

# S.T.A.R#3: Security Breach

By : writinglover

After closing a big case, all the teams want to do is rest. That will not be possible with the threats and attacks at all the STAR bases. This case will be more difficult for some agents than others, erecting memories that are better left behind. They must find out who is attacking and stop them, which is not easy when Alex's team is left short handed...



Published on  
**Booksie**

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## S.T.A.R#3: Security Breach : Chapter 1

Sergeant Felix Coppen was tired. He was not used to standing guard, and it was beginning to take a toll on his body. He glanced at his watch, noticing with a sigh that it was only 6:00 in the evening. That meant that he had an entire nine hours ahead of him.

Just when he had let his mind wander a bit, he heard a small noise from the side of the gate. Pulling out his night stick, Sgt. Coppen looked up, just in time to see a dark figure fly over the fence and catch him in the face with a steel toed boot. He blacked out seconds later, and the figure struggled to pull him off to the side. That way, it would be a few minutes until someone else found him.

Walking toward the police station, he made certain there were not any more police officers outside. Confident in his abilities, the young man lit the small bomb he had set on the side of the building. Stepping back, he covered his ears with his gloved hands and crouched down to wait for the blast.

Once it exploded, officers began pouring out of the station. They were busy surveying the damage from the bomb, baffled from the blast. One of the officers picked up his radio to call for help, when he was hit with a blast of solar energy. The officer cried out, because it had burned his back. This got the attention of the other officers, and they turned in the direction of the attack. At that moment, they were all blinded, and the pressure from the energy caused them all to pass out.

The young man frowned, then grabbed a gun, and a few other pieces of equipment he thought he could use, he walked over to the control room. It was still open, and the disk he was looking for was easy to find. Pulling it out of one of the computers, he ran back out the doors. His job was done, and he hoped his superiors would be pleased with it.

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"Agent Lewis!" Bailey froze on the ground, though he could have been gone in less than a second. He stayed where he was, since he knew the man coming toward him had the authority to turn on the power inhibiting features in the immediate surroundings. He would rather stay there, waiting for the tongue lashing, rather than risk anything that had to do with taking his power.

Jorden Daken had jumped into a tree as soon as he had heard the other man approaching. He was now watching the action from a distance, but would come down if things happened to get too bad.

Will Mathias was still fuming when he reached Bailey, and he liked the fact that the other man was still on the ground. It made him feel more superior than he already was. Glaring at the other man, he began his rant. "What the hell do you think you're doing? Do you see this camera in my hand? Well, I had it with me, just in case this happened. I have several pictures of you two!" his voice trailed off. "WHAT THE HELL! After everything Alex has done for you, you betray him like this!" he shook his head. "I can't believe you," he glanced up into the tree. "You, I can believe, but as the instigator. Coward." He turned back to Bailey.

Jorden glared at him, remaining silent.

Bailey sighed and stood up quietly. "Look, Will. It was just a moment that happened. It didn't mean anything to me. I would never cheat on Alex, and I probably shouldn't have taken things as far as I did. Like I said, it didn't mean anything to me! Jorden is just a friend, who I have the ability to thank in certain ways. That's all."

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Will laughed. That had sounded ridiculous to him. "If that's how you thank your friends, I hope you never have to thank me. I still can't fucking believe youâhe trusts you, damn it. You probably haven't noticed, but he talks to me about everything, even things I don't want to know. Most of it is about youâfuck you," he said the curse in almost a whisper, but with just as much bitterness, as it would have had louder.

"I'm sorry, Will. It won't happen again," Bailey glanced to the tree Jorden had been in, but he was gone. He had a good idea of what had chased the delicate blond off. "I love Alex."

Will glared at him again. "I know you do. That's what makes this so horrible. Look, I won't show this to Alex, unless it does happen again. I think you forgot about the camera that is now hidden out here."

Bailey cursed lightly. "I did forget all about itâdamn it."

Will shook his head, still angry. "I turned it off, so Alex wouldn't see this. I'll just tell the captain that it was broken," he paused. "Now, you should go take a shower. Then maybe you should try to make it up to your boyfriend. I wouldn't mention it to him, though." He turned and walked off, leaving Bailey there alone. He felt stupid, and was wondering where Jorden had gone. He didn't have to wonder why the other man had left. The things he had said had been very hurtful.

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That night, Alex took Bailey out to eat. The last case had been a tough one, and he wanted to spend some quality time with his boyfriend. They talked about everything, except the recent case. It was better to leave it in the past, for now. Alex noticed that Bailey was acting strange, but he blamed it on fatigue.

When they got back to the house, the two of them went straight to their room. Alex wanted to make up for their lost time.

## Chapter 2

The next morning, the captain and chief received a call from the police department, regarding the attack on the station the night before. They were advised to keep this from the STAR teams, until it became a threat large enough to address. The captain disagreed with him, wanting to let the leaders know as soon as possible. It was better to be on the safe side.

There was a meeting called for all the STAR members to meet, except for Agent Randy Benson, who was still being held in the hospital. The captain informed them about the attack, and told them to stay on alert, in case the man decided to show up at STAR. They knew there were powers involved, but could not tell what type. They were not sure if it was even a mutant they were dealing with. The agents were dismissed to take some time off, but required to come in if something happened. This was a daily thing for them, anyway.

As soon as the meeting was over, Jorden disappeared. He didn't really feel like being around any mutants right now, especially after what he had heard the night before. He had allowed himself to believe, just for a short moment, that Bailey had changed his mind and had feelings for him. He now knew that he had been played with, and it led him to the conclusion that Bailey was not any different from any other human. They were all fickle, when it came to feelings. He didn't understand why the others didn't see that he acted the way he did to them, because he was completely honest. He laughed to himself. Or, at least, up front. Humans could be so confusing at times, and he didn't want to deal with them.

