

"Should I do this stealthy, or extremely obvious?" I said quietly to myself as I was sitting on a nearby rooftop, looking down at my target.

'The target' in this case was a building, or rather, Sunnie who was contained somewhere in this building. I have no idea what it is she does that causes her to end up in these situations. Maybe it's those huge tits that act like a beacon to idiots from all over to come and try to kidnap or molest her.

As usual, Dragon had pointed me in the general direction to her whereabouts. I swear that sick old fuck is getting some sort of kick from watching me save her over and over.

"I guess... extremely obvious would be the best way to teach people a lesson..." I sighed and stood up, rubbing my own neck a little.

I knew this company, Radiance. I'd done jobs for them before. So it was rather strange that they would get involved in my life by laying their hands on Sunnie. Of course it could be that they didn't know anything about her relationship to me. This was just a branch office here in Geron. I only dealt with the main HQ in Neius before, so I doubted any of the bosses here would actually know who I am.

I made my way down to ground level and walked through the entrance. I always preferred to use the designated entrances to buildings; it was usually too big of a hassle to make one of my own. I quickly scanned the area as I entered. There were a lot of innocent people walking around in the reception area. I noted two guards standing near one of the back doors. That would probably be my next destination.

"Welcome to Radiance, sir. How may I help you?" the young woman at the reception smiled at me as I walked up to her. She was a pretty girl, probably a little older than me... I would guess in her mid-twenties. Normally I would probably at least try to feign interest, but this was not one of these days.

"I'm looking for a girl, about 5'6" massive boobs and purple hair. Where is she?" It was worth a shot at least.

She looked at me confused, it was obvious she had no idea what I was talking about, "e-excuse me?"

I turned away from her and started walking towards the two guards. Poor fuckers, they're only trying to do their jobs. As I closed the distance between us I could see them tensing up, putting their hands on their guns.

"Sir? This is a restricted area, if you need help you should talk to the receptionist," one of them said.

"You have three seconds to get out of my way," I said as I locked eyes with both of them, one at a time. I could feel them squirm under my gaze as their primal fear moved in to take control.

Thank god they didn't run off screaming, instead they just shuffled slightly to the side unblocking my path towards the door. Screemers were always the worst, drawing unwanted attention. Making sure that the guards were no longer a threat as they continued backing away from me I felt the door knob, it was open.

As expected, I didn't find Sunnie behind the door, but a long hallway that continued around a corner. I started walking and heard the door slam shut behind me. Yeah, this was definitely going to be one of those days when just nothing turns out the way I want it to. Sadly it happened a lot faster than I was expecting it to.

Apparently someone had given this a lot of thought, and that idea that all this was just a coincidence that Radiance had snatched Sunnie proved to be dead wrong as the floor under my feet disappeared and I fell down some sort of tube.

A short ride later I was dumped down in a dark room. It wasn't very big, and it was lined with metal. The hole that had brought me here closed, robbing the place entirely of light. I felt my way around the room. The walls were solid and thick, all but one. Tapping it with my fingers I could hear that there was an empty space behind it. There was no door, but I was sure this was the exit.

I slammed my hand in to the wall, leaving a dented palm-print on it. Right, someone had definitely built this to hold. I estimated by the sound that the wall was several inches thick of solid metal. This was getting more and more annoying by the minute.

A few rapid punches to the metal wall and I managed to break through and light once more entered the small contained room. Actually having a hole allowed me to bend the metal out of the way and make my own exit. I was met with another hallway.

Rounding the corner, I stared right in to the barrels of probably a dozen semi-automatics. The men carrying them were pretty beefed up with security armor. I let out a sigh of frustration. I hated guns. While bullets weren't exactly lethal, unless they managed to hit me in the head I guess, they sure fucking hurt a lot.

"Fire!!" the squad-leader screamed out.

Dodging a bullet is pretty easy. You just have to see the direction it's fired from. Dodging a fucking hailstorm of bullets in a narrow hallway without getting hit once is more or less impossible. I could have just turned around to hide behind the corner, but that wouldn't exactly get me anywhere and I doubt that they would just up and leave.

They unloaded their guns at me. Although it didn't take more than a minute or two for them to be turned to wet stains against the walls and floor, they did manage to hit me at least half a dozen times. Most were through and through, but one managed to lodge itself in my hip.

"Fucking... cock..." I cursed as I leaned against the wall, digging my fingers in to my own flesh.

I managed to get a hold of the bullet and pulled it out. Flicking it across the hallway I ran my hands along the walls as I continued forward, wiping them clean of blood. My wounds were starting to close and I could feel the pain slowly fading. The hallway finally ended after a little while. Preparing for the worst I opened the door, only to be rather surprised on who waited for me on the other side.

"Chaz..?" I said as I saw my friend sitting behind a desk pointing a gun at me.

He seemed equally shocked as he quickly lowered his weapon, "W-Wren?"

"What the fuck are you doing here?" we said at the same time.

