblings in modern entertainment do not have to hate each other to be relatable. I want to create a beloved story that I know many people never knew they needed. I will depict how the inspiration for this story came about, along with the process of creating the project.

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## Terminology

**Pre-Production:** The early phases of creating a project. Examples of pre-production include concept designs, storyboarding, and script writing (Silveira).

**Animatic:** A term referring to a pre-production version of an animation. Most animatics are used to show shot angles, timing, and basic movement. They often will have sound or voice recordings yet rarely showcase any visual detail (“Animatic”).

**Procreate:** A digital drawing software created by Savage Interactive for iOS operating systems. It was one of the top selling apps for the Apple iPad three years in a row, 2016-2018 (“Procreate”).

**Adobe After Effects:** A compositing and visual effects software that allows the user to manipulate media by adding special effects and motion graphics. It is considered to be the “industry standard” (“VFX”).

## CHAPTER I

### Beginning Ideas

#### Introduction

When I first began drawing as a child, I started by creating images of my favorite characters or simple renditions of my stuffed animals. I never would have dreamed that I would one day be able to draw a person, much less animate one. To be honest, I had no interest in doing so in those early years. During that time, I spent a lot of time struggling to figure out my purpose in life. It seemed every single avenue I took would either end up in failure or boredom. To make matters worse, my siblings always knew where their passion lay, which made my indecision feel much more like failure. Now that time has passed and we have all moved on, their lives look a bit different from what they had originally imagined, but each one of their paths still seems to have roots in that same passion of their youth. I have always been slightly jealous of that assurance, but despite those feelings, I have always been the best of friends with each one of my siblings. I love each one of them, and I hold no favorites.

The bond that grew between my older brother and me was something special. We were always a team, even though our manner of thinking was completely different. He has always been more interested in the scientific side of things, while my thoughts tend to lean more toward the creative realm. Even with our differences, we were—and still are—best friends. Our friendship is one reason why I created this project, keeping the main characters as siblings. My brother and I created the story of *Radioactive* together because no other story like it existed. For once, a large group of siblings who truly cared about each other would be showcased in animated



entertainment. One of the main parts of this story that makes it different from the rest is that it depicts five siblings who are completely different in personality but who still rely on one another and genuinely enjoy each other's company. Neither the topics of gender, age, nor their individual pasts change how much they care for one another. I know relationships like these can and do exist because I live one.

### **Thesis Statement**

My creative thesis project is a title sequence animatic for an original 2D cartoon called *Radioactive*. The program, when fully completed, will showcase five main characters, their special abilities, unique personalities, and the relationships they share with one another. In this written portion of my thesis, I briefly introduce the characters and their backstories, and I also explain the different inspirations that fueled this project. I additionally describe the methodology behind animatic and the process in which the animatic was created. I end with a personal reflection of the entire animation and writing process.

### **Personal Inspiration**

Like most creative people, I draw inspiration from anywhere I can find it. Examples include music, television shows, movies, video games, nature, and much more. The idea of *Radioactive* is something I have had in my head since I was a little girl. The story has changed and evolved over the years to be a more consistent and intriguing narrative. Its original themes and ideas were very different from where it is now. The original idea was created by my brother and me as we played with our stuffed animals

when I was approximately eight years old. Lamo's character was represented by my brother's stuffed wolf toy, and TJ's character was taken from my toy tiger. We played and developed this story for several years, integrating the other characters as we acquired new toys.

We ended up stopping our little game, not because we grew tired of the story, but because we outgrew playing with the stuffed animals. Long after we no longer played in our imaginary world, we would still spend the nights discussing powers, weaknesses, and amusing or intriguing situations for our characters. The story of *Radioactive* is a very important part of my childhood. There are many parts of the story that represent the emotions I felt and the seasons of my life as I grew from pre-teen to adult. Each stage of the characters' development is tied to a different part of my brother's and my relationship with one another. For example, the original story was not one of superheroes. The characters of TJ and Lamo were just your ordinary kids. However, shortly after watching our first-ever superhero movie, my brother began steering our universe into that heroic realm. This integration made us realize how different our personal tastes were, but also how well we could work together.

As much as I deeply adore this story, I never planned on it being anything more than a memory. Until one night, my brother and I were having our usual late-night conversation when I opened up to him about my near jealousy of his and our sisters' passions. I told him how concerned I was because, unlike them, I had no plans, no dedication, and no goals to strive for after graduating high school. My parents were amazing and would have supported me no matter what I chose, but I just felt as if I had no calling. My brother just sat and listened. Once I was finished, he stopped, looked at

me, and said, “I thought you were going to tell our story?” At the time, it had been a while since we had talked about our world, so I was surprised when he brought it up. To be honest, I thought that he was embarrassed by that made-up fairy-tale. It had never occurred to me that he might have loved our childhood story as much as I did. I told him I could try, but there was no way anyone would take me seriously, much less care. Then he told me something I will never forget for the rest of my life. “Micah, if you don’t, no one else will ever get to see it.... So, I need you to make them see it, because I can’t.”

Since that night, I have been striving for this dream. I’ve found my passion in drawing and animation. Even though sometimes I still doubt whether a career in animation is right for me or if it is really what I am called to do, I remember that telling the story of *Radioactive* is not only my dream but also my brother’s. If I can make our childhood fantasies a reality, I will be fulfilling something that my brother and I both long to see and accomplish. Just maybe, if one day *Radioactive* can be made public, it will become part of the childhood memories that countless people will enjoy. Maybe it will inspire others to dedicate themselves to their own crazy dreams in the same way that I have.

