

WHEN THEY CAME TOGETHER, IT WAS A RAID. DIRECT ACTION HITS, STRAIGHT TO THE HIPS. IT'S NOT THAT THERE WASN'T FOREPLAY, IT'S JUST THAT IT HAD BEEN OVER PINNGL, AND IN THE RIDE OVER. THEIR HANDS WERE ALL OVER EACH OTHER IN PASSING AT FIRST. LIGHT PASSES. BRUSHES OF OPPORTUNITY.

IT WAS AS MUCH FURTHER CAUTIONSNESS, AS IT WAS CASING, INTO EACH OTHERS PERSONAL SPACE, IN THIS LIFE, THE VIGILANCE WE WORE AS ARMOR OF OPPORTUNITY NEEDED TIME TO BREACH AS MUCH AS ANY CHASTITY BELT. THIS PHASE WAS LIKE RECON, GAUGING DEFENSIVENESS, EVALUATING CLUES TOWARD OPENNESS, QUIETLY ESCALATING, ESTIMATING RISKS.

AS OFTEN AS NOT, SOMEONES IN THE MOOD, BUT IT'S RARE FOR THE RISKS TO WORK IN THEIR FAVOR. SOMETIMES IT COULD BE DAYS INTO AN OPERATION BEFORE EITHER EVEN INITIATES. THIS TIME IT WAS LIKE THAT, BUT LAST TIME, THEY DIDN'T EVEN MAKE IT OUT OF THE AV BEFORE SHE WAS BENT OVER A JUMP SEAT.

THIS TIME, THEY HAD BEEN ON TASK FOR NINETY SIX HOURS BEFORE HE HAD BRUSHED HER FINGERTIPS AGAINST HERS AS SHE HAD PASSED HIM SOME KAUSYAGUA, A DENSE (K)CALORIE GOOP THAT WAS EVERYTHING A HUNED SOLDIER NEEDED FOR FORTY-EIGHT HOURS OF MILD EFFORT. IF ALL THOSE KAUS WEREN'T NEEDED, THEY PASSED ONE UNTIL IT WAS GONE, THE BASELINE INTIMACY OF WARRIORS THE WORLD OVER. IF YOU FOUND YOURSELF OUTSIDE COVER WITH

FIGHTERS WHO DON'T PASS TO YOU, IT'S TIME TO REORG AND FAST, BEFORE YOU GET FRAGGED. LIKE HE HAD FRAGGED HER ASS IN THE AV. SHE WAS GETTING SLICK THINKING ABOUT IT NOW.

WHICH MADE HER ANGRY. SHE HAD NEEDED THAT FUEL SO BAD SHE GAVE UP THE ONLY MOMENT THEY WERE GONNA HAVE TO ASK HIM ABOUT WHAT HE'D DONE BACK THERE. HE'D NEARLY BLOWN THE OP PUSHING THAT STRAY OUT OF THE BLAST ZONE. SHE WAS EXPLODING FROM IRRITATION WHEN THEY HAD EXFIL, PROBABLY THE SEX HAD BEEN SO GOOD.

THIS TIME THE BRUSTIES AND PANTS ESCALATED QUICKLY FOR HOW LONG THEY HAD TAKEN TO INITIATE. BY THE TIME THEY HAD BEEN IN THE LIFT BACK TO HER ROOM, THEY HAD BEEN SO OUBET IN FRONT OF THE LOCAL TALENT THEY'D BEEN PRACTICALLY COZYLING UP ON THE COUCH. IT WAS NICE, EXACTLY THE RELAXATION SHE HAD BEEN NEEDING. NOTHING EASES THE TACTICAL COMEDOWN THAN TWO HARD BODIES SOFTENING INTO EACH OTHER. CREW TOOK THE HINT AND BEAT FEET, GIVING THEM SPACE TO SOFTEN SOME MORE.

"ANYONE TRYING TO KILL YOU RIGHT NOW?"

"NO ONE SPECTACULAR COMES TO MIND SINCE WE'VE CLEANED OUT [THE LAST THREAT]. YOU?"

"NOT ON ANY RADARS I KNOW OF. WHY'D YOU TAKE YOU SO LONG TO INITIATE IF THERE'S NO HEAT?"

"I DON'T KNOW THESE LOCALS AT ALL. IT TOOK SEVENTY TWO HOURS TO GET THE INTEL BACK ON THEM. HACKER WASN'T

THE HARDEST ACTUALLY. BUT HE'S SICK, I LIKE HIM."

"YEAH, AND SCRIBE IS QUIET BUT RAZOR SHARP. THEY'RE ALL OK. WE'VE WORKED WITH THE STUDS A MOST GIGS THREE YEARS AGO. SISTER CREWS MOSTLY, BUT DIRECTLY ON A FEW DYNAMIC ONES. (LOL) SHOOTERS."

THE REST OF THE QUESTIONS WERE FORGOTTEN AS THEY BEGAN TO [SMOOTHY KISS] AND THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR SAFEHOUSE BY EXPLORING EACH OTHER'S BODIES IN THE FLESH. THEY HAD THIS TOGETHER TIME, THEY GOT THE NEEDS SATISFIED, AND CONTINUED THE INTIMACY AFTERWARDS.

