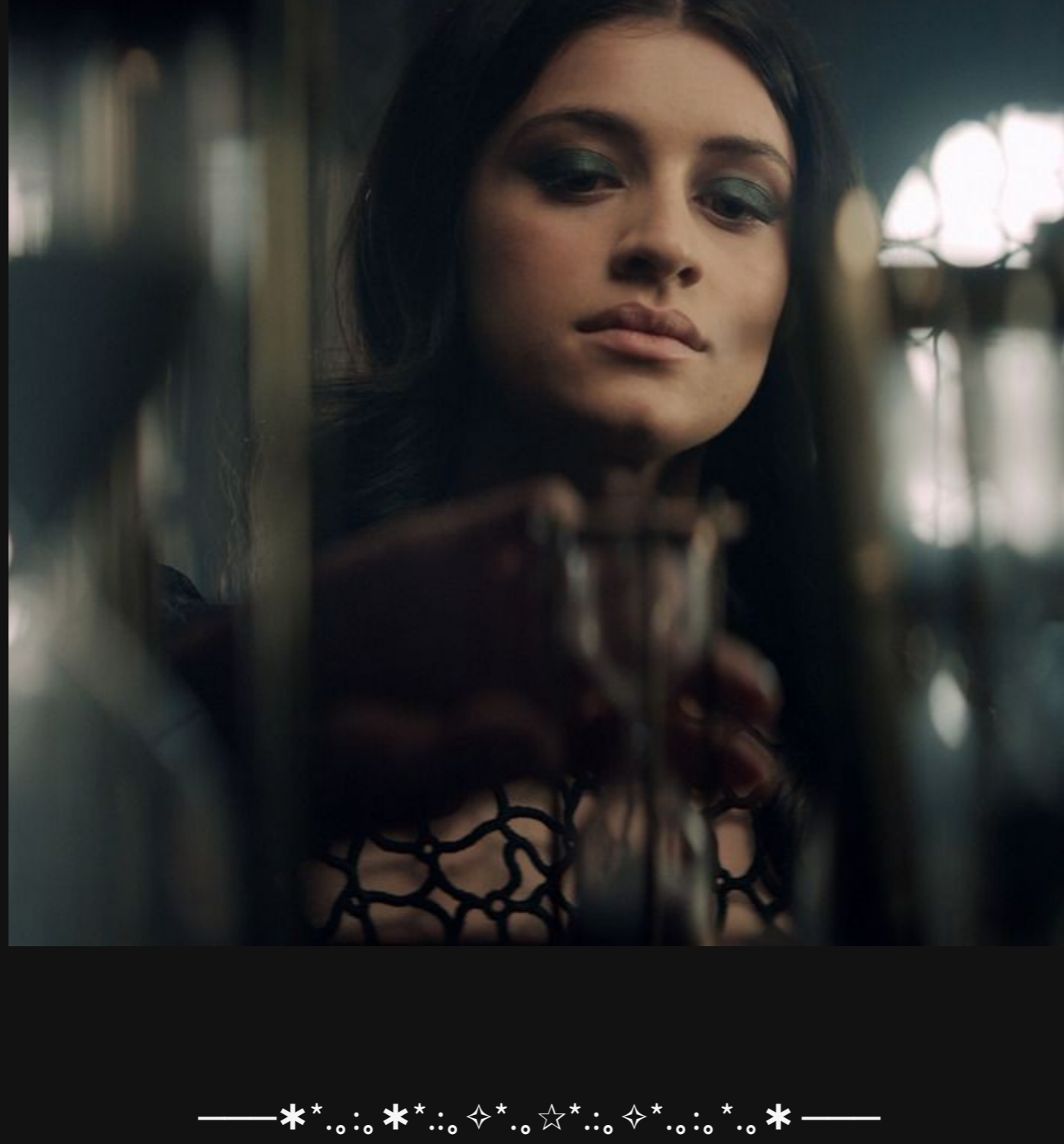


## party

party

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Makkari leans against my door frame in my bathroom as I sit in front of my vanity braiding my hair up nicely, she signs to me "You know Ajak said for Phastos to go out to the party not you."

I smile to her and sign "I know, but we deserve to enjoy ourselves. We can dance, drink! You are still coming along with me right?"

She nods and signs "If they get mad I'm blaming you."

I laugh and sign "Not surprising. Come here. I want to braid that pretty long hair of yours."

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She walks over and sits beside me, I spin in my chair and undo her ponytail. I brush through her hair and start a long braid at the top of her head. God her hair is so long. I enjoy my time with Makkari. She's hilarious. The long french braid comes to an end and I tie it o at the end.

I sign to Makkari "All done."

She nods and I walk away from her. She mocks my dark eyeshadow I created but I don't care. I think it looks beautiful. She signs "Did you rub dirt on your eyelids?I roll my eyes and sign "Phastos may create weapons and other inventions but he doesn't make many things for women. I'm calling it eye shadow!"

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She scrunches up her face and signs "It looks like you have two black eyes."

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I sigh and walk away from her looking for my dress in my closet. I enter the closet and grab the dress hanging. I slide into it and leave the closet. I follow Makkari out and we sneak past Ajak and Phastos and the others. My eyes widen as we see Gilgamesh and Thena come straight towards us. Makkari grabs my shoulder and speeds me away. We stand in the event hall and I smile. I pat Makkari's shoulder and I approach the group of men. Makkari goes to find herself a drink

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Men order me drinks and I smile politely and accept a few. I look to the people dancing around and I smile. A man walks up to me and says "What's a pretty little thing like yourself doing here without a man?"

