

"You're staring again."

"Not staring, admiring."

"So a fancy word for staring?" I smiled not opening my eyes and felt Druig twirl a strand of my hair. "Can we just stay here for a while longer? Everyone probably thinks that I'm still mad."

"We've been here at the waterfall for half a day. We've got to go to the Domo soon, my darling Vena. We have to face the storm sometime." Druig chuckled kissing my forehead sitting up and I whined pulling him back down to the ground. "Do you want to tell them now or wait until they notice?"

"Makkari will notice first. She always notices everything... so will Thena because she acts like my mother. Ajak will notice, but she won't say anything. Phastos will scream it to the heavens and Kingo will say that it's a scandal."

"And Sprite, Sersi, Gilgamesh and the other?"

"Sprite will cause endless teasing, Sersi will applaud us and force us to celebrate with the humans, Gilgamesh will do the same as Ajak, and the other... either endless teasing until I punch him again or he'll just have a sour mood because he still doesn't have Sersi." I shrugged and finally looked up at him. "Hi!"

"Hello there, my love." He smiled and looked at the night sky. "So we don't tell them? Only Makkari?"

"I think that we should just get it over with. Only if you're comfortable with it."

"How about we just don't say anything and let them figure it out?" Druig asked and I sat up raising my eyebrows at him.

"I take it that you have a plan?" I asked and he smirked. "I was right."

"More like a way to mess with their minds for a while. How about we deny everything until one of them explodes? That should be fun to watch."

"A chance to mess with them? I'll take it!"

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"Good morning everyone!"

"You came back really late last night. Mind telling us where you were, little one?" Thena asked handing me a bowl of porridge.

"Around. Don't worry, I was perfectly safe the entire time, Thena." I smirked sitting next to Makkari who immediately pulled me into a hug. "Good morning to you too, my sweet Makkari."

"Good morning, Vena! I know where you were Makkari smirked nudging my shoulder and I shrugged.

"You don't snitch and I won't tell about your sticky fingers Signed under the table so only she could see it." So you know?"

"I could practically sense the skip in your step and sensed Druig walking inside right behind you. I pieced it together. And it's about time!"

"I hate you."

"No you don't." Makkari shrugged and waved at Druig who walked up behind me, placed a kiss on my head and a flower in the braid Sprite did on me earlier this morning and handed one to Gilgamesh.

"Mormin' everyone." Druig waved grabbing a bowl from Makkari and sat down across from me. "It would appear Makkari has taken my seat."

"Deal with it. She signed and poked her tongue out at him.

"Did anyone else see what I saw or we're just ignoring it?" Sprite called out and Druig shrugged not taking his eyes o me.

"Depends on what you're talking about, Sprite."

"Well... you le to search for Vena and came back at the crack of dawn. You both always come back a few hours a er you go and search for her... Sprite pointed out and I glanced at Druig expectantly. "Not to mention you just kissed her head. Something you'd never do because you're practically emotionless."

"I have no idea what you're talking about, Sprite." Druig smirked. "I was just making sure that my beautiful Vena calmed down and didn't kill anybody. You're welcome, Ikaris."

"Hold up! My beautiful Vena? Since when?!" Phastos exclaimed and I choked on my food from laughing so hard.

"I believe she's mine, Phastos. Not yours."

"She's what?!" The rest of the Eternals yelled and Makkari and I bursted out laughing.

"This is too good." I mumbled between laughs and wiped the tears that were forming. "Way too good."

"I demand an explanation!" Kingo yelled. "This is a scandal!"

"You want an explanation?" I smirked standing up and walked towards Druig and sat on his lap as he wrapped his arms around me.

"There it is."

"So are you two like... together now? A er two thousand years of pining?" Sersi asked with a smile on her face.

"I know what I've been thinking? Maybe Kingo should tell a story tonight. I haven't heard a story from him since Egypt." I said ignoring Sersi's question and Makkari bursted out laughing again.

"So we're just ignoring this? Is that it?" Ikaris asked.

"What are we ignoring again?" Druig teased and kissed my cheek.

"Druig! Makkari and Sersi told me the other day that the humans made a new sculpture. Want to see it?"

"Of course I would, my darling Vena."

"Vena, do you mind taking a walk with me for a moment?" Ikaris asked and I sco ed.

"Yes, I would mind."

"I won't hurt you this time. I promise. Mostly because I think Druig will kill me."

"If I don't, Makkari and Thena will." Druig shrugged resting his head on my shoulder. "So basically Makkari will kill you before I even get the chance to."

"Ah, so you'd kill someone? I thought you had morals." Kingo smirked.

"I have morals. Ikaris isn't part of them."

"You have been spending too much time with Vena."

"Yeah, well. Whatever." Druig smirked but frowned when I stood up. "Where are you going?"

"If I'm not back before dusk, I'm giving Makkari full permission to kill Ikaris in the most painful way possible."

"Will do."

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"So what did you want to talk to me about, Ikaris?"

"When did that happen?"

"Yesterday. Why?" I asked leaning on a pillar watching the children play.

"What should I do, Vena?" Ikaris sighed running his hands through his hair. "I feel hopeless."

"Then that's the problem. You're waiting for Sersi to fall in love with you instead of you giving her reasons to fall in love. First, stop walking like you have a stick up your ass and loosen up. You can still do your job and have fun at the same time, Ikaris. You're not an android. Second, try to open up a bit. Trust me, it's not that hard."

"And third?"

"There's no third. That's about it." I smirked and felt the ground shake. "What the-"

"Vena, stop making the ground shake. I'm not gonna kill you." Ikaris sco ed.

"That's not me." I said and looked at him alarmed. "Deviants, dumbass!"

