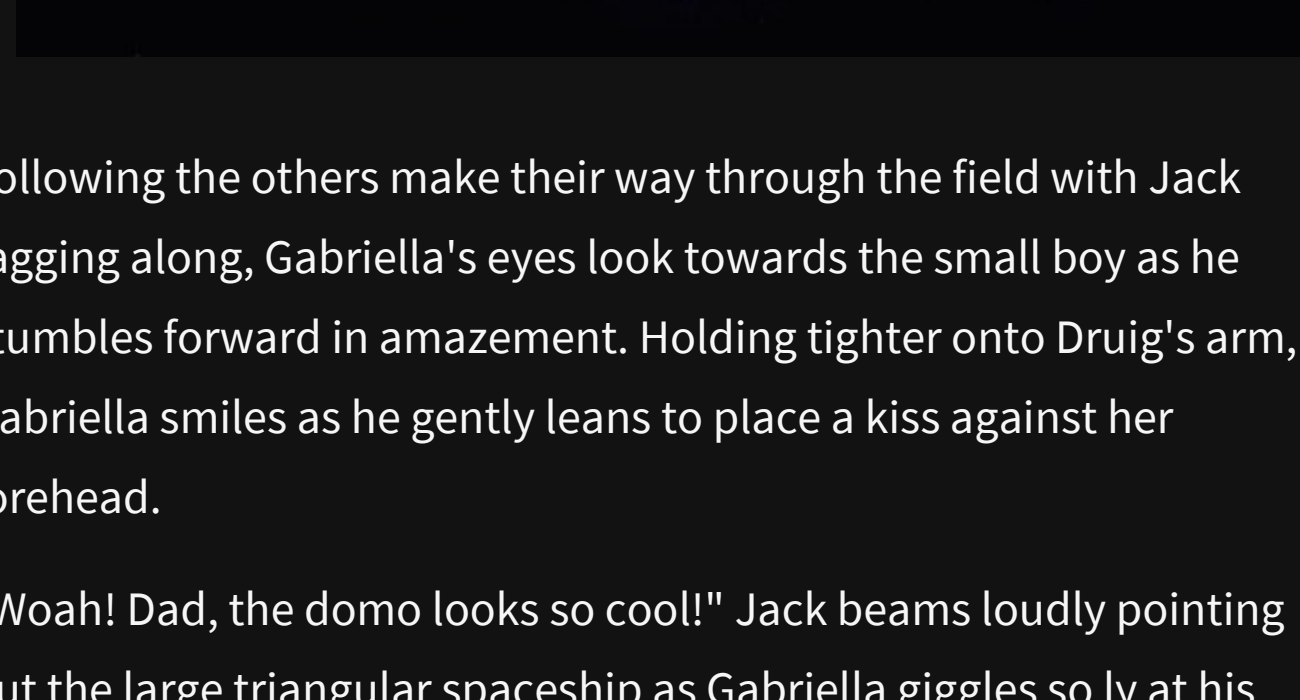


JOURNEY



Following the others make their way through the field with Jack tagging along, Gabriella's eyes look towards the small boy as he stumbles forward in amazement. Holding tighter onto Druig's arm, Gabriella smiles as he gently leans to place a kiss against her forehead.

"Woah! Dad, the domo looks so cool!" Jack beams loudly pointing out the large triangular spaceship as Gabriella giggles so ly at his reaction.

"You know, your dad fixed that with his bare hands," Phastos replies placing a hand on Jack's shoulder before pointing out certain aspects of the ship as Druig hands back with Gabriella and Makkari.

"Can we go to space," Jack questions as Phastos turns to him, his face tensing as he was probably thinking of everything that could go wrong, "one day?"

"Let's wait until you get your learners permit, okay?"

Watching Jack's shoulders slump slightly, Gabriella smiles slightly before looking to Druig as he steps towards Phastos. Leaning into Makkari as she steps closer, Gabriella watches closely as Phastos tries to eye up what he was doing.

"Phastos, take care," Druig comments, his eyes watching Phastos's breath ease as Druig's hands rest gently behind his back, "This world is lucky to have you."

"Thank you Druig," Phastos replies awkwardly as he holds out his hand, "I know you're not a hugger so."

