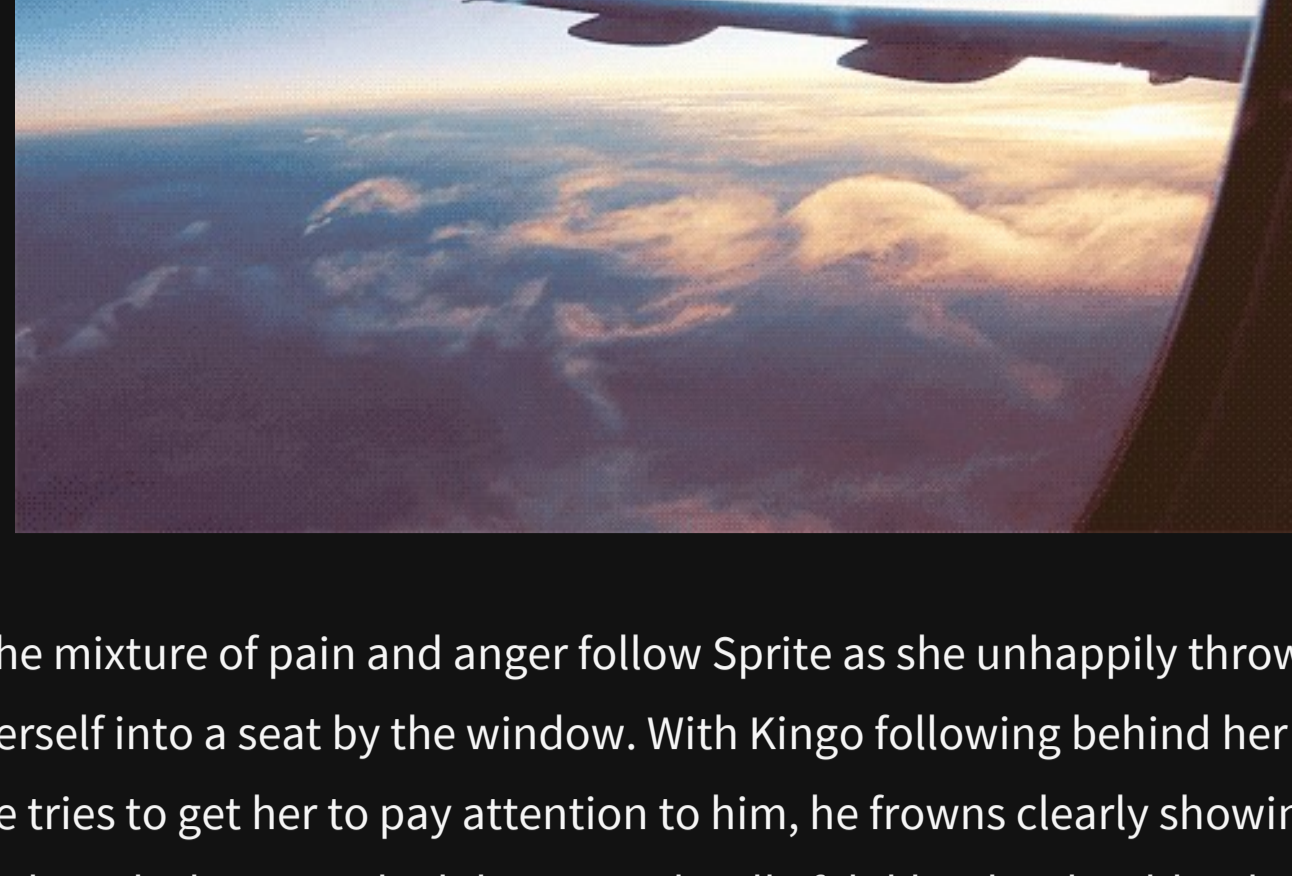


CHICAGO



The mixture of pain and anger follow Sprite as she unhappily throws herself into a seat by the window. With Kingo following behind her as he tries to get her to pay attention to him, he frowns clearly showing he hated when people didn't. As Gabriella felt like she shouldn't be listening to their bickering she tries to make herself look preoccupied, but can't help looking up as Kingo sighs loudly.

