

THENA



"Everything is going just great, isn't it," Kingo grumbles out as he re-enters the room again, looking at those who had stayed, Gabriella looking up from fiddling with a book written in Greek.

"It would have been better if you didn't follow Ikaris like a lost puppy, you looked ridiculous," Phastos replied sourly as Kingo waves a hand to hush him while moving towards Karun, the man awkwardly standing in the corner quietly.

Noticing the bickering grow louder as she watched Phastos move away from Kingo, Gabriella hums sadly placing the book down. The atmosphere in the room felt so coating as she turned to find a spot to sit on the ground, her hands resting on her knees and her head lowering as she hushes with frustration. Feeling a hand touch her arm, Gabriella looks up from her lap as Makkari places herself in front of her with a gentle smile. Watching her turn to look for Druig who had walked over to speak with Thena, she looks back at Gabriella her smile morphing into a smirk. The playful spark in her eyes pulls Gabriella in as she watches Makkari's eyes drop to the floor, her hand rummaging through the loose items scattered around them.

Observing her quietly, Gabriella grins as Makkari picks up a small red gem before pulling it close to her face. Eyes narrowing while moving to look back at Druig, her body tenses as she focuses her aim.

Following her hand as it pulled back, Gabriella's hand covers her mouth as she lets the gem go hitting Druig square in the back of the head. Gabriella's giggles burst through parted fingers as Makkari's arms raise triumphantly looking back, Druig slumping slightly with the hit.

"Are you trying to start something?" Druig states signing as he turns, his tone cocky as Thena looks from him to the others, Gabriella grinning as he steps forward slowly, "or do you just crave my full attention?"

"I see, you being full of yourself, hasn't changed over the past couple of centuries?" Makkari signs as Druig continues to step towards them, his lips pulling into a smile noticing Gabriella waiting patiently to be added into the conversation.

"You hurt me Makkari," he whines out signing as he looked at Gabriella before crouching in front of them, "Gabriella, she thinks I'm full of myself, do you also think that?"

"No comment," Gabriella responds quickly, shuffling cheekily as she watches Druig sign without saying anything, his eyes observing her.

Feeling Makkari's body lean into hers, Gabriella glances to see her chuckling at Druig's reaction as she sits herself up right. Eyeing Makkari flutter a hand before his face, Gabriella smiles as Druig swats it away turning his gaze to her.

"Druig, if Gabriella wants to learn, I'd love to teach her sign language," Makkari's hands are filled with enthusiasm as Druig smiles cocking his head, Gabriella's eyes glancing between them both.

"Gabriella, she wants to teach you sign language," Druig mutters out as Gabriella leans forward with interest before turning to Makkari, her head nodding quickly making the woman laugh.

As Makkari lifts her hand before nudging Gabriella to do the same, she signs 'yes' while looking at Gabriella to wait for her to copy. Eagerly watching her, Makkari smiles as Gabriella repeats the hand movement before looking at Druig who just nods chuckling. Time slowly drags on as Makkari takes the time to teach basic signs and the alphabet, Gabriella fascinated as Druig happily offers support when needed. Despite everything going on, the emergence, Ikaris struggling - even Druig and their feelings towards each other, it felt nice to have a somewhat normal moment. Watching the light dance in Makkari's eyes as she expressed her love for things, her hands slow and fast to show excitement and mystery, Gabriella leaned into Druig as he explained what she was saying.

Gabriella couldn't help but forget or push everything away as Makkari continued her stories, Druig every so often saying something different which made her hit him playfully. It was nice and almost felt like a trance before a cough disturbed her thoughts, bringing her back to reality. Looking away from Makkari and pushing over Druig, Gabriella notices Thena had moved towards them. Feeling Thena's eyes almost piercing her as she simply looked at her, Gabriella half smiles as Druig chuckles to break the awkward tension.

"Thena, you know this stare thing you have going? It's kind of, how should I put this," Druig states pointing to Thena whose eyes had narrowed slightly as he shrugs, Gabriella nudging him with her elbow to try and quiet him, "intimidating."

"Druig please," Gabriella quickly adds as she furrows her eyebrows at him before looking up to Thena who had slowly moved from looking between the her and Druig, her eyes still distant, still calm, "Thena, did you want to join us?"

"No," Thena replies so ly as Gabriella's jaw clenches awkwardly before she fiddles with nails, picking at the skin as she frowns, Thena tilting her head curiously, "I mean, I wish to ask you to do something, with me."

"Now, doesn't that sound intriguing," Kingo responds loudly adding himself into the conversation. Making his way towards them clapping his hands as Thena continues to watch for Gabriella's response, Kingo waves Karun to follow him as he stops beside Druig, "my interests peaked, what's your game, Thena?"

"Nothing that concerns you," Thena comments turning slightly to Kingo as he furrows his eyebrows and making a cut movement towards Karun as the man drops the camera quickly, "it actually only concerns Gabriella."

"Why is everyone so rude to me today," Kingo hushes as Karun tries to pat his back, "I haven't done anything, yet, I don't think."

As Kingo steps back, he makes sure he was still involved in the conversation as Gabriella shuffles where she is sitting. Feeling everyone's eyes on her, Gabriella took a deep breath as she focuses on Thena.

"Me?" Gabriella finally replies so ly as she can't control the shakiness in her words, Druig pulling himself to his feet as he offers her a hand, which she takes, "what did you, want to do?"

"I'd like you to fight me."