Lying back against the tree he was in, he fell asleep. That was his favorite pass time.

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Once they were all free to do what they wanted, Alex asked Bailey if he wanted to take a walk. They went around back, where there was not much traffic.

They walked in silence for a while, then Alex turned to his lover. "Baby, I have a question that you may not like very much, but is bothering me. Is that okay?"

Bailey gave him a strange look. "Yeah, of course. What is it?" He was hoping it did not have anything to do with his talk with Will.

Alex tightened his grip on Bailey's hand. "Babe, I know you are attracted to Jordenâhe is good looking, though he isn't my type," he paused, and Bailey had a bad feeling that Alex might be breaking up with him, so he interrupted.

"Liebe, what is this getting at?" Bailey looked very nervous now. "I do get along with Jorden, butâ!"

Alex turned to look at him. "I'm just wondering how you felt about him. If you like him, then it wouldn't be fair for me to get in the way. I mean, it is difficult to be chosen over, but I can understand why people do it. It's just how they feel."

Bailey smiled at him. "I do think he is very good looking, and I get along with him. He is also intriguingâbut I could never leave you for him. If I were single, I might consider him, but I'm happy here. I love you, and am not going anywhere." He remembered what Will had told him about Alex being afraid of relationships. He had a feeling that was where he questions had come from.

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Alex nodded, smiling slightly. "I'm sorry if it bothers you that I'm asking this, but I had to. I mean, if you want to be with Jorden, then I won't hold you back. I would be happy seeing you happy. I love you, but would let you go."

Bailey looked into his eyes, his own serious. "Alex, I see where this is coming from, but you don't have anything to worry about. You are a very special person, and I wouldn't have come back to New York if I didn't want to be with you. That is honestly the reason I came back. I know it seems that I flirt with Jorden, but it doesn't mean anything. I won't do it anymore."

Alex smiled. "That didn't bother me. He does, but you don't. That's good to hear, though."

Bailey bit his lip, feeling guilty for making out with Jorden, especially when Alex was saying these things now. "I mean it, liebe," he spoke quietly.

Alex pulled him close. "I love you, baby," he said, kissing him on the lips.

Bailey deepened the kiss, vowing to never make out with Jorden again. He had everything he needed right here.

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Liverpool, England; STAR Headquarters

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"Is that all you've got?" Agent Denny Hartley grinned at the man he was currently being held down by.

The other man grinned back at him. "Well, I have you now, Hartley. I haven't been able to get out of this one before, and I don't see it happening this time."

Denny rolled his dark brown eyes. "Maybe you're right, Ben." He relaxed, letting the other man move and think he had won. As soon as he began to get up, Denny caught his arm, sitting up as he pushed the larger man back. "I have been sparing with you for a long time, and I know how you work. You can't get me that easily."

The other man sighed. "Fine. Let me up, and we can continue this."

Denny laughed. "I think I've won, though." His eyes were shining mischievously.

Ben grinned. "Maybe this round, but we're not done."

"Okay, I'll let you up, and we can start round two," he said, pulling the other man up carefully, staying alert, just in case he decided to take advantage of the position.

Once they were both back on their feet, Denny settled back in a fighting stance. He motioned for his partner to attack first, with his body tense and ready for it.

The other man threw a punch, which Denny blocked smoothly and threw one of his own. Ben caught his arm just above the elbow, twisting Denny's arm in a position that caused him to turn to the side. Denny stayed tense, but settled back against the other man. When he had moved his arm just a small fraction of an inch away, Denny stepped back, then kicked the other man in the shin. The kick was not hard enough to injure, but did cause him to let go. When he did, Denny spun around, attacking with a roundhouse kick to the stomach.

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Ben doubled over, and he caught him with an uppercut. The man was thrown off balance and fell to the ground. Denny stepped on the man's chest, grinning.

"I'll take this as surrender," he kept his foot where it was, but continued to stare at the man.

The other man sighed. "Okay, you win. Help me up."

Denny laughed, but held out his hand, anyway. It was a good end to the session.

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Neither one of the men noticed the small figure jump down from the low part of the roof and make its way into the courtyard. Taking out the guard from behind with a taser, the small figure walked over to one of the computers and placed a thumb drive into it. Hacking into the system easily, the figure copied all the information on the desktop. Shutting down the computer again, they made their way out. Once they were far enough away, the young person pulled off the cap holding up long hair. Letting it fall down, she held up the walkie in her hand.

"I have the information, sir," she grinned. "These people are so easy."

"Good," the male voice sounded pleased. "Now, get out of there, before they catch you."

## Chapter 3

Liverpool, England; STAR Headquarters

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Denny frowned and looked down at the table. He and Ben had been called into the office thirty minutes after the break in, but now the captain had walked out twice without saying anything to them. He wished the old man would just tell him what this was about and let him get back to his meal. He hadn't eaten all day, and after sparring and taking a shower, he was hungry. He glanced at Ben and rolled his eyes. This was a waste of time.

They were both getting ready to leave and go grab a bite to eat when the door opened. The captain walked in, along with the STAR chief and the police chief. That meant that this serious. Denny rolled his eyes again, sighing. He was really hungry and halfway hoping that he would pass out before they got back in.

The captain took a seat, glaring at them both. "Gentlemen, I don't suppose you know what happened while you were fooling around, do you?"

"We missed lunch," Denny replied dryly. That was all he could think about, at the moment.

The captain rolled his eyes, glaring at him again. "Yes, Agent Hartley, you did. That is your personal problem, which I do not give a shit about. The real problem I do care about is the fact that someone walked right around you two goons and stole information from us. We are not sure which information is important, but they have it all."

Ben glanced at Denny, as confused as his partner. "Sir, I don't see how that is our fault, personally. There are several people here and I"

"The only point here is that they got in right around you, and you could have stopped them," the captain said. "That is your responsibility, as STAR agents. You both know this, damn well."

