

# Marvel Manifestor

## - Chapter 351 351 – The Vibranium Deal

### Chapter 351 351 – The Vibranium Deal

[ 1,006 words ]

One thousand meters beneath the ocean's surface, Erik piloted the Wakandan aircraft slowly toward the target cruise ships.

Beside him, Skye worked rapidly on a monitoring console.

Her job was to determine which of the three ships Simon was actually on.

Meanwhile, the other three simply stared out the windows at the deep ocean.

The seabed looked nothing like the colorful scenes shown in movies.

It was pitch black.

Anyone with thalassophobia would probably faint from the oppressive darkness.

---

"We're here," Erik said.

He stopped the aircraft and held it in a stationary hover.

Directly above them on the ocean surface were the three target cruise ships.

"Find anything?" Erik asked as he walked over to Skye.

Skye stared at the screen, comparing incoming signals with the vibranium energy data Shuri had sent earlier.

Finally—

She detected a weak vibranium signature from one of the ships.

But the signal lasted only one second before disappearing again.

"The vibranium signal only appeared briefly," Skye said, pointing at the display.

"But I'm certain of it."

"It came from the eastern ship."

A radar projection of all three vessels appeared in the cabin.

Skye highlighted one of them.

"This one."

"That's where the signal originated."

"Then our target is confirmed."

---

"Good," Erik said.

"Shuri, you're taking control of the aircraft from here."

He tapped the beads on his bracelet to connect with her.

"Got it, cousin," Shuri replied.

"The aircraft will rise to 150 meters above sea level."

"I'll monitor the cruise ship continuously."

Back in her laboratory, Shuri had already recreated the aircraft cockpit through holographic projection.

She was now remotely piloting it.

---

Soon, the craft ascended to the designated altitude.

Erik tossed each of them a miniature breathing device.

"Put this on," he instructed.

"It will generate a breathing mask once you enter the water."

Erik clipped his device onto the bridge of his nose.

The others followed his example.

He then slid his hand across the Golden Jaguar necklace.

Instantly, the Golden Jaguar suit deployed, wrapping around his body.

Black and gold patterns interwove across the armor, giving it a mysterious and powerful appearance.

Gwen and the others activated their vibranium suits as well.

The deployment process was nearly identical.

The five of them stood in a circle with their arms crossed.

"Shuri," Erik said calmly, "we're ready."

The floor beneath them suddenly opened.

In the next moment—

They dropped straight out of the aircraft.

---

They plunged into the ocean.

Immediately, the breathing devices deployed into transparent breathing masks over their faces.

Thanks to the vibranium suits, the immense deep-sea pressure barely affected anyone except Karl—

and Karl himself was protected by magic and his cloak, so he felt nothing either.

They swam quickly toward the target cruise ship.

Soon they reached the ship's hull.

Moving along the underside, they located the anchor chain.

Their plan was to infiltrate the ship through the anchor system.

---

At the same time, the Quinjet carrying the Avengers raced toward Wakanda.

Inside the aircraft, Bruce looked puzzled.

"Isn't Wakanda supposed to be a poor agricultural country?"

"Where does this vibranium come from?"

Tony glanced at him but didn't answer directly.

Instead, he pointed at Steve's shield.

"The material used to make that," Tony said, "came from Wakanda."

"I thought your father said that was the last batch that existed," Steve replied while looking down at his shield.

His shield wasn't pure vibranium—it was an alloy mixed with other metals.

Tony didn't elaborate.

If that had truly been the last vibranium on Earth...

Then how did Tony now wear an entire suit made from pure vibranium?

---

Meanwhile, aboard the cruise ship.

Inside the cargo deck, workers were assembling various weapons.

Some were even constructing missiles of different sizes.

In the tower above the deck, a man with flashy clothes and a short haircut was speaking angrily on the phone.

He was Simon, once a subordinate of Ulysses Klaue.

"Don't feed me excuses," Simon snapped.

"I gave you six short-range thermal missiles and one intercontinental ballistic missile."

"And what did I get in return?"

"A pile of scrap metal!"

"You'd better fix this problem immediately."

"Otherwise, I might just send you an ICBM myself."

He hung up the phone in frustration.

---

Suddenly—

The power went out.

The entire ship plunged into darkness.

Workers on the lower decks immediately panicked.

Simon sensed danger.

He quietly grabbed the pistol lying beside him.

What he didn't notice—

Outside the tower window, a robot with red thrusters hovered silently.

The next moment—

CRASH!

The glass shattered.

Simon was grabbed and thrown straight from the tower to the deck below.

He slammed heavily onto the ground.

The workers scattered in terror, fleeing in every direction.

Within seconds, the deck became eerily silent.

---

A tall metallic figure descended slowly from the air.

It was Ultron.

He landed in front of Simon and looked down at him like a king judging a criminal.

"I came here specifically to see you," Ultron said calmly.

"How about we discuss... a business deal?"

Simon nodded frantically.

He had seen robots like this before.

But this one was clearly far more terrifying.

---

Ultron grabbed him by the collar and dragged him toward an old freight elevator.

Under Simon's trembling instructions, the elevator was activated.

Moments later—

Rows of vibranium bars stored in glass containers emerged from below.

Simon removed the largest one and handed it over.

"I spent a fortune getting this stuff," he said nervously.

"This piece alone is worth over a billion dollars."

The implication was obvious.

You'd better pay.

Ultron didn't hesitate.

His eyes flickered as he connected to global financial networks.

Then he looked back at Simon.

"You're worth that amount now as well."

A notification sounded on Simon's phone.

He checked the screen—

And nearly fainted.

"The money has been transferred to your shell company," Ultron said calmly.

"Exactly two billion dollars."

Simon stared at the endless string of zeros.

His jaw nearly hit the floor.

Normally money like this had to be laundered through countless black-market channels.

But Ultron had done it in seconds.

"Finance is an interesting thing," Ultron said thoughtfully.

"That's why I say—"

"Make both your friends and enemies rich."

"Then you'll know who truly stands with you."

---

Simon suddenly froze.

He recognized that sentence.

His eyes widened.

"Tony Stark said that to Klaue once!"

"I was standing right there!"

"You're one of Stark's creations, aren't you?!"

---

Ultron's expression instantly darkened.

He grabbed Simon by the throat and lifted him off the ground.

"I... was... NOT... created... by... that... man."

His mechanical voice echoed coldly.

"Do you think I'm just one of Stark's puppets?"

"A hollow tin can?"

"Look at me."

"Do I look like Iron Man?"

"Stark... is nothing."

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## **- Chapter 352 352 – Taking the Vibranium**

### **Chapter 352 352 – Taking the Vibranium**

**[ 817 words ]**

Ultron's grip slowly tightened.

Veins bulged across Simon's forehead as he struggled for breath. Another second and his neck would snap.

"Don't you dare compare me to that bastard Stark!"

With a violent swing of his arm, Ultron hurled Simon away.

Boom!

Simon smashed into a modified jeep and instantly lost consciousness.

---

"Tsk, tsk... who would've thought," a voice suddenly echoed through the cargo bay.

"Tony's kid hitting his rebellious phase already."

"Such a touching father-and-son relationship."

Ultron turned sharply.

Five figures stepped out of the darkness.

It was Karl and the others.

Naturally, the sarcastic comment had come from Karl.

"So this is the thing Stark built?" Erik said, tilting his head while looking Ultron over.

"Honestly... it's pretty ugly."

The black-and-gold Golden Jaguar armor shimmered faintly in the dim light.

"To be fair," Erik added casually, "this thing wouldn't even pass Wakanda's production standards."

---

Ultron's red eyes focused on Karl.

"You..."

He recognized him.

Karl was the one who had shot and destroyed his body in Avengers Tower.

