

came to peace with my path (got me off track)

Posted originally on the [Archive of Our Own](http://archiveofourown.org/works/27650065) at <http://archiveofourown.org/works/27650065>.

Rating:	Teen And Up Audiences
Archive Warning:	No Archive Warnings Apply
Category:	Multi
Fandom:	RWBY
Relationships:	Jaune Arc & Weiss Schnee , Ruby Rose & Weiss Schnee , Blake Belladonna/Weiss Schnee/Yang Xiao Long , Jaune Arc/Lie Ren/Nora Valkyrie , Everyone & Everyone , Nora Valkyrie & Yang Xiao Long , Weiss Schnee & Nora Valkyrie , Oscar Pine & Nora Valkyrie
Characters:	Weiss Schnee , Jaune Arc , Ruby Rose (RWBY) , Oscar Pine , Yang Xiao Long , Nora Valkyrie , Blake Belladonna
Additional Tags:	Polyamory , Male-Female Friendship , Volume 7 (RWBY) , Not Canon Compliant , Gap Filler , Minor Lie Ren/Nora Valkyrie , Minor Blake Belladonna/Yang Xiao Long , Apologies , Angst with a Happy Ending
Language:	English
Stats:	Published: 2020-11-21 Updated: 2021-07-18 Words: 4,393 Chapters: 4/6

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by [theriveroflight](#)

Summary

Takes place sometime during that montage thingy in Volume 7.

Jaune comes up to Weiss one day in the cafeteria.

Notes

Title from Ariana Grande's "Safety Net."

This was supposed to be a fluffy little one shot in which Weiss and Jaune conspire to set the other up with their respective couple (Bumbleby/Renora) because I wanted platonic wk content. And then Weiss said "I have internalized polyamphobia"...so sorry?

CW: above, arguing, some awkwardness

Next chapter will be the Jaune & Weiss reconciliation.

See the end of the work for more [notes](#)

Chapter 1

“So,” Jaune says, going up to her as she slowly eats her dinner, “what’s it like?”

“What’s what like?” Weiss answers. She doesn’t know what Jaune is asking about, but the fact that Jaune is asking *her* is scary. She knows he got over her (thank goodness for that) and that he was with Pyrrha, briefly, which makes her a little jealous but also she knows that Pyrrha never would have gone with Weiss.

“Being— liking someone who’s with someone else.”

Weiss hopes it isn’t Blake or Yang. Or both of them. Who knows.

“What makes you think I’d relate to your scenario?” she answers. “I’m not...”

“I just...needed someone to talk to.”

“You’re closer with Ruby, yeah?”

Jaune nods, then shakes his head. “She doesn’t get romance.”

And yeah, that’s a fair assessment of Ruby. So she kind of understands.

“Blake and Yang are on the verge of being together, Ren and Nora are together. So I’m the only other single person here that doesn’t want to be.”

“Ren and Nora...” Jaune sighs. “I don’t know how I can help them anymore.”

“It’s one of them for you, isn’t it?” Weiss sighs. She isn’t equipped to deal with this on the other end of it.

She’s grateful that Jaune isn’t trying to ask her out in increasingly ridiculous ways — really. That was a terrible experience.

“I mean, it’s Blake or Yang for you, isn’t it?” He parrots her words back at her. It isn’t ‘or’ for Weiss, but ‘*and*.’

“Stop talking so loud, I don’t want any of them to hear. Don’t you know better?”

Jaune looks around. They’re not the *only* ones in the cafeteria, but they’re fairly far away. “They won’t hear.”

“Someone else might.” But even as Weiss looks around, she can’t see anyone that’s paying enough attention to them to hear.

“And even considering if they *could* hear us...I want them to.”

“*Them?*” Weiss says. She never thought she’d meet anyone like her. Much less Jaune Arc, hopelessly devoted to Pyrrha since her death. Well, there are always people that can surprise her. “You have to face it — we’re the ones outside the norm. They...they have each other. They’re not going to just...love another person. They’re *normal* and have *enough* in their hearts with each other. They don’t *want* another person.”

“What makes you think that you can speak for them?” Jaune yells. “And what makes you think you can project all your *insecurities* on *me!*” People look over at them.

