

Stephanie stayed behind the RED base's walls for a day, unsure about seeing the Scout after what happened.

She would see the Soldier wander around, but Stephanie would not step out from where she was hiding and only stayed hidden.

It lasted for a while until Stephanie stepped out from the RED base's wall to look at where she was going.

Unfortunately, she had accidentally wandered a little further away from where the RED team usually was, seeing she was near a large river of water.

She must have gotten near where the bridge is while wandering through the RED base's walls.

Seeing what happened, Stephanie was about to turn on her heel to return to the wall when her ears heard the speakers crackle.

Stephanie instantly froze as she heard the familiar voice speak through the speakers that echoed around.

"Mission begins in thirty seconds." the voice spoke.

"Right now?!" Stephanie exclaimed after hearing the voice alert everyone on the bases.

Panicking, Stephanie quickly ran in the other direction to look for where she saw a hole in the RED base, quickly squeezing through it.

She was worried about being killed by a BLU team member if she did not find somewhere to hide.

Ever since her encounter with one of them, she has been terrified of being on the battlefield.

And she does *not* want to repeat the same incident with the BLU Soldier or any incidents following that one.

Luckily, Stephanie entered a hallway from the RED base after finding another exit from the one she entered, and down the hallway, she looked for the hole she had been passing through several times while wandering around the RED base.

While Stephanie was running through the hallway, she kept an eye out for wandering teammates who could accidentally step on her.

She looked for someone she could trust, even if that meant staying in someone's room.

“Mission begins in twenty seconds.” The voice repeated through the base speakers, warning everyone of the time limit.

“Come on!” Stephanie seethed. “Where is everyone?”

Stephanie frantically searched for that spot in the walls to hide or anyone who could help her, wondering where it was.

Maybe someone has already covered the hole while she was with Scout or Soldier?

Or did she accidentally go the wrong way again?

Before Stephanie could lose hope of not being able to find somewhere to hide, she noticed a spare hat lying around in the base, with no one else looking for it to cover their heads.

She lifted the hat from the ground so she could go underneath and hide from the other teammates hurrying to their lockers to prepare for the battle.

After she went underneath the hat, she lifted it from underneath and started to run away, heading towards where she thought would be the Soldier's room was not arguing with Scout anymore.

As Stephanie walked down the hallway, she accidentally turned a corner, passed the Soldier's door, and headed back outside.

She continued to walk across the plain as she wandered around, still thinking she had walked up to the Soldier's bedroom door.

"Mission begins in ten seconds." The voice spoke, sounding like it was echoing around her.

She stopped in the middle of the plain, noticing the sudden change in voice as she looked confused from underneath the hat.

Stephanie decided to walk for a moment, so she took a couple of steps until she heard the ground underneath her softly crunch, like the familiar sounds of the dirt.

She glanced down at the ground and noticed it was covered in dirt.

The floor was supposed to have wooden floorboards instead of dirt, right?

Stephanie stopped at her spot for a moment, thinking to herself, before gasping quietly, glancing back up at the surroundings.

Lifting the side of the hat, she looked at where she had wandered off to, only to notice that she had gone into the middle of the plain with no one else around.

'Oh, crap!' She cursed in her mind, knowing why the speakers echoed when she walked blindly.

Stephanie thought she was going to the Soldier's room but realized she had gone the wrong way and was panicking.

‘I went the wrong way!’ Stephanie whined to herself. ‘That’s what’s wrong with the ground!’

She quickly let the hat fall over her body and started to run right before pausing and going the wrong way again, this time heading towards the BLU base.

As she went the wrong way again, the voice started to count down to zero, “*Five, four, three, two, one!*”

‘Fuck!’ she cursed in her thoughts.

Once more, she sped up her pace and ran straight in the wrong direction, where she thought the way to the Soldier’s room was.

Stephanie turned the corner as the battle started in the distance, hearing gunfires, screams, and such.