## CHAPTER II

### Methodology

#### Style Inspiration and Process

In order to begin the project that has become my life's mission, I first needed to create designs for each of my characters. To accomplish this, I decided to make an individual character sheet for each one that listed his or her main personality, skills, abilities, and physical traits. I also could create a main-pose image drawn in color of each one, along with sketches of different facial expressions. The most important reason to create the character sheets was so that I would have a reference point to go back to when animating. The character sheets would also serve as a good introduction to the characters for people who are just getting introduced to the story, without their having to read through a lengthy backstory.

I began looking for style inspirations by examining character designs of some of the entertainment that I typically enjoy, as well as those that look close to my specific drawing style. I mostly drew inspiration from the character designs of *My Hero Academia* and *Avatar: The Last Airbender* (Horikoshi; DiMartino). These two shows are in an overall anime style, but they still hold enough realism in the overall design to be taken more seriously by older audiences. While both examples have moments of extreme exaggeration, as animation calls for, they both also stick to what is real, thus creating a satisfying illusion for all ages. At the time of writing this, I have made three separate character sheets: one for TJ, one for Lamo, and one for DJ. Each of the designs was created using my iPad Pro on the *Procreate* app (Procreate).

While working on character sheets, I simultaneously planned out my animatic. I

decided to do it shot-by-shot, using different canvases on my iPad, then exporting them to another software called *Adobe After Effects* in order to create one consecutive animation (“VFX”). I chose this route because the *Procreate* app can only handle so many frames per canvas; making an animation that lasts over forty seconds would have been impossible. I considered learning a new 2D drawing software that had a more capable animation output, but I chose to stick with the tools with which I was already familiar. Using software with which I was comfortable would make it easier for me in the long run rather than having to familiarize myself with a new application, thus saving me time. So, to keep myself organized, I planned out my exact shot list and how it would match up to my music. I timed out the lyrics of the song that I chose for background music to match when I wanted the visuals to change, in order to create the best effect. I then created individual canvases for each shot and animated them all separately. These steps were how most of this project was done. A few of the shots, while only lasting a few seconds and having no real detail, took me roughly five to eight hours to animate. Even the simpler shots took a couple hours to complete.

The song I chose was “Feel Invincible” by Skillet (Skillet). When I first heard the song, I knew immediately that it had to be the main theme for my story. I chose the song specifically because the lyrics in the chorus match perfectly with some of my characters’ power sets. The song also has an upbeat tempo, which matches the overall superhero theme. I almost chose the song “Radioactive” by Imagine Dragons,<sup>3</sup> but I decided that that song would work better for a sequence that takes place earlier in the story before Balto and DJ join the team.

I originally planned to start this project long before I actually did. However, I was

unable to begin working until a few weeks past my original timeline due to personal health and family concerns. I was called to move back home over the summer to work at my father's business full time so that he would be able to complete his work on time. My father is an electrical engineer who runs his own business, so I spent my days working on machining parts and wiring up machine panels. I did this through an injury I had sustained to my right wrist during finals week of the spring 2021 semester. Not only did my injury make it difficult to assist my father, but it made it nearly impossible to draw without pain. I invested in compression gloves and learned how to do my non-drawing related work left-handed. I spent the days working at his shop and the evenings working on my designs and animations. Once I was able to fully commit to my thesis project, I was several weeks behind my original schedule. I quickly replanned my timeline and continued animating while also trying to keep up in some of the most difficult classes I have taken to date.

It is very common, and encouraged for animators, to use footage reference when creating animations. For my references, I almost exclusively used footage I shot myself. There were several evenings spent leaping off my parents' front porch in order to get my action drawings correct. For some of the more complicated motions that I could not personally perform, I did research and watched several online videos to see exactly how the body moves when performing certain tasks, such as backflips and specific fighting styles. Some of the shots I was able to create without the use of a reference. Some examples of the end result of these two animation processes are the moments in the animatic where Lamo and TJ jump off the building together and the shot of TJ and Tiara in front of a crowd. The shot of the brothers jumping was created with reference footage I

shot of myself and several references I found online. In contrast, the shot of the TJ and Tiara in front of the press used no reference footage at all.

## **Character Biographies**

Each character is listed by order of appearance in the story. More information on the characters Lamo, TJ, and DJ can be found on their character sheets included in the appendix.

### **T.J.**

TJ is the eldest son in the Tora family, at the age of seventeen at the time of the animatic. He has short to mid-length, dark auburn hair and blue eyes. He has light freckles all over his body and is of medium build. He weighs roughly one-hundred and eighty-five pounds and is five foot eleven inches tall. His blood type is O+ and he is right handed. While his family and friends call him TJ, his actual name is Thomas Jefferson Tora III. He is famous by his hero name of Asteroid.

TJ was among the first humans in existence to gain supernatural abilities. His first power is the manipulation and cloaking of fire, meaning he can control flames and cover his entire body with them. He also had the ability to manipulate any heat regardless of the existence of flames. He also can convert his skin to a stone-like material, and can manipulate earth if it combined with his flames. So normally he cannot move around stone or rock at will, unless it is in its liquid form of lava. He also has superior strength and rigidity. He can take most wounds that would prove fatal without so much as a bandage. Because of the nature of his skin, it is nearly impossible to make him bleed. He



is physically the strongest among all of his siblings, along with having one of the top flight speeds. His skin is especially tough, and it is difficult to make him bleed. Like all his siblings, he also has enhanced speed, healing, and metabolic traits. In battle, he mostly relies on his flames and strength. His role in the team is to be among the first on a scene and deal the first strike to an enemy, as well as blast any barriers and create a basis for defense.

