Chapter XV

"...feel like..."

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Honestly, with that much stress Persia was wondering why her hair hadn't turned completely white yet.

Feet colliding with the ground, the wind snatching against her skin, slashing down her throat.

She lost sight of Druig when she heard that scream, and had not even the slightest clue where he went.
Maybe he stayed back.
Watching the fight unfold from a safe distance.

When she finally reached the village again, chaos raged through it.

Fire blazed and consumed the woods, taking down taverns left and right.
Persia was barely able to dodge a ball of energy which Kingo sent past her head.

"Hey, watch it!" she yelled, shoving herself past the ruins.
Kingo didn't take his eyes off of the scattered Deviant, still shooting at them.

"I am trying" he shouted, creating a bigger blast and sending it towards a building.

She crouched to the earth, let her energy slip into the ground. Her eyes were focused on a Deviant heading directly towards them.

Then Persia noticed the people running around, screaming. One being attacked by a Deviant.

"Kingo take this one!" she yelped, pushing herself from the ground.
The black energy lifted, shot back into her body with a buzz.

She almost slipped, the claws of the Deviant pushing into the soil where she had just sat a second ago.

The man turned and shot two blasts right at its head, causing it to turn in confusion.

No damage at all.

"Not good" Persia whispered under her breath.

"Persia, you're supposed to helpme!" Kingo laughed, but unintentionally made it sound much more desperate than that.

"I can't with all these people around!"

Persia spotted Sersi attempting to help the villagers out of danger, but there were just too many of them.
"Where are the others?"

He threw another blast past their heads, knocking a Deviant ten feet away.
"I don't know!"

She flipped back around to Kingo, who was breathing heavily.
"You can deal with this on your own, can you?"

"Wait, no-"

Persia was already heading towards Sersi, gripping at her shoulder.
The woman flipped around, eyes widened.
"Hey, hey it's me."

Sersi exhaled, "gather the people up, we need to get them to safety."

Persia nodded, gritted her teeth and went to the people near here and brought them to the considerably more safe places.

"Persia, bring them to this hut!"

She looked around her, wondering if she could try something.
Her hands rose into the air, fingers flexing. Then she turned her wrists, black threats flushing out of them.

They connected to every person she saw, screams choked off.
Persia held her breath, focused on their minds.

Pathing through their fear, making them solely concentrate on her.

Without hesitation, every single one of them started running towards Sersi, who closed the door off behind them.

She put her fingers against the wood, turning it into something more durable.

Persia dropped her hands, the energy collapsing.
Her body almost along with it.

Sersi had herself pressed up against the tavern, the new material covering it in speed but not fast enough.

A Deviant brushed past Persia, knocking her off her feet and she landed with a harsh thud.

She tried pressing a hand to the ground, but the Deviant made her vision blur.
The being sweeping it's tail through the air, sending Sersi flying into a building with a scream.

Persia gasped for air, got up to run over to her.
But the Deviant turned, a deep growl descending from its throat.
She stopped in her tracks, taking a long stride backwards.
The being started increasing in speed.

Persia bit down on her tongue, tilted her head to the side.
Energy boiled in her veins.

If the Deviants were the same as the Eternals, could she grasp their energy too?

The veil of power sent waves across the ground, covering it entirely.
Just an inch before her, the Deviant stopped.

She felt it's hot, metallic breath run across her body, the saliva dripping from its gums.
Her energy wrapped around the cosmic energy in the very core of it, pulled at it.

The Deviant whined a short breath, body shaking as she forced it down on its knees.

She almost had all of it, her head racing with the fuel, when shots fired through the air.

Persia lost focus, her body voiding from the energy.

She shook her head in confusion, almost losing her balance.
The Deviant was faster at regaining its hold, racing its paws through the air, claws digging into her shoulder.

Pain dozed her body resenting from her arm, a stripped cry leaving her mouth.

Persia was thrown to the ground, the Deviant towering over her.
The golden eyes beamed back at hers, sharp teeth showing.

Shots fired again, this time from all sides.
Piercing the Deviants body, making it shift its head away from her.
It was enough time for her to slip out and run to the other side.

Fire, again
She turned, heavily breathing and dizzy at the sudden drop in temperature.

Villagers, their eyes lighting in the deep gold she knew so well.
Mindlessly firing at the howling Deviant that jolted around in place.
It slashed its tail through the air, costing the life of the people.

But they didn't stop.
They just didn't stop shooting until their last breath.

Persia searched the area for Druig, but couldn't find him.

Another swipe, another person colliding with the ground.

She took a breath, opened her palms and let her energy drown out her thoughts.
It bursted out of her, causing her to fall back.

"Stop!" she heard, trying to grab control again.

