

## x. the screw up

Evelynn was wearing a backstage badge, which told people that she was helping out and getting everything ready for the show. Her attire was very casual, something you would see a stage assistant wear. She came in through the back of the building. Looking around, she found people who were carrying boxes. "Need help with those?" she asked an older looking man smiling.

The man took a look at her badge. "Ah, I got it," he said giving a small smile.

"It's no problem really," she replied.

"If you insist," he hesitated. "Can you pick up those two smaller boxes and follow me."

"Okay." She did as she was told and followed him inside to the backstage. She listened to his instructions and placed them where he told her to.

"Thank you for the help."

"Like I said, no problem at all," she told him grinning. "If you need any more help, look for me, yeah?"

He nodded and headed back the way he came. Her eyes followed him until he disappeared from sight. "I'm in," she said in her earpiece.

"Circuit is ours," Daniel told her. "Evelynn, get it prepped."

Evelynn saw the control room sign. The one Daniel was in was a different control room, there was one for the circuits and this one is managing the show. She peeked in and saw one person, switching her badge around, it now said intern.

"Hi," she said announcing her entrance.

The woman at the table turned around, confused. "Who are you?"

"Oh, well. This was kind of sudden. I'm doing an internship on control room operating," she held up her badge. "Your manager told me that I could observe you while you work on directing the show. I hope it's nothing too troublesome."

"It is sudden," the woman told her. "I guess it won't be a big deal just don't get in my way."

"Of course, I'm Lynn, by the way."

"Hi, Lynn. Patricia," the woman greeted herself not looking away from her screens.

Just then, Evelynn saw the few buttons she needed to turn on for everything to go smoothly.

"Umm, if you don't mind me asking," Evelynn started o. "Is that new? I haven't seen those models before," she asked, pointing at the equipment to the women's le.

When the women looked to the le, Evelynn quickly pressed all the button and switched everything she needed to in record time.

"No," the women answered, oblivious to what just occurred. "They're actually pretty old. Maybe, you're just used to the new stu."

"Ahh, I see," Evelynn said, feigning embarrassment. "If you don't mind could you tell me the way to the restroom? I'll be back in no time."

"When you leave you go le, the third hallway on your right. You can't miss it."

"Thank you very much," Evelynn walked to the door and le the room. She changed her badge back to the stage assistant one.

"Finished, I'm heading your way now." She went to the place right next to the stage seeing Lula and Merritt.

"Everything good?" she asked. They responded with a nod.

Jack came up and stood next to Evelynn. "I'm actually nervous and I'm not even the one going up on stage."

"You know I've heard that if you're nervous, it can be really helpful to picture each other naked," Lula informed Jack. Evelynn chuckled at her antics.

Daniel came up from behind. "It's actually, pictures the audience naked," he correct.

"No," she denied "This is new. This is a new science. So, I don't know, do you wanna? We should try it."

"Not the right mood," Jack sighed out looking at Evelynn.

However, she was looking out at the stage and into the audience.

"Why would you want to picture the audience naked? You'd either get sexually frustrated or creeped out, wouldn't you?"

Merritt chuckled at her naivety then addressed Daniel. "I guess that leaves you and me, old buddy."

"What? Oh, to picture each other-?" he choked out. "No, no thank you."

"I mean I admit from the neck up there are issues but from the neck down," he paused. "The David."

"Please, Merritt, keep it in your pant," Evelynn said laughing. "And only with each other. Think of the children."

The announcer introduced Owen Case and everyone quieted down. They let Merritt do his work. Whatever Merritt was saying, was being repeated by Owen Page who was on a monitor rather than being on stage.

"Hellow Octa Lights," Owen greeted. "Now, I've made a claim that Octa Eight was pure magic but the truth is that's just one of those things I've said. When, in fact, I mean something else. What else do I mean? Well, here to fill you in on some of my fabulous lies and hypocrisy, and to perform some of the most dazzling feats of magic you have ever seen. They are the world's greatest magicians, here to expose me for the fool I truly am. Ladies and gentlemen here are, the Horsemen."

On that note, Lula, Daniel, and Merritt le Jack and Evelynn alone.

"I'm going to head outside to check on some things," he told her.

"I'll stay here and keep an eye on them."

"Good luck."

"You, too."

"Hello, New York," Daniel said to the cheering audience.

"It's great to be back," Merritt added.

"Today, we're here with our new Horsemen, Lula!" Daniel introduced her. "Feels good, right?"

"Yeah, pretty good. Pretty good," Lula answered.

"Thank you," Daniel addressed the audience. "Thank you. Now, we wanna talk to you about your privacy. What does your privacy mean to you?"

Merritt walked around the stage. "Because apparently to Owen Case, it means absolutely nothing."

"Actually, it means less than absolutely nothing. You see, he's mocked your privacy. He scorned it," Lula announced.

"Right, and we're not just talking about the things we already agree to. When you sign without reading the terms and conditions of Octa's one through."

In Evelynn's earpiece, she heard Jack's voice over the Horsemen's.

"Dylan, the FBI is here." Evelynn's eyes widen at Jack's claims.

"No, don't worry about it go to plan, C4," Dylan informed Jack.

Evelynn looked around trying to find Jack in the crowd if he was still there or not. Suddenly, Lula's mic stopped working. Evelynn knew this was a bad sign, to begin with. Daniel tried to take over, her part but his mic got cut o too. The monitor behind them changed colors and their attentions shi ed.

"I would also like to say, magic is about controlling perception." The monitor revealed a face that seemed to be always changing but it was talking and its voice was awful, always changing octaves. Evelynn was panicking. Evelynn stopped paying attention to the voice and happened to spot Jack in the crowd. She ran through the end to hide while quickly getting to him.

"What's going on?" he asked when she caught up.

"I have no idea, everything just started going downhill."

"We need to get out of here right now." Jack took her hand and started weaving his way to the back entrance, where they would make their escape.

Just then, a light shined on both of them. Evelynn looked around stunned when everyone started taking pictures of them. Jack got his bearing back quickly and pulled her toward him and pushing her head down. People tried to grab at them but they were running too quickly to get a hold of. They ran all the way to the roof, on the way they met up with the others.

As they were on the roof, they were frantic. "We have to make it to the chute," Jack yelled. Jack and Lula were both making a lot of noise over it. Evelynn was the leading the group, throughout the roo ops and was the first one over the bridge stairs. She began to take o her earpiece and putting in in her pocket listening to Merritt and Daniel.

"How the hell could this happen?" Merritt asked. "I thought Dylan had everything under control."

"Yeah, well apparently he didn't," Daniel answered.

"Maybe, you're the leak, Dan. Where have you been sneaking o too?"

"Don't do that, don't you dare for a second insinuate that I had anything to do with this."

"I'm not insinuating anything."

"Guys!" Evelyn exclaimed, grabbing their attention. "This is not the time to start this conversation. If you haven't noticed we have to leave right now."

"Let's get to the truck come on!" Jack yelled as he passed by the three with Lula following him.

They all climbed the steps leading to the chute and one by one they all got in. Evelynn was last, and on her way down she noticed a strange gas that wasn't there when the others slide down. She held her breath, closed her eyes, and fell down to the floor, seeing that there was no truck ad her team was knocked out. She bent down to try to make them up but someone from behind grabbed her and put a rag over her nose and mouth. She tried to hold her breath but eventually she needed oxygen. On natural instinct, she inhaled and the world became dark.

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