



## Chapter Sixteen

Wanda tried to pay attention to the briefing that Maria was giving to the team, it was about another potential location for the Hydra cell that they were looking for, but her focus kept shifting to where Y/N was sat a few chairs up on the other side of the table.

Something seemed off, she had expected Y/N to be more open after the time they had spent together last night, but instead Y/N seemed to be doing everything she could to not acknowledge her. To the point Y/N had even angled her chair so that her back was to Wanda. Nobody else of the team seemed to have noticed it as they all listened to what Maria was telling them.

Wanda would have put it down to not wanting to raise Sharon's suspicions but the blonde CIA agent wasn't currently at the compound. She had overheard Y/N tell Steve earlier that Sharon had got caught up dealing with something at work in the city so she wouldn't be able to make it here to the compound until later on.

"Are you okay?" Wanda spoke into Y/N's mind, unable to hold back from reaching out.

Y/N sat up slightly at the sudden intrusion into her mind, but remembered that she was surrounded by the others and she especially didn't want Nat to notice anything was going on, so made herself relax again. She kept her focus on Maria and the screen as she pulled up various images of suspected Hydra agents.

"Wanda not here, can we talk after this?" Y/N responded, knowing that Wanda would be able to hear her thoughts clearly.

"Of course, I'll meet you out by the lake" Wanda replied, relieved that Y/N hadn't ignored her.

The briefing lasted another half an hour and it was decided that the team would head out to the location in a few days, everything indicated that this was a legitimate Hydra base unlike the last one, but Tony and Steve were in agreement that they wouldn't rush in this time round.

Wanda hung back for a little, chatting with Yelena and Kate, allowing time for Y/N to leave first. She didn't want the others to think she was going after Y/N, whilst she loved the team they were all nosy as heck sometimes and if she had left at the same time as Y/N then they'd have been all over it.

"I'll meet you guys later, try not to drink all the wine before I get there" Wanda laughed as she waved at Yelena and Kate before heading out.

Nat was still sitting at the table, glancing through some of the stuff Maria had given them. She looked up and waved to Wanda as well, she watched for a moment as Wanda left and saw that she headed in the same direction Y/N had gone in earlier.

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Y/N picked up a pebble from the edge of the lake, she turned it over in her hand a few times before flicking her wrist, watching as the pebble skimmed across the top of the water. She was leaning down to pick up another pebble when the sound of approaching footsteps had her pause and look round.

"Hey" Wanda smiled warmly as she walked over to where Y/N was standing, "I was worried that you were upset with me, for what I did last night. I don't want you to feel like I'm trying to force you to make a choice Y/N, I just needed to at least tell you how I really felt."

"Wanda I can't do this" Y/N said as she looked out at the lake, "We can't carry on with whatever it is that we're doing right now. I pick Sharon, okay? I want to be with her and this thing between us could ruin that. So please don't wait for me, I won't choose you."

Stepping closer to Y/N, Wanda moved so she was standing in front of her, forcing Y/N to look at her and not at the lake. Something had changed since they had spoken last night, when she had visited Y/N in her dream, Wanda had sensed that Y/N had wanted her to be there. Now though, Y/N was trying to push her away again and Wanda didn't understand how things could have changed so quickly between them.

"Do you really mean that Y/N?" Wanda asked as her eyes met Y/N's "Because to me that didn't sound very convincing."

Y/N tensed slightly in response to the closeness of Wanda, she hated this, hated that she was being forced to make this choice. Not that it felt like she had much choice, not when Natasha had decided to hold her back over her head in order to 'protect' her best friend.

"It'll never work between us Wanda, you need to accept that. Being with Sharon, it's the right thing to do" Y/N said quietly, dropping her eyes from Wanda's.

"I never thought you would be a coward Y/N" Wanda shook her head, fighting down the anger growing inside her at what Y/N was trying to do.

"What?" Y/N frowned slightly.

