



xxix. On Your Le

Auralie hated mornings with a fiery passion. But she had gotten up early that day to run with Steve Rogers because he was her friend and because Maria was making her get up that early anyway. Auralie was 18 now, and for the past six months she and her sister Maria Hill were staying at Shield headquarters in Washington DC because Maria was Shield's second in command and had to be where a lot of the action had been moved to and because that was where Auralie's new team was based out of. She missed the apartment in NYC, but she didn't mind Washington.

That morning, she and her good friend Steve had gone running to get some exercise and fresh air, and so Auralie didn't get stuck filing papers. It was safe to say that Steve was a better runner than Ali, who found herself running alongside a man who also seemed annoyed by how much faster Steve was.

The first time Steve said those dreaded words that were "on your le" he was being polite as he passed Auralie and her newfound jogging friend. The second time was more teasing, but still, just a way to alert them.

The third time.....

"Don't say it, don't say it," their new companion yelled as Steve approached behind them.

"On your le," Steve called, passing them.

The other man threw his hands up in exasperation, "come on!"

"You are an asshat Steve," Auralie yelled at her supersoldier friend.

The man beside her was laughing, and soon she was laughing too because Steve was said to be such a kind and loyal and brave man, and he was, but he was also a complete and utter asshole at times.

Auralie and the man beside her reached a tree where Steve was standing, smirking at them. The poor man who's morning was interrupted collapsed under a tree and began chugging a water. Auralie sighed and collapsed alongside him, because damn it Steve was hard to keep up with.

"You must have passed me three times," their new running buddy said.

Steve laughed, "guess I got a late start."

"Really," the other man rolled his eyes, "you should be ashamed of yourself. In fact, go take another lap." He closed his eyes for a minute and opened them to see Steve standing there. He laughed good-naturedly and said, "did you take it? I assumed you just took it."

"I told you he was an asshat," Auralie laughed and Steve started cracking up too. Over the past two years, since the battle of New York, Auralie and Steve had become very good friends. He was one of the Avengers she saw the most often since they worked together and all.

Their new friend got to his feet and held out his hand, "I'm Sam Wilson."

"Auralie Shadow. You can call me Ali," she replied, shaking his hand. He gave her a friendly smile and turned to Steve, who also shook his hand.

The supersoldier introduced himself, "Steve Rogers."

"I guessed that," Sam grinned, "so Ali, what's a young girl like you doing hanging out with an old grandpa like this?"

"Well someone has to make sure he doesn't blow his own mind trying to get on the interwebs," Auralie teased. Steve, who had heard all the old man jokes by now, just rolled with it.

Steve noticed Sam's jacket and commented, "you served?"

"Two tours. Pararescue," Sam replied, "so, have you adjusted to being home yet?"

Steve sighed, "sort of. Not really."

"It's your bed, isn't it. When I was over there we used to use rocks for pillows. Then I get home....." Sam trailed off.

"It's like sleeping on a marshmallow," Steve finished, "but seriously, for the most part, it's good. Food's a lot better. No polio, that's good. Internet. I've been reading that a lot trying to catch up on everything. Ali's been helping."

"It's true," Auralie giggled, "I made him spend an entire weekend watching the Harry Potter movies with me. I would have made him read the books, but he doesn't have that much free time."

Sam laughed, then thought for a moment before saying,

"Troubleman Soundtrack. It'll tell you everything you need to know."

Steve smiled, "I'll put it on the list." Steve took out his catch up list and added the soundtrack to it. Maria, Auralie, and Natasha had helped him make it, and the other Avengers had given them suggestions on what to put. Auralie had put Star Wars on there, and some of the other things featured were the Berlin Wall (up and down) and the Moon Landing.

"Hey Steve, I work down at the VA, so if you ever wanna stop by, it could really help," Sam suggested.

Auralie grinned at Sam, "he certainly has enough free time for that."

"She's right," Steve laughed, "yeah, I'll stop by some time."

Then a black van pulled up alongside the curb. The window rolled down to reveal the driver, Natasha Romano, with her newer shoulder length straight hair, and a sly grin on her face. The assassin said, "Hey there fellows, does anyone know where the Smithsonian is? I'm here to pick up a fossil."

Auralie rolled her eyes at Natasha's dad joke and climbed in the back of the car. Steve had called shotgun before they had started their run.

"You can't run everywhere," said Sam who then smiled at Natasha, "hey, how you doin?"

Steve agreed, "no you can't." He got in the car and called, "thanks for the run, Sam. If that's what you wanna call running."

"Oh, I see how it is," Sam yelled as Natasha floored the gas.

Auralie grinned at the idiots she called friends. It seemed to be the rare thing that was a good morning. Little did she know what was in store for the next few days.

A/N: We are now, officially, in the Winter Soldier part of this story. I am so excited about this part! We already have Sam, who is amazing. We will get Bucky, who is also amazing. We will get Steve and Natasha (Romanogers, what can I say, I ship it) and Maria is in part of it, and I'm just so excited! Winter Soldier is one of my favorite movies. This movie will conclude Part One, and then we will finally get to Wanda. Thank you for your patience, she will come, eventually.

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