

CHAPTER-53

Thomas ran down the stairs. “Judith!”

“Thomas!” His sister took a step in his direction and the bear in body armor on her right reached for her. Before Thomas registered what happened, the rat on her left had the bear on the floor with a knee at his back. Had that been super speed? He recognized the rat, Trevor, but couldn’t remember anyone saying what his power was.

Judith kissed the rat. “Thanks, Hun.”

“His balls?” Trevor asked.

“I’ll decide after I’ve hugged my brother.” She hugged him tight. “All mighty Cum, Thomas, what is going on? You’re kidnapped, Henry said he had people off to find you, now you’re here and there an army in the house? Who are these people?”

“Well...” Thomas trailed off. How was he supposed to explain this to her.

“We’re Thomas’s personal bodyguard,” Samuel said, stepping into the living room and zipping himself up. “As you know, he’s a teleporter, which makes him valuable, so we’re here to make sure nothing happens to him, again. I’m Samuel, you’re his sister, and you’re Trevor Lewiston, it’s a pleasure to make your acquaintance. No, Thomas we’ve never met before, yes, I’m a mind reader.”

“Stop! For God sakes, Samuel, shut up!” Thomas couldn’t believe he’d been the one to say those words, but he wasn’t done. “Do you get off on pissing people off like that? Because I’m this close to kicking you out of my parent’s house. You really want me to dumb you in San Francisco?” he said as the badger opened his mouth.

Samuel closed it. Tomas didn’t entirely believe it had worked, but he was going to make sure Firmin was handy in case he needed to make good on the threat.

“Wow, Thomas, look at you bossing people around.”

"You," he told Samuel, momentarily ignoring his sister, "only answer spoken questions." Samuel nodded. "You," he told the Trevor, "let go of... Sorry, I don't remember your name."

"Dumier. Francois Dumier."

"Right, let go of him. Was that super speed? I didn't see you move."

"Martial art," Samuel answered before Trevor opened his mouth. "Trevor's power is learning, and he's learned a lot. You asked a question."

"Answer questions that are asked at you. Not for other people."

Judith smiled at him. "I like this new take charge you."

"Where have you been?" he demanded of his sister. "You weren't in class."

"Me and Trev were out and about enjoying..." she grinned. "Each other."

Thomas rolled his eyes. Had Henry made her forget his sex life was no longer theoretical? "You know he's a Lewiston, right?"

"Oh, balls yes."

"What's with the swearing?"

"Trev's been teaching them to me, so I can show him I respect his beliefs."

"I didn't know you were bi," Thomas told Trevor.

"I'm not." The rat looked at Judith lovingly. "I'm gay with a Judith bias. I've never met a woman like her before. Strong, who loves fucking me and watching me fuck guys."

Was the voyeurism something Henry had given her, or something he'd never known about his sister?

“You’re going to love having him fuck you.”

“Excuse me?” Thomas asked.

“He’s Society, just like you.”

“I’m not —”

Samuel cleared his throat.

Right. It might be best not to rock what she thought she knew.
“I’m not sure me having sex with your boyfriend is a good thing.”

“That’s because you haven’t had sex with him yet.” She grinned. “Come on, we can take care of that right now.”

“Thomas,” Samuel said, “If I can interject.”

“Please,” he replied.

“Both of you are away Thomas was kidnapped? Good. Then you’ll understand that we can’t simply let him wander, and that until we’ve ascertained that neither of you have been compromised by the people who took him, it’s best if we make sure he isn’t alone with either of you.”

“Are you offering to join in?” Trevor asked.

“No, I’m saying you aren’t having sex with him right now. I’m sure you understand security measures.”

“Look there,” Judith said.

Trevor took her hand. “It’s okay, Dear. They’re making sure he’s safe. I’ll make it up to you until you have a change to properly introduce me to him.” He looked Thomas up and down.

“Francois, make sure they’re settled in her room,” Samuel instructed.

The bear nodded and escorted them.

“If you see another one of me,” Thomas called, loud enough so Firmin would also hear, “do not hit on him.” His sister’s question

went unanswered. Once they were up the stairs he opened his mouth.

“Before you ask,” Samuel said. “Henry didn’t arrange them. He made her more receptive to our ways, but they hit it off on their own, way more often than I thought possible.”

“Great. I hope it doesn’t hold past Donal fixing their memories because I don’t need Raphael having another way to reach me.”

