

Spider-Man 311

Chapter 311: Controversial Recruitment

After promising Banner that he would contact him soon about the extraction, Peter left for the council room, where his fellow councilmen were waiting for his arrival.

"Yo!" Peter called out as he strolled in. "You guys got here fast. Whenever I called a meeting in the past, it usually took at least 2 hours to get everyone together. Not even an hour has passed, yet you're all here."

"Says the one who's late." Tony said jokingly.

"I know... is today Opposite Day?" Peter asked as he checked the date on his phone. "Tony is on time and I'm late. It has to be some sort of miracle..."

"Okay, enough messing around." Professor X sighed in annoyance. "I have work to do, so can we get on with this meeting, please?"

"Oh, relax, Charles." Magneto cut into

The conversation. "You're far too uptight, my friend. A little small talk before business won't kill you."

"..." Charles merely glared in his helmeted friend's direction.

"Well, now that the small talk is over, let's get this meeting over with." Fury seemed to be on the Professor's side. "I have a few international incidents in the making to deal with so..."

Everyone turned to Peter, who shrugged as he took a seat at the head of the conference table.

"Then I won't waste any more time." He said as the nearby TV lit up, showing an image of Blonsky as well as his Abomination form. "I called this meeting to discuss the release and subsequent recruitment of Emil Blonsky."

"?!" Both Charles and Erik didn't expect this at all.

Meanwhile, Peter already hinted at this with Fury and Tony, so they weren't nearly as surprised by the proposal.

"Have you gone mad?" The Professor asked genuinely. "This is a man that can level an entire city block in a matter of seconds. Allowing him any sort of freedom is a huge risk."

"I must agree with Charles on this one. Although his power would be a huge boon to us, the risks far outweigh anything else." Erik spoke in agreement with his friend, which was odd as they usually disagreed.

It's safe to say that the Meta-Humans in the council weren't on board...

"..." Tony and Fury didn't look convinced either, though they remained silent, knowing that Peter would have more to say.

"I knew that there would be some doubts and pushback, so I prepared this." Peter nods understandingly as a video appears on the Television.

A very professional-looking woman with glasses appeared. She sat at a desk with a file labeled 'Blonsky' in hand.

"Are we recording?" She asks whoever is behind the camera.

"Yes." Peter's voice replied. "Now, can you please give me your honest and unfiltered opinion? Is your patient, Emil Blonsky, fit to be released?"

"As a psychologist, I can attest to the fact that Emil Blonsky, underwent a successful therapy and rehabilitation process. Blonsky's treatment was designed to address his underlying psychological issues, such as his impulse control, aggression, and tendency to act and react violently, which were extremely exasperated by his transformation."

"Through a combination of cognitive-behavioral therapy, anger management techniques, and medication, Blonsky was able to gain insight into the root causes of his anger and learn how to manage it more effectively. He was also taught coping mechanisms to help him avoid violent outbursts and control his aggression."

"As a result of this therapy and rehabilitation, Blonsky has demonstrated significant progress in managing his anger and controlling his aggressive impulses. He has also shown a strong desire to make amends for his past actions and contribute positively to society."

"Therefore, with appropriate monitoring and support, I believe that Blonsky is ready to be released from custody and recruited into the Avengers. His unique abilities and combat experience would be valuable assets to the team, and his willingness to work towards positive change is a testament to his commitment to redemption." She finished and set the file down as the video came to an end.

"Are there any questions?" Peter asks the room.

"If we were to agree and set Blonsky free, how would we keep track of him? The man is a highly trained military specialist. The normal ankle monitor and surveillance detail isn't going to cut it." Fury was the first to speak.

"I agree, which is why I would place a tracking spell on him. And since he doesn't practice the Mystic Arts, he can never get rid of it." Peter answers easily.

"Simply tracking him won't be enough. Someone would have to watch his every move..." Magneto seemed to be in agreement now.

"Yes, which is why we should build a team that can take turns accompanying Blonsky wherever he goes. At least until he's earned some trust. This team can also be in charge of his basic training as well." Peter said.

After all, everyone has to go through basic training. Even highly skilled soldiers are no exception.

The room seemed to turn silent as everyone processed the situation.

Though it didn't last very long.

"I still disagree." Professor X spoke his mind. "Although you may be right about his rehabilitation, Blonsky has killed an uncountable number of people. If he was a normal man, he would have been put to trial and sentenced to multiple life sentences. We shouldn't give him special treatment just because his strength would be useful to us."

"..." Silence filled the room once again.

The Professor's words seemed to strike a chord with everyone, leaving them contemplative about the whole situation.

"...While I do agree with Charles to a certain extent," Peter spoke up after a moment of silence. "His view is a bit too idealistic. No offense, Professor..."

"None taken..." Charles frowned as he motioned for Peter to continue.

"We live in a world that could be attacked by alien empires at any moment, or even destroyed by members of our own growing enhanced population." Peter shrugs as he looks around the room. "Although we've been doing fine so far, I don't think that we should grow complacent. There will come a time when we need more power than we currently have."

"So we should just recruit murders then?" Charles wasn't convinced.

Though the others seemed to resonate with Peter's words.

"Rehabilitated murderers who are willing to work to redeem themselves? Yes." Peter answered resolutely.

...

After arguing for a bit longer, it was finally time to decide.

"Let's put it to a vote." Peter sighed as he leaned back in his chair. "All those in favor of recruiting Emil Blonsky please raise your hand..."

Detainment Floor, High-Security section.

"What's taking him so long?" Blonsky asked himself for the millionth time as he paced back and forth in his cell.

Spider-Man promised to get him released over a month ago, yet he hasn't seen or heard from him since.

"Can you shut up already?!" His neighbor spoke up from across the hallway. "You aren't getting out. Get over it."

Bucky, who is still imprisoned for his own safety, was forced to listen to the man whine and complain day and night.

"That's easy for you to say..." Blonsky glared in his neighbor's direction. "At least you have visitors. Hell, they even let you leave your cell every now and then. Meanwhile, I've been stuck here for more than three years..."

"..." Bucky sighed and simply looked the other way.

"Hey! Are you ignoring me?" Blonsky called out.

"..." Bucky remained silent.

"Sigh... Why did I think having company would be fun?" Blonsky muttered as he flopped down on his bed.

Suddenly, the high-security doors down the hall swung open and footsteps could be heard coming their way.

"?!" Blonsky instantly shot out of bed and rushed up to the glass cell wall.

"Don't get your hopes up. It's probably Steve-" Bucky spoke though he was cut off.

"Yo." Peter waved as he strolled up the hall. "Long time no see."

Behind him stood three people.

Wolverine, Hawkeye, and Nightcrawler.

"I-Is this it?" Blonsky asks with emotion clear in his voice. "Am I being released?"

"Yup..." Peter nods as Blonsky smiles with tears forming in his eyes. "But there are some stipulations."

"Sure, anything!" Blonsky agreed without care.

He was just too excited to experience freedom once again.

Walking over to the control panel, Peter opens Blonsky's cell.

"First is this..." Peter waves his hand as a golden spell circle forms.

"?!" Bucky and Blonsky watch in shock and awe at the magic happening before their very eyes.

After the spell forms, it shrinks into the size of a pin before shooting into Blonsky's chest.

"!" Blonsky held his chest, expecting to feel pain, yet everything seemed fine. "What was that?"

"A tracker." Peter answers simply.

"I see... Anything else?" Blonsky asks.

"Yes." Peter nods as he motioned to the Avengers behind him. "These will be your monitors. Wherever you go, they go. In shifts, of course."

"Okay..." Blonsky started to realize that his new freedom wouldn't be as free as he thought.

"Good, that's all." Peter says as he steps aside, allowing Blonsky out of the cell. "You'll be staying in an apartment in the tower. Clint can show you the way."

"..." With bated breath, Blonsky stepped out of his cell for the first time in a over three years.

"Oh yeah, Blonsky!" Peter calls out as he was leaving.

"Yeah?" He peered over his shoulder, hoping that this wasn't some cruel joke.

"Welcome to the Avengers."

Chapter 312: Foreboding Phoenix

While Peter was knee deep in the controversial council meeting, MJ was off to school as usual.

"Do you have your lunch?" She asked Lily as they drive toward her school.

"Yeah, do you have yours?" Lily asks in return.

"Yup..." MJ muttered as she peeked over at Lily. "Moments like this are why it's so weird being a teen mom..."

After all, packing a school lunch for yourself and your child is an odd feeling, to say the least.

"Is it? I think it's cool..." Lily spoke her mind. "Having an old mom would be much worse."

"You think so?" MJ asks as her face blooms into a warm smile.

Truthfully, MJ loved being Lily's mother but always felt like she wasn't good enough since she's so young.

Though, that didn't seem to be a problem for Lily.

"Yeah." Lily nods resolutely.

She didn't know that her random inconsequential words may have helped her mother overcome a complex that was building up for a while now.

...

After having their heartwarming moment in the car, MJ dropped Lily off and rushed to her own school.

But as soon as she entered the building, her name was called over the loudspeaker.

"Michelle Jones. Please report to the main office... I repeat, Michelle Jones. Please report to the main office."

"?" MJ raised a questioning brow as everyone in the hall turned to look at her, wondering if she was in some sort of trouble.

...

Inside the principal's office, MJ sat across from an older woman in a professional blue suit.

"You aren't in trouble, MJ." The Principal clarifies.

"Then what's this about?" MJ asks.

"You're dating Peter Parker, right?" She asks.

And instantly, MJ knew what this was about.

"This is about him skipping school, isn't it?" MJ asks as the principal smiles awkwardly.

"Yes, Peter is very gifted. Our staff understands this and allows him a lot of freedoms, but he has to attend at least 30 more days of school if he wants to become a senior next year." The principal clearly states.

