

Spider-Man 221

Chapter 221: Mystic Arts Revealed

As the hours ticked by, Peter didn't awaken, nor did he move very much either, though all of his vital signs were normal.

Well, about as normal as an enhanced human with superpowers could be.

...

Staying up the entire time, Tony paced back and forth in front of Peter's sleeping form, always vigilant for any sudden complications or elven assaults on the tower.

Though he wondered what that would look like?

When Peter slept for a whole 10 hours without waking, Tony tried shaking him, smelling salts, electricity, and a few other ways to jolt him back to consciousness.

Sadly, they all failed without eliciting a single twitch from Peter, who even slept while Tony dumped an entire glass of water over his face.

"This may be worse than I thought..." Tony muttered as he cleaned Peter up and put his mask back on. "Jarvis, call for a council meeting..."

"Messages sent, sir."

...

An hour later, the Avengers council was convened, minus one very important member, of course.

"What's this about, Stark?" Fury asks as he and the other members look to Tony for an answer.

"Well..." Tony took a deep breath and explained everything from Peter's sudden appearance in his workshop, coma, letter, elves, and the odd energy coursing through his veins.

"How long has it been?" Erik asks.

"A little over 11 hours." Tony answers as he grasps the letter in his hand.

"And you can't wake him up?" Charles asks.

"I tried everything that I could think of." Tony says with a shake of his head.

"I say we stop waiting and simply take him to the address." Fury says as he wanted to learn more about Spider-Man. "For all we know, waiting could make matters worse."

...

After arguing for a few minutes, everyone soon agreed to just take Peter to the address specified in the note.

With the threat of some sort of elvish attack, the council decided that it was pertinent that every member went along.

Though the real reason for this was simply curiosity.

After all, the Avengers Council is mostly made up of nosy old men.

Loading Peter into a blacked-out SUV, all five council members hopped in and took off toward Greenwich Village, which was close by.

As Charles drove, Erik and Fury looked curiously at Peter's sleeping form, both wondering whether they should pull up his mask.

After all, Spider-Man's true identity was a very large secret, which only those extremely close to him were allowed in on.

...

As Erik reached out to take a peek, a hand softly moved and tightly grabbed his wrist.

"Keep your hands to yourself." Tony says as a dangerous glint shines in his eyes.

"Easy for you to say..." Magneto scoffed as he pulled his hand free and turned to look out of the window. "You already know."

"Yeah, and I didn't learn his identity through breaking his trust." Tony says pointedly. "Want to know? Then show him that he can trust you."

"..." The rest of the car ride remained silent, as everyone thought over Tony's words.

They may spend a lot of time together, as co-workers, but none of them were fairly close to Peter, besides Tony of course.

They were typical work friends.

"Is this it?" Charles asks as he parks on the side of the road.

"177A... Bleecker Street." Tony reads the number on the door as well as the nearby road sign. "Looks right to me."

Unloading Peter from his seat, Tony carries him princess style, as he didn't trust the others after Erik's actions in the car.

Knock Knock...

Climbing the stairs, Fury tapped the door with his knuckles.

...

No one came to answer.

"Should we-" Charles speaks but didn't finish as Magneto stared at the metal handle of the door, as if he were constipated.

"Need the bathroom, old man?" Tony asks jokingly.

"I'm trying to open the door..." Erik says in a strained voice.

Giving up on the metal handle, Magneto angrily lifted his leg and kicked the center of the door, hoping to break it open with his super soldier strength.

As his foot made contact with the door, a blue light lit up around the wood, and Erik was launched backward onto the sidewalk.

"Huh, that's... interesting." Tony comments as Magneto picks himself up, mentally lifting the nearby mailbox with him.

Without a word, the metal mailbox shot like a bullet toward the door at amazing speed, but just as it was about to make contact, the door opened.

"Huh?!" A man grunted as a figure ducked, dodging the big public mailbox as it soared into the building and crashed into the stairs behind him. "What was that for?!"

Turning to the door, the Avengers Council found an Asian man in an orange monk robe standing in the doorway, looking p*ssed off.

[Insert picture of Wong here]

"Wait? Is that..." Wong asks as he saw Peter sleeping in Tony's arms. "Spider-Man?"

Although few of the more trust worthy high-level members of Kamar-Taj know about Peter's real identity, most of them only know Spider-Man as the Ancient Ones student.

Wong being one of those people.

"Yes, he said to ask for the Ancient One." Tony barges in, as they were starting to draw a crowd of fans outside.

"Right..." Wong says as he waves the others inside and closes the door, leaving the onlookers locked outside. "Wait here and don't touch anything."

Leaving that warning behind, Wong opens a portal and steps through, leaving the Avengers behind in shock.

After all, for many of them, the idea of opening a portal like that was impossible for anyone besides Spider-Man.

"You knew about this?" Fury questions Tony as he saw the calm look on his face.

"Well, he told me a little." Tony says as he motions toward Peter.

"Did he tell you what this place is?" Erik asks as he tried to use his powers on some nearby metal trinkets without any luck.

"This place is the Sanctum Sanctorum." A new voice says as a bald woman in golden robes appears at the top of the nearby staircase.

Looking down at Peter, who slept soundly in Tony's arms, the Ancient One instantly felt the power of the Aether emanating from his body.

"I see that my student has been up to trouble again." She strolls down the stairs and stops in front of Tony. "It's good to see you again, Mr. Stark."

"Uhh, you as well Uhh, Ma'am." Tony spoke like an idiot, as he didn't know what to say to the mystical Ancient One.

After all, many of the books that Peter gave him to study were written by her, and a few of them were thousands of years old.

Of course, this odd behavior from Tony only made the others more curious about who this person was.

Tony was never this respectful to anyone.

The Tony Stark that they knew would rather swallow a flaming sword than treat anyone with as much respect as he just showed this bald woman.

"Now, what to do with you..." The Ancient One mutters as her eyes land on Peter, ignoring the rest of the room. 'I should have known he would take Doctor Foster's place...'

With the smallest gesture, Peter was torn from Tony's grasp and floated in front of the Ancient One, who studied his body in silence.

"Let's wake you up..." Winding back her palm, the Ancient One smirked evilly as she eyed her sleeping student. "This may hurt... a lot."

-Asgard-

"It's good to see you again, Jane." Frigga says with a smile as Jane storms into the palace alone.

"Why are men so infuriating!" Jane practically shouts. "Your son has Heimdall watching my every move. Do you know how creepy that is? What about my privacy? What if I'm on the toilet?!"

"Well, Odin is very much the same, so he must get it from his father." Frigga says with a sympathetic look. "I remember when Odin was courting me all those years ago. The same day we met, I had a contingent of Einherjar guards following my every move. I had to use a spell to keep them out of my bedroom."

"Uhh, but I don't have magic..." Jane mutters as the doors behind her swing open, revealing Fandral and Volstagg, who escorted several prisoners, including a masked man with pale skin and pointed ears hidden under a hood.

"Queen Mother!" The two of them shout respectfully as they didn't expect to see Frigga.

The masked prisoner's eyes narrowed as he glared at Frigga, grasping his fists tightly.

-Flashback-

The king of the Dark elves stood over the bleeding stomach of one of his most trusted and loyal subordinates.

"You will become darkness, doomed to this existence until it consumes you." Malekith states as one of his dark elves placed a molten rock in his hand, which he stuffs inside the elf's open stomach. "And then no power of our enemies will stop me."

"I'll destroy their defenses and resurrect the universe." The bleeding dark elf says reverently as Malekith places a familiar mask on his face.

-Flashback End-

Chapter 222: Manipulating Reality

"This may hurt... a lot." The Ancient One said as her palm glowed in a golden light and juttied out, impacting Peter directly on the forehead.

"Argh!" Peter grunted as his eyes snapped open and his body flew across the room, crashing through a wall.

"Damn." Tony muttered in sympathy as Peter picked himself up and staggered out of the human-shaped hole in the wall.

"What the hell was that for?!" Peter asked as he felt a bit wobbly on his feet.

"To wake you up of course..." The Ancient One says with a smirk on her face.

"You could have done it without hitting me." Peter says, knowing that she was using this as a way to take out her frustrations on him.

After all, he was now in possession of three infinity stones, which further ruins all of her plans.

Though, the Ancient One's plans have been turned upside down for a long time now. The question was whether she would jump on the Peter train, or continue to stew in annoyance at his plans.

"I would never purposefully hurt my disciple. It hurts my feelings that you would even insinuate that." The Ancient One says as she wipes a nonexistent tear from her cheek.

"Oh, shut up." Peter says in annoyance, though something odd happened...

A piece of sticky duct tape appeared over the Ancient One's lips, sealing them shut in an instant.

"?" Peter watched in shock as he felt a sudden power drain in his body, though it wasn't anything significant. "Holy sh*t..."

The Reality Stone, which Peter has essentially merged with, allows the user to alter reality in effectively any way they see fit.

This includes changing reality in ways that would normally be impossible. The laws of physics basically no longer apply when the Reality Stone is concerned.

If Peter wants $2+2=5$ to be the new law of math, then he can make that happen.

The Reality Stone, perhaps more than any other infinity stone, is much more limited by the imagination of the user than anything else though.

"..." The Ancient One sighed as she ripped the duct tape off, which crumbled into dust between her fingers. "Great, now I have to deal with this..."

"Wait, did you make it disappear?" Peter asks out of curiosity.

