

The next day after the giant encounter she had, Stephanie overthought the decision she had made while standing in the living room, walking back and forth.

And the decision is to go back into the forest and watch the giants or giantess.

But Stephanie did not know what would or could happen if she was caught by them again if she was not careful.

She would never be seen again or could be experimented on or be a center of attention for some circus.

Goosebumps rose on Stephanie's arms at the thought of what horrible things giants would do to her, causing her to panic and was on the verge of scratching her other arm.

Stephanie caught herself before she could vigorously scratch and forced herself to calm down from the panicked thoughts in her mind.

The sentence 'I won't hurt you, I promise,' went through her mind after she continued forcing herself to calm down from her anxiety, causing her mind to stop thinking about the negativity and focused on the act of kindness.

The line seemed to make Stephanie's nerves die down a little, remembering the time when she was overwhelmed, but he calmed her down before things got out of hand.

After remembering the line, Stephanie gathered her courage inside her and carefully but quietly opened the front door.

Once the door was opened, Stephanie stepped out of her house and closed the door behind, locking it so no fox would get inside.

She walked up to the front of the forest from her home before stopping in her tracks.

From where she was standing and staring at it, it looked... eerily dark and spooky.

A slight shudder went through her body after staring at the forest, feeling creeped out from looking at it.

But Stephanie took a deep breath to not break herself from the decision she made and made her way into the forest.

After a few minutes in the forest, Stephanie continued looking around for any tracks left behind.

It could be either a trail of footprints from the giants' shoes or any scraps of food that they were eating.

Stephanie turned around the corner after looking around at the spot she was standing on.

She then stopped when she felt something rumble from underneath her feet.

It rumbled for a little, before stopping, then at it again.

The feeling felt like... footsteps.

Stephanie immediately gasped softly and glanced around before noticing the tree and hid behind it, but peeking around the corner.

Two bigger giants appeared before her, luckily not noticing her hiding behind the tree, and it made her heart skip a beat.

They were towering over fifteen or sixteen feet tall and wearing almost similar colors of clothes as Ten Cents, O.J, and Sunshine was wearing.

The first man has short blond hair, fair skin, steel-blue eye color, and a stubble coming out.

He is wearing a blue cap and has a yellow jacket that has the American flag on his right arm, as the left has the number two, and on his collar has the name 'Big Mac' in white thread and in cursive.

Underneath his jacket, he wears a white, long-sleeved shirt.

Topping things off, he is also wearing a pair of black pants with two thin white stripes down the side of his legs and black shoes.

The second man has fair skin, hazelnut brown eye color, and short jet-black hair.

He wears a red jacket with blue hems and a hoodie, with the American flag on his left arm, as his right arm had the number five, and has the name 'Warrior' on the collar in white thread.

Around his waist, he wore a brown belt with a silver buckle that held his black pants.

His pants also have a single white line down the sides of his legs, almost like Ten Cents.

Topping things off, he also wore a pair of brown boots.

"Are you sure you know where you're goin'?" the second man asked curiously, as they both stopped.

"Of course!" the first man exclaimed, his accent thick with Irish. "I'm sure we were goin' the right way!"

"Well, I think we might've gone the wrong way," the second man mumbled, scratching his head with his right hand from underneath his hat.

"What makes you think that?" the first man asked gruffly.

"I sometimes know some routes 'round here and-" a twig snapping caused them both to stop talking and glance around. "What was that?"

"Must've been a rabbit or somethin'." the first man shrugged. "There's no reason to be jumpy 'bout it."

The second man paused a little after the first shrugged, thinking about something.

“What if Papyrus could be right?” the second man asked. “I mean, he was mumblin’ about somethin’ of a human.”

The first man sighed as he crossed his arms over his chest.

“Now, you’re belivin’ in the tales Scuttlebutt Pete was tellin’ you?” the first man scoffed.

“No, I have been thinkin’ ‘bout it,” the second man mumbled softly. “What if we did find a human? One of the last ones?”

“Nonsense,” the first man scoffed. “There’s no such thin’ as-”

He stopped when he noticed something blue moving from the corner of his eye, causing him to stop and glance over.

