



## viii. Thor's Arrival

The battle raged on. Auralie was already sore and if it weren't for sheer force of will, she wasn't sure how much longer she would have lasted. But Auralie Shadow was a very determined woman, and she would let no alien hurt her girlfriend and get to the infinity stones. They would have to kill her first, and that wasn't happening, because then her sister would be mad at her.

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A part of Auralie wondered what Maria would think of all this. She wondered if Maria, with all of her shield connections, already knew about the end of the world. She probably did. She and Nick Fury were probably the ones making sure nothing happened to the rest of the world while everyone else was either in space or duking it out in Wakanda.

Either way, Auralie, and her sister would have quite the stories to exchange next time they saw each other.

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Out of the corner of her eye, she saw T'Challa, his suit charged up with purple lines of kinetic energy landing between a group of aliens and throwing them all back with a single hit. Auralie was impressed. T'Challa had skill and Shuri's talent with technology was unparalleled.

Things seemed to be going well, but Auralie could tell she and her friends couldn't hold out forever. She sent a blaze of light to kill an alien about to attack Steve, who was punching another alien. She then raced to blast several monsters trying to destroy Bruce and his new armor. Blasting away at them so the scientist could struggle back to his feet, she forgot to watch her guard and check behind her.

One of the four-armed monsters jumped on her and knocked her to the ground. Her knees buckled and she tried to shove it off, but he was pinning her arms so she couldn't direct her light at him. She tried to think, but he was already reaching out to snap her neck.

Fortunately, her best friends had her back. Bucky and Sam both fired round after round into the alien, one from the sky, one from the land.

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Auralie shoved the corpse off her and stood up, calling, "thanks!"

"No problem," Sam said, before flying off to help Rhodes destroy some more monsters.

Bucky gave her a small smile, "anything for a friend." He then dashed to Steve's side, and Auralie went back to blasting aliens. She was lucky to have such good friends looking out for her.

They continued fighting, but no one was really winning, they were just tiring each other out. That was when it happened. A rainbow beam of light that Auralie had only seen maybe once before appeared in the middle of the battlefield, cutting a design into the ground. It faded away, revealing the most wonderful sight.

Thor, the god of thunder, who was sporting a new haircut and wielding a new ax, along with what appeared to be a raccoon holding a gun and a..... tree?

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Bruce took off his helmet and cried, "OH, you guys are so screwed now!" Auralie couldn't help but agree.

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Thor then leapt into the air with his new ax, surrounded by blue lightning, and proceeded to bellow, "BRING ME THANOS!"

It was one of the most badass things Auralie had ever seen.

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Then he landed, his lightning destroying dozens of aliens in the process. Auralie felt herself cracking a smile. Her teammates were awesome. Though she didn't have any clue where the raccoon and the tree came from.

Thor walked over to Steve and Auralie. Steve laughed, "new haircut?"

"You seem to have copied my beard," Thor replied, as behind him the tree skewered several aliens with an elongated branch and threw them out of the way.

"Oh yes," Thor pointed to the tree, who Auralie had decided seemed to be a teenager, "this is my friend, tree."

The tree said, "I AM GROOT!"

"I Am Steve Rogers," the supersoldier answered. Auralie grinned. Steve had probably thought that after all this time, nothing seemed weird to him anymore. Oh, how wrong he had been.

Auralie said to Thor, "hi, that entrance was awesome, also I love the new weapon. Did I happen to see it summon the Bifrost?"

Thor smiled at her, "yes it did, thanks for noticing!" And together they turned and kept on fighting, these three original avengers who would always fight, and their new tree companion by the name of Groot.

Meanwhile, Bucky was dealing with a situation. Namely, a whole bunch of evil aliens. He didn't see any help in sight, except for the walking and talking woodland creature. He wasn't sure if he was seeing things, but it had a gun, so that seemed helpful.

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Picking up the raccoon, he began spinning around. The raccoon let out a battle cry and they both fired, killing a dozen aliens together.

Auralie, who had been rushing over to help, stopped and stared. This was quite the sight.

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Bucky finally put down the raccoon, thinking about how this couldn't possibly get weirder. Then the raccoon asked, "how much for the gun?"

Unphased, and knowing it was an excellent weapon, Bucky replied, "not for sale."

"Ok," the raccoon continued, "how much for the arm?"

Bucky looked at the raccoon weirdly, Auralie cracking up as she heard this exchange. Poor Bucky looked so confused, and didn't reply, he just walked away.

Just when Auralie thought this couldn't get more weird and funny, the raccoon muttered, "oh, I'll get that arm."

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Auralie had many questions she wanted to ask about that raccoon, who he was, and why he wanted Bucky's arm so bad, but she was not destined to ask them. For at that moment, everyone froze as the battlefield began to shake.

Something was happening, and it was not good.

**A/N: Thor's entrance was awesome. And also, GROOT AND ROCKET! My favorites! And my favorite exchange in all of Infinity War, Rocket asking for Bucky's arm. Yay! I love this chapter.**

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