



Chapter Fourteen

The smell of freshly brewed coffee and pancakes were the first thing Y/N noticed when she woke up. Then she remembered the dream she had just woke up from and sat up so quickly she nearly tumbled off the couch.

"Whoa, baby are you okay? Didn't realise you'd be so excited about having pancakes!" Sharon laughed as she peered over the couch to look at Y/N.

Y/N's heart sunk momentarily as she realised that she was back in reality and not in the dream anymore. Wanda wasn't the one in the apartment with her. She instantly felt guilty for it, for wishing that it was Wanda who was in the apartment with her.

"Well you know how much I love pancakes and you always did make the best ones!" Y/N replied with a smile as she stood up from the couch.

"Look about last night, I'm sorry that I got so worked up about it. I trust you and I don't want you thinking that I'm trying to control who you can and can't talk to!" Sharon said as she wrapped her arms around Y/N's waist, leaning against her gently.

"It's fine, really. Let's just forget about it, yeah?" Y/N replied as she pressed a soft kiss on Sharon's cheek, hugging her closer.

Sharon smiled softly as Y/N held her, she had hated that they'd fought last night, especially because it had been over Wanda. She knew it shouldn't have bothered her so much to see Wanda talking to Y/N, but Sharon couldn't help but feel like Wanda was doing it on purpose.

"I love you Y/N" Sharon said quietly as she rested her head against Y/N's shoulder.

Hearing those words, Y/N felt like someone had thrown a bucket of ice cold water over her, she hadn't expected to hear them so soon. If she didn't say anything back though, then Sharon would realise that something was wrong and Y/N didn't want that, not when she was still trying to figure out what the hell she was doing.

"I love you too" Y/N replied after a moment, it wasn't really a lie, she did love Sharon and likely always would do. Sharon was always going to be important to her, the problem was Y/N was starting to realise she wasn't in love with Sharon anymore.

"Now go get yourself some pancakes and coffee, we're expected over at the compound later. I need to go and run some errands first though, so are you happy to make your own way over there baby?" Sharon moved out from Y/N's arms, talking as she moved around the living area picking up her jacket and bag.

"You're letting me go back to work?" Y/N asked arching a brow, she had expected Sharon to keep trying to keep her away from the compound and returning to work for longer.

Sharon smiled at Y/N as she stood by the front door to the apartment.

"You'd end up going even if I told you not to, so I may as well get onboard with the idea that you are a total workaholic and be there to keep an eye on you" Sharon replied before waving goodbye and slipping out of the apartment.

Y/N walked into the kitchen, grabbing a mug from the cupboard she poured some coffee into it before stacking three pancakes onto a plate. As she sat eating the pancakes, Y/N pulled her phone out and sent a message to Steve telling him she would be at the compound in a little while. Y/N wondered if Wanda would be there and if she would get a chance to try and talk to her again.

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Maria made her way through the compound, she was holding onto a file that had been given to her this morning by one of the Shield research agents. She had tasked them with getting into the FBI database and pulling up everything they could about Y/N and in particular about her assignments from the previous year. What they had given Maria had been a lot more than she had expected.

As soon as she had read through it, Maria had headed straight to the compound. She had called Nat on her way and told her that she needed to talk urgently. Taking a left turn, Maria pressed her palm against the scanner on the wall. A moment passed and it flashed green, the door sliding open into Nat's suite of rooms on the top floor of the compound.

"Hey love" Nat smiled at Maria as she stepped back inside from the balcony where she had been sitting reading.

"You haven't said anything to Wanda, or Yelena?" Maria asked as she walked over and kissed her girlfriend.

"No, you told me not to, so I didn't. But depending on whatever it is you are about to tell me, I may have to consider telling them if it's something they need to know" Nat said as she took Maria's hand and led her over to sit on the couch.

Maria sat down, positioning herself so that she was facing Nat. She placed the file down in the space between them on the couch.

"I had someone do some digging on Y/N. Everything is in that file Nat and it makes for some pretty interesting reading to say the least" Maria explained, her eyes meeting Nat's.

"Want to save me a long read and give me the highlights?" Nat asked as she picked up the rather full file.