Feeling Makkari wrap her arm around hers, Gabriella watches as Druig takes Phastos's hand before pulling him into a friendly hug. Phastos's eyes looking towards her as if he was waiting for a prank or something bad to happen.

Watching Phastos pull away from the awkward hug, Gabriella smiles as he moves to stand before her as he gently reaches his hands out. With little hesitation, Gabriella feels Makkari step away so she can fall into Phastos's arms. Her own wrapping around him as she feels his hand rub her back so ly.

"Now you take care," Phastos comments pulling her back so she could see he was looking at her like a father would to their child, "I only want to hear good things from now on! I especially want to hear that you are keeping Druig in line."

"I promise Phastos," Gabriella replies so ly as Phastos squeezes her shoulder, "You remember to keep in contact okay?"

Letting him step to the side to say his goodbyes to Makkari, Gabriella gives a quick hug to Jack as he watches the interactions between his father and the others. Turning to return to Druig's side, Gabriella bites at her bottom lip as Druig moves to stand before her and Makkari.

"Do you think the other Eternals will accept the truth like we did?" Druig questions as he signs, his eyes looking between Gabriella and Makkari.

"Why wouldn't they?"

"The truth will set them free," Makkari signs back as Gabriella looks from her to Druig, his hand reaching for Gabriella as she lets him take her own.

"We can only try right?" Druig comments as Makkari nods and moves forward a little, Gabriella stepping to follow as Druig lets her pull him this time, "let's hope Thena isn't mad for waiting so long."

Gabriella had settled nicely into the domo, her head resting in Druig's lap as she stretched herself out on the table they sat on. She felt entranced as she watched Thena and Makkari fiddle around with a giant golden image of the Earth.

"It's odd," Thena comments into the silence as Druig takes another bite of apple he held before offering it to Gabriella who pushed it from her view, "not hearing from them? Why wouldn't they contact us."

"Maybe they're just busy?" Gabriella questions as Thena spins the image of Earth with a simple touch, "being human, it gets busy."

"I don't know, it is odd that we haven't heard from Kingo," Druig adds with his mouth filled with apple, Gabriella tapping his knee at the rudeness, "I mean I'm right? When doesn't he want to talk about himself and his latest adventure?"

"Druig's right, maybe something happened to them?" Makkari signs as Gabriella sits up, a hand leaving Druig's mouth at the loss of her touch.

"We should go back, shouldn't we?" Thena states as Makkari nods and Gabriella throws her legs over the side of the table so they hung so ly, "I mean, we need to be certain."

Watching Thena's eyebrows furrow slightly made Gabriella worry, if Thena was worried then something must really be off. Tapping her fingers against her knee, Gabriella half turns as Druig laces his fingers around hers to stop them. Feeling his hand tighten, Gabriella smiles with a much calmer feeling wash over her. Looking from her fingers, Gabriella notices Thena's face tense as she steps forward, a shield materialising in her hands. Following her gaze towards the hallway, Gabriella feels Druig tense beside her.

"I feel it, too," Makkari signs, her eyes just as tense as Thena's.

"What?" Druig questions as Makkari steps beside Thena, his eyes looking between the two as his hand only tightens his grip on Gabriella, "what is it?"

Suddenly a growing buzzing sound slipped through the hallway and into the room, engulfing the Eternals in a weird sensation as a low cloud of mist follows. Feeling her eyes stuck to the entrance of the hallway, Gabriella's eyes widen as a strange creature fell awkwardly into the room. The silence from everyone telling her, that they also were unsure of what was happening before their eyes.

"Oh my ears, my ears are numb!" the voice cried out, the creature fiddling with his head as he turned it left and right, "I can't feel my ears!"

Gabriella couldn't help but to gawk at the creature as she focused on it, he was much smaller than a human and she noticed its pointy ears and red hair standing tall upon his head. Glancing at Druig, Gabriella could tell he was trying to understand what it was.

"No more drunk teleporting, ugh," the creature groaned again but this time his eyes fell towards the group watching him with confusion.

"Excuse me," Thena questions walking towards the creature with her shield still before her and her eyebrows knitted closely together to show she was watchful of it, "who."

