

WARMTH -- PART TWO



Time seemed to slow down as Druig let Gabriella rest. The warmth of the fire creating a glow of red and yellow against their skin. Poking the fire once more Druig looks down slowly as Gabriella stirs in her sleep, cuddling closer into him.

Keeping his breathing slow to limit his movement, Druig observes little features he hadn't stopped to notice before. Gabriella's skin tone was light despite her love for the outdoors, flushed with pink and red allowing him to see her thoughts easily. She had beauty marks spread evenly across her face, stretched out like a constellation.

There was a small scar that looked old etched slightly into her left eyebrow, only noticeable if you were close to her face. And it appeared that as she slept, her nose would scrunch slightly as if to signal that she was dreaming.

Smiling as he watched her peacefully, Druig felt it best to move her to his bed as she seemed in no rush to wake. Lying himself easily to a crouch, Gabriella stirred slightly as he moved her to his arms. Standing with her safely against his chest, Druig moves his way to his bed before rolling the cover and placing her down gently.

Despite the movement, Gabriella stirred no more and he placed the cover over her slowly. Druig felt himself wanting to watch her longer but moved away signalling that he felt a little strange. Moving from the bed towards the desk, Druig's hand lingers over the book he had used to hide the photo.

It had been a long time since he had seen the others and Druig felt as if the feelings towards them were muddled with pain, anger and sadness. Flipping open the book, Druig pulls out the photo slowly before pulling it towards him.

The photo was from long ago, very little could be told from it besides the fact that once the Eternals were whole and were once, somewhat happy. It wasn't often that Druig spent time thinking of them though since a mere couple of years, it was easy to push them out of his thoughts. However looking at the photo brought back many memories, pain etched in each one.

It wasn't really anything bad, the others didn't actually DO anything and maybe that's why it was painful. The day Druig disobeyed Ajak, he knew that others felt the same yet he stood alone. Choosing to leave was the right choice of course, at least for him but at times he wished for the others to have stood with him.

Placing the photo back into the open pages of the book, Druig shuts it gently. It was no use thinking of the past, no use worrying over what if's and what could have's. The future was what mattered, she mattered. Looking back at Gabriella, Druig finds himself moving to her side again before sitting down at the end of the bed.

Leaning against the wall Druig reaches for a book, not exactly in the mood to read but needing an excuse if Gabriella woke and worried he was bored. Druig thought about placing himself into some sort of sleep, a meditative state but wished to watch over her instead. So Druig planned to look content just in case, the book resting in his hands not actually being read.

Time seemed to pass quickly as Druig waited silently for Gabriella to wake, eventually allowing himself to meditate for a short time with breaks to make sure she was still sleeping peacefully. Gripping the book still, Druig looks up suddenly as he notices Gabriella stir before seeing her eyes flutter slightly as she moves her hand to rub then weakly.

Fumbling with the book Druig follows as Gabriella pulls herself up, resting her hands before turning to notice him sitting near her. Blinking slowly Gabriella lingers over Druig for a short time before looking around and remembering where she was. Rubbing her hand along her forehead and through her hair to push it back, Gabriella frowns as she focuses back on Druig.

"I fell asleep," she groans shifting herself back so she was leaning against the wall, the sheets tangled around her waist.

"You suddenly dozed off," Druig replies with a small chuckle, "what was I suppose to do?"

"Wake me up," Gabriella answers glumly as she notices the book in his hands, the cover upside down, "how long was I asleep? What did you do while I was out?"

"Questions, questions," Druig whispers as he keeps his eyes on her and lifts the book confidently, "I read, I was quite preoccupied. You need not to worry."

"The books upside down."

Looking at the book in his hands, Druig lets slip a slight hum before confidentially looking up at Gabriella again with a smile.

"Oh," Druig begins to say with a calm tone and placing the book down, "didn't I tell you? Eternals can read upside down."

"What a load of bullshit," Gabriella comments with a mocking laugh as Druig turns his body to continue his confident charade.

"How dare you? I have lived on Earth for more than 7000 years, you think I'd read the boring human way."

"Just admit you weren't reading and were just watching me sleep," Gabriella teases as Druig crosses his arms in a huff, "like a weirdo."

"Take that back!" Druig groans with a slight boyish charm to his words, "How cruel, I am no weirdo.."

Laughing at his reaction, Gabriella reaches for his arms before pulling them away from his chest. Whether it was the fact she was still waking up or had found some confidence of her own, Gabriella gently lifted herself up before moving to sit in his lap before noticing Druig tense slightly.

"I don't think you're a weirdo Druig."

"Well," Druig says slightly less bold as his arms drooped awkwardly to his sides, "I'm glad."

It was one of the first times Druig really felt taken back, Gabriella was usually the shy one and it was a new experience to him to now be in that position. Feeling her shift to find comfort, Druig gradually wraps his arms around Gabriella while pulling her into him. Several minutes go by silently which felt more like hours, the silence is broken as Gabriella hums before looking up as Druig looks down. Faces inches apart from each other, both Druig and Gabriella's eyes linger for a moment before she nervously shuffles off his lap.

"You were meant to show me something?"

"Oh," Druig utters out slightly flushed as Gabriella picks at the sheets her eyes peering up at his, "I can still show you, if you like? But we should probably get something to eat first."

Listening to Druig mention eating Gabriella notices a sudden change wash over her as her stomach rumbles faintly, her hand reaching to pat it. With a quick nod and a simple smile stretched solely on her face, Gabriella reaches for Druig's hands.

"Then, it's a date."

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