"No." The Ancient One shook her head, refusing to help him any further than that.

"Is it not permanent?" Peter thought out loud.

The one real limitation that the Reality Stone has is that the changes it makes to reality are generally not permanent without the Power Stone to use as a sort of fuel.

This explained why he felt a small loss of energy from the Aether after creating the tape.

Peter only had so much power to work with...

Suddenly, Peter remembered when the Guardians of the Galaxy attempted to attack Thanos on Knowhere, and he turned Drax into cubes, and Mantis into a spring.

Luckily for them, they revert back to normal after the Mad Titan left, since he didn't use the Power Stone in conjunction with it, which would have made their new changes permanent.

"That makes sense." Peter muttered as the rest of the Avengers stared at the teacher and student in confusion. 'It's good that I already have the Power Stone, though I'm still not messing with that thing without a conduit.'

Infinite power in your bare hands is an explosion waiting to happen.

"Can either of you give me some context? I have no idea what you're talking about..." Tony asks, drawing Peter's attention to him and the others.

"Huh? Why is everyone here?" Peter asks as he turns to Tony with a questioning look. "I don't remember writing anything about inviting the council along."

"Hey, I was..." Tony says as he held up the letter and realized something.

He didn't give it to the Ancient One.

Seeing the sealed letter in his hand, Peter couldn't help but sigh.

"You didn't even give her the letter, did you?" Peter asks with a sigh.

"Well, we didn't really need it, and she kind of just smacked you awake after saying hello." Tony says with a shrug as he glares at Peter. "Why aren't I getting any thanks? I watched over you for hours, waiting for house elves to attack at any moment."

"They're Dark Elves." Peter corrects as Tony gives him a pointed glare. "And thanks, I guess."

"No problem." Tony says as he tosses Peter the sealed letter.

"Well, I guess this was a waste of time." Peter says as he tosses the letter into a portal. "So, no elves or spaceships have shown up, right?"

"No, it's actually been boring..." Tony says as Fury steps forward.

"What's this about elves?" Fury asks as he needed to prepare if another invasion would be happening.

"They're an alien race, which should be coming to Earth as we speak... unless." Peter says as he remembered their hatred for Asgard, the people that destroyed them 5,000 years ago. "Maybe they stopped somewhere else first?"

"Where?" Charles asks.

"How do you guys feel about visiting Loki's brother, Thor?"

-Asgard-

Shortly after being imprisoned in his cell, Algrim, the loyal Dark Elf, dug his hand into his stomach and pulled out a bloody stone.

The same stone that Malekith gave him only hours ago.

Crushing it in his fist, the stone melted into lava and was absorbed into Algrim's entire body, merging his clothes and helmet into his skin, and turning him into a giant beast.

[Insert picture of Kurse/Algrim here]

The other prisoners in his cell began banging on the cell's walls and calling upon the Einherjar for help, horrified by the sight.

Sadly, before they could make much noise, the new beast unleashed an explosion within the cell which killed everyone inside.

The impact of the explosion easily broke the cell open, releasing the new hideous dark elf, though he didn't stop there.

One by one, Algrim quickly broke open every cell in the entire prison, releasing all sorts of dangerous and deadly criminals.

In order to cover his movements, a distraction was in order, and these people would do just fine.

With their release, it didn't take long for Chaos to ensue as a war for freedom broke out between the guards and their former prisoners.

And in the shadows of this war, a grotesque Dark Elf snuck out of the prison in search of Asgard's shield generator.

Soon enough, loud alarms filled the palace as guards rushed to the prison to quell the sudden prison break.

"What's that?" Jane asks as she heard the alarms.

"The prison..." Frigga mutters as Thor comes running into the room.

"Mother, have you seen Jane..." Thor sighed as he found who he was looking for. "Good, you're here."

"Go, I will look after her." Frigga shooed her son off, as the King would be needed at a time like this.

"Fine, just don't leave the room!" Thor agreed as he kissed Jane on the cheek and rushed off, closing the door behind him.

Turning to Jane, Frigga grabbed her shoulders and spoke seriously.

"Listen to me now, I need you to do everything I ask and no questions." Frigga states strictly, as she felt something weird about this whole situation.

"Yes, Ma'am."

-Bifrost-

As Heimdall stood in his usual guard post at the end of the rainbow bridge, he suddenly heard something odd...

A metal creaking sound drifted to his ears.

Acting quickly, he turns and runs out onto the Bifrost Bridge and jumps off into open space.

Though, as he expected, instead of falling off into nothing, Heimdall landed on one of Malekith's ships, which was cloaked in invisibility.

As soon as his feet touched down, the Elven ship instantly became visible to the world.

Before he could even act, Heimdall turned and found a fleet of giant ships behind him, releasing countless smaller stack ships, and they were all headed toward Asgard.

Without a second thought, Heimdall pulls his sword and activates the shields but...

Arriving at his destination with a trail of mangled Asgardian guards in his wake, the monstrous Dark Elf found the room that held Asgard's Shield Generator, which was guarded by many highly trained Einherjar guards.

Though, sadly, they stood no chance against the thing that Algrim has become.

Using his new powers, the monster elf tore apart all Asgardian Guards he crossed, despite their best efforts to stop him.

Approaching the Generator with blood and guts covering his entire body, Algrim used his newfound strength to destroy it with a few powerful hits, allowing his King's Dark Elf army to invade Asgard unimpeded.

Heimdall watched as the shield failed and a fleet of 15 huge Dark Elf Harrows surrounded by hundreds of smaller assault ships invade his home.

The larger ships crash-landed into the palace, opening holes for their invasion force as they were designed to do, while the smaller ships caused chaos among the civilian population, slaughtering innocents indiscriminately.

'My King, we are under attack...' Heimdall mentally transmitted the details of the situation to Thor, before rushing to join the fight.

...

As Heimdall ran off to defend his home, a golden portal opened up inside the Bifrost.

Chapter 223: War in Asgard

After Malekith's ship crashed into the Asgardian Royal Palace, the doors opened and Dark Elf soldiers poured out, easily slaughtering the Asgardian Soldiers, as most of them were dealing with a prison break at the moment.

Leaving his ship while enjoying the one-sided battle, Malekith wanders off to find any members of the royal family, hoping to dye his hands red in the blood of Bor's children.

"Huh, looks like I was right." Peter muttered as he looked across the rainbow bridge, where Asgard was embroiled in what appeared to be a losing battle.

At least, for the time being.

"Damn, that's not good." Tony commented as he and the other Avengers Council members walked up behind Peter. "I'm going to need my suit."

"Here." Peter waves his hand and opens a portal to the tower.

Hitting a button in his watch, small pieces of Iron Man armor come flying through the portal and attach to Tony's body.

"Should we head out?" Charles frowns as he could feel the emotions of all the dying innocents.

"Yeah, you guys deal with everything outside the Palace." Peter says as he opens a portal and steps inside. "I'll handle the rest."

The Allfather twitched in his sleep, sealed inside his private chamber.

His wife and Queen, Frigga learned from her youngest son's schemes and sealed her husband's room with all sorts of ancient magic, keeping the former king of Asgard safe from any harm.

Thanks to this, no Dark Elves would be able to breach his chambers.

Though, Odin wasn't exactly having a peaceful nap today.

Although he may be asleep, Odin could watch the world around him and enjoy life as a fly on the wall, spying on anyone he had an interest in watching.

As long as they weren't cloaked in magic, of course.

Today was the hardest day of his most recent Odinsleep, the Allfather was forced to helplessly watch as his home was invaded and his people were massacred.

What made it even worse was the fact that he couldn't risk waking up early again, or else the consequences would be far worse than last time.

Death would be a real possibility.

Though, Odin soon started to seriously contemplate whether the risk would be worth it, as he could see every death that took place within Asgard's borders.

Not a single man, woman, child, or soldier was overlooked. The image of every single one of them was burned into Odin's mind, never to be forgotten.

Even his wife, who he always tried to protect, was currently locked inside her chambers with his son's mortal lover.

Just seeing his wife treat Jane as her daughter-in-law irked the former king of Asgard to no end, though he didn't exactly have time to think of his son's human fling.

After all, a powerful figure was currently skulking toward his wife...

...

"Do we just stay here?" Jane asked as Frigga locked the doors to her chambers with a quick spell.

"Yes, we-" Frigga replies, but the palace began to rumble.

Multiple explosions were heard as the floor shook with the power of a strong earthquake.

Looking out of the grand windows, Frigga and Jane could see the war raging on outside as well as the larger Dark Elf ships, which have forcefully docked into the palace.

"Who..." Frigga asked as she didn't recognize the enemy.

Boom!

Before she could think on it for much longer, the door that she just spelled shut only moments earlier broke open, sending pieces of wood and metal flying.

"I knew I sensed high-level Asgardian Magic in here..." Malekith says as he strolls into the room alone and unafraid. "The stench seems to be coming from you..."

Malekith ignored Jane completely as his glare landed on Frigga, who materialized a thin silver sword in her hand.

"Stand down, creature." Frigga says as she stands ready to fight. "Otherwise you won't leave this room alive."

"I have survived worse, woman." Malekith lazily draws his own sword, not impressed at all by his opponent.

"Who are you?" Jane asks from the side.

"I am Malekith, and I would have my vengeance!" He states and casually walks closer to Frigga, who ignited her sword in blue fire and strikes out at him.

