I felt my body slowly warm up. I felt like my body has been numb for years. My limbs regaining feeling, like waking up from a nap but paralyzed. First thing I felt, my finger tips. I felt the static through, but

-Cora-

not much movement. My mind felt at rest, the pain no longer there. The throbbing that once pained me was no longer there. The images where. Ajak... I don't remember the vivid image I once had, now looks like a blur. I

saw Ajak get pushed from a deviant or something and her falling. That image couldn't leave my mind.

my mind.

Then gilgamesh being held in the air. Those memories burned into Then the deviants, one by one. Murdered by each of us. Watching my

family show no remorse for their lives as I felt them die. Over and over again. I felt okay, with those memories also came closure. I know Ajak died feeling betrayed, gilgamesh died worrying for Thena, each deviant

died fighting for their survival. I know what I need to do now. I know what side I'm on now. I felt warm as if the sun beamed down on me, cool as if the air was blowing on my body. My body still limp.

My body felt like it was thrown. The impact winded me. That's when my heart picked up and my eyes shot open.

I gasped for air as if my lungs where drowning, the sun beamed down

straining my eyes as if I've been in a cave for years never seeing the sun. I faced down on sand. My arms slowly gaining feeling but couldn't li

"Cora?! What are you doing down here?" I heard a voice call. Sounded like seri, then another voice from behind me. "Sersi? What are you doing here? Shouldn't you be at the Domo?"

myself of the floor. I neard footsteps come to me.

Another voice sounded. Ikaris. I tried moving my arms to li me up. Slowly felt them drag along the

"I came looking for you. What's Cora doing on the floor is she awake?" Sersi came to my side. I felt her hand push my hair. "She's still asleep. I just thought she might want to see the view. She loved it before. Sersi you should really go back." Ikaris spoke.

"She's awake!" Sersi li ed me and my head struggled keeping my body up. "What?" Ikaris spoke.

"I'll tell everyone! I'll be back. Make sure she's okay!" Sersi tan o a er helping me lean against the large rock. It happened all so fast and my body ached. I shield my eyes from the sun, trying to look at ikaris who kneeled down next to me.

"Are you ok cora?" I slowly nodded my head. My throat felt dry. "Where am I?" The scratchy tone escaped my dry lips. I rubbed my eyes and yawned.

"I brought you here, hoping you would wake up. You know from being trapped inside all day." He said and kneeled in front of me.

"Oh thanks? Where is druig" I looked around to see no one in sight. I would have thought he would be the first one I'd see. "They are talking about the plan. So uh, do you remember anything?"

Ikaris asked me. "Uhh kind of? It's a little blurry right now." I so ly spoke. I cough once to correct my throat.

"What do you remember?" He asked quickly. I turn to look at him

weirded out.

Oh yeah I'm fine!

the sun was bright.

waist.

and held me.

Anger

"Well I remember gilgamesh and the deviant.. then I remember connecting to him. Feeling them all, it didn't hurt like last time. It felt di erent." As soon as I said that last word ikaris spoke quickly. "What about Ajak?" He asked.

"Dude..." I rubbed my head before speaking again. Squinting still as

"I remember her falling. Feeling scared and betrayal. I don't really want to talk about it ikaris." I turned to look around waiting for someone. Specifically druig. I wanted to see him. Thank him for putting me to sleep. I wouldn't be sane or alive without him.

"Okay sorry cora. Have you connected to anything yet? You know it's probably best for you if you don't use your powers for a while. You

"What are you talking about ikaris? Where is druig, or sersi?" I try to stand up but my legs still sore. He jumps up quickly and helps me up by my arm.

"Just looking out for you." He spoke. Then I heard running. I turn around and see druig running to us. I smile and let go of ikaris. My arms wrap around druigs shoulders and his arms tightly grab my

"Oh for fucks sake cora." He let go and kissed me.

held his jaw. I can tell he was holding back.

I felt okay. I didn't feel their pain. I felt okay. I think.

Maybe I was trying to convince myself I was okay.

