Chapter XIII

"...and never hold..."

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The Amazon
It truly was a beautiful place.

Faint chatter, the birds singing light tunes along with the sun touching nature softly.
But it would have been more beautiful if Persia hadn't been so exhausted.

She knew Druig stayed here, solely because of her instinct guiding her.
His energy was imprinted on her skin, her heart.

It made her sick, all those years.

But following that energy back to its source, although it was so centered, took her last bit of energy left.

Her vision was a little blurry, when her eyes spotted lights.

The others walked in front of her, and she stayed back.
They'd occasionally turn back to make sure they still were on the right path.

Persia took a breath.
"We're here."

"This?" Kingo questioned as they reached the first taverns, "he's living in the middle of nowhere?"

"Oh, look!" Maya shouted and tugged at Persia's sleeve, "Lamas!"
Persia smiled, greeted a few people who came across their way.

They weren't phased by a few strangers showing up at all.
Welcoming, rather.
She turned around herself in her spot, allowing her eyes to take in the sight of the village.
It felt so peaceful.
Air so clear.

Of course it was, Druig wouldn't tolerate any different if he was still the boy she knew him as.

"It's very nice here sir." Karun said, his camera still sitting in his hand.
"Don't be fooled," Kingo replied, hesitantly putting one foot in front of the other.
" Ignorance is bliss"

The hair on Persia's neck stood, her fingers twitching without her asking them to.

She abruptly turned to where the energy came from.
Sprite stood opposite a man, his eyes glowing in that creeping yellow.
" Hello Sprite"

Unwillingly, Persia pulled Maya back towards her.

Her eyes shot towards the biggest cabin, pale wood running as beams, creaking metal as the doors opened outwards.

Persia swallowed, bit down on her tongue.
She had no clue whether she wanted to turn around or burn him to the bones.

But her feet still carried her around the water fountain, until the eternals were assembled in front of the door.
When she turned to follow the other steps which her ears picked up on in a rhythmic pattern, the whole village aligned themselves behind her.

She couldn't believe it.
But she was certain.
It was him.

He stepped out of the door, placing his hands behind his back.

His chin raised high, posture straightened.
A slight curl to his lip.
Still that dark hair, but it sat more neat than it did centuries ago.

And his eyes
That consuming blue which she despised so much.

They rushed about the eternals, with each one his smirk tightening.
Until he met her eyes.

Then moved them away.

"I've missed all of you."
Persia felt nausea claw up her throat as she heard him speak.
"Please, make yourselves at home"

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Persia couldn't count on two of her hands how many times the eternals have been left speechless over the course of only four days.
She was glad that Sersi took over the speaking at least.

All of them sat in that tavern, but it rather looked like a garage.
Some benches, cold air wrapping around their breaths.

And those stupid buzzing lights which she was tempted to crush.

Her head was pounding without that stupid noise making it worse.

Druig leaned against a bench at the very front, the floor slightly elevated.

"You've given me a lot of bad news in one go m'lady." Druig finally sighted.

"Will you help us?" Sersi asked softly.
"I'm glad-"

His voice was cut off by some song suddenly playing.
Sersi's ringtone.

Persia was stiff as ever, but pressed her lips on top of each other to suppress herself from laughing.
Maya seated next to her was having a slightly harder time with stopping herself from crackling.

"Hey, what's your service?" Kingo whispered, leaning toward the embarrassed woman. "I'm not getting any bars."

"Do you all remember this forest?" Druig spoke again after silence settled." Beautiful"

Of course Persia knew it, that's why it was so easy to find.
It still held so much energy that pearled off each of her family members.
So many years.
So many memories

"It's the last place we all lived together."
Druig continued, peaking a smile before it faded. He got up and moved along the rows.
"I have protected these people for 20 generations now." He started explaining,"From the outside worlds and from themselves."

Persia brought her eyes over to something else, avoiding the look of him.

She had to endure his talking for thousands of years, always about the same thing.

"Your kind my friend, will be responsible for your own extinction one day." It took her long enough until she realized that he was speaking to Karun.
"Don't you think?"

The poor man lowered his camera.
"I think we should learn from our mistakes and do better sir."
He tried continuing to speak, but his words were indecipherable.

