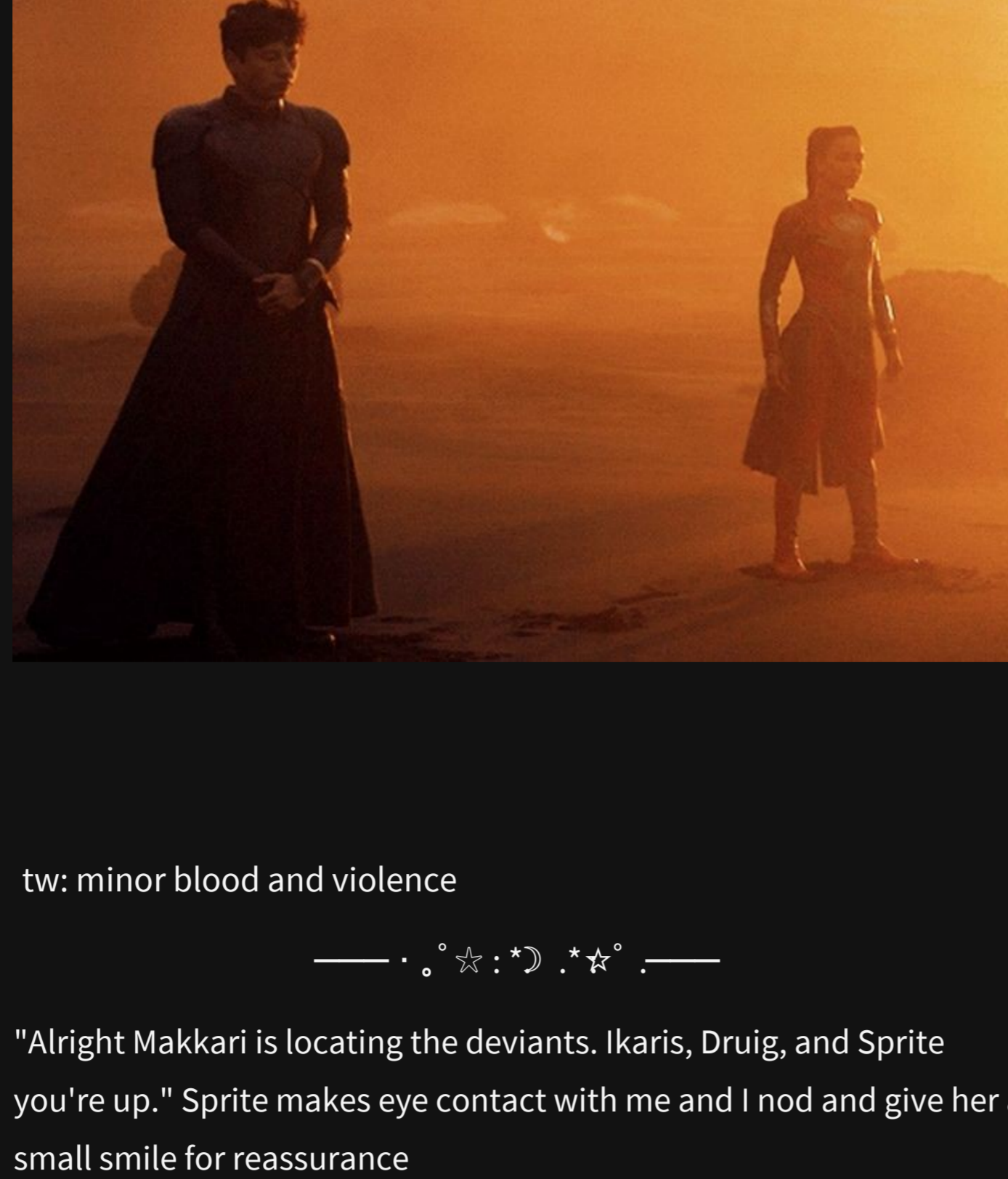


mission

"You protect what
you love."



tw: minor blood and violence

"Alright Makkari is locating the deviants. Ikaris, Druig, and Sprite you're up." Sprite makes eye contact with me and I nod and give her a small smile for reassurance

Makkari speeds back to us and alerts us that she found where most of the deviants are. I nod to the next group telling them that they're up. I smile to Makkari and she high fives me. The next group vacates the ship and makes their way to the deviants. Thena is slicing and taking down deviants as she usually does.

Ajak smiles to me and nods. Phastos says "We're up?"

I nod and say "We're the dance control for each group. So, we'll split up. Good luck."

I fly up and go to assist the others. Kingo shoots at a deviant and I dive down to assist. He says "Nice of you to join us." I smile as I blast the side of the deviant. With rapid fire of cosmic blasts from the both of us there is a massive hole in the side of the deviant. It slacks over with its eyes rolling back in its head. Tongue and tentacles slacking down. Kingo says "That's never not going to be disgusting."

I shoot the deviant again sending it into the crashing waves

He nods and says "A bit overkill but it works."

I give him a look and say "You were just complaining about how it looks. So now you don't have to look at it. It's sinking to the bottom of the ocean now."

Kingo shrugs and says "Now that's kind of depressing."

I sigh and say "Focus on the mission not your emotions Kingo."

He nods and says "I'm an emotional man alright? I have emotions there is nothing wrong with."

"Oh my god. Go help Gilgamesh and stop getting teary eyed over literal deviants."

He nods and runs away from me towards Gilgamesh and Thena. I look around trying to assess the situation.

"Freeze!"

I turn around confused and see a group of village people right behind me. Shit. Arrows pointed right at me. I smile to them and say "It's dangerous out here. Shouldn't you find your family and get to safety?"

They aim the weapons towards me and I say "Easy there. We are only here to help..." I'm trying to do this the Mother Earth way. Not the pissed o Gaia way. But I am slowly getting to the point where I'm just gonna have to take serious matters into my own hands.

A deviant roars from behind me and I quickly turn around and shout "Run! Get out of here! Now!"

Some of the men scatter and run away. God damnit Druig you were supposed to handle the other humans here that weren't in the village with Sprite.

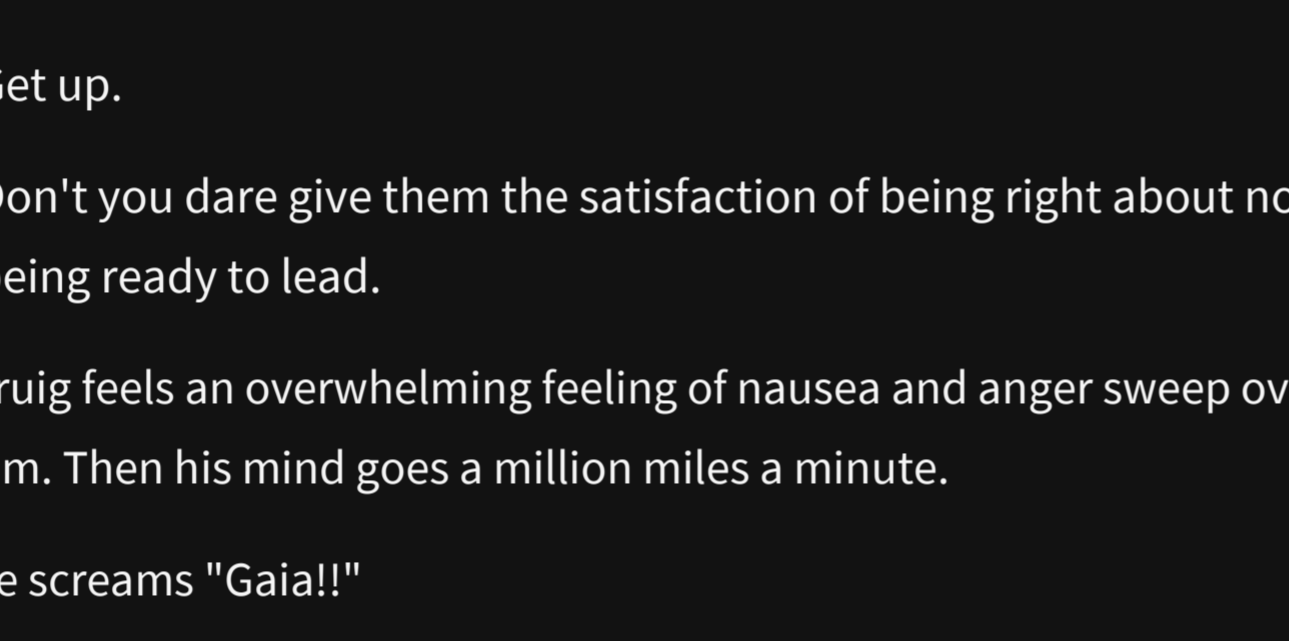
I shoot at the deviant and pull its attention away from the soldiers running away. I throw my blade into its side and climb onto the back of it blasting its tentacles o .

Some of the men take it upon themselves to "help" me. Like I don't have this all under control. They shoot arrows at the deviant only pissing it o .

The deviant attempts to shake me o its back and I shout to the humans "Stop firing!! I told you to get to safety!"

An arrow pierces me through the abdomen.

Then an arrow hits deep into my shoulder. I stop one coming straight for my head with my bare hand grabbing the base of the arrow just in time. I'm supposedly immortal but damn that wouldn't have been an easy arrow to remove from my brain



I feel the pain shoot through my body but I have a mission. I shoot up through the deviants skull killing it. Some of its guts fall onto my mission suit and I groan. God now it smells like deviant guts and blood and my own flesh and blood.

I reach to my abdomen and pry the arrow out painfully. I swear that just made the blood flow out faster. It gushes out making me increasingly light headed and nauseated

The deviant collapses to the ground but as do I. Some of the soldiers sprint away. I crumble on the ground and just apply as much pressure as I can

Yeah... you better run dick heads.

I dig out the second arrow that's in my shoulder.

Just get up.

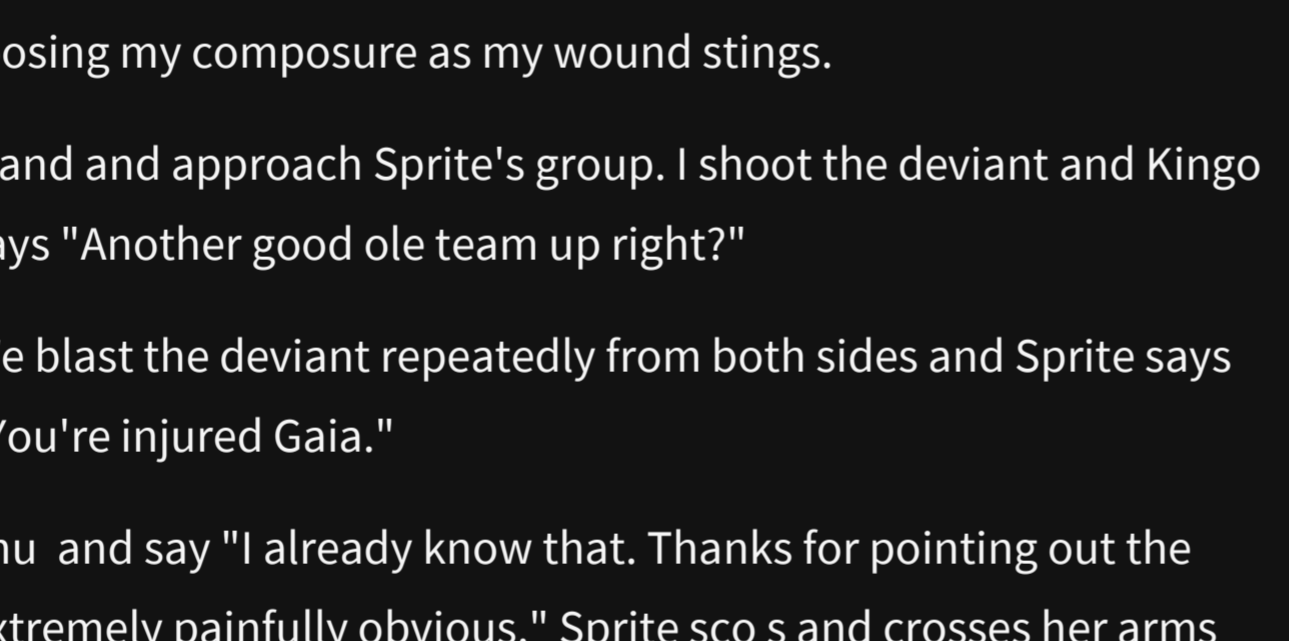
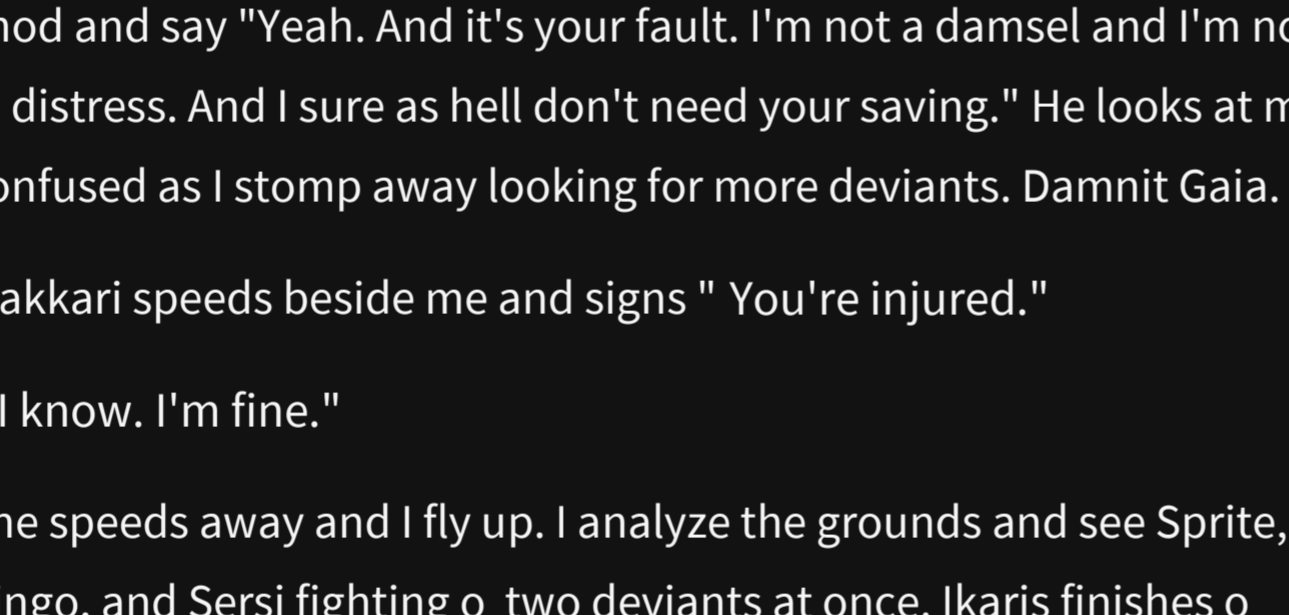
Get up.

Don't you dare give them the satisfaction of being right about not being ready to lead.

Druig feels an overwhelming feeling of nausea and anger sweep over him. Then his mind goes a million miles a minute.

He screams "Gaia!"

I stand to my feet spitting blood. It looking out of my mouth and I wipe it o with my forearm. Gross.



Druig approaches quickly and catches me holding the wound. He says "Gaia! What the hell happened?! Are you alright?" He grabs my side that's not bleeding and I push him o of me. He mind controls the other soldiers to drop their weapons and run away. I hear them punching each other and I groan

I walk past him gripping my side tightly. He grabs my arm that has the wounded shoulder making me groan loudly in pain. He sees the flesh on my shoulder very visible through my torn top

He looks to me and says "You need to get to Ajak now." I push him o me with my other arm that isn't completely jacked from the arrow

"I am fine. I need to finish o the deviants first."

"You're bleeding everywhere."

I nod and say "Yeah. And it's your fault. I'm not a damsel and I'm not in distress. And I sure as hell don't need your saving." He looks at me confused as I stomp away looking for more deviants. Damnit Gaia.

Makkari speeds beside me and signs " You're injured."

"I know. I'm fine."

She speeds away and I fly up. I analyze the grounds and see Sprite, Kingo, and Sersi fighting o two deviants at once. Ikaris finishes o tackling a deviant and I see everyone working nicely. I falter in the air losing my composure as my wound stings.

I land and approach Sprite's group. I shoot the deviant and Kingo says "Another good ole team up right?"

We blast the deviant repeatedly from both sides and Sprite says "You're injured Gaia."

I hu and say "I already know that. Thanks for pointing out the extremely painfully obvious." Sprite sco s and crosses her arms annoyed

Sersi says "How the hell did you get injured??" I grit my teeth and Kingo shouts over the deviants screeching "I think you should sit this one out Gaia!" Druig says in an irritated tone as he approaches "He's right Gaia."

"I don't need any input or guidance from you."

I punch the deviant and grit my teeth together trying not to vocally output my pain. The deviant falls and I hu over the deviants dead body. I hold my side and Druig says "Okay time to go to Ajak."

I shake my head and say "No. We've only taken 6 down. There's 2 we missed."

Kingo says "Between Thena, Makkari, Ikaris, and Gilgamesh they have it covered."

I shake my head and say "I am finishing this mission from start to finish don't touch me." I swat Kingo and Sersi's arms o me.

I walk away silently grimacing. Druig says "Quit being so stubborn and get healed then kill the deviants."

"I wouldn't need to have get healed if you got everyone out like I said!"

He says "Humans did that to you?"

I continue walking and I don't have enough willpower to fly currently. I see the rest of the team waiting by the ship and Ajak's eyes widen. She quickly walks over with Phastos and Sprite following behind.

She says "Let me see the wounds. What happened?"

"Well, a er I assisted Kingo and he le to help Sersi and the others a deviant approached me and a group of humans that had weapons. They saw me as a threat and while I was taking down the deviant they shot arrows towards me."

She presses her hand to my wounds and they close up instantly. Phastos says "How long have you been bleeding?"

"Not too long.."

Druig approaches and says "She's been an idiot and waited at least 20 minutes."

I glare at him and say "I needed all the deviants down."

Ajak nods and says "Well, I think you did a great job leading today, Gaia."

I nod and say "Thank you." Druig rolls his eyes and Makkari speeds to us with Gilgamesh and Thena. She looks to my wounds that are now closed and gives me a thumbs up. We board the ship and Thena says "You're covered in blood."

I nod and say "Successful day of hunting deviants."

I continue walking in and Ajak tries me to go rest. I look to Druig who is looking at the blood that's drying up on my shoulder

Makkari approaches and signs " Let's get you cleaned up."

Ajak says and signs "I think the one responsible for not following the mission leaders rules that led her into getting injured should be helping. Not Makkari."

I make a face and she says "Eh eh. No sass. Druig, You didn't control those humans out of the fighting zone and they attacked Gaia. You get the duty of helping her."

I groan and walk away. Makkari glares at Druig and signs "No funny business."

He shakes his head and follows a er me.

Great. Just great.

Kingo says "Well, this just got interesting."

a/n: alright. Next chapter is the stereotypical love trope of the injured being helped by the man they find attractive and repulsing just an fyi, not gonna put the line 'who did this to you.' Because he already knows the answer. No matter how badly I do want to put it in the story. Also I'll most likely be posting again today. Also I post on my conversation board on my page for opinions and story decisions I'm indecisive about so make sure to check it out. Also, sorry I'm rambling on a lot. Anyway, what'd you all think of this chapter? Do I swear too much? I kind of wanna make her swear more hah

Q&A: What marvel character deserved better?