Weiss just stares at him in disbelief. Jaune walks away.

“What happened with you and Jaune?” Ruby asks. “You’re both my friends, I don’t want to see anything bad happen to either of you.”

“It’s...” Weiss sighs. “I thought I had gotten better about assuming things about other people.”

“We all have things we need to work on,” Ruby replies. “It’s okay. I think you have time to apologize.”

“I know. I know it needs to happen.” Weiss sighs. “I just want to let him have some space first. I know I said the wrong thing to him.”

“What’d you say?”

“It doesn’t matter. All that matters is that it was wrong. That I was wrong.”

“You know, the first day I met you, I never thought you’d be saying that.” Ruby smiles. “It’s okay to make mistakes, Weiss. You just have to keep moving forward from them.”

She knocks softly at the door. “Jaune?”

Oscar answers the door to see her. “I wanted to...apologize to him.”

“He’s with Ren and Nora right now. They went for a walk.”

“You didn’t go with them?”

“I was going to go to sleep, actually. I’m kind of tired.”

Weiss nods. “I’ll probably be back in the morning. Good night, Oscar.”

“Sleep well, Weiss.”

Being in the dorms kind of sucks. Their belongings are sparser than they were back when they attended Beacon.

It appeared that bunk beds were standard in Atlas. It's an experience similar to the one that she had back at Beacon, but she couldn't fall asleep.

And then she heard some squeaking — someone was shifting on one of the mattresses. It wasn't the one directly above her, so it was probably Yang. She heard the sound of footsteps coming down the ladder, and then a face peeks through her curtain.

"Come on," Yang whispers, holding out a hand.

Weiss takes it, unsure of *why* Yang was doing this.

"What's happening?" she whispers as they both put on their shoes.

"I'm taking you on a walk, and you're talking about what happened with Jaune," Yang answers.

Weiss shushes her, because she doesn't want to wake up Blake or Ruby. They get out the door before Weiss says anything more.

"What if I don't *want* to tell?"

"Ruby says you didn't tell her. I thought you might want someone you aren't as...close with." Yang winks.

"I resent the implication," Weiss retorts. "Jaune wanted to ask me something. And along the way something was revealed, and then..."

"Well, he said something about projecting insecurities. What do you have left to be insecure about, Weiss? It's okay if you have a crush on my sister, I'm okay with that."

"Like I said, I resent the implication that you think I like your sister. It's not your sister. We were talking about...romantic inclinations."

"What, you ashamed of liking girls? That's not something to be ashamed of, Weiss."

"Oh, it's not that."

"Is it more than one person?" Weiss almost stops in her tracks at that, but she manages to resist. She suspects that she still gave some kind of physical sign.

"That's chill too," Yang says, shrugging. "My dad can too. Ruby and I's mothers were in a relationship with him at the same time. I think it's perfectly fine."

Knowing that Yang's okay with it as an abstract concept is well and good, but it still doesn't mean that her crush is requited.

"Wait, but who are the multiple people that you and Jaune like?" Yang asks, after they continue walking down a bit more.

“I’m not at liberty to disclose that. I have enough decency to not share a secret that someone *trusted* me with.”

“You kind of inadvertently exposed that Jaune likes multiple people too. I think that counts as exposing a secret that he trusted you with already.”

Weiss glares at Yang. “It’s a matter of respect, really.”

“I get it. But I don’t like being kept in the dark, either. I’m betting that it’s Ren and Nora, and he was asking you and hit a little close to home.”

“That last part is right. I can’t say anything as to the first.”

“I mean, he could like you, but I really don’t think that’s it.” Yang wrinkles her nose. Was that a sign of...jealousy?

That gave Weiss some hope, at least.

“I severely doubt that, too.” Because she *knows*. Not that she wants to do anything besides preserve the sanctity of the secret — she’s not fond of secrets, but she’d rather keep her friendships than endanger them for the sake of honesty.

“Well, good talk,” Yang forces a smile. “I hope you can sleep now. You tend to toss and turn a lot in your sleep — I knew you were awake because you weren’t moving.”