Denny shook his head, pissed off. "Sir, the fact that we do not have eyes in the back of our heads is not our fault. On top of that, there was no one around us, or we would have stopped them. Where exactly did they come in, sir?"

"They jumped onto the roof, and entered from the North door. You should have heard them," the chief answered.

"How would we have heard them, if they were on the other side of the building? Also, why were not guards at the North door? It's not our fault," he glanced at the captain, who was glaring at him. "Sirs," he added the last part quickly, not wanting to dig himself deeper than he already was.

The chief smiled at them both. "Look, I can see what your point is, Agent Hartley, but you will both be suspended for two days. That should give you a lesson in awareness. That is all I want to hear about this. There will be a meeting tomorrow morning, and we will be calling Headquarters, to see if this has been the only threat to STAR. I am sorry that you both had to get in trouble, but it will give you time to think about it. Now, you are both dismissed."

"Thanks, I guess," Denny spoke sarcastically to them. Ben glared at him, smiling at his superiors.



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"Thank you, sirs. We'll see you in the morning, then." He nudged Denny, who shook him off. He was tired, hungry, pissed off, and more than happy to leave.

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"Is this all of the information you were able to obtain?" A large man sitting in an equally large chair smiled at the two young people in front of him.

"Yes, sir," the boy glanced up very briefly. "I hope it will be helpful."

"It will. Thank you, and we will call you if we need more assistance," the man smiled at them again.

"Sir," the girl spoke quietly. "What is this all about?"

"That is none of your business, young lady. You will see soon enough, though. Good work, and you may both go."

As soon as they were gone, he grinned, placing the first hard drive into the computer. As soon as he clicked on it to open it, the computer shut down. When he tried another one, the same thing happened. Growling in frustration, he picked up the phone. This was going to be more difficult than he had thought.

## Chapter 4

Two days after the theft in England, Alex and his team was cleared to go to the bay. It had been a while since any of them had gone swimming, and the water felt good.

Bailey tried to ignore the fact that Jorden looked very nice shirtless. He had a refined chest and abs, with his fair skin and light blond hair. He was long and lean, like a cat, and his delicate facial features only added to the beauty. Bailey would have jumped him right there, if he had been single.

He was broken out of his reverie by Will, who bumped him from behind with his arm. The older, black haired agent glared at him, then walked over to the truck, where his brother was grabbing the towels.

Bailey smiled. That was exactly where his focus needed to be, not on Jorden. He had a boyfriend that was more muscular and tan, and he was very lucky. While they were getting ready, he used his super speed to rush through the water. It felt wonderful to move faster than the water, making it feel like he was running through a misty haze. Once Alex was ready, he would take him out to the deep and show him what it felt like to run on water. It would be a little more difficult with another person, but it would be worth it.

When Alex and Will were coming back from the truck, they noticed that Jorden was not in the water. He had spread out a towel and was spending his time sun bathing.

Alex glanced at his brother, then laughed. "Hey, kitty. Are you too afraid of the water to get in? You can do that at home, and it's not like it'll help you to tan."

Jorden removed his sunglasses, glaring at Alex. "What? I only heard about half of what you said."

"I said...never mind," Alex sighed, laughing. It felt good to do so, after the stress of putting up with vampires.

"You should come join us," Will smiled at the blond man. "We're here to have fun."

"I am having fun," Jorden smiled back at him. "You may join me, if you want to. I don't bite, unless you want me to."

"No, thanks, on both counts," he was still a little angry with Jorden and Bailey for what they had done a few days ago. "Suit yourself, but you're being boring."

"Oh, that hurt," Jorden rolled his eyes, sighing dramatically. "Go enjoy your water. Maybe I'll be over in a while."

"Okay," Will answered shortly, then grinned at Alex. "Want to race? As long as Bailey's not around, it'll be fair."

Alex grinned back. "Sure. Last one to the water has to do the paperwork."

"You're on," Will smiled.

They all spent the entire day playing around. Jorden had gone out briefly, but had not acted like he wanted to be in the water.

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Bailey took Alex out to the deep, like he had planned. Alex was winded, but amazed at the incredible feeling. He had never felt anything like speeding through the water or running on it. Once they had slowed down, Bailey kissed him softly on the neck. This began an entire make out session, and Alex was wishing they had been alone, by the time he came against Bailey. That would have to wait until they got home.

It was almost dark by the time they headed back to the base. Everyone seemed to be more light hearted, and it was exactly what they had been needing.

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Early the next morning, the captain received a call about the break in that had happened in England. The STAR base there had sent pictures, along with an object that had been on the desk, hoping that Will might be able to pull information from it and find out who the culprit was. It had already gone to the lab, and no one had been able to figure it out. They were hoping that Will's power's would be stronger than that.

The captain called a meeting, explaining about the incident in England and the similarities to the one at the police station. The people behind it were apparently trying to get information, and were not interested in harming anyone. That was how it looked at the moment, at least.

The captain handed the object to Will after he had finished the meeting. The young man took it carefully, closing his eyes. Even if it did not have fingerprints on it, he should be able to read it.

"Sir, all I can get from this is that it was handled by a young woman, probably in her teens, and an older man," he smiled at the captain apologetically. "I'm sorry, sir. It's more than I could get from the case here in the States."

The captain nodded. "Thank you, Will. I'll send this back, and let them know that we were not able to do much with it. We need to look at the incident at the police station as a possible connection, and stay alert."

"I agree, sir," Bailey smiled at the captain. "I do have a question, though. If they stole information, shouldn't their hackers be able to get through our firewalls?"

"I hope not," the captain smiled back at him. "All the STAR bases have a device installed in their computers that will shut them down if anyone tries to read any information on an unauthorized computer," he turned to the others. "I'm going to send this back, and inform the authorities there of what we were able to gain from this. Thank you for your help, and I will call you if anything else pops up."

