

Peace Keeper

By : Amaris Maverick

Juliet is the daughter of a college professor, a deceased professor now. Buried under the bills and debts she is drowning and seeking an escape. She finds it in the man on her doorstep. Or should she say Jackal shape shifter, Zarek has the answer to her problems, she isnt meant to remain in the human world. She is the missing daughter of Anubis. The Peace Keeper. Unable to fight her desire for escape she returns to Egypt with him. To find it all true. She is Aishe illegitimate daughter of Anubis and Isis.



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Table of Contents

Stolen

Juliet

Jackal

Debt

Cripple

Plane

Partners

Gods

Short Comings

Camels and Banter

Anubis and the City of the Dead

Report

Anput

Princess

Ascending

Belonging

Isis

Sit Down

Desert Storms

Newest Edition

To Serve

Summit of the Gods

Chapter 1: Stolen

Zarek perched on the ruins of a burial ground, his eyes traveled through the dust and sand to seek for the lights of the secret caravan. It was his job to ferry the child inside, and out to her gaurdians. It was a precarious job, keeping this a secret from the other gods. Being a servent to Anubis himself it was an honor to be doing this. He froze as he scented the air, he couldnt sense anyone, and it was past time for the caravan to be here. He hopped from his perch and shifted into jackal form, he padded into the sand seeking a scent to lead him to the late caravan.

Gordan stood from his campfire and tugged his robes tighter around himself. He could have sworn he'd heard something, he skirted a pillar that had crumbled centuries ago. He was here on an archeological dig, his guide and partner had gone into town the night before, and unwilling to see anything go to waste Gordon had stayed in the burial ground to research and hopefully unearth a mummified person. However in the dark that seemed insane and the fire kept him company. But he rounded a few moer ruins to find light, torches were flung tot he ground, a riding box was flung on its side, dozens of men and women dressed in anchient traditional dress were strewn about bleeding and dead. He stared in horror and edged around a few dead people, one jerked out and grabbed his leg. He muttered something undecipherable and died on the spot. Gordan was on the verge of a heart attack.

A tiny wail rent the air and he jerked at the sound, he hurried to the riding box and jerked the curtain aside. Inside was a tiny basonet, with a squirming baby inside. Pulling the live child free she cried anew, she had bright gold eyes, and she was swathed in pearly silk. He looked around as voices invaded his hearing. Panic rose in his throat and he ran to the camp, dampening the fire and climbing onto his camel, he tucked the baby against him and tugged his bags up, he took off intent on getting to civilizatin where he could get help.

Zarek stared in horror at the remains of the caravan, he reached the riding box and ripped the curtain aside, she was gone! Aishe was gone! He looked around and scented trechery, the smell of Osiris, and oddly his enemy Set. Perhaps it was but the scent that was mixed, unsure Zarek stepped back and whispered a magic spell, it dissolved their remains and sand lifted like the sea burrying the evidence, humans could not see this. Who had taken the princess?

Zarek bound off towards the gateway to Duat, he needed to see his master. The gates were scattered about most ruins leading to the different abodes of the Gods. He needed to inform his master the Peace Keeper was kidnapped. He arrived at the gate and stepped through, air rushed as the ate opened for huim. It closed almost immediatly. He made his way through the cold chambers to the main one. He stopped upon entry as the God Anubis stood, his jackal head was ebony, his skin a dark golden color, he wore a long coat without sleeves, his legs were bare the traditional wraparound skirt that abrely covered hjis muscled legs. His chest was bare save for a huge amulet of gold around his neck. His arms were huge adorned with jewelry and gauntlets. He was on his feet and Zarek entered kneeling with his head to the floor. "Forgive me my lord, the caravan was attacked." Zarek started.

"Aishe?" Anubis asked, his deep voice was marred by darkness, his tone insipired fear. Zarek trembled ready for his master's wrath.

