



xvi. Kindred Souls

"Auralie," Wanda called.

"Yeah," Auralie yelled back. She was rifling through DVDs, looking for a good one to watch. Rhodey and Steve were on a mission gathering information and Nat was visiting the Barton family. The Vision had gone to Tony and Pepper's and Sam was doing some aerial drills. Wanda and Auralie, being the nerdy people that they were, had taken this time home alone to watch Jurassic Park.

"We're out of popcorn," Wanda replied.

"What," Auralie jumped up and ran to the kitchen. Wanda moved out of the way to show the cabinet, which was tragically empty of popcorn.

"Damn it, Tony must have eaten it all when he came over a couple days ago," Auralie hissed, "asshole. He knows that this place must always have popcorn for movie nights."

Wanda smiled fondly, "we could just have some potato chips."

"Sure, I guess. I mean it's not the same but whatever," Auralie waved her hands vaguely and Wanda giggled.

Over the past months (five since Ultron's attack) Wanda and Auralie's friendship had grown and grown until it was rare to see one without the other. They both still had nightmares and PTSD and bouts of depression to deal with, but that week had been a good one and they were both in a relatively good mood.

Auralie had decided that as Wanda's friend, it was her job to make sure her friend was educated on all the proper Sci-Fi and Fantasy things of the world. They had gotten through all the Star Wars movies, and Wanda had finished reading Harry Potter. She was currently working through the Heroes of Olympus series (she had finished Percy Jackson and the Olympians already).

"Hey, which book are you on now?" Auralie asked.

Wanda smiled, "Son of Neptune. Which is good. I missed Percy. I just want him and Annabeth to be happy."

"I know that feeling," Auralie laughed, "also, Clint has been begging me to let him teach you about The Hunger Games, so be warned."

Wanda laughed, her hair falling in her eyes, "of course. That man loves his bows and arrows." Auralie nodded and laughed along, her heart skipping a beat. In the past few weeks, she had been feeling oddly fluttery around Wanda. Auralie was not normally a fluttery person, but the witch made her feel weird.

It had been almost a year since Auralie had last been on a date, and that relationship hadn't lasted long. None of Auralie's relationships ever did. She was young and lived a crazy life, so it had never bothered her. She just wasn't really the kind of person who could commit easily. But that didn't mean the butterflies didn't affect her.

Auralie told herself this crush would pass like all her crushes eventually did. It was just a little flutter, barely even noticeable. But until it passed she would find herself noticing little things like how Wanda's eyes sparkled and the corners of her lips crinkled when she truly smiled, which was a rare and beautiful occasion. She would know the feeling of Wanda placing a hand on her shoulder when she wanted to get her friend's attention, and she would have an urge to brush the hair out of the witch's eyes for her.

It was a tiny crush, but sometimes those were enough to make a person lose their mind.

Wanda and Auralie got everything set up, but Auralie didn't start the movie. She could sense that Wanda wanted to tell her something.

"What's wrong?" Auralie asked.

"Nothing's wrong exactly," Wanda replied, turning to look at Auralie. The light manipulator then realized how close they were to each other, how close their faces were. Wanda continued, "I'm just, I keep thinking that this can't be real. These friendships I've built, how I have people supporting me. I keep thinking it's going to disappear, or that I don't deserve it."

"I know the feeling," Auralie admitted, "but then I realized that we're all broken here, in different ways, and we're piecing each other back together and that's alright. We support each other no matter what. The reality of it takes a while to sink in, but once it does, this will start to feel like home."

"It's already starting to feel like home, to be honest," Wanda whispered. Just a foot or less between their faces. Auralie's heart was beating out of her chest.

"Am I interrupting something," the sassy voice of Sam Wilson came from the doorway, "I thought you two were watching a movie, not filling the room with romantic tension."

Auralie turned to glare at Sam, but her eyes widened. He was in full Falcon gear, but the gear was damaged, he was covered in dirt and looked like someone who had just been in a fight. Auralie cried, "what the hell happened to you?"

"Yeah, we need to talk about that," Sam said, a frown on his face.

"Ok," Auralie replied, getting up and following Sam into the hall, calling to Wanda, "don't start the movie without me."

Sam and Auralie stood in the hall and Auralie glared at him, "explain."

"I'm only telling you this because you're one of my best friends. I would rather Cap not find out," Sam said.

Auralie's frown turned into an amused smirk, "oh this is gonna be good."

"Well, there was this tiny little ant dude, said his name was Scott, who was trying to steal some shit," Sam trailed off.

"You lost a fight with the ant man named Scott," Auralie said, incredulously, "Sam, you're a badass. How'd this ever happen?"

"To tell you the truth, I don't know," Sam admitted, "but I'm gonna see what I can find out about him. He might be a decent ally in the future. Guy's tough for walking around at the size of a tic tac."

"Sounds good. When you call him in, introduce him to me. I read an old Shield legend about Hank Pym and he was called the Ant-Man. I want to see if this Scott and Pym are connected at all," Auralie said.

"Sure," Sam grinned, "so, what's going on between you and Wanda? You looked like you were two seconds away from locking lips."

"Sam," Auralie looked down, embarrassed, "that is not what was happening."

Sam laughed, "hey, you know I'm cool with it. I'm just curious. If you like her you like her and you know what, good for you two."

"It was a weird moment, but no, we are not a couple. I may have a few butterflies, but that doesn't mean anything," Auralie protested.

Sam smiled serenely, "Sure."

Auralie glowered at him, "Sam, I haven't known her that long."

"Yeah, but you two get along freakishly well. Like soulmate level getting along. You've bonded so much in these past few months, well, I've heard of fast friends, but this is a whole new thing. I think it'd be fine if you wanted to date her," Sam said.

Auralie sighed, "Nah. I don't know what she wants, I don't even know if my crush will last. I think I'll wait and see before trying to take it any further."

"It's your call. But when you do decide, tell me. I can already tell this couple is going to be interesting," Sam grinned. Auralie punched him lightly in the arm.

"Oh go get cleaned up from your ant fight," she said teasingly.

He glared, "if you tell anyone about the Ant-Man incident, I swear....."

"Auralie," Wanda called, "are you coming?"

"Yeah," Auralie said, "I'm coming right now." She walked in, Sam following her, and she turned to give him an annoyed look.

"What're we watching?" he asked.

Auralie sighed, "Jurassic Park."

Sam grinned, "I'm in. Popcorn and a movie are the best."

Wanda commented, "actually we don't have any popcorn. Tony ate it all."

Sam collapsed onto the couch and yelled, "DAMN YOU TONY!"

Auralie and Wanda exchanged grins and laughed. Their lives were not easy, but with good friends to support them and make them laugh, they were able to find the happiness they sought.

A/N: Sam is the captain of the AuralieXWanda ship! Also, for the ship name, what do you think; Auralanda, Wandalie, ScarlettLight, LightWitch?

Also, have a gif of Scott, just because he's Scott:



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