Chapter 34 : Where are you ?

Avengers' POV

The Avengers are at their lowest point, they've been getting signals from Y/n from all over the world for days. At first they just thought she had moved to another location but then they started getting other signals at the same time hundreds of miles apart. They then started to check every place where they received a signal and could only find the objects from Y/n. They then all gathered around the meeting table, all of Y/n's gps trackers in the middle of the table. No one dared to speak while waiting for the director. The director burst into the room and pulled everyone out of their respective thoughts. He saw the objects on the table and stopped dead in his tracks.

"Situation." he asked as he positioned himself at the end of the table.

"We received a signal from Y/n or one of her objects anyway a few days ago and then the signals started coming in. So we went to the location each time and we could only find the tracers and the jet they used to get there. All the tracers were deactivated, the jet was empty. Only the secret hiding places with Y/n's weapons were untouched. There was also this sheet hanging on the pilot's seat," Clint said, handing the sheet to Fury.

'Nice try' could be read on the sheet. Fury then crumpled it up.

"What do you have on the bases you were supposed to check?" he then asked.

"Nothing, the soldiers there don't know anything, even the files on the computers didn't turn up anything." explained Steve. Fury clenched his fists, nothing was right.

"About Y/n's blood, any word on what can weaken her?" he then asked, hoping for a positive answer.

"We've been trying to stimulate her blood to simulate the rise of power, and when it's active, it's almost impossible to harm her. We would have to create a very powerful weapon, much more powerful than what we have at the moment." explained Bruce in turn.

"Any idea where Agent Ivanov might be? " he then asked.

"Unfortunately no, I've collected almost all the gps trackers except the pen that turns into a sword, unfortunately I'm not getting any signal from that one. I guess she still has it with her and will signal us when she can." then explained Tony.

"If she can..." continued Steve.

Fury slammed his fist on the table, startling everyone.

"Do you still have the coordinates for the base in Slovenia?" he asked.

"Yes, sir," replied Agent Barton.

"Go ahead," ordered the director.

"What? But sir? If we go there now and Y/n turns out to be okay the mission will be compromised and so will Y/n's status!" replied Clint.

"To hell with the mission, they're leading us astray here! We have to act, go get her and bring her back here!" replied Fury.

The Avengers set off to equip themselves for the base. They all silently prayed in their heads that Y/n would be safe.

Once in the jet, Agent Barton started up. No one spoke, all were too afraid to express their thoughts. The ride was then in complete silence until Captain America broke it.

"We need a plan of attack," he said.

"I have a plan, attack," Iron Man replied as he made his way to the exit and the captain rolled his eyes.

"I'm serious Tony, we can't just run into the ground like that, we could be endangering Y/n's life for nothing." he replied, grabbing Tony's arm.

"I'm serious too Rogers, it's been weeks since they got our Y/n and who knows what they might have done with her huh?! You want to take the time to concoct a good little plan to avoid alarming them. But let them know we are coming! Let them know that we're here and that we're going to blow them away! Let them be afraid of what will happen to them! Because yes, the Avengers are here to beat them up! That's what happens when you mess with OUR Y/n!" exclaimed Tony, nailing Steve's beak and calming him down.

"I agree Tony, I want to make them pay too, but we don't know how many of them there are or what their layout is in the building or where she might be. I want to get her out of there as much as you do but I don't want to put her in more danger either. We can't afford to go in there without thinking, it could end very badly." explained Steve calmly.

"What do you propose then?" asked Tony.

"Let's do some scouting first, can you send up some drones so we can get some footage from outside?" asked Steve.

"Yes, I'll do that right away," replied Tony.

Stark then sent four drones in the direction of Hydra's hideout, sending them images of the area.

"Once we have a better view of the building we'll know if there are guards outside and we can find a way in." explained Steve. "I propose we split into two teams, Tony, Thor and Bruce will attack from the outside to draw them out while Nat, Clint and I will go inside and get Y/n. Is that okay with everyone?" the super soldier asked.

He received no complaints and was relieved. He wouldn't want there to be any tension in the team at such an important time. Silence settled back into the jet. Then it was broken by J.A.R.V.I.S. warning them of the drones' arrival.

"Show us the images," Tony asked.

The artificial intelligence complied and showed them the images of the building in real time. The engineer and the soldier analyzed it.

"Good." said Steve. "There are very few soldiers on the west side of the building, I suggest that is where we attack them. That way the guards on the east side will go in and we can enter from that side."

"I agree, let's do that. Get ready, we should be there in a few minutes." said Tony.

Everyone prepared physically and mentally. No one knew what to expect, but they were ready for battle.

Clint then landed the jet at a decent distance from the base and a dead silence fell. Everyone looked at the wide open door. It was Nat who moved first. She stood up, grabbed her weapons and stepped out of the jet.

