



-Cora-

I felt my body slowly warm up. I felt like my body has been numb for years. My limbs regaining feeling, like waking up from a nap but paralyzed. First thing I felt, my finger tips. I felt the static through, but not much movement. My mind felt at rest, the pain no longer there. The throbbing that once pained me was no longer there.

The images where.

Ajak...

I don't remember the vivid image I once had, now looks like a blur. I saw Ajak get pushed from a deviant or something and her falling. That image couldn't leave my mind.

Then gilgamesh being held in the air. Those memories burned into my mind.

Then the deviants, one by one. Murdered by each of us. Watching my family show no remorse for their lives as I felt them die. Over and over again.

I felt okay, with those memories also came closure. I know Ajak died feeling betrayed, gilgamesh died worrying for Thena, each deviant died fighting for their survival. I know what I need to do now. I know what side I'm on now.

I felt warm as if the sun beamed down on me, cool as if the air was blowing on my body. My body still limp.

My body felt like it was thrown. The impact winded me. That's when my heart picked up and my eyes shot open.

I gasped for air as if my lungs where drowning, the sun beamed down straining my eyes as if I've been in a cave for years never seeing the sun.

I faced down on sand. My arms slowly gaining feeling but couldn't lie myself o the floor. I heard footsteps come to me.

"Cora?! What are you doing down here?" I heard a voice call. Sounded like sersi, then another voice from behind me.

"Sersi? What are you doing here? Shouldn't you be at the Domo?" Another voice sounded. Ikaris.

I tried moving my arms to lie me up. Slowly felt them drag along the sand.

"I came looking for you. What's Cora doing on the floor is she awake?" Sersi came to my side. I felt her hand push my hair.

"She's still asleep. I just thought she might go back." Ikaris spoke. She loved it before. Sersi you should really go back."

"She's awake!" Sersi lied me and my head struggled keeping my body up.

"What?" Ikaris spoke.

"I'll tell everyone! I'll be back. Make sure she's okay!" Sersi ran to a er helping me lean against the large rock.

It happened all so fast and my body ached. I shield my eyes from the sun, trying to look at Ikaris who kneeled down next to me.

"Are you ok cora?" I slowly nodded my head. My throat felt dry.

"Where am I?" The scratchy tone escaped my dry lips. I rubbed my eyes and yawned.

"I brought you here, hoping you would wake up. You know from being trapped inside all day." He said and kneeled in front of me.

"Oh thanks? Where is druig?" I looked around to see no one in sight. I would have thought he would be the first one I'd see.

"They are talking about the plan. So uh, do you remember anything?" Ikaris asked me.

"Uhh kind of? It's a little blurry right now." I so ly spoke. I cough once to correct my throat.

"What do you remember?" He asked quickly. I turn to look at him weirded out.

Oh yeah I'm fine!

"Well I remember gilgamesh and the deviant... then I remember connecting to him. Feeling them all, it didn't hurt like last time. I felt different." As soon as I said that last word Ikaris spoke quickly.

"What about Ajak?" He asked.

"Dude..." I rubbed my head before speaking again. Squinting still as the sun was bright.

"I remember her falling. Feeling scared and betrayal. I don't really want to talk about it Ikaris." I turned to look around waiting for someone. Specifically druig. I wanted to see him. Thank him for putting me to sleep. I wouldn't be sane or alive without him.

"Okay sorry cora. Have you connected to anything yet? You know it's probably best for you if you don't use your powers for a while. You know so you can heal still." I look at him.

"What are you talking about Ikaris? Where is druig, or sersi?" I try to stand up but my legs still sore.

He jumps up quickly and helps me up by my arm.

"Just looking out for you." He spoke. Then I heard running. I turn around and see druig running to us. I smile and let go of Ikaris. My arms wrap around druig's shoulders and his arms tightly grab my waist.

"Oh for fucks sake cora." He let go and kissed me.

As his warm lips touched my dry ones. I smiled into the kiss. He let go and held me.

Then his eyes darted behind me and saw Ikaris. He let go of me and walked past me to Ikaris. Before I could ask what was wrong druig punched Ikaris in the jaw. My hands shoot up to my mouth as my eyes widened.

"Don't you ever fucken touch cora again." He looked down at Ikaris who fell to the floor and was on his knees. Ikaris looked at me and held his jaw. I can tell he was holding back.

Anger

Guilt

"Let's get you back so we can make sure everything is okay." Druig came back to me and picked me up. I looked at his blue eyes as he carried me. I dug my head and rested it into his shoulder. We le sersi and Ikaris alone on the sand.

I felt okay. I didn't feel their pain. I felt okay. I think.

Maybe I was trying to convince myself I was okay.

Maybe I wasn't but I was trying to tell myself I will be okay.

As we got back to the domo everyone paraded us and asked questions. I smiled at them showing their genuine concern

Worry

Panic

Anxious

They love me .

"I'm okay guys really. The sand stuck in my hair will wash o." I chuckled at druig who helped pull my hair back and tie it out of my face. His hands so ly tied it o and held me. Everyone looked at me and forced a smile.

"So, what do you think?" Phastos asked a er he caught me up on everything I missed. I zoned out a few times as memories came back mainly Ajak. When Ikaris was asking all these questions about her I started to get frustrated not remembering it as clear as I had before. Sure I'm grateful it's not clearly burned into my mind but it's frustrating that I feel like I'm missing something.

"Oh yeah phastos great idea. The name sucks but it's a good start." Druig chuckled as he sat by my side and held me by the waist.

"You know what I invented it so I should pick the name! The uni-mind isn't a bad name!" Phastos got defensive. My hands shot up in defense.

"Okay okay! What are the chances these bracelets don't work?" I asked and rested my head on druig's shoulder again. His leather jacket felt cold against my cheek.

"They will work don't worry." Phastos spoke and turned around to continue working on them.

"How are you feeling my beautiful beautiful cora?" He asked and lied my chin with his index finger making our eyes lock. I felt my cheeks grow warm as I smiled.

"Better, you know I could get used to this new look." I laughed and tug on his jacket. He rolled his eyes and laughed with me.

"Oh really? Maybe I should, only if you can laugh with me." He smiled.

"Ohh are we going to get matching motorcycles too?" As I said that we both broke out in laughter.

"Whatever you want cora. You know I really missed you." He caressed my cheek and I leaned into his touch.

"I wish I could say the same but I don't even remember much, or how long I was asleep. It felt like nothing. Like literal nothing." I look into his blue eyes. Those eyes that had put me to sleep.

"Do you remember anything?" He asked. I nodded and looked down.

"Yeah actually. Everything. It's just not as painful anymore. It's more clear than ever what we need to do. It's just I feel like I'm stuck on Ajaks memory." I spoke and scrunched my eye brows.

"What about ajaks memory?" He asked and held my hand. I turned to look at him as I explained.

"Well it's like I felt her. And everything that happened to her. But I felt something else, as if there was someone else. Or maybe the deviant was already developing and starting to feel but I don't know." I sighed.

"The deviant that drained Ajak of her powers?" He asked.

"I don't know it's like that part is blurry since that was all of her memory. It's weird. But I don't want to dig into it before I have another breakdown. Do you have any snacks? I'm starving." I sent druig a look and he shot a big smile. He nodded and led me to sit on the ledge watching phastos at work.

As he lie I started to feel

Cold.

The same cold Ajak felt.

I barely noticed druig came back, as he sat on the ledge with me he handed me a Twinkie. He opened it for me and smiled as he handed it to me. He got his own and took a bite out of it. The sweet treat instantly bringing a smile to his face. Phastos sent makkari out to find the point of emergence.

It's cold.

Ikaris and sersi walked in.

Cold like Ajak was?

Wait. My memory showed Ajak falling, surrounded by trees. In the cold, snow and ice beneath her.

Cold.

But Ikaris and sersi said that found her at her ranch. Mid fall weather. But it was cold.

It wasn't long ago.

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