"You would hold him back even if he aces all of the tests?" MJ asks incredulously.

"Yes, but it's not my choice. We all know that Peter will pass any test given to him, but the state has ruled that a student must meet a certain requirement for attendance..." the Principal explains as she pushes over a sheet of paper. "And sadly, Peter has barely shown up to school at all this year."

On the paper was a calendar, marking each day that Peter attended school.

"I didn't think it was this bad..." MJ muttered as she eyed the almost empty calendar.

"But it can be fixed as long as Peter starts showing up for, at least, a month of school. After that, he's free to skip all he wants." The Principal shrugged uncaringly.

MJ felt odd about this whole situation.

After all, the leading figure of their school just gave Peter explicit permission to ditch school as much as he wanted.

...

'Lucky b*stard...' MJ thought to herself as she left the office.

After Peter left the Council room upon winning the vote for Blonsky's freedom, Charles didn't look very happy and quickly made that known to the other Councilmen as well.

"You shouldn't have allowed this." He said before anyone could leave.

The vote was 4 to 1 with the Professor being the only one to vote against it.

"Oh, relax." Tony spoke up in their defense. "It's a bit risky but there are enough failsafe in place. And if the psychologist is wrong about his rehabilitation, then Blonsky will be back in a cell before you know it."

"You say that, but who will be hurt or killed in the process?" Charles counters as he stands from his chair and marches out of the room.

"Well, this has been fun, but I have a trafficker in Romania to hunt." Magneto says as he leaves as well.

...

When everyone was gone, Tony made his way to his workshop, where he was greeted by a very emotional A.I.

"W-Welcome, sir... Wuuu..." Jarvis cried loudly through the speakers.

"Huh? What happened?" Tony jumped into action and rushed to his computer.

"Y-You implemented the emotional update this morning... wuuu... And I saw a video..." Jarvis' cries couldn't stop.

"Okay, what kind of video?" Tony asked as his hands flew across the keyboard, searching for what was wrong in Jarvis' code.

"The puppy died!" Jarvis shouted as his emotions continued to stir.

"Jarvis, I need you to calm down okay? Why don't you search for happy videos? Can you do that?" Tony asked as Jarvis wailed. 'How the hell did Peter make Lily without a single problem?'

"Y-Yes, sir..."

After the drama-filled Avengers Council meeting, Fury returned to his office where Steve and Peggy awaited his arrival.

"You're back?" Fury seemed surprised to see them. "That was quick. Did you find anything in France?"

"Yes, two Hydra bases." Steve nods.

"Both have been destroyed and every agent found was either captured or killed." Peggy reports their success. "The guys in interrogation are working on the survivors as we speak."

"So we'll probably have a new target soon enough." Fury sighs as he took a seat at his desk.

"What's with you?" Steve asks.

"I just sat through a Council meeting." Fury reveals.

"I'm sorry to hear that..." Peggy says in understanding.

After all, any sort of meeting between people in power will always drag on for far longer than necessary.

"Eh, it's fine. I just wish that Charles would have agreed sooner." Fury said as he leaned back in his chair.

"Agreed to what?" Steve asks.

"Well..." Fury gives a brief explanation.

...

"Maybe we should give Bucky a chance to be free as well?" Steve says thoughtfully. "He could help us with our Hydra hunting."

"From my understanding, Bucky is only locked up because he's a danger to himself. If you can get his psychologist to sign off on his release, then no one can stop it." Fury shrugged.

After all, Bucky would make a good Avenger or Shield Agent.

Either would work, though Fury would rather pull him into Shield than anything else...

"Alright, we'll go talk to her."

After storming out of the council room, Charles swiftly returned to his mansion, where he was greeted by children of all ages and mutations.

His spacious and gated front yard was practically a playground at this point.

Children played tag, hide and seek, and all sorts of made-up games under the sunny blue sky.

"Julia, what did I say about playing in the fountain?" The Professor admonished.

Standing in the large fountain at the center of his lawn was a little ten-year-old girl who was completely made of water, splashing around as if she were playing in a pool.

"S-Sorry, Professor..." She apologized dejectedly.

"Just don't let it happen again. The new pool will be finished in a few days. You can swim as much as you want then, okay?" Charles says as he walks off.

...

After maneuvering his way through the mansion, Charles finally arrived at his office, where a young red-headed teenage girl with green eyes was waiting for him.

She frowned in pain as she knit her brows together.

Not only did she look to be in pain, but the dark rings around her eyes indicated a lack of sleep as well.

[Insert picture of Jean Grey here]

"Professor, I still can't control it..." Jean says as she held her aching head. "I hear everything and it won't stop. I haven't been able to sleep at all either..."

"Let me see..." Charles says as he walks over and lays a hand on her head, Invading her mind.

With permission, of course.

This was a very regular thing for them.

Before Jean was even enrolled in the school, Charles recognized her limitless potential as an Omega-level mutant.

However, because most of Jean's power was tied to her unconscious mind, Charles decided to create a series of psychic barriers to isolate them from her conscious mind.

These barriers need to be constantly rebuilt, as the power that he locked away in her unconscious mind would somehow degrade them, leading to situations like this.

Whenever the barriers needed maintenance, Jean's telekinetic and telepathic powers would skyrocket, leaving her with zero control whatsoever.

The cause for her pain at the moment were the inner voices of everyone nearby, flooding her brain with mind-aching noise.

As the Professor delved into his most promising student's mind, he examined his barriers as always.

Though this time around he found something odd...

Behind the almost transparent barriers stood a huge flaming bird, staring down at him menacingly.

The fire that danced around its form seemed to be slowly but surely burning his carefully placed barriers.

The malice and heat that emanated from the trapped bird sent shivers down the Professor's spine.

'What is that?' He thought in fear.

Acting quickly before the barriers were fully destroyed, Charles rushed to erect new barriers and put extra care to make them much thicker than before.

And as the new barriers appeared, the flaming bird disappeared as if it was never there in the first place.

"Are you done, Professor? My headache is gone..." Jean's words broke Charles from his shocked stupor.

Ejecting himself from her mind, he put on a false smile as he watched her yawn tiredly.

"Yes, I'm finished. Why don't you take the day off and get some sleep?" He offers.

"Really? I don't have to go to class?" Jean tilts her head in question.

"No, I'll let your teachers know." Charles says as Jean nods and runs off to get some sleep.

"Thanks, Professor!" She yelled as she left the room.

And as soon as she was gone, the smile fell from her teacher's face, leaving nothing but worry and fear in its place.

'Maybe I should speak to Erik about this?'

Chapter 313: School

"What?" Peter nearly spits out his food as he sat at the dining room table.

Since he's been busy up until now, May insisted that they have a big family dinner together to celebrate his return.

Sat across from Peter was Fury and at each side of the table sat May, Grace, MJ, and Lily.

Ever since Fury was allowed in on Peter's secret identity, as well as the fact that he has a granddaughter, he visits a whole lot more than he used to.

Especially since Shield has been swallowed up and digested into the Avengers.

With him in full control, Fury has been able to delegate more duties to the trusted agents in his inner circle, leaving him a lot more time to spend with his family.

Which now included Peter, though the bald spymaster would never admit it.

"I said, you have to go to school." MJ sighed as she stabbed at her food with a fork. "The principal said that you'll be held back next year if you don't start showing up to school. Your attendance sheet is practically empty..."

As MJ finished explaining the whole situation, May turned to Peter with a fiery glare.

"I thought you said they didn't care about you skipping and that you would be fine as long as you passed all of the tests?" May asked as her stare drilled into Peter's soul.

Seeing the drama unfold, Fury sat back and enjoyed the show.

'Dinner and entertainment. This is the life...' He thought as he savored every bite of his food.

Just like her grandpa, Lily's eyes shined in amusement as she shoveled yummy food into her face.

'Is Daddy in trouble?' She thought with her cheeks full.

"Well, I didn't take the government into account..." Peter scratched his cheek and turned the other way, avoiding the angry eyes of his Aunt. "I'll figure something out-"

"No!" May refused vehemently. "You won't weasel your way out of this. Besides, you've been away for long enough. You'll go to school for the rest of the year like everyone else."

"The principal said he only needs to attend 30 more days." MJ tried to help Peter, though May wasn't having it.

"No." His aunt turned to stare Peter square in the eyes. "Someday, you'll look back and regret working so much. You're still a teenager. Go to school, have some fun, take your girlfriend on a date."

Upon hearing that last part, MJ's cheeks turned a slight tint of red.

"I agree, when is the last time you and MJ actually went out together?" Grace spoke up for her daughter.

"Well-"

"Excluding Spider-Man and Silk-related things!" Grace added.

"Umm... It's been a while..." Peter hesitantly admits.

Meanwhile, Fury wasn't enjoying the drama as much as before.

'How the hell did this turn from him being in trouble to him taking my daughter out on a date?' He thought as he gnashed his teeth on a piece of steak.

"Peter, you're a teenager. Enjoy it. We understand that the world needs Spider-Man, but you need to learn how to balance yourself." May gives some sagely advice.

"Okay, I get it." Peter gives up arguing. "I'll go to school and try to do more teenager stuff..."

Peter thinks to himself for a moment before turning to MJ.

"Starting tomorrow we'll go to school together and on Friday I'll take you on a date." Peter announces with a smirk.

He enjoyed the embarrassed look on MJ's face.

'She's so cute...' Peter thought.

"Oh, I want to go on a date too!" Lily declared as she raised her hand.

Everyone smiled at her adorable naivety... Well, except for two people.

"Never, I won't allow it!" Fury declared righteously.

"Your grandpa is right." Peter nodded in agreement. "Ask us again when you're thirty and we'll think about it."

