



xiv. Buzz Him In

Tony went to go see Pepper and reassure her that he was alive and not going to space again any time soon. Bruce was flipping through images of their fallen comrades. Since Spiderman hadn't returned with Tony, it could be deduced what happened to him. It made sense, then, why Tony was so sad. Peter was like a son to him.

Shuri had also not been found after the battle in Wakanda. Okoye was temporarily in charge until both the king and the princess were saved. They also had yet to make contact with Scott.

Steve had been sitting in the corner, looking at his old picture of Peggy. A tear ran down his face. Natasha watched him, concern on her face.

Thor had gone on to talk with Rocket and a cyborg woman Tony had allied with, Nebula. Auralie stood, watching the security cameras, waiting for Tony to come back so they could start forming their plan to save the world.

She only turned away for a few moments, but before she could turn back, she heard a voice calling, "Hi, uh, is anyone home." ๔

She whirled around, motioning for Steve and Nat to come over. They both did, all watching in shock as Scott Lang, the Ant-Man himself, standing outside his bright orange van, waved, trying to get their attention.

"This is Scott Lang," the figure outside called, "We met a few years ago. At the airport. In Germany. I got really big."

Steve turned to look at the girls in shock, "is this an old recording." Auralie shrugged, indicating she didn't know.

"Ant-Man," Scott continued, "I know you know that."

"That's the front door," Natasha whispered.

"And it's happening right now," Auralie added.

Scott held out his hands, "that's me! Can you buzz me in?"

"What do we do?" Steve asked. Scott had taken him by surprise. Even the strong and clever Captain America couldn't have ever predicted something this crazy.

Auralie gave him an incredulous look, "seriously Steve, how can you even ask that? We buzz him in, obviously."

Steve nodded, "obviously. Alright, Nat, go let him in. We're gonna need all the help we can get, and Scott is not to be underestimated. He's a good guy and a powerful ally."

"Also, a living ray of sunshine," Auralie muttered. ๔

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Scott was only in the compound for a few moments before Natasha, Steve, and Auralie were all asking questions. Nat and Steve were asking where he had been and if he was alright. Auralie was asking if he drove the orange van all the way from San Francisco.

When he told her he had, Auralie was in shock. Scott deserved a round of applause for going across the country to find the Avengers. That was a man on a mission.

"Well anyways, this is gonna sound weird," Scott said. Natasha sighed, "it's been a weird week. Shoot."

Scott told his story, "alright, so Hope Van Dyne, that's my girlfriend, she's a badass, and I, we were on this adventure, and long story short, we met this girl named Ava, who had powers and needed healing energy from this micro dimension called the quantum realm to heal her. So we were going to collect some for her. I went subatomic and collected the particles, but something went wrong and Hope wasn't able to bring me back. After a couple of hours, my friend Luis and my daughter Cassie came looking for me, along with Ava, who alerted them that Hope and I had been late to meet her with the healing particles. They helped me come back, but Hope and her parents, Hank and Janet, were missing and we don't know what happened to them. Plus, everything's been really weird. I figured you all would know what was going on."

"Oh Scott," Auralie whispered, realizing what must have happened to his girlfriend. Her eyes brimmed with tears as the effects of what Thanos had done struck her again.

"Miss Eclipse..... Ali..... are you alright?" Scott asked, not sure what was happening.

Steve took him gently by the arm and led him out of the room to explain everything. Natasha, meanwhile, wrapped her arms around Auralie, trying to comfort the younger girl, who had started bawling.

"It's ok..... shhh, shhh, it's gonna be ok. We'll fix this, I promise," Natasha whispered. She was very protective of the younger girl she had helped train. She felt a motherly sort of pride when she looked at all Ali had accomplished, and she hated seeing her hurt.

Auralie wiped her tears and nodded, trying to stay strong.

Scott came back in the room, followed by Steve, who had explained the whole deal to Scott. Scott said slowly, "Alright so this Thanos..... he killed half the universe..... including Hope and a bunch of the Avengers."

"Yes, that's correct," Natasha said as a matter of factly as possible.

"Alright, so now we have to find a way to reverse it and get them back," Scott said.

"That's what we're attempting to do, yes," Natasha replied.

Scott smiled, "alright. So, what do you have so far?"

Steve sighed, "the problem is, we don't have anything yet. We're waiting for Tony and Rhodes to get back from Pepper's so we can all consult each other and figure something out."

"Wait....." Scott trailed off, "I thought you and Tony had a fight? You did. In an airport. With me! Aren't you a fugitive now? I mean, no disrespect Captain America, but....."

Steve answered, "it's alright. And technically, yes, but we're putting all of that on hold for now so we can save everyone."

"I gotta say, Scott, you're taking this really well," Natasha commented, trying to see if they would need a box of tissues for the shrinking hero.

Scott shrugged, "I mean, it was shocking, but we can fix it. We're the Avengers. I mean, I'm not an Avenger technically, but whatever. Besides, Hope is probably fighting against the infinity stones, wherever she and the others disappeared too. I think that all it'll take is a spark and we can bring them back, they'll want to see us again so much."

"Really?" Auralie asked meekly.

Scott gave her a smile, "of course. That's what you do when you love someone. Count down the minutes until you see them and never stop fighting your way back to them. We'll save them all, I believe it." ๔

Scott's pep talk revived a bit of the spirit in Auralie, the part of her that knew they could save the world.

"Besides," Scott continued, "if you think quantum technology would be of any use, I have a tunnel to the quantum realm that's pretty cool."

"Thanks Scott, but I don't think we have the time to go to San Francisco and get it. We already have a lot on our hands," Steve explained.

Scott shook his head, "no no no, it's in the van. We miniaturized it."

"You drove across the country in an orange van with a quantum tunnel," Auralie said in wonder.

Scott grinned sheepishly, "yeah. The horn is also kind of awesome. My friend Luis got it. I'll show it to you sometime."

Auralie smiled, "Scott, you are awesome. But you were wrong about one thing."

"What's that?" Scott asked.

Auralie replied, "you most definitely are an Avenger." Scott had given them hope in this dark time. He was right. Wanda was waiting for her to break the barriers of the infinity stones, and then they could be alright. ๔

She was right too, when she said Scott was an Avenger. Avengers were heroes and Scott had done what heroes did - gave them hope.

A/N: Scott Lang is a literal ray of sunshine and he never loses hope, so we should all just be inspired by him a little bit. I couldn't possibly leave him out of the story, so here he is. Scott Lang everybody! Also, this book now has 20k reads, thank you all so much for all of them.

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