"Alright, so Y/N Monroe was actually born Y/N Von Strucker" Maria started telling her, immediately seeing the realisation dawn on Nat's face.

"Are you trying to tell me that Y/N is actually the daughter of Wolfgang Von Strucker, the Hydra leader who experimented on Wanda and her brother?!" Nat exclaimed as she started looking at the pages in the file, one of them being a copy of Y/N's original birth certificate.

"Yeah that is exactly what I'm telling you and the FBI have done everything to keep that fact hidden, with help from Shield as well. Y/N, her mother and her brother were all put into protection after Von Strucker died. They came to live in the states and were given the chance to start over after it was clear that they'd had no idea what their father had been doing" Maria carried on explaining, "Y/N got into an Ivy League college and was pretty much recruited by the FBI from there, she graduated top of her class at Quantico and immediately moved work in the newly set up division that was created to deal with super people and related threats."

Nat couldn't believe it and had it not been for the file and all the paperwork inside, she would have been asking Maria if she had fallen and hit her head. She hadn't expected Y/N to have so many secrets buried in her past. What concerned Nat though was the fact that Y/N was working on assignments specifically related to Hydra, could she really be trusted to not be a double agent? After all her father had been one of the major players in leading Hydra before he had died.

"This is crazy, if Fury knows about this how on earth did he allow for Y/N to be selected by the FBI as the agent to come and work with us? How can we really trust her, she could have ulterior motives and actually be working with Hydra to take us out?" Nat shook her head, there was no way she could keep this from the team.

"From what I can tell all the people above us know about this and seem to believe that Y/N and the rest of her family were innocent and have no reason to want to be linked to Hydra. I agree though it's a pretty big secret to be keeping from everyone" Maria said, before pointing at another section of the file, "I also got the full report on the assignment that your contact in the FBI must have been referring to."

Nat shuffled the papers and pulled the ones that Maria had pointed to, to the front of the pile. She was quiet for a moment as her eyes scanned the documents, taking in the details of the assignment. Y/N and her team had been out in the field, they had been tasked with bringing in to scientists that were known to be working for Hydra. When they had got into the lab, it appeared that the information given hadn't been wholly accurate and the scientists hadn't been there alone. Rumlow and a group of mercenaries on Hydra's books had been guarding the lab.

A gun fight had broken out and Y/N had been distracted by Rumlow, who had apparently spouted off about her father, how he would be disappointed in her choice to betray Hydra. The distraction had caused Y/N to not notice the other mercenary who had been approaching from behind, a gun aimed at her. However one of Y/N's fellow agents, who was also her best friend had seen and had tackled Y/N out of the way, in doing so though they took the shot meant for Y/N. They had died in the lab before any help could make it to them and now Nat understood why her contact had said Y/N had changed. She had lost her best friend and clearly blamed herself for what had happened.

"They cleared Y/N pretty quick after, but from what I can tell that assignment took a toll on her and it's likely that's what led to her withdrawing and the breakdown of her relationship with Sharon as well" Maria spoke as Nat finished reading.

"Do you think Sharon knows any of this?" Nat asked as she put the file back down, there was plenty more in there but her mind was reeling enough already.

"My guess from the way Sharon was when she turned up here and saw Y/N again, no" Maria said as she leaned back into the cushions.

"I can't keep this from Wanda" Nat sighed as she shifted to lean herself against Maria.

"How do you think she'll react?" Maria asked as she slipped her arm around Nat.

"Honestly I can't imagine her being over the moon about Y/N being related to the man that experimented on her and her brother. If I was her I would be pretty pissed off that Y/N had kept that a secret, because whether she knew at the time or not, there is no way since doing all this work for the FBI on Hydra that Y/N doesn't know what her father did and who he did it to" Nat spoke with a frown creasing her forehead.

"I may need to find an excuse to be back at Shield when you decide to tell Wanda" Maria half-joked.

"Yeah I might stand Steve in front of me when I tell her" Nat replied with a small laugh, it was not going to be an easy conversation, not when she knew the way Wanda currently felt about Y/N.

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