

AURORA

It took me three minutes to dislike him.

đ<sup>3</sup>

It took me five to hate him.

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I didn't even know his name, and yet I already loathed the sight of him.

He was cocky and arrogant, and we hadn't even stepped down to earth. I didn't want to imagine how he would act when we faced our first Deviants.

đ<sup>7</sup>

I stood beside a window, looking down at the place we would have to reside in until all the Deviants were killed. Our first mission was supposed to start in a few minutes, Ajak had just told us to take a few moments to prepare before finally going down.

It seemed strange, the entirety of it. I'd been placed inside a spaceship with people I didn't know. All of us had different powers, different strengths, and weaknesses. We were supposed to be a team and yet... we were complete strangers.

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And I already hated one of them.

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We were eleven. In this past few minutes I had met several, but only enough for small introductions.

I wasn't sure how we would make everything work, but I trusted Ajak.

"You know, we're supposed to be headed down in a few minutes" A voice calls out from behind me, jolting me out of my thoughts.

His voice.

đ<sup>8</sup>

I roll my eyes, turning from the window and going to face him.

"I know, Ajak told us the time we're supposed to be there"

He holds his hands up, mocking surrender before leaning back into the doorframe, his stance cocky "Next time I'll make sure I don't tell you anything, then"

I scoot, shaking my head before walking towards the doorway, where he is. I stop for a moment before going fully through the door, making eye contact.

"That's perfect, actually, the less you speak, the better" I stare at him for a moment, wanting so bad to punch that smirk off his face.

"Aurora" Ajak's voice makes me look away from the boy, turning to Ajak, who stands in the hallway, looking at the exchange.

đ<sup>9</sup>

She eyes me, her eyebrows rising. Then she turns to the boy.

"Druig, you should get to your seat, we're about to descend" Her tone leaves no space for questioning, and the boy-Druig only nods curtly, eyeing me before pushing himself off the doorway and heading down the hall.

Even if I hated him, I had to admit, he was handsome— he oozed confidence, his eyes seemed to be open lazily as if he had just woken up. His black hair was longer on the top and shorter on the sides, but not by much.

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What struck me was his eyes. They seemed to be as blue as the seas in the world below us, mesmerizing in their own ways. They held so many emotions— and yet nothing at all.

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It was too bad I hated him.

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As Druig rounds the corner, finally disappearing from sight, Ajak turns to me, a knowing smile on her face.

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"You already met Druig, I see" Her thick accent marks her words, lacing them with warmth.

đ<sup>1</sup>

I roll my eyes, shaking my head.

"I hate him, Ajak. I truly do" I reply, adjusting my suit and pulling my hair over one of my shoulders.

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She hmms eyeing me up and down and then turning at the now empty hallway.

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"If you say so, Aurora. Just don't hate him too much. We have a long way to go and I would hate two of my team members to hate each other."

I laugh, shaking my head as we begin walking towards the main room.

"I think it's too late for that, Ajak"

She turned to me as we entered the room where everyone was, all of them taking their positions.

I looked around, the faces still strange. These were the people that would become my family for the next years. I sense of dread spilled over me at the thought of it. What would happen if I got attached? What would happen if someday we were forced to do something we didn't want to do? What then?

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I squashed the thought before I could continue to think about it. Ajak touches my shoulder, giving me one of her smiles.

"It's never too late"

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I had to admit, Deviants were even more ugly up close.

I almost hated them even more than I hate Druig.

đ<sup>6</sup>

Almost.

They were big creatures with mouths that smelled terrible and claws that I did not like.

I watched from the ship as some members of the team battled them, seeing how they used their powers and abilities to kill the Deviants and save the humans in danger.

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Pride swelled inside me for the group. We hadn't been together long, but I already knew that we would work well together.

"Do you feel bad you didn't get chosen?" Druig's voice comes out of nowhere, making me jolt. I let out a curse, turning to look at him, a scowl on my face.

"Do you? Last time I checked you weren't chosen either" I snark, folding my hands over my chest.

"I'm not supposed to be down there. I have different abilities" he pauses, looking down at the fight below us. "You on the other hand... aren't you supposed to be some sort of protection shield or something?"

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I roll my eye, choosing not to look at him.

"I manipulate energy and make force fields. I wouldn't exactly say I'm a protection shield."

"It's the same thing. You serve as protection" He mumbles, smirking to himself.

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I bite my lip, holding in my rage, though I'm not sure I will be able to for much longer.

Finally, after a few seconds of silence, I turn to him.

"Look, Druig I don't like you. I'm sure you don't like me." I fake a smile before continuing. "Why don't we just stay in our lanes and do our jobs and that way we don't interfere with the team, okay?"

He doesn't say anything for a moment. He keeps his face straight, the only indicator of emotion being his jaw tightening.

đ<sup>2</sup>

"That's fine, Aurora if you want that, then that is what you'll get" His voice is sharp, his accent cold and calculated. For a moment I'm scared of him. Scared of his powers.

đ<sup>1</sup>

I don't say anything as he turns around and leaves the room for the second time today.

I stand still for a moment before turning back to the window, trying to forget how he sounded and how I felt when he said my name.

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a/n comment what you thought!!! Any idea for these two babies?

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