

Nagel

The situation with Steve had Sam and Bucky on edge. Deciding to step out and call Nat, the two of them went for a walk. They didn't want Winter to hear what was being said.

"What's going on Nat?" Sam asked as they walked around the buildings near Winter's safe house, careful not to draw any unwanted attention.

Nat sighed on the other end of the phone. "Something's wrong Sam. Steve disappeared for two days. He's back but something is o."

When Black Widow begins to worry, you know it's serious.

Bucky walked beside Sam, worry etched into his face. "What's going on?"

Sam placed the phone against his shoulder. "Steve's back but Nat thinks something's wrong." He explained before holding the phone back up to his ear. "Do you need us to come back?" They knew keeping an eye on Winter was important, but this was Steve.

"No. You stay on her, I've got this. Just make sure you find something we can prove was her. It's the only way we can legally bring her in."

Nat was the only one that knew what Sam and Bucky were doing. None of the others would have even given Winter a chance, but Nat knew how important second chances were. Bucky had barely spoken about his relationship with Winter, but it hadn't taken Sam long to figure out he loved her. The need to protect his friend is what had spurred him on to follow Bucky in the first place.

Aer Nat agreed to call if anything happened Sam turned to Bucky. "If this was Winter..."

"I'll deal with her Sam. You have my word."

I walk into the port in Madripool, the three stooges following my every footstep. "Half of Madripool is looking for us, thanks to you.

This needs to be quick." I looked down at my phone, making sure I'd got the right number for the storage container.

"What do you want with Nagel?" Sam asked as we rounded the corner, the number BF657 coming into view. I stopped, turning to face him. "That's my business Sam."

The fact we were on a first name basis, still didn't sit right with me. As nice as Sam is I had to keep reminding myself that he was the enemy. Pulling the earpieces out of my pocket, I held them out in my hand. "Take these, just in case."

Sam, Bucky and Zemo each took one, placing them in their ears as they did. I carried on towards the container that housed the next name on my list. Sam opened it before looking over to me. "Winter.

It's empty."

It was thoroughly exhausting working with heroes. I couldn't help but wonder how they ever got a job finished. Slipping past him, I rolled my eyes, the smell of rust and metal filling my nostrils as I walked into the dark container. "No. You're just being an idiot."

I walked up to the end of the emptiness, noticing a slight crack in the metal. I instantly knew what I needed to do. Pressing my palms against the cold metal, I pushed forward, hearing a satisfying click. A hidden door appearing in front of me.

I could hear Bucky and Sam draw their weapons as I did with mine. Nagel was the brains, not the brawn. On his own he was no threat, but I didn't know if he was alone. Better to be safe than sorry.

The corridor down to his lab was long, I ended up walking next to Bucky who mirrored me in the way our guns were drawn. I had to ignore the way heat pooled between my legs, he looked like the James I loved and it temporarily distracted me. The way he smirked at me, told me he knew exactly how he was acting me.

"You're not killing him Winter." I'd never been so glad to have him open his mouth and break my train of thought. I smirked over at him, "oh I know that James. Now shut up."

Walking through the lab, I could see vials and equipment all around us. This was one hell of a setup for someone on the run. He was being funded and I knew I'd eventually have to find out by who. For now I had to focus on getting Nagel, I had a score to settle with that slimy son of a bitch.

Rounding the corner, we found him. His greasy hair falling in his face as he leant over two vials. The serum.

"Hey Nagel, long time no see." The second he heard my voice I could see the sweat appearing on his face. He had no reason to fear me when he was working with Hydra, I couldn't fight back then. This time was different, I wasn't being beaten into submission this time. "Miss me?" I taunted, my gun raised right into his eyeline. The terror in his green eyes had me smiling.

"What do you want?" His voice was shaky, giving away just how terrified he was.

"Did you really think I wouldn't find out that you were using my blood to make the serum?"

My admission seemed to trigger something in Bucky. I had failed to tell them why I was so against this new serum. My blood. My choice. It was just another thing Hydra had taken from me and I wanted it back.

