



x. Sokovia

Auralie and Pietro had been given the job of alerting the authorities before going to help lead the evacuation. Together they raced into the office of Sokovia's military, and Pietro cried, "we're under attack, clear the city."

They ignored him. Pietro sped off and Auralie was about to try and order them to help, when Pietro came rushing back in, carrying a machine gun which he fired multiple times. He said, "get off your asses."

Then he dropped the gun, picked up Auralie, who had started laughing at Pietro's dramatics, and left. They ran back to Wanda. Pietro began leading people away from the streets. Wanda and Auralie stood there, Auralie using her powers to direct people in the correct direction, Wanda using hers to alert everyone subconsciously that they needed to get out of the city.

The Avengers worked to evacuate as many people as possible. Once, Auralie spotted Tony flying by, carrying a family in a bathtub. Weirdly enough, that was not the weirdest thing Auralie had seen Tony doing.

That was when the robots began to appear. They crawled up from the river, onto the bridge. Auralie's hands lit up with a brighter light than she normally summoned. She was sick of this metal menace.

She began to fire upon the bots, taking down as many as possible. These seemed to be weaker, they were not as tough, they were more of cannon fodder, a distraction. Auralie wondered what they were distracting the Avengers from though.

Auralie looked around for the main Ultron bot. He was hovering in the air, surveying the damage he wrought. Auralie fired on him, but he was well made and built to counter her attacks. She looked around. Wanda was on the bridge, shielding everyone with a wall of magic. It repelled one, two blasts before one of the bots shot her from behind. She hit the ground and Auralie ran to her side, abandoning her fight with the main Ultron.

She helped a trembling Wanda to her feet. She sympathized with the girl. She remembered how big and impossible the Battle of New York had seemed. Those first times fighting alongside the Avengers could be very intimidating.

Auralie looked around. Steve and Thor had teamed up and were taking out Ultron bots using that trick with the shield and the hammer. Auralie smiled a bit. It had taken them forever to learn how to do it just right, but the payoff was impressive.

That was when the ground started to shake. Auralie fell forward, only just catching herself. She looked around. She couldn't see where Wanda had gotten off to. She couldn't see Pietro. She could see Steve and Clint and Tony though.

"Friday, what's happening?" Tony asked.

"Sokovia's going for a ride," the new virtual assistant, Friday, replied.

Auralie sucked in a breath. So that was what Ultron did with the remaining vibranium. He was taking the city into the sky. Auralie, at that moment, realized just how fast her heart was beating. For all the aliens coming from portals in the sky, for all the giant helicarriers full of Hydra agents, none of it had prepared her for something like this.

At that moment, Auralie wanted to see Maria. She wanted one of her sister's smart plans and badass fighting moves to save the day. She wanted to have Natasha help her make a dramatic entrance that took the enemy by surprise. She wanted Fury to pull his dramatic move, or even for someone like Sam to come and help. Because Auralie Shadow, for all her knowledge, was totally lost. She couldn't see a way to save the city. She couldn't see a way to save the world.

"Do you see the beauty of it?" Ultron asked, "the inevitability? You Avengers are my meteor. My swift and terrible sword and the Earth will crack with the weight of your failure. Purge me from your computers, turn my own flesh against me....."

Clint shot the drone down, but another rose to take its place, "It means nothing. When the dust settles, the only thing living in this world will be metal."

"Wow, I like metal music as much as the next person but that's hard core," Auralie quipped under her breath, trying to calm her nerves.

The battle ensued, and Auralie focused on taking out as many of them as possible. She heard a roar at one point and realized that the Hulk had joined the fray. That gave her a burst of confidence, but Tony hadn't come up with a way to save the city yet. Plus, there were still so many of the drones left to destroy.

Natasha had joined the fight, and she and Steve teamed up. Steve tossed her his shield which she used to take out several drones. Auralie let out a sigh of relief at seeing her friend was alive and relatively well.

Then she saw a car go over the edge. Thor dove after it and Steve caught a young woman who was falling over the side of the city. He pulled her up and they stood there, panting. Auralie watched with relief, still taking out drones, as Thor brought a man back to safety.

"What, were you napping?" Steve asked.

Ultron looked around and spotted Thor. Auralie called out a word of warning, but he didn't hear. It was only after Ultron snatched him that he realized what was happening. Auralie considered going after him, but Vision was already on it.

Auralie made her way to Steve's side, and together they applied their fighting skills to a legion of drones. One sneered at Steve, "you can't save them all. You'll....."

Steve had thrown his shield into that drone and had just hit the return signal. The shield came back and the drone went flying. Steve cried, "I'll what? You didn't finish."

Auralie sighed, "really Steve, that wasn't all that good."

"I know, I just wanted to talk," he chuckled, "now go help Barton and the twins."

Auralie ran off to find Clint as Steve began making a speech. She only caught the last line of it, but it would be a piece of advice that stuck in her head for the rest of her life.

Steve said, "the rest of us have one job. Tear these things apart. You get hurt, hurt em back. You get killed..... walk it off."

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