They open up the door to their room, slip off their shoes, and climb back into bed.

Chapter 2

Chapter Summary

Jaune gets to say his side of the story.

Chapter Notes

woohoo! decided to get back to working on this. have an outline for the remaining 3 chapters already. but even with a plan it might take a while sorry

The walk is very nice. The three of them don't talk much, but it's a good walk, and they still manage to get back at a reasonable time to both wake up at sunrise *and* get a good amount of sleep. He's been getting a lot of nice sleep as of late — it's good to have stability, after so much travelling trying to find the end.

He sees that there's a note for him.

Jaune—

Weiss came by earlier, said she wanted to apologize. She'll probably be back tomorrow but I just wanted to let you know that she came.

Oscar

Well, that was...a good sign, at least.

What Weiss said earlier still stings a little bit. He hasn't always been this confident in himself — it took time for him to accept his love for them, the road and the fact that it was Ren and Nora (and he had never seen two people more devoted to each other) helping him in that process.

He thinks that perhaps it was hopeless.

And he's noticed how Weiss acts around Blake and Yang. So, he thought that by talking to her, it would be okay. That it would all be fine. That he had someone to connect with.

It took him a long time to accept that part of himself, yet Weiss's comments still manage to hit his insecurities around himself.

He might not be alone, but now he knows that she doesn't want to talk to him about it. She doesn't want solidarity with him. And that might be because of their past, but they've managed to become friends between it all, what does she have to be hung up about?

He knows he isn't alone anymore — but at what cost?

At least Ren and Nora didn't try to talk to him about it on their walk. He doesn't want them especially to talk to him about what Weiss said.

They just...understand him. And that's part of why he loves them. His team's always understood him better than anyone else.

Ren and Nora go on a mission by themselves to the wall, Blake and Yang stick together as usual and head to the mines, Ruby goes with Penny, Oscar is training with Ironwood (that makes him a little nervous, but he knows Oscar can hold his own), and so that leaves the two of them together.

Weiss immediately pulls him aside. "I'm...sorry. I acted improperly, and I know that hurt you."

"Apology accepted." He resists shrugging it off, because it still isn't that easy. "I know you're still figuring things out. And I know how hard that is."

"I just wish I could choose. That would make it...easier, I guess."

"At least they're happy with each other."

She takes a shaky breath. "I'm okay with being the one left out." It sounds like she's trying to convince herself more than anyone else.

"Want to try again?" He offers her a smile. "Come on, killing some Grimm should help you feel better."

A little fighting always does some good for catharsis.

"Let's go," she declares, smiling back at him. They end up on the same truck as Blake and Yang, going towards the mine — Blake and Yang are going in, and the two of them are protecting the outside.

Weiss ends up chatting with Blake and Yang more than him, and that's fine, because on the inside he's thinking about how he can help her with them, whether she chooses to get over them or try to get together with them.

Yang seems a little more distant from the conversation than Blake and Weiss, who get caught up in talking about dust mining, of all things. Jaune thinks that means something, but he isn't close enough to them to quite tell *what* exactly it means.

He's exhausted when they get back from the mines. It's nighttime, but isn't overly late — winter in Solitas means that it gets dark early in the day, and he's not really used to it because he's always lived in Vale.

Ren and Oscar finished eating together, so that leaves him and Nora still finishing their food in the cafeteria.

"I know we don't talk quite as often," Nora whispers, "but I wanted you to know that if you need to talk, I'm here."

"I'm not sure I need to talk about it anymore. Weiss apologized to me, and we had a fun time out."

"If you...like her, that's fine. We'll support you, whatever your choice is." Why does Nora sound *sad* at that prospect?

He isn't completely certain of their support of who he really likes, though.

"What? I don't—she's not the one that I like." He shakes his head. "Not anymore. Hasn't been for a long time."

Nora shrugs. "Sometimes things change, or get revived. But that means...Pyrrha?"

"She's still in my heart." Jaune takes a deep breath. "But sometimes, you have to know when to carry on. Move forward. She would have wanted me to, I think."

"I'm glad you've found someone else."

"Some *ones* else." And that doesn't sound like proper words, but it's for the sake of correction, so he can't find himself caring.

"That's...a thing?"

"Yeah." He laughs. "Weiss seemed to struggle with that too."

Realization dawns on Nora's face. "Ohhhhhh." And Jaune can't help but smile at her, open with realization. "So that's what it was about."

"Can you fault me for wanting someone to talk to?" he jokes.

"You could have come to us," Nora says. "Even if I don't quite get it yet, I'm still willing to listen."

"I'm not sure you can help me out right now," he says. "I got out everything I need. But if I do need to talk, I'll let you know, yeah? You're my teammates, you deserve to be aware."

She nods. They hug, and it still feels weird because he's taller than her by...quite a bit, but nice.

"I won't tell, okay?"

“It’s okay if you do.”

“It’s yours to tell. I don’t want to take that from you.”

“Okay.” He goes to brush the remainder of his tray into the garbage, but Nora takes it from him, a wordless offer to eat the rest of it.

“I’ll see you back at our room, okay?”

“Of course,” she answers, already starting to eat.

Chapter 3

Chapter Summary

Yang gets the chance to talk to Nora, and plot moves forwards.

Chapter Notes

You may have noticed I bumped the chapter count up by one - I want to get in all of their heads at some point, so one more chapter will be needed.

So, it's been a while, yeah...? This is not discontinued, though - I do plan on completing this.

Yang sighs. Weiss can deny it all she wants, but Yang *knows* Weiss likes Ruby , and she suspects the other person is Penny. Multiple people, plausible for Weiss...

(It *could* be Blake. She remembers that Blake and Weiss had a rocky start at Beacon, but they went together better. Yang recognizes a form of jealousy, but it's not exactly *ugly* like she's always thought of jealousy as .)

After all, Yang *knows* that Weiss doesn't like her romantically. Weiss called them "not as close" — there's no way that Weiss *could* like her when she said all that to Yang.

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, they say, and Yang is certainly no exception considering her parents. She knows that she bears attraction to both Blake and Weiss, that she has for...well, Blake has been since Beacon. Since Blake tried to pull away and Yang pulled her back from burnout. Yang realized her attraction to Weiss at the bandit camp when after that separation that ripped her heart apart they could still stand back to back and fight together.

She's had a hard time learning to trust others that aren't part of her family. But she's learned. She's always been able to lean on Ruby, she trusts Blake and Weiss, and she trusts the rest of them too — Jaune, Nora, Ren, and Oscar.

Well — Weiss likes Ruby and Penny, Jaune likes Ren and Nora, and Yang can help all of them.

(Even if it does hurt that she's lost Weiss to her sister.)

“Hey, Nora,” Yang says, interrupting her whistling down the hall in an attempt to appear casual.

“You want a rematch?” Nora asks.

Yang shakes her head. “No, that’s not what I’m here for.”

“Is this about Jaune and Weiss?” Nora tilts her head, and Yang needs to keep remembering not to underestimate how perceptive Nora is.

“Related to,” Yang answers with a shrug. “I talked to Weiss after she went to apologize to Jaune. She’s...I mean, better than she was at Beacon, but I don’t think she was prepared to talk about whatever Jaune saw that made them similar.”

“Did she talk it over with you?” Nora asks.

“A little. I mean, I don’t want to tell either of their secrets for them, but it’s something related to love.”

“Jaune told me already that he likes multiple people. He denied it, but I think one of them is Weiss.”

Oh. Well, if Jaune told Nora, then it isn’t a big deal, but Yang *does* think Nora’s mistaken. Then again. It’s hard to see someone being attracted to you — she was uncertain about Blake for a long time, after all. Ren and Nora also still have their own issues to work out.

“Weiss likes Ruby and Penny,” Yang responds. “Or, at least I think so.”

“I also think Jaune likes Ren.” Nora slumps a bit at that. “I don’t really know what to do. I don’t know what Ren wants, and really it’s up to him to decide. And, I mean, we’ve been with each other forever, but we’re not like official or anything. I don’t know what the right answer is.”

“Talk to him?” Yang shrugs. “I mean, talking to people usually helps resolve issues.”

