



xvii. Illumination and Magic

"Alright everyone, time to partner up for training," Steve announced, "Sam and Rhodey, Wanda and Auralie, and I'll go with Vision since we have an uneven number. Nat will supervise us all."

"That's a terrifying prospect," Sam whispered so only Auralie and Wanda could hear. They giggled, but all three shut up when they saw Natasha glaring at them. They doubted she was actually mad, but when she wanted to, Natasha could out snark any of them. Well, maybe not Sam..... Sam was pretty good at snark.

"Cap, there a specific exercise you want us to do?" Rhodes asked.

"Work on teamwork, synchronizing your fighting moves, that sort of thing. Knowing each other's strengths is key to winning a fight," Steve replied in his "trainer" voice.

Wanda turned to Auralie, her mouth curving up in the tiniest of smiles, "shall we?"

"Sure thing. Powers or sparring?" Auralie asked.

"Powers," Wanda replied.

The two girls made their way to the padded area in the corner of the room. Auralie laughed, "you know, the walls at the Shield training facility weren't padded until Nat sent someone flying into the wall during sparring. It was badass, but a er they had to go to the infirmary and take it easy for a few days, Fury had Coulson go on Amazon and buy some mats."

"Who got thrown into the wall?" Wanda asked, "I know Nat's tough, but wouldn't she take it easy on some of the newer agents?"

Auralie rolled her eyes, "It was Clint."

Wanda sighed, "that makes more sense."

They took their starting positions. Wanda's hands were intertwined with the swirling red tendrils of her magic. Auralie's were glowing, a bright yellowish white light radiating from them. Not enough to harm or kill, no heat, just enough to spar with.

Wanda began shooting blasts as Auralie worked on her latest skill, forming a shield of light that would break apart or stop or diminish whatever came flying at her. So far she could only maintain it for short bursts at a time. She was hoping to be able to maintain it for as long as necessary, and surround herself with a barrier on all four sides, instead of just one. It was a slightly ambitious goal, but Auralie was determined.

Auralie held the shield up for around ten seconds, taking blast a er blast before Wanda's magic shot through it and sent her stumbling back.

Auralie frowned, "you were going easy on me. That didn't have much force behind it. The shield wouldn't be able to take a real blast."

"I was trying not to hurt you," Wanda replied, "I figured we could work our way up to more powerful things to deflect."

"That actually makes sense," Auralie cocked her head, "Nat and Maria were great but they taught me through learning. I had to practice to get on par with them. It worked but it's never been very good with my powers. Maybe I should start working with your idea."

"I'll help you," Wanda smiled.

Auralie grinned back, "thanks Wanda, you're the best. So, what aspect of your powers do you want to work on today?"

Wanda answered, "Telekinesis. Throw things at me and we can see if I can hold them. Gradually increasing."

"When did you learn all these strategies?" Auralie asked.

Wanda responded, "Steve and Sam were helping me with them a few weeks ago. You were on a quick mission with Rhodes, Nat, and Vision."

"Oh yeah," Auralie remembered. She had begun gathering weights, mats, anything else she could find that Wanda could use her powers to li . Auralie had mostly been staying at base working on honing her powers with Wanda, but she still went on missions. Six months had passed since Ultron, and Auralie was seeing great improvement in her technique. Her powers and Wanda's were very di erent, but they were both magic based, and it was nice to have someone who understood.

"You ready," the light manipulator called. Wanda nodded in reply.

Auralie tossed the yoga mat (Pepper liked to come and use the training room for yoga sometimes) into the air, and Wanda caught it with the red magic. As Auralie tossed her various weights of di erent sizes, Wanda caught them all with her powers.

When she was first starting, Wanda could feel the strain of everything she tried to use her powers on. Now it was easier, and she was able to li six things with minimal strain. Having Auralie to practice with was having a good e ect on her too.

"Damn, Rhodey and Sam took the rest of the weights," Auralie sighed, "let me find something else."

She ran over to a bench against the wall and grabbed a random plastic disposable water bottle. She tossed it to Wanda, who sent a tendril of red curving around it like a hand curving around a prized possession.

Auralie smiled at Wanda's skill, but then she noticed the witch had begun to tremble with the stress. Auralie was about to tell her that she could put everything down, but before she could, Wanda gave in to the strain.

Everything clattered to the ground. Auralie jumped back a little bit. Wanda was perfectly unharmed, but everyone had turned to see the source of the noise.

"You alright Wanda?" Steve called.

"Yeah," Wanda replied, staring at the broken water bottle dejectedly. She had really wanted to improve enough to not drop everything when she got tired or stressed.

Nat and Rhodes had come running over with towels and Wanda made her way numbly to Auralie's side. The witch sighed, "I thought today was going to be the day."

Auralie took Wanda's hand, "magic is hard and you have so much magic, it must be hard to keep it in control. You've made a lot of progress. Don't lose hope."

"Thank you Auralie," Wanda replied.

Auralie smiled a bit, "you know, you can call me Ali. Almost everyone else does."

Wanda shook her head, "no, I think Auralie is a beautiful name." Auralie blushed. She had always liked her name, though it was a little unusual, however, when Wanda said it, it sounded positively magical.

"Hey lovebirds," Sam cried, "are you gonna stop staring into each other's eyes or what?" Auralie shot her friend a death glare. He remained una ected and just laughed.

That is until he realized it was his water bottle that had been spilled everywhere. He sighed, "did you have to steal my water bottle?"

"That's what you get for making fun of me," Auralie replied matter of factly.

Sam grinned, "I'm not making fun, I'm trying to be your wingman."

"Was that a bird pun?" Auralie asked, snickering.

"CHILDREN," Natasha cried. Sam and Auralie both shut up. Natasha shook her head and exchanged looks with Steve. The redhead muttered, "it's like raising children. Or herding cats. But not anything like training professionals should be."

Steve smiled, "well, just think, it could be worse, Tony could be "helping" train and really just poking fun at everyone."

"Oh don't bring that up," Natasha cried.

Steve bit his lip to hide his laughter, "sorry."

"You know," Wanda whispered sarcastically into Auralie's ear, "I really don't think he is sorry."

Continue reading next part [▶](#)