"How many times are you going to make me apologise?" Kingo complains as Sprite dramatically turns in her seat, her legs crossing, "the whole not ageing thing and the constant moving, you have to understand."

"But, I thought we were friends," Sprite adds her face turning slightly as Kingo rolls his eyes before teasingly dropping to his knees, his hands clasping together before his face as Sprite tries hard not to smile.

"Please forgive me, O' gracious Sprite," Kingo whispers out passionately as she rolls her eyes before poking out her tongue, "the 'very' possible end to this world would be even more depressing, if you hated me."

"Come on, you're meant to be an actor Kingo," Sprite teases rolling her eyes again, pushing a finger into his forehead, "this is the best you've got?"

"How dare you, speak ill of my acting!" Kingo chokes out with a gasp before returning to his feet as Gabriella smiles so ly before feeling her lips flatten again.

As Gabriella's eyes flicker from Kingo and Sprite watching them continue to put on a show, her body sinks deeper into her seat as she nervously grips the arm rests tighter. With the plane jolting suddenly making her bounce in her spot, Gabriella shuts her eyes tightly as she taps her fingers nervously. It was the first time Gabriella had been on a plane, let alone a private jet and she felt her stomach churn as the plane slightly rocked again with more turbulence.

"Hey? Earth to Gabriella? Are you alright?" Kingo questions a little to louder as Gabriella slowly opens one eye to peak out of, her head nodding before shaking with another jolt, "you look like you're going to be sick?"

"I haven't, uh, this is my first time," Gabriella chokes out, with a slight cough to try and make her voice braver as she straightens herself up in her seat, "I've never flown before."

"Really, would never have guessed?" Sprite adds in as she leans against her hand, looking at Gabriella as she kicks her legs out, "this must suck for you, then?"

"It's not the funniest experience, no," Gabriella comments lightly as Sprite frowns before ignoring her answer as she looks past her, Gabriella curiously turning to see what she was looking at.

Gabriella's eyes slowly focus on Thena sitting by herself as she quietly looks out the window, a small yellow knife spinning effortlessly in her fingers. Frowning slightly as she watched her, Gabriella's eyes linger further back as she notices Druig stretching gently as he moved from the back compartment. Looking to his arms behind his head as he stretched them, Gabriella smiles so ly as she notices him holding onto an apple, a large chunk already taken out of it as he came closer.

With Druig stopping as he reaches Gabriella, he gently places the apple between his lips before both hands brush over her shoulders as Sprite hu s quietly looking away from them. Not acknowledging Sprite, Druig moves to sit on the edge of Gabriella's chair, taking the apple from his mouth before looking from her to Kingo who gasps as he looks up.

"Druig! You're finally gracing us with your presence!" Kingo calls out grinning as he stands from where he was crouching, nudging Karun to hold his camera up, "since we have time to kill, being told we have to wait in the plane like a bunch of animals, let me film you! Better yet, let me film the both of you!"

"Well, at least we are using the time wisely," Sprite utters out as Kingo points his finger at her with a quick nod, "because circling Chicago, is just, so much fun."

Watching Kingo roll his eyes at Sprite his finger moves to point at both her and Druig as his smile widens, Gabriella slowly glancing up to see Druig frowning. Noticing his eyes slightly move to Karun, she nudges him gently to stop him from ruining yet another camera as he shrugs.

"Why are you filming again?" Druig questions taking another bite of the apple as he gently nudges Gabriella back as she giggles so ly, moving her body closer to him so their arms were touching.

"The world must know of the great Eternals!" Kingo exclaims holding out his arms as Karun claps, Druig simply looking at him unamused while taking another bite, "plus, human's love documentaries, right Karun?... I'd ask you Gabriella, but, did you even have TVs at the compound?"

Gabriella half smiles as she watches Karun light up before straightening himself, his expression thrilled at being added into the conversation.

"Sir, I absolutely love documentaries," Karun comments proudly as Kingo points to him, using it as the justification he needed.

"We didn't have TVs," Gabriella adds so ly as she watches Kingo look at her with a stunned expression before turning to Druig, his hand reaching to his chest in horror.