As the two exchanged blades, Jane thought it was an even fight at first, though the strained look on Frigga's face contrasted with the calm and unbothered expression on the intruders.

'I am Malekith, and I would have my vengeance...' Odin's blood ran cold when he heard the invader's words.

He was just a young boy at the time, so Odin never encountered Malekith and his army of Dark Elves, but his father would tell him stories.

Stories of a hard-fought war and the man that equaled his father in power, Malekith.

Odin's hands gripped into tight fists as he watched his father's most hated enemy toy with his wife, enjoying the one-sided beat down, which would no doubt end in Friggas death.

'I have to...' Odin thought as he prepared himself for the backlash that waking up would give him.

"Ugh!" Frigga grunted as she was sent flying across the room by a boot to the gut.

"I see that my worries were for nothing..." Malekith comments as he strolls forward and rests his razor-sharp blade on Friggas neck. "Asgard has grown weak in my absence. Bor would be disappointed."

Crash

As he was speaking, Jane picked up an expensive-looking vase and smashed it onto the back of Malekith's head.

"!" Seeing an opportunity, Frigga reached over and grasped the bottom of a long curtain, which came to life and tried to wrap itself around Malekith's neck. "Die monster!"

Sadly, a fragile case wasn't exactly the best weapon Jane could have chosen, as it did nothing but surprise the Elven King, so when Frigga made her move...

Slash

Malekith merely swiped his sword, bisecting the curtain, which fell to the floors, lifeless once again.

"How pitiful..." Malekith mutters as he continues to ignore Jane and pulled Frigga to her knees, resting his blade against the back of her neck. "Any last words, Asgardian Wh*re?"

"One thing..." Frigga looks up at the Elven King and spits directly into his face. "That's all."

"Hehe..." Malekith chuckles as he wipes his face clean with his offhand. "You remind me of my wife before Bor killed her."

Raising his blade, Malekith mimicked the motion of an expert executioner.

"No!" Jane yelled in horror while Frigga stared at the floor unflinchingly, accepting her fate.

...

'Frigga!' Odin roared in his mind, though he didn't awaken...

After all, he didn't need to.

As the blade made contact with Friggas neck, instead of the gruesome sound of slicing meat and bone, everyone heard what amounted to a wet towel slap.

"Huh?" Malekith muttered as he looked down in shock.

"?" Frigga breathed heavily as she felt something cold on her neck.

At first, she thought it was blood, but upon hearing Malekith's reaction, Frigga looked at the sword that almost took her life.

The blade of Malekith's sword has somehow turned into a long wet napkin, which was still connected to the hilt, hanging like a limp noodle.

"Sorry, was that sword important?" A voice asks from the door.

Turning to the door, everyone found Peter leaning against the wall casually.

"Spider-Man!" Jane exclaimed as all of her annoyance with Peter disappeared in an instant.

"It seems that I owe you a debt once again..." Frigga says with a thankful look on his face.

"Eh, don't worry about it." Peter says with a shrug. "Thor and Loki would be sad if their Mommy died, after all."

"Y-you..." Malekith interrupts the wholesome moment as he glares hatefully in Peter's direction. "You have the Aether!"

"Is that what that angry sludge is called?" Peter pretends not to know.

"Hand it over and I'll spare your worthless life..." Malekith threatens as he kicks Frigga aside and storms over to Peter.

"No thanks. I'm finally starting to understand how it works. Like that..." Peter says as he points to Frigga, who fell into a pile of pillows, which Peter created with a single thought. "Isn't it quite handy?"

"Argh!" Malekith grunts angrily as he dashed toward Peter but...

Splat

He ran head-first into a thick wall of bulletproof glass.

"You should really watch where you're going." Peter says as Malekith shatters the glass with a kick.
"Oh, look out!"

Bang

A metal anvil fell from the ceiling and landed directly on Malekith's head, knocking him to the floor.

"This reminds me of Tom and Jerry..." Peter comments as Frigga looks toward him in shock.

"I-Is that the..." She mutters in shock.

"Why don't you guys go and sit with the Old Man? I'm sure he's been worried sick." Peter says as he waves his hand and opens two portals, which swallowed Frigga and Jane, sending them to Odin's chambers.

"Are you dead?" Peter asked as a long stick appears in his hand, which he uses to poke Malekith's body from a distance, like a child that discovered a dead body in the woods.

As the stick touched his pointed ears, Malekith's eyes snapped open, showing a furious anger raging deep inside.

Chapter 224: War in Asgard 2

Outside of the Palace, Asgardian soldiers did their best to defend against the Dark Elf invasion, though it seemed to be a losing battle.

Thanks to the surprise attack and the destruction of the barrier, Asgard's forces were caught completely off guard, leading to a sporadic and rather weak response, which completely crippled Asgard's military.

Though, one man has been fighting back successfully while slowly building up Asgard's forces.

"Follow me!" Heimdall exclaimed as he leaped off of a bridge and landed on one of a dozen small ships, digging his golden sword into it.

Seconds later, countless Asgardian soldiers followed him down, attacking the other ships with spears.

Due to the sudden damage, each ship spiraled out of the air and crash-landed under the bridge.

Of course, Heimdall and his soldiers managed to jump off just in time, landing a few meters away from the crash site.

"Keep moving!" Heimdall ordered, but before they could leave, loud humming filled the air and a huge shadow dwarfed the group of soldiers.

Looking up, Heimdall found a giant Dark Elf Harrow ship floating above them, as hundreds of smaller assault ships shot out, circling their location menacingly.

"Sir, what do we do?" A fearless Asgardian warrior asks, ready to die for his people.

"..." Heimdall remained silent as he watched each and every assault ship prepare to fire in their direction.

Creak...

Just as the ships were about to let loose, a loud creaking sound filled the air.

"What is that?" A soldier asks as the giant ship above them twists and turns.

In a matter of moments, the menacing ship folds in on itself and explodes, knocking the smaller assault ships backward, which causes them to fire their attacks everywhere but Heimdall and his soldiers.

Many of the ships actually shot each other, cutting their numbers in half in an instant.

"He's really showing off, isn't he?" A metallic voice mutters as a red and gold armored man shot overhead, toward the surviving ships.

A smile formed on Heimdall's lips as Iron Man hovered in the air and fired a bright beam from his chest, destroying dozens of ships with a single turn of his body.

"Now who's showing off?" Another voice comments as two men float over to Tony.

One balding and the other in a metal helmet.

The balding one closed his eyes for a moment and seconds later the remaining Dark elf pilots passed out in their ships.

Instantly, the remaining smaller ships spiraled out of the air, crash-landing in fiery balls of smoke.

"Okay, that was definitely showing off." Magneto says as he looks at Charles with a smirk on his face.

"Hey... where's Fury?" Tony asks as he looks around, finding Heimdall and his group down below.

"Who knows." Charles says with a shrug.

"He's probably skulking around somewhere." Erik comments offhandedly.

"Avengers! Thank you for your assistance!" Heimdall calls out, drawing their attention downward.

"You know us?" Charles asks in confusion.

"Yes, but now may not be the right time for this..." Heimdall nods as he turns to see countless other elven ships headed their way.

In the palace, Thor and his Einherjar guards finished subduing the prisoners and immediately rushed to combat the invading Elven forces.

Just as they were leaving the prison, which was now locked up tightly, a towering figure stood in Thor's path.

"Who might you be?" Thor asks as the ugly monstrous form of Algrim comes into view, grunting like an angered animal.

"Aaarrgggh!" Roaring like a mad dragon, Algrim runs over to Thor and his men, shaking the palace floor with every pounding stomp.

"All of you go on ahead. I'll take care of this thing." Thor spins his hammer in one hand and launches forward, slamming it down on the monster's chest with a loud bang.

Though, to Thor's absolute shock and surprise, the impact did absolutely nothing to Algrim, as if Mjolnir was a movie prop made of foam.

"How?" Thor uttered as a giant fist smacked into his face, launching him backward toward the Einherjar guards, who haven't left yet.

"Your Majesty!" They exclaimed as Thor smashed into them, knocking the armored men to the floor.

"..." Thor spat out some blood as he rose to his feet, turning to his disheveled soldiers. "Go back and find another way around."

"But your Majesty..." One of his men spoke up.

"Leave!" Thor commands as lightning dances from his hammer to his body, covering him in winding streams of blue energy.

Seeing their Kings real power appear, the Einherjar army reluctantly turn and flee through the prison, where they would find another way out and assist the army outside.

"Grrr..." The mutated Dark Elf growls and stomps over to Thor, who checked one last time to make sure his men have left, before giving all of his attention to the beast coming his way.

"If strength isn't enough, let's try lightning..." Thor said as storm clouds rolled in and covered the palace.

In the face of Thor's impressive light show, Algrim simply roars once again and rushes forward like a p*ssed rhino.

On the other hand, Thor remained unmoving as the lightning on himself gathered at the end of his hammer.

"Take this!" Thor swung Mjolnir forward, launching all of the built up energy at his opponent.

Of course, the stampeding monster had no thought of dodging, so the beam hit him square in the stomach, slowing his charge but certainly not stopping him.

"!" Seeing that he didn't have enough power, Thor pulled on the storm clouds above and slammed Mjolnir to the palace floor.

Instantly, all of the lightning outside came together to form a huge pillar, which crashed down through the palace rooftop.

Tearing through the palace floor by floor, the pillar of energy hit Algrim, completely covering his hulking body.