"She was gone." Zarek spoke. Anubis' roar of anger was punctuated by a huge wave of dark energy. He seethed and Zarek chanced a glance at his master, Anubis stood tall as he turned his jackal head morphing to

Peace Keeper

the human one he showed no one but his deceased wife, his daughter Kebechet, and Lady Isis. He stopped next to a mirror and waved in front of it.

"Anubis? Now is not a good time." Isis' bright voice wove through the mirror. Zarek would swear to his soul that this weak voice of Anubis' didn't exist. But the anguish of losing his second daughter no doubt raked his soul bare.

"Aishe is gone." Anubis spoke.

"What?!" Isis roared, her voice became high pitched like that of a bird's, she screamed in fury. "What happened?!"

"The caravan attacked." Anubis spoke. "She was gone when my soldier got to them."

The fury of Isis was nothing compared to the sob that slipped from her, Zarek looked up in shock as Isis appeared suddenly, Anubis enveloped her in his arms and Zarek screwed his eyes shut. This was a forbidden act, Isis was married to her brother Osiris, but this odd union had begun nearly a year and a half ago. Her marriage to her brother was long vanished as she was sobbing in her secret lover's arms. "Begone Zarek." Anubis ordered.

Zarek stood and backed from the room, he clenched his fists and cursed his failure, how could he lose Aishe, the child whose existence was pure, her purpose was to bring peace. Who had taken her?

Chapter 2: Juliet

Papers littered the desk Juliet sat at, she scoured over them and had been doing so since early in the morning, she cursed and flung them aside as she sat back in the chair. There was no way to figure everything out, she was drowning in her father's debt. In L.A. these bills were still piling up on her, she didn't know what to do, she was out of work, she couldn't work... not anymore. She sat back as tears fell from her eyes, her leg began to ache as if in response to her emotional pain. She slipped a hand down to rub the ache away. It had been a year, the savings were bone dry, her father's funeral had drained every last penny she had, then her hospital bills drained what was left of the money he had left her. Now the debt's he owed, the ones for his archeology work was beginning to pile up. She was drowning in those bills as well as the ones for the house. She was at a loss for what to do, she couldn't do anything without work, and who would hire her? She could barely walk!

She wept into the wood work of the desk and screamed in frustration. She slammed her fist on the desk and cursed the world, she cursed herself most of all. She sat back and regained her composure. She picked up the bills and sat them back on the table, after standing she moved to gain her balance when the doorbell rang. She lost her footing and fell hard on her left side. Her leg screamed in pain and she rolled to relieve the pressure, she struggled to her feet and clambered for the door. She hobbled down the hall and stopped to look out the peephole, she gasped at the sight.

The sexiest man she had ever seen stood on her stoop, looking oh so delicious. The neighborhood women must be wetting themselves behind their curtains seeing him. He was wearing a black t-shirt that stretched tight over his heavily muscled torso, black pants covered his legs, and she stared into the brightest golden eyes set into a chiseled manly face. A black goatee covered his chin and his hair was equally black and spiky. He wore bold bands on his wrists, and a gold chain was tucked into his shirt. She stepped back as those eyes looked up as if they knew she was watching, then a slow smile curved those lips in a sinful manner. He rang the doorbell again, she ripped the door open and used the frame to catch herself before she fell again. "Can I help you?" She asked, with her luck he would be a bill collector.

"Is Gordan Williams here?" He asked, the dark husky sound of his voice sank into her pores like a fine mist of sexy timbre. She frowned when she realized what he had asked, perhaps he was a bill collector.

"Gordan Williams died a year ago." She said, he stepped back in surprise and frowned.

"I am sorry for your loss, are you his widow?" He asked.

"Who wants to know?" She asked trying for the life of her to maintain the image of a paranoid woman, though everything in her wanted to wrap herself around him, she reigned her libido in and glared at her sexy stranger.