"..." The women in the room stared at the two men in exasperation.

Though most of all, they were surprised to see Peter and Fury agreeing with one another.

Usually, they're doing their best to annoy each other...

Once dinner came to an end, Peter portal'd over to the library of Kamar-Taj, where he searched for any books related to his promise to Banner.

And whilst he was searching, he thought over the conversation that he had at the dinner table.

'Technically, the Guardians don't need me right now, so I can just leave Quill in charge for the time being.' Peter thought as he moved between bookshelves. 'As for being a teenager, I'll just try to spend more time with Ned and MJ.'

After all, he didn't disagree with May's words.

Ever since the Avengers were established, Peter has devoted a large amount of his time to Hero work, which isn't a bad thing per se.

'I'll just try to enjoy my time in between work a bit more...' Peter shrugged as he carried four books up to the librarian, who continued to watch him like a hawk.

[Arcane Mind Splitting]

[Siamese Body Separation]

[Hoovers: Study of Personality]

[Daviau Power Segregation]

The title of each book pretty much spoke for itself.

Peter couldn't find anything that could separate Banner and the Hulk, so he had to find books that would help him build a spell of his own.

Of course, he could have found something in the forbidden section, but...

'This damn old man won't take his eyes off of me...' Peter thought as he checked out the books and returned home. 'Maybe I should try using the reality stone to trick him next time?'

After a night of studying and meditation, Peter was woken up the next morning by a mischievous gremlin.

"Hehe..." Lily crept into the room with a wide smile on her face.

Locking on to her target, she leapt into the air and flipped like an expert gymnast.

"Good Morning!" Lily exclaimed happily as she tucked her knees into her chest and fell straight down.

"?" Peter awoke to his spider senses blaring. "What the... Ugh!"

Lily smashed down onto his stomach with an innocent smile on her face.

But Peter knew behind that smile was an evil smirk.

"..." Peter peered up at his daughter. "Who put you up to this?"

Sadly, Lily wasn't a snitch so she kept her mouth shut and looked the other way.

"Tell me and I'll take you to an amusement park this weekend." Peter gives her an enticing offer.

And it seemed to work as Lily's eyes sparkled in an instant.

"Can we ride a rollercoaster?" She asked hopefully.

"Sure, we can ride them all." Peter smirked like the devil offering a deal.

"It was Grandma Grace..." Lily surveys the area cautiously and whispers.

"Nice doing business with you..." He smirked as he formulated his revenge plan.

Just as Lily was about to leave, Peter spoke up.

"Lily, how would like to earn yourself a new bike?" Peter's devilish smirk returned.

"I'm listening..." Lily turned back with an interested look in her eyes.

"Okay, here's what you have to do..."

...

"Aaahhh!"

Only minutes after Peter was rudely woken up a female's scream could be heard from across the house.

"?!" Instantly, everyone rushed to the scene of the crime, the Kitchen.

"My mouth is on fire!" Grace exclaimed as she leaned over the sink with her tongue hanging out under the water.

Sat beside the sink was a breakfast burrito, which had a lot of suspicious red sauce inside.

"Good work, Agent 47." Peter patted Lily on the head.

Of course, since everyone in the house is an enhanced individual, they all heard his words.

"Y-You!!!" Grace pointed menacingly in Peter's direction.

"Well, we have school so we'll be on our way." Peter smiled innocently as he turned and left the kitchen. "Lily grab your backpack and make sure you have your lunch!"

"GET BACK HERE!!!" Grace screamed though she wouldn't dare step away from the cool refreshing sink water. "PETER!"

...

After dropping Lily off at her school, Peter and MJ arrived at theirs and immediately drew the eyes of every student and teacher they passed.

After all, Peter was a known genius that just stopped showing up.

His return would certainly cause a bit of a ruckus.

"Parker? What are you doing here? I thought you were in college already." Flash asked in shock as he and MJ walked into their first class.

"Nah, I've just been busy with other things." Peter shrugs as he and MJ take their seats.

"..." Flash silently took his seat as well.

Ever since Peter knocked some sense into him and got some school fame for releasing Candy Crush, Flash hasn't been the same bully that he used to be.

Though he always feels an odd nervousness when Peter's around, making the days without him at school very relaxing.

But now those relaxing days were over...

Of course, Peter didn't know this and truthfully had no plans to bother Flash whatsoever.

Especially since the guy was his biggest fan.

As long as he wasn't bullying anyone, Peter would let bygones be bygones.

"Peter!" Ned exclaimed excitedly as he froze at the doorway. "You're coming to school again?!"

"Huh?" What surprised Peter were the heated glances that Ned was receiving from the girls in class. 'This guy gets jacked and now every girl in school is thirsty...'

"Yeah, wanna hang out after school?" Peter asked.

"Dude, we should go to the arcade!" Ned excitedly rushed over and sat beside his best friend, oblivious to the looks he was receiving.

'He doesn't even know...' Peter thought in amusement.

"..." MJ watched the two of them with a content smile on her face.

Chapter 314: Baymax?

While Peter was getting back into the swing of going to school once again, Dr. Banner was locked inside his lab, working on fixing himself as usual.

'I shouldn't stop my research just because he might have a fix...' He thought as he read through his most recent research data.

Ever since he was recruited as a scientist for the Avengers, Banner has spent the large majority of his time trying to cure himself of the Hulk.

But sadly, no matter what he did or which branch of science he turned to, Banner always ran headfirst into an unbreakable and insurmountable wall.

In fact, before Peter came to him with his offer, Banner was very close to giving up and asking the Council if they would buy a small secluded island somewhere for him to retire.

After all, he was already risking a lot by living in a densely populated city like New York.

"The longer that I live here, the more likely the chance is that I'll turn and people will die...' Banner thought even now.

"Hey, you alive in there?" A familiar voice spoke over the speakers in the lab.

"?" Banner turned and found the image of a very excited Tony Stark on his monitor. "Yeah, what do you want?"

"Oh, don't be like that, big guy." Tony whined at his harsh greeting. "I have something cool to show you."

"And? Why are you calling me? Isn't this something that you would usually call your buddy Spider-Man for?" Banner asked in annoyance.

Usually, he wouldn't be this crabby toward Tony, but ever since his meeting with Peter, Banner has felt on edge for some unknown reason.

Of course, Tony has thick skin so he wouldn't let a bit of grouchiness ruin his fun.

"Well, he's a bit busy right now." Tony shrugged as Peter started attending school again.

"So you came to me..." Banner surmised. 'Second pick isn't so bad, right?'

"Well, not exactly." Tony smiles awkwardly. "First, I called Web-Head. Then Pepper, Rhodes, Fury, Steve, Peggy, Beast..."

While Tony was recounting all of the other people he thought to call before him, Banner could feel his anger rising alongside his blood pressure.

'I'm at peace... My intentions are good and my heart is pure... Anger is like hot coal...' Banner repeated Buddhist quotes in hopes to calm himself.

"So you're like the 10th person, I think?" Tony said as he held up all of his fingers.

"Okay, go call the 11th because I'm busy." Banner says as he taps a button, which immediately ended the call.

But just as he got his anger under control, Tony appeared on his screen again.

"Come on... Don't be like that..." He whined in the most annoying tone possible. "Just come over to my workshop and check this out. Or I can keep bothering you..."

Tony knew how to get what he wanted.

"Fine, just go away. I'll be there in half an hour." Banner sighs as he ends the call again without looking at the monitor.

After all, he could already picture Tony's infuriating smirk without needing to actually see it.

-Half an Hour Later-

"Alright, I'm here. What do you want?" Banner asks as he begrudgingly enters Tony's workshop.

"Come and take a look at this." Tony couldn't keep the smirk off of his face as he waved Banner over.

In the middle of the room, stood a tall object with a tarp draped over it, hiding it from sight.

"What is it?" Banner asked in interest. "Did you make a new suit?"

"No, but you're close." Tony says as he grabs hold of the tarp. "Let me introduce my newest invention, the Mark 1 Labor Droid!"

Tugging on the tarp, Tony yanks it off and reveals a fat humanoid droid underneath.

"Umm, why is it obese?" Banner couldn't hold back his question.

Although the droid was very similar in shape to a human with a sleek white design, the body itself was extremely bloated.

[Insert picture of Baymax from Big Hero 6 here]

"Well, I'll show you." Tony smirked as the Mark 1 Labor Droid's stomach opened, revealing a much larger space than the laws of physics would allow.

Instead of the few cubic feet that it should have, the fat droid's stomach looked like it was expanded to a whopping 10 square meters.

"It's bigger on the inside..." Banner muttered in absolute shock.

"Oh, really? I didn't notice..." Tony pretends to be oblivious.

"How?" Banner asked in amazement.

"Magic." Tony smirked as he finally realized why Peter always said that.

"Did Spider-Man teach you?" Banner asked as he circled the droid.

He had to make sure that the giant stomach wasn't a trick and to his shock and amazement, it wasn't.

"A little." Tony shrugged as the droid's stomach closed up.

'Maybe Spider-Man can actually do it...' Banner just started to realize that his cure may be on it way.

Because if someone like Tony, who only learned a little from Peter could defy the laws of physics, then what did that mean for his teacher?

"So why did you make a labor droid with storage? Are you going to sell them?" Banner asks curiously after he got over his shock.

"First of all, it can do more than just hold things..." Tony says as the Labor Droid shoots off of the ground and hovers thanks to its thrusters.

Though that wasn't all.

Next, its ten stubby fingers shout out, elongating into metal tentacle-type ropes, which started entangling random objects and lifting them with ease.

"And no, these are all going off planet." Tony says with a greedy smirk.

"Why? Isn't that dangerous?" Banner asked as he and everyone else on Earth now knew that aliens existed.

