



## x. Vintage Trading Cards

3 months later, the 15 year old was in the passenger seat of a Shield van that Natasha had "borrowed." The two were going to see Coulson at a New York hospital that had a partnership with Shield. Maria had also been invited, but had reports to file, or else Fury would be mad. Clint was at home with his family and when told about Coulson's command, texted back that he didn't care.

Natasha and Auralie parked and exited the van and started walking towards the hospital. Auralie asked, "what's Coulson so excited about?"

Natasha shrugged, "I dunno? Maybe he got Lola washed and gave her some new tires." Both girls laughed, knowing how much Phil loved his car. Once, Clint had gotten his fingerprints on Lola, and Phil had banned him from the lounge co eemaker for two weeks.

"Don't touch Lola," Auralie said in a decent impression of their superior. Natasha laughed, and they went into the hospital. Auralie was surprised to see a familiar face waiting inside.

"Amanda," Auralie said, waving at the nurse, "hi! I didn't know you were assigned here."

Amanda grinned, "well I am. I'm helping deal with a very interesting patient, who Phil wants you to meet. He's right through that door."

"Thanks," Auralie waved. She and Amanda had remained casual friends, and the nurse had patched her, Maria, Nat, and Clint up a great many times. Auralie had great respect for her, because without people healing them, they would probably all be dead.

The first thing the two women saw when they entered the room was it was decorated like an old fashion hospital room. The second thing they saw was Phil in the hard backed waiting chair, a huge smile on his face. The third thing they saw was the blonde man laying in the bed, and a gasp escaped Auralie's lips.

The man in the bed was the famous WWII hero Steve Rogers AKA Captain America. He had been declared killed in action during the war, but here was the first superhero, alive and looking just like he would have years ago. Auralie was shocked to be in the famed soldier's present. Of course he was unconscious, but still, he was a legend.

Auralie turned to Phil and asked, "what is going on?"

Phil explained how the Captain had been found frozen but alive in ice. He told them about how Shield was caring for him until he woke from his coma, at which case Fury was going to explain everything to him and work to make him an ally or operative of Shield.

"Wow," Natasha said, "that's crazy."

"It's Shield," Auralie replied, "everything's crazy around here. So why the old timey theme?"

Phil replied, "well, we figured it would so en the blow of waking up if he woke up in a familiar scene."

Auralie rolled her eyes, "right, because nothing makes finding out all your family and friends are dead like being tricked. Of course that will make him want to help us. Fantastic plan."

"If you don't like it, talk to the boss," Phil shot back, but he was smirking. Phil was a cool guy. He was liked by the agents because he wasn't as intimidating as Fury.

Natasha looked at Rogers, "wow, I guess the superhero serum worked, because damn, he's bu ."

Auralie laughed, "Natasha, Captain Rogers was a hero known for his morals and willingness to stand up to bullies. He is a good person."

Phil snickered, "yeah, and we all admire him for that, but he really is bu ."

"I will never understand this worlds obsession with muscular men," Auralie shot back, "now, Phil, is there anything else you wanted to tell us."

"Nope," Phil shook his head, "I just wanted to show you this really exciting discovery. I mean, imagine how interesting it would be to hear about superheros before Shield and how they stopped crime without all the resources of today."

Auralie smiled, "I guess that would be interesting."

"Yeah," Natasha agreed, "but seriously Phil, are you this excited over one guy?"

Phil beamed, "Captain America is my childhood hero. I had all his merchandise. PJ's, action figures, in fact, I still have mint condition vintage Captain America trading cards. I have all of the Captain America cards, the complete set of Howling Commando cards, including a rare Bucky Barnes card, and a Peggy Carter card."

He took the cards from his pocket and showed them o to Natasha and Auralie. The two couldn't help but exchange grins out how happy Phil was when he geeked out over his childhood hero.

Auralie and Nat allowed him to gush over his cards for 5 more minutes, before it was time to get back to work. They went back to the van, arguing over if it was stealing or borrowing if they were planning to return it. Auralie made her argument for stolen as she put her feet up on the dash.

Natasha glared at her friend, "hey, that's my thing. And it's Shield property, we're Shield agents. It's borrowing."

Auralie laughed, "so you say."

Natasha rolled her eyes, "oh shut up Ali, yesterday I almost lost Clint on the way to work because he ran o chasing a cute little German Shepard puppy that was walking with its owner. The owner was nice about it, but I swear, if that man wants to pet one more dog during work hours..."

Auralie laughed, "he needs to get himself a dog."

"Oh, Laura and I are going to get him one someday," Natasha smiled, "once his daughter is a little older."

"Oh yeah, how is baby Lila. And Cooper for that matter," Auralie asked.

"Lila is doing good. Cooper is two now, and Clint wants to teach him archery, but of course Laura vetoed that. Laura is doing good too, but she has two kids and a Clint to look a er," Natasha answered.

Auralie laughed, "I love that we consider Clint a child."

"I've seen him drinking one of the squeezable applesauce pouches," Nat said, "it's not an exaggeration."

The two of them laughed, and but Auralie felt weird. Like something was coming, and she didn't have much time before it got there. Her smile dissipated and Nat looked at her with worry. It wasn't unusual for random bursts of sadness to overcome the girl. Auralie had spent many days depressed, overcome with sadness that her parents hadn't gotten to live their full lives, and misery that her brother wasn't with her. Sure she had a family in Maria, and friends at Shield, but she couldn't help but miss those she lost, and wonder what might have been.

This was di erent than the sadness and depression, this was fear, and it had to do with the future, not the past. She wondered what was coming, and how it would shake her fate so terribly.

**A/N: Next chapter starts the movie Avengers.**

[Continue reading next part](#) □