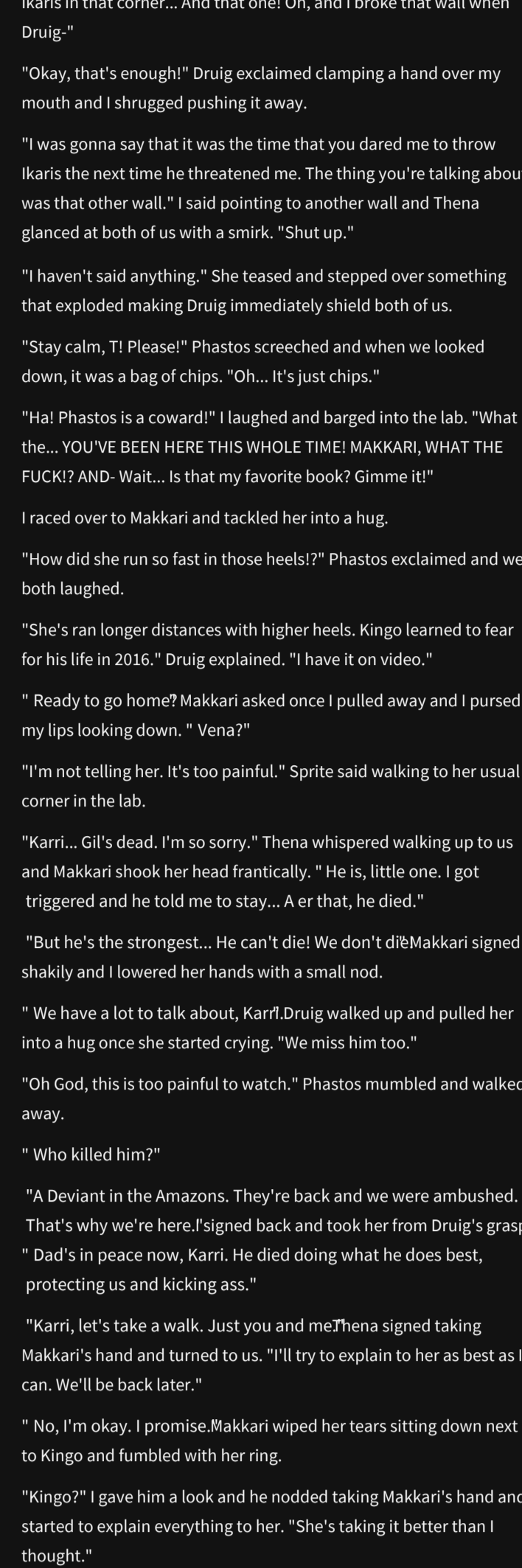


"I missed seeing you get ready in the morning."
 "It's either I get o my ass or Thena's dragging me out here. Pass me the earrings, please." I shrugged and turned to face Druig.
 "Gooddamn, Adonis... Is that jacket new?"
 "Dad's Christmas gi , remember?" He pointed out with a smirk wrapping his arms around me and kissed my forehead. "You feeling better today?"
 "Aside from the splitting migraine I have and the urge to eat all the ice cream in the world and die, I'd say I'm doing better?" Druig gave me a knowing look and I groaned. "Fine! I feel like shit and I wanna die. Happy?"
 "No, but I'll let it slide for now. Now come on, Kingo wants to see your outfit!" Druig smiled and pulled me closer. "But I wanna have you all to myself for a while longer."
 "I'm not exactly the best company right now. I've gone all Looney Tunes a few days ago, remember?"
 "You? Never!"
 "Druig..."
 "If anything, you've been Looney Tunes since the day I first saw you 7000 years ago. You did decide to marry me, a er, all. If that doesn't seem crazy, I don't know what does." Druig teased and rolled my eyes pushing him back. "I'm kidding! Maybe..."
 "Druig!" I exclaimed and he laughed.
 "I'm your husband! I'm allowed to say these things like you're getting mad." He smiled kissing the tip of my nose and spun me around. "My Vena, beautiful as always."
 "My Druig, the same handsome asshat as always."
 "Hey!" Druig exclaimed and I laughed opening the door.
 "This has got to be your best outfit yet, Vena!" Kingo yelled and pushed Druig away. "Karun, make sure you get every angle of this outfit!"



"On it, sir!"
 "Why do you insist on dressing up all the time? I don't remember it being this bad." Ikaris sco ed and Druig sent him a glare.
 "Momma taught me that you should always dress like you're going to attend a funeral. You keep pressing my buttons and that funeral will be yours." I smirked patting his cheek and walked out of the jet.
 "Well... move it! The Domo isn't going to find itself!"
 "You heard the scary sunshine. Move it!"
 "Thanks, Phastos."

