

## Chapter 10: A floating city

Taking Nat's hand we both run back to the surface to help take care of the civilians before we handle Ultron.

But we were too late.

The ground underneath rumbles as hundreds of Ultrons minions slither out from cracks in the surface causing mass panic.

Immediately the robots begin attacking citizens and burning buildings, anything they could do to add to the already chaotic mess of a city.

Screams filled my ears as people ran left and right and centre attempting to hide from the army of metal cascading around.

"Shit go to Steve I'll take Clint." I yell at my sister allowing her to release my hand.

"Be careful." She frowns and I nod flashing her a quick smile before she turns towards the super soldier.

I make my way over to Clint with my katana tightly gripped in my hand.

"Get off the bridge."

Turning I spot Wanda behind us ushering people to safety.

"Stop giving her googly eyes and help me." Clint grunts.

"Shut up." I mutter turning just in time to slice a robot in half as it charged at me.

Peeking a look at Wanda I sigh in relief as she holds up a forcefield blocking herself and the citizens from the blasts of the robots.

My footsteps were silent while I approached the robots attacking the witch.

My sword clutched in my hand I spin slicing both robots torsos in half causing malfunctions of all kinds before the robots go limp. Dead.

"God go help her, I'll be fine." Clint grins as I can't seem to rip my eyes off the brunette who continues holding the forcefield waiting for the people to run.

I acknowledge the archer before turning to the brunette who gives me a small smile. But her focus wavers as she glances at me causing a blast from a robot to knock her over, a gasp leaving her mouth as she falls to the floor.

"Oh shit." I whisper running towards the brunette but not before sending a throwing knife into the circuits of the robot causing it to explode into an oily mess falling beneath us.

My katana clatters to the floor beside Wanda as I gently grip her arms pulling her upwards into a sitting position.

Instincts kick in as I gently grip her chin tilting it from side to side to inspect for any injuries.

"Skyye I'm ok." She smiles going a little red, taking my hand and pulling it off her face but allowing my hand to stay in hers.

"Let's go." I grin ignoring the growing feeling of giddiness in my stomach at her touch.

The witch nods standing up and pulling me after her.

But gaining balance was tricky as the earth began to shake once again. Only this time it seemed to be moving.

My hands grip Wanda's forearms keeping both her and myself upright while the city began to... Float??

Clint came running behind us watching in shock as the ground fell in front of us, people falling through the earth into the growing abyss below.

"What's going on?" Wanda asks her voice cracking slightly and her grip on my hand tightening.

"I don't know." I reply my eyes widening as the bridge before us breaks in half.

The city was floating.

Sokovian police barricaded the edges ushering people back into the city as the world slowly became further away.

Wanda's knees buckled and I gasped moving my hands to her hips in order to catch her, pulling her to my chest so the woman stays standing.

Her hands fall around my neck as her breathing quickens sending my heart into overdrive.

"Are you ok?" I whisper allowing her to pull back from me, standing independently.

"I will be once this is over." She replies sending me a fake smile which immediately falls as Ultron begins talking.

"Do you see the beauty of it?" His voice snarls echoing over the city.

"The inevitability. You rise only to fall. You, Avengers, you are my meteor. My swift and terrible sword. And the earth will crack with the weight of your failure. Purge me from your computers, turn my own flesh against me." Ultron growls his voice moving from robot to robot as his message echoes through the city.

Wanda visibly shook in fear standing beside me while I shot glares at the distant voice attempting to find the source.

My eyebrows soen at Wanda's terror gently lacing my fingers through her own causing her to turn to me her eyes widened and red.

"It means nothing. When the dust settles, the only thing living in this world will be metal." Ultron finishes with a laugh as the city floats higher and higher into the sky.

"YOU HEARING THIS, THIS IS YOUR FAULT. YOU MONSTERS."

The crowd begins to jeer at the three of us out of fear.

The words flick a switch in my brain causing me to freeze, dropping Wanda's hand immediately.

Monster. I was a monster. There was no amount of good in the world that I could do that would erase the previous deeds I had done.

My vision flashes before my eyes, the voices of HYDRA members reminding I was always going to be one of their toys, a murderer. I had no value to them, to anyone besides killing and meeting peoples petty needs.

My breath halted and my chest rises largely while Clint deals with the yelling crowd.

"Your not a monster." Wanda frowns snapping me out of my trance. The witch had heard my thoughts.

"You made mistakes, we all have. You can't help that but what your doing now. Risking your life for the people of this city, tell me would a monster do that?" She asks softly, moving her head as I attempt to avoid her eyes.

I shrug not exactly feeling like sharing my emotions at this time.

But lucky for me I didn't have to as robots emerged from the sky once again attacking us.

"Stark you worry about bringing the city back down safely. The rest of us have one job, tear these things apart. You get hurt, hurt them back. You get killed... walk it off." Steve's voice orders over the comms, his last sentence sending a light chuckle out my mouth.

My katana was back in my hand as I ran at the metal men slicing and stabbing at their shells, each one harder to destroy than the last.

