

Spider-Man 141

Chapter 141: AID

-Time Skip - Two Weeks-

Two weeks passed as Peter's life became peaceful once again and a rough schedule was formed.

After school, Peter went to the tower where he would run tests and collect data on Peggy. She and Steve were practically living together at this point, as he would always find her at his apartment in the tower.

During one of his many visits, Peter offered Steve a job as a member of the Avengers, where he would be groomed for the position of director, but Steve seemed unsure of what to do with his life. He was alive and had his girl by his side, so the war hero part of him was currently put on the sidelines.

'That will change soon enough...' Peter thought as he knew that something would happen to trigger his involvement.

Whether it be the possible invasion, the remnants of Hydra, or some other Villains appearance, Peter knew that Steve would join the Avengers sooner or later.

Once Peter was done running his tests, he would go meet Tony, who would usually be getting out of bed by that point. The man either spends the whole night partying or crafting something in his workshop.

After Tony eats his breakfast, which is usually a glass of some fancy liquor and a pop tart, the two would head over to Morag, where Tony would ditch him to explore the wasteland of an abandoned alien planet.

Since Peter would usually be left behind due to the needed research to find the Orb's location, he decided to make use of Tony and asked Jarvis to scan the planet as his adventurous creator flew around.

With this, Peter was able to get a complete and accurate map of the entire planet, which Jarvis turned into a convenient hologram. Thanks to this, Peter's time on this planet was virtually cut in half, speeding up his search for the power stone by a large margin.

'Who knew that Tony's slacking would actually pay off for once?' Peter thought as he studied the holographic replica of Morag. 'Sadly, the scans don't go below sea level.'

If they did, then Peter would have found the Orb already, though he should have everything he needs to find it within another week or two.

Other than that one bit of helpfulness, Tony didn't really get involved much in Peter's study of Morag and its tides. He wasn't exactly motivated, as Peter made it very clear that he wouldn't be sharing the treasure he was searching for.

'Whatever, he helped more than enough.' Peter thought as he swung through the skyscrapers of New York City at night.

After his daily research on Morag, Peter usually had some free time, where he would either relax or go out on patrol as he is now.

Due to the knowledge that New York was protected by Spider-Man, a lot of the professional criminals left for other more defenseless places to work. Of course, not everyone left as people like Wilson Fisk smartened up and started doing their dirty work behind closed doors, shrouding their crimes behind the guise of legitimate business.

Though Peter was far too busy to investigate the smarter criminals, so he planned to create a division for that in the Avengers.

AID (Avengers Investigation Division).

He would recruit some of the less powerful heroes and saddle them with detectives from the NYPD, as they had experience in these sorts of investigations.

A council meeting has already taken place on this subject and the votes were unanimously in Peter's favor, which is why Peter was out tonight.

Yes, he planned to stop any crime that he may run into, but his destination was the NYPD Headquarters. AID would expand passed just New York, but that would take time and the existence of more Avengers.

'I could also use AID as a way to absorb the Hand into the Avengers...'

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Arriving at his destination after stopping a mugging and an illegal street fight, Peter swung down and landed at the entrance to the NYPD headquarters.

A few beat cops were outside smoking cigarettes when he landed right in front of them and waved hello.

"Yo, good to see you guys again." Peter says as he remembered them from the bombing incident.

"S-Spider-Man?!" One of them jumped in surprise.

"...Spider-Man sir, is there something you need?" Another Officer asked respectfully.

"Yeah, can you take me to your boss? I'm here on Avenger business." Peter said as he points to the door.

"Uhh... Yeah, follow me." One of them says and they lead Peter inside, surprising the police inside with their entrance.

"What happened, Richards?" The desk Sargent calls out in a joking manner. "You catch a Spider-Man wannabe?"

Hearing this, many of the officers laugh, as no one expected the real Spider-Man to show up at their door. Before the men leading Peter inside could explain, a bald mustached man in a highly decorated police uniform came stomping out of his office.

"Quit playing around and get back to work!" He yelled in anger as this wasn't the first time they were slacking off today.

"Hey there, Chief." Peter says as he strolls over. "It's good to see you again."

"I see why they were messing around now..." He says, not believing it was the actual Spider-Man either. "Someone get this clown out of here or into a cell. We don't have time for this. There's work to be done."

Under the horrified gazes of the few officers that knew the truth, two nearby cops rushed over to Peter, ready to throw him out so they could earn a couple brownie points from their boss.

Sadly for them, they didn't get very far before their legs and arms were entangled with webs, causing them to fall face-first into the hardwood floor.

Bang

"That's not a very nice way to greet a guest..." Peter says a bit menacingly as the Chief face goes pale in realization

"I-I didn't-" He stuttered as he tried to explain himself but Peter started laughing out of nowhere.

"I'm just messing with you." Peter says as he walks past the Chief and into his open office. "Come inside. I have a proposition for you."

Hastily following Peter into his office, the Chief closed the door behind him and shut the blinds as well.

"I apologize for that." He says as he takes a seat and offers Peter one on the opposite side of his desk. "They've been messing around all day, so I thought someone called in a Spider-Man lookalike as a joke."

"Don't worry, I don't mind." Peter says as he shrugs uncaringly and takes a seat.

"Good." The Chief sighed, relieved that he didn't make an enemy out of the most influential and powerful man in the world. "Now, what can I do for you?"

"Well..." Peter says as he explains the general idea of AID. "...and I want your best Detectives to become Liaison Officers assigned to this division. Ideally, each Detective will be paired off with a low-level Avenger."

"So, you Avengers want to go after local crimes as well? I thought you were set on higher-level stuff..." The Chief mutters as he takes everything in. "Not that I mind, of course. We could use the extra help with criminals like Fisk walking around freely."

"Yes, some Avengers aren't as strong as others, so they wouldn't be called for any 'higher level stuff' as you said. Of course, that doesn't mean they can't be put to work, which is why I'm putting together this division."

"I'm on board a hundred percent, though I'll have to run it by the commissioner before anything can happen on my end." The Chief explains powerlessly.

"That's fine." Peter says as he stands up and walks to a nearby open window. "This is all in the early stages of development and I have to get some things moving on my end as well. In the meantime, you should get approval from your higher-ups and start putting together files on the Detective that you think are worth applying."

"Yes, I'll get right on that." The Chief nods in agreement as Peter dives out of the windows and swings away.

Returning to the tower, Peter takes out his phone and makes a call.

"Yes?" The feminine voice of Mystique answers.

"Get to the Tower. I have another mission for you."

Chapter 142: Secret Identity

While waiting for Mystique's arrival, Peter started going over all of the data that he collected from Peggy. They just had their last day of testing yesterday, which means Peggy is now free to spend her days in leisure, cuddled up with Captain America.

At least until the other shoe drops, as she so eloquently stated a couple of weeks ago.

As Peter just started to go over everything, Tony saunters into the room wearing a Gucci robe. He looked to be completely naked underneath as he sipped a glass of brown liquid.

"Spidey!" Tony calls out as he walks over. "Just the man I was looking for."

"What's up?" Peter says as he looks up from his reading material to see his tipsy friend's appearance.

"You thought that you could hide it from me, did you?" Tony says as he points at Peter accusingly.

"I have no idea what you're talking about," Peter says as he leans back in his chair. 'Did he figure out my identity or something?'

"Don't play dumb..." Tony says as he takes another sip of his alcohol. "You made that woman young again. How?"

"Huh? I thought you knew that already..." Peter says as he internally sighs in relief. "How'd you find out?"

Peter never thought to tell Tony or anyone else for that matter, as he thought Fury would do that for him.

"I saw the tests you were running on her and asked around. Fury was happy to explain everything." Tony reveals as he took a seat across from Peter.

"Well, what about it?" Peter asked.

"I want to know why you keep hiding things from me." Tony says as he finishes his drink and slams it down onto the table between them. "First, it was the thing you're looking for on that planet, and now, you experimented on someone without me! Am I not your best friend?"

"Of course, you are." Peter couldn't help but smile at Tony's inebriated state.

"Then why do you keep hiding things from me?" Tony asks as he pouts like a petulant child.

"Because I, like everyone else in the world, have a few secrets that I'm not ready or willing to reveal at the moment." Peter says with a shrug. "Mine just so happen to be a bit out of the norm compared to others."

"Sigh, you're insufferable, you know that?" Tony sighs heavily as he stares at his best friend. "Why can't you just trust me a bit?"

"I do trust you." Peter raises an eyebrow under his mask. "You're one of the handful of people that know I use magic."

"Yeah, but that's because I would have blown myself up studying runes otherwise." Tony rebuts.

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The room goes silent as Peter stares at Tony in contemplation.

'Eh, f*ck it' Peter thought as he resolved himself. "Okay, how about I share a secret with you? Will that make you feel better?"

"Yes!" Tony's former depressing drunk mood disappeared as he agreed happily.

"Alright, follow me." Peter says as he waves his hand and opens a portal to the mirror dimension.

"Where the hell is this..." Tony muttered as he followed Peter through the portal.

"The mirror dimension." Peter reveals as the portal closes behind them. "A parallel dimension to our own."

"Cool..." Tony says as he turns in place, admiring the view. "Is this the secret?"

"No, this is." Peter shakes his head as he reaches his thumb under his mask and pulls it off.

Tony's eyes go wide as Spider-Man's real face is revealed before his very eyes. Peter's hair falls messily without the mask holding it in place.

"Ugh, I hate mask hair..." Peter grunts in annoyance as he runs his fingers through his hair, fixing it as best as he could.

Though Tony didn't give a sh*t about that. He was too busy staring at Peter's face reveal with his mouth wide open.

"You're... young?" Tony blurted out.

The man that he became such good friends with was either a natural baby face or just really young.

"Yup, I'm sixteen." Peter nods without much care for his age.

"S-Sixteen?!" Tony exclaims in bewilderment. "What? Are you in middle school?"

Tony's image of the man below the mask was completely ruined. He thought that Spider-Man was around his age, but that idea turned out to be completely and utterly incorrect.

