



## Chapter Twenty-Five

All hell had broken loose, any chance of hoping to take Hydra by surprise had been completely thrown out the window the moment Wanda had torn half the building down. Hydra were quick to react and before they knew it, the whole team was engaged in fighting numerous agents that poured out of the facility.

Nat launched herself at two agents that came running toward her, as she took them out she drew her guns and fired shots with deadly precision that hit agents who were just about to try and grab hold of Yelena. She was growing concerned that the longer they were held out here, the worse the situation would be inside with Wanda. They needed to get to her, soon.

"Can someone please clear a path to the damn building?" Nat called out as she spun around and disarmed another agent before knocking him out with a firm strike of her elbow.

"What do you think I'm trying to do Romano?" Tony quipped back as he flew over her, launching a series of small missiles from his suit that blasted several oncoming vehicles out of the way.

Nat just rolled her eyes as she sprinted forwards, Yelena and Kate joining her on either side as Clint covered them from behind. Not a single part of the plan had gone right so far and something told Nat that things were unlikely about to start going right.

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Alex cursed as debris began to fall from the ceiling, it narrowly missed where he was standing. Of course Wanda Maximoff had to turn up right now, right when he was so close to realising his father's greatest project. He had been so sure that he would be able to pull it off, that he would change the world but now it was all hanging in the balance.

"Protect the machine, do not let that damn witch get anywhere near it!!" Alex yelled at the guards as he drew the gun holstered at his side.

Wanda was moving already, easily avoiding all the shots that were aimed at her. She responded with blasts of her magic, sending bodies flying across the warehouse sized space. It was amusing that Alex really thought that would be able to stop her, that Hydra would be able to contain the Scarlet Witch.

"This will not end well for you Alex Von Strucker. I suggest you give up now" Wanda warned him as she came to land on the walkway.

"There is nothing you can do to stop it, you know that don't you? It has already begun. Whether I am here to see it or not, the fabric of our reality is going to be torn open and Hydra will rise once again" Alex snarled at her as the guards moved to stand in front of him.

Alex glanced over the edge of the walkway, the swirling black energy had already doubled in size, flashes of purple and blue were spreading from the centre of it now. It was contained by several stabilizer rods, they'd been designed to hold the hole in reality in place, so that it could be travelled in and out of once fully established.

"It's beautiful" Alex muttered to himself, for a moment forgetting the threat that was coming toward him.

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Tears streamed down Y/N's face as the pain ripped through her body with each drag of her power that the machine took from her. She had tried to stop it, to get her power to retreat back into her, but it was useless. Y/N was so close to giving up, she just wanted the pain to stop. Then the entire building had shaken with a terrifying force, Y/N's eyes snapped open and saw the cause of the sudden attack.

Wanda.

Wanda had found her.

Y/N tried to physically fight against the restraints holding her in place, but they wouldn't give. Her body was weak and she knew it was likely pointless but she had to try, she had to try and keep fighting because Wanda had come for her. She wasn't sure how Wanda had been able to find her, but Y/N watched as Wanda flew in and landed up on the suspended walkway, confronting her brother.

From where she was Y/N couldn't make out what was being said, not with the noise of the machine and the fighting that had erupted everywhere now as Hydra scrambled to defend themselves. The way Wanda was looking at Alex though and the movement of her brother raising a gun, Y/N knew it wasn't good.

It felt like the world was moving in slow motion as she watched, Alex had said something and then gunshots from the agents in front of him flew toward Wanda, along with shots from Alex as well.

"Nooooo!!" Y/N cried out as the bullets raced toward where Wanda was standing.

Then in the blink of an eye Wanda vanished from where she had been standing and reappeared behind Alex and the agents. Wanda unleashed a torrent of lashes of her magic, sending the agents flying from the walkway, they crashed into unmoving heaps on the ground below. One of the agents slammed into the side of one of the stabilisers, knocking it out of position.

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Hearing the sound of Y/N's voice reminded Wanda that she needed to get to her, that was why she had come here, to save Y/N. Alex Von Strucker didn't deserve any more of her time. She looked at him, he still pointed his gun at her, but Wanda could see that his hands were trembling as the realisation hit him he was alone against her now.

"I've wasted enough time on you" Wanda said, with a flick of her wrist the gun Alex was holding turned into dust, "You made a mistake turning on your own family and you will have to live with that and know that you still failed."

Alex laughed. He laughed in Wanda's face.

