

## Gabriella had still not awoke and a er receiving some sort of power

from Sersi, she was placed in some sort of deep sleep. It happened so quick, Gabriella dropping and Druig catching her before she touched the sand. His hand reaching for her skin as he made sure she was still breathing. Pulling himself up and not speaking to the others, Druig made sure to not leave her side and that continued when they reached South Dakota. The morning of the third day was cold, Druig's body tense in the chair beside Gabriella as she lay still in the same spot she had been in for the last couple of days. Despite no sign of change, Druig made it clear that he would not move until he was sure she was okay. The others

found themselves quiet in the other rooms as they allowed Druig his space, their minds troubled. As Druig squeezes Gabriella's hand gently, he slowly stands before preparing to clean the wound on her forehead. Stepping away from her side to move to the door, Druig find's himself halt as he reaches for the door. Placing his hand on the

doorknob, Druig turns slightly to look back at Gabriella.

Once the door opened, Druig noticed the others quickly move around as if they were keeping themselves busy. Making his way through the room and into the bathroom, his eyes look up as he hears Makkari slowly moves towards him before she stops in the doorway. Looking back down to wash his hands before searching the cupboard for

"I won't be long, my love," Druig comments so ly his jaw tensing as

to see Makkari's concerned face in the mirror. sign, his eyes looking at her as she furrows her eyebrows.

over so you can rest," Makkari signs as she watches him place the first aid supplies down before looking towards her. "Gabriella needs me and that means I don't need rest," Druig says firmly as he signs, his eyes glancing up from Makkari towards Thena who had moved into view, "I'll rest when she wakes." "Makkari is right Druig, I can take over if you like," Thena adds as she steps towards them, Druig picking up the supplies and pushing past

Returning to the room before closing the door behind him, Druig makes his way to place everything on the bedside table. Turning to bring a bowl of fresh water that Sersi had brought in earlier, Druig gently places a fresh cloth in before squeezing the excess water from it. Moving to Gabriella's side once again, Druig lightly removes the old

Makkari gently, his head shaking as he passes Thena.

"I'll rest when she wakes."

bandage from her forehead before putting it in a bucket on the floor. Taking the cloth, Druig begins to pat around the wound as he cleans it. Patting her skin and making sure there was no sign of infection, Druig places the cloth into the water before turning back to Gabriella.

Grabbing a fresh bandage, Druig slowly places it over the wound

before moving strands of her hair. Lingering his hand to caress her

cheek, Druig finds his jaw tense as he watches and hopes for any sign

Taking a deep breath as his eyes linger over her, Druig feels his body slink back into the chair before pulling his hand away. Running his hand through his hair, Druig pushes himself away from the bed as he feels his chest ache. Making his way to the wall opposite her, he

Druig's thoughts linger back to the cave, back to the moment they told each other their feelings and as he remembered every little detail he felt his mouth twitch. Slowly tracing a circle on one of his knees with his finger as his mind falls deep into this memory, Druig's eyebrows furrow as the quiet room fills with the sound of running water. Opening his eyes slowly, Druig's head looks towards the roof as he notices the room filled in darkness with the only light coming from above. The roof was covered in bright blue dots, each group of colour spaced to make it seem like it had disappeared and was replaced with the sky. Pulling himself to his feet as his eyes look around confused, Druig looks towards where the bed was before seeing Gabriella leaning slightly with her hand delicately spinning a

"Gabriella!" Druig calls out, rushing towards the bed before grabbing

web of gold energy.

her into a firm hug, the room returning to normal as her hand drops to wrap around him, "how?" "A memory came to me when I was sleeping, about the time you told away before placing his hands to her face as his thumbs caress her "I can't believe it, I was so scared," Druig adds, moving close to kiss her gently as her eyes well up at his touch, "I don't know what I would

curiously as the others follow her other hand li slowly. Li ing her hand before her, the others watch in amazement as gold lines of energy form around her fingers. In an instant the room transforms into the amazon forest, the last memory of it before the

down so quickly!" "Didn't it come naturally to you?" Gabriella questions as the others shrug. "I mean, we can't remember that far back? I guess with the whole mind erasing thing?" Sprite adds as Gabriella turns to her, Sprite

furrowing her eyebrows as Gabriella takes her hand, "Uh, what's

wrong?"

hug her, "Are you all okay?"

thumb along his face and jaw.

the water.

you to everyone." "You don't need to thank anyone," Thena adds pushing herself from the wall and moving herself between the others so Gabriella could reach her, their movement gentle as they pull each other into a hug, "we are just thankful you are okay."

