



Chapter Twenty-Two

Being dragged back to consciousness had been an uncomfortable experience and Y/N was furious to find that two Hydra Agents had used a taser on her to pull her out of the magic induced sleep. It had also broken her connection with Wanda before she had been able to say what she'd wanted to, Y/N was worried that she may have just lost her only chance to let Wanda know how she really felt about her. ⚡

"Get to your feet now" One of the agents grunted at her.

"Screw you" Y/N snapped back at him, which earned her another shock from the taser.

Doubled over in pain, Y/N wasn't able to fight back against the two agents as they grabbed hold of her and dragged her up to her feet. Using her powers as much as she had, had exhausted her, another reason she should have learnt how to use them. Perhaps then she wouldn't burn out so quickly.

"You really should have joined Hydra, such a waste" The other agent said to her as they hauled her out of the cell and started walking her down the corridor.

Y/N didn't bother to respond, she wasn't going to waste her breath on them, they were clearly just as brainwashed as her brother was into believing that Hydra was the ultimate power in the world. She did however pay attention to how many steps they took, the amount of left and right turns and how many doors they passed through. It might come in handy later should there be any chance of making an escape.

They entered into a massive laboratory, it was glistening white from floor to ceiling and everyone was wearing various levels of protective clothing as they all moved around a massive machine that was in the centre of the room. There were numerous gangways crisscrossing above, Y/N realised that the room was not only wide but also extremely tall and she was certain she saw some sort of massive metal hatch further above.

"Strucker has said she is to be placed in the contamination room on the left for now" A scientist instructed the two agents, gesturing to the left.

Y/N's heart sunk, clearly Alex was not going to waste any time on 'finishing' their father's work if he was already having her brought here. Which meant the likelihood of Wanda or any of the others looking for her would make it there in time. There was so much Y/N needed to do, so much she needed to say to people and as she was pulled away from the machine, she felt her chance of doing any of that slipping from her grasp.

"Fix her to that, we don't want her getting any ideas of thinking she can get out of here" The agent of her right said as he pointed to the restraints suspended from the ceiling on the contamination room.

Y/N went to pull away but the agent slammed his elbow into her ribs with a sickening crack, before the other wrenched her arms up and clipped the cuffs around her wrists to the chains hanging from the ceiling.

"Pathetic for someone who was given powers from an infinity stone" The agent who had hit her laughed.

"I will kill you" Y/N snarled back at him, hiding the searing agony that rippled through her body as the restraints lifted her from the ground.

"Yeah good luck with that, you'll be lucky if you survive this" The agent smirked at her, before the pair of them turned and left the door slamming shut behind them.

Hanging there, Y/N fought to hold back her tears as she struggled to accept that the agent was probably right. She had seen what her father's failed experiments had resulted in and it had never been pleasant for the test subjects. ⚡

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"Have you managed to figure out where the hell Wanda has gone yet?" Nat demanded as she looked across the table to Stephen Strange who had arrived at the compound an hour ago.

Stephen opened his eyes and frowned at Nat, he had forgotten that the Avengers really liked instant results and had little patience otherwise. He was doing his best, but Wanda was covering her movements with unrelenting precision and each time he thought he had caught up to her magic it would suddenly vanish.

"Wanda is not who I am looking for, the being I am looking for is far more powerful and ancient, she was unleashed when Wanda accepted the Darkhold in Westview. It would appear that Wanda had now tapped back into that and her magic, it's chaos magic, the most volatile and devastating form of magic that exists. So forgive me if it is taking me some time to locate an ancient witch goddess who clearly does not want to be found" Stephen responded with a hint of sarcasm lacing his words before he closed his eyes again to concentrate. ⚡

Nat sighed as she leaned back in her chair, she checked her phone again and found that the twenty or so messages she had sent to Wanda had still gone unanswered. The moment Wanda had vanished from the compound, everyone had been shocked and then the panic had set in. Now not only was Y/N missing but Wanda was too and none of them truly knew what she would be capable of if left unchecked. ⚡

Everyone had immediately begun working on trying to figure out where each of them were, the drama in the communal room between Sharon and Wanda was set aside for now. That could be dealt with once they ensured that everyone was safe again and that Hydra did not achieve whatever it was they were trying to do.

