



The Amazon

The dense trees tower over the Eternals as they enter the village. Well built huts and houses litter the forest floor. Humans tirelessly work, paying little attention to the strangers entering their home. The one's that do notice them wave and offer kind smiles.

"It's very nice here, sir!" Karun beams, holding his camera.

"Don't be fooled...Ignorance is bliss," Kingo tells him.

"Hey. We're looking for Druig. Is he here?" Sprite asks a man.

"Yes...How do you know Druig?" He replies.

"We're friends...from college." Sprite lies. The man's eyes glow and his face goes blank.

"Hello, Sprite!" Druig says through the man.

Before them, Druig emerges from behind a set of doors. With his hands clasped behind his back, he approaches them. "I've missed all of you. Please, make yourselves at home."

Everyone gathers in, what looks like, a chapel. Druig sits alone in the front of the room while the others scatter among the benches. Ada stands alone, leaning against the opposite wall from Ikaris with her arms crossed. Sersi's plan isn't going to work as smoothly as she wants it to. Ada can tell Druig is a little overwhelmed by everything they told him. That's not a good sign. In this moment, she decides that she'll go wherever Druig decides to go. If he joins them, she'll stay, but if he wants nothing to do with the plan, then she'll stay with him here.

"You've given me a lot of bad news in one go m'lady," Druig tells Sersi.

"Will you help us?" Sersi asks. No one says it aloud, but they need Druig if they want their plan to work.

"I am glad that-" Druig begins, then gets interrupted by Sersi's phone blasting her ringtone.

"Hey, what's your service? I'm not getting any bars," Kingo whispers. Ada rolls her eyes at his lack of priorities.

Druig ignores him and continues, "Do you all remember this forest?" Ada certainly did. The others nod their heads. "Beautiful. It was the last place we all lived together. I've protected these people for twenty generations now from the outside world and from themselves." He saunters over to Karun. "Your kind, my friend, you will be responsible for your own extinction one day. Don't you think?"

"I think we must learn from our mistakes and do better sir," Karun shakes in fear, afraid of saying the wrong thing or angering Druig. "You must not give up hope." He takes hold of the valet's mind, making him throw his camera at the wall, shattering it.

"Oh, no, you didn't! Okay, new rule, no more possessing people's valets!" Kingo demands.

"Oh, where's your sense of humor, Kingo?" Druig teases. A smirk forms on his lips at Kingo's irritation.

"I'm sorry, sir," Karun apologizes, feeling responsible for the broken camera.

"Don't apologize, it's not your fault," Kingo reassures him before focusing on Druig again. "You are not a God. You know that, right?"

"How ironic!" Druig grins, knowing he's getting under his skin, "Kingo, the movie star!"

"I've directed some things too," Kingo adds.

"Oh yeah? Like what?" Druig taunts. Ada smiles at her friend. She missed hearing his banter.

"Some internet content."

"How many views?"

"I don't do it for the views."

Ikaris groans and begins walking out the door, "Let's go, he's wasting our time!"

"We need him!" Sersi reminds him, trying to get him to stay.

"Ikaris!" Druig cuts him off, preventing him from leaving the room. "I've missed you. Are you gonna charm me or threaten me?"

"I mean, there's a third option, if you prefer that," Ikaris fires back.

"It must be heartbreaking to find out that you're not Mother's favorite," Druig sneers.

"And I'm sure she'd be real proud of what you've been up to."

"Druig, this is serious!" Sersi stands up, tired of Druig messing around.

"I'll tell you what's serious!" He raises his voice and begins walking towards Sersi. "I've been just told I've been sent on a suicide mission for the past seven thousand years, and that my entire existence is a lie." He pauses briefly. Ada could tell he was upset. Still processing everything. "So, excuse me for not giving a shit about your plan right now."

Once he's finished speaking, he turns and leaves the room. Ada pushes off the wall she was leaning against and goes to follow him out the door.

As soon as she steps foot outside, she hears Kingo speak again. "Druig sucks." She follows him into a hut, leaving the door open.

"I'm fine," Druig drones.

"No you're not." Ada sees right through his lies. "And that's okay. I'm still processing everything too, especially the Deviants. Sersi never told you, but they can heal themselves now. They must've absorbed Ajak's power when they killed her."

He lifts his fingers to her jaw, turning her head towards him. His thumb runs along the wound on her forehead.

"You fought a Deviant, didn't you." She looks into his eyes. The stone cold stare is replaced with worry. "What happened?"

She tells him everything, leaving out the part where her powers almost got drained. Druig knew things were getting bad from what Sersi told him, but he didn't realize it was this bad. His best friend was hurt and he wasn't there to protect her. If he was there, maybe she wouldn't have gotten hurt. Druig surprises them both by pulling Ada into a tight hug. He's not usually a hugger, so this is out of character for him. The two didn't realize how much they needed each other until they were in each other's arms.

