

Anna stood in the dark, eerie cave of Vault 101's entrance. She had typed in the new password to the door's control panel and was watching as the giant metal door slid open once again. Her Pip-Boy, which she was wearing once again too, was tuned in to the emergency broadcast coming from the vault. It was a recorded message on loop, with Amata claiming that the vault had gone into complete chaos.

Colonel Autumn was going to follow Anna, in hopes of 're-negotiating' the offer the Enclave had given the vault. When the door had finally rolled to the side, Anna walked in, cautiously. She was mortified to see how cluttered and messy the vault was, and cringed when she saw the body of a dead dweller.

"What happened down here?" she whispered. "Looks like a bomb has actually hit the vault."

"And this is only the main entrance room." Colonel Autumn stated, "I hate to think what the rest of it looks like."

"Well it can't be any worse than the wasteland..."

"HEY!" Anna, Colonel Autumn and his two Enclave guards turned to look at the door that lead further into the vault. It was open, and a security guard stood there with his gun aimed at the Colonel.

"Stop right there! I don't know how you got in here, but.. Hold on.." he lowered his weapon when he saw Anna.

"Officer Gomez?" Anna said.

“I..it’s you! I hardly recognized you with all the dust grime from out there.” Officer Gomez took a glance at the vault door.

“Guess that explains how you got that door open. You’ve got more experience with it than most everypony down here combined.” He sighed as he looked around the room, “I guess you can see how bad things are down here. The rest of the vault is worse though.”

“What happened?” Anna asked.

“Everything went crazy, is what happened. Your dad opened that door, bugs started attacking, and ponies started going crazy. When the smoke cleared, there were a lot of casualties and not many answers. Didn’t help that our doctor had just left, either.”

“Yeah, James screwed up all our lives that day, didn’t he?” Anna said.

“To tell the truth, I don’t really blame him for all that. I don’t know why he left, but I do know he’d never intend for all that to happen. But when the smoke cleared, other ponies started thinking about opening the vault permanently. And that didn’t go down well with the Overseer. He’s been coming down hard on them, and that’s where it stands now. At least, until you walked in here.” He looked at the Enclave soldiers and Colonel Autumn. “Who’re your friends?”

“Oh! Uh..”

“We’re the United States government. We’re here to negotiate an offer with the vault’s Overseer.” Colonel Autumn said.

Officer Gomez looked shocked. “The..the United States government? I’m surprised you still exist!” he looked at Anna. “You’re friends with the government?”

Anna nodded her head. “I think they may be able to help the vault’s problems...in exchange for some things they need.” She gave an awkward smile.

“Well, I should really put you all under arrest and take you in to the Overseer, but I don’t think that would work.”

“Why not? It’s the Overseer we want to see.” Anna stated.

“I can’t put the government under arrest! That’s... ironic.”  
“Then at least put me under arrest.” Anna said, “It would make complete sense to.”

“I don’t even know whether to try, but if you want me to, then I will.” He walked over to Anna. “Are you sure?”

“I’m sure. Cuff me.” She held out her hoof for Gomez to put the hoof-cuffs on. He put them around her legs, and clicked them locked. Anna looked at her adopted dad, “Just making us even.” She smiled. Officer Gomez stood up and looked at the Colonel.

“He’s been arrested before?” he asked.

“Yeah, but you won’t understand.” Officer Gomez looked at Anna. “Wasteland reasons.”

Gomez looked at the Enclave soldiers. "Soo, what am I doing with them lot?"

"I want you, Officer, to take us to your Overseer. However, I want you to leave Officer Autumn here outside of his office. We have a plan you see."

Officer Gomez nodded his head. "Wait, wait, wait. *Officer Autumn?*" He looked at Anna. "You weren't a security guard, nor is your surname Autumn. Why-"

"Because I'm part of the United States military, just like Colonel Autumn and his ponies here." Anna said.

"Colonel *Autumn?*"

"Yeah. The good Colonel adopted me."

"What? What of your dad, what of James?"

"He died."

"Oh my god! Wait, United States military? I thought it was the government?"

"Same thing."

Officer Gomez stood confused.

"You know what? I've had enough. Let me take you to the Overseer."

“Remember, I need to be left outside. And hidden, if possible”

“What? There’s security everywhere! How am I meant to keep you hidden?” he sighed. “I give up, let’s just go.”

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Officer Gomez knocked on the Overseer’s office door. He could hear arguing between the Overseer and Amata.

“Sir, we have some rather important visitors.”

“What could be more important than sorting this mess out?” the Overseer snapped.

“Um, the Government?”

Colonel Autumn and his two guards walked into the office. The Overseer and Amata turned around and stared at the visitors.

“How did you get in here?” The Overseer asked, “The door is sealed closed!”

Colonel Autumn ignored the Overseer’s question, and instantly started asking his own.

“I assume you’re in charge of this vault?”

“Yes I am. Who are you? And more importantly HOW did you get IN HERE?”

“I am Colonel Autumn. By the authority of the President, this vault is now under United States government control.”

“You can’t just walk in here and claim this vault as your own! And how do I know you’re the government? From the message I received, you don’t know the password to the vault!”

