



## xxv. Ghosts of the Past

When Wanda got home from going to the grocery store, she found a message from Auralie waiting for her, and it was not at all what she was expecting.

"Hi Dear," the message started, "I hope you're ok. I'm with Maria, and we're on a mission. My brother resurfaced saying that Elory is planning something and we need to stop her. I don't trust him, but we have to investigate. The fate of the world and all that. I'm sorry I couldn't tell you this in person, but we have to move fast. Don't worry, Maria has my back like she always does. Anyways, that's why I'm going to be late for dinner tonight. Sorry, Wanda. Don't be afraid, I'll come home safe to you. Love you. Bye."

The smile on Wanda's face faded fast. The love of her life was going to who knows where, with her potentially evil twin, to face down an evil magic user. Like hell, Wanda was just going to sit and let her handle it. She was going to go help, whether Auralie wanted her help or not. She would never leave her lover to fight alone.

She was insanely worried, though Auralie had told her not to be. From what Auralie had said, Elory was nothing to sneeze at. And she was worried Lucian would end up betraying Auralie again. That could not only get Auralie hurt physically but also mentally and emotionally.

"Oh darling, I can't lose you too," Wanda whispered. She wished she had someone to talk to, someone she really trusted. Usually, that was Auralie, but this time she was freaking out because of Auralie.

She wished she could talk to Pietro. Pietro would give her advice on where to begin when dealing with this. That didn't mean it would be good advice, but it would reassure her none the less. Oh, how she missed him. Pietro would have adored Auralie, she just knew it. They would have been good friends. Pietro would have loved watching cartoons with Ali and Wanda, he would have ended up crashing on their couch and raiding their pantry and being the loveable idiot that he was.

She really, really wished she could talk to Pietro.

What she hadn't noticed was that her magic had been reacting to her emotion, to her panic. It formed clouds all around the apartment, whirling around behind her, doing something that she was controlling subconsciously.

Wanda whirled around and gasped when she saw what she was doing without thinking. Something was forming in the center of the room, someone was forming. Someone that felt familiar and safe. One of two people Wanda had known that truly felt like home.

"Pietro," she gasped. He was there. He looked as he had when he had died, but he was translucent and blurry around the edges. Not Pietro, alive as he had been, but a ghost.

While normally if this had happened, Wanda would have called Auralie so they could geek out over the existence of ghosts (they had both suspected that if paranormal things and magic were real, ghosts were a possibility) she was so overwhelmed that she just beamed through the happy tears that were running down her face.

"Sis is what happened! Last I remember is everything going dark and whoa, why do you look different. How long has it been since..... well," Pietro said, very fast.

Wanda cried, "Pietro, it's been four years! I'm twenty-three now. I haven't seen you in four years. Oh, Pietro, I missed you!"

"Twenty three! Four Years! Geesh Wands, you grew up fast. I've missed you too. I've missed you so much. Wands, I'm so sorry for leaving. I promised I wouldn't leave you and I did. I'm sorry."

"It's ok," Wanda choked out, "you're here now. I brought you here."

Pietro floated over to her and embraced her. It was weird, being hugged by a ghost, but even death could not erase the familiarity of her twin's arms around her. She smiled and wiped at her eyes. She had never thought she would get him back, and she had never been so happy to be wrong.

"Pietro, I'm so glad to see you, but I have something to do."

"Ok. How can I help?"

"Well, it's a bit of a long story. So to start, I should probably tell you I have a girlfriend....."

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Wanda was going after Auralie. Pietro was going to help her. That was what they agreed. But in case things got really bad, they needed more help. So, Wanda decided to recruit two of Auralie's best friends to their cause. Sam and Bucky.

Both the ex-paratrooper and the former assassin agreed to help. They left Rhodes and Peter (who was at the compound since school was out that day) to watch over the city while they were gone. Then the four of them hopped in a quinjet and sped off to go save Auralie.

"So, what's the deal with him again?" Sam asked, pointing at Pietro.

"He's my brother. He's a ghost. He's a little shit sometimes," Wanda replied.

"Yes, but why is he here?" Bucky asked.

"Because I love him," Wanda answered, "and also because if I let him out of my sight he will get into trouble."

"HEY," Pietro yelled, "I'm the older brother!"

"One would never guess from your behavior," Wanda shot back,

"those twelve minutes did nothing to teach you responsibility."

"Yeah yeah," the ghost grumbled, "hey Wands, is that old man still around?"

"Steve?" Wanda questioned, confused.

"No, the archer. Barton. Clint. Is he still around?" Pietro corrected.

Wanda cocked her head, "he's mostly retired but he stops by sometimes. I'm sure that he'd be glad to see you. Why?"

Pietro grinned, "I can float through walls. I'm gonna scare him out of his wrinkly skin."

"He's not that old. Really, compared to some of us, he's young,"

Bucky said. Sam snickered. Bucky took pride in his old man status, he loved to crack jokes about it, and he would not have anyone stealing his title.

"Pietro, do not bug Clint. It's not nice," Wanda chided like an annoyed parent.

"I died for him, I can do what I want," Pietro complained. Wanda just sighed and let it go. She had bigger issues than her brother and his immaturity. Besides, she was too happy to have him back to be mad.

Wanda searched the world for Auralie and Maria's minds. They were close. Wanda closed her eyes. Soon she would be with Auralie again, and all would be right with the world.

**A/N: SURPRISE! PIETRO IS BACK! I didn't bring him back to life, but ghost Pietro is still awesome. Besides, Pietro with the ability to float through things would be awesome, and we all know it. Oh my goodness, I've missed that snarky speedster and his commentary.**

**So yeah, Pietro's back, you can all be happy with me for that.**

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