"Thank you, sir," Alex said, still examining the object.

## Chapter 5

That night, Jordan decided he had been around familiar people long enough and went out to the nearest club. He could dance and forget all about the problems and rejection from regular people. He wanted to find someone that he wouldn't know and maybe have some fun with them. It had been quite a while since he had been with anyone, and seeing Alex and Bailey together was killing him.

When he walked into the club, he smiled at the bouncer and greeter that were both standing at the door. Showing them his ID, he grinned when they let him in. He went to the bar first and ordered a shot of whiskey. Shooting it back, Jordan made his way to the floor. After being turned down by several people when they saw his eyes, he spotted a dark haired man, who was dancing by himself. He was careful to lower his gaze slightly, so the full effect of his slightly glowing eyes would not scare the young man off. He hoped it would not have the same effect on him as it had the others.

The young man smiled at him, still moving slightly to the music. "Can I help you, sir?"

"Maybe," Jordan smiled back at him. "I noticed that you are dancing by yourself. It is usually more fun with another person. Isn't that the main reason for going to a club, and someone as hot as yourself should be dancing, just not alone."

The young man laughed lightly. "Do you know someone that would be interested?"

"I am definately interested," Jordan lifted his gaze to meet the other man's. When he did not become uneasy, Jordan cocked his head. "Would you like to dance, then?"

"Sure," the young man answered quietly.

"Thank you. Shall we?" Jordan held out his hand, which the other man took and pulled his out into the sea of people. It didn't occur to Jordan that he had not asked to young man's name until they had been dancing for a while. At that point, he did not really care, because he was already thinking of upstairs.

Shaking his head, he cleared his head of those thoughts. This man appeared to be very young, and though he was a good dancer, he may not be experienced at other things. He decided to test that by dropping his head and licking the young man's neck lightly. When he moaned and arched against Jordan, he increased to pace, also grinding his hips slightly. The young man grabbed the back of his neck, pulling him over the a corner. Once there, he smiled at Jordan.

"I don't even know your name, yet you are driving me more insane than anyone else in this club could," the young man grinned at him. "My name is Trent, and I would very much like to continue this in a quieter place. What do you say?"

Jordan took a deep breath. Maybe he had been wrong about the experience, or he might just be forward. "Jordan, and yes, I would."

Trent pulled him to the staircase, where he asked if there were any free rooms. Once they had been cleared, the two of them hurried upstairs.

When the door had been closed, Trent pulled off his own shirt, laying back on the bed.

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"Come here, Jorden. I would like to feel more of you," Trent unbuttoned his tight, black jeans and spread his legs, motioning to Jorden.

Jorden smiled at him slightly. "Are you sure. We don't even know each other."

Trent frowned. "Do we need to? This is a night. Nothing more," he shrugged. "Unless you would rather only make out. I would be up for that, also."

Jorden smiled, unbuttoning his shirt. "Okay. I just wanted to make sure."

Trent nodded, understanding. "Because I am young. That's okay, 'cause I'm used to this."

"Alright, then," Jorden said, and was pulled down to the bed in response.

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The next morning when Jorden woke up, Trent was gone, but there was a note on the nightstand. Jorden picked it up carefully, smiling. He usually did not like taking people, because it was too much responsibility, but last night had been a lot of fun. It had definately taken some off the tension away.

"Jorden, I had a wonderful time last night. I have never been with anyone like you before. You are special, and I hope you realize that. Thank you.

Trent

He folded the paper up and placed it in his jacket pocket once he was fully dressed. He needed to head back to the base.

## Chapter 6

As soon as Jorden got back to the headquarters, Will caught him. "Where were you last night? You should have let either Alex or myself know you were going to be gone. Anything could have happened to you, and we are supposed to have clearance to leave. Do you understand me, Agent Daken?"

Jorden rolled his eyes. "Yes, sir. If you must know, I went to a club and decided to stay there, because there are nicer people there than there are here. It was fun," he said, glaring at Will. "Is that clear enough for you, sir." He added the last word sarcastically.

"Sure," Will responded in the same sarcastic tone.

"Good to know," Jorden glanced at Alex, Bailey and Mike, who had just walked up. He looked away from them and walked away.

Alex watched him leave, then turned to his brother, confused. "What was that all about?"

Will rolled his eyes, then smiled at Alex. "He left without clearance, which could have put the entire organization in jeopardy if we had been attacked. He fucking knows to get permission."

Bailey turned to Will. "Why do you get so angry about it? Nothing happened, and he is back here now. You shouldn't get on his case so much."

"Will glared at him. "Bailey, someone has to, and I know you won't say anything to him, since he's your friend." When Bailey began to object, Will held up his hand. "Agent Lewis, I need to speak with you for a moment."

Alex glanced at Will, but did not say anything to him. Turning to Bailey, he kissed him, then glanced at Will. "I'll be in the training room, if anyone needs me."

"Thanks, liebe," Bailey smiled at his boyfriend and watched him walk off.

As soon as Alex was gone, Will grabbed Bailey's arm. "We need to talk." He pulled to shorter man into one of the unused bedrooms and closed the door. He turned to Bailey, shaking his head. "Now you see what kind of person he is, don't you? He's nothing but an oblivious whore who isn't even thinking in the real world."

Bailey glared at him. "That's very professional of you, Will. He's your teammate, not some guy that just happens to be helping us."

"I know he is, but he's still a whore. He hits on everything that walks and catches his interest," Will shook his head. "I can see why his old captain wouldn't put him on a team. He's solitary material, and I wish our captain hadn't agreed to keep him on."

"You and Alex have never given him a chance," Bailey said with a disgusted look on his face. "All the two of you do is judge him and bitch at him about what he's doing wrong. He didn't even get so much as a thank you for saving our asses against the vampires. How do you think he feels about that?"

