

Spider-Man 15

Chapter 15: Homecoming

When the pep rally and the football game came to an end, the weekend arrived and the day of the Homecoming dance was finally here. Peter still hasn't seen MJ's outfit for the night. Whether she's going to wear a dress or a hoodie and jeans, he has no idea.

Since it was the weekend, May and MJ's mother, Grace, had the day off work, so they wanted to meet and take pictures for the occasion before MJ and Peter set off.

Arriving at a nearby park, as it would look good for the pictures, Peter and May waited for MJ and her mother to show up. Peter was dressed to impress in his all-black slim-fit suit.

"You've really grown up, haven't you?" May says as she fussed over his suit.

"May, stop. It's fine." Peter says as he bats her hands away.

"I'm just so shocked to see you in a suit. It highlights all the workouts you've been doing too." She says as she gives his biceps a quick squeeze.

"Stop feeling me up, you cougar! I'm taken!" Peter exclaims loud enough for some nearby people to overhear.

"Don't make jokes like that!" May says as she smacks his chest and turns to the onlookers. "He's just joking. It's his first high school dance tonight."

When the misunderstanding was explained, the onlookers left them alone and Peter started laughing at the whole situation. He has been dealing with May's constant fussing for the whole day, so getting a little revenge made it all feel worth it.

"I see you two are having fun." A voice says as Peter and May turn to see MJ and her mother, Grace.

"If you can call it that..." May says under her breath as she glares at Peter, who has stopped laughing completely.

Upon seeing MJ's appearance, Peter couldn't help but freeze for a moment as he looked her up and down. She wore a black long sleeve sweater dress with knee-high boots. MJ's hair was wavy and silky as it hung loosely down to her shoulders. Everything was perfect, including her make-up, which leaned more toward a natural look. MJ is a bit of a Tomboy so things like red lipstick and the like aren't her forte.

"My eyes are here, Peter." MJ says as she gestures up to her face.

"Uhh... Yeah, sorry." Peter said as he stops gawking at her. "You just look too cute."

"Don't say that, Idiot." MJ replies embarrassingly as her mother and May smile on the sidelines.

"Please, don't mind her." Grace says as she pulls out a camera. "Let's get some pictures before the sun sets."

While being manhandled by the older women in the group, Peter and MJ were made to make different poses as they took an uncountable amount of pictures.

"That's it! We're not taking any more photos." MJ puts her foot down after the thousandth picture.

"Yeah, we should get going." Peter follows her lead.

Seeing that the sun was beginning to set, May and Grace reluctantly put their cameras away. After some goodbye hugs, Peter and MJ took the nearest subway to Midtown High school. They could've gotten a ride from Grace, who offered to drive them, but they've both had enough of their parental figures for the day.

"You wore a dress." Peter states as they ride the subway together.

"Yeah, my mom helped me pick it out. I actually kind of like it. Less frilly and complicated, you know?" MJ explains

"Yup, it fits you perfectly." Peter agrees with a nod.

"Eww, no more compliments for the night, please. I don't think I can handle anymore without some hard drugs." MJ says with a scoff, but Peter caught the small smile that graced her lips.

As they arrived at their stop, Peter and MJ took a short walk to the school, where everyone was arriving and packing into the school. Occasionally, Peter and MJ would see a limousine roll up and drop off a group of students. Mostly everyone was dressed to impress as they made their way to the Gymnasium, which was decorated so well that it looked more like a club than a gym.

Walking inside the school, Peter and MJ turned some heads as neither of them usually dressed like this. Peter tended to hide his body with hoodies and sweaters, while no one expected to see MJ in a dress. Seeing Peter's impressive physique in his slimming suit and MJ in a dress with her hair and make-up done was a shock to everyone.

Making their way to the gym, Peter and MJ were impressed by whoever put all

of this together. For a public school, this was some private school kind of decorating.

"Want to hang out in a corner somewhere like the losers we are?" Peter asks as he didn't know what to do with himself.

"God, yes!" MJ agrees instantly as they find a secluded corner away from everyone.

"Is Ned still coming?" MJ asked as they watched the gym slowly fill up.

"Yeah, he just got on the subway though." Peter says as he checks his phone for any texts from Ned.
"He said to give him 10 minutes."

While they waited for Ned, Peter and MJ just sat in a corner, eating the occasional snacks as they people-watched. MJ introduced Peter to this pass time. You just sit in a public area, watch people, and sometimes talk about them. Occasionally, MJ would draw someone that she found interesting, but she didn't bring her supplies with her today.

"Who do you think will be the first to dance?" Peter asks.

Just like any other high school dance, the dance floor itself is deserted. Most people feel awkward about dancing, so magnify that feeling by 10x for teenagers with raging hormones. No one wanted to be the first to dance and possibly make a fool of themselves, so music played as everyone stood around the dance floor, talking to their friend groups.

"Maybe, Ned? Though he would have to get here first." MJ says jokingly as she scans the crowd.

"I think it'll be Flash." Peter says with a small laugh.

As Peter says this, both of their eyes find said person in the crowd. Flash dressed in a normal tuxedo, but that wasn't the first thing anyone noticed when looking at him. His face is bruised and still healing. A nasal cast sits on his nose from Peter's punch. Walking with a slight hobble, Flash nurses his broken ribs almost constantly.

"We really did a number on him..." MJ comments.

"Yeah, but he hasn't bullied anyone since, so maybe this is a good thing for him." Peter says as he shrugs uncaringly.

"Yeah, maybe..."

Soon enough, Ned joins them in their loser's corner. He's dressed in an old 70's style power blue tuxedo with those ruffles on the dress shirt. It was truly something Ned would wear, and he looked good in it.

As the night went on, the three kept to themselves but still enjoyed the night. About an hour after Ned showed up, the dance floor started to fill. MJ was right in her guess as Ned was the first to go up and dance. Though he only did it because she dared him to.

