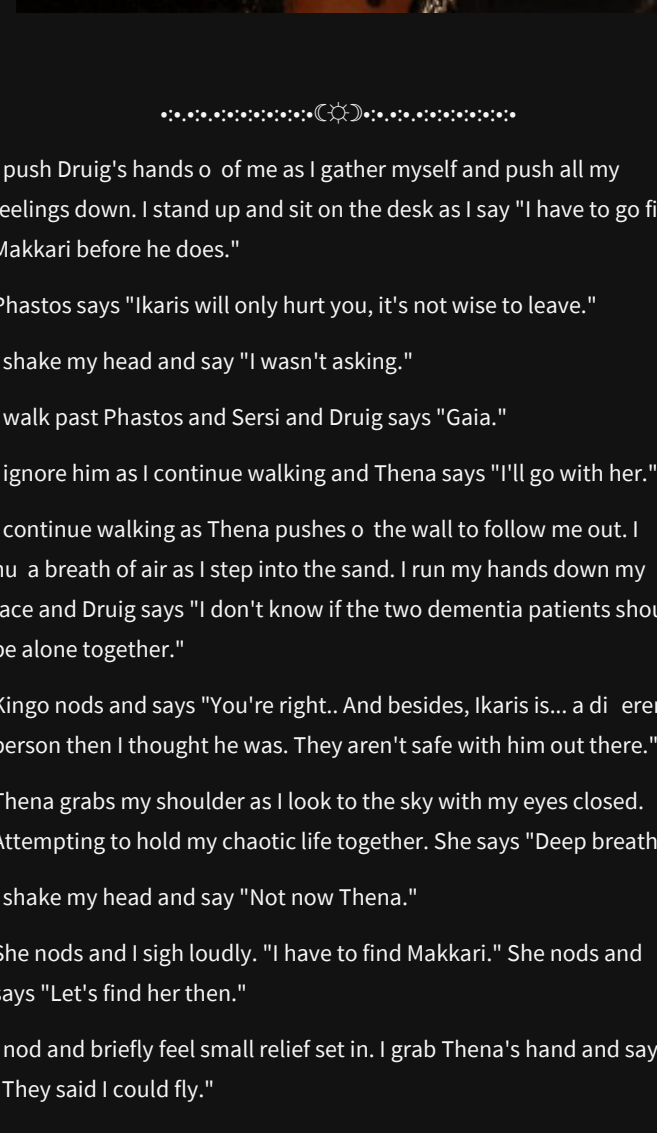


more than a betrayal

"No longer a danger to herself or others. She made up her mind and laced up her shoes. She could do anything she wants to do."



I push Druig's hands off of me as I gather myself and push all my feelings down. I stand up and sit on the desk as I say "I have to go find Makkari before he does."

Phastos says "Ikaris will only hurt you, it's not wise to leave."

I shake my head and say "I wasn't asking."

I walk past Phastos and Sersi and Druig says "Gala."

I ignore him as I continue walking and Thena says "I'll go with her."

I continue walking as Thena pushes on the wall to follow me out. I hear a breath of air as I step into the sand. I run my hands down my face and Druig says "I don't know if the two dementia patients should be alone together."

Kingo nods and says "You're right... And besides, Ikaris is... a different person then I thought he was. They aren't safe with him out there." Thena grabs my shoulder as I look to the sky with my eyes closed. Attempting to hold my chaotic life together. She says "Deep breaths."

I shake my head and say "Not now Thena."

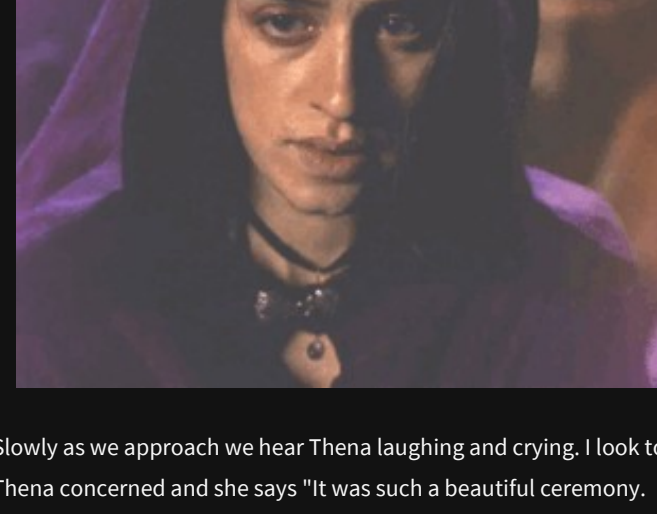
She nods and I sigh loudly, "I have to find Makkari." She nods and says "Let's find her then."

I nod and briefly feel small relief set in. I grab Thena's hand and say "They said I could fly."

"Yes, and you still can."

I push on the ground still holding firmly to Thena's hand as we slowly lift off the ground. Thena smiles and says "You're getting the hang of it." I smile to her lightly and say "Makkari would be?"

Thena shrugs and I let my body lead the way. She watches me intently as we make our way back towards the amazons. Thena looks to the surroundings as she feels the deja vu set in.



Thena knows exactly where I am headed. She feels her throat tighten as she can't help but think about how Gilgamesh died in the forest we're flying above.

I land and look to Thena as she just has a pale expression on her face. "Thena...? Where are we?"

She steps forward, slowly releasing my hand. Her hand skins over the burned tree and her breath shakes as she says "I haven't been back here since before the fires."

I look to her and she walks towards the charred and old dead trees.

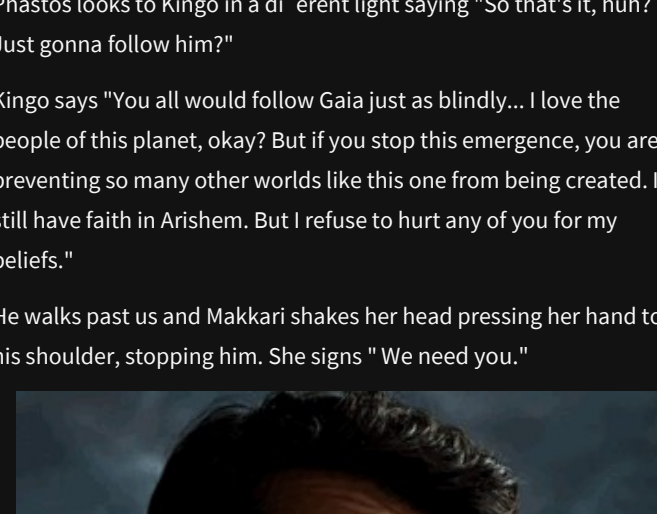
I hear a sound behind me and I turn and see Makkari seated beside the stone bird bath. That's filled with leaves and gunk. She looks to me and I see the emotional expression on her face. I walk towards her as Thena steps through the city I single handedly destroyed.

She kicks the dirt slightly and I hug her tightly, pulling away for only a moment to sign "I thought... I thought Ikaris hurt you or something. I'm so glad you're okay."

I hug her tightly. Squeezing her tightly and relieved.

She pats my back and slowly she looks to Thena walking away towards the one place that wasn't destroyed in the community. With all of the control Gala and Druig could gather from themselves they saved that one place.

Makkari sees Thena sit down and I look behind me as I slowly pull away from Makkari. She nods to me and motions for us to follow Thena.



Slowly as we approach we hear Thena laughing and crying. I look to Thena concerned and she says "It was such a beautiful ceremony. Gilgamesh enjoyed it so much."

Makkari nods sadly and I look around to the area and my heart aches. Makkari signs "There was the most beautiful wild flowers that grew around the benches and grass for the pathways."

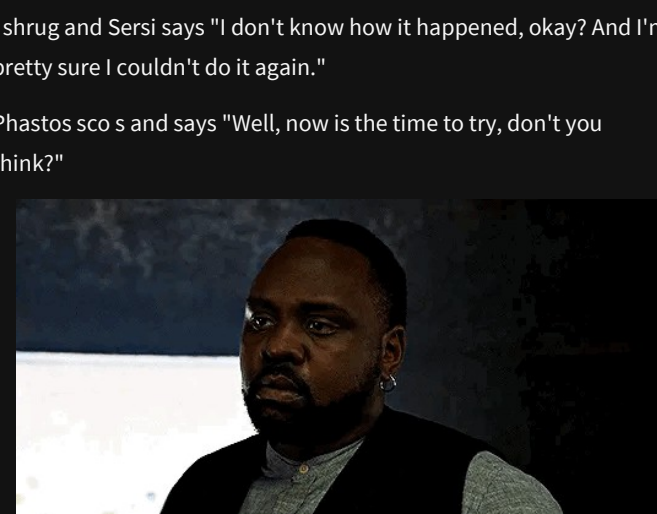
I breathe a sigh and say "I got married here?"

Thena nods and says "And Gilgamesh stood up under that altar to declaring it. With the... biggest smile on his face. It was sitting right here with Sprite and Makkari."

Makkari nods and signs "And obviously you were up there in your beautiful white dress. That was shimmery and just perfect for you. It was one of the last moments we were all together."

I nod and my bottom lip quivers and I say "Let's... Let's get back to safety okay?"

Makkari and Thena share a look and Makkari grabs our hands. Speeding back to the domo.



We step into the main quarters as they all remain silent. Makkari signs "Where is Sprite?"

Druig pushes on the wall and walks towards me saying "She's... She's loyal to Ikaris."

Makkari looks to me and I slowly nod as Druig wipes the small amount of dirt on my cheek. He sighs and Makkari signs "Why did Sprite go with Ikaris?"

Slowly I push Druig's hand off me. Kingo clears his throat and looks to me, he says "Because she loves him..."

I nod and Kingo says "Oh, you guys didn't pick up on that? It was just me and Gala that knew?"

My eyes scan to Sersi as I see her face come to a realization. Kingo looks to the ground saying "He really fooled us, didn't he?"

Druig sits on the desk a few feet from me and Sersi. Both on opposite sides of him. Kingo says "Karun, let's go."

I look to him confused saying "What?"

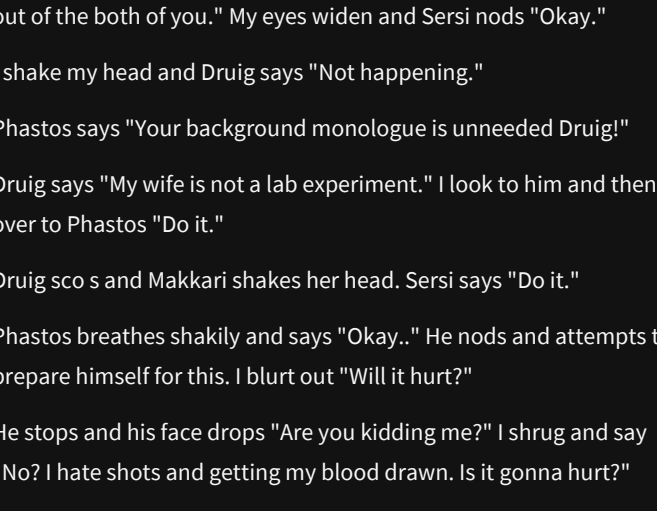
Phastos says "Wait, where the hell are you going?" Kingo shakes his head saying "I can't help you guys. I still think Ikaris is right."

I sco loudly saying "Are you kidding me?"

Phastos looks to Kingo in a different light saying "So that's it, huh? Just gonna follow him?"

Kingo says "You all would follow Gala just as blindly... I love the people of this planet, okay? But if you stop this emergence, you are preventing so many other worlds like this one from being created. I still have faith in Arishem. But I refuse to hurt any of you for my beliefs."

He walks past us and Makkari shakes her head pressing her hand to his shoulder, stopping him. She signs "We need you."

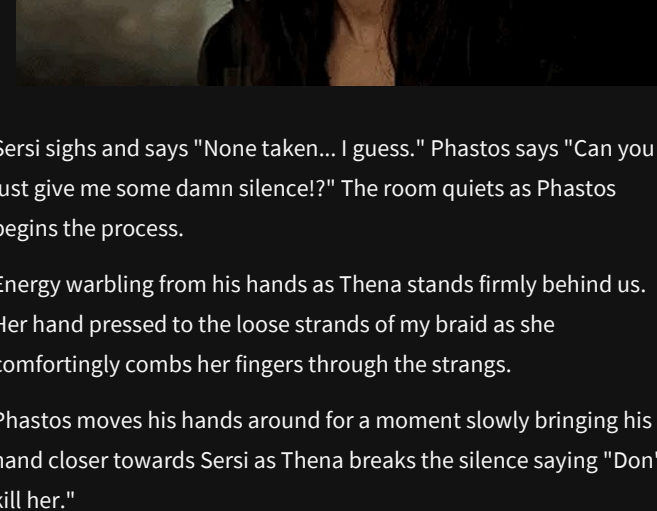


Kingo shakes his head saying "Even with my help, we're no match. It's Ikaris... His literal powerful match can't even remember who she is. We're no match. Not even close."

Makkari sadly lowers her hand from his shoulder and Kingo leaves. He turns towards us as I stare at the ground frustrated that I'm not as powerful as I should be.

He says "But, I hope to see you on the next planet." He leaves and with every urge in my body to follow him, I stay.

Karun says in Hindi "Thank you for all you've done for humanity. It's been a great honor. I will miss you all."



He looks to each of us and Druig nods to him. He quickly leaves a er Kingo and I slowly drift from Makkari's side, pacing and attempting to think through everything.

Druig says "Look, if I'm gonna get myself killed going up against Ikaris, we'll need to have a backup plan."

Phastos sighs frustratedly "All of our powers, even if they're amplified, are not enough to kill a celestial, so..."

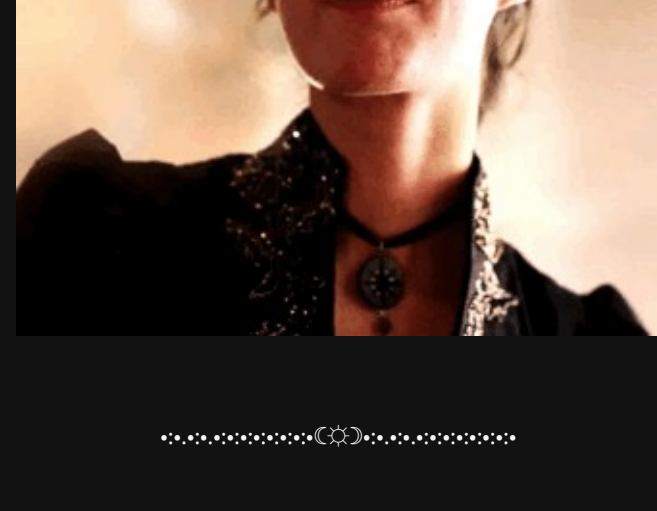
Druig says semi proudly "Well, Sersi did turn a Deviant into a tree. And my Gala turned a Deviant into dust."

I shake my head at his gloating as he looks to me smiling slightly. I roll my eyes and Phastos says surprised "I'm sorry, what? You guys didn't want to tell me that?"

Makkari looks to Sersi and I and signs "You two have never been able to do that before."

I shrug and Sersi says "I don't know how it happened, okay? And I'm pretty sure I couldn't do it again."

Phastos scoos and says "Well, now is the time to try, don't you think?"



Sersi shakes her head saying "Phastos, Gala and I's deviants are dead. Our plan is to put Tiamut to sleep, not kill it. I can't kill a celestial and you shouldn't expect Gala to either!"

"Sersi! Sersi..." Phastos pleads.

Sersi shakes her head and Phastos says "Gala! Come on! You're mother earth! You can save earth and..."

Sersi screams "We can't!"

Phastos stops talking and silence lingers for a long moment. I look to Sersi saying "We can't."

Druig says "It's okay, Sersi, Gala. I got this."

Sersi nods and quickly walks out of the room with tears in her eyes. I stand there somberly as I look to Druig shaking my head.

Phastos says "If I could just access the part of Gala's brain that connects to her powers we could do this."

I step towards Druig. Stepping into his embrace and burying my face in the crook of his neck.

He says "We don't need to Phastos. I stand by what I said, we won't be rushing Gala in any way. Not with her memories, I have it covered."

I shake my head and say "Ajak believed in me."

Phastos says "That was before she erased you."

I loop my arms around Druig saying "No. She believed in me a er... Druig pushes me carefully out of his embrace so he could ask "What do you mean?"

Phastos says "Yeah. What do you mean?"

I look to him, pressing my finger to my chest saying "Ajak's sphere, it went into my chest when we found Gilgamesh and Thena. She spoke to me. She told me how much she regretted ever erasing me. It was smaller than it ever was before."

Phastos says minorly angrily "You didn't think to tell me? That is key information Gala! Key information!"

I flinch at his screaming and Druig says "Phastos. Don't ever yell at her again."

Phastos nods as he sighs "Ajak's sphere was separated, into two smaller spheres. One for Gala. One for Sersi. Each to a connection to Arishem."

My eyes widen and I say "You can find a way to rig it to connecting to Tiamut?"

He nods and says "I think I may." My mouth drops open and I say "Uh... Oh... wow."

He says "I have to find Sersi!"

He runs out of the room and I look to Druig with a shocked expression. He shakes his head and says "It's only a back up plan. Possibly."

He puts his hands on my shoulders and spins me back towards Makkari as she signs "You've loved this planet since the moment we arrived here. You're Mother Earth. Ajak has always chosen you. This is the role she's always wanted you to obtain. Just now, you have sersi beside you. You're not alone."

I nod and say "I'm not alone."

She nods and Phastos shouts "Gala! Come in here!"

Makkari grabs my wrist speeding me into the room where Thena, Phastos, and Sersi stand. I look to them confused and Phastos says "The spheres will activate the uni-mind." Sersi nods and says "Great."

Phastos nods and says "Yeah. But, um..."

Druig says impatiently from the doorway "Spit it out, Phastos."

Phastos glares at Druig momentarily and continues "I have to... take it out of the both of you." My eyes widen and Sersi nods "Okay."

I shake my head and Druig says "Not happening."

Phastos says "Your background monologue is unneeded Druig!"

Druig says "My wife is not a lab experiment." I look to him and then over to Phastos "Do it."

Druig scoos and Makkari shakes her head. Sersi says "Do it." Phastos breathes shakily and says "Okay." He nods and attempts to prepare himself for this. I blurt out "Will it hurt?"

He stops and his face drops "Are you kidding me? I shrug and say "No? I hate shots and getting my blood drawn. Is it gonna hurt?"

Sersi says "Gala..."

I look to Druig and Makkari and say "Is it gonna hurt?" Phastos says "No more than it would hurt for me to smack you, hm?"

I scoo and say "God you're so mean." Druig says "It may hurt. Phastos will make sure that if you do go through with this he is extremely careful and Sersi will go first."

Sersi says "What?"

I nod and say "Okay... I can agree with that." Phastos says "Great." Sersi says "Why was I elected first?"

Makkari signs "So if he messes up, he messes up on you is what Druig was meaning. No offense."

Sersi sighs and says "None taken... I guess." Phastos says "Can you all just give me some damn silence!?" The room quiets as Phastos begins the process.

Energy warbling from his hands as Thena stands firmly behind us. Her hand pressed to the loose strands of my braid as she comfortingly combs her fingers through the strands.

Phastos moves his hands around for a moment slowly bringing his hand closer towards Sersi as Thena breaks the silence saying "Don't kill her."

Phastos sighs and says "Thena... Sersi nods and says "Do it." Phastos lets out a deep breath and begins to pull the sphere from Sersi.

I watch as Sersi's upper chest, just below her collarbone illuminates a golden orange color and the orb slowly lifts out of her body.

Sersi gasps slightly as Phastos gathers it within his hands.

He heaves a relieved breath as he gasps and stares at it in awe. Sersi says "Will it work?" Phastos turns towards me and says "Gala?"

I nod and say "I'm ready."

Druig mutters "I'm not."

Makkari nods to him and Sersi turns towards me to watch Phastos begin his pulling of the orb. His hands spin and clasp together as Druig says "Let's not do this okay?"

Sersi says "Druig."

Phastos grumbles as he focuses again. The spot on my upper chest illuminating as the warmth of Ajak's presence calms my body. Thena says "Don't you dare kill her either."

Phastos glares at Thena before pulling the orb from my chest. I heave a breath of relief and Sersi and Thena rub my back as Druig says "Gala? You alright...?" I nod and say "I feel perfectly fine. That wasn't bad at all."

Phastos chuckles as the orbs gathered in his hands spin beside each other for a moment beautifully and then come together as one. The golden pieces snap on and a singular golden light in the middle shines as the other pieces float around it.

Sersi says "Will it work?"

"It has to." Phastos says

I nod and say randomly "Is it possible to into the museum looking exhibit things with all those little weird plants?"

Druig chuckles and Phastos says "Don't go into those."

Druig chuckles and Makkari grumbles and Sersi says "What don't we know?"

I look to Druig and he says "Trust me. We can go into those."

Phastos gasps and scoos saying "That's disgusting! Oh my god!"

I chuckle and say "Oh."

Thena chuckles and says "Oh."

Druig says "Uh huh."

Makkari shakes her head and Sersi says "Ohi. Disgusting! Gross!"

I smile and wink horribly to Druig as the others scoo and laugh at us.

halley speaks!

Big fight next chapter, you guys ready for that? Turns out Ajak still had faith in Gala even as she lost her memories! Anyway how are you guys doing? What'd you think of this chapter? Was it good?

Q&A: Are the Netflix marvel shows any good? Which one is the best?

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