"High school, but I only still attend because of my friends." Peter shrugs uncaringly.

"..." Tony freezes for a moment and studies Peter's face. "Wait... I know you!"

A look of realization appears on his face as Tony points at Peter accusingly once again.

"You snuck backstage with your girlfriend! What was her name..." He says, trying to remember the names they gave him.

"Yup, Peter Parker and MJ." Pete says with a smile. "She wanted to meet my best friend, so we snuck in and played the part of your adoring fans."

"But... You're so young." Tony still couldn't get over Peter's age. "We've been following a child."

Tony realizes that the leader of the Avengers was more than half the age of everyone on the council the whole time.

"I wouldn't say I'm a child. That's a bit harsh." Peter says as it was his turn to pout this time. "I may be young but I'm very mature. That can easily be seen by how shocked you are right now."

"That's... true." Tony mutters as he goes silent.

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"Well, now you know, I guess." Peter says to break the awkward silence. "Don't tell anyone and don't leave any trails if you look me up. I have loved ones that would be in a lot of danger should certain people learn of my identity."

"Yeah, I get it." Tony waves off Peter's warnings. "I'm not an idiot."

"No, but you can be on occasion." Peter smirks as he puts his mask back on. "This is good though. Now you can meet my girlfriend. She's a bit of a Tony Stark fan, so maybe I can bring her over for dinner sometime or something. We'd have to be careful though."

"Why?" Tony asks.

"Well, other than the fact that my identity could be tracked if she's seen with me, MJ happens to be Fury's daughter. Though that's another secret you'll have to keep." Peter reveals yet another shocking piece of information.

"Wait, did you just say what I think you said?" Tony didn't know whether to laugh like a madman or be afraid for his friend's life. "You're Fury's daughters..."

"Boyfriend, yes." Peter says with an awkward smile under his mask.

"You're so dead..." Tony states as if he was already planning Peter's funeral.

"Eh, I think I'll be fine." Peter shrugs.

"That depends. Have you had sex with her yet?" Tony asks as he stops to think for a moment.
"Because maybe then he'll only maim you a little before letting you go."

"Uhh..." Peter didn't know what to say to that, which spoke for itself.

"Oh my god, you're dead."

After swearing Tony to secrecy, Peter returned to the meeting room in the tower, where he continued waiting for Mystique to show up.

Tony may have been making jokes about his relationship, but Peter could tell that he felt a bit odd about the whole age thing. Having a best friend that's more than half your age is probably a bit weird, so Peter understood.

'Hopefully, he gets over it soon...' Peter thought as Mystique came walking in with a confident sway in her hips.

"What's the mission this time, Boss?" Raven asks as she stands across the large table with a hand resting on her hip.

"This one is especially secret and a bit more dangerous than the last." Peter says as he turns on the surveillance jammer just in case. "I'm talking completely off the books."

"Well, tell me about it." She says confidently and curiously.

"Alright, but I want to be clear." Peter says as he leans forward and stares directly into Mystique's eyes. "No one should know about this, not even Erik. If you can't accept that, I understand and will-"

"Fine, just explain already." Raven cuts Peter off, eager to know what this is all about.

"Hmm..." Peter didn't know if he believed her, but he'll still give her the mission anyway. 'I don't really mind Erik knowing, as long as he keeps quiet of course.'

Opening a folder, Peter pulls out a picture of a glowing blue cube and pushes it across the table.

"That is an artifact known as the Tesseract." Peter explains as she looks down at the picture curiously. "It was used in World War 2 by Hydra to supply the Nazi war effort with futuristic weaponry, among other things."

"You want me to get the cube?" Mystique asks.

"Yes and no." Peter says as he slides the whole folder across. "I want you to go undercover as you usually do, and find the exact location of the Tesseract. Once you've found it, you'll alert me and we'll steal it together."

"How so?" She asks.

"Something like the Tesseract will be locked up under a crazy level of surveillance and security. All that I need you to do, is be in place to shut down the surveillance. Without cameras, all I have to do is open two portals. One for you and another to grab the Tesseract." Peter explains the plan.

"And no one would know who took the cube." Raven was impressed.

"That would be the point, yes." Peter nods.

"Who has the Tesseract?" She asks.

Reaching over the table, Peter opens the folder, revealing many classified papers with the Shield logo. The folder contained everything that Peter has managed to find about the Tesseract since he started working with Shield.

It's not much, as Peter has been busy, but it should be enough to find the thing, especially with Raven's help.

"Shield?" Mystique was certainly surprised.

"Yup, will that be a problem?" Peter asks questioningly.

"No, but I want something in exchange for my silent services." She gives Peter an ultimatum.

"Sure, as long as it's doable and doesn't go against my morals." Peter agrees easily.

"That'll do..." Mystique nods as she takes the folder and walks to the door.

"Wait, you didn't say what you wanted!" Peter called out but she merely waved over her shoulder.

"You can pay upon completion of the mission."

Chapter 143: Research Complete

-Time skip - Two Weeks-

Another two weeks passed while Peter was waiting for Mystique to contact him about the mission that he gave her. Throughout these two weeks, Peter has stuck to a very similar schedule, except now his time after school was open since Peggy didn't require any more tests.

Speaking of her test results, Peter was finally able to go over them without interruption, and boy did he learn a lot.

First, the physical enhancement to her muscles, organs, tendons, bones, etc. is on a level a bit below Captain America. Peter didn't think that her body would reach that level of power, but the combination of Dragon Bones and Super Soldier Blood seemed to do the trick.

'I wonder how powerful she would have been if I used my blood instead?' Peter wondered as he looked over the results.

After all, Peter is far stronger than Steve.

Secondly, the results also allowed Peter to see the longevity effects of the Elixir, which was amazing, to say the least.

The human body is composed of trillions of cells. They provide structure for the body, take in nutrients from food, convert those nutrients into energy, and carry out specialized functions.

Cells go through a natural life cycle that includes growth, maturity, and death. This natural life cycle is regulated by a number of factors, but that doesn't matter right now.

As cells age, they function less well. Eventually, old cells must die, which is a normal part of the body's functioning. New cells take their place with time, but the capacity to continue replacing cells with fresh ones reduces over time.

This causes aging and inevitable death.

Peggy's cells seem to be moving through that same cycle but at a much slower pace. So slow, in fact, that she may be able to live for 300-400 years before either dying or needing another dose of the Elixir.

'Hmm, I wonder what Steve's lifespan is?' Peter wondered if the Super Soldier Serum affected Steve's aging at all. 'I'll have to give him the Elixir otherwise...'

After all, two lovers being separated by death is a pretty sad reality. Peggy has already had to live 70 years without Steve, so adding to that already large number seemed cruel.

'Eh, I'll worry about that when I have a larger stockpile of dragon bones, or possibly a more viable replacement for them...' Peter thought dismissively, as Steve is still fairly young.

Next, Peter covertly scanned Peggy with a spell that tested her body for traces of Chi energy, which was said to enhance due to the Elixir's use.

Everyone has Chi in their bodies, but only those that were trained to harness it could wield their inner energy. Since every living human had Chi, Peter cross-referenced Peggy's Chi levels compared to some random people, which he stealthily tested during his patrols.

If he could give a ranging number for the normal human Chi level, Peter would place that around 23-37. Meanwhile, Peter had a whopping 186, and he hasn't taken the Elixir yet.

As for Peggy, she had a Chi level of 153, which was only a little less than Peter, so it had to be good. Of course, Peter didn't know the average Chi level of someone from K'un-Lun, so for all he knows, this could be a very meager amount.

'Maybe I can test one of the Chi masters from Kamar-Taj?' Peter thought, hoping that they wouldn't find it disrespectful or something.

Although Peggy had all of this usable Chi, Peter battled with the idea of telling her or not. Revealing this to her will open up a whole new world, as Peggy would no doubt search for someone to teach her how to harness her energy.

On the other hand, Peggy already has Super Soldier Powers and Peter didn't want to deal with the questions that would follow.

'No doubt, everyone would want the Elixir even more than they already do...' Peter thought as he remembered Tony asking if he could get the 'Immortality' drug next.

Thanks to Jarvis, who runs everything in the tower, Tony saw every test that Peggy went through, especially the tests on her cells.

'When Tony learns that the Elixir also gives energy powers as well, he would become even more annoying and insistent than he already is.' Peter lamented over the decision to tell her or not.

After thinking for a good while, Peter concluded that he would play it by ear. If the Ancient One reveals herself fully and joins the Avengers, then Peter would offer Peggy's name to one of the Chi masters of Kamar-Taj as a possible Disciple or something.

As Peter was thinking this...

-Peggy's POV-

Peggy Carter was given a second chance, which she would not throw away carelessly. A second chance to be young and with the man she loved was all Peggy could ever ask for after all.

Since she decided to take this second chance seriously, Peggy has jumped right back into her former army and Shield training. Thankfully, the procedure not only made her young again but packed on a good amount of lean muscle as well.

The transformation reminded her of a minor version of the experiment that transformed Steve into the man he is today.

Although Peggy was instantly given the body of a super soldier, the same couldn't be said for the former skills she picked up throughout her long life.

The worst of it all was her martial arts, which were extremely rusty due to a lack of use. Peggy couldn't exactly practice Krav Maga from her hospital bed after all.

Now that she was able-bodied, Peggy made constant use of the advanced gym equipment in the Avengers Tower, sharpening herself back into the warrior that she used to be.

Which is where she was at this very moment, covered in sweat and striking out at a human-shaped dummy.

bang bang bang...

Using the practice combinations that she remembered from her training, Peggy stuck the target nonstop. As she was doing this, Peggy felt an odd sensation run from her core, through her arm, and toward her clenched fist.

Boom!

When that same fist made contact, the dummies head snapped off and flew across the room, only stopping as it embedded itself into the wall.

"What the..." Peggy muttered as she didn't use enough power to do that.

Yes, as a super soldier, Peggy could do such a thing with raw strength alone, but she was especially careful not to ruin any of the equipment. Unlike Steve, who breaks at least one piece of gym equipment a day.