She was *so* glad that she did not stumble upon the battlefield again.

When she glanced down at the ground to check her direction, noticing the concrete underneath her shoes, she gently sighed, relieved to be back on the pavement instead of the dirt.

...Wait, pavement?

Stephanie looked down again and confirmed that it was pavement, meaning she had gone in the wrong direction.

“Fuck, again?!” Stephanie cursed. “Why does this keep happening to me?!”

Stephanie lifted the hat up from over her body to look at her surroundings, pausing when she noticed that she had entered the BLU base.

“Okay, I’m in the BLU base,” Stephanie mumbled. “Now, where is the exit?”

She moved the hat back over herself and continued walking towards where she thought the exit was until she accidentally bumped against something hard but fleshy as a soft pillow.

After she went into the object, she toppled backward after the impact and landed bottom first on the ground from underneath the hat.

She groaned softly in pain from the impact as a slight pain came from her nose as her glasses were tilted to the side.

“Hmm?” a voice softly spoke from above her as she tenderly rubbed her nose with her right hand.

She stopped when she heard the noise, simultaneously feeling confused and scared.

Before she could lift the hat to see what was in front of her, something invisible grabbed the hat.

She became tense when she realized someone was holding the hat over her while staring down at her.

However, the smell of cigarettes went to her nose, causing her to stop attempting to make a getaway and remember that familiar scent.

‘What is that smell?’ She thought to herself as she slightly scrunched her nose in disgust from the smell.

Deciding to see who was standing in front of her, Stephanie glanced up at the figure, only to see... nothing?

Stephanie looked confused for a moment after noticing that no one was standing there, but then remembered seeing a cliché black and white movie of the *Invisible Man* when she was younger.

If someone was invisible, the only way you could tell someone was there was by their *shadow*.

So Stephanie looked down to see if there was a shadow... only to see the shadow of a *giant human*.

It was almost as tall as the Soldier and had a hand out, *reaching for her*.

Someone was going to pick her up from the ground after discovering her!

Panicking, she scrambled up to her feet from falling over to her bottom from the sudden impact of the object and ran straight towards the table.

She went underneath the table and towards the far back of the wall, where the mysterious shadow would not reach her.

After she went underneath the table, she heard a soft mutter of something in French, as she was shaking slightly in fear of that sudden figure that was just starting to reach down for her.

Stephanie watched as the shadow started to move towards the front of the table, and she softly gasped, concealing her mouth with both hands so as not to squeak out in fear or for that someone to hear her breathing.

She watched as the shadow moved slowly towards the front of the table, getting closer to where she was.

Stephanie was shaking from head to toe as she watched the shadow getting closer and closer, praying to herself that someone would come and her.

She is terrified of being captured by this mysterious invisible figure or, worse, getting killed by it.

The silhouette could be seen carefully looking for her as she hid in the darkness beneath the table in the corner as she mentally prayed to herself that whoever or whatever this being could be could not see her and catch her.

Just as things started to get worse for her as the mysterious figure got closer, a new odor hit her nose, and it was the familiar scent of charcoal mixed in with the smoke smell from in front of her.

That familiar smell...

When she was in the Medic Bay, Stephanie remembers the smell before, getting her arms, hands, and legs mended from being injured.

The charcoal smells with hints of blood and some fabric too!

It... belongs to the BLU Pyro!

Now Stephanie was in a tough decision to escape from a BLU Pyro heading towards where they are and get herself caught by the invisible person.

Or wait for the BLU Pyro to come and kill both of them in a blazing heap?

Stephanie decided to take her risks rather than risk being killed or captured.

She glanced around the area from where she was, looking for a way to escape from the invisible person and a spot to hide after escaping.

When she noticed the left-hand side of the table was not surrounded by the mysterious shadow, she decided to take the risk.

So, she quickly ran straight towards the left-hand side of the table, coming into the opening as a different colored blur of blue colors in a unique mix.

