



xi. None of This Makes Sense

Auralie and Clint made their way to an area thick with drones. Pietro was still in the main area, they had found, and he was still fighting. But they needed to find Wanda and make sure that she was unharmed.

Clint shot down several of the drones. He was running out of arrows, even though he had brought two quivers this time. Auralie had unlimited light, but her body was sore and tired from all the fighting. She was scared and she wasn't sure what the plan was.

One of the drones shot her from behind. She went flying into an empty house nearby. Only it wasn't as empty as she thought. As she touched her side, feeling the moist and sticky substance that was her blood, she realized Wanda Maximo was there, and she was crying.

"Wanda," Auralie said meekly.

Wanda whimpered in response, her eyes widened in horror at the blood on Auralie's side. Clint came rolling into the building to restock his arrows. As Auralie got back up, struggling to regain her footing and push aside the injury, his gaze fell on Wanda.

"Hey, hey, are you ok?" he asked.

Wanda whispered, more to herself than anyone, "this is all our fault. How could I let this happen?"

"Oh Wanda," Auralie said sadly, knowing how bad the girl must be feeling.

Clint crouched down and met Wanda's eyes, "hey, hey, look at me. It's your fault it's anyone's fault, who cares! Are you up for this? Are you? Look, I just need to know because, well, the city is flying. The city is flying, we're fighting an army of robots..... and I've got a bow and arrow. None of this makes sense."

That Auralie thought, about summed everything up.

Clint continued, "But I'm going back out there, and Ali's going back out there because it's our job. Ok, and I can't do my job and babysit. Doesn't matter what you did, or what you were. You go out there you fight, and you fight to kill. You stay in here you're good, we'll send your brother to come and find you. But if you step out that door, you are an Avenger."

Auralie sighed, "I'll be out in a minute Clint."

"Alright," he said, turning back to Wanda, "ok, good chat."

Then he muttered, "the city is flying." He pushed through the doors and went back out to fight. Auralie began to tear a strip of her jacket to bandage her side. As she did that, she looked at Wanda, who seemed to be deep in thought.

The light manipulator spoke, her voice hoarse, but still audible, "he's right. You can still change. You can make a difference in the world. Wanda, you could do amazing things. We could support you, teach you, you and your brother could have a whole new life. The choice is up to you."

Wanda didn't respond, but she nodded. Auralie sighed and stood up fully, wincing as she dove through the doors and began to fight. Her side stung and her bandage wasn't doing much, but she could worry about that later.

Ultron was prepared to deal with the archer and the wounded girl. Auralie watched as Clint was thrown to the ground. She tried to run to him, but her knees gave out. Hitting the ground, she tried desperately to summon her light, but the pain was keeping her from focusing enough. She could only watch as Ultron prepared to kill one of her oldest friends.

That was when she emerged from the house, a beacon of magic and power. Her eyes glowed the same scarlet as her hands. Wanda summoned an orb of magic, close to her heart, and thrust it out, so it struck three of the bots. Using her telekinesis she quickly dismantled them.

Then, moving her arms in a fluent motion to gather as much energy as possible, she shot down another three. Clint recovered and shot down the last one. That was all of them.

Wanda came over to Auralie and said so ly, "are you going to be alright?"

"Yeah," Auralie said, "I just needed a better bandage." She took off her jacket and tied it around the wound. The bleeding was slowing, and her legs were steadier. She would survive, provided they had a way to get off Ultron's meteor.

Clint said into his com, "we're all clear here."

"We are not clear, we are very not clear," Steve cried back in a panicked tone.

Clint, Auralie, and Wanda prepared to go help the Captain. That was when Pietro came speeding by, picking up his sister and speeding away yelling to Clint, "keep up old man."

Clint lifted up his bow, "nobody would know, nobody. Yeah, last I saw him Ultron was sitting on him. He'll be missed. Quick little bastard."

"Come on Clint," Auralie said, running after the twins. Clint sighed but joined her.

They found Wanda and Pietro destroying bots quickly. Wanda's red magic was able to dismantle several with ease, and Auralie had to admit, Wanda pulled off the graceful hand movements. The Avengers were no longer fighting alone, the military was helping. They had given the order to hold their fire so the twins could do their thing, but one of them didn't put his gun down quick enough and hit Pietro in the arm.

Pietro just shrugged it off, giving the guy an annoyed look.

Sometimes, the power of adrenaline was incredible.

They cleared away the bots and Steve said, "next wave's gonna come in any second. What've you got Stark?"

"Nothing great," Tony answered, "maybe a way to blow up the city. That'll keep it from impacting the surface if you guys can get clear."

"I asked for a solution, not an escape plan," Steve commented.

"Impact radius is getting bigger by the second. We've got to make a choice," Tony explained.

Natasha sighed, "Cap, these people are going nowhere. If Stark finds a way to blow this rock....."

"Not till everyone's safe," Steve argued. He and Natasha had come to stand beside each other, with Auralie just a little behind them.

Natasha cried, "everyone up here versus everyone down there? There's no math there."

"But it's still people's lives," Auralie whispered.

Steve stood tall and said, "I'm not leaving this rock with one civilian on it."

"Neither am I," Auralie agreed.

Natasha took a breath, "I didn't say we should leave. There are worse ways to go."

Auralie nodded in agreement. She watched as Nat looked out towards the skyline and said, "where else am I gonna get a view like this?"

Auralie had to agree the skyline was remarkable. But Steve didn't look with them, instead, he looked at Nat, a wave of emotions crossing his face.

Then the Avengers heard a voice, the voice of Fury calling, "glad you like the view Romano, it's about to get better."

The giant helicarrier came into view and Auralie laughed. Fury really had gone and done something dramatic.

Fury said, "nice right. I pulled her out of mothballs with the help of a couple of friends. She's dusty but she'll do."

"Fury you son of a bitch," Steve laughed.

Fury laughed, "ooh, you kiss your mother with that mouth." Auralie bit her lip to keep in her giggles. That joke would never get old.

Then Auralie heard something fantastic, the sound of her sister saying, "altitude is eighteen thousand and climbing."

"Maria," Auralie screamed with delight.

"Hey sis," the smile in Maria's voice was obvious.

One of the agents called, "Lifeboats secure to deploy. Disengage in three, two, take em out."

Pietro came running by, his eyes filled with wonder as he watched the lifeboats flying towards the city. Pietro asked, "this is Shield?"

"Pretty great right?" Auralie mused, her voice so .

Steve smiled, "this is what shield's supposed to be."

"This is not so bad," Pietro's lips twitched up in a smile.

"Alright," Steve cried, "let's load em up!"

A/N: Clint's pep talk is the best!

[Continue reading next part](#) □