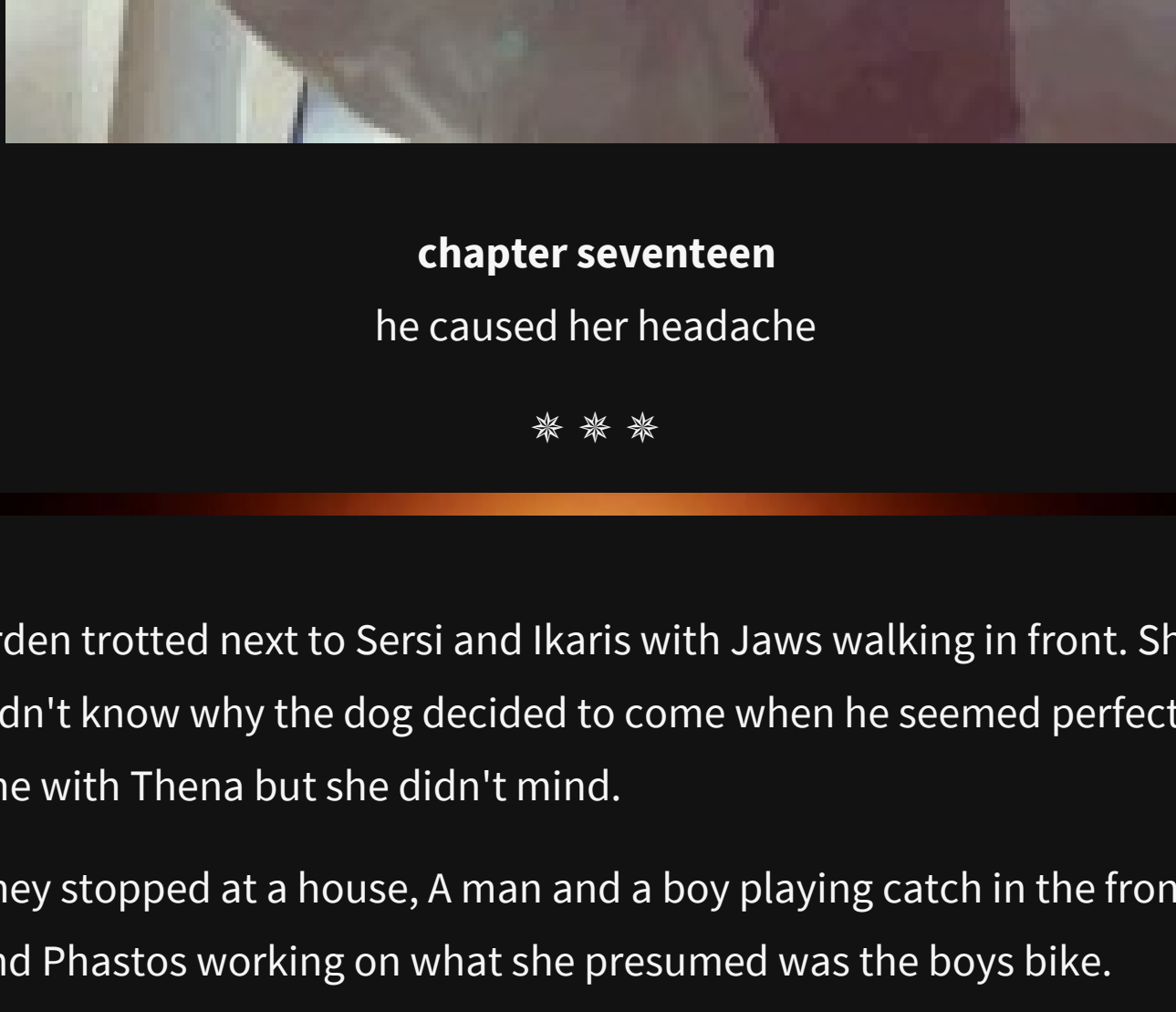


017 he caused her headache



chapter seventeen
he caused her headache

* * *

Arden trotted next to Sersi and Ikaris with Jaws walking in front. She didn't know why the dog decided to come when he seemed perfectly fine with Thena but she didn't mind.

