



xxvii. The Avengers Will Return

A week later, Auralie and the team were in Central Park, to say goodbye to Thor and good riddance to the Tesseract and Loki. Fury had spent the past week working constantly, Maria by his side, to ensure the team could continue to operate without persecution and that Thor would not be stopped from taking Loki and the Tesseract back to Asgard.

a

They all told Thor to have a safe trip and made sure he would be alright using the Tesseract to return to his planet. He, in turn, bid them farewell, apologizing to Steve and Tony for that initial fight and to Bruce for his fight with the Hulk. He also got a hug from, "Lady Eclipse" as Auralie was now being called.

Loki did not get to make any sarcastic comments, so everyone was in a better mood. Auralie did make a point to tell the Asgardian troublemaker that if he ever messed with her friends again, she would use her light against him so much, his ashes wouldn't be visible to the human eye. But she ignored him for the rest of the time. She had already started having nightmares about Tony falling from the portal in the sky, and looking at and interacting with Loki only brought back those nightmares.

a

Thor said one final goodbye, then he and Loki grabbed the Tesseract and were transported o world.

The rest of them were heading o on their own separate paths. Steve was continuing to work for Shield, something Auralie was very happy about. He accepted her hug and rode o on his motorcycle, knowing that he would see them all soon. Tony was giving Bruce a ride, they were staying together at Stark Tower for a few days before Bruce went back to helping people with all the knowledge he gained from his many PhDs. Tony was going home to his beloved Pepper and they were working on turning the beaten up Stark Tower into Avengers Tower.

Clint and Natasha were also riding together, going to Clint's house to visit Laura and the kids. The best friends were happy to be back in their right minds, talking and joking like the sarcastic human beings they were.

As for Auralie, she was going back to her sister, and that made her happy. But she had a horrible feeling that the adventure was far from over. The Tesseract was still out there, the scepter was in the hands of Shield, who could not always be trusted even though they tried to do good, and who knew that they were or if there were any more. There were other planets and beings, some good, some bad. And someone had made a deal with Loki. Someone had been controlling the army, and Auralie just knew that someone hadn't given up yet.

Auralie caught a ride with a fellow agent, who took her back to headquarters. She found Maria talking to Nick Fury, who was once again looking out the window.

"Sir, what happens if something like this happens again?" Maria asked.

Fury replied, "They'll come back?"

"Are you sure?" The second in command questioned.

The Director answered, "I do."

Finally, Maria asked a single word question, "why?"

Fury said, "Because we'll need them to."

.....

Maria and Auralie walked out of headquarters, ready to go back to their apartment. Maria was talking about how the new plans involved splitting their time between the NYC base and the Washington DC base. Auralie wasn't really paying attention. She waved at Amanda, who was talking with several other people.

"Ali," Maria's voice snapped back into focus, "are you alright?"

"Yeah," Auralie sighed, "it's just, everything has changed and I'm scared. Will they really let us keep being the Avengers?"

"Yes," Maria answered, "trust me, Nick got everything straightened out. They're a little wary, the Avengers is a promise that we're dangerous and danger attracts danger. But we are fully legal."

Auralie muttered, "mhm. But I'm more worried..... Maria, do you think there's something more to this? Something we need to be wary of? Am I crazy or am I right to be scared?"

"What more do you think there is?" Maria asked.

Auralie closed her eyes and paused, "someone is trying to play us like pawns. Not Loki, he's a pawn too. I don't know who or why, but I do know I don't like it."

a⁸

Maria pursed her lips, "I don't like it either sis. Honestly, this was a lot to handle and we already lost Phil. I'm definitely scared for the future."

Auralie opened her eyes and slipped her hand into Maria's like she used to do when she was just starting three years ago and everything was new. Now everything was new again, and the world just kept getting bigger and bigger, threatening to drown her in its conflict. Sometimes she had a hard time keeping her head above all the overwhelming darkness. But she would continue to try her best because the world needed her, and though she didn't owe most of them a damn thing, that didn't mean she wouldn't be there to help them.

A er all, she was the Eclipse, and she was an Avenger.

.....

Far far away from Earth and Shield, a grape-colored warlord mused over these new opponents. Stark, cursed with knowledge and a need to make amends for past deeds. Rogers, the hero out of time that stood up to bullies everywhere. Banner, a man that was the perfect combination of strength and brains. Romano , a dangerous woman who knew exactly how to manipulate people into giving her what she wanted. Thor, a god of thunder that was sworn to protect the nine realms with his honor and power. Barton, a man with enough heart and soul to hold these dangerous beings together. And Shadow, who was a mystery, and the only one he could not even imagine how to break. Maybe because if the rumors were true, she was already broken beyond repair. The Avengers.

a

"To challenge them," his servant said, "is to court.....Death."

a

Turning in his chair, Thanos smiled.

a

[Continue reading next part](#) □