



## Chapter Five

Nat had been heading to find Wanda when she noticed that someone was in the main conference room. Still carrying the file that Maria had given her, Nat pushed the door open and walked in, gaining the attention of the other person in there.

"Y/N, I wasn't expecting to see you here" Nat said as Y/N looked away from the board she had been working on.

"Yeah, Steve set me up in here about an hour ago. He gave me some of the reports and stuff to go through that the FBI, CIA and Shield have pulled together since the factory mission incident" Y/N explained as she pinned another photo onto the board, "Is that another file for me to go through?"

Y/N nodded at the file that Nat had tucked under her arm.

The intention had been to speak with Wanda, but now with Y/N being there in front of her, Nat was curious to see what reaction she would get from the FBI special agent when she saw what was inside of the file. Stepping round to the other side of the table, Nat placed the file down and slid it across to Y/N.

Y/N arched a brow slightly, she hadn't had much interaction with Natasha since taking up this assignment, but she had heard plenty about the former Red Room Assassin and Shield agent. She had a lot of respect for the other woman, for the things she had done and sacrificed but Y/N could sense that Nat was being cautious around her.

Reaching out for the folder, Y/N pulled it closer to her, she leaned on the table with one hand as she used the other to flip it open in front of her. Confusion flickered through her eyes for a moment as she looked through the first few pages. Her heart dropped, her stomach twisting into knots as she realised that this file had nothing to do with Hydra, no, it was all about her and her family.

Y/N slammed the folder shut the moment she saw the FBI field incident report from last year. She would not read that, she'd lived through it and had to relive it multiple times during interviews after. Now it was a memory that she kept firmly locked away, it caused too much pain to think about it.

"Why do you have this?" Y/N looked up and across to where Nat was standing, anger flaring in her eyes, this was a complete violation of protocol for them to have gained the information that was contained in the folder.

"Did you plan on ever being honest about who you actually are? Or did you just think you could keep going on with this lie?" Nat questioned Y/N, "Seems like a pretty big secret to be keeping from people who are supposed to be trusting you to help bring down Hydra. I mean you were the one accusing Wanda not so long ago of possibly still working for Hydra, seems like it's you and your family we should be more worried about still being in league with Hydra."

Y/N's hands clenched into fists as Nat spoke, she had spent years, since she was eighteen processing the things she had been through, the secrets that had been kept. It had nearly broken her family apart and had it not been for them being offered the chance to start over and be protected, then Hydra would have probably taken them out a long time ago to ensure they didn't say anything.

That was why this had all been locked down with the highest of security restrictions applied, so the fact that Nat had somehow managed to bypass all of that, it put Y/N and her family at risk. The more people that knew about this and put the pieces together the more danger they would be in, if they somehow let it leak out to the wrong people.

"Is that why you didn't come on the mission? Did you know the whole time that it was going to be a trap? Then you turn up and make it look like you saved the day, so that nobody would ever think that you could have been in on it?" Nat pushed, studying the way that Y/N was reacting, "Is the only reason you're getting close to Wanda because you want to help Hydra get their hands on her again?"

Y/N lost all her composure at the last accusation, without thinking she threw herself across the table, tackling Nat against the wall. As she did, Y/N lost control of the grip she had on hiding an even bigger secret, one that was even hidden from being contained in that file about her. Y/N's eyes glowed a bright azure blue and tendrils of power a matching colour, snaked around the tips of her fingers as she gripped hold of the front of Nat's jacket.

"You don't know the first thing about me!" Y/N glared at Nat as she pinned her to the wall, "Wanda and her brother Pietro were not my father's first experiments with the sceptre. I was his original test subject before he moved onto them. He ruined my life, tortured me for his stupid cause, for science he would say and then nearly destroyed my family when it all came crashing down around him. They killed my best friend! So don't you dare stand there and accuse me of working for Hydra! I have every reason to despise them and want them brought down, why do you think I joined the FBI in the first place!?"