“What?” The second man did the same thing and saw a small, thigh-high human girl, frozen on the spot and staring at them with fear in her eyes, as she looked petrified inches away from a tree. “Sufferin’-!”

Before he could continue, the first man stormed over to her before she could escape and grabbed her around the middle of her body.

She yelped in fear as she was placed against a tree, being pinned against it.

She squirmed in his hand against the tree, struggling to push herself out from his grip.

“What are you doin’ here?!” he snapped in anger. “Spyin’ on us?!”

The human girl panicked as she struggled in his grip against the tree, feeling pinned and afraid.

“Big Mac, wait!” the second man grabbed his friend’s arm, causing him to glance over at him rather than the girl. “Don’t hurt her!”

“But she was spyin’ on us!” the first man snapped, responding to the name ‘Big Mac.’ “Don’t you think she might belong to the Z-Stacks?!”

“Big Mac!” the second man snapped, surprising Big Mac slightly. “She is not a spy. That’s the human that Papyrus was mumblin’ ‘bout.”

Big Mac glanced over at the girl as she had her head ducked down while shaking, as he glanced back over at his friend.

“Are you sure?” he asked, sounding confused.

“Of course!” the second man exclaimed. “She didn’t attack you, didn’t she?”

Big Mac paused for a moment to think of the reaction she had when they both saw her, as she looked terrified and did not fight back against him after he grabbed her.

“You’re right,” he nodded after thinking to himself, calming down a little.

Big Mac glanced back over at the girl and noticed something strange when he felt her shaking die down suddenly.

She dropped her hands away from his hand wrapped around her and slumped against the tree.

“Huh?” Wrapping his fingers around her thin body, Big Mac picked the girl up from against the tree and looked at her, noticing that she was knocked out cold.

“Did you hurt her?!” the second man panicked.

“I didn’t!” Big Mac panicked slightly, exclaiming a little. “Wait a moment.”

He reached into his back pocket with his spare hand and grabbed something from inside before taking out a switchblade pocket knife.

“Uh, Big Mac?” the second man asked, sounding nervous. “What are you goin’ to do?”

“There was somethin’ I learned from O.J whenever Top Hat faints,” Big Mac spoke as he unclicked his knife. “Since people fainted from being knocked out by somethin’, you can tell that they are still alive by placing something that reflects their breath.”

“Oh,” the second man sighed. “I thought you were... never mind.”

He slightly paled before he could finish his sentence, mostly turning green too.

Big Mac carefully placed the knife near her mouth and noticed that small puffs of steam were being blown against it, proving that she was still alive after fainting.

“That’s a relief,” the second man sighed, as Big Mac removed his knife and clicked it to close. “You should’ve been more careful!”

“I tried!” Big Mac groaned before handing the knocked out girl to his hands. “Here, Warrior, you take care of her instead.”

“Me?!” the second man exclaimed, responding to the name ‘Warrior.’ “But, I don’t know anythin’ ‘bout humans.”

“But you can take her back to base since you know the way back, Warrior,” Big Mac spoke. “I’ll keep doing a run ‘round here, okay?”

Warrior, the name of the second giant, paused for a moment before nodding his head.

“Okay, I’ll be careful.” Warrior nodded.

“Good luck, Warrior,” Big Mac spoke before leaving as Warrior went deeper into the woods.

Warrior was careful with the human girl in his arms, moving them a little and trying his best not to mess up or drop her to the ground.

Soon, Warrior appeared in front of a large house deep within the woods and entered inside, being extremely careful with the human girl in his arm.

When he entered inside, he stopped when he noticed Sunshine, with small band-aids on his right hand and Ten Cents standing next to him.

“Hmm, Warrior?” Ten Cents spoke, noticing Warrior by the door. “What are you doin’ here?”

“Just checkin’ in,” Warrior slightly panicked as he moved his arm up slightly to conceal the little girl from being seen. “Nothin’ wrong.”

But he did not cover her in time as they glanced down at his arms in confusion, seeing the human girl in them and unconscious.

He felt a little worried about their reaction to seeing the human girl in his arms, thinking they were about to attack him or hurt the human.

Warrior prepared himself for the worse as they stood up from their seats, getting ready to either do flight or fight.