“I don’t think Trevor is someone that you need to worry about, but we—”

“Have a couple of problems,” Shila said from the television.

He face was replaced by the image of a collie and badger walking with a golden tiger.

“Didn’t anyone tell Paul about any of this?” Thomas demanded. He acted like Jacques and Hubert were his best buddies.

“It’s not all,” Shila said and the image changed. In his his father was walking along with Chima. The angle of the camera showed the Sigma Theta Gamma house they were heading toward. Samuel walked away, cursing in what Thomas thought was French and putting his phone to his ear.

“I can see to it that the tiger doesn’t get to the frat house,” Shila said, “but there’s strong chance this Henry’s going to realize you have other people helping you. Right now, he thinks all he’s got to deal with is you, the boys he sent to get you initially and possible a few others. You vanishing away from the Rowlings like you did made sure they were pissed and Henry won’t think they’re part of this. Samuel only has a handful of Dumier here and everyone else is borrowed from people who have no reasons to be associated with you or him.”

“And if he starts to worry, he might look at the Richards closer and nothing things aren’t as they should be,” Thomas added. “He isn’t stupid.”

“Okay, we’re not screwed,” Samuel said, returning. “The men I had on your father lost track of him. So Henry isn’t aware they were there. I spoke with Burnwood, and it’s looking that he’s going to have

full control of his family within a day.”

A day was a long time to be in Henry’s grasps. Thomas took his phone out, but Samuel had his hand on it before he could enter the number.

“He has my father, Samuel.”

“And you offering to turn yourself or his kid over in exchange for him is exactly what he’s counting on. Look at everything he’s done. You know he isn’t going to respect whatever agreement you reach with him. This is an act of desperation on his part, which means we have him where we need him. I know it’s hard, but I promise, Thomas. Whatever harm Henry inflict on your father, I will personally see to it that it’s undone. Whatever the cost.”

Thomas nodded. “One day, Samuel. I’m not sitting here not doing anything any longer than that.”

* * * * *

“You ready?” Samuel told the ten of them.

“Can I even do this?” Thomas asked as Gilbert, Laurence, Yating and his twin, Thomas’s double and four Margay who’d come back from Houston with them. Samuel had seen to it they were properly equipped.

“I told you, Thomas, numbers don’t—”

“I’m talking about taking us to the frat. It’s not like I had Gilbert’s script anytime I was fucked there. Firmin should be doing it.”

“I don’t have your training.” His double said. “I don’t gain your knowledge of your power. You nearly died the first time you teleported with someone else. I can’t be in that state in the frat, and I did get Gil’s phrase while getting fucked in the bedroom, so I have that as a solid return point.”

Samuel put an earpiece in Thomas’s ear. “This is so you know if things change in the less than a minute you’ll be gone.”

"You took me to your bedroom when the oil fire happened, remember?" Yating said. "So you have that spot."

"Something larger would be better," Samuel said, and immediately added. "But anywhere in the Frat works."

Larger. That meant the showers. Thomas smiled, remembering the multiple orgies that had taken place there. It was nearly impossible to have a shower in the frat without it turning into —

"I've got you," Firmin said as Thomas's legs buckled under him. He watched the others move. The Richards with precision while his frat brothers followed. Then the world twisted around him and he had a moment to be amazed at how odd it felt when he wasn't the one triggering it, then they landed on a bed.

"I have Thomas," Grant said, turning him on his stomach.

"Me too," Felix said.

"You have Firmin, he needs Society sex if we're going to have him functional in anything resembling fast." The kangaroo pressed against Thomas's back.

"Maybe we should get Trevor in here," Felix said. "He seemed to really want some of that ass."

"I am not having sex with my sister's boyfriend," Thomas said, then moaned.

(okay, so the whole chase is extremely rough. Some of the details are things that occurred to me on the moment as problems each side would have to deal with. I know you were hoping for a 'teleporter on speedster' fight, but this is the best I could give you for the first draft. Feel free to alter as you like)

Thomas appeared on the rooftop, cradling his bundle. "In position."

“In position,” Firmin answered in his ear.

“Thomas,” Shila said, “you’re first. On my signal stand and look in at the frat. We want Henry to see you and his son so he’ll come running. Remember, the goal between you and Firmin is to pull him to the trap while making sure he can’t work your limitations.”

