

Juno quickly hid around the corner, trying to keep herself as silent as possible in an attempt to keep Slaughter Family's goons from noticing her. She didn't exactly know if they even saw her, especially in the dead of night, but she figures it's better to be safe than sorry.

She knew she shouldn't have stayed up so late partying.

"Did you hear that?"

The woman stiffened.

"Huh? What are you talking about?"

She could hear her heart in her chest.

"I thought I heard some rustling or something.."

She could feel even her most *minute* breaths.

Okay. Don't panic. This was *fine!* She just needs to—

Who the fuck is that?

There was a tall person staring at her from further within the alley.

Juno couldn't see much of them from the dark alley.

Except for their piercing red eyes.

Like a predator about to pounce.

Juno, as the prey, froze.

...

But the stranger didn't pounce.

Instead, their gaze locked onto the alley's intersection where they could hear the Slaughter Family's members talking from.

The stranger paused for a moment.

Before casually walking forward, deliberately making their footsteps louder.

Juno, as quietly as possible, crouched down in a somewhat pathetic attempt to hide behind a trash can.

She closed her eyes tightly, on the off chance it'd help the stranger ignore her.

The footsteps pass her.

Oh thank fuck.

“You two.”

...

So that's what the stranger sounded like.

A woman's voice, slightly on the lower end.

A tad flat but a noticeable rasp to it.

And they sounded annoyed.

“Huh? Who the fuck are—”

There was a scream.

A smashing sound of some kind.

“Are you so low as to hurt a civilian?”

A yelp.

Another scream.

What the fuck was happening?!

Juno hesitantly opened her eyes and, as quietly and cautiously as possible, peaked her head around the corner of the alley way.

Holy shit.

Holy fucking shit.

The Slaughter Family members' bodies were unmoving, blood leaking out of their heads. The stranger was facing towards the bodies, away from Juno, and didn't seem to have a scratch on them — unless the blood that splattered to their person counted as a “scratch” somehow. Juno surmised that, whoever this person was, they seemed to have thrown the other two against the alley wall.

Speaking of, the person in question had dark-ish skin and seemed to be a very tall woman — without any addition elevation, *fuck* — with long brown to dyed purple hair that was tied into a braid. And, she had bright red downturned eyes that were—

Looking right at her.

Fuck.

Juno flinched and scrambled to stand up so she could run away, until she felt a hand on her shoulder.

She froze.

“You okay?”

Oh.

That was a lot more expressive and gentle than before.

Juno turned to look at the other, before looking up to meet the other's gaze. The brunette stranger was frowning a bit after seeing her face.

???

“H-Huh?”

“Those two were bothering you, right?” The taller woman — god she was so tall — tilted her head like a confused puppy. After a moment of awkward silence, she sighed while kneeling to Juno’s level, resting her hands on her knees before looking at her again. “And don’t worry,” The brunette smiled brightly, as if the scene behind her wasn’t off putting at the very least, “I can walk you home if you want”

“...Why would you do that?”

The stranger only blinked in confusion for a brief moment before she started laughing heartily. She then stood up and cleaned her hands from the blood of the Slaughter Family with her coat.

“To protect you of course! Who better than a knight to aid a beautiful lady?” The woman smiled brightly as she held out a hand to the other.

Juno flushed at that, turning away before clearing her throat. She then glanced at the tall stranger for a moment before smiling ever so slightly.

“And who, may I ask, is this gallant knight?” She accepted the other’s hand — oh she was nice and warm — before giggling under her breath.

The red-eyed woman grinned, laughing a little before pulling her up with surprising force, as if she weighed nothing.

Juno yelped.

Fuck.

“Most people call me Sam, sunshine”

Was she doing this on purpose?

“...Juno. Pleasure to meet you, Sam.”

“The pleasure’s all mine!” The brunette laughed before patting Juno’s shoulder casually. “So, lead the way! I’ll protect ya, don’t worry!”

Juno simply nodded before walking out of the alley — she was not making the same mistake twice in one night. Plus, if this “Sam” tries anything, it’s easier to run in the street than in a narrow alley.

Surprisingly, Sam *didn’t* try anything the whole time. The most intrusive thing she did was make casual conversation with her, asking odd, but ultimately unimportant questions — “Do you have a favorite bird?” “What species is it?” “I’ve always been partial to ravens, but I like doves too.” — all while not forcing Juno to answer.

It was almost weird how casual she was.

Juno occasionally wondered if she should ask about the Slaughter Family members the other took care of, but before she could decide, the two of them were standing right by her place.

“Oo! This place looks sick! This is your place, sunshine?”

“A-Ah... um,” She wasn’t sure whether or not she should trust Sam. On one hand, she didn’t do anything to her, but on the other hand, she also didn’t know much about the brunette aside from superficial things. “W—”

“Eh, doesn’t matter much to me I suppose” The other butted in before Juno could say anything, all while flashing her bright smile again, “If you want me to leave you here, I can do that!”

Juno cleared her throat, “Yes. I’d like that.”

“Cool then” Sam waved at the ravenette, “See you!” Before turning around.

Juno waved back, smiling solemnly.

Why did something feel wrong?

A breeze made the brunette’s jacket and braid flutter as she walked away.

“Hey!” The lady to the other before she could stop herself.

The red-eyed woman turned around again, looking mildly confused at the call back.

“How...” Juno swallowed, gripping her dress tightly before asking, “How can I see you again?”

Sam didn’t answer for a moment, but her pupils dilated from surprise before she smiled again — god that smile was pretty — before answering:

“If you wish to look for me, your best bet will be at the Hive’s bar on Horizon Drive. You can ask Ms. Magnolia to call for me if you wish, sunshine.” Sam winked while saying the nickname before giggling softly, mostly to herself, before she smiled at her again, “Let’s hope we meet again, eh?”

Juno couldn’t help but smile at her, giggling too, as if Sam’s cheery side was infectious, “Yes, let’s meet again, my gallant knight”