



xiv. Avengers.....

A week and a half later, Auralie's side was healed and she savored being able to walk without pain as she strode through the new Avengers complex. Tony had been working on it for a long time, and it was a welcome surprise after all the damage Ultron caused.

She, Steve, Tony, and Thor were walking along. Thor had just announced his intent to go searching for answers about the infinity stones and now Tony was saying, "but it's a completely different ball game."

It would be thought that he was talking about some important Avengers business but nope. He continued, "it's not like a person holding the hammer."

"Exactly," Steve said cheerfully, "it's AI."

"Nice guy, but artificial," Tony smiled.

Auralie rolled her eyes, "you two are idiots." The idiots ignored her.

"Well, he can wield the hammer, he can keep the mind stone," Thor announced, "it is safe with the Vision and safe is in short supply these days."

"Very true," Auralie commented.

"Yeah," Steve agreed, "but if you put the hammer in an elevator....."

"It would go up," Tony cried.

"Elevator's not worthy," Steve finished.

Auralie laughed, that would actually be interesting to see. Thor chuckled, "I'll enjoy these little chats."

They reached the lawn and Thor held up his hammer, calling his ride, "farewell friends." The Bifrost took him away, leaving an interesting design on the grass.

"That man has no regards for lawn maintenance," Tony scowled playfully, shaking his head.

"I'll miss him," Steve admitted, "and I'll miss you, Tony. What are you going to do with your time o?"

"I dunno," he laughed, "maybe I'll take a page out of Barton's book, build Pepper a farm, hope no one blows it up. You two ever thought about that sort of thing?"

"I'm a little young for a family, I don't even have a girlfriend," Auralie giggled.

Steve sighed, "family, stability, the guy who wanted all that went into the ice all those years ago. Someone else came out."

Tony climbed into his car and asked, "are you two ok?"

Steve nodded, "I'm home."

"Yeah," Auralie smiled, "we're where we were meant to be."

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When Steve and Auralie went to find Nat, they found her having a conversation with Fury. The director was just leaving, but Nat had asked him a question. He had answered, "trouble. Trouble agent Romano, it always comes around."

Natasha nodded and went back to staring at the wall. Banner had been lost and Natasha was the one in charge of finding him. She hadn't found anything, and now she was feeling guilty because Bruce was gone. It had taken a toll on her, and she had been quiet and frustrated all week.

"Are you gonna keep staring at the wall?" Steve called to her. Nat glared at him and he chuckled, "because it's a nice wall...."

"Shut up," Natasha said.

"Did Clint send the pictures of the baby?" Auralie asked. Laura and Clint had their new son, and they were so proud. Clint was taking time o to care for his kids, but he had promised to be in touch constantly.

Natasha smiled, "yeah." She took out her phone and showed them the baby. Nathaniel Pietro Barton. Nathaniel for his aunt, his father's best friend in the world. Barton for his family and his ancestors. And Pietro for the hero who had saved his father's life. Natasha had told Wanda and it had put a rare look of peace on the woman's face.

For the past week, Auralie had been trying to give Wanda whatever comfort she could. Wanda was still hurting, but she could eat and get out of bed, and she was trying her best to live her life like her brother would have wanted. It wouldn't be easy but she was willing to try and Auralie was willing to help her.

"You guys ready?" Auralie asked. Natasha put her phone away and the three heroes fell into step.

Natasha asked, "how are we looking?"

"Well, we aren't the 27 Yankees," Steve said.

"Still it's a pretty good line up," Auralie added, very proud of herself for making a decent sports reference. She was not a sports person.

"We have some hitters," Natasha agreed, "let's beat em into shape."

Auralie grinned. Steve and Nat had asked her to help lead and train the new team. She was going to be a leader, but also a student because she still could use some training herself.

The three of them stepped into the courtyard and studied the new Avengers. Vision, standing there, all colorful in the afternoon light. Rhodey, in full armor, ready to finally be recognized as part of the team. Sam, taking his rightful place as Falcon, one of the people Auralie believed deserved more than anyone to be an Avenger. And Wanda Maximoff, floating gently to the ground using her powers.

Nat and Auralie each took places on either side of Steve. Auralie's eyes met Wanda's and they exchanged nods. Both girls were broken and battered, but together they could figure out how to go on. This team would be their family and they could make a home out of it. Or maybe it would crash and burn, but Auralie was willing to try.

Steve took a deep breath. Then he called out, "Avengers....."

A/N: Well, I'm done with AOU! Yay! There will be some chapters between AOU and CW, and then CW will begin. Also, JUST SAY THE DAMN LINE STEVE!

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