“I know,” Thomas hissed. He’d been there when the plan had been established. He and Firmin pulled Henry toward the trap while the Richards both took down whoever the bat had protecting him and storm the frat to support those Thomas had brought in. That was the real variable. No one was certain how many men were inside on top of his father, Paul, and the frat guys Henry still had under his power. The others were supposed to report with a number, but nothing had come and they hadn’t wanted to wait any longer.

“Thomas, go.”

Thomas stood and searched the windows until he found Henry.

It was obvious when Henry saw him. His face was against the glass, anger and hate in his eyes. He pushed away and Thomas readied to drop on Shila’s signal.

The door to the frat opened, and Thomas only caught a glimpse of Chima as he stepped outside, then it was flying snow in his wake.

“Fuck!” Shila cursed.

Thomas was on top of the frat and a few seconds later, the stairwell door on the roof he’d just been on was kicked open and the hyena stepped outside.

“What is the hyena doing here?” Shila demanded. “Samuel, I thought you said he was across town!”

“That’s the report I received. How come you didn’t know he was inside, don’t you have eyes?”

“I only have access to cameras and the one in that building

have some many blind spot it's a miracle I see anything."

"I thought you Practitioners did miracles for breakfast," Samuel snapped.

"Oh, do you want me to leave you to handle this on your own?"

"No!" Thomas yelled, and Chima looked in his direction and immediately vanished. "Fuck, we don't have time to fight, Fir, get up, I'm dropping the moment I land." He picked a rooftop as far as he could, appeared there and dropped.

"Firmin," Shila said in a calm voice. "Stand. Thomas, you can't be that far."

"This is fucking Chima, I didn't see him do a lot, but there's a reason we wanted him on the other side of the city. I think he can break the sound barrier."

"He can't," Olavo replied. "His body can't take the stress. He also has to stop to open doors. His body can take more abuse due to his speed than Owen can, but he isn't indestructible. Even at a quarter speed and impact will still break bones."

"Can we use that?" Samuel asked as Thomas glanced over the brick half wall. "Trick him into running in a wall? It's winter, get him to slip at top speed?"

"Get back to the agreed location when I tell you Thomas," Shila instructed. "I have the rest of a discussion on a different channel so you won't be distracted."

"I could use the—"

"Now."

He stood, located it and dropped.

"Stand."

He did so and four rooftops away Chima saw him and was gone.

"On three, two, one, now."

He was on a different roof and crouched.

"Now," She said, and he stood, located the hyena and teleported on her instruction while Firmin took his position.

Thomas had no idea where he was in relation to the frat. Or how many jumps he'd done, but they were in trouble.

"I can't do another one," Firmin said. "Fuck how did you stay ahead of everyone that first time, Thomas?"

"I didn't have to do this many jumps. How many are we at anyway?"

"Seventy-eight each," Shila replied.

"I am never letting go of your body, Thomas. Starting at zero again is going to suck."

"No idea what that means," he replied, "and really not the time. Shila, what's the status on the frat?"

"No idea. Someone in there realized I had access to cameras and trashed all but three and nothing's going on in any of those closets."

Firmin chuckled. "Right, we never did take those out."

"Okay, so Henry's out of the question, can the trap handle Chima?"

"So long as he stands still long enough to be hit, yes," She replied.

"Okay, then I'm going to take him there, and then you guys can storm the frat or something."

"Sure," she replied dryly. "I'll pass that along."

He stood and looked around. Chima saw him and

disappeared. Thomas waiting.

“Thomas,” Shila warned.

When the door opened, he teleported. He turned and all that was visible on the other roof was a wake of snow. He searched through it, but couldn't see Chima. Where—

The door on his roof opened and Thomas startled, teleporting out of the arms closing around where he'd been. Before he could pick another roof, Chima returned and Thomas had to teleport again. And again. And again.

Fuck. He was nearly teleporting blind with all the snow Chima's running kept in the air. He could make out the edge of the roof and that was about it. He got it and didn't wait, making out the next one through the snow.

Arms closed around him as he willed himself there and he was rolling from the momentum. His breath coming hard.

“Finally,” the hyena said, and came into view, blocking Thomas's field of vision. “You shouldn't have left, Thomas. Sigma Theta Gamma's family. It's the only real family anyone of us has. It really hurt that you betrayed us like that.” He smiled. “But Henry's merciful.”

Thomas didn't see the fist that knocked him out.

CHAPTER 1.5-53

Thomas ran down the stairs. "Judith!"

"Thomas!" His sister took a step in his direction and the bear in body armor on her right reached for her. Before Thomas registered what happened, the rat on her left had the bear on the floor with a knee at his back. Had that been super speed? He recognized the rat, Trevor, but couldn't remember anyone saying what his power was.

Judith kissed the rat. "Thanks, Hun."

"His balls?" Trevor asked.

"I'll decide after I've hugged my brother." She hugged him tight. "All mighty Cum, Thomas, what is going on? You're kidnapped, Henry said he had people off to find you, now you're here and there is an army in the house? Who are these people?"

"Well..." Thomas trailed off. How was he supposed to explain this to her?

"We're Thomas's personal bodyguard," Samuel said, stepping into the living room and zipping himself up. "As you know, he's a teleporter, which makes him valuable, so we're here to make sure nothing happens to him, again. I'm Samuel, you're his sister, and you're Trevor Lewiston, it's a pleasure to make your acquaintance. No, Thomas we've never met before, yes, I'm a mind reader."

* * *

“Stop! For God’s sake, Samuel, shut up!” Thomas couldn’t believe he’d been the one to say those words, but he wasn’t done. “Do you get off on pissing people off like that? Because I’m this close to kicking you out of my parent’s house. You really want me to dump you in San Francisco?” he added as the badger opened his mouth. The badger closed it. Thomas didn’t entirely believe it had worked, but he was going to make sure Firmin was handy in case he needed to make good on the threat.

“Wow, Thomas,” Judith beamed, “Look at you bossing people around.”

“You,” he told Samuel, momentarily ignoring his sister, “Only answer spoken questions.” Samuel nodded. “You,” he told Trevor, “Let go of... Sorry, I don’t remember your name.”

“Dumier,” the bear grumphed. “Francois Dumier.”

“Right, let go of him,” Thomas reiterated. “Was that super speed? I didn’t see you move.”

“Martial arts,” Samuel answered before Trevor opened his mouth. “Trevor’s power is learning, and he’s learned a lot. You asked a question.”

Thomas rolled his eyes. “Answer questions that are asked to you, not for other people.”

* * *

Judith smiled at him. "I like this new take charge you."

"Where have you been?" he demanded of his sister. "You weren't in class."

"Me and Trev were out and about enjoying..." she grinned. "Each other."

Thomas raised an eyebrow. Had Henry done something to that oversharing implus Judith got from mom? "You know he's a Lewiston, right?"

"Oh, balls yes," his sister replied.

Thomas kept that eyebrow raised. "What's with the swearing?"

"Trev's been teaching them to me," Judith said with a smile. "So I can show him I respect his beliefs."

Thomas looked over to Trevor, "I didn't realize you were bi."

"I'm not," the rat looked at Judith lovingly. "I'm gay with a Judith bias. I've never met a woman like her before. Strong, who loves fucking me and watching me fuck guys."

* * *

Was the voyeurism something Henry had given her, or something he'd succeeded in not learning about his sister until just now?

"You're going to love having him fuck you," Judith stated.

"Excuse me?" Thomas asked.

"He's Society," she continued, "Just like you."

"I'm not-" Thomas started to protest.

Samuel cleared his throat.

Right, it might be best not to rock what she thought she knew. "I'm not sure me having sex with your boyfriend is a good thing," Thomas attempted.

"Thomas," Samuel said, "If I can interject."

"Please," he exasperated.

"Both of you are aware Thomas was kidnapped?" Samuel started. "Good. Then you'll understand that we can't simply let him wander, and that until we've ascertained that neither of you have been compromised by the people who took him, it's best if we make

sure he isn't alone with either of you."

"Are you offering to join in?" Trevor asked.

"No, I'm saying you aren't having sex with him right now," Samuel clarified. "I'm sure you understand the security measures."

"Look here," Judith started up.

Trevor took her hand. "It's okay, Dear. They're making sure he's safe. I'll make it up to you until you have a chance to properly introduce me to him." He looked Thomas up and down.

"Francois, make sure they're settled in her room," Samuel instructed.

The bear nodded and escorted them.

"If you see another one of me," Thomas called, loud enough so Firmin would also hear, "Do not hit on him." His sister's question went unanswered. Once they were up the stairs he opened his mouth.

"Before you ask," Samuel said. "Henry didn't arrange them. He made her more receptive to our ways, but they hit it off on their own, way more than I thought possible."

* * *

“Great,” Thomas said dejectedly. “I hope it doesn’t hold past Donal fixing their memories, because I don’t need Rapheal having another way to get to me.”

“I don’t think Trevor is someone that you need to worry about,” Samuel replied, “But we-”

“Have a couple of problems,” Shila interrupted from the television.

Her face was replaced by the image of a collie and badger walking with a golden tiger.

“Why didn’t anyone tell me he’d gotten to Paul?” Thomas demanded. The tiger was acting like Jacques and Hubert were his best buddies.

“That’s not all,” Shila said and the image changed again. This time it showed his father walking along with Chima. The angle of the camera showed it was the Sigma Theta Gamma house they were heading towards. Samuel walked away, cursing in what Thomas thought was French and putting his phone to his ear.

“I can see to it that the tiger doesn’t get to the frat house,” Shila said, “All it would take is a quick fake alert to the police and all three of them would be in a police station rather than the middle of all this.”

“That would only take a quick phone call to the Richards to

resolve," Thomas replied dryly, "Which if they don't resolve it, would show our hand too early." Besides, that's assuming Henry hadn't messed with them so much they would get Paul to the frat no matter what; Thomas knew now that Hubert's great strength was supernatural, and according to the others Jaques was invulnerable.

"Okay, we're not screwed," Samuel said, returning. "The men I had on your father lost track of him. So Henry isn't aware they were there. I spoke with Burnwood, and it's looking that he's going to have full control of his family within a day."

A day was a long time to be in Henry's grapes. Thomas took his phone out, but Samuel had his hand on it before he could enter the number.

"He has my father, Samuel," Thomas pleaded.

"And you offering to turn yourself or his kid over in exchange for him is exactly what he's counting on," the badger sighed. "Look, you know he isn't going to respect whatever agreement you reach with him. This is an act of desperation on his part, which means we have him where we need him. I know it's hard, but I promise, Thomas. Whatever harm Henry inflicts on your father, I will personally see to it that it's undone. Whatever the cost."

Thomas nodded. "One day, Samuel. I'm not sitting here not doing anything any longer than that."

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* * *

“You ready?” Samuel told the ten of them.

“Assuming I can actually do this,” Thomas said as he looked about. The group was Gilbert, Laurence, Yating, Yahui, Firmin in Thomas’s skin, and the four Richards who’d come back from Houston with them. Samuel had seen to it they were properly equipped.

“I told you, Thomas,” Samuel started to explain, “Numbers don’t-”

“I meant get us to the frat,” Thomas elaborated. “I only have a feeling I can get there, but we haven’t been able to test it for obvious reasons.”

“You managed to get the two of us to your bedroom,” Yating reassured. “Push comes to shove, we can land there.”

“Somewhere larger would be better,” Samuel said, and immediately added. “But anywhere in the frat works.”

Larger. That meant the showers. Thomas smiled, remembering the multiple orgies that had taken place there. It was nearly impossible to have a shower in the frat without it turning into-

“I’ve got you,” Firmin said as Thomas’s legs buckled under him. He watched the others move. The Richards with precision while his frat brothers followed. Then the world twisted around him and he had a moment to be amazed how odd it felt when he wasn’t the one triggering it, then they landed on a bed.

* * *

"I have Thomas," Grant said, turning him on his stomach.

"Me too," Felix said.

"You have Firmin, he needs Society sex stat before he reverts," the kangaroo dictated before pressing against Thomas's back.

"Maybe we should get Trevor in here," Felix said. "He seemed to really want some of that ass."

"I'm not having sex with my sister's boyfriend," Thomas said, then moaned.

#####

Thomas appeared on the rooftop, stunner hunting rifle in hand. "In position."

"In position," Firmin echoed in his ear.

"Thomas," Shila said, "You're first. On my signal, get to the rooftop next to the frat and take a few pop shots against the opposition. Doesn't matter if you hit any of them. We just need them to notice you and report back to Henry. Remember, your and Firmin's goal isn't to turn the tide, it's to keep Henry too motivated to win this that he won't think to flee until it's too late."

* * *

"I know," Thomas hissed. He knew his job, but he didn't need to like it. The second they dropped in an assault team inside the frat, another team started moving outside. Between the two of them they hoped it would be enough to take down everyone Henry had surrounded himself with, but they needed to make him emotional enough he didn't think about running.

Hence, baiting him with the rat who stole his son.

"Okay, and..." Shila winded up. "Go."

