

## AMAZON

-Druigs pov-

"How is she?" Sprite walked to where I stood, by the side of my light.

"Why do you care?" I answered coldly. My hand rested on the cheek of my cora. My sweet cora.

"She saw Ajak didn't she?" She asked and sat at the chair next to her. I looked at her not showing any emotions. Just cold.

"Yes, the last time this has happened was many many years ago when she connected to a deviant. She never saw their memories though. Maybe because this deviant was different, with Ajak and gilgamesh in its system. I don't know what happened." I look back down at my cora, her skin cold to the touch. I bring my hands behind my back and step back.

"When will she wake up?" Sprite looked concerned.

"When she is ready. I only put her mind to sleep. She needed to rest." I opened the door to exit out of the hall we were in. Sprite followed behind me.

"We are doing a service for gilgamesh, by the river. Make sure you come please, Thena is broken." Sprite spoke and left without another word. Walking to the familiar river that held many memories I held on to for years.

I stand by the lake as my heart pounds, not in fear, not in pain, not in worry. But I'm regret. If I didn't let my emotions get to me, cora would have been here safe with me. I failed to protect her.

I watched as Thena spread Gilgamesh's ashes in the lake and felt a presence come behind me.

"When I left, and when cora came with me. I thought about taking over the minds of every human on this planet." I spoke as sersi stood by my side. Simply her name made my heart ache.

"Violence, fear, greed, all gone" I finished.

"Why didn't you?" Sersi asked. I so I smiled knowing my reason.

"Cora." I looked down and smiled.

"Cora is the reason I am here. Her love for the humans pushed me to want what's better for them as well. It got to a point where I wanted to control everyone but she, she told me not too because without their flaws, they wouldn't be human." I quoted her. Remembering that day, her laugh, her smile, the way the sun beamed down on her making her eyes shine.

"Please druig. You can't stay here anymore. It's not what she would have wanted." Sersi spoke and I turned to face her.

"How do you know what she would have wanted?" I asked.

"She loved the humans druig. And this planet. You know deep down what side she wants to choose. We may not have been the best people to her at the end but we need to come together. The deviants are trying to keep us from killing their own kind. They have a conscience now. That makes them more dangerous. You saw what that did to cora." I let out a cold laugh.

"No sersi, that makes them us. Don't you wonder why Ajak never let her connect to the deviants? Why she always got upset at the slight possibility? It was because what happened today could have happened before. She saw the deviants being murdered by us. She saw Ajak being killed. She won't be able to forget that sersi. The deviants didn't do this. Eternals and deviants, we are nothing but arishems children but you are asking me to take control of the mind of a celestial I do not have that kind of power."

"We'll need phastos." As sersi spoke I looked back at Thena then turned to the building where my cora rested.

"Well good luck. He gave up on humans a long time ago." I told sersi and walked back to check on my cora.

The next day we moved cora and brought her with us as we searched for phastos.

Sersi and Ikaris went to talk to phastos as I stayed back looking at her cora, her skin still cold to the touch. Pulse slow and steady.

"So how is she?" Kingo came over to us. I don't look at him but hold my look to cora, her hair perfectly laid and her hair clip in place.

"She's fine." I spoke.

"That's good." He looked down to her as I looked at him.

"What do you want kingo?" I asked

"I wanted to ask you something." He sat near me.

"What?" I answered coldly.

"Why did you guys break up?" I looked back down at her as I held her cold hand.

"I was an idiot. I wanted to protect her, look where that has gotten me." I spoke and my throat started to quiver.

"Why did you lie to her and tell her we threw that party for her?" He asked and I smiled at her.

"Because she loved you guys. I needed to protect her from the fact you guys didn't really care. I didn't want the credit kingo. I wanted her happy. Even if it killed me." My thumb rubbed her skin over her hand.

"We do love her, we just suck at showing it." He so I looked at her.

"Aer she left looking for you guys, I let her go. I was stupid but I didn't want her to go. I would have thought she was going to stay but she didn't. So I let her go." I answered his first question and sighed.

"Well she's here now right?" He asked.

"She's not even conscious. I failed to protect her." I spoke coldly.

"She's a strong girl. You know cora can push through anything. Think of it like her vacation?" Kingo tried to bring up the conversation but failed miserably. I look at him cold in the eyes and he nodded and left us alone.

"I promise when you wake up I'll be here. Forever and always, I'll never leave your side again. Whatever side you chose I'll be there to support you my sweet cora." I kissed her forehead as Ikaris, sersi, and phastos came back.

"Oh my god cora!" Phastos ran to cora side.

"What happened to her? Is she alive?" He asked.

"She's asleep. She connected to the deviant and saw everything even Ajak and her death, so druig put her to rest." Sersi spoke, I turned to look at Ikaris shining in his position.

"What? When will she wake?" He looked at me.

