

Whisper (Chapter 15)

The next day...*EHHHH BOOM.*

I was woken up by an extremely loud noise.

“WHAT THE FUCK WAS THAT!?” screamed Heavy.

Falcon fell off his bunk and onto the floor. We could hear a very loud siren through the facility.

The world outside the room was loud and dangerous.

“GET YOUR WEAPONS DELTA AND MOVE OUT!”, Taylor screamed at the top of his lungs.

I quickly put my gear on- strapped up with my pistols and my rifle- and proceeded to head out.

Taylor reached for his helmet mic, “Command, this is Delta, do you copy?”

Nothing...

“SHIT!” Taylor turned and said, “Delta, we have to find out what the hell’s going on here. Stick together and stay frosty.”

He reached for the door handle, and attempted to twist it.

He opened the door and quickly ordered, “Move out!”

We stayed in a defensive formation; one man in the back, two guys on the side and Taylor up front. I could see Kira’s face in complete disarray because of what was happening. The entire hallway looked to be on fire. As for the guards at the armory; one of them was leaning against the sealed door with a large blood splatter around the back of his head, the other guard laid next to him in a puddle of blood.

“Shit...” Spirit murmured.

Suddenly com chat came back to life, “Delta, this is Overlord. Command is disengaged, repeat, Command is now disengaged. You need to find the exit to the pentagon and meet up with task force Charlie.”

Taylor reaches for his helmet mic, “Copy Overlord, we will make our way to the L.Z, Delta out.”

Suddenly, from ahead, I hear, “CONTACT!”

Taylor raised his rifle and began to open fire down the hallway. I jumped for cover and turned my shoulders to look. I could see four enemy hostiles firing back at us.

“Throwing frag!” shouted Falcon.

He reached in his back utility compartment and pulled out what looked like a fragmentation grenade. He ripped the cord off the device and with one move hurled it towards the attackers. I leaned over the corner and opened fire; the bullets for the most part missed their target. The grenade rolled towards the enemy then, *BOOM*. Looking from my cover, I see in the distance bodies being flung into walls and in the air from the impact of the grenade.

Taylor crouched down and waved his right hand towards the hall.

“Fall in.” he instructed calmly.

I quickly turned the corner and with my rifle in both hands cautiously moved towards the end of the hallway with the team. The lights were busted all around us and the bodies of the enemy soldiers littered the floor. We carefully crossed the sea of bodies and made our way to the elevator. Captain Taylor hit the button on the elevator with no reply from the machine

“Dammit, we have to take the stairs”, he muttered angrily.

I could then see to my extreme left in the distance movement. I turned and saw more enemy hostiles, this time they were Spetsnaz.

“Get to cover now!” yelled Spirit.

Falcon and Bullet grabbed a table nearby and threw it on the floor, diving behind it for cover. I ran towards a water fountain on the right side and a door beside it. Using all the weight in my shoulders I smashed down the door and dove for cover. There were three hostiles in the room, which looked to be a chemistry lab of some sort- maybe a research wing. I began to open fire on the enemy.

“Reloading!” I heard someone shout outside the door.

Seeing my plight, Taylor ran in and offered me supporting fire. Spirit followed him in and threw a flash bang towards the enemy. *BING!* A bright light erupted in my face and the occupants of the room quickly became blinded from the grenade. Just then, when the room finally cleared up, I looked up and saw the back room door fly open and a man run out brandishing a pistol and open fire directly on the Spetsnaz soldiers. He fired one shot into the back of an enemy soldier’s head and another right at a soldier’s face. We stood up and walked towards the guy; we knew from what he wearing that he was a soldier.

We walked over and the first thing I said was, “Commander.”

It was Commander Johnson who somehow managed to stay alive.

Taylor walked over and said jokingly, “You! I’m buying you a drink after this shit ends.”

Johnson laughed and replied, “I’ll buy you a hooker if we ever get out of this war.”

I then go towards the other side door leading to the area in which the other hostiles were shooting at us from. I held my rifle in my hand and slowly opened the door. As soon as I saw the enemy I took two shots, and knocked the hostile off his feet and dead on the floor. I then proceeded to shoot the other hostile just once, perfect headshot.

“Clear!” I said out loud.

We then proceeded to leave the room and formed back together in squad formation. Once we had finally found the stairway right beside the room, we all stacked up on the door. I was on the right side waiting for the order. Taylor took a deep breath; Kira and Kate were beside us the entire time, close behind.

Taylor looked at me and said sternly, "Watts, open the door."

I reached out with my right hand- holding my rifle in my left- and slowly turned the door handle. Once it opened, Taylor moved in very cautiously; following him was Bullet. I grabbed my rifle with both hands and fell behind Bullet in breaching format.

"Clear left... Clear right... Stairway clear!" Taylor uttered in rapid succession as he began to slowly walk downstairs. He held his rifle over the railing while walking downstairs looking for any enemies who might be waiting to surprise us. The entire facility went dark for a second then the underground generator kicked in and lights turned back on again. When we had finally reached the ground level, I remember feeling dizzy and nauseous all of a sudden. I felt my head ringing for some reason.

I could then hear, "Watts! Watts! Snap out of it man, we need you!"

I came back to my senses and found that we had formed into a breaching formation around the door. I could hear the sound of gun shots behind the door- it sounded like a firefight.

Taylor said to me, "Watts get ready... Go!"

He opened the door for me and I was the first one in. With my rifle in my hands aiming forward, I ran to my left. I noticed there were a lot of bodies around me. I could see a large firefight going on- Pentagon security agents and U.S. soldiers trying to fight Russian Spetsnaz as well as Chinese and Thai Special Forces.

