



## xxxii. Prison

Auralie Shadow had been broken for basically all her life, and she had always managed to get back up. She thought nothing could be worse than her teen years when everything had first gone to shit. But then they put her in prison, and she had to admit, this came pretty damn close.

They had taken her away from Wanda. Oh, sure she had fought back, tooth and nail. She had kicked and screamed and made her skin burn with light so that they could not take her. But they hadn't cared. They just sedated her, and they sedated Wanda, who was still recovering from the shock Rhodes had given her.

Clint, Scott, and Sam had all been put in cells on the ra . Auralie and Wanda had powers, so they got it so much worse.

Auralie was in a cell between Sam and Scott, her hands encased in metal cuffs that could deliver a painful sedative at a moment's notice. They cut into her hands and her wrists. Her body trembled from the previous sedation. She hurt like all hell, she couldn't stand, she couldn't focus on anything.

But she was lucky, compared to what they did to Wanda.

They had taken the woman, who could barely walk on her own, let alone fight back, and they had drugged her, then put her in a straight jacket, and an electro-collar, which could deliver shocks powerful enough to kill, if necessary. They had used it too, any time she thrashed or tried to move. Though they had isolated her in a maximum security cell, Auralie could hear her screams.

Hours after their arrest, Tony came to see them. He came in. He was beaten up, but she didn't really care. All she could really feel was pain and fear. The pain was her own, the fear was for Wanda.

"Well well well," Clint leaned against the glass, "the futurist everyone, the futurist. He knows all. He knows what's best for you, even if it isn't what you want for yourself."

"Give me a break Barton. I didn't know they would put you in here," he said back.

Clint narrowed his eyes, "but you knew they would put us somewhere."

Tony spluttered, "yeah, but this, this is a place for..... for....."

"Criminals Tony," Clint said, "and thanks to you, that's what we are."

"You're a grown man Clint, you have a family. You should have thought about them before coming here," Tony fired back. Auralie then realized she was feeling a third thing. Anger.

"Hey everyone, you better watch your back around this guy. He might just break it," Clint roared.

Tony flinched, but he continued onward. Scott glared at him, "Hank Pym always said you could never trust a Stark!"

Tony looked over his shoulder at the man, "I'm sorry, who are you again?" Scott just sighed and threw his hands up in frustration. He continued walking, but he stopped when he saw Auralie in her cell, sitting on the bench, utterly miserable, those wretched cuffs digging into her hands.

"Ali," he said so ly, "Ali what did they do?"

"What do you think they did?" Auralie's voice was lacking in emotion as she talked, "they did what everyone does to monsters. They locked me up."

"But you aren't a monster," he rested his hands on the glass, looking at one of his close friends with pity.

Auralie laughed bitterly, "tell that to them."

"I will. You aren't a monster," Tony nodded to himself. He had never thought that his friends would be treated like this. He had never thought that he would end up seeing a twenty-year-old girl in shock cuffs, locked in a cell for no other reason than having powers. Tony knew Auralie, knew that she wanted to do the right thing. She didn't deserve this punishment.

"But Wanda is. No, Tony, I'd rather rot here than leave her to cry alone," Auralie spat. She knew she was being unfair, that Tony hadn't shoved her in here. But she didn't care. She was tired of pain and heartache, and she was tired of trying to keep the team together. She had stopped caring if the Avengers fell apart. She had stopped caring about the fate of the world. She was starting to think it wasn't worth saving anyway.

"Ali," he breathed.

Auralie looked up, her eyes bloodshot with dark bags underneath of them, "Just go Tony. I don't want your pity."

Tony looked at her, pain in his eyes, but it was nothing compared to her pain. So he walked on, going to talk to Sam about Steve. Auralie didn't hear what the two men said though because, at that moment, she blacked out.

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Wanda Maximo was still very young, only twenty, not even old enough to drink yet. But she already had a lot of regrets. She regretted Hydra and Ultron, she regretting harming people, she regretted not being there to save her brother. But she did not regret standing up for what she believed in. She did not regret fighting alongside Captain America in that airport. That was one choice she was certain was right.

Still, she was paying for it. They had used the collar on her more than once, and her entire body hurt. She was afraid to move or to speak, or even to breath too heavily. They did not care if she could take the pain. They would be happy if she died. Just one less freak for them to deal with.

Wanda had resolved to survive though. She wanted to see the stars again. She wanted to experience fresh air and to walk free again. She wanted to see her friends, to see Steve and Scott and Sam and Clint. She would survive so she could do all those things.

Wanda would survive, most of all, for Auralie and for Pietro.

Wanda wanted, more than anything, to see the woman she had fallen for again. Fighting alongside Auralie had given her a sense of belonging, had made her feel like she was finally home. Auralie made her feel safe, Auralie told her she could do anything. Auralie believed in her like no other person le on Earth did. Auralie gave Wanda something worth fighting and dying for, and something worth living for.

Pietro had not survived. The thought of him still made Wanda's heart hurt. But he would have wanted her to be brave and to live her life. Pietro had wanted to see everything, never slowing down. He would never get what he wanted. So Wanda had resolved to live and to see as much as she could because Pietro couldn't. If he didn't get his life, she would live for him.

So though the pain made her cry out, and though she knew her friends feared for her, Wanda Maximo was not going to give in to the pain. Wanda Maximo was a survivor, and she would see freedom again. She was sure of it.

**A/N: So Auralie is pissed o . She's sort of losing it, and now it's going to be Wanda's turn to support her. Wanda is staying strong. So there's that role reversal.**

**It really pisses me o what they did to Wanda in the prison. The poor thing didn't deserve any of it.**

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