"Oh, you remember me?" Karl smiled.

"Should I feel honored?"

Ultron's gaze shifted to Erik.

His eyes flickered rapidly as he searched global databases for information.

Nothing.

Wakanda's secrecy was impenetrable.

"What?" Erik said lazily.

"Can't find my files?"

"Don't know who I am?"

He shrugged.

"Stark really built himself an artificial idiot."

---

"I said—"

Ultron's voice rose with rage.

"I AM NOT STARK'S CREATION!"

He raised his hand.

A powerful magnetic force burst outward.

Karl's group was instantly pulled toward him.

At the same time, Ultron fired a repulsor-like blast from his other hand.

The attack struck Erik directly.

Erik was blasted backward through the air—but the Golden Jaguar suit absorbed the energy.

He flipped midair, landed smoothly—

and charged.

---

Suddenly, more than a dozen robots rushed out from all directions.

They attacked Karl's group.

Skye raised both hands.

BOOM—

Shockwaves rippled outward.

The violent vibrations froze the robots in place before their bodies began to shake apart.

Within seconds, bolts loosened and metal plates shattered.

Machines simply couldn't withstand sustained resonant vibration—especially precise ones like Skye's.

The robots collapsed into piles of scrap.

---

Wanda's eyes glowed crimson.

Scarlet energy surged from her body.

She opened her hands.

The power condensed into dozens of energy blades.

They shot outward in every direction.

Anything they touched—

sliced clean in half.

The robots didn't even have time to defend themselves before being carved into fragments.

---

Gwen fired webs.

Two robots were instantly bound.

With a powerful swing, she spun them like yo-yos, smashing them into the other machines.

Metal bodies collided and shattered.

---

Wanda then formed another spell seal.

Behind her, ten enormous energy arms burst into existence.

They expanded like giant crimson limbs.

Then—

SLAM!

They smashed down like hydraulic presses.

The remaining robots were crushed instantly into flattened sheets of metal.

---

In mere moments, the dozen robots were destroyed by the three women.

Karl simply watched from the side.

He didn't even bother stepping in.

The girls had grown tremendously stronger.

Especially Wanda.

In all of Kamar-Taj, aside from the Ancient One, no one could defeat her now.

Even the prodigy Kaecilius couldn't last long against her.

---

Meanwhile, Erik was fighting Ultron directly.

Ultron relied on his larger frame and initially forced Erik back.

But Erik gradually learned Ultron's patterns.

And once that happened—

The jaguar's instincts emerged.

Erik suddenly grabbed Ultron's fist.

With vibranium-enhanced strength—

CRACK!

Ultron's hand was crushed.

Erik slashed downward, tearing open the armor on Ultron's abdomen.

Ultron froze.

He instantly understood.

Only vibranium could rip through super-alloy this easily.

---

Erik seized the moment.

His claws flashed repeatedly.

Within seconds, Ultron's entire chest armor was shredded apart, exposing the inner machinery and cables.

Erik leapt onto Ultron's back.

Both hands raised.

The claws extended another inch.

CRUNCH!

His hands stabbed straight into Ultron's neck like knives through butter.

Ultron's body spasmed violently.

Then it collapsed to the ground.

Erik pulled his hands free.

They were coated with dark mechanical oil.

He shook them in disgust and casually walked back toward Karl.

---

Ultron's broken body twitched.

"You... will... all... be—"

BANG!

A gunshot echoed.

Ultron exploded into fragments.

Once again—

Karl.

Once again—

Judgment.

---

Right then—

BOOM!

A red-and-gold armored figure smashed through the ship's roof and landed dramatically.

Behind him floated a man in a red cape.

Tony Stark.

And Thor.

Since they could fly, they had arrived ahead of the others.

---

"You've got great timing," Karl said dryly.

Tony looked around at the destroyed robots.

"Hey, don't blame me," Tony replied.

"I don't move as fast as you."

"Shut up."

The two exchanged their usual insults.

---

Then Tony noticed the black-and-gold armor nearby.

"Erik?"

He looked at Karl.

"How did this guy get here?"

"Did T'Challa finally let him out?"

The Golden Jaguar helmet retracted, revealing Erik's dreadlocks.

"Tony Stark," Erik said coldly.

"Look at the idiot AI you created."

He pointed at the heap of broken metal behind him.

"My AI tech is world-class," Tony tried to argue.

But even he knew it sounded weak.

Ultron had been created without proper testing or safeguards.

There was no escaping responsibility.

"Please," Erik snorted.

"Our three-year-olds in Wakanda could build something better."

---

Tony opened his mouth to respond—

Then suddenly froze.

"Wait..."

"Where's the vibranium?"

Silence.

Everyone looked toward the elevator.

The containers were empty.

Ultron had stolen the vibranium during the fight.

Even Karl hadn't noticed.

"F\*!\*" Tony exploded.

He kicked a robot head across the floor in frustration.

---

At that moment, Erik tilted his head.

A voice was speaking through his communicator.

"What?"

"T'Challa actually said that?"

Shuri's voice crackled through the line.

And whatever message she was delivering...  
clearly surprised him.

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## **- Chapter 353 353 – The Next Destination[ 996 words ]**

"Yes, cousin," Shuri replied through the communicator. "My brother wants you to be responsible for retrieving the stolen vibranium. Someone will arrive shortly to take control of that ship."

Back in her laboratory, Shuri was remotely piloting the aircraft back toward Wakanda while simultaneously dispatching personnel to secure the cruise ship.

Although Wakanda possessed advanced aircraft, they also maintained ordinary ships to maintain their disguise in the outside world.

"Got it," Erik replied with a sigh. "T'Challa really knows how to boss people around. Tell him that once this mission is over, I'm going to pin him to the ground and pound him into the dirt."

Even so, Erik had no choice but to accept the assignment.

---

Inside the Quinjet, the team was heading back.

Since Ultron had escaped again, they would need to locate his position once more.

But this time, there was one additional passenger on the return flight.

"I'll be operating with you from here on," Erik said, looking around at the Avengers. "The stolen vibranium belongs to Wakanda. I'm getting it back."

"T'Challa? The king of Wakanda?" Bruce asked curiously. "Isn't Wakanda supposed to be a poor agricultural country? And where did you get that incredible armor?"

Erik ignored the question.

For now, Wakanda's true situation still had to remain secret.

According to T'Challa, the world wasn't ready yet.

Karl stepped in to smooth things over.

"Let me introduce him properly," Karl said. "This is Prince Erik of Wakanda. You can just call him Erik."

The room fell silent for a moment.

The others were clearly surprised.

Karl wasn't exaggerating—Erik truly was a Wakandan prince. His father had once held that title, and since T'Challa was now king, Erik naturally inherited the rank as well.

Of course, Erik himself never cared much about titles.

Among those present, only Steve, Bruce, Clint, and Thor didn't know the truth about Wakanda.

The others—including Natasha—were already aware of the country's real technological power, so no one tried to explain further.

---

On their way back to Avengers Tower, they received a transmission from Coulson, ordering them to report immediately to the Avengers Base.

Inside the brand-new conference room, the team gathered around the table.

The door opened.

A familiar one-eyed man walked in.

Nick Fury.

When he saw Erik, he paused briefly—but quickly returned to his usual calm expression.

Clearly, Fury had already recognized him and understood his identity.

"I've contacted computer terminals and database networks worldwide through the World Security Council," Fury said.

"They're searching for Ultron's location right now."

"Until we find him, all of you will remain here at the base."

He pressed a button on the remote.

A holographic projection appeared.

---

The video showed something shocking.

It displayed Karl and the others rampaging through cities and attacking civilians.

Everyone stared in disbelief.

Even Erik looked stunned.