TJ is the comic relief of the group. His personality is that typical of a high school quarterback. He is somewhat lazy and cocky, but he is also very kind and loving. He is also very outgoing and always tries to make people laugh. However, he can be stubborn and somewhat careless. He also has a tendency to never finish anything he's started, and he has very poor situational awareness that has had detrimental effects on his hero work. He likes sports, cars, food, using his powers, and lots of attention. A few things he does not like are politics, needles, those he refers to as "haters," and tongue twisters.

### **D.J.**

DJ is the twin sister of TJ, thus being the second eldest child of the Tora family, at seventeen at the time of the animatic. Her hair is long and blonde with slight strawberry highlights. She was born with blue eyes, but after receiving her powers her eyes turned



into a bright green. She is five foot nine inches tall, has a medium build and is covered in scars. Due to poor living conditions for most of her life, she is on the skinny side for her height. at only about one-hundred and thirty-five pounds. Like her twin, she is also right handed with a O+ blood type. She also goes by an acronym, but her full name is Delilah Joe Tora. She was given the hero name Biohazard by the public after her first appearance.

DJ was the final of the five to gain her abilities. Unlike the others, her powers were somewhat forced upon her by those who controlled her during her time as an international assassin. This origin made her powers manifest slightly differently from the others. For example, she is the only one who, after receiving her powers, had a



visible physical change that she could not control, as seen in her eye-color shift. Her powers are those of nature and the manipulation of natural elements. The one she relies on most is the animalistic attribute of shape-shifting. Basically, she can pick and choose attributes of animals and manifest them on her own body. Once she gains experience with her power, she is able to mix attributes together to create the ultimate combination of traits. She gains new attributes by either touching the animal from which that the trait comes or by studying the biology of animals. This latter way, through study, she can also manifest attributes of extinct species if provided enough information. However, if she gets injured while using any given attribute, she cannot revert back to her human form

until the injury to the specific animalistic attribute is fully healed. Her secondary power is she can grow and manipulate plant life at will. She can use this ability to somewhat photosynthesize, thus she can survive through extended periods of time without nutrients if given enough light and water. This ability can backfire on DJ though, making her weaker if she is kept in darkness. She also has the ability to teleport to new locations instantly, but teleporting uses up nearly all of her energy. Of the five team members in Radioactive, she by far has the best healing factor (capability to heal quickly), but she has the slowest flight speed. Her role in a fight is that of support and intimidation. She is the most merciless of all the superhero siblings, and she never backs down from a fight. Her adaptability is a perfect weapon and impenetrable shield depending on what any situation calls her to do.

DJ's personality can be considered somewhat cold. She does not do well with people and can be extremely defensive. However, once someone has gained her hard-earned trust, she becomes quite attentive to their needs and never leaves their side. She is extremely protective of those she loves and never hesitates to put herself on the firing line for others. A few other qualities she has are brutal honesty, confidence, and a strong will. Yet she is also stubborn and distant, and she tends to become violent quickly. Her likes include the outdoors, weapons, silence, and a particular brand of stuffed bison toys. A few of her dislikes are dressing up, attention, crowds, and about ninety-eight percent of the human population.

### **Tiara**

Tiara is the youngest daughter of the Tora family. She is about thirteen years old

in the animatic. Her hair is short and curly; it appears brown in color with dirty blonde highlights. She is small in stature, standing at four feet ten inches, and she weighs just under ninety-five pounds. She is also right handed, but unlike her biological siblings, she has an A+ blood type. Her full name is Tianna Rose Tora, but everyone called her Tiara, which was a nickname given to her at birth by her father. She is the third member of Radioactive and was given the hero name Spectrum.

Tiara's elements are not quite as robust or physical as her siblings' traits. Her main ability is the control and manipulation of light. She can bend light into a solid object, creating near-impenetrable forcefields. She can create several at a time and can hold them for as long as she remembers them. The moment her focus wavers or if she forgets a specific one of her forcefields, it vanishes. Despite this limitation, she has the potential to create hundreds of these shields of light, depending on their size just, as long as she can keep track of each one. She also can bend light around herself, rendering her body and anything on it invisible. She can do this to objects as well, but it requires much more concentration and is even more difficult for her if the object is moving. She also has the ability to manipulate the air into high-force winds. With training, she can even separate different types of gasses and control them individually. Because of this ability to harness specific types of gasses, her brother TJ can often be seen flying with Tiara on his back despite the fact she is fully capable of flying on her own. She creates a forcefield to protect herself from his flames and then funnels any nearby oxygen to fuel his fire. This relationship actually makes it possible for the two of them together to expend less energy moving from place to place. Tiara also has greatly enhanced speed of movement and thinking. At full sprint, she has been recorded breaking the sound barrier. Her overall tip

speed is still unknown since she is so young; it's hard to measure her top output. Her strength and healing rate are also slightly enhanced. During a battle, Tiara's job is all about defense. She is in charge of getting to a scene as fast as possible and getting bystanders away or protecting them until further help can arrive. Her protective prowess is another reason she flies with TJ, so that they can start any battle strong both in attack and defense.

Her personality can only be described as bubbly and bright. She is a no-nonsense girl with a very plucky attitude. She can be a bit bossy, but she is very caring and always makes sure her family are all right. She is a very lighthearted individual, but she can be very gullible. She trusts others too much, to the point of danger. It takes a lot to make her angry, but she becomes very feisty when that happens. More of her good qualities include kindness, gentility, and optimism. Her negative qualities include being forgetful, unaware, and impatient. She likes pretty much everything with the color pink. She also loves clothes, talking, and kids younger than she. One of her favorite pastimes is to play checkers. Somehow none of her siblings has ever beaten her at it. On the other side, she hates messy rooms, those who wear too much cologne or perfume, and when people treat her like a child.