A collective "what" is heard throughout the room as Sersi and Phastos quickly make their way over to the others, Druig being the only one not showing concern. Feeling her body tense slightly at the request, Gabriella can only look at Thena who had still not taken her eyes off her despite the others crowding her.

"That's an absolutely terrible idea Thena," Phastos states as he looks at Gabriella before looking back at Thena, Makkari placing a hand protectively on Gabriella's arm as he speaks, "one, she's human and two, you're sick, you might not be able to stop."

"Where is the harm in trying?" Thena questions as the others turn to each other before looking at Thena who now had looked away to everyone watching her, "this will be a great challenge, to see if I can keep mahd w'ryr under control. If I can't, I will be no help later on, I need to have it under control."

"Is this about Kro," Druig responds, making everyone turn as Thena tenses slightly, Gabriella could feel the pain radiating from Thena as she heard the name, "you know, revenge won't make the pain go away."

"Maybe not, but killing him might."

"Thena, you can't possibly fight Gabriella, the fight's not even remotely fair," Sersi mutters out so ly ignoring the comment on Kro as Gabriella keeps her eyes on Thena, "this is crazy, you have to understand that?"

As the group erupts into discussions about why it was ridiculous for Thena to want to fight a human, Gabriella couldn't help but to feel sad for her. Gabriella couldn't say she knew what Thena was going through and she might be dangerous, but she couldn't help the fact she wanted to help. Studying Thena who had gone silent again, Gabriella felt her body move on it's own before she peeked to see Druig smile as she stepped forward.

"Thena, I accept."

With the shock of everyone silencing the room, Gabriella glances to the door as Sprite gloomily enters. Watching her slow to a halt as she notices everyone quietly crowding around Thena and Gabriella, she furrows her eyebrows before walking over.

"What's going on?" Sprite questions as Kingo slightly turns to her, his mouth gawking from when Gabriella's words left her mouth,

"Gabriella, is going to fight Thena," Kingo utters out as Sprite looks at him before letting out a short laugh, her mouth shutting tightly as she looks at everyone else, her eyes stopping at Gabriella.

"This is a joke right?" Sprite questions moving her gaze to Thena as the woman simply looks distant as everyone speaks around her, Sprite moving her arms to cross against her chest, "what would you possibly get out of fighting Gabriella, Thena? Isn't that super unfair, you know, considering the part where you're the literal goddess of war?"

"I'll go easy on her," Thena finally speaks up as everyone turns to her, Gabriella slightly less confident she made the right choice as Druig nudges her gently, showing her that he was with her the whole way, "and Druig's mentioned she's got potential, so I'm curious."

"Oh potential!" Phastos utters with a clap as his eyebrows furrow slightly as he turns to Druig, Gabriella half smiling as Druig shrugs, "of course you have some part in this Druig."

Druig places his hands up as if he was surrounding before smiling, Phastos hushing and shaking his head as he looks away. Gabriella could tell the others were worried, but she wasn't sure why as all she could do was look at everyone and their reactions. Feeling as if she could trust Thena for some reason, Gabriella so ly pushes herself to reach for Thena's hand. Focusing on her reaction as she slightly pulls her hands back, Gabriella leaves her hands stretched to show Thena she didn't care what the others thought.

"I know you have the strength to not hurt me Thena, this mahd w'ryr, it doesn't define you," Gabriella whispers out as everyone falls silent, Thena's eyes watching her closely now as her hands move slowly forward, Gabriella taking them gently, "as always remember who you are."

"What did you say?" Thena responds so ly now, her words twisting as Gabriella frowns thinking she had said the wrong thing, her body tensing as Thena's grip tightens a little, "that last part, what did you say?"

"Always...remember who are you?"

"Gil," Thena whispers, her voice so low that if the others weren't silent, Gabriella wouldn't have heard it, "he would say that to me, to help when I lost my mind to mahd w'ryr, he was the only one that could pull me back. Maybe the others are right, maybe fighting is not a good idea."

Noticing Thena's eyes drop and linger on her hands, Gabriella can't help but to feel like she brought up bad memories as Thena eventually pulled away. Frowning as she stepped back, all Gabriella wanted to do was pull her into an embrace and to tell her everything would be okay, but what did she know. No words formed as Gabriella could feel the tension in the room and the pain of Gilgamesh being brought up again, her eyes peeking back to Druig who moved to her as she looked.

"Thena," Druig comments breaking the silence as everyone shifts their eyes from him to Thena, her head not looking up as he speaks to her directly, "the pain won't go away, but what needs to happen is you being okay. We need to know, we can trust that you won't fall again."

"Is fighting Gabriella, really the best way to test her?" Sersi questions as Thena looks up, her eyes looking from Sersi to Gabriella as she crosses her arms gently.

"I'm happy to try," Gabriella butts in making Thena's head tilt curiously, Gabriella standing tall as the others look to her with a mixture of amazement and confusion, "I trust everyone here to help, if it goes to far. So I wish to try, if it will help you Thena."

The others glance around to each other as Thena's unsure steps towards Thena once more, her smile warm as Gabriella is unshure how to respond. Feeling everyone slightly intrigued as she waits for her answer, Thena can't help but to pull her lips up into a smile as she nods slowly.

"Okay, let's try."

[a/n: SOOOO, it's getting close to the end, which means fun (maybe) hehe, but I didn't feel right finishing the fic without some love for Thena and the relationship she has with Gabriella! They will end up being great supporters of each other I think. ANYWAY, hope you don't mind a couple of filler chapters so I can show their relationship progress - as well as Makkari/Gabriella... HMM]