"Do you want to dance, MJ?" Peter asked as some slower music was playing.

"Hell no." She rejects instantly.

Peter merely shrugged as he wasn't much of a dancer either. Though he's sure they would dance at some point in the future. Maybe at the next school dance?

As homecoming came to an end at 10 pm sharp, the chaperones ushered everyone out, where everyone made their way home. Peter, Ned, and MJ took the subway together as usual. Ned was the first stop, which left Peter and MJ alone together. Peter would be the next stop, but he stayed with MJ.

"You missed your stop." MJ says as the doors close.

"Yup, I'm walking you home." Peter says with a smile.

"We've been over this." MJ rolls her eyes. "I can get home by myself."

"I know, but I want to spend more time with you." Peter says as he holds her hand. "Although I love Ned, we didn't get much time to ourselves tonight and it's late."

MJ doesn't know what to say, so she just sighs and looks away, hiding her face for a moment. She's used to Peter holding her hand at this point, as he does it at least once whenever they're together. It's starting to become a thing she looks forward to in a weird way.

"It's not that late." She ignores everything he said except this.

As they get to her stop, Peter and MJ walk to her house hand in hand. As they arrive, Peter sees MJ's house for the first time. It's a small house in an okay neighborhood. Certainly not something to brag about, but at least they have a house unlike Peter and May, who is bled dry every month by rent payments.

"So..." As they stood at the end of the driveway, Peter turns to MJ and his brain froze.

"So..." MJ mimics him as she's in the same situation he is.

"Umm, can I kiss you?" Peter asks nervously.

"Just do it. I swear you're such an Idi..." MJ mutters but Peter doesn't let her finish.

Without another word, Peter leans forward and grasps her waist, pulling MJ close, as he plants a soft kiss on her lips. It wasn't anything crazy and ended swiftly as they separated. MJ stared at him like a deer in headlights while Peter simply smiled.

As the young couple was having their moment, a muffled bang came from MJ's house, surprising the two.

"I SAID LEAVE!" MJ's mom roars loud enough for Peter and MJ to hear from the end of the driveway.

"What the..." Peter mutters as he dashed toward the door followed by a worried daughter.

Chapter 16: Daddy

In a dark office, which seems to be underground as it has no windows, Nick Fury hunches over a desk filled with paperwork. He's been reviewing field reports for missions performed by the many agents of Shield all around the world. Some were still active while others had concluded with either success or failure.

He's been looking over reports for the past seven hours and looked to be fed up by now. Who knew being the head of the world's largest and most powerful extra-government spy agency would be so hard?

Suddenly, the door opens, and in walks a nameless Shield grunt who handed the Director a Manila folder before saluting and taking his leave.

Opening it up, Fury sees multiple surveillance photos and a log that described the daily life of the people in the photos.

As he looked at each photo one by one, the usual hard and stern Nick Fury disappears as a sad and fond look forms on his face. Anyone who knew him would immediately think something was wrong upon seeing Fury's current state.

As he looks through the photos, Fury notices something alarming, or rather someone. Checking the log, his eyes widen as the stern Nick Fury returns in full force.

"This motherf*cker!" Fury curses as he stands and leaves the room, slamming the door behind him.

Left on his desk is a picture of MJ and Peter holding hands together while shopping. Next to the photo is the log which was filled with words, but one thing stood out.

'...possible boyfriend?'

[bang]

"I SAID LEAVE!" MJ's mom, Grace roars loud enough for Peter and MJ to hear from the end of the driveway.

"What the..." Peter mutters as he dashed toward the door followed by a worried daughter.

Jiggling the doorknob, Peter found that it was unlocked. Letting himself in, he saw Grace throwing pots and pans at a man in all black with a trench coat and eyepatch.

"..." As soon as he saw who it was, Peter froze in shock. 'Nick Fury?'

"I won't let you just come back into our lives and ruin MJ's special day!" Grace exclaims like a pissed-off dragon and chucks a frying pan in Fury's direction.

"What special day?" Fury asks as he easily side steps the pan, which hits the wall and breaks the drywall as it falls to the floor.

He didn't have time to read the full report before rushing here, so he didn't know about the Homecoming dance.

"See, Nick? You don't even know because you left!" Grace yells as she ran out of things to throw and got up in his face. "Your beautiful, loving, and brilliant daughter is on a date at her first High School dance tonight."

"Huh?!" Fury grunts in surprise.

"Now leave right this instant before she gets home and her night is ruined by the sight of you!" Grace says pointedly as Peter turns to see MJ standing behind him looking sad and angry with a hollow look in her eyes.

"It's too late for that." MJ says, making her and Peter's presence known.

Both parents turn to see Peter and MJ standing inside with the front door wide open behind them.

"Hey, Michelle." Fury says, happy to see his daughter in person for the first time in a while.

"It's MJ." She replies with a dead look toward her deadbeat daddy.

Before anyone could say or do anything else, MJ turned around and paced out of the house.

"Baby, Wait!" Grace yells as she runs after MJ and they disappear down the street.

An awkward silence fills the house as Peter and Fury are the only two left behind. What makes it even worse is the glare that Peter is currently receiving. Meeting your girlfriend's father is already a nerve-wracking experience, but it's a hundred times worse when that father is Nick Fury, Director of Shield and one of the greatest spies to ever live.

"Hello, sir?" Peter greets uncomfortably.

"..." Fury just keeps his glare trained on Peter without uttering a single word.

"Were you just in the area or?" Peter tried to do anything to calm the awkward and hostile atmosphere.

"Go home." Nick says without giving Peter any room to object.

"Sure, that's probably a good idea." Peter nods as he heads toward the door to escape this awkward situation.

As Peter leaves the house, Fury pulls out his phone and dials a number.

