

009 she'll pretend nothing happened



chapter nine

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The feeling of your lungs bursting as it struggled to push air out and pull it in and the feeling of your heart banging against your rib cage, was something Arden soon found that she hated. At this point, she believed she was dying.

That's right. Her, an eternal who was meant to live for centuries and never once die, was dying Who would've thought.

She didn't necessarily want to die, she had so much more things to collect. Yet as tears fell out of her eyes and onto her hand that was covering her mouth to prevent noise coming out, she so desperately wanted to die in that moment just to make it all stop.

Lets be honest, struggling lungs and a loud heart paired with a turning stomach and a pounding headache wasn't exactly the greatest. The fact she didn't know what the hell was going on was what made matters worse.

Her limbs tingled making her stretch out her legs to try and make it go away. She had no choice but to remove her hand, it immediately finding its place on the floor next to her, making her release a shaky breath. She winced when she heard it become louder than she expected and froze when she heard approaching voices.

She scooted herself to a darker corner in Phastos' lab, bringing her knees to her chest and covering her mouth yet again.

"It's weird," she heard a voice say. "How are we sure she really does like me."

"Cmon man," another laughed, she could tell it was Gilgamesh. "You really think she'd spend all that time with you? Everytime she's with me and T she mentions you all the time."

"Quit being a wimp," she heard, and she immediately knew it was Sprite. "Just talk to her."

"I'm surprised you're even talking to us about this anyway," Kingo said. "Figured you just, wouldn't."

"Who am I supposed to talk to? Arden?"

"Yeah probably," Phastos said, as they walked into the lab. "What's the worse that can happen? Your close friendship is horribly ruined?"

"Wow thank you for that," Druig grumbled before taking a bite of his apple. "Really comforting."

Arden held her breath, her eyes widening in panic. She breathed in deep to try and console herself but it was no use. She choked on her tears making everyone turn to the sound.

"What the heck was that?!" Phastos exclaimed making Kingo laugh at him.

Arden wanted to laugh at him along with kingo but the lack of breaths circulating through her nose and into her lungs made it difficult.

If only she knew why she felt that way.

She watched as a figure moved closer to inspect before the lights came on. She found it was Druig and as soon as his eyes found hers, he ran closer to her.

Crouching down next to her, he grabbed her hand and put it on his chest before holding her face in his hands. She closed her eyes, already feeling ten times better just from his presence.

"Hey hey hey," he whispered, worry filling every ounce of his body. "Hey its okay, I'm here okay? Just feel my heart, can you feel it?"

She nodded her head, watching as Sprite ran out. She allowed a sob to escape her lips as Gilgamesh came to the other side and began rubbing her arm. She grabbed his hand and squeezed, and he let her.

The sight of Sprite and Ajak made her swallow deeply as they got closer. Ajak crouched down, frowning at the sad girl making Druig hesitantly back up.

Ajak reached a hand up and found her cheek. Arden leaned into Ajak's hand, closing her eyes as she did so and feeling immediate comfort once again. Ajak used her other hand to brush Arden's hair slowly while whispering comforting words into her ear. Ajak allowed Arden to lean her head on her chest and wrapped her arms around her to act like a security blanket.

Gilgamesh hesitantly let go of her hand so she could wrap her arms around Ajak.

The five watched as Ajak rocked a freaked out Arden on the floor of Phastos' lab. Neither of them suspected that would ever happen, with Arden at least.

"Shh," Ajak hushed. "Its okay, I got you. Just listen to my heart okay?"

"I'm sorry," Arden managed to choke out, squeezing her eyes shut tighter for the sound of her weak voice embarrassed her. "Its like my heart is getting bigger and...and...and my lungs are getting smaller."

"I should've went somewhere else," her voice cracked, causing the five to do nothing but watch sadly. "It hurts."

"You're changing," Ajak replied. "Arishem said you would...but I had no idea it'd be from the inside."

Arden's deep ragged breaths came to a slow and the only concerning noises were the sounds she made choking on her tears.

"Changing? Changing how?" Phastos asked.

"Is it with her powers?" Gilgamesh continued.

"Im not sure," Ajak hesitantly responded. "He just said she'd change."

"Well why didn't you ask how?" Kingo asked, pacing slowly as he watched her.

"Didn't get time to," she spoke regretfully.

"I'm so sorry my poor Arden," Ajak whispered. "It will all be over soon."

"What if it's not over," Druig choked out, trying to clear his throat as if it'd rid from the tears in his eyes. "What if it never will be?"

"Druig," Phastos warned, scared if he spoke Arden would struggle to breathe again.

"No no look at her!" he exclaimed, waving his hand toward the girl in Ajak's arms with her hand outstretched to Gilgamesh. Gilgamesh took it and rubbed her knuckles in a comforting manor. "She looks so...broken"

"Will she be okay?" Sprite asked, fidgeting with her knife nervously, though she wouldn't admit she cared.

"I'll be fine," she whispered, coming to her senses that everyone was watching making her pull away from Ajak and let go of Gilgamesh's hand out of pure embarrassment. Her tears never stopped and her lungs never moved. "I'm sorry."

"Don't apologize Arden," Kingo spoke, his voice stern.

Everyone looked to him, a bit weirded out he didn't make a joke before turning back towards the girl.

"Are you okay?" Phastos asked. "Does anything else hurt?"

She shook her head and began to stand up. Her legs wobbled and Druig was quick to move forward and grip her forearms. She squeezed her eyes shut and immediately put her forehead against his in thanks.

"Thank you," she whispered.

She pulled away but Druig just pulled her back closer as gently as he could. He wrapped his arms around her torso as hers went to rest on his shoulders.