"What kind of a monster, are you Druig?"

"What can I say Kingo, I'm old school," Druig states through a mouthful of apple as he places an arm around Gabriella's shoulders, her body tensing at his touch this time.

"This is all very lame," Sprite mumbles out as she stands to stretch before walking towards the bar to rummage through the bottles in the shelves, "Gabriella, how did you put up with him? Let alone, not be bored out of your mind?"

Gabriella freezes slightly as she feels Druig remove his arm to straighten himself, his interest slightly peaked as he turns to look at her before taking another bite of his apple. Not looking at him directly she could tell he was smiling as she was put on the spot, Kingo elbowing Karun to make sure he was still filming.

"I never thought much of boredom," Gabriella answers truthfully a er a while, feeling Druig's eyes watching her closely as she notices Sprite's attention on her again, "I never really had the time to be bored, when I wasn't busy with the local children, I was with Druig. And when I was with Druig, well how could I be bored."

Gabriella's fingers tap again nervously on the arm rests as she notices how silent everyone had gotten, biting at her bottom lip she took it as a sign to keep going.

"I wasn't expecting it and I think, sometimes in life," she continues so er as she watches Kingo's eyes glance slowly towards Druig and back, "not o en, you meet someone and you know instantly they're going to mean the world to you, and that's what it felt like. So Sprite, I guess the answer to your question is well, I put up with him, with the boredom, because I'm in love with him."

Noticing Sprite's eyebrows furrow sadly, Gabriella's focus is turned slightly to Druig as he chuckles to himself before ru ling her hair. Feeling her cheeks grow hot, she swats his hand away as she sees Karun drop the camera slowly before quickly wiping his eyes with a handkerchief.

"That was," Kingo begins to comment breaking the silence as Gabriella shyly laughs, moving in her seat as he moves towards the bar where Sprite was quietly making herself a drink, "that was something, indeed. I'm actually speechless. That doesn't usually happen."

"Now that's something you don't hear everyday," Sprite adds with a short laugh before pouring a drink for Kingo and pushing it towards him as he quickly downs it.

"It was beautiful, madam," Karun chokes out as Gabriella smiles blushing while Kingo pats him gently on the shoulder.

As the silence washed over them again apart from the sni les of Karun, Gabriella watches as Kingo's eyes move back to Druig who despite the conversation had been quiet. Following his eyes to look at Druig, she smiles awkwardly as he looks down at her with a smile playing on his lips.

"It was, very romantic," Druig utters out moving a hand to push some hair behind Gabriella's ear, making Kingo and Sprite equally groan so ly as they felt more repulsed at the fact it was Druig being sensitive, "I'm surprised you had the confidence to say it out loud."

"I'm starting to regret it," Gabriella responds as he rolls his eyes with a chuckle before looking up to see that Kingo had turned his attention to Sprite as they both tried to ignore the scene in front of them.

Druig's hand lingers by her face for a moment before it drops suddenly at the sound a door closing, Gabriella looking up back to see Thena had le the main part of the jet to hide in the back. Moving her hands to lean against the back of the chair before placing her chin on them, Gabriella frowns as she begins to feel guilty, a sigh escaping her lips.

"Don't feel guilty," Druig whispers as he moves to sit on the chair behind Gabriella's before leaning towards her slowly, "it's still fresh."

"Out of my head," Gabriella mutters out quietly as Druig's face inches closer to hers, making her swallow nervously.

"My bad," he whispers again as his nose almost touches her, before he slowly pulls back at the sound of Kingo's phone buzzing, "duty calls?"

Feeling her chest pounding Gabriella li s her head turning to watch Kingo as he moves himself from the bar, studying his phone as he smiles. Placing the back of her hand gently against her cheek, she smiles slightly as Kingo drops his phone to place it back into his jeans before clapping.

"Phastos is on board," Kingo exclaims as he points to Druig, "how's it feel to be wrong?"

"I never said he wouldn't help," Druig replies smiling as Kingo moves to call the pilot to return to pick up the others, "I simply said, good luck trying."

"Yeah well, looks like things are about to get interesting."

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