

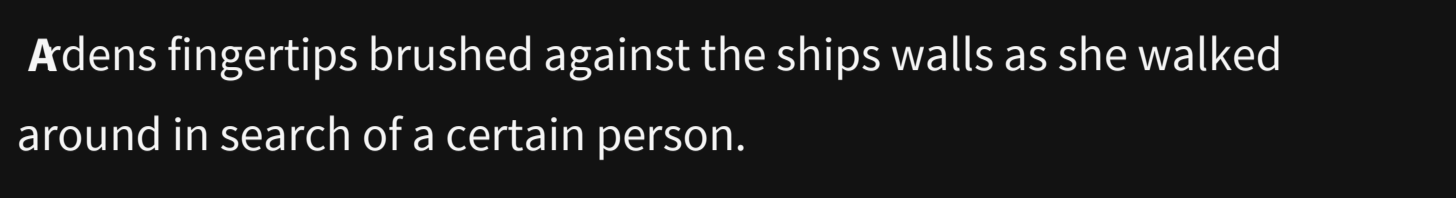
## 002 small rocks



### chapter two

#### small rocks

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Arden's fingertips brushed against the ship's walls as she walked around in search of a certain person.

Having been on the ship for a little while, she had gotten close to her fellow eternal. Which was good, even though Druig followed her around practically every time he had the chance. Arden didn't mind it though, if she was being honest, he wasn't as nearly as annoying as some of them. So, assuming the said boy was busy, she was on a mission to find her second favorite one.

With her eyes staring down at her feet, watching as they took each step closer to the room she guessed he could've been in, she didn't sense the fact that she was going to run into a figure until it was too late.

A 'oof' was heard from the both of them.

"You keep running into me," Druig laughed once he caught his balance.

"I have a feeling you just stand there until I eventually run into you," Arden accused teasingly, gripping onto his arm to make sure neither of them fell.

"I do not," he defended. "What makes you think that?"

"Because I walk slow... so you have enough time to move," she replied with a so smile, moving to the side so she could continue walking.

Druig said nothing as he turned to walk beside her.

"Where are you going?" he asked.

"Why do you always follow me?" she asked, although she didn't mind his presence.

"Because you keep finding new things to occupy yourself," he shrugged.

"And that interests you because?" she asked before her eyes caught sight of a small thing in the hallway.

Her pace sped a bit faster before she crouched down to grab it. She stood and turned it in her slightly scarred hands (from grabbing something in a bush) only to find it was a rock.

"Because it's nice to watch you collect small things," he told her as he caught up to her. "Like that rock you just grabbed."

Her cheeks flushed in embarrassment before she quickly put it in her pocket.

"There's nothing nice about that you weirdo," she said letting out a small chuckle and nudging his shoulder.

He hummed, continuing to walk beside her and watching her from the corner of his eyes.

"So where exactly are you going?" he asked.

"To see Gilgamesh," she replied.

"Why?"

"Because I like him," she shrugged.

"Didn't you threaten him a while he touched one of your sticks? You know you can find those anywhere on this planet right?"

Arden stopped and turned to him with a scowl on her face. He smiled at her mockingly making her roll her eyes in response.

"What's with you and all these questions?"

"Don't know, I feel different today I suppose," he muttered.

"Ah, you're finally going from a young boy to a grown man," she sighed. "Happens to the best of us."

"Shut up," he scooped, pushing her shoulder making laughter erupt from her lips.

"Why don't you make me?" she said instinctively, not paying any mind to the words that went out of her mouth.

"What?"

"Do you know where Gilgamesh is?" she sighed, quickly growing agitated at not being able to find the man. "I've been looking everywhere."

"You've been looking at the ground," he scooped. "You probably passed him like 5 million times."

"The attitude is unnecessary," she muttered.

"I wasn't giving attitude."

"Mhmm sure," she spoke.

"I wasn't!" he defended.

"Sure," she said again, dragging out the 'e'.

"I'm leaving," he sighed.

"Aw why?" she fake pouted. "I'm just kidding, go. Just... don't die yet, wherever you're going."

"I won't," he said, walking backwards and sending her a smile. "Yet."

\* \* \*

"Hey loser," Arden smirked as she walked into the laboratory Gilgamesh was in. Her head was held high and one of her hands twirled the rock she previously collected.

"Where's Druig?" the man asked with a mocking smile.

"What, you don't enjoy my presence?" she winced as she clicked her tongue.

"He's probably wondering because he follows everywhere," Phastos butted in.

Arden's head snapped towards the sound of the man's voice before giving him a glare. Phastos' eyes widened before looking away.

"That's exactly why I was wondering," Gilgamesh laughed making Arden frown a little deeper.

"You're turning into Kingo," Arden muttered. "Keep it up and you're going down in ranks."

"I hope Kingo chokes," she quietly added.

"Aw come on he's just messing with you," Gilgamesh said, nudging her shoulder.

"Exactly, it's annoying."