Instead, Sunshine exclaimed, “You found her, too?!” looking at the unconscious human in his arms despite how short he was compared to him.

“Who did this to her?!” Ten Cents snapped, sounding a little angry.

Warrior looked confused and startled as they exclaimed after noticing her in his arms before walking over to calm Ten Cents.

“C-Calm down,” Warrior spoke, assuring the angered Ten Cents as he adjusted his arm. “I’ll explain everythin’ if you could get somethin’ for her.”

Sunshine went off to get a small blanket for her as Warrior handed the little girl to Ten Cents.

“My brother, Big Mac, thought that she was the Z-Stacks’ spy.” Warrior explained. “He frightened her too much and may have caused her to pass out.”

“So that’s what happened?” Ten Cents asked as Sunshine came with the blanket. “Well, if Big Mac comes here, I’ll give him a piece of my mind.”

“Don’t worry,” Warrior spoke. “It was an accident and a misunderstanding’. ‘Sides, how did Papyrus know that a human was still alive?”

Sunshine pursed his lips after coming back into the main room with a blanket that was her size as Ten Cents turned to him after placing Stephanie down on the counter.

“Papyrus knows this?” Ten Cents asked, before turning to Sunshine, noticing his expression. “Sunshine, is there somethin’ you did?”

Sunshine blushed sheepishly and explained, not looking at eye contact with Ten Cents or Warrior, “I, er, I accidentally slipped out some secrets to Papyrus, but he easily catches on ‘bout it.”

Ten Cents facepalmed himself as Warrior groaned, lifting an arm up and placed a hand on his temple.

“Who else did you accidentally spilled out?” Ten Cents asked.

“Just Papyrus, no one else,” Sunshine answered, slightly sighing as he glanced up at them. “Though, I am havin’ a bad feelin’ ‘bout what he is goin’ do to her?”

“Yeah,” Warrior nodded. “He could’ve harmed her with his excitement or kept her as a pet.”

Ten Cents’ hand clenched into a fist as Sunshine shuddered slightly to himself.

“Well, we have to be careful with him just in case he sees her,” Ten Cents spoke softly. “Including Alphys and the other scientists.”

Warrior shuddered softly to himself at the thoughts of the little girl in their possession.



“That wouldn’t be pretty.” Sunshine paled.

Ten Cents nodded before noticing some movement from the blanket, drawing his attention from the conversation to her.

“Well, it seems like she is awake now,” Ten Cents spoke as she sat up, looking groggy.

With Stephanie, Stephanie slowly wakes up from passing out from the angry giant, feeling a little shaken up from the encounter of one.

“Are you alright?” Stephanie recoiled when she heard the same voice she heard yesterday, glancing over and noticing that it was from Ten Cents.

She noticed Sunshine but noticed the second man with that angry giant behind Ten Cents, looking concerned.

She yelped and pulled the blanket she was in up to her chest, moving back a little as the second man did the same thing, except slightly.

“Oh, don’t worry about Warrior,” Sunshine assured her as he placed his hand on the man’s arm, who is named Warrior, as Warrior still looks worried. “He did nothin’ wrong.”

Stephanie calmed down slightly when Sunshine assured her but still would not trust Warrior after the other encounter with the other man.

“Sorry ‘bout Big Mac, though,” he softly mumbled as he continued looking sheepish. “He’s sometimes like that.”

“Big and gruff?” Ten Cents cockily asked.

Warrior paused after Ten Cents asked, thinking to himself about what Ten Cents asked.

“Almost like that,” Warrior nodded as Sunshine chuckled. “Except grumpier than Cranky or Duncan.”

Stephanie slowly moved the blanket down slightly, still feeling nervous about what else might happen.

“Anyway,” Ten Cents spoke, then remembering something. “What a minute, what were you doin’ close to Warrior and Big Mac?”

Nervous of getting them angry, Stephanie stammered as she shook with fear, “I-I was only watching. Nothing serious or anything! I-I don’t-”

“Wait a moment,” Ten Cents assured her, stopping her before she could continue stammering. “What do you mean you were ‘watching?’”

