**

*Fast, not half-fast. - Niko Maximov*

**Name**: Nikolai Krzysztof Maximov

**Age**: 15

**Eyes**: Blue

**Hair**: Auburn (longish and shaggy)

**Distinguishing Marks**: None noticeable

**Race**: Human Super

**Gender**: Male

**Dominant Hand**: Right

**Height**: 5’10

**Weight**: 150 pounds

**Appearance**: Niko is athletic, he works out because it doesn’t take but a minute, preferring repetitions to heavier weights. He is proud of his abs, and will show them off any chance he gets. Any chance at all. His wavy hair is on the longish side, and is best described as ‘unkempt.”

**Personality**: Niko is impatient, which stems from living in a world that moves at a slower pace than he does. He's also loyal and overprotective. He isn’t above making himself look foolish if it draws negative attention away from Theo.

He was mischievous as a kid, which also stemmed from boredom. Though not a kleptomaniac per say, he has stolen in the past, "like Robin Hood," generally if it is something he knows Theo will like. He was both loyal and obedient to his uncle who from the time they arrived in Berlin stressed that Niko’s main responsibility is in taking care of and watching out for his sister, Theodosia, so much so that Niko let himself be left back a grade to be in the same classes as Theo to do just that. He’s also a shameless, but harmless flirt.

**Likes**:

* He is very close to his sister, Theo, and she needs A LOT of looking after.
* Running, zoom zoom
* Food, though he’s not really grown past eating like a toddler - chicken nuggets and fries, cheeseburgers, peanut butter sandwiches and bags of Cheerios.
* Girls.

**Dislikes**:

* Anything that upsets his sister
* Lines. Why is everyone so slow?
* Public Transportation. See above.
* School. It takes so lonnnng. Reading, the same
* News reporter Indigo Montoya. He’s such a tool.

**Skills**:

* Though he often appears not to be listening, Niko is an auditory learner, he remembers things said often verbatim - if only he’d leave his damn Airpods home
* Speed - he’s fast, not half fast

**Languages**: English, Romanian. Niko idolized his father and later his Uncle Niska to the point of keeping the language of “the old world.” Though Niko considers himself fluent, there are so few speakers in the US that no one really tells him different. He’s copied his uncle’s speech patterns to the point Niko has a noticeable accent himself, which, like his uncle, becomes more pronounced when he’s angry.

**Superpower**: Super Speed

**Range**: Close

Niko possesses super speed, which also gives him super fast reflexes. When accelerated, his matter appears to disperse, which is why things like raindrops and specs of dust don't cut through him at super speeds. Though Niko can control some elements, these are equated to his primary power of super speed. For example, Niko can create fire (with friction due to his speed), generate powerful gusts of wind, vacuums or whirlpools using rapid arm/or circular movement.

**History**: He and his younger sister Theo were born in Eastern Europe with Romani ancestry (colloquially known as Gypsies, a traditionally itinerant ethnic group living mostly in Europe and the Americas.) Upon the death of their parents, they were relocated to Berlin, New Hampshire (population 11,000) to live with their Uncle Niska. Because nothing ever happens in New Hampshire. Niska was a good man, but if we’re honest, not up to the task of raising two young children - one of whom was clearly troubled from the start. He relied heavily upon Niko in this regard. Theo and Niko attended public school - briefly - before Theo’s behavior prompted their Uncle Niska to pull them from classes and begin homeschooling. The jury’s still out on whether this did the children any favors.

Uncle Niska was not prepared for teenagers, and with his failing health, they were often left to their own devices.  Running around keeping the two out of trouble may have been what put Niska in an early grave, though there are some who say Theo’s involvement was more direct. Niska’s body was discovered in the basement, inhumed directly into the concrete walls. Niko confirms Theo’s claims that he died first, clutching at his heart, and that she’d only disposed of the body afterwards by means of the most expedient method. There were no explicit signs of foul play, but Theo had revealed to authorities that she possessed superpowers and that she’d used them in a manner befitting someone who required additional guidance to say the least. Though Niko demonstrated a greater control of his power, it was thought best he remained with his sister.

With no surviving relatives, arrangements were made for Theo and Niko to relocate again, this time to Rancho Bonito, California to attend Rancho Bonito High. At least it gets the Maximov duo far, far away from Berlin, New Hampshire.

**WRITING SAMPLE:**

*Waiting. Niko bounced on his toes, stretching out one shoulder then the next by crossing his arm over his body. The motions were useless, he wasn’t going anywhere and his room, or ‘cell’ as he thought of it was standard six by eight. Nowhere to run and for a speedster that was pure torture.  He wasn’t under arrest - they - whoever they were - made that clear. Technically he wasn’t caught stealing anything, he was caught returning things that his sister had stolen, not of course that he would tell them that. Keeping Theo out of trouble had been a full time job for the elder Maximov, and lately he seemed to be failing miserably. Now here he  was, stuck waiting, one of the most horrible words in the English language for someone impatient to begin with.*

*Theo was who knows where with who knows who, Rancho Bonito, if it was such a thing. His Uncle warned him to be careful, that there were people out for their own best interests, not above using people with abilities like him and Theo. And Theo always seemed to find the worst people to trust.*

*He finished his crunches in under a minute, stretching them out to try and make the time go faster.  As he started to mime skipping rope, he knew one thing was for certain. Whatever he had to say, whatever he had to do he was prepared to so long as he could get sent wherever Theo was. Someone had to keep an eye on her like Uncle Niska said, she was his responsibility. He’d make sure it happened, but for now, he dropped down on his bunk and tapped his foot; he had to wait.*