"Wait wait wait, you ranked us?" Phastos asked.

"Of course," Arden grinned. "You are my fourth favorite."

"Oh, so I'm not even in the top three," Phastos replied quickly. "I see how it is."

"At least you're not last," the girl shrugged.

"Who's last?" Gilgamesh asked, his smile never leaving his face.

"It's a tie between Kingo and... well Kingo," she said.

"Why is he so low?" the two asked in unison.

"Because he keeps somehow finding me and Druig together and making jokes," she grumbled. "Why can't a guy and a girl just be friends without having romantic feelings for each other?"

"I mean, he's nice to talk to and very fun guy it's just- that one thing that gets me so mad."

"Ah, I see how that could be annoying," Gilgamesh told her before rubbing her shoulder in comfort. "It'll be fine, soon he'll find someone else to bug."

She quietly nodded and soon the three were met with a comfortable silence. She looked down at her swinging feet, counting each time they went back. Her head leaned against Gilgamesh's shoulder as she heard a small swoosh sound coming from where Phastos was standing.

"Oh! I have something for you Arden," Phastos told the girl making her look at him in question.

"What is it?" she asked.

The man walked to a chest, Arden watching his every move, before pulling out a katana making Arden immediately stand up. Her arms glowed as they changed, ready to defend her if needed. When Phastos turned around his eyes immediately widened.

"Calm down, it's just a gift," the man chuckled wearily.

"Who's it for?" she asked, narrowing her eyes. "Because if it's for Sprite she is probably going to stab me again."

"Wait again?" Gilgamesh asked. "When did she do that?"

"In my sleep."

"Oh... well anyway," Phastos replied holding it out to her. "It's for you."

"I don't need a katana I have my hands," she spoke, holding her hand out to refuse his gift.

"And what are you going to do if you don't have your hands, huh?" Gilgamesh said, but Phastos just frowned at him making Arden stifle a laugh.

"I think if I don't have my hands, I'm probably not going to be able to use my hands for anything really."

"Just take it Arden," Phastos encouraged as Gilgamesh let out a small 'oh'.

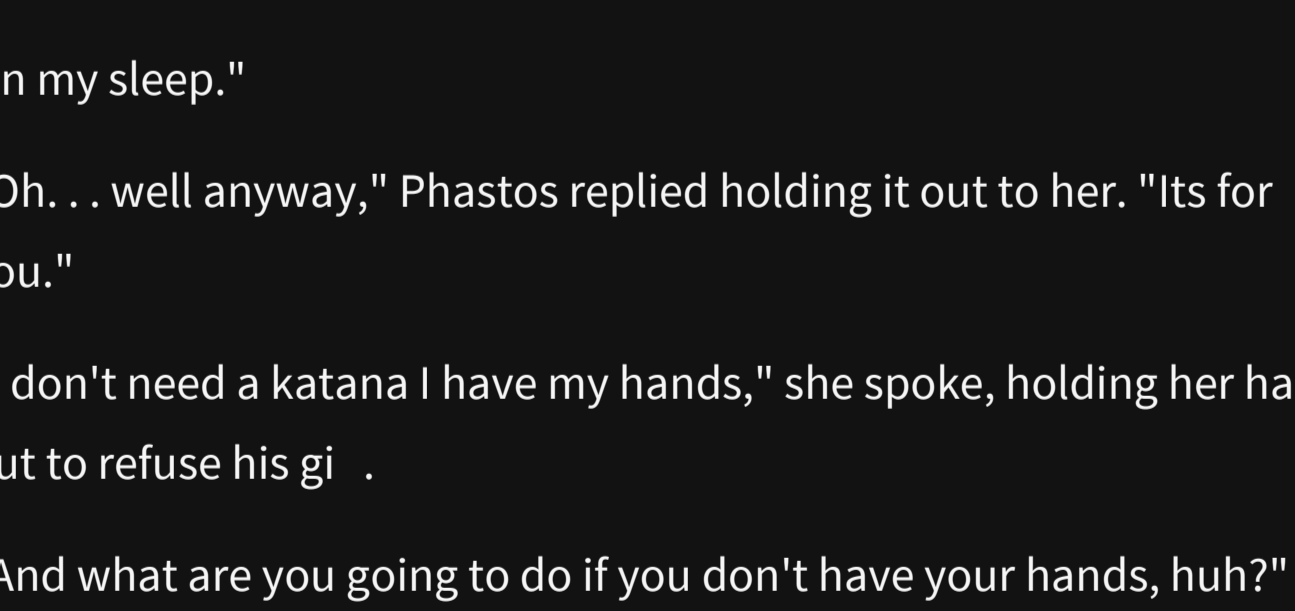
"Why?" she asked, taking it in her hands.

"Just do it."

authors note!\_\_\_\_\_

since it'll be a while till I actually say it,, her powers are shape shifting

but she goes through this whole experience with her powers so it might not look like it rn because I have so many plans yall- sorry bout that I didn't realize KSKKAS



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