"If she doesn't wake up when we get to Iraq then I'll wake her. But for now she needs to rest her mind. It's good to see you phastos." I nodded my head, brought my hands behind my back and left.

## IRAQ

"Druig, get rid of these people please?" Sersi spoke referring to the archaeologist that dug above the Domo. I adjusted my leather jacket and made them walk away as we got down. I looked at the backseat where cora laid and closed the door carefully.

Phastos called up the domo and we entered.

"A foreboding atmosphere fills the air and eerie stillness chokes our lungs." I rolled my eyes at kingo as his human valet recorded him.

"What are you doing? You know you're creeping us out. You know that right?" Phastos spoke before Thena walked by his side, stepping down on a bag, the loud pop circled through the halls, he jumped and I laughed.

"Oh! Oh, god! Stay calm T, please!" We looked down as he grabbed the bag.

"Chips, it's just chips." He laughed it off.

"As you can see, being an eternal does not preclude you from having human emotions, such as cowardice." He spoke as I looked forward.

"What has she done?" Phastos spoke as we saw the doom filled, books stacked high, paintings scattered, artifacts laying on the floor.

There she was.

"This is makkari. Or should I say miss havisham? None of us have seen her for centuries." She put down her book looking at us.

"Ready to go home?" She signed. I looked down at the ground.

The most painful part of this all wasn't what happened, it was having to tell everyone over and over again what happened to cora. We brought her in the domo and laid her down.

I stood by her side the entire time as phastos got to work.

I walked out to find food and saw a box of twinkles on a pile of books. To my right was Ikaris staring at me and my box.

"How is she?" He asked. I shoved my hand in the box and pulled one out.

"She's fine." I spoke.

"She said she saw Ajak, do you think she will remember what she saw before?" He asked.

I looked at him and tilted my head. He shivered uncomfortably again.

"I don't know Ikaris. She's asleep. Why don't you ask her yourself when she wakes up. Oh wait we don't know when that will happen huh?" I stared coldly at him.

"I'm just worried for her okay?" He spoke and I coldly laughed.

"Right." I turned around with the box I found and walked back to the room where cora laid.

"Look what I scored my beautiful beautiful cora. I hope I wasn't gone too long. Miss me?" I sat by her side and opened the Twinkie in my hand. I sat back and watched her.

As I took my second bite I saw in the corner of my eye her index finger twitched. It moved. She moved. I sat up and the box dropped on the floor. Aer a nearly a week she has moved.

"Cora?" I asked and no reply. I got up and walked out not knowing what I saw or if it was real.

Everyone was in the main room while phastos worked.

"Phastos, I need to control the mind of a celestial." I spoke and everyone circled around.

"Okay get ready for it." He spoke as gold rings circled above us.

"Bracelets? You made us bracelets?" Kingo asked.

"Careful phastos. We all know how everyone is with bracelets. We wouldn't want anyone accidentally losing them now would we?" I looked around as everyone showed their sadness. Good.

"So, here's a little celestial 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 and once that happens our bodies accumulate extra cosmic energy." Phastos explained to us.

"What for?" Sersi asked. We all looked back to phastos for an answer.

"Well if 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 uni-mind" Phastos looked proud. I laughed and looked down.

The room stayed quiet.

"Uni meaning one and mind meaning mind." Phastos tried to explain but failed to realize it just sucked.

"Oh no we realized you the first time." Kingo spoke then sprite.

"Terrible name." She said and I looked up.

"So suppose druig can, say put Tiamut to sleep- then what?" Makkari signed.

"We find the humans a new home on another planet." Sersi answers.

"Are we building a big ship too? Take a pair of each animal?" Sprite asked.

"Well, you know what's never saved the planet? Your sarcasm." Phastos spoke and I leaned against the wall.

"Space colonization could take decades." Sprite spoke again.

"It can happen quickly with our help." Sersi looked at us all looking for some agreement.

"What if we accidentally end up killing Tiamut? We could be responsible for billions of lives not being created across the universe. Boss am I right?" Kingo looked at Ikaris for back up. The room went quiet and we all looked to Ikaris, waiting for him to say what side he was on.

"Say something Ikaris. You don't think we should be doing this." The room fell quiet again once Sprite said that.

"Ajak chose sersi to lead us. Sersi should decide." All our attention turned to sersi.

"Forget who Ajax chose you're the strongest you should be making this decision. Fine, just keep lying to yourself." Sprite walked off.

"I think you're all forgetting something. Cora, what if she doesn't wake up soon?" Makkari signed.

"Then I will wake her." I spoke.

"Will she be okay to do this?" They asked me and I nodded.

"She's cora. She will do anything to help those around her." I spoke as Ikaris left and kingo following him.

Phastos tried to keep us all together but I left as well going to sit with Cora again. I walk down the hall and turn the corner to her room.

It's empty.