"Tony." said Steve, turning to his teammate.

"Here we go." he replied as he got out and headed to one side of the building to start attacking. The alarm was then heard to go off.

"Time to get angry Bruce," said Steve.

"You know my secret Captain." replied the doctor.

Banner went out and the Hulk took his place to destroy everything. Thor then walked out, ready to swing his hammer.

Steve and Clint were the last to get out of the jet and they joined Natasha who was waiting for them a little further.

"We'll have to be quick, they probably know we're here for her," said Steve. "Tony?"

"You can come in, the way is clear for you. The little people are here with us." replied the billionaire.

"Well, Clint, Nat. It's ours." the captain said before heading into the building.

They entered easily enough and split up almost instantly not knowing where Y/n might be and having several paths available to them. Steve went to the middle, Natasha to the left and Clint to the right. On their way, they came across many soldiers that they had to disable. They checked all the rooms one by one without finding anything. They always kept themselves informed even if they didn't find anything yet.

Clint's POV

As I opened perhaps the hundredth door I finally found something that made me stop in my tracks and I stood still for several minutes, looking at the person in front of me. I felt the anger rise in me and yet I continued to look this person in the eye.

"Guys, you might want to join me," I said to my teammates. Under the emotion I did not hear their answer and continued to stare at the person in front of me. This last one smiled at me which made me even more angry.

I then slowly moved forward and put my bow behind my back.

"Are you sure you want to put it away, Agent Barton?" the scumbag in front of me asked.

"I'd rather destroy you with my bare hands. Besides, I don't need it to beat you, Peyton," I replied. This one smiled at me and threw himself on me.

We made a few moves, dodging, blocking and other. He is stronger than I thought but he is not stronger than Nat. As we fought, he pulled a gun out of his pants and pointed it at me.

"Goodbye agent Barton, it's been a pleasure." he said to me with a smile. Just as I thought I was at the end, I heard a hollow noise and saw Peyton fall to the ground. Then I could make out Steve with his shield in his hand.

"Looks like I came at the right time," he said.

"You couldn't have come at a better time," I replied, trying to calm my heart.

I'm too old for this crap.

"Clint are you okay?" asked Nat as she entered the room and rushed to me.

"Yes everything is fine don't worry." I reassured her.

"What happened? We were worried that you wouldn't answer us. Who could have -" she said, stopping when she recognized Peyton on the ground. Her eyes turned cold and I saw her clench her fists. Before she could do anything, Steve grabbed Peyton and pulled him to a wall to lean against. He tied his hands together and stepped aside.

"What do we do?" he asked.

I knelt down in front of him and slapped his face to wake him up. "We need answers, he can be useful to us. Let's wake him up," I said. It took a long time, but he finally woke up.

"Urgh..." said Alexis as he tried to move his hands, probably to put one behind his head. When he couldn't move his hands he opened his eyes wide and looked at them. He saw that they were tied and looked up. We could read the shock on his face, the incomprehension and then he started to smile which surprised all three of us. With difficulty but surely he got up and stood against the wall.

"Hello Avengers, it's been a while. You're here for your favorite murderer aren't you?" he asked rhetorically. "I thought your job was to stop and kill monsters, not raise and save them." he then added with a laugh. His laughter was short lived, as Natasha's fist in his face stopped him dead in his tracks.

"Hey Nat, wait." I said as I held her back.

Alexis spat out blood then laughed harder.

"You know what's the funniest thing? It's your attachment to a monster like that, I mean she killed your friends, she rejected you for me and lied to you for weeks and yet you still try to save her? Goddamn Y/n. Surely she must have some kind of mind control. It's impossible to have any feelings for a scumbag like that." he said before being slammed into the wall and getting punched in the head again.

"NAT!" I shouted as I rushed at her. I grabbed her shoulders trying to get her away from Peyton but she really didn't want to move. I turned to Steve to help me, but seeing his expression I knew he was already too busy trying to contain himself.

"I forbid you to say anything bad about her! and I forbid you to say her name!" warned Nat, holding Peyton's collar firmly.

"Or else what?" he asked with a smile on his face.

Nat then struck him a knee blow in the private parts making him bend in two while groaning. I pushed Nat away from Peyton who fell on his knees of pain. Steve then lifted him up violently and tackled him to the wall.

"Where is she?" he asked dryly.

"Let's see, this is not manners Captain," Alexis answered through clenched teeth. Steve threw him across the room.

"If I were you, I wouldn't laugh," Steve said.

"Is that a threat?" asked Peyton as he struggled to his feet.

"No, it's advice." replied Steve as he picked him up again and tackled him to the wall causing him to cry out in pain.

