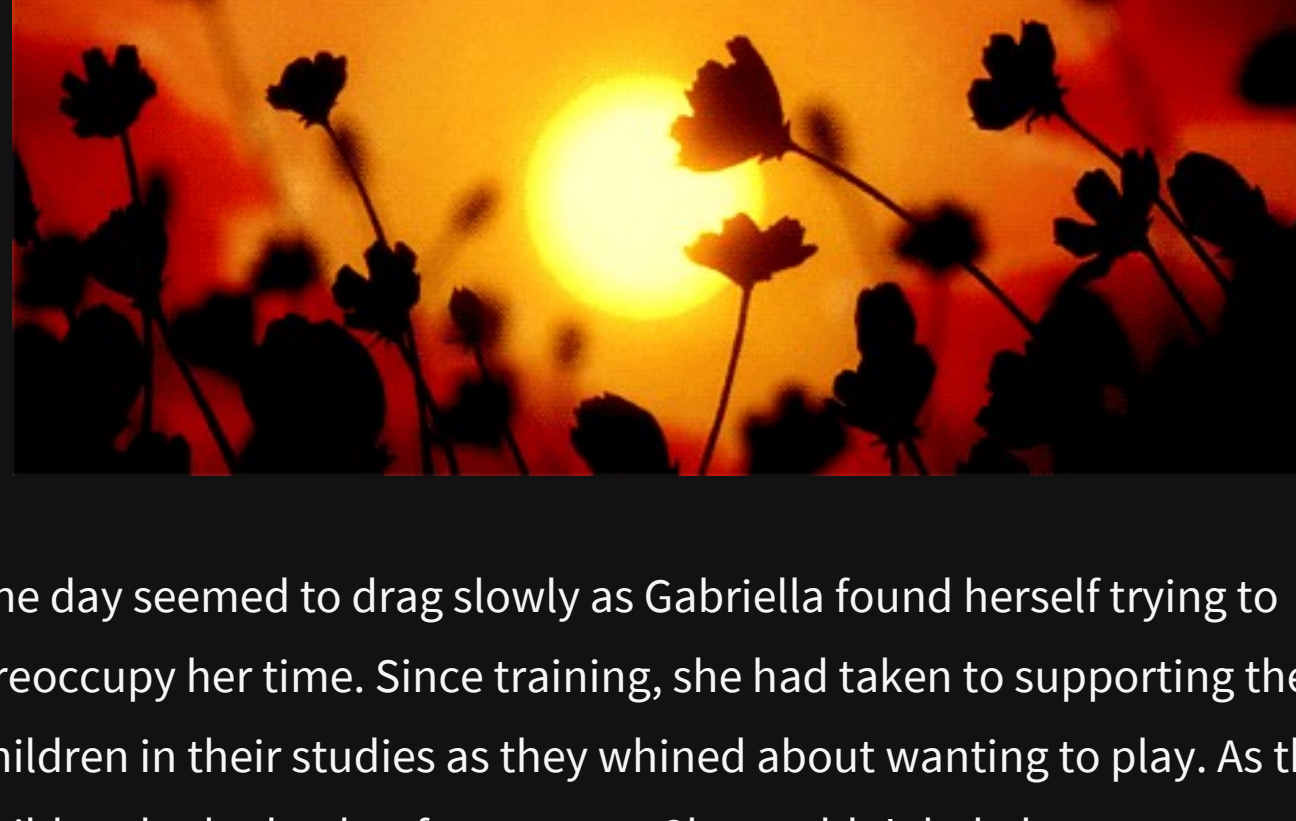


## TRUST



The day seemed to drag slowly as Gabriella found herself trying to preoccupy her time. Since training, she had taken to supporting the children in their studies as they whined about wanting to play. As the children looked to her for support, She couldn't help but to want to whisk them away. But as she grinned at the thought, Gabriella eyes met with the eyes of Miss Medina, their teacher wishing for her help in keeping them in check and she found herself willfully agreeing.