"You think I've failed?" Alex carried on laughing as he stepped away from her, "Every bit of magic you've unleashed has gone exactly where I wanted it to go. You're really not as smart as you think you are Wanda Maximoff!"

Wanda glanced to her left and realised what had happened, her magic hadn't just hit the people she'd directed it at. It had then been drawn directly to Y/N who was doubled over in agony as she absorbed it into herself.

"My father had a theory about the power you and my sister took from the infinity stone. He believed that it was connected and it would look for the other. Eventually you and my sister would be drawn to one another, it was only a matter of time. I waited patiently for it to happen and imagine my surprise when I realised just how close you two had become, it made this so much easier for me really" Alex told her as the swirling mass of reality tearing energy tripled in size as the machine took Wanda's magic from Y/N, "Did you know that my sister was in love with you? Such a shame she'll won't be able to tell you herself. You see there is no way to separate the power from her and for her to survive it."

Wanda felt like the world had fallen out from beneath her as she heard what Alex said.

"No! You're lying!" Wanda roared as she sent a blast of pure rage barreling into Alex.

There was no way for Alex to dodge the magic as it collided with the force of a freight train into him. His ribs were crushed by the blast and blood trickled from his nose as his head slammed into the metal floor of the walkway.

"Look... for yourself... I'm not lying..." Alex stammered as he struggled to pull himself up "She's dying... because of you..."

Wanda spun around and she saw it, the way that Y/N had fallen to her knees as the blast of magic that Wanda had recklessly fired at Alex now ripped into Y/N. Alex had played her, had known that she wouldn't be able to not attack him for what he had said.

Not daring to risk using her magic anymore, Wanda ran, she ran as fast as she could from the suspended walkway, down the stairs that led to the main floor of the facility, that would lead her to Y/N. She ignored the fighting going on around her, not paying attention to the fact that the rest of the team had now arrived inside. Her only focus was on getting to Y/N, on saving her.

Alex's triumphant laughter rang in her ears as she ran.

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Y/N had never felt so much pain before, her entire body was exhausted and broken as she sunk to her knees, no longer having enough strength to hold herself up. The edges of her vision were starting to blur as she fought to remain conscious.

"W-wanda..." The name was a whisper on her lips as she saw someone rushing toward her.

"I'm here, Y/N I'm here" Wanda came to kneel down in front of Y/N, her hands reaching out to gently lift Y/N's face up.

Tears gathered in the corners of Wanda's eyes as she looked at Y/N, as she saw the paleness of Y/N's skin and the faded colour of her eyes as they met hers.

"Stay with me Y/N, just please stay with me" Wanda begged her, "I'm going to get these off of you now. I just need you to hold on a little longer okay?"

"You found me..." Y/N said as she looked at Wanda, "I didn't think... I would see you again..."

"I'll always find you Y/N, I promise" Wanda replied as she softly kissed Y/N's forehead, relieved to hear Y/N's voice.

Reluctantly she let go of Y/N's face and began to rip out the various cables and wires that were connected to the restraints locked around Y/N's neck, wrists and legs. A few moments later, Wanda finally got the last of them disconnected, freeing Y/N from the machine.

"I've got you, Y/N" Wanda told her as she wrapped her arms under Y/N's and lifted her to her feet, "We're going to get out of here, you hear me? And you then you can take me on that date you promised me."

"You should leave me... get out of here W-wanda..." Y/N murmured as she looked at the chaos around them, "I'm sorry for all of this..."

"I'm not leaving you, I will never leave you, Y/N. You have nothing to apologize for" Wanda told her as she started moving, pulling Y/N along with her wanting to get as far away from the machine and the swirling mass that it had created.

As Wanda went to turn, to try and make for the opening in the side of the building, debris from the ceiling came crashing down in front of her, blocking the way forward. It forced Wanda to head back toward the stairs that would take them up to the suspended walkway.

Going up the stairs, Wanda looked over her shoulder and watched as a Hydra agent who had fallen backwards close to the machine, was instantly grabbed by a tendril that shot out from the swirling mass of reality warped energy that had been made by the machine and was dragged screaming into it. Removing Y/N, its source of power, had caused it to grow unstable and it was starting to spill out from between the stabilizer towers due to one of them being completely blown apart.

Seeing what was happening, Wanda knew it was only a matter of time before their reality collided with another and there was no knowing what kind of danger that could unleash. The machine had to be stopped, but her own magic, her own power couldn't help, it would only feed it.

They were running out of time.