



xxxv. A Team Fights Together

If there was one decision more dangerous than taking on a superhero, it was taking on a superhero in their own territory. Of course, Hydra was not known for being smart. Their organization had been scattered, and the Avengers were arresting more of them by the week. So a few rogue agents decided to pull a desperate final mission. Infiltrate the Avengers Headquarters and end the superhero team.

No, Hydra really was not known for being smart.

The three infiltrators snuck in under the cover of night. They had high tech weaponry to make it past the security system. They were feeling rather good about themselves.

Overconfidence was never a good thing. Especially when it led to the belief that one could take on a powerful enemy. Hydra, however, did not realize that.

It was quiet and dark in Avengers HQ, and the three agents thought that everyone had gone to bed. Oh, how wrong they were.

The Avengers had been tipped off about the attack. So, Sam, Rhodes, and Bucky had slapped together a plan to defend their home and their information. Auralie, Pietro, and Wanda had been called in too. Usually, the Maximo twins and the shadow manipulator spent the nights at their apartment, but for a mission, they would stay the night.

They were all hiding, waiting to jump out and surprise the infiltrators. Sam and Bucky were hidden in the kitchen, Rhodes in the control room, Pietro was floating around invisible, and Wanda was behind the couch. Auralie was hidden in the closet where they kept the cleaning supplies.

"No sign of any movement. Progress to the living quarters," the lead agent said in a monotone voice.

Over the communication device, each of the Avengers had Sam, made an announcement, "alright. War Machine, Eclipse, let Quicksilver get their attention, then I want you to move in and start the fighting. Barnes, Scarlet Witch and I will attack from the other side to divide their attention."

"Yes sir," Auralie said, going into mission mode. When she was on a mission she was focused, determined, and thinking ahead. She ran through different scenarios and fighting tactics in her head. One thing the former shield agent had learned early on was that some people were not incredibly physically strong, but if they could strategize, it more than made up for it. Of course, years of training had made Auralie physically fit, but not as strong as many of her comrades. She could most definitely strategize though.

She heard the shrieks that meant Pietro had revealed himself to distract their enemies. Over the comms she said to Rhodey, "time to go."

"Copy," the other hero replied.

They both came out of their hiding places, moving fast so their enemies did not notice them. Rhodes had on both of his armored repulsor gloves, which he fired at one Hydra agent. Auralie, meanwhile, sent a roundhouse kick into the gut of another agent, who staggered back.

The agent reached for his gun and began firing. Auralie swore loudly in Russian. Now they would have to repair holes in the walls. Thanks a lot, Hydra.

Summoning shadows to her hands, Auralie dueled with the one man. Rhodey had another man under control, with a little help from Pietro and his distractive ghost powers. Bucky and Sam had teamed up to take on the third agent, and Wanda had rushed to help Auralie.

The witch summoned a red orb, which she hurled into the chest of the man they were fighting. He staggered back and shot at her. Wanda dropped behind the couch, the bullet whizzing over her.

"Alright, that's it, no one comes into Avengers HQ and fires a gun at my wife, not without consequence," Auralie said. She wished she had her light powers. Her shadow powers, while useful, did not have the same distractive ability. With her light powers, she could knock someone out or temporarily blind them. That would have been a useful skill to have in this situation.

Auralie, in her musings, had done the one thing that she should not do in a fight. She had become distracted. The enemy she was fighting kicked her in the stomach and sent her flying across the room, into a table. Dizzy and in pain, she slumped to the ground.

Pietro saw this and said, "Rhodes, do you need more help with this guy or may I go to my sister in law?"

"Go help Ali. I got this," Rhodey replied.

Pietro floated over to Auralie and began speaking softly to her, telling her that she was ok and to take it slow when sitting up.

Wanda, meanwhile, was not happy at all with these Hydra agents pathetic attempt to kill the Avengers. Her telekinesis wrapping around her opponent's gun, she threw the weapon to the side so he could not harm anyone with it. Then, her telepathy kicking in, she took control of his brain just long enough to cause him to go unconscious.

Rhodey had sent his enemy flying into a wall, and the man lay slumped on the floor, knocked out. Sam and Bucky had also managed to knock out their combatant.

Wanda ran to Auralie, and together she and Pietro helped the other girl to her feet. Sam, after confirming that Auralie was ok, said, "good work team. That was quick and efficient, just the way we like it. I'll call the police and have them find a jail cell for these guys. We don't have the staff at the moment to keep them here under guard."

"Sounds good. I'll start cleaning up," Bucky said.

"I'll relieve them of any extra weapons," Rhodes added.

Sam smiled with satisfaction. This was a success for the new Avengers. Sam knew that some people had been concerned about this team. After all, Sam and Rhodes didn't have powers, Bucky was still recovering from being the Winter Soldier, Pietro was dead, and Wanda was often questioned because of the sometimes unstable nature of her powers. But when they fought together, they were able to do their jobs just as well as the original Avengers, and people were coming to see that.

