



xxiv. Battle of New York

Tony blasted Loki back into the wall, then cried, "come on Beacon!" Auralie ran at him, ignoring the pain of her bruises, and jumped onto the balcony. Tony caught her and flew her up to the roof, where they planned to get the Tesseract back from Dr. Selvik.

"Shut it down Dr. Selvik," Tony ordered as Auralie jumped down and her hands filled with light, ready to fight if necessary.

"It's too late," Selvik cried, "the Tesseract, it wants to show us something. A new universe."

"Alright," Tony said sardonically and fired at the cube. But it did nothing, for the Tesseract was self-sustaining and formed its own energy shield. Tony and Auralie staggered back, but Dr. Selvik was thrown onto the concrete. Auralie checked to make sure he was still alive but didn't have time to move him out of danger. The Tesseract had fired a beam of blue light into the sky, and a portal opened.

Through it, Auralie could see the dark and dangerous beauty of space.

Though Auralie had the ability to see the little flashes between reality, this was something else. It was far bigger and impactful than any little rip in the fabric of time and space. This was a dangerous thing, and they had to shut it down, but they didn't know how.

Loki's army began pouring through the portal, alien soldiers riding speeder bikes. Tony flew up to meet them, blasting as many as he could, but there were so many that they fell like raindrops around him and he couldn't kill them all.

"Tony," Auralie called, "get me one of those bikes so I can help!"

Tony heard her and threw the soldiers onto one of the bikes. He pushed it down to the roof of the tower for her before heading back to battle. Auralie climbed on and rose into the air. She flew with one hand and used light to disintegrate her enemies with the other hand.

The two of them began taking out as many enemies as they could, but they kept coming and coming, landing on the ground and cornering civilians. Auralie swooped in on her bike and blasted one that was about to fire on three pedestrians. She screamed at them to go and get underground, before whirling her bike around and blasting two more. Then she rose higher to keep three from making landfall.

It was an overwhelming task, and with the army upon them, they couldn't focus on fighting Loki. Then, a Shield jet appeared in the sky and Auralie smiled with relief, knowing Steve, Clint, and Natasha were on it.

"What, did you stop for drive-through?" Tony cried, "start fighting already."

They went to fight against Loki, but he used the scepter to shoot them down. They plummeted, but whoever was flying - probably Clint - ensured that they landed safely, only crushing the aliens that threatened their world.

The two assassins and the soldier exited the crater and began dealing with the enemies on the ground. Steve used his Shield to decapitate and harm, Clint fired arrows with the accuracy only he could achieve, and Natasha fired with her pistols, not seeming all that terrifying, but actually one of the best fighters on that battlefield.

Natasha turned to Clint, and said, "it's just like Budapest all over again."

"You and I remember Budapest very differently," Clint called. Auralie laughed, knowing exactly what they were talking about. Natasha looked up and spotted the younger woman, a smile appearing on her face.

"Hey Ali, nice ride," Nat yelled up.

Auralie smiled back as she blasted another enemy bike out of the sky, "thanks, Tony got it for me."

Then, Tony blasted one of the larger alien ships out of the sky. It came crashing towards the Avengers. Auralie whirled her bike out of the way, Clint scrambled back to push civilians out of the way, and Steve ran to shield Natasha from harm.

When the rubble cleared, they went right back to fighting, knowing they didn't have a moment to lose.

In the chaos, Steve and Tony found themselves fighting side by side, and they did a cool trick where Tony's repulsor ray bounced off the shield and killed 5 aliens in one blast. Then he was back to guarding the skies with Auralie.

Thor had shown up and had brought the lightning with him. The god of thunder was currently in a fight with his brother, but after being stabbed, decided the aliens were a bigger issue.

Two policemen who were helping with the evacuation looked around at the chaos. One said, "does the government know what's going on?"

"Do we?" The other asked.

Three of the aliens suddenly landed on top of the car the officers were standing before. They stepped back, and the aliens were about to fire when a man in red white and blue spandex landed on one, kicking him away. He took out his shield and kicked the asses of the other two, throwing one to the side and beheading the other with his shield.

He turned to the policemen, and going into Captain mode, ordered, "we need men in those buildings, there are people inside. Lead them away from the fighting, down into the basements and through the subways, keep them out of the streets. I want you to set up a perimeter all the way to 39th."

"Why the hell should I take orders from you?" one of them asked.

Another alien ran up and Steve sent it flying with a single punch. The two officers stared in wonder for a second, then began distributing orders.

Meanwhile, Tony was dealing with a big issue, also known as a Leviathan, an alien beast that had been sent to help destroy everything. Tony's repulsors couldn't damage it, so he was acting as bait and keeping it distracted.

"Let me know when Banner shows up," Tony called.

"Banner?" Steve asked.

"Just keep me posted," Tony replied.

Soon, Tony's prediction came true, as Bruce Banner, a brilliant scientist, and the Hulk, came riding through the battle-torn streets of NYC on a scooter. Everyone else looked at him in shock, because it was an entrance no one was expecting.

"So this looks bad," Bruce said, getting off his scooter.

Natasha sighed, "I've seen worse." Auralie realized that her friend must have been there when Bruce turned into the Hulk.

Bruce smiled, "sorry."

"Actually," Natasha replied, "we could use a little worse."

Steve called to Tony, "we have him."

"Banner?" Tony questioned.

"Just like you said," Steve answered.

"Well then tell him to suit up," Tony ordered, "I'm bringing the party to you."

He came speeding around the corner, the Leviathan on his heels. Auralie's eyes went wide at the sight of the beast, as she lowered her bike closer to the ground so she was level with the others. She would have thought seeing a beast like that would be cool, but it was just terrifying, and nothing like her fantasy obsessed brain had pictured. She decided then and there that she would stick to phoenixes and dragons.

Natasha rolled her eyes, "I don't see how that's a party."

A/N: I have so much inspiration for this story right now, so sorry about all the updates in such a short time, but I really want to get through The Avengers so I can move on to Winter Soldier, and that means taking advantage of this inspiration.

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