Looking at her hand in confusion, Peggy found a tiny speck of golden light coming from under her fingernail, though it disappeared so quickly that she wasn't sure if it was real or not.

'Maybe I'm just seeing things?' Peggy thought but wasn't convinced.

Looking between the damaged wall and the destroyed training dummy, Peggy didn't know what to do.

"...I'll just blame this on Steve."

-Peter's POV-

Other than going over Peggy's test results, Peter has officially studied planet Morag and its neighboring moons and sun enough to predict the tides fairly accurately. That combined with the very in-depth map of the planet was all Peter needed to find the Orb.

Through all of his research, Peter learned one very important thing.

Every three hundred years, which just so happens to be when the tides recede enough to reveal the temple that holds the Orb, an odd event occurs in Morags solar system.

The sun, moons, and Morag itself become completely aligned. Obviously, this alignment affects the tides heavily and causes them to recede for a short while, before coming back full force and covering the whole planet in water for some time.

Thanks to this revelation, Peter took all of the research he gathered and made a simulation of this event. Jarvis was very helpful in this step as well.

Once the simulation was complete, Peter pressed a button and a big hologram of Morag appeared. The planet was about 97% ocean with the only piece above water being the area he built his base.

"Run it, Jarvis." Peter calls out.

"Yes, sir. Running simulation now." Jarvis responded and the hologram began to move.

Immediately, the tides receded and the planet went from 97% water to 91%. Not a huge change but it was certainly enough.

"We did it!" Peter exclaimed to Jarvis, who helped him a lot during this expedition.

"Congratulations, sir." Jarvis replied normally.

"Now all we have to do is search the coasts based on this simulation." Peter says happily.

With this Peter narrowed down the search for the Orb by a lot. Before knowing this, Peter would have searched a much larger part of the ocean, wasting tons of valuable time.

Especially since a few islands appeared in the simulation as well, which Peter wouldn't have thought to search as they weren't there beforehand.

Now, all he has to do is search the simulation's receded areas.

'I'll have the Orb within the week!'

Chapter 144: Mystique POV

Weeks before Peter started his search through the coastlines of Morag alongside the few islands that appeared in the simulations, only days away from possessing one of the Infinity Stones, Mystique disappeared without a word to anyone.

This wasn't very normal for her either.

Usually, when Raven disappears for a mission or something, she would at least inform Erik, but even he was left in the dark this time.

Mystique promised Peter secrecy and would do her best to deliver on that. Especially since her stipulation was at stake.

Using the information that Peter provided, Raven did what she does best and infiltrated multiple Shield bases. Kidnapping her victims, she would impersonate them and slowly dig up any information on the cube that Peter was looking for.

Two weeks passed since receiving the mission, and Mystique infiltrated five different Shield bases, yet information about the Tesseract was few and far between.

One after another, Raven followed the tiniest crumbs that barely kept her hunt going.

Moving from base to base, she learned that the cube was on the move for a while before settling down in one place. The World Security Council decided to re-start something called Project Pegasus, but all other information wasn't available.

Raven had no idea what the World Security Council or Project Pegasus was, but at least she knew that the cube wouldn't be on the move anymore, which was good for thieves like her.

With this newfound knowledge, Mystique knew that she had to impersonate someone really high up on the food chain if she ever wanted to learn the Tesseract's location.

'He's going to be p*ssed if he finds out...' Mystique thought as she walked into a Shield facility in perfect disguise.

As she passed Shield employees, they would stop and make way, saluting respectfully as she walked by.

Raven already infiltrated this Shield base, so she knew the layout like the back of her hand. The reason that she chose this one out of all five bases she visited in the past two weeks was quite simple.

When looking into the Tesseract here, Mystique learned that the security clearance of the man she was impersonating wasn't high enough. The computer prompted that the information she was looking for was level 10 restricted.

This was something that she didn't see at any of the other Shield facilities.

She didn't know how she would find a Shield member with level 10 clearance, so Raven took the riskier more dangerous path and impersonated someone with the highest clearance.

Nick Fury.

Taking the elevator up, Mystique was surprised to find a group of high-level Shield agents waiting for her as the doors opened. At the front of them was the commander of the base she was currently infiltrating as well.

"Director Fury, we didn't expect your visit, sir." The leading man said nervously.

"I didn't exactly plan this visit. Something came up and I need something from lock up." 'Fury' says as 'he' steps out of the elevator confidently and starts walking down the hall.

Jumping into step behind 'him', the group of men and women start asking questions.

"What do you need, sir?" One asks.

"Classified." 'Fury' answers, keeping a fast walking pace through the halls.

"Do you need our assistance?" The commander asks.

"No, just return to your duties. I won't be here long." 'Fury' tells them as they arrive at a metal vault-like door.

Thankfully, the door in front of Mystique didn't require any codes, as she had no idea what Nick Fury's access codes would be. No, at the side of the door was a retinal scanner.

The group of Shield Agents stopped in their tracks and watched suspiciously as 'Fury' walked up and bent over, aligning 'his' eye with the scanner.

The only reason they were suspicious was one thing. Director Fury never visited their base before. Some of them have never even met the Director, so they thought he might be an imposter wearing a prosthetic mask or some other possible disguise.

As the light of the scanner waved over 'Fury's singular eye, the men and woman waited with bated breaths, ready to draw their weapons should the scan reject access.

Chime

"Access Granted." A mechanical voice called out from the scanner as the vault door started slowly opening. "Welcome, Director Fury."

"..." The watching crowd internally sighed as they saw the door open.

"Huh? You're still here?" 'Fury turns to send a glare at 'his' subordinates. "I thought I said to get back to your duties?"

"Yes, sir!" The commander kept a cool head as he shuffled away along with the others.

'Idiots...' Mystique thought in disdain as she walked into the vault.

As the doors closed and locked behind her, one by one rows of lights illuminated a giant warehouse-sized room. Long aisles of shelves were filled with boxes and crates. Each box or crate was either evidence from a Shield operation or some sort of high-level confiscated materials.

Mystique didn't even bother looking at the shelves in these aisles as she walked to the back of the warehouse. On the way, she passed many interestingly labeled boxes and crates.

[JFK]

[Jimmy Hoffa]

[Ark]

[Tupac]

[Dyatlov Pass]

Each of these boxes represented a possible unsolved mystery. Assassinations, mysterious deaths, a disappearance, an ancient treasure, and they certainly weren't the only interesting things in lock up.

Although any normal person would stop and take a look out of curiosity, Mystique wasn't your average person. She was on a mission and nothing else mattered at the moment.

Arriving at the back of the room, Mystique found a wooden door. Opening it up, Raven walked inside and saw a small room with a wooden desk and an old-school desktop computer.

'Time to see if all of this was worth it...' She thought.

Taking a seat at the desk, Mystique searched for information on the Tesseract. At this point, scavenging for information on Shield servers has become second nature for her.

Instantly, a prompt appears on the screen.

[Level 10 Restriction!]

As the pop-up filled the screen, the drawer beside her opened on its own, revealing a device with the imprint of a hand indented into it.

[Hand Print Required!]

Surprised by this, as she never had access to Lock Up on her last visit, Raven smirked triumphantly as she placed her hand on the scanner.

'I thought they would use a passcode...' Mystique thought as she planned to call Spider-Man if that situation arose.

After all, there weren't any cameras in this room, so he could easily portal over and put his smarts to use. If he could work with Stark and understand the nonsense that comes out of that man's mouth, then he could get passed some measly password protection.

Thankfully, it looks like she won't need any help though.

[Access Granted!]

'Now what do we have here...' Mystique thought as the screen changed to a file filled with a bunch of other files.

Though one stood out more than the rest.

[Project Pegasus V2]

Knowing that this was the project that was using the Tesseract, she clicked the file and many classified papers filled the screen.

Reading through everything as fast as possible, Mystique learned a bit more about what Project Pegasus really was.

Project Potential Energy Group - Alternate Sources - United States, abbreviated as Project Pegasus, was the name of the joint project between Shield, NASA, and the United States Air Force to study the Tesseract and harness its power.

In the 1980s, project leader Wendy Lawson used the Tesseract's energy to create a Light-Speed Engine. Following Wendy Lawson's death in 1989, the project was terminated.

At least until the project was reopened and moved to the Joint Dark Energy Mission Facility in the Mojave Desert.

'Finally, a location.' Raven thought as she closed everything, turned off the computer, and took her leave.

"Sir!" One of the men from earlier calls out as he rushes into an office.

"Yes?" The Commander of the Shield base asks as he looks up from his desk full of paperwork.

"We have a problem." The rushed subordinate says as he places a laptop on the desk. "Director Fury said he needed something from Lock Up..."

"Yeah, I know." The Commander nods confusedly.

"Then why did he access the computer room and leave empty-handed?" The subordinate asks as surveillance footage plays on the laptop.

"..." The Commander watches the video carefully before taking out his phone and making a call.

"Connect me to the Director!" He yells over the phone and waits a moment.

"What?" An angry voice answers.

"Sir, did you get what you needed from Lock Up?" The Commander asks.

"Lock Up?" The confusion in Fury's voice set off alarm bells in his head. "What the f*ck are you talking about?"

"Lock down the building!"

Walking out of the building at an even yet swift pace, 'Fury' made it to 'his' black sports car as alarms started sounding from the building.

'Too late.' Mystique thought as she started the car and sped off before anyone came looking.

Her body morphed into that of a beautiful blonde woman as she drove out of the parking lot and disappeared down the street.

Chapter 145: Buy One, Get One Free?

Following the results of the simulation, Peter started his search for the underwater temple on Morag.

Starting his search with the coasts surrounding Morags only current landmass, Peter looked down at this planet's dark murky ocean water. Even the smell coming from the water reminded him of a garbage dump.

"That doesn't seem safe..." Peter muttered to himself.

"That's because it isn't." A metallic voice said.