"Where are they?" He asks.

"They're walking around the block, sir. Would you like me to escort them back?" A voice on the other end of the phone replies.

"No, follow them and only reveal yourself if they're in danger." Fury orders and hangs up the phone.

Walking around the house, Fury takes in the surroundings. Seeing all of the pictures around the house, he felt regret for leaving but knew it had to be done. Steeling his resolve, Nick sadly locked up the house and left shortly after Peter.

While Peter was walking to the subway, he stopped in his tracks and turned back around. He didn't want to get in the middle of the Jones/Watson family drama, as he only just started dating MJ, which is why he agreed to leave so easily, but he felt that a great night was ruined and wanted to fix it somehow.

Returning to MJ's house, Peter found the place locked up with no one home. Taking a seat on the few steps leading up to the front door, Peter waits patiently as he takes in the fresh night air.

After waiting for almost half an hour, Peter saw MJ and her mother walk back towards the house arm in arm. Both of them looked like they had been crying.

"Hey." Peter says with a wave.

"Hey, I thought you would be home by now." MJ says in surprise as she wipes any stray tears away.

"I was heading that way but then I remembered I didn't say goodnight." Peter gives her a comforting smile.

"Well, don't mind me." Grace says as she makes her way toward the door. "Huh? It's locked?"

"He must have locked it before leaving." Peter says as MJ's mother nods and unlocks the door with her key.

"Don't be too long. It's getting late." Grace says as she leaves Peter and her daughter outside.

Taking a seat beside Peter on the stairs, MJ sighs and looks out into the street quietly.

"Would you count this date as a success?" Peter asks as MJ rolls her eyes at him.

"The beginning was horrible, but that was because my mom and your aunt went a bit overboard. The middle was great while the end was what I would describe as a car crash." MJ says as she hugs her knees.

"Hmm, I see." Peter says as he puts his arm around her shoulder. "Then we'll just have to keep dating until we get it right!"

"Pfft, you're such a loser." MJ looks away as Peter pulls her close to him.

"It's okay." Peter says as he reaches his other arm around her, hugging MJ as she cradles herself into a ball.

"I just wish he would have showed up tomorrow or something." MJ says, getting teary-eyed and sniffly. "When I saw him standing there I was so angry, but also happy... Isn't that sad? I was happy to see the man that ditched me and my mom without a single word. We just woke up one morning and he was gone. He didn't even say goodbye..."

"I'm sorry." Peter says as he squeezes her gently in his arms.

"You didn't do anything." MJ says as she snuffles and rests her head on Peter's chest.

"Yeah, I'm just sorry you had to go through that." Peter clarifies.

"It wasn't all bad. My mom and I are really close now, which is why I didn't mind not having friends in school. My best friend was at home." MJ says and Peter looks over his shoulder towards a nearby window.

He could hear Grace wipe some tears as she snoopd on her daughter from a nearby window. Though he wouldn't rat her out. May would probably do the same.

"Do you want your dad to show up again?" Peter asks as he glances at a black unmarked car that was parked down the street.

With his enhanced senses, Peter knew that the car was filled with people, who were likely Shield agents sent by her father. He could hear listening devices playing what they said through headphones in the car, so they were recording and would probably report this back to Fury.

"I don't know..." MJ muttered as she sniffles into his chest. "I just want to know why, you know?"

"Yeah, I get it." Peter nods. "Maybe you should ask him next time he shows up."

"Sure, If I didn't already scare him away..." MJ says in self-deprecation.

"He's your father. I doubt you could ever scare him away." Peter says as he glances at the car once again.

"It's already happened once." She says in a small voice.

"I highly doubt the reason your father left all those years ago was because of you or your mother." Peter says, very sure of himself.

"You don't know that for sure..." MJ says as she burrows further into Peter's arms.

"And neither do you." Peter used her own words to prove his point. "It's a lot more likely that your father is some sort of secret agent or something. Maybe even a hitman. I mean did you see his trench coat and that eye patch?"

"Pfft, Yeah right!" MJ laughs as Peter hears the car of agents trying and failing to hold back their laughter as well.

Chapter 17: Precautions

After comforting MJ for a while, Peter left and was surprised to find another group of agents following him, which were most likely sent by Fury. He didn't think that the director of Shield would waste resources on him, but it seemed like MJ's daddy is more protective than he thought.

'I still can't believe Nick Fury is MJ's dad. I don't remember seeing her father in the movies, but it couldn't have been Fury, could it?' Peter thought questioningly.

The whole way home, Peter sensed the agents follow him, never getting close but always on his tail. When he rode the subway, Peter knew that they followed him into the train and were only a couple of passenger cars down.

Upon arriving home, an unmarked black sedan showed up. The people that were following Peter got in the car and sat outside all night, watching the place in a similar manner to how the agents at MJ's house were.

Listening carefully, Peter heard that they couldn't listen in on the apartment. Thankfully, there are too many people living in the building for their equipment to hone in on just one single area.

They were forced to simply stake out the place and watch it with binoculars. Hearing this, Peter closed his room's curtains and blinds without rousing any suspicion. He made it look like he was simply making the rounds before bed.

Not putting it past Fury to bug his house in the short time since he's met him, Peter used his enhanced senses to search the apartment from top to bottom.

It seems like he overestimated Fury as nothing was found. Though that doesn't mean Peter would let his guard down. He'll have to make periodic searches of the house from now on, or come up with some sort of tech to block surveillance devices.

With that done, Peter was going to leave for his Spiderly duties, but then he looked at his phone warily and sighed. He usually takes his phone with him every night to hear the police dispatch, but now that he's on Shields radar, it's likely that Fury is or will be tracking it.

Peter could get away with using his phone before because of how crowded NYC is. Anyone trying to find Spider-Man by tracking nearby smartphones would pick up tens of thousands of phone signals in any given area, making it an impossible task. Almost nine million people lived in the city and that wasn't even counting the huge population of tourists that come and go every day.

