Chapter 38 : Not Again

Sheina put the clothes on the counter. She was quite proud of herself. She was sure she had matched the hoods to the groups clothes to the best of her ability. She was so sure in fact, that she had even gotten an extra one just in case. She also found a jacket that she liked. A dark blue leather jacket. Really dark blue. It was almost black. She liked it, but she wasn’t sure it fit her style of dressing. She tended to wear average colors, not something that stood out so obviously. She decided to get it anyway and see what Baas thought.

“Is this everything?” The lady at the counter asked. Sheina liked her outfit. Being a Grey had some perks. This woman could wear a purple outfit with a flower embroider without having to worry about it getting messed up in a fight.

“Yes.” Sheina answered. “That’s a nice outfit.”

“I made it myself, so I guess I’m glad you approve of it.” Despite this statement, the woman’s emotions did not show any concern.

“Really?” Sheina asked intrigued. “What’s your name? I’d like to look you up for when I need some clothing made.”

“Eve.” The woman said plainly.

She looked over the items on the counter and then handed them back to Sheina.

“There you go.”

Sheina then turned around to look for Baas. He was gone. Where had he gone? He had the bag. Sheina couldn’t trade for these items without that bag.

“If you’ll just hang on a second, my friend has items to trade.” She explained nervously.

“I can’t take items from you.” The woman said. Her expression still did not change.

Sheina looked at the woman confused. When she did, Eve smiled softly.

“This must be your first time here. Young, nervous, and you tried to actually purchase something. Because I am a Grey, I am obligated to help out any country that asks me. That means, if I make clothes that you guys see fit to use, you just take them.”

Sheina was shocked. She had known that Greys were obligated to help other countries, but she hadn’t known that that rule went to that extent.

“But,” she began to conclude, “how can you make a living if everything you make is simply taken?”

“I mainly trade with people from grey territory. They have to trade for my things, otherwise they become black bands. And if a color country takes from me enough times, they eventually feel that I’m an asset and leave me things to take care of myself. They are not technically paying me for my efforts, because that would be illegal on my part, they’re just making sure I’m able to make more in the future.”

Wow. This woman was so calm about her life. She was subjected to having countries taking whatever they felt. And since this was a gold territory, according to what Sheina had heard back home, they would probably take advantage of this.

“By the way.” Eve asked, “Is the one you were looking for taller than you, has an orange band and is wearing a huge backpack?”

“Yes.” Sheina replied hopful. “Did you see where he went?”

“He’s being beaten up outside.” Eve then gave Sheina a pleasant laugh. “Wouldn’t it be funny if he got seriously injured?”

Sheina’s eyes widened. She quickly took the items she had off the counter and ran for the exit. Sure enough, outside was Baas. He was surrounded by four different people. As Sheina had assumed, these people had frustrated looks on their face.

“Baas!” She called out in anger. “What did you do? You know we’re not suppose to fight grey bands!”

Baas looked over to Sheina. He then gave her a smirk. “I know that’s why…

Suddenly, one of the men surrounding Baas dove forward in an attempt to punch him. Baas saw him and ducked. His friend also seized the opportunity and tried to kick Baas in the shin. Baas saw him too. Immediately after ducking, he moved low and quickly to ensure the man’s foot missed him. It did indeed miss, and the man found himself kicking his companion in the shin. Baas then jumped back so he could get some room near Sheina and finish his sentence.

“As I was saying, that’s why I’m not fighting them. I’m just letting them let off some steam.” He then looked at Sheina and smiled.

Sheina put crossed her arms.

“Baas, whatever you did, apologize.”

Baas lost his smile upon hearing this.

“I didn’t DO anything. These guys attacked me just because they don’t like Orange ban…”

Once again, before he could finish his sentence, Baas was attacked by another punch. It was by Brute this time. In the split second, Baas analyzed the situation. He could have easily moved out of the way, but he was next to Sheina. He didn’t know if she could see it or not. Should he dodge the blow, he would risk her getting hurt. Baas couldn’t allow that. So, he did the only thing he could. He braced his body for impact.

\*POW!\*

The fist came across Baas face. He stood standing, but his head had turned with the punch. Sheina gasped at the sight. Brute let out a nice big evil grin.

“Not just orange bands.” He said loudly. “We’re sick and tired of all the colored bands. Coming down here and taking our stuff as though we didn’t work hard to make it. Well you’re not the only one who can exploit a loop hole in the rules of Wig you know! AH HA HA HA HA!”

The air was quiet for a moment. Event the surrounding people who had decided to watch were silent. All that could be heard was the roaring laughter of Brute. When, suddenly, it was interrupted by a question.

“Is that it?”

Baas asked this with his head still turned away. Brute stopped laughing when he heard Baas’ voice. Baas slowly turned his head back to face Brute. There was a smirk on his face. It was almost… sinister.

“You know you’ve got some nerve, insulting my country like that, when you can’t even throw a decent punch.”

Before continuing, Baas wiped the dirt that had gotten on his face. When he was done, his sinister smirk was still there. Brute also noticed that Baas face was unscathed. The punch had not affected him at all. Baas then began to speak to the entire lot of the group.

“I don’t know why I was dodging all of you. You’re the toughest one here, right Brute? You must be since these guys do whatever you say. If that’s the best you guys have to offer, then I’ll stand here and take all your punches. But don’t worry, admitting you suck is the hardest part of your pathetic life. Once this is over, everything else will be easy. Problem is, once you start, the humiliation will never be over.”