"It was teamwork, not something single handed," Will laughed. "And besides, he received enough of a thank you from someone else as soon as we got back which also shows how unprofessional he is, and you are a bit questionable, yourself."

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Bailey glared at him. "I already said it won't happen again, so why are you bringing it up now? It's over."

"It had better be, or I will fucking kill you myself," Will shook his head. "He's still a whore."

"Do you realize how childish that sounds? On top of that, you don't know him!" Bailey swore under his breath. "I'm done with this. You can go fuck yourself." Without waiting for an answer, he opened the door and slammed it in Will's face.

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That night, Alex did not mention the confrontation between Bailey and Will, letting it blow over. He didn't see it as any of his business, and decided to stay out of it.

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Late that night, the police got called in for a possible hostage situation. The captain was informed to not mention it to his team unless there was a reason to call STAR in.

## Chapter 7

Liverpool, England; STAR Headquarters

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Denny woke up to his cell phone ringing. He did not want to answer it, because he knew it was about work, and did not feel like dealing with them this early. Sighing, he rolled over, tucking his phone underneath him to muffle the sound. If they really wanted him, his leader would call him.

Just when he was dropping back to sleep, his phone began ringing again. This time, it was his leader, so he answered it groggily. "Hello?"

"Hi," his leader's stern voice came over the other end. "Get your ass out of bed. We are needed in the conference room. Hurry up, Hartley." He hung up before Denny could reply.

Denny rolled his eyes, tossing the covers back. He knew his leader did not like him, but why did the guy feel the need to be an ass? Oh, well. He didn't care how what other people thought about him and his leader was not an exception. Not even Ben was.

Getting dressed quickly, he ran a comb through his thick, dark red hair. He would deal with whatever ridiculing he received when he got there.

Once everyone was in the conference room, the chief began. "As you all know, there was a theft from our control room. We have been investigating the similar incidents in the United States, and believe they are somehow related. We also have reason to believe that there is an individual with powers that is teleporting between the different countries, as there have been witnesses to sitings. We will be sending a team to New York as soon as possible to help find out what is going on. I will let you all know who will be going, as it will not be an entire existing team. Be ready to hear from me, so you may be able to pack quickly. You are all dismissed, except for Agent Hartley. I need to have a word with you in private."

Denny glanced at Ben, who shrugged.

After everyone else had left, the chief turned to him, unsmiling. "Agent Hartley, I know that you are not happy with your current situation, so I will definitely be sending you," he offered a small smile. "It is only because I am looking out for your well being. Be ready to leave soon. I am sorry I did not inform you of this sooner."

Denny shook his head. "Whatever you say, sir. I will go pack my bags. Does this mean that I need to say goodbye to Ben, or is he going, also?"

"No, he is not. He has a family here, and that would not be fair to his wife," the chief paused. "I know you are close to him, but I am sure that you understand why."

Denny nodded, swallowing hard. "Yes, sir. I will leave now." He walked out after getting a nod from the chief. He had a feeling that they were just trying to push him out. That was something he had expected for a while now, since Ben was the only one who ever treated him with respect, as if he belonged.

Walking to his room, he packed quickly, then returned to his bed.



### S.T.A.R#3: Security Breach

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The captain in New York got a call on his beeper from the police force.

"I'm sorry for the inconvenience, sir, but we need immediate assistance. A mutant just popped up, and is threatening us. We need all of your teams on hand, especially the leader of team C. There is a man using electricity, and Agent Mathias would be the best choice to handle him. Please send them in soon."

## Chapter 8

When the teams arrived at the hostage location, they were met by a lieutenant. He hurriedly informed them of the situation.

"Apparently, they are holding the daughter of the mayor, along with several other people who had happened to be inside building," he motioned toward the small office building. "We have been trying to negotiate with them, but it has not done us any good. The man in charge continues to speak about an unfair trial and prejudice, but we did not know what type of unfairness he was speaking of. Now that he has threatened with powers, we know what we are dealing with."

Mike nodded. "Are you sure that the trial was fair? He may have a point, if his claim is correct. There may still be room for negotiation."

The lieutenant shook his head wearily. "We have been dealing with them all night, and they are not budging until now. Our number one priority is to get the hostages out safely. These men have already attacked us, so we are going on the defense. We need you guys to take them down but not out. Do you understand? I think it is time to get their attention."

Mike sighed, glancing at Alex and Kyle. This was not going to be easy.

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The lieutenant instructed them to try and draw the mutants out, so they could go in and rescue the hostages. This was going to cause a confrontation, which the police did not seem to be concerned about. They would not be the ones fighting. Alex made sure the lieutenant knew they were taking their own approach to the situation, and expected to be left alone with whatever plan they came up with.

Alex turned to Mike and Kyle. The other STAR leaders were just as nervous as he was. Since there was not any sign of the captors yet, they all had a short meeting.

"The police are taking care of the hostages. I think it would be best to send Jorden in, along with Bailey and two other people," he looked at Bailey, who nodded.

"They can draw the captors out into the open and we can take them down and apprehend them from there. Does that sound like a plan to everyone?"

Kyle nodded, glancing at his second. "Sam, would you be willing to go in with them? They could use your teleportation. And we could send in someone from Mike's team." He looked over at the other leader. Mike seemed unsure of who to send in, and Deana placed a hand on his arm.

"I think I should go in, because I can tell you guys what is going on inside, while we are drawing them out. Deal?"

Mike studied her for a moment, then nodded. "Okay. I don't like sending you in, but it is a good idea. Just be careful."

Deana rolled her eyes. "Of course I'll be careful," she kissed him softly. "Now, we need to hurry." She glanced at Bailey, Sam and Jorden.