"You're too late." he then said. Then he started to laugh at our shocked faces. "Haha you really believed that it was going to be so easy? That all you had to do was show up and get your precious weapon? Ivan is smarter than you think" he added before taking a blow in the stomach from Steve.

"Where are they?" I asked then, he didn't answer.

"Where is Ivan?" added Nat.

"I don't know." answered Peyton, spitting blood.

PANG

"ARGH" Peyton screamed and fell on his knees. Nat just shot him in the leg.

She came up to him, pressed on his leg making him groan in pain.

"You're going to have to stop playing dumb." she said in a dry tone.

"Urgh.. I swear to you. I don't know anything more. All I know is that they have a project to do and she is the key to it, her and the winter soldier. But I don't know anything more. Ivan made me lower in rank, so I don't have access to important information. I didn't even know they were gone until you got there." he then replied.

"How do we find him?" asked Steve in turn. Alexis then laughed and Nat pressed on his wound which made him groan in pain.

"You don't find him, he finds you" he explained. Nat stood up, letting go of the pressure she had on him.

"You don't know anything else?" she asked.

"No I swear to you! They don't tell me anything, I have no way to contact them, I'm just a low-ranking soldier!" he shouted.

"Good" Nat answered and shot him in the head, making him fall dead. After that she left the room.

Steve and I were left in shock, we looked at each other and ran after Natasha.

"NAT!" I shouted. She then turned around and waited for us. We stopped in front of her and looked at her stunned.

"What? He told us everything he knows. He is useless to us." she said.

"We could have taken him and used him to find Ivan," I replied.

"That wouldn't have worked, Ivan had to know we were coming here and would get our hands on Alexis so he made sure he didn't know. Then we weren't going to bother with him, we're not garbage collectors, we don't pick up trash." she explained before continuing on her way. In a way she was right but I know that's not the reason she killed him. However, what surprises me the most is that Cap still hasn't said anything. Usually he doesn't like to have victims. After a last look, we left for the jet. On the way, Steve told the others that we had come up empty.

When we got to the jet, the others asked us what had happened. Since Nat and Steve weren't saying anything, I had to explain everything to a pissed off Tony, an exhausted Bruce and a frustrated Thor.

Y/n, you better be okay.

Nat's POV

I thought killing him would make me feel better, but it didn't. Clint was right, he should have been taken and tortured to get answers he doesn't have. Killing him is way too easy. I couldn't help it, it's all his fault. If I could I would kill him again, over and over again.

However, something about what he revealed to us bothers me and I really hope I'm wrong. I have a really bad feeling about this.

Y/n please be safe.

Avengers' POV

The return trip was dead silent. No one dared to make a sound. When they arrived, Director Fury and Agent Hills were waiting for them and their expressions became hard when they saw them returning without Agent Ivanov. All headed into the conference room.

"Were you able to retrieve anything?" the director asked once everyone was settled.

"We have the surveillance footage from the cameras in the building," replied Agent Barton.

"All right, let's go through them now. Each person has a position and observes a camera, and when they find something interesting they say so." ordered Fury.

Everyone then got to work. Steve was the first to speak.

"I've got their arrival," he said. On the videos they saw Agent Peyton arrive with Y/n unconscious in his arms.

In another video they saw them alone in their cell. In another they see the scene in Ivan's office where Y/n is being searched and beaten. Unfortunately the quality is poor and there is no sound. Finally it was Nat who called everyone last.

In this video they saw her enter a gym with an electric collar around her neck and join Alexis and Ivan. They saw them fight, they saw her win and then bend over with her hands around her neck. This scene made the avengers go crazy and they understood what was going on. Then they saw her beat Alexis a second time and a scene that surprised everyone but agent Romano . The Avengers could see that Y/n was losing control of her powers, that she was creating a weapon and that all the soldiers around her were pointing their guns at her. Even though it was a bit blurry, they could see the panic in Ivan's eyes. Finally, they stopped the video after they saw Y/n faint and be carried away. Everyone fell silent, still in shock from the discovery of Y/n's new power.

Director Fury examined everyone but especially one agent in particular.

"You knew about this, didn't you?" he asked his agent. Everyone then followed his gaze to Agent Romano .

"Yes sir." she replied.

"Why didn't you say anything?" the director asked.

"She was afraid of the consequences and preferred to control it before talking about it. Plus it turns out it' s very complicated to control and it hurts her." explained the Russian agent.

"Very well. Were you able to find Agent Peyton?" he then asked everyone. They all glanced at Natasha before lowering their eyes. The director then understood. "Agent Romano ?"

"He's dead." she said curtly.

He didn't look for more information.

"Well, I expect your reports by tomorrow night at the latest. You're dismissed." the director said. Everyone got up and left, each one more worried than the other. Everyone asked themselves the same question.

Where are you Y/n?

Continue reading next part