### **Lamo**

Lamo (pronounced Lah-moe) is the second-to-youngest member of the team, at the age of sixteen at the time of the animatic. He was adopted into the Tora family just before his ninth birthday. He has mid-length shaggy hair that grows dark black from the roots but turns into an almost metallic silver at the tips. His eyes are golden in color, and

he has a patch of freckles across his nose. His body type is on the smaller side of medium build, at a height of five foot nine inches and a weight of one-hundred and sixty-five pounds. He is left handed and had a blood type of B-. Lamo is a nickname he insists on others using, but his real name is Lucas Steel Tora. His original last name before adoption was Steel, so he chose to replace his given middle name with his first family name and change his last name to match his new family. His official hero name is Frostbite.

Lamo was the first person in history to gain supernatural abilities, and he was also the creator of them. His base ability is water and ice transformation and control. Unlike



TJ or Tiara who just manipulate the elements around themselves, Lamo can actually embody his element. Meaning, he can turn his entire physique into water, in both its solid and liquid forms. He can also use cold steam for flight. He also has the power of electricity-cloaking and control. Meaning, he can cover himself in electricity, manipulate it within other objects, and expel it out of his fingertips.

He can combine this with his water ability

for a massive attack, but it costs him dearly. He can create up to five copies of himself, but each one is more fragile than the last and not as skilled with his other abilities. Copies cannot create more copies. Each one he creates embodies a specific one of his personality

traits or quirks, thus his copies can become unpredictable. Lamo is the brains of the outfit and is most of the time looked up to for strategic advice during an incident. While there is no clear leader in Radioactive, Lamo's plans seem to be carried out the most often. He normally performs as a distance fighter since his abilities are not suited as well for close combat as some of the other team members' skills are. If needed however, he can jump in and safely incapacitate almost any foe.

Lamo has a very charming personality. He is quite innocent and extremely generous. He has supreme intellect and is always studying. He tends to be scientifically creative, and he values chivalry. He is definitely the nerd of the group, as he likes video games, computers, anime, and trivia. He never gives up and is always ready with a witty comeback. As sweet as he is, he also has a few bad habits. He tends to look down on himself, and he can also be complacent about others. Sometimes he can be a bit squeamish, which never works well in a hard fight. Not a lot of things annoy him, but some that are sure to set him off are those who mispronounce his name, slow computers, ignorance, and whenever TJ talks to him in Pig Latin.

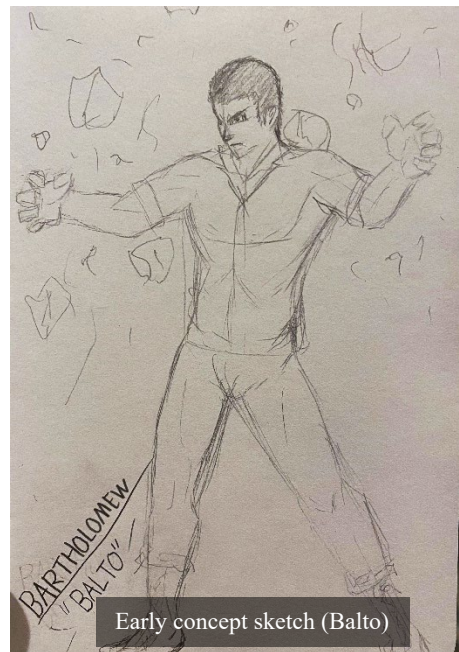
### **Balto**

Balto was the oldest child in the Steel family but is now the middle child in the Tora family, behind TJ and DJ. In the animatic, he is also seventeen, younger than the twins by a few months. His hair is black, cut into a longer military style. Balto is physically the largest in the group, standing at six-feet one-inch tall and weighing about one-hundred and ninety-five pounds. He has a larger build with a few scars scattered on his body. He has blue eyes, is right handed, and shares the same blood type of B- with his

younger biological brother Lamo. The nickname Balto was given to him soon after he was introduced to the Tora family. He was adopted right after his sixteenth birthday. His full name is Bartholomew Steel Tora, taking on his new family's last name in the same manner as Lamo. His hero name, Quasar, was chosen by Lamo soon after Balto's powers were assessed.

Balto probably has one of the more confusing and least-defined power sets of the group. While he does not have a specific element to call his own, his powers are

incredibly strong. One of the simplest ways to describe the basis of his abilities is to say that he can control nuclear energy. In other words, he can manipulate energy transferal between individual atoms. If he touches anything, he can take the nuclear momentum out of it and store it within himself or use it as his own energy. He can also give this stored energy to others around him through physical touch. He also uses this power in order to



perform several inhuman competencies, such as telekinesis, phasing through solid objects, and telepathy. While he can read the minds of others, he most often chooses not to, in order to protect their privacy. He can also communicate telepathically, which comes in handy over long distances or during a fight.

Balto is the most level headed of the entire team. His personality is mostly reflective of his military training. He is very stoic and straightforward, and he never fails to stand up for what he believes is right. He is very protective of everyone, especially his

family and friends, and despite not being the oldest, he is regarded as the group's big brother. In most situations, he stands back and silently listens before getting involved in social situations. He loves firearms and often goes to shooting ranges with DJ. His other hobbies are cooking, and he secretly loves music. There is not a lot that he does not tolerate, but what he hates most of all are Quasar's (his) fan girls.

