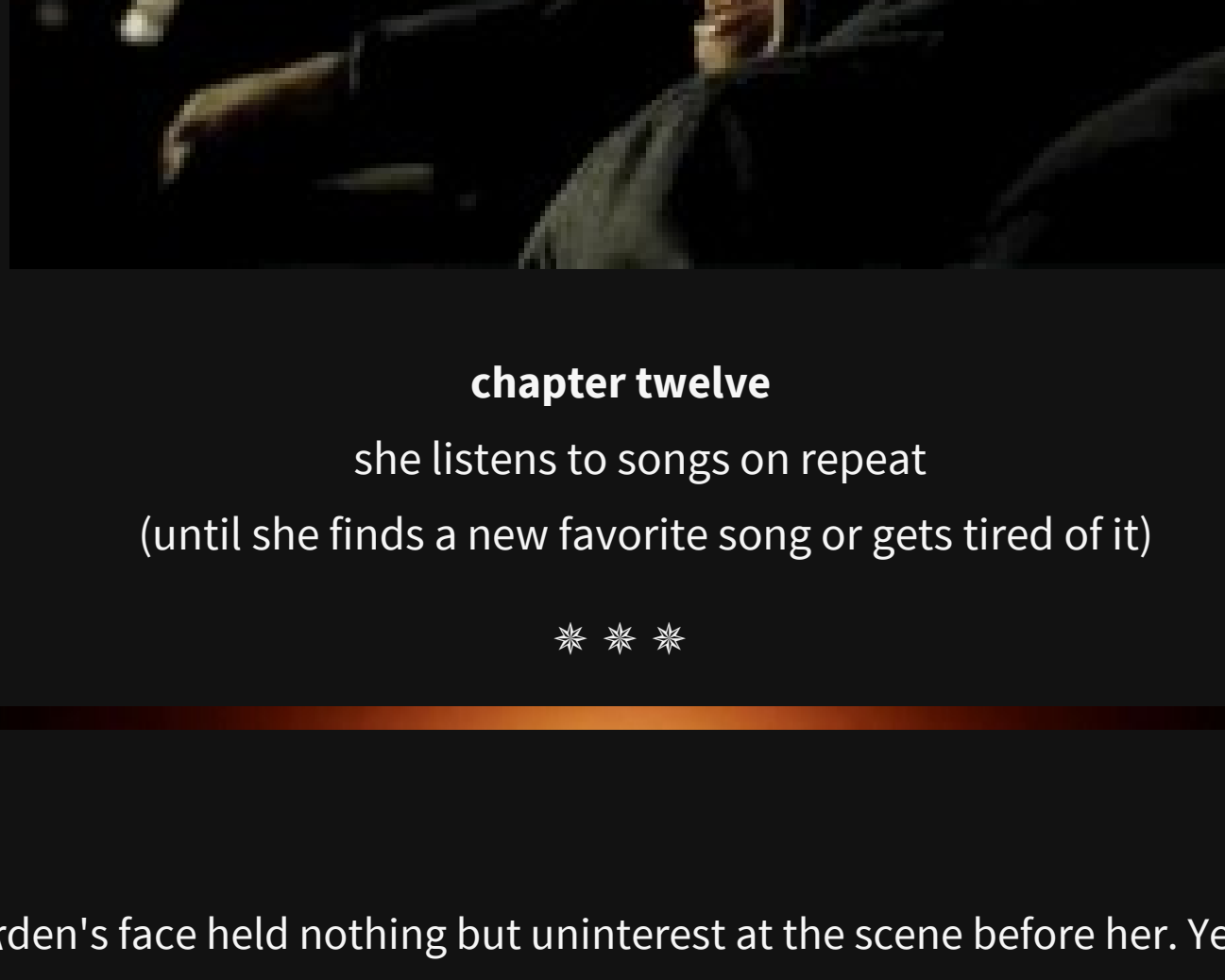


012 she listens to songs on repeat



chapter twelve

she listens to songs on repeat
(until she finds a new favorite song or gets tired of it)

* * *

Aden's face held nothing but uninterest at the scene before her. Yet as her eyes watched the people dance and the sequins on Kingos costume shine in the light, they gave it away that the girl was completely interested.

Though she couldn't hear due to her headphones at the highest volume, she could admit it looked very cool.

"This seems very Kingo," Arden whispered to Sersi and Sprite a er turning down her headphones a tad. She didn't want to be yelling at the top of her lungs just to hear herself.

"That makes so much sense," Sprite mumbled back.

Sersi smiled at the two, nodding her head in agreement. "Very Kingo."

"Hello," a short man spoke making Arden hold up her fists quickly.

"Woah Arden," Ikaris spoke, holding out his hand as they all looked to the wide eyed man.

