



## xxxiv. Anyone Wanna Get Out

Auralie and Steve went up to Alexander Pierce's office. Auralie was clearly displeased. It should be noted that she disliked Pierce even more than Rumlow, which is saying a lot. She really disliked Rumlow.

"Secretary Pierce," Auralie nodded to him, trying to hide her thinly veiled disgust.

"Agent Shadow," he said, gesturing to seats that they could take if they wanted, "Captain Rogers. Thank you for coming."

"It was no trouble," Auralie said, "not like the time the elevators broke and going up the stairs became a nightmare. Though I don't recall you having to deal with that."

Pierce sighed, "yes, well, we have bigger issues than elevators. Please take a seat."

Auralie sat, Steve, did not. Instead, he glared at Pierce, and Auralie realized that she had an ally against the man, for one reason or another. And she would need allies if she was going to figure out what had happened to Fury. She had no intention of letting it go, and she had absolutely no fantasies of being able to trust Pierce and the world security council to handle it.

"I assume you know why you're here?" He commented.

Auralie didn't reply. Steve nodded, "yes Sir."

"You know," Pierce began, "I didn't take this job because I wanted it, I took it because Nick asked me to. Because we're both realists. Because we both realize that the smiles and the handshaking only goes so far, and to build a really better world, sometimes means tearing the old one down. Captain, Agent, you two were the last ones to see Nick alive, I don't think that's a coincidence."

"I arrived with Agent 13, by the time I found him, Fury was unconscious," Auralie replied tightly.

"I understand," the secretary said, slightly disappointed, "Captain, why was Fury in your apartment last night?"

"He told me not to trust anyone," Steve said. Auralie nodded, even though she hadn't heard. That sounded like Fury.

Pierce met Steve's gaze, "I wonder if that included him."

Steve gulped, "I'm sorry, those were his last words."

Auralie closed her eyes and took several deep breaths. It was taking a bit for the gravity of the situation to fully hit her. Fury was dead, Pierce, a man she couldn't trust, was in power, Steve was thinking of leaving Shield, and there was an assassin with a metal arm that was still out there. And they would have to be ready when the world came crashing down around them.

When she refocused her attention, Pierce was talking again, "when I first met Nick, his mother lived at 674."

"You're saying Fury hired the pirates," Steve said incredulously.

Auralie scoffed, "why would Fury do such a thing?"

"My guess," Pierce responded, "the Lumarian Star was carrying information that Nick didn't want to get out. So he hired the pirates to cover his tracks."

"Director Fury wouldn't do that," Auralie said, "he wasn't above keeping secrets but he also owned up to his mistakes and worked to correct them, instead of being underhanded."

"Then why would someone try to kill him?" Pierce asked.

Not one to back down, Auralie shot back, "to destabilize Shield and get him out of the way so they could wreak havoc on the world."

"Auralie, I know you don't want to believe Nick was the bad guy, but the facts don't lie," Pierce pointed out, "and Captain, someone murdered my friend and I'm going to find out why. I wouldn't get in my way."

"Understood," Steve said, not meeting Pierce's eyes. Steve and Auralie got up to leave. They went down the hall and into the elevator, a silent agreement that they would not talk until they were out of range of the cameras. Pierce was not to be trusted.

Rumlow and several other agents came in. Rumlow said, "fornsenics," and the elevator began to move.

"We found some fibers on the roof," Rumlow said, "we're gonna check it out. You want me to get the strike team ready?"

"No, let's wait for the results," Steve reassured the other agent.

Auralie narrowed her eyes at Rumlow. She wanted to get out of that elevator and soon. She could tell that Steve felt the same.

They continued to travel beneath the floors, picking up more and more people as they went, until Steve and Auralie found themselves in the middle of a crowd of agents. Auralie tensed up, and she and Steve both noticed things. The fact that everyone around them was in a defensive stance, the way their eyes shifted around, even the sweat that trailed down their necks.

Steve and Auralie exchanged glances, knowing that Pierce ordered this.

Steve looked around, "before we get started.....does anyone wanna get out?"

They did not take the out Steve was giving them, instead choosing to attack the two Avengers. That was the first mistake. Auralie took great pleasure in being proven right about Rumlow, who she ended up kicking in the crotch.

That was when one of the men used an electric shock probe, jabbing it into her side and making her legs so weak they fell out from underneath her. She collapsed to the ground, and someone kicked her into the wall as they advanced on Steve, holding his arms down, zapping him.

But Steve was too strong for them. He freed one arm and started fighting back, knocking away the men who were trying to zap him. He freed his other arm free and began fighting the remaining men.

Auralie stood up, wincing at the pain but getting over it quickly, and began to join in the fistfight, using her light to direct sunbeams into her opponent's eyes, distracting them, hiding her punches and her kicks by becoming invisible.

Steve punched Rumlow, who crumpled to the ground. He then used his foot to throw his shield up and caught it. Auralie became visible beside him, and she grinned at how badass that was.

"They should have listened," Auralie said.

The two pried the doors open, only to see a lot of people running at them, heavily armed. Auralie let out one of the angry Russian swears that Natasha had taught her. Steve turned, looking for another means of escape. Being Steve, he decided the best course of action was jumping out the window.

Auralie watched as he hit the ground, and got back up, alright. Auralie rolled her eyes. There was no way she was doing that. As the enemies tried to open the doors, she turned herself invisible. When they finally got the doors opened, she was able to sneak past everyone without them even realizing she was there.

She ran through the corridors, invisible, until she found Steve, approaching the vending machine where they had hid the flash drive. Auralie sighed. His disguise consisted of a hood. Still, it was better than Superman's.

She became visible, and together they looked for the flash drive. But the gum that they had hidden it behind was all gone, as was the flash drive. Steve's face flashed with surprise as another woman crouched down beside them.

Auralie laughed as that woman blew a gum bubble and popped it. Natasha could be just as overdramatic as Steve sometimes.

**A/N: The elevator scene is just so badass and I love it so much.**

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