They stopped at a house, A man and a boy playing catch in the front and Phastos working on what she presumed was the boys bike.

"Hi," Sersi smiled.

"Hello," the man replied. "Can we help you?"

"Hey Jack, Ben," Phastos chuckled. "Hey guys. These are my friends from college."

"I never went to college," Arden thought to herself as she watched Jaws carefully so he wouldn't run away.

"Uh this is Sylvia and uh Issac," Phastos continued. "That's Issac."

"Dad that's superman!" Arden heard the boy say. "That's superman!"

"Jack," Phastos spoke. "That's really funny Jack, he is definitely not superman."

"No no he is superman! I saw him on TV! He was in London fighting a monster!" Jack spoke before turning to Ikaris. "And you were with a cape and you were shooting laser beams out of your eyes!"

"I don't wear a cape," Ikaris replied and Arden stepped on his foot with her paw.

"Oh sorry," Jack apologized.

"Okay well, we should just go inside right?" Phastos said. "Should I call you clark? Is that what you go by now because you know..."

"You've called me worse," Ikaris shrugged.

Arden thought the boy was quite precious and wanted nothing but to be his best friend once he looked at her. She'd definitely loved to give Phastos a heart attack by being a 'bad influence'. So, she wagged her tail and Jack laughed while holding his hand out to her, so she took it as a sign to come closer. He immediately began petting her and she leaned into his touch.

"Awe look she likes that," Sersi said.

"Why do you have dogs anyway?" Phastos asked.

"That's Arden's dog," Ikaris pointed to Jaws. "And that's Arden."

"Ha! That's not Arden," Phastos said in disbelief.

Arden changed back, standing up straight with a smug look on her face. Phastos' eyes grew wide and she smiled.

"Nice to see you again Phastos," she spoke lowly.

"I- uh- how?"

"I'm a wizard Harry," she laughed at the expression on his face.

"Oh my gosh you watch Harry Potter?" Ben gasped.

"I've practically read and watched everything," she rocked on her feet. "Had nothing to do for centuries."

"Isn't it 'you're a wizard Harry?'" Jack asked.

"Yeah but I just changed it to fit the scenario," she shrugged and he let out a small 'oh'.

'He's adorable,' she mouthed to Phastos.

* * *

"You got it Jack?" the three heard from down the hall.

Arden had found a thing of oreos and poured herself a glass of milk. She watched as Sersi and Ikaris pretended to be 'casual' and she raised an eyebrow. The sound of Phastos' footsteps made her realize why.

She gave the oreos to Jaws who sat patiently next to her and told him to hide. She quickly laid on the floor and pretended to be listening to music through the headphones that played nothing.

"I literally see him taking it," Phastos sighed, pointing to Jaws who tried to hide by covering his eyes with his paws. The oreos sat next to him.

"What?" Arden asked. "I don't see anything do you guys see anything."

"I don't see anything," Sersi played along.

"He's so... cute," Ikaris mumbled, so ly smiling at Jaws.

"So incredibly natural guys," Phastos spoke, taking a seat at the table.

Arden's eyes caught sight of something underneath the table they sat at. Sitting up, she began to crawl underneath to look at it. Finding a lego, she laid down to see if there were any more pieces so she could build something.

"So... a er all these years," Phastos began. "Even you fell for Ajaks lies."

"No need to rub it in," Ikaris mumbled.

"It all makes sense why she wouldn't let us interfere with human conflicts."

Arden could practically hear Ajak say those words as if the woman was right next to her. Considering what had happened, the feeling made her body shiver. We don't interfere with their wars.

