

iii. Creepy Parody

"I'm sorry, I was asleep," the broken, twisted, sinister looking Iron Legion drone said. He spoke slowly, testing his words, "or.....I was....dreaming."

It limped in farther, oil pooling from it onto the floor. Auralie muttered, "what the hell?"

Tony called out, "Reboot Legionnaire, we've got a buggy suit." He tapped at his phone, his face riddled with concern.

"There was a terrible noise, and I was tangled in..... strings," the robot continued, "I had to kill the other guy. He was a good guy."

"You killed someone?" Steve asked. He, Auralie, and Natasha were already in defensive positions. Maria had been for a while now. The others quickly followed suit.

"Wouldn't have been my first call, but down in the real world we're faced with ugly choices," the robot mocked them.

Auralie gritted her teeth, "I know that. I've lived it."

"Who sent you?" Thor asked, his volume rising with anger.

"I see a suit of armor around the world! Tony's voice came from the robot. Auralie's eyes flickered over to the billionaire and she saw he had gone pale.

"Ultron," Bruce whispered, exchanging confused and frightened looks with Tony.

"In the flesh. Or no, not yet, no this... chrysalis. But I'm ready. I'm on a mission," Ultron declared.

"What mission?" Auralie asked in horror.

Ultron replied, "Peace in our time."

At that moment, the other legionnaires burst through the walls, into the room. Their blue, glowing eyes had an eerie quality towards them that freaked Auralie out. Auralie dove behind the couch as they opened fire, her palms glowing.

Maria landed beside her, taking out a gun. Maria never went anywhere without a weapon, and rightfully so. A secret agent always had to be prepared. They began firing on the drones, one with light powers, one with bullets. The sisters worked in sync, like a dance that had been rehearsed a million times. Though they had not been born together, they were family and they defended each other as a family does.

The Avengers struggled with the robots. Steve (being the reckless man he was) had jumped on one and was giving it a weird sort of death hug. It crashed into a wall and he released it, falling. Auralie bristled with anger, no robot was going to hurt their Captain. She fired a bolt of light that sliced one of its arms.

The robot flew at her, and before she could react, it had grabbed her by the shoulders and threw her at the wall. She went flying, but Thor, ever the awesome friend, flew up and caught her before she hit the wall. He set her down and began dueling the robot.

Auralie aimed a blast of light and took out the drone. She called up to Thor, "thanks."

"You're welcome. Thank you for your assistance," he called back.

The battle raged on and soon the drones were destroyed. They all took a breath before realizing the original Ultron was still there.

Auralie was about to shoot him when he said, "that was dramatic."

Auralie narrowed her eyes, "you tried to kill us!"

"I'm sorry," he replied, "I know you mean well. You just didn't think it through. You want to protect the world but you don't want it to change. How is humanity saved if it's not allowed to evolve?"

He picked up one of the metal corpses and easily crushed its head, "with these, these puppets. No, there is only one path to peace, the Avengers' extinction."

Anger bubbling up inside of him, Thor threw his hammer and shattered the robot. The hammer returned to him and Auralie breathed out a sigh of relief.

However, Ultron's voice was still speaking, or rather, singing, a creepy parody, "I had strings, but now I'm free....."

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Thousands of miles away, a new Ultron continued, "there are no strings on me."

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A half an hour later, they were all gathered in the lab. They had changed out of their party outfits. For Auralie that meant she had on her new gear. She had ditched the Shield suit in the year since the Winter Soldier incident for a pair of black leggings, black combat boots, a creme colored shirt, and a black leather jacket that she may or may not have stolen from Natasha. Natasha was the queen of jackets.

Bruce was giving a report, "all our work is gone. Ultron cleared out using the internet as an escape hatch."

"He's been in everything," Natasha added, "files, surveillance. Probably knows more about us than we know about each other."

Auralie tensed. That could mean he knew about Elory. While the other dimensional magic user hadn't been heard from in years, Ultron having knowledge of her was not a good thing. She took a deep breath and reached for her sister's hand. Maria took it, and squeezed it, knowing how stressing this all was. It was so sudden too, at least with Loki they had a little time beforehand to learn about the Tesseract.

"What if he decides to access something a little more exciting?" Rhodey asked.

"Nuclear codes," Maria said, eyes widening.

"Nuclear codes," Rhodey agreed, "look, we need to make some calls, assuming we still can."

"Nukes," Natasha furrowed her brow, "he said he wanted us dead."

"He said extinct, not dead," Steve reminded her.

Clint added, "he also said he killed somebody."

Maria frowned, "but there was nobody else in the building."