Then Sam realized that Auralie and the Maximo twins seemed concerned about something. Wanda had Auralie's hand in her own, and was looking at the palm. Sam strode over, only to find Auralie's hand glowing with light that they hadn't seen in over a year.

"Ali," he said, a question evident in his voice.

Auralie nodded, "I wanted my light back for this fight, and now here it is."

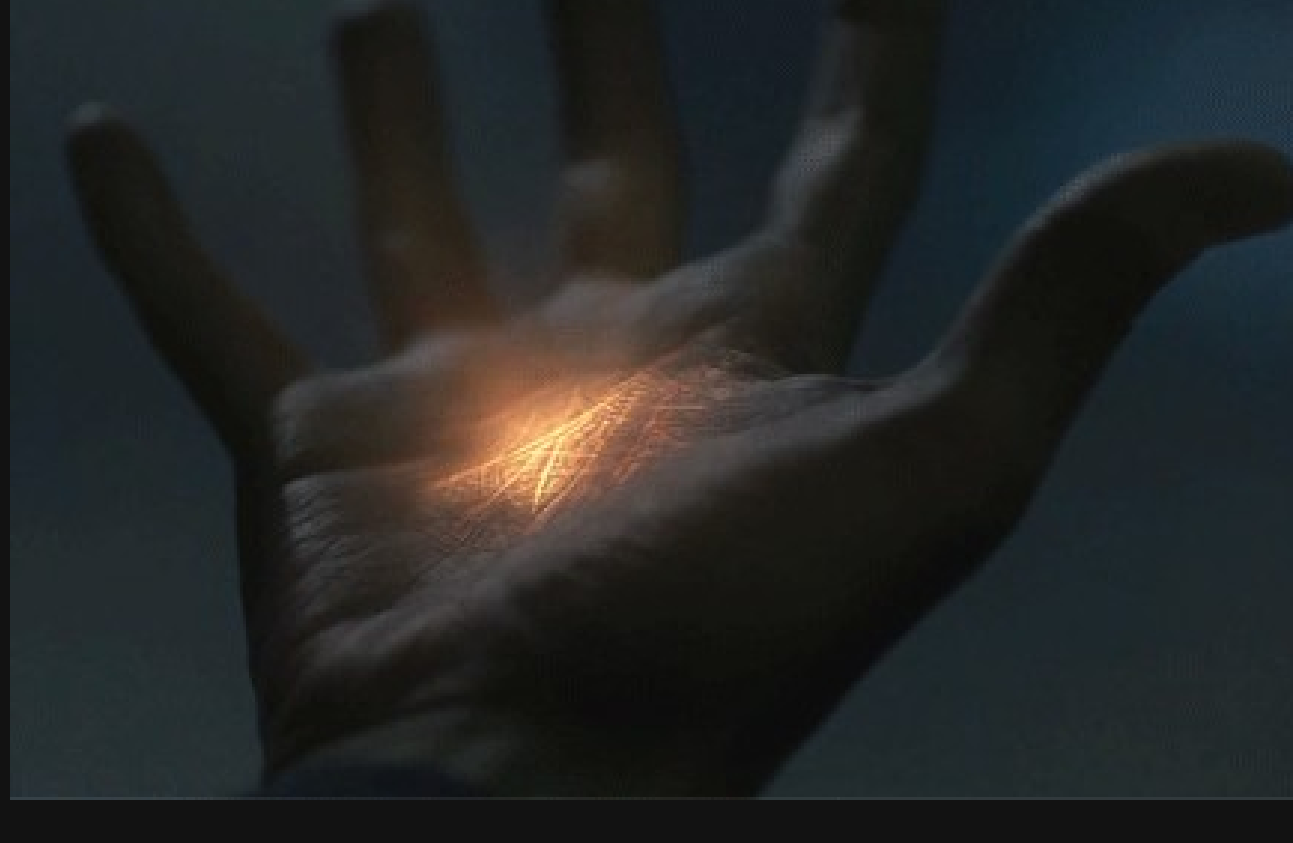
"So, no more shadows," Pietro commented.

Auralie held up her other hand, concentrated, and soon, shadows were trailing around it. Wanda sucked in a breath, "you must have powers for both and have only recently been coming into your full abilities, which is why before you couldn't use them at the same time. It makes sense. You get older, you get more powerful."

"Damn," Pietro whispered, "Ali, that's cool."

Auralie nodded, "yeah. That said, I got distracted during this fight. It shouldn't have happened and won't happen again."

"We all make mistakes," Sam assured her, "that's why we're a team, so we can help each other. Now, you three must wanna get home. Don't worry, I got this all under control."



A/N: I really wanted to include one more fight scene and also show how awesome the new Avengers are. I mean, I love the OGs but it's time we recognize the powers and strength of the new heroes. Also, I really wanted to finally show Auralie realizing the full extent of her powers, but in a way that still showed she is not all powerful. So yeah, light and shadow, just like the title of this book.

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