Nat didn't fight back, she knew that Y/N wouldn't hurt her but it was still a shock to see the sudden flare of power breakout from Y/N and to hear that she too had suffered at the hands of her fathers and Hydra's experiments with the sceptre that Loki had brought to earth.

"Mind control, that was how you got the FBI and Shield to believe that you and your family knew nothing about your fathers work with Hydra. That was one of the things I couldn't figure out from the file, why they would really think that none of you could of had the slightest clue about Von Strucker and what he did. It was you, you made them believe it was true didn't you?" Nat said as she looked at Y/N.

Y/N had spent a long time avoiding using the powers she had gotten from the mind stone, she had hated her father for turning her into some kind of freak. But the day that the FBI and Shield had turned up, Y/N had known it would be the only way to protect herself and her family from being locked away. She had never used her powers since, allowing them to lay dormant, until now. Until Nat had managed to push all her buttons and break the delicate grip she kept around them.

"I was protecting my family. None of us wanted what our father did, we didn't ask to be dragged into Hydra and it's unstable way of thinking. So why should we then suffer the price, why shouldn't we have the chance to start over?" Y/N replied as she struggled to bring her power back under control, the downside to using it so rarely was the lack of control she had over it in moments like this.

"Who actually knows about your powers? Sharon? Fury? The FBI?" Nat asked as she watched the tendrils of power around Y/N's hands slowly start to recede.

"None of them know. Nobody knows" Y/N answered honestly, "I didn't want to trade being locked up in one lab being experimented on for another one. So I keep it hidden."

Y/N finally pulled the power back into her, it vanished from her hands and her eyes returned to their normal colour. It was then that she realised that she had attacked Nat and suddenly let her go, stepping away from her.

"I don't understand how you could have kept this from everyone for so long" Nat straightened her jacket as she stepped away from the wall.

"Nobody suspects anything because I don't use it" Y/N told Nat as she retreated back to the other side of the table, putting distance between them again.

Nat could understand why Y/N would want to keep it a secret but at the same time she had abilities that could potentially be extremely helpful in protecting not just people but earth itself from the kinds of attacks it had suffered. How could Y/N not want to use them for that reason?

"So is this the part where you wipe my memory of all of this then?" Nat arched a brow, she had thought Y/N would have done it when she'd had the element of surprise.

Y/N shook her head a little bit, before looking back across at Nat.

"Wanda protects all of you. You can't see them of course, but there are runes all over the compound and they're on each of you as well. So even if I wanted to I couldn't, my powers are nothing compared to hers, I can't break through the spell she's cast that locks people out of all your minds" Y/N explained to Nat.

Nat didn't know whether to be relieved or slightly concerned about that and the fact that Wanda hadn't mentioned doing it for them.

"Before coming in here I had been going to find Wanda to give her that file. So she could know the truth about you" Nat told Y/N, who had sunk down into one of the chairs at the table, "I'll keep your secrets Y/N, but on the condition that you stay away from Wanda. She has been through enough and the last thing she needs is to trust someone and then find out they aren't who they say they are. Something like that could trigger another Westview style incident and I won't let that happen to her again."

Y/N felt broken as she listened to what Nat was saying. She had never come here expecting to fall for an avengers, let alone Wanda Maximoff but that was exactly what had happened and now she was being forced to choose between protecting her family or having the chance to be with Wanda.

"Fine" Y/N said sadly a few seconds of silence, "But if this goes any further, if anyone else finds out about me. I will come for you first Natasha Romano and you will regret it."

"You can keep the file and destroy it yourself" Nat replied ignoring the threat before leaving Y/N alone again in the conference room.

Y/N turned in the chair, positioning her back to the door, her hands trembled as she wiped the tears from her cheek. Even after all these years her father was still controlling her life and it was starting to pull Y/N apart.

As soon as this assignment was done, Y/N knew she would need to get away, she didn't know where she would go but she would have to put physical distance between herself and Wanda to be able to keep up her part of the deal with Nat.