



xxxvi. Stars

A/N: Last Chapter before Part Three! Also, I love the gif of Elizabeth Olsen above for some reason.

Auralie Shadow and Wanda Maximo had been girlfriends for two years, and every day, they fell more and more in love. It was something neither of them had ever experienced before. It was as if they had been made for each other.

They had spent a while traveling with Sam, Steve, and Nat, but for the past week, they had been on their own in Scotland, taking a break from crime fighting and seeing the sights. It had been nice, pretending they were a regular couple and not fugitives. They both loved being who they were, but taking a vacation was nice.

At that moment, they were strolling down a dark street, enjoying their last night of peace before the real reason they came to Scotland came into effect. That reason being a former teammate, Vision, contacted them saying he wanted to talk to them, not about the accords or anything, but about the actually important fate of the world still.

That could wait, however. This was their moment to be hand in hand, a happy couple. Wanda looked over at Auralie, whose pale hair shone in the moonlight. Wanda had always thought her girlfriend was like stars, shining out against the darkness, ethereal and beautiful and awe-inspiring.

"What are you thinking about?" Auralie asked.

A fond smile played on her lips, "why, how much I love you of course."

Auralie blushed, "Aww, thanks dear, I adore you too."

They continued down the road, and Wanda pointed to a twenty-four-hour cafe and said, "I'm craving a hot chocolate. Do you want one?"

"Yeah, that would be great, thank you," Auralie replied. Wanda went into the cafe to get their drinks and Auralie sat down at the bench outside to wait for her. While she waited, she thought about how much had changed since she met Wanda Maximo.

When Auralie had walked onto that battlefield to fight Hydra and retrieve Loki's scepter, she had very much been isolated. Sure she had her friends, and sure she liked them a lot and trusted them, but the only person she truly loved was Maria, her sister. She wasn't willing to open herself up at all, to anyone. It was a lonely existence.

Then she had met Wanda Maximo, a girl who, like Auralie, had been through nothing but pain, and had made some mistakes that led her down the wrong path. Auralie had understood and had decided to help Wanda through the grief and back down the right path. As she had tried to be that supportive and helpful friend, she had ended up opening herself up as well. Understanding went both ways.

It had been so good to finally not feel alone. To have someone who understood her and still cared about her. It was no wonder Auralie had fallen so hard for Wanda. Things had changed a lot since she had. She felt things deeply now, and couldn't bottle up all her feelings anymore. Sure that meant the hurt and the anger hit her harder, but it also meant that friendship and love felt right. That she could enjoy life. She had gone to show a witch why life was worth living and had learned that lesson herself.

Auralie looked up at the stars and found herself remembering something.

It had been a remarkably clear night in New York, a few weeks before the Lagos incident. One could actually see the stars from the roof of the Avengers Compound. Auralie had taken Wanda up to look at them, to show Wanda some of the beauty that surrounded them.

They had laid on the roof together for what felt like forever, when Wanda finally spoke, "do you come up here often? To look at the stars?"

Auralie shook her head, "no, you usually can't see them this well. But even if you could..... well, it's been a long time since I did this, actually. When I was little though, before my life turned upside down, I used to love to stay up late and run around under the stars in my backyard. They were beautiful."

"They still are," Wanda whispered, "They are one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen. They never fade the stars. I can always count on them to be there."

"Yes," Auralie agreed, "you're right about that."

"Auralie, have you ever thought that maybe I'm not the only one who needs to see the stars more. That's why you brought me here. But I think you needed this too, and you didn't even realize," Wanda said, making one of her endlessly sharp insights.

Auralie said, "well, I suppose that could be the case. I really should look at them more. The stars are beautiful."

Wanda smiled, a secret smile, like she was thinking the most wonderful of thoughts, "Yes, but there are things that are more beautiful."

Auralie smiled at the memory. Just as she had shown Wanda all the colors of life, Wanda had done the same for her. They both completed each other, two halves of a whole.

Wanda came back out of the cafe with two hot chocolates. She handed one to Auralie, who accepted it gratefully. Wanda smiled at the love of her life, "the stars are beautiful here."

"Yes, but there are things that are more beautiful," Auralie quoted Wanda herself, staring at the witch. She stood up to join Wanda.

Wanda blushed, "I remember that night. I think that was when I realized how I had fallen in love with you. You have the most beautiful soul of anyone I have ever known."

"I don't know how you ever came to that conclusion. I'm a mess," Auralie said.

"So am I," Wanda declared, "my darling, we are both crazy, but we love each other, and we support and help each other through the rough times. That's what matters."

"Yes, I suppose it is," Auralie agreed. She and Wanda stepped closer together, like magnets drawn towards each other. Auralie found it funny. She had always loved magic, and now here she was, dating a witch. Wanda really was her destiny.

Their faces were inches apart, and Wanda breathed, "I love you Auralie."

"Right back at you Wanda," Auralie said, closing the distance between them in one of the soft, sweet kisses they both loved.

Though the stars that night were beautiful, neither girl had any interest in looking at them. For what were stars when compared with the wonderful souls that they had fallen in love with.

A/N: Have I mentioned how much I love these two! They just have the most healthy and sweet relationship and they love and support each other and there's no mistrust or hate and I just love it! They're the best! Anyways, next up is Part Three, yay! That's when it gets to be more of an AU, and Auralie's story from the beginning finally connects back in.

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