Maybe I wasn't but I was trying to tell myself I will be okay.

As we got back to the domo everyone paraded us and asked questions. I smiled at them showing their genuine concern

and ikaris alone on the sand.

know so you can heal still." I look at him.

walked past me to ikaris. Before I could ask what was wrong druig punched ikaris in the jaw. My hands shoot up to my mouth as my eyes widened. "Don't you ever fucken touch cora again." He looked down at ikaris who fell to the floor and was on his knees. Ikaris looked at me and

As his warm lips touched my dry ones. I smiled into the kiss. He let go

Then his eyes darted behind me and saw ikaris. He let go of me and

Guilt "Let's get you back so we can make sure everything is okay." Druig came back to me and picked me up. I looked at his blue eyes as he carried me. I dug my head and rested it into his shoulder. We le sersi

Worry **Panic Anxious** They love me.

"I'm okay guys really. The sand stuck in my hair will wash o ." I chuckled at druig who helped pull my hair back and tie it out of my

face. His hands so ly tied it o and held me. Everyone looked at me and forced a smile. "So, what do you think?" Phastos asked a er he caught me up on everything I missed. I zoned out a few times as memories came back mainly Ajak. When ikaris was asking all these questions about her I

started to get frustrated not remembering it as clear as I had before.

"Oh yeah phastos great idea. The name sucks but it's a good start." Druig chuckled as he sat by my side and held me by the waist.

"You know what I invented it so I should pick the name! The uni-mind

Sure I'm grateful it's not clearly burned into my mind but it's

frustrating that I feel like I'm missing something.

defense.

sighed.

Cold.

It's cold.

continue working on them.

cheeks grow warm as I smiled.

"Okay okay! What are the chances these bracelets don't work?" I asked and rested my head on druigs shoulder again. His leather jacket felt cold against my cheek. "They will work don't worry." Phastos spoke and turned around to

"How are you feeling my beautiful beautiful cora?" He asked and li ed my chin with his index finger making our eyes lock. I felt my

"Better, you know I could get used to this new look." I laughed and

tug on his jacket. He rolled his eyes and laughed with me.

"Oh really? Maybe I should, only if you can match with me." He

isn't a bad name!" Phastos got defensive. My hands shot up in

smiled. "Ohh are we going to get matching motorcycles too?" As I said that we both broke out in laughter. "Whatever you want cora. You know I really missed you." He caressed my cheek and I leaned into his touch. "I wish I could say the same but I don't even remember much, or how

long I was asleep. It felt like nothing. Like literal nothing." I look into

"Do you remember anything?" He asked. I nodded and looked down.

"Yeah actually. Everything. It's just not as painful anymore. It's more

his blue eyes. Those eyes that had put me to sleep.

clear than ever what we need to do. It's just I feel like I'm stuck on Ajaks memory." I spoke and scrunched my eye brows. "What about ajaks memory?" He asked and held my hand. I turned to look at him as I explained. "Well it's like I felt her. And everything that happened to her. But I felt

something else, as if there was someone else. Or maybe the deviant was already developing and starting to feel but I don't know." I

"The deviant that drained Ajak of her powers?" He asked. "I don't know it's like that part is blurry since that was all of her memory. It's weird. But I don't want to dig into it before I have another breakdown. Do you have any snacks? I'm starving." I sent

druig a look and he shot a big smile. He nodded and le me to sit on

the ledge watching phastos at work.

As he le I started to feel

the point of emergence.

Ikaris and sersi walked in.

Cold like Ajak was?

But it was cold.

It wasn't long ago.

The same cold Ajak felt. I barely noticed druig came back, as he sat on the ledge with me he handed me a Twinkie. He opened it for me and smiled as he handed

it to me. He got his own and took a bite out of it. The sweet treat instantly bringing a smile to his face. Phastos sent makkari out to find

Wait. My memory showed Ajak falling, surrounded by trees. In the cold, snow and ice beneath her. Cold. Trees. But ikaris and sersi said that found her at her ranch. Mid fall weather.