As she ran, she heard a loud male's voice, thick with a French accent, exclaiming in startlement when she came out from underneath the table, "SAINTE MERDE!!!"

Ignoring the sudden outcry of the mysterious being that just exclaimed in shock when the mysterious being immediately noticed her, running straight towards the hallway to escape from the invisible person.

After Stephanie escaped from both figures, the smells from both faded away until she collided with something soft but rubbery and thick.

Her glasses almost toppled off her face as she landed on her back again, wincing in pain as she covered her nose with a hand, feeling it throbbing.

Stephanie closed her eyes as she winced to herself without noticing who the figure she went into was, softly groaning to herself.

After regaining the strength to ignore the pain, she heard a muffled "Hrh?" from above her.

And that voice sounded like the *BLU Pyro*.

Her heart started to beat quickly as the pupils of her eyes went inward and started to tremble from head to toe.

Slowly, she moved her hands from her face, and luckily it was not bleeding from the direct impact of the rubbery feeling.

Stephanie slowly sat up to her bottom, noticing the same pair of boots, before glancing up at the figure, luckily a RED Pyro instead of the BLU Pyro, staring down directly at her, obtaining a flamethrower in their hands.

She froze in her spot, now terrified to move to get up and run in the other direction to get away from this RED Pyro.

She sat there frightened in front of the RED Pyro as they did nothing as they stared down at her.

Stephanie does not know if they are either confused or thinking of ways to kill her.

A string of panicked thoughts raced through her mind, begging her to get away from this being before she would become an overcooked chick.

Before either of them could move, footsteps walked towards them as she flinched.

Stephanie thought the footsteps were from the invisible figure she had encountered before.

Each step caused the ground beneath Stephanie to shake as she glanced over her shoulder to see the BLU Soldier instead.

The BLU Soldier sees the RED Pyro in front of Stephanie as it glances up from staring down at her.

He gave out a mighty roar, almost making Stephanie jump from the sudden noise, and charged at them while holding a shovel in his right hand up in the air.

A short and surprised muffle came from the RED Pyro in front of Stephanie as the BLU Soldier charged toward them.

They quickly ducked from the first swing of the shovel from the BLU Soldier, instantly dropping their flamethrower to the ground and placing both of their hands on the floor.

They looked almost too close to Stephanie for comfort as they stared at her through the lens, and she thought she had pissed herself.

Stephanie decided that right now was the right time to move before she got killed by the scuffle!

Scrambling up to her feet, Stephanie shakily got up and moved away from the Pyro before something stomped right next to her, causing her to jump back away from the stomp, landing side first on the ground.

To her fear, Stephanie was almost stomped on by the BLU Soldier!

Annoyed about the lack of carefulness around Stephanie, the Pyro quickly grasped something from behind their back when they rose from ducking.

The BLU Soldier got ready to strike the Pyro again with the shovel, moving the shovel up over his head to strike with the blade facing in front.

Instead, they jumped back after the shovel missed and took out the weapon on their back, revealing a handmade fireman's ax, wrapped with barbed wire holding it together on the handle.

They swung at him with the handmade ax as he blocked the attack with his shovel, moving it from over his head and blocking his face.

Stephanie quickly moved away from the two fighting giants by using the palms of her hands and the heels of her shoes.

Once she was away from the two fighting giants, Stephanie shookily rose to her feet.

Stephanie turned on her heel and ran as fast as possible without looking behind at the fight.

Suddenly, Stephanie tripped over something on the ground, landing face-first on the floor with a muffled *thump*!

After Stephanie fell to the ground, she was about to get up again until something huge crashed on the floor.

She glanced over her shoulder and saw the RED Pyro standing above the BLU Soldier, with their right foot on top of his helmet.

The BLU Soldier was shouting fiercely at them and cursing them with foul language.

They irritably sighed as they rolled their ‘eyes’ from behind the mask’s lens, annoyed at the stubbornness of the BLU Soldier.

