



## xxxiii. Fugitives

Bucky had just been put back into the freezer. Steve and Auralie were there with T'Challa when it happened. They walked to the window with the new king of Wakanda, who had become an unlikely but extremely helpful ally in their issue.

"Thanks again your highness," Auralie said, "You have no idea how much we all appreciate it."

T'Challa nodded, "your friend and my father, they were both innocent. If I can help one of them find peace, I will."

"You know," Steve said, "if they find out he's here, they'll come for him."

T'Challa gave a small smile, looking out the window at Wakanda, "let them try." Auralie followed his gaze over the foggy land, to the giant panther looming over everything. Looking at the amazing country, she knew that Bucky would be ok.

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After leaving Bucky under T'Challa and Princess Shuri's care, Steve and Auralie met up with Sam, Natasha, Wanda, Scott, and Clint at some remote location in Europe. They were all discussing what to do with themselves now that they were fugitives.

"I've got to get home," Clint was saying, "Scott and I both need to. We think we can make a deal with the government and get back to our families."

"Alright then. You two need to go keep your kids safe, I get it. Thank you for fighting with us," Steve said.

"Tell Laura and the kids I said hi," Natasha said. The archer and the Ant-Man said their goodbyes and then went to the car. Auralie hoped they would be alright. She knew that the government was full of horrible people. She hoped they didn't get the chance to punish Clint and Scott.

"What about you four," Steve said to the remaining people.

Sam shrugged, "well Cap, every time I leave you alone you get into trouble. I think I should probably keep you from getting yourself killed, whatever you decide to do."

Steve grinned, "I was thinking vigilante work. Protecting the universe but not legally. I think I could pull it off."

"Sounds like a plan," Sam grinned back.

"I'm in," Natasha smiled at the boys, "I can't exactly go back, but I don't want to give up the Avenger thing. Staying with you two seems like my best bet."

Steve met her eyes, "I'm glad. I was hoping you would stay."

"Yeah," Natasha nodded, "I was hoping you'd want me to." They stood there smiling at each other for a minute, before Steve turned to the two young women who were sitting next to each other, fingers interlocked.

"Ali, Wanda, what do you two want to do with yourselves?" Steve asked.

Auralie and Wanda exchanged looks. Wanda was the one who answered, "we want to stay with you two. Vigilante work sounds tough, but you are all we have left of our team. You could use our help, so let's stay as much of a team as possible."

"Really?" Natasha grinned, "you sure you two are up for staying in cramped apartments, hotel rooms, and running from the law?"

Wanda smiled back, "So long as I have my friends and my Auralie with me."

Auralie blushed, "I'm in. You're my team. I'm not leaving."

Steve and Natasha exchanged looks, and Steve said, "Great. We'll stay here a few more days, then start our nomadic life. I'm gonna go put a pizza in the oven."

He and Natasha left the room, talking about money and missions and pizza and plans. Sam rolled his eyes, "so those two are basically parents now."

"Haven't they always been?" Auralie laughed. It was true that Natasha and Steve were the closest things to parents Auralie had. As Sam left the room, her good cheer faded, just thinking about things.

"What's wrong?" Wanda asked. She knew Auralie well, she knew when something was wrong.

"The only family I really have has been split apart. I just miss all the people we had to fight. Tony and Rhodey and all of them. I want them to be ok. And I really really miss Maria. I'm trying to get in contact with her but....." Auralie trailed off, then started talking again, "why have I done this Wanda? Why do I protect this world that hates me so much? Why should I have to fight and die for them when they don't give a damn about me?"

Wanda took a moment, then answered, "If there is one thing my brother believed, it's that this world was worth protecting. I'm not sure why he thought that, but he did. So now I will believe that because of him."

"Alright," Auralie's voice was a little bitter. Her hands were still healing, as was Wanda's neck. They would both have scars from their time in prison.

"Auralie," Wanda said tentatively.

"Yeah?" Auralie replied, curious.

Wanda took a deep breath, "Well, it's just, if we're going to be on this new team together I should tell you this. I like you Auralie. More than I have ever liked anyone. I think I may be falling for you. So I was wondering... and you can say no, I won't be hurt..... If you would like to be my girlfriend? Officially?"

Auralie stood there, stunned. Her heart was singing and for the first time in a while, she felt alive with happiness. A slow, beaming smile, like light itself, spread across her face, "Fugitive superpowered girlfriends? Sounds like every fantasy of mine come true."

Wanda broke into a grin and threw herself into Auralie's arms. They spun each other around, happy for the first time in a while. They had both been falling, though neither girl could pinpoint the exact moment it started. And though Auralie felt like she was changing, she could now see it wasn't all bad. Because if Wanda still wanted her, she knew that she was doing something right.

"Do we get to go on dates and watch movies and stuff?" Auralie asked, "because I've always wanted to do that, but I've never actually kept a girlfriend that long!"

Wanda laughed, "that sounds perfect. You're amazing Auralie. You gave me something worth living for."

"Yeah," Auralie said, and now she was realizing how lonely she had been before Wanda. She had some good friends, but no one had gotten as close to her as Wanda had. Though it still frightened her a bit, she was now realizing how much she had craved love, "I think you did the same for me."

"Girlfriends," Wanda said again, utter delight shining through her face.

"Girlfriends," Auralie repeated.

"Oh yay, you two are together! Anyways, pizza's ready," the voice came from the doorway. The two blushing girls turned to see a grinning Sam Wilson shaking his head with amusement.

"Sam," Auralie chided, "what do you have to say for yourself?"

Sam laughed, "that I called it, and now our Captain owes me twenty bucks!"

**A/N: Everyone is on the run, which will bring new challenges and such. But, Auralie is now an official couple. I'm so happy to be happy together. Also, Sam is the best ship captain we could ask for. Maria is the assistant captain, and Bucky is the chief engineer. That is all.**

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