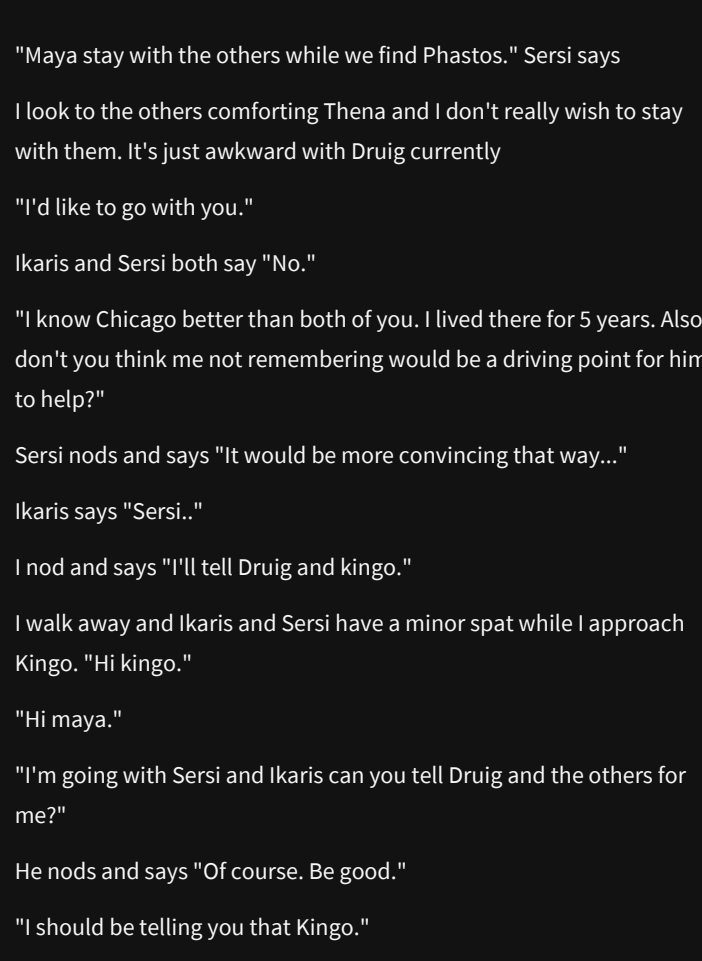


makkari returns

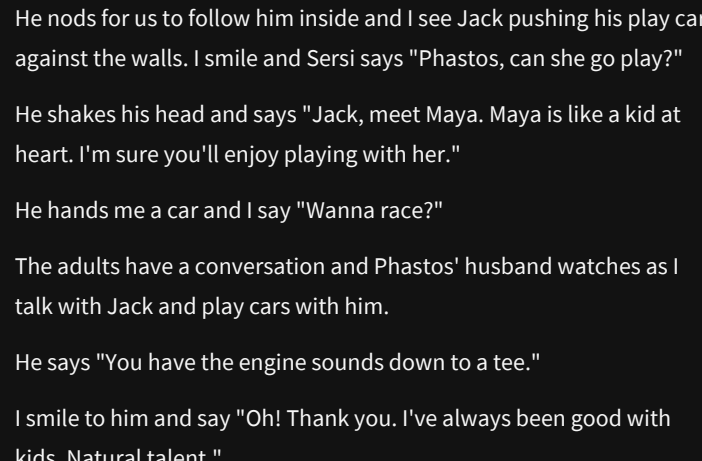
"Glass shattered on the white cloth. Everybody moved on. I stayed there."



"Maya stay with the others while we find Phastos." Sersi says I look to the others comforting Thena and I don't really wish to stay with them. It's just awkward with Druig currently "I'd like to go with you." Ikaris and Sersi both say "No." "I know Chicago better than both of you. I lived there for 5 years. Also don't you think me not remembering would be a driving point for him to help?" Sersi nods and says "It would be more convincing that way..." Ikaris says "Sersi..." I nod and says "I'll tell Druig and Kingo." I walk away and Ikaris and Sersi have a minor spat while I approach Kingo. "Hi Kingo." "Hi Maya." "I'm going with Sersi and Ikaris can you tell Druig and the others for me?" He nods and says "Of course. Be good." "I should be telling you that Kingo." He chuckles and pats my shoulder. Ikaris says "We're leaving now Gaia."

I nod and follow them. A while later we approach the suburban neighborhood and as we walk closer I start playing hopscotch on the chalk drawn sets on the road.

Ikaris shakes his head as they go up ahead. "Dad it's Superman! I saw him on tv! With his cape!"