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"As you can see I have men all around me buying me drinks. I rather enjoy the company of friends over dates with men I meet in bars." He sco s and says "You're a tease lady." I smile and say "If I'm a tease, your a unmannered dick head."

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"Hey no need to get defensive. You're the one who accepted my shot of alcohol."

I shake my head and say "That doesn't mean I'm yours for the taking. I do have the right to my own personal choices." He steps closer and the yellow whisps course through my clenched fist. I'm going to sucker punch this man in about 2 seconds if he doesn't leave me alone. I'm sure Ajak would love to hear I got into a bar fight. That's not a very motherly thing to do, why did I get stuck with being mother earth? It's dumb

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The man who's harrassing me says "This man bothering you?"

I look up confused and see his eyes all white. Druig. I nod and say "Hello Druig." Always here to swoop in for the rescue. Might have needed that one though. I'll never admit it to him, wouldn't want to stroke his ego.

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The man says "You seem distressed. You do know Ajak said no parties, correct?" I nod and say "And obviously you didn't listen either." He says through the man "I'm not even here."

"I swear to you Druig, if you were controlling the man when he called me a tease I will scalp you."

He chuckles and says "No, it wasn't me. Kind of wish it was though. Just to see you enraged again. What's with the black coloring on your eyes?"

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"It's eyeshadow."

"It's... it's.."

I hu "Odd. But it looks good."

Oh sweet, sweet Gaia... it looks better then good. Brings out the color of your beautiful purple eyes.

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I flick the guys forehead trying to capture Druig's attention again. He chuckles and says "You do realize I don't feel any of that, right?" I squint and bite the cheek of my mouth "You never tell me anything about your powers. I've known you for centuries and you still haven't filled anyone in on how they work."

"It's none of the eternals business."

I sigh and walk away "You're always so cryptic."

"It's who I am."

I gulp and say "At least you can admit it. So you're just back at the base following me around with a mind controlled pig headed man?"

He nods and says "Basically, yes."

"Coward."

Then the real Druig steps in front of me, "I am not a coward." I smirk and say "If Ajak gets mad at us I'm blaming you." He rolls his eyes and says "Pretty sure Makkari would side with me. You've resulted into dragging her into trouble?"

I sco and say "Ajak trusts me more then the two of you." He raises his eyebrows and says "You wanna say that again and try to make it sound convincing?" I shoot back the shot and walk away from him, leaving him with his controlled jerk that called me a tease

Druig makes the controlled man smack his head against the wooden beam and Makkari nudges him signing "I saw that. He shakes his head and signs "The part where she called me a coward? Or the part where she called me closed o ?"

She nods and signs "all of it."

He closes his eyes and signs "Where's Kingo? Usually he's always at these events", Mikkari shrugs and walks away and towards the poker players.

I smile to the dashing man who spins me on the dance floor. He dips me suddenly and Druig decides to head out on the balcony for some air. The man grabs onto my hips and says "Gaia. Mother of earth right?"

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I smile to him and say unamused "Those are the legends."

He says "You're even more beautiful in person, goddess." His hot breath touches my neck and I nearly elbow him in the face out of instincts. I wouldn't call myself a goddess. I slide his hands o my hips and finish out the song. He says "Another dance darling?" I politely decline stating that I must help out with the piano playing. I step away from him urgently. I wipe at my throat feeling grossed out by his hot breath and saliva touching my skin.

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I dismiss the piano player and start to play a simple little celebratory tune. Makkari rests her hand on the top of the piano and I nod as I tap at the keys. She's feeling the vibrations.

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I look around for Druig and see he's ran o to be somewhere. I want to look for him. Oh god it was probably the coward comment.

The song wraps up and I stand up quickly looking around for Druig. With no findings of him I head back to the bar. Not my best idea. Truly not my best idea at all.

I down the bottle while I hang o Makkari's shoulder. We both are enjoying ourselves too much tonight. I throw my knife at the wooden dart board landing bullseye. Makkari nods and we start throwing knives at the wooden circled game.

I high five Makkari and she throws a real dart this time. I see a blur as she throws and she lands it dead on the money. I nudge her and sign "you cheater."

She smiles and sighs "I didn't cheat. How would I even cheat?"

I raise my eyebrows and sign "I'm not stupid Kari. I smile to her and squeeze her cheeks scrunching up my nose to her. "So cute."

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I step onto a chair and shout "Everyone! Looky here! Has anyone seen a blue eyed mildly tall cute guy around here?! I seem to have lost him and I would like to find him!"

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The attendants of the party look to me and Makkari signs aggressively "Get down!"

I smile and stand up on the wobbly table. "I asked a question misters! Has anyone seen... or been possessed lately? I'd like to-!"

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I tumble o the table and go into a fit of giggles. I jump to my feet and the crowd cheers. I hug makkari and walk out of the event hall. I don't get too far though.

I flop down onto the sand dunes face first very drunkily. I'll just take a little nap.. right here.

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Hi guys! Alrighty, thanks for all the views and votes. Absolutely love you guys. Please comment and interact! I love reading comments and receiving your reactions. I'm enjoying this slow burn type of romance happening so far. Druig being infatuated with Gaia and Gaia being completely oblivious to him. I'm sorry if this chapter wasn't super entertaining. In the next chapter it will pick up. I am going to have a flashback scene in the next chapter, so look out for that sentimental and very romantic moment they shared in a past lifetime. Again, thank you so much for the love. I truly can't thank you enough!

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