She understood their feelings though, they had only a few more weeks of snow and the last thing they would want to do is stay indoors. Tapping her fingers against her chin and finding herself glancing out the window while the children quietly read, Gabriella is snapped out of her thoughts when the door opens with a loud creak.

Turning towards the door, Gabriella smiles as she focuses on Druig who was stood warmly against the light slipping in between his silhouette. Watching the children rush towards him with excitement, Druig simply smiles as they begin to question him curiously.

"Children please," Miss Medina calls out loudly standing slowly, "Leave Sir Druig alone and return to your seats."

"Rosa," Druig says coolly with a smile, "there is no need to call me Sir."

"Well Sir Druig," Miss Medina responds back as the children found their seats, "I prefer to be polite so I will continue to use it as such."

Druig simply chuckles before looking towards Gabriella and rolling his eyes mockingly, before giving her a short wink as she giggles quietly. Straightening his coat, Druig bows slowly before moving towards Gabriella and placing a hand on her shoulder.

"Ros-Miss Medina," Druig says giving a light squeeze to Gabriella's shoulder, "I need to steal Gabriella away, I hope you don't mind."

Feeling herself turn back towards Miss Medina, Gabriella waits for permission to leave before watching her nod with a small smile. Pushing her way from the desk, Gabriella apologises to the children and Miss Medina before spinning around to follow Druig into the clearing.

Watching Druig slow his walk, Gabriella makes her way to his side before reaching for his arm. Pulling for him to stop, she studies his response to her touch before saying anything.

"You wished to see me a er dinner," Gabriella questions as she watches his reaction, "has something come up?"

"No."

"No?" Gabriella responds slightly confused, "then why-"

"I simply wanted to spend more time with you," Druig replies while watching Gabriella shyly.

"Oh," Gabriella mutters out with a small smile playing on her lips, "then shall we do something fun before this evening?"

"Fun?" Druig questions with a slight mocking tone before leaning towards Gabriella's ear, "What do you have in mind?"

"Druig, that's not what I meant!"

Feeling herself grow hot, Gabriella quickly pulls herself back before playfully shoving him backwards. Watching him chuckle with a small shrug, Druig begins to walk back smiling as if he was waiting for Gabriella to say something more. Tucking her hair awkwardly Gabriella rushes forward to stand by his side once more, bumping him gently.

"Why don't we try something...human?" Gabriella says with a slight humour to her words as she watches Druig raise an eyebrow.

"Something human?" Druig repeats slowly with a mix of confusion and interest, "and what do you have in mind."

Stopping in her tracks, Gabriella turns to face Druig before crossing her arms and tapping a finger against her chin. Scanning the clearing quickly as an attempt to find something for the pair to do, Gabriella sets on a group of men preparing themselves to fish.

"Let's try our luck at fishing," Gabriella replies grabbing Druig's hand and pulling him towards the men.

"Fishing?" Druig questions while allowing for her to pull him along, "You know I didn't think you'd choose that of all things."

"Why not? It could be fun..."

Reaching the hut, Gabriella pulls Druig to her side before tapping the shoulder of one of the men stood before her. As the man turned, his eyes fell upon Druig first and instinctively he bowed quickly.

Straightening himself roughly, the man moves his gaze to Gabriella before smiling warmly.

"Miss Gabriella," the fisherman says brightly as he reaches to pull on the straps of his overalls, "to what do I owe the pleasure of this little visit?"

"Tomas right?" Gabriella replies smiling as the man before her grins, "I was wondering if Druig and I could accompany you on your fishing trip?"

"You wish to fish?" Tomas questions, eyeing Druig as he spoke, "I mean we would never say no to extra help, but are you sure that's how you want to spend your evening?"

Smiling Gabriella turns to Druig, nudging him to show that he was somewhat interested. Turning to look at her, Druig nods before pointing towards the sharpened sticks leaning against the wall.