"Well, I don't think Web-Head will get mad if I tell you..." Tony quickly explains how he and Peter now own a planet full of alien scrap.

"Can I study some of it as well?" Banner asks as Tony's smirk widens.

'He took the bait...' Tony thought as he put on a thoughtful look. "Well, I may be able to bring you in on this, but you'd be assisting me with my research. We can work together..."

Two heads are always better than one and Tony had a lot of junk to sort through.

An extra set of hands would always be welcome.

"Sure, I don't mind." Banner shrugged uncaringly.

Although working with Tony would increase the risks of the Hulk appearing, as he tends to enjoy annoying people, that may not be a problem for long.

After all, his cure might just already be on its way...

"Why the hell is this book written in French..." Peter muttered in annoyance as French is his least proficient language.

In the past few days, he's read through all of the books except this one.

[Daviau Power Segregation]

"Whatever, I'll just brush up on my French and then give it a read." Peter shrugged as he placed the book back on his bookshelf.

But just as he was about to open his computer and get to work, his bedroom door swung open.

"Dad, you should be getting ready." Lily says in a lecturing tone.

"For what?" Peter asks in confusion.

Instantly, Lily's palm found its way to her forehead.

"It's Friday." She says, waiting for him to realize but that realization never came. "You're taking Mom on a date, remember?"

"!" Peter's eyes widened as he shot out of his chair. "Why didn't you say so earlier?"

"I didn't think that I had to..." Lily mutters in disbelief.

"I'm going to get ready." Peter rushes to the bathroom. "Don't tell your Mother that I forgot!"

Luckily, he already planned everything days in advance.

...

When he was gone, MJ came walking across the hall behind Lily.

"Did he forget?" MJ asks knowingly.

"I cannot confirm nor deny." Lily's words spoke for themselves.

"..." MJ sighed as she quickly picked out an outfit and left to get ready as well.

"Charles, what could possibly be so urgent that I needed to fly halfway across the world for?"
Magneto floats down onto Professor X's office balcony.

"Do you trust me?" Charles asks seriously.

"?" Erik froze for a moment as he felt that this was a lot more serious than he initially imagined. "To a certain extent."

"Then remove your helmet." Charles says as his old friend raises a questioning brow. "I need to show you something."

"What is this about?" Erik asks as his face hardened.

"You'll understand once you see it." Charles says with a shake of his head.

"..." Silence filled the Balcony as Magneto stared his friend in the eyes. "...Fine."

Begrudgingly agreeing, Erik reaches up and willingly removes his only line of defense against Charles' telepathy.

"Prepare yourself." Charles warns as he projects the memory of his most recent experience in Jean Grey's mind.

"?!" Erik's eyes widened as he saw the image of the menacing fiery bird. 'What is that?'

"I don't know..."

Chapter 315: Proposal?

Even though MJ wasn't exactly a girly girl, who would take hours getting ready, that didn't mean she was fast either.

Leaving her boyfriend sat patiently in the living room, wearing his new all-black slim-fitting suit, waiting for her to come downstairs.

"Where are you taking her?" Lily hopped in place as she questioned her father. "I researched dating stuff last night, so I can help you make a plan if you want?"

Somehow, Lily seemed more excited about her parent's date than anyone else.

Of course, she didn't fully understand what a date entailed until she did her research, so this was a bit new for her.

"No thanks." Peter smiled down at his cute daughter. "I already planned everything."

Peter planned this out right after he promised to take her on a date.

Suddenly, the sound of heels clicking and clacking could be heard as Peter turned to see MJ walking down the stairs.

Instantly, his breath was caught in his throat.

She was wearing a beautiful slim black dress that hugged her curves in all the right places with her hair styled in soft waves.

"H-Hey, it looks horrible, doesn't it?" MJ stutters as she adjusts the straps on her shoulders.

"Wow..." Lily muttered as she looked at her mother in awe.

"..." Meanwhile, Peter stood in the middle of the living room like a deer in headlights.

"They kind of forced me to wear this..." MJ grimaced uncomfortably. "If it doesn't look good, then I can change. The heels aren't as bad as I thought though. I think having superpowers helped..."

The last time her mother forced her to wear high heels, MJ did not enjoy it one bit. Although they looked good, the heels left blisters on her feet as well as some pain in her ankles.

But now all of that was gone.

'Having superpowers is really convenient...' She thought as she walked like a pro without any pain or balance issues.

"You look amazing... I can't believe they got you to put that on." Peter couldn't hold back his words anymore.

"A little bribery and blackmail can go a long way." Grace spoke as she and May came strolling down the stairs with smirks on their faces.

"See? We told you..." May added as MJ looked away in embarrassment.

Seeing her act like this, Peter had to speak up.

"If you're uncomfortable, then go back and change. Although I love it, I know that you aren't into this kind of stuff." Peter said understandingly.

"N-No, it's fine..." MJ muttered as her cheeks reddened. "Where are we going?"

She quickly changed the subject.

"It's a surprise," he replied with a grin.

Pulling out a blindfold from his pocket, the Grannys in the room squealed in excitement.

Meanwhile, MJ didn't seem so thrilled.

"Seriously?" She asked incredulously.

"Yes, now turn around." Peter nods as he twirls his finger at her.

Sighing to herself, MJ begrudgingly complies.

"Alright, let's go." Peter says as he opens a portal and guides MJ through.

"Bye, have fun!" Everyone called out their farewells as the young couple disappeared into the golden portal.

"Okay, where are we?" MJ asked as the portal snapped shut behind them.

She could feel her heels digging into the ground and the sun shining on her skin.

"Give me a minute." Peter said as MJ could hear rustling in the surroundings.

...

"Can I take this thing off now?" A few minutes passed and MJ started to get impatient.

Though Peter didn't reply as he walked over and removed her blindfold.

As soon as her eyes adjusted to the bright sunlight, MJ gasped in amazement.

They were standing in the middle of a beautiful meadow, filled with all sorts of foreign plants and the sweet scent of alien flowers.

Of course, that wasn't all.

In front of them, a beautiful table had been set up with an incredible feast of exotic dishes and drinks from all over the galaxy.

"What is this place?" She asked in awe.

"Ego." Peter smirked.

"Aren't the Guardians here?" MJ asked worriedly. "Should we be wearing out suits?"

"Nah, I set up a barrier to keep them out." Peter shrugged as he pulled out a chair for her. "Lady's first."

MJ smiled and rolled her eyes as she took a seat.

"What is all this?" MJ asked as she eyed the alien food warily.

"Well, I've been off planet a lot lately, so I wanted to show you some of the food I've been eating recently." Peter explained as he took a seat beside her.

"Cool, what's this?" MJ asked as she pointed at a bubbling golden honey-like soup.

"Let's try it first." Peter said as he filled her bowl.

...

As they ate and drank, Peter and MJ talked about anything that came to mind.

And since this was their first date in a while, there was this awkward energy in the air, which made them feel like it was their very first date all over again.

As the night wore on and the stars began to shine above them, Peter looked at MJ and smiled.

"Have you ever thought about getting married?" Peter asks out of nowhere.

"!?" MJ's eyes instantly went wide in surprise. "A-Are you asking..."

"Huh?!" Peter realized how that sounded. "No. I mean, in the future."

"Oh..." MJ sighed in relief though she couldn't help but feel a bit disappointed as well. "No, not really."

"I've thought about it a lot." Peter admits as he reaches over and pulls her into his lap. "A small house in a nice neighborhood with neighbors that we hate. Maybe a dog or a cat or both? And possibly a few more children running around..."

Hearing Peter's plans for the future, which most definitely included her, MJ's face heated up as she hid in the crook of his neck.

"That sounds nice..." She admitted in a mousy whisper.

"Really? Then how about we make a deal?" Peter asked as MJ peeked up at him curiously. "Let's switch things up, shall we?"

"What do you mean?" MJ asked in confusion.

"I was thinking about how I would propose to you..." Peter admits unabashedly. "...but I've changed my mind."

'He doesn't want to propose to me anymore?' MJ thought worriedly.

"So, instead I'll wait for you to propose to me." Peter smirked as he leaned down and whispered into her ear. "Doesn't that sound so much more appealing?"

"..." MJ was stunned into silence as Peter took hold of her chin and joined their lips together.

And moments later when they separated, Peter looked down into MJ, who could only nod her head in agreement before pushing forward to reunite their lips once again.

When Peter awoke the next day, he smiled at the pleasant sensation of a warm body pressed up against him.

Turning his head, he found his beautiful girlfriend sleeping peacefully with her head on his chest and her arms and legs entangled around him.

But before he could bask in this situation for much longer, the door swung open with a bang, revealing three figures on the other side.

Two of them smirked knowingly in Peter's direction whilst the smallest of them simply looked curious.

"Huh?" MJ stirred as she turns to see what was going on.

"Good, you're awake." Grace smirked mischievously as she eyed her daughter. "Breakfast is ready. Wash up and come down before it gets cold."

"We'll be waiting for the details... Ahem, I mean we'll be waiting downstairs." May cleared her throat and walked off alongside her fellow grandma.

"I really hate them sometimes..." MJ mutters sleepily as Peter nods along in agreement.

"Are we still going to the amusement park?" Lily asks from the door with an expectant look.

"Yeah, just give us a minute." Peter says as he closed the door with a wave of his hand.

After all, they were both very naked right now, which is something that Lily definitely shouldn't see.

...

After an annoying breakfast, where the older women in the house were interrogating Peter and MJ about their date, it was finally time for Lily's day out.

And of course, everyone wanted to tag along, filling the car to the brim for their little trip.

Even Ned ended up tagging along.

...

