



xxv. Circle of Heroes

Meanwhile, at Shield, Nick Fury was standing by the window, when Maria Hill came up to him and said, "Sir, those cards, they were in Phil Coulson's locker, not his jacket."

Fury hadn't expected anyone to notice, but Maria had. That was why she was such a good second in command, she noticed things and brought them to attention. It was something she and her sister had in common. Maria looked at her boss, not judging, just wanting an answer.

"They needed the push," Fury said.

Suddenly, another agent came running up, talking about stolen planes and an attack on NYC. Maria and Fury exchanged glances, knowing it had to be the Avengers who were defending the city. They hadn't failed yet.

Fury ordered, "get communications back up, whatever it takes."

Maria nodded, "yes sir," and went to go distribute the orders. She was happy that the team was there to protect the world, but she was also worried and had her own reasons for needing the communications up. She needed to know that her sister was ok.

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Meanwhile, Auralie and the others regarded the approaching monster. Steve said, "Dr. Banner, now may be a good time to get angry."

Bruce approached the Leviathan, which was charging towards him, and said, "that's my secret Captian. I'm always angry." He then proceeded to transform into the Hulk on command, and as the monster approached, he destroyed it in one punch.

The heroes all found themselves in a circle. If it were a movie, Auralie thought, the camera would pan around them in a circular shot that looked beautiful on screen. The seven Avengers were ready for the next wave. Thor held Mjolnir, Natasha clutched her gun like it was life itself, Steve watched the skies, shield in hand. Auralie hovered on her bike, one arm completely covered in glowing light and Tony's suit was powered to the max. The Hulk was ready for a fight and roaring loudly, and Clint had an arrow notched.

Steve, ever the leader, gave the orders. He said, "Clint, I want you on top of that building, calling out the shots. Stark, keep a perimeter. If anything gets more than three blocks away, you turn it back or you turn it to ash."

"Got it," Tony replied.

"Mind giving me a lift?" Clint asked.

"Sure," Tony answered, "better clench up Legolas." He grabbed the archer by the collar and the two were off.

"Thor, you gotta bottleneck that portal. You got the lighting, light the bastards up," Steve continued, "Auralie has the bike, so she has to take out the enemy speeders. Natasha, you're with me on the ground protecting civilians. And Hulk..."

Auralie rose higher into the air, but she stopped as Hulk turned to look at Steve, who's last order was, "smash."

The Hulk smiled, and Auralie realized they actually had a very good chance of success. Before they had all been assembled, her dread had been looming and imminent, but now it had been pushed aside by the adrenaline and the thrill of this new team. She was still terrified, but the terror was more unfounded, and her fears were far less likely to come true.

As the next wave began, they realized it was far tougher than the first. Auralie sped up, trying to accomplish her goal of destroying most of the enemy speeders. Stark was helping by keeping them within the few blocks, and Thor's lightning also provided support.

But more of the armored beasts had come. Thor and Bruce fought the Chitauri atop one of them, Thor's hammer and Hulk's fists using the advantage of brute strength to achieve victory over the monster.

Tony was up against another Leviathan. He flew around it, trying to penetrate the thick hide. Auralie joined him for a second, adding her light to his technology. They were still unable to gain much ground, even when combining forces. It was a tough nut to crack.

"Mr. Stark, continuing this way will greatly decrease your power supply," Jarvis informed him.

Tony pulled back, realizing he needed a new tactic. He said, "Jarvis, you ever hear the tale of Jonah?"

"Yes, but I wouldn't consider him a role model sir," Jarvis replied. Of course, Tony didn't listen to this bit of advice, he powered up and flew right into the mouth of the beast, all the way through it, so it came apart around him.

"Damn Tony, that was actually really cool," Auralie said.

Tony replied, "Thanks. Now go kill more of these guys for me."

"Will do," the light manipulator commented as she whirled her ride around and began firing at the Chitauri, her hands moving in graceful movements, her face illuminated in the light. Later sources would site this footage of the girl to debate whether she was otherworldly or human. Little would they know that they were both right. She was a hybrid, thanks to Elory, and she would defend anyone who needed her to help them.

"I've got some stragglers on my tail," Tony called. Auralie shot one for him but then had to turn her attention to her own opponents.

"Well they can't bank worth a damn," Clint said from his spot on top of the building as he fired an arrow into an enemy without even looking. "find a tight corner."

"I will roger that," Tony said.

Meanwhile, on the ground, Natasha called to Steve, "none of this is going to mean anything if we can't close that portal."

Steve responded, "our biggest guns couldn't touch it."

"Well maybe it's not about guns," Nat guessed, looking up at the Tesseract and the portal. Steve realized that she was planning to go up there and see for herself.

"How are you gonna get up there?" Steve asked.

Natasha sighed, looking at a speeder like the one Auralie was using, "I've got a ride. I could use a lift though." Steve realized what she was intending, and it was crazy. But he had his share of crazy ideas, and he had come to respect the insane plans that just might end up saving the day.

"You sure about this," Steve checked with her.

Natasha grinned, "yeah, it'll be fun." She ran at him and jumped on his shield. He used his strength to propel her into the air, watching as she landed on the speeder and threw one of the aliens off. She lept on the back of the other, using it to steer.

"Hey, Nat," Auralie called to the spy, who turned to look at her, "nice ride!"

A/N: I was worried about my writing for the fight scene because they aren't easy to write, but I think this turned out pretty good.

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