



xx. Crossbones

A/N: CIVIL WAR HAS BEGUN

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Auralie was getting herself a coffee at a small cafe in Lagos. They were on a mission, and Wanda was providing an analysis of the setting.

"It's a good target," Steve agreed. They (Steve, Auralie, Wanda, Natasha, and Sam) had all been given new earpieces by Tony so they could stay in contact easily. There had been a few disaster missions before without the earpieces, and well, it was basically them all running around the battlefield and hoping for the best. Though, to be honest, they did that even when they were communicating. Their team could be a bit of a mess sometimes.

Natasha asked something about a car and Wanda replied, "the red one? It's cute."

The chatter continued, and Auralie took her coffee and paid the man behind the counter. She smiled and sipped it, walking towards Wanda, who was sipping some coffee.

"You have to get used to watching your back," Natasha was telling the witch, seated at a table nearby from Auralie and Wanda's.

Wanda smiled a bit, "you guys know I can move things with my mind, right?"

"Besides, she has me to watch her back for her. We're a team, remember," Auralie locked eyes with Nat before taking the seat beside Wanda. She and the witch exchanged small smiles, and Auralie's heart fluttered. She shoved down the butterflies. They were on a mission, it was not the time to be nervous.

"It never hurts," Natasha lectured, even though she had told them it a dozen times before.

"Has anyone ever told you-you're a little paranoid?" Sam asked.

Natasha responded, "not to my face. Why, did you hear something?"

Auralie laughed a bit at that statement. Natasha was a little paranoid, but not without good reason.

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They waited for a few moments and then spotted Rumlow's transport. All of the Avengers stiffened, and then Steve cried, "he's not attacking the transport."

"What?" Wanda asked, getting to her feet, Auralie right behind her.

"GO," Steve yelled, "GO NOW!"

The trash truck vaulted over and into the archway, breaking down the gates. Auralie and Wanda launched into action. Wanda took to the skies, her red magic propelling her. Auralie ran after her, feet pounding against the pavement. They saw Sam taking out two of the enemy operatives, and heard him and Steve counting down the number of enemies. Natasha had run for one of their trucks, and Steve was trying to make his way over to Sam and Wanda.

Wanda landed, magic crackling at her fingertips. A man opened fire upon her and she made a shield with her magic, which the bullets bounced harmlessly off of. Her magic then reached out and grabbed the man, and she spun around, throwing him up so Sam could take him out.

"Four," Sam said, landing beside Wanda. Auralie finally caught up with them.

"Nice work Wands," she panted as Steve came up to them. Auralie and Sam were returning fire with the enemies.

"Just like we practiced," Steve called to the witch. Wanda nodded and used her magic to throw him up and through the window.

The battle raged on. Rumlow - or Crossbones as he had taken to calling himself - had found the bioagent. He had also released some sort of gas, which Wanda was now using her powers to get rid of. Auralie and Sam shielded her while she accomplished the task. Auralie heard an explosion from where Nat was, but soon the assassin was calling that she was in pursuit of the enemies, and Auralie knew her friend was just fine.

As they lowered the number of people shooting at them, Auralie kept tuned into her communications device. She heard Natasha struggling with two of the men.

"I'll drop it," she heard one enemy cry, "I will."

Then she heard the sounds of a scuffle. Sam shot Auralie a grin and Auralie smiled, realizing the Falcon had sent his new drone to the rescue.

"Thanks, Sam," Natasha called.

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Sam laughed, "oh, don't thank me."

Natasha sighed, "I'm not thanking that thing."

"His name's Redwing," Sam replied, "he's cute. Go ahead, you can pet him if you want."

Auralie laughed. Ever since Tony had made Redwing, Sam had been very attached to the drone. It was kind of hilarious, actually.

Auralie's good humor quickly faded, however, when she saw Steve had Rumlow on his knees, but Rumlow had a bomb. Determination creasing her face, she ran towards the two men. Wanda was ahead of her, having already le .

"I knew him, your pal, your buddy, your Bucky," Rumlow was saying, "He knew you. At least until they put his brain back in the blender. I was there. He told me, he said, tell Rogers, when you gotta go, you gotta go." Then Rumlow activated the bomb.

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Auralie screamed, but Wanda had already caught it, encasing the bomb in her magic, saving Steve and many others. Auralie breathed a sigh of relief. But then Auralie realized that Wanda was struggling.

She lifted the bomb higher and higher until her hold over her powers slipped and the bomb went flying.

Auralie ran for the witch as the bomb hit a nearby building and went off. Even though Wanda had saved so many people by taking action, if they couldn't save everyone it would still be a blow.

Wanda was horrified with herself. She had sunk down to the ground, her hand over her mouth, tears blurring her vision. She knew she was trying her best, but she still blamed herself. She wanted better control, she wanted to be better, but once again, she felt like the bad guy.

Auralie sat beside the woman and wrapped an arm around her.

Wanda leaned into the embrace, beginning to cry. The others started evacuating everyone.

"It's not your fault, it's not. It's Rumlow, don't blame yourself, you were only trying to save people. It's not your fault, even if they start to say it is," Auralie whispered, "we all lose control. We all make mistakes. It's just when people like us make mistakes, the results are greater and deadlier. That's why we try so hard not to screw up. But sometimes..... sometimes it happens, and there's nothing we can do. But it's not your fault."

Wanda nodded numbly, and Auralie wasn't sure if the witch heard her or not.

A/N: Hi, I hope everyone's holidays are going well. I saw into the Spiderverse yesterday and it was a cool movie. I saw like

animated. A comic book come to life, with the way it was

animated. Anyways, we've started Civil War, so be prepared for that.

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