Stephanie’s cheeks blushed slightly and answered, stammering a little, “Uh, e-excuse me if I insult anyone, but my foster parents used to tell me everything about what giants, like you and your friends, would do to humans like us.”

“You mean like in storybooks?” Sunshine asked.

“Almost,” Stephanie sighed, placing a hand on the back of her neck. “Since he,” Stephanie mentioned over to Ten Cents. “And you,” Stephanie mentioned to Sunshine. “And an elder,” Stephanie continued.

“You mean old O.J?” Warrior asked. “He knows about this too?”

“Yes, they... were strangely nice to me than what I was expecting.” Stephanie sighed.

“Were you exceptin’ us to be like those giants in those books you’ve read?” Ten Cents asked.

Stephanie panicked and thought he sounded like he was angry.

“N-No, I thought you guys were like them,” Stephanie panicked. “I didn’t believe it after what happened between us. Besides, it’s been over twenty years since the last time I saw a giant.”

“Wait a moment,” Sunshine spoke. “‘Twenty years?’ You’ve been alone for twenty years?!”

Stephanie’s head went down a little, feeling worried that she might have spilled some history of her past and the location of where her house was.

“No, only for fourteen years,” Stephanie sighed as she rubbed her left arm. “They passed away when I was only six years old.”

That was enough to make them think of something else, even to save her home too.

Sunshine, Ten Cents, and Warrior worriedly glanced at each other after Stephanie answered Sunshine’s question, feeling worried about her.

However, Stephanie was thinking about her foster parents’ rules about being safe from being captured by giants, doubting that they could be lying.

“Hey,” Sunshine spoke, gently tugging Stephanie out of her thoughts. “Sorry for scarin’ you back there. I was only curious about ya.”

Stephanie slightly paused after Sunshine apologized to her and gently said, “It’s okay, it’s not your fault.”

Sunshine glanced back over at Stephanie, and smiled softly, responded, “Thank you.”

“I mean,” Stephanie spoke gently. “If I were to be your height and you in my height, I think I would’ve done the same thing, but it can get a little out of hand.”

Sunshine blushed a little as he moved his injured hand away, feeling shy.

“Anyway,” Ten Cents spoke as he glanced over at Stephanie. “We got to take you back home before-”

“Take who back home?” Warrior, Sunshine, Ten Cents, and Stephanie flinched from the sound of someone’s voice as they glanced over their shoulders to see who was behind them.

Standing at the entrance of the base, with some other giants.

Behind him was a different member, who Stephanie does not remember that belongs in the group.

He has fair skin, short jet-black hair, and steel-blue eye color, with a monocle on his left eye.

He wears a black suit with a white undershirt with buttons and black pants with shoes.

On the collar of his suit, he has both the American flag badge, the number four pin, and the name 'Top Hat' stitched in cursive in white thread.

On his head, he is wearing a black top hat.

"Uh, Top Hat," Sunshine nervously spoke before the gentleman noticed Stephanie on the counter, with the blanket up to her collarbone.

"What on earth is that?!" he exclaimed as he pointed a finger.

Stephanie flinched from the tone of his voice, scooting back a little.

"Calm down, Top Hat!" Warrior spoke, placing his hands on his shoulders, as a head craned over the side of Top Hat, the name of the gentleman. "We'll explain everythin'!"

Stephanie felt more overwhelmed as a figure took several steps over to her before stopping just six or seven feet away from her.

He has short gray hair, goggles on top of his head, and steel-blue eye color.

He wears a gray uniform with a white undershirt and black shoes, with the American flag on the left forearm.

"Who are you?" he asked, sounding curious about her.

“I, uh, I,” Stephanie stammered, shaking like a leaf in front of him.

“What on earth is going on?!” Stephanie jolted again when she heard a familiar elder’s voice, noticing it was O.J.

Right behind him was a taller member of the group, and he has short jet-black hair with a pencil-thin mustache and fair skin with soft hazelnut eye color.

He wears a pair of round glasses and a cap with an eagle on the top.

The member is also wearing a long blue jacket with ends that reach down to his ankles.

He has the number six on his right arm, his left arm has the American flag, and on the collar has his name stitched in white thread and in cursive.