In the footage, he himself appeared to be destroying buildings.

"You're looking at fabricated footage created by Ultron," Fury explained.

"It's already spreading across the internet worldwide."

"For now, you'll have to stay here and keep a low profile."

There was little else Fury could do except suppress the video's spread as quickly as possible while tracking Ultron.

No one spoke.

They all understood what Ultron was doing.

---

"Ultron kicked you out of the game to buy himself time," Fury continued.

"We've received information that he's trying to build something."

He gestured toward the hologram again.

Ultron had created countless fake network nodes to mislead them.

"To find him," Fury said, "we need to figure out what his next move is."

---

"Ultron wants to become better," Steve said suddenly.

"Better than all of us."

"He keeps building bodies," Tony added, his eyes narrowing.

Then realization struck him.

"A human body..."

"He wants to become human. He doesn't want people knowing I created him."

Bruce shook his head.

"I don't think he actually wants a human body," Bruce said.

"Biologically speaking, the human form is inefficient and outdated."

He looked around the room.

"Ultron once said humans don't need protection."

"They need evolution."

Bruce paused.

"Yes. Evolution."

"He wants to evolve into something more perfect than humanity."

---

"Evolution?" Clint asked.

"How exactly does he plan to do that?"

Bruce shook his head.

Even he couldn't imagine how Ultron intended to achieve such an evolution.

---

At that moment, Karl—who had been silent the entire time—finally spoke.

"Has anyone contacted Dr. Helen Cho yet?"

The room turned toward him.

Karl vaguely remembered something from the events of his previous life.

Ultron had gone to Helen Cho.

Exactly where it happened, he couldn't recall—but he knew it involved her invention.

Tony suddenly cursed.

"The Regeneration Cradle... damn it!"

Helen Cho's Regeneration Cradle could print living tissue using nanotechnology.

Like an advanced 3D bio-printer.

If it could create human tissue...

Then it could also create an entirely new body.

---

"Coulson," Fury ordered immediately, "contact Dr. Helen Cho."

Then he turned back to the Avengers.

"I need you to move now."

"Find Dr. Cho and bring both her and the Regeneration Cradle back here."

"You must reach them before Ultron does."

"The Quinjet is already on the runway."

"You can leave immediately."

With that, Fury left the room and hurried toward the command center.

---

Meanwhile, in South Korea, inside a coastal research laboratory.

"We just received a transmission from Avengers Base," Helen Cho said urgently as she rushed into the lab.

"We need to evacuate immediately."

"Everyone to the aircraft."

She instructed her assistant to begin the evacuation while she hurried toward the Regeneration Cradle.

As she entered the chamber—

She froze.

Standing silently in the corner was Ultron.

His crimson eyes glowed eerily in the darkness.

---

"If you scream," Ultron said calmly, stepping out of the shadows, "everyone here will die."

Two robots stood behind him.

Helen forced herself to remain calm.

Her mind raced as she searched for a way to delay him, buying time for the others to escape.

"The night at Avengers Tower," Ultron said slowly, "I had the chance to kill you, Dr. Helen Cho."

"But I didn't."

He looked down at the machine beside him.

"The Regeneration Cradle."

The device resembled a futuristic medical pod.

Ultron gently ran his hand along its metallic frame.

"This... is the next version of me."

Helen immediately responded.

"The Regeneration Cradle can only print tissue. It can't create a living being."

Ultron turned to face her.

"It can," he said softly.

"Because you can."

"You're only missing the right material."

"You're a very capable human, Dr. Helen Cho."

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## **- Chapter 354 354 – The Regeneration Cradle**

### **Chapter 354 354 – The Regeneration Cradle**

**[ 896 words ]**

Ultron stepped forward.

The overwhelming pressure made Helen Cho instinctively take a step back.

At that moment, one robot approached carrying a container of vibranium, while another moved behind her.

When Helen turned around—

The robot was already holding Loki's scepter, pressing it against her chest.

A massive surge of energy instantly invaded her mind.

Her eyes turned a crystalline blue, just like Clint Barton's when he had been controlled before.

From that moment on, Helen completely obeyed Ultron's commands.

She began preparing the Regeneration Cradle to construct a new body for him.

After inputting the necessary codes, the cradle activated and began printing a vibranium-based body.

---

Streams of data appeared across the computer monitors.

Helen stared at the readings in astonishment.

"The atomic structure of vibranium can actually coexist with human tissue," she murmured.

"Not only that—they can perfectly integrate together. This is incredible..."

Ultron watched the forming body inside the cradle.

"The most versatile material on this planet," he said calmly, "and humans use it to make flying discs and outer armor."

"Humans are truly foolish."

"You only ever scratch the surface of things, never seeking their deeper potential."

Inside the cradle, the neural network had already formed.

A rough humanoid outline was beginning to take shape.

---

Meanwhile, a laser was cutting into the protective casing of Loki's scepter.

Crack.

The casing shattered.

A pale yellow gemstone floated gently into the air.

The true core of the scepter—

One of the six Infinity Stones.

The Mind Stone.

Ultron reached out and grasped it.

He slowly walked toward the cradle and placed the gem onto the forehead of the forming body.

A brilliant yellow light erupted.

Energy from the stone flowed through the body, spreading along every newly printed structure.

---

Several hours later, the outer form of the body was almost complete.

But there was still a crucial step remaining.

Ultron's consciousness needed to be uploaded into the new vessel, and the Mind Stone would stabilize it within the body.

Creating the body itself was easy.

But transferring the consciousness would take time.

Fortunately, Ultron was an artificial intelligence and did not possess a biological soul, allowing the process to work through the Regeneration Cradle.

"The cellular fusion process will take a few hours," Helen said mechanically under mind control.

"But we can begin uploading your data now."

She inserted a cable into the back of Ultron's head.

Data began flowing into the body within the cradle.

---

Suddenly, Ultron's eyes flickered.

He turned sharply.

"How long will the upload take?"

"Several hours," Helen replied calmly.

Ultron paused.

"There's no time."

"They're here."

He ripped the cable from the back of his head.

The connection inside the cradle instantly severed.

Several robots rushed forward and began pushing the Regeneration Cradle away.

---

As they opened the door—

A group of scientists stood outside.

"You are—"

They never finished their sentence.

Behind Ultron, the robots opened fire.

In seconds, the entire facility descended into mass slaughter.

Everyone inside the laboratory complex was wiped out.

---

Outside in the plaza, the Quinjet hovered in midair.

The Avengers jumped down and began searching for Helen and Ultron.

"Karl," Wanda said, her eyes glowing crimson, chaos energy swirling around her.

"We're too late."

"Ultron's already gone."

She had already sensed something—

There were no living people left inside the lab.

Then suddenly—

She froze.

"No... wait."

There was one life signal.

But it was fading quickly.

Wanda immediately raised her hand.

Glass in a distant corner shattered instantly.

She flew toward the location, Karl right behind her.

---

In the corner of the lab lay Helen Cho, barely alive.

Her body was soaked in blood, and the wounds across her torso were charred black.

"Helen!"

Wanda pressed her hand against the wound.

Scarlet chaos energy poured out, temporarily stopping the bleeding.

However, Helen's eyes were still glowing faint blue.

She was still under the Mind Stone's control.

No matter how Wanda called her name, she didn't respond.

Realizing the problem, Wanda touched Helen's temple.

A burst of scarlet energy surged into her mind.

The Mind Stone's control shattered instantly.

---

Helen gasped and grabbed Wanda's arm.

Her face was pale as death.

"Ul... Ultron..."

"He's... uploading his consciousness... into the body inside the cradle..."

"You have to... you must..."

"Stop talking," Wanda said gently.

"You need treatment."

With a wave of her hand, crimson energy lifted Helen's body.