Turning to the side, Peter saw Tony use his suit's thrusters to land beside him. His face mask snapped open as he exposed his nose to putrid waters, causing him to scrunch his face in disgust.

"While you were studying this solar system's orbit and solving Morags mysteries, I was exploring and taking samples from everything." Tony said haughtily as if he accomplished something amazing. "The water here is almost the exact equivalent to the juice you can find at the bottom of a New York City dumpster. Mix in a little bit of flesh-eating bacteria and you have Morags ocean."

"Eww, I think I'm going to throw up..." Peter says as a strong wind blows the ocean breeze in his direction.

"Feel free to let it out in the ocean. It's not like it'll make a difference." Tony quips as he looks out at the dirty water. "The people that abandoned this planet left it in a disgusting mess. Talk about a bunch of slobs."

"Do you think this was all caused by pollution?" Peter asks curiously.

"Probably." Tony nods as he closed his mask to block the smell.

"Maybe we should work on a fix for that on Earth..." Peter solemnly thought out loud.

"Yeah..." Tony agreed as he pats Peter on the shoulder. "Well, have fun swimming in that mess. I'm heading home. There's nothing left on this planet worth exploring, and since you're not sharing your treasure, exploring the dumpster juice ocean doesn't sound very appealing."

"I just hope that I don't catch anything, here..." Peter says as he waves his hand and opens a portal back to earth. "I'll be back sooner or later."

After saying their goodbyes, Tony left and Peter got to work.

In order to search the ocean floor without catching some sort of alien HIV or COVID, Peter created a bubble of eldritch energy around himself. Thanks to the copious amounts of tedious training and practice, he was able to control the ball of energy to fly or roll, but in this case, it would act as a sort of submarine for his undersea exploration.

Descending into the black poison water, Peter took out his phone and opened the GPS app.

Thanks to the scans that Jarvis took during Tony's exploration, which mapped out the whole planet, and a few makeshift satellites that he built and launched into orbit, Peter could use the ghost phones GPS as if he were traversing on earth.

With this, Peter marked off the areas he had to search, making this whole underwater expedition about a million times easier.

Dropping into the water with a loud splash, Peter couldn't see a damn thing as the water was far too dark. He could only see about 6 feet in front of him, which certainly wasn't enough for his needs.

'Hmm... Let's try that spell.' Peter thought as he waved his hands and two fairly simple spell circles were drawn in front of him.

As the spells finished forming, they began to shrink to the size of a quarter before launching back at Peter and into his eyes.

"Ugh..." Peter grunted in discomfort as he felt a burning sensation on his eyeballs. 'The book didn't say anything about pain...'

Opening his reddening eyes, Peter found that he could see much better than before. Instead of the measly 6 feet, he could see around 150 yards all around him.

Though, with this new enhanced night vision came a constant burning pain in Peter's eyes.

"I'll just have to live with it." Peter thought as his eyes started to water. "For now, at least."

Not wanting to waste any more precious time, Peter looked at his GPS and started his search. Controlling the eldritch bubble with a thought, he swept across the underwater coastline at a swift pace.

Like this, Two days passed and Peter searched the entire coastline, finding nothing but some crumbed ruins.

Of course, that was exactly what Peter was looking for, but these ruins weren't anything special like the temple. They were just a few corroded homes left over from long-forgotten cities and towns.

'I knew that I should have started with the islands...!' Peter thought as he traversed through the open ocean and toward the closest underwater island marked on the GPS.

-Time Skip - 3 days-

After five full days of searching the rocky ocean floor of planet Morag, Peter was starting to lose hope that the damn temple even existed in the first place.

'Where the f*ck is this stupid thing...!' Peter internally groaned as he continued following the GPS. "Hmm... What's that?"

As he continued his tedious search, Peter caught a glimpse of what appeared to be a toppled-over pillar.

Eager to finally leave this damn ocean, Peter floats the eldritch bubble toward the pillar. As he got closer and closer, his excitement grew as a crumbling decayed building appeared in his sight.

The building looked exactly like the one from the beginning of the first Guardians of the Galaxy movie. It was surrounded by pillars on the outside and covered with some underwater vines, which had to be extremely resilient to survive in this hell of an ocean.

'This has to be it!' Peter felt an overwhelming sense of accomplishment.

Circling the corroded stone temple, Peter looked for a viable entrance. The place was full of holes, but he needed one big enough to fit through with his bubble.

After all, he didn't want to cause this place to collapse. That would only delay him even further.

Finding the front entrance, which was big enough for him to fit, Peter was reminded of Star Lord's entrance in the movie.

'Come and get your love...' Peter sang in his head as he entered the temple and started looking around.

The place was even more dilapidated on the inside than it was on the outside. There was even a very deep ravine that divided the temple in half between front and back.

"If I recall correctly, the vault that held the Orb was on the other side of the ravine..." Peter thought as he floated over to the backside of the temple.

At the back wall of the temple, the only thing that hadn't eroded away was a huge double door, which was locked shut.

Tapping the bubble into the door, Peter hoped the corrosion from the water would have weakened it enough to break, but sadly it didn't.

Inspecting the door for a second, Peter found a circular keyhole in the center, but sadly he didn't know how to pick open an ancient alien door.

'I guess, force is the only option.' Peter thought as he backed up a few yards and began to tweak his mode of transport.

Instantly, a long point appeared at the front of the bubble.

"Hopefully this place doesn't collapse..." Peter thought as he launched the eldritch bubble point first into the door's lock.

Bang!

With only a single ram, the point pierced through the door's lock. Expanding the point, the doors began to crack and crumble into pieces, as Peter made his own entrance.

Within seconds, the door was nothing but rubble that floated to the floor, leaving a hole big enough for Peter to float through.

Though, the vault didn't seem to have any water inside, so as soon as an opening was made, water was sucked in like a vacuum, filling the small space in no time at all.

As the water settled, Peter floated inside and found a small room covered in odd glyphs with a pillar in the middle.

This pillar had its own carvings as well but the most attractive part of it was the softball-sized metal Orb that was floating, suspended behind some sort of forcefield that seemed to keep the water at bay.

[Insert picture of the Orb here]

Floating up to the pillar that held his prize, Peter took a moment to admire it.

'Finally, my first Infinity Stone!' Peter thought as a smile bloomed on his face.

After basking in his accomplishment, Peter now had to figure out how to get the thing out, as it was locked behind the forcefield.

'Didn't Star-Lord use some sort of overpowered magnet to pull it out?' Peter thought as he tried to remember the movie.

"Eh, let's give it a try." Peter muttered as he waved his hand and a spell circle wrote itself onto the outside of the bubble he was in. 'If this doesn't work, I'll go with the forceful approach. After all, it hasn't failed me yet.'

As the spell finished its formation, Peter moved closer to the pillar as it activated.

Immediately, the orb jerked toward Peter as it strained against the forcefield. Only seconds later, it broke through multiple barriers and smacked into Peter's bubble, sticking to the magnetic spell on its surface.

"Haha!" Peter laughed as he eagerly exited the temple and returned to the surface.

Breaking through the oceans surface and back into the open air, Peter morphed the bubble into a platform to stand on as he deactivated the magnetic spell.

As the spell disappeared, the metal Orb fell into Peter's waiting hand.

'I have it...!' Peter smiled as he grips the Orb tightly.

Sadly, his moment of accomplishment is ruined by the toxic perfume of Morags ocean breeze.

'I never want to come back to this planet again...!' Peter thought as he opened a portal to his bedroom and left Morag for, hopefully, the last time.

Standing in his bedroom with the Orb in hand, Peter couldn't escape the dirty ocean smell that clung to his body.

"Maybe a shower is in order?" Peter muttered, as his phone started to go off.

Ring ring ring...

'Is it the Ancient One?' Peter thought as he expected an earful from her about messing with her timeline.

"Hello?" Peter answers without looking at the caller ID.

"I found the cube." A familiar female voice replies.

Looking at his phone, Peter confirmed who he was talking to.

'Two stones in one day?'

Chapter 146: Mystiques Desire

"I found the cube." Mystique says over the phone.

'Two stones in one day?' Peter thought hopefully. "Where is it?"

Walking out of his room with one hand gripping the Orb, refusing to let it out of his grasp, Peter entered the bathroom.

"In some place called the Joint Dark Energy Mission Facility in the Mojave Desert." Mystique answers as Peter turns on the shower. "I have the exact coordinates for the facility."

"Good work." Peter congratulates her as he starts getting undressed. "Did you run into any trouble?"

"No, but Shield is most likely aware of my meddling..." Mystique reveals as she explains how she obtained this information.

...

"I'm sure Fury wasn't happy with someone impersonating him." Peter muttered with a laugh as he sat on the toilet, waiting for the call to end before hopping into the shower. "They don't know it was you though, right?"

"No, but Fury may be suspicious of me." Mystique guesses thoughtfully. "I'm probably among the top of the list when it comes to suspects."

"You should be fine." Peter says with a shrug. "Just don't say anything and cooperate with any investigation Fury brings to you. We can come up with a good alibi later on as well."

"I agree, but that isn't the real problem." Raven says as Peter's bathroom starts to steam up. "It's only a matter of time before Shield looks into what I was doing. If we don't act quickly, they may move the Tesseract, and finding it again will be far more challenging, I'm sure."

"Okay, so we need to speed up our heist." Peter mutters as the gears in his mind start turning. "Where are you right now?"

"California." Mystique answers swiftly.

"Text me your exact location and I'll portal over in about 20 minutes." Peter says as he hangs up the phone before she could reply and hops into the shower.

Throughout his hot shower, Peter was trying to think of the best way to steal the Tesseract. His original plan required some allotted time for Mystique to infiltrate the facility and shut down the surveillance cameras, but that may not be viable anymore.

'I'll just wing it, I guess...'

As Peter was about to leave to see Mystique, he was left with a very glaring problem.

'What should I do with this?' Peter thought as he looked down at the Orb on his computer desk. 'A fancy paperweight perhaps?'

Of course, Peter was joking.