Brute gritted his teeth. He stared Baas dead in the eyes. Baas stared at him back. The difference was, Brute’s eyes showed fear and anger. Baas’ eyes showed confidence.

That was because Baas was indeed confident. That punch Brute gave him hadn’t phased him at all. It made sense, seeing as how this guy had probably never been to the Center like most people in Wig had. He was no fighter, but Baas was. And Baas would make him pay for what he did to him in the store. Nothing was gonna stop him. He wasn’t scared of Brute, nor any of his pals…

\*pinch\*

“OW!” Baas hollered. Sheina had him caught by the ear and Baas couldn’t get freed.

“You’re so unbelievable!” Sheina said.

Baas looked up at Sheina. “How are you possibly doing that while holding all those clothes?”

Sheina pinched harder out of frustration.

“AGH!” came Baas’ scream.

“All you had to do was… ugh!” Sheina was so upset, she couldn’t finish her sentence. She then roughly let go of Baas and approached Brute. Baas was left rubbing his ear. Turns out, there was someone who could stop him. Someone he was indeed afraid of.

“I don’t know what Baas did.” Sheina said with a nice smile. “But I apologize for his actions.”

Baas immediately stood up straight.

“Don’t apologize for me! He was the one who…”

Sheina turned her head and gave Baas a deathly stare. He immediately stopped speaking and grabbed his ear. He could already feel the pain coming back. Once she was sure that Baas was silenced, Sheina continued her apology.

“I’m also sorry about how he’s responding to the situation as well. Please don’t think bad about Orange because of this.”

“Sheina…” Baas tried to warn.

“It’s okay.” Brute said. His evil smile had returned. “I don’t think badly about your country just because this guy has bad manners.”

“Well I’m glad.” Sheina said with a cheerful smile. “I thought maybe…”

“I already thought Orange was a loser country. Your friend over there didn’t change any of my thoughts.”

Sheina kept her smile, but inside she was confused.

“Anybody in Wig can see that Orange is clearly going to lose the war. They’re fighters are horrible and their Leaders make horrible battle plans.”

A smile was still on Sheina’s face. However, she could feel her adrenaline pumping. Baas gulped. He was really hoping Brute would stop.

“Even we Greys can outmatch a bunch of Oranges.” Brute continued. “They’re not too smart, crafty, nor sensible.”

Baas watched from behind nervously. Sheina was still standing in between him and Brute. However, Baas saw Sheina’s fist clench. That was not good. Brute was getting Sheina angry intentionally, and it was working. What Brute didn’t know though, was the difference in speed in deciding to attack and actually attacking was great. When Baas had reached for his sword, he was still debating on whether to attack. That was why Brute was able to stop him. When she was angry though, Sheina was not like that. She never decided to attack. She just did it. Brute was probably going to try and stop her like he did Baas, but by then it would be too late. Baas new they couldn’t risk fighting a battle with Greys. If the Discretes found out, they would be on their trail. But what could he do? All while Baas was trying to decide this, Brute was still egging Sheina on.

“They smell really bad. And, by looking at the two of you, I can tell they’re incredibly ugly…”

“I’LL SHOW YOU WHOSE UGLY!”

That’s what Brute had been hoping for. Now he could… Brute looked in Sheina’s direction. It was too late. Before Brute had a chance to speak, Sheina was already closing in on him. Her fist was pulled back ready for a blow to his face. He was stunned on what to do. She had moved so quickly. The look on her face also caught him in a grip of fear. He was definitely going to get punched.

\*POW\*

Baas fell onto the floor. He had had to move quickly in order to block the punch, but he had just made it on time. Unfortunately, the only way he could adequately block it was to put his face in between Brute’s face and Sheina’s fist. Baas didn’t have time to worry about that though. He quickly got up with a huge smile and bruise on his face.

“Now you see?” He asked Brute smiling. “That was a punch!” He then got loud.

“THE MIGHTY BRUTE OF THE GREY TERRITORY COULDN”T DEFEAT A GIRL FROM THE ORANGE!”

He then cupped his hands over his mouth so more people could hear.

“AND THIS GIRL HASN”T EVEN BEEN FULLY TRAINED! YET I HAD TO PROTECT THE MIGHTY BRUTE OF GREY FROM GETTING PUNCHED BY HER, BECAUSE HE CAN’T THROW A DECENT ONE HIMSELF!”

Baas then looked at Brute and smiled.

Brute looked around. All those who had stopped to look, and now more, were whispering to each other. Brute began to grind his teeth.

“You’re going to pay for that.”

He then snapped his fingers. Instantly, the group that was with him ran into the nearby allies. They emerged with various different weapons. One had an ax. Two had long swords. One had a spear and a short sword. He then gave his spear to Brute.

Baas’ jaw dropped open.

“What in the Wig!? Do you guys just leave weapon lying around in case some random person gets you upset?”

“Yes.” Brute said with an evil smile.

Baas returned it with his own happy smile.

“Well if you want to use those, you’ll have to catch me.” And with the, Baas took off down the streets of the grey territory.

All the men of the group followed after him. The men had not realized it, but they had left Sheina there. Upon seeing Baas block her punch, she was shocked out of her rage. It took her a moment, but she was now to herself. And she realized that Baas was in trouble.

…

Again.

Chapter 38 End