Knowing that he can't take his phone with him anymore, Peter decided to take the night off and work on a solution.

'Sorry, New York. You'll have to survive one night without Spider-Man...' Peter thought.

He could use his newfound knowledge of Cryptography, network security, coding, etc. to block anyone from locating and snooping into his phone, but that may alert Fury and make Shield suspicious, so Peter came up with a better idea.

Peter hacked into his phone and added a new setting under the unassuming name VPN. When the setting is toggled on, his phone would freeze any location tracking to his last known location, so if he turns it on now and leaves, the phone would register him still inside his bedroom.

Peter also made it impossible for anyone to use his phone as a surveillance device, while also hiding the use of the ham radio app. He didn't bother hiding that he has the app, as it's something a nerd like him would be interested in and everyone has a few apps that they downloaded and never use.

Other than that, Peter didn't have anything to hide in his phone. He mainly uses it for personal things, so nothing incriminating is on it. The only problem he will have is the breach of privacy due to Fury being an overprotective father, but he can deal with that.

If he were to completely lock Shield out of his phone, they would likely think Peter's some sort of spy that's trying to use Fury's daughter against him or something.

The only thing that could raise some suspicion is the fact that they won't be able to spy on Peter through the cameras or microphone in the phone, but that will hopefully be chalked up to a glitch or hardware issue.

Peter just has to live while knowing that his girlfriend's father is most likely reading their private messages, which is unsettling, to say the least. He'll just have to stray away from the casual d*ck pic and make sure MJ doesn't send any nudes either. Though neither of them is the type to do that anyway.

Just in case, Peter swiped May's phone and made it impossible for Shield to use her phone as a surveillance device as well. It may increase their suspicion, but both he and May have the same

model phone, which they bought at the same time. Hopefully, they'll just think that both phones have some sort of issue.

Thankfully, nothing else in the house could be used as a surveillance device. Peter's computer has no microphone or webcam, and May only uses her phone and the TV.

By the time Peter had finished putting in the safeguards against Shield and Hydra by extension, it was already morning. Deciding to not mess up his sleep schedule, Peter went to the kitchen and started brewing some coffee.

While drinking coffee and watching TV, Peter sent MJ a good morning text. Suddenly, Peter felt as though he was forgetting something.

"..." thinking for a moment, it dawns on him and Peter smacks his hand onto his forehead. "How did I not think of this..."

Shield has been infiltrated by Hydra and MJ is the daughter of Nick Fury, who is one of Hydra's biggest obstacles to complete control over Shield.

Peter knows Fury is a very careful and methodical man, but he doesn't know about Hydra's infiltration yet. Even if he is only using his most trusted agents to watch his family and keeps it completely off the books, that doesn't mean at least one of those agents isn't a long-time plant from Hydra.

They could already know and have plans to use MJ and her mother against the one-eyed director. If Peter was a betting man, he would place his money on Hydra doing so during their uprising in the Captain America: Winter Soldier movie. Might as well get some leverage just in case their plan to kill Fury fails, which it did in the movie.

"One problem gets solved and another rears its ugly head..." Peter sighs audibly as he starts thinking of ways to protect his girlfriend and her mother.

Brainstorming for a while, Peter couldn't come up with a way to protect them 24/7, unless he stands guard for every waking moment of their lives. The most he can think of is to put a tracker on them so he can find them in an emergency, but things like that can be found with the right tech.

Knowing that this isn't something the mundane world has an answer to, Peter leaves a note for his still sleeping Aunt May and leaves for Kamar-Taj. He knew the men from Shield were still outside, so he simply portal'd straight there. He didn't think walking them to the New York Sanctum would be the brightest idea.

Arriving earlier than usual, Peter went looking for the Ancient One, who was instructing some would-be Masters in one of the many courtyards of Kamar-Taj.

"Peter, you're early." She greets him as she steps away from the students.

"I need your help with something." Peter says.

"Alright, follow me." The Ancient One said as she gives some orders to a nearby Master, who takes her place teaching the students, and leads Peter to the room where they first met.

As they both take a seat, the Ancient One makes her usual tea and looks at Peter expectantly.

"I need to learn some enchantments that protect people. Specifically for tracking and protection. It would be best if the person I would place it on doesn't know it's there in the first place." Peter explains what he needs.

"I have many spells that would fit those criteria." She says with a nod. "First, tell me why you need them."

"My girlfriend's dad is some sort of high-level spy. I mean you should see him. He looks like a bad*ss secret agent from some video game. I met him last night. When he left, I noticed a car watching MJ's house and another followed me home. It's still there as we speak. I think MJ and her mother will be targeted because of his work, which is why her father has these people stationed to guard them." Peter explains without giving away his future knowledge.

"I see, you certainly have an interesting life, Peter." The Ancient One says with a smile.

"Yeah, it's never been boring that's for sure." Peter gives a small laugh. "I just need something that protects them while letting me know their location. Preferably in a way that they don't know about. I haven't told them about my powers and stuff yet."

"Hmm, so she doesn't know you're Spider-Man?" She asks as Peter shakes his head. "Don't hide it for too long, especially as your relationship deepens. Every secret has an expiration date after all."

"I'll think on that." Peter nods, seriously considering her advice. "Now that the therapy portion of our talk is over, can you teach me how to do this? I'd like to get their protection in place as early as possible."

"Of course, let's start one by one, and then I'll teach you how to combine all of your requests into a single spell."

Chapter 18: Protections in Place

-1 Week Later-

After spending a few days mastering the enchantments to protect MJ and her mother, as these spells were a bit more advanced than he was used to, Peter portal'd into their house at night to place the enchantments on both mother and daughter.