A vague figure moved around the Deviant, avoided its tail and rolled off the ground.
She picked up a click, saw the figure moving again, then a shot fired into its head.

Persia rose up, her ears filled with that fearsome scream which the Deviant let go off right into the person's face.

Her eyes rushed into the sky in response to a loud noise, wood splitting.
The tree, it was falling.

"Watch it!" Persia ran towards the person, pushed them to the side.
The earth shook heavily, echoed through entire woods.
Both landed hard on the ground, three feet from them the crystallized tree buried the Deviant under it.

Her shallow breathing shook her entire body, red tinted eyes shot open towards the being.
They closed for a second, focusing on her regaining control.

She let her head drop, when she noticed the other energy source.

She opened her eyes, looked down.
Her body was hovering right above Druig, his chest holding his breath, contradicting hers.

He had stripped off that robe which would cover his arms. His biceps bare, muscles flexing next to where her arms stemmed her body off his.

A clump formed in his throat, Persias eyes rushing lower to watch his larynx jump as he swallowed.

She was paralyzed, only moved when she felt someone tug her body back up.

Druig got up too.

All three of them watched the Deviant, when Persia noticed the people were still firing their bullets.

Some of them were also buried under the tree, Persia's muscles stiffening.
"Let go of them."

"This is not the time-"

She flipped around, eyes running black against her will.
"I wasn'tasking."

Sersi put a hand to his shoulder, "I know you're better than this."

He shoved her hand off him.
Druig stared blankly back at her, one more round of shots hitting the Deviant.
Then, he raised his hand, eyes glowing in that same gold.

The people dropped their weapons,
"Druig, ¿qué está pasando?"

"Go to the river!" he yelled back, they obeyed without another second lost.

Druig faced them again, but suddenly grabbed both by their arms to pull them away.
The Deviant had freed itself from the tree.

Persia kneeled to the ground, pushed her back up against a wall.
But instead of attacking the others, the Deviant simply stared back at her.

It seemed to have forgotten about the others, ignorantly blocking them out.

The Deviant panted, slowly headed for her.
She tried crawling further away, but the only thing she could do was flatten her body against the cold wood.

Why wasn't it attacking them?

"Persia-" Sersi put a hand to the ground, solidifying it.

"Hold on." she breathed, wiping her nose with her hand.

The hand extended from her face outwards, almost brushing the Deviant.
That's how close it was.

At the tips of her fingers, she felt the heat of its body, with each second she could feel more and more of its energy.

She slowly loosened from the wall, straightened her back.
Her palm touched its nose.

Within the blink of an eye, Persia had snatched its energy from it, causing it to open its mouth to attack.
She saw from the corners of her eyes how spikes elevated off its body, aiming for her.

They slumped to the ground, no sound coming from its mouth.
Her black threats warped from her hands, lines and black veins forming on the Deviant.

Before she had all of it, a beam of gold broke the dark atmosphere, a deep buzz causing her to flinch back.

Ikaris stood next to her, and gave it the final blow.

He groaned when one of its spikes hit his stomach, but pulled it out and threw it to the side.

" Are you insane? he turned towards Persia.

Then his eyes widened, body dropping to the ground.
She frowned, slid up the wall to face him.

"You're injured."

Persia looked down at herself, arms lifting so she could look at them.
Blood gushed out of her shoulder, running down her sleeve.
The fabric barely held any of its original color.
Red, everywhere.

"I will be okay." she squeezed through her teeth, "Go and help Kingo."

"No-"

"For, god's sake!" Persia yelled, pressing her hand on her wound.

Ikaris lifted his face, then his body off the ground again and headed for where the sounds of blasts came from.
Sersi eyed Persia, then back to Ikaris.

"Come on, you know he needs your help."
Persia smiled, gesturing for her to go after him.

Sersi waited a moment, then nodded.
She ran after him, tumbling into the chaos.

Persia exhaled in pain, feeling as it started filling her mind.
The energy she used still sizzled in the air.
Her head fell into the crock of her neck, putting even more pressure to her wound.

"You really have lost your mind."

She looked over to her right, Druig walking towards her.
"Hey, what-"

His hand peeled hers of her body right above the wound.
She drew in a sharp breath, raised her other hand to bite down on her knuckles.

The boy tore the fabric of the shirt, gently placing his fingers to the wound.
His cold touch against her burning skin made a shiver run down her back.
He applied pressure.

"Don't touch me."

Druig took his hands from her and put them up defensively.
The pain shot back up her arm, forcing her to put the pressure back with her own dirty hand.

Her eyes squeezed shut, then opened them again to look at Druig.

Something in his eyes shifted, he blinked faster, jaw pushing out from his face as if he was biting down his teeth with force.

Then she noticed a patch of red spreading rapidly on his left side.
"You're-"

"We need to-" he started, then stopped mid sentence when he looked over where the others were.