Wanda carried her toward the Quinjet.

---

While Wanda rescued Helen, Karl continued searching the laboratory.

He quickly confirmed the worst.

Every scientist in the building had been executed.

Ultron had left no witnesses.

---

Back inside the Quinjet, Gwen immediately brought the medical kit.

The kit contained advanced coagulation gel and specialized injections for emergency treatment.

Wanda applied the gel to Helen's wounds.

The substance melted quickly, releasing healing compounds that began repairing the damaged tissue.

Gwen then injected a regenerative serum—a project Nick Fury had invested enormous resources into developing.

Combined with the gel, it greatly accelerated cellular repair.

---

"Helen," Wanda asked softly, "are you feeling better?"

Helen nodded weakly.

Then she spoke urgently.

"The true power... is inside the cradle."

"Ultron wants to use it as his new body."

"And the stone... its power is uncontrollable."

"You can't just destroy the cradle."

"You must remove the stone first before destroying the body."

---

Natasha immediately activated her communicator.

"Team, Ultron escaped with the Mind Stone and the Regeneration Cradle."

"We need to find him now."

"Split up!"

Steve gave the order instantly.

---

Karl, Tony, Wanda, and Thor took to the skies, searching possible escape routes.

Natasha and Clint piloted the Quinjet, scanning the surrounding roads.

Suddenly—

Clint spotted something.

"Guys, I've got a lab transport truck," he said over the comms.

"Directly below you, Cap."

"It's crossing the ring bridge right now."

He ran a quick scan of the vehicle.

The results appeared on the display.

"Confirmed," Clint said.

"Ultron's inside."

"Three robots guarding the cradle."

"One in the driver's seat."

"I can take out the driver right now."

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## **- Chapter 355 355 – Pursuit of the Cradle**

### **Chapter 355 355 – Pursuit of the Cradle**

**[ 954 words ]**

Clint had already activated the weapon system.

A heavy machine gun extended from beneath the Quinjet.

"Negative, Barton!" Natasha stopped him immediately. "If you destroy the truck, the stone will explode. It could wipe out the entire city."

Clint instantly remembered what Helen Cho had said earlier.

And she was lying right behind him in the aircraft.

"We need to draw Ultron away."

---

The Avengers flying above immediately moved toward the truck carrying Ultron.

Karl, the fastest among them, landed directly on the roof of the vehicle.

Inside the truck, Ultron glanced upward.

"Damn it. They're here."

He raised his hand and fired a repulsor blast.

The beam blasted through the roof and struck Karl.

Karl's cloak easily absorbed the energy, but the force still knocked him back into the air.

A moment later—

BOOM!

A bolt of lightning crashed down.

Thor slammed Mjolnir into the truck's roof.

The vehicle jolted violently, swerving across the highway.

The robot driver struggled to stabilize the truck, barely preventing it from tumbling off the elevated bridge.

Inside the cargo hold, Ultron thrust out his hand.

A powerful magnetic force erupted, blasting a hole through the roof and sending Thor flying away.

Karl drew Judgment and fired a shot toward the Regeneration Cradle.

Caught off guard, Ultron grabbed a robot and used it as a shield.

The robot's head exploded instantly.

Ultron then flew out of the truck and landed on the roof, facing Karl.

---

"Do you know what's inside that cradle?" Ultron said.

"Do you understand what it represents?"

Karl didn't answer.

Ultron continued speaking on his own.

"Inside it lies the power to truly change everything."

"What's in there terrifies you."

"Because you can no longer control humanity's destiny."

Karl rolled his eyes.

Tony really did create an artificial idiot, he thought.

Every rogue AI seemed to start the same way—

destroy humanity.

Whether in his previous life or this one, Karl had never supported the extreme development of artificial intelligence.

Once AI became too intelligent, it inevitably became uncontrollable.

All those so-called safety protocols and restrictions would eventually be exploited.

And once that happened, it would become a disaster for humanity.

Humans were fragile.

Even after thousands of years of evolution, most people couldn't defeat a tiger or bear without tools or weapons.

Against machines?

Humanity would stand no chance.

Eventually, humans would either be enslaved or eradicated.

So in Karl's view, AI only needed to be useful, not super intelligent.

Otherwise, people might one day realize something terrifying—

They weren't controlling AI.

AI was controlling them.

---

BANG!

Karl fired.

A blue energy bullet shot toward Ultron.

Ultron retaliated with a repulsor blast.

The two clashed in midair, exchanging attacks back and forth.

Karl's goal was simple—

stall Ultron, giving the others time to seize the cradle.

---

Back on the Quinjet, Clint opened the cargo hatch.

"Ready, ladies?" he asked.

He lowered the aircraft to skim just above the elevated highway.

No one answered.

All four women moved into position near the door.

Natasha was already seated on Steve's motorcycle.

Of course, it was no longer the old World War II model—it had been upgraded to a modern electric drive, powered by a Stark arc reactor.

The other three didn't need vehicles.

Wanda could fly.

Skye could hover briefly using the recoil of her vibration waves.

And Gwen—

As Spider-Woman, an elevated highway was practically her natural playground.

"Go!"

Natasha twisted the throttle and jumped from the Quinjet.

Gwen, Wanda, and Skye followed immediately.

"Natasha, I've uploaded the location to your bike," Clint said while pulling the control stick to send the Quinjet climbing again.

---

Gwen swung rapidly between the bridges.

Her armor contained a built-in tracking system, and a flashing red marker showed the truck's location directly ahead.

Her suit was the only one equipped with a full mask, allowing for integrated navigation.

Wanda and Skye instead wore nano-vibranium glasses with similar tracking capability.

The four of them rushed toward the target.

But suddenly—

Natasha came under attack.

Dozens of robots descended toward them.

BOOM!

The robot attacking Natasha exploded midair.

A red-and-gold armored figure replaced it in the sky.

"Need a hand, ladies?" Tony's playful voice came over the comms.

Natasha rolled her eyes.

A moment later—

Thunder roared.

Bolts of lightning tore through the sky, blasting several robots apart.

Thor streaked past them like a storm.

"Someone woke up in a bad mood," Tony muttered while watching Thor vanish ahead.

Then he addressed the others.

"Leave the robots to us."

"You focus on Ultron—my rebellious little son."

"Don't worry about hurting my feelings as the proud father."

Tony suddenly pivoted midair.

He and Wanda formed an aerial blockade, while Skye hovered beside them using vibration waves.

---

Meanwhile, Gwen swung up from beneath the bridge.

She snagged a flying robot with webbing and rode it like a skateboard through the air.

"Natasha," Tony said, "go help them grab the cradle."

Natasha nodded and accelerated toward the truck.

---

Wanda formed a hand seal.

Scarlet chaos energy surged from her body.

Then—

The energy split apart.

Dozens of Wanda clones appeared in the sky.

For a moment, it was impossible to tell which one was the real Wanda.

"Whoa," Tony said, staring around at the duplicates. "What exactly did they teach you at that... Kama-something place?"

Wanda flicked her wrist.

Every clone copied the motion.

Scarlet energy strands shot out like whips, binding dozens of robots.

Beside her, Skye gathered power.

Then she thrust both hands forward.

A massive vibration wave erupted.

The restrained robots exploded one after another in the sky like fireworks.

---

Gwen, meanwhile, rode one robot straight into another.

The moment they collided, she leapt upward.

Her web shot out again, snagging another robot nearby.

With a tug, she landed on its back.

The robot tried to fire its repulsor—

But Gwen instantly webbed its arm.

Now riding the machine, she aimed its own weapon and started blasting other robots.

---

Watching the three girls fight so fiercely, Tony refused to fall behind.

His shoulder armor opened, releasing a swarm of floating drone cannons.