"You say it's the right thing to do, when really what you're trying to say is that it is the easy thing to do. It's the safe option. Is that fair to Sharon though? That you're just picking her because you feel like you have to? You think that you're doing this so that you don't hurt her, but really the longer this goes on, the more you try to pretend the worse it's going to be for her when she finally realises that your relationship is just a lie. That it's just something for you to hide behind, like a coward" Wanda's voice was filled with emotion as she spoke, part of her knew it was unfair to say these things but she just couldn't understand how Y/N would want to lie like this to herself and to others.

Y/N was slightly taken aback by the harshness of Wanda's words, though it wasn't as if she didn't deserve them. It was breaking her apart doing this, trying to make Wanda hate her to the point that she would want nothing more to do with her. Y/N didn't know if she would ever be able to forgive herself for doing this, for hurting Wanda.

"So I'm a coward just because I haven't chosen you? Maybe I'm not the one who is really the issue here Wanda. Maybe it's actually you and your inability to accept that I don't want to be with you" Y/N replied her words sounding harsh.

Wanda shook her head.

"You're lying to yourself and you're lying to me Y/N. If this was true, if this was really what you wanted then you wouldn't have bothered coming here to tell me. You'd have got yourself reassigned and never looked back, you'd have gone and started your life with Sharon" Wanda argued, taking another step closer to Y/N.

Y/N knew she should have moved away, that she should be putting space between her and Wanda but she didn't. She stayed where she was as Wanda came to be just a few inches away from her. Y/N's heart was racing, her mind was all over the place, everything that happened in the last couple of days was making it impossible to think clearly.

Wanda reached out, her hand moving to hold the side of Y/N's face, gently lighting it so that their eyes met again. Y/N knew what was going to happen and she shouldn't let it, but she couldn't help herself. Wanda leaned in, her lips falling against Y/N's, kissing her gently. Their bodies pressed closer together as the kiss deepened, Y/N's arms slipped round Wanda's waist as she kissed her back.

"Tell me this really isn't what you want Y/N" Wanda whispered softly against Y/N's lips as she brushed her thumb along Y/N's jaw.

Y/N didn't say anything, instead she kissed Wanda again, passion and desire driving the kiss as her tongue ran along Wanda's bottom lip. Wanda's hand tangled in Y/N's hair, as she parted her lips for Y/N, her body melting against Y/N's.

The sound of someone clearing their throat, interrupted the moment and Y/N quickly moved away from Wanda. Natasha stood up on the path, arms folded over her chest, looking down at where Y/N and Wanda were standing on the shore of the lake.

"Nat, is everything alright?" Wanda was the first to speak as she looked to her best friend.

"That's really going to depend on whether or not Y/N has told you the truth" Nat replied as she walked down the slight slope to the shore.

Y/N saw the confusion dance across Wanda's face.

"Nat please don't do this" Y/N begged as she realised that Nat must have noticed when she and Wanda had left the conference room earlier and followed after them.

"What are you talking about Nat?" Wanda asked as she looked between Y/N and Nat.

"Guess that answers that doesn't it? You really couldn't just walk away" Nat looked disapprovingly at Y/N.

"Can one of you please tell me what is going on" Wanda demanded, growing concerned about what was happening.

Y/N went to say something but stopped as her cell phone started ringing. The ringtone that played, it was one that Y/N had specifically set when she had got the phone so that when the person called she would know exactly who it was.

Pulling the cell phone out of the back pocket of her jeans, Y/N looked at the name displayed on the screen and immediately hit the answer button. She ignored both Nat and Wanda as they watched her.

"Hey mum" Y/N answered, before falling silent as her mother cried hysterically down the phone to her, "What! Mum I need you to slow down, what do you mean Alex has been taken?!... Okay stay at the house, I will get the FBI to send someone to you right now and I will get on the first plane that I can. I love you I'll be there soon, I promise everything will be okay."

Y/N ended the call and then immediately dialled her directors number at the FBI. She spoke quickly to him and once that call was done, she put her cell phone back in her pocket and began running. She didn't consider explaining herself or stopping when both Wanda and Nat called after her.

Nothing else mattered other than getting to her family.

One of her worst fears had come true.