"WHY'D YOU SAVE THAT DOG?"

"I HAD ONE THAT LIVED NEAR MY UNIT BACK IN ONBOARDING. I HAD NEVER SEEN A DOG BEFORE, BUT I JUST TREATED HIM WITH RESPECT AND HE JUST LISTENED TO ME. NOT WITH LIKE BLIND OBEDIENCE BUT HE'D USUALLY CONSIDER AND COMPLY. HE WAS A GOOD BOY, AND WE'D SHARE OUR KILLS WITH EACH OTHER. I LEARNED DOGS ARE JUST LIKE US. THEY ARE WORTH IT."

"WE HAD CATS BACK AT MY UNIT. EVERYWHERE. IF YOU PAID ATTENTION, YOU COULD READ THEM. I GET WHAT YOU ARE SAYING. YOU EVER SEE ANY ANIMALS INSIDE?"

"LOL NO, HAVE YOU?"

"NO, JUST HEARD IT USED TO BE A PARASITIC RELATIONSHIP ARRANGEMENT, BUT I WONDER IF IT COULD HAVE BEEN MORE COLLABORATIVE IN THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES"

WE TALKED OF OUR PAST WITH EACH OTHER. SURE, IT WAS ALL A STORY THAT COULD EASILY PULLED TOGETHER BY AN ALGORITHM THAT ACCESS TO THE RIGHT DATABASES COULD MAP OUT FOR A BRITAIN, BUT TO TELL IT TO THE PERSON I WAS SITTING WITH... THIS WAS THE REAL SEX. THIS SEX BEGAT MORE SEX. AND BETTER SEX. ROUND TWO WAS THE BEST ROUND.

IN THIS LINE OF WORK, IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE IT WORK IT SEEMED. ANYTHING ELSE WAS TOO MESSY, TOO... INVOLVED. AND IT WAS GOOD TO BE KNOWN. THE IMPORTANT THINGS, NOT THE BULLET POINTS. THE THINGS WE KEPT HIDDEN FROM CORPUS, FROM SURVEYS AND PASSWORD REMINDERS LIKE THE TIMES YOU LAUGHED, AND THE TIMES YOU LEARNED. IT WAS DIFFICULT TO MAKE THIS CONNECTION WITH MOST PEOPLE. JUST NEVER WAS TIME. PEOPLE COME AND PEOPLE GO.

"HEY, THAT WAS AN AWFUL LOT OF SANIC BACK THERE. YOU AREN'T GOING CRAZY SOLO OUT THERE, ARE YOU? YOU GOTTA TAKE THE ACTION WHEN U CAN' GET IT."

"Hrm. TELL ME THEN WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL? I DON'T HAVE THIS WITH ANYONE ELSE. DO YOU?"

"NO. THAT IS WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL. NO ONE HAS WHAT WE HAVE. NO ONE HAS THE DISCIPLINE. THEY TRY, THEY GET SLOPPY, THEY GET KILLED. BUT NO ONE EVER SHARES THEMSELVES, IT'S JUST A FUCK, A PHYSICAL

INTIMACY THAT BARELY SCRATCHES THE SURFACE OF THE SOUL. BUT IT CERTAINLY BURNS THE KALS AND FEELS GREAT TOO. YOU AREN'T FUKING ANYONE?

"WELL THERE IS A SHOOTER BEEN SLOTTED WITH FUCKS EVERYBODY, BUT SHE'S A REAL TRANSACTIONAL. CAME OUT HERE FROM TRAFFICKING. CAN SHOOT THE LIGHTS OUT. BUT ALWAYS NEEDS TO HAVE A TOKEN CHORE OR SACRIFICIAL OFFERING OF SOME KIND BEFORE SHE FUCKS. I'VE SEEN A SCRIBE DUMP HALF A MONTH'S CREDIT TO GET HIS DICK SUCKED ON CAM."

"LOL, I'VE FUCKED A FEW OF THAT TYPE, ALWAYS TRAFFICKED, ALWAYS HOOKED ON SOMETHING. THEY NEED A FIX FOR. WHAT DO YOU PAY?"

"NOTHING. IT DRIVES HER CRAZY. I WON'T GIVE HER ANYTHING, BUT I TEASE HER MERCILLESSLY ABOUT THE WAY DUDES SERVE HER. WHEN SHE FINALLY BREAKS AND COMES TO ME, IT'S THE MOST THOROUGH TONGUE LASHING OF HER LIFE THAT SHE NEED A FIX FOR."

"HMM, AND YOU ARE GOOD AT THAT."

THE SEX IS A DANCE, THERE IS AT VARIOUS TIMES, ONE WHO LEADS THE ROUTINE, AND ONE WHO FOLLOWS ALONG. GOOD SEX IS WHEN YOU BOTH UNDERSTAND WHO IS WHICH IN AGREEMENT.

IT'S SEX TO KNOW YOU, THE SEX SHOW WHERE COUPLES GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER WHILE HAVING SEX. THE CONVERSATION IS THE MOST INTIMATE PART.