"Damn Wren... I'm sorry, I didn't know you were the target. Shit... that means it must be Sunnie they have holed up here," Chaz sighed as he took the clip out of his gun and put it back to his belt.

Chaz was probably my oldest friend, I would actually use that term about him. He was in the same business as me, and rather good at it as well. Assassins like us weren't exactly known to be all buddy-

buddy. Sure we could talk and be all friendly, until we stabbed each other in the back that is. But Chaz was different, he was more like an older brother type of guy that you could trust.

It had been quite a while since I saw him last, but he looked as plain as ever. Blonde ruffled hair and his trademark trench-coat. Like so many others in the world he favored guns. His were custom made, and it hurt like hell to be at the receiving end.

“Do you know where she is?” I asked him as he stood up.

“Third door on the left I think they said. You should watch out though, there’s a bunch of fully armed guards waiting for you.”

“Guns, right?” I sighed.

“Your favorite,” he winked.

“For the love of... Everyone uses fucking guns these days.”

Chaz laughed as he walked around the desk patting me on the shoulder, “everyone’s not like you Wren. And thank heavens for that.”

“Who hired you?”

“Branch manager. He’s a real asshole. Pays good though... And seeing you here I gather he’s looking for a quick promotion, and thought that taking you out apparently would get him what he wants.”

“Idiot.”

“I totally agree. When he hired me it was to ‘guard’ this part of the hallway from intruders. I was kinda curious why he also hired an entire legion of guards for this job. And then they brought in Sunnie. I never saw her myself she was completely covered in some sort of blanket. I would have told ‘em off if I knew.”

“Thanks Chaz.”

“You’re gonna make them pay hell for this, aren’t you?”

“Of course I am.”

“Right, beat me up then.”

I knew what he meant. He couldn’t exactly high-tail it and run off, it would ruin his reputation. It was an important thing in our world, without our rep we were nothing. If we had none, no one would hire us for any jobs.

“How long do you want to be down?”

“Preferably not more than a month?”

I thought about that for a few seconds, “how much is he paying you?”

“Thirteen mil.”

“Is a month enough?”

“Hey don’t cripple me for life, I have to pay the damn medical bills to you know. The hospitals here in Geron aren’t exactly cheap.”

“Fine.”

“Aaah... this brings back memories, doesn’t it?”

“Except you fought back last time,” I smirked. “Conscious or unconscious?”

“I would prefer unconscious, but I probably need to see my own ass out of here so...”

“Got it.”

I finished my business with Chaz quickly. When I left him his breathing was steady and he was still awake, just like I promised him. I felt a little bad about it really, and it made me even more eager to make sure that this branch manager got what he deserved.

Chaz had been right about the guards, but he had forgotten about the damn turrets. Humans don’t work that well as shields, but they are better than nothing. In the next hallway I counted to twenty-nine guards. It was ridiculous, and I can only assume that they were promised huge amount of money because none of them gave up and ran away. Either that, or they were just plain crazy. Perhaps I should send their families some money for this? Well, maybe... if I feel like it later.

Third door on the left, he said. Making sure the coast was clear I smashed the door in. Inside I saw Sunnie sitting on the floor, chained to the wall with handcuffs. She jumped a little as I entered, but soon perked up.

“Wren!” she exclaimed and smiled at me.

“You’re ok? Have they hurt you?” I asked as I made my way to her.

She shook her head as I bent the cuffs open so she could stand up, “you’re all covered in blood again. There’s a bunch of dead bodies outside, isn’t there?”

I nodded, “quite a few.”

A small sigh escaped her lips, “let’s go then...”

I took her hand and lead her outside. As we passed the dead guards I glanced back at her. She was threading carefully, making sure that she didn’t touch any of them. She was shaking a bit but she looked composed. I think it was mostly an act. Sure she wasn’t fond of the dead bodies and seeing their innards, but she was pretty used to it by now. I think she just wanted to play on the ‘vulnerable and innocent’ act.

And it always worked.

“You ok Sun?” I asked her.

She nodded a bit. “I... I’ll be fine.”

"I'll carry you," I said as I picked her up in my arms. In the corner of my eye I could see the small smile on her lips, a confirmation that her plan had worked.

We didn't encounter any more guards, and eventually ended up in a back alley. I put her down and looked over her body. She had been telling the truth about that at least, I saw no visible wounds, there were some bruising around her wrists but that was it. Some of the blood on me had rubbed off on her, I bet she wasn't happy about that.

"I'm sorry Sun."

"Huh? Why aren't you yelling at me for not being careful enough?"

"This one was kinda my fault, they were just using you as bait to lure me in."

"Oh..." she bit her lower lip as I could almost see the cogs turning in her head. "So... Hah! It wasn't my fault this time!!" she exclaimed with a quirky smile.

I couldn't help but laugh. She was very different from Krissie, but I could feel her persona chipping away at my defenses. She was Dragon's doing, I was sure of it. He was the one who had forced her upon me, and I was positive he had something sneaky in mind.

However when I looked down on her, I just thought that it in the end... that wouldn't really matter.