The Power Stone may be contained but it's far too dangerous to be left behind on his desk, holding some papers in place. It could either get stolen, which wasn't likely with the magic Peter has

protected his house, or one of his loved ones could misplace it or accidentally cause some sort of catastrophe by messing with it.

'I need a place to safely store it...' Peter didn't think this far, as he set all of his attention on finding the damn thing.

...

'That might work for now.' After a few moments of thought, Peter came to decision and walked down to the basement.

The last people to live in this house left behind a big safe in the basement, which just so happened to be bolted to the floor. The realtor that sold Peter and May the house said that the former owner didn't want to pay to have it moved, and left it behind.

Now the safe belonged to them, and May used it to hold some of her more expensive jewelry and sensitive documents. Peter's social security number and birth certificate were in there as well.

Cracking open the safe, Peter takes everything out and starts working his magic.

Spell after spell, Peter enchanted the metal safe with every defensive and offensive enchantment that he could think of. After all, he was protecting one of the most powerful objects in the world, so he made sure to use everything he knew.

'I feel bad for any thieves that somehow get in...' Peter thought as he put everything back into the safe, including the Orb, and locked it up.

Keeping his eyes on the now very dangerous safe, Peter slowly backed away until he was out of range of the defenses.

"Peter!" May's voice calls as he hears the sound of footsteps moving down the stairs. "Are you down here?"

"Yes, don't come any closer!" Peter exclaims, stopping his aunt from leaving the stairs.

"What?" May looks at Peter in confusion as she stops at the bottom step. "Why?"

"I may have enchanted the safe to obliterate the souls of any would-be thieves, among other gruesome defenses." Peter explains horribly.

Looking across the basement with a horrified look, May stared at the safe warily.

"W-Why?" May asked, even more confused than before.

"I needed somewhere to store something dangerous." Peter answers vaguely. "This is only temporary. I'll remove the enchantments in a few days. Just stay away from the safe until I say otherwise, okay?"

"Sure..." May nods as she retreats upstairs with Peter following closely behind. "I'll keep the basement door locked, just in case."

"That's probably smart." Peter nods as he watches her shakily lock the door.

"You should tell MJ and Ned. They visit a lot. Especially MJ, who practically lives here now..." May says teasingly, momentarily forgetting about the death trap in her basement.

"She does not live here..." Peter says, causing his Aunt to roll her eyes at him.

"She spends almost every night in your bed, has two drawers in your room for clothes, and let's not forget her shelf in the bathroom cabinet." May says as her smirk grows with every word.

"Fine... She lives here." Peter reluctantly gives in to her logic. "Is that a problem?"

"No, of course not!" May says genuinely. "I love MJ. If you two broke up, I don't know what I'd do."

"That's good to know, I guess?" Peter says, unsure how to feel about her confession.

After dealing with the Orb's momentary security, as Peter planned to move it to a better location with much more intricate protections, Peter called MJ and Ned and made it very clear that his basement is out of bounds to everyone who does not wish to die a very painful death.

At first, they thought that he was joking, as Peter was quoting Dumbledore for some reason, but they soon realized that he was being deadly serious.

Once they fully understood the danger, Peter dawned his suit, turned it black, and teleported over to Mystique, who was impatiently waiting for his arrival in an empty parking garage.

"What took you so long?" Raven glares as Peter walked through the portal. "You said twenty minutes... That was an hour!"

"Sorry, I was dealing with something." Peter says vaguely as the portal closes behind him. "Do you have the coordinates?"

"Yeah, in here." Mystique taps a finger on her forehead.

"Good, let's go." Peter says as he takes out his phone.

"Not so fast." She says, stopping Peter in his tracks.

"What?" Peter asks in confusion.

"I believe now is a good time to reveal my payment." Mystique says with a smile as she leans on the trunk of a car she stole to get here.

"Can this wait?" Peter asks with an annoyed sigh. "I'd rather take the Tesseract before Fury figures anything out."

"No, I need to know that you can deliver what I want." Raven says with a shake of her head. "As long as you agree, then it shouldn't take long."

"Fine, lay it on me." Peter says as he leans on a nearby pillar.

"I've lived a long life and will continue to live far longer." Mystique reveals as she morphs from a brunette woman to her blue original form. "It's a part of my mutation."

Her metamorphic powers and low-level healing factor have slowed the degenerative effects of her aging process, allowing her to biologically stay in the prime of her life for a long while.

"Okay, what does that have to do with your request?" Peter asks, ready to leave already.

Ignoring his rushed attitude, Mystique continues.

"Due to this, many people I've grown to care about over the years have aged and passed before me." She says and Peter started to understand where this was going. "I would like for that to stop."

"You want me to extend the life of everyone you care about?" Peter asks incredulously. 'I should have figured out a different way to perform Peggy's tests. Now everyone in the Avengers knows about the Elixir's effects.'

Though, getting access to all of the medical equipment the Tower has without leaving any traces would have been a challenge of its own, and they would have figured it out sooner or later anyway.

Especially when they found out that Peggy used to be a granny.

"No." Mystique denies and holds up two fingers. "Only Charles and Erik."

After running away from her own family, Mystique became an adopted sibling to Charles, so they have a loving brother and sister relationship.

As for Erik, the feelings in her heart were anything but brotherly love. Raven loved Erik as a man, which is why she made the reluctant choice to abandon her adopted brother and his ideology all those years ago and take the side of the man she loved.

'Are two sets of Elixirs worth an Infinity Stone?' Peter thought jokingly. 'Of course, they are.'

With enough of the Infinity stones, Peter could make an ocean of Resurrection Elixir with a snap of his fingers.

The trade was heavily in his favor.

Not to mention the fact that Peter didn't mind helping his fellow Avengers.

Watching Peter with a calm face, Mystique's inner emotions were turbulent as she hoped for an affirming answer.

"Sure, but the resources needed for such an operation are beyond rare. They'll have to wait until I can collect everything." Peter mixes the truth with lies.

Yes, the dragon bones were a rare resource, but he had enough to make the Elixir for four people at the moment. Those four people are himself, MJ, May, and Ned.

Peter also needed to get some for Tony as well.

He wouldn't waste the stash that he set aside for his loved ones on anyone, so Raven would have to wait.

Peter planned to hunt for more Dragon Bones in the future, while looking into alternative ingredients along the way, but she didn't need to know all of this.

"As long as you promise that they'll get the same treatment as Miss Carter when the time comes." Mystique looks to Peter for affirmation.

"Of course, you have my word."

Chapter 147: Dropping Major Hints

After closing the deal with Mystique, Peter was finally given the coordinates, which he swiftly put into his ghost phones GPS.

"Hmm, the map shows nothing but empty desert, but I'm sure that's Shield doing." Peter comments as he studies the terrain through his phone.

"Their secret base wouldn't be very secret if anyone can just pull it up on google maps..." Raven comments with a roll of her eyes.

"True..." Peter said absentmindedly as he looked over what little the GPS showed. 'I wouldn't put it passed Fury to change the terrain on the GPS as well, so this is likely a waste of time.'

Stuffing his phone away, Peter looked toward Mystique with an undecided expression under his mask.

'Should I do the rest myself?' Peter wondered.

On one hand, Raven's powers would be useful, as she can easily impersonate a Shield Agent.

Though, on the other hand, that plan was scrapped the second Shield was alerted to Mystiques snooping. Now the plan is to basically storm the base and take the Tesseract.

"So, how are we stealing the cube?" She asks, ready to fulfill her end of the bargain.

"Hmm, you can head back home." Peter says after a second of thought. "I'll take it from here."

"Huh? What about our deal?" Raven asks worriedly, thinking Peter was backing out of their agreement.

"You did enough already, so don't worry." Peter says with a shrug. "It's just that the new plan is a bit more forceful, which isn't really your strong suit."

"I see..." Mystique sighed in relief.

She was more than happy to ditch the dangerous base raiding and still get her agreed-upon payment after all.

"Are you sure?" Walking to her car door, Mystique turns back to ask. "You could cause a distraction and I can slip in and out?"

Mystique didn't know why she was asking this, as it would give her more work, but for some reason, she felt obligated to earn her payment.

"...Nah." Peter says with a shake of his head. "You may get caught on camera or something. It'll be easier if I just do it. Thanks though."

"Alright..." Mystique shrugs and gets into the car. As she drives away, her body morphed into a random woman.

'Now, who should I impersonate for this heist?' Peter thought as a lightbulb goes off in his head. 'Hm, that's a good of idea...'

Ronan the accuser stood in the observation deck of his flagship, all of space spread out before him as he stared off into the distance.

"Are you sure your father said planet C-53?" Ronan looks over his shoulder and asks specifically.

"Yes, why do you keep asking that?" A gruff female voice answers.

Standing across the room, a beautiful bald blue-skinned woman crossed her arms in utter annoyance. She wore a tight black and purple combat suit with many weapons strapped to her. From the tiniest of knives to the large blaster rifle across her back.

[Insert picture of Nebula here]

Nebula's many cybernetic enhancements were hard to miss, and so was her prickly personality, which Ronan has had to deal with ever since their armies departed.

Before their journey started, Ronan had his men look into Nebula's background. She was a former Lumphomoid assassin, an adopted daughter of Thanos as well as the adopted sister of Gamora, The mad Titans favored daughter.

She would serve as the right-hand woman of Ronan the Accuser during his quest to retrieve the Tesseract, which angered her to no end.

'Why must he be in charge? I'm supposed to be your daughter...!' Nebula lamented the lack of trust her father had in her.

Always the failure, which is shown by the countless cybernetic changes Thanos has forced on her body.

"..." Upon hearing her answer, Ronan got quiet and stared off into space once again. 'Vers shouldn't be on planet...'

Ronan has visited planet C-53 before, and he barely made it out alive. A very pesky woman destroyed many of his warships. He watched her glowing form do so from the very spot he stood now.

Of course, he swore vengeance for such actions, but achieving such a feat at his current strength would be almost impossible.

"How much longer until we arrive?" Ronan asks without looking back this time.