"You good with heights?" He asked wrapping an arm around my waist and I nodded. "Hang on."

"Trust me, I don't plan on dying."

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"Okay, there's only three, which is good because it means less work and less casualties because Druig's not here. Not to mention they're small... Any plans?"

"Don't die or else I'm facing death by Makkari's hands. And I'm not explaining to Adonis why his Aphrodite is dead." Ikaris said and I nodded.

"Seems like a nice plan." I smirked making a slide and slid down towards the beach. "Let's have fun before the others get here, shall we?"

"Just make sure that no humans get hurt!"

"That seems easy enough." I shrugged and manipulated the Deviants away from the humans just as Ikaris shot them. "Try to aim to the center! It'll kill them faster!"

"Only if you can hold them still!" He called out and I groaned jumping on top of one of them and manipulated it to stay still.

Ikaris caught the hint and shot the Deviants in the heart just as I jumped o and froze the remaining two giving him the opportunity to shoot them also.

A fourth Deviant appeared and stabbed Ikaris on the abdomen with its tail. I raced towards it and drove fire straight to its heart and tore it apart covering us both with its blood.

"That was gross."

"Yeah, no shit." Ikaris groaned wiping the blood o his face just as he collapsed on me.

"Are you okay?" I asked setting Ikaris down and looking at the wound. "You need to see Ajak or else you're going to bleed out. I haven't learned blood stopping yet."

"Why did you-"

"I may hate your ass, but you're still tolerable at times." I smirked placing his arm around my shoulder as we made our way back to the Domo. "We did a pretty good job by our lonesome, don't you think?"

"That was fast." Ikaris chuckled and winced in pain. "Thank you, Vena."

"Anytime, Ikaris. But I still hate you."

"Same here."

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"Ajak, I've got an injured Ikaris here! He's bleeding out!"

"What happened to you both? We just saw an explosion and were worried sick!" Thena exclaimed rushing towards us and helped me carry Ikaris to Ajak.

"Four Deviants. We took care of it." Ikaris groaned just as Ajak arrived.

"Vena mostly."

"Yeah, and where the hell were all of you? Huh?" I asked setting Ikaris on the table in Phastos' lab when Druig immediately pulled me into his arms. "Hello to you too."

"Thank the Celestials you're okay." He mumbled resting his head on the crook of my neck. "You have blood all over you."

"Some of it's Ikaris', the rest is from the Deviants." I chuckled and pulled away. "Wouldn't want to get blood on your suit."

"I don't care." Druig smiled wiping the blood o my cheek. "How bad was it? We were just on our way to find you both when you arrived."

"Vena took care of it for the most part. Surprisingly she's a good fighter." Ikaris smirked and sat up with Sersi's help.

"And you're just now figuring this out? Makkari was right when she said you had a big ego." Kingo sco ed handing Druig a bowl and a piece of cloth and I filled it with water.

"I'm surprised Makkari didn't sense anything." I shrugged sitting on the table next to Ikaris.

"I was asleep a er doing a short training with Sprite and Gilgamesh. I woke up right when you arrived."

"Forgot you're a deep sleeper for a moment! chuckled and Makkari rolled her eyes flipping me o. " Rude!"

"You have a scrape on your forehead." Druig frowned when I winced slightly. "Sorry."

"I'm pretty sure Vena has had worse scrapes than the ones she has now, Druig." Ajak smiled and placed her hand on the scrape healing it instantly. "All better now."

"Thank you, Ajak."

"So now can we continue our conversation from this morning? Please!" Sprite called out and we all turned to her. "Because all of this confuses me."

"What do you want to know, Sprite?" I chuckled resting my head on Druig's shoulder.

"When did that happen?"

"Yesterday."

"How did it happen?" Sersi butted.

"Nobody's business."

"Why did it happen?" Phastos exclaimed and we all laughed.

"Do you really want to see the sexual tension between those two for another thousand years? I've been waiting for this since Egypt!" Gilgamesh smirked and Druig and both rolled our eyes.

"So are you two... like o ically together?" Kingo asked pointed at the two of us and we nodded. "Finally!"

"And here comes the teasing." I whispered to Druig who groaned and continued to clean the blood o my face.

"I think we should leave them alone for a while. Come on." Ajak smiled pushing everyone out of the lab. "You too, Phastos."

"No sex in my lab!"

"Phastos!" I yelled and pushed them out with a gush of air. "I love them dearly, but sometimes they're annoying."

"Sometimes? Or all the time?" Druig chuckled and kissed my forehead. "I was so scared that something might've happened to you."

"Because of Ikaris or the Deviants?"

"Both."

"Well here I am, safe and sound. I'm not going anywhere anytime soon." I smirked and pulled him into a kiss.

"My beautiful, beautiful Vena... don't scare me like that again. I don't know what I'd do." He whispered placing his forehead on mine.

"Probably deal with them by yourself and lose your sanity."

"A living nightmare, if I dare say." Druig chuckled and hugged me tight. "So you handled those Deviants by yourself this time? Or did you actually get along with Ikaris long enough to fight them?"

"I did part of the dirty work. I think my bloodied suit shows it." I smirked and he chuckled.

"My beautiful Vena, always involved in a fight somehow."

"I can't have Ikaris take all the glory, now can I?"

"No you can't." Druig chuckled pulling away slightly and twirled a loose strand of my hair. "Promise me that we'll come back to each other a er a fight. And that you'll be careful."

"I promise that we'll always come back to each other. Me being careful? That's up for debate." I teased and Druig sighed pinching the bridge of his nose. "I'm joking! I'll try to be careful, how's that?"

"For now, I'll take it."

A/N: added the reference picture for Vena's suit in the first chapter!