Amata looked at her father. “Message? What message?”

“The message offering protection and communications with the United States government in exchange for access to the vault’s databanks. I ask that you immediately hand over the materials to do so.”

“You’re the Enclave?” the Overseer asked.

“I repeat, sir, that you are hereby instructed to immediately hand over all materials related to the vault.”

“That doesn’t answer my question.”

“Furthermore, you are to assist Enclave officers in re-assuming control of the administration and operation of this vault at once.”

“Colonel, I assure you that I have everything under control! I don’t need your help, nor will I let you have access to the databanks. That is for Overseer’s eyes only, and the only Overseer here is me!” the Overseer was getting madder with the Colonel.

“Sir, this is the last time I am going to repeat myself. Stand down at once, and turn over control of this vault.”

“NO!”

The Overseer and Colonel Autumn both pulled their 10mm pistols out at the same time, and aimed at each other.

“Daddy!” Amata stood in shock. She looked at Colonel Autumn  
“Just. How did you get in here?”

“Oh.” Amata’s and the Overseer’s attention was drawn over to the office door. “Let’s just say they have contacts.”

The Overseer narrowed his eyes. “You.”

“Anna!” Amata jumped over to her old friend. “You heard the broadcast!”

“What broadcast?” the Overseer asked. “What. Are. You. DOING BACK HERE?”

Officer Gomez poked his head around the door. “Don’t worry sir, I’ve got her under arrest.”

“YOU SHOULD HAVE SHOT HER ON SIGHT.”

Colonel Autumn lowered his gun, and slapped the Overseer. “QUIET!” he shouted.

“Daddy!” Amata ran over to her dad. Everypony else in the room stood quiet.

Anna walked over to the Colonel. “Déjà vu much?” she said.

“Apart from that last bit.” He replied.

Amata held her father as he rubbed the area of his face that the Colonel smacked. “Daddy are you all right?” she looked up at Colonel Autumn, “What was that for?!”

“I suggest you comply immediately, Alphonse, in order to prevent any more incidents. Are we clear?” Anna smirked. “Anna, what are you doing with these...these brutes!?” Amata shouted. The Overseer got up.

“Fine.” He snarled.

“Then you will immediately hand over all materials related to this vault, and aid us in making it operational at once.”

“So much déjà vu.” Anna said.

“Anna!” Amata shouted. Anna looked at Amata.

“What?” she said.

“What are you doing?” Amata asked.

“My job.” Anna replied.

“You’re not evil! Why are you doing this?” Amata finally noticed the change her old friend. “The wasteland. It’s changed you.”

“It’s harsh out there Amata. I’ve just blended in.”

“How many ponies have you killed?” Amata looked at her friend. Anna looked away, lowered her ears and tears formed in her eyes.



“Oh my god.” Amata squeaked. “I’m sorry Anna, but I can’t be friends with a murderer.” She sighed. “Just do what you’re here to do and get out, I don’t want to see you again.”

Anna watched as her foalhood best friend left. Tears started to fall down her face. Colonel Autumn walked up to her.

“Be strong Anna. This isn’t you anymore. You don’t need her, you’ve got the Enclave. Those ponies you’ve killed? It was for America.”

Anna looked at her dad. “You’re right sir, I don’t need the Vault anymore.” She started to leave the office.

“Where are you going?” the Colonel asked.

“To the reactor level. Like I said, I don’t need this place anymore.”

“You’re planning to blow it up?! Think of the plan!”

Anna sharply turned around. “And just what can we do? The place is in utter chaos!”

“That’s what we’re here for! The Enclave are here to help Vault 101. If you don’t want to help, then leave.”

Colonel Autumn turned away from Anna and went over to the Overseer. Anna however, felt terrible. She felt like she was suddenly a traitor to the US Government. A traitor to the Enclave, and worst of all, a traitor to her dad. She couldn’t go

back to help her dad, but she didn't want to leave either. She took one last glance at her dad before she left the Overseer's office.

As she walked out of the room, she caught Amata in the corner of her eye. She trotted to catch up with her.

"Amata, wait!" Amata ignored Anna's call, "I'm sorry. I'm sorry that I've killed so many, but it's the only way to survive out there."

"No. You're not sorry, I can tell." Amata said, "You never avoid conflict. Remember the day of the G.O.A.T, when you had a fight with Butch? You could've avoided that, but no, you went in and had a fight. I know it was for me, but there are peaceful ways to solve things." She sighed. "I heard your argument with the Colonel." Anna's spirits lowered once again. "And you're right. You don't need us, you don't need the vault, and with your reckless nature the only way to solve it is to get rid of it."

"I didn't mean it! I don't want to blow up the vault, the Enclave need it. We can make everything right again." Anna argued.

"Then why? Why did you say that you wanted to blow the vault up? It isn't any use then!"

"I..I wasn't thinking. Coming back here, it's brought back memories. Like the day I had to leave. What your dad did to Jonas, what he did to you, and what he would've done to me. I was angry, Amata, and the only solution I could think of was to blow up the vault."

“So what are you going to do instead? Me and my dad have been arguing ever since you left on what to do about the vault.”

“Arguing? What about?”

