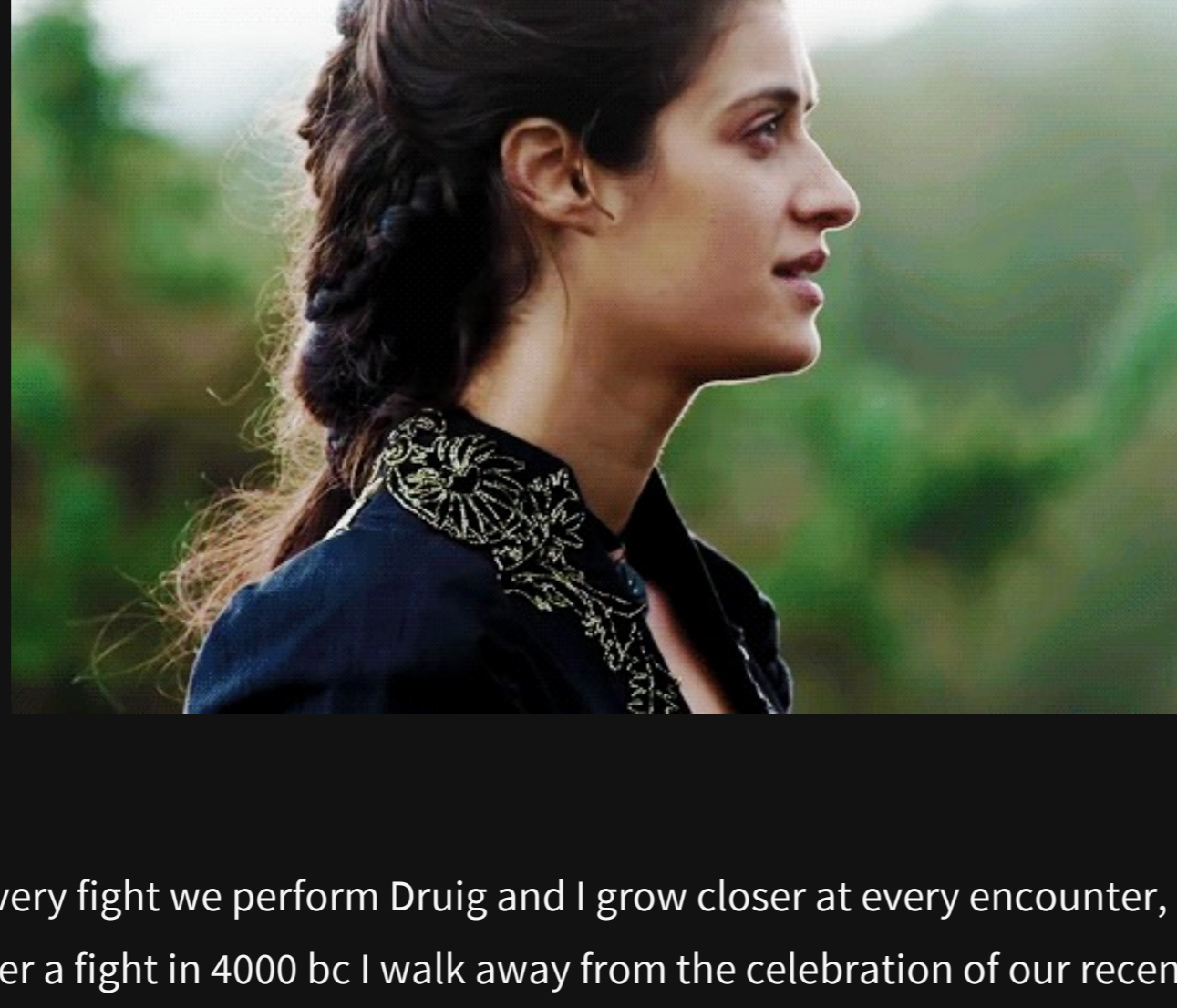


averted gazes

"Two souls don't find themselves by accident."



Every fight we perform Druig and I grow closer at every encounter, a er a fight in 4000 bc I walk away from the celebration of our recent win of battle with the deviants.

As I step out and step down the steps of the stone built community of buildings and houses the freezing air smacks me across the face

God I wish I put my fur coat on. As I take a seat on the sand dunes of the Desert we're currently staying in I sigh loudly but my breath hitches as I hear someone approach

"Ya know the party is inside right?"

I look up to his voice and say "Druig."

He mocks my response, "Gaia."

"Why aren't you inside?"

"Well, Kingo was about to start singing and I don't feel the need to have my eardrums bleed."

I laugh and smile at the ground. He watches me laugh and smiles to himself for a few moments

"Are you going to come sit or just stand in front of me for the rest of the night Druig?"

He slowly sits beside me as I lean back on the dunes staring at the array of constellations and beautiful stars. Druig says "So, we just sit here?"

I turn my head to him and say sarcastically "Well, I am staring at the stars trying to avoid the guilt of killing. You can build a sandcastle or something if you'd like."

He shakes his head and says "There's no water near by. Why suggest that and get my hopes up for a slightly less boring night with sand castles?"

I shake my head and sigh as I look back to the sky. "You don't know how to relax do you?"

He says matterofactly "I don't get stressed."

I furrow my eyebrows in confusion and say "So you're telling me that the man who can control the whole world with just a thought doesn't feel the pressure of his impact?" He nods and says "Yeah, pretty much." I roll my eyes and say sarcastically "You nearly sounded like pig headed Ikaris right there. Where has my kind and sweet Druig gone?"