He has visited the house beforehand to look for any Shield surveillance devices, but it seems that Fury doesn't have it in him to spy on his own family to that extent, as Peter found none whatsoever.

As he crept through the dark house, Peter was sure to keep quiet and stay away from the windows, as the Shield agents were still watching MJ's house.

Starting with MJ, Peter opened her door and slipped inside. On a queen size bed in the center of the room, MJ slept soundly, bundled up in her blankets with her feet sticking out of the bottom. Grasped in her arms is a white rabbit plushy that looked slightly worn due to age.

'Really?' Peter thought surprisingly. 'I didn't think she would like stuff like that...'

Without wasting time, as he could alert the agents outside at any moment, Peter waves his hand and three complicated spell circles draw themselves in the air floating above his sleeping girlfriend. The golden light of the Eldritch Energy brightens the room in a warm glow, as the spell circles descend onto MJ's body.

The spell circles meld with her skin, turning into black tattoos that soon fade away completely as if they were never there in the first place.

Taking a single second to admire his work, Peter moved on to Grace, who slept just next door to MJ's room. Repeating everything without a problem, the enchantment melts into her skin and Peter leaves before the light of his magic draws any suspicion.

As Peter steps into a portal which closes behind him, a Shield agent strolls up to the house and peaks inside the windows. They saw an odd golden light and sent someone to investigate.

Not finding anything wrong with either occupant of the house, the agent returns to the unmarked car and reports back.

Once Peter returned home, he repeated the same spell on his Aunt May, who slept soundly throughout the whole process. Returning to his bedroom, Peter let out a tired sigh as he dives into his bed.

'That should keep them safe against any mundane dangers.' Peter thought.

The spell did a few things. First, it protects against anybody perceived as a threat or enemy. The spell decides that on its own, so MJ, May, and Grace can't be tricked, attacked in their sleep, or any other possibilities.

The protection simply creates a forcefield over the enchanted person's body. The forcefield appears only centimeters over the body and is completely invisible to the naked eye.

Once the forcefield is activated, Peter will mentally receive the coordinates, which will constantly be updated if the target is on the move.

The Enchantment can take a lot of damage before the spell is broken, so only a powerful explosion or impact could possibly break it. Though to a Master of the Mystic Arts, the spell can be broken in a matter of minutes.

Thankfully, the spell itself isn't there to guard against Sorcerers. Just normal people with mundane weaponry.

It's exactly what Peter needed, which he was very thankful for.

During the next school day, Peter saw Ned, which reminded him to place the protection spell on him as well. He may not technically be in any danger, but the guy is Peter's best friend. If something happens to him, he doesn't know what he would do.

That night, Peter snuck into Ned's house and gave him the protection enchantment as well.

Just to be safe, Peter also gave the enchantment to Ned's family. You never know what could happen, so he just did it in case of a future incident.

Once everyone was protected, Peter could go back to his normal schedule without issue.

Recently, he's figured out a plan to secure his online activity as Spider-Man.

Peter bought a few laptops with his leftover money and carefully took them all apart. He would be using these pieces to create what he calls a ghost laptop.

In theory, the laptop would be able to safely use the internet in every way possible without the risk of being traced back to anywhere or anyone.

No IP address, HTTP referrers, Cookies, Tracking Pixels, Supercookies, User agents Browser fingerprinting, Routing Information, Email metadata, etc.

No trace or record whatsoever.

It would be as if Peter's online activity is that of a ghost. Without any evidence or trail left behind for nosy people or organizations to follow back to him.

What Peter finds especially useful is that the laptop would connect itself to every cell tower and wifi signal within range. Bypassing whatever password protection or company protection, and merging all of them into a singular online connection, keeping Peter online no matter where he is. It won't alert anyone or leave any traceable information behind either.

The true ghost laptop.

He's currently still building it, but once it's completed and tested, Spider-Man could start his journey as an influencer/YouTuber. Peter just hopes it works, as this is all just theoretical at this point.

He also plans to make his online accounts impenetrable by creating a password cycling program on the ghost laptop. It would change all of his Passwords to something long and random every minute of the day.

To get into his accounts, Peter would have to use the laptop to see the current password and input it in the time before it changes again.

Seeing as the laptop would pretty much allow anyone access to his accounts and has solid proof that Peter Parker is Spider-Man, Peter planned to put a similar protection spell on the laptop that he did on his friends and family.

Peter even planned to add a similar spell to Thor's hammer, as he's learned how to make things heavier and lighter weeks ago. This would completely stop theft as no one but himself would be able to lift or open the laptop.

He also planned to save room in the laptop by cooling and powering it with enchantments. Both enchantments would be extremely simple. He's already learned both freezing and lightning spells, which would only need to be powered down by a large margin so they don't cause damage.

Magic + Technology

Speaking of, Peter wanted to use magic to make Asgard's type of technology, but that would take a lot of time. Asgard is an extremely advanced interstellar magical society after all.

-2 Weeks Later-

While working on everything and spending time with his family, friends, and girlfriend, Peter has finally finished working on Candy Crush. Though that doesn't mean it's a completed game yet.

Peter is now in the testing phase, which means he has to play the game on a bunch of different phones to make sure it works. He can play the game on his PC all he wants, but that wouldn't test the game in the way it's going to be played, which is on mobile phones. PCs can run mobile games easily without even breaking a sweat after all.

In order to announce his game to everyone and quicken the testing phase, Peter and Ned invited everyone over to showcase it and use them as game testers.

As everyone showed up, Peter finished downloading the game onto a bunch of outdated smartphones. When making a game, it's best to stress test it on a lower-quality piece of hardware. That way you know for sure that there won't be any problems for those with outdated and newer model phones.

When everyone arrived, Peter saw Ned, May, MJ, and Grace sitting in the living room. Peter walked over with a box full of smartphones and handed them out one by one. Standing in front of everyone, Peter unlocks one of the phones and taps the Candy Crush icon on the home screen. Music plays as Peter displays the phone to the crowd.