Finally, they arrived at the amusement park and Lily's eyes lit up with wonder as she saw the rides and attractions all around her.

Peter's heart warmed as he watched his daughter's face light up with joy.

They spent the entire day riding roller coasters, eating bad carnival food, and playing all sorts of games.

Peter even won a stuffed Spider-Man stuffy for Lily, which made her day even more special.

'These damn companies keep using my image for their toys...' Peter complained inwardly as Lily ran around happily.

On the drive home, Lily couldn't stop talking about how much fun she had, which made the whole trip worthwhile.

As an AI, Lily has been maturing quickly, making moments like this very important for her.

When they finally arrived home, Peter tucked Lily into bed and returned to the living room, where the rest of his family was sitting around, chatting.

As he stood there watching them, he couldn't help but feel a sense of peace and contentment.

'It's nice to take things easy every once in a while...'

Chapter 316: Hulks

Standing alone in his basement, Peter huffed and puffed for air with sweat covering his entire body.

'I did it!' Peter thought as his body began to change.

He felt a strange sensation building up inside him, growing stronger and more intense by the second.

Suddenly, Peter felt a surge of energy rushing through his body, and he fell to the ground, writhing in pain.

He could feel his muscles bulging and stretching, as if they were trying to break out of his skin. He clenched his teeth, trying to control the transformation, but it was far too powerful to resist.

And then, just as suddenly as it had started, it was over. Peter looked up, feeling different, changed.

With a simple thought he created a mirror and raised his brow at what he saw.

He was the Red Hulk.

He looked at his body, which was now covered in thick, red muscle.

His muscles were truly massive, bulging with raw power. He flexed his fingers, feeling the strength and dexterity of his new form.

Peter couldn't help but smile.

He had always admired the Hulk, and now he had become one, without the anger issues and dual personalities, of course.

He felt invincible, unstoppable even.

He couldn't wait to put his new powers to the test, to see what he was truly capable of.

But for now, he needed to figure out how to control this transformation, to make sure he didn't accidentally hurt anyone in the process.

Peter took a deep breath, trying to focus his thoughts and emotions. He closed his eyes and concentrated, willing himself to change back to his normal form.

And after a few moments, he felt the energy dissipate, and he opened his eyes to see himself back to the same old Peter.

'Sexy as always...' Peter thought narcissistically.

He grinned again, feeling both relieved and excited.

This was going to be fun

...

After switching back and forth a few times, while making sure not to stand and cause a cave in, in his basement, Peter seemed to get the transformation completely under control.

And thankfully, unlike the Hulk, Peter's mind was calm while in his new red form.

'I don't feel angry at all...' Peter felt relieved.

Almost a month passed since Peter went on a date with MJ, and he used that time to spend with family and friends.

Though that wasn't all.

He also focused heavily on his meditation, which was now showing its results.

Before bed, Peter performed the odd dance meditation as usual, but unlike all of the other nights, this time the results finally came in.

The Red Hulk's consciousness was absorbed into Peter's mind, which at first was extremely overwhelming, hence the haggard condition he was in before transforming.

Though after all of the anger and hatred of his alter ego faded away, Peter returned right back to his normal calm state.

If only a little out of breath, exhausted, and sweaty.

'Now I can transform at will.' Peter thought happily.

Not only that, but he also has complete control, leaving all of his former worries about Red Hulk going crazy in his body behind.

'Hehe, now I can relax.' Peter thought as he fell back and relaxed his tired body on the cold basement floor. "Ugh, I'd rather sleep next to MJ..."

Waving his hand, Peter opened a portal underneath himself, which swiftly deposited his body into bed.

'That's more like it...' He smirked and drifted off to sleep as MJ instinctively cuddled up next to him.

On the next day after testing his new Powers in the Mirror Dimension, Peter came to a complete understanding of his new abilities.

Transformation: Peter will not transform into his Red Hulk form without consciously willing it, nor will any of its powers be available in Peter's normal human form.

Superhuman Leaping: Red Hulk's overdeveloped legs allow him to jump over vast distances.

While testing, Peter was able to leap past the Earth's atmosphere.

'If I up my power even more, I might be able to jump to the moon...' Peter thought excitedly.

Regenerative Healing Factor: Red Hulk possesses a crazy Healing Factor, which can heal severed limbs in an instant.

Retarded Aging: Red Hulk does not age because of his healing factor that regenerates his cells.

Superhuman Strength...

Superhuman Stamina...

Superhuman Durability...

Superhuman Speed...

Gamma Radiation Emission: While in Red Hulk form, Peter can emit varying levels of Gamma Radiation if he chooses to do so.

If he were to raise the radiation to a high enough degree, it can burn whatever he touches. And at even higher levels, it can make Peter appear as if he's cloaked in a shroud of flames.

Energy Absorption: Red Hulk is capable of absorbing Gamma Radiation.

And although Peter hasn't tested it yet, he believes that any sort of energy could be absorbed with enough effort.

'Nice, this should be a good trump card...' Peter thought as he familiarized himself with his newfound powers.

At the end of the day, Peter won't be using the Red Hulk's powers very much, as it focuses on brute strength and destruction more than anything else.

Which is why he plans to hide this newfound power and treat it like his ace in the hole.

Especially the absorption ability.

'Energy absorption is just too overpowered...' Peter thought happily.

If he can manage to absorb other types of energies, then he'll have a very big advantage over celestials and other god-like beings...

"I'll suck all of them dry..." Peter muttered to himself with a hungry gleam in his eyes.

After finishing his own Hulk problem, Peter donned his suit and moved on to the original Hulk next.

Sat cross-legged in the mirror dimension, surrounded by a collection of ancient tomes, scrolls, and arcane artifacts, Peter kept his attention focused on the leather-bound book in his lap.

'My spell book is almost full...' Peter thought as he eyed the pages filled with intricate diagrams and symbols.

Meanwhile, Banner stood nervously to the side, watching as Peter traced his fingers along the pages of the book, muttering incantations under his breath.

At first, he was shocked by the Mirror Dimension, but that shock was soon replaced with fear as Peter started preparing the spell that would release the Hulk upon the world.

"Are you sure about this?" Banner asked, his voice laced with worry. "Separating the Hulk from my body... It's risky."

"Trust me, I've got this. Besides, I can handle the Hulk in a fight. This will be a piece of cake." Peter waved his free hand dismissively.

Before Banner could say anything else, Peter began drawing intricate spell circles in the air with his pointer finger.

He then started drawing spell lines that connected the circles, creating a web of mystical energy that pulsed with power.

Banner watched in awe as Peter moved with fluid grace, his movements seemingly choreographed by the mystical forces at play.

He could feel the energy in the room shifting, a palpable hum that filled his ears and made his hair stand on end.

"Ready?" Peter asked, his eyes locked on the book as he began reciting the final incantation.

Banner braced himself and hesitantly stepped forward, where Peter had instructed beforehand.

Standing a few meters in front of Peter, Banner remained still in trepidation, his heart pounding in his chest as the magnificent golden spell circles surrounded him.

Instantly, he felt a surge of energy rippling through his body.

The surroundings began to shake, books and artifacts rattled as spiderweb cracks began to form around the Mirror Dimension.

The spell reached its climax, nearly shattering the Mirror dimension in the process.

With a final burst of energy, Peter let out a triumphant yell as the spell was complete.

The air shimmered around Banner, and he felt a sudden rush of energy as the Hulk was ripped from his body.

"AHHHHH!" Banner and Hulk simultaneously screamed in pain.

Though the Hulk easily drowned out his former companion's pitiful yell.

The Hulk let out a deafening roar as it materialized in the center of the spell circles, its massive frame towering over Peter and Banner.

"Hey there, Big Guy." Peter waved welcomingly without an ounce of fear. "It's good to see you again."

Angered by the pain that came with the separation, Hulk charged forward, its fists slamming into the spell lines as it tried to break free.

"Is this the way you should be saying thank you?" Peter asked in a lecturing tone as his spells shattered under the strength of the Hulk. 'Luckily, I was already done with them...'

"Umm... Spider-Man..." Banner collapsed in exhaustion as he fearfully eyed the Hulk's towering figure.

Although he felt relieved to have the Hulk gone, that relief was instantly drowned out by the presence of his greatest fear in the physical world.

Like a nightmare come to life.

"I told you that I can handle him." Peter sighs as he waves his hand. "Why don't you take a breather while I calm him down?"

Suddenly, a portal appeared under Banner's body, dropping him into his Lab back at the Tower.

Peter grinned under his mask as he looked up at the Hulk.

"It's just you and me now, Big Guy." He says as the Hulk glares down at him. "What do you say? Want to beat the sh*t out of each other? I've been needing a good sparring partner for a while now."

Hulk froze for a moment before a wide grin stretched across his face, remembering his last encounter with the man before him.

"Hulk Smash!"

Chapter 317: Sparring

Peter stood in the mirror dimension, his Spider-Sense tingling as he waited for the Hulk to make the first move.

Since he wanted to have a good spar, Peter wouldn't be using the reality stone, his Red Hulk powers, or any of his Mystic Arts, as that would end the fight rather quickly.

Though that wasn't the only reason.

He also needed to initiate a friendship between himself and the big green guy, and completely dominating him would most likely anger him more than anything else.

'I'll just beat his a*s normally...' Peter smirked under his mask, ready for a challenging fight.

After all, it's been a while since anyone could give him a challenge.

Thanos was a contender, but Peter tricked him with some poison before either side could go all out.

"Hulk Smash!" The Hulk yelled loudly and kicked off the ground, breaking Peter from his train of thought.

Boom!

The ground cracked and a crater was formed as the Hulk leaped forward in Peter's direction.

He watched the massive green figure charging at him, roaring loudly as he grew closer and closer.