"Conflicts lead to war, and war actually leads to advancement in lifesaving technology and medicine. So our mission was never to make a peaceful or harmonious world, but to increase the population at all costs. Just farming humans as food for the Celestials, right?"

"That sounded... weird," Arden whispered to herself.

"That's bleak," Ikaris spoke.

She motioned Jaws to bring her the oreos and the dog happily obeyed. She pet him as he arrived and gave him a kiss on his forehead.

"Well, so is telling your husband and your child that they could be dead within a few days."

"Oh that's not good," Arden replied.

"Yeah not good at all," Phastos agreed.

"Thought you'd given up on humans," Ikaris said.

"I got lucky, okay?" Phastos spoke. "I have a family now."

"It's a very cute family," Arden whispered to herself as she took another bite of her oreo, the lego remained in her hand as she examined it.

"They give me faith again and I see the good in humanity in them every...single... day. So look, I cannot help you. I'm never leaving them."

"Phastos..." Sersi butt in.

"I'm sorry Sersi," Phastos apologized. "It was wrong of me to use my powers without thinking about the consequences in the first place. So now I chooseto use my hands to fix my child's bicycle okay?"

"Do you?" Ikaris asked and Arden found herself wanting to peep over the top of the table.

"I don't use my powers anymore," Phastos mumbled.

"You sure?"

Arden froze when she saw Ikaris laser beam the window on the other side of the room and was grateful she decided to stay under the table.

"What the hell is wrong with you my child is right down the hallway!"

"That looks like someone's been using his powers," Ikaris spoke smugly. "I bet you've built the perfect safe house."

Ikaris looked around and Arden put another oreo in her mouth. She looked down at the lego again and thought about hiding it somewhere underneath the table on a small ledge.

"What is this even made out of? Vibranium?" Ikaris asked before slamming his fist into the table.

Phastos let out a quick 'dont!' to stop him for he knew Arden was underneath but Ikaris was too quick. A loud 'ow!' was heard instead.

"What the hell?" Arden spoke, sitting up and rubbing her head.

"Arden!" Ikaris exclaimed. "Are you alright?"

"Fall collection," Phastos spoke as Sersi aided Arden. "Ikea. Ass"

Ikaris just looked at Phastos with his mouth agape for he was in shock.

"He made me lose the lego Sersi," Arden pouted, clinging onto the woman's arm.

Jaws began jumping up as if to comfort her and Sersi tried—and failed—to get him to sit.

"Do you have any headache things Phastos?" Sersi asked the man. "I'm surprised she didn't pass out."

"I could if I wanted to," Arden grinned, leaning into Sersi as a wave of dizziness came over her.

"Oh god please don't," Sersi spoke worriedly.

"How do you even deal with this guy for over 5,000 years?"

"If you stay here you might as well invite the Deviants to dinner."

"That sounds kind of fun," Arden laughed.

"No Arden," Sersi shushed. "It really doesn't."

"No, you can't just show up in my life and expect me to go with you."

"Hey," Arden spoke, catching sight of a familiar thing on the table next to her. "Phastos you kept it?"

"Kept what," he asked, getting up to find ibuprofen.

"The rock I gave you," she said, pointing to it.

It seemed as though he had become less tense once he looked at it.

"Of course I did," he whispered.

"I kept all the things you made me too," she grinned, showing o her matching ring and necklace she had with Druig. "Wear em everyday."

"The Katana is in my backpack though," she shrugged.

"You should go, habibi," Ben spoke, handing Arden the pills and water.

"Are these drugs?" she gasped dramatically.

"They'll help with your headache," he smiled at her.

"Oh! thank you!"

"You want me to go?" Phastos asked Ben.

"You know what my mom would say to you right now right?" Ben said, beginning to speak another language that Arden was a little to rusty for her liking in. "He's a chronic procrastinator."

"I'm not leaving you two, no way," Phastos argued.

"I'm not happy about it. But if there's a chance for us to watch Jack grow up to live a life of his own," Ben said. "We should take it."