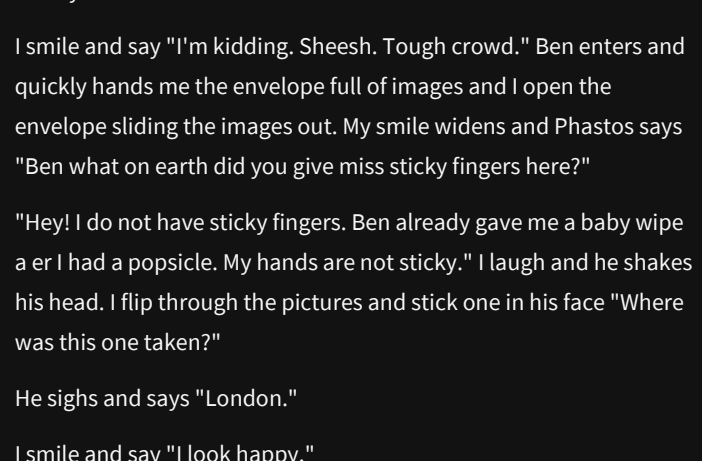


"I don't wear a cape." Phastos says "Head inside Jack. These are just some friends from college..." Some kids join me as I flawlessly flow through their difficult and never ending hopscotch.

Phastos looks past them and says "You brought Gaia?" Ikaris says "About that... Ajak reset her and made her believe she was someone named Maya." He says "What?" Sersi says "We have so much to tell you."

"I don't do any of that anymore. I only fix my sons bike, I don't build or anything like that any longer." Sersi says "Maya!" I look up and quickly walk over with a big smile on my face. "That's such a fun game."

Phastos shakes his head and says "So is her mad w/r'y gone then?" "That's a funny word. What does that mean?" Ikaris rubs his temples and says "I am not explaining anything to you Maya... Phastos she's like a completely different person."



He nods for us to follow him inside and I see Jack pushing his play car against the walls. I smile and Sersi says "Phastos, can she go play?" He shakes his head and says "Jack, meet Maya. Maya is like a kid at heart. I'm sure you'll enjoy playing with her."

He hands me a car and I say "Wanna race?" The adults have a conversation and Phastos' husband watches as I talk with Jack and plays cars with him.

He says "You have the engine sounds down to a tee." I smile to him and say "Oh! Thank you. I've always been good with kids. Natural talent." "None of your own?" I smile and say "Not yet... But maybe eventually."

Jack says "Do you have superpowers like Superman?" I shrug and say "Ah, well, no not really. But I do know how to sew a good cape."

Ben changes the subject and says "Is what they're speaking about bad?" I shrug and look to Jack. Ben says "He doesn't have many pictures of his friends from college but he does have a few with you, I found them shortly after we created Jack's baby book."

I furrow my eyebrows and say "He has photos of me?" He nods and says "I'll go grab them. Just keep an eye on him." I nod and Jack says "No powers?"

I look around and see no parent near by and I grab the candle on the table. I focus on my hand and light the candle. Jack looks at me and shouts "So cool!"

Phastos says "Buddy? What are you talking about?" I give Jack the shush sign and Phastos stands up to check on us. I smile to him and say "Hi."

He says "What'd you do?" I shrug as Jack laughs beside me. Burying his face in my hair giggling. I smile to Phastos and say "Does it look like I did something?"

He narrows his eyes at me and says "Don't steal my kid alright?" I gasp and say "How do you know about that? It was one time!" He says "Excuse me?"

I smile and say "I'm kidding. Sheesh. Tough crowd." Ben enters and quickly hands me the envelope full of images and I open the envelope sliding the images out. My smile widens and Phastos says "Ben what on earth did you give miss sticky fingers here?"

"Hey! I do not have sticky fingers. Ben already gave me a baby wipe and I had a popsicle. My hands are not sticky." I laugh and he shakes his head. I flip through the pictures and stick one in his face "Where was this one taken?"

He sighs and says "London." I smile and say "I look happy." He nods and says "You were. You and Druig were happy."

I chuckle at the other images and say "Oh my gosh I look so cute here." Sersi says "You two kept in touch?" Phastos says "She would reach out and we'd go for a drink occasionally." Ikaris says "Was he invited to the wedding?" Phastos chuckles and says "I was invited but I had a prior commitment."

Sersi says "I invited you all to mine. I'm o ended." I look around and say jokingly "Wait, I was married? No way." Phastos says "I can see how this got annoying."

