

A Moment of Shared Vulnerability

**[Amphibia] [Speaker is Grime] [Listener is Sasha] [Crying] [Comfort]
[Back Rubs] [Platonic]**

Synopsis:

You are Sasha Waybright, newly defeated, humiliated, and unconscious from your fall from Toad Tower. Thankfully, Grime rescued you in time and has now retreated into the vast forest with you in his arms. While encouraging you to fight for your life, Grime desperately tries to fight his own tears...

SFX: Door opens

GRIME

(to Percy and Braddock)

Still no change?

...

(sighs)

Leave us.

SFX: Percy and Braddock's footsteps recede before the door shuts. Grime then takes a seat near Sasha.

GRIME

You know, I'm very disappointed in you, Sasha. I thought you were a better warrior than that. You fought very valiantly against your friend, but now you seem to have given up on even life itself. What about that duel changed you? The Sasha I know would never buckle or break, not even when she was kept in a prison cell for a good month or so.

(chuckles back on the memory)

You'd just annoy me day to day as if you owned the place.

(sighs)

So why give up now? Why let your friend break you like this? I know you're a fighter, Sasha, so fight! Fight for your life! Fight for your very existence! You can't let defeat overtake you! Not like this! I'm defeated already, yet I still breathe. I'm sure Newtopia will brand me a traitor any day now for abandoning my post, but none of that – not even the valley – will ever matter more than seeing your eyes open again. I'd give anything for you to wake up. I'd even give my own life for yours. That's how much you mean to me...

(becoming verklempt)

...my dear friend...My...only friend...

SFX: Grime begins to weep as he holds Sasha close.

GRIME

(choked-up voice)

I...I had no one. No buddy to trade lighthearted japes with...No confidant to share my secrets with...I didn't realize just...how terribly lonely I was before you showed up...

(sniffles)

I lived a very sad life...All I ever grew up knowing was fighting and harshness. No one ever looked out for me. I could only depend on myself. I never knew what it was like to have a friend until...

(sobs)

You are a light in the darkness of my existence, Sasha. Don't go out altogether. Don't leave me. Please...Please...

SFX: Grime continues crying for about a minute until he gasps at noticing Sasha waking up.

GRIME

(tearfully)

Sasha?! You're all right!

...

Well, of course I'm crying! I thought I was going to lose you!

(steels himself)

So don't go blabbering about it or I'll...I'll...

...

(deflated)

Okay, I didn't think that far. Just don't go telling everyone about it. I have my pride, you know.

SFX: Grime sniffles as he wipes the remaining tears in his eyes.

GRIME

(calmly)

We're in an abandoned windmill on the outskirts of a nearby town. It's deep in the forest. We'll be away from prying eyes.

...

(sighs)

Toad Tower still stands...but it's very damaged. Besides, how can we go back now? We've lost control of the valley and Newtopia will surely put a bounty on our heads for abandoning our post. Well, mainly mine because you're a strange creature from another world with no social standing here.

...

Oh, no, you don't! You can train all you want when you're well. But for now, you need to rest up.

(emphasizing)

Captain's. Orders.

...

Good girl. Now, do you want tea or water?

...

(surprised by her surly answer)

Oh-kay, then. Perhaps this will cheer you up.

SFX: Polaroid picture rustles

GRIME

It fell out of your pocket as I carried you here. I know one of your friends is a sore subject for you right now, but I thought seeing the other one would brighten your spirits.

...

(concerned)

Sasha?

SFX: Hay rustles

GRIME

Oh, Sasha, I'm sorry! I didn't mean to upset you. I'm just very new to this whole comforting thing.

...

(sighs)

All right, Sasha. I'll leave you alone.

SFX: Grime takes a few steps away from Sasha before he stops.

GRIME

Yes?

...

Anything you ask.

...

(warmly)

All right. I'll rub your back.

SFX: Grime walks towards Sasha and begins rubbing her back

GRIME

Look, if you won't tell anyone I cried, then I'll give you all the back rubs you want. Deal?

...

(chuckles)

It's good to hear your laugh again, Sasha...however small it may be.

SFX: Grime continues rubbing her back for a few minutes before the video fades out...