



xii. Together

The team had loaded people onto the ship before making their ways towards the center of the city. The church. They had left the evacuation in the hands of Maria, Nick, and Rhodey, who had come to kick some ass as War Machine.

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"Romano, what's taking so long," Tony called.

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"Relax shell head, we can't all fly," Nat responded, coming in on a truck and jumping out to join them.

They were all gathered around, the seven original Avengers, the twins, and Vision. They surrounded the core, fighting the first wave of drones. Steve lept over one, bringing his Shield down on it. Wanda ripped apart several with her telekinesis. Those that could fly flew, those with weapons used those weapons, Pietro sped around, and everyone gave it everything they had.

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Auralie vaporized one, sent another flying, and kicked the head of one, ignoring the pain in her side. As they dealt with the first wave, she had started bleeding again, and every time she spotted the trail of red running down her side, she had felt a new pang of fear.

Steve and Nat had both noticed the blood, Tony had too, Auralie had seen them looking, but she hadn't had time to tell them what had happened. They were worried, but they knew that stopping her from fighting was not the way to go. She wanted to fight and they needed all the help they could get. It wasn't the ideal choice, but it was a necessary evil.

Finally, the first wave was destroyed. The Avengers all panted, standing there, knowing there would be a second wave, knowing that this was far from over. Ultron, the main bot, hovered in front of them.

"IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?" Thor bellowed.

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Auralie rolled her eyes and muttered so only the twins could hear, "this can not end well." Pietro laughed, and Wanda shushed them both.

Ultron held up his hand and hundreds, maybe even thousands of drones answered his call. They flooded the streets, an army assembling to take on the heroes. Auralie sucked in a breath. That would be hard to beat.

Steve shot Thor a look of annoyance, "you had to ask."

"This is the best I can do," Ultron spread his arms to show off his army, "this is exactly what I wanted. All of you against all of me. How can you possibly hope to stop me?"

"Like the old man said," Tony responded, looking at Steve before turning back to Ultron, "together."

"Well said Tony," Auralie said.

The next wave advanced. They ran in, clambering into the church from all sides. The Avengers formed their circle again. Wanda blasted one that flew at her, her magic dismantling it from the inside.

Auralie nodded to the scarlet light, "that's really cool."

"Thanks," Wanda replied as Auralie created one of her light grenades to take out two more, "your powers are fantastic."

"Now is not the time for flirting girls," Tony called sarcastically.

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Auralie rolled her eyes, "Tony, Wanda is a lovely woman but really, we just met, I'd have to get to know her first, I mean really."

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Tony sighed, "whatever Beacon, just kick their asses."

"Hey, Steve has sensitive ears," Auralie teased. Steve muttered something intelligible.

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They kept up the fight, pushing back the drones. The main Ultron grappled with Vision, who shot a beam of light from the mind stone and into the robot. Ultron went skidding and Thor, Tony, and Auralie joined, adding repulsors, light, and lightning to the mix. Ultron began to break down and then (for whatever reason) they stopped.

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Ultron said, "you know, with the benefit of hindsight....."

That was when the Hulk came up and punched him away with a roar. He turned to three other drones, bearing his teeth, and they ran for their lives. Smart robots.

The remaining bots (and there were not many of them) ran for their lives. Tony cried, "we can't let them escape the city."

He, Thor, and Vision ran after the remaining bots, joining Rhodey in shooting them down. Vision used his phasing powers to rip one in half from the inside.

"Ok, what the hell?" Rhodey asked.

Auralie sighed and replied via com, "it's a long story."

"Oh, I'm sure," Rhodes laughed.

"We have to get out of the city," Steve said, "but someone needs to stay behind and guard the core."

"I'll protect it," Wanda said, standing on the little circle of metal that was holding the rock together. She nodded to Clint, "it's my job."

Clint nodded back and ran to join Nat in the truck they had commandeered.

Pietro sped up, "I'm not going to leave you here."

"Get the people on the boats," Wanda cried, "I can handle this." A bot flew up and before Pietro or Auralie could react, Wanda shot it down. Pietro sighed, knowing his sister knew what she was doing.

"Come back for me when everyone else is off, not before, got it," Wanda said, "got it."

Pietro smiled, "you know, I'm twelve minutes older than you."

"Go," Wanda laughed. Pietro sped away, going to finish the evacuation.

"I'll stay with you and help guard the core," Auralie announced.

"No," Wanda shook her head, "I appreciate it, but you're hurt. You shouldn't be fighting with that injury. Go and get it treated. I'll be fine."

Auralie bit her lip with worry, "are you sure?"

"Yes," Wanda said, "and Auralie....."

The light manipulator sucked in a breath at the sound of her name on Wanda's tongue. She had to admit, the Sokovian girl had a beautiful voice. Auralie whispered, "yeah?"

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"When all this is done, I think I might want to become an Avenger," Wanda smiled a bit.

Auralie's face lit up, "I'd like that." Then she ran to the truck and climbed in behind Clint and Nat. They drove away, and Auralie looked back to see Wanda fiercely guarding the core. No one would get passed the witch.

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"You know," Clint mused, "if I knocked out that wall in the dining room, it would make a nice workspace for Laura. Quiet, away from the kids....."

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"No one uses dining rooms anyways," Natasha agreed.

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