"Shit! I'm reloading, cover my ass!" I could hear a soldier yell.

I quickly ran for cover and the rest of my team followed.

Taylor ran towards me and exclaimed, almost rhetorically, “Where the hell did they come from!?”

One of the soldiers on the other side yelled back, “Sir, go find Colonel Sanderson!”

I looked back and saw Sanderson holding a rifle in his hands.

I sprinted back there and asked frantically, “Sanderson, who caused this!?”

He looked back at me and said, “Whisper. The bastard apparently snuck in last night without our security knowing and hacked the mainframe. Our network is down, our security is useless... he took two girls with him- your age. My men tried to stop him but he threw a flash grenade at us and barricaded the doors... by that time these assholes showed up!”

I looked over at Taylor and yelled, “DELTA GET OVER HERE!”

Taylor started to make his way back to our position while still firing on the enemy; he shuffled his feet back towards me and Sanderson. Spirit, Bullet and Rhino all ran over to our location and hid behind a wall for cover. I looked over and saw Kira and Kate struggling to get over towards us. I took out a flash bang and hurled it in the air towards the enemy, right on impact *BING*, another bright light exploded, rocking the air with certain blindness. I ran over. I literally picked up Kira and ran back towards Sanderson and my team, Kate ran back for cover nearby. As soon as I ran back towards Sanderson, I lightly put Kira back on her feet.

I looked at Sanderson and Taylor, “Sanders, where did Whisper go and how can we catch him?”

He looked up at me and said, “Whisper went towards the storage facility underground. He blocked off the main access route by barricading the doors... There is another way but it’s

dangerous. You would need to cut through the electrical room and break down a door leading to a staircase leading underground... another way would be to zip down the elevator control lines.”

Taylor looked over and said, “Gotcha. Delta fall in!”

Kate grabbed my arm and said, “You need a nickname, you’ve shown great courage Brian, even in the face of death itself. You should be called Shadow.”

She let go of my arm.

I looked at both Kira and Kate, saying, “It’s too dangerous for you to follow our paths any longer. I want you two to stay up with Sanderson and wait for reinforcements to arrive... After facing Whisper you might not see me again.”

Kira, then without any warning, walked up and kissed me. I had nothing to say but to return the favor.

“Stay safe “she said.

I turned around and followed Delta as they ran towards the electrical room door.

Taylor ordered, “Open the door and stay in squad formation.”

He quickly opened the door and all I could remember was the intense heat and static from the electric room, I felt dizzy the entire time.

“Watch your corners”, Taylor warned.

As we crossed through each area in squad line formation, we finally located a door. Without thinking I ran over and opened it, time was of the essence. I ignored all the rules and ran down stairs with my rifle in my hands, yet I was still constantly searching for any enemy contacts. By the time I had finally reached the bottom of the staircase, once again rash judgment took precedence, and before the rest of Delta made it downstairs, I opened the door and walked outside the stairwell. As soon as I walked outside, I noticed two Russian Spetsnaz guards

standing side by side facing away from my direction. I aimed my rifle and took the shot: two shots to the head to each guy. By the time I reached the two bodies I looked to my left and saw a man standing there wearing black armor, holding a pistol in his left hand. I turned and started carefully walking towards him. I could then see a man to my far right. He slammed his fist on a button and I could hear the door behind me closing. He then walked back outside for some odd reason; I turned around and saw the door close shut on me. It emitted a loud metal sound as it finally sealed itself shut.

I turned my shoulders back around at the figure in black and yelled out, “COLLINS!” The figure turned his head sideways to the left so he could barely see me. I knew at that moment it was Whisper.

“It’s been a long time since I’ve heard that name.” He said in a serious tone.

I pointed my rifle at him and said “it ends now.”

He slowly turned and said, “On the contrary it ends for you now!”

He quickly turned around and opened fire with his pistol. I rolled out of the way and fired back, one of my shots barely missed him. He then held his pistol aimed right at me and turned his neck to the side.

“Why do you fight knowing you will only die?” he asked, intrigued by my effort.

I noticed behind him Agent Naz’s body lying on the ground in a pool of blood. I looked back at Whisper with nothing but hatred showing on my face.

I stood up and replied back, “Because I want to see you suffer for all the people you’ve killed you son of a bitch!”

He walked slowly towards me, “I remember you, at the hotel in the Outer Banks; I should have killed you when I had the chance. You’re too late boy, the girls have been taken by North

Korea.” He continued sharply, “Do you even know what you’re fighting for anymore kid? Power is a great thing to hold, some men are weak with more of it however.”

He walked closer to me.

I raised my rifle up towards him he and he said, “I once fought for this proud nation. After finding out all the horrors we committed in secrecy during the so called ‘war on terror’, I left. Murder and war will always be a part of life. I could kill you right here and now, but what good would that do. You could kill me if you wanted, it won’t bring back your friends... I wasn’t the man who started the war; I was the one who wanted to see an end to it. Greed, selfish ambitions, and hatred are what caused this war. If you’re looking for the guilty, you need only look into a mirror.”

I remember hearing that famous quote on the movie V for Vendetta.

I looked at him confounded, and lowered my rifle, “What do you mean...? You’re saying I’m guilty?”

He chuckled and replied, “Ask the two dead soldiers outside or the ones you killed back in the hotel- the ones who will never see their families again... You have blood on your hands boy, blood that cannot be washed away.”

I looked down at my hands feeling so much at the time. Pain, guilt, and an overwhelming hate for myself.