

Nothing. No gunshot. No scream. Vinyl opened her eyes slowly, only to see a disgruntled Iceberg fiddling with the revolver in his FAED. She looked to Fluttershy, who had her eyes shut and she was shaking in panic. Relief washed over Vinyl and she sighed. Her relief was replaced with sheer pain and Iceberg pulled the trigger back on the revolver, sending a bullet into Vinyl's gut. Vinyl gagged and blood dripped out of her mouth.

"Damn...I guess my shot was off." Iceberg shrugged. "You'll bleed out in a few minutes anyway; ta-ta, Mizz Scratch." Iceberg turned to the fireplace crackling behind him and grabbed a smoldering log with his FAED. He chuckled and tossed it at the wall, causing the wall to catch on fire almost instantaneously. Iceberg was about to leave, when something yellow tackled him to the floor.

"NOPONY HURTS MY FRIENDS!!" screamed Fluttershy, slamming her hooves down upon his face, knocking a few teeth loose. Iceberg punched Fluttershy in the stomach and threw her off of him.

"Looks like we've got ourselves a fighter!" he grunted, getting up. Fluttershy glared angrily at Iceberg, glancing over to Vinyl who was slowly slipping away with each second that passed. Fluttershy leaped at Iceberg, and grabbed hold of the FAED and sinking her teeth into his forearm. Iceberg began to pummel Fluttershy's ribcage as the pegasus attempted to slip the FAED off of his hoof. With a snap the FAED dropped to the floor, and Iceberg slammed Fluttershy down. "Ged offa me you crazy bitch!" he shouted, lifting his hoof over Fluttershy's head. As a last ditch effort, Vinyl managed to tear away from the chair, and threw herself at Iceberg, causing enough of a distraction to allow Fluttershy to get the FAED on. Iceberg threw Vinyl off of him and kneed her in the gut. She gasped and lost consciousness, her body going limp. Fluttershy looked to the ragdoll that was Vinyl Scratch, and her eyes lit up with a flame of rage.

"NOPONY," she screeched, gripping a crowbar that was sat next to the desk in her FAED. "HURTS," she advanced toward Iceberg. "MY FRIENDS!" she swung the end of the crowbar at Iceberg's head, barely missing by an inch. Iceberg ducked under the swing, and kicked Fluttershy in the chest. Fluttershy absorbed the hit, and swung again making contact with the stallion's ribs. Iceberg groaned in pain and fell to his knees. "DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT!?" Fluttershy swung again, hitting her opponent in the side of the jaw. He fell to the floor, and Fluttershy dropped the crowbar, swapping it out for a fire poker from the fireplace. She stood over the blue pony, staring down at him savagely. With a roar of anger she sank the sharp end of the weapon into his chest. Iceberg wailed in pain, and Fluttershy picked the crowbar back up. Without a second thought, she began to swing it at his head, crushing his skull and turning his brain into jelly. Fluttershy continued to swing relentlessly until Iceberg's head was nothing but a mass of red mush. Blood splattered her arms, face, and chest, and she dropped to her knees, breathing heavily. She took the FAED off, and began to cry, oblivious to the raging fire that was swallowing the room. She had just taken the life of somepony else. As evil as he had been, he still didn't deserve to die. She looked at the incapacitated Vinyl, and changed her mind instantly. He did deserve to die! He hurt her friend! He tried to *kill* her friend! Fluttershy moved to Vinyl, and checked for a pulse. It was there, but barely. Fluttershy took the cloth that had been used to tie her to the chair, and wrapped it tightly around Vinyl's chest, putting light pressure. She hoisted the unicorn onto her back, wincing as the pony bumped her broken wing.