### **Story Synopsis**

The story of *Radioactive* centers around the two superpowered brothers, TJ and Lamo, and their day-to-day life with their other physically enhanced siblings, Tiara, Balto, and DJ. The origin of these characters' lives together began with extreme loss. In the beginning, TJ, DJ, and Tiara belonged to the Tora family. They lived together and enjoyed a normal middle-class lifestyle. One fateful day, a freak accident on a family beach vacation separated the siblings. Their father saved TJ at the last second, but in doing so, he was unable to reach his eldest daughter DJ until it was too late. In the aftermath of the accident, everyone else was determined to be physically unharmed, but DJ was pronounced dead. The horrible tragedy left the then-six-year-old TJ and his one-year-old sister Tiara alone with their parents.

Meanwhile, Lamo and Balto lived with their parents and their other siblings as a part of the Steel family, just outside the border between the U.S. and Mexico. One night, the Steel family's house caught on fire. The only survivors of the disaster were the two children Lamo and Balto; the entire rest of their family perished in the fire. Tragically, neither Balto nor Lamo was made aware that the other had survived. Because they were both still young children, the two were put



into separate foster-care homes. The year that Lamo turned eight years old, he was sent to a wilderness camp for the summer. While at camp, he met TJ Tora and the two boys became inseparable. Not long after the summer camp ended, Lamo was adopted into the Tora family.

During his time in the foster-care system, Lamo had exhibited such a level of superior intellect that he gained the attention of a special governmental division, the Special Protection of the Enhanced and Altercation Response (S.P.E.A.R.).

S.P.E.A.R. continued to monitor Lamo with great interest as he progressed through school because he began to discover advanced genetic developments. Once, while he and TJ were in their mid-teens, Lamo performed a genetic experiment using his own DNA and that of his two adopted siblings, TJ and Tiara. Although the experiment failed to do what Lamo had originally intended, it granted the trio other-worldly abilities and powers. S.P.E.A.R. immediately intervened and confiscated all of Lamo's equipment, journals, and information related to the failed experiment and to any others that he had been working on up until that time. In exchange for his research, Lamo was permitted to stay with the Tora family only if the siblings told no one of their abilities. If their abilities ever were to become public knowledge, they would be required to maintain a spotless image and perform tasks set before them by S.P.E.A.R.

S.P.E.A.R. repeatedly tried to replicate the results of Lamo's experiment that had bestowed on the young people their special abilities. Multiple versions of the experiment were tried by and on S.P.E.A.R. agents, but all failed—except for one. One young volunteer's DNA was successfully altered, giving him unique abilities similar

to those of the three siblings in the original experiment. The scientists at S.P.E.A.R. could not explain why the experiment had worked on this one volunteer when it had failed for all of the others. The young teen was then brought to the Tora home so that Lamo could analyze the success of the genetic alteration. It was then that Lamo discovered that the experiment was only successful because the volunteer shared DNA similar to his own. Balto was the one on whom the experiment had been successful, and he was tasked with staying at the Tora home and training with his brother to learn to control his new abilities, as well as teaching the original three how to better their combat skills. In order keep public suspicion away from the Tora family and to permanently reunite the brothers, the family adopted Balto. In doing so, Balto became the newest member of the Tora family and helped set the foundation for Radioactive. For a while, the family found a small glimpse of peace.

Shortly after Balto joined the family, the four siblings formed a team to provide protection and defense to their community. When their special abilities became public, the team became known as Radioactive. Not long after forming their team, they began hearing troubling reports of a known sniper assassin, who had been lying low, becoming active once again and killing multiple victims over a short span of time. Despite previous attempts to capture the assassin, the team had been unsuccessful. However, their newest member, Balto, had excellent reconnaissance powers and experience, so they thought they might finally have a shot at capturing the sniper. The team decided to hold a public press conference and use TJ as bait to lure out the mercenary. The sniper had a reputation of never missing a shot, but the team decided using TJ as bait was an acceptable risk since TJ's abilities would allow him

to survive a bullet wound without any lasting physical injury. On the day of the conference, Balto discovered the assassin in their sniper roost. After a surprisingly long chase, the team captured the mercenary and brought them back to their lab. The assassin was kept in the lab in order for the Radioactive team to treat the injuries the killer acquired from their pursuit, and also for interrogation in order to uncover who had hired the assassin.

Similarly, as had happened in his previous discovery, Lamo quickly learned that this long-feared killer had comparable DNA, not to himself, but to TJ and Tiara. DJ, the long-thought-dead twin sister of TJ, was alive...at least technically. The team could tell that over the last ten years she had been neglected, used, and hurt. She was a feared assassin, yet she was nearly skin-and-bone and was covered in scars from head to toe. TJ begged the others to not turn her over to the police. Even after the evil DJ had done, TJ could not bear to send her to jail for the rest of her life, especially since it was obvious that her actions had been forced in some way. Although DJ seemed to lack remorse for any of her actions, the rest of the team reluctantly agreed to help rehabilitate her. At first, DJ would only answer to her assassin name of Shera, and she did not trust a single thing the team would do for her. Even to the point of blatant ignorance and refusal, as she had no idea how the world was supposed to work. After several months however, DJ slowly warmed up to the group and began to trust them. She became a true member of the Tora family. She let go of her past life as a criminal and embraced the feeling of living.