"How is everyone else?" Gabriella comments as Thena pulls back

with a so smile, Gabriella leaning back so Makkari could continue to

'You've been in a coma for the last couple of days and you're asking

about us?' Makkari signs before nudging Druig who had been silently

focused on Gabriella the whole time despite signing everything to

"Makkari thinks you're stupid for worrying about us, when you've

Makkari, his eyes lingering to between them.

been recovering yourself," Druig says with a slight grin as he signs, Makkari nudging him harder before turning Gabriella to show that she didn't want her to listen to him. "Of course I worry, I care about you all," Gabriella comments with a giggle before taking Makkari's hand and squeezing it, "but I am glad

"You look tired Druig," Gabriella mentions so ly as Druig sco s before reaching to hold her hand against his face, her smile slightly turning to a frown as he chuckles, "you didn't rest?" "I needed to make sure you were okay," Druig replies just as so as Gabriella gently pinches his cheek making him chuckle again, "I will rest later, first let's go grab something to eat."

•- TWO WEEKS LATER -•

"You guys did that?" Ben questions bewildered as he points towards

the TV, the news showing a view of the frozen Celestial poking from

"I love you so much," Phastos replies, his words mumbling as his

stu s his mouth with pizza, his elbow nudging Makkari who he could

her eyes and li s the apple into the air. "Just a small bite," Gabriella comments as Druig leans towards the apple before taking a bite, Gabriella pulling it down to eat it with Druig returning deeper into the couch with his other plate filled with food.

"You're quite cute together," Ben says breaking the silence as

Gabriella looks to him realising he was taking about Druig and

"It feels long," Gabriella replies so ly with her lips pulling into a smile

as Ben nods as he understands, "but, I would consider us fresh?"

"Fresh?" Druig adds leaning into Gabriella as he taps her head, her

you forget that. We are happy, that's all that matters."

shoulders dropping as she giggles, "time means nothing to me, don't

"I understand that," Ben responds as Druig straightens up with a nod,

herself, "have you been together long?"

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couch between Druig's legs, Gabriella feels him tense before she rolls

"It's nice seeing him so parental," Gabriella comments still looking towards the kitchen before she spins as Makkari taps her shoulder, her eyes watching her sign something and then nudging Druig to explain.

'I don't want to ask her that," Druig replies signing as Gabriella tilts

her head with interest, her eyes moving between Makkari and Druig,

"Fine," Druig says leaning a little as he signs to keep Makkari apart of

the conversation, "Makkari asked if we were considering, having

"What!" Gabriella responds slightly choking on the apple that she

Gabriella's response, "I mean, I don't know. It's not something we

Looking at Druig who was signing to Makkari, Gabriella frowns

had begun to slowly eat, her eyes darting to Makkari as she smiles at

"I won't"

children."

"Tell me Druig!"

have talked about."

Phastos turns to Druig.

looking back to Phastos.

around her shoulders before pulling them both towards the kitchen, "that can be a talk for later." "Much later." Making their way into the doorway of the kitchen, Gabriella notices Thena leaning against the counter with her arms crossed against her chest as Phastos firmly stands between her and Jack. Looking at Makkari who had stood beside Thena, Gabriella smiles nervously as

"You, you will stay away from him," Phastos comments, his finger

pointing towards Druig as Gabriella looks to him with a frown before

"Phastos, Druig was really good with the children at the compound,"

Gabriella responds as Druig squeezes her shoulder as a thank you,

Phastos's eyebrows furrowing not exactly wanting to believe her, "I

promise, you should have seen him playing with them. It was sweet."

"I love the commitment Gabriella, but I have known Druig a lot longer

than you," Phastos replies with a nervous chuckle as Gabriella

frowns, her eyes glancing to Druig who seemed not to care at the

his chin on her shoulder as Gabriella's shoulders tense, "are you nervous?" "Yes and no," Gabriella replies as Druig straightens himself before moving before her, her eyes glancing up at him as he smiles warmly,

Feeling his hand run down her arms to take hold of her hands, Druig

leans in to kiss her gently as Gabriella happily reaches up to close the

slowly, Gabriella opens her eyes to see Druig smiling at her before she

space between them. Closing her eyes so ly as she deepens the kiss,

Gabriella begins to think about everything to come. Pulling away

"but knowing I'll be with you, makes it so not scary."