### S.T.A.R#3: Security Breach

Bailey kissed Alex quickly. "I'll be back soon, okay? Then we can take care of this for good."

"Alex nodded, squeezing his hand. "Be careful, babe. Just because you are fast doesn't mean you can get away."

Bailey shivered, remembering the warehouse he had been kept in for a week as a hostage himself. He knew all too well what it felt like to not have options, and that was one reason he was happy to be going in now. It would help the hostages. He just hoped they could lead the captors out successfully without any problems.

"Alright, is everyone ready?" Sam looked at the other three, taking charge.

Jorden nodded, smiling slightly. This would be easy. "Yes, sir."

## Chapter 9

The four agents made their way to the building, moving quietly. Sam was in the front, just in case he needed to teleport them out. Deana was behind him, followed by Bailey and Jorden.

Opening the side door, they were surprised that the first room was empty. Jorden listened carefully and could hear low voices in the next room. He nodded and gave a signal to approach the room to the right. They would be catching the captors by surprise, then teleporting out.

As soon as they moved to the next room, they could see several men gathered around a box which appeared to have money in it. One of the men turned and saw them, shooting at the agents. Bailey rushed toward him, causing the man to drop the gun. He then attacked with his hands. Jorden could hear that the captives were alone, as all of the captors were in the room with the money. He was beginning to wonder if the idea that any of them had powers was just an illusion on the police officers' parts. He could feel negative energy from all of them men, but could not sense anything else.

He tapped the side of his head, glancing at Deana, who was busy fighting. She let him in, though reluctantly.

'I think the mutants left the building. They may have already found our men,' he waited for her to reply, but only got a quick nod.

Deana contacted Sam. "Jorden seems to think the mutant is outside. We should probably teleport out now and help them with it."

Sam nodded to her, then backed away from the man he was fighting with. He drew both of his hands out, then brought them back in. The floor felt like it had dropped, along with their stomachs, and they were back out in the open.

When he saw them appear, Mike glanced at Deana. She contacted him, letting him know what was going on.

"So, no mutants have shown up? Agent Daken said they were not in the building anymore. They must have cleared out as soon as we went in. The question is where they went." She smiled at him, then turned her attention back to the captors. It was time to take them down.

Mike shook his head, staying alert. He made a fist at Alex and Kyle, signaling that the mutants were outside somewhere.

They began fighting the other men, taking them down by sheer numbers. All they could do was wait, but the idea of an enemy mutant out there was nerve wracking.

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As the police were making their way into the building, Alex turned to Jorden. "I think you should go with them. You will know what is going on better than they will, and can stay connected with Deana. It's too bad if they don't want any of us going with them. They need us. Please go."

"Yes, sir," Jorden replied quietly. He made his way over to the police officers, speaking with the lieutenant quickly. The lieutenant glanced back at Alex, frowning. He should have known the young leader would have sent one of his own men.

### S.T.A.R#3: Security Breach

Some of the police officers had already taken the captors into custody, so they did not need to concentrate on them.

There was silence for a while, and Will kept a hand on the wall of the building. He did not feel anything for about ten minutes, then he noticed a strange tingle in the air that was vibrating through the metal. Alex and Terry felt it, and Alex started charging himself with electricity. He remembered what the captain had said about someone with his powers, and he knew the other person was about to show up. The others stayed alert, also, getting their powers ready.

Alex glanced around the corner and saw a man pulling electricity from all the buildings, which would give him a large amount of power. Alex cursed lightly under his breath, knowing why the other mutant had waited for them. He was looking for a good fight. Well, he was about to get one.

Stepping out from the building, Alex shot a bolt of lightning at the other man, who grinned and shot back at him. The fight was on.

## Chapter 10

Inside the building, Jorden was getting worried. He had heard the fighting outside, and could sense that the mutant was now attacking them. He wanted to go join the rest of his team, but remembered what Alex had told him about staying with the police. He frowned, because they were just standing around, while the irritable lieutenant spoke with the mayor's teenage daughter. The girl seemed to be traumatized, and Jorden might have had sympathy for her, if he had not been worried about his own team. He would just need to wait until they could leave.

Studying the lieutenant and other officers that were with him, he began to have an odd feeling. It might have been his heightened instincts, or maybe he was just paranoid, but he somehow knew that he needed to get to the money in the next room before the officers had a chance.

Glancing at them again, he slipped out unnoticed and gathered up the large amount of cash, shoving it into the investigation bag that had been given to them. The stuck up lieutenant could bitch about it later.

As soon as he had it all in the bag, Jorden heard movement, then voices from one of the smaller rooms.

"He left, didn't he? What if he gets all the money up before we can? He will just take it to the station." Jorden swore when he heard the voice of one of the rookie officers. The kid should have stayed out of this. He was on a fast track to losing his career, if he kept this up.

The lieutenant sighed. "He thinks he is superior to us, because he is not even fully human. If he tries to take it, we will show him how quickly a cat can lose one life. Headquarters doesn't know about the money, and he will not ruin it for us."

Jorden strapped the bag securely on his back and stood up. If they wanted this money so bad, they would need to take him out to get it. Opening the door, he faced the two officers. The lieutenant glared at him when he entered.

"Why are you so hostile, lieutenant?" Jorden smiled at both of them. The rookie averted his gaze, and Jorden grabbed him by the arm. "You really don't want to get into the criminal business, kid. It doesn't pay. Believe me, I know." Glaring at the lieutenant, he shifted the weight on his back. "Do you know how well a cat's hearing is? Much higher than a human's. I will not let you walk out of this room with that money."

The rookie glanced at him, then the lieutenant. "I'm sorry, sir. I can't do this. It was a bad idea."

The lieutenant reached to grab him, but Jorden had his arm behind his back before he could do anything. "Go on, kid. Like I said, you don't want to get into this, and he doesn't have a chance against me. I am stronger and more skilled. If you go now, I will not mention this to the department. I promise." He twisted the lieutenant's arm painfully, while he struggled to get away.

