



xii. Shield Goes To War

Auralie explained to Maria what was going on. Fury had gone to a helicopter with Agent Phil Coulson to search from the air. Maria and Auralie were in a car, and obviously Maria was the one driving. They were chasing a er Clint, Selvik and Loki at incredibly fast speeds. Auralie had her window down and was exchanging fire with the others. Maria swerved and added a few bullets to the mix where she could.

They raced down the highways and Auralie was thankful that very few people were driving this late at night. And that the base was more remote. If it had been the main compound in NYC or the other main compound in DC, they would have been screwed.

As they passed under the dark sky, Maria swerved hard, disrupting the peace of the night and narrowly avoiding a blast from the Asgardian's scepter. Auralie let out a harsh Russian swear that Natasha taught her from under her breath. Maria smiled grimly, because the teen's words about summed the situation up.

"We can't let him get away with the tesseract," Maria commanded, "Ali, take my gun and try and shoot out the tires."

Auralie did as she was told, but Clint and Selvik knew the roads and were able to anticipate the blast. Or maybe Loki had anticipated the blast, since he was the one controlling them.

Auralie gave Maria a look, and Maria knew they were in trouble. The brunette agent said, "hold on to something."

Auralie grabbed the door as Maria floored the gas peddle, almost crashing into the others and taking them by surprise. She began to exchange fire with Clint and Auralie tried to reach out the window and grab the tesseract. But a er almost being killed by a shot from the scepter, she fell back into the car, panting heavily.

"Clint," Auralie called desperately, "It's me, remember! Auralie! Maria's sister! I'm a friend!"

Clint didn't respond. Auralie tried again, this time signing, but in the dark and the chaos, he couldn't see her. Instead, the enemy had come up with a way to get the Shield agents o their tail for sure. They slammed the reverse and crashed the end of the truck into Maria's car. The two were sent spiraling o the road as Loki made his escape, with the tesseract.

"Damn it," Maria sighed, "I thought we had them. You ok sis?"

"Yeah, just a little dizzy," Auralie replied, "that was a surprise."

"What, you weren't expecting a god to invade and take the tesseract," Maria teased, but quickly slumped back into her seat. This was crazy, even for Shield.

"I'll see how badly the car is damaged, you call home base and tell them we're gonna be a little late," the assistant director ordered. Auralie just nodded and took out her phone, not trusting herself to speak yet.

Soon Maria had found them another ride, a rental car that she had managed to get. It was inconspicuous, enough to get them to Shield without indecent. As they drove, Auralie tried to get some sleep but she was too worried to think and the passenger seat was really uncomfortable.

The sisters didn't talk, they were so exhausted. They got drive through co ee and fries to keep themselves energized, and they were still in the parking lot when they heard the announcement from Maria's phone.

Maria played Nick's voicemail to them and Auralie felt her heart clench at the last words, "As of right now, we are at war."

The two got back to Shield around 4:00, and found Fury directing everyone around, Coulson at his side. Maria strode over to her boss and called, "what's the plan?"

Fury turned to her, "get the helicARRIER prepped Agent Hill. Agent Coulson is going to call in Romano and have her call in Banner. Then he's going to Stark's. I've informed the World Security Council, they're leaving this to us to deal with. We have to move fast before Loki can use the tesseract against us. Understood?"

"Yes sir," she answered, before going over to her sister and hugging her. She whispered a quick, "I'll see you soon," to Auralie, then ran o to do her job.

Auralie turned to Coulson and Fury, "what about me?"

"You're going to help me recruit someone to the cause," Fury said, "then you will go with Coulson to join Romano and Banner."

"Banner?" Auralie questioned, "and Stark. They aren't Shield agents. Do you have permission to call them in?"

Fury sighed, "Agent Shadow, we don't have time to ask permission. Understood."

"Yes sir," Auralie said, "but....."

"Yes Agent, spit it out," Fury cried in annoyance.

Auralie looked him dead in his one good eye, "are you bringing together the Avengers?"

"How did you know about that?" He asked.

"I found a file and asked Maria. She explained it to me," Auralie answered.

Fury thought for a moment, then nodded, "yes Agent Shadow, I am assembling the Avengers. Now, let's go recruit Captain Rogers.

Auralie smiled a bit at the thought of the superhero team, "yes sir."

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