"I'm sorry you feel that way," he mumbled, his cheeks becoming glistening with tears just as hers were. "If I could make it stop I would."

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"You know T," Arden spoke to the blonde haired woman while hanging on Gilgamesh's back. Druig and Makkari walked behind them, everyone on alert in case Arden broke down again. "You should teach me more of your moves."

"Mmm," Thena hummed. "Maybe."

"Guess what," she smiled toward the woman making her smile back.

"What?" Thena smiled back giving Arden a sense of comfort.

"Phastos gave me a ring," Arden spoke, showing off the thick silver ring with a red line in the middle on her pinky. "He gave one to Druig too but I don't know if he's gonna wear it. His has purple instead."

"You guys both match each other," Gilgamesh pointed out, whilst adjusting Arden so she wouldn't fall. "He has red accents on his suit, you have purple."

Arden dramatically gasped, making the two let out chuckles before she tried to turn Gilgamesh around to look at Druig. She frowned a bit from how close him and Makkari were, wishing she was laughing with them but shrugged it off nonetheless.

"Did you hear that Druig?" she grinned at him. "We match! Isn't Phastos so sneaky?"

"You're so cute Arden," he told her, a smile on his face making her freeze. Her heart sped up and her smile grew bigger as her cheeks turned red.

She watched as Makkari quickly signed something to him making her nudge her playfully. She was too far to see but she knew Makkari was teasing.

"You're so smart Gil," she sighed in content. "We should go buy stu now, I wanted to buy Sersi's gi. I feel as though she'd should rank up."

"Rank up in what?" Thena asked.

"My rank, everyone is ranked by who I like more. Kingo is last, but can I tell you a secret?" Arden asked, cupping her mouth and looking around.

Thena nodded and Gil smiled as the two girls spoke.

"No one is last, Kingo is one of my best friends. I just love messing with him."

"

I thought everyone knew that?" Gilgamesh asked.

"Shh! Its a secret!"

Makkari appeared in front of them and began walking backwards.

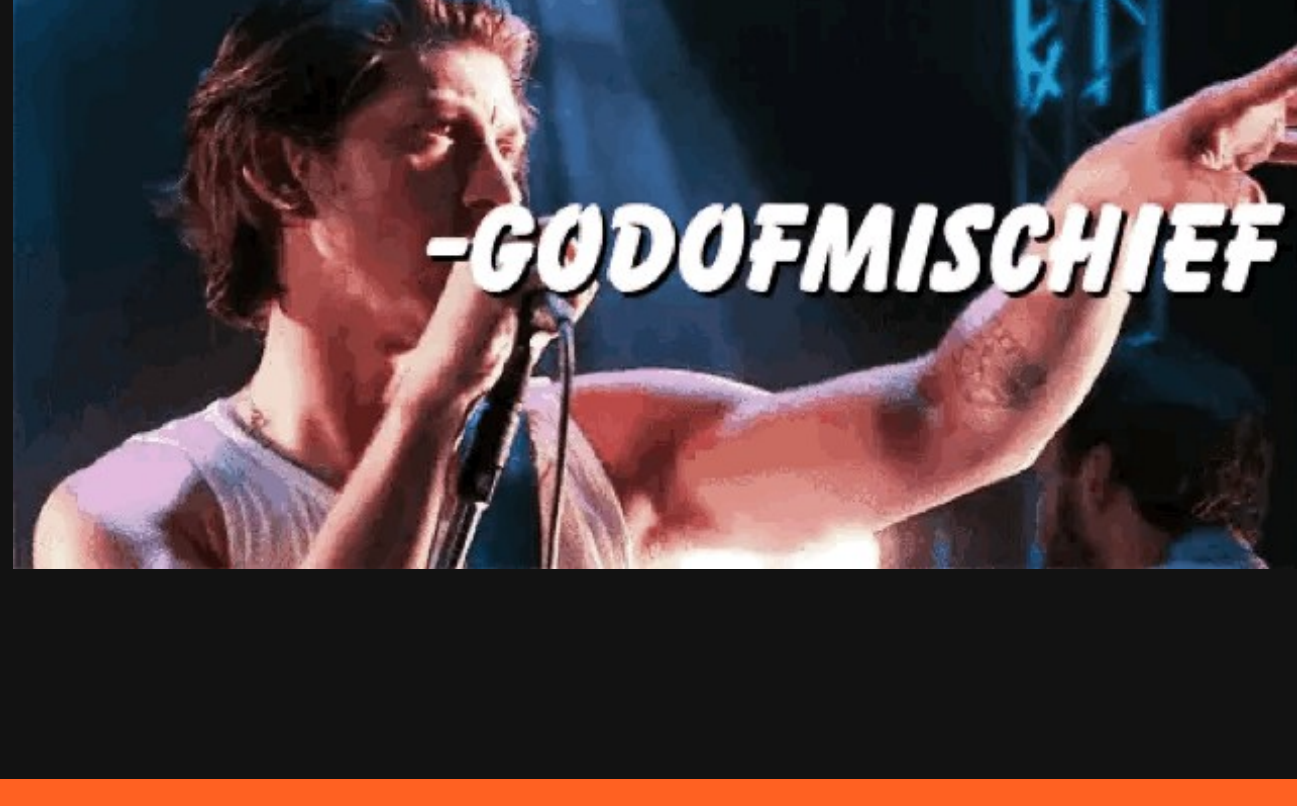
"What's a secret?" she signed, shooting a teasing look at Druig who was on the other side of Gil and Arden.

"Its a secret," Arden winked.

authors note

y'all I'm tired of school and work fr.. I can't write as much as I want to so then I forget what I need and everything gets confusing

so sorry for this short confusing chapter lolz



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