"My name is Zarek Canis, I have been searching for him for a great many years." He said and frowned then looked around before he looked down. "I know he took a trip to Egypt many years ago and left never to return, he left with a child, I've been looking for that child."

She froze as she looked at Zarek Canis, she knew her father Gordan had found her in Egypt, he had adopted her and brought her to America. She frowned and he sighed, "Do you know if he had a daughter, perhaps a girl he had living here with him?" He asked, this stranger looked rattled, she stepped out onto the stoop and he gasped then he stumbled back.

"I am Gordan's daughter, if you are here for bills I will have to ask you to-" She started.

Peace Keeper

"*My Princess.*" He spoke in a strange language that resonated inside her, she'd heard it before, but she didn't know where. What did he say? He knelt on the stoop and bowed his head, muttering in that strange language.

"Look, come inside before the neighbors call the cops." She beckoned inside and he stood to follow, she pointed at him. "You speak English that I can tell, keep to that language."

"I have finally found you." He spoke with reverence, his eyes alight with wonder, "To think you lived this long, this well, I have failed yet seem to have a redeeming point now."

"What?" She spoke.

"You were adopted were you not?" He asked.

"Yes." Juliet rolled her eyes, that conversation was a long one that had happened when she was fourteen, an annoying one when she was young and one that didn't matter now.

"I know your parents." He spoke, "I was sent to find you."

"What?" She felt her eyes widen as she looked at him, he knew her parents?! That wasn't possible, her father had told her he found her in the desert. "That's not possible, Gordan found me in the desert."

"He did, the people you were with were attacked, your carriage overturned, the guards killed. You survived because of the runes used to protect you, he took you away before anyone else could come again." He said and turned his hands in his hair as he lifted his hands to the air. "Praise Ra for his mercy."

"What in the Hell are you talking about?" She asked.

"My dear Princess Aishe, you are the daughter of Anubis. You are the goddess of Peace, and your power has been growing. It is time to go home now." He said and held out a hand. Juliet stared at it in shock, then she backed up away from the psycho in front of her, she tripped over the end table and fell, his hand locked around her wrist and she found herself flush against him.

Chapter 3: Jackal

Zarek stared at Aishe as she fell, he grabbed her and hauled her up from the floor, she hadn't fallen to the ground but as she squirmed against him he helped her sit, she rubbed her left thigh and groaned in pain. He crouched in front of her, "Are you injured?" He asked.

"No, it's... already healed." She said waving her hand.

"An old ache?" he asked, she nodded.

"You're crazy." She said and looked up, her eyes had glowed amber gold in the dark, but a startling blue in the sun, that was how he knew her for who she was. Princess Aishe, second daughter of Anubis, first and only daughter of Isis. He shook his head, and she snorted at him. That bubbly child he knew as an infant was gone in the wake of this woman sitting before him. Aishe had grown, she had matured as a human, and her powers simmered under the surface.

"I am not crazy, my princess, I speak to you the truth." He said, her brown red hair cascaded in feathered darkness. It was close to black in the shadows and close to auburn in the light. She was the blending of darkness and light. Her father a funeral god, her mother the goddess of motherhood. Aishe was a lost daughter to their kingdom, no one knew of Isis' daughter, only that Anubis' daughter was missing. If anyone knew the truth they dared not speak of it. "I will prove to you my allegiance to the jackal god, your father."

He stood up and surrendered to his true form, he sank to the floor on all fours as his body shifted to that of a jackal, his black fur bristled as his jewelry rattled. He looked up into the shocked face of Aishe. She reached out her eyes suddenly glowing bright gold, she inhaled. "I know you." She spoke, he returned to human form, kneeling before her.

"I watched over you as a baby." Zarek spoke, "I ferried you between your mother and father."

"You just turned into a jackal." She inhaled, "I just saw you change into an animal. The drugs have sank into my brain, I've lost my mind."