Ikaris. My eyes shot up to Ikaris. Guilt "I'm close to figuring it out." Phastos spoke but within the second Ikaris shot his lasers at phastos work making it explode sending

phastos back and on to the floor. Druig pulled me into his arms

I ran to Ikaris and pushed him he flew back into the wall but holding his stance. He pushed himself o the wall and to me. I held my right hand and li ed a book and threw it at his leg making him loose balance. I threw a punch to his jaw and landed it but he grabbed my other arm and pulled me down. I pushed him o and got on his body holding him down. I punched him again but druig pulled me o and

shielding me from any sharp pieces that flew in the air.

kingo picked ikaris o the floor. Ikaris pushed kingo o and stood their holding his jaw as his lip bled. "Don't you fucken touch her ikaris." Druig pushed me behind him as Ikaris nearly attacked again. "Boss what are you doing?!" Kingo stood up and yelled. "You weren't feeling guilty because of what happened. You were feeling guilty because you did it!" I yelled. As pieces connected,

memories getting clear. I looked at him in rage.

"What are you talking about cora?" Sprite asked.

"He lied to us." Sersi spoke as she helped phastos up.

"No he didn't." Kingo looked at the guy he looked up to.

"What?" Kingo asked in disbelief. Everyone looked at me.

"I protected you guys from the deviants!" Ikaris yelled.

"Don't hurt him!" Sersi ran and yelled. She ran to phastos side.

"He already knew about the emergence." Sersi spoke. Kingo backed

"Ajak told me everything when we le Babylon." He spoke. He stood

"Don't fucken speak her name you murder!" I screamed. Druig held

"What about Ajak! You killed her! That's why you kept asking me about her that's why you told druig to put me to sleep! You killed

"I had to!" He admitted. My heart went cold as my eyes started to

"She loved you." Sersi so ly spoke. Druig held my hand pulling me

"She loved you, and she protected you. She healed you and you killed

"Do you think it was easy to live with the truth? To know one day this

"I've let this go on long enough." Ikaris spoke.

Ikaris up. I just held my stare at Ikaris.

defensive and looked at me.

Ajak!" I pushed past druig.

back. His eyes never le Ikaris.

"Did she?" Ikaris questioned.

her." I said in disgust.

capable of.

shouted at Ikaris.

are." Ikaris spoke again.

into his chest and I hugged him.

and turned to Ikaris as he said that.

Makkari raced in as the tension grew.

back at me. I held my hands up.

up.

Pain

Guilt

Worry

Guilt

Love

Pain

my forehead.

me.

druig spoke I slapped his arm.

pushed me to fight for this.

sersi into our sanction.

followed her sight.

spoke.

small laugh out.

mental state.

mood. She so ly smiled.

I tuned back as sersi stormed out.

I need to fight.

Worry

into the conversation.

I turned to look at her.

"Sprite..." sersi spoke.

"Thanks cora." He smiled as I nodded.

I walked back to druig. He held me protectively.

whispered in my ear. I let out a small laugh.

"You don't have to protect me." I reassured him.

"I should have never le your side." He didn't let go.

Betrayal

"So what are you going to kill him to?" I spoke.

"Don't try that again cora." He looked back at me.

me back.

all would end? To keep on lying to you?" He looked at me. "You we're going to kill cora... you took her to kill her didnt you?" Sersi asked. Druig looked back at me with worried eyes. I could have died in my sleep and I wouldn't have been able to fight back. "Yes but you showed up Sersis and I couldn't do it. I couldn't have you hate me." He let a tear fall down his ch

My blood ran cold, the fear came over me as I realized what Ikaris is

"Is this choice why your willing to kill? You are so pathetic!" Phastos

"I'm an eternal, phastos. I exist for arishem. As do you. It's who you

"I'm not a murderer. I would have never tried to kill cora and I wouldn't change a single thing about who I am. Born or made. But I do not exist for arishem, I exsist for my family!" Phastos started to shout. Druig pulled me in close. He looked down as he held my face. I looked up at him, my body frozen at what's happening. He pulled me

"Then you are making the same mistake Ajak did." I let go of druig

"I found the Tiamut." She signed. I looked at Ikaris and my hands flew in the air before he can hurt makkari. His beam went o and hit kingo as he shielded makkari. Ikaris crashed into the books and looked

"Get out of here." Kingo shouted to makkari and she le running. "You do not turn against your family. Gilgamesh died because of you. You tried to kill cora and now makkari?" Kingo shouted and raised his hands. Ikaris looked at him then me who both were ready to attack. Knowing his odds he walked back.

