

## XLIII. Stepping on a Moment

"What if, Pakistan were to march into Isreal," Pierce said to one of the World Security Council members, pouring him a drink, "and they dragged your daughters into a soccer stadium, to be executed? And you could stop it with the flick of a switch?"

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A still invisible light manipulator sucked in her breath. Pierce was a powerful speaker, she had to admit that, and if the World Security Council decided to back Hydra, the world could come to an end. Auralie felt fear clench at her heart at the very thought of it.

But the man said, "not if it's your switch." He threw the glass, and it shattered against the wall. Auralie found herself fearful and elated at the same time. Elated that this man took a stand against Pierce, but fearful of what pain he would suffer because of it.

Pierce grabbed a gun and pointed it at the man's head. But then, the councilwoman launched into a kick, her form perfect, and kicked the gun out of his hand, catching it in her own. Then she knocked out the Hydra agent. Auralie found herself grinning. There was only one person she knew who fought just like that. She hadn't known what disguise Natasha was wearing, but now she did. She pointed the weapon at Pierce.

Natasha turned off the facial changing technology and ripped off the blonde wig, her own red hair falling down to her shoulder. She smirked, "I'm sorry. Did I step on your moment?"

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Auralie became visible, startling the council and storming over to stand behind Pierce. Her hands glowed, and she helped to keep him penned in so he couldn't make his escape. She met her friend's eyes, "Natasha, I just want to say, that entrance was inspired."

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"Thanks, Ali," Natasha replied.

"Pierce, your reign and Hydra's are over," Auralie announced.

Auralie looked out the window and saw the fight was getting intense. Sam was flying around, trying to get the enemies off his tail. She didn't see Steve, but she knew he was there, fighting. Then, on the landing pad, out of the corner of her eye, she saw a glint of silver and she spotted a certain metal arm. Bucky was there.

Auralie worried for Steve, but she had to remain there and help Natasha. She just had to trust that Sam and Steve could handle it.

Natasha had made her way to the control console that could send out information and the like. Pierce narrowed his eyes at her and asked, "what are you doing?"

"Dumping everything Shield has onto the web," Natasha replied calmly, "including all of Hydra's secrets."

"And Shield's," Pierce reminded her, "are you sure you're ready for the world to see you, as you really are."

Auralie looked at Natasha. She knew how hard it was for her friend to come to terms with her past. Natasha had paused, and Auralie's heart skipped a beat. What happened at this moment could change the world forever. And it was all on Natasha.

"Are you?" Natasha asked, and continued typing.

Auralie tried to hide her excitement. She had known Nat would make the right choice, because that was what Natasha did. Natasha was a hero who tried to make things better, she just so happened to have a dark past. But her real excitement was at the fact that her friend was finally taking the steps she needed to overcome the bad memories.

It occurred at that moment to Auralie that it might be about time she did the same thing.

"That action requires two alpha level members," Pierce commented.

"Don't worry," Natasha smirked, "company is coming."

Auralie watched as a helicopter landed, and Nick Fury, alive, standing Nick Fury exited it, jacket billowing, and marched into the room. Pierce's eyes narrowed, but he kept his voice conversational as he asked, "did you get my flowers?"

Fury was not amused.

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"My enemies are your enemies Nick," Pierce said, trying to convince Fury not to do this, "chaos, disorder. And diplomacy, it's a holding action. Band-aid. And you know where I learned that. Bucharest."

"I suggest you stop talking," Auralie said, her hand glowing as she pointed it at Pierce. He remained unflinching, and he continued, "you really think that we didn't take precautions for this?"

Auralie and Natasha pushed Pierce over to Fury, the latter of whom said, "I know you deleted my password. Probably deleted my retinal scan. But if you want to stay ahead of me, Mr. Secretary, you have to keep both eyes open."

Auralie trembled with anticipation as Fury pulled his eyepatch away to reveal his damaged eye. Together, he and Pierce stood as the machine took their retinal scan. There was a ding and the information was posted on the web.

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Natasha checked her phone and said, "done. Ooh, and it's trending."

"Wow, that was fast," Auralie commented, keeping her voice neutral. Pierce seemed very annoyed.

She looked out the window and saw the fight was winding down. She realized that it was almost time for the helicarriers to begin firing, and she hoped with all her heart that Steve and Sam had accomplished their goals. Pierce noticed this timing too.

He took out a small button and pressed it. All three of the other World Security Council members fell to the ground, each with a small hole in their chest, delivered by the ID pins they had been given. Auralie let out a gasp, and Natasha made a move towards Pierce.

Pierce held up the button and said, "ah ah ah, that was armed the minute you put it on."

Natasha froze. Auralie created orbs of light in her palms and Fury pointed his gun at Pierce, but neither fired, afraid of harming Natasha in the crossfire.

Pierce said, "come on councilwoman, you're going to fly me out of here."

That was when they acted. Natasha held up a small device and pressed it, falling to the ground. Before Pierce could react, Auralie blasted Pierce point blank in the chest with her light, and Fury shot him. He fell to the ground, bloody and dying, and whispered his last words, which were fitting, "Hail Hydra."

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Auralie ran to Nat's side, shaking the assassin gently. Fury peered down at them and said, "Romano . Natasha."

Nat's eyes opened and she whispered, "ow, those things really do sting." Auralie laughed the laugh of someone relieved by their victory and that they were all alive. She sat back, taking a breath before Natasha stood up and pulled the blonde girl to her feet. They still had work to do.

**A/N: I love this scene so much, Natasha and Fury are both total badasses in it.**

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