"No hang on," the creature interrupted her, his body straightening the best he could as he proudly hit himself against the chest to only let out a loud burp, "behold!"

Before anyone could say anything, the creature's hands went up as if something magical was about to happen before he gestured down the hallway, the mist now flickering with colourful lights and the buzzing growing louder once more.

"The royal prince of Titan, brother of Thanos! The knave of hearts!."

"Did I just hear him correctly?" Gabriella questions pushing off the table to stand beside Makkari, Druig following in her shadow, "Thanos? Big purple guy who killed half the world, for only the avengers to bring them back, Thanos?"

"His brother?" Makkari signs as Druig slightly puts himself in front of Gabriella.

A shape lit from the light, stepping through the reflecting portal of colour that had appeared and into the room.

"Defeater of Black Robert!-" the creature continued despite the intensity of the Eternals before him.

"Roger," a new voice cooed, it echoing through the room as Gabriella's eyes focused on a man standing free from the light.

"Oh right, yes of course," the creature corrected himself, a palm gently hitting himself against the forehead, "Defeater of Black Roger, the great adventurer Starfox of mystery planet!"

Finally the man stepped further from the light, his red hair being the first thing to catch her eye. He was covered in armour which reflected his hair but detailed with lines of gold and it reflected light in beams against the floor.

"What a pleasure to make your acquaintance, my fellow Eternals," Starfox said with a gentle bow, his smile boasting his pride at his entrance and their reaction to it.

"You know," he continued this time turning to the creature who was already drinking from a mug he seemed to be holding the entire time, "you don't have to do the whole thing every time, Pip."

The creature, Pip shook his head as he simply bowed and stepped to lean against the wall and to take another sip of the mug he held. "I will stop, when every universe knows of your greatness!"

"Who are you?" Thena adds in, louder now to stop the bickering between the new additions to the domo, her patience running thin as Starfox turns to her with a gentle smile.

"I'm sorry for my interruption, I abrupt as it is," he said glancing at the eyes watching him closely, "I'm Eros."

"What are you here for, Eros?" Druig questions, his tone dark as he had not let the man drop from his sight.

"Well, I see your friends are in big trouble," the man adds lifting his hand to show a sphere lit in his palm, his lips curling excitedly as a red blip appears, "and we know where to find them."

Feeling her head spinning with the new information before her, Gabriella feels herself tense as the man's eyes fall on her with a sudden interest. His eyes narrowing as he moved to step towards her, for only Druig to push himself between them.

"Got a problem?" Druig questions as the man chuckles before raising his hands and stepping back to where he was originally.

"Apologises, I was just curious," the man replies with his eyes still on Gabriella, "I didn't think it was possible for a human to become an Eternal? Guess I need to brush up on our history and such."

"How about you stop thinking so hard about her, instead?" Druig adds as his body tenses, Gabriella pulling at his arm.

"Oh, I see," the man chuckles before crossing his arms, "guard dog, interesting. Will make for some fun, but for now. Your friends, let's go get them back!"

And with that, the man and the creature turn towards the hallway before walking away, not giving the others many options but to trust them. Watching Thena follow first and then Makkari with a quick glance at Gabriella and Druig, Gabriella moves to follow. Feeling Druig stop her, Gabriella looks back with a slight frown before grabbing his hand and pulling at it.

"Druig, your family, our friends, they need us."

"How can we trust him?" Druig adds as Gabriella frowns.

"We just have to. Come on."

- TO BE CONTINUED OR NOT -

[A/N: COMPLETE! AH I can't believe it, the fanfic is complete and obviously ends with the cliffhanger vibes right, what kind of terrible person would I be not to do that... MAWAHA! :P

CHEESE WARNING: I just want to thank each and everyone of you for coming on this journey with me. Writing as flared again in my heart and I have began to love it once again - and it's because of you guys! Honestly when I started, I didn't have much hope as I don't believe anything special about my writing. BUT to see so many invested and enjoying my work, makes me so happy and teary! I have learnt a lot about myself through this and especially that I can write a 'book'! Honestly I feel so overwhelmed with happiness and love and just thank you for the support, the votes and the comments! It means more than I will ever be able to express. Thank you, Thank you, THANK YOU.