Persia also gazed up, watching as the water of the fountain boiled, then exploded and started falling like snow.
She quickly moved towards them, Druig following after her.

When they reached where they stood, she couldn't believe her eyes.
Sersi was covered in water, hair wet down to her legs which still stood in the freezing water.

But right in front of her, a Deviant protruded into the air, crystallized like that tree which had fallen.

"How did you do that?" Ikaris asked, rushing into the water and taking Sersi into his arms.

The woman could barely speak.
"I don't know."

Persia went about the others with her eyes for answers, but they were just as stunned as she was.

Then, energy tugged at her, violently dragging her body down.
A fragment broke off, washed into nothingness. And it got worse.

"Something is wrong." Persia muttered, turning once around herself.

"Where are the others?" she urged, thinning her eyes, " Where are Thena and Gil?"

Sprite took a step towards her, "Persia, what's going on?"

"Someone needs to find them."

Ikaris didn't hesitate, flew out of the water, the others running after his shadow into the bushes.
Persia shook off the discomfort and rushed past the trees.

She ran and ran, but fell behind the others.
Followed the course of their energy.
They stopped, for some reason.

Her heart was racing when she finally peaked their outlines, all with their backs turned to her.

She opened her mouth to say something, when she heard it.
"No, no I will remember."

Persia's steps got slower and slower until she was unable to move.

Thena sat on the ground, knees tucked under her body, her beautiful dress laying on her skin like silk.

Hair messy yet so magical.
She was sobbing uncontrollably, face dropping onto the chest of the man who laid in her lap.

The warrior mourned, desperately trying to bring him back to life with her words.
She kept repeating it, each time sending a pain down her spine.

The goddess held the body of her passed prince.

Gilgamesh wasn't breathing.

Even if Persia's body was still coursing with the energy she took from the Deviant, none of it was accessible for her.

Tears silently fell down her face.
" We lost him"

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The same night, they ashed his body, capturing his remains, faint energy.

They prayed, as long as each of them needed for their comfort.
Until the sun had risen from the horizon, the cold air was slowly rushing with warmth.

Some spoke silently, but they all grieved their own way.
Two eternals, gone

Persia would have thought it would take more than that.
Creatures, the same as them.
The same stupid origin.

After centuries they could defeat them without a loss.

She watched from a distance as Thena held the urn, a few tears washing down her face.
Persia didn't only grief for herself, but for the woman too.
She was strong, invincible.
But when it came down to it, she loved him.
Thena needed him.

And had that taken from her.

Thena lightly bent down, started pouring the ash into the water, watching as it carried him away.

With that, the last bit of his energy faded.
Almost all of it.
Some of it stayed with Thena.

No matter how far he'd pass on, a piece of it stayed.
Like he was still watching over the warrior.

Her eyes flipped over to the left, Druig and Sersi speaking to each other.

"I never wanted this." Ikaris spoke, moving between the blades of grass until he stood next to Persia.

"Don't give yourself the blame." Persia replied after some time, putting one of her hands over the other in front of her stomach.
A quick lived pain shot through her shoulder, grinding her teeth.

Her wound was treated to an extent, but it was deeper than she admitted.

"I brought us all back to face it, together" he said, dropping his face, "Like we always have."

"And there's no way to change what has happened." she breathed, turning over, "You did all you could."

Persia took in his features which twisted odd directions, "You would have never done this if you knew it would cause harm."

He nodded, facing forward.
His face warmed slightly and Persia knew what he was looking at.

"She talks about you, a lot." she said, following his eyes to behold of Sersi, "She really is incredible."

"She is," he agreed, "if it wasn't for her, we wouldn't have come this far."

"I wanted to give up, at times." Persia admitted, voice quieting.
"And didn't because I knew that she still believed in me."

Ajak's death, it was Sersi that was willing to allow Persia to pour her heart out, even if she was hurting too.

"I'm here for the humans too. They have cost me much, but gave me more."

Maya holding her, reassuring her.
It brought more peace to her than four centuries on her own.

A frown formed on Persia's face, she looked at Ikaris, then back at the others.

Her breathing picked up, a sick feeling spreading in her stomach.

"Maya." she whispered, putting a hand to her mouth.
" Where is Maya?

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A/N: I just can't stop with the angst, can I?
No but honestly I feel like this is just a bunch of angst compiled and i'm scared that you guys will get bored of it dkdjsj

we're at like 9.5 k, and i think it's unbelievable to think about. I'm beyond grateful for every single one, as well as all the votes and comments <3

maybe I will post another later today, but i have to study so no promises :)
(if you don't know, i live in germany so in my time zone I publish around 10ish pm)

anyways, how do we like the new theme and my *cough* amazing profile picture 😊

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