



## Chapter Twenty-Four

Y/N struggled with the fact that there was going to be no way for her to get out of this situation, there was going to be nobody coming for her, they'd all believed Sharon and the FBI had taken her from the compound. Even if they did realise, it would probably be too late to stop her brother.

For a moment she'd had a flicker of hope when she had been able to connect with Wanda, but Y/N hadn't been able to give Wanda much information as to where she was being held. It had been a foolish moment of hope, losing that, it was the moment that finally broke Y/N's spirit as she waited, trapped in another room.

"My darling sister" Alex drawled through the intercom system, as he stood on the other side of the reinforced glass.

Y/N forced her eyes opened and the moment she did she wished she hadn't. There in front of her, flanked by four Hydra agents, was Wanda.

She was locked in various restraints, one had even been placed over her mouth, and had been forced down on her knees in front of the glass. Alex stood smugly to the left, the reaction he had hoped to get from this moment was better than he had expected. His sister's face had completely fallen and the last glimmer of fight seemed the flicker out of her eyes.

"Did you think little Miss Maximoff here was really going to be able to rescue you?" Alex taunted as he nodded to a guard, who turned and struck 'Wanda' across the face.

"Stop it! Don't fucking touch her!" Y/N roared as she furiously pulled against the restraints holding her in place.

Alex chuckled as he leaned against the glass, looking at his sister.

"Now we can either carry on trying to do this the hard way Y/N, or you can stop fighting and just do what is needed" Alex explained to her, "If you play your part then I won't let any harm come to your little red headed lover, how does that sound?"

Y/N's shoulders dropped in defeat as she looked between Wanda and her brother. Tears rolled down her cheeks, she had never felt so lost and afraid, but there was no way she would allow Wanda to be hurt not if she could stop it.

"You promise nothing will happen to Wanda? You'll let her go?" Y/N looked back to Alex, she didn't care now about saving herself, she'd do whatever her brother wanted as long as it meant that Wanda would be okay.

"Yes, you have my word sister, as long as you do exactly as I tell you" Alex nodded.

"Wanda, I'm so sorry... Please know I really wanted to have a chance for us to figure things out... I thought we'd have time... So I'm going to say this now because there isn't a chance to do this... I'm in love with you and I'm sorry that it has taken me so long to be able to say it..." Y/N stumbled over the words as the tears ran down her face.

Alex faked a yawn, before gesturing for the guards to take hold of 'Wanda' again.

"Well as touching as that was and as much as I'd like to give her a chance to reply, we're working to a very tight schedule now. Take Miss Maximoff back to her cell and you lot prepare my sister please, I want everything ready to be initiated in the next ten minutes" Alex ordered the people around him.

One of the scientists looked as if they were considering arguing, but saw the glare Alex gave him and instead just nodded and began working quickly again.

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Nat looked up at where Wanda and Stephen currently hovered in the sky, where Wong had brought them, they were too far away to hear anything being said. But judging from the two's body language, Nat was fairly certain the conversation wasn't going well.

"Clint, Nat, Yelena, Kate. You for start making your way to that facility now, the rest of us will try and buy you as much time as possible with Wanda" Steve told them, as he grabbed his shield from his back.

Before anyone could reply the massive flash of red magic had all of them turning back to look up as Wanda unleashed her full magic on Stephen Strange. Wong immediately began to reinforce the magic protecting Stephen as Wanda flew around him, sending blast after blast of her magic into the protective seals.

"I know this is probably not the right time to say it, but this Scarlet Witch is pretty bad arse" Yelena commented as Wanda swept down lower, all of them seeing her properly now as the Scarlet Witch.

"Yeah probably not the best time to say that, since she's aiming at us" Kate shouted as she grabbed hold of Yelena and dragged her out of the way as a ball of bright red magic crashed into the ground near to where they had just been stood.

"This is definitely not going to plan" Tony said as he flew backwards, throwing up a shield from his suit, narrowly avoiding a second blast from Wanda.

Clint moved swiftly through the trees, taking cover as he drew an arrow. Steadying his breath, he peered round the tree, aiming the arrow. He had a clear shot of the back of Wanda's head. He had used a similar arrow on her years before, it had incapacitated her then, he just hoped it would do the same now.

As if sensing his exact thoughts, Wanda turned her attention to him just as he let the arrow go. With hardly any effort at all, Wanda encased the arrow in her magic and shattered it to pieces. Her eyes glowed a violent red, annoyed at the attempt to stop her.

"You are all wasting my time and every second that passes Y/N is in more danger" Wanda said to them all as she raised herself from the ground again, her magic swirling dangerously around her, readying itself to lash out.