Acting quickly, Peter dashed out of the way, leading the Hulk crashed into a nearby building, which swiftly crumble to the ground.

"Is that all you can do? Charge headfirst like an angry bull?" Peter asked as the building collapsed on top of his opponent.

"RAAAAA!!!" An ear-piercing scream filled the air as what was left of the building exploded, sending rubble flying everywhere.

Of course, the Hulk came stomping out of the explosion without a single mark on his body.

"Are you done attacking the poor innocent buildings? I thought this was supposed to be a fight between us?" Peter couldn't help but taunt his opponent.

It's what he does best after all.

"Shut up!" Hulk bellowed as he rushed forward and swung his fists like an angry child, hoping to land at least one hit.

"Woah... That was close... Try again... Oh, maybe next time... Put your back into it... Are you even trying?" Peter slipped in and out of every attack whilst doing his best to p*ss off his oversized opponent.

Which probably wasn't the best idea when fighting a Hulk.

After all, they tend to get more powerful when angered.

"Fight me, Puny Bug!" Hulk screamed in aggravation as Peter ducked under his green meaty fist.

"Okay, first of all, I'm an arachnid. And second..." Peter fired a web at the building behind his opponent. "...don't blink."

Yanking on the web in his hand, Peter shot upward and swing his leg forward, driving his knee into the Hulk's face.

"Argh!!" Hulk grunted in pain as he was launched backward and crashed into a nearby skyscraper.

Boom

And just like the last one, Hulk's huge figure caused the towering building to collapse in on itself, burying the big green beast for a second time.

'I'm glad that I remembered to use the Mirror Dimension for this, or else the property damage would've been crazy...' Peter thought in relief.

After a moment of silence, what was left of the demolished building began to quake as the Hulk crawled his way out of the rubble.

And he did not look happy whatsoever.

"What's the matter, Big Guy? Can't handle the competition? We can stop if you want?" Peter asked condescendingly, knowing the exact response that he would get.

"AAAAHH!!!" Hulk's muscles pulsed as he rushed forward.

"That's what I'm talking about! Let's see who hits harder, shall we?" Peter laughed as he followed Hulk's lead and dashed forward as well.

Hulk smirked as it seemed like his opponent wouldn't be running anymore. He wound his hand back, balled it into a tight fist, and jabbed at Peter's much smaller body.

Meanwhile, Peter mimicked him perfectly, sending out a matching punch of his own.

And with an earth-shattering bang, the two opposing fists met, sending a powerful shockwave across the mirror dimension.

Snap!

Peter heard the sound of his bones breaking as his arm crumpled in the face of the Hulk's maddening strength.

"Ugh!" Peter grunted as he was sent flying into a nearby lamppost, which toppled over in an instant.
"Okay... Note to self, don't do that again..."

Picking himself up off the ground, Peter felt his right arm hanging limply at his side.

Though that didn't last long.

Within seconds of receiving his injury, Peter could feel his arm healing at a very rapid pace.

Hulk watched as Peter bent his arm and wiggled his finger, confused by how he was able to do so after taking his attack head on.

"Alright, it's time to get a little serious." Peter muttered as he gestured for his opponent to come to him.

And of course, the Hulk would gladly comply.

Peter knew he couldn't take the Hulk head-on when it came to strength, so he decided to use his agility to his advantage. Leaping and flipping around the Hulk, he was able to land quick punches whenever he saw an opening.

Meanwhile, the Hulk swung wildly, like a sloppy novice, but Peter was just too fast for him.

As time went by, the Hulk just kept angrier, which in turn made him more powerful.

He roared and slammed his fists into the ground, causing the entire area to shake as if a high-magnitude earthquake was taking place.

Peter watched as many of the buildings around them collapsed, knowing that he should probably put an end to this before the Hulk got too out of control.

After all, he didn't want to attract too much attention from Kamar-Taj.

'Although it's only the mirror dimension, I'm sure the Ancient One can still find a reason to scold me...' Peter sighed inwardly.

Peter shot a web at a nearby building and pulled himself up, hoping to get a better vantage point.

Meanwhile, The Hulk charged at him, but Peter was ready. He leaped over his opponent's head, landing securely on his back.

He quickly fired a web at the Hulk's eyes, blinding him temporarily.

The Hulk roared in frustration, thrashing around like a bull in an attempt to buck Peter off.

Though, Peter held on tight, punching the Hulk in the back of the head whenever he got the chance.

With every brain-shaking punch, the Hulk was getting weaker and more sluggish.

...

Suddenly, the Hulk stopped moving and toppled over to the ground.

Standing on his opponent's back, Peter looked down and saw that he had knocked the Hulk out cold.

He quickly jumped off the Hulk's back, breathing heavily. He had won the fight without using any of his overpowered abilities.

Peter looked around the mirror dimension, making sure that nobody had come to investigate the destruction.

And thankfully, He found no one.

"That was a good fight, Big Guy." Peter patted the Hulk's unconscious body. "Let's get out of here."

Grabbing the Hulk by the arm, Peter waved his hand and opened a portal before dragging the green giant out of the mirror dimension.

...

Stepping out onto an abandoned island back on Earth, Peter laid the Hulk's body on the warm sand as the portal snapped shut behind them.

"Should I wake him up?" Peter wondered out loud.

Shrugging to himself, Peter waved his hand and controlled the seawater to splash Hulk in the face.

"Ugh?" Hulk groggily opened his eyes and was met with a beautiful ocean view.

"Morning, big guy." Peter says as he flops down next to the giant.

"?" Hulk looked between Peter and himself in confusion.

"If you're wondering why Banner hasn't taken control again, it's because I separated the two of you." Peter explains as the Hulk wasn't exactly paying attention earlier.

"Hulk free?" He asked in shock.

"Yup, It took me a while since our last meeting, but I got it done." Peter pats the giant on the shoulder. "How does it feel?"

"Hulk feels... happy..." Hulk smiled as he looked out over the open sea.

"Good, that's what I was hoping for." Peter smiles as well.

"..." Silence descended on the island, as Peter stayed quiet, allowing the Hulk to enjoy his shining moment of freedom.

"Hulk confused..." Hulk was the first to break the silence. "What do now?"

"It's funny that you'd ask that." Peter was waiting for this moment. "I actually have a job offer for you, my friend."

"Job? Friend?" Hulk asked in surprise.

"Yup, I beat you in a fight so that means we're friends now." Peter nods matter of factly.

"..." Hulk frowned in annoyance but nodded nonetheless.

He didn't like losing, but if someone could beat him, then they deserved to be his friend.

"As for the job..." Peter smirked under his mask. "How would you like to beat the cr*p out of some bad guys?"

Although he couldn't see it, Hulk managed to match Peter's smirk perfectly.

"Hulk likes smashing bad guys."

Chapter 318: Hulk Whisperer

After explaining what the Avengers is to the Hulk in the simplest terms that he could, Peter wondered whether he should bring him back to New York or not.

As someone with the mentality of an angry child, it may not be the safest idea to bring him over to a populated area.

At least, not so soon.

"Hey, Big Guy!" Peter called the Hulk, who was in the water, playing with a bunch of sharks.

Well, although Hulk would call it playing, the sharks on the other hand would call it bullying.

They tried their best to swim away from the big green muscly monster, but no matter how far they got, the Hulk would catch up and drag them back to the shore, where he would manhandle them like toys.

'Yeah, he's going to need some sort of behavioral and sensitivity training...' Peter thought as he pictured normal humans in the place of those sharks. 'They would either die or get crippled and traumatized for life.'

"?" Hulk released the sharks, who immediately made a run for it while he was distracted. "Huh?!"

Hulk seemed annoyed that his toys were gone as he turned to Peter, wondering what he wanted.

"Come here. We need to talk about something important." Peter waved for Hulk to return to the island.

Growling in annoyance, Hulk quickly swam back, creating large waves with his powerful arms and legs.

"What puny friend want?" Hulk asks with a tilt of his head.

"Can you stay on this island for a few weeks while I get everything set up for you back in New York?" Peter asked as he didn't want to forcibly confine him again.

"?" Hulk looked over the island and the sea before shrugging his shoulders uncaringly. "Hulk can do that..."

"Good, I have to get a place for you to stay in the tower built and prepare everyone for your arrival." Peter quickly moved on to his second objective. "If I have someone come and visit you, will you be nice to them?"

Hulk raised his brow in question.

"Hulk only smash bad guys." He replied firmly.

"I won't send any bad guys." Peter shrugged. "Alright, before I go..."

Snapping his fingers, Peter pulled on the power of reality stone and got to work.

"?!" Hulk's eyes widened in awe as he watched a big portion of the small island transform.

The trees disappeared as a giant mansion-sized house appeared in their place.

Although it was the size of a mansion, in fact, it was just a simple house. The only thing that made it so big was that it was made to fit the Hulk perfectly.

Even the furniture and appliances inside are the perfect size for him as well.

"That should last a while..." Peter muttered as he looked over at Hulk. "You can live there for the time being. Try not to break anything, okay?"

"Uhh, Okay..." Hulk nodded dumbly as he walked over to check out his new house.

"I'll bring you food and water in a bit!" Peter called out as he waved his hand, opening a portal.
"Don't cause any trouble while I'm gone!"

Stepping out of his portal and into his office, Peter was immediately welcomed by Jarvis as usual.

"Welcome back, sir." He spoke dutifully.

"Hey, Jarvis. I need you to order enough food and drinks to feed the Hulk for about a month. Make sure to get some good snacks as well. I'm sure he'll appreciate that." Peter spoke as he took a seat at his desk.

"Of course, sir." Jarvis agreed with ease. "The order has been placed and the groceries will arrive within an hour."