"Princess Aishe, that is not true." he grabbed her shoulders, wanting to shake her into her senses. She looked at him, then blinked.

"My name is Juliet." She said, he frowned.

"Your mother named you Aishe, for peace." He said.

"My name is Juliet." She said with force, he nodded.

"Juliet, I tell you and show you the truth, you are the goddess of peace." He said and searched her eyes, she stood, and winced as she did so, he helped her up. She stepped away and walked down the hall then stopped.

"I don't know what mental hospital you escaped from, but I am not going crazy with you." She entered her room and he stayed outside the door, he inhaled her scent, it was identical, only it now held the scent of woman and lust in it. He felt his cock twitch in response, he argued with his libido and leaned against the door.

"What can I say that will prove my truth to you, I showed you my true form, I am the guard of your past." He said and sank to the floor. "I can take you home, to Anubis himself."

Peace Keeper

"You are absolutely nuts." She said, he could sense her close to the floor next to him.

"Close your eyes, inhale slowly, and seek the truth, you can sense it better than anyone." He told her, "Seek deep inside you and you will know I do not lie."

He waited as he listened to her heartbeat slow, her power swelled and he was sure this was the first time she had felt its magnificence. She gasped as she opened the door, "You are telling the truth." She said, he stood and nodded.

"I am, and I, Zarek guard of Anubis, swear to your service." He said, she blinked at him before she turned and walked to the desk she had littered with paper. He looked at it and she sighed.

"I am the daughter of Anubis?" She asked. "Who is my mother?"

"It is not my place to tell you princess." he admitted as much as his heart ached to do so, but out in the wide world, words had power, and he dared not chance his enemies hearing him. As the daughter of Anubis, no one would question the words on the wind, but the daughter of Isis, that would carry.

"The god that judges the dead?" She asked in skepticism.

"Yes." He said, "He has been in despair the past twenty years, he mourns the loss of his second daughter, Kebechet has not been herself either, her sister went missing before I could get to her."

Taking a liberty to get her listening Zarek cupped Juliet's face, she looked at him those gold eyes seeking his. "Forgive me my failure." He whispered, her hand lifted to his and she stilled listening. "I will take you back, back to Egypt, you will know the truth and see your true nature there."

She looked down at the papers on the table and he knew what they were, bills of her fathers. She had been stuck with the bills after his death, it was not a fair trade, her life for his debt. "I will free you from the confines of your human life." He offered. "I will show you the wonder and beauty of our world."

She looked at him and knew that his words were awakening her heart, her human nature was slipping away as she looked at him. Then she stepped back, "I don't know what is true, I can't possibly be going crazy." She shook her head.

"Think on it princess, I will wait." he walked from her, he had sprung quite a lot on her, she needed to cope, understand the truth he knew she could feel. He would watch over her, and protect her until she decided to return home. He might need help but for now, he was enough to guard human Juliet, at least until she knew herself as Aishe the goddess. If that was so, he needed to call Cain Mau, Isis' guard for Aishe. Not keen on that idea Zarek left that on the back burner for now.

Chapter 4: Debt

Juliet was sitting alone when she realized something, the lights were out as usual, to preserve the electricity bill. She saw fine in the dark so it was no issue to go without light, even in the dark, she even preferred the light of candles to lamps. But when she looked to the computer to see the time she realized it was completely off. The electricity had been shut off. She hobbled to the light switch to test, it didn't come on, she even rifled for the bill seeing it past due. She cursed and walked to the door, embarrassment filled her as she realized she didn't even have food in the fridge to serve her odd guest. She supposed he was a psycho, but he swore he knew her real father. Even if it was buried in a mountain of bullshit she wanted to know about him. She exited to the living room where he was sitting scrolling through a cell phone. "Hey, I'm going for food, want to come?" She asked. He stood and followed her to the door, he held it for her and she walked out, she clutched the railing as she got down, then she moved to the sidewalk.

"You don't drive?" He asked.