However, her past soon caught up with her. The Organization that she had been trapped under for nearly a decade was able to track her down. In order to

protect her siblings, who could not fight to protect her at the cost of their identities, she betrayed them and willingly went back to the terror she had been involved in before their reunion. Once the Organization got her back, for weeks they brutally punished her. Then, when she was on the brink of death, they used a black-market version of Lamo's experiment on her, unaware that her DNA matched the formula. She agonizingly gained her unnatural enhancements, but her powers were unstable. She then broke free of her captors and laid waste the entire facility.

Although the siblings were still shaken from her betrayal, they went out to stop the mutation that she had become from destroying entire cities. Only after the team saw what all DJ had endured did they truly understand why she seemingly betrayed them. Fortunately, the siblings were able to calm her down enough to stop her rampage and bring her back to the lab. Because the formula that had been given to DJ by the Organization had been cheaply altered from the original, Lamo had to perform several adjustments in order to keep her alive. Once she was able to control herself again, she explained what exactly had happened the day she left and even went into further detail about her past. She still kept most of her past to herself, but the others really didn't mind. They were just happy to have her safely back and somewhat sane. Although she still struggled with keeping her new animalistic instincts in check, the team accepted her as their fifth member.

The story continues long after DJ joins the ranks and does not end until the characters are all in their late twenties, but the animatic that serves at the title sequence for the story takes place right after DJ becomes a part of Radioactive. In the animatic, all the characters are either sixteen or seventeen years of age, except Tiara who is thirteen.

While the animatic I made will not be the one that the series starts off with, it is one that will begin each episode towards the middle of the shows story when most of the main characters have been introduced and well established. In the animated portion of this project, I show the basic powersets of most of the cast, as well as a bit of each character's personality. Although this synopsis of the story is quite condensed, hopefully it provides an easy-to-follow overview and a basic understanding of the characters being introduced and their roles going forward.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **Final Look**

#### **Reflection**

Even with the new timeline I created at the start of my project's process, I was unable to finish the animatic in the timeframe I had hoped. However, I was still able to complete my overall creative project on time. Looking back, there is not much I could have changed about the timing. The personal situation in which I was placed made it nearly impossible to work on the animatic until I only had a few weeks remaining for completion. If I were to do anything differently, I probably, when creating my original timeline, would consider the possibility of situations that might develop like those that did arise for me. Instead, I left no room for error, nor did I account for forces beyond my control.

As to the animatic itself, I am extremely proud of the end result. If there had been more time, I would have loved to add color to more of the shots to better showcase the effect of the characters' powers. I also would have added more defining detail to some of the sequences. However I think, given the time I had, I was able to go a step above what I originally had envisioned, even before I was put in a time crunch. I am especially proud, not only of the animatic itself, but of all the character-development work and careful planning that went into it prior drawing and animating process. Before starting this project, I genuinely hated my natural art style. The only thing I enjoyed drawing was fan art of other people's characters. Drawing my own creations always ended in disappointment. After this project however, I feel as though I have finally stepped out on

my own when it comes to my art. It may seem simple, but finally having something tangible of the characters that mean so much to me is a feeling I will never grow weary of. I still believe that there is work to be done as far as the character designs go. Especially for Balto and Tiara since I have yet to have a drawn image for either. However, since I now have a specific style in mind, the hardest part is already over

## **Conclusion**

Over the past few months, I have experienced many things that I could have never imagined. I have met so many new people, who encouraged me to pursue my dream. I have gained new hobbies and skills in academics and through extracurricular activities. I genuinely believe that the course of my life was forever changed when I transferred to MTSU. So many things changed, even the focus of my Honors thesis shifted from its original conception of a research-based idea to a more creatively focused, skilled project. Despite these changes, I could not be prouder of the work I have done for this project, nor could I be more satisfied with my work for the university as a whole. Even after struggling through a global pandemic, personal injury, and many other challenges, I did my best to make sure my work never wavered.

I will continue to work on this project until *Radioactive* is a household name. I will keep my promise to my brother, and I will inspire others to chase their dreams. No matter where an idea may have come from, no matter how insane it may seem, and no matter the loss one endures on the way, one must choose to keep going. It is my hope that everyone who sees my story, and the story of the Tora family, will know the value of creativity and a promise.

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## **Appendices**

The following pages contain the character sheets created for Radioactive, the written shot list that was used in creating the animatic, and a few still images from the animatic itself at the time of submission.

## Appendix A: Lamo Character Sheet

**Lamo Character Sheet**

*Signature*

**Random Facts**

- Adopted by Tom family at age 8.
- Graduated highschool at 11, earned his first bachelors at 13, and his first doctorate at 15. He now has several.
- Created the formula that created "Radioactive".

**Good qualities**

- Extremely intelligent
- Kind
- Child-like
- Innocent
- Creative
- Chivalrous
- Generous

**Bad qualities**

- Overly Sarcastic
- Occasionally ignores others
- Can be self-absorbed
- Low self-esteem
- Can be faint of heart.

**Likes**

- School
- Sciences
- Being with small groups of friends/family
- Trivia
- Computers
- Video games/Anime
- Roast battles

**Dislikes**

- Stupid people
- Buggy tech
- Others mispronouncing his name
- Sports/exercise
- Public speaking
- Pig latin

**Power Set/Skills**

- Water/Ice transformation and control
  - Can lower the temperature for anything but it works better on inorganic objects.
  - Can use steam, mostly for flight.
- Electricity coiling and control
  - Can be combined with water, but this causes injury to the user.
  - Can be utilised for a boost of movement speed for a short time.
- Overall rigidity (only in powered state)
  - Healing factor
  - Enhanced strength
- Copy
  - Can create up to 5 copies of himself, but each one is more fragile and less skilled using other powers.
  - Each copy enhances a specific, perhaps hidden, personality trait.
  - Cannot copy other people.