Topping things off, he is also wearing a pair of black pants with two white stripes down the sides of his legs and dark brown shoes.

They both noticed Stephanie on the counter as the man with the glasses on asked, “Is that a human?”

“Yes, and be careful with her,” O.J warned. “You might-”

“Well, what is it doing in here?! Who knows when more will come?!” the gentleman screeched, mentioning over to her again, acting like an old woman had seen a mouse.

“You think she is a rat to you?!” Ten Cents snapped, baring his teeth.

“Well-” Top Hat was about to continue when Stephanie covered her ears and ducked her head down, curling slightly in fear from the conversation.

Muffledly, she could hear angry voices snapping at each other, mostly from others that could or could not be concerned for her.

It lasted for two or three painful minutes before feeling two different hands touching her sides as the fingers wrapped around her middle and lifted her from the counter and out of the blanket Warrior handed over to her.

“That’s enough!” a voice bellowed out from behind her, single-handedly silencing the entire group.

Stephanie curled up more in fear as she kept her head down, mostly with her ears covered.

“Stufferin’ stacks!” It was Warrior’s voice. “What happened to her?”

“I will explain everything if you all would answer this question,” the voice behind her spoke, sounding stern. “Who brought her here in the first place from her home?”

Silence went through the air for a moment before Big Mac’s voice spoke, answering, “Sir, I gave her to Warrior to come in here to take care of her after causin’ her to faint after our... encounter.”

“Wait a moment,” Top Hat spoke as Stephanie slowly removed her hands from her ears. “You caused her to faint?”

“I didn’t mean to!” Big Mac spoke, sounding gruffer. “I thought she was with the Z-Stacks!”

“Then she would be wearin’ black instead of blue!” Ten Cents snapped, causing Stephanie to cover her ears slightly.

“Settle down,” the voice behind her spoke. “Now that the group knows that there is a human living here, which is the one in my hands, she is now in great danger, even if stepping out.”

“So, that means,” Top Hat began before the man behind Stephanie said, sighing, “Yes, that means she has to stay in here until the coast is clear.”

Stephanie’s heart skipped a beat when he nodded, shaking like a leaf again at the thought of having to stay inside a giant’s base with a giant that does not seem to like her kind.

“Now, I have received news from Nikita about the human’s home,” the man continued, as Stephanie once again slowly removed her hands from her ears. “Unfortunately, someone must’ve found the home she has lived inside and destroyed it.”

Stephanie’s heart sank after hearing the news from him, her head still ducked down slightly.

“Oh, dear,” some members mumbled.

“Then, that means she is homeless now,” Ten Cents spoke.

“Indeed,” O.J nodded.

“But, wouldn’t it be too risky, Captain Star?” Sunshine spoke. “She’s only around eight or nine inches tall, and some giants we know could hurt her!”

“Yes, I know,” the voice nodded, who is named Captain Star. “But, it would be best if she stays here for the moment until we figure out what to do next.”

With that, Stephanie was placed back down on the counter, as she was still a little shaken up from being grabbed unexpectedly.

“Also,” Stephanie glanced up to see who picked her up but only looked surprised to see the figure. “Since Nikita also gave the news that Papyrus knows the secret about her, we have to take special precautions around him too.”

When Stephanie glances up at her holder, he has short gray hair slowly graying from age along with a beard, fair skin, and steel-blue eye color.

He wears a sailor’s cap with a blue jacket with a white undershirt with buttons and a black tie.

Topping things off, he is also wearing a pair of black pants and black shoes.

Everyone nodded their heads, and Stephanie glanced away from him, feeling guilty, scared, and alone that she had to stay inside a giant’s base.

“Now,” Captain Star spoke. “Everyone, go back to your work, and I’ll take care of her until the day ends. We’ll discuss more of this later.”

Everyone nodded their heads again, obeying the order Captain Star told them, and exited the base.

Sunshine, however, glanced over at Stephanie for a moment before leaving.

Once they left, Stephanie shakily sighed as she placed a hand against her chest, feeling it beating hard in her chest.

“Are you alright, ma’am?” Stephanie flinched again when she heard Captain Star’s voice, glancing back up at him.

