

## A History pt. 1

### Location: Neath

#### Time: 500 years before the Emergence.

Neath's rolling terrain and vast forest made it easy to get lost. Villages stretched far and wide along the Terran river and the river flowed right through the kingdom's Palace. The Sisters of Draoid lived within the Palace walls to stay close to the cave, Ethestia. Iris loved the Palace and the gardens that wrapped around it but, there was something about the days she got to explore Neath's vast lands that she cherished.

"Sister Esther says we'll have to partake in trials soon." Artemis said. She had medium brown skin and long dreadlocks. Her eyes were bright green like sapphire and her cheek had a small horizontal scar from an accident with one of her arrows.

Brigid laughed, "Is the huntress nervous?" She glanced at Artemis her pale blue eyes sparkling in the setting star. She was thin and had unkept ginger curls.

"No," She said. "I simply want time to prepare. I don't think that's much to ask." Artemis pressed her thumb into her bow, tracing the carvings she created.

"What do you think Iris?" Brigid nudged her side into Iris's. She hadn't really given the idea of trials much thought. It was hard to imagine what they would be like.

She shrugged, "Has a Draoid ever chosen not to take the trials?" She asked. Artemis and Brigid stopped in their tracks. Both women looked at Iris as if she had just admitted to murder.

"You shouldn't ask a question like that." Artemis said.

"It was just a question." Iris said.

Artemis and Brigid glanced at each other, the shared glance was enough for Iris to understand there were far more secrets that the Draoid have then she could ever know. Brigid took a step toward her and placed a hand on her shoulder. "You just emerged from Ethestia, it's okay. Curiosity isn't a bad thing out here but, with the elder sisters you should remember that they won't take such questions lightly."

"To answer it, there has never been a sister that refuses the trials." Artemis said. "It's the life we were created for. It is the only way." She said before walking past Brigid and Iris, continuing the trek. Brigid gave Iris one more glance and then followed Artemis. She followed behind the two girls her chin tucked down.

<<<<>>

The sisters knelt at the edge of the cave. None are to enter when the Eldest talked with Ethestia. Iris through the black veil stared into the darkness of the cave. Some sisters prayed others kept their head down. The cold breeze that came from the cave held whispers and the darkness was like a magnet, Iris wanted to run in, to see what arcane secrets lived in the shadows. Suddenly she saw the light of a small flame appear, "Esther," She whispered.

The sisters stirred, as the Eldest slowly walked toward the entrance. Iris stood up and took a step forward but a hand was clutching her arm before she could move to Esther.

"How dare you stand before the Eldest gave you permission?" Sister Anu scolded. She pushed Iris backwards. "She needs a punishment."

"She's the youngest." Brigid glanced up from her spot on the ground. "Once Esther recovers it should be her choice."

"Esther is not our master." Anu said.

Iris stared at Esther, she was pale and she had the slightest tremble. If conversing with Ethestia weakened Esther so much, Iris wondered if it was truly a good being. Esther dropped the lantern when she was at the edge of the cave opening. Iris stepped over to her and put a hand on her back. Anu gasped and shot a blast of energy at Iris but Esther blocked it with a shield.

"Enough, Anu." Esther said. Her dark brown eyes trained on Anu, "I made contact with Ethestia." She stood on her wobbly knees and Iris stepped away from her. The sisters stood and crowded around the Eldest.

"What did the master say?" Sister Morrigan asked. Esther took in a deep breath. Iris remembered the first contact she had been present for, Esther hadn't looked flushed. She stood straight but this was different.

Esther met Iris's gaze, "Iris is our final sister." Everyone looked at Iris, some seemed in awe others looked at her in horror.

<<<<>>

### Location: Neath

#### Time: 300 years before the emergence

Iris stood between what was left of a village and the beast that had burnt it to the ground. Its muscle was exposed a grey blue, with yellow eyes and sharp fangs. She was injured, her magic weak, she was too far from the cave, too far from her sisters. But when she heard screams, when she saw smoke, she ran as fast as she could to help.

She created an iridescent light orb in her hand, she widened her stance and never blinked. "Go to the palace doors." She said to the villagers. "Tell the guards that there has been an attack. The Draoid are needed. Tell them, Iris said so."

The villager's eyes widened, it was the first time, he had heard a Draoid's name. "Thank you." The man grabbed the arm of his wife as she cradled a babe in her arms.