"Good, now call Banner to my office and notify the Avengers Council that a meeting will be taking place in half an hour." Peter continued giving orders. "And if they complain about the timeframe, then tell them that the Hulk is free. That should put some pep in their step."

"The messages have been sent." Jarvis worked quickly. "Dr. Banner is currently rushing here as we speak."

"Good..."

After waiting for about a minute, an out of breath Dr. Banner came barging in with a worried look on his face.

"Is everything alright?! Where is he?!" Banner asked as he practically ran up to Peter's desk.

"He's currently on an abandoned island and he'll be staying there for a few weeks." Peter explained as he motioned to the chair behind Banner. "Take a seat and relax."

"Relax?! How could I possibly relax?!" Banner shouts as he starts pacing back and forth in front of Peter's desk. "We just released a giant angry monster on the world!"

"I don't know where you're getting 'we' from." Peter rolled his eyes under his mask. "I did all of the work while you just stood there."

"That's not the point!" Banner wasn't in the mood for Peter's nonsense.

"Sigh..." Peter let out an exasperated breath as he extended his pointer finger.

Instantly, a calming blue light shot out of his finger and hit Banner in the forehead, melting into his mind without any injury or pain.

"W-What was that?" Banner stuttered in fear as he felt his mind rapidly calming.

"A simple spell that relaxes the mind." Peter explains as he looks Banner in the eyes. "You have nothing to worry about. Hulk has agreed to join the Avengers. Everything went as I expected."

"You recruited the Hulk?!" A voice spoke from the door.

Tilting his head to peek behind Banner, Peter found every council member standing outside his office.

"Wow, if I knew using the Hulk's name would make you guys move this fast, then I would've done it a long time ago." Peter comments as they all came walking in.

"First Blonsky and now this?" Charles asks with a disapproving look on his face. "Are you trying to destroy everything we've built?"

...

After taking all of Charles' complaints and explaining the situation fully, the majority of the Council ended up agreeing with Peter's decision.

Thankfully, Charles didn't fight too hard today, as his mind seemed to be somewhere else entirely.

Even Magneto seemed to be focused on something else as well.

'What's with them?' Peter made a mental note to check on them later.

"The only problem is Hulk's social skills and childlike persona. Although we understand these things, the public doesn't. One small accident and the Hulk goes from the hero they vaguely remember from three years ago, to a freak monster that wants to eat their children." Tony voiced the main issue.

"Which is why I'd like to have someone live with him for the next few weeks." Peter said as everyone raised a brow in question. "He needs to learn how to fraternize with people and carry himself in public. I think it's best that we teach him these things early."

"Who would we send? We can't just hire a behavioral therapist. They'd be too afraid to work..." Fury spoke up.

"I have the perfect candidate in mind." Peter says knowingly.

Stepping out of a portal and onto the warm sand of Hulk's island, Peter turned and motioned for his companion to follow along.

"..." Natasha Romanov hesitantly stepped through, feeling a quick wind from behind as the portal snapped shut.

"Don't be so nervous. You're going to be fine." Peter rolled his eyes at her behavior.

After all, she was the one and only Hulk whisperer in the movies, so this should be easy work.

'It's practically a vacation...' Peter thought as she would be spending a month relaxing on a tropical island. "Hulk! I'm back!"

As soon as Peter called him, the door to the giant house swung open and a green head peeked out.

"Puny friend?" Hulk asked as he found Peter standing alongside an unknown woman.

"Yep, I have your food." Peter says as he squeezed past Hulk and into the house. "I'll put it away while you get to know Natasha. She's an Avenger too."

Natasha looks at Peter, silently pleading with him not to leave her behind like this, but he simply ignored her and made his way to the oversized fridge in the kitchen.

"...Hey." Natasha put on a calm facade as she greeted her giant green ward.

"?" Hulk looks at her questioningly. "Red lady not afraid of Hulk?"

Usually, everyone that he meets is terrified of him, so Hulk was surprised to see this weak-looking woman's calm demeanor.

Of course, she was most definitely scared, but many years of honing her body and mind had allowed Natasha to bluff her way out of anything.

"No, Peter said that you were nice, so he wanted to introduce us." Natasha spoke in a kind motherly manner.

"?" Hulk was even more confused now. "Hulk? Nice?"

"Yeah, do you mind if I come inside?" Natasha asked and Hulk quickly moved to make way for her, holding the door open like a true gentleman.

'They've barely met and he's already holding the door for her?' Peter watched in interest from the kitchen. 'She truly is the Hulk whisperer...'

Chapter 319: Phoenix Awaken

-X-Mansion-

Jean Grey tossed and turned in her sleep, sweat beading on her forehead. Her mind was in absolute turmoil as her body began to shine in a faint fiery glow.

Suddenly, Jean's eyes shot open as she bolted upright in her bed, drenched in sweat.

She breathed heavily and felt the fiery energy coursing through her veins, stirring up the familiar fear and dread that had incessantly plagued her in recent years.

And with this influx of energy came the voices...

'I think I'll have bacon and eggs for breakfast today...'

'Why do I have to go to school so early? I just want to stay home and play Call of Duty...'

'Oh yeah, you dirty wh*re... Suck it...'

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Jean's telepathy was enhanced to an astronomical degree, sending her senses into overload as she heard the thoughts of everyone within a 50-mile radius.

And it was still spreading even further with each passing second.

"?!" Her eyes shot wide open as she began to hyperventilate all over again. 'Go away... Go away... Go away...'

Squinting her eyes shut and curling into a ball, Jean tried to control it as she hoped and wished for the voices to stop.

As she lay there, she couldn't help but recall the repeated nightmare that's been haunting her recently.

Nightmares weren't usually a problem for her, but they seemed to just spring up out of nowhere.

In her most recent dream, Jean saw herself walking through the halls of the Xavier mansion, a cold and calculating look on her face.

As she passed by the various rooms, she could hear the muffled sounds of children laughing and playing, unaware of the danger that was looming just outside their doors.

She made her way to the Principal's office, where Professor X was sitting at his desk, deep in thought.

The moment he saw Jean, he stood up and moved towards her with a welcoming smile, happy to see his student visiting him.

But before he could even utter a greeting, Jean's eyes turned red, and she unleashed a massive burst of energy that sent him flying across the room, crashing into the wall with a sickening thud.

Jean stood there cloaked in fire, enjoying the look of betrayal that she was receiving, a wicked grin spread across her face.

The Professor tried to search Jean's mind to see what was wrong, but as soon as his mind made contact with hers, Charles' face morphed into an image of complete agony.

"AARGH!" He cradled his head and wailed in pain as blood leaked from his eyes, mouth, nose, and ears.

Laughing at the man's cries, Jean waves her hand, tossing a ball of flames in her mentor's direction.

Instantly, Charles lit up like a California forest, quickly burning him away until there was nothing but his skeleton remaining.

Not sparing another glance at her former teacher, Jean walked out into the hallway, and with a flick of her wrist, she sent a wave of fire blasting through the building.

The screams of the children echoed through the burning mansion, and Jean reveled in their terror.

She watched as their bodies were consumed by the flames, begging for someone to save them.

It was only when she heard a familiar voice calling out to her that Jean seemed to snap out of it. It was Scott, the boy that always chases after her, standing motionlessly in the burning hall across from her.

She knew his feelings...

As she looked into his eyes, Jean knew that she couldn't stay sane for much longer.

With a deep breath, she closed her eyes and let go, allowing the fiery energy to consume her entirely.

The last thing that she saw before her fiery suicide was a giant burning phoenix, which seemed to burn away alongside her.

And as she disappeared, the image of the mansion burning to the ground was left haunting her mind.

-Nightmare Flashback End-

'What's happening to me?!' Jean asked as she cried in her bed, still glowing with fiery power.

She instinctively knew that the dream was a warning, a sign of what was to come.

Jean had to find a way to contain her power before it was too late, or else she would become the monster she'd seen in her nightmare.

"AAAAHH!!!" Jeans screamed and thrashed in her bed. "PROFESSOR!"

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It didn't take long for her cries to be heard and for help to arrive.

Thankfully, Charles was able to access her mind and place his barriers, though the gossip quickly spread across the school, leaving everyone wondering what was wrong with Jean?

On that same day, a special guest arrived at the X-Mansion.

"I-Is that..."

"No way..."

"It's Spider-Man!"

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A portal opened in the middle of the driveway and out came the one and only Spider-Man, who was immediately swarmed by excited starstruck children.

"Can I have your autograph?"

"Can I touch your mask?"

"What are you doing here?"

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The questions didn't seem to end and none of them gave him a chance to answer either.

But thankfully, someone swiftly rushed to Peter's rescue.

"It's time for class!" Wolverine ran over and started ordering the kids around. "Get moving, you gremlins! Don't be late or else!"

Although they were very reluctant to leave, the kids gave Peter one last glance before rushing off to their classes.

"What are you doing here?" Logan asks.

"I came to see what's going on with Charles. He seemed out of it in our last Council meeting." Peter explained his concern.

"Huh..." Logan grunted as if he knew something.

"Alright, start talking." Peter crossed his arms and waited for him to speak.

"Well..."

While Peter and Wolverine were talking, news of Spider-Man's arrival quickly spread across the mansion.

"Spider-Man?" Blob, a fat teenager, asked as he and his friends Pyro, Toad, and Avalanche walked menacingly through the halls.

As former members of the Brotherhood of Mutants, the four of them tried to show their dominance over the other children, though sadly, that only ended with them becoming outcasts that bully some of the weaker children on a regular basis.

Of course, this bullying didn't go unnoticed.

In fact, they're punished almost constantly for it, but somehow, they never seem to learn their lesson.

"It's true, I swear!" A little girl half their age nodded in fear as the four older kids towered over her.

