



xi. Snap

A/N: I am so, so very sorry for everything.

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After the shockwave from the infinity stone had faded, Wanda had collapsed on the ground. There were tears on her face. Thanos had just beaten the crap out of all her friends and she had just been forced to kill another teammate. She was exhausted and scared and just wanted to run to Auralie but she couldn't, because Thanos was approaching her.

"I understand my child," Thanos said, as she struggled to sit up, "better than anyone."

He couldn't possibly understand her. She could see inside his mind. She knew what he did. They were nothing alike. She hadn't wanted to sacrifice Vision. She had tried to find a way around it. But he had chosen to save the world, and she had helped. Nothing like what Thanos had done. He also couldn't possibly understand where she had been coming from before all this. Wanda would never have done what he did. If she had been asked to make that choice, in her youth, or now, the answer would have always been the same. She wouldn't have sacrificed Pietro and she wouldn't have sacrificed Auralie like Thanos sacrificed the woman on the cliff. Gamora, his mind called her. Wanda hated him for it, for his warped view of love, and she hated the soul stone because it somehow agreed with his warped view of love.

"You could never," Wanda spat out, glaring at him. She couldn't summon her magic, she was too weak from what she just did.

"Today I lost more than you could possibly imagine," Thanos continued. Wanda's blood boiled. It was his own fault that he lost people. Thanos kept speaking, "but now is not the time for grief. Now..... is no time at all."

And he raised the gauntlet, the green stone, the time stone that they had all completely underestimated, glowing. Wanda got to her feet and screamed, "NO!"

But he only brushed her aside as he brought Vision back. Wanda watched in horror, her bones aching as Thanos took the android by the neck and ripped the mind stone from his forehead. He dropped the mind stone in the final spot on the Infinity Gauntlet, then threw Vision's colorless body down in front of Wanda.

That was when Thor, the god of thunder, arrived from the fight with the alien army, flew into the air, and threw his ax into Thanos's chest. He landed and grabbed the purple creature, his voice filled with anger as he said, "I told you, you'd die for that."

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Thanos looked up, coughing and in pain as he looked up at the thunder god, but instead of striking back he just said, "you should have..... aimed for the head."

"NO," Thor cried, as Thanos raised his arm, the one with the gauntlet. There was nothing anyone could do to stop him as he moved his fingers. And then he snapped.

"What have you done?" Thor bellowed. Thanos didn't reply, only used the space stone to teleport himself out of there. Auralie, who had finally gained the strength to activate her powers and free herself, dashed over to Thor.

"Where'd he go?" Auralie asked, "what's going on?" Thor shrugged, indicating he didn't know. Steve had come over to them too. The three stood there, confused.

That was when it happened. Bucky cried out in a small voice, "Steve?" Steve and Auralie both whirled around, only to see him falling forward, collapsing into dust and ash. Auralie let out a scream as his gun hit the ground and he was gone, there was no sign of him.

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Steve walked forward and crouched down, touching the ground, dust smudging his fingers. Auralie trembled with fear as she looked around for the others. She spotted Rhodes calling, "Sam!"

She spotted him and called his name out as well, but then a breeze blew by and he shattered into dust. Auralie watched and began crying, silent tears running down her face. Two of her best friends..... no, no..... this could not be happening. It wasn't real. Someone would wake her up from this nightmare. Not Bucky, not Sam. They would be fine. It wasn't real.

She whirled around again, desperate to prove to herself that this was not happening. She saw T'Challa, strong and brave T'Challa, reaching for Okoye's hand. She breathed a sigh of relief. There was no force that could kill someone that strong and honorable, right?

T'Challa said, "get up general, this is no place to die." That was when his hand started turning to ash. Okoye fell back, watching in horror as her king turned to dust. Auralie choked back a sob. This couldn't be true. Three of the strongest and best people she had ever had the pleasure of knowing couldn't be gone because of something as simple as a snap.

She spun around once more and saw the raccoon walking towards his tree, Groot, who was propped up against the log. Her eyes went wide. Groot was only a kid, but there he was fading away. The raccoon pled with the universe, "no..... no..... not Groot."

"I Am Groot," the little tree croaked before fading away.

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Auralie's heart was beating too fast. She raced around, stumbling until she found Wanda sitting beside Vision's corpse. She collapsed beside the witch. She knew that she needed Wanda. If Wanda was alright, everything would be alright. Wanda was more powerful than the infinity stones, Wanda could fix this. As long as Auralie had Wanda, everything would be alright in the end.

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"Wanda, hey, Wanda, look at me, Wanda, we're ok right? You're ok? It's all gonna be fine," Auralie said, tears streaming down her face as she looked at Wanda. The edges of the woman's jacket had begun to disintegrate, and Auralie was bawling now, like a baby.

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Wanda reached for Auralie's hands, "I love you."

"No, no, this isn't happening, stay with me Wanda, stay with me, I can't lose you, I can't Wanda, please," Auralie sobbed reaching for the woman turning to dust in her arms.

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Wanda looked up into the face of the person she loved and whispered, "Auralie, darling," before turning to dust and blowing away on the wind. Auralie collapsed completely, reaching out, trying to get her girlfriend back even though she knew it was futile. She whispered Wanda's name over and over again, sobbing.

She sort of noticed the others gathering and taking stock of who was left. She sort of noticed Steve's little, "oh god," when he finally processed all that had happened. But she didn't comprehend any of it. Auralie Shadow had been left broken years ago, and she had finally healed through the help of her friends and girlfriend. But now her friends were gone. Wanda was gone. And Auralie felt her taped back together heart turning to dust just like the woman who owned it. But somehow, her body and mind were still there, empty without those she loved.

Auralie just stayed there crying for her friends, for her Wanda, until Steve came and carried her away.

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Half a world away, in New York City, Maria Hill and Nick Fury had pulled over. They had come to investigate the aliens that had taken Tony Stark. But something strange was happening. Cars were crashing, everything was chaos, and Maria didn't know why. She did know that the Avengers were involved, and that meant her sister was involved. And if Auralie was involved, Maria was going to get involved too.

They got out of the car. Nick looked around at the huge mess and said, "Call Control. Code Red."

Maria was about to respond when she looked down, only to see her hands, her feet, turning to dust. Fury turned around and saw, too, looking at her in shock. Maria's cried, "Nick!" hoping her boss could do something. But there was nothing he could do, and Maria's last thought as she faded away was of Auralie, and how she wouldn't get to see her sister again.

That was when Fury realized whatever was happening to Maria was happening to him too. He staggered around, trying to stop it through sheer force of will, hoping beyond hope that the Avengers could fix this.

But Fury could not stop the infinity stones, and so as he dissipated, he cried out, "Motherf....."

A/N: Everything that happens after this chapter is completely my own. Captain Marvel does not show up because I haven't seen her movie yet and I'm not waiting until March and then May to update this story more. So I'm just making it up. Fury does not call Captain Marvel in this, just to make that clear.

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Once again, I am so, so sorry.

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Continue reading next part