"I'm Karun," the man spoke hesitantly as Arden sent him a deadly glare. "Kingos valet. It is truly an honor to be in the presence of the great."

"Dude wait," Arden cut him o with a laugh. "Kingo has a valet?"

"What's a valet?" Ikaris whispered.

"I don't know but it sounds funny. I think it just means a human wallet," Arden whispered back. "I'm gonna call him a loser."

"Cut!" the four eternal's heard. "Okay everyone, that was good!"

"Should I tell him now or when he least expects it?" Arden asked.

"Definitely when he least expects it."

"Well it's you," Sprite spoke. "Everyone expects it already."

"Yeah you call Kingo a loser all the time," Sersi added. "Besides a valet is-"

"Thank you for ruining my mood," she sighed.

"Ah!" they heard Kingo exclaim as he saw the four. "My friends from college are here!"

As soon as Kingo started rambling and gave them all hugs, she zoned everything out. The only thing she focused on was the fact he was getting closer and closer to hugging her and she didn't want to be touched.

As soon as he opened his arms out toward her she whistled and he was immediately on the floor.

"Sir are you okay!" she heard Karun over the sounds of her loud laughs.

She watched as Kingo struggled to get from underneath Jaws, his face becoming completely wet with slobber. Her laughter never faltered as she put a hand to her chest to calm herself down.

"Jaws down," she spoke as she cleared her throat.

He obeyed, getting o Kingo at once and finding his spot right by her side.

The group laughed at Kingo who stayed on the floor in shock. His arms were out next to him and his eyes wide. His makeup seemed to be smeared.

Arden, not feeling a single ounce of guilt held out her hand for him to grab.

"I was attacked," he whispered, as Arden pulled him up.

"No you weren't," Arden grinned. "Jaws would never attack anybody."

"I feel like that's a lie," Ikaris mumbled.

"It definitely is," Arden replied. "He attacked an old lady once and almost bit her arm o."

"Oh...is she okay?" Ikaris spoke.

"Not sure," Arden shrugged.

"Oh."

They followed Kingo as he began walking away to his tent, beginning to ramble on again about whatever he was originally talking about before Arden watched as Jaws ran o.

With no hesitation, she ran right a er him to avoid him getting into trouble.

She found him at a bu et table, scarfing down the food as if it was his last. She let out a yelp, moving forward to get him away before making eye contact with a very pretty woman.

Her mouth opened slightly in awe before she stood up straight and sent her a smile.

"Can we eat this?" Arden asked as Jaws continued to eat like his life depended on it.

The woman sent them both a warm smile that made Arden feel happy inside before nodding. Arden smiled back and expressed her thanks before grabbing a plate and putting a bunch of food on it.

Arden began to walk away before realizing Jaws wasn't following behind her. She looked back to find him still eating and groaned.

"That's too much food you're going to get fat," she scolded, patting her thigh to get him to follow her. "There's nothing wrong with that but you did have a butt load of bacon this morning and still haven't let it out so im concerned..."

However he just continued eating until the lights went out.

* * *

"My dog might poo on Kingos plane," Arden dead panned as she stared straight into the camera lens that was a little too close to her face. Her headphones never once stopped blasting music and Ikaris and Sersi practically had her headphones on from how loud they were. "That or throw up. His name is Jaws. He's a black wolf dog so he's super big."

"Uhh," Karun whispered. "Is that bad?"

"When I say tell us about yourself I didnt mean that," Kingo mumbled.

"Its very bad, I heard it gives mortals diabetes," she smirked while ignoring Kingo and leaning on the back of Ikaris' chair even more. The sound of a small crash and a growl went unnoticed by her. "Or cancer I don't know."

"That's not possible," Kingo laughed to assure Karun before whispering. "Right? That's not possible?"

Ikaris just shrugged as Arden played with the tips of his hair, suddenly fascinated by how so it felt. She always expected it to feel sort of sti and gross, but it was anything but. It was weird.

"Your hair feels nice," she told Ikaris, her eyes moving down his face and to his neck. "Sorry about your neck."

"Its alright thanks," Ikaris smiled up at her.

She nodded before taking o her spiderman backpack and grabbing her book.

"Where did you get that backpack from?" Karun asked.

"Wal-Mart," she spoke. "I have to keep my things somewhere, I have special sticks in here. You know I'm so glad Druig gave me sticks because if they were anything else they would probably be dead."

"I literally didnt see you with it until now," Sersi replied, pointing at her Spiderman back pack.

"Oh that's because im magic," she grinned.

"Do you miss Druig?" Ikaris asked.

Arden frowned before flicking his forehead and walking away.

"Dont ask stupid questions."

* * *

"What are you listening to?" Kingo asked, sitting across from her and next to a sleeping Jaws.