"37 hours. Though we can half that if we increase speed and leave behind some of the slower Chitauri ships." Nebula answers as she tightens her fists. 'I hate this man...'

Nebula hated being treated as a subordinate but would act her part. Otherwise, her father may schedule another surgery when she returns.

"Hmm, do it." Ronan commands after a moment of thought.

"What?" Nebula didn't expect him to agree.

"Increase every ship's speed to maximum." Ronan turns and walks to the door, passing Nebula along the way. "Half of our army will arrive late, but that won't change the outcome."

"Okay..." Nebula agrees in confusion.

"Fetch me when we arrive." Ronan commands as he walks out of the room. 'We have to strike quickly before Vers is notified.'

In the Middle of the Mojave Desert, a purple-skinned giant of a man walked along the hard rocky floor toward a mountain in the distance.

[Insert picture of Thanos here]

At the bottom of this mountain was a huge compound, surrounded by gates and tall towers. On top of these towers were Shield personnel, who held rifles in hand as they guarded the surroundings.

Inside the compound, multiple buildings were erected. One for the research facility that held the Tesseract, another for the soldiers, and a few others for other employees.

"Director, I'll guard this place with my life." An aged military man in an office of the barracks swears resolutely over the phone.

"Good, reinforcements will arrive soon. Just keep a close eye on the cube." Fury's voice could be heard over the phone.

"Yes, sir!" The man steels his resolve.

As the call ended, the military man had only a moment of silence before the compound's alarms started blaring.

'It's happening already?' He thought as he looked out of the window beside him, only to see a huge purple human crash land passed the walls and guard towers. "What the hell is that..."

As soon as the dust cleared, revealing a tall muscular purple alien, the sounds of gunfire filled the desert air. Usually, the soldiers were trained to try and peacefully detain any trespassers, but that didn't happen today.

A few jumpy operatives opened fire out of fear, which triggered everyone else to join in as well. Though something odd happened.

As the guns started to go off, the giant purple man started to move at a speed far faster than his size would suggest was possible. With the grace and skills of an Olympian Acrobat, the alien, metahuman, or whatever he was expertly dodged everything thrown his way.

"Lock down the research facility!" Breaking from his shock, the aged military man grabbed his radio and started barking orders. "I want every door leading to the Containment room sealed and barricaded!"

While the orders were given out, Thanos rushed toward the research facility and barreled through the front door, knocking it off its hinges with ease.

As soon as he appeared, more soldiers were waiting on the other side and opened fire in his direction.

As the bullets flew by, men and women in lab coats huddled in the corner like frightened rats. They were just getting ready to clock out and head home before this happened.

Standing still this time, each bullet hit the giant monster but sadly they couldn't break through his skin. As the bullets impacted Thanos and dropped to the floor with light clinking noises, the soldiers ran out of ammo.

"Weak..." Thanos muttered in disgust as he marched forward and threw the guards across the room with a swipe of his hand.

Similar situations unfolded as the purple giant invaded deeper and deeper into the research building. Blocked door? Break them down, deal with those inside, and move on to the next.

Though this routine changed as he broke yet another door and the sound of something rolling across the concrete floor was heard.

Looking downward, five grenades slid along the floor and stopped perfectly around his feet.

Resisting the urge to kick them back at the soldiers ahead, Thanos did nothing as they exploded in a big fiery blast.

"Did we get him?" One man asks as he looks into the smoke with his assault rifle lowered.

"Finally changing tactics..." A voice says from the smoke as the sound of footsteps head their way.
"I commend you for your effort."

Walking out of the smoke, the purple giant was completely intact. Not even his armored clothes were damaged.

"Now step aside." He towers over the humans and orders menacingly.

"...Y-Yes, sir." One of them squeaks out as the shuffle out of his way.

Behind them was a big vault door with a keypad on the wall to the side. Turning back to the frightened soldiers, Thanos gives them an offer.

"Open this door and I'll spare your lives when my army arrives to cull this planet." Thanos says, but no one steps forward to do so.

Either they didn't have the access codes or they're very loyal soldiers.

"I'll do it myself." Thanos tsk'd in disdain as he reached back and slams his monstrous fist into the metal door.

"Bang! Crunch..."

The metal door was instantly dented as his fist opened a head-sized hole. Grabbing the door by the hole, he ripped it backward and tore the whole thing off of the wall.

Inside, a few scientists were working around a glowing blue cube, which was wired up to countless machines.

[Insert picture of Tesseract here]

"W-Who are you?" Erik Selvig, a scientist that Shield found during the whole Thor debacle asked in shock.

"I'm inevitable!" He replies but goes quiet and marches toward the cube at the center of the room. 'Maybe I laid that one on a bit too thick...'

Plucking the cube from the metal table with his giant hand, Thanos admired it for a moment before turning to the people and cameras inside the room.

'Two down, four more to go...' Peter thought as he spoke in his Thanos voice. "I'll be back."

Leaving those words behind, he kicked off the floor and crashed into the ceiling, breaking through and disappearing.

...

Only seconds after he left, a heavily armed team of soldiers breached the room, followed by a very angry looking Nick Fury.

"The f*ck just happened!?"

Chapter 148: Tony & May?

Retreating to the desert mountain beside the Joint Dark Energy Mission Facility, Peter kept up the illusion that covered himself as he looks for a cave.

...

After a minute of leaping around the mountain, Peter found a cave and slipped inside, away from the onlookers as well as any spying satellites.

As soon as he was alone in the cave, Peter dropped the illusion. Instantly, the figure of the towering Mad Titan faded away, leaving Peter in his blacked-out spider suit.

Smiling down at the cube in his hand, Peter now had two of the three Infinity Stones that were currently on earth.

'I wonder how I'll convince The Ancient One to hand over the time stone?' Peter thought as that was the only one left on the planet.

While admiring the glowing cube, Peter's super hearing picked up the sounds of armed search parties making their way up the mountain.

'They're acting quick, huh?' Peter thought as he opened a portal to his bedroom and stepped inside.

By the time the armed soldiers made it to his cave, they would find nothing but the oversized footprints left behind by Peter's illusion.

The second Peter got home, he went down to the basement and disarmed the safe, so that he could admire the two Infinity Stones together.

Also, for the safety of his loved ones and anyone that enters his house. Though Peter wasn't thinking about that at the moment.

"This is so cool..." Peter muttered as he sat on the basement floor with the shining Tesseract and the metal Orb in his lap. "My precious..."

Peter felt his inner Sméagol coming out.

"You've changed a lot today... again." A familiar voice appears in the dark basement.

Jumping in fright, as he didn't expect the Ancient One's arrival, Peter holds both of the Infinity Stones behind his back.

"I won't let you lay your dirty hands on my precious collectibles..." Peter blurts out without thought. "Ahem, dangerous objects. That's right, I won't let these dangerous objects fall into the wrong hands."

"..." His teacher just stared at him as if he were an idiot. "If I wanted your 'precious collectibles', I would have taken the Orb while you were out. Impressive enchantments by the way. I could have broken them in seconds, but other Masters would have risked their lives disarming that safe."

"Thanks, I plan to create a better hiding spot for them." Peter said, happy to hear her praise, which isn't given lightly.

"You can give them to me?" She offers a helping hand. "I'll take good care of them for you."

"No, you'd most likely just return them." Peter says as he guards his collectibles closely.

"Well, would you blame me?" The Ancient One says with a sigh. "The Tesseract isn't that big of a deal, since you already screwed up the invasion timeline, but Peter Quill and his team can still be formed if the Orb is returned."

She gives her student a pleading look, hoping that he would see things her way.

"That's what you're worried about?" Peter mutters incredulously. "Just create a replica of the Orbs casing and put it in the temple. The Power Stone isn't needed for them to come together. All interested parties only have to think that the stone is inside."

"..." The Ancient One goes silent as she reluctantly agrees with her student's assessment. "Fine, I'll have a copy put in its place."

"I have no problem with that." Peter smiles in her direction. "See, we can work together."

"No, you messed up a good part of the future and I'm cleaning up your mess." She rebuts with a roll of her eyes.

"I like to think about it a bit differently. I took a very powerful weapon away from our enemy before he could take it, and you agree with my decision and wanted to help." Peter twists her words into a better light.

"Yeah... no." She says flatly.

"They say denial is the first step." Peter says in a know-it-all tone.

"I'm not in grief." The Ancient was starting to get annoyed with her student.

"Oh, is that anger?" Peter continues messing with her. "That's the second step, I think."

"..." Not wanting to entertain Peter's idiocy any further, The Ancient One left without another word, disappearing into thin air.

"Okay, enough messing around." Peter turns much more serious when he was left alone. "Time to make a portable container for these...!"

First, Peter didn't want to leave the Infinity stones in a single location. He would much preferred to always have them on his person, which would add an extra level of security.

Though, this would also add a level of risk as well. If Peter were to lose a fight, then the stones could be stolen from his body.

Or he could misplace the container, but that's unlikely and can be solved with a tracking enchantment.

Either way, Peter would stick to this idea, as the alternative is something like the safe, which he didn't like very much.

Spending the rest of the day working on this, It didn't take Peter long to make the perfect container for his valuables.

...

Standing over his desk tiredly, Peter admired a silver necklace with a small leather pouch that hung from it like a pendant.

The pouch itself is something that Peter found in Kamar-Taj and tweaked to fit his needs. It's pretty much a tiny bag of holding.

The inside was expanded to about 4 cubic meters, which is more than Peter needed so he didn't change that at all.

What he did change, however, was the runes that covered the spacious inside. These runes are multiple energy containment spells that are there to keep the tesseract from being tracked.

Peter knew that the Tesseract could be tracked by its energy signature, as Tony and Banner did so in the Avengers movie.

Knowing this, Peter has already placed similar runes around his house, as Fury is no doubt doing everything he can to find his stolen property.

Other than the energy containment spells, Peter did his best to make the bag as sturdy and resilient as possible.

As for the security, that comes from the silver chain, which has so many security and defensive spells that it isn't even funny. Using a magnifying glass, Peter could see the tiny etched enchantments he placed along the individual chains of the necklace.