As they looked down the hallway, they noticed Stephanie on the ground, inches away from both of them, as she looked at them with terrified eyes.

Instead of getting ready to kill her next, after killing the cursing BLU Soldier underneath their foot, they presented a concerned look from underneath the mask while gazing thoughtfully at her with the black lens, as an “Mmh.” came from them.

She looked confused after they replied, as she felt a little confused but still terrified about what could happen to the BLU Soldier.

Before they could say something, the BLU Soldier regained enough strength to push the Pyro’s foot up from their head, as they gave a puzzled “Hrh?” noticing the sudden movement underneath their feet.

Suddenly, the BLU Soldier grabbed the RED Pyro’s mighty ax with his right hand, startling them from being distracted by Stephanie.

They tried to pull their ax away from his grip, but he got up from underneath their boot on the ground to his knees, still pushing back.

Huffing, they pushed forward against his force until he fully got up, thrusting them to the wall behind their back with their ax against their neck.

They grunted when pressed against the wall as the handle was against their neck, so they pushed forward to force back to move the sharp blade away from their neck to kill them.

Stephanie was lying on her back until she flipped onto her front, trying to escape the two titans as she slowly got to her feet.

However, she slipped over something on the floor and rolled over on her back while hearing a large pair of feet running toward her.

She saw the BLU Soldier chasing right after her, holding the shovel over his head to instantly strike her with it to eliminate her.

The RED Pyro was out in the back, tossed to the ground as they were on their bottom.

She gave a terrifying scream and scrambled backwards, trying to push herself away from the speeding BLU Soldier as he stopped and held the shovel up over his head as if he were using it as a mallet.

Before Stephanie was hit by the shovel, something sliced through something, instantly making her jolt in fear from the noise, as the BLU Soldier abruptly stopped, dropping the shovel from over his head to behind his back.

The shovel rattled on the ground with a dull noise as blood dripped from the corners of the BLU Soldier's mouth.

The BLU Soldier suddenly dropped to his knees in front of Stephanie, arms dropped at his sides, ready to fall on his face.

When Stephanie noticed he was about to fall over, she scooted backward to escape his body.

The BLU Soldier landed roughly on the ground as he fell over to the side, not staring at her with his dead eyes.

But stuck in his back is the Pyro's ax, lodged into his back as if he was a piece of log.

Stephanie shakily sighed in relief that she was saved from a BLU Soldier again until she heard footsteps heading towards her.

She stiffened up when she heard the footsteps, terrified to look again at the figure who had saved her.

But she glanced back in front, the familiar smell of charcoal kicking in her scent, to see the Pyro walking towards her.

Stephanie frantically backed up to escape the scary being that had just killed a BLU team member, worried she could be next in line.

Before Stephanie could even get up, the Pyro quickly knelt down to their knees and reached over to her with both gloved hands, and luckily the hands were not covered in blood to make her even more scared.

They gently scooped her into their palms and instantly released a frightened yelp when she was picked up.

Terrified, she curled in the nightmare's hands, trying to make herself a tiny ball while covering her head with her arms.

The Pyro gently curled their hands inward more when she curled into a ball as a protective way to prevent her from falling out of their palms.

Stephanie closed her eyes, feeling scared that she was about to die in the hands of a monster, repeatedly wishing to herself that she was back in her bed, feeling safe and warm in her grandmother's embrace.

"P-Please..." she quietly whimpered as the Pyro watched and listened to her.
"D-Don't... hurt me."

A short and sad "Mhh..." came from the Pyro as they held Stephanie in their hands, looking concerned about the shaking girl as she stayed in a small ball.

They felt stupid to themselves for frightening Stephanie almost to death for defending her from a BLU Soldier, the same one that almost attacked her when she was saved by the Soldier.

Being careful as they could, the Pyro gently moved her to their left hand as she was still in a small ball, flinching a little when she was gently slid into their other hand.

Using their right hand, the Pyro opened the pouch before carefully slipping Stephanie into the open pocket of their jumpsuit's belt.

Luckily, the pouch they placed Stephanie into was in front of their body, where they could see her without pulling her out continuously to see if she was all right and calm her down from the scary interaction.

As they carefully placed Stephanie in their pouch, they heard a terrified squeak escape from her once she got inside.

After Stephanie safely landed on the bottom of the pouch, she was shaking almost to death from her terrifying encounter with the BLU Soldier, scared to imagine herself as a pet for them to play with.

When she was placed inside, Stephanie noticed the flap that covers the top of the pouch to keep objects from falling out was left unclipped.

Feeling a little calm that she was not sealed in darkness but slightly startled when the body started to walk, leaving the spot where they saw her.

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The Pyro walked over to where their ax was and knelt down on one knee, picking up their bloody ax from the ground after the body of the BLU Soldier disappeared.

“You failed!” the voice spoke through the speakers of the BLU base, letting the Pyro know they had won.

When the Pyro heard the victory, they sighed through the mask, relieved that they had to go find who is carrying what to the bases, and stood back up from the ground after picking their ax up, heading back to the RED base.

As the Pyro walked back to the base while carrying Stephanie in their pouch of the belt, Stephanie felt slightly calmed by the gentle rocking of the body but still was terrified that she saw someone being killed right in front of her eyes.

Stephanie imagines the rocking of a crib of her bed when she was a baby, hearing her grandmother softly humming a lullaby to her as she sleeps, dreaming of what could happen next.

From the imagination, she felt like she was falling asleep from the rocking, nearly on the verge of entering sleepiness.

After a few minutes had passed, Stephanie heard a door open, snapping out of her imagination, and felt the Pyro enter the room, carefully closing the door behind their back.

Once the door had been shut behind their back, she heard a muffled but gentle sigh from them, exhaling in relief.

Now, Stephanie felt concerned about what could be inside the Pyro's room and could be one of the Pyro's collections of toys.

The flap covering the pouch's entrance flipped open from outside as some light went inside, revealing Stephanie as she looked up with confusion and worry.

The Pyro reached inside to retrieve her as Stephanie glanced up to see what was happening.

But instead, Stephanie only saw a gloved hand reaching toward her from the opening.

She wanted to push the Pyro's fingers away from her body and move deeper into the pouch, but she limped and allowed the being to pick her up.

Then, Stephanie was gently scooped out of the pouch of their belt before being lifted to the Pyro's face.

Stephanie limped as she was lifted up to the Pyro's masked face, allowing her to be a toy to play around with the Pyro.

The Pyro gazed at Stephanie with a glum look through the lens of their mask, looking sorry for frightening her to death.

Now that she could see the inside of the Pyro's room, the room looked normal like the Soldier's and the Scout's, except the walls were painted with magnificent rainbows and green grass at the bottom.

There were some clouds, with a couple of lollipops and unicorns too.

In the far right corner is a brightly painted sun that illuminates the rainbows, as there is a window over their bed.

The bed was almost covered in different plushies of unicorns and teddy bears wearing various stitched items on their clothes, and the blankets were in different colors.

She felt... puzzled about the strange and lovely scenery of the room, thinking they might have creepy and horrifying objects inside to either hurt other people or creep them out.

But this room seemed identical to Stephanie's baby room, the walls painted with the sky with clouds and air balloons floating into the air.

Then the Pyro walked over to their bed, snapping Stephanie out of her imagination, feeling scared to be one of their own.

Instead, Stephanie was placed down on an empty part of the bed in front of the Pyro.

Stephanie landed on her bottom on top of the mattress, still shaken up from the aftermath.

The blanket underneath her body is decorated with fire flames stitched onto it.

The softness of the bed cushioned underneath her minimal weight, as she felt more relaxed than before but was alert for any sudden attacks from them without noticing it was coming to her.

After Stephanie was on the bed, the Pyro carefully knelt to Stephanie's height as she flinched, staring back at those black lenses.

"Rrm mrr rchrm?" the Pyro muffled.

Stephanie blinked and perked after the Pyro asked, not understanding what they said as she stared back at them.

The Pyro understood that she could not tell what they were saying, so they muffled, “Mrnh rnghh hmrm hrr r mnnrh.”

Stephanie watched as the Pyro walked away and rummaged around a drawer of theirs before taking out paper and crayons.

They returned to Stephanie and used a clipboard to write something on the paper before showing it to Stephanie, reading, “Are you okay?”

“Oh,” Stephanie sighed in relief. “I-I’m alright. Just a little shaken up from what happened earlier.”

The Pyro wrote on the piece of paper and showed it to Stephanie, reading, “What happened?”

“I accidentally wandered outside during one of my expectations,” Stephanie explained. “I was trying to head back inside, but I accidentally got lost and wandered into the BLU base. And, that is how you and the BLU Soldier found me.”

The Pyro wrote on the piece of paper and showed it to Stephanie, reading, “Didn’t you try to ask someone to help?”

“I’m barely at your height,” Stephanie sighed. “And there was no one around where I was.”

“Rh,” the Pyro muffled.

Stephanie stayed silent for a minute after explaining to the Pyro before asking as she glanced over at the plushies, “Are you going to keep me here like a stuffed animal?”

The Pyro shook their head no after Stephanie asked as she sighed, relieved that she would not be kept around.

Then, the Pyro wrote on the paper, “I have plenty of stuffies. You’re a human being like me!”

“Thank you, Pyro,” Stephanie thanked. “I, uh, didn’t get your name, though.”

The Pyro wrote on the paper and showed Stephanie, “I’m not ready to tell what my name is.”

“Okay,” Stephanie nodded.

Then they wrote on the paper and showed, reading, “Who are you?”

“I’m Stephanie,” Stephanie answered. “Stephanie Allen.”

The Pyro giggled gently after Stephanie answered their question and gently tapped their head with their rubber gloved hand.

Surprisingly, for someone who can *kill* and *burn* someone to a crisp, they are cautious around Stephanie, who is only six inches tall compared to them.

Throughout the time, the Pyro listened to Stephanie’s conversation as she talked to them about her thoughts, even some frustrations she discovered in her new height.

The Pyro listened to every word Stephanie told them, barely muffling anything except for some questions.

Some things confused the Pyro, but they listened to Stephanie as she explained what they were.

It lasted a while until the Pyro had to return to work, leaving Stephanie in their room for safety, much to Stephanie's relief.

But while the Pyro was off doing their work, Stephanie accidentally fell asleep on top of one of their unicorn stuffies because of how soft it was compared to the hard floors.

When the Pyro returned after dinner (forgetting about Stephanie), they were surprised to see Stephanie fast asleep on top of their unicorn stuffie.

...Then comes the more challenging question: How will they sleep with Stephanie on their bed?

They could not just sleep on the bed with her, or else they would accidentally roll on top of her in their sleep.

They could not move the stuffie itself, or else Stephanie would wake up from their movements.

So... what the hell *can* they do?!

But they remembered dragons curling around piles of coins in story books... so can they do the same to her?

So the Pyro took off their canister on their back and placed it carefully down near the wardrobe.

Now for the next step in their plan.

Gingerly, the Pyro climbed onto the bed as Stephanie slept, carefully curling around the exact stuffie she was on top of.

With one arm, the Pyro gently placed a blanket over Stephanie's body for warmth before placing their hand on top of her.

Stephanie woke up a little after feeling the Pyro's hand on top of her and glanced over, seeing the Pyro asleep in bed and curled around.

Instead of trying to get out of their hand or wake them up, Stephanie sighs and places one arm on Pyro's thumb, falling back asleep.