"How cute, my love."

she playfully hits him, "is our life together, never ending, forever." "This is a promise, I can trust." [a/n: ONE MORE CHAPTER!! EEEEK, I can't believe it's finally ending... I LOVE this story so much and despite the fact I wish it wasn't ending,

I feel like it's best to leave it there. Honestly writing this has given me

Continue reading next part  $\Box$ 

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the doorknob turns, "I must clean your wound." more first aid supplies, Druig's hands stop as he closes the cupboard "What is it? Can't you see I'm busy," Druig mutters out as he turns to 'You've not moved for the last three days Druig, let someone take

of her returning to him. "If you can hear me Gabriella, you need to be okay," Druig whispers so ly as his hand moves from her face so he can sit and take her hand, "I need you to be okay." gently finds a spot to meditate as he closes his eyes before taking a deep breath. Allowing his mind to focus and his breath slow, Druig tries to find comfort in past memories and fantasies as he feels the pain try and overpower it. Gritting his teeth as his fingers tense against his knees, Druig's face calms slightly at the thought of one certain memory.

me you loved me," Gabriella whispers, her voice so as Druig pulls cheeks, "it told me to wake up, that you were waiting for me." have done if you didn't wake up." "Druig-" Before Gabriella can finish, her eyes glance towards the door as it swings open loudly. Smiling so ly, Gabriella watches as the others burst into the room before they make their way towards her. "Well would you look at that!" Phastos says placing a hand on Druig's shoulder as he glances at Makkari who gently jumps on the bed to pull Gabriella into a warm embrace, "you're alive!"

"I think so, this isn't a dream right?" Gabriella adds as Makkari taps

"Do you feel any dierent?" Sersi questions beside Phastos as she

watches Gabriella curiously, her mind rushing around the thought

"If you're wondering about if it worked Sersi," Druig begins before

Gabriella li s her hand to his lips to stop him, his eyes watching her

her head to show she was awake.

that it might have been her fault if she died.

attack and she looked around frowning slightly before dropping her hand. With the room returning to normal, Gabriella looks up to the others as they can only look at her bewildered. "How incredible!" Phastos says slowly as he looks around at the others, their own faces showing that they couldn't believe how quickly Gabriella could possess her power, "I can't believe you have it

"Nothing's wrong Sprite," Gabriella exclaims so ly as she smiles, Sprite awkwardly looking around as the others chuckle at her reaction, "I just want to say thank you. Actually I want to say thank

you're all okay." "We are more than okay, everything is returning to normal," Sersi says warmly making Gabriella turn to her with her smile growing, "when you are ready to join us, we have food waiting." Following the others as they squeeze her shoulder to silently

welcome her back, Gabriella sighs happily before watching them

make their way out of the room. Turning her attention from the door

back to Druig, her hand reaches slowly to his face before running her

sense was grinning much too proudly. "Gabriella, here," Thena calls from the doorway loudly breaking the tension between the couple as Gabriella looks over from between Druig's legs as he sat on the couch and she was on the floor. Glancing up from the floor, Gabriella smiles as Thena throws her an apple. Catching it e ortlessly, Thena smiles before returning into the kitchen as Gabriella settles herself back down. Leaning back into the

Gabriella smiling before looking towards the kitchen again as the sound of Thena's energy crash against something. "Can you just hold this, for one second," Phastos exclaims nervously standing as he places his plate on Makkari's lap, her eyes darting to him as he doesn't look towards Ben before rushing towards the kitchen, "-thank you."

slightly as Makkari leans to squeeze her shoulder before signing and standing up. Watching her move into the kitchen, Gabriella looks back to Druig who was watching her quietly. "What are you looking at," Gabriella questions so ly as Druig chuckles before trying to stand, to which Gabriella follows and lets him help her to her feet. "Nothing, you're reaction was just cute," Druig replies placing his arm

reaction Phastos was having, "let's leave it at that." Watching Phastos turn back to speak to Jack, Gabriella looks over to Thena as she makes her way towards her. Letting Thena ru le her hair so ly, Gabriella's smile returns as her eyes follow Thena walking into the lounge. "It appears to be time for us to leave," Druig whispers so ly, placing

nervously tries to look away. "What is to come," Druig responds so ly, turning her head with his fingers so she was looking at him again, her eyebrows furrowing as

lots of confidence in my writing and what I can personally see I need to work on. It's been so amazing to see people loving my story and I really hope the end satisfied you as much as it did for me. I have loved seeing you all enjoy this and it means so much to see you comment and vote for it. Thank you so much for loving Gabriella and this story.]