"My favorite song," she mumbled, bringing her hand up to play with the necklace around her neck as she continued reading Alice in Wonderland that rested on her lap.

It was a surprise that a er centuries it never once broke.

"What's your favorite song?"

Arden groaned before taking out her phone and showing him the screen. The song 'just' by radio head was playing as Kingo smiled so ly at her wall paper.

It was a picture of her, Thena, and Gilgamesh standing in front of a big rock with a poorly edited Jaws at their feet. Around them held approximately 8 stick figures, all with di erent colored bodies. Kingo soon realized it was them.

"Are you done looking yet?" Arden asked, her arm getting tired.

"No," he said, grabbing her phone out of her hands.

He made note of the necklace around Druigs neck and smiled even more remembering how he bolted to Phastos lab to try and get him to make the flower live forever. A crown was on Thenas head and a mohawk on Gils. Phastos held a heart shaped rock and Makkari and Ikaris had an awfully long arm wrapped around Ardens shoulders. He laughed so ly before looking back up at her.

"You listen to radio head?" he asked teasingly, giving back her phone.

"Yeah its probably why I'm so miserable all the time," she hu ed, taking her phone and putting it in the seat next to her.

"I like your wall paper," he told her so ly. "Your art style looks really good."

Her cheeks flushed and she immediately tried to hide her face behind the sleeve of her leather jacket.

"You should see my house, I have a whole wall of just street art," she told him.

"How long did it take you to do?" he asked, referring to the phone.

"Uh...like an hour? I just wanted a family picture so that was the best I could get. It has everyone I've ever loved on there. My favorite is Sersi and Sprite because Sprite is using Jaws as a pillow and Sersi is petting them and it looks silly," she ranted.

"When we meet up with everyone, we are going to take a family photo," he promised making her eyes light up as if she was a kid on Christmas.

"Wait," she whispered sadly grabbing her drink o the table next to her. "What about Ajak?"

"We'll figure something out," he assured a er some time. "Has anything new happened with you? Any new people?"

"No, but I did find something out with my powers," she smiled.

"What is it?"

"Okay so you know how I can make my body into like- whatever I want?" Arden asked Kingo as she took a sip of the alcoholic beverage in her hand.

"Like how you can make your hand into a blade thing," Kingo nodded.

"Exactly!" Arden smiled. "So guess what I found out I could do. I figured it out centuries ago because Thena scared me so bad I almost peed myself."

"What can you do?" Karun butted in making Ardens face scrunch in slight annoyance. She didn't find the man annoying, she just wanted to talk to Kingo and Kingo only, without the cameras. But you can never get what you want.

Shaking her head she rid of the negative thoughts, a smile appeared on her face yet again.

"I can turn into a bird," she spoke. "Like a whole ass caw cawbird."

"A bird?"

"Yes a bird, and other animals too," she grinned. "Like uh- a lizard!"

"So you can shape shi ?" Sersi asked, turning around in her seat to look at them. "Like your whole body instead of di erent parts?"

"Exactly," Arden nodded. "It's so cool right?"

"Mmm, I don't believe you," Kingo teased, but Arden didn't catch his joking tone.

"Well damn I hope you die then," she hu ed.

"Wait what- why can't you just show me?" Kingo asked.

Arden closed her book and placed it on the seat with her phone before crossing her arms.

"I can't," she mumbled, her face flushing red with embarrassment.

"Why not?" Karun asked.

"Because a teenager was peeping in my backyard and then called me a furry and I haven't recovered since," she rushed as she poured herself a glass of the nearest alcoholic beverage. "It was 3 years ago."

"Mm that'll do it," Kingo nodded. "Teenagers are scary."

"What's a furry," Karun asked and Kingo just shook his head in response.

They fell into a comfortable silence, Arden finding herself hot began taking o her jacket.

"Have you been having those panic things since that one- oh my god!" Kingo exclaimed.

"What?! What what what?!" everybody spoke in unison as a panic began to arise.

"Woah your arms!"

"Oh," Arden said looking down at her arms. "I thought we were dying or something."

"Me too," Sersi hu ed.

"They look so cool!"

"Goodness Kingo," Sprite muttered. "You act like you haven't seen a tattoo before."

"First o, I haven't seen that many tattoos. Secondly, I didnt expect Arden of all people to get them," he sco ed. "So there's that."

"I was really going through it okay," Arden sighed.

authors note:_____

im like a grandparent that gives you a bunch of the same thing when you say you like something like mangos or something and idk if its a bad or good thing ykwim ? Like oh you like Ikaris? Lemme just send u a bunch of memes and edits of him until u block me like why do I do this.

anyway have a big urge to write either a Barry fic or a Druig social media AU ☹☹

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