She paused for a moment after he asked, before finally answering, responding, “No, not really.”

Captain Star paused for a moment after she honestly answered his question and asked, “Is it because you didn’t suspect that there are going to be more giants?”

Stephanie sheepishly nodded her head, blushing a little with sheepishness.

“Yes, my foster-father just told me that giants live outside the city,” Stephanie explained, as she pushed the blanket off of her body. “I didn’t know that there were going to be more than just a handful.”

Captain Star paused a little as Stephanie continued fretting, nervously biting the bottom of her lip and squirming a little, scratching her chest over her clothes.

“What am I going to do now?” Stephanie mumbled to herself softly. “There are going to be giants and giantess all over me, I’m going to be discovered and captured with no one else to help, and-”

“Calm down.” Stephanie went stiff like a rock when Captain Star’s fingers gently wrapped around her frame, shaking a little. “You’re going to stress yourself out and lose all your hair if you keep this up.”



Stephanie paused a little after Captain Star's hand was wrapped around her, stopping her from fretting, including scratching at her skin and glancing over at him with a slightly confused expression on her face.

"S-Sorry, sir," Stephanie apologized, glancing away from him as she moved her hands up to her forearms, gripping her sweater.

After she apologized, Captain Star removed his hand from around Stephanie, placing it next to her.

"Aside from what had happened earlier," Captain Star spoke, as Stephanie glanced back up at him, her hands still on her forearms, gripping her sweater's arms. "What is your name?"

Stephanie paused a little after Captain Star asked before answering, "Stephanie, Stephanie Nova Rose Allen is my name."

Captain Star smiled reassuringly and tipped his hat to Stephanie, responding, "My name is Captain Maverick Star, but I prefer being called 'Captain Star.'"

"Is that the name the giants were saying?" Stephanie asked, removing a hand from her forearm and mentioning her hand over the door.

"Yes," Captain Star nodded his head. "They are my crew."

A surprised expression appeared on Stephanie's face when he nodded, softly asking, "Th-They're your crew? All eight of them?!"

Captain Star nodded his head again after Stephanie exclaimed, before politely asking, "May I perhaps pick you up? I want to show you pictures of them."

Stephanie paused a little after Captain Star asked, shuddering slightly at the thought of being grabbed, remembering Big Mac's rough grip and Sunshine's curiosity that nearly gave her a heart attack.

But Captain Star was gentle to her, so Stephanie nodded her head but added, “Please be careful with me.”

Captain Star nodded his head again, and, being as careful as he could, he gently wrapped his fingers around Stephanie’s midsection of her body from underneath her armpits.

Her heart skipped a beat as she was lifted from the counter before being placed in Captain Star’s left hand, close to his chest for safety.

Stephanie felt nervous about being dropped to the ground after being picked up but forced her mind to cooperate from being scared, not wanting to hurt anyone’s feelings.

Once she was against his chest and in his hand, Captain Star walked into his office after opening a door with his free hand.

The office was massive and had a desk at the back, with many contracts on the walls from different companies, even ones that read ‘Knapford.’

Stephanie’s fears died down a little when she noticed the contracts on the walls, including photos of Ten Cents and others she had seen earlier.

Despite her curiosity about the room and the contracts, Stephanie still felt anxious about what trouble she had gotten herself into.

Captain Star placed Stephanie down on the desk and sat down on the chair, as Stephanie also sat down, feeling a little more anxious than before.

“Now,” Captain Star spoke, moving his hands closer to his body than close to Stephanie to make her feel trapped. “I’ll ask you some questions and let you know where you can sleep after that, okay?”

Stephanie was silent after Captain Star explained what he was going to do, feeling like she wanted to deny and try to escape from him and go back to her home where she was comfortable staying.

But, not wanting to make a giant angry or get herself trapped or killed, Stephanie only silently nodded her head and forced to make herself comfortable sitting on the desk.

After sitting down on the desk's surface, Captain Star asked the first question to her, "How long have you been on the Surface?"

Stephanie paused a little after Captain Star asked, thinking about the rules her foster parents had told her, but remembering the giant's feelings, she answered with slight hesitation and fear in her voice, "I've... been on the Surface since I was a baby."