“The original goal of this vault was to remain closed, and so my father wanted to continue that. But I found out that the vault had been opened before, and that we were brought up believing that the vault could never open. My father thinks it is way too dangerous out there, and so he wanted to protect us by saying that the door can’t open. When you and your father left, I found those things that said the vault had been opened before, and now the vault has been split in two; my father, and the rebels.”

“I get that your father wants to keep the vault closed, but what exactly do you want to do?”

“We want to open the vault. But not to live out in the wastes, just to trade and have contact with the outside world, you know? Have the vault as a home, but also have access to outside.”

“And your dad can’t be persuaded?”

“He’s strict. Like I said, he’s gone mad with power to do what he can to keep that door closed. You coming back has only made it worse, but I thought you could make it better. With experience of the wasteland, you would be able to decide what’s best.”

“It IS dangerous out there Amata. It’s only my reckless nature that’s allowed me to survive out there. You will need to kill ponies, and you have to be prepared for everything.”

“So you’re saying that my father is right?”

“In a way, yes. But as the Enclave are here, we can help you. However, your dad may be a problem. With the way the Enclave work, I wouldn’t be surprised if Colonel Autumn has already killed him.”

“WHAT?! Daddy!” Amata ran past Anna back to the Overseer’s Office. Anna followed in pursuit, and when they arrived in the office again, Anna was right, and the Overseer had been killed.

“OH MY GOD, what have you done?” Amata screamed.

Colonel Autumn turned to look at the door where Amata and Anna stood. “Ah, Officer, I thought you had left.” Colonel Autumn had his gun out, aimed at Amata.

Anna put her hoof in front of Amata. “Don’t. Shoot. Amata.”

Colonel Autumn looked confused, “I wasn’t going to.”

“YOU DIDN’T HAVE TO KILL MY FATHER!” Amata shouted.

The Colonel looked at the two mares. “But I might yet.”

Anna walked over to him, “Colonel, listen. Me and Amata have been talking, and I think you might want to hear this.” Anna looked at Amata. “But Amata, I think you have to calm down first.”

“How can I?! You’ve killed my dad!” she shouted.

“Amata. Deal with it. It’s how things have to be in this world.” Anna replied.

“What is it?” the Colonel said.

“Amata said she wants to open the vault. For trading. She wants to use 101 as a home basically, and still have contacts to the outside.” Anna said.

“Very good. That’s exactly what we want to do.” The Colonel replied.

Anna turned to look at Amata, who was crying on the couch. “See? Sorted.” She smiled.

“Killing my dad hasn’t helped!” she wailed.

“He would’ve said no.” Anna said, unamused by Amata’s antics. She turned back to Colonel Autumn. “Who’s Overseer now?” she asked.

“One of our officers will be. Right now, other Enclave soldiers are working to tidy the place up. Soon enough the vault will be in the condition it used to be in, and then we can use it as a hotel of sorts.”

“I like this idea.” Anna said.

“We have a few problems though.” The Colonel said.

“And what are they?” Anna asked.

“For starters, the other vault dwellers are unaware of what is going on. I need your friend to tell them that everything is fine.”

Anna nodded. “I see. What else?”

“The other issue is the area outside of Vault 101. Due to the detonation of the atomic warhead that was in the nearby settlement, the air outside is incredibly radioactive.” The Colonel looked down at Anna. She cringed.

“Oops.”

Amata got up. “Then there’s really no point is there? If we can’t go outside, what’s the point of opening the vault?”

“The Enclave will ensure to make it safer. Somehow.” Colonel Autumn said.

“You know, that’s the first time I’ve ever heard you question yourself.” Anna said. “You’re just not your normal self lately sir. Is something wrong?”

The Colonel sighed.

“You’re tired, Colonel. We haven’t slept in days, we should probably get some rest.” Anna turned to Amata. “Amata? Can you oversee that the vault gets better?”

“I guess.” She said. “But there is one thing I ask of you.”

Anna looked surprised. “What’s that?”

“My... my father is dead. What’s more, one of your friends is going to be Overseer, and, well, it’s all so sudden.”

“It’s the way these things go ‘mata. I need you to do the right thing for the vault.”

“I’ll try to. We can open up limited trade with the Enclave and nearby settlements. We can see the world we’ve been missing. But it’s still important that I protect the Vault, and keep the ponies within it safe from the dangers of the Wasteland. Even when those dangers have seemingly helped us.” She sighed. “And that makes the rest of this even harder.”

“Wait.” Anna said. “You’re not-“

Amata looked at Anna. “You saved us. But that doesn’t change the fact that you killed one of us to do it, and I can’t let that sort of thing stand here. I guess it’s a bit familiar, for you at least Anna. You’ve already been forced out of the Vault once before. At least now you know what’s out there.” Amata turned away. “I’m sorry. You’re a hero... and you and your Colonel have to leave.”

Anna’s ears drooped. “I understand.”

In silence, the three made their way to the exit. Anna and Amata hugged for the last time.

Just before the Vault door sealed closed after them, Amata said something to Anna.

“Anna?”

Anna turned her head to look at Amata.

“Happy Birthday.”

And with that, the door slid closed.