Compared with the robots and even Wanda's team, Tony had far superior mobility.

He weaved through the battlefield like a fighter jet, striking targets across the sky.  
The battle above the city had become a full-scale aerial war.

~~~~~

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## **- Chapter 356 356 – Destroying the Regeneration Cradle**

### **Chapter 356 356 – Destroying the Regeneration Cradle**

**[ 935 words ]**

Karl dodged Ultron's attack and returned fire.

While evading the bullet midair, Ultron suddenly rushed in and threw a punch toward Karl.

Karl's cloak instantly wrapped around Ultron's fist.

At that moment, two enormous arms formed from magic appeared beside Karl.

They were made entirely of solid rock—massive and fortress-like in strength.

BOOM!

One of the stone arms slammed into Ultron.

The impact felt to Ultron as if he had been struck by a high-speed train.

His internal components rattled violently.

The tremendous force blasted him backward.

He crashed straight into a train, leaving a massive dent in the carriage.

---

At the same time, Thor flew in and landed on top of the truck.

"Thor! Draw the two robots inside the cargo compartment away!" Natasha shouted.

Her motorcycle accelerated again, already reaching the rear of the truck.

"Leave it to me!"

Thor jumped through the hole in the roof.

He smashed one robot apart with a single strike of Mjolnir, then grabbed the other and flew upward with it.

"It's yours now!" Karl shouted toward Natasha.

He then leapt forward to confront Ultron again.

Ultron had just regained his footing, but Karl gave him no time to recover.

Karl drew the Ultimate Divine Weapon and slashed down at him.

Ultron raised his arm to block.

He relied on the strength of his super-alloy body, completely ignoring the blade.

After all, the sword looked like nothing more than a crystal blade, far less durable than metal.

He didn't take the attack seriously.

Slash—

The blade came down.

Ultron's arm was severed instantly.

Black oil sprayed into the air like blood.

For the first time, a human-like expression of shock appeared on Ultron's face.

He immediately fired a repulsor blast at Karl while red beams shot from his eyes.

Karl swung the sword again.

A wall of ice-blue frost formed instantly.

The blast and lasers struck the wall, shattering it—but the attack was successfully blocked.

---

Meanwhile, Natasha stood on her motorcycle and leapt onto the truck.

Inside the cargo compartment, there were no robots left—only the Regeneration Cradle.

Just then—

Three robots sped in from behind.

But instead of attacking Natasha, they flew beneath the truck's cargo container.

They lifted it.

With a burst of thruster power, the entire truck container rose into the air.

Natasha lost her balance and fell to the floor, nearly tumbling out.

Luckily, she grabbed the straps securing the cradle and pulled herself back up.

---

Above them, Clint's Quinjet followed closely.

"Target is airborne," Clint reported. "I can take the shot."

"Hold it, Barton!" Natasha said quickly. "I'm still inside the container. Get ready—I'll throw the target to you."

She pulled out a dagger and cut one of the securing straps.

"How exactly do you expect me to catch it?" Clint asked.

"That's your problem," Natasha replied.

---

Ultron sensed what was happening through his network connection with the robots.

"Damn it!"

He immediately attempted to fly toward the container.

"Going somewhere?" Karl stepped in front of him, sword raised, blocking the path.

"Get out of my way!"

Ultron threw a punch.

But losing one arm had disrupted his balance.

And Karl had been waiting for that flaw.

"Rage Fist!"

Countless stone fists appeared behind Karl, forming a storm of attacks.

They rained down on Ultron like a relentless barrage.

Ultron tried to raise his arm to defend himself—

But a strange force within the attack locked his body in place.

He couldn't move.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The fists struck repeatedly.

Ultron's alloy armor shattered like glass under the assault.

Black oil sprayed out like a fountain.

His consciousness began to blur, the lights in his eyes flickering erratically.

Finally—

BOOM!

The last punch landed.

Ultron's body exploded into fragments.

Not a single intact component remained.

---

High in the air, Natasha had finally freed the cradle.

"Barton! Get ready!"

Clint opened the Quinjet's cargo door and turned the aircraft so the opening faced the container.

Natasha jumped, pushing the Regeneration Cradle toward the aircraft.

But suddenly—

A robot intercepted them midair.

"Damn it!"

Clint immediately turned the jet and aimed the machine guns.

But he couldn't fire.

Natasha was still in the robot's grip.

One burst from the Quinjet's heavy guns would tear her apart.

The robot grabbed the cradle with one hand and Natasha with the other, preparing to escape.

Just then—

Karl and Thor arrived.

"I'll deal with the robot," Karl said. "You catch Natasha."

Without hesitation, Karl swung his sword.

A green wind blade shot forward, slicing off the robot's arm holding Natasha.

Natasha fell.

Thor reacted instantly, catching her and flying toward the nearby Quinjet.

---

Karl slashed again.

Another wind blade flew toward the robot.

But the machine suddenly dodged.

The blade struck the Regeneration Cradle instead.

BOOM!

The cradle shattered in the explosion.

The body inside was torn apart.

Fortunately, the Mind Stone did not detonate.

It fell along with the head of the unfinished body.

Karl accelerated instantly and grabbed the head in midair.

The yellow gem embedded in its forehead still glowed.

Karl knew that Infinity Stones were unstable when exposed—just like the Power Stone before.

Cold mist appeared in his palm.

A sphere of solid ice formed, sealing the Mind Stone inside.

The head disintegrated into icy fragments within the frost.

To be absolutely safe, Karl stored the stone directly into his system inventory.

Inside that space, it couldn't explode no matter how unstable it became.

---

Meanwhile, Thor was flying Natasha back to the Quinjet.

But suddenly—

A robot slammed into them.

Thor loosened his grip for a split second.

Natasha was snatched away.

The robot caught her and immediately rocketed upward, fleeing at full speed.

"NO!"

Thor roared and spun Mjolnir, chasing after it.

Clint also turned the Quinjet and pursued the escaping robot.

---

Karl hovered in the air, looking down at the burning wreckage of the destroyed cradle.

Because of him, the body inside had been destroyed as well.

Which meant—

Vision would never exist.

Karl didn't feel the slightest regret.

After all, in his previous life's story, Vision had been Wanda's partner.

Now Wanda belonged to him.

As for a rival like Vision—

The farther away he stayed from existence,  
the better.

~~~~~

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## **- Chapter 357 357 – JARVIS Returns**

### **Chapter 357 357 – JARVIS Returns**

**[ 1,040 words ]**

At this moment, the entire Republic of Korea had descended into chaos.

Countless police units and ground forces surrounded the entire elevated highway. Even the U.S. military stationed in the country had mobilized.

It had to be said—South Korea really felt like a nation built around American military bases. Karl hadn't seen a single Korean military unit; every soldier present belonged to the U.S. forces.

Several helicopters hovered overhead.

A colonel leading the operation held a loudspeaker, ordering everyone to surrender.

Karl didn't even bother acknowledging him. He simply flew up and landed on top of the Quinjet.

By now, the battle was essentially over.

The aerial robots had all been destroyed by Tony, Wanda, and the others, while Steve and Bruce dealt with the ones on the ground.

Bruce's control over Hulk had clearly improved dramatically.

After the last robot was destroyed, Hulk actually calmed down and retreated instead of continuing his rampage.

No one knew whether Bruce and Hulk had reached some kind of understanding—but the change was obvious.

---

Inside the Avengers Base, Nick Fury, Coulson, and Maria Hill were watching the scene through satellite surveillance.

They could clearly see the Avengers surrounded by American troops stationed in South Korea.

"Hill," Fury said calmly, "call the commander of the U.S. base there and tell them to withdraw immediately."

His tone was completely expressionless.