* * *

As Phastos began tucking Jack into bed, Jaws crawled into bed with him, Arden chasing a er him to stop from ruining the moment.

Jack laughed as Jaws licked his face, Arden winning hoping Phastos wouldn't get mad. When she noticed he wouldn't, she leaned against the doorframe and watched them.

"He likes you," she spoke, smiling at Jack who got pet the big dog laying on his torso.

"He's very heavy," Jack groaned.

"Maybe we should get him o you yeah?" Phastos chuckled, giving Arden a look.

She nodded and stepped forward, but Jack only gave her a sad look.

"Can he stay?" Jack asked.

"I'm not—" Phastos began but Jacks 'please' interrupted him.

Arden bit her lip as Phastos tried to convince Jack that Jaws couldn't. He was Arden's dog, it wasn't his choice to make.

"Let him stay," Arden spoke up, Ben putting a hand on her shoulder for comfort.

"Are you sure? You don't have too—"

"It'll be safer for him...and Jack and Ben will have a friend while you're gone."

Phastos nodded, taking a deep breath before telling her 'thank you'. She nodded back before walking to Jacks bed and placing a kiss on Jaws' forehead.

"Keep my baby safe yeah?" she asked Jack.

"Yeah," Jack smiled. "I will."

"Take care of Jack and Ben yeah?" she asked Jaws. He licked her face in reply and she laughed.

Turning to Phastos she gave him a small smile.

"I'll leave you alone now," she told him. "Take your time...but not too much time because we are kind of on a time limit here and I'd hate for us all to blow up you know."

"Yeah yeah I get it," Phastos chuckled.

She walked out of the room, giving Ben a nod of acknowledgment and smiling. He returned a smile back and she walked down the hallway.

She looked around, the pictures mesmerizing her. When she had gone and looked at the broken table she walked around it, walking toward the wall Sersi and Ikaris stood by.

Not watching where she was going, her hand hit the vase she didn't even know was there which sent it falling to the floor. Ikaris looked to Arden looked to her in shock from the loud noise before relaxing when they realized it was just Arden.

"Shit fuck," Arden whispered to herself before bending down and frantically picking up the pieces of the broken vase.

"What was that?!" Phastos yelled.

"Uhhh it was the dog!" Arden yelled back.

The sound of footsteps approaching above the sound of Sersi and Ikaris' laughs made Arden go into a small panic.

"You le the dog in Jacks room," Phastos said, glaring at her.

"Oh! I was talking about Ikaris, my baby never does anything wrong," she spoke smugly.

"First you smack me and now you're blaming me?!" Ikaris spoke.

"Harsh."

"I'd gladly smack you again, if you'd like. You did smash a table onto my head."

"I said I was sorry!"

"And you still deserve a smack," Arden grinned.

"No," Ikaris said.

"What do you mean no?" Phastos teased, a smile on his face. "I bet you're into that sorta thing."

"Hey now," Sersi laughed, slightly out of breath. Arden high fived Phastos as Sersi tried to think of the words to say.

"This is uncalled for," Ikaris sighed.

"You're not denying it," Sersi pointed out.

"You're right he's not," Arden smiled, crossing her arms and leaning against the wall.

"You're going against me too?" Ikaris asked Sersi in mock betrayal.

Sersi just shrugged and Ikaris put a hand to his heart dramatically leaving Phastos and Arden in a fit of laughter. Ikaris looked to Arden and smiled faintly, feeling less guilty now that she was laughing. She met his eyes and he swore he saw a glint in them. Perhaps it was just the light.

"We have to start leaving now," Arden coughed trying to refrain from laughing again. "The others are waiting."

Her words caused the room to get a little tense but she knew they had to be said.

"She's right," Sersi agreed. "There's not much time."

"You're going to have to pay for that vase you broke," Phastos tried to joke. "When this is all over."

"If this is all over."

authors note!

I FORGOT TO POST THIS IM SO SORRY

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