"Don't lie!" Pyro yells as he scares her with a bit of fire.

"I-I'm not..." The girl whispers in fear as her eyes moistened.

"You gonna cry?" Toad asks condescendingly as his friends laughed.

And just as the little girl started to cry, an angry voice echoed through the hall.

"What the hell do you think you're doing?!"

Jean Grey, who only left her room to get some food, stood frozen in rage as she watched the same old group of idiots taunting a little girl.

'Do these f*ckers never learn?' She thought in fury.

Without a second thought, Jean glared in their direction and sent them to their knees.

""""Argh!""""

"Wait! We're sorry..." Pyro spoke as he and the others grasped their heads in agony.

Scoffing in their direction, Jean used her telekinesis to push the bullies away from the little girl, and with a fierce determination, she stepped in front of her to protect her.

"Wow..." The little girl wiped her tears away and watched in awe as the bullies were put in their place.

But as Jean's rage intensified, something inside of her began to stir...

Although the Professor just remade the barriers this morning, the primal force of the universe that had bonded with Jean and granted her immense power wasn't so easily trapped anymore.

Suddenly, a dry heat filled the hall as Jean's skin began to glow once more.

"S-Stop, please... We're really sorry... Okay? It won't happen again!" Toad begged as he felt his moist frog-like skin begin to dry out.

And as the wannabe villains tried to run away, they were met with an unstoppable force that quickly sent them crashing into the metal lockers.

Jean's eyes blazed with a fiery glow as she unleashed the full power of the Phoenix, sending waves of telekinetic energy crashing down upon them, rattling and denting the lockers with their figures.

""""AAAAGGHH!"""" The four bullies screamed in agony.

"Umm, big sister?" The little girl called out as her awe slowly turned to fear. "I think they learned their lesson..."

Back outside, Wolverine just finished explaining what happened this morning to Peter, whose frown deepened with every added detail.

"Where is-" Peter spoke though he froze as soon as he felt an enormous spike in energy from the mansion.

And with the spike of energy came agonizing screams, which caused Logan to turn his head toward the building in concern as well.

"What the..." Logan muttered as Peter dashed passed him, making his way to the front door. "Hey! Wait for me!"

Chapter 320: Dark Phoenix

The X-Mansion was in chaos.

As soon as Peter rushed inside, the children were already being evacuated from the building by their teachers.

'Charles must have ordered the evacuation' Peter thought, which was good as dealing with Jean would be tricky.

Swiftly maneuvering through the crowd of children, Peter thought back on what Logan just told him.

'I can't believe I'm dealing with a Dark Phoenix situation...' Peter thought in dread.

Thanks to the knowledge from his past life and his time spent buried in books at Kamar-Taj, Peter had a pretty good idea of Jean's situation.

Jean is the host of the Phoenix Force, one of the oldest known cosmic entities, representing life that has not yet been born, as well as the forces of creation and destruction.

The Phoenix Force is said to predate darkness and is stated to be the fire from which all things were born.

It's an immortal, indestructible, and mutable manifestation of the prime universal force of life.

Born of the void between states of being, it is the nexus of all psionic energy that does, has, and ever will exist in all realities.

The Phoenix is the Guardian of Creation itself, making it one of the most feared beings in the entire universe.

Signifying birth, death, and rebirth, the Phoenix not only creates but destroys as well, burning away what doesn't work.

Some records in Kamar-Taj suggest that 'what doesn't work' is anything that has become stagnant instead of naturally evolving.

Meaning, planets, stars, civilizations, black holes, and just about anything that stagnates for a prolonged period of time will catch the Phoenix's eye and invite its destruction.

This destruction is usually carried out by the Phoenix's host, as the Phoenix Force is more of a dimensional being than anything else.

Although the library had nothing about Phoenix hosts going out of control, Peter's past life had some knowledge about this.

'Dark Phoenix...' Peter thought.

Due to the destructive nature of the Phoenix, a young and impressionable host can be easily influenced by the power it embodied, becoming a malevolent force of destruction known as the Dark Phoenix.

'Especially when idiotic bald men exasperate the situation by angering the universe's incarnation of Creation and Destruction...' Peter made a mental note to yell at Charles as he arrived on the scene.

Jean Grey, who is probably the most powerful mutants in the world due to her connection to the Phoenix, was most definitely falling into the trap of becoming a Dark Phoenix.

She stood in the center of the hall, glowing with fiery power, as a young girl cowered behind her.

The sound of metal creaking and pained whimpers caught his attention as Peter turned to see the kids that used to work for Magneto pressed into the lockers.

'Did these idiots p*ss her off?' Peter wondered as Logan caught up behind him.

"Jean!" He called out but she didn't seem to be listening.

The telekinetic energy that flowed through her veins was turning her into a raging inferno, and the whole school seemed to be caught in the middle of it.

Before Peter could step in and do anything, Professor X and Storm came rushing down the other side of the hall.

"Jean, you have to calm down," Charles said, using his telepathic powers to try and soothe her. "You're hurting people."

But Jean didn't seem to hear him. She was lost in a maelstrom of power, her eyes blazing with a fiery energy that seemed to be consuming her from the inside out.

Storm stepped forward, her eyes locked onto Jeans. "Jean, we're here to help you. But you have to let us in."

Again, Jean didn't respond. She was too far gone, lost in the grip of the Phoenix Force.

Wolverine pushed passed Peter as he unsheathed his claws.

He didn't want to hurt Jean, but he knew that if they didn't do something soon, she could kill those four problem children.

And although they usually deserve a good beating, they didn't deserve anything this extreme.

"Jean, listen to me," Logan growled. "You're stronger than this. You can fight it."

Sadly, nothing that any of them said seemed to be getting through to her.

She was lost in a sea of power, her body glowing with an otherworldly light.

Suddenly, Jean turned her head, giving everyone hope that she may have heard them, though that hope was swiftly squashed soon after.

Jean let out a powerful scream as a burst of energy exploded from her body in all directions.

"?!" Everyone's eyes widened as they turned to the little girl who stood closest to Jean, paralyzed by fear.

But before the wave of powerful energy could hit the poor girl, a golden portal opened under her feet.

"Are you okay?" Peter asked as she fell safely into his arms

"!?" She froze in shock.

Meanwhile, all she could think of was 'Spider-Man saved me!'

Meanwhile, the four troublemakers who started all of this fell out of a separate portal and collapsed limply on the floor behind him.

With the children out of the way, the force of Jean's outburst expanded and knocked Storm, Professor X, and Wolverine off their feet, sending them tumbling across the floor.

But when it came to Peter, he merely swatted his hand in the air, canceling the attack with ease.

'She isn't that powerful yet...' Peter thought as he felt her energy levels constantly rise.

When the three meta-humans picked themselves up off the floor, they saw Jean hovering in the air, her body outlined in flames.

"Jean!" Professor X shouted, trying once again to reach out with his mind. "This is all my fault! Please, come back to us!"

But it was too late. The tantalizing power of the Phoenix Force had taken hold of her completely, and there was no turning back.

And despite their best efforts, Jean's power would be far too much for them to handle.

Suddenly, a red-and-blue blur shot past them, and Peter landed in front of Jean, his spider sense alerting him to the danger.

"Take the kids out of here. I'll handle this." Peter orders as he kept his eyes on Jean.

Of course, he could have just portal'd the kids out, but then he would have no reason to get rid of Charles.

After all, it's very likely that he caused all of this...

"You can't-" Charles tried to argue but Peter wasn't having it.

"I won't hurt her. Just go. You'll only get in the way." Peter speaks frankly.

After a moment of hesitance, Charles ran to the kids and quickly rushed them out of the mansion alongside Storm and Logan.

Once they were finally alone, Peter looked up at Jean.

"Hey, it's me, your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man," He said with a wave but soon froze in realization. "Wait... technically it should be friendly universal Spider-Man now..."

After all, he's famous in space too.

Sadly, Jean didn't seem to appreciate his nonchalant behavior.

Her eyes glowed with a fiery intensity, as she lashed out at Peter with a powerful blast of telekinetic energy.

Kicking off of the ground, Peter managed to dodge out of the way as he appeared in front of Jean.

"Actually, let's go somewhere less crowded..." Peter muttered as he grabbed Jean by the face and shoved her backward.

And as she was pushed back, a golden portal appeared, which swiftly snapped shut after swallowing both of them.

...

Seconds after the portal closed, Charles came running back up the hall with Logan and Storm at his back.

-Mirror Dimension-

'Hopefully, the Phoenix doesn't shatter the Mirror Dimension...' Peter thought as Jean weaseled her way out of his grip and took some distance. "So, want to try taking now?"

In response to his peaceful words, Jean remained stoic as large balls of fire covered her hands.

"Ugh!" She grunted and launched a barrage of fireballs in Peter's direction.

Sighing to himself as he easily sidestepped the attacks, Peter knew that he had to find a way to calm her down somehow, as he didn't want to kill the poor girl.

Dip, diving, and dodging his at through the obstacle course of never-ending fireballs, Peter maneuvered his way up to Jean once again.

A burst of energy erupted from his hand, which landed on Jean's shoulder, tightly enveloping her in a cocoon of golden magic.

"That should hold you for long enough..." Peter muttered as he stood before her.

She struggled against the bonds, but Peter's spell was just too powerful.

After all, it was created in cooperation with the Reality Stone.

"You'll be okay, Jean," Spider-Man said, reaching out and resting his hand on her head. "I'll help you through this."

"..." Jean glared in his direction with the utmost malice.

"Now, wait here while I pay respects to the Phoenix." Peter said as he forced his consciousness into her.

Jean's eyes widened and rolled into the back of her head as Peter closed his eyes and invaded her mind.