

PAIN



Several days passed much like they normally do, except that Druig kept to himself not wishing to be disturbed. As each new day came, Gabriella grew more troubled and would make any excuse to walk near the place he was hiding away in.

One day she was met with others explaining that Druig wanted to be alone, that he was mediating as something felt wrong. Gabriella took this more personally than the others in the compound and she couldn't help but to feel closed off and discarded.

Druig sat quietly opening his eyes in what felt like a lifetime and yet he felt more restless than before. Standing up slowly and walking towards the window that was covered with curtains glazed with dust, he peered out to see everything much the same. Watching for some time, Druig noticed Gabriella speaking with some of the women who were washing clothes. He felt his eyes glued to her as she moved around them, she looked beautiful despite the fact she looked sad.

Grimacing at himself, he went back to watching her and felt his heart drop. Gabriella had returned to the ladies with a bag that held tightly to her back and she appeared nervous as the women before her wiped their faces. Without thinking, Druig moved across the room and threw open the door, gaining the attention of all that were in the clearing. Without taking his eyes from Gabriella, he made his way towards her as she gripped the bag's straps more tightly than before.

"Gabriella," Druig begins to question as she drops her eyes, "you aren't leaving are you?"

"And what if I am?" Gabriella states looking back at him making him frown, "It's been a week, Druig, a week!"

"I was mediating."

"No, you were hiding," she whispers, her voice cracking, "the pain's still there right? I feel it too."

"Gabriella..."

"Druig if I stay here, I will be in constant pain. You cannot give yourself to me, so I must go."

All Druig wanted to do was to reach for her, to pull her close and show that he had already given himself to her completely. But something stopped him, as if an invisible wall kept him stood still and unsure.

"Please," he utters looking at her now more clearly than before, "don't go."

Gabriella felt her chest tighten as she tried to make herself look brave, yet it didn't feel like it was working. As she let her eyes fall to hide the tears that began to form, Gabriella glanced up once more to see that Druig had used his control to make the clearing empty.

"I can't bare to lose you Gabriella," Druig whispers almost so quietly that if she wasn't so close to him, she would have not heard, "but I can't bare to put you, us, through the pain of love."

"Why must it be up to you to decide Druig?"

"Because you will die!" Druig responds with pain latched to each word.

His eyes observing her as she let out a short huff in response.

"So," Gabriella whispers as she moves a hand to reach his face, "you would rather watch me endure my pain than to allow me to spend my last moments on earth with you?"

Druig placed his hand atop of hers as it rested so lightly on his cheek, his mind going blank at her touch. He would wish no pain or harm for Gabriella, but he knew that if he gave into his feelings that one day he would have to say goodbye. Clutching her hand that rested against his skin, Druig pulled it down so that he could grasp it gently in both hands. Maybe it was best for her to leave.

"Gabriella," Druig says quietly through a sad smile, "I would rather die than see you in pain, but I don't know if I could bare to say goodbye to you."

"Druig..."

"I don't want you to leave," Druig utters a little more loud than before, "you have shown me so much good that is in this world and I can't see myself happy unless you are here, with me."

Pulling Gabriella towards his chest, Druig allows himself to wrap her tightly in his arms. Throughout the year that they had been together, Druig often felt as if something had brought her to him, was it fate? And in this moment it felt true. He knew that giving himself to her would eventually cause him pain, but holding her seemed to make it worth it.

"Forgive me."

"Druig?" Gabriella whispers pulling herself from him enough to look up at him, "for what?"

"For thinking only of myself," he murmurs with a small chuckle showing his ignorance, "I have only thought about the pain I would feel at the end, when I should have been thinking of the pain I feel now, the pain you feel."

Druig gently moves a hand to graze Gabriella's cheek, his eyes not moving from hers as she tries hard to stop the tears once again. Time felt like it had truly stopped in this moment and all he wanted to do was show how much she means to him.

"Will you stay?"

"Yes," Gabriella whispers back almost instantly making Druig chuckle.

"So quick to change your mind, humans are strange creatures indeed."

With a short pause, Druig slowly bends to leave a small kiss against her forehead. Gabriella closed her eyes tightly as he gently removed his lips before taking her hands once more and placing them to his chest.

"You have my heart Gabriella," he whispers as she lets a smile form.

"And you have mine."

Feeling her heart wanting to burst from her chest, Gabriella felt herself move back from Druig before smiling brightly once more.

"I will place my stuff away and then we must have dinner together."

"Dinner?" Druig utters feeling himself smile along with her, "then tomorrow we will pick up your training."

With a small nod, Gabriella turns slowly to make her way back to her home. Gripping her chest in nervousness and excitement, she looks back quickly to see Druig still watching her and in that moment she felt in true happiness. As she made her way inside, Gabriella lent against her door for some time. Placing her hand against her forehead, she smiled warmly as she reminisced his lips touching her skin. She would go slow with him, make him not worry about the future but rather what was happening in the moment.

She wished nothing but to feel his lips again.

Druig made his way to edge of the compound, watching the snow dripping slowly down the trees. He had longed to hold Gabriella and he had finally allowed himself to drop his guard down. It felt right and although he knew it would end with pain, he would not change it for anything.

Smiling so lightly, Druig turns to make his way to meditate, to think of her and he could only chuckle as she thought the same. Walking slowly, his hand reaches for his lips to remember the feeling of her skin and in that moment all he wanted was to kiss her again.

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