

ix. A Secret File

Half a year later, Auralie was helping her sister organize files. It was a dull task, but someone had to do it, and Maria liked to divide up some of the blunt work between the top agents and the lower level officers to make sure everyone was pulling their weight. Auralie had been going on solo missions for that last half a year, and the 15 year old was doing well at them. Sometimes things didn't go according to plan, but usually she could get the situation back under control. ^a

Most of her missions still included a teammate because she only had her learners permit and couldn't really get into any epic car chase scenes. Auralie passed an old file to Maria, who quickly put it in one of the cabinets. It made for more work, having both digital and paper records of everything, but Fury didn't trust anything, even technology, yet it was important to make use of the online resources.

Auralie and Maria were the only ones of their little group at the main headquarters. Fury was visiting a side headquarters to hire an astrophysicist, Eric Selvik, to help on one of Shield's more scientific project. Coulson was at another facility checking on the training of new recruits. Clint and Natasha were on a mission in Budapest. ^a

Maria turned to put some loose sheets of paper in their respective folders. Auralie opened a file to see what section to place it under. She was surprised to see it was the file for a program she had never heard of.

Auralie had learned plenty about the history of Shield and it's goals over the years. She had heard about many missions in an attempt to educate her on individuals with abilities and gear out of the ordinary. She had learned about people like Howard Stark, who were brilliant, and people like Director Carter, who set the standards for Shield agents. She had learned about those like Hank Pym, who had been Ant Man for a while. But she had never heard of this initiative, and wondered what it was.

She waited until Maria came back, and then the teen said, "Maria, I was looking through some files, trying to find the ones from the last missions, and I found something odd. Can I ask you about it?" ^a

Maria replied, "do you know if you have clearance to see it?"

"Not really, no," Auralie answered.

"Well you probably do," Maria concluded, "you've become a vital part of Shield. Sure thing Ali, go ahead and ask me."

Auralie took a deep breath, "what's the Avengers Initiative?"

Maria took a deep breath, "an idea to bring together a group of remarkable people and create a team that could fight the battles that humanity couldn't. Stark was a candidate, Romano and Barton were going to be part of it, we were planning on recruiting you. But then it was shut down, and we never got the chance to tell you. No use going over something that will never happen."

Auralie let out a breath, "wow. That sounds amazing. A team of individuals with unique abilities, saving the world. That could really change things. Why did the government shut it down?"

"They thought it was impossible," Maria answered, "but I know Fury was mad about it. He came up with the idea, and thought that it could work. I think he's going to try and bring it back, but not for a while."

Auralie smiled, "I hope he can. The world needs something like that, and I would love to be a part of it."

Maria grinned, "me too kid, me too. Come on, let's go get something to eat. I know this was my idea, but if I have to sort another file, I'm gonna lose my shit." ^a

The sisters laughed and Maria drove them home to their apartment, where they promptly got a very healthy dinner of Frosted Flakes. They then decided to lounge about on the couch for a bit and Maria watched some TV. Auralie read one of her books, something that Clint had recommended to her, "The Hunger Games." She had discovered why he liked it early on. Clint was a sucker for stories about archery. Merida, Robin Hood, Legolas, and Katniss were his favorite characters ever. ^a

Auralie liked the book, but she was more into fantasy. The blonde was a sucker for strong heroines with magical powers like Hermione. ^a

"Hey, you wanna watch Jurassic Park," Maria asked. Auralie grinned. Jurassic Park was one of her favorite movies of all time. She loved Sci Fi, not as much as fantasy, but still a lot. The girls sat down together and put the movie in, but as soon as they got started, Maria's phone rang. It was Clint and Nat trying to facetime them. ^a

Natasha's face appeared on the screen, and she looked annoyed.

"Hey," Maria cried, "are you alright? Is Clint ok? How's the mission going?"

Natasha sighed, "horribly. The suspect isn't even in Budapest. It's a complete bust. And Shield can't get us an extraction for 2 days, so we have literally nothing to do." ^a

"Wow," Auralie laughed, "that's so weird."

Natasha sighed, "right? So anyways, I've decided that we're just going to facetime you two, watch Netflix, and eat junk food."

"Very professional," Maria deadpanned.

Natasha grinned, "yeah. We're such great and terrifying assassins."

They heard Clint yell from the screen, "HEY NAT! BEST IDEA EVER! WHAT IF, WHEN EVERYTHING GOES TO SHIT, WE REFERENCE BUDAPEST AND WATCH EVERYONE FREAK OUT TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED!" ^a

Nat rolled her eyes, "yeah, sure, whatever."

A/N: One of my shorter chapters, but whatever. I got the Budapest part from the post below, credit to whomever made it.



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