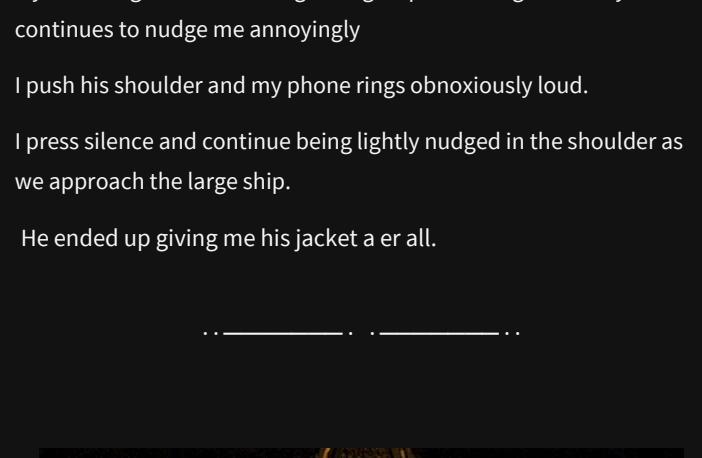
"Hey!" Ben says "Come on Jack, let's get you ready for bed." "Can she come with us?" Phastos says "I guess. Go ahead buddy. I'll help you brush your teeth in a minute."

He squeezes my hand and quickly pulls me away from the group. Ben follows shortly after us. Phastos says "I guess the title, mother Gaia still holds strong."

I hear small pieces of Phastos' conversation he had with the other two eternals here before he joined us in the bathroom to brush teeth. Jack grabs a brand new toothbrush and hands it to him.

I laugh as the toothpaste bubbles in my mouth and I say "I look like bah rabid bog." Phastos laughs and says "Yes you do look like a rabid dog with all that froth."

Jack laughs and I switch water in my mouth spitting out the toothpaste. "Ah! So much better!" I smile to Phastos and they bring Jack to bed while I waltz back into the living room.

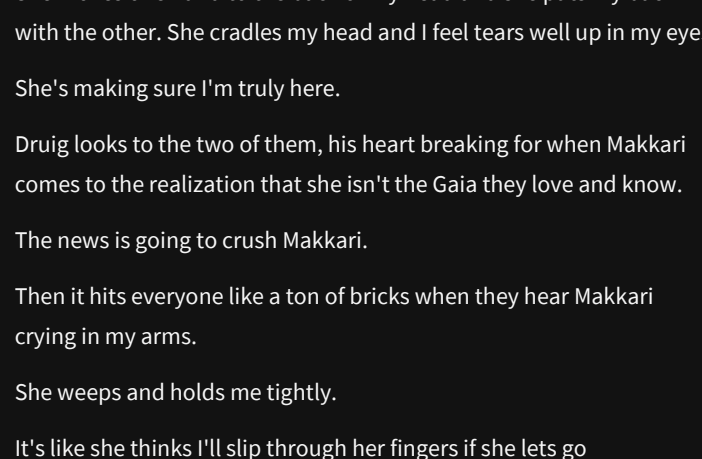


Sersi says "We've almost convinced him." I blurt out "He shouldn't have to leave his family." Ikaris says "What?"

I nod and say "He shouldn't have to leave them." Phastos says "Glad someone agrees with me." I turn towards him and the four of us all sit down.

Ikaris says "You have a perfect safe house. I know you've used your powers Phastos. It's not like you to not." Ikaris fires a laser beam of cosmic energy at the door and it absorbs it immediately and Phastos says "I've gotta kid! You can't do that!"

"So, what's this made of then? Vibranium?" He slces his hand through the table and items clatter to the ground.



"Ikea... fall collection..." I laugh and Ikaris chuckles. I nudge Phastos and say "That was a good one."

He shakes his head and Ben clears his throat from behind us. Phastos stands up and has a small conversation with him

We all lean towards the conversation to eavesdrop and Phastos says "Fine... I'm only doing this for my family."

I high five him and say "Good for you Phastos. I'll do this for your family too."

Ikaris groans and says "You see what we've been dealing with?" Ben says "I find it rather charming."

"Thank you!" "Don't encourage her." Sersi repeats

We land back in the Amazon's and we approach the group. They see us approach and Druig says "Phastos is in?"