"Let go of me, Agent Daken. That is an order," the man growled through gritted teeth.

"Not until the kid leaves," he glanced at the rookie. "I think you should go. Take the hostages out the back door, and all of you get back to the station. Like I said, I won't tell, and neither will he."

The rookie smiled at him. "I'm sorry, Agent Daken. I will do that." Without another word, the rookie left.

### S.T.A.R#3: Security Breach

Jorden let go of the lieutenant's arm, blocked the punch that was thrown at him, and took the lieutenant to the ground. Punching the man in the face, he ended the fight quickly. Now it was time to go help his team.

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When he got out there, he saw that he had been correct that the agents were already fighting the mutant. Rushing over to Bailey, he smiled grimly. He glanced at Deana, telling her everything that had happened in the building. She sent Sam in to take the lieutenant back to headquarters.

Jorden glanced at Bailey, who was watching nervously as Alex fought against the mutant. It was about time they stepped in.

Out of the corner of his eye, Bailey saw Will sneak up behind the assailant and grab him in a headlock. The mutant did not struggle, and stopped fighting Alex, who shook his head at Will.

"Let go of him and let me take care of this. He will only hurt you," Alex appeared to be a bit panicked. "Bailey can take himâ!"

"I already have him, Alex," Will glanced at Bailey, who looked at the leaders.

"No. You know what he can do. He is dangerous and you are making matters worse. Let Bailey have him, now that he is more pissed off," Alex glared at his brother. "That is an order."

"Okayâ I'll let him go," Bailey moved over behind Will to take the assailant, but seconds before he let go, Jorden shouted to Will about the man's hand. Before Bailey could react, he had placed it on Will's back, fully charged with electricity. Will jolted a few times, then fell to the ground.

Bailey grabbed the assailant, snapping his neck using his power. The fight was over as the man fell to the ground.

## Chapter 11

"No!" Alex screamed, rushing over to his brother. Bailey glanced at Jordan, who was checking the assailant. He shook his head and turned to Will.

Bailey placed a hand on Alex's shoulder. "Liebe, you should let me take him back to headquarters. They can stabilize him there." He tried to get Alex's attention, but his leader was not listening to him. Placing his hand on Will's chest, he noticed that he was still breathing, for now.

Jordan glanced at Bailey again, then lay his own hand over the speedster's. He could feel Will's life force flowing through him, but he knew it was faltering. Taking a shaky breath, he turned to Alex, who was still not moving.

"Bailey's right. He is breathing, for now, but he will die if we don't get him to a hospital. Please let Bailey take him."

Alex shook his head violently. "No, damn it! I am not leaving him. He could die on the way, and I would never see him again!" Alex's voice broke as he choked on a sob. "I can't leave him. Please."

Bailey sighed, motioning to Jordan to move away. Once he did, the speedster took Alex's hand. "Alex, you know what lightning can do to a body if left untreated, especially if he gets cold. Please let me take him back to the station, where they can get him all fixed up. He won't make it, otherwise. I know you don't want to leave him, but this is his only chance. You know it's true. Please."

Alex nodded slowly. "I can't lose him, babe. I just can't," he swallowed hard. "I trust you, though." Jordan and Mike helped him to stand up, and Bailey took his place next to Will. As soon as they were out of range, he disappeared in a blur.

Mike glanced at Jordan, nodding at the unmoving body of the assailant. "Is he alive?"

Jordan glared at the assailant that had just taken out one of their agents. "No. Bailey took care of it. We should get that and Alex back to headquarters as soon as possible."

Mike nodded. "I agree." He moved over to Alex, placing a hand on the other leader's shoulder. "We should get back."

Alex nodded numbly, following him.



## Chapter 12

That night, Alex stayed at the hospital. The doctors were still working on Will, and he wanted to be there when they finished. He did not want to be disturbed, so he had locked the door to the hospital room and sat by himself, thinking and worrying. Anything could go wrong with surgery, and it was nerve wracking.

Thirty minutes later, he heard a soft knock on the door. Jumping up, he opened it to find Bailey smiling at him with a worried expression.

"Do you mind if I come in?" His lover spoke softly, watching him.

Alex stared at him for a moment, then shook his head. "I don't mind, babe." His mind was still numb, and he felt like he would pass out at any time.

Bailey entered and closed the door. He took Alex's hand quietly and led him over to the bed. Once they were seated, Bailey pulled Alex into a tight hug. His boyfriend was stiff, almost resistant, but he did not let go. He just held Alex, trying to offer comfort.

They stayed like this for a few more moments, with Alex still not relaxing. He finally pushed Bailey back, kissing him lightly.

"I need to go speak with the captain about this situation...I'll be back," he paused, looking back at Bailey. "Thank you, babe."

Bailey stood up, pulling his leader to his feet. "If you need to talk about it, I'm here. Remember that."

Alex swallowed hard, then nodded. "Thanks, but I don't need to talk about it...he will be fine and back in no time." He shook his head, trying to clear his mind from the sight of his brother seizing up and convulsing. He knew what electricity could do to a body.

Squeezing Bailey's hand, he slipped out of the room and walked down the hall.

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Bailey found Jorden in his usual spot, high in the tree planted in the courtyard. Sitting down, he watched the catlike man, who seemed oblivious to his presence. He shook his head and settled on one of the benches.

Jorden finally broke the silence. "People don't usually have much of a chance against electricity, you know? Unless you have some kind of miracle workers here, he won't be coming back to the team...if he survives." He looked down at Bailey, who nodded.

"I know," Bailey whispered. "I know...damn it! If only I had been able to get to them sooner, this wouldn't have happened."

Jorden glared at him. "Don't you dare fucking blame yourself. Will should have listened to Alex and let go sooner...it's his own fault, not to sound harsh or anything."

