

Twenty five

Agil found the others on a beach round the other side of the island. Makkari was the first to spot him as he slouched closer, body aching from all the bruises forming. He was pretty sure he had a cracked rib that was healing and his mouth still tasted of blood. She jogged over at a human speed to reach him, opening her arms as he folded into her greeting hug. She seemed okay but he could see bruises on her forehead and guessed that there was a few more under her armour. But the relief to see her alright, along with Thena, Sersi and Phastos brought a smile to his lips. He looked around and the smile faded. "Where's Gil?"

The golden light of the setting sun glinted on Thena's hair as she shook her head. "He went out how he wanted to go. Fighting deviants". Agil inhaled deeply, grief a weight in his chest. They had known that Gilgamesh would not have made it through the day. He was just glad that it was not Ikaris who killed him.

"Are you guys alright?" He asked as he and Makkari reached where Sersi and Phastos were standing. The speeder had tucked herself under his arm and they were both half leaning tiredly on the other. Her warmth and presence keeping him from collapsing.

"I feel as if a bus hit me", Phastos muttered. "But I guess we all feel like that".

"Sprite stabbed me", Sersi stated, hand pressed to her side.

Agil sniggered. "She's been wanting to stab us for a while". He laughed then stopped with a groan of pain and a wince.

"I can't believe you took out Ikaris' eye", Phastos exclaimed. "I knew that he underestimated you, he underestimated all of us, but good job Agil". He held out a hand and Agil high-fived it with a tired grin. Just as he was looking up, the sun glinted on two figures approaching across the sand. The wind was tugging at the skirt of the taller one, sun shining around dark hair as he drew closer. He stepped forwards, letting go of Makkari as he broke into a slow jog towards the man clothed in black armour.

Druig smiled and opened his arms as Agil reached him. The smaller man folding himself into them and pressing as close as he dared, aware that they were both bruised to heck under their armour. Joy and relief was a giddy concoction in his heart as he wrapped his arms around the other man's neck. Druig made a happy noise in his throat and he felt it escape into the air between them. Agil pressed their foreheads together and responded with a relieved noise, a deep sigh as he basked in the warm hold. "My lovely lovely Agil". The whisper was the breaking point and he let loose a choked noise of happiness and overwhelming emotion. He had feared Druig dead, had almost been killed by Ikaris and thought their world over. But the battle was over and they were safe and whole together. It was enough to make his legs shake.

They separated as Sprite approached but kept their hands interlocked, unwilling to let the other go just yet. Agil watched as the girl gazed over them tearfully. "Is he gone?" Her voice trembled as she reached for Sersi. The woman nodded sadly. Sprite rubbed the tears from her cheeks and all the anger at her faded from Agil's chest. She was his sister, just as Ikaris had once been his brother. Now Ikaris was dead and there was no energy left for anger. Sprite thought that she was doing the right thing, as had Ikaris.

"Sprite". Sersi was watching the girl sadly. "I still have energy from the Uni-mind. I think I could make you human. All the things you said you wanted, you can have them. But your time will be fleeting and you will die one day. Are you ready for that?"

Hope filled Sprite's face and she gazed up at Sersi with teary blue eyes. She nodded. "I am".

Sersi extended a hand. Sprite looked at it for a second before taking it and letting the change wash over her. The rest of them watching as the golden sun filled the sky. Agil leaned his head on Druig's shoulder and closed his eyes.

Pizza was always a great remedy for drained emotions, Agil found. He chewed on his slice as he watched the tv in the corner of Ajak's living room display news footage of the new stone mountains that had appeared in the ocean, the remains of Tiamut now a source of confusion to the human population. Around the room were some of the other members of his family. Makkari and Druig were slumped in the old sofa, Agil perched on the arm at Druig's side. On Makkari's other side was Phastos. All four eternal on the sofa busy eating their weight in pizza as they let the news drone on. Ajak's home a comforting safe haven as they made their goodbyes.

"You guys did that?" Phastos' husband, who Agil had learnt was called Ben and who he had only met about half a day ago, muttered in disbelief as he pointed at the screen.

"I love you so much", Phastos muttered through a mouthful of pizza. Agil looked down at stole a handful of Druig's popcorn. The dark haired man having already finished his portion of pizza.

"I think Thena is terrorising your spawn in there", Agil pointed out as he glanced through the open kitchen door in time to see Jack take an orange on Thena's spear. The kid was quite cute, for a child. Agil supposed that tolerated the human child because it was his brother who raised him, but he found that he quite liked Phastos' family.

"Ohhh, could you just --hold this for a second", The man stood his plate onto Makkari's lap before going to check on his son. The speedster gave him a frown for the sudden plate custody before turning her attention back to the tv. (She was still getting used to the idea of a tv and iPads. Spending years in the Domo had made her miss out on a lot).

"I need more food", Druig muttered as he finished his bowl of popcorn. Agil chuckled and handed the man his empty plate as he rose. Druig took it with a smile and headed into the kitchen as Agil stole the newly empty space on the sofa. Makkari smiled at him and he grinned back. The injuries from the battle a week ago now healed and gone.

"You two are cute", Ben commented. "Glad to meet my husband's family".

"Thanks", Agil grinned. "You're pretty nice too. For a human".

"And your baby sitting privileges are non-existent", Phastos stated as he herded Jack into the room, Druig laughing as he followed after him with Thena.

Agil frowned. "What did I do?"

"He just doesn't trust us", Druig beamed proudly as he sat down on Agil's lap with a new bowl of chips. Agil hugged and wound his arms around his beloved's waist and pressed his face into Druig's back. He could feel the warmth of the other's body through the tshirt.

"Fairs", he chuckled as he smiled. Happy to be here.

It was not long after they had finished their food that they got going. The Domo was hovering outside and if it stayed too long then it might attract attention. Besides, they had said goodbye to Sprite, Sersi and Kingo yesterday in London and Agil didn't want to draw it out. They helped Phastos and Ben clean up the dishes before heading outside. A storm was on their horizon and the wind was cold as it tugged at them. Thena went ahead, not one for goodbyes but the rest of them lingered back.

"The dome's so cool!" Jack exclaimed at the sight of the ship in the distance.

"That's far enough Jack", Phastos steadied his son by the shoulders, seemingly afraid that the boy was about to try and run after Thena to board the ship.

"Can we get to space too someday?"

"Maybe get your learner's permit first".

Agil chuckled as he and Druig came to a stop at Phastos' side. "You seem to have a curious one".

"That's not the half of it", Phastos hugged, though it was with love. Agil thought that having a family suited the man.

"I'll see you later", Agil smiled as he patted Phastos on the shoulder. "By the way, I have legally let some of my paintings to you. Others have gone to Sersi, Sprite and Kingo of course. Take care of them. According to my agent, they're worth quite a bit".

"Agil, I don't need it, thank you. I mean, really, Thank you. I know they mean a lot but where will I keep them?"

Agil shrugged. "Let your husband deal with them. I heard he's an art fan". He stepped back and let Phastos be distracted by the others.

"Take care", Druig nodded, hands in the pockets of his leather jacket. "This world is lucky to have you".

"I know you two aren't huggers, so..." Phastos held out a hand and Druig clasped it before pulling the man into a hug and patting his back. Phastos laughed. "Am I getting a hug from you too?"

"Don't push it", Agil grinned.

The large man shrugged. "Fair enough. Say bye Jack". The little boy waved as Agil and Druig began walking towards the Domo after Thena. Makkari lingering to give hugs before appearing at their side in a golden streak.

"Do you think that if we find other Eternals out there", Druig thought aloud as they walked, hands signing for Makkari. "And we tell them the truth, would they make the same choice we did?"

"I don't know", Agil replied. "All I know that I would like the choice to make my own life, rather than play into someone else's".

"I think the truth will set them free", Makkari signed her thoughts.

Druig hummed, reaching down to interlock his hand with Agil's. "I suppose we will have to find out". Agil grinned. He couldn't wait to discover the universe with the man he loved. They had eternity together after all.

unedited

There you go. The end of the book. There will be an epilogue but this is officially the end of the novel. Hope you enjoyed it. Comment, vote and follow.

Also I will be doing a Q&A. so comment your questions about Agil and his backstory below and I shall endeavour to answer them. Hope you have a lovely day.

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