I giggle in a joking matter and he shakes his head trying to avoid giving me the satisfaction of a smile "You believe I'm sweet and kind? Who are you? Where's the Gaia that punched Kingo for eating her oranges?" I laugh loudly and roll towards him, now on my side looking at him as he stares at the stars laughing and shaking his head. "I don't like others taking my things."

"Obviously."

I smile and I put my hand up above my head and turn my hand in an attempt to figure out the constellations. He says "You're doing it wrong."

"I'm not stupid, I know how to do this. That constellation that I'm looking at right now is Cassiopeia. It's like the stretched out W looking one."

He grabs my wrist and leans towards me. I freeze and I think I stop breathing. What is he doing? Oh my god. He pulls my wrist to the right and points to the sky. "That's Cassiopeia. You were looking at part of Aquarius." He grabs my hand with his other hand and opens it wider and corrects it to sit right under the constellation. He looks down to me as I stare intently at his hand wrapped around my wrist and his hand on mine. My eyes widened and he cleared his throat. He released my wrist and hand and lays back down beside me.

My heartbeat can't slow down. It's reeling.

Druig stares at the stars with warmth and embarrassment setting in on his cheeks. He closes his eyes increasingly embarrassed. Druig and I don't dare to move an inch. Not wanting to address what the hell just happened. I swallow hard and close my eyes embarrassed that I made him feel uncomfortable. We both attempt thinking of something to say in this situation. Both coming up short

I hiccup loudly out of stress.

Druig laughs loudly and says "Did you just hiccup?"

I glare at him and cross my arms "Shut up. It's a nervous habit."

He smirks, now gaining his confidence back "I make you nervous?"

His accent presents itself deeply in the question and Gaia hiccups again. He laughs and says "You sound like a hiccuping idiot."

I sco and say "Well, you blink too much when your nervous."

He chuckles and says "Looks like someone's been watching me."

"I have not!"

He nods and says "You just told me I blink too much when I'm nervous. How would you know that without watching me?" He's gained a whole lot of confidence back, he's practically asking for me to argue with him

"Well, you're the one that I catch staring at me all the time."

His smile falters as we keep looking to the stars "I don't stare."

I nod and say "Fine, you gawk in amazement at my pure beauty." He chuckles nervously and says "You wish Gaia. I'm far too powerful and attractive for you."

I roll my eyes and say "I lost Casseius again."

He grabs my wrist and pushes it to the right once again. Maybe that was my ploy for him to grab my hand... maybe it wasn't.

"You know for a being from space you should know these. But a er all, you aren't a thinker of the eternal's."

I punch his arm and he laughs

I sco and say "I have more up here then the other warriors, that's for sure." He raises an eyebrow to me and says "I wouldn't exactly say that's something to be proud of, look at the other warriors. Ikaris is full of hot air. Kingo much rather dance around and sing. Thena... well Thena doesn't think she just does. Gilgamesh is powerful. But not much up there."

"I'm smarter then Sprite and you."

He sco s and says "I beg to di er."

I shrug and he says "Without me you'd be lost gaia." I chew the side of my mouth and say "Without you.. I wouldn't have anyone to watch the stars with and talk to."

I smile as I look to him and he says "You're a sap." I shake my head and say "Okay what's that constellation?" I point to one to the right of him. He points to one near by and says "That one?" I reach over his body and grab his wrist, I slide his arm to the right and say "That o..." I stop talking as I see my whole upper half on top of him as I hold his wrist

He looks to me and a grin purses to his lips "So...t-that one, then?"

He looks to the sky and I nod. He says "That one is Orion, to the le of it is Gemini." He slides his hand to the le and points to it. My hand stays lightly attached to his wrist and he doesn't seem to mind. I look up to where he's pointing and I say "And the one below it that looks like a Y?"

He says in a deep accent that makes my heart rate increase "That is the cancer constellation. I assume you know where the Big Dipper is along with the Little Dipper."

Of course I know where the Ursa Major and minor are.

I smile and say "Right there." He nods and says "So maybe you are smarter then sprite." I slide my hand o his arm and say "Tell me something I don't know."

"Are you two done kidding?? Sprite is about to start another one of her stories about gaial!"

Druig and I quickly look towards the town where Kingo and Makkari are standing. We quickly get to our feet and I brush the sand of quickly. Walking ahead leaving Druig to follow me. I quickly walk past them as Makkari mocks us. She makes kissy noises and I push her shoulder continuing to walk towards the event area.

Kingo nudges Druig and says as he signs "So... did you kiss her?"

Druig looks to them and says "Shut up."

Makkari smiles and signs "He so has a crush."

Druig signs angrily "No I don't!"

He follows a er me and I sit beside Sersi as Sprite begins her story. I see him enter the room and I slide my legs o the bench leaving room for him. He clears his throat and sits beside me

I swallow hard and Sersi looks to me as I tense up immensely under the embarrassment.

She nudges me and says "What's wrong with the two of you?"

I shake my head and motion towards Sprite. She casts illusions of me now telling my story to the community of people we have here with us

Sprite says "So! Gaia became the bright beam of light she was by a piece of the earth and sun coming together to create her. Making her become, Gaia, mother of earth."

Druig laughs and I elbow him in the side. He glares at me briefly before he starts laughing again as Sprite goes into more detail about my story she made up of my history

Continue reading next part