"Aaaaaaagghh!" The monstrous elf screamed in agony, as its body was quickly torn apart from the sheer amount of energy that enveloped it.

...

Once the lightning pillar cleared, nothing was left of Algrim but the dust that floated in the air where he once stood.

Thor, on the other hand, collapsed to the floor, exhausted and breathing heavily with sweat pouring down his body.

Never before has he wielded that much lightning at a single time.

"That was... a lot..." Thor muttered as he took a minute to catch his breath.

"Are you dead?" Peter asks as Malekith jumps to his feet, glaring hatefully in his direction. "What? You aren't still mad about the Aether thing, are you?"

"I will rip you open and take back what belongs to me!" Malekith seethed as the wound on his head from the anvil healed, closing completely in a matter of moments. "Darkness shall return!"

"I'd rather not..." Peter comments as Malekith held out his hand with a serious look on his face. "?"

As a few seconds passed, Peter watched as Malekith's expression contorted and strained from whatever he was doing.

"You okay?" Peter asks as he wondered whether he may have given the guy brain damage.

"How is this possible..." Malekith stared at Peter in shock. "The Aether won't respond... What did you do!?"

Due to his close understanding of the Aether, which he built up through thousands of years of use, Malekith should have been able to control the red sludge inside of Peter's body.

Though sadly for him, the Aether wasn't responding to his call whatsoever.

No matter how hard Malekith tried to rip the Aether from Peter's chest or possibly pull it out through his mouth, nose, eyes and ears, the Aether didn't budge a single centimeter.

As if it found a new master...

"Maybe it likes me more?" Peter said with a shrug. "I would like me more too. After all, you abandoned the poor little goo for 5,000 years. I'm tearing up just thinking about it..."

Instantly, a tissue appeared in Peter's hand, which he used to jokingly wipe under the eyes of his mask.

"..." Malekith boiled in anger as his teeth ground together. "I will not allow-"

Just as he was speaking, a train whistle echoed through the room, surprising the Elven King.

"Huh?" Malekith turned to see a bright light on his face.

Splat!

A huge Harry Potter-style train came out of nowhere and barreled through the room, hitting Malekith head on at full speed.

"I wonder where that came from?" Peter says sarcastically as he felt a considerable pull on the Aether's energy. 'Maybe I should keep things small from now on...'

After hitting Malekith and sending him into a nearby wall, the train crumbled into nothing and disappeared.

"Hey, you aren't dead this time, right?" Peter asks as a bloody Malekith falls from the wall and begins to crawl in his direction.

"I won't let you have it..." He says in a raspy voice. "The Aether belongs to me..."

"Alright, this is just getting sad now." Peter comments as he opens a portal under Malekith, who was too beaten to retaliate. "Have a nice bath in the sun. I'm sure it's warm."

Chapter 225: Nobility?

After the death of Malekith, Peter walked through the palace, helping the Einherjar guards with the remaining Dark Elves that were still sieging the place.

While Peter was dashing through the halls, killing Dark elves left and right, he ran into Thor, who was covered in sweat and tiredly making his way through the palace.

"Yo!" Peter called out with a wave. "What happened to you?"

"That doesn't matter..." Thor shook his head as he looked at his friend curiously. "What are you doing here?"

"I came all the way here to defend your home, and that's all you have to say?" Peter says as he playfully sulks.

"Thanks for the help..." Thor smiled as he started walking again. "We need to get to Jane and my Mother."

"I've already sent them to your father's chambers." Peter says as he follows behind Thor, who sighed in relief.

"Thank you, my friend." Thor says genuinely.

"No problem." Peter shrugs as he explains everything that has happened so far. "...As for the army outside, I brought some backup..."

Just as Peter says this, the two of them arrive at the front balcony of the Palace, where Thor was welcomed by a saddening sight.

"This is horrible..." Thor muttered as he saw smoke rising from the once prestigious city of Asgard, as well as the invasion force that flew all over the place, bringing chaos and destruction with them.

Boom

Before Peter could utter any comforting words, hundreds of small enemy assault ships exploded, while one of the few remaining gigantic Dark Elf Harrow ships folded in on itself before squishing into a giant ball of metal.

"What was that?" Thor asks as he watches in awe at the decimation of Asgard's enemies.

"I told you that I brought some backup, didn't I?" Peter says as the figures of Magneto, Professor X, and Iron Man rise up above the destroyed ships.

"Haha!" Thor started to laugh as he wiped a single tear from his eye. "It seems that my debt to you only keeps rising. Do you want to be King of Asgard? Because at the rate you're going, that's the only thing I can offer..."

"Eh, don't worry about it." Peter says as he smiles under his mask. "I have enough problems to deal with on Earth as it is."

"No, you must be rewarded-" Thor tries to offer but...

Suddenly, thousands of spears flew up into the air and rained down on a large group of Dark Elf assault ships, destroying hundreds of them at a single time.

"?" Looking closely, Thor and Peter found Heimdall leading thousands of Asgardian soldiers, who all waited for the ships to crash before retrieving their spears.

"It seems that your subordinates are fighting back as well." Peter comments as Thor starts spinning Mjolnir in his hand.

"I can't just sit on the sidelines, can I?" Thor says as he throws his hammer and launches out of the palace.

"Meh, I don't think they'll need my help..." Peter muttered as he strolled back into the palace, where he found Fury skulking around like a thief in the night.

"Yo, find anything interesting?" Peter asks as he appears behind the sneaking baldy.

"!" Fury jumps slightly as he turns to see Peter looming over his shoulder. "What?!"

"Don't be so angry..." Peter commented as a large group of Dark Elves came running their way. "I'll leave these guys to you."

After giving Fury a quick shove toward the incoming enemies, Peter walked off and left him behind.

It was easy for him to tell that Fury was up to no good. He was most likely trying to steal Asgardian technology or find some worthwhile information, so Peter decided to throw him to the wolves as punishment.

Looking back, Peter watched as Fury fought his way through the swarms of Dark Elves, who seemed to have no end to their numbers.

'He'll be fine...' Peter thought to himself as he strolled off.

...

Within a few hours, thanks to the combined effort of Asgard's forces and the Avengers, every Dark Elf was taken care of, leaving nothing but dead bodies and wrecked ships behind.

Sadly, Asgard was significantly damaged, but they would be able to rebuild with enough time and effort.

Though, they wouldn't be able to bring back those that were lost in battle, as well as the innocents who were slaughtered like animals in their own homes, neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces.

The city could be rebuilt, the dead would always remain that way.

Once Thor was sure that every last enemy was finished off, the clean-up officially began.

Every Asgardian came together to clean up their home and mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Luckily, Asgard has many sorcerers in their ranks, so the clean-up was quickly taken care of.

Of course, rebuilding would take much longer, but at least there won't be any rotting bodies laying around to spread diseases.

Speaking of the bodies, the Asgardians were all brought together for a proper funeral ceremony, while the Dark Elves were simply burned in large piles, leaving nothing but ash and dust behind.

...

"...and I would like to thank our Midgardian friends for their assistance in Asgard's time of need..." Thor mentioned Peter and the others in his speech at the ceremony for the fallen.

Due to the fact that a funeral was being held, the Avengers Council hadn't returned to Earth just yet, as they wanted to show their respect before leaving.

"Without them, we may have lost far more than those here today..." Thor started as he turned to look at his mother, who was still alive thanks to Peter's interference.

'Well, I couldn't just let her die.' Peter thought as he was saddened by her death in the movie.

Frigga always came off as a loving mother, who wanted nothing but the best for her children.

It's certainly possible that she made some mistakes with Loki, as it couldn't be all Odin's fault for the way he turned out, but that isn't enough to warrant her death.

In short, Frigga didn't deserve the end that she got, which is why Peter made sure to find her and save her as soon as possible.

Once Thor's speech came to an end, the dead Asgardians were loaded onto ornate boats and pushed across a large lake, where they were each set ablaze with fiery arrows from a distance.

This part of the ceremony took a long time, so Peter ended up sending Erik, Charles, Fury, and Tony back home.

They all had responsibilities to attend to, after all.

Though Peter stayed behind, as Thor asked him to stay for some reason.

...

"So, what's up?" Peter strolled into the throne room and asked.

Thor, who just finished with the funeral proceedings, sat on his throne with his Mother, Frigga at his side.

"Spider, come forward and kneel!" Thor orders in his serious kingly tone.

"Uhh, do I have to?" Peter asks as he walks over.

"Just do it..." Thor sighed as he felt like the atmosphere that he was cultivating was completely ruined.

"..." Reluctantly following his friend's words, Peter knelt down on one knee.

"Spider, as thanks for your many deeds in service of Asgard and its people, I hereby grant you citizenship as well as the noble title of Duke, second only to members of the royal family." Thor states as a smirk forms on his face.

"Uhh... Thanks?" Peter answers unsurely.

"No problem, my friend." Thor smiles happily on his throne.

"It's the least we can do after all that you've done." Frigga says from the side.

"I don't have to do any work, do I?" Peter asks, completely ruining the moment.

"Haha!" Thor started laughing instantly. "See, mother! I told you he would say that."

"No, you won't have any duties, unless you want them, of course." Frigga says with a sigh.

"Good..." Peter sighed in relief. "I don't mean to be disrespectful. It's just that I'm already extremely busy on Earth, so my schedule doesn't have room for any more responsibilities."