"Home sweet home, I guess."
 "I have to say, I sure did miss this place." I smiled looking around to find everything intact. "So many memories... Like, I almost killed Ikaris in that corner... And that one Oh, and I broke that wall when Druig."
 "Okay, that's enough!" Druig exclaimed clamping a hand over my mouth and I shrugged pushing it away.
 "I was gonna say that it was the time that you dared me to throw Ikaris the next time he threatened me. The thing you're talking about was that other wall." I said pointing to another wall and Thena glanced at both of us with a smirk. "Shut up."
 "I haven't said anything." She teased and stepped over something that I hadn't made Druig immediately shield both of us.
 "Stay calm, T! Please!" Phastos screamed and when we looked down, it was a bag of chips. "Oh... It's just chips."
 "Hil Phastos is a coward!" I laughed and barged into the lab. "What the... YOU'VE BEEN HERE THIS WHOLE TIME! MAKKARI, WHAT THE FUCK! AND... Wait... Is that my favorite book? Gimme it!"
 I traced over to Makkari and tackled her into a hug.
 "How did she run so fast in those heels!?" Phastos exclaimed and we both laughed.

"She's ran longer distances with higher heels. Kingo learned to fear for his life in 2016." Druig explained. "I have it on video."
 "Ready to go home? Makkari asked once I pulled away and I pursed my lips looking down. "Vena?"
 "I'm not telling her, it's too painful." Sprite said walking to her usual corner in the lab.
 "Karr... Gll's dead. I'm so sorry." Thena whispered walking up to us and Makkari shook her head frantically. "He is, little one. I got triggered and he told me to stay... A er that, he died."
 "But he's the strongest... He can't die! We don't die!" Makkari signed shakily and I lowered her hands with a small nod.

"We have a lot to talk about, Karr! Druig walked up and pulled her into a hug once she started crying. "Miss him too."
 "Oh God, this is too painful to watch." Phastos mumbled and walked away.
 "Who killed him?"
 "A Deviant in the Amazons. They're back and we were ambushed. That's why we're here." I signed back and took her from Druig's grasp. "Dad's in peace now, Karr. He died doing what he does best, protecting us and kicking ass."
 "Karr!, let's take a walk. Just you and me!" Thena signed taking Makkari's hand and turned to us. "I'll try to explain to her as best as I can. We'll be back later."
 "No, I'm okay. I promise. Makkari wiped her tears sitting down next to Kingo and fumbled with her ring.
 "Kingo?" I gave him a look and he nodded taking Makkari's hand and started to explain everything to her. "She's taking it better than I thought."

"That's because everyone's here and the news hasn't quite settled in yet, Aphrodite. Give her a few hours." Thena sighed and walked away.
 "You know how she is. The strongest of the children and the protector of the sunshine and the bastards." Druig added and I sighed grabbing the Emerald tablet and handed it to him. "How did she..."
 "Sticky fingers, remember?"

He killed her... Ikaris killed her.

He will betray you all.

"So... How did you end up scoring this Emerald Tablet, my sweet, sweet Makkari?"
 "How much did you bargain for it? I joined in on the teasing and she smirked taking it back. "I wanna know! You had better not sold my favorite Hathor statue because I'll lose my shit."
 "Did you miss us? Druig asked with a smirk and Makkari smiled.
 "I'm sorry... What are we watching?" Phastos asked.
 "This has to be new, because I hate it." Kingo said and I flipped him o. "Thanks, Vena. I love you too."
 "Phastos, I need to control a Celestial. How exactly am I supposed to do that? I can barely control Vena's mind these days." Druig asked placing his arms over mine and Makkari's shoulders.
 "You can't what now?"
 "Oh yeah! The wall in my mind broke and now I'm having these voices in my head constantly scream at me and I black out in the most random moments and when I wake up, a knife is full of Ikaris' blood." I smiled and Phastos took a step back. "Oh, don't worry! It's just Ikaris and it's definitely not Mahd Wy'ry."
 "She's gone Looney Tunes on us in the most inconvenient moment." Sprite teased and I rolled my eyes. "You have!"
 "It's not my fault that I sleep paralysis demon screams at me in the middle of the day! And y'know what, Sprite? Sometimes it looks like you!" I smirked and she threw an orange at me which I caught with ease. "I was getting a bit hungry, thanks."
 "Play nice." Druig whispered and I turned to Makkari with a smirk on my face.
 "No way. We signed in unison and Druig rolled his eyes.
 "Bracelets? You made us bracelets?" Druig turned to Phastos with furrowed eyebrows. "We're dead."
 "So here's Celestial a little 101... Celestials are the most powerful energy generators in the universe. When Arishem made us, he imbued us with infinite cosmic energy to keep our bodies regenerating. The bracelets in theory shut down our regeneration process. Once that happens, our bodies accumulate extra cosmic energy." Phastos explained.
 "What for?"
 "Well, the deviants can absorb our energy. What if, we can absorb each other's energy as well? If I can find a way to connect us all. One of us could become immensely powerful pulling the accumulated energy from the rest. Forming... A Unimind."
 "Phastos, you're a damn genius!" I smiled and glanced at Ikaris who was tense. "Sun boy, you okay?"
 "Peachy."

