



xxiv. Trigger Words

Auralie sat with Natasha to watch the interrogation, her heart racing. Technically, she wasn't supposed to be there, but no one told her to move. Steve and Sam were inside with Sharon to watch, and Auralie and Nat kept glancing back to make sure they were alright.

The interviewer came in, a man who spoke in an Eastern European accent and wore glasses. He sat in front of Bucky's containment unit and said, "You are James Buchannon Barnes? Tell me, James, do you know why you are here?"

"Bucky," the former assassin said, "and I didn't do it."

"I'm sure," the doctor said in a voice that was meant to be reassuring but didn't have much of an effect on Bucky, "tell me about yourself."

Bucky was silent. Auralie didn't blame him. He had been through so much, and dealing with it all was probably so hard for him.

The doctor nodded and looked at his notes, "I understand. If you open your mouth, you feel the horrors might never stop. Don't worry, we only need to talk about one."

That was when the sound cut off. Auralie and Natasha jumped up. Auralie dashed to Steve and Sam, who were already running to find Bucky. The doctor was clearly not who he said he was. Everyone could be in danger.

"What the hell is going on? Is he going to kill Bucky?" Auralie asked, panting as she tried to keep up with her friends, who had a headstart.

"No, I don't think so," Steve said, "I think he needs Bucky for some bigger scheme."

"That can't be good," Auralie huffed.

"A weird guy pretending to be a psychologist wanting something with a formerly brainwashed assassin, Ali, I think that qualifies as horrible," Sam cried.

"Yeah, I got that, it just took me a moment," she sighed.

They continued on Steve with the most apprehensive sort of look on his face. He did not want to lose his best friend again. When they finally reached the containment cell, Auralie called out, "Bucky!"

But it was not Bucky that they found. It was the Winter Soldier.

Any remaining good mood melted away in an instant, replaced by panic and determination. Sam started fighting Bucky, trying to subdue the assassin without causing him harm. Auralie and Steve raced in the direction of the psychologist, but he was gone.

Auralie swore bitterly under her breath in the Russian Natasha had taught her years ago. She looked at Steve, "you go back and help the others, I'll try and find him."

Steve nodded and raced back towards his best friend. Sharon, Natasha, and Tony had joined the fight. Tony narrowly blocked a shot from Bucky with his iron glove, the only weapon he had with him unless his insanely shiny dress shoes counted. Despite being angry at him for how he treated Wanda, Auralie wanted to help him. But catching the criminal behind all this was more important.

It didn't take a genius to assume that the psychologist was either behind the bombing or in league with whoever was. Someone wanted to get their hands on Bucky. Auralie didn't plan on letting them get away with it.

She ran down the street, panting. She was nowhere near the fastest on the team, though she wasn't the slowest either. Chasing someone down like this was really more of Steve's thing, but Steve had a best friend to look out for.

Auralie's mind raced as her feet pounded against the pavement. How had the psychologist known the trigger words? What did he want from Bucky? There were some things even Auralie - who had been doing this for years and had a mind made for dealing with magic and mystery - could not even begin to fathom.

There were very few things so confusing as this adventure. The team was divided over the accords, the governing bodies of the world hated them, there was the whole issue with Bucky and the psychologist, a Wakandan king who wanted to avenge his father, and Auralie couldn't figure out how it all connected.

Ever since Ultron, really, Auralie had been a little out of whack. She had been trying to sort out her own complicated feelings for Wanda and hadn't been paying enough attention to everything around her. Now they had a crisis on their hands and she had no clue what to do. It was just another reason why love was terrifying - it blinded people to what was around them.

Auralie wished she could talk to Nat or Clint, but Nat was on an opposing team and Clint was at home. She wished she could talk to Maria but her sister was who knows where doing who knows what. Overall, she wanted to talk to Wanda. Wanda had the same sort of mindset as her, the kind made for magic and adventure and not for politics and realistic issues. Auralie had been researching magic her whole life trying to find out more about Elory and her powers, but these accords had caught her off guard, and now things were spiraling out of control.

Auralie came to a halt, realizing that the psychologist probably was long gone. She turned on heel and raced back to the CIA complex.

Sam was waiting for her, and together, avoiding the authorities, who were still in a panic, they dashed to the roof.

Bucky had stolen a helicopter. Of course, he had, like this day couldn't get any more complicated. Steve, refusing to lose Bucky to the winter soldier again, was holding the helicopter in place. Auralie marveled at his strength.

But not even Steve was that strong. Faster than Auralie could comprehend, everything came undone and somehow Steve and Bucky were sent plunging into the water below again.

"Shit," Auralie hissed as she and Sam dashed back down the stairs to help their friend, "why the hell does Steve always end up in the water?"

When they reached him, Steve was dragging an unconscious but mostly unharmed Bucky out of the water.

"The psychologist," he said wearily, looking at the woman.

Auralie shook her head and he sighed, "well then, we need to run and hide. They'll be looking for us." His gaze went around the parking lot and fell upon a very, very tiny car.

He began hauling Bucky towards it. Sam followed, a look of confusion on his face. Why, of all the cars, did Steve want to steal that one?

Auralie just sighed and followed the boys, "Just when I thought this day couldn't get any worse."

A/N: THE TINY CAR! EVERY TIME I WATCH CIVIL WAR, I LAUGH. As you can guess, Auralie being annoyed at Steve's taste in cars is going to be a point in the next few chapters.

But seriously, we're getting closer the airport battle. Up until this point, Auralie is usually in control of the situation. Now she's trying to deal with her feelings, the whole Zemo situation, fighting her friends, and well, it's a lot for her to take. This is about the point when we see what Auralie does when she is completely confused and just what Auralie does when she is completely interested to explore it.

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