A black screen appears and the words 'Parker Games' fade in with a short but sweet animation. The image changes and a much more impressive animation plays, highlighting the different aspects of the game with cute candy characters. Below the video, a loading bar fills slowly but surely.

"Thank you all for coming." Peter says as Ned stands beside him, looking excited and accomplished.

"No problem, Peter." Grace says as she and everyone else look at Peter expectantly.

"Yeah, no problem. Now, what's this all about? Did you call us here to play some sh*tty mobile game?" MJ says it how it is, not putting two and two together after seeing the Parker Games logo.

"No, not just any sh*tty mobile game. My sh*tty mobile game!" Peter says with a smile as the game fully loads, showing the main menu.

"I helped too." Ned says, excitedly raising his hand.

"Oh yeah, Ned helped and gave me ideas along the way." Peter clarifies as he pats his best friend on the shoulder.

Hearing this, everyone opens their outdated phones and sees the only app on the home screen.

"Candy Crush?" MJ says skeptically as she and everyone else opens the app. "Why did you make this garbage? My mom would probably play this..."

"Hey!" Grace elbows her daughter.

"What? It's the truth." MJ says with a shrug as she turns to Peter, waiting for his answer.

"Money." Peter replies without a single ounce of shame.

He didn't disagree with her, as he felt the same way. Though the money is always in the mainstream community. The normies so to speak.

"You didn't..." MJ says in disbelief as she taps the shop icon on the home screen. "You're evil..."

Peter didn't reply and just smiled like a hungry shark stalking its prey.

Chapter 19: Business Plans

"You're evil..." MJ states as she sees the many micro-transactions built into the game.

"???" May and Grace were confused as they didn't know what MJ was talking about.

"We've joined the dark side." Ned says in a slightly deeper voice than usual.

"Can someone explain what's going on?" May asks as Grace nods alongside her.

"Ned and I made a pay-to-win mobile game. It's pretty much a game that you can play for free but requires payments if you want to speed up your progress or unlock certain perks that the free players don't get access to. If you open the shop by tapping the bank icon, you'll see the in-game currency that can be purchased. From 10 gold for \$0.99 to 1000 gold for \$74.99. I've started you all out with 1000 gold for free." Peter explains as MJ starts playing the tutorial.

As Peter walks everyone through how the game works, they all begin playing. What truly surprised him was MJ's focus on the game. She seemed to like this 'mainstream garbage' more than she originally let on. MJ, May, and Grace immediately became glued to their screens as the room went quiet. All that could be heard was the sound effects and music of the game from multiple perspectives.

Peter didn't get a chance to explain that they were testing the game for him, but he didn't want to interrupt so he and Ned started playing the game as well.

As time flew by, Peter ordered pizza for everyone as payment for testing the game. Throughout the day, any bugs or glitches were brought to Peter and Ned's attention and listed down to be fixed later on.

Since Candy Crush isn't a game that needs too much focus, Peter played some movies to watch in the background as they played.

Soon enough, the sun set and MJ put her phone down before looking at Peter, impressed by his work.

"Did you just trick us into testing your game for you?" MJ asks as realization dawns on her.

"Yeah, pretty much." Peter nods as he sets his phone down as well.

"How long did it take you and Ned to make this?" May joins the conversation.

"Well, Peter did most of the work." Ned says, knowing he only had a hand in about 10% of the game.

"Don't sell yourself short. You helped a lot, Ned." Peter says reassuringly as he turns back to May. "It took a little over a month to make everything. It's a fairly simple game to develop after you get the visuals and sound out of the way."

"Wow, I heard you were smart, Peter, but this is really impressive." Grace was beyond impressed.

"Thanks, what do you guys think of the game overall? Any complaints or ideas to throw in?" Peter asks.

Everyone had only praise to say for the game, but MJ, who was stood silent as everyone looked at her for her input.

"Okay, I'm sorry for calling it a sh*tty mobile game. It's actually kind of fun." MJ admits as she takes out her phone. "Can you download it onto my phone as well? I want to play it during lunch at school..."

Peter doesn't respond and just smiles at her, which makes MJ feel embarrassed.

"Stop looking at me like that." MJ says as her mother laughs.

"Pfft, it's okay MJ. I'm happy that you like it. It took a good amount of work." Peter smiled as he sat beside MJ and put his arm around her.

MJ looked awkwardly at her mother, who simply smiled at Peter's show of affection.

"Not in front of my Mom." MJ hissed as she pushed Peter away.

"Oh, don't mind me..." Grace says as she and May enjoy the show.

"Sure." Peter pecks MJ on the cheek and scoots away before she could react. "I could give you the game now, but it would probably be better to wait until it's finished. I just need you guys to keep the phones I gave you and play when you have spare time. If you run into any glitches or bugs, text me the details and I'll fix it before submitting it to the different mobile app stores."

After taking their new outdated phones, Ned, MJ, and Grace took their leave. As she was leaving and no one was looking, MJ gave Peter a quick goodbye kiss. MJ's not very comfortable with public shows of affection, which is understandable. Especially in front of her mother. Though that doesn't mean she isn't an affectionate person. In fact, when they're alone MJ becomes a lot bolder.

When it was finally just May and Peter left, May turned to Peter with a worried look on her face.

"Are you sure this is okay, Peter? You said you made the game for money, not to mention that construction job you took before school started. I know we aren't the most well-off family, but we get by just fine. I just don't want you to worry about money and focus on school and enjoying your life." She voices her doubts and worries.

Taking a seat next to his Aunt May on the sofa, Peter sighs as he thought this may happen.