"No." She shivered at even the thought, he stepped next to her and frowned.

"Why do you limp princess?" He asked.

"Man you ask a lot of questions." She scowled at him, then shook her head. "I was in a car wreck, it injured my leg."

She ignored anything else he had to say and hobbled down the street to the pizza shop on the corner, she entered and ordered a large pizza. When it came Zarek bumped her aside and paid for it, she stared at him in astonishment. "A man never allows a lady to pay." He smirked and lifted the huge pizza indicating for her to lead.

They sat and she looked at him, he sat back and waited, what was up with this man? She reached for a piece of pizza and devoured the slice. He watched her eat and then took a slice for himself. She watched him and sighed, "So you know my father?" She asked.

"And your sister." He spoke, "She used to entertain you with toys and music when you were a baby."

"What about my mom? Are they married?" She asked.

"No, your father's wife... she gave herself over to her power, she died a goddess' death." He said and Juliet frowned, so she died was what he was saying. She looked down, "Your mother however is alive and well."

"Are they together?"

"No, your mother... it's complicated." Zarek scratched his neck, "But they loved you unconditionally, they were heartbroken over your loss, and when no one could find evidence of you in Egypt... they lost all hope."

"What exactly happened?" She asked.

"Now who asks a lot of questions?" He teased then leaned back again. "The guardians who were supposed to bring you to me were killed, and you were picked up, presumably by your father."

"How did you find that out?"

Peace Keeper

"When the search for you in the cities failed I started looking for the travelers of that year, anyone in the city who had come to that area. I spent the last few years tracking each one down, hunting for any information on you." He smiled, "Your father will be so pleased."

"What's his name?" She asked eating another slice.

"I told you already, Anubis." He smirked as she huffed in annoyance. "I know you don't believe me but I speak the truth, why else could I change into a jackal?"

Juliet chose to ignore him and ate in silence, she noticed however that he only ate after her, and kept mostly to himself. When they finished her claiming the last slice they walked out, not wanting to return to the powered out house she walked along the street to the beach. She looked out at the sea and he stood a step behind her. "I was born in Egypt?" She asked.

"Just outside it actually, your mother wanted to keep your birth a secret." Zarek spoke.

"I was illegitimate?" Juliet whipped around in shock, he looked away.

"Your mother was unable to claim you, her husband would have had you killed. But your father claimed you, said you were the last gift his wife had left him." Zarek said, "They farried you between each other, saying he wanted you to have a mother's touch, he couldn't nor could Kebechet provide you."

"I was a secret?" She asked.

"You were, but when we return Anubis plans to have you integrated into the fold, you are to become what you were-" He stopped as a fight broke out below them right on the sand, two huge men were fighting over a beach bunny who was pleased by the show of brutality in front of her. Juliet frowned and hobbled down the steps, she stepped between the huge men as Zarek shouted for her.

"Cool it guys, it's not that serious whatever your fighting over." She said.

"Move it lady." One guy that had a beard growing growled at her, she gave him a stern look.

"Fighting won't solve anything." She said again, why did she do this? She knew it always ended badly, but Juliet couldn't help it. The other man grabbed her and she looked at him as Zarek was suddenly there, he decked the man in the face, his muscles bulging as he hauled her up.

"Don't touch her." Zarek hissed. The two men rounded on him, the girl smiling as she saw the fight growing. Juliet watched as the two men lunged for Zarek, he caught them in a solid hold that they couldn't break from, he held them there, his eyes glowing bright gold. Juliet heard sirens, she reached out for Zarek and time stopped around her, she blinked as she saw everything happening, she touched Zarek out of fear and he came alive, he let go of the men who were held in the air by nothing. He turned and looked at her.

"What's happening?" She asked he covered her with his arms as she felt her mind rush, she saw the girl provoke the fight, just to see who would win, they were both attracted to her, she wished she still got that attention. She was just a cripple now. She screamed as a fierce headache ripped into existence, Zarek touched her face and she focused on him.