"It's alright, My Friend." Thor says with one last laugh. "We mainly gave you this title for the respect of it. No Asgardian can afford to look down on you now."

"Were they doing that before?" Peter asks curiously.

"Some." Frigga spoke up. "You have to understand that Midgard isn't exactly known for its strength. It will take time to change people's minds."

"Well, whatever." Peter shrugs uncaringly. "It's not like I care what other people think."

"I see, well at least you can enjoy the perks of citizenship. You did say that you wanted to buy a vacation home here." Thor says with a shrug of his own.

"Since we have your reward out of the way, let's talk about the Aether..." Frigga says as the room turns serious in an instant.

"What about it?"

Chapter 226: Returning Home

"What about it?" Peter asked as he knew that they would bring up the reality stone sooner or later.

"What are your plans with it?" Frigga asks worriedly.

She knew what the Aether really was, The Reality Stone.

Knowing this, Frigga and her sleeping husband didn't know how to handle the situation.

Thankfully, Odin was still hibernating.

"Nothing much." Peter answers with a shrug. "Probably learn how to wield it and use it for my usual hero stuff. That's about it."

"..." Frigga pursed her lips together in contemplation.

"I don't see what you're so worried about mother." Thor says uncaringly. "Even if the Aether is powerful, The Spider is a good man. He wouldn't use it for any nefarious purposes."

Of course, Thor stuck up for his friend, though he didn't know the true power of an infinity stone.

"It's not him that I'm worried about." Frigga says as she looks at Peter seriously. "There are some in our universe that would kill for the power you've been granted. Wielding the Aether will call these people to your doorstep, and they will do all they can to rip the Reality Stone from your body."

"Reality Stone?" Thor asks curiously.

"That is the true name of the Aether." Frigga explains briefly.

"If you're talking about Thanos, then you don't have to worry." Peter says, surprising the former queen of Asgard.

"How do you know that name?" She asks suspiciously.

"Because he sent an army to earth looking for something called the Tesseract, but we destroyed them before they could land." Peter says, earning an impressed look from Frigga.

"Do you have the tesseract as well?" Frigga asks as she knew what was inside the glowing cube.

At this point, Thor was merely listening along, as he had no idea who Thanos was nor anything about the Tesseract.

"No, but Thanos seems to think it's on Earth." Peter lies smoothly. "Either way, Earth has already drawn some unwanted attention, so the Aether or Reality Stone, whatever you want to call it, won't change much."

"..." Frigga remained quiet for a moment as she tried to figure out how to handle this.

On one hand, she didn't want to make any demands of her savior, and on the other hand, she knew her husband wouldn't like this.

Odin would want the Aether hidden once again. That way it could remain forever out of the hands of people like the Mad Titan.

"Fine, I will not interfere, but you should know some important information before making any decisions..." Frigga says as she goes into a long-winded explanation about the Infinity Stones and their origin.

"So there are six gems out there that can grant anyone god-like powers, and my friend here has one of them?" Thor summarizes everything simply.

"Yes." Frigga nods as she starts to second-guess herself. "Do you see why I'm so reluctant now?"

Although Frigga had some thoughts of confiscating the Reality Stone, she knew that Peter would simply overpower her should she try to take the Aether by force.

"No, if anyone can handle such a burden, then it's the Spider." Thor disagrees with his mother instantly.

"Thanks, Thor." Peter says genuinely. 'I wouldn't exactly call it a burden though...'

Yeah, having to worry about people like Thanos, and the possibility of blowing up from using infinite power was alarming, but the pros far outweigh the cons.

"Fine, I will not speak on this anymore." Frigga says with a sigh. "Just remember to be careful. Thanos will most definitely attack Midgard once again, and he most certainly won't be the only one."

"And Asgard will be there to defend its allies. No tyrants may attack the nine Realms without retaliation!" Thor says as he grasps Mjolnir and lightning began to spark randomly.

"And I will defend Asgard again should you need any help." Peter says with a smirk under his mask. "I would be happy to fight by your side when the time comes."

"Yes, as fellow Avengers!" Thor bellows happily.

"Sure, does that mean you want to join?" Peter asks.

"Of course! How could I not?" Thor says with a laugh. "I can't let Loki upstage me, after all."

"Alright, then you're hereby a member of the Avengers." Peter makes it official in an instant. "Usually the council would vote on any new recruits, but I already know that they'll say yes. I'll bring over some paperwork on another day, and you'll have to go through some training, but we can figure that out later."

"Training? I do not need training." Thor said as he had more training time than every Avenger combined.

"Everyone has to go through basic training. No exceptions." Peter says with a shake of his head.

"Thor is-" Frigga tried to argue for her son but...

"Fine, I'll accept the training." Thor agreed reluctantly.

"Good, I'll bring over some paperwork tomorrow and assign you a trainer as well." Peter said as he opened a portal. "Anything else before I go?"

"No, just remember to be safe." Frigga says, knowing the Aether will bring him nothing but trouble.

"I will."

As soon as Peter returned home, he finally had some time to sit back and think properly.

Firstly, he now has three out of six of the Infinity Stones, one of which he can actually use without any adverse side effects, making him a bonafide powerhouse.

What was even more shocking was how loyal the Reality Stone seemed to be.

Based on the way it could move on its own, and ignore the call of Malekith in their fight, Peter came to the conclusion that the red sludge liked him somehow.

At least, more than the dead Dark Elf King...

Peter wasn't sure whether that was playing a part in how easy the Aether is to use for him.

'This could explain why I slept for so long...' Peter thought, as Jane only passed out for a moment in the movie. 'The Aether must have agreed with me being its wielder, and kept me asleep for some reason? Maybe to get accustomed to my body?'

Although Peter thought that this was the likely answer, at the end of the day he had no idea if it was actually correct or not.

After all, Malekith must have had the Aether's consent at one point as well, yet Peter doubted that the Dark Elf King had similar control over the red sludge.

Or else he would have easily won against Asgard all those years ago.

Maybe if he had a conduit, like the one Peter was trying to build, then he could have possibly wielded similar powers.

Speaking of Conduits, Peter opened a drawer in his room, revealing six tiny wire-like pieces connected to small metal indents, which were made specifically to hold the Infinity Stones.

It only took King Eitri a few weeks to forge his order, and it only took that long because of the metals used as well as the intricacies of the blueprints.

"I may not need one of these anymore..." Peter muttered as the Reality Stone found a home in him somehow. 'Maybe I can use the extra conduit for something else?'

As for the rest of his order, the other Dwarves worked together to forge all 206 bones perfectly, earning their Vibrabium, which they split between themselves after a huge brawl to decide who would get the larger cuts.

Opening a larger drawer, Peter found the bones that would make up Lily's body.

'If I use the Reality Stone, I could make her a body today...' Peter thought, though he knew it would disappear without the Power Stone's help. '...'

Not only that, but using the Power Stone could also alert Thanos.

Otherwise, how would the Mad Titan know that the Space Stone was on Earth? He has to have some sort of tracker that lights up every time the Energy of an Infinity Stone is detected.

Suddenly, Peter realized something.

'He probably knows about the Reality Stone...' Peter thought with a frown.

After all, Peter used it once in the New York Sanctum and a bunch of times on Asgard.

Though, the Sanctum is most likely warded, so he may not know that it was originally on Earth.

As for Asgard, Peter wasn't so sure...

The reason Peter was so worried about Thanos knowing is that he didn't want to scare the Mad Titan away.

He would rather let Thanos underestimate him than anything else. After all, it's the enemy you underestimate who kills you.

'If the Sanctum is warded, then he may just think that the reality Stone is in Asgard...'

Chapter 227: Official Recruitment

Texting the Ancient One, Peter quickly found out that the New York Sanctum, much like all of the other Sanctums around the world, is completely warded to hide any energies.

So thankfully, Thanos shouldn't know that the Reality Stone is on Earth at the moment.

Though, that opens up Asgard as a definite target of the Mad Titan and his armies, which isn't good either.

'As long as Odin is alive, Thanos will have a hard time...' Peter thought, as The Mad Titan would have to use a lot of manpower to take Asgard. 'I just hope the old man wakes up soon, as his sleeping disorder could prove to be a real problem.'

Though the current problem at the top of Peter's list is how can he use the Aether without lighting up Thanos' gem radar like a Christmas tree.

'I need to get some books...' Peter thought as he portal'd over time Kamar-Taj and ransacked the library.

After spending the whole night reading up on barriers and other ways to hide certain energy signatures, Peter suited up and went over to the tower, where he collected all of Thor's paperwork and called in Hawkeye.

"You wanted to see me?" Clint says as he walks up to Peter, who was watching TV in Tony's living room.

"Yeah, follow me." Peter opens a portal and walks through.

...

Stepping through the portal, Hawkeye was met with the sight of an ornate throne room, filled with guards in golden armor.

"Hey, where is Thor?" Peter asked as the throne was empty.

"The King is in the dining hall, Duke Spider." An Einherjar Guard answers respectfully.

"Thanks." Peter says as he walks off with Clint following closely behind.

"Duke Spider? Seriously?" Clint asks, finding the title amusing.

"Shut up, I didn't pick it." Peter says with a small hint of embarrassment. 'It's not that bad...'

"Whatever you say..." Clint tries hard to hold in his laughter.

Arriving at the dining hall, Peter spotted Thor and the Warriors three eating and drinking together.

"Yo!" Peter calls out with a wave.