I nod and say "And he thinks he can help with my memory problem." My eyes wander to his leather jacket and a smile comes to my lips. He looks so good in that leather jacket

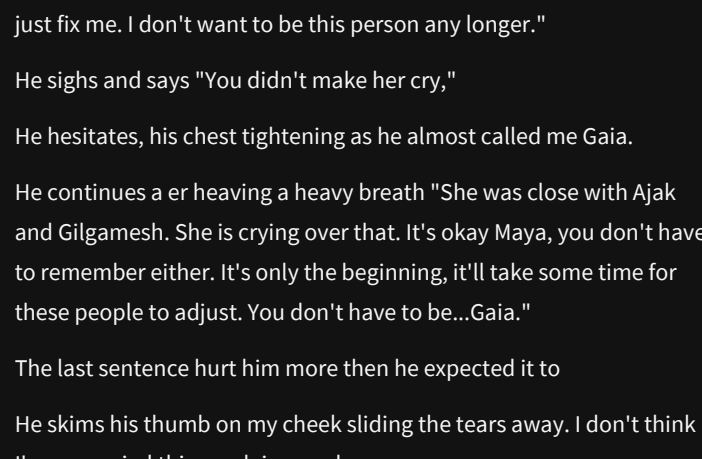
"Good. Good. I'm glad." Sprite says "So, now back to the domo?" Phastos nods and says "I know exactly where it is."

Druig slides a pair of sunglasses on me and says "Now you're ready to go." I smile to him and say "You're such a so le."

"Only for you." I rub my arms and he says "We need to grab you a jacket." "I'm fine."

"I'm not going to give you my jacket if you get cold Maya." I nod and say "Fine grouchy."

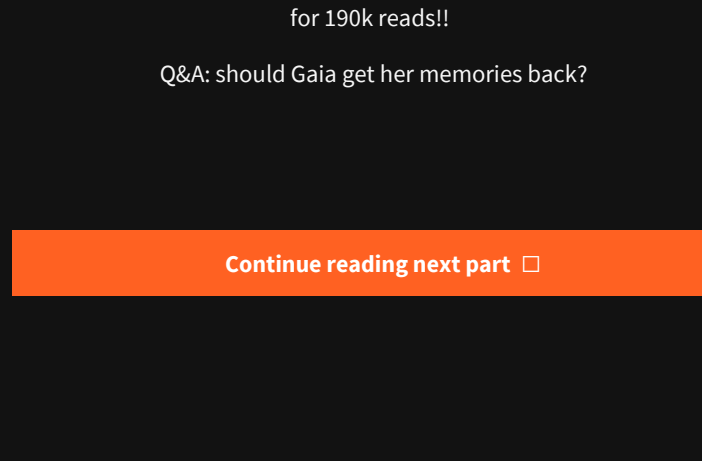
Sprite casts and we make our way through the illusion.



I stay close to Druig and he nudges me as I smile amusedly at the domo. He makes Karun shimmy and dance as we make our way to the domo. My loud laugh echoed through the group and Druig amusedly continues to nudge me annoyingly

I push his shoulder and my annoyingly loud. I press silence and continue being lightly nudged in the shoulder as we approach the large ship.

He ended up giving me his jacket and a er all.



Makkari speeds through a book on her lap when we as a group approach. Kingo still jumpy from Thena stepping on a chip bag.

Druig stays closely behind me and my body aches. I think my inner Gaia is surging. She's in pain. First she lost Ajak and now Gilgamesh. I didn't even know Gilgamesh. I just feel sick to my stomach at the thought of him dead. My body feels dead of emotion. Like there's nothing left to give

Makkari looks to us and signs "Is it time to go home?" I am pushed towards the front once again by Kingo and Ikaris. Makkari's eyes widen and she speeds in front of me squeezing me in a hug tightly.

She moves one hand to the back of my head and she pats my back with the other. She cradles my head and I feel tears well up in my eyes. She's making sure I'm truly here.

Druig looks to the two of them, his heart breaking for when Makkari comes to the realization that she isn't the Gaia they love and know. The news is going to crush Makkari.

Then it hits everyone like a ton of bricks when they hear Makkari crying in my arms.

She weeps and holds me tightly. It's like she thinks I'll slip through her fingers if she lets go

She sobs and hugs me tighter. My eyes widen and I rub her back. Druig clears his throat walking away. It's too difficult. He can't do it. Sersi says "Druig you can't walk away we need to have a team discussion about everything."

Makkari pulls away from me smacking me upside the head very hard, multiple times. I groan and rub the side of my head. "Ow! What was that for?"

She wipes her tears and shakes her head. She signs "You ran from me! You abandoned me! How could you? Where were you?! Where were you when I needed you? We needed you and you ran like a coward!"

I stare at her confused. My eyes staring at her moving hands like they're foreign to me because her movements are.

I don't understand her. I don't even know her. She signs "Gaia you le me! You promised me you'd stay by my side! You pushed me away like I was nothing!"

I look around getting slightly frustrated just as Makkari is getting. The team leaves us to have a private conversation.

Makkari hugs and signs "And you won't even speak to me? What did I do that made you run? Why did you run from me? We were supposed to stay together... like we always have. You promised..."

The broken look on her face breaks my heart. "...I..." Just Druig, Makkari, Sersi, and I are in the room. Makkari nudges me and angrily and signs "If I made you angry you should have told me. We could have worked it out. Like we always did! You disappeared and never spoke to me again! Or visited! I was all alone. All alone. For 70 years I was alone. We were supposed to stick together..."

Makkari tosses her hands in the air frustrated with my "silent treatment"

Sersi says "Maya, Makkari is deaf. She is signing to you. Can you read what she's saying?" Druig steps towards them grabbing Makkari's shoulder. She turns to him and a look of shock hits her face. She just now saw Druig, too focused upon getting Gaia's responses.

I look to Sersi and say "I can't... I can't understand her. She she hates me and I can't understand her. I, Gaia could understand her. I took her away from..."

Makkari hugs Druig quickly and he closes his eyes out of fear, getting the information out of his mouth won't be easy. Sersi rubs my back reassuringly as she then excuses herself and I watch Druig communicate with Makkari.

I stare at his hands moving and her face contorting into sadness at what he's signing

He signs to her slowly "Gaia went to Ajak and Ajak erased everything. She is no longer the woman we knew. She doesn't remember us. She doesn't remember anything. It's like she's a completely different person. I'm sorry."

Makkari's face drops and tears threaten again "That's ridiculous! She just doesn't want us to be mad at her or something. Very funny Gaia. Stop with the jokes is Sprite in on this one? Him? Give me the truth. I don't want the lies. This isn't funny anymore. You abandoned me... and now you're making jokes at my expense."

Druig shakes his head and signs "She can't understand what you're signing Makkari. She can't communicate with you. She doesn't know us. We're strangers to her, okay? She has no trace of us in her head. It's like a blank slate with a few memories of her new life."

Makkari gasps and signs "You're telling the truth? You aren't lying? You read her mind? She...she doesn't remember me! Makkari's lip quivers and Druig says quietly "I'm sorry, Makkari."

Druig signs "We don't get to go home yet either. Ajak and Gilgamesh were killed by the deviants." Her face drops into a frown and her eyes dart back to me briefly.

"You don't remember me? Your best friend?" My face scrunches up as I attempt to read what she's saying. I let out a defeated sigh saying "I, I can't understand what your signing. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry... I can't try to learn... I."

I don't think I've ever seen someone's face drop as much as Makkari's just did.

She steps away from us speeding out the entry way and I look to Druig confused and feeling crappier.

I look to him and say on the verge of tears "What did I do? What did I do wrong...? I'm sorry, I'm so sorry. I don't want to forget any longer. Please... just fix me."

He holds my cheek and says "You did nothing wrong. Nothing. This isn't your fault. It's okay. Makkari will be back soon. You didn't do anything wrong."

I shake my head feeling the hot tears roll down. "I made her cry. I did that. I made that really sweet woman cry. I don't even know her and I made her cry. I couldn't understand her. Why couldn't I understand her? I don't want to be like this anymore. I want you to have your version of me back. I don't want to see her cry again because of me. I don't want to be like this. I want to give everyone Gaia back. Please... just fix me. I don't want to be this person any longer."

He sighs and says "You didn't make her cry." He hesitates, his chest tightening as he almost called me Gaia.

He continues a er heaving a heavy breath "She was close with Ajak and Gilgamesh. She is crying over that. It's okay Maya, you don't have to remember either. It's only the beginning, it'll take some time for these people to adjust. You don't have to be... Gaia."

The last sentence hurt him more then he expected it to

He skims his thumb on my cheek sliding the tears away. I don't think I've ever cried this much in one day.

a/n: Okay, who knows the song at the beginning? anyway, AHHHH season 2 of the Witcher came out so I have some new Gaia gifs to use!

Amaya looks so good in the new season!! I have a plan for where I'm going with this story haha, trust the process!! Makkari and Gaia are at a disconnect. I can only imagine how painful Gaia will feel if she remembers her past life. Anyway, you guys alright? It's not as bad as I thought it would be, writing this chapter. It's not too sad. Thank you for 150k reads!!

Q&A: should Gaia get her memories back?

Continue reading next part