"Look at me, breathe, envision what would be a peaceful reconciliation." He spoke right into her ear. She stepped back, and touched the men, seeing them let the anger and fight slip away, even becoming friends. Time reverted as she returned to Zarek, the two men apologized and decided to go get a drink together. Teh

Peace Keeper

beach girl huffed and stomped off, her fun denied. Juliet however was starign at her hands, she was so intent that Zarek drew her back."You just kept the peace princess, do you believe me now?"

In a weird twisted way, she did.

Zarek entered the dark house with Juliet, as he reached for the light she stopped him with a gentle hand, "Dont bother, they shut the power off."

"You have no electricity?" He asked.

"I have nothing." She looked at him and he saw th embarassed blush on her face. He smiled and waved to the door.

"Then come with me, theres no way anyone can find you at the pyramids." He said, "Anubis will have the bills settled and everything here transferred to a place more sutied to you." He offered, she looked at him in shock.

"I cant just leave." She said.

"What is here that you cant leave?" he asked, she blinked in shock and he knew he had hit the mark. She looked down and tears welled in her eyes. She walekd away to her room, he followed and waited by the door as she sat on her bed. She cried and he stood where he was, it wasnt hs place to bother her, when she wanted him he would go to her. That was his devotion to her, he wouldnt leave her here in this debt that consumed her better than scarabs consumed flesh.

Chapter 5: Cripple

Juliet cried her eyes out as she sat on her bed, she was keenly aware of Zarek at her back, he was waiting for her to make the first move. She could sense that about him, what in the hell was happening to her? She looked at her hands, he was right, she wasn't a human at all. No human could stop time, no human sensed the truth in people's words. She was whatever he said she was, he knew more than she did. What was her father thinking when he picked her up?

"What happened to Gordan, Juliet?" Zarek asked, "Usually dying people take care of their relatives first."

"I wrecked the car," She spoke as she closed her eyes gulping with guilt. "We were driving home from the university, he taught there, I attended. The truck came out of nowhere, I swerved to avoid it and drove off a cliff."

She stood and kicked her shoes off before removing her pants, she looked up to see Zarek looking away, as if to give her privacy, she liked that. She looked at him and sat on the bed, pulling a small throw blanket over her lap she stretched out her mangled left leg. "The engine came through the dash and crushed my father, the door buried itself into my leg, they needed jaws of life to pry the door off, by then I was bleeding out. When I woke up in the hospital they had to reconstruct the bone in my thigh, graft skin to cover the wound, so many stitches. My father died in the car, I didn't find out until I woke up a week later."

Zarek crossed the room and looked at the scar on her leg, it was huge it covered almost the entire length of her thigh, from hip to knee, but it stretched to the inside but stopped just on the top of her thigh, gangrene had taken most of the skin, the muscle damage was extensive, it ached with her joints. Zarek's hand smoothed over the rough skin, it jumped slightly but didn't do much else. The scars were rough and slices still looked severe even though they had closed months ago. She watched his eyes as they took her in. She wanted to see pity, she wanted to see the horror at seeing her a cripple. She wasn't so much of a princess now.

"I am sorry you were in that wreck." He said, "I am sorry this happened to you, if I had been quicker years ago, you wouldn't have even been in that situation."

She blinked at him and he looked up, she frowned. "You don't see me as a cripple?" She asked, he smiled and touched her leg again, this time kneading the muscles so they relaxed, they rippled with ease and she blushed as she realized his hand was dangerously close to her center.

"I think you are beautiful." He said, she didn't know why but she leaned forward and kissed him, desperate to feel alive and whole he didn't pull away. Instead he cupped her neck and kissed her right back, their lips moving in unison, her tongue was swept by his as it filled her mouth. She groaned and he jerked back, his eyes wide those gold eyes glowing. He came off the bed as if pulled by strings, then he ended up pinned to the wall, a misty figure of a man appeared, he was huge, hulking in form, about the same bulk as Zarek, only he was ghostly looking. He had the head of a jackal and he was wearing leather pants, an open black shirt and lost of gold jewelry. He whispered to Zarek in a dark tone in that language she didn't know. Zarek spoke back and nodded, he looked down and was released, he bowed and she watched as the man who had to be Anubis looked at her, his shocked eyes were gold as well, they looked like coins, and he held out a hand, touching her face, she felt cold. He whispered to her and then tilted his head, he smiled a wolfish grin then nodded. He vanished.

"What on earth just happened?" She asked as Zarek got to his feet, he tugged his necklace off, she saw a gold ankh and he tossed it to her.

Peace Keeper

"This will help you understand him, that was Anubis, he wanted my filthy animal paws off his daughter." He smirked. "I'm just glad were miles away form him at the moment."

"You really were telling the truth." She said looking at him, he smiled weakly.

"He wants to see you." Zarek said, she looked around her room and sighed.

"Lets go." She said and looked up at Zarek. He smiled and reached over, then he thought better and stepped away.

"When do you want to leave?" He asked, "I have to arrange for your welcome."

"In the morining." She said, before the repo men came to collect. He nodded and pulled his phone from his pocket and began to arrange for the flight.

Chapter 6: Plane

Zarek was sitting in the plane when Juliet realized her leg definitely didn't do well in the air. She rubbed the joints excessively and retrieved the medicine prescribed to her. He took the medicine from her hands before she could take it. From the scent he noticed it was strong, she looked at him as if he were nuts before he swung her legs onto his lap. He knew he needed to care for her even if it was this small, they were alone in the private jet that was owned by the caretakers of Anubis. Plenty of humans still worshipped his care in the after life. They were meager in the wake of his previous followers but any followers he had he was grateful for. Zarek was glad that they had amassed enough to build wealth, this wealth was useful. He looked at Juliet's knee and began to massage the joint before moving on to the rest of her leg. She laid back on the seat they were sharing. It was built like a couch but had arm rests that could be lifted. Juliet sighed as the aches seemed to vanish by the look of her face.

Shit that sigh went straight to his groin, when was the last time he'd had sex? One maybe two centuries? He growled and clenched his teeth as they sharpened in demand. Juliet looked up at him, "So if I wear this I can understand Anubis?" She asked.

"All of the gods speak in an ancient language, usually adapted to the region their kingdom resides within. There isn't much difference but the necklace has been around my neck for centuries, it will help you understand them, your power amplifies it and will help you when in need." Zarek explained as he thumbed the gold ankh. It was the first gift given to him from his master. Anubis had gifted him with flesh and shape, from a plain animal Zarek became what he was. Human shaped, jackal shaped, a guardian of his master's dominion. He looked at his phone as he got a text, from his partner. Or his future partner, Cain mau. Who was waiting at the airport. Of course he was, why wouldn't he be... he was Isis' secret agent. He had been alive just as long as Zarek, made the same way, but they were different. Where Zarek was a canine, Cain was a feline.

"What's going to happen?" Juliet asked.

"Well, we get there, and take you to a hotel for the night." he looked at her, "A spa most likely, then we will go out into the desert until we find the Anubis portal, then we will enter Duat." He flicked his phone shut on Cain's impatient texts.

"That's the Egyptian underworld right?" She asked, he looked at her in surprise. "When your adopted father is an Egyptian history professor, you pick up on the ancient culture pretty easily."

"How much do you know?" Zarek asked amused.

"Not much, it's mostly random facts, like how Isis is married to her brother, they had a son." Juliet said, Zarek winced at that truth, even he wasn't pleased by that knowledge that was flaunted in every being's face. "Oh and that Anubis was replaced as the main deity of death by Osiris."

"That was merely a shift of following." Zