

The next day, Stephanie was with the Pyro and talking to them while in the living room, just talking to each other when the speakers were turned on.

Everyone stopped after the speakers were turned on, hearing the Administrator speaking.

“Attention!” the Administrator spoke. *“All mercenaries to the respawn room! Countdown begins in four minutes!”*

Instantly, everyone went to the respawn room after the Administrator spoke in the speakers, but Pyro looked worried.

“Nh fnch!” Pyro exclaimed.

Stephanie was roommates with them after their first encounter, and perhaps frightening encounter, Stephanie understood what they were saying.

“What’s ‘Oh fuck?’” Stephanie asked, perking a little.

“PHhm hnphphmm npn nhnnph phn hmgnn!” the Pyro fretted before standing up and hastily picking Stephanie up from the table, only wrapping their hand around her middle.

Stephanie gripped the side of Pyro’s finger as she was lifted from the table and up to Pyro’s masked face, understanding that they were worried.

“Pyro!” Stephanie spoke. “I have an idea, and it would help you from being stressed from having to hide me from both the battle and spies.”

The Pyro listened to Stephanie as she began her idea, speaking, “Since I had been living behind the walls for some weeks previously, I can hide behind the fort’s walls where it is safe for me until the battle ends, and I’ll come out after the battle ends. Just tell me where you want to be, and I’ll come there to see you.”

They paused a little after Stephanie explained to them what her plan was before nodding their head.

“Nmrnghph,” The Pyro spoke as Stephanie listened to them. “PHnnncm phhm mmnmmph
nph phhm rmphpnmmn nrmn nph cnnrmphm, cnmm hnch phn mm rnnm nnn N’mmm gnfm
mmn phhnph hnnc hphn mmph mnn hnnmm phhnph N nm phhmrm.”

Stephanie listened to the Pyro’s knocking as they knocked a Morse code on the table’s wood, which Stephanie, fortunately, can understand what the code means.

It reads, “Come out, Stephanie.”

After Pyro finishes knocking on the table in Morse code, Stephanie nods her head as the speakers turn on again and the Administrator’s voice spoke again.

“Attention!” the Administrator spoke. *“All mercenaries to the respawn room! Countdown begins in three minutes!”*

The Pyro glanced down at Stephanie as she pointed to the left towards the corner of the room.

Stephanie spoke as she glanced up to the Pyro, saying, “There’s a hole over there near the corner. Place me down there, and I’ll be behind the walls.”

As they nodded their heads with a grunt, they walked over to the corner, kneeling to their knee, and put Stephanie down.

Once Stephanie was onto her feet, Stephanie quickly walked over to the hole and peered inside to check it.

The hallway between the walls was slightly dark but enough for Stephanie to see, and it looked the same as before.

“Okay, this is where we have to part for now,” Stephanie spoke as she turned to the Pyro. “Like what we said, after the battle is over, I’ll meet you in your room and give the knock again.”

“Rnghph,” The Pyro nodded their head before standing up to their feet. “Hm cnrmfnnm, PHphmphnnnm.”

“I will,” Stephanie nods her head before disappearing into the thin hallway between the walls.

After getting through the hole, Stephanie started walking down the slightly thin hallway of the fort’s walls, having to twist her body a little to fit.

She heard Pyro’s footsteps leaving the room after leaving, heading towards the respawn room to prepare for the battle.

‘I hope the battle does not last for an hour.’ Stephanie thought to herself.

As Stephanie continued walking through the thin hallway, she listened to the speakers, hearing the countdown.

From the back of her mind, Stephanie thought of who the Administrator is.

They had told Stephanie that the Administrator was the leader, telling them what to do and which team was winning or losing.

But they did not tell Stephanie *who* she was or what her name was.

Instead of finding out who the Administrator is since she was alone and not having to be constantly checked, Stephanie instead hid behind the walls until the battle was over.

After the final minute, Stephanie reaches another part of the walls and squeezes through, entering a slightly spacious space.

There was just enough space in that hallway for her to get her shoulders through.

Stephanie enters that hallway and listens to the battle happening through the other side of the wall, grimacing to herself at the thought of having to be in the war.

As she continued walking through the hallway, Stephanie stopped for a moment in worry, thinking that she must have accidentally got herself lost... again.

But she could not be lost at this moment... right?

Deciding to keep moving forward to find somewhere she could get out of the walls to look around, Stephanie continued walking through the hallway, noticing it was getting darker.

Cursing at herself at the thought of not having to backpack with her, Stephanie kept walking through the hallway with her arms up, just in case she went into any cobwebs or slams into any nails.

Suddenly, one of Stephanie's feet went through a hole and fell through, causing her to shriek in startlement as she fell.

Soon, Stephanie popped out of a *ceiling* and, luckily, fell into a pile of hay, landing into the thickness as it cushioned in her weight.

Stephanie was half startled from suddenly falling through the hole but was half relieved that the pile of hay saved her from being slammed into the ground.

Then, she realizes what had happened to her as she sat up from the massive pile of hay.

She collapsed through a ceiling hole in the RED base that must have been caused by a gunshot.

Now she is back outside... but smack dab in the middle of a battle between the two opposite colors.

“Oh, shit!” Stephanie cursed, immediately getting up to her feet.

She has to hide before being discovered by a BLU team member and get herself killed!

Stephanie scrambled out of the massive pile of hay and landed back onto the wooden floorboards of the RED base, noticing there were no other holes.

‘Okay,’ Stephanie panicked to herself. ‘There are no holes that I can fit... SO WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!’

Hearing footsteps, Stephanie perked after hearing them and rushed towards the corner of the hallway, waiting for whoever was coming to hide.

Seeing a *BLU* Soldier’s boots walk by, Stephanie covered her mouth with a hand as she watched the boots walk past her.

“WHERE ARE YOU MAGGOT?!” the BLU Soldier screamed. “I SAW YOU BEFORE!”

Was he talking about her?

Stephanie had to bite her hand that was covering her mouth to keep her from whimpering, listening, and watching the BLU Soldier.

After looking around for a moment, Stephanie flinched when the BLU Soldier turned around, thinking that he had not seen her since the helmet.

...But then he turned back around and saw her standing in the corner of the RED base, shaking like a leaf.

Stephanie's instincts instantly told her to run, and so she did, running as fast as she could down the side of the base.

"COME BACK HERE!" the BLU Soldier yelled, running towards her.

He switched from carrying his rocket launcher to his shovel, which was the same one he tried using to squish her.

With quick reflexes, Stephanie dodged one of the shovel's hits and barrel-rolled across the floorboards.

After barrel-rolling, Stephanie quickly went back up to her feet and ran in the opposite direction, trying to get away from the BLU Soldier.

The BLU Soldier then tried to grab her with his hand after missing with his shovel.

But Stephanie dodged again and skidded across the floorboards, running in the direction.

She quickly strategized in her mind to think of a way to get away from this BLU Soldier.

Stephanie ran down the bridge between the two bases but then stopped when she encountered a gap.

It was large enough for her to be impossible for her to jump across.

The BLU Soldier caught up to her and smirked, seeing she had nowhere to run to get away from him.

"Gotcha!" He lifted his shovel up to attack her and Stephanie as she whipped around.

Then, she decided to use plan B of an escape route since plan A did not work.

She ran forward and dodged the BLU Soldier's shovel, and during that moment, with a burst of adrenaline, Stephanie ran along the stick part of the shovel.

Confused, the BLU Soldier tried grabbing her with his hand to get her off, but Stephanie dodged and started moving up his arm.

The BLU Soldier moved his arm up to get her off his body, and Stephanie slipped, causing her to yelp.

Instead of landing on the ground, Stephanie instead... accidentally went into his shirt from the back.

He yelped after Stephanie went into his undershirt from the back and dropped his shovel to the ground.

He began to squirm around while trying to reach behind with his hands as he felt the form moving downward with one hand on the collar of his jacket and undershirt as the other was slapping his back.

“GET OUT OF THERE!” the BLU Soldier shouted.

Inside, Stephanie yelped as she was inside the BLU Soldier's shirt and jacket, hearing slaps coming from his left hand.

Luckily, he missed her by inches as Stephanie continued slipping deeper and deeper.

When the BLU Soldier twisted his body to move her closer to his hand to slap at her, Stephanie yelped and shrieked.

The BLU Soldier squirmed again as Stephanie continued squirming while traveling down, unexpectedly *tickling* an area where he was ticklish at.

He began to *laugh* as he continued squirming around, yanking at his jacket to get her out from being inside.

Inside, Stephanie was confused when he started *laughing*, thinking that he had gone mad trying to get her out.

But then remembered that she was somewhere near the *sides* of the BLU Soldier and yelped when she slipped past the sides, and... went into his pants through his belt after he tugged at his jacket and shirt.

The BLU Soldier winced after feeling her go into his pants past his belt and started kicking his feet, trying to get her out.

To the others, he was acting as if a mouse had gotten into his pants.

Stephanie felt like she was going through a wild ride as she was flung around and kicked, grabbing some hairs of his leg to stay.

The BLU Soldier grew frustrated and slightly dizzy with all the movement and took his belt off, deciding that the only way to get that tiny human was to reach in his pants.

He reached into his pants and felt around for her, as he kept kicking around and, without realizing it, accidentally kicked one of his boots off.

The boot went flying after he had kicked it and hit squarely in the back of a BLU Scout when he was about to hit the RED Medic across the head.

The RED Medic looked confused from the sudden flying boot when he heard the RED Heavy laughing.

“Look at Soldier!” the RED Heavy laughed.

So, the RED Medic looked, his expression changing to confusion and disgust as he saw the BLU Soldier moving around and maybe, *jerking* off as he had one hand in his pants and moving a leg up, shaking it.

And right in the middle of the battlefield?!

Meanwhile, the BLU Soldier continued trying to get the tiny human out of his pants as he ‘did not’ hear all the laughter coming from the RED Heavy until he felt something stabbed him in the back.

After being stabbed in the back, the BLU Soldier collapsed to the ground on his side.

He still had one hand in his pants and the other out in front of him and missing one boot.

Inside, Stephanie shrieked when the BLU Soldier collapsed on his side, thinking he was still trying to get her.

So she quickly crawled out of his pant leg, where he had popped his boot off from trying to get her out.

The smell was musty with the hint of sweat, but it was not enough to make her gag.

Instead, the smell of blood somehow made Stephanie pale a little when she realized someone had stabbed him.

On the other hand, it might be the RED Pyro.

“Well, well, well.” Stephanie’s hair on the back of her neck stood up in realization after hearing that voice.

It did *not* sound like the RED Pyro.

“What do we ‘ave here?” the voice continued speaking again.

Before she could look behind her to see who was standing behind her, Stephanie suddenly saw a *hand* reach down to her.

When Stephanie saw the hand, she shrieked in fear and tried to run away but was caught around the middle as the fingers pin her arms to her body.

After being grabbed, Stephanie was lifted from the ground, away from the BLU Soldier’s corpse, which had a *knife* wound on the back.

Stephanie shrieked in fear after being picked up from the ground and was suddenly placed into a jacket’s inner pocket, near the chest.

She curled slightly after being placed into the stranger’s pocket, wanting to squirm around to get out.

But not wanting to get herself killed, Stephanie *had* to stay in the stranger’s pocket to keep herself from dying.

Stephanie stayed in the stranger’s pocket for a while, nervous about what the person wearing the jacket would do to her.

Well, at least it stopped, perking Stephanie’s attention as she glanced up a little.

Suddenly, gloved fingers reached into the pocket and started heading towards her, causing Stephanie to panic and squirm.

But Stephanie was taken out of the pocket and out in the open, sitting in someone's gloved palm.

After Stephanie was taken out of the stranger's pocket, she looked up at her captor, who had discovered her.

To her discovery and relief, Stephanie was sitting in a RED team member's hand.

But he looked a little strange to the others she had seen before.

This RED member wears a currant mask that shows his eyes and his mouth, which she could not tell what kind of hair he has.

But she *does* see he has light blue eye color and Caucasian skin.

He wore a light Merlot suit with a white, button-up dress shirt and a dark wine tie with matching pants, black gloves, and sharp black shoes.

From the back of Stephanie's mind, he looked like he was dressed for a meeting.

"Who are you?" Stephanie politely asked, although feeling nervous about this stranger.

A gentle smile appeared on his face after Stephanie asked, and being surprisingly careful, he used his free hand with his first finger and kissed the back of her hand.

"I am ze Spy," he answered as Stephanie blushed a little from the gentle kiss. "C'est un plaisir de vous rencontrer."

Stephanie did not understand what he had said to her but guessed that he was pleased to meet her.

But then her mind went to the name ‘Spy’ and remembered that cigarette smell coming from him.

It was just like the same scent he had when she was inside the BLU base.

“Can I ask you a question?” Stephanie politely asked as he removed his finger from her as she placed her hands onto her lap.

“Oui?” he nodded, speaking in French.

‘Huh, a Frenchie.’ Stephanie thought to herself but switched her mind to what she was thinking.

“What were you doing in the BLU Base?” Stephanie asked. “Did you see me there while I was underneath Scout’s hat?”

A soft, confused expression appeared on the Spy’s face after Stephanie asked, answering, “I was not in ze BLU base at ze time. You must’ve encountered ze BLU spy, Madame.”

Stephanie’s nerves tingled a little after he explained to her, feeling worried about encountering the BLU Spy at any time.

“You didn’t tell me your name, however,” he mentioned to her as Stephanie perked.

“Oh,” Stephanie blushed a little from forgetting to introduce herself. “I’m Stephanie, Stephanie Allen.”

He nodded his head gently after Stephanie introduced herself before perking after hearing a loud blast from the other side of the battle.

“Oh, I shouldn’t be here!” Stephanie winced. “I’m supposed to be in the RED base and staying there!”

Stephanie flinched as he moved her towards his chest and was placed in his inner coat pocket, landing in the same one as she sat down.

“Do not worry,” he said smoothly. “I’ll take you to ze base and take you to Pyro’s room. None of ze Spies would go in there to irritate them since they burn spies.”

Stephanie gave Spy’s pocket a pat to let him know she was okay with it and felt him walking as she stayed inside.

‘So they are scared of Pyros?’ Stephanie thought to herself. ‘That’s why the BLU Spy back in the BLU base escaped after they came in!’

A sly smirk appeared on Stephanie’s face after thinking about the behaviors around Pyros and Spies, deciding to use that tactic to scare them off.

...If it could work against someone taller than her.

The walking lasted longer than she had expected, feeling him walk around the bases and, something that Stephanie did not like, stabbing the opposite team member in the back.

‘Does he always do this?’ Stephanie thought to herself with a shudder. ‘Well, that’s what Spies do, I guess.’

Soon, Stephanie felt the walking stop for a moment and perked a little from having to sit in Spy’s pocket for a long time, wondering what had happened.

“We’re here.” Stephanie sighed as the fingers reached into the pocket and pulled her out. “I don’t think sneaking in ze Pyro’s room to help you get inside since they lock their doors and windows, but you might be able to squeeze through yourself.”

He was standing near the Pyro’s door but not too close to it to Stephanie’s confusion.

Stephanie looked confused about what he meant as he placed her down on the ground in front of him.

She looked over at the door and saw a gap big enough for her to go through without getting stuck.

“Oh, I see!” Stephanie perked after seeing the hole. “Thanks, Spy!”

“De rien,” the Spy granted, speaking in French. “Oh, I have one thing for you.”

A confused expression appeared on Stephanie’s face as the Spy knelt onto one knee to Stephanie as she backed a few steps for him.

He reached into his jacket on the other side and searched around for a moment before taking out her backpack.

Stephanie gasped after realizing her backpack was in his hand as the Spy moved it down to Stephanie as she picked it up from his palm.

“How did you get my backpack?” Stephanie asked, looking at it.

“It was left in ze Soldier’s room,” Spy explained. “I saw it and thought it belonged to something else instead, so I kept it, knowing that Soldier might accidentally break it.”

Stephanie smiled and gently hugged one of Spy’s fingers with a wrap of her right arm, confusing him from the hug.

“Thank you!” Stephanie thanked Spy.

The Spy paused a little from the hug Stephanie gave him but eventually cracked a smile and responded, “De rien.”

After hugging for a moment, Stephanie released Spy's finger and placed her backpack on her back, missing the feeling of having her belongings with her.

"I'll see you soon!" With that, Stephanie squeezed through the hole in the door and went into Pyro's room.

"Et je te verrai bientôt aussi, Stephanie." The Spy nodded in agreement, speaking in French as he cloaked himself in invisibility mode.

The battle rages on as Stephanie waits for the Pyro to come back, knowing she has to explain why she was not hiding behind the walls like in the plans.

But half of her felt slightly embarrassed about the third encounter with the BLU Soldier.

Having to get herself into his collar and down his clothes as he was making himself an ass.

The thoughts would not get out of her mind as her cheeks flushed with embarrassment, shaking her mind to get the *humiliation* out of her mind, not wanting to remind herself of the incident.

Soon, the door opened, and Stephanie glanced over from her miniature crochet work, seeing the Pyro entering their room and, luckily, not covered in blood but had a scent of soot coming from them.

But Pyro was not the only one coming into their room but had the Scout with them from behind.

"PHphmphinmm?" Pyro mumbled in confusion. "MMhnp nrm mnn nnnng nnph nf phhm mmmmmph?"

“Well,” Stephanie sheepishly paused after Pyro asked, moving her crochet work into her backpack. “I have a *long* story to tell you.”

Pyro knelt to Stephanie’s height and picked Stephanie up after she placed her backpack onto her back.

“What’s da story, Steph?” Scout asked, sounding confused.

So, Stephanie explained her story to Pyro and the Scout as they listened to her while sitting in the Pyro’s bed.

Pyro held Stephanie in the palm of their left hand as Stephanie sat crisscross in their palm with her backpack on her back.

She began by accidentally falling through the ceiling of one of the RED base’s ceilings and landed in the hay, getting herself into the battlefield.

Then the BLU Soldier discovered her and was chased by him, but luckily avoided his shovel attacks from being smashed.

But then got into a sticky problem, so she used a plan B... only to get herself into his clothes by accident.

Scout and Pyro laughed when they remembered watching the BLU Soldier ‘jerking’ off at the bridge, thinking that he had his underwear in a twist or something else.

However, Stephanie was a little embarrassed from the thoughts of what the chaos was to their eyes, deciding *not* to do it again... ever!

After the little laugh the Pyro and the Scout had, Stephanie finished her story with her encounter with the Spy, who luckily brought her to Pyro’s room.

Once Stephanie's story was finished, Scout and Pyro glanced at each other after Stephanie mentioned Spy as Stephanie looked confused about their expressions.

"Something wrong about Spy?" Stephanie politely asked.

Pyro lifted Stephanie up a little for them both to talk to Stephanie as she listened to them, feeling something deep inside of her that tells her that there was something *else* about Spy.

"You see," Scout began. "Spy is a smooth-talking and backstabbing bastard. He'll flirt with every woman around and would even go betraying his own team!"

Stephanie winced after Scout explained to Stephanie about Spy, nervously rubbing her left hand as she listened.

"N'm phnrprnphmn phhnph PHpm nnnn'ph fmnrph mmnphh mnn." Pyro added before pausing a little. "...Nnn hm?"

"Nah, not really." Stephanie shook her head. "I'm not fazed by his smooth-talking and falling for him. But he was very kind of taking me back to your room Pyro."

Pyro nodded in agreement as Scout glanced away, slightly pouting after Stephanie praised the Spy's kindness.

"But," Stephanie added, gathering their attention. "Give him some credit. He helped me get out of the battlefield while you two were fighting and gave my backpack back too."

"Yeah, you're right," Scout nodded in agreement. "I kinda wish he could do the same to us."

Stephanie smiled reassuringly and said, as Scout glanced over at her, "Take time, Scout. Sometimes kindness comes either unexpectedly or when the time is right. Just have to wait until it is ripe."

The gears in Scout's head turned after Stephanie explained to him as Pyro nodded in agreement with a gentle huff.

Then the door frame was knocked on, and all three glanced over, seeing the Engineer holding a piece of paper in his hand.

"Hey, uh, since you didn't come into the livin' room," the Engineer explained. "There was some news."

Confusion appeared on the Scout's, the Pyro's, and Stephanie's faces after the Engineer explained, as Scout asked, "What?"

"Well," the Engineer said as he glanced down at the paper in his hand. "In about a few days, we are going to have another mercenary in the team."

"Really?" Stephanie perked. "Did the news say anything about the new mercenary we are having?"

The Engineer paused a little as he scanned the paper with his eyes as they waited for an answer.

"Not much," the Engineer finally answered. "All it said written on here is that we are gonna have a new mercenary, and that's it."

"That sucks," Scout huffed. "Would've been cool if we knew who we are gettin'. Like, for instance, we can know we are gettin' a brawler!"

He held up two fists with an excited expression on his face as the Engineer chuckled a little.

“What about an Admiral?” Stephanie politely asked. “Admirals are good at commanding people and herding people into groups to put into battles. That could be in the rank of a defense member.”

“Gnnn nmn!” Pyro nodded in agreement.

The Engineer turned around to leave the Pyro’s room to allow the three to talk to each other about ideas for incoming mercenaries, ranging from different kinds of people.

However, they are not the only ones wondering about the stranger.

The Engineer was also curious about this stranger as he looked at the telegram.

He wonders to himself if they would either help the RED team or just annoy everyone around.