They needed to get out before they were fried alive, or they suffocated due to the smoke. She turned and charged through the wooden door behind her, emerging into a large tunnel. The tunnel began to flood with smoke almost right away. Fluttershy's eyes began to water as she dashed down the tunnel looking for any way out. A light at the far end of the tunnel to her left caught the pegasus' eye, and she took off. Vinyl stirred wearily on Fluttershy's back, and Fluttershy whispered to the unicorn "It's okay Vinyl...We're going to be out of here soon...I'll get you help....You'll be safe....You'll be fine...Don't worry....Don't be scared...". Unfortunately, Fluttershy was terrified. She knew Vinyl wouldn't last long, the shuddering of each of the unicorn's breaths told her this clearly. The light got sharper, and the sound of talking met Fluttershy's ears, and she picked up speed. Fluttershy emerged from the tunnel to find herself in the middle of Manehattan. It was late afternoon, and several groups of armed buffalo and ponies were marching down the streets. Manehattan had been turned into a giant militaristic facility. Fluttershy noticed an open building a few feet away from the exit of the tunnel, she realised to make it she'd have to run and running would hurt, but she'd suffer the pain for the well-being of her companion. She increased her speed to avoid any chance of being seen. The pony quickly ducked into the building, finding herself in what appeared to be the lobby of some kind of hotel or something. Vinyl groaned weakly, and Fluttershy set her down on a nearby sofa. Fluttershy sat down next to her, and sighed. She looked down at her bloodstained hooves, and sobbed. She thought back to the mangled corpse of Iceberg, and how she had beaten his face in until it was unrecognizable. She continued to stare at her hooves, bleary eyed, and breathing heavily. The full realization of what she had done was coming to her now, and it made her want to throw up. She tried to wipe the blood off onto the couch, but it had dried enough to cling to her hoof like glue. She punched the fabric of the sofa angrily, and wailed loudly. Her cries echoed through the abandoned building like the ghostly moans of a thousand ghosts. Vinyl sat up, and weakly threw her arm around Fluttershy, hugging her half-heartedly.

"It'll....be alright...Fluttershy." She mumbled. Fluttershy turned her head to Vinyl, and smiled. The door flew open, and an armed Buffalo stood in the doorway.

"INTRUDERS!" he shouted, raising the gun and aiming it at Vinyl and Fluttershy. Vinyl stood up instinctively, and stepped in front of Fluttershy. She began to feel lightheaded as she stood, and nearly fell backwards.

"Run." She said over her shoulder to Fluttershy. The pegasus jumped up, and turned to flee, but looked back at Vinyl. The unicorn was wobbling back and forth, and looked as if she was going to pass out any second. Fluttershy looked around, and grabbed a nearby lamp in her mouth.

"No!" She shouted, galloping forward and smashing the lamp over the buffalo's head, knocking him to the floor. He attempted to get back up, but was met with an assault of hits from Fluttershy, who was slamming the heavy end of the lamp against the back of the buffalo's head. It took a while, but he finally went unconscious. Fluttershy stood over the limp form of the Buffalo, and huffed angrily, swinging the lamp back once more and slamming it against the back of his skull. It thumped dully, and she dropped the object to the floor, and grabbed the buffalo's FAED. A small handgun hung off of a holster around his waist, and Fluttershy gripped the firearm in her FAED. turning to Vinyl. Vinyl was sat on the floor, breathing heavily and gripping her chest. "Can you walk?" Fluttershy asked, walking to the unicorn's side. Vinyl nodded, and shakily stood up.

“Are you sure...?” Fluttershy said, wrapping her arm around Vinyl, and holding her steady. Vinyl nodded her head again.

“Yeah..Yeah...Let’s just..Get out of here.” Vinyl said, walking slowly towards the door.

“Wait!” Fluttershy said, stepping in front of Vinyl. “Stay behind me...It’s my turn to protect *YOU*.” Fluttershy smiled, and Vinyl raised an eyebrow and eyed the pistol in Fluttershy’s FAED. Vinyl smiled, and nodded. Fluttershy peeked her head out of the doorway, and spotted a few patrolling buffalo coming towards them.