"You won't succeed against me. And I will kill every one of you if I

have to." He looked at me. I heard sersi start to cry.

"I dare you to try that again." I narrowed my eyes as he slowly stood

Thena out of the way before he can hurt her. Sprite used her powers to escape. "Are you okay?" I asked Thena. She nodded. "Kingo are you okay?" I asked as I looked at his side. He grunted in pain. I hold his hand and pull.

"You could have died because I failed to protect you again." He

Everyone was continuing talking about why sprite when with him.

"I'm alive aren't I?" I tried to look up but failed. He let go and kissed

"I'd die if you weren't." He smiled as he held me. We both tune back

"I can't help you guys. I still think ikaris is right." Kingo spoke.

"So that's it huh? Just gonna follow him?" Phastos asked kingo.

"I love the people of this planet. But if you stop this emergence, you are preventing so many other worlds like this one from being created.

"What is this?" Thena walked in. Ikaris eyes grew a yellow as I pushed

"Wait. I'm going with you." Sprite spoke as Ikaris was leaving.

I still have faith in arishem. But I refuse to hurt any of you for my beliefs." Kingo walked but was stopped by makkari. "We need your help." Makkari signed. "We are no match. It's ikaris. Cora may have a chance but look at her condition. She barely woke up from a coma. She's not stable. But I hope to see you on the next planet." With that last sentence he le. Everyone looked at me. "In my defense I've always been unstable, I'm just really good at

hiding it." I pursed my lips into a tight line. I felt druig shu le next to

"Look. If I'm going to get myself killed going up against ikaris." As

"Or not killed. We will still need to have a back up plan." He spoke.

"All of our powers, even if they are amplified, are not enough to kill a

Ajak would have wanted me to fight for this. Gilgamesh would have

"I'll go talk to her." I let go of druigs hand leaving them. I followed

celestial. So... " as the conversation went on, I zoned out.

The memory of Ajak and gilgamesh came to my mind.

Use this to push myself. To protect druig as he did this.

á

Betrayal Hurt Heart broken "Hey." I spoke. I sat on Sersis right side. She stayed kneeled infront of the statue of arishem.

"I didn't see the lies right in front of me." She stayed staring at him. I

"To be fair I didn't either. And I'm an empath." I tried to lighten up the

"He could have killed you. I don't know how you're still so calm." She

"Well a er a few punches to his jaw I kinda calmed down. You saved me from being murdered, I should thank you sersi." I smiled at her.

"I'm not even sure why ajak chose me to lead." She spoke. I let a

"I asked druig once, why he chose to protect me. He said, 'when you love something, you protect it.' It's the most natural thing in the world. You have loved these people since the day we arrived. So there is no one better to lead us now than you." I watched her loose her pain. Visibly relaxing. "Sersi, get up. Ajak chose you for a reason. Don't let her down." I

helped her up. She took my hand and we hugged.

"Sersi sersi we need you!" Phastos came running in.

"I already gave the pep talk Phastos." I laughed. "What? That's great! Anyways sersi the sphere inside of you, it creates a connection between you and arishem. Maybe I can repurpose it and create a connection between, uh, well all of us. And that can activate the uni-mind." Phastos spoke. I looked at sersi.

"Great." She spoke. "Yeah, but Um. I have to take it out of you." He pointed to her chest. My eyes widened and I looked down. "Okay." She sounded unsure. "Please don't kill her." I spoke and Phastos looked at me.

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