

PRESENT DAY

39

AURORA

"You're telling me we're just fancy robots?" Kingo's high-pitched voice breaks through the silence, high with nerve. "And our past memories had been stored somewhere in space?!"

I sink deeper into my seat, blowing out a breath as I tried to take in the information Sersi had just given us.

The world was ending.

All humans were going to die.

I guess a er all these years Thena had been right. Mahd Wy'ry wasn't her going insane, it was her remembering.

I feel a pang on my chest at the thought of Thena having su ered for years, not knowing what was wrong with her. At least now she had an explanation.

The rest of the team sits in silence in their respective seats, all of them looking at Sersi, who's at the front part of the plane, standing up and facing all of us.

We'd been on the way to get Druig on Kingo's plane when Sersi had had a vision. She'd stood up quickly, tears running down her face as she turned to us.

"Sersi, what is it?" I had asked, worry washing over my features.

She'd shaken her head and then started ranting, telling us about how our mission had never been to actually defend humans from Deviants, but to kill Deviants in order to help humanity flourish and provide energy for the birth of a Celestial.

We weren't realOlympia wasn't real. Everything we had been living the past seven thousand years had been a farse.

Ajak had fooled us.

Although I didn't want to, resentment grew inside me at the thought of her knowing. She'd known how much I loved humans; how I'd always seen potential and life out of them.

She knew all of them were going to die, and she let me live with hope.

I didn't hate her; I never would.

But I was disappointed. Disappointed that she'd known and hadn't told me.

My gaze flickered to the rest of the Eternals, brow furrowing.

We'd been living through millions of years together; through thousands of planets. Mission a er mission our memories had been erased.

Curiosity bloomed inside me.

How many lives had I lived?

Had I been the same person before? I turned to look at Sersi and Ikaris. Had they loved each other in past planets?

My lips pursed.

I couldn't help but wonder whether there had been a planet where Druig and I had been together from the start.

Over the years I'd grown interested in topics like the stars and energies, learning about star signs and what di erent types of lovers there were on earth.

I'd read once about Twin flames: two partners who are half of a whole, destined to find each other through di erent lifetimes. No matter where and when they always seem to meet.

I couldn't help but wonder if in our past lives Druig and I had been together. I couldn't help but wonder if maybe what I read about twin flames hadn't just been pretend.

I had so many questions and so few answers.

My head tilts as I tune back into the conversation, sitting up straight again.

"And don't forget Arishem created Deviants" Sprite pitches in, adding onto what Kingo had just said.

"I'm sorry Thena" Gil voices what I'd been thinking just a few seconds ago. "You tried to warn us"

Then stares straight ahead, still absorbing everything Sersi had just told us.

"When Arishem replaced your memories, something must have gone wrong" I pitch in, turning to look at her.

Kingo frowns, turning to me with a questioning look.

"What do you mean?"

"Well, Thena said that she saw people die. That's what mad wy'ry is; she's remembering the planets she was in before, and everyone dying during the emergence" I explain, making motions with my hands.

Gil nods, a defeated look on his face. He puts a hand on Thena's shoulder soothingly.

"I thought we were heroes, turns out we were the bad guys"

"We're notthe bad guys, okay?" Kingo objects, turning to Gil. "We've helped the Celestials expand life across the universe... that's not what bad guys do" he rants, turning to all of us with widened eyes.

I watch as Ikaris stands up from his seat, face solemn. He looks around the team carefully, an emotion I can't quite name flickering over his eyes for just one second before it's gone.

"Every time innocent lives have been sacrificed for the greater good it turns out to be a mistake" Sersi explains, "We have to stop the emergence"

Kingo leans forward, resting his hands on his knees as he looks up at her.

"Sersi, we have no right to stop the birth of a Celestial"

I stand up, leaning on my seat for support as the plane jostles slightly.

"There has to be a way" I turn to all of them, passion igniting in the pit of my stomach. "Maybe a way we can make it emerge without it destroying the planet"

I can feel my blood running, adrenaline rushing through me as I start to think of a way to save all these people. I would do whatever it took to save them, even if it killed me.

These people didn't deserve to die. I'd seen such good come out of them. I'd seen so much growth, so much potential.

I couldn't let Arishem take it away.

"Maybe there's a way we can delay it until we figure out how" Sersi o ers, also starting to make up a plan.

We were very similar in that aspect, Sersi and I. Most of the missions we'd had in the past were planned by us; we enjoyed working together and pushing our limits. I'd always enjoyed figuring out di erent ways and strategies to make plans the most e ective.

Of course, I was way out of practice. About 500 years of it.

"Could Druig control its mind?" At the sound of what Gil says I light up nodding frantically. "Maybe put it to sleep?"

"Sleep?" Sprite questions, scowling "Are you serious"

"Druig tried to put me to sleep once" I o er, liking the idea. At my voice the entire team turns to look at me, brows furrowed.

"What?" Kingo asks, scowling. "Why?"

"He said I was being a pain in the ass" I keep it brief. It's all the explanation I'm willing to give.

"And did it work?" Sprite asks, curiosity lining her tone. She smirks, already enjoying the fact that Druig beat me at something. I roll my eyes. "

"I'm not going to answer that question"

"He did!"

"Can you stop?"

"Druig put you to sleeeeep" Sprite taunts. I shake my head, not being able to hold back a chuckle. I'm about to lunge at her when Kingo speaks up again.

"Yeah but Aurora, that was you" Kingo protests, turning to the others "This is a Celestial being we're talking about"

"We're not going to let everyone on earth die, right?" Sersi's voice rises as the team starts speaking at the same time.

Everyone else stills at her words.

"Right!" Karun's voice comes from the back of the plane. When no one replies he shrugs "I a little biased"

Kingo reels around as if just noticing that he was still here.

"What are you still doing here, Karun!?" He yells "I told you to go home!"

"And do what sir, watch tv?" His Indian accent marks his words as he stares at Kingo. He motions around the plane at us. "When I could be with the world's original superheroes as they try to save the world?"

My heart swells at his words. For the first time in a long time, I feel like I actually have a purpose in life other than just existing through history.

Kingo sighs, slumping back into his seat with defeat.

"Fine. If you want to, stay"

Ikaris takes a step forward, finally speaking.

"Once we find the other's we'll decide what we do about the emergence."

As much as I didn't like the man, he had a point. If we were about to do something this big, we needed the help and opinion of the rest.

As the conversation withered to a stop and everyone took their seats again, I found myself looking out the window, watching the vast amount of trees below us.

I'd always loved the Amazon.

Out of all the places I had lived over the years, I had to admit this one was one of my favorites.

Maybe it had to do with the fact that Druig had made me see the best parts of the rainforest. He'd taught me things about living here that had made me love this place even more.

I'd noticed I had a knack for places in the middle of nowhere. I liked cities, of course. I loved the anonymity of them; how you were so small in a place so big, filled with so many people.

But here, in small villages or helping others is where I felt most at peace.

Being able to enjoy nature and my own loneliness came as a gift for me, and it was greatly appreciated.

Here I could do whatever I wanted and no one would be there to see. Here, I was infinite. Eternal.

I had no fears about being discovered. I had no worries about having to adapt to a new trend or fix my language because people were using di erent slang or terms. Here I was just me.

"We're about to touch down at the airport" Kingo's voice calls out from the front.

My heart skips a beat at the thought of seeing Druig again.

What would I do? What would I say?

I was so, so angry.

But I'd missed him. I'd missed him so much and part of me longed just to be held by him, no matter what had happened.

He was the only person who actually understood. Who actually got who I was without me having to explain.

As I looked at the airport coming into view before us, a sense of peace settled into me.

Because as much as I was frightened by the idea of seeing him again a er all these years, I knew I was finally home.

a/n alright so it's a filler but I needed to fit in this scene bc I hadn't explained about the emergence and everything so yeah. I'm planning out the next chapter but I think you guys are going to like it!