Energy flooding the room.

His eyes tinted in that gold.

Persia regulated her breathing, Maya giving her hand squeezes every now and then.

Then, Karun threw the camera against the wall.
Persia was threatening to go at the boy when Kingo luckily spoke before.
" Oh no, you didn't."

The man got up, now their eye lines aligned.
"Okay, new rule. No more possessing peoples valets."

Druig huffed, that smirk coming back.
"Oh, where's your sense of humor, Kingo?"

"I'm sorry-" Karun tried, obviously confused with what just happened.
"Don't apologize, it's not your fault."

Kingo stared back at Druig.
"You are not a god"
he narrowed his eyes, voice going more quiet.
"you know that, right?"

"Now ironic," Druig mocked like a child, "Kingo, the movie star."
"I've directed some things too."
"Oh yeah, like what?"
"Some internet content."
"How many views?"

Ikaris let go of an nerved exhale, pushing himself from the wall.
"Let's go, he's wasting our time."

Persia was about to follow after, when Maya placed a hand to her shoulder.

"We need him." Sersi begged, aware of the fact that things slipped out of her control.
Persia mouthed, " He won't do it".

Druig shifted past her so quickly, she almost lost feeling from that rush of energy which hit her.

Persias thought she wouldn't have to stand this close to him if she had herself squeezed into the back row.

"Ikaris!" the boy smiled, an edge to his expression, "I missed you."
He tilted his head to the side, reaching his nose further up.

"Are you going to charm me, or threaten me?"
Ikaris stopped, Persia noticing how his fists clenched and loosened again.
He turned, head slightly dropped.
"There's a third option, if you'd prefer that."

Druig didn't even acknowledge it, but held the eye contact.
"Must be heartbreaking not to be mothers favorite."
"I'm sure she'd be real proud of you-"

Sersi slowly got up, put a hand out.
"Druig, this is serious-"

Druig had his eyes piercing through her, feet thudding against the floor until he was right before her.
"I will tell you what's serious,"

His voice shook the air, shook Persia's corpse and made her flinch back.

"I have just been told that i've been send on a suicide mission for the past 7000 years, and that my entire existence is a lie"

Persia bit down on her inner lip, so hard she feared it would bleed.

How dare he speak to her like that

"So excuse me if i don't give a shit about your plan right now." Druig turned away from Sersi, his loud steps leading to the door.
Persia rubbed along her forehead, happy that she got him out of sight.

Her eyes found Sersi.

"Okay well, told you it was a waste of time."

The steps stopped.

She rose her face, brows knitting in confusion.

Druig had stopped.

He dipped his head to the side, yet still not looking at her.
"You know, out of all people, I wouldn't have thought that you were going to show up here." he said, directed towards her.

She inhaled a sharp breath.
This was the first time he acknowledged her.

His tone made her furious.

"Why is that?"

"You never cared about anyone, you never cared about me-" he started, growing louder with each word until she cut him off,

" CARED?!"

Her yell echoed through the room, everyone going quiet. She noticed how Gilgamesh woke up next to Thena.

But Druig still stood, a small smile forming.
His head dipped, then rose again.
Her nostrils flared in anger, blood shooting into her cheeks.

"You know, you shitty little bastard, I didn't come back for you." she spat through gritted teeth, getting up from the stupid bench which creaked in response to her standing up so harshly.

Maya's hand fell off her shoulder.

Druig turned his whole body, facing her. Cocking his head again.
Daring
"or anyone."

The room shushed completely.
The words flowed out by themselves then, the knot in her chest tightening only more.

"I was ready to go home and never think about this torture again. I despise this place and I despise every single one of you"
Her feet had carried herself closer to Druig, who raised his chin. She raised her face too.
" We lost"

Her jaw was clenched so tightly, the pain that pulsed in her teeth made her nauseous.
"Your world wasn't the only one that was shattered."
" your world?" he asked. Though it wasn't a question.
He wanted her to burst.
Like he always tried to.

Druig didn't give a shit about what she had said. He wanted her to feel awful.

"Yes, my world," she replied, releasing some of the tension on her face.
"but just because mine has been destroyed doesn't mean I will take it from every single being on this planet."

Her fists were balled, knuckles left white. There was no feeling in them anymore.
They threatened to collide with his face.
Her energy was boiling over, burning her skin almost.

But she held herself together, drawing in a dry breath.

Druig's smile had collapsed into itself.
His jaw protruded from his face, pursing his lips slightly. He was angry.

She could almost hear him tell her that she had no right to say such a thing.

You are the cause for destruction, how do you want to fix it?

"So go on, stay with your little village.
Keep them under your control until this earth bursts. Maybe then you will feel like you accomplished something."

"Persia, this is enough-" Ikaris started, startling her.
If he took another step closer, she'd blow him up.

"Isn't this what you always wanted? Keeping these people safe?
And now that we are offering you to try and rescue them, you say you're not capable of it?"

She felt a hand on her shoulder, but she didn't pay attention to it.
Her face leaned further into that of Druig.

Persia spotted it,
the little scar above his brow.

His eyes darted through her, lungs shaking in heavy breaths.

"I had always known you were weak.
Even if we could save this planet, I wouldn't want to have someone like you on my side."
Her voice shook with such intensity, it scratched her throat. Still, it got more and more quiet until only he would hear it.

"I never wanted to be on your side."

His eyes seemed empty, taken up by hollow anger.
Her nose and eyes twitched, mouth opening to say something else.
There was nothing she wanted to say though.

All she wanted to tell him was out.
Persia allowed Ikaris to pull her numb body back, shaking it off instantly after.

Tears shot into her eyes, for no reason at all.
Druig and Persia still stared at each other, until she finally breathed in and dissolved the tie between them.

She brushed past him, jostling his side while reaching for the door and walking outside into the fresh air.

Maya called after her, but she barely heard it.

The cold oxygen prickled against her face and made her stop in place to stop herself from fainting.

A rage coursed through her veins, she couldn't stop it. It fueled itself with every second she spent thinking about his face.

Tears spilled from her eyes as she closed them to ignore the stars that danced before her.
Her lower lip started quivering, the breaths she forced herself to make didn't help.

Then, her mind suddenly calmed.

A hand rushing into hers, taking the dangerous energy from her.

She held her breath, a weight falling off her shoulders.
In such a long time, she hadn't felt anything like this.
Relief, peace

But the void of energy rushed with something else, a different consciousness, an unfamiliar presence.

It consumed her mind, replacing every part of herself.

Fire tracing through her mind and erasing every so tiny piece of herself.

Her eyes shot open, fingers digging into her palms as she forced it out of her head.

Persia flipped around, ignoring her own raging energy filling in every bit of her body again.
Known, a sort of comfort to it, yet-
crashing like violent waves, making her feel as if she was going to drown in it.

She didn't allow her weak knees to show.

" You" she started, thudding the door wide open so everyone was looking at her.

She ignored the stares, their voices too.

Her feet stopped in front of Druig again, her mind not even comprehending it at all.

He seemed faceless almost, none of his features entering her head.

He was still taken up by that anger, but when he saw how outraged she was, his brows knitted slightly.

Persia concentrated on his cosmic energy, her own obeying to her and interwoven with his.
They connected, the girl solely putting her mind to overpowering his power.
Tugging at it until she felt it slip into her hold.

Persia watched as his eyes widened slightly, focusing on taking the last fragment of his energy until it was all in her grasp.

She held all of it.
His hand rose to his chest, taking small gasps for air. Fingertips feeling for his heartbeat as if it was no longer there.

" Never get into my mind again"

He was paralyzed on the spot, chest quickly rising up and down, when she released her hold on him.

His energy flowed back into him, Persia having to take a deep breath.

He shook his head in confusion, the girl already out of the cabin again.

She was heading somewhere, far away.
No destination at all.

Just the furthest she could.

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A/N: HELLO THERE !! thank u so much for 7k reads i'm honestly so overwhelmed ;)
also, thanks to everyone who comments and votes, as well as all the new people.

so, we will be getting into the more serious stuff now.
i have some fun things planned, so i hope you're looking forward to that.
love <33

Continue reading next part ☐