“I’d...be okay with letting them go.” Nora sighs, sitting on the ground. Yang joins her on the floor. “Because they’d be good together.”

And then it clicks. “You like Jaune too,” Yang whispers.

“I...” Nora closes her eyes, a form of contemplation. “Yes, but I don’t plan on doing anything about it.”

“Why not?” Yang asks. “You never know if you don’t try.”

“I don’t...I’m afraid. That’s it, pretty much. I’m afraid of how Ren will react when I say that there’s someone else alongside him, I’m afraid that Jaune won’t react well even if he has come to terms with it, and I’m afraid of things changing.” Nora sighs. “The Fall of Beacon shook us all, and now everything’s changing so quickly.”

“Would you ever even have tried to make a move if things were normal?” Yang points out, remembering how Ren and Nora constantly danced around each other at Beacon.

Nora looks away. “Maybe. I don’t...”

“If you want something, you have to seek it out. Go for it. You can’t wait forever. I thought Blake and I had...longer to figure it out. I regret not doing something earlier.”

“Maybe I will,” Nora says, getting up with a new resolve. “Thanks, Yang.”

“Good luck,” she answers, also rising to her feet.

“Blake?” Yang whispers, and she clambors down to join her partner in her bunk. “You awake?”

“I was asleep,” Blake softly says back, “until you woke me up with your movement.” A smile lights up her face, and Yang knows it’s not really serious. “Is something wrong?”

“I just...wanted to make up for lost time,” Yang responds. “He took so much from us.”

Blake carefully touches Yang’s shoulder, above where her arm was cut off. “He can’t take anything else. Not anymore.”

“I know.” Yang embraces Blake tight. “I was talking with Nora earlier, and I was encouraging her to do something. It just reminded me of everything we’ve lost.”

“But there’s so much we haven’t,” Blake stresses. “We haven’t lost each other, and we haven’t lost the others either.”

“We still could. So I want to make the most of it.”

“Me too,” Blake says, “which is why I don’t want to miss out on what could be with Weiss.”

Wait, what?

“Huh?”

“I’m not blind, Yang, I know how you feel about her.”

“Oh.” Yang knows better than to be *ashamed*. After all, Ruby asked her to talk to Weiss right after the blowup for a reason. “What about you?”

“I’m...I mean, I almost went on a date with her before the Fall. I was into her. I’m not sure if I still am, but it’s a possibility.”

Yang nods. “We should sleep first, then discuss more in the morning.”

“Yeah,” Blake says, curling up to her. “Sounds good.” She yawns.

Yang's tired too. Perhaps it'll be good to sleep now and face the next day with a new mindset.

But as she drifts off to sleep, one question remains: how did Blake find out?

Chapter 4

Chapter Summary

Nora has some discussions.

Chapter Notes

Content warning: suicide ideation. Skip the second to last paragraph of the first section if it might be triggering.

I thought this chapter would be easy to write. I was wrong.

Happy birthday to one of the bees schnees queens herself, [Shade](#)! Hope you enjoy this update. Sorry it's kind of a downer.

Nora's not *blind*. In fact, she's probably one of the most emotionally perceptive people on their team (the combination of them and team RWBY, that is). Not that she really *knows* what to do with those emotions. But she knows they're there, at least, which is more than some of the others can say. Blake and Yang are definitely *something*, and she knows that Ren loves her...

But both of their hearts are wavering. Now that she's open to the possibility, she can see it better.

She knows that it's the same person that they waver *for*, but the only heart that gets an answer from Jaune is Ren. She and Jaune don't have quite the same...chemistry.

(When she looks, she doesn't see anything.)

Yang's wrong about Ruby and Penny being the ones that Weiss loves — she could see how Yang would come to that conclusion, it isn't completely out of left field, but it's not the *truth*.

But, of course, Nora...shouldn't tell Yang. She doesn't even know for sure. She is *fairly* certain, but not completely.

And absolute certainty is key here when there's been so much misunderstanding. She isn't certain about her speculation on Jaune's feelings either, but it's...probably true. Nora could push Jaune towards talking to Ren — maybe he would have more success than she's having.