Druig rests his chin on the top of her head. "Please, stay?"

"Always." She smiles into his shoulder.

"Ikaris! Ikaris!" The two hear Sersi shout outside.

Druig breaks their hug to peek out the door. He looks back at Ada and she instantly knows it's the Deviants.

Ada runs outside and watches as Kingo fires a projectile of energy at one Deviant while another smashes through the roof of a nearby hut. Druig runs urgently, disappearing in the crowd.

With a raise of her hand, she lifts the Deviant into the air, then slams it down, full speed, onto the ground. The creature squirms, getting back to its feet. She raises her hand again, sending it soaring up into the air and lowers her fingers again, sending it onto the ground from even higher this time.

"Ada!" Kingo calls out to her, "Do that one more time. Drop it on my word."

Nodding, she lifts the Deviant into the air one last time, holding it in place, waiting for his signal. Kingo lets his energy orb grow.

"Now!" He shouts. She slams the Deviant onto the ground and Kingo fires the orb into its side, sending it flying into a building. This time, it doesn't get back up.

Harmonious shotgun fires fill the air in perfect rhythm. The villagers fire at a Deviant in unison, acting as one mind. That mind being Druig's. He runs in, leaping over the Deviant's tail and barrel rolls onto the ground. Seeing a shotgun beside him in the dirt, he grabs it. He takes a breath again, this time jumping in the air, firing a shot directly at its head, then twists before landing back on his feet.

Nearby, Sersi freezes a tree, making it fall onto the Deviant, temporarily pinning it down.

"Druig!" Sersi calls out. "Let them go!"

"Now's not the time, Sersi!"

"Please!" she begs. "I know you're better than this." He shoves Sersi's hands off him. With a wave of his hand, the villagers are released from his control.

"Druig?! What's happening?" A man asks worriedly.

"Go! Get to the river!" He yells.

A Deviant swipes its tail at Ada's feet. Unlike before, she leaps over it, dodging the attack. She sends a boulder flying into its head, briefly stunning it. But, of course, it heals itself immediately. The Deviant jumps at her, teeth bared. Druig's shotgun blasts it in the jaw, pulling its attention from her to him. He panics a little when he realizes he's cornered himself with no bullets left.

Sersi throws a spear into its side, pulling its attention away again. The creature knocks her into the water and dives in after her. A trunk emerges from underwater, the Deviant becoming one with the trunk. Sersi stares at her work with wide eyes.

"Sersi! Are you alright?" Ikaris leaps into the pool and wraps his arms around her. "How did you do that?"

"I don't know."

"Ikaris!" Thena calls through the trees.

"Thena...remember." Gilgamesh whispers with his dying breath.

"No..." Thena sobs. "I'll remember. I'll remember."

Druig and Ada arrive only to see Gilgamesh's body lying limp in her arms. All the air leaves Ada's lungs and she chokes on quiet sobs. Gilgamesh was the one person who stayed by her side as her everyone split ways. He comforted her when they left Tenochtitlan. He made her pies when she was having a bad day because he knew it would make her smile. He cared for her when no one else did. And now, he was gone. Ada's knees buckle and she drops to the ground. Druig kneels beside her and pulls her body into his chest, holding her. No one speaks.

The team gathers by the water line and watches as Thena walks into the wake, cradling the box with Gilgamesh's ashes. Ada watches the ripples in the water and is pulled from reality for a moment, numb to her emotions.

"When I left, I thought about taking control of every mind on this planet. Violence, fear, greed wouldn't exist," Druig tells Sersi.

"Why didn't you?"

"Without their flaws, they wouldn't be human," he concludes. There's a brief pause in the conversation.

"Please, Druig. You can't stay here anymore. These Deviants are trying to keep us from killing their own kind. They have a conscience now. That makes them more dangerous," Sersi pleads.

"No, Sersi. That makes them us. Eternals and Deviants. Arishem's children. But you are asking me to control the mind of a Celestial. I do not have that kind of power."

"We'll find Phastos," Sersi offers.

"Well, good luck. He gave up on humans a long time ago."

"Well at least do it for her." Sersi glances at Ada for a second. Druig follows her eyes, looking at Ada too. She stares blankly at the pond with puppy eyes, paying little attention to everything going on around her. "You know she'll follow you no matter what you decide. If the Deviants come back you won't be able to protect her on your own. Are you willing to risk that?"

Druig's eyes never leave Ada. His heart flutters just looking at her. He doesn't know what he would do with himself if she got hurt again. He doesn't even want to think about what would happen if she...

"Fine."