He will betray all of you.

He killed her.

"Vena?" Druig asked snapping his fingers in my face. "You're here?"
 "Yeah... I'm here." I mumbled shaking my head and turned back to Phastos. "Okay, let's say that Druig manages to put Tiamut to sleep as planned and nobody dies, then what?"
 "We find humans another planet." Sersi answered.
 "Are we building a big ship too? Take a pair of each animal." Sprite teased and I glared at her.
 "I know what never saved the planet? Your sarcasm." Kingo pointed out.
 Ikaris started this.
 He betrayed all of you.
 He broke your family.
 He's not to be trusted.

"Vena!"
 "It's started." I blurted out and Thena rushed towards me. "He's gonna... He will..."
 "Deep breaths, V. It's okay." Phastos called out as I looked around the room frantically searching for Ikaris who wasn't there.
 "Where is he?"
 "Who?"
 "The boy who flew to the sun... I'm killing him." I hissed as my eyes glowed and Druig held me back with Makkari's help.
 "V, calm down." Phastos said and handed something to Makkari.
 "Find the point of the Emergence. We'll take care of her."
 "Vena, deep breaths." Kingo said stepping in front of me and held my arms down.
 "Kingo, I don't wanna hurt you." I whispered struggling against his and Druig's grip.
 "Vena, I'm sorry." Phastos whispered and held me down forcefully with cu s. "I'll let you go once you calm down."
 "Vena, look at me." Druig ordered crouching down in front of me. "It's okay, everything's gonna be okay."
 "Don't put me to sleep... I don't want to sleep." I sobbed and he nodded holding my hands. "I'll stay calm... I promise."

Kill him. He betrayed you.

"Vena, it's momma... It's okay. Take deep breaths." Thena whispered and stroked my hair smiling once my eyes turned back to normal. "Hi, Vena."
 "Hi, momma." I smiled back and Phastos removed the cu s. "What did I miss?"
 "I'm almost done with the Unimind, just have to find a way to link us. You haven't been gone long. A few minutes at most." Phastos assured and helped me stand up. "You need anything?"
 "No, I'm... I was cut o by Ikaris destroying the bracelets and my eyes glowed again. "What the..."
 "Boss! What are you doing!?"

It is time.

"He tied to just He knew about the Emergence all along!" I called out and everyone froze in their tracks. "He killed Ajak!"
 "No, he didn't." Kingo sco ed.
 "She's right... Ajak told me everything when we le Babylon." Ikaris sighed and nobody tried to stop me when I grabbed him and pinned him to a wall.
 "And you killed her because she tried to stop you." I hissed.
 "I only wanted to protect you all from the Deviants."
 "And you killed her!"
 "I had to!"
 "She loves you! She loved all of us as her own." Sersi choked out.
 "Did she? Did you think it was easy to live with the truth? To know that one day all of this would end... To lie to all of you?" Ikaris begged and struggled against my grip.

"You could've told us. We're a family, Ikaris. And you don't turn your back on family!" I yelled and noticed blood dripping from his nose and eyes. "You were the one that broke this family, not me!"
 Ikaris clenched his jaw as his eyes glowed and sent a laser my way but Kingo pulled me back just in time.
 "You okay?"
 "I will be... Once I kill him!"

"You're so pathetic!" Phastos screamed at Ikaris. "All this time you made us believe that Vena was crazy when all she did was warn us about you!"

"I am an Eternal, Phastos. I exist for Arishem. As do you. This is who you are." Ikaris spat and turned to me. "This is who all of you are."
 "I'm not a pawn to be used when it's most convenient. Ikaris, I'm not a soldier anymore and I certainly don't follow orders. I'm not you."
 "Sneered." Look at me, Ikaris."
 "Vena."
 "LOOK AT ME!" Everyone took a step back and I pulled Ikaris forward.
 "Now, you listen to me, you selfish piece o..."
 "Vena..."

"I'm talking now! I fucking idolized you, Ikaris. We all did! The perfect soldier who fought and defended all of us. The eldest brother who took care of all of us and reminded us about why we're fighting. And you just expect me to believe that you killed Ajak just for lacker? She loved you the most! You were always her favorite while the rest of us broke to the sides... We... We trusted you! We trusted you and you stroked us. And you broke us because our beliefs don't match up to yours... I want you to look at the dead in the eyes and kill me. Because I swear to Arishem that I won't stop until you're a pool of blood on the floor."

"What? Vena, have you lost your mind!?" Druig tried to pull me back but I formed a gush of air and pushed him towards Thena who caught him and placed both of them in a hold. "Vena, let us go Kingo!"
 "Sorry buddy, I can't move." Kingo butted. "We all can't."
 I stood up and placed both of Ikaris' hands against my throat and forced him to squeeze.
 "Kill me, but I want you to look at me in the eyes when you do." I ordered as my eyes glowed brighter and Ikaris tried to remove his hands. "Kill me, damn!! You wanted this right?! I'm giving it to you on a silver platter for fuck's sake! Just fucking kill me!"
 Ikaris fell to his knees in a fit of sobs and I kicked him back to a wall.
 "Hurts right? Emotions are too much? Too bad that you..."
 "I found Tiamut! Makkari smiled and I broke Kingo's hold so he could shield her from Ikaris.
 "Get out of here!" Kingo and I yelled and Makkari sped away.
 "Kingo..."

"Vena's right. You don't turn against family! Gilgamesh died because of you! They don't have their father because of you!" Kingo yelled and I released my hold on everybody.
 Druig immediately rushed towards me and pulled me to the back of the room.
 "Are you crazy!?"
 "Yes."
 "Not the time to be a smartass! He could've killed you! He could've..."
 "Not if you enhance his emotions to the point of being overwhelmed with guilt." I pointed out and smirked. "He pushed all of us past our breaking point, why shouldn't I do the same to him? Taste of his own medicine, if you will."
 "You all won't succeed against me. And I'll kill every one of you if I have to." I heard Ikaris say and I bursted out laughing.
 "Bitch, please! You couldn't even kill me two minutes ago!" I said through laughs and Druig clasped a hand over my mouth.
 "Wait! I'm going with you!" Sprite called out and followed Ikaris.
 "Bye, bitch! Don't let the door hit you on the way out. Unless you're Ikaris, then it shall be my foot!" I smiled and bit my thumb at both of them. "Yeah, that's right! I went all Shakespeare on this bitch!"
 "Vena, has o kcially lost what little sanity she had le. I'm more scared of her than I am of a Celestial." Phastos mumbled. "Why did Sprite leave?"
 "Because she's in love with him." Kingo sighed.
 "Stupid Peter Pan and Tinkerbell. At least this Wendy has common sense." I sco ed walking away from Druig and stood in the middle of the room. "The hell are we standing around for? They made their choice, and we made ours. Sur's it up."
 "Karun, let's go." Kingo mumbled pressing a kiss to my forehead. "I'm sorry, Vena... I still think Arishem is right, but I'm not hurting any of you for my beliefs. We're still family."
 "Kingo, please. We need you." I begged holding both of his hands.
 "Even with my help, we're no match. It's Ikaris... If anything, I'm rooting for you to clip his wings. It's a bit overdue." He smiled hugging me tight and walked away. "I hope to see all of you in the next planet. You guys are my family, don't forget that."
 "Miss Vena..."
 "Just hug me, Karun." I smiled so ly and hugged him tight. "Take care of Kingo for me, okay? And make sure that footage makes us look like badasses."
 "Thank you, Miss Vena... For everything." Karun smiled and turned to the rest. "It truly was an honor to be in the presence of the great Eternals. Thank you for everything you've done for us."
 "Mom? Can we take that walk now? Makkari asked and Thena nodded.
 "Aphrodite and Ares, want to join?"
 "I think Karri needs it more than we do, Mum. We'll manage." Druig said and I nodded in agreement.
 "Okay, Phastos... You and I have a lot of work to do." I said rummaging through the mess in the lab until I found my journals. "I have a habit of writing everything in case I went Looney Tunes like right now. For the first few millenniums, I wrote down everything concerning our powers. Possible flaws, advantages, ectetera. I have them all divided into categories. Here's Adonis' journal, maybe you can find something there that'll help you with the Unimind. I'll reread the other ones and let you know."
 "Alright everyone, let's get to work. Someone brew some o ee."

MEMES:

