

The Emergence

Phastos comes running into the lab holding the sphere Ajak had used to communicate with Arishem. Thena and Sersi follow a few paces behind. He pulls all the broken pieces o the floor and morphs them back together. Using the orb's power, he creates the bracelets that'll allow them the ability to connect to one another, activating the Uni-Mind. Proud of his work, Phastos hands everyone their own bracelet.

A gold and salmon colored suit materializes around Ada's body. She pulls her hair back, securing it with an elastic at the crown of her head. Sliding the golden band over her hand, the bracelet adjusts to her wrist and activates itself.

Ada wipes her hands on her pants, then takes a deep breath. She's not used to fighting so much. Over the past three days, she's gone up against more Deviants than she's ever had to fight in her entire life. And now, she's about to go up against Ikaris and Sprite and a Celestial. It's a little overwhelming for her.

Ikaris said he's willing to kill them if he has to. Ada wonders if she's ready to do the same. She's never gone up against her own family with the intent to kill, and she wishes she didn't have to. But, they are running out of time. The Emergence will start soon, and Tiamut will rise if they don't stop him in time. She just wishes that Ikaris didn't know their plan already. That makes it significantly more di icult to defeat him. She also hopes Thena is able to distract him long enough for Druig to put Tiamut to sleep.

Thena and Phastos stay on the Domo as Makkari speeds Sersi, Druig, and Ada down to the island. They watch as Ikaris flies at the Domo, disappearing inside. Sprite must be on the island somewhere, they just don't know where. Now's their chance. They all activate their bands.

The four begin levitating, transferring their power to Druig. Once the two remaining beams join them, an energy shield forms around the four. Druig's eyes glow as he puts Tiamut to sleep. The raging volcano dozes o, temporarily pausing the Emergence.

However, their success is short-lived. Ikaris knocks Druig down to the ground and their connection breaks. The three descend until their feet reunite with the land. Ikaris swoops down.

"I should have done this five centuries ago!" Ikaris was seething. Rage dripped from his teeth as he spoke. He li s Druig by the throat and flies the two of them up until Ada could barely see the shapes of their bodies. He throws Druig's body before blasting him with beams of energy, sending him crashing down to Earth.

A blood curdling scream erupts from Ada's throat. The nerves in her body are replaced with pure heartbreak and terror. Tears fall down her cheeks like a flash flood.

Ikaris flies at the Domo, firing beams at it. It begins crashing to the ground. Sersi li s her hands, about to transform the ship's matter, but Makkari pulls her out of its path. With trembling hands, Ada attempts to slow the Domo's impact. She partially succeeds. Her lack of focus prevents her from taking full control over it. The ship crashes into the Earth with minimal damage. It could be easily repaired once the fight is over.

Makkari dashes into the ship and pulls Thena and Phastos out to safety. Ikaris returns, landing beside the group.

"Druig's gone. It's over," he informs them.

Not only was he responsible for Ajak and Gilgameshs' deaths, but now he's killed her best friend. Blinded by her emotions, Ada mind takes hold of Ikaris' body and sends him crashing into the rocks. A er a few seconds, he flies up, but Ada raises her hand, grabbing hold of him again. She sends him crashing to the ground with no mercy. His body slams onto the dirt with a loud thump. A small dust cloud forms around him.

Rocks from the volcano start raining down on the Eternals. Claiming her new role, Ada redirects as many as she can, preventing them from getting too close. Makkari runs at Ikaris, crashing him into the rocks, sending a fleet of punches at him.

"Phastos, I have to try and stop this. I need to get closer to Tiamut. Keep Ikaris busy," Sersi tells him.

"We've got you. Go," Phastos assures her. Makkari sends a shock wave at Ikaris, slamming him into the rocks. Magma begins leaking out of the Earth.

By the time they catch up to Makkari and Ikaris, he fires a beam at her chest, knocking her down. Phastos creates a metal wheel and sends it rolling full speed at Ikaris, catching him by surprise. He fires more energy beams at the duo, but Phastos returns cosmic beams of his own. Makkari gets back up and runs at him, pummeling him with more quick punches. Then Thena comes in, kicking him in the chest.

"Thena, stop!" Ikaris shouts.

She swings her sword at him, but he dodges. Ikaris grabs Thena and throws her towards Phastos. Ada glances over, ready to stop Thena's body from hitting the ground too hard, but Makkari speeds in and redirects her path, slowing her impact.

Phastos fires a small army of metal disks at Ikaris. He flies up to dodge them, but they follow him into the air. He fires beams at each one, determined to destroy them all. Once the disks are all gone, he fires another beam at Phastos. Before it hits, he creates a shield, protecting himself and Makkari.

The group continues distracting Ikaris. Once she's redirected all the rocks, Ada returns to the fight, thirsty for revenge.

The Deviant from the Amazon emerges from the ocean, ready to kill. It knocks Ikaris to the ground. Ada freezes. This wasn't like any Deviant she's seen before. This one no longer resembled an animal, but rather a human, walking its two legs.

"We can't let it absorb our powers," Phastos calls out to the

Eternals.

"Too late," the Deviant vocalized, showing them he absorbed Gilgamesh's powers. Ada couldn't believe she heard the thing speak.

Makkari begins running circles around the Deviant, creating a cyclone of dirt. Thena runs in to attack, but before she can, the Deviant utilizes Gilgamesh's powers and punches the ground, sending the two flying. Makkari doesn't get up right away like Thena does. This catches the Deviants attention. It walks over and begins draining her power. Ada panics. She couldn't let another one of her friends die. She grabs hold of its body and throws it into the depths of a cave. Thena walks into the cave, ready to kill the creature.

"Where is Sersi?" Ikaris questions.

"You always did underestimate her." As soon as Ikaris realizes, he launches himself into the air.

"Oh not you don't..." Ada raises her hand, grabbing hold of his body and sends him crashing to the ground again, harder than before. A cloud of dirt rises from where his body made impact with the Earth.

Phastos's technology latches onto him, holding him to the ground. He laughs, soaking in the moment. "I don't know about you, but this is really satisfying right?"

"Let me go Phastos, I can't let her do this!" Ikaris demands.

"I don't think so. I've been wanting to clip your wings for a long time, Ikaris!" He fires another beam at Phastos, but it stops short. The technology holding him down is preventing him from accessing his full power. Tired of Phastos, Ikaris turns his attention to Ada.

"I don't even know why you're bothering to fight with them, Ada. You've always been too weak!" Ikaris mocks.

"Oh yeah? Then how have I been able to knock you on your ass so many times, huh?" She cracks back.

"If you're so powerful, then why couldn't you save your little boyfriend?" he taunts, jabbing at her heart.

That's when Ada snapped. Her eyes glow as she grabs onto his heart and squeezes it a little. Ikaris' smirk drops and his face pales. The blood flow in his body stops and he begins choking. It took Phastos a second to realize it was Ada doing this. He didn't realize she was capable of doing something so deadly.

"Ada? What're you doing?" He didn't understand how she was doing this, but he knew that if she continued, Ikaris would be dead in minutes. Yeah he betrayed them, but he didn't deserve to die. "Ada! Stop!"

Her eyes stop glowing and the color floods back into Ikaris' face. Phastos wanted to ask her what she did, but was too afraid to find out.

A loud rumble pulls their attention to the ocean. They watch in horror as the tips of Tiamut's fingers emerge from the water. The Emergence has o icially begun. If they want to stop it in time, Sersi needs to hurry.

In the midst of their distraction, Ikaris recovers from his near cardiac arrest and finally gathers enough energy to break free, blasting Ada and Phastos back. Makkari runs in to help, but it's too late. He flies o to find Sersi.

A minute or two passes before they're li ed into the air, connecting to Sersi with the Uni-Mind. Sersi uses their combined power, including Sprite and Ikaris, to turn Tiamut to marble.

The group returns to the ground and sighs in relief. Sersi did it. She stopped the emergence. In the corner of her eye, Ada sees Ikaris fly o into space. She didn't know where he was going, but she didn't

care. She's just happy it's all over.

In the distance, she sees a figure approaching. She couldn't believe her eyes. She thought she was imagining things. But as he gets closer, she realizes he's real. Ada's eyes flood with tears as she runs at him. She crashes into his arms and holds him tight, afraid that if she let's go, he'll disappear.

"I thought you were dead," Ada's voice barely comes out as a whisper. "You scared me..."

"I told you I'm not going anywhere," he assures her. "Besides I couldn't die knowing I didn't get the chance to do something." He pulls away slightly, looking into her tear filled eyes.

"What?" she asks.

"This." Ada's heart pounds against her chest as Druig's lips gently collide with her own. She freezes for a second before kissing back. Butterflies dance in her stomach. The kiss was long overdue and was filled with nothing but passion and raw emotion. The two pull apart, touching foreheads. He steps back slightly, loosening their embrace and li s his hands to her cheeks, wiping the tears. She smiles at the gesture. With his arm placed delicately around her waist, Druig and Ada walk back to the group.

From behind them, Sprite looks on with jealousy, wishing she could have something that like for herself.

"Is he really gone?" Sprite asks, already knowing the answer to her own question.

Sersi nods, "Sprite, I still have energy from the Uni-Mind. I think I can make you human. All the things you said you wanted, you can have them. But your time will be fleeting and you'll die one day. Are you ready for that?"

"I am!" Sprite extends her hand out to Sersi's hand. The Eternals watch on as Sersi turns Sprite human.

Continue reading next part □