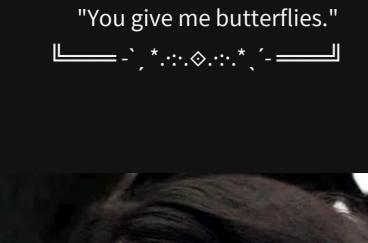
cosmic coldness



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## better then this. That she was disappointed with how I was behaving. 3

I lay flat on the beams tossing up a orb of light wasting time in attempt to cool myself down. Even though I'd rather go save families from the floods in town. I already attempted to leave a er she yelled at me twice. She caught me again both times. It's just that those people are su ering and drowning. Losing everything they love, their children, homes, belongings, and community.

I sit on the wooden dra ers in the dining hall. Ajak and I had a heated

floods in their town and she caught me helping them. She told me my

discussion. I snuck out earlier to help the citizens with the flash

immaturity was going to get me killed. That I was expected to be

I'm meant to be Mother Earth and be the honest and trustworthy connection to the humans here but anytime they truly need me Ajak tells me to hide and go back to base. Because I can't be perceived as a liar They would expect me to help if I was in the area. That's what I

righteous and kind holy mother of all and hide once the killing begins Ajak makes me do so. Ikaris also makes me. But I don't ever listen to him. They all make me.

should do, but Ajak would like me to keep up my appearances of the

They tell me we can't step in. It's natures path. We aren't made to intervene.

ear home. She gave me a lecture about the jobs of eternals and how that isn't one of the roles we take on. To just kill deviants and wait to return home to Olympia. I've began to despise her. She sat and watched humans su er

knowing the powers we all hold could keep them alive and safe

I was caught intervening a few weeks ago too, Ajak pulled me by the

It's cowardly and selfish It isn't fair. All is fair in love and war. I hate that quote. If I hear that quote again I will slam my head through a wall it's untrue and doesn't pertain to me no matter how

I used to really idolize Ajak. She gave me a purpose to life. Gave good

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I want to be good. That's all. That's all I've ever wanted

Makkari looks to Druig as they stand in the phastos' lab where Ajak

He shakes his head and puts a displeased look on his face. Makkari

nods and signs "You always argue that we should intervene. You

just had a huge blow up with Gaia in. The whole team heard. Without

advice. Now I despise the way she restricts me

Makkari and Druig Makkari nudges Druig and signs "You should go speak with her."

much I wish it did.

I just want to do good

know how she is feeling. Go." He shakes his head and Phastos looks up from his invention saying

his shoulder and signs "I'm not doing that Makkari."

nearly as much as Gaia and Druig do."

Makkari nods and smirks

surprise, everyone backed Ajak up. Well, besides two.

and signing "What are you two arguing about?" Ajak looks away from the monitor and to the two of them. She raises an eyebrow and says and signs "We've had enough arguments for the decade. Can't you two just get along?"

Makkari looks to Druig nodding and nudging him. Druig shrugs her o

She closes her eyes annoyed and attempts to hold her composure

and not push him into the dining hall herself. She opens her eyes

again soon a er now ready to argue more but is interrupted by Ajak saying "Do what?" Druig looks to her and says "Nothing."

He leaves the lab in an angry hu and Phastos signs "You two argue

Well, I am on a mission to push the two obliviously in love two together. She nods to them letting the ideas and thoughts run rampid through her head Druig stands in the dining hall arch way watching me as I let my arms

and legs hang o the sides of the ra ers. He calls out "They're wrong

you know." I leave my eyes closed and say "Hello Druig."

"You always choose the highest places to hide."

God Gaia. The things I do for you.

adjacent from me and says "Ajak is wrong."

and his jaw tenses as he looks to see how he can climb up there. He sighs and shakes his head. He inhales deeply and contimplates climbing up.

He climbs onto the bench and the table. He jumps up and grabs onto

the beam. He hoists himself up and I peak out of the corner of my eye

watching him. He hoists his body up and I see the intricate muscles in

his arm. He groans and I put my head back down. He sits on the ra er

I groan and say "Because I do not wish to be disturbed." He looks up

"Yeah well, everyone else seems to agree with her. I'm supposed to be this beacon of hope for the humans. Ajak pushed me into the role of mother earth and then I can't..." I choke up and my lip quivers. Druig's expressions so en and I cover my face with my hands. I continue soon a er "I can't even protect the people who need me.."

He clears his throat feeling awkward and weird just watching her cry.

He says "I feel the same way you know." I look up and look to him

with tears still in my eyes. "Really?" He nods and says "I can control

the planet with a thought... I think about just controlling every single

person on earth to be non-controversial. To live a simple and boring uneventful life." My eyes so en as I look to his saddened gaze. I nod and say "What stops you?" He meets her eyes and pauses for a minute thinking of an appropriate answer. He looks into her waiting and anticipating eyes. My answer is most likely you. The risk of being exhiled. Away from...

you. Having to go a day or an hour without seeing you.

I look down and nod.

and kicks air with his legs.

He clears his throat clearly embarrassed by his thoughts and says

"Controversy with the team. Our role is to kill deviants nothing more."

didn't she?" He smiles and says "Maybe." I nod and say "Not surprising." He sighs and says "Still would have

went to find you without her saying anything though." My eyebrows

Druig swallows hard and his jaw tightens. He doesn't meet my eyes

Because I know exactly how it feels to su er the loss of the people

knit in confusion and I say "And why would you do that?"

you weren't allowed to save but easily could have

No. No. Don't look at me like that. Oh god.

I chew the inside of my cheek and say "Makkari told you to find me

He clears his throat and says "Well, I figured I wanted to climb into the ra ers today like a monkey. No, I.. gross...well I.." He falters in speaking as I sit up more and tilt my head waiting for an answer a

He sighs and says "I don't really know. I don't really know why I came

Druig says "Now would ya quit crying. It's making me uncomfortable.

here to check on you. Maybe I was bored. Maybe.." I look down and

I can't insult you when you're leaking fluids from your eye balls."

my hand loops behind his neck as the other hand holds onto his

I can feel his breath on my lips. I'm just longing to be closer to him. To

know how his lips feel against mine. I want to conquer that desire in

I gulp and lean away from Druig. I look to Ikaris and Sprite and say

Sprite says "We were getting food. But clearly my appetite is gone.

his eyes. He tugs me closer and seconds before our lips touch..

Ikaris says "Well, that's new."

abruptly "Why are you two here?"

Sprite says "Gross!"

Gross."

control."

God put away those dimples.

with practice maybe I could."

Of course Gaia has to ask.

"What about me?"

Mesopotamia."

of me, Gaia."

I bite my tongue and I say "Maybe so."

controlling everyone?"

He looks down and says "Cold."

shoulder. We smile to each other as we lean into each other.

I kick his side and he nearly falls o the ra er. I gasp and shout "Druig!" I grab ahold of him and pull him towards me. He balances and sits extremely close to me. So close I can smell the aroma of his shampoo. đ I freeze as we look into each others eyes. I heave a shaky breath and

She walks away and Ikaris says "A pairing I literally never saw coming." a<sup>6</sup> He follows Sprite out and I groan and dramatically flop back onto the wooden ra er away from Druig. He says "I should-" I interrupt "You were gonna kiss me." đ He furrows his eyebrows and says "What? When?"

I groan and cover my face so frustrated. He says curiously now "So,

say I was gonna kiss you... would that had been a bad thing?" I sigh

and say "I don't know.. What do you think?" He chuckles and says "I

I change the subject to his mind control and say "What's it like to take

control of someone?" He thinks for a second and goes on "Uhhh,

someone or a species and want to take control of them. Then I have

well, it's pretty easy for me to do so. All I have to do is think of

think it'd be a lot easier if I could read your mind."

I pry a little more and say "Have you ever tried to control any of the eternals?" He sighs and says "Is this just Druig questioning time?" I smile and nod "Pretty much."

He says "Yes, I've been successful a few times. No avail with Ajak. But

"Yes. I've attempted. Especially when I first met you on

I sit up and hug my knees to my chest as I look to him. "Cold?" He nods and says "Empty and cold. Dark too. It's sometimes painful but overall it's just really, really lonely." a

A frown presses to my lips and my face falls. That's sad. I rub my chin

I scoot closer to him and say "Put your hand out." He looks at me

doubtfully and I say "Just do it." He puts his hand out and I hover my

hand over his palm. I release golden whisps and he feels the warmth

I smile and say "When I need to calm down a human or something it

always works." He nods and says "You're the complete polar opposite

I high five his hand and continue swatting at it for kicks and his hand

with my arm and he says "What do your powers feel like?"

touch his skin. He looks to me and says "That's... di erent."

I nod and say "That isn't even surprising. What's it feel like? To be

always bounces back up. He tenses at my touch and I say "But, aren't polar opposites supposed to attract?"

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a/n: GAHHH I'm so sorry!! I just had to end it like that! Can't give into

Druig quite yet. Ikaris and Sprite have horrible timing am I right?

Sorry guys, I know I totally set you up. Anyway, I'll try to be more

active this weekend with the chapters but I have a research paper

due and some English assignments that are consuming me in stress.

Anyway, Thor and Loki may or may not make a cameo in the next

chapter... hehehe

Q&A: Favorite color?

Continue reading next part  $\Box$