That's why Nagel was on my list, the way he'd laughed when they took so much blood I nearly passed out. The way I was nothing more than an experiment to him. He'd made the mistake of underestimating me, something he was about to regret.

Nagel's eyes met Bucky's and I could see his fear increase. He knew who Bucky was, and yet again he was more scared of him than me.

"He's not the one you need to worry about right now." I smiled as Sam came up behind him, grabbing him before forcing him against the wall. His eyes darted around us, to the outside we looked like quite the team.

"What do you want?" His gaze became fixed on me as I glared at him, rage consuming me as flashes of Hydra threatened to take over. I had to remind myself of why I was here, why I'd taken the risk in letting Bucky and Sam come along. Taking a deep breath, I pushed back the red mist and concentrated on the lowlife in front of me. "The last of my blood. Is it here?"

Silence.

Bucky shot forward, grabbing him by the shoulder before forcing him down into a metal seat. His gun forced up against Nagel's temple.

"She asked you a question."

I shouldn't be turned on by this.

Nagel started visibly shaking through fear. "Yes! Yes I have the last of it." He looked over to me. "But Karli..."

"Isn't a problem." I ignored the confused looks from Sam and Bucky. They knew nothing of Karli and I wasn't about to say anything more on the matter.

"If you kill me, someone else will just take my place."

He was far too cocky for my liking. Looking over at Sam I gave him a sweet smile. "Lucky for you I'm on a promise of no killing." Sam seemed to relax slightly at that, but Bucky knew better. He knew I wouldn't be letting Nagel walk out of here. I gave a nod, so slight that if you weren't looking for it, it would've gone unnoticed. Zemo stepped forward and wasted no time firing a shot straight into Nagel's skull. He flew backwards o the chair, landing with a thud against the metal ground. "But he's not."

I didn't have time for Sam to lecture me, or for anything else for that matter. The metal container became engulfed in flames as a RPG exploded, sending us flying in different directions. I landed with a thud, my head ringing from the explosion.

"Winter?!" Bucky called out, coughing as smoke began filling his lungs.

"I'm fine." I began pulling myself up to my knees, ignoring the way my body was crying out in pain. "I think we've been found."

I could hear Bucky's eyes roll as he pulled me to my feet before doing to same to Sam. He ushered us towards the exit.

Taking a deep breath I felt the fresh air finally fill my lungs. Bucky placed his hand on my arm that was outstretched holding my gun.

"Stay behind me." His eyes pleaded with mine and I almost agreed.

Almost.

Pulling my arm from his grip, my walls went back up. "No." I rounded the corner, avoiding the gunfire coming from the bounty hunters that had found us. More importantly, they'd found me. Damn superheroes and they're inability to remain hidden. Bucky poked his head over from behind a fallen container to watch where I'd gone. "Damn it!" I heard him shout as he took out two men behind us.

Ducking behind yet another fallen container, Sam and I began firing o shots. He saw me hesitate slightly as my eyes became fixed on Bucky protecting me. "Hey! You can shoot them ones!"

I rolled my eyes before concentrating once again. "Why thanks for the permission Sam!" I squeezed the trigger, another one falling.

How many of these bastards are there?

The smoke made it difficult to get a clear shot. I heard Bucky shout out in frustration when he ran out of ammo. He ducked out of the way, turning to me. "Tell me you have a plan!"

I kept firing, refusing to meet his gaze. "No! Not exactly."

"When you said you'd kill me. This wasn't what I expected!" He shouted, causing me to shout back. "Trust me! That makes two of us!"

From the distance I could see Zemo on top of one of the containers. A gun in one hand and a purple mask in the other. His eyes set on a gas pipe, not too far from us. I'm not sure why I grabbed Bucky and Sam and pulled them to safety, but as Zemo slipped on his mask, I pulled them further away.

They both looked at me confused until a shot rang out and there was a big explosion as the gas pipe exploded. Taking out the remaining bounty hunters with it.

I saved two Avengers, surely that earns me some points? Right?