"My friend! You're back already." Thor seemed happy.

After saying hello to everyone, Thor and the Warriors three seemed to notice Clint standing awkwardly in the background.

"Thor, this is Clint." Peter introduces the two of them. "He'll be in charge of your basic training."

As Peter says this, he slaps the paperwork down in front of Thor and hands him a pen.

Meanwhile, Hawkeye stood to the side with a shocked look on his face.

Peter didn't explain anything before dragging him here, so learning that he would be training a new member, who happened to be the King of an advanced god-like alien civilization, was a bit startling, to say the least.

"Sign here... here... here..." Peter starts flipping through the many pages as Thor confusedly signs his name over and over. "That's it. You're officially an Avenger. Do you want us to send your paychecks to Jane?"

"I get paid?" Thor asks in surprise.

"Of course, every member has a generous monthly paycheck." Peter explains as Clint nods behind him.

Being an Avenger is the most lucrative job that Clint has ever had, and he isn't paid nearly as much as those with enhancements.

"Yes, send my money to Jane. After all, I have no use for it here." Thor says, happy that he could help make Jane's time on Earth easier.

"Sure, now you and Clint need to come up with a schedule and decide whether you will be coming to Earth for your training or the other way around." Peter says as he steps back to allow the two to talk.

"Are you sure he needs training?" Clint asks, as he felt weird about traveling across the universe for something like this.

Even now he's just realizing that this isn't planet Earth anymore.

"I told him I didn't need it..." Thor nods his head.

"Everyone has to go through training, you know that." Peter says as he looks over at Clint who reluctantly nods.

"Can't Natasha handle this one?" Clint asks as he looks at Thor uncomfortably. "No offense, but this is an alien planet right?"

"To you, yeah." Thor laughs.

"Natasha is busy with other recruits." Peter says with a shake of his head. "If being off-planet makes you uncomfortable, Thor will just have to come to the Tower for training."

"That's fine." Thor agreed easily. "I've been meaning to visit my brother anyway."

After settling the deal, Clint became Thor's trainer. Their first day of actual training would take place on the following day.

Of course, Peter decided to stop by and welcome Thor.

Though mainly he wanted to enjoy the show.

After all, Thor planned to meet with Loki, which would certainly be entertaining to watch.

Arriving at the tower the next day, Peter hung out with Lily as he read through one of the books that he took from Kamar-Taj, waiting patiently for the time Thor would arrive.

"What are you reading, Dad?" Lily asked, sounding a bit more mature than before.

Compared to her earlier childlike voice, which sounded like a 5-year-old girl, Lily now sounded around 9 or 10-year-old.

The change wasn't huge, but one thing was certainly different.

'She doesn't call me Daddy anymore...' Peter thought sadly.

It started a few weeks ago.

Lily suddenly started thinking of herself as an adult, even though she isn't, and refused to call him Daddy anymore.

It was like a switch flipped and his favorite word disappeared in an instant, leaving him no chance to ever get it back.

When the tragedy first took place, Peter came crying about it to MJ, though that was a huge mistake on his part.

She only made matters worse...

"What are you? A pervert?" She asked half jokingly.

Of course, Peter defended himself, but she refused to sympathize with him.

'Why would she? Lily still calls her Mommy...!' Peter thought as he felt pain in his heart. 'Life is so unfair...'

It was like his name disappeared and he couldn't fight for it, as Lily's mother would just call him a pervert even though it wasn't about that.

Hearing the sudden change in his name just made Peter realize that his cute cybernetic daughter was growing up extremely fast, which he started to regret more and more.

'I should have locked her at a normal human growth rate...!' He thought in sorrow.

Of course, he knew that this was just his emotions talking.

Lily isn't a human so limiting her to a normal humans learning and development speed would be torture for an AI.

He just missed his old name...

"It's a magic book about hiding energies." Peter explained as he showed her a page, which was filled with spell circles.

"Wow, can I learn magic too?" Lily asks as she has seen Peter do a few spells over the months she's been born.

"Maybe?" Peter answers unsurely. "We'll have to test it once you have a body."

"I'm so excited!" Lily exclaimed, as Peter pictured her jumping around with a smile on her face. "When do I get my body? I want to try so many things! Like pizza and clothes! I wonder what a hug feels like?"

"Well, I'll try my best to get it done." Peter smiles warmly at her excitement. "Though you have to promise that I get the first hug."

"Okay, but Mommy might be jealous..."

...

After talking to Lily for a while, Peter was alerted to Thor's arrival, though it wasn't hard to miss, as the Bifrosts beam shot down and impacted the Towers roof.

'I wonder if Loki is here?' Peter thought as the banished prince tends to follow Jessica to work almost every day.

leaving Lily to one of her newest TV shows, Peter walked up to the roof, where he found Thor waiting alongside Jane, who must have come along with him.

"Yo!" Peter waved as he saw them. "Ready for training?"

Sitting around with a bored look on his face, Loki waited for Jessica to finish with some paperwork.

Ever since Jessica joined the Avengers, she moved her entire Alias Investigations office to the Tower, which has been extremely good for business, though she didn't have much time for normal cases anymore.

While the two of them sat in silence, the tower suddenly started shaking, like a small earthquake was taking place.

Though those thoughts disappeared as Loki noticed a very familiar pillar of light, shooting down from the sky.

"Oh, sh*t..." Loki muttered as he saw the angled beam from a nearby window.

"What?" Jessica turns to look where he was looking and her eyes go wide in shock. "Is that?"

"I think my brother is visiting..."

Chapter 228: Sad Boi Hours

"I think my brother is visiting..." Loki mutters as he gets up and paces out of the door.

"What? Wait!" Jessica jumped out of her chair and rushed to catch up with Loki, who was already at the elevators. "Where are you going?"

"I'm leaving before the King of pompous muscle heads can find me." Loki says as he hits the down button on the elevator and waits for it to arrive.

"Why? He's your brother." Jessica asks as the elevator doors open.

"No, he isn't." Loki argues and he steps into the elevator and hits the button for the ground floor.

"Yes, he is." Jessica argues back as she follows him inside. "I'm adopted too, but my sister is still my sister. I don't know everything about your family, but you shouldn't write them off like this."

"That's exactly right." Loki turns to Jessica as the doors close, locking them inside alone. "You know nothing so keep your mouth shut."

"..." Silence fills the small space as the two of them glare into each other's eyes.

"Wait..." Jessica says in confusion as she turns to look at the doors.

"What about keeping your mouth shut didn't you understand?" Loki scoffs as he leans against the wall.

"We're going up, you idiot." She informs him with a vindictive smirk on her face.

"Huh?" Loki grunted as he looked above the door and saw the displayed number climbing higher and higher.

"Looks like we're meeting your brother after all." Jessica says, enjoying the look on Loki's face.

"!" Loki hopped into action and started spamming the buttons, hoping to redirect the elevator back downward somehow.

...

After a few moments of failing to redirect the elevator, Loki watched in horror as the elevator doors opened, revealing a smirking Thor on the other side.

"Brother!" Thor exclaims as he pulls Loki out of the elevator and into a big hug.

"Get off of me..." Loki says as he struggles to escape Thor's grasp.

"That's the scowl I've been missing." Thor smiles warmly as Loki pulled away.

"Why are you here?" Loki asks, looking at his brother as if he were a nuisance. "Shouldn't you be sitting on your throne, enjoying the perks of sovereignty?"

"Eh, being a King has its pros and cons." Thor says with a shrug as he reaches out to place a hand on Loki's shoulder. "But enough about me. How have you been brother?"

"Fine." Loki answers simply as he steps back into the elevator and hits the button for the ground floor for a second time. "Now, if you'll excuse me."

Sadly for him, the elevator didn't respond, remaining open and unmoving.

"..." After waiting for a few moments, Loki's glare turned to Peter, who stood behind Thor, leaning against the wall casually. "This is your doing, isn't it?"

"I don't know what you're talking about..." Peter feigns ignorance as Jessica walks up to Thor.

"So, you're Loki's brother..." She says as she eyes him up and down. "You don't seem that bad."

"Well, I wouldn't trust much of what comes out of my Dear Brother's mouth. He tends to make himself out to be the victim." Thor says rather eloquently.

"What?" Loki asks incredulously. "Don't presume to know how I think. You may burst a blood vessel."

Loki glares at Thor for a moment before shooing him away.

"If your plans were to see me, then be on your way. I have no need for you." Loki says dismissively.

"Nah, mother is handling everything for me today, so I'm free all day." Thor says with a smirk. "Speaking of our mother, she told me to give you this."

Thor hands over a sealed letter, which had Loki's name written in cursive on the front.

"Tell your mother that I'm not interested." Loki says as he makes no move to take the letter. "I was never her son, nor was I your brother."

"Do you see what I mean now?" Thor turns to Jessica with a look that said 'I told you so'.

"Yeah, I think I am." She nods as she looks back at Loki in confusion. "Loki, stop acting like a petulant child and take the letter from your mother! I'm sure she's been worried sick."

"..." Rolling his eyes, Loki ignores Jessica and looks to Peter once again. "Either you let me go or I will make your life a living hell. I may be powerless at the moment, but I assure you, that won't stop me."

"Sigh, you're no fun, Loki." Peter mutters as he looks at a nearby security camera. "Jarvis, let him go."

"Yes, sir." Jarvis answers as the elevator doors close, leaving Peter, Thor, and Jessica in the hallway.