"It seems interesting, would we use these sticks?" Druig questions as Tomas follows his hand to see what he was pointing at.

"Spear sir," Tomas says stepping back to reach for one of the spears and moving back to offer it to Druig, "it might not look like anything special, but it does the job."

Taking the stick from Tomas, Druig steps back to spin the spear slowly before noticing Gabriella rolling her eyes in amusement. Stopping the movement and placing it against the ground, Druig smiles as Gabriella is offered a spear before thanking Tomas warmly.

Watching Tomas move away from them to fill in the other fishermen beyond the hut, Druig leans into Gabriella resting his shoulder against hers gently.

"You know," Druig whispers so ly as Gabriella turns slightly to look up at him, "I was expecting you wanting to have me to yourself."

"This will be fun," Gabriella sco s pushing him o so he straightened once more, "I promise."

Chuckling at her reaction, Druig looks up as Tomas turns to beckon the pair to follow them. Offering his arm, Gabriella laughs before taking it and allowing Druig to walk them a er the fishermen. The walk was peaceful, the forest quiet despite Tomas loudly chatting with the others head of them. Feeling the cool air rush against her skin, Gabriella finds them arrive on the outskirts of the forest just east from the compound.

A river lay before them now and it looked like it wove for miles ahead, scattered with rocks and fallen branches. Despite the weather, the snow seemed to latch only to the edge as the water seemed full and thundering. As they move from the cover of the trees, the air becomes more sharp and Gabriella shivers slightly receiving a glance from Druig with a chuckle.

"Cold?"

"I might not have thought about how cold this activity might be," Gabriella replies looking up with a slight frown as Druig smiles.

"Well," Druig says as he turns to see the fishermen preparing themselves, "we can't turn back now, can we?"

Nodding as a response, Gabriella moves forward before turning to face Druig and holding up her spear.

"First to catch a fish is the winner!"

"Indeed." Druig replies back before moving by Gabriella with a wink.

Turning to watch the fishermen walk along the rocks that looked like they had been set out like platforms. Gabriella notices Druig waiting for her as he stands near the river, his posture slightly awkward as he looks from her to the river's water. Smiling so ly, Gabriella makes her way to him before offering her hand. Taking it warmly, Druig allows Gabriella to pull him to the opposite side of where the fishermen were.

"Shall we?"

Moving closer to the river, Druig crouches down before letting his fingers run along the water's surface. Looking up to see Gabriella, Druig smiles as he watches her focus on the river while looking for a fish to appear. Standing slowly, Druig moves from her side to allow himself to focus on the river. Finding a spot a small distance from Gabriella, Druig notices a couple of fish swimming slowly from the other side. Smiling gently, he li s the spear slightly but before he can let his spear move, Gabriella's scream breaks his train of thought.

Dropping the spear quickly, Druig finds himself beside Gabriella in such speed that most would not see. Picking her up from the water, he can't help but laugh as he sets her on the riverbank shivering and grabbing at her body.

"Why are you smiling," Gabriella chatters slowly as she pushes hair from her face.

"It was a little funny."

