



xxi. Lever

A/N: Funny story. I was working on a presentation, and at the end was a little quiz. If you got the question right, it took you to a screen that said, "You were paying attention. Hermione Granger would be proud." If you got it wrong, it took you to a screen that said "better luck next time," and had the gif of Steve that is featured above.

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Auralie and the boys raced for the engine. According to Tony, they had to fix it fast, because if the helicarrier lost another engine, they would all plummet into the ocean and die. Auralie and Steve went with the tech genius to provide him with any help he needed.

Auralie and Steve watched as Tony - who had changed into his full red and gold iron man armor - flew up to analyze the engine and the controls. He told Auralie to go ensure all the wires were plugged in so that the power supply could reach the engine itself and get it going once Tony freed the rubble. He sent Steve over to the section of the wall that hid the controls.

"Expose the control panel," Tony ordered. Steve, having no clue what Tony was trying to do, followed the billionaire's instructions. He ripped away the metal cover to expose buttons and flashing lights and wiring.

"What do you see?" Tony questioned.

Steve flung his hands up in confusion, "it seems to run on some form of electricity." Tony let out a deep sigh and asked Auralie what she saw.

"I plugged everything in with the correct corresponding colors," Auralie replied, "what it means, I do not know." Tony rolled his eyes at the tech clueless people that he had for assistants on this job.

"Now what?" the soldier asked.

Tony began trying to explain the mechanisms of the controls and what they had to accomplish, but Steve, who was still adjusting to cell phones and had no clue how to work a helicarrier, cut him off with the words, "speak English."

Tony paused, then tried again, "you see that red lever over there?"

Steve lept over to the lever and replied, "yeah."

"When I tell you to pull it, you pull it. That will give me time to get out of the engine without being crushed," Tony instructed, "Auralie?"

"Yeah," the light bender called.

"Make sure nothing disrupts the wiring," he ordered. Auralie nodded and turned to do her job. Tony flew into the engine and cleared the rubble out. Then he began to push on the rotors, and the engine began to spin. Auralie cheered, but then she heard the sound of bullets behind her and found she and Steve were under attack.

The figures were in full gear, armed with heavy weaponry, their faces covered by goggles and helmets. Two of them ran for Steve, firing rapidly, and a third came for Auralie. The teenager quickly began to tap into her powers, and a halo of light surrounded her, giving her a slight shield against the enemy. Brighter and stronger orbs of light appeared in her hands, and it was those rays that she fired at the man attacking her.

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He dodged her power and she dodged his bullets. Her training was clearly more finessed, but he was older and more experienced. Eventually, it came to blows, when she turned invisible, ran up, and knocked the gun from his hand and out over the edge of the helicarrier. He let out a growl and grabbed her by the arm, attempting to throw her over.

Auralie kicked him in the balls, and fell forward, away from the edge. Not missing a beat, she slammed her fist into his gut, sending him staggering back. While he was still caught unaware, she whirled her leg around and shoved her foot into his back, propelling him off the helicarrier and into the water below.

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Auralie checked to make sure the wiring was alright before running to help Steve, who had already managed to take out one of his opponents. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw what looked to be the Hulk and a Shield plane crashing downwards, and an agent parachuting to safety, but Auralie didn't have time to check on them.

The enemy had managed to fight Steve to the edge. Steve slipped and fell, grabbing on to a piece of bent metal and using his super strength to hang on. Auralie launched herself at their attacker and barreled into him, knocking him away from Steve. He let out a roar and kicked her to the side, with enough force to leave a nasty bruise on her ribs. The wind had left her, she panted on the ground, helpless, but Steve, with all the might of a supersoldier, swung himself up and went back to fighting the other guy, before anyone could hurt his teenage teammate anymore. Eventually, Steve was victorious, and the enemy was sent flying off the ship.

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All the while, Stark had been calling for them to push the lever as the rotors grated at his suit. Steve helped Auralie to her feet, then lept over to the lever and pulled it. Tony breathed a sigh of relief and got out of the engine, flying over to them.

"You alright," Auralie asked.

"Yeah," Tony said, "what about you two?"

"I'm good," Steve said, and the girl nodded in agreement.

"Great," Tony grinned, "hey Shadow, since I'm Iron Man and he's Captain America, you need a code name that's not just Agent."

"Ok," Auralie agreed, honestly just wanting to go back in and make sure everyone was alright.

"You could be Lightbulb since you have light powers," Tony suggested.

"No," Auralie replied.

Tony snickered, "what about Beacon. Yes, I'm gonna call you that. But for your real hero name, I was thinking Eclipse."

"Eclipse," Auralie said, tasting the word, "yes I like that very much. I have to say, Tony, you really are good at nicknames."

"Thanks, kid," he laughed. Steve just rolled his eyes and smiled, happy that they had worked together to get the job done.

That was when they saw Thor falling from the sky. Tony whispered, "what the hell?" A few seconds later, they received the call.

"Agent Coulson is down," Fury said.

Maria's voice came over the intercom, filled with sadness, "the medical team is on its way." Auralie's heart jumped at hearing that her sister sounded alive and unharmed, but she was worried for Phil. Hopefully, the medical team could save him.....

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"They're here, they called it," Fury said, voice breaking in a way that rarely happened with Fury. Tony and Steve looked at the ground solemnly, knowing what he meant. Auralie felt her heart clench at the knowledge of what Fury meant.

The worst had come. There was a friend lost and dead, and it was their fault. They had been too busy fighting to realize they were doing just as Loki wanted. Auralie looked down at her boots, ashamed, not of her team but of herself for not speaking up. Maybe if she had tried harder, a good man would still be alive.

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A/N: Two chapters done today! Yay!

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