

## Surprise

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I climbed o Bucky's bike, removing my helmet so I could shake my hair out. I handed the helmet to Bucky before turning to look at the compound. It was eerily quiet, a distinct lack of hustle and bustle that I was used to. The place seemed almost abandoned which did nothing to calm my nerves about being back here again.

Bucky came up behind me, wrapping his arms around my waist.

"Let's just see what they want, then we'll leave."

I tilted my head up to kiss his jaw, his stubbled cheek scratching against my lips. I was feeling more at peace than I ever had before. I didn't much care about what everyone had called us here for, as long as I had him at my side that was all that mattered.

We walked inside, our hands intertwined together. In all honesty we had barely stopped touching each other for days and I was happy to live the rest of my life like that.

As we stepped out of the elevator I jumped back in surprise. Loki was suddenly in front of me.

"Surprise Y/N!" He shouted loud enough for the entire of New York to hear.

"Loki? What the hell?" He stumbled slightly towards me. "Are you drunk?"

"No," he shook his head which did nothing to help his balance. "I'm just full. Bear in mind...I'm very full."

I couldn't stop the smile that spread across my face at seeing him so happy and carefree. We had both come such a long way since the day I met him. Both of us finding peace in our own ways. I'd be forever grateful to him for being there when I needed him to be.

"So why exactly have you dragged me back here?"

"I didn't." He gestured over his shoulder. "That one did."

My jaw almost hit the floor as I saw Zemo pouring himself a drink.

"Z?" I couldn't fathom how he was even here considering he was supposed to be on the run.

He passed me a drink as he came over. "I have twenty four hours before I'm on the most wanted list again."

"Twenty three actually!" Tony shouted out.

"I'm so confused." I muttered taking in the people around me.

Bucky chuckled beside me, wrapping his arm around my shoulders. "It's a surprise party doll."

I rolled my eyes, nudging him slightly. "I'm not that stupid Buck. I just don't understand why."

After everything I'd done, all the trouble I'd brought to their door I couldn't fathom why they decided I was worth all of this.

"Because we all wanted to say goodbye." Sam explained with a goofy grin on his face.

"But why?"

Clint came over nudging Bucky o me so he could wrap his arm around my shoulders. "Because you grew on us and because it's the least we could do to say sorry for Steve."

How they had found a way to blame themselves for Steve I couldn't quite understand.

"You have nothing to apologise for." I looked around the room, smiling at everyone that was there. It was odd to think that once upon a time I'd set out to destroy them, now I'd do anything it took to keep them safe. "Well if we're going to do this, let's do it properly. Where's Thor?"

How I hadn't seen the brute of a man stood o to the side I wasn't quite sure.

"I got you covered little mortal." He claimed with a grin. Strolling over to us he took my drink dropping a few drops of Asgardian ale into it.

Tony turned the music up and we all spent the night laughing and joking together. Even Bruce seemed to let loose and enjoy himself. I sat on one of the sofas, my feet sore from dancing. Bucky was talking to Tony at the bar when Zemo came and sat beside me.

"I remember when your sole purpose was killing him." He teased with a smile. "Now you're like a lovesick puppy every time you look at him."

"Shut up." I nudged him with my shoulder. "I don't think I ever truly wanted to kill him. It's not like I never had the opportunity."

"You're soulmates Y/N, that's why you couldn't do it. You were always meant to be together."

I noticed the lost look in his eyes as he spoke, as if he knew exactly how it felt to look at someone and see your whole future with them.

"Your wife?" I guessed.

"Yeah. She hated me when I met," he chuckled remembering her.

"She thought I was just some rich asshole that didn't understand what it was like to do a days work, at least that's what she said at the time. It wasn't until I come back from being in the Sokovian Special Forces that she admitted she was scared at how quickly she fell for me. I miss her every single day."

I placed my hand on his arm. "She'd be proud of the man you've become Zemo, I know I am."

"Thank you Y/N it means a lot. Now go enjoy your night, you deserve it."

I walked over to Bucky, wrapping my arm around his waist.

"Hey doll." He smiled placing a kiss against the side of my head. "You okay?"

"I'm tired."

"There's a spare room upstairs for you." Tony o ered. "Stay the night and we'll say goodbye in the morning."

"Thanks Tony. For everything."

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I kicked my shoes o and shredded my clothes the second we shut the door. Every muscle in my body was exhausted and I needed to sleep. Bucky groaned as he watched me crawl naked into the bed.

I rolled my eyes. "Down sailor, we'll have plenty of time for that tomorrow. I need sleep, someone kept me up all night last night."

"I didn't hear you complaining."

"Oh trust me I wasn't, but now my body needs the sleep you stole."

He stripped down to his boxers before climbing in beside me. Instinctively I rolled onto my side letting him wrap his arms around me.

"Did you have fun tonight?" He asked as he pulled my back to his chest.

"It was nice to see everyone. I'm going to miss them."

"It's not forever doll, we can always come back and visit."

"Yeah I know. I'm excited to finally start that life we always dreamed about."

It was weird to think about how long ago our days at Hydra were, how much we'd both changed since then. The only thing that hadn't changed was our need to protect each other. I had a feeling that protecting each other was something we would both be doing until we took our last breath.

Us against the world, always and forever.

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