Thomas stood, and with a single beat of his heart he was on the roof overlooking the streets below the frat. The melee down there was real, with the defenders of the frat managing to form barricades of ice just outside the door, the outside assault team hunkered down behind the vehicles they drove in on.

Thomas took aim at one of the defenders and fired, immediately following up with two rapid shots before blinking away.

As he ducked down, Thomas immediately heard Shila signal, "Felix, go."

And that's how it went for a few minutes, Thomas and Felix blinking in and out of line of sight, taking pop shots to keep the defenders on their toes while hopefully infuriating the bat inside. Of course, they were mostly only hoping they were infuriating him by-

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No, wait. That was Henry there at a window staring directly at Thomas, and he was royally pissed. Then the bat walked away, and Thomas readied himself to make his next shot...

And then the defenders shouted to each other, and parted briefly before forming up ranks again. Thomas blinked, he thought he almost saw - The stairwell door on the roof he was on opened and Thomas barely got a chance to see hyena before he teleported to another room in a panic, dropping down.

"Fuck!" Shila cursed, "Firmin, decoy and run. Now."

On command Firmin appeared on another rooftop and made a poorly aimed shot at Chima to grab his attention. The hyena disappeared in a blur, and exited the stairwell access to the roof the doppelganger was on moments before he vanished.

"Thomas, go," Shilia said. As the rat made his shot and moved, the hacker continued talking. "Samuel, I thought you said the speedster was across town."

"He's a speedster," the mind reader countered, "How come you didn't know he was inside? Don't you have eyes?"

"I only have access to cameras," Shila stated, "And the ones in that building have so many blind spots it's a miracle I see anything."

"It's a Society frat," Olavo responded. "We like our privacy."

* * *

“Can you guys focus,” Thomas shouted as he dropped again, him and Firmin having done three exchanges without any guidance. “We wanted to resolve this without Chima coming into play for a reason. I think he can break the sound barrier.”

“He can’t,” Olavo replied. “His body can’t take the stress. He also has to stop to open doors. So don’t repeat buildings if you can manage it.”

“Meaning this conflict is going to migrate outside the main battlefield,” Shila responded. “Okay, I’m punting the others to another channel. Thomas, Firmin? Your new job is to keep this powerhouse out of the main conflict. Think you can handle that?”

Thomas quickly blinked away from the room he was on the moment he heard the door to the roof get kicked open. “Do we even have a choice?”

“Firmin, now,” Shila calmly stated before responding. “Complete and total failure of the entire mission is always an option, but I know your choice on that matter. Thomas, now.”

Thomas sharply exhaled before standing, taking a pop shot at the hyena, and waiting a few brief heart beats before teleporting away again.

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* * *

Thomas had no idea where he was in relation to the frat, he had run out of rounds in his stunner minutes ago, and both of those were the least of his problems.

“Fuckfuckfuck,” Firmin chanted in his ear piece.

“What is it?” Thomas asked as he blinked away from the pursuing hyena.

“I’m tapped dry,” Firmin replied. “I’m starting to revert.”

“Teleport back to the house now,” Shila said. “...and he made it. So, any idea how much longer you can keep this up.”

Thomas paused to throw a hastily made snowball in Chima’s direction, wait for the hyena to disappear, and then teleport a heart beat later. “Even if I could do this all day, it doesn’t matter unless we can subdue him.”

“Well I’m open to ideas,” Shila responded, “Because aside from monitoring you and killing their phones, I’m all but useless here. They figured out someone was watching them through the cameras and shot out all but three. And nothing much is happening in those closets.”

Thomas raised an eyebrow, but shook his head to get back in the game. After doing another attention grab and relocation, asked “How about Donal? If we can lure Chima to him, is he recovered enough to do another memory restoration?”

* * *

“That might be our only option, but there is a bit of a problem of there being a river between you two,” Shila said.

“Oh trust me,” Thomas said as he prepped another snowball, “Crossing the distance isn’t going to be the issue-” The rat cut off as he went to throw the snowball but didn’t see the hyena on the roof he was just on. Where-

A slight creek was all the warning Thomas got, the only place he could teleport in time to was the roof he was already staring at. Which was fine... if all the doors in this building weren’t already open. Before Thomas could find another location, his entire field of vision was filled with hyena chest.

“Finally,” the hyena said as he wrapped Thomas up in a bear hug. “You shouldn’t have left, Thomas. Sigma Theta Gamma’s family. It’s the only real family any of us have. But don’t worry. You’re ours. And Henry loves you.”