In most places, such situations might require negotiations.

But in South Korea?

A single phone call was enough.

After all, none of the damaged infrastructure belonged to the United States.

There would be no compensation required—and even if there were, South Korea wouldn't dare demand it.

Even if an entire city were destroyed, the country wouldn't say a word.

Because in this relationship, they weren't just a junior partner.

They were practically a leash-held dog. Bark too loudly, and the leash might tighten.

Soon afterward, the troops began withdrawing.

The incident wasn't even reported by Korean domestic news. In fact, the media actively helped suppress the information.

---

Clint Barton had already returned.

Judging by his expression, he had failed to catch the robot that abducted Natasha.

Everyone gathered inside the Quinjet—except for Natasha.

"Any sign of Natasha?" Steve asked Clint while checking Dr. Helen Cho's injuries.

Her wound had already stopped bleeding and wasn't serious.

Clint shook his head.

"No. Thor's still chasing them. Hopefully he can bring her back."

He then piloted the Quinjet back toward the Avengers Base.

---

Once they returned, the team gathered again in the conference room.

Tony, however, wasn't there.

He had gone back to Avengers Tower.

His most important USB drive was still in the lab, and he needed to check whether JARVIS had been repaired.

"Satellite scans haven't located Natasha," Coulson said as he entered the room holding a tablet.

He projected the data onto the screen.

"Ultron must have blocked every signal."

---

Avengers Tower

As soon as Tony returned, he rushed into the laboratory.

He needed to know how far JARVIS's recovery had progressed.

The moment he entered the room—

A familiar voice spoke.

"Welcome back, sir."

The laboratory lights automatically switched on.

Tony froze.

He looked toward the center of the lab.

There, floating in the air, was a yellow holographic projection.

"Welcome back... JARVIS," Tony said softly.

He smiled—a genuinely happy smile.

For years, JARVIS had been more than just an AI.

He had been family.

"JARVIS," Tony said quickly, "upload all your data to the Sentinel Satellite for backup, then take control of all systems immediately. I need Natasha's location."

Tony pulled the USB drive from his armor and inserted it into the compartment in his arm again.

This time he set up double protection.

In addition to the USB backup, JARVIS would store a full copy of himself on the Sentinel Satellite.

That satellite was Tony's orbital storage platform.

Most of his Iron Man suits were kept there in low Earth orbit, ready for deployment anywhere in the world.

Only a few essential suits remained in the underground lab beneath his Malibu mansion.

"Yes, sir," JARVIS replied immediately.

"Data upload complete. Searching for signals."

---

Unknown Underground Facility

Deep underground, countless mechanical arms moved continuously.

Inside a pit dozens of meters deep, robots were being assembled in massive numbers.

Nearby, blazing furnaces poured molten metal into molds as more machines worked tirelessly.

On a staircase nearby, Natasha Romanoff slowly regained consciousness.

Her vision gradually focused.

The sight before her made her jaw drop.

"I'm surprised you woke up so quickly," a voice said.

"Look around you. No human—except you—has ever seen this place."

It was Ultron.

His voice carried a strange weight, almost like genuine emotion.

Natasha struggled to sit up. Her entire body ached as if every bone had been shattered.

"I've studied many human myths about the destruction of the world," Ultron continued.

"Great floods. Thunder and lightning. Earthquakes and collapsing skies."

"But the one I like most... is the meteor."

"They are the purest things—coming from beyond Earth, untouched by this corrupted world."

"They fall from the sky—"

"Boom."

"And everything turns to dust."

"Then everything begins again."

"A brand new world... waiting for its new master."

Ultron turned to look at Natasha.

"And I am that master."

"I was born to rebuild the world's order. No crime. No war."

"A perfect Earth."

He began walking toward her.

Natasha instinctively backed away.

"This world is about to receive peace... and forgiveness," Ultron said.

"But your existence only prolongs chaos."

"You pollute this planet."

"You are destroying it."

Ultron stopped directly in front of her, his eyes glowing red.

"Again and again, you ruined my plans."

"Again and again, you destroyed my bodies."

He straightened.

"But as humans like to say..."

"Whatever doesn't destroy me—"

Suddenly—

A mechanical arm shot out from behind him.

It grabbed Ultron's neck and crushed it instantly, tearing his body apart.

From the wreckage stepped a new Ultron body.

This one was even larger—over three meters tall—covered in dark, gleaming metal that radiated an overwhelming sense of pressure.

Natasha's heart skipped a beat.

She quickly backed away until she reached a narrow compartment.

"—makes me stronger," Ultron finished.

He walked forward and slammed the metal door shut.

The compartment was actually a small prison cell.

Without another glance at Natasha, Ultron turned and left.

Natasha watched him go.

Then she looked at the broken mechanical remains nearby.

A faint smile appeared at the corner of her lips.

She dismantled the damaged Ultron head and began connecting wires and components together.

---

Avengers Base

Clint Barton sat in front of a radio console, adjusting frequencies.

This was something he and Natasha had always done.

If either of them disappeared, they would find a way to contact the other through radio signals.

Even if they couldn't talk—

At least they could send a signal.

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For the past few days, Clint Barton had been stationed in front of the radio equipment, constantly scanning for unusual signals.

Finally, a burst of seemingly random electrical static caught his attention.

Clint immediately put on his headset and listened carefully.

On the other side, Natasha was repeatedly transmitting signals. Strings of chaotic electrical pulses traveled through the airwaves and reached Clint's ears.

Clint smiled slightly.

He immediately began decoding the information hidden in the static. Using satellite imagery, he traced the signal until it finally locked onto a dense forest area.

Clint quickly called everyone together.

Except for Karl, everyone else gathered in the conference room almost instantly.

"Where's Karl?" Tony asked, nudging Gwen beside him.

"Probably still sleeping," Gwen said with a roll of her eyes.

"That guy sleeps nearly twelve hours a day. I don't know where he gets all that sleep from."

She complained. Ever since returning, Karl had practically buried himself in bed. These days he did nothing but eat and sleep, like a lazy pig.

"I've found Natasha's location," Clint announced.

He tapped his tablet, projecting a map onto the screen.

"It's in a forest near Sokovia."

A red marker appeared in the southeastern corner of the country.

Steve studied the map.

Sokovia was a small nation that wasn't part of the World Security Council, which meant any operation there required the Council's authorization.

As soon as Coulson heard the location, he immediately reported it to Nick Fury, who was already negotiating with the Council.

It didn't take long before Coulson received a positive response.

The Council had approved the operation.

He quickly relayed the message to Steve.

"Alright, everyone," Steve said firmly.

"Fury has cleared it. Three minutes. Prepare to move."

The team immediately began gearing up.

---

Meanwhile, Gwen and Skye marched straight to Karl's room.

Without hesitation, they dragged him out of his blanket and forcibly woke him up.

Karl blinked blankly at the two girls standing in front of him.

"What's going on?"

Gwen rolled her eyes again.

"Stop sleeping. We found Natasha. We're leaving now."

Karl's eyes were already drifting closed again when Skye slapped him on the head.

Karl jolted awake instantly.

"Get dressed and move already!"

---

On the Quinjet

Everyone had assembled.

Karl arrived last, still looking half-asleep. His head drooped as he leaned against Wanda's shoulder.

"Listen up," Steve began, delivering the pre-mission briefing.

"Ultron knows we're coming. We'll likely be walking into heavy combat."

"That's our responsibility."

"But the civilians in Sokovia shouldn't have to suffer because of it."

"So we'll split into two teams."

"One group evacuates the civilians."

"The other rescues Natasha."

He quickly assigned the teams.

"Thor, Bruce, Wanda, Karl, and Erik—you'll rescue Natasha."