The door to the conference room opened and Yelena walked in with Clint, the pair of them had been tasked with taking the Quinjet and flying across the state to use FRIDAY to scan for any areas that could potentially be a Hydra base of operations.

"Anything?" Steve asked as he looked up from the files spread out in front of him on the table.

"Three places were flagged by FRIDAY, we've sent them through to Tony and Bruce to run further checks on the areas to see what they can see" Clint replied as he reassuringly squeezed Nat's shoulder before dropping down into the seat beside her.

"How about signs of Wanda?" Nat asked looking to her sister who was leaning against the wall.

Yelena gave a small shake of her head.

"Not a single thing, FRIDAY couldn't find a trace anywhere" Yelena frowned as she looked to the screens on the walls, all of them were carrying out various scans and checks on all the files they held on Hydra.

Nat knew it would have been unlikely, but she had held onto a small hope that Yelena and Clint might have come back with some news about Wanda. She guessed it would come down to Stephen and his magic now to find her best friend.

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Wanda cast the ruins in the air around her as she hovered in the centre of the ring of candles. She had relit them with her magic as they had been put out by the abrupt separation of hers and Y/N's minds.

The Darkhold had again shown her some many possibilities for what she could achieve and the things that her powers as the Scarlet Witch would allow for her to do. With the information Y/N had given her, that it was her brother, Alex, who was heading the Hydra operation Wanda knew that to find Y/N the quickest way would be through him.

This meant setting aside any rules she'd ever had about entering people's minds without permission, something that was easily done now she was channelling the Scarlet Witch. She murmured the spell in the ancient language contained in the Darkhold and within seconds, she had located the mind she wanted. ⚡

Then came the second part of the spell and the use of astral projection.

Wanda found herself standing in the middle of an office suite, the walls were covered in screens and there was a desk set to the side, which was where Alex Strucker was currently sat. He had a glass of whiskey in front of him and was holding a cigar, it appeared as if he was prematurely celebrating his victory.

"Alex Von Strucker" Wanda spoke his name and immediately the young man looked up, surprise shooting through his eyes for a moment before he schooled his face into an unimpressed look.

"Wanda Maximoff, I would say it is a pleasure to meet you at last, but something tells me that you aren't truly here are you. Otherwise I doubt we'd be speaking so calmly" Alex said a smirk tugging at the edge of his lips.

As if to prove his point, Alex picked up the letter opener on his desk and flung it across the room, watching as it passed through Wanda and slammed into the wall behind her.

"I will give you once chance to return Y/N to the Avengers compound, after that I won't be responsible for what happens to you" Wanda spoke firmly her eyes blazing red with magic. ⚡

Alex sneered at Wanda, how did she think she had any bargaining power right now? He held it all, that he was arrogantly sure of.

"It doesn't seem very reasonable to only give me two hours? I mean we're quite far away from the Avengers compound here" Alex shrugged before putting on his cigar.

"You have no idea just how reasonable I have been" Wanda glared at him, she had indeed promised Y/N not to harm her brother but she was unsure how long she could keep that promise if he carried on like this. ⚡

"Look, there is no way for you or any of those other costume wearing fools to stop what I am about to do. You're already too late. Now please kindly fuck off" Alex said as he stood up from his desk and made to walk past Wanda's projection of herself.

"You have exhausted my patience. But I do hope you understand, that even now, what's about to happen, this is me, being reasonable" Wanda told him as she let her magic ripple out, causing the building to tremor. ⚡

Alex had been so arrogant, assuming that she had no use of her powers whilst astral projecting, the entire time they had been talking, she had been sowing her magic into the very foundations of the building.

"I know exactly where you are and now the Scarlet Witch is coming for you" Wanda warned him before summoning her astral self back to her body, leaving Alex stood in shock in his office. ⚡