## **Chapter 24 : Jealousy**

## Y/n's POV

So here I am in the jet, sitting quietly on the side reading the file the director has given me. It's an information gathering exercise, Natasha will have to go undercover and collect data, nothing easier for her. Meanwhile Clint is supposed to create a diversion by creating mini explosions with his arrows. The other agent has to defend the jet and be ready to start it at any moment.

Natasha is going to have to sneak in through the roof, so we're going to slowly fly over the building and she'll jump out of the jet in flight and land on the roof. Clint will take the opportunity to fire a few arrows away from where Nat will be. The agent will fly the jet. Clint will then jump back to position himself at a distance from the building to attract as many people as possible outside. He will continue to attack the building with explosive arrows.

I have no idea what to do, I know I have to observe but who? If I go with Nat I'll have to go undercover and probably have to fight inside so I guess I don't go with her. It's a shame, it could have been a good observation mission.

If I go with Clint, I can watch him shoot his arrows and watch him fight but I already know how to fight and shoot a bow so I don't see the point.

If I stay with the other agent I'm not going to do anything. I'm not going to watch him wait anyway? It's going to be long and boring.

"Hey," I heard next to me, which startled me gently. I then looked at the person to my right and saw the agent. He laughed so ly.

"Sorry I didn't mean to scare you," he said gently with a smile.

"Don't worry, I was just surprised." I replied with a slight smile as well.

"My name is Alexis Peyton," he said, holding out his hand, probably for me to take. I did so.

"Y/n Ivanov."

He smiled at me again. He looks to be about 25 years old, has black hair and blue eyes and a tan skin tone. I guess you could say he's handsome, and would be attractive to anyone.

"Nice to meet you, Agent Ivanov."

"Y/n" I corrected him.

"Then call me Alexis," he said before turning slightly and resting his head against the wall behind. I copied his position.

"If I understand correctly, this is your first time on a mission, isn't it?" he asked me.

"Yes indeed."

"Are you stressed?"

"No, why? Should I be?"

"Oh no, not at all! Everyone reacts as they can. I know this is just an observation mission for you but I thought it might scare you a bit. Missions and training are always very di erent," Alexis explained.

"Were you scared on your first mission?" I asked, curious. A er a few seconds of silence I said: "Sorry, I didn't mean to pry. I really didn't mean to put you in an awkward situation, I'm sorry." I quickly apologized, turning my head and straightening up to face him better. He did the same and looked at me with a smile.

"No, don't worry, you didn't do anything wrong. I was just thinking about it and got lost in my memories of that mission which are few and far between haha."

"What do you mean?" I asked then, curious.

"I passed out before the jet even landed," he laughed. We then laughed together.

"You fainted? haha really?"

"Hey don't laugh! I did what I could hahaha" he said, still laughing.

"I'm sure, it must have been hard enough to fly to your destination, that's the trickiest part of a mission." I laughed at him.

"For me yes haha, I was so stressed, I was so scared of failing my first mission. When I think about it, it wasn't even a big mission, we just had to pick up the director in Spain and bring him back to the US. No danger. But I really didn't want to miss out so I put a lot of pressure on myself."

I laughed harder. This guy is hilarious. His story is ridiculous.

"That's right, yeah, laugh at me." he then pretended to be o ended and pouted. I elbowed him lightly, he then turned to me.

"Oh, I'm sorry, don't sulk too much, you might faint," I laughed and put my hand on his shoulder, he then laughed too. We stopped laughing when we heard someone clearing their throat. We turned towards the source of the noise and saw Nat standing in front of us with her arms crossed. If a look could kill, we'd both be dead.

Although, she wasn't looking at him or me but rather between the two of us, so I followed her gaze and saw my hand on Alexis' shoulder. I withdrew it immediately and quickly looked at Nat. But she wasn't looking at me. She turned her glare on the agent sitting next to me.

"Agent Peyton, it's time for you to get to work. We'll be there soon and the jet isn't going to fly itself," she said sharply. Alexis stood up quickly.

"Yes ma'am, sorry ma'am. I'll be going now." he started to leave then turned to me one last time, gave me a smile and said, "Good luck Y/n". Then he le .

I looked back at Nat but she had already moved on. She was getting ready. I stood up and walked towards her.

"Nat..." I said so ly. "You-"

"You'll go with Agent Barton, watch what he does and listen to any advice he gives you. Don't forget to put on your earpiece so you know everything that's going on. And don't interfere with Agent Barton," she ordered coldly without even looking at me and now turning her back on me.

"Nat, what's going on?" I asked her weakly.

"The mission is about to start, you should get ready" she said and walked towards the parachutes.

"Nat!" I called, grabbing her arm and forcing her to face me. "Talk to me, what's wrong with you?". I saw her clench her jaw.

"If you interfere even a little bit, there will be consequences." I sighed in despair.

"Nat..." I said annoyed.

"If you continue to prevent me from preparing for the mission you'll be le here with your new little boyfriend waiting for us to come back." I then realized what was happening.

She is jealous!

This thought made me smile. But not Nat. My smile seemed to annoy her even more.

"Would you be jealous?" I asked, smiling.

"Why would I be jealous? There's nothing between us, there never has been and there never will be." These words were like a dagger in my heart.

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Ouch

I felt tears welling up in my eyes but I did my best to hold them back.

"Okay, if that's what you think." I said in a shaky voice as I looked lower than his eyes, unable to meet his gaze. I then turned my back on her. "I'm going to join Agent Barton, good luck Agent Romano ," I said before leaving to join Clint.

Nat's POV

"I'm going to join Agent Barton, good luck Agent Romano ."

F\*ck. Well done Nat, well doneGive yourself a round of applause. You're as childish as they come. What possessed you to say that? ArrrghJealousy is no reason to get so angry and say that to her. Come on, Nat! She's allowed to have friends! You're not even together yet...

Yet...

I sigh at the thought.

I don't stand a chance now... I should have been happy for her that at

least one agent doesn't hate her. I'll go and apologize a er the mission. But what do I tell her?

My train of thought was interrupted by the laughter of Y/n, Clint and the other agent. I can't believe it! Are they still laughing?

"We're coming, get ready to jump Nat" Clint said in the earpiece.

I then approached the door which opened. I took one last look back and met Y/n's worried gaze. I looked away and jumped. This mission is going to be long if I can hear them talking in the earpiece.

## Clint's POV

When Y/n joined Peyton and me, she looked sad and really bad. I don't know what happened with Nat but clearly not a happy thing. I think O icer Peyton noticed too because he sent me a questioning and concerned look. I just shrugged my shoulders in response. Since then he's been talking to her to take her mind o things and to make her laugh. It wasn't easy but he succeeded. She now seems to be doing better. I don't know how long it will last.

I wanted to ask her what happened but we're not alone and we'll have to put on our headsets to start the mission. I'll ask her a er this one. I'll also have to talk to Nat but knowing her she won't tell me much. Maybe I'll have better luck with Y/n although she's more likely to talk to Steve or Tony and not me. No harm in trying. In the meantime, let's focus on the mission.

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