Maybe she should just...talk to Weiss. She doesn't want to go on a mission separate from Ren, but she wanted Ren and Jaune to talk, right...? And maybe it would go better if she weren't there.

Maybe it would all be better if she wasn't here. Then they might not be in this mess. Maybe she should've sacrificed herself instead of Pyrrha, all the way back then. She couldn't have put up as good a fight as Pyrrha, but she could certainly have *tried*. And maybe they would be in a better position now, with Pyrrha instead of her.

But she puts herself into the system and requests to be paired with Weiss, and hopes she won't regret it.

"You never separate yourself from Ren. I assume you want to talk." Weiss crosses her arms as they walk down the wall. Weiss is *very* successfully walking backwards, Nora notes; she'll have to ask Weiss how she does that. "Before you ask — yes, it's Blake and Yang, no, I don't intend on doing anything about it, and *no*, I'm not telling you who Jaune likes."

Nora shakes her head. "I wanted to ask if you were okay."

"Really?" Weiss answers. "*Just* that? I swear, there's always some kind of—"

"No, really. You only confirmed what I already knew with those three statements earlier. I don't know what it's like, but to have your secret spilled like that...sounds really bad. I'm sorry."

Weiss shakes her head. "Not your fault. And it isn't Jaune's either, purely mine. I'm..." She looks around. "Being back here is getting to me. Not in a good way. I'm not the same person I was the last time I was here. And that *is* a good thing. I'm just worried that it'll all go away."

Nora looks down at the city of Mantle. "I never thought I would ever get to Atlas. At first... well, for a poor Anima kid, being able to emigrate to Atlas sounds like a dream. And then I grew up and got to know better than my old misconceptions."

"It was an awful place to grow up."

Nora snorts. "Worse than on the streets?"

"I can't really...compare the kinds of lives we had before Beacon." Weiss stops in her tracks, turning towards the rising sun. Wall patrol is always bright and early, after all. "We had different struggles when we were young. You needed to stay alive. I needed to get away. Those are different issues. And so many people would've loved to have been in my position before the Fall. But it's...lonely. That's something I bet you've never known. You've always seemed to have Ren..."

They start walking again.

“I don’t have many memories from before I met him, but I have a few snapshots. It wasn’t... good. But now I do have him. And I...I won’t ever experience that loneliness again.” Nora clenches a fist, and then spots a Grimm in the sky. “Sphynx above us, eleven o’clock.” She grabs Magnhild and shoots it down with one of the grenades in the magazine.

Weiss smiles at her, and they move forwards.

“How’d it go with Jaune?” Nora asks when they’re both at base again.

“He reassured me that the issue he and Weiss had was personal and wouldn’t affect the team. I thought he was lying, but I didn’t really want to...confront him about it.” Ren’s avoiding looking at her too, and she wonders if that’s just the trend today.

“Weiss was fairly talkative, though not about the thing. We talked about other stuff. Atlas, mostly. She confirmed some things that I thought, and it was...nice.” Nora wants to ask. Should she?

What does she lose by asking?

Her chance of being together-together with Ren. That’s what she could lose. But if she manages to get it right...

“So. Um. Jaune’s...pretty handsome, isn’t he?”

Oh no. That was *not* the right thing to say.

Ren blushes. “Wait, what?”

“It’s okay if you think he’s...”

“I mean, he is, but...”

“I do too!” she blurts, before she loses her nerve. “I-I gotta go.”

“Oh, hey, Nora!” Oscar waves with a smile.

“And just what have you been up to?” Nora asks with a smile.

“Team RWBY’s doing a video game tournament. They’ve recruited Qrow and somehow Qrow managed to get the Ace-Ops in.” Oscar lowers his voice to a whisper. “I think Clover likes Qrow, and that’s why they went along with it.”

Nora thinks about that for a moment. “That actually wouldn’t surprise me.”

“I was eliminated. I’m going to be heading back to the dorm. Jaune’s still at it, though.”

“I’ll see you at dinner, then,” Nora says.

Oscar waves and leaves.

Just what has Nora gotten herself into now?

Well, at least the video game tournament will be fun to watch, if nothing else. And she can distract herself from all the chaos that's been happening the last few days.

End Notes

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