**Physical/Family Attributes**

- Gender: Male
- Age: 16 (17th)
- Dark grey hair w/ silver tips
- Long & thick
- Gold eyes
- Lightly blemished skin
- 5' 9"
- 165 lbs
- Small + build
- Left handed
- Blood Type: B-
- Full name: Lamo Lucas Steel Tora
- Hero name: Frostbite

**Eye design**

Normal

Powered

(Brightness & first lid depends on emotional state)

(Gatorade)

**Cringe**

**Joyful**

**Pout**

**Smug**

**Sad**

**Angry**

## Appendix B: TJ Character Sheet

**TJ Character Sheet.**

*Signature*

**Good qualities**

- Funny
- Confident
- Caring
- Uncharacteristically intelligent
- Outgoing

**Bad qualities**

- Dense
- Careless
- Poor situational awareness
- Never finishes anything
- Set in his ways

**Random Facts**

- Lost the tip of his tongue in a childhood accident
- Confident around everyone except his childhood best friend, Jane.
- Gifted in mathematics, but hates it.

**Likes**

- Sports (Football)
- Video games
- Cars/driving
- Fighting
- Food
- Attention

**Dislikes**

- School
- Needles
- "Haters"
- Politics
- Tongue twisters

**Power Set/Skills**

- Fire Cowl and Control
  - Can rise the temperature for anything, but it works better on inorganic objects.
  - Can be used for flight
- Stone Cowl
  - Can be combined with fire to create lava.
- Overall rigidity
  - Healing factor
  - Thick skin
  - Difficult to make bleed
- Super Strength
  - Physically strongest out of all his siblings.

**Physical Attributes**

- Gender: Male
- Age: 17 (eldest)
- Auburn Hair
- Blue eyes (normal)
- Lots of freckles
- Mid/long curve hair
- 5' 11"
- 185 lbs.
- Medium+ build
- Right handed
- Blood Type: O+
- Full name: Thomas Jefferson Tera III
- Hero name: Astroid

**Eye design**

Normal

Pierced

Brighter glow deeper on emotional state

**Emotions**

Sad/Scared

Angry


Embarrassed

Annoyed

Confused

Hurt

## Appendix C: DJ Character Sheet



Signature

# Character Sheet.

**Random Facts**

- Although she uses its power often, her only known fear is scorpions
- Proficient in the violin
- She doesn't understand most social situations.
- Due to poor living conditions for the past 10 years, she's almost entirely lost her sense of smell.

**Power Set/Skills**

- Animalistic Shape shifting
  - Can pick and choose attributes from any animal she's touched.
  - Size can be manipulated from original to human size.
- Organic life manipulation
  - Can grow plants from virtually anywhere around her.
  - Can draw power through photosynthesis but this can be used against her.
- Teleportation.
- Overall rigidity
  - Best healing factor
  - Cannot change form if injured.

**Physical Attributes**

- Gender: Female
- Age: 17 (17)
- Blonde Hair
- Green eyes
- Covered in scars
- Long shaggy hair
- 5' 9"
- 135 lbs
- Medium build
- Right handed
- Blood Type: O+
- Full name: Dekilah Jo Tora.
- Hero name: Biohazard

**Good qualities**

- Confident
- Strong willed
- Honest
- Silent acts of kindness

**Bad qualities**

- Stubborn
- Distant
- Prone to outbursts
- Homicidal tendencies


**Likes**

- Weapons
- Outdoors
- Silence
- Fighting
- Personal space
- Starved animals
- Swamp Cocktail

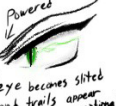
**Dislikes**

- 98% of people
- Attention
- Dressing up
- Crowds

**Eye design**




Normal




Powered

• eye becomes slitted and trails appear depending on emotional state.


Happy




Angry




Hurt/Guilt




Surprised




Confused



Confident





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## Appendix D: Shot List of Actions and Timing in the Animatic

### Thesis plan

<p>1/ Fade in DJ in chains</p> <p>You make me feel invincible (0:00 - 0:03)</p>	<p>2/ City Skyline</p> <p>Shot like a rocket up into the sky (0:03 - 0:05)</p>	<p>3 explosion Ground POV</p> <p>Not gonna stop, invincible (0:06 - 0:07)</p>	<p>4 TJ Fly then run in</p> <p>feel invincible (0:08 - 0:10)</p>
<p>5 Catches rubble</p> <p>Earthquake, powerful (0:10 - 0:11)</p>	<p>6 Lamo runs under and wastes bots</p> <p>Just like a tidal wave (0:12 - 0:13)</p>	<p>7 Runs on ice plays :)</p> <p>You make me brave (0:14)</p>	<p>8 Balto punch robot</p> <p>You're my titanium (0:15 - 0:17)</p>
<p>9 Tiana run and protect bystanders</p> <p>Fight song, raising up (0:17 - 0:19)</p>	<p>10 DJ land &amp; Roar</p> <p>Like a roar of victory in a stadium (0:20 - 0:22)</p>	<p>11 TJ with press (Tiana on his arm)</p> <p>Who can touch me 'cause I'm (I'm made of fire) (0:23 - 0:26)</p>	
<p>12 Lamo in lab working (Balto in back)</p> <p>Who can stop me tonight (I'm hard wired) (0:26 - 0:30)</p>	<p>13 Lamo &amp; TJ Run and jump</p> <p>You make me feel invincible (0:31 - 0:34)</p>	<p>14 Lamo and TJ take off.</p> <p>I feel, I feel it (0:35 - 0:36)</p>	
<p>15 All in lab chill</p> <p>Invincible (0:37 - 0:38)</p>	<p>16 Group shot</p> <p>I feel, I feel it (0:39 - 0:40)</p>	<p>17 Fade in logo</p> <p>Invincible (0:40 - 0:42)</p>	