"It's just us now." Iris said to the monster. "You can't hurt another soul." She shot the energy at it and flew into the air. The beast sprung forward and clawed at Iris, the light was not strong enough. She needed a weapon. She shot a bolt of energy at the beast and ran from it. It shook its head before clawing at the ground and charging her. Dead villagers scattered the burning village, iron and smoke was the only thing she could smell. She turned a corner and hid behind a dilapidated cottage. She closed her eyes and caught her breath, she opened her eyes and turned her head to the right. Lodged in a door was an iron staff, with a sharp spear at the end. She pulled it out and twirled it in her hands. The beast growled, it's steps shaking the ground beneath it. She wished she had gone to get the sisters but, if she had all the villagers would be dead. At least she saved a few lives.

She took a step out from behind the cottage, the beast noticed her immediately. It ran at her and she ran at it. She hit its snout with the edge of the staff and twirled it around before lodging it into its foot. It cried out in pain and its tail slammed down on the ground. Iris pulled the spear out and the beast jumped onto its hinge legs. The tail flicked to the left and hit Iris in her back. She hit the ground and turned over on her back, but the beast was faster. Bloodied teeth snarled in her face.

A bolt of golden light blasted the beast from above. Iris flinched as the beast roared into her face. It's right paw stomped down on her abdomen and she screamed out in pain. Her right hand raised and she shot a bolt of energy at its face. The golden light stopped and from the left a man punched the beast on her. She sat up, eyes wide. Two arms wrapped around her torso and she only had a second to see a woman pull her up before she was alone, on the edge of the village. The beast was slain in moments by these strangers. Iris tried to stand but she fell clutching her side.

"Please." A woman in gold and navy walked up from behind her, "You're hurt allow me." Her hands hovered over Iris's stomach. "You're safe now."

The pain in her stomach disappeared and she met the woman's dark brown eyes. She had a warm smile and dark tan skin. "Are you Draoid?" She asked. The star's light disappeared, she looked up to see a large black mass. From it, came more bodies, more people. They floated on gold rings.

"No, we are Eternals." The woman said. A man in blue landed behind the woman, and a flash of gold wrapped around them before a woman in red skidded to a stop. The bulky man in russet and the pale blonde woman walked over hand in hand. From the black giant rectangle came five other people all dressed in similar outfits, only differing in color. The woman stood and reached out an arm for her to take. "I'm sorry we did not find you sooner."

"Iris!" Esther's voice echoed loud through the trees. Her twelve sister's ran into the destroyed village. Like a cool breeze, Iris could feel her connection to Ethestia grow as her coven moved closer to her. She caught Artemis and Anu in the tree line. They thought these strangers were villains.

Esther raised her arms in a defensive stance. Her right hand faced toward the sky and the left hovered over it. Their veils were on, and they all wore black. The woman that healed Iris stepped forward. "We mean no harm." She said.

Iris felt a foreign presence in her mind. Morrigan's eyes were glowing red, Iris could feel her shields protecting her mind. "Tell your telepath to leave our heads." Esther said. "We do not take kindly to physical intrusions, let alone intruders of the soul."

The woman turned to her group, "That is enough, Druig." She said to the man dressed in all black. His hands were clasped in front of him, his eyes blinked. The presence was gone. "My name is Ajak." The woman announced. "We have been sent to help destroy deviants." Esther moved closer to the woman, "I know who you are." Her head tilted up, "My master predicted your arrival."

"Then you should know we mean no harm." Ajak said. Esther's expressions were blocked by her veil. Iris glanced over at the strangers. They all lacked emotion on their faces. When she glanced, who the woman called Druig, his cool blue eyes were already looking at her.

"Iris." Esther called and the girl looked toward her elder. "Come." She lowered her defensive stance and Iris walked toward her sisters. She stopped when she was even with Ajak.

"Thank you." She said so long before stepping behind Esther. She lowered her head, now more than ever she wished she had her veil.

"We are the Sister of Draoid. We serve Ethestia and in turn are the protectors of this Realm." Esther said. "We will allow your presence as you helped to destroy the deviants. But — only with our help." She glanced at each Eternal, "Our powers are equip to navigate these woods. Without us you could get lost, without us, the forest will be against you."

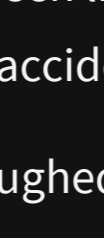
"We accept." Ajak said. "We would be honored to work along side you. For the protection of your people."