"Yes, there was," Tony said quietly. He pulled up a hologram of what looked to be a golden sphere of interconnecting lines. It had been broken apart, interwoven with faint traces of blue. Auralie felt a shiver run up her spine. The sight of it was eerie.

"This is insane," Bruce muttered, examining Jarvis.

Steve looked down, "Jarvis was the first line of defense. He would've shut down Ultron. It makes sense."

Bruce shook his head, "no, Ultron could have assimilated Jarvis. This isn't strategy, this is rage."

Auralie looked to Tony and whispered, "I'm sorry." She knew how much Jarvis had meant to him. Jarvis had been his friend for so long.....

Then Thor stormed into the room, in full armor, ready for battle, and grabbed Tony by the throat, dangling him in the air. Auralie let out a cry of surprise, not expecting this sort of fighting.

"It's going around," Clint muttered, clearly unhappy with the whole situation.

Tony gulped for air, "come on, use your words, buddy." Auralie was reminded horribly of New York, three years ago, when Loki had used the same move on Tony. It must have been an Asgardian fighting style.

"I have more than enough words to describe you Stark," Thor bellowed.

Steve cried, "Thor, the legionnaire." Thor snapped out of it and put Tony down.

The god answered Steve, "the trail went cold about a hundred miles, but it's heading north, and it has the scepter. Now we have to retrieve it again."

"The genie's out of that bottle," Natasha pointed out, "clear and present is Ultron."

"I don't understand," commented Dr. Helen Cho, who had made it through the fight unharmed, "you built this program. Why is it trying to kill us?"

Tony began to laugh. Auralie looked at him in shock and Bruce shook his head frantically.

"How can you be laughing right now?" Auralie asked quietly.

Tony chuckled, "this is a problem right? Is this very terrible? Is it so.... is it so terrible?"

"This could have been avoided if you didn't play with something you didn't understand," Thor raged.

Tony's laughter faded, "I'm sorry, this is funny. It's a hoot that you don't understand why we need this."

"Tony," Bruce said, "now might not be the time....."

Tony snarled, "Really? That's it. You just roll over and show your belly every time somebody snarls." Auralie winced. She adored Tony, he was a great friend, but when he got carried away in his own fear and his own work.....

Bruce yelled, "only when I've created a murder bot!"

"We didn't. We were only close to an interface," Tony pointed out.

"Well you did something right," Steve interrupted, "and you did it right here. The Avengers were supposed to be different from Shield."

"Anybody remember when I carried a nuke through a wormhole? Saved New York?" Tony asked.

"No," Rhodey rolled his eyes, "it's never come up. Never heard that." Auralie rolled her eyes.

"Recall that?" Tony continued, "a hostile alien army came charging through a portal in space and we're standing three hundred feet below it. We're the Avengers. We can bust arms dealers all the live long day, but that up there, that's the endgame. How were you guys planning on beating that?"

"Together," Steve replied.

Tony sighed, "we'll lose."

Steve nodded, "then we'll do that together too."

"Yes," Auralie agreed solemnly. That was their promise. To avenge the world. She hoped they could stop Ultron before they had to fulfill that promise.

"Thor's right," Steve said in his "Captain" voice, "Ultron's calling us out. And I'd like to find him before he's ready for us. The world's a big place. Let's start making it smaller."

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Maria was leaving. She had someone she had to talk to, whom Auralie suspected was Nick Fury. They had just discovered that Ultron had killed Strucker and was working with the Maximov twins. Auralie really should have been in the meeting of the Avengers, listening, but she had wanted to wish her sister good luck, and also clear her head.

Maria hugged Auralie tight and asked, "what's wrong sis? You've been quiet."

Auralie pulled away, her eyes burning with passion and rage, "how can he say I don't want the world to change! You know how hard I've wanted for a better world, how hard I've tried to make a better world! I can't take the thought that someone believes I'm satisfied with a world that shuns people for being different, that judges based on appearance, and that is full of people who want to deny me the right to love who I love! How can he say I don't want things to change when it's one of the few things I've ever wanted?"

"I don't know Ali," Maria said, "he's confused. He has his facts all wrong. Ultron has a sound view of things. It might have come from reading the Youtube comments section."

Auralie chuckled and hugged her sister once more, whispering, "good luck."

Maria smiled fondly, "stay safe. Now go get back in their and be a hero."

Auralie nodded, pulled away and ran back inside. She raced in and heard Bruce asking, "what comes out of Wakanda?"

"The strongest metal on Earth," Tony replied, and as Auralie rounded the corner, she saw the genius's gaze falling on Steve's shield.

Steve looked at Tony and asked, "where is this guy now?"

A/N: A longer chapter, and the second one today. I wrote this all today! Be proud of me!

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