**Appendix E:**  
**Still Image of DJ Using Her Powers**

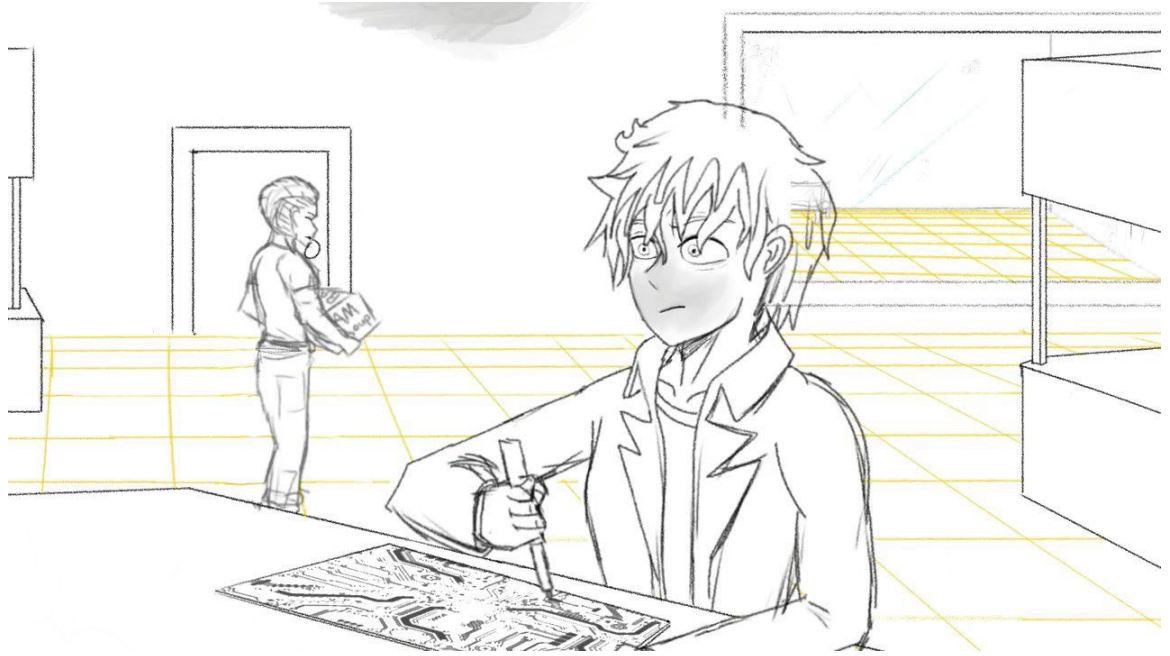


**Appendix F:**  
**Still Image of Tiara and TJ in Front of Press**

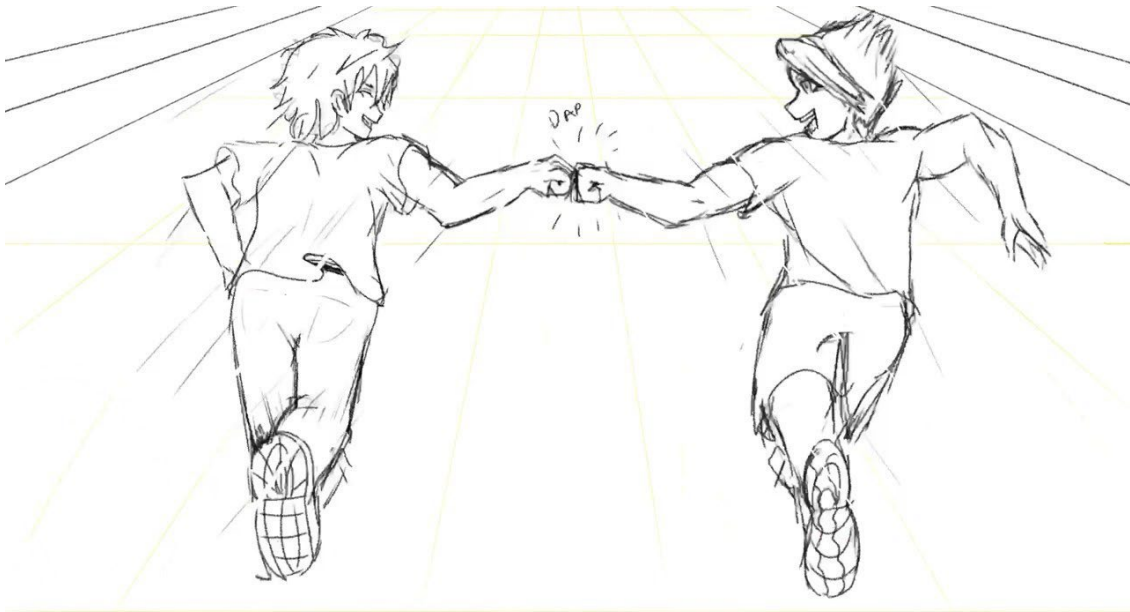




**Appendix G:**  
**Still Image of Balto and Lamo Working in the Lab**



**Appendix H:**  
**Still Image of Lamo and TJ Running Together**



**Appendix I:  
Still Image of DJ Being Held Captive**



**Appendix J:  
Still Image of the Radioactive Team Together in the Lab**