Bailey sighed, picking at the peeling paint on the seat of the bench. He did not know what to say to that. He somewhat agreed, but didn't want to encourage Jorden's forward comments. Leaning his head back, he closed his eyes.

## S.T.A.R#3: Security Breach

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"Agent Mathias, please have a seat. There are a few things we need to discuss," the captain looked tired and stressed out, as was mirrored on Alex's own face.

Alex collapsed in the seat offered to him, staring blankly.

The captain watched him for a moment, then continued. "With the current situation, it will be in the best interest of everyone if we pull you out of the case. It is standard procedure, and only until we find out whether Will is going to be alright or not. I am sure you can understand. You are too close to him, and we cannot have you working on the case in this state of mind. Do you understand, Alex?"

The young man sighed, nodding slowly. "Sure. I don't care if I am on the case or not, since I won't be of much use. If I see the bastard that did this to my brother, I will rip him apart, so it's best that I stay away."

The captain ran his hand through his greying dark hair, then looked into Alex's eyes. "That's another thing...he is already dead. Bailey snapped his neck."

Alex's eyes widened in surprise. He had not seen this happen. He had been too concentrated on Will to notice anything else. "Good." His voice was full of hatred as he spoke.

The captain frowned. "No. Not good. Under the rules of STAR, agents are not supposed to kill, unless there is not another way out...Bailey knows this."

Alex swore lightly. He knew it was true, but didn't really care, as long as he was dead."So, you would pull one of your most promising agents from the case, not to mention, the one who saved Will's...hopefully saved Will's life..." He shook his head. "That makes a lot of sense."

The captain smiled at him carefully. "We never did a proper ground check on Agent Lewis, and now I wish we had. I know that he wouldn't kill someone that easily, without reason. It's Headquarters that will need to be convinced."

Alex shook his head. "That's bullshit. You could go speak with them and get this all cleared up...they need Bailey."

The captain sighed. "He may be placed back in soon. We will have new agents coming in tomorrow, so please be welcoming. Like I said, I'm sorry."

Alex glared at him. "No, you're not. Fuck you." Without another word, he turned and stalked out.

## Chapter 13

That afternoon, there was a meeting for all of the STAR teams. Alex had considered telling Bailey about the conversation with the captain, but was still hoping he would change his mind.

The captain smiled at the agents. "I know things have been tough recently, and I am sorry about how things have turned out. We recieved the x-rays from the hospital, and I have the updates on Agent Will Mathias' status."

Alex had been finding it difficult to listen, but now the captain had his full attention. Bailey placed a hand at the small of his back, trying to offer comfort.

The captain continued. "Will's spinal cord was not severed, so there is not as much danger of him being paralyzed. There was damage to his nervous system, so we do not know how he will recover his full movement. It will take a while for him to be on his feet again, but the good news is that he is stable and will survive, unless there is a drastic turn for the worse. There will be agents coming in from England to help with the situation at hand, seeing as they were hit by the same people. They will arrive within the next few hours, so please be welcoming. There will be some member changes in the teams to accommodate for what we will be lacking. I would like to let you know that we are reacquaring Agent Randy Benson, since he is fully recovered and back to being himself. That is all for now. You may all go, except for Agent Alex Mathias and Agent Bailey Lewis. I need to speak with each of you privately."

Alex snorted and shook his head. He knew what this was about, and he still thought it was ridiculous.

Once they were alone in the room, the captain smiled at Bailey. "Bailey, I realize the circumstances of the other day, and I wish this news could be easier to tell you. However, the rules still stand in STAR that you are not to use lethal force, unless absolutely unavoidable."

He paused, and Alex took advantage of the silence. "It was unavoidable! That psycho would have killed all of us, if he had the chance. Bailey did the only thing in his power to stop him."

Bailey was already shaking his head, but had not looked up. When he did, his face was furious. "Liebe, the captain is right. I could have taken him out more civilly, and I did know I was not supposed to kill him..." He looked at the captain. "I accept whatever punishment you have for me, because I do not regret killing him. He was a bastard who tried to kill Will, and I am glad I could do something about it."

Alex stared at his lover, shocked. He had not been expecting an answer like this from Bailey.

The captain shook his head, looking disappointed. "Agent Lewis, we have not had any problems with you, so far, and this side of you surprises me. We will conduct a full investigation into this situation, and also go over your background again. You will be suspended until further notice. I am truly sorry for this turn of events, but it has to be done. Do you understand?"

Bailey nodded, still angry. "I do, sir."

The captain looked at Alex, who was already shooting him daggers. "We already spoke about your situation, so the teams will be rearranged without the two of you, at the moment. We cannot have you on this case. Do you understand?"

"I already told you that I understand it, but I think it's bullshit," Alex was speaking coldly now.

### S.T.A.R#3: Security Breach

The captain smiled at both of them. "I will let you know when things are cleared up. You may leave."

Alex stood up immediately, pulling Bailey with him. He ignored the captain's protests and walked out. He was not on the case, and Bailey could be off the team. There was nothing else to say.

As soon as they were out, he turned to Bailey. "I'm sorry things turned out this way. I will help to reinstate you as much as I can. I know your intentions were for the good of the team. I wish he would see that."

Bailey nodded. "I was expecting this when I killed him. Like I said before, I don't regret it, though. I will face what will come of it."

Alex pulled him close. "Thank you, baby."

Bailey nodded quietly, a single tear running down his face.

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When the agents arrived from England, they were all given rooms, but did not speak very much. This was a different experience for everyone involved, and they could already feel like they were not completely welcome.

Denny had spent the entire flight there alone, listening to his ipod. He was anxious about how things would turn out, and was wishing they had sent Ben along with them. It was going to be lonely here, but they were not here to have fun, and would be back home in England soon enough.

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