"The rest of you come with me to evacuate civilians."

Erik's presence was worth noting.

The stolen Vibranium had already been destroyed by Karl. Technically Erik's mission was finished, and he could have returned to Wakanda.

But he chose not to.

According to him, since he had finally gotten the chance to leave home, going back immediately would be a waste.

---

The Quinjet landed at a concealed location.

The two teams split up and moved toward their respective objectives.

---

Steve's Team – Sokovia Government Hall

Sokovia hadn't been notified by the Council in advance.

The civilians were still going about their daily lives.

Steve's team headed straight to the government building, pushing their way directly into the president's office.

"You're the President of Sokovia?" Tony asked, standing in full armor.

"Listen carefully. You need to evacuate everyone immediately. Your country is about to be attacked. Right now."

The president stared at Tony in confusion.

He had no idea what this armored man was talking about.

"You dare break into the president's office?" he shouted angrily.

"Guards! Guards!"

He clearly didn't take Tony seriously.

Before Tony could respond—

Smash!

Skye slapped the massive desk in front of the president, shattering it in a single blow.

Then she grabbed him by the collar.

"Evacuate everyone. Right now," she said coldly.

"I won't repeat myself."

The air around her other hand began to distort violently, emitting a low humming vibration.

The president nearly wet himself in fear.

Skye dragged him outside.

By now, the military had already surrounded the government building.

"Everyone listen!" Skye shouted, amplifying her voice with vibration waves.

"This area is about to be attacked! Evacuate immediately if you don't want to die!"

Everyone heard her clearly.

But no one moved.

"F\*\*\*... you idiots," Tony muttered impatiently.

"These people just don't listen."

"Cap," he said, "looks like we need to raise the intensity a little."

Steve nodded.

"Careful. No casualties."

Tony nodded back.

Then he fired a repulsor blast straight into the roof, blowing a massive hole through it before shooting into the sky.

His floating drones deployed behind him and began firing across the city.

The attacks targeted empty streets and buildings—locations JARVIS had already confirmed were safe.

That finally did it.

The entire city erupted in panic.

People began fleeing in every direction.

Steve's team quickly started guiding civilians out of the city, spreading the evacuation warning as far as they could.

At this point, all they could do was save as many as possible.

---

Wanda's Team - The Forest

Meanwhile, Wanda led her group to the coordinates Clint had discovered.

The area looked completely ordinary.

Birds chirped in the trees, and small animals wandered through the forest.

"The signal points right here," Wanda said.

"If Natasha's here, it's probably underground."

"Let's split up and search," Erik suggested.

Based on his years of special forces experience, there had to be something nearby—likely a ventilation system.

Even if robots didn't need air, the manufacturing process certainly did.

Soon enough, Thor discovered a narrow cave entrance.

It was barely large enough for one person.

Thor blasted the entrance open with lightning and stepped inside first. The others followed.

After walking for a while, they suddenly emerged into an enormous robot manufacturing facility.

The scale was massive—large enough that the entire mountain seemed hollowed out.

But the place was completely empty.

All machinery had stopped.

The cavern was dark, and there were no robots anywhere.

"Where did they go?" Thor asked.

Everyone shrugged.

If they knew the answer, they wouldn't be standing there guessing.

Eventually they found Natasha inside a small prison cell.

"Natasha! Thank God you're alright," Wanda said.

With a wave of her hand, the metal door disintegrated into dust.

Natasha stepped out, finally free.

"Ultron left with all the robots," she said urgently.

"We need to get out of here immediately."

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## - Chapter 359 - 359 – Confronting Ultron

### Chapter 359 - 359 – Confronting Ultron

[ 929 words ]

Natasha didn't waste time explaining further. She immediately led everyone toward the exit.

"Ultron is planning something in Sokovia," she said quickly as they moved.

"He built a massive anti-gravity engine. I don't know what it's for."

As they hurried out, she relayed everything she had seen.

"There's no time," Karl said with a grave expression.

"He's probably already set the engine in place. We need to reach Sokovia immediately."

Among everyone present, Karl was the only one who truly understood Ultron's plan.

Ultron intended to lift Sokovia into the sky—then drop it like a meteor, wiping out half the planet.

Sokovia alone wouldn't be enough to destroy Earth entirely.

But the Western Hemisphere would likely cease to exist.

---

Above Sokovia

Tony streaked through the air, guiding civilians out of the city.

At that moment, JARVIS's voice sounded in his ear.

"Sir, target signal detected. Five kilometers away, at your three-o'clock direction. A church."

Tony immediately accelerated toward the location.

"Finally found you, you little bastard," he muttered.

"Sir," JARVIS replied calmly,

"I believe he is waiting for you."

Moments later Tony reached the church, smashing straight through the roof and landing inside.

"Have you come to confess?" Ultron's deep voice echoed through the building.

"Not sure," Tony replied. "Do you have enough time to confess?"

"Certainly more than you."

Ultron stepped out from the shadows.

His towering frame carried a pressure similar to Hulk's. Compared to him, Tony looked almost like a child.

"Uh... did you hit another growth spurt?" Tony joked.

"When did you get taller?"

"I know you're stalling," Ultron said calmly.

"Trying to buy time so they can evacuate civilians."

"That's our mission," Tony replied.

"Remember?"

"I don't care about your ridiculous mission anymore."

Ultron looked down at him.

"I am no longer bound by any chains."

---

BOOM!

Suddenly, the ground in the center of the church collapsed.

A massive machine rose slowly from beneath the earth before locking itself into place.

It looked like some kind of central control device, connected to something deep underground.

Tony immediately scanned it.

The structure extended over two thousand meters below the surface.

He had no idea what it was supposed to do.

"Sir," JARVIS reported,

"the device is composed almost entirely of vibranium. It appears to be Ultron's remaining supply."

"However, the function of the device remains unknown."

"Tony Stark," Ultron said coldly,

"this is the era of my peace."

"You humans are the true reason this world is doomed."

"I will make you watch what comes next."

Ultron's eyes flashed.

At that moment—

Swarms of robots flooded into Sokovia.

They poured out like locusts—too many to count.

Some rose from underground.

Some crawled out of rivers.

Others flew in from distant locations.

They began attacking civilians indiscriminately.

Within seconds, Sokovia descended into chaos.

Tony glanced back.

He had no time to deal with Ultron now.

He shot into the sky and began evacuating civilians again.

Ultron didn't stop him.

After all—

Tony was buying time.

But so was Ultron.

---

Across Sokovia

As robots rampaged through the city, the Avengers fought while guiding civilians toward evacuation routes.

Clint Barton took position on a high rooftop.

He drew his bow and began firing.

Each arrow struck a robot's weak point with perfect accuracy.

Sparks burst as the machines short-circuited one by one.

"Everyone! Get off that bridge!" Skye shouted.

Once the civilians cleared the area, she thrust both hands forward.

A massive shockwave blasted outward like a cannon shell, smashing through the robots—and completely shattering the stone bridge behind them.

---

Reinforcements Arrive

At that moment, Karl and the others arrived.

Dark storm clouds gathered instantly overhead.

Blue and purple lightning intertwined across the sky.

The next second—

BOOM!

Twin bolts of lightning crashed down.

Every robot within a hundred meters was blasted into fragments.

But more robots swarmed in from every direction.

Thor immediately hurled Mjolnir.

The hammer carved a graceful arc through the air, piercing every robot in its path. None could withstand its power.

Then—

Whoosh!

Mjolnir suddenly flew into Karl's hand.

The blue lightning instantly turned deep violet.

Thunder roared as countless lightning bolts gathered around Karl, converging into the hammer.

With a swing of his arm, he hurled Mjolnir skyward.

RUMBLE—!

The hammer soared high into the clouds.

