



## xi. An Unwelcome Visitor

**A/N: If I get some of the dialogue or order of events wrong, forgive me, I am doing this based on memory only.** ↵

Auralie was a month into being 16 when she and Maria were accompanying Nick Fury to one of the scientific research Shield base. Over the course of time, she had been getting increasingly worried, especially once she found out that the organization was working to study the Tesseract, a magical cube that could be the key to unlimited power. The girl felt like the study was going to come back and kick them in the ass, and that was what she was dreading. When she, Nick, and Maria were running down the stairs, trying to get to the lab to discover the problem, she knew her worries were justified.

"Should we evacuate the base sir," Maria asked. ↵

"No," Fury responded.

"But..." Maria began to argue.

Fury said, "until such time as the world begins to end, we shall act like it intends to spin on. That means getting all the phase two supplies onto a truck and away from the Tesseract." ↵

"Yes sir," Maria replied, and began to distribute the orders to the lower level agents.

Auralie asked the director, "sir, what if the world began to end and we don't even know it."

"Well Agent Shadow," Fury said, "if that's the case, then we're fighting a losing battle."

The light bender and the director of Shield made their way to the basement where they found Dr. Selvik and the tesseract.

"Talk to me doctor," Fury barked.

"The tesseract," Selvik cried, "it's behaving." ↵

Fury glared, "is that supposed to be funny?"

Selvik shook his head, "not at all. It really is behaving. Last night it just turned on, all by itself. We turned it off, it turned itself back on. It's been leaking radiation. Nothing harmful. Just low levels of gamma radiation." ↵

"That can be harmful," Fury said. Auralie thought of Bruce Banner, the scientist who had become the Hulk, and agreed silently with Fury.

Fury asked, "where's agent Barton?"

"The Hawk," Selvik replied, "up in his nest." Clint came down from his place in the rafters. He shot Auralie a small smile, but was quickly back to business in this kind of situation.

"I thought I told you to keep a close eye on Selvik," Fury chastised. ↵

Clint shot back, "I see better from a distance."

"He's not wrong," Auralie interjected.

"The doctor checks out. He hasn't made any calls or contacted anyone outside the facility. He's been following our orders," Clint gave Fury the rundown of Selvik's activities.

Fury grumbled, "well someone's been tampering with the tesseract." ↵

"Sir," Clint said, "the tesseract is a doorway to the other side of space. Doors open from both sides."

Fury and Auralie both realized what the archer was saying. Auralie felt the sci fi geek inside of her jump at the thought of meeting a real life alien. But the Shield agent that she was knew that if someone was trying to open the door to earth, it was probably not for a good purpose.

Clint, Fury, Selvik and Auralie were all gathered around the room, along with some technicians and a few other agents. Maria was still dealing with the phase 2 gear.

Then the tesseract let out a pulse of energy, sending everyone staggering back as a portal opened. It was only opened for a second, but in that time, a being came through.

Auralie looked at the kneeling figure as the smoke cleared. He was holding a golden scepter that contained a stone that glowed with light similar to the tesseract. The person in question was dressed in alien garb, with shoulder length black hair and a smirk on his face. Auralie could feel darkness radiating off of him and knew the man meant bad news. ↵

The unwelcome visitor got to his feet, and Auralie found herself taking a step back. He looked at the scepter in his hand, then sent a ray blasting from the gem and destroying some of Shield's tech.

Nick and Clint had drawn their weapons and approached the man, Nick saying, "sir, you need to put down the spear. We can do this without bloodshed." ↵

"I don't think so," he said in a British accent, "I've come too far for anything else." ↵

"Who are you," Auralie called, her curiosity overwhelming her nerves and making her speak.

"I am Loki," he said, "of Asgard. And I am burdened with glorious purpose."

Selvik recognized the name, "Loki? Brother of Thor?" Loki glared at the astrophysicist in annoyance and Auralie suddenly felt like she was in a class and the teacher had called a student by their older sibling's name. The thought helped to relax her, and she summoned a small globe of light into her palm, preparing to fight if needed. ↵

Auralie cried, "like from the myths?" He nodded to her, and she knew she was correct. Auralie read all fantasy, myths included, so she was familiar with who Loki and Thor were, even if she tended to read Greek myths instead of Norse. ↵

"We have no quarrel with your people," Nick called, trying to get the God of Mischief to stand down. ↵

"An ant has no quarrel with a boot," he shot back. ↵

Fury's one eye went wide, "are you planning to step on us?" ↵

"I come with glad tidings," Loki said, advancing towards the agents, "of a world made free."

Fury scooped, "free from what?"

"Freedom," Loki continued, "freedom is life's great lie. Once you accept that, in your heart, you will know peace." He placed the scepter to Selvik's heart, and the doctor's eyes went a deep, unnatural blue. Loki was mind controlling him.

Clint ran at Loki, attempting to take him down. But Loki had quick reflexes, and promptly placed the tip of his scepter to Clint's heart. The assassin's eyes turned a dark, glowing blue, and Auralie knew that he wasn't their Clint anymore. ↵

Auralie knew she had to get herself and Fury out of there. The director went to grab the tesseract. Loki said, "please don't. I still need that."

Auralie shot an orb of light at him, which sent him flying back a bit. Fury tried to go for the tesseract, but Loki used his scepter to throw the director across the room. Then the villain shot Auralie a smirk and advanced toward her.

Auralie was not going to let someone mind control her just like that. She wrapped light around herself and turned invisible, slipping away from Loki and towards the exit.

Clint turned to the man that now controlled him, "sir, Director Fury and Agent Shadow are stalling. The tesseract is about to cause the building to collapse in upon itself. They mean to bury us." ↵

"Like the pharaohs of old," Fury shot back. Loki and Clint took the tesseract and Selvik and advanced towards the exit, including the agents in front of it. Auralie ran to her boss's side and wrapped light around him too, so they were both invisible to the eye. Fortunately, Loki was too focused on getting the tesseract to see through the illusion as the director and the agent slipped from the room. ↵

Maria was waiting for them, a look of worry on her face. As soon as Auralie let the invisibility drop, Maria hugged her sister tight.

Auralie indulged it for a second, before pulling away and saying, "we have an issue." ↵

[Continue reading next part](#) ↵