



ix. She's Not Alone

The ground split apart and Auralie watched in horror as several giant death machines began breaking out of the earth. They were huge and alien and destructive, devices made to destroy everything and everyone in their path. The aliens secret weapons, which could turn back all the progress Thor had made when he arrived.

Auralie couldn't move as the horror machines rolled right towards her and Natasha and Okoye. Sam and Bucky and Rhodes shot at the twisted pieces of metal, but it did nothing. Doom was rolling straight for them.

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Wanda Maximoff had been anxiously watching the battle. She wanted nothing more than to be at her lover's side, fighting with the one person she would do anything and everything to protect. That was where she belonged.

But she had made a commitment to destroy the mind stone. Indeed, she had made the commitment to save the world long before she had promised Steve she would blow the stone to hell. She had made the commitment when she had decided to protect this world her brother had thought was worth dying for. Wanda would honor that commitment.

She occasionally glanced at Vision, lying there, but Shuri had everything under control. So Wanda watched as the gates were opened, and as Auralie Shadow had lit up like the sun (when that happened, Wanda had been delighted. Her girlfriend was awesome) and she had watched as Thor arrived and turned the tide of the battle. It seemed to be going alright. It didn't seem like they needed her. Auralie was doing fine.

But then she watched as the ground split apart, and the death machines rolled towards her friends. She looked at Vision and thought about her job to protect him. Then she thought about Auralie and how she would do anything for the woman she loved.

It was no choice really. Wanda would do her job, but she prioritized love first.

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Auralie had always known that she could die in this job, but she had never thought she would be crushed to death by alien machines. She braced herself for pain and darkness, not wanting it to end like this, away from Wanda.

But she was not fated to die at that moment, or, if she was, her girlfriend decided that wasn't happening.

Wanda landed in front of the death machines, her eyes glowing red. She brought up her hands, each filled with scarlet magic. Her red telekinesis covered the machines and lifted them into the air. Wanda didn't feel any strain at all. She felt powerful, magical, and untouchable. She was protecting the one woman she loved and nothing could stop her.

She looked behind her, at the aliens running to try and take her down. She then looked back at the machines she was holding and brought her hands down, sending them around her friends, who she kept safe, and destroying just as many aliens as Thor had.

She looked behind her, the wind in her hair, and she met Auralie's eyes. Auralie was standing there, starstruck as she looked at Wanda. She hadn't thought she could adore Wanda even more, but apparently, it was possible.

Okoye, a certified badass, had recognized what Wanda had done was also badass, but she had one concern, "why was she up there all this time?"

Auralie raced to Wanda. She couldn't help herself, it was just that kind of moment. A grin spread onto her face as she jumped into the arms of the one who loved her most. Wanda embraced her back and pressed a quick kiss to her lips.

"I thought you weren't fighting today," Auralie whispered.

Wanda smiled, "I wasn't. Then you went and got in trouble and I couldn't let anything happen to you. You're my heart Auralie."

"I hate to interrupt this tender moment, but this is a battle," Natasha called, rolling her eyes at them.

They broke apart, continuing to fight. Wanda's arrival had helped turn the battle back in the Avengers favor. But it had also left Vision unguarded. He went flying out a window, fighting with one of the aliens that had attacked in Scotland.

"Guys, we have a Vision situation," Sam called, "someone has to go help him."

"I'll go," Steve cried, racing to go help the android.

"On my way," Wanda agreed, wanting to go with him to provide back up. But before she could move, someone hit her from behind. She fell to the ground as the alien woman from earlier pointed her spear at her. Wanda tried to get up but she was starting to feel the exhaustion from what she had done to the machines earlier. The adrenaline had failed her, and she couldn't move.

"Your friends will die alone," the alien woman said, "as will you."

"She's not alone," came the voice of Natasha Romano, who was suddenly standing there in a fighting position. Okoye was on the other side of Wanda and the alien, also in a fighting position. And coming up behind the alien was Auralie, her hands blazing with light, a protective look on her face.

The three women attacked the alien. Okoye to support her comrade, her ally in battle, and to thank Wanda for getting rid of those machines earlier. Natasha to protect a friend, a teammate. Auralie, of course, fought to save the woman she loved.

They were all relentless as they fought against the alien, but she was well trained and dangerous. Auralie slammed a fist into the alien's face as Okoye knocked her back with the spear and Natasha shot a blast of energy from her wrist cuffs.

Then, red energy circled the alien and threw her up into the air, where she was crushed by a passing vehicle.

Wanda collapsed to the ground, Natasha and Okoye falling beside her. Auralie collapsed basically on top of her witch, hugging her.

"You two should go help Vision, we'll finish up here," Natasha said.

Auralie nodded, "got it. Come on Wanda, you need to fly us there." Auralie helped Wanda to her feet.

Wanda wrapped an arm around Auralie's waist and with the other hand filled with magic, she propelled them into the air and over the battle, heading for Vision and the mind stone.

Wanda looked at her girlfriend, "thanks for coming to my rescue."

"I just followed Nat and Okoye," Auralie smiled, "but Wanda, I'll always be there for you. So long as I live, you won't be alone."

"Thank you my love," Wanda said as they flew above the chaos, ready to face whatever came next together.

A/N: I love, love, love, this scene, and this chapter. Wanda is a total badass, as are Nat and Okoye and Ali. Also, women supporting other women is so important and I love "she's not alone!" Such an empowering moment.

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