



xvi. A Little Thunder

They were cruising through the air, Loki in handcu s and Natasha in the pilot's seat. Auralie was invisible in the co-pilot's seat, leaving a confused Steve and Tony to stand.

"I don't like it," Steve muttered to the genius superhero.

Tony snorted, "what, Rock of Ages giving up so easily. Yeah, I know."

Loki looked at the conversing mortals with a gleam of mischief in his eyes, and the heroes knew he was probably up to something. But capturing him was their best bet at recovering the tesseract.

Natasha muttered a foul curse under her breath in Russian, because thunder had begun and could interfere with the flight if not dealt with properly. A look of concentration broke through her blank mask and she focused on getting through the storm. She wasn't the only one who was uneasy. Loki was also alarmed by the appearance of the lightning.

"What," Steve said, "scared of a little lightning?"

Loki looked up, his face riddled with apprehension, "I'm not overly fond of what follows."

Just then, something struck the top of the cra . Steve and Tony staggered back, and Loki winced in slight fear. Auralie struggled to keep hold of her illusion while Natasha steadied them.

Then a huge man with long blonde hair came in through the back and grabbed Loki. Loki didn't seem surprised, so Auralie assumed he knew the stranger, which could mean they had an ally, or it could mean they were in even more trouble.

"You think he's friendly," Steve cried to Tony, as he grabbed his shield.

"Doesn't matter," Tony replied, "if he frees Loki or kills him, the tesseract is lost."

Tony went to the open door, ready to jump out when Steve called, "Stark, we need a plan of attack."

Tony looked back, "I have a plan, attack!" Then he flew a er the blonde man and Loki. Steve quickly began strapping on a parachute, ready to follow the Iron Man into the battle.

"I'd sit this one out Cap. These guys come from legend. They're basically gods," Natasha called to the soldier who turned back to her, a look of determination written on his face.

Steve said, "there's only one god mam, and I'm pretty sure he doesn't dress like that." Then he jumped out of the aircra , ready for a fight.

Auralie became visible again, an amused look on her face as she said to Natasha, "I disagree, but then again, I'm an Atheist. I'm assuming we're going a er them in the jet."

Nat nodded, "yeah. I'd bet a Stark's worth of money that the blonde dude is Thor."

"I'm not going to bet against you, I'm no idiot," Auralie replied, "let's go."

They piloted to the ground and found that Steve had landed somewhere else and would catch up to them later. Thor and Loki were in discussion, and Stark was probably around there somewhere.

Natasha sent Auralie to make sure Loki didn't escape. She approached with her light powers making her invisible and watched as Thor said something about the Earth being under his protection.

She crept closer and heard Thor say, "now listen, well brother....."

Then Tony came out of nowhere and crashed into Thor, flying o with the hammer wielder. Loki rolled his eyes and said sarcastically, "I'm listening."

Auralie snorted, "that was actually funny."

Loki turned around and she made herself visible. Auralie gave the villain a sarcastic smirk and said, "get up, you're not getting away."

He stood up, an amused look on his face and his hands in the surrender position. Auralie rolled her eyes and escorted him back to the jet. He did not ask how she appeared out of nowhere, so she concluded he had realized she had powers.

Natasha saw them coming and smirked, "Great job Ali, I'll watch him, you go make sure Cap and Tony don't start a civil war or something over how to deal with Thor."

Auralie nodded and ran to the edge of the cli , seeing the boys fighting in the forest below. Steve had arrived, just like she had assumed, and was trying to reason with Stark and Thor, who had been fighting.

"Just put the hammer down," Steve coaxed.

'Uh no, bad call, he loves his hammer," Tony yelled.

"YOU WANT ME TO PUT THE HAMMER DOWN," Thor bellowed, "I'LL PUT THE HAMMER DOWN."

Thor lept into the air and swung his hammer into Captain America's Mighty Shield. It miraculously held up, and the impact sent all three men staggering back. They got to their feet and steadied themselves.

Steve looked around at them all, and ever the peacemaker, asked, "are we done?"

"Yes," Thor promised, having gotten all the rage out of his system.

Tony nodded along, and Auralie decided that it was time for them to get moving. She called, "boys, don't just stand there. We got Loki and Natasha's waiting with the jet. Get yourselves up here. You too Thor, my boss is going to want to have a talk with you."

"Has she been here the whole time," Tony asked.

Steve breathed a sigh of relief, "there you are. I was wondering what happened. Where were you?"

Auralie smiled, "in the co-pilot's seat, invisible.

"So that's why we had to stand," Tony muttered as they all made their way back to the aircra , "so, what's your name and why are you here?"

"I'm Agent Auralie Shadow," she said, holding out her hand to him, "and I'm here because I'm a Shield agent with powers, and I want to help save lives."

"I'm Tony," he replied, shaking her hand firmly.

Auralie smiled at him, "I know. I'm a fan. You're very impressive, what, with your smarts and the way to turned your life around."

"Thanks, kid," Tony grinned, "how old are you?"

"16," she answered.

Tony laughed, "damn. You must be one hell of an agent."

"Thanks," Auralie smiled. She liked this Tony Stark, he seemed like a nice man. She liked Steve too, and Bruce, and of course she liked her fellow Shield Agents. Nick had known what he was doing when he chose people for the Avengers Initiative.

Then she turned to the newcomer, Thor and introduced herself. They struck up a conversation, and he was delighted to know that she was an acquaintance of the "Son of Coul." She discovered Loki was his adopted brother, and she was curious about if they had always been polar opposites, or if this was a new development.

Thor boomed as they reached headquarters, "LADY SHADOW, IS THIS IT?"

"Yeah," Auralie called from the passenger's seat, "this is it. And please don't call me Lady Shadow. Agent Shadow or Shadow is fine. Or even Auralie. Heck, just call me Ali, all of you, that makes it so much easier."

"Ok," Thor said with a smile and Steve and Tony nodded along, showing they would adhere to her request.

Loki, who had been silent for the ride, said, "I would have thought a superpowered being would have a superhero name. The Invisible Woman?"

Auralie rolled her eyes, "shut up Loki, that's a character from that bad superhero movie the Fantastic Four. But now that you mention it, a hero name would be really cool."

A/N: Thor is here, so Auralie has now met all the original Avengers.

Continue reading next part