"May, this isn't about us not having enough money or anything like that. I thought game development was interesting, so I started studying up on it and thought making a game would be fun. The reason I started with a mobile game is that it's an easy starting point. As for the pay-to-win aspect, I just thought it would be an easy way to make money. Maybe pay for college and start a savings account for the future." Peter tries to placate May's worries.

"I see..." May sighs in relief.

"Besides, school is easy. I don't even study anymore and I'm at the top of my class. Working on this game hasn't impacted my grades or enjoyment at all, and once it's released, I won't have to do much anymore. I'll only have to add some updates on rare occasions. Also, if the game takes off, you could work fewer shifts at the hospital. I know you'd never quit, but shorter shifts would be nice right?" Peter says, knowing she likes her career too much to give it up.

"That would be nice..." May was certainly tempted.

"Good, just know that I'm fine. I plan to enjoy every second of my life." Peter says as he hugs May tightly.

"Alright, you've convinced me. Do I need to do anything to help since you're a minor?" May asks as they separate.

"Well, we need to do a few things." Peter sighs knowing the paperwork is going to be annoying. "We need to register a business under the Parker Games name and copyright Candy Crush. Then file Parker Games as an LLC and open a business account for the money we make."

"What's an LLC?" May asks.

"It basically makes Parker Games a company that's a separate legal entity from its owners. An LLC or Limited Liability Company has looser filing requirements, regulations, and fewer taxes to worry about. If we didn't file under an LLC, the taxes from all of the money we make would be counted as personal revenue and taxed at a much larger percentage." Peter explains.

Although Peter originally didn't want to start a company, as it would be too time consuming, the LLC will only make Parker Games a company in name. He has no plans to make this complicated. Parker Games would merely make digital games, which would be released in online stores. No random employees, towers with his name on them, or factories pumping out goods.

Peter's too busy for all of that and wants to enjoy his new life.

"Wow, you really did your research..." May mutters, impressed by Peter's commitment to this.

"Yeah, I spent some time looking into it. Though, there is a downside to this. We would have to mark ourselves as employees of the company and get paid that way. The money Parker Games makes would belong to the company, which will be paid out to us as employees in a monthly or weekly paycheck. I can't just pay myself some crazy number either, as that would not make the IRS very happy." Peter explains the few downsides.

Though that doesn't mean Peter can't use company funds for anything business-related. A company car, jet, properties, and supplies for future projects. Pretty much anything worded as a company expense can be paid for by Parker Games, which Peter would be the majority owner of.

Peter planned to give Ned and May a small piece of the company. Ned, because he helped with the first game and May, for always being there and taking care of him. Who knows where Peter Parker would be without his Aunt May. Spider-Man may not exist in that parallel universe.

Though everyone that tested the game would be put on payroll. MJ and her mother Grace would be receiving paychecks as Parker Games official game testers, so they won't be left out. Peter just has to wait until Candy Crush launches and starts picking up traction. Once the money rolls in, Peter would share the profits with the few friends and family he has.

"You impress me every day, you know that?" May says genuinely.

"I do my best to impress."

-1 Week Later-

After a week of game testing and bug fixes, Peter has officially finished the development of Candy Crush.

May hired a business Lawyer, who was a friend of hers from college, to help with all of the paperwork. The lawyer gave them a good discount for her services too. She got all the paperwork together for them and walked Peter and May through filling it all out. Once they were finished, the Lawyer filed all of the papers for them.

Parker Games was on its way to being a real company while Candy Crush would be copyrighted soon enough.

Chapter 20: Terrorist Attack I

While waiting to hear back about the paperwork for Parker Games and Candy Crush, Peter turned his focus onto the ghost laptop.

Filing for an LLC is supposed to take 3-5 business days, while the copyright of Candy Crush will take around 3 months.

Though that doesn't mean Peter can't start selling the game. The second Peter paid the fee and sent in the paperwork plus a copy of Candy Crush, the U.S. Copyright office sent him an email with a registration date. That date is the time they received everything, which means he can start selling the game on that date.

That means that Peter can start selling Candy Crush right now. Though he plans to wait until his business is made, the LLC goes through, and he opens a business bank account. He also needs to link that business account with the Candy Crush shop, but that would have to wait for another day.

Now that Peter doesn't have to work on the game for a while, his extra time can be put to good use. The ghost laptop is his biggest project yet and Peter just hoped it worked.

After a few days of undivided attention, the laptop was fully put together. Booting it up, the lightning enchantment powered it, as Peter slipped in an installation disk for the Windows 7 operating system. Though it's not just Windows 7 anymore.

After some upgrading and tweaking the operating system so it would work in harmony with the ghost laptop, Peter wouldn't even call it Windows 7 anymore.

As the laptop's screen lit up, instead of the Windows 7 red, blue, green, and yellow flag, a black boot-up screen with a ghostly white figure in the center appeared. Below the ghost is a button that says install. Clicking it, Peter waits as Windows Ghost installs itself onto the laptop.

'Hmm, that's a pretty good name...' Peter thought as he watched the loading bar slowly fill.

Soon enough, the loading bar filled and the laptop restarted. Once again the ghost icon showed as it booted up and the laptop's desktop screen appeared.

Sighing in relief, Peter knew that the hardest part was past him. The laptop was turned on and his operating system is working.

Before connecting to the internet to run further tests, Peter switched to his Spider-Suit and portal'd across the city to the top of a skyscraper. He didn't know for sure if everything would work as he planned, and if it didn't, who knows how many alarms he'll set off with this thing. Just the feature that merges all wifi and cell signals could fail and alert every cellular and wifi provider in the area.

It's best that Peter keeps the testing of this baby far away from his life as Peter Parker. It's just too dangerous not to.

Sitting at the top of the New York City skyline, Peter clicks an Ethernet cable-looking icon on the bottom right of the screen and toggles it on. As soon as he did, a small window with a list of cellular and wifi signal names appeared.