"Wanda we just want to help" Nat stepped forward holding her hands up, "You're hurt and upset, I understand. What happened it was wrong and we should never have withheld the truth from you, we just wanted to protect you. If you carry on using that power, it'll corrupt every last bit of good in you. I know you think this is the only way to get Y/N back, but it isn't. We're a team, we can do this as a team."

"I don't need any help" Wanda tilted her head as she looked at her best friend, a small part of her was fighting to get her to listen to Nat, to see reason but Wanda chose to ignore it.

Instead, Wanda unleashed a large wave of her power, aiming it at the team. Strange and Wong had been anticipating the move, though it took every last ounce of their own magic to shield the team from what would have been a devastating blast had it fully reached them. It still knocked them all back from the force of it and gave Wanda the opening she needed to disappear back above the trees and head directly to the Hydra facility.

"Very much not how the plan was meant to go" Tony grumbled as he brushed off a large amount of debris from the blast.

"Let's just hope Bucky and Sam had more luck with getting Bruce to the facility. If they can shut down that machine then we might still have a chance of avoiding total chaos" Steve said as he helped Clint up.

"If that machine isn't shut down, we risk the entire stability of not just this universe but the whole multiverse being unravelled" Stephen added as he looked to Wong who had the same expression of concern on his face.

Steve strapped his shield to his back again as they regrouped.

"So let me just make sure I understand this again. We're saying that out there, there are like a load of other versions of us, in totally different universes and if this Von Strucker guy gets his dad's machine working, it'll basically open up a giant worm hole into these places, causing basically some kind of universe colliding mayhem. But in order to do it he either needs Y/N's powers or Wanda's because they came from an infinity stone?" Kate rambled as she looked at them all.

"That pretty much sums it up, yeah" Tony nodded

"Right, and he already has Y/N and now Wanda is heading right there. So he's getting two batteries for the price one for his machine now" Yelena added with a deep frown.

"If Wanda uses her magic near that machine then she'll likely end up fuelling it without realising it. Which is why we need to stop her again" Stephen said as he moved his hands in a circular motion to create a portal.

"Just another normal day at work, saving the world yet again" Tony shrugged as they all moved to step through the portal.

"Let's just hope the device you and Bruce made as a fail safe to switch it off works if we can't get to Y/N and Wanda in time" Steve added with a glance at Tony.

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Y/N didn't bother to fight against the guards and scientists as they entered the room she was being held in and began to explain. They attached various cables and straps to her, one scientist revealed these would be used to channel her power into the machine, but Y/N didn't really care about the details.

She just wanted to get this over with, the sooner she did what her brother wanted then maybe there would be a chance she could walk away from this. Maybe her brother would stay true to his word and there would be an opportunity for her and Wanda once this was all done. Deep down though, Y/N knew it was a foolish hope.

Having spent years in her father's facilities and being part of his early experiments, Y/N was aware that most of the time those that were used never made it through the experiments alive. Something about this felt exactly the same and she doubted her brother cared as long as he achieved what he was saying was their father's greatest work, his legacy.

"Follow me" One of the guards grunted at her, forcing her out of the room into the main area of facility where the machine was on a raised platform in the centre.

Moments later Y/N was attached to the machine, various cables and wires connecting her to it. Looking up she saw her brother and a number of agents and scientists were observing from a suspended walkway.

"All you need to do is summon that infinity stone power of yours now Sister and the rest will take care of itself" Alex instructed her with a smug satisfaction.

Y/N closed her eyes and concentrated on dragging her power up from where she had pushed it down, hidden for so long. A dark blue glow began to shimmer around her hands and then travelled up her arms. The machine sensed it and various mechanical noises and electrical pulses started to fill the room as it latched onto Y/N's power, draining it from her.

It didn't hurt at first, it started as a tingling sensation, but then the machine wanted more. Y/N cried out in agony as it began to tear at her, desperate for every scrap of her power, the cables attached to her were drawing her power out faster now.

Alex watched as the machine began to work, it pulsed with raw energy as it converted the power from inside Y/N to fuel it. In the centre a swirl of pure darkness began to form, growing bigger with every second that passed. This, this was going to open up endless worlds to them, endless places to draw power and resources from to create the empire Hydra deserved.

Turning to say something to the head scientist who was standing with him, Alex was abruptly cut off as the whole building began to shake, as if it had been hit by an earthquake. Everyone ducked for cover or grabbed hold of things to keep themselves upright.

"What the hell was that?!" Alex yelled as Hydra agents drew their weapons.

His question was answered seconds later as a giant hole was wrenched open in the side of the building.

The Scarlet Witch flew through it, fury burning in her eyes as she looked directly at Alex Von Strucker.

"I told you I would come for you."