



## 1524 AD Australia

It's been years since the Eternals split up. Ada decided to stay with Gilgamesh to help care for Thena. She doesn't lose her control often, but it happens every once in a while. Whenever this happens, Ada pulls Thena's memories to the surface, hoping it'll help her remember. It doesn't always work, however. Sometimes it's not enough and she attacks them. That's where Gilgamesh comes in. Thankfully, Gilgamesh can handle Thena, otherwise she'd have to step in and do something she hates.

Tonight is calm. Thena sleeps peacefully on her cot and Gilgamesh sits awake in the kitchen, nursing his mug of homemade whisky. Ada sits alone outside, letting the soft breeze play with her hair. The stars above twinkle loudly, begging for her attention.

"Ada?" She's surprised to hear his voice. She hasn't spoken to him in years.

She hesitates for a moment. "Druig? So now you wanna talk to me, huh?"

"I know. Look...I'm sorry, it was a mistake. I shouldn't have shut you out like that. I just thought...if you asked me to stay, I wouldn't be able to say no. And I knew I couldn't stay with them anymore." Ada knows his apology is genuine. Druig isn't usually one to apologize, so these aren't words she's used to hearing.

"I wasn't trying to stop you, Druig. I wanted to go with you."

"Then why didn't you come after me?"

"Kingo wouldn't let me." she sighs aloud, remembering that moment.

"And you listened to him?"

"No. He held me back and refused to let me go until he was certain you were gone. He said it was for my own good." She pauses for a moment, before continuing, "If I followed you, would you have been mad?"

"Of course not. I could never be mad at you. Did Kingo tell you that?" he takes her silence as an answer, "I'm sorry Ada. If I'd known you wanted to come, I would've gladly accepted the company."

"It's okay. It's not your fault anyway. It's Kingo's, really. I just wish you didn't shut me out."

"I won't do it again, I promise you that."

"Good."

The two continue on with their conversation for hours. To them, it didn't even feel like they hadn't talked in years. Their friendship picked up right where they left off. Druig talked to her about his village and how it was prospering. Ada told him she was staying with Gilgamesh and Thena. He was thankful to hear she wasn't alone. That's when he got the idea.

"What if you came and stayed with me?" he offers.

"Druig, as much as I'd love to, I can't. Gilgamesh needs me. What if he can't handle Thena on his own and I have to..." she stops. Ada didn't enjoy using her abilities to their full extent. She was afraid how powerful they could get. The fact that she could hold someone's life in her hands, freaked her out. She especially hated the idea of using them on the other Eternals...her family. So she never did. In fact, most of them don't even know what she's fully capable of. Ajak knows because she trained her how to use them. Druig knows because he's the one that talked her down from the panic attacks. And Gilgamesh only knows because she told him herself, although, he still doesn't know everything. It's not that she couldn't control it, she could. But that didn't stop her from worrying. Her fears haunted her dreams, keeping her awake most nights. But, it was nights like those where her and Druig would sneak in the kitchen, steal some snacks, and sit outside watching the stars. Laughing about the dumbest things until the sun rose was something Ada missed doing. She was thankful she had Druig in her life and she wished she didn't have to tell him no, but she felt like she didn't have a choice.

"It's okay, you don't have to. I completely understand."

### Four Months Later...

Lightning flashes, illuminating the entire house for a moment. Then, the thunder yells. Thena's eyes turn white. Her legs carry her into the kitchen where Gilgamesh is setting aside ingredients for a pie. Thena swings her sword at his head. He side steps, barely moving out of the way in time. The bag of flour, taking the hit from her sword, slices in half and flies off the edge of the counter, spilling its contents all over the floor.

"Thena..." Gilgamesh warns. She swings again, but this time he's ready. He holds his arm up, shielding the blow, before punching her. She flies out the doorway and into the pouring rain.

Upon hearing the commotion, Ada wakes up and runs into the kitchen. She watches as Gilgamesh leads Thena outside. The thunder must've triggered her Mahd Wy'ry. She's not herself anymore and it's too late for Ada to pull her memories. She watches from the porch, hoping Gilgamesh can take her down on his own.

Unfortunately for them, another loud crash sends her further away from reality. Now wielding two swords, Thena swings one at him before immediately swinging the other. Not prepared for the second, he fails to shield himself and gets nailed in the shoulder. It no longer appears that Gilgamesh is winning. Thena is beginning to overpower him. With another swipe of her sword, she slashes at his thigh. His leg gives out and he drops to his knees, still trying to defend himself.

Thena is about to deliver a fatal blow, but Ada stops her. She grabs hold of Thena's trachea and squeezes, cutting off all oxygen to her lungs. Thena freezes, then drops to her knees, holding her throat, clawing uselessly at something that's not there. Gilgamesh gets up and limps over to Thena. Just as she passes out, Ada releases her hold.

The blood pounds in her ears. Her heart slams against her ribcage. Her hands shake. The world around her fades into static. She no longer feels the rain on her skin. Breathing becomes difficult, like she was squeezing her own trachea the way she did to Thena. She knows this feeling. She's experienced it countless times before, but Druig's not here this time to calm her down and she knew she wouldn't be able to focus long enough to project her voice into his mind.

"I could've killed her." Ada whispers to herself, but barely any sound comes out.

Her chest tightens as she begins to cry. Her hands shake at her sides. Gilgamesh limps over to her, asking if she's okay. But, all she sees are his lips moving. She doesn't hear a word he's saying. He notices she isn't responding and decides to guide her further out into the rain, helping her sit down.

"Focus on the rain," he signs to her. All the Eternals knew sign language because of Makkari, but he's never had to use it with someone other than her. Understanding him completely, Ada looks out to the horizon and watches the rain drops fall from the sky. She feels the rain tap her skin. She feels the water dripping from her face. Gilgamesh grabs her hands, holding them steady. Breathing becomes a little easier, which allows her to focus on slowing her hyperventilating. She slowly counts up to fifty, focusing on her breathing. The world starts clearing up around her as she re-enters reality.

"You okay?" he asks her softly, afraid to send her in a panic.

"Yeah. I think so. Is Thena okay?" Ada asks.

"She's fine. She should wake up soon," he assures. "I'm gonna bring her inside really quick, will you be okay by yourself for a couple minutes? Or do you want me to stay?"

"You can take her inside. I'll be okay."

Gilgamesh effortlessly lifts Thena's body off the ground and carries her inside. Ada thinks for a moment, trying to talk herself out of what she's about to do, but it's clear she's already made up her mind.

Gilgamesh returns and sits beside her again, grunting in pain as he does so.

"I think I need to be on my own for a little bit and explore the world. Maybe work on myself," she tells him.

He turns to look at her. "Is it because of Thena? I promise she's okay. You did what you had to do. You saved my life," he explains.

"I almost killed her, Gil. I can't put her life at risk like that again. I don't want to have to do that anymore." Guilt drips from her words as she speaks.

"You don't have to. But if you really want to go, I won't stop you.

Just please promise me you'll check in with me every once in a while, so I know you're okay?"

"I promise."

"You're always welcome to come back if you choose," he tells her. She pulls him into a hug.

[Continue reading next part](#) □