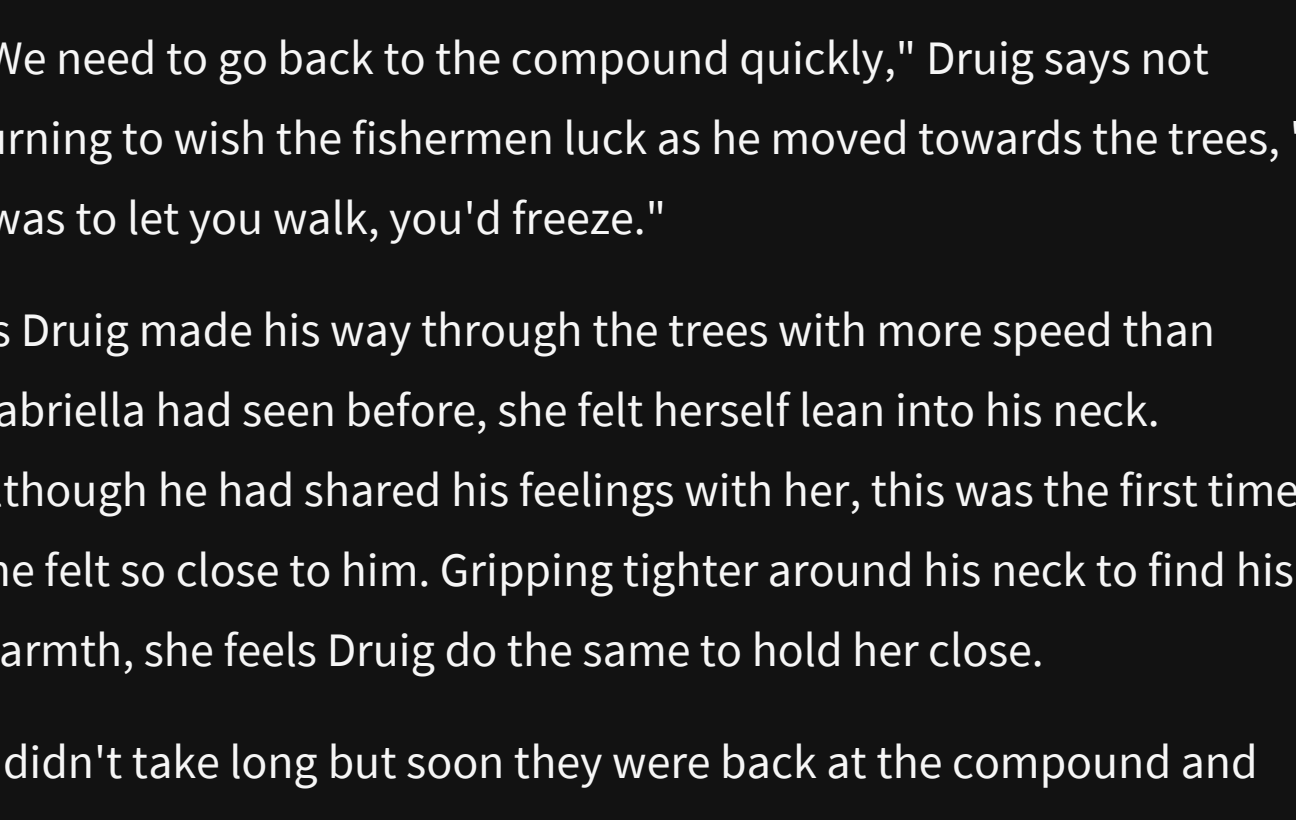
Rolling her eyes, Gabriella turns away from Druig as he pulls o his coat. Moving close to her again, Gabriella sighs so ly through her chattering as he places it firmly around her. Making sure the coat covered her completely, Druig laughs again before picking Gabriella up and pulling her close as she lets out a small gasp.

"What are you doing?"

"We need to go back to the compound quickly," Druig says not turning to wish the fishermen luck as he moved towards the trees, "if I was to let you walk, you'd freeze."

As Druig made his way through the trees with more speed than Gabriella had seen before, she felt herself lean into his neck. Although he had shared his feelings with her, this was the first time she felt so close to him. Gripping tighter around his neck to find his warmth, she feels Druig do the same to hold her close.

It didn't take long but soon they were back at the compound and Druig made his way to his home, before going inside and leaving those in the clearing confused. It was Gabriella's first time seeing a little of the part of himself he hid from others and it felt nice.



~ Hiya Guys, so if you're following along I just wanted to make it clear that this fanfiction will probably be long and pulled out. I am loving slowly bringing out the relationship between Gabriella and Druig before everything turns crazy! I hope you are enjoying seeing their relationship blossom!~

Continue reading next part