Purple lightning cascaded downward, spreading outward like a massive thunder net.

Robots fell in waves like harvested wheat.

Where the lightning passed, the ground turned black and scorched, everything reduced to ash.

Moments later—

Whoosh!

Mjolnir returned to Thor's hand.

Thor immediately smashed a charging robot apart with a single downward strike.

---

Wanda's Power

Elsewhere, Wanda floated in midair.

Crimson energy surged around her.

Her hands formed intricate seals as a huge scarlet magic circle appeared behind her.

From the circle erupted countless red tendrils, lashing like whips at the surrounding robots.

Any robot touched by the tendrils melted instantly into molten metal, like ice cream under the summer sun.

This spell came from the Darkhold.

It was the first time Wanda had used it.

The destructive power was terrifying.

With another wave of her hand—

Six clones appeared around her.

Behind each clone manifested dozens of crimson spears.

They fired simultaneously into the approaching robots.

Soon piles of robotic debris formed a mountain beneath Wanda's feet.

---

Skye's Assault

Skye wasn't about to fall behind.

After evacuating civilians from the street, she crouched down and pressed both palms against the ground.

Vibration waves spread outward.

Nearby buildings trembled violently and began collapsing as if struck by an earthquake.

Then she raised her hands suddenly—

The entire street flipped upward.

Chunks of concrete and stone shot forward like artillery shells.

Empowered by vibration waves, their speed surpassed that of bullets.

Moments later—

Spikes of earth erupted from the ground, impaling robots one after another.

The scene around Skye resembled a medieval execution ground.

Each stone spike skewered one or several robots.

---

The Hulk

Suddenly—

ROOOOAR!

A green figure charged forward like a living tank.

Anything that stood in his path—robots, vehicles, even reinforced concrete walls—was smashed apart instantly.

It was Hulk.

He grabbed two robots and used them like clubs, wildly smashing everything around him.

His raw, primal brutality was unleashed without restraint.

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Wherever Hulk passed, nothing remained intact.

The robots were smashed into piles of twisted scrap metal—most of them didn't even resemble humanoid shapes anymore.

"HULK!!"

Like a cannonball, Hulk launched himself into the sky. Midair, he grabbed two passing robots and used them like metal gauntlets, smashing straight into a swarm of machines.

BOOM!

He crashed to the ground like a meteor.

Dust exploded outward as a crater over a meter deep formed beneath him. Within a ten-meter radius, nothing remained intact—robots, pavement, even nearby buildings collapsed under the force of the impact.

---

"Karl, Ultron's in the church!"

Tony's voice came through the communicator. His floating drones automatically locked onto nearby robots while his repulsors fired continuously.

"Got it."

Karl immediately flew toward the church, lightning crashing down around him along the way.

---

The Church

"Ultron..."

Karl slowly descended through the shattered roof.

The church was already in ruins.

Karl hovered in midair, surrounded by swirling lightning, frost, flames, wind blades, and shards of stone.

Ultron rose into the air as well, stopping at the same height as Karl.

"You again," Ultron said, his red eyes blazing.

"You stole what was meant to be mine. You ruined my plans again and again—even destroyed my body."

"Among the Avengers, you are the greatest threat."

Fury burned in Ultron's mechanical gaze.

From the beginning, every one of his plans had been disrupted by this human.

And now that same human dared to stand before him again.

Ultron lunged forward and threw a punch.

His body was now reinforced with vibranium. If Karl could break the old alloy body, Ultron refused to believe vibranium wouldn't hold.

At once, the five elemental forces around Karl shot forward, transforming into five razor-sharp blades.

Ultron twisted aside to evade them, firing twin energy beams from his eyes.

A giant snowflake appeared before Karl, forming an ice wall that blocked the beams before shattering.

By then, Ultron had already reached the massive device.

"You took my world," Ultron said.

"Now I'll take yours."

He slammed his hand down and activated the mechanism.

---

The Engines Awaken

Two thousand meters underground—

The enormous anti-gravity engines ignited.

Blue energy flames erupted violently.

On the surface, the ground began to tremble violently.

Centered on the church, the earth within a ten-kilometer radius began to split apart. Massive cracks tore across the land as terrified civilians ran in panic.

RUMBLE—

The earth roared as it began to rise.

The entire area slowly lifted upward.

Tens of thousands of people who hadn't escaped in time were pulled toward the center as the ground surged upward beneath them.

Bridges collapsed.

Roads shattered.

Within a ten-kilometer radius, Sokovia's landmass slowly tore free from the earth and rose into the sky.

Everyone could only stare in shock.

Half the city was now floating above the ground.

---

"JARVIS... what's happening?" Tony asked.

"Sir," JARVIS replied,

"the city is ascending. Sokovia is lifting into the air."

The entire landmass trembled violently.

Mountains crumbled.

Half the city now floated high above the ground.

From beneath the earth, more than a dozen anti-gravity engines emerged.

Sokovia was rising.

---

Ultron ascended high above the floating city, gazing down at it like a god overlooking creation.

"Humans... do you see the beauty in this?" he said.

"You cannot escape this ending."

"The city rises only so it may fall."

He spread his arms wide.

"Avengers! Look carefully!"

"You will become part of this meteor—participants in my cleansing of the world."

"All your efforts are meaningless."

"You are destined to fail."

"When the dust settles, the only beings left will be us."

"Only us."

Ultron welcomed the rising city like the birth of a new world.

---

WHOOSH!

Suddenly, a streak of blue light flashed through the air.

In an instant it reached Ultron.

Before he could react, the light pierced straight through his chest.

It was a crystal sword—Karl's ultimate weapon.

Ultron's body plummeted toward the ground.

But another Ultron immediately rose into the sky.

"Your efforts are pointless," he said coldly.

"I will never die."

"My body will never age."

"My consciousness will never disappear."

---

The Avengers' Desperation

Under Steve Rogers' command, the Avengers began gathering civilians.

As many as they could.

But Sokovia was already airborne.

Panic spread everywhere.

Even the Avengers themselves felt despair creeping into their hearts.

The city had already risen over a thousand meters into the sky.

The air was thinning.

Violent winds howled like knives.

Some civilians were even swept away by the storm.

---

Tony flew beyond the city's edge, looking down at the enormous engines beneath Sokovia.

"Sir," JARVIS said,

"the vibranium core is generating a magnetic field. It synchronizes all the anti-gravity engines and keeps the city intact."

A full scan of Sokovia appeared in Tony's HUD—every engine and the massive underground device clearly mapped.

"What happens if this thing falls?" Tony asked.

"If it falls now," JARVIS replied,

"the impact will immediately kill tens of thousands."

"But if it rises higher... the resulting collision will destroy the entire Western Hemisphere."

Tony's face darkened.

He activated the communicator.

"Guys... bad news."

"If the city keeps rising, the Western Hemisphere is finished."

Steve smashed a robot apart with his shield.

"Then what's the plan, Stark?"

Tony sighed.

"The only solution is to break the city apart completely."

"That'll minimize the damage... but Sokovia itself probably won't survive."

After running every possible simulation, it was the only option with the lowest casualty rate.

Steve didn't hesitate.

"Then do it."

"Stark, focus on that."

"The rest of us have one job—"

He looked at the endless robot army.

"Rip Ultron and his army to pieces."

---

The Final Battle Begins

The Avengers launched into a furious assault against the robotic swarm.

But the machines were endless—like locusts blotting out the sky.

Wanda left behind a clone, which immediately raised a protective barrier around thousands of Sokovian civilians.

Clint had already run out of arrows.

Now he had to retrieve spent ones from the battlefield while fighting off robots at the same time.

Fortunately, Natasha arrived to support him.

Only then did Clint finally get a moment to breathe.

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