



xxxiii. In The End

A/N: This is not the last chapter either, despite the title. It was just based on the Luna Lovegood quote at the top.

Wanda Maximo liked to consider herself a patient person. She was able to go on stakeouts, she had spent two years on the run, she ran missions that required patience all the time. But it was amazing how she had forgotten. There was one thing that tested her patience above all others and that was her beloved twin.

Pietro was the greatest sibling Wanda could have. He was loyal and fun and made her so happy. But damn, he got on her nerves sometimes.

Pietro was actually a better houseguest than Wanda was expecting. He slept on the pullout couch in Auralie and Wanda's apartment. Why a ghost needed a couch to sleep on was something that constantly baled others (Peter Parker, a Ghostbusters fan who had come over one day to meet a real ghost) but Wanda was ok with providing it. He didn't take stu , didn't scare the neighbors o en, and he somehow procured ghost money to pay rent. Wanda wasn't sure where he was getting the money, but she was going to find out. Just to make sure her brother was not getting into trouble.

Auralie and Maria were hanging out together, and both declined to take part in the ghost money investigation. Wanda understood. She didn't want to take part in it either, but it was up to her to be the responsible one.

Wanda had been afraid that Pietro had done something illegal or at least not morally right. She trusted him, but he had stolen before and she knew he didn't have a problem with it.

As it turned out, he was not stealing, at all. Instead, he had a little arrangement with Sam, Bucky, Peter, and Rhodey, which Wanda had the pleasure of eavesdropping on.

"I'm telling you, Pietro, it went great. Steve didn't suspect a thing," Sam was saying.

Steve? How was he involved? That was what Wanda wondered as she listened in.

"This is great. Best job ever. Who do you want me to prank next?" Pietro asked, his voice full of cheer.

Wanda sighed. They were paying Pietro to pull ghost pranks. Of course, they were. This team was not known for being responsible adults. Hell, Peter wasn't even an adult.

"Clint's coming for a visit. I know you've been wanting to scare him," Peter suggested. Wanda rolled her eyes. These boys and their immature pranks. Well, this was stupid, she would just pay the rent herself and put a stop to it. She didn't need money from stupid bets, and the Avengers most definitely did not need the extra annoyance of pranks.

So, she le the boys to their plotting and ran o to warn Clint Barton of what was coming.

"Clint," she called to him. He was getting co ee. Of course, he was. Clint loved co ee.

"Hey, Wands, how ya been? How's Ali? I heard she and Maria are in the middle of something that I can't interrupt to say hi," Clint replied.

Wanda shrugged, "I don't know what they are doing. A sister thing, no doubt. Listen, Clint, I have something you should probably hear."

"Can it wait until a er the co ee Wanda, you're a great friend, but this is warm co ee," Clint said, ignoring her noises of protest and going into the other room.

Then, a few moments later, she heard a loud shriek, followed by a familiar voice saying, "you didn't see that coming, did you old man?"

Wanda raced into the main room to find Clint (who had luckily already set down his drink) looking at Pietro with sheer horror.

"Yes, Clint, that was what I needed to tell you," Wanda said hurriedly, "Pietro's ghost is here and he likes to prank everyone, so be aware."

"I thought you were gone forever," Clint whispered still looking at Pietro.

Pietro grinned, "what, you miss my pretty face?"

Clint took a deep breath, "why? Out of all the ghosts and all the world? Why this asshole. Quick little bastard. Wands, you're great, your brother is an ass. I can't believe he saved my life. I can't believe I named my son a er him. Hell, I need co ee."

Pietro grinned cheekily and Clint rolled his eyes, "well, one thing is for sure now, retiring was the best choice I have ever made."

Wanda and Pietro le the room, leaving Clint to drink his co ee.

"Pietro, you can't keep doing this. You're distracting people while we're on the job. You can't run an underground prank company for the Avengers," Wanda said.

Pietro looked at her like she was crazy, then burst out laughing, "Oh Wanda.... you misheard us. Sam was getting me out of trouble because I pranked Steve."

"And the money? Peter telling you about Clint?"

"I have a job, but I don't really get the banking system. Rhodey's helping me with it. The guys were trying to get me to stop pranking on account of it distracted the Avengers. Peter promised me I could prank Clint, but then I had to be done," Pietro explained, "all a big misunderstanding."

"But what's your job then?" Wanda asked.

Pietro grinned, "oh, I am the new subject of study at the Stark Industries paranormal division."

"Really?"

"There aren't many job opportunities out there for a ghost, cut me a break."

Wanda smiled fondly at him and walked o . Good to see her teammates doing their jobs. Though Clint was pissed o now. Ah, he would get over it. Eventually.

Wanda later finished telling this story to Auralie as they ate a box of pizza. Auralie was smiling at the story, which was good. She was still recovering from everything that happened with Elory and Lucian. Her smiles were not as frequent these days. Wanda had made it her mission to cause as many as possible.

"Ah Pietro," Auralie said fondly. In the two weeks since the incident, Auralie had become closer to her brother in law. He enjoyed watching movies with Auralie and Wanda, and they thought that it was funny when he decided to join Steve for a run. Long story short, every time Pietro passed the soldier, Auralie and Sam would both yell, "on your le !"

"So what were you and Maria doing today?" Wanda asked.

Auralie laughed, a sweet and silly smile dri ing across her face, "oh, she just needed a little help."

"With what?" Wanda questioned, not pressuring, but curious.

Auralie blushed, "finding a sweater she accidentally shrunk a bit and wanted to give to me. It disappeared."

"Did you find it?"

"Wanda, we are two highly trained and observant agents. No, we did not find it."

Wanda burst out laughing.

Auralie smiled, "ah well, you know what Luna Lovegood says. 'the things we lose have a way of coming back to us in the end.'"

"Great, we just have to wait for Maria to be an old lady and then we get the sweater," Wanda said sarcastically.

Auralie laughed and took Wanda's hand. Wanda smiled. She loved Auralie's laugh, everything about it. She vowed to make sure that whatever the future held, Auralie would have something to smile over.

A/N: 5th and last chapter of the night. I wasn't sure what to write, so flu and ghost money and Pietro came to mind. I'm not sure why.

Continue reading next part