The only warning of the knockout blow Thomas got was one of the arms briefly lifting off his back.

OUTLINE-53

There are some arguments... and it turns out Judith and Trevor have been dating during all of this. This... Thomas doesn't know how to process this. He can't see Henry encouraging this, but even if he did, unless he micromanaged their relationship down to the smallest detail... this might stick once their memories are restored. Thomas doesn't know if he's ready for a brother-in-law that hot.

Finally, as if there is not enough last minute things happening, Thomas is called to the kitchen. There Thomas will see two video images playing on the fridge. One of Hubert and Jacques talking to Paul and the three of them walking away... and another of Chima letting Eric into the fraternity. Thomas will lock eyes with Olavo, and it's clear to both of them that they forgot to factor in Paul.

Shila will say that she could still possibly stop the tiger from reaching the fraternity, like by calling a police alert on them. But Olavo will say no. First, that wouldn't stop Hubert and Jacques. Second, something that blatant will alert Henry. Right now the bat is working on the misinformation that this is just Thomas and some allies having stolen his son. If he suspects he's losing control of the city... they'll not only lose him and but any hostages he already has in his possession. They have no choice but to wait for the Richards to give the green light that their command infistruct is theirs again.

Thomas doesn't argue, but he still doesn't like putting Paul at risk only to ensure he doesn't lose his father. Donal better hurry.

Chapter 52

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Deployment, Thomas, Firmir, Various: Mood:

The call finally comes in. More than a few pants are put on, though Firmir and Thomas don't bother. Right now Richards are giving the order to their hired men to turn on Henry, and to use nonlethal force on anyone who isn't the bat. They are highly expecting Henry to have brainwashed anyone with powers within the frat house; that includes the remaining frat brothers, select Richards, and any remaining captured Lewistons.

So the odds are stacked against them... the team's job is to turn those odds. Team in this case includes Gilbert, Laurence, Yating, Yahui, and any remaining Richards who assaulted them in Houston since being selected for that job makes them perfect for this job. They could only supplement the weapons from that job with from hunting stunners Eric kept in the attic, but once they hit Lurnece's room they'll have more... assuming Henry didn't raid his room the second they didn't report in.

Thomas makes sure his earwig is in one last time before holding out his arms, having everyone on the team and Firmir grab his arms... and then warp teleport the entire group to one of the fraternity showers. Because of course Thomas has been fucked often enough in these things to teleport here, even if we decline to use the fuck to memorize a location rule.

Everyone on the team starts moving, leaving on Firmir to catch Thomas. He doesn't bother fucking him, and instead the world shift again as Firmir teleports them to a house close to the frat they prepared as a landing zone just for this phase of the mission. Felix and Grant are there to fuck them into mobility again... and it has to be fast. Firmir and Thomas's job isn't done yet.

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City Streets, Thomas, Firmir, Chaos, Chima: Mood:

Inside the frat house, Shila is limited to just the smart TVs and the occasional camera phone. Outside, she can turn all the prepping Henry has been doing against him. As such, Thomas and Firmir already know they are heading into the hot zone before they finish suiting up and blink teleport out there across the roofs.

What follows next is a little bit of a game of red light green light. Thomas needs to be seen involved in the battle to keep Henry motivated to stay rather than fleeing, since they made sure to stage it so it would be clear that Thomas had fled with Henry's son. But if that is all they do, then eventually Henry will be able to force Thomas to flee since his powers has limitations.

Trick is, Henry doesn't know those limitations, and with Firmir there are two Thomas's. So, moving when Shila commands them to, Thomas and Firmir play a bit of a game with Henry's blood pressure by moving in ways that Thomas's powers alone wouldn't allow for. All while taking stunner shots at the fight that has broken out down below. It's hard to pick targets, just shoot whoever is seen using lethal force.

Eventually, though, Henry outmaneuvers them... or to be exact, he sick's Chima on them and not even Shila can warn them in time. A scuffle to see how is faster, the speedster or the teleporter, ensues on the rooftops and streets. And while Thomas and Firmir can move faster, they can't react faster. So they lose, and Thomas is knocked out. [This is actually an eleventh hour plot redirection for two reasons. One, needed Thomas in the house. Two, wanted a battle between speedster and teleporter. Three, realized Thomas wouldn't enter the house of his own volition. Four... could Thomas win against Chima even with Firmir backing him up?]