A smaller window pops up in front of this window, asking Peter if he wants to merge all connections. Clicking yes, the mini window closes and a loading circle spins before the bigger window closes as well.

Looking back to the Ethernet icon in the bottom right, Peter saw that it was now glowing green, signifying that he was connected to the internet. Beside the green Ethernet icon is the number 18, which is the amount of different cellular and wifi signals that are currently being merged and used by the laptop.

Opening his internet browser, Peter types in speedtest.net and tests his internet connection. 1239 download and 426 upload speed, which is amazing for a wireless connection at the top of a skyscraper in 2010.

After testing the normal things on the laptop, like its memory, hard drives, touchpad, keyboard, power consumption, cooling, etc., Peter moved on to more in-depth tests.

Speaking of the power consumption and cooling, the enchantments used for both seem to be holding without issue. The lightning spell keeps it powered as if it was plugged in at all times, while the freezing spell cools the laptop without any airflow vents required.

Moving onto the more advanced tests, Peter downloaded a program that would stress test the CPU and GPU. Both could easily handle the highest level of the program and thanks to his enchantments, the laptop didn't overheat at all throughout the tests, nor did it have power issues.

After the hardware, software, and internet connection was tested, Peter moved on to what the laptop was really made for.

Being untraceable.

Peter tested everything from his IP Address to his cookies. Everything seems to be working as it should, as he has no IP address and seems to leave no data behind while using the internet.

No IP address, HTTP referrers, Cookies, Tracking Pixels, Supercookies, User agents Browser fingerprinting, Routing Information, Email metadata, etc. Just as Peter hoped, the laptop seemed to be working as designed.

Suddenly, while Peter was being as thorough as possible, a loud explosion was heard as the ground shook briefly like a small earthquake was happening.

"What the..." Peter muttered as he looks over the laptop and sees smoke rising from the bottom of a nearby skyscraper.

Thinking quickly, Peter powers down the ghost laptop and opens a portal, sending it back to his bedroom. As the portal closes, Peter jumps off the building and swings toward the smoking skyscraper.

Arriving before the police, Peter sees a portion of the building was blown apart and was currently on fire. Smoke rises from the large hole that the explosion created as a stream of people evacuates the building below.

Not having time to figure out what exactly happened, Peter swings into the burning skyscraper through the large smoking hole. Arriving inside, Peter carefully made his way through the collapsing part of the building, looking for any survivors along the way. Sadly, everyone that was in the blast radius was either turned to paste or mangled to bits.

This is actually the first time Peter has seen a human body or any body in such a horrific state. It was sad and disgusting, to say the least.

While clearing the way for people to evacuate and saving those that survived the blast, Peter heard something odd coming from the higher floors.

"I can't do it..." He heard someone cry out and beg. "Please don't make me. I don't want to hurt anyone."

After the man spoke, Peter could hear a much lower voice that sounded like it was coming from a phone or some sort of small speaker.

"Think of your family..." A woman speaks softly. "I wouldn't want to kill such a kind woman like your wife, but let's not forget your children either. How old are they again? Ah, I remember. It was 7 and 9 wasn't it? Such beautiful girls you have. It would be such a shame if they never make it to the double digits. You know what? Let's put them on the phone."

As Peter hears this, he's already rushing to the location. Whatever is happening doesn't sound good at all. The phone shuffles as two distinctly younger voices speak this time.

"Daddy? Where are you? I'm bored." One says.

"Yeah, this lady is weird and Mommy doesn't look happy. I want to go home." Another says uncomfortably.

"Uhh, it's okay. Just do as the weird lady says until I'm back alright? Daddy will be home soon..." The man lies through his teeth.

Not liking where this is going, Peter gives up on using the crowded stairwells and breaks a nearby window. Leaping outside, he runs up the side of the building at full speed.

A nearby news helicopter picks up this action and follows Spider-Man's figure with its onboard camera, broadcasting the footage live on multiple news stations.

Still honed in on the man on the phone, Peter hears the voice on the phone change back to the woman from earlier.

"You know what to do, don't you?" She says smoothly.

"Yeah..." The man says defeatedly. "Just promise me you won't hurt them."

"Of course, I'm a woman of my word." She says believably, though Peter wouldn't trust someone like that.

"Alright, I'll do it." The man says, almost as if he is psyching himself up.

"Do it!" The woman goads him on over the phone.

"..." The man's breathing becomes erratic as Peter makes it to his floor.

Looking in the window, Peter sees the man he's been looking for. He's a slightly balding middle-aged man, but that wasn't the first thing Peter noticed. No, what caught his eye was the suicide vest strapped to his chest with enough bricks of C4 to blow twice the hole compared to the one downstairs.

Seeing the man squeezing a button in his right hand, Peter's spider senses instantly start blaring, screaming at him that something bad was about to happen.

Behind the bomb-strapped man was a line of people who were crowding into the stairwell from the upper floors. Unwilling to leave these people to die, Peter kicks off the window, shattering it into tiny pieces.

Shooting two webs at the man, who was about to activate the bomb vest, Peter pulls him out of the building and catapults the guy as high into the air as possible.

The nearby news helicopter picked up on this and record every second. Everyone watching wondered why Spider-Man would do such a thing.

'Maybe J Jonah Jameson was right?' Many people thought.

Boom

Before they could question Peter's actions, the man he threw high into the air, away from any innocent bystanders, lights up in a big fiery explosion. The impact of said explosion shatters the glass of nearby buildings, causing a rain of glass to fall onto the streets and people below. The nearby News and Police helicopters wobble for a moment before regaining stability.

Since Peter was too close to the explosion, he was impacted the most out of anyone. As the shockwave of the explosion hit him, Peter was sent hurtling downward toward the busy streets of NY.

"Not good!" Peter yells as he spins in his descent and crashed onto the roof of a parked yellow cab.

bang