Each small chain is one singular enchantment that is all connected to protect the pouch.

'I went a bit overboard with this, didn't I?' Peter thought as he cut his finger and placed a drop of blood on the chain.

A dim light pulses through the chain as the blood is absorbed and disappears.

'Now that I'm registered as the owner...' Peter reaches out and grasps the chain, hoping that he did everything right and it doesn't explode or something.

Nothing...

Sighing in relief, Peter grabs the pouch and pulls it open like a bag of chips. Instantly, the pouch stretches open wider than what seemed possible.

Looking over at the two contained Infinity stones, which were currently being used as paperweights on his desk, Peter placed them inside the pouch and closed it up.

"Done..." Peter smiles as he puts the necklace on. 'I'll need to change this when I get the other stones though...'

The Power and Space Stones could be stored in the pouch thanks to the fact that their power is already contained by their respective vessels.

The Orb and Tesseract.

The pouch would likely disintegrate over time if he placed any loose Infinity Stone inside.

'I'll worry about that later.' He thought with a shrug.

Admiring the look of his new jewelry in the mirror, Peter noticed how tired he looked and started getting ready for bed.

...

As he laid his head on to his pillow after a warm shower, Peter checked his phone and found a bunch of calls from Fury, alongside texts that pretty much spelled out one thing.

Avengers Assemble!

Of course, Peter wouldn't be answering that call right now. He knew what the calls were about.

After all, he was the cause.

His little stunt as Thanos probably sent the bald pirate into overdrive, but that was a problem for the morning.

'At least the Avengers will be wary of Thanos...' Peter thought as his eyes began to droop sleepily.

Bang

Just as he was about to fall asleep, someone slammed Peter's bedroom door open.

"What the..." Peter sat up and found a smirking Tony Stark standing at his door. "Why are you here?"

"Fury's freaking out about some sort of Barney the Dinosaur alien, and you weren't picking up your phone." He says as he strolls in and sits in Peter's computer chair. "So, I thought that since I know your super duper secret identity, I could stop by and see what's up."

"Who let you in?" Peter asks as the house has protections for unwanted visitors.

Only someone keyed in can grant other people access.

"Mr, Stark!" May's voice yells up the stairs. "Do you take milk and sugar in your coffee?"

"That would be your sexy Aunt." Tony says teasingly. "Yes, please!"

"Oh, god..." Peter mutters as he puts a pillow over his face and groans. "This has to be a bad dream."

"Hehe, I love knowing who you are." Tony enjoys the moment. "Maybe I'll ask your Aunt on a date?"

"..." tossing the pillow aside, Peter looks at Tony seriously. "You stay away from-"

"Mr, Stark!" May enters the room with a big mug and handed it to their guest. "I hope it's good. I recently started using a French press."

"As I said downstairs, just call me Tony." Taking a sip, Tony smiles up at her from his seat. "It's wonderful."

Tony sends her a flirtatious smile as Peter glares into the side of his head, annoyed with this entire situation.

Knock Knock...

Metallic knocking could be heard as Nebula stood outside of Ronan the Accusers sleeping quarters, tapping the locked door with her knuckles.

Though there was no response.

Soon, the knocking turned to banging as Nebula lost her patience.

Bang bang...

This seemed to get Ronan's attention as the doors swished open, and a fist flew at Nebula's face, knocking her backward and into the ship's metal hallway wall.

"Quit that incessant banging..." Ronan commands.

"You..." Nebula wipes some blood from the corner of her mouth and draws her blaster rifle on him. "You were the one who ordered me to get you when we arrived!"

Not only was she acting as a servant, but she was struck for her efforts as well. Nebula was really starting to hate her father's newest subordinate.

"We're here?" Ronan asks as he ignores the gun pointed at his chest and walks down the hall, turning his back to Nebula.

He knew she wouldn't fire.

"Aaagghh!" Nebula screams in anger as she forces herself to lower her rifle.

Her father wouldn't be happy if she killed his latest lackey...

Chapter 149: Visitors

"Are you sure you're Peter's Aunt?" Tony starts flirting with May right in front of Peter. "Because you don't look a day over 25."

"Oh... You don't have to lie like that." May says abashedly as she looks away for a moment. "I've come to terms with being an old lady."

"Ugh..." Peter groans quietly as he forces himself out of his warm and enticing bed. "May, you're 36. That's hardly an old lady."

Gasp

"Peter! You should never reveal a woman's age like that!" Tony fake gasps as he admonishes Peter.

"You shut up and stop trying to seduce my Aunt!" Peter says crankily as he pointed an accusing finger at Tony.

"What?" May questions as Peter starts getting dressed.

"I would never!" Tony denies swiftly, but Peter just scoffed at him.

"I wouldn't mind..." May squeaks out as the plot of her favorite Korean Drama show plays in her mind. 'I could date a handsome and cold CEO too...'

While May was off in her own imagination, the room froze as Peter and Tony stared at her in shock. Neither of them expected to hear that.

...

Suddenly, Peter's computer screen lights up with a red message as a beeping sound starts playing through the speakers. Not only that, but a similar sound starts coming from Tony's phone as well.

Turning to the computer screen, Peter and Tony instantly forgot all about what May just admitted.

[Visitors!]

"Visitors? What does that mean?" May was pulled from her daydreams.

'This is earlier than expected...' Peter thought as he and Tony turned to look seriously at one another.

During the summer, Peter and Tony both modified the Stark Industries satellites. They made it so the satellites would scan outward and notify them of any possible alien invasions.

Peter was able to convince him to do this by mentioning the former Kree invasion that Fury told them about, which worked perfectly.

Obviously, he did this to combat the New York invasion, as well as any other attacks on earth that would follow.

"It could be an asteroid..." Tony ignores May and offers up a viable excuse.

"No, we already fixed that bug." Peter replies negatively. "Besides, I doubt it's a coincidence that Fury is raving about a purple alien and now our satellites pick up something headed towards the planet."

'Talk about perfect timing...' Peter thought.

"Aliens are coming to earth?" May says as she starts to freak out a little.

"Maybe." Peter says as he whips out his phone and dials a number.

"Hey, Peter. I'm on the subway right now. I'll be there in a few minutes. I picked up some Chinese food from that place you like as well." MJ answers the call.

"Good, come directly here and be quick about it." Peter doesn't clarify any further and hangs up the phone.

With a wave of his hand, Peter opens a portal on the ceiling and out falls MJ's mother, Grace, who screamed in fright as she fell safely into Peter's computer chair.

"Huh, W-What?!" Grace stutters in shock as she looks around and realizes where she was. "Why am I... Is that Tony Stark?"

"Yes, hello beautiful." Tony takes the shocked woman's hand and lays a quick kiss on her knuckles like a true gentleman. "You can call me Tony."

"That's Fury's wife." Peter states with a knowing smile.

Instantly, Tony drops her hand as if it were a big hairy spider and backs away, wiping his mouth with his sleeve for good measure.

"What's going on? Who's Fury?" Grace asks in utter confusion.

'I'm really starting to regret keeping her in the dark...' Peter thought with an internal sigh.

"That doesn't matter right now." Peter says as he waves his hand and a portal opens above his bed.

"Ahh!" Ned falls through the portal with his phone in hand, which was playing a familiar hentai video.

He lands in the bed and instantly figures out what happened as he locks his phone, hiding the porn and silencing the sweet moans that played through the speakers.

"D-Dude!" Ned stutters in embarrassment, though he was thankful that his pants were still on as he was only browsing. "A little warning next time would be appreciated."

"Can't, Aliens are invading the planet." Peter reveals as another portal opens underneath him. "Be right back."

Peter disappears and the portal closes, leaving the shocked group alone in his bedroom.

"Did he say aliens?" Grace asks fearfully.

"Is that Tony Stark?!" Ned starts fanboying out of nowhere.

Before he could pester Tony too much, another portal opened and Peter walked through with multiple people over his shoulders.

"Is that my mom?!" Ned forgot about Tony and rushed over to what appeared to be his entire family. "What happened to them?"

"They're unconscious." Peter says as he lays them all on his bed carefully.

"Why?" Ned asks in confusion.

"Was I not clear when I said alien invasion?" Peter asks as he looks around the room.

"We get that but why are you gathering everyone here?" May asks.

"Because I don't need to worry about any of your safety while I'm out there repelling an alien armada." Peter explains as his Spider suit appears on his body.

"Y-You're Spider-Man?!" Grace exclaims in shock.

Before Peter could answer her, he could hear the door downstairs slam shut and some angry footsteps walking up the stairs.

"Peter Parker! You better have a good explanation for..." MJ stomped into the room expecting to give her boyfriend a piece of her mind after the way he spoke to her on the phone.

Instantly, the wind was knocked out of her sails as she saw everyone in Peter's room. Especially her mother who was currently looking at Peter in his Spider-Man suit.

"Good, you're here. That should be everyone" Peter says as he walks over to the wall by the door and touches it.

As soon as his whole hand was on the wall, golden spell lines and runes lit up and spread throughout the entire house.

"What was that?" Grace asks as she admires the golden nonsense on the walls.

"This house is now in lockdown." Peter explains as he walks over to Tony and opens a portal beside them. "No one is allowed in or out until I return. Just keep the doors and windows shut and the enchantment will keep you safe. There's enough food in the fridge and pantry to last a few months but I shouldn't be gone anywhere near that long."

"Wait!" MJ stopped Peter just as he was about to leave through the portal. "What's going on? Why are you locking down the house?"

Smiling under his mask, Peter walked over and took MJ into his arms.

"There's a possible alien invasion." Peter says as he pulls up his mask and surprises her with a quick kiss. "This house is the safest place to be so I brought everyone over."

"That's why you were such a d*ck on the phone earlier..." MJ mutters in realization.

"I wasn't a d*ck. I was rushed and I'm still rushed." Peter says as he pulls his mask back down and separates from MJ.

"Be safe..." MJ wanted to follow after him, but knew that she would only get in his way.