Captain Star slowly nodded his head after she answered his question, then asked, "Who else was with you?"

Again, Stephanie hesitated for a moment after Captain Star asked, before answering with the same tone in her voice, "My foster parents... they died from a disease when I was six years old."

From his eyes, Stephanie could see a slight *change* in them, as if he perked a little from the answer she had given him.

"Do you remember what had happened to your birth parents?" Captain Star calmly asked, as there were *hints* of concern in his tone.

Why was he concerned for her?

"N-No, I don't," Stephanie answered. "They mysteriously died a long time ago when I was a baby. My foster parents kept telling me that a giant must have killed them during one of the attacks after I was born."

A pause came from Stephanie as she glanced away from Captain Star, thinking to herself about the little information her foster parents had given her.

"Although," Stephanie began thoughtfully. "They have never fully told me about who killed them. They just said that a giant did it, and that was it. No more conversations after that."

Captain Star's eyes narrowed a little after Stephanie explained to him, as Stephanie's anxiety came to her, thinking that she had insulted him by telling him about the blame her foster parents told her about what had happened to her parents.

But nothing happened as she waited for the next move from him.

"That *does* seem strange," Captain Star nodded in agreement as Stephanie's thoughts stopped. "Were your foster parents paranoid all the time?"

Stephanie did not respond after Captain Star asked, thinking to herself about everything they had said to her, even what they do to her when she makes a 'mistake.'

"...Yes?" Stephanie slowly answered, with a tone of uncertainty in her voice. "They have been on their toes all the time."

Stephanie moved her legs down into a criss-cross position and explained to Captain Star the confusion she had about them throughout the years living with them.

"It's always the same when I make a mistake," Stephanie explained to him as he listened. "I make a sound or do something productive, and they instantly go all bonkers on me as if I disturbed their peace."

After she finished, Captain Star thought to himself as Stephanie sat there, looking confused and slightly worried.

"I see," he nodded. "They sound like they are paranoid."

"Paranoid?" Stephanie repeated as she stood up to her feet. "My foster parents were paranoid?"

Captain Star nodded his head after Stephanie asked, explaining as he glanced away from her for a moment, "It happens to people who are not so lucky going to the Underground. Most of them go insane with being that paranoid, and others just go into hiding to get away."

Stephanie's thoughts about her foster parents came back to her, remembering times when they would go into her room and quietly scold her for doing something productive.

Even if she was only trying to get herself out of boredom from having to stay in her room.

She... felt like she was trapped in a cage.

A sudden shift from the chair caused Stephanie to flinch from the noise, seeing that Captain Star was standing up to his feet from sitting down.

"I'll have a conversation with the group after work," Captain Star explained to Stephanie as she listened. "Let me show you where you can sleep."

Stephanie nodded her head and allowed Captain Star to move a hand down to the desk she was standing on as she stepped into his palm.

Although nervous about being handheld the entire time, Stephanie had to *force* herself from being uncomfortable at the thought of it in her mind, just for the sake of it.

Once Stephanie was back in his hand, Captain Star walked into a different part of the office and showed a small, handmade bed with a blanket and a soft cushion.

"This is your bed." Captain Star explained. "When we find the door that leads you to the Underground, we'll part ways."

A startled and anxious jump came from Stephanie's heart after Captain Star explained, rethinking the line he had said.

'Find the door that leads you to the Underground?'

Is he... going to send Stephanie back with the humans?

Instead of asking Captain Star why taking her back and asking more questions, Stephanie only said, "Thank you, Captain."

Captain Star nodded his head after Stephanie thanked him and said, “You’re welcome. Let me or anyone else if something is troubling you.”

Stephanie nodded her head after Captain Star explained to her and watched him go back to his desk, sitting down and began writing papers and on the phone.

During that time, Stephanie thought to herself about her encounter with the giants, even the reactions to seeing her.

A bad feeling was in her stomach at the thought of that gentleman who discovered her first.

Maybe he dislikes her because of being a ‘vermin’ in the building?

So, she decided not to encounter him because of his reaction to seeing her on the counter.

But Stephanie had a plan set in mind for when nighttime comes.

Which is to escape from the problem she has gotten herself into.