"Loki has changed..." Thor says with a fond smile, surprising Peter and Jessica, who didn't know Loki as well as him.

"He seems the same to me." Peter says in confusion.

"The Loki I know wouldn't run away so easily. He would stay and annoy me to no end with quips and insults." Thor says as he looked down at his mother's letter and sighs. "I just hope that he'll continue to change for the better."

"I can take the letter to him, if you want." Jessica says as she reaches out to take it.

"Sure, I don't know how mother would react if I came back with the letter, so this may be for the best." Thor says as he handed it over.

"Don't worry, he'll read it." Jessica says as she hits down on the elevator, ready to go after Loki.

Just as it opened again, Thor called out to her.

"Lady Jess." Thor says, stopping her in her tracks. "Try to be patient with Loki. He has always boasted about being the smarter brother, but when it comes to love, he's an absolute idiot."

"?" Jessica was shocked by Thor's words of advice.

Thankfully for her, the elevator doors swiftly closed, cutting the conversation short and leaving Thor and Peter alone in the hallway.

"Well, that was entertaining, but Clint is probably waiting." Peter says as he walks off. "Come on."

Shaking off Thor's words, Jessica rushed to catch up to Loki, who she found walking down a crowded sidewalk with a deep scowl haunting his face.

"Hey, Pr*ck!" Jessica called out as she rushed over and grabbed him by the neck.

"Huh?!" Loki grunted as he was lifted off of the ground by a single hand and thrown into a dark alley.

Holding his neck and coughing, Loki sat up off the ground and found a very familiar woman standing in front of him with her hand on her hip.

"Why must you act like an animal?" Loki says as he glares up at her.

"Shut up and read your letter." Jessica says as she holds it out to him

"Why do you care so much?" Loki asks, but before she could answer, a taunting smile appears on his face. "What? Does poor little Jessica want to live vicariously through me? Maybe experience some motherly love?"

Jessica's mother died alongside the rest of her family when she was younger, and Loki knew this.

"You really are a spoiled little sh*t, aren't you?" Jessica uttered in frustration. "You have a mother who loves you... I would kill for that. My mother is long dead and the adoptive one I got afterward was a vindictive b*tch. You should appreciate what you have while it lasts instead of acting like some coddled teenage girl."

Ignoring the wide eyes of Loki, who had no words to argue back, Jessica tore Friggas letter open and read it aloud.

'If he isn't going to read it, then I'll force him to listen.' Jessica thought as she spoke. "Dear, Loki. During your time away, I have done nothing but worry. I know some punishment is needed for what

you've done, but this may have been a bit much. Though, maybe I'm wrong. After all, your father would always say that I spoil you and Thor too much..."

"...I just wish that you could come home already. Everything feels so empty without you here causing trouble." As Jessica read more and more, Loki's eyes began to water. "I've always tried my best to be a good mother, but recently I've started to second-guess myself. I look back on simpler times and wonder 'Did I give you enough love and attention?'"

A single tear rolled down Loki's cheek, though he quickly wiped it so no one could see.

"I know for a fact that your father didn't. He was always such a distant man, but I worry that I didn't show you just how much I truly love you. Did I say it enough? Did I hug you enough? Did I spend enough time? I can't answer these questions and that scares me." Jessica paused for a moment to wipe a few stray tears from her eyes before continuing.

Peeking over the paper, Jessica looked into the red eyes of Loki, who was doing his best to hold back tears.

"Please come home soon. I need my son back. If your brother can find his way back, then so can you. Don't keep us waiting long. It's lonely here without you. I love you, Loki. Signed, Your Mother, Frigga." Jessica lowers the paper and looks Loki in the eyes. "Wow, it must be so horrible having such a loving family. I couldn't even imagine it."

"..." Loki doesn't reply as he stared off into the distance.

Without another word, Jessica throws the letter in Loki's face and storms off.

...

Looking down, tears fell from Loki's eyes as he saw his mother's letter laying in a puddle.

Chapter 229: Uncle Tony

After sitting in on Thor's training, and watching Hawkeye get his a*s handed to him for a while, Peter left them to their business and went on his way.

He had to work on masking the Reality Stone's energy and also figure out Lily's body, so Peter didn't exactly have time to laze around forever.

At least, not at the moment.

That night, whilst Loki drowned his sorrows in liquor, a familiar man took a seat beside him at an empty bar.

"What can I get you?" An elderly bartender asks from behind the bar top.

"The same as my brother." Thor says as he turns to see Loki glaring down at the bottom of his glass. "I don't remember you being much of a drinker..."

Loki didn't bother responding as he downed his glass and snatched the drink that was meant for his brother.

"I thought we could have something in common for once." Loki says jokingly as he downs Thor's drink next.

Without a word, the older bartender refilled both glasses and gave the two brothers some space.

"Hehe, well I haven't had much time to drink like I used to." Thor laughs as he grabs both glasses and downs them within seconds, matching his little brother.

...

Throughout the night, both brothers drank enough liquor to kill lesser men. Neither brought up any family drama or politics, merely keeping each other company while using liquor to help ease the situation.

By the end of the night, Loki passed out in his seat, sleeping soundly while hugging an empty glass like a treasured teddy bear.

"I hope you come home soon, brother." Thor says genuinely as he pats Loki on the back and stumbles out of the bar.

As he left, Loki picked his head up from the bar top just in time to see a glimpse of the Bifrost's light, shining through the windows.

"Sigh..."

-One month later-

After spending a lot of time researching, Peter crafted his own spell, which could block the Reality Stone's energy signature from leaking past a certain distance.

Looking down at his new tattoo, Peter sighed as he could finally use the Aether without worry.

The tattoo itself looked like a very complicated spell circle that sat on Peter's right shoulder.

Its function was rather simple.

The spell binds itself to the Reality Stone's energy in Peter's body, muffling it like a sort of pistol silencer.

Though, like a silencer, it doesn't completely hide the energy's signature but lessens it to a certain extent, so that no one outside of Earth would be able to pick up on it.

'I think this is as good as I can get it...' Peter thought as he summoned a bag of chips and started eating.

Of course, the possibility of Earthly adversaries coming for the Aether was always likely, but that was far better than an entire universe.

'I'd much rather have some weak meta-humans come looking for it than alien armies or god-like entities.' Peter thought.

Finishing his chips, Peter tosses the bag to the floor, where it crumbled into nothing.

One good thing about the Reality Stone's lack of permanence is the fact that all foods will disappear from his stomach soon after being eaten, allowing Peter to eat whatever he wants without any fattening repercussions.

Of course, Peter never had to worry much about that, but the woman in his life certainly found the ability extremely appealing.

When May first found out, she spent the day pigging out on whatever she could think of, yet she actually lost weight in the process.

Of course, she couldn't do so regularly, as a healthy diet is important, but May certainly enjoyed a few reality bending snacks every now and then.

As for the other Infinity Stones, Peter would have to get a separate tattoo for each of them, as the one he has now would overload if it had to mask the energy of more than one of them.

Especially the power stone, which would break just about any spell with its raw energy.

Though, that was alright, as Peter didn't mind getting a few interesting tattoos in the future.

'This one's pretty cool...!' He thought as he stared at himself in the mirror. 'I wonder what MJ will say...'

...

When Peter figured out how to mask his use of the Reality Stone, an idea popped into his head.

"..." With a single thought, a working normal-sized clone heart appeared, floating in front of him.

The heart is a perfect mix between Peter's and MJ's DNA, and had no defects or other issues.

'It may disappear, but that doesn't mean I can't study it and learn what I'm doing wrong...' Peter thought as he portal'd over to his lab and started working.

Another month passed and Peter was finally starting to make real progress with Lily's body.

Thankfully, only a tiny bit of the Aethers energy was used to make a single organ, so Peter was able to constantly produce them for study.

Sitting in a machine, which mimics the functions of a humans Circulatory system, a healthy heart sat pumping blood into tubes, which would simply recycle it back to the heart over and over.

'I finally did it...' Peter thought with a victorious smile.

Today, The first lab-grown heart was created, bringing Peter one step closer to fulfilling Lily's wish.

"Oh, what's that?" A familiar voice asks as footsteps come pacing over.

Looking over his shoulder, Peter couldn't help but roll his eyes at the intruder in his lab.

"Tony, you should really respect other people's privacy." Peter admonished as he knew that Tony either hacked his way through the doors, or had Jarvis do it for him.

"Don't be such a shut in and I won't have to break into your lab." Tony says as he ignores Peter and looks over the heart curiously. "Are you growing organs? What for?"

"Sigh..." Peter let out a frustrated breath as he didn't bother replying.

"Come on. You can tell me." Tony pleaded as he made a sign with his hand. "I won't tell a soul. Scouts honor."

...

"You know what, okay..." Peter says as he eyes Tony like a devil with a deal to offer. "I'll tell you, but you have to do me a favor in exchange."

"Deal!" Tony, being the naive soul that he is, agreed instantly without a second thought.

"Alright, come with me." Peter opens a portal and steps through.

...

As Tony followed him through the portal and into a huge room, filled with shelves full of servers and other tech, the voice of a little girl calls out.

"Dad? Is that you?" Lily asked hopefully.

"Yes and I brought a guest." Peter says as he pulled Tony and pushed him in front of Lily's camera. "This is your Uncle Tony. He's very excited to meet you."