"I always am." Peter smirks as he follows Tony through the portal and it begins to close.

"May, If we all survive the aliens, I'll take you out to dinner." Tony calls out through the portal before it is fully closed.

"...Peter was Spider-Man all along?" Grace turns to her daughter and asks.

"Umm, yeah..."

At the top of Avengers Tower.

"... I'll take you out to dinner." Tony says as a slap connects to the back of his head. "Ow!"

"Stop hitting on my Aunt!" Peter says as Tony rubs his head in pain. "She's like my mother, you sick f*ck."

"What? She's a beautiful woman." Tony defends his actions.

"Don't you have Pepper?" Peter asks.

"Yeah, but she hasn't really been reciprocating my advances lately." Tony says embarrassingly.

"Oh? The great Tony Stark can't pick up a woman so he has to try and seduce my Aunt?" Peter's words seemed to hit a nerve.

"I'll have you know that I can seduce any woman!" Tony says as a teasing smile adorns his face. "And I'll prove it with your Aunt."

"I hate you so much." Peter groans as he somehow lit a fire under Tony's desire for his Aunt.

"I love you too. Just remember to call me Uncle Tony from now on." Tony says as he opens up the roof access door. "Now come along. I'm sure Fury will be happy to see you."

'I may have to kill him...' Peter thought darkly as he followed Tony onto the building.

Outside Earth's orbit, twenty giant ships rushed toward the planet. At the head of these ships was an even larger and more majestic flagship.

In the observation deck of this flagship, Ronan the Accuser watched as the green and blue planet grew larger as his army grew closer.

"Sir, we're in range for scans." A Kree subordinate says from across the room.

"Good, scan for the Tesseract's exact location." Ronan orders and his subordinates get to work at their stations.

...

"Sir... the energy signature disappeared." One of the more brave Kree broke the news of their failure.

"Do it again." Ronan turns to glare at his subordinate and orders.

"W-We've scanned for the Tesseract ten times, Sir." Another reveals.

"..." Ronan goes quiet as he looks at Earth questioningly.

"Did someone else take it already?" Nebula asks, hoping that wasn't the case as her father would probably blame her somehow.

"They must have found a way to contain the cube's energy." Ronan thought of the only other conclusion.

"How will we find it then?" Nebula asks in annoyance. "Don't tell me we have to scour the entire planet?"

"No, that would take too much time." Ronan refused as he wanted to be off of C-53 as soon as possible.

"Then what?" Nebula asks.

"I have an idea."

Chapter 150: War?

"They aren't waking up..." Ned says as he walks into the living room, where May, MJ, and Grace were sitting.

The TV showed a random news channel, though no one was watching at the moment.

"It's probably one of Peter's spells. He must not want them knowing about the whole Spider-Man thing." MJ says as Ned takes a seat on the couch.

"Then why does your mom get to know?" Ned asks as he points toward Grace.

"Well, other than the fact that we're together. My mother is married to a member of the Avengers Council. She would have learned about this sooner or later." MJ explains, which caused Ned to huff a bit.

"I just wish that I could tell them..." Ned says dejectedly, though he understood the reasoning behind it.

"Your father is an Avenger?" Grace asks in disbelief. "That's not possible."

"Yes, it is." MJ says as she explains her father's background. "Nick Watson isn't even his real name. It's Nick Fury."

"..." Grace goes silent for a moment as her mind processes all the lies she's been told up until now. "How long have you known this?"

Her tone carried a hint of betrayal, as she felt that MJ should have told her this already.

"I-I..." MJ didn't know what to say.

Thankfully, they were interrupted before her mother's glare could do any more damage. Suddenly, the TV cut to a black and white mess as a loud static sound played through the speakers.

Though this didn't last long.

Before May could grab the control to fix the TV, the static disappeared and a picture of a blue-skinned man took its place. Behind him was a big window with the image of the Earth in the background.

"Greetings citizens of C-53." The Blue man spoke with an air of superiority. "I am Ronan the Accuser. I have come to this insignificant backwater planet in search of a cube known as the Tesseract. Bring me this object within the next 18 hours or my army will invade and I will take the tesseract from the rubble of your barren home world. Your time starts now... Greetings citizens of C-53. I am Ronan the Accuser..."

The same speech replayed over and over.

"What the..." May mutters as she changes the channel, but no matter which one she chose, they were all playing the same thing.

"We're going to be okay, right?" Grace asks worriedly.

"Yeah, Peter will take care of them."

"... Your time starts now." Ronan says as the live broadcast ended.

Ronan chose that time frame specifically, as they left the Chitauri half of his army behind. Of course, he would rather just scare the planet into handing over the Tesseract, but if they don't give it up, he would rather attack with his whole army.

"Do we just wait now?" Nebula asked from the side.

"No, you will lead a stealth team to the planet." Ronan says as he turns to her and waves, shoos her off. "Make yourself useful and find the cube."

"..." Nebula seethed silently at her treatment as she begrudgingly turned and left the room.

Walking into one of the larger meeting rooms in the Tower, Peter and Tony found it filled with every current Avenger.

"Yo!" Peter called putting with a wave. "What's the occasion?"

"You'd know if you answered your damn phone!" Fury says angrily.

"Well, I'm here now. What's up?" Peter asks as he takes a seat beside Mystique, who was looking at him funny. "Tony said something about Barney the Dinosaur?"

"..." Fury glared in Tony's direction.

"What? I'm not allowed to joke?" Tony asks with a shrug.

"No, now shut up." Fury says as he starts explaining about Peter's heist of the Tesseract. "Banner and Beast have been trying to track its energy signature, but that hasn't been going well."

Fury's gaze immediately turns back to Tony as he glares in annoyance.

"We could have had a breakthrough in this by now if someone didn't run off without informing anyone." He says.

"Sorry, I thought that having our venerable leader here would help morale." Tony defends as he points toward Peter.

"Who made him leader?" Sabertooth asks with a scoff.

"Shut your mouth, Victor." Logan barks at his brother.

"..." Sabertooth glares and begins to growl, which is soon matched by Logan.

"If you two start fighting, I'll chain you both to a mountaintop for a month in the 69 position." Peter's commanding voice fills the room. "Don't worry though. You'll never go thirsty. After all, you can drink each others... Well, you know."

Instantly, the growling stops and the two look in the opposite direction. The room goes silent for a moment before Jarvis's voice appears out of nowhere.

"Sir, there's a foreign signal broadcasting across the world." The AI informs.

"Show us." Tony orders.

"Yes, sir." Jarvis says as a video plays on the large flatscreen for all to see.

"Greetings citizens of C-53. I am Ronan the Accuser..." Ronan appears and explains his hunt for the Tesseract. "Bring me this object within the next 18 hours or my army will invade and I will take the tesseract from the rubble of your barren home world. Your time starts now..."

"It repeats after this." Jarvis says as the video paused. "This message is being played on a loop through every television channel and radio station."

'What is Ronan doing here?' Peter thought in confusion. 'Shouldn't he be after the Power Stone?'

The ripples from the waves of Peter's actions have begun to really show themselves. Without Loki, Thanos was forced to send out Ronan the Accuser.

'I wonder if Nebula is with him?' Peter thought as she was assigned to him during his search for the power stone in the movie.

Nebula is one of the few characters that Peter felt bad for. Yeah, her sister Gamora was better than her in combat, but that doesn't mean Thanos had the right to do what he did to her.

'Forcing cybernetic enhancements onto your own daughter is just sick, especially an adopted child.' Peter thought as he remembered the idiots from his past life that agreed with Thanos' cause and saw him as a good man. 'A good man would never mistreat his family.'

"Looks like our satellites were correct." Tony says, drawing everyone's attention.

"What do you mean by that?" Fury asks and Tony explain the alert that they received.

...

"But, this doesn't make any sense." Professor X says.

"Yes, if they already have the tesseract, then why are they broadcasting this?" Magneto agrees.

"..." The room goes silent as no one had a viable answer.

"We could be dealing with multiple enemies." Peter says offhandedly.

He is the reason for this confusion, so he should clear it up. Of course, he didn't think the day he impersonated Thanos, an alien invasion would take place.

"One stole the tesseract already, while the other was a bit late to the game." Peter explains his thought-out lies.

"Makes sense..." Mystique agrees as she tries to cover for Peter.

"Yes, but how do we handle this?" Natasha asks next. "We don't have what they want. At this rate, we have 18 hours until an alien invasion starts."

"17 hours 53 minutes and 22 seconds to be exact." Jarvis informs them.

...

The room went silent again as everyone tried to come up with a plan.

"Why wait?" Peter was the first to speak.

"What do you mean?" Storm asks from beside Charles.

"Quickness is the essence of the war." Peter quotes Sun Tzu. "Waiting for the enemy to attack is pointless. We should strike swiftly before they can even break into Earth's atmosphere."

"I love the Art of War as much as the next guy, but I don't think old Sun Tzu was writing about an Alien Invasion." Tony says with a laugh.

"No, but he was writing about war, which this is." Peter says matter of factly. "Just think of this as a foreign country at our border."

"A foreign country with blue soldiers and alien tech. Should be easy." Tony says jokingly.

"I never said it would be easy, but there isn't an alternative." Peter says with a shrug. "Either we attack now, or we wait for the timer to run out and they attack. Either option is war."

"We could give them the cube." Charles offers his thoughts.

"Okay, where is it?" Peter asks sarcastically. "Oh, that's right. We don't have it, and for all we know, it could already be off-planet with Barney the f*cking Dinosaur."

...

All doubters went quiet without a word to say.

"..." Mystique was especially quiet as she wrestled with the idea of revealing what she knew.

Though after a few moments, she decided to keep her mouth shut. After all, Peter wouldn't feel very inclined to fulfill her request anymore should she out him.

"I know that we aren't soldiers, but this is war. A war that we are going to fight either way. It just so happens that my way will save a lot of innocent lives. If we can contain the fighting off the planet, that is."

"Did I hear someone say war?" Peggy says as she walks in with Steve beside her.

"Need any help?"