They were seemingly tougher to kill than any human, the metal casing around them thicker causing me to hit twice as hard just to have any effect on the robots at all and even if you killed one two more took its place.

Looking back to the witch was a mistake as a blast caught me off guard causing me to fly backwards before landing against a stone wall with a grunt.

"Fuck you." I wheeze trying to get my breath back as Clint takes care of the robot for me.

"I'm alright." I smirk towards the anxious witch who frowns at me before shaking her head with a light smile.

My wrist was aching again but I ignored it, pushing down the exhaustion and pain and focusing on the battle.

The city was still floating, the air already getting thinner the higher we got. Dust formed in corners of streets hiding the damaged and wounded bodies of people and robots alike making it that much harder to attend to peoples needs. The ground never stabilised, dropping random chunks of concrete into the abyss below along with cars and buildings, the mere thought of falling alongside them making my stomach churn.

A familiar roar sends chills down my back but nevertheless I was excited to hear it.

The Hulk.

He had returned tearing robots from limb to limb while the blasts to his body he very easily ignored seeing they felt more like raindrops than beams of energy.

"DUCK." Clint yelled sending an arrow flying above my face as I crouched to the floor watching as it lands into the eye of another robot.

Meanwhile Wanda was hiding and protecting the people, leading them to the nearest stable building.

I make my way towards the witch as she pushes the last woman into the building grunting with effort as a robot sends blasts her way.

My throwing knife lodges itself into the neck of the robot causing an explosion attracting the witches attention.

Clint had disappeared leaving the two of us to fend for ourselves.

"Shit." I whisper looking up as the robots hover to the ground circling the two of us like a lion circles it's prey.

"GO GO GO." I yell to Wanda gently gripping her waist and pushing her towards the building behind us.

Her whimpers made my heart drop as the two of us duck in the abandoned building.

Safely inside she crawls to a corner sobbing into her hands.

I bite my lip unsure of what to do.

Slowly I crawl towards her, avoiding the windows before crouching in front of the crying girl.

"How could I let this happen?" She whimpers her voice cracking.

"This is all our fault." She cries.

I sigh gently grabbing her hand and removing it from her face causing her to pause for a second.

"Hey hey look at me." I whisper, the brunette slowly connecting her piercing green ones to my own blue ones.

"It's your fault, it's everyone's fault. Who cares?" I smile, gently using my thumb to wipe the blood dripping from a small cut on her forehead.

Her jaw shakes as fear runs through her body leaning away from my touch.

"Are you up for this? Because if not I'll send your brother to come find you." I frown placing both my hands back at my side. No reply comes from the witch as she panics her chest rising and falling with her deep breaths but her eyes were still locked on my own.

"We can do this ok. But I can't go out there without knowing your safe." I whisper breaking our gaze, my face blushing a light shade of red.

Her hand gently lands on mine tracing my palm ever so slightly.

"And I can't stay in here knowing your not safe." She replies her voice surprisingly calm.

Gazing back into her eyes I smile at seeing a glimmer of red amidst the foresty green.

Her face drops as we walk towards the exit, her composure scarily serious.

"Ready?" I whisper turning to glance at the brunette who only nods at the sound of my voice.

I take a deep breath before opening the doors with a whoosh and unsheathing my katana as the bots slowly turn towards us.

My feet fall into place beside Wanda's watching in awe as red spirals out of her fingertips, the slightest touch sending chunks of metal tumbling to the ground.

Leaping onto a car roof I scan for surviving robots amidst the scarlet chaos lunging for the first robot I spot.

It's arms transfigure into blades quickly connecting with my sword a groan leaving my mouth at the strength the robot held.

The clanging of metal rings in my ears as the robot pushes against my sword lowering me to knees.

My whole body tenses the robots strength overpowering my own.

I cry out in pain as I clutch the blade of my sword with my free hand pushing even harder against the bladed hand of the robot, cutting into my palm.

Exhaustion falls over me like a wave and I grit my teeth begging my body to not give up.

A flash of red spooks the robot allowing my sword to leave its place under the blade and plunge into the torso of the once almost daunting robot.

It was satisfying watching the light dim from its eyes as the metal carcass falls to the floor.

Blood drips from my palm and I wince at the disgusting cut carved into my left hand.

I squeeze my eyes shut pushing away the agonising pain before talking into the comms.

"Alright we are all clear here." I state turning to the witch who smiles at me unaware of the large wound on my palm.

"We are not clear, we are very not clear." Steve yells grunts filling the empty sound as he destroys the swarm of metal around him.

"All right, coming to you." I sigh turning to the brunette who nods following my lead.

Wanda seemed uninjured thank god, her powers serving her very well in this fight in the way of defence as well as attack.

She quickly joined my side oblivious to the trails of blood leaking from my palm, instead her eyes tracing my side profile as we ran towards the city centre.

My stomach flutters at her presence and my cheeks blushing a new shade of red every few minutes as her hand or shoulder will brush mine.

Maybe I had a crush on the witch?