



## xviii. Battle Royale

**A/N: Nebula deserves better. Same goes for Gamora. These space sisters need a happy ending. Sorry, GOTG rant over, I'll write the chapter now. Oh, and this book is #1 in MCU thank you all.**

While Auralie raced to go save them all, the rest of the remaining superheroes charged for New York to hold back Thanos. They le Pepper and the Iron Legion as a last line of defense for Auralie and the compound. If worst came to worst, they would fight till the end.

No one wanted worst to come to worst.

The Avengers found the Mad Titan himself waiting for them, and what remained of his army was there too. Nebula sucked in a breath from her position on the quinjet. She wanted these Earth heroes, the Avengers, as they called themselves, to save everyone, especially the other guardians. But even if they couldn't, she would make sure Thanos died at the point of her sword. For Gamora.

"Didn't you learn," Thanos said as they emerged from the quinjet. Nebula was alongside Rocket, her electric knives drawn. The mad titan continued, "I thought all of this was done. I thought you would have realized it was time to give up. But if you continue to fight, to undo my work, then I'll have no choice but to destroy you all."

"You don't need a reason to destroy someone," Nebula replied.

"I didn't want to kill Gamora," Thanos said to the cyborg.

Nebula narrowed her eyes, "you think that don't you. You think you're right. Well, I'm here to tell you-you're wrong. And I won't let you hurt anyone else."

"She's right," Captain America said, "we're here to fight, to the death if necessary."

"So be it," Thanos shot back, holding up his hand, the one with the gauntlet. His alien army charged the Avengers. The super team ran forward, no hesitation. But Nebula, Rocket, and Rocket's new friend Thor raced straight for the purple man himself.

Nebula slashed at her abductor, the man who had tortured her for so many years. For Gamora. For herself.

Rocket was going all out, blasting the alien warlord with his giant blaster. Nebula hoped it hurt him. Thor, meanwhile, was supporting them from the air with his lightning. But Thanos had the infinity stones. He used the power stone to blast them away, and though they kept getting back up, they also weren't making much headway.

Natasha and Steve, meanwhile, were fighting side by side and kicking aliens in the ass. Natasha shot one that was creeping up on Steve, and he threw his shield, knocking away another. Above them, Tony and Rhodes were teaming up to defeat three more aliens.

"On your six," Rhodes said, shooting away an alien that was about to jump Tony.

"Thanks for always having my back," Tony replied.

"It's what friends are for," Rhodes called, before flying away to help out Bruce, who was trying to deal with ten aliens at once. The Avengers were seriously understa ed at the moment. They had faced down armies before, but the infinity stones were something else.

"You know, if Hope were here, she'd just say screw it and save the day. She's kinda awesome like that!" Scott called as he used his shrinking discs to turn two aliens into little bitty things.

Clint, who fired an arrow to take down another replied, "that's great Scott. I'm sure Hope's awesome, but let's focus on the mission so we can get her back."

"Oh yeah, right," Scott said before shrinking down.

"How do you think Ali is doing?" Tony cried, "we need her to pull this o , or we're in trouble."

"She's got this. I believe in her, a hundred percent. We just need to keep buying her time," Steve replied.

"Yeah," Natasha yelled, "Hey Steve, mind if I borrow the shield for a moment?" The supersoldier promptly tossed the shield to his teammate. Nat caught it and whacked two aliens away before tossing it back to Steve.

The battle continued, and the Avengers were feeling overwhelmed. Aliens were ripping the Hulkbuster armor o of Bruce piece by piece. Though Tony and Bruce had done a good job of repairing it, it was a quick fix and the aliens were very strong. Bruce was becoming more exposed by the minute.

"Guys, I think I need a little help," Bruce yelled over the comlinks.

"On my way," Tony replied, "Rhodes, you wanna come too?"

Rhodes sighed, "sure, why not?"

The two men in the metal suits fired at the aliens, clearing them away from Bruce. But there were a lot of them. They charged at Tony and Rhodes, who didn't back down, keeping themselves between the aliens and Bruce. They would protect their teammate.

Seeing it made Bruce angry. He wanted nothing more than to help his friends, but he felt defenseless. So, Bruce Banner decided to join the fight, by chucking one of the broken pieces of armor at an alien leaping at Tony.

This proceeded to enrage the aliens further, but none could compete with Bruce's fury. He had been mad before, of course, but this anger came from the bottom of his heart, the part of himself that had friends and family with the Avengers. If there was one thing Bruce Banner and his green alter ego had in common, it was their loyalty to the Avengers and commitment to protecting the world.

That was how the Hulk joined the fight. Rhodes and Tony heard the roar behind them. Rhodes said, "well, time to get back into the air. I think these aliens are gonna be running soon."

"That's a fact," Tony agreed as they took o . The Hulk charged at the aliens, who promptly scattered at the sight of the big green superhero.

While the Avengers who were fighting the army and defending the city were still holding strong, Thanos wasn't backing down either. Thor tried to hit him with lightning but kept having to dodge blasts from the power stone. Rocket was still firing rapidly, but Thanos kept sending him far away with the space stone and the raccoon would have to fly back with his jet pack.

Nebula was fueled by rage, and she kept slicing at her torturer. She was in pain, she was trying to fight against the infinity stones, and she was not giving up. She would avenge her sister or die trying. This was for Gamora.

Across the battlefield, Steve called to Natasha, "do you think Ali's ok?"

"I hope so," Natasha called back, "I trust her, and I believe in her. But this is like nothing any of us have ever done before. We just have to have faith that she can pull this o ."

"You're right," Steve said, "Ali can do this."

Natasha believed him. She had confidence in her friend. But she was scared that Ali would break herself trying to save the world. The former assassin whispered, "be safe Ali. We're all rooting for you."

**A/N: I know Auralie wasn't in this chapter, but this was the big battle seen going on while she's doing what we will see in the next chapter.**

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