"Huh?" Tony grunted as he instantly put two and two together. "You made an AI daughter? That's what you've been hiding in your penthouse?"

"Yup, and now you get to babysit her the next month or two." Peter says as an evil smirk forms on his lips.

Of course, Peter isn't just abandoning Lily to Tony, as he would never put her through such cruel torture.

It's just that Peter has been busy with making her body, so he doesn't have unlimited time to spend with her, making Tony the perfect babysitter to fill the hour or two that he or MJ would be gone.

Especially since they have school as well, though Peter doesn't always attend as MJ does.

"You want me to babysit an AI child?" Tony asked incredulously.

"Are you saying that you don't want to spend time with your cute little niece?" Peter questioned back.

"Do you hate me, Uncle Tony?" Lily asked sadly, somehow on the verge of tears.

"No! That's not it." Tony exclaimed.

"Really?" Lily asked unsurely.

"Yes, I could never hate my niece." Tony says as does his best to smile warmly at the camera.

"Good, since you love your new niece so much, I'll leave you two to spend some time together." Peter says as he opens a portal to his lab once again. "Don't mess with anything. Especially her code. If I come back and my daughter is suddenly a boy or only speaks Mandarin, then I'll be extremely p*ssed."

"Dad said a bad word..." Lily says pointedly as Tony nods toward Peter understandingly.

"Sorry..." Peter apologizes for his language.

Stepping through the portal, Peter turns back for a moment.

"Thanks for agreeing to the favor, Uncle Tony." Peter smirks as the portal closes.

'He got me...' Tony thought as realized that he was fooled.

Suddenly, it dawned on him exactly what the lab-grown heart was for.

"Lily, is your father making you a body?"

Peter sighed in relief as he ditched Tony on his daughter, who would certainly make his life hell for a while.

After all, playing cyber house with an AI kid wasn't the most fun activity an adult could go through.

Of course, Peter wasn't afraid that Tony would mess with Lily's coding, as Peter warned him and the computer interface for it is locked behind tons of encryptions.

Not to mention the fact that Lily was now mature enough to guard her own coding, which Peter made sure to emphasize the importance of long ago.

'Tony would have to do some evil sh*t to bypass everything.' Peter knew that his friend wouldn't stoop that low.

Throwing his worries aside, Peter got right back to building Lily's body.

Since the first organ was made, Peter knew that growing the rest of her body would be child's play.

The only thing that he needed now was a way to bring everything together.

'Either I sow her up like Frankenstein or I use a bit of the Mystic Arts...'

Chapter 230: Body Formation

Another month passed and Peter spent almost all of his time invested in building Lily's body.

By this point, Peter had every bit of bone, organ, tendon, muscle, skin, and vein ready and waiting. He even had a pre-measured amount of things like blood, fat, and flesh.

Looking at his collection of body parts, Peter couldn't help but feel like some sort of serial killer.

'If someone walked in on me right now, they would certainly see me as some deranged lunatic...'
Peter thought with a shake of his head.

-Flashback-

Since he didn't want to make Lily into some sort of zombie Frankenstein monster, Peter returned to the library of Kamar-Taj and poured through book after book, looking for a way to combine every he had into a singular perfect body.

Though sadly, not a single book in the normal sections had what he was looking for.

'Did she remove any books related to human experimentation?' Peter wondered as it seemed like something the Ancient One would do.

Since the normal side of the library didn't have what he needed, Peter checked the restricted section next.

Although he is supposed to ask his teacher before taking any books from this particular section, she wasn't currently available, so Peter simply lied to the librarian.

"Do you have permission from the Ancient One?" An elderly man asks from behind his desk.

"Of course." Peter says as he leaves the man to his crossword puzzle and starts perusing the locked-up books.

Being a student of the Ancient One has many perks, but the best one of all is the fact that everyone takes Peter's word for his teachers.

If he was anyone else, the elderly librarian would have thrown him out and asked the Ancient One for confirmation, yet Peter gets a pass in situations like this.

The librarian didn't even stand from his chair let alone bother himself with whatever Peter was up to.

...

As Peter looked through the much more dangerous section of the library, he instantly found three books related to human experimentation.

One book was about using dead animals to give humans animalistic properties, while another wrote about healing the body with human sacrifice.

'No wonder these are locked up...' Peter thought in disgust as he saw a page depicting a human-pig variant, which looked about as ugly and monstrous as it could possibly be. 'I'm definitely staying far away from that book.'

...

After looking through the restricted section for almost an hour, Peter found two books that should be able to help him.

The first one is a book about reattaching lost limbs through, once again, human sacrifice, while the other is similar but pertains more to organ transplants.

Using those two books, Peter would have to build his own spell to, hopefully, put Lily's body together in an instant.

Of course, without the human sacrifice portion.

Taking the books, Peter signed them out under his name and left as usual.

'The Ancient One would probably find out about this soon enough...' Peter thought, knowing that he would get a stern talking to when his teacher returned from whatever dimension she ran off to.

-Flashback End-

With the right books in his possession, Peter spent the whole month making the ingredients for his daughter's body, while also crafting a complicated new spell.

Thankfully, he had some experience in spell crafting, so it didn't take that long before he had everything made and ready as he wanted.

Turning his back to the serial killer's wall of body parts, Peter picked up a fresh-looking book and opened it up to a certain page, where he found his newest spell.

The body formation spell.

A diagram was drawn, showing the structure of the spell circle, as well as the ingredients needed and their placement.

Below all of that was a long paragraph, written in a mix of multiple dead languages, which he would use as a chant for the spell.

The book itself is Peter's own personal spell book, detailing every spell he has ever made just in case he were to forget them.

Though, the main reason was that he liked the idea of having his own spell book.

'It's finally time...' Peter thought as he started setting everything up.

...

That night, blood and body parts filled the floors of Peter's lab in an intricate design, which really made the place look like a gruesome crime scene.

The only things that stood out among the flesh and blood were the forged bones and a brain-shaped piece of tech, which would take the place of Lily's actual brain, as he needed to download her consciousness somehow.

Though that wasn't the only reason.

With a normal human brain, Lily would be held back by light years compared to a machine brain, like this one, which was made with the combined tech from both of the Kree and Chitauri ships.

The current human technology just wouldn't cut it for something like this, so Peter had to try something different.

Hence the alien tech brain.

"Okay..." Peter muttered with a small sigh. "Let's hope nothing goes wrong."

As Peter spoke, he took out his spell book and started chanting in an unknown language.

Instantly, a complicated golden spell circle drew itself in front of him, before expanding to cover the intricately placed body parts.

Soon enough, the giant spell circle lowered down onto the ingredients, getting brighter and brighter as it descended.

When the room was covered in a blinding light, Peter finished chanting and covered his eyes.

As the magical flash bang settled down and disappeared, Peter opened his eyes to find the naked body of a 10-year-old girl on the floor.

She had dark black hair and a skin tone that was only a few shades lighter than her Mother, though one thing drew Peter's attention immediately.

'Are those organic web shooters?' Peter caught sight of the small holes on the bodies wrists, matching the same holes on Peter and MJ's bodies.

Although she lay there lifelessly, Peter could see the rise and fall of her diaphragm, showing that she was alive and breathing.

"She needs some clothes..." Peter broke from his stupor and waved his hand, conjuring some casual clothes onto his daughter's body.

[Insert picture of Lily here. The best one will get a like from me, making her appearance official]

With her body made, Peter needed to run some tests, so he picked the body up princess-style and carried it over to a table.

Setting her down, Peter turned her head to the side and found an access port at the back, which he unlocked with his fingerprint and plugged a long cable into.

Tapping a few buttons on his keyboard, Lily's body shot up off of the table and started to move robotically.

"Motor functions seem to be working properly..." Peter muttered as he hit another button, which sent Lily's body into action again.

After spending the whole night sleeplessly testing his daughter's body for any errors or mistakes, Peter finally finished everything by lunchtime on the following day.

"No problems whatsoever..." Peter muttered with a relieved sigh.

Lily's body was perfect.

It didn't have any diseases, disabilities, tumors, or any functional issues whatsoever.

Opening a portal to his penthouse, Peter was excited to tell Lily the good news but...

"...Thunderstruck, thunderstruck. Yeah, yeah, yeah, thunderstruck, thunderstruck. Yeah, yeah, yeah, said, yeah, it's alright, we're doin' fine!" Loud music was blasted in the penthouse.

As Peter stepped inside, he found Tony holding the mouse to Lily's terminal and singing into it like a microphone, though no one would be able to hear his voice over the deafening sounds of AC/DC.

Walking over to the computer, Peter hit the space bar, which paused the song.

"Thunderstruck! Yeah yeah yeah!" Tony continued to sing even after the music stopped.

"Uncle Tony? What happened to the music?" Lily asked as Peter wasn't in frame for her to see.

"Huh?" Tony finally noticed that the music was gone. "Peter?"

"Dad?" Lily asked.

"Yep, I see that you're teaching my daughter about rock and roll." Peter says as he takes a seat in front of the camera. "Hello, sweetie."

"Dad, why did you stop the music?" Lily asked, sounding not so happy about it.

"You tell him." Tony adds fuel to the fire for his own amusement. "Your father just doesn't respect the classics."

"Oh, forgive me." Peter says as he pretends to be apologetic. "I just finished your body, but if you'd rather listen to music with your clown of an Uncle, then I won't bother you."

Without another word, Peter gets up and walks slowly toward his portal.

"Wait!"