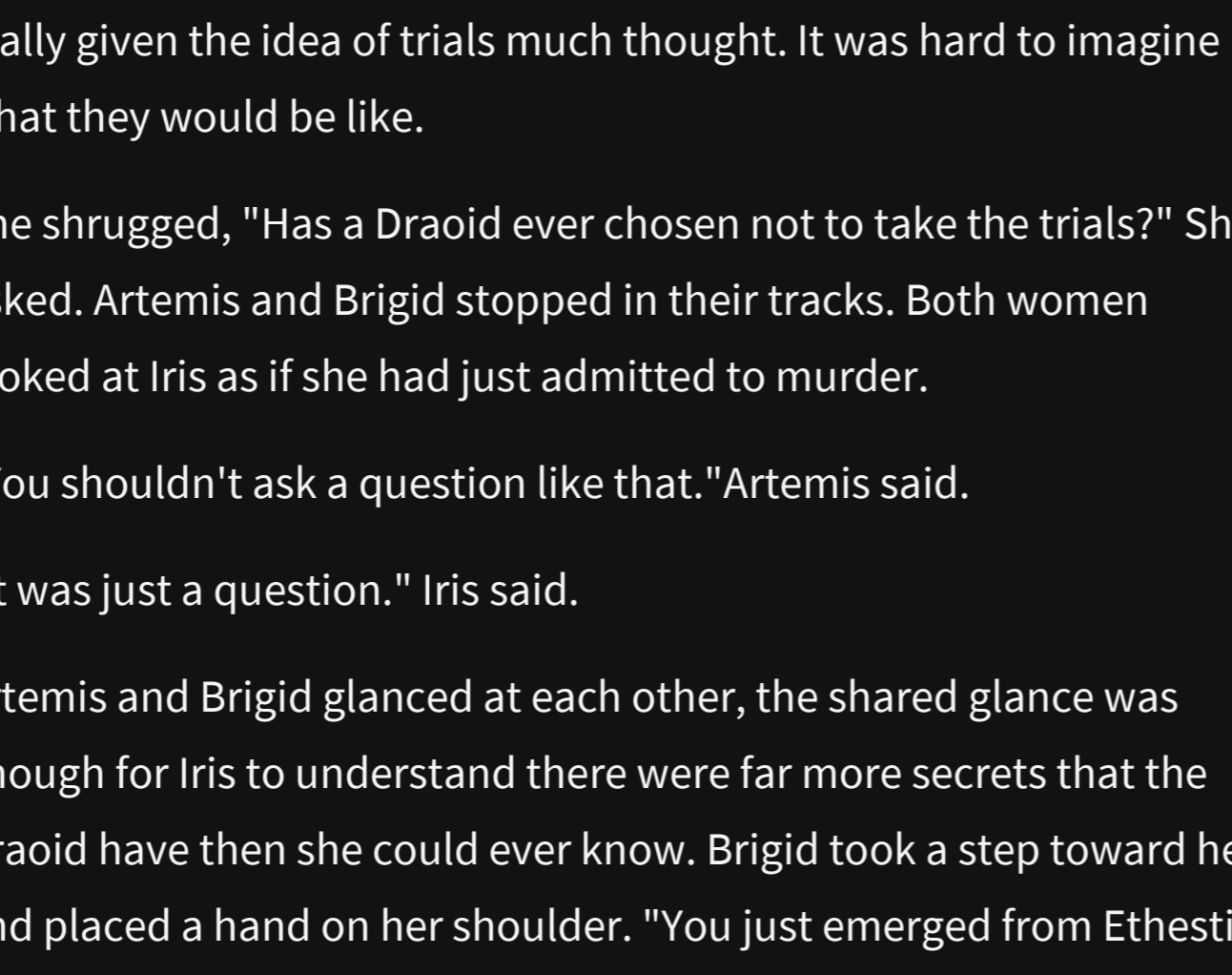
"Morrigan." Esther turned around, "Go to the palace, let them know we have guests." Morrigan nodded and jumped into the air her body morphed into a black crow and she flew east. "Sisters, guide the Eternals to the palace." Esther said, "Treat them as one of our own." The sisters moved forward and greeted the Eternals. Esther pulled Iris away from the commotion.

"I'm sorry." Iris said. "I should've gone to you before I ran into battle. I know it is dangerous to use my powers so far from the cave, so far from my sisters."

"Enough." Esther raised a hand up. "I am not disappointed in you." She placed a hand on Iris's shoulder. "I only ask, if you want to run into battle, learn how to fight. You are the last of our kind, death is not an option."

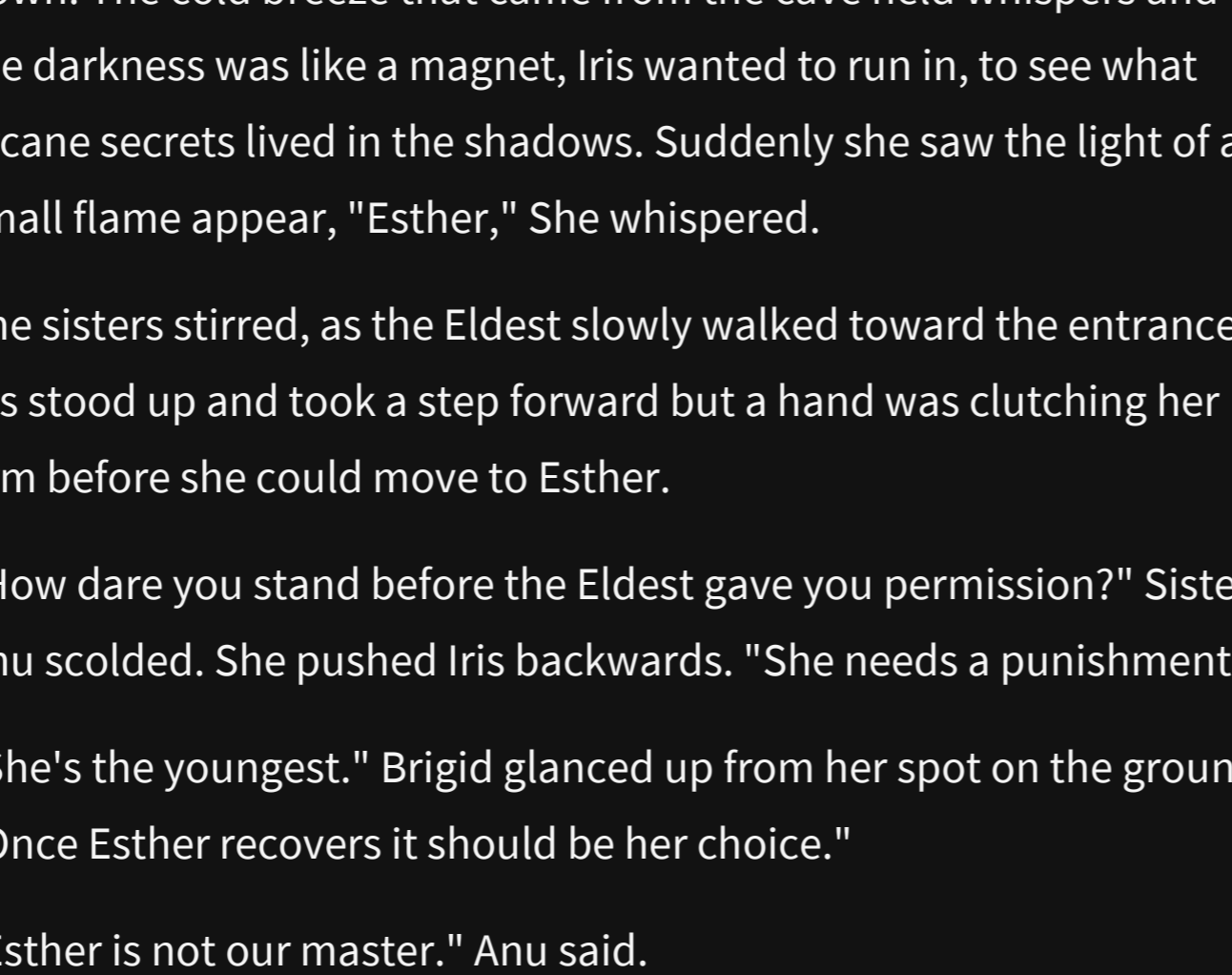
A/N


This chapter may be confusing. I feel like some of y'all may be reading it like 

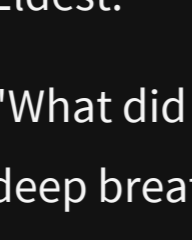


Or maybe my brain is mush cause I've been writing so much and now I don't know what is going on. I'd love to know your thoughts and theories.

I've said it once and I'll say it again...



You're comments, views, and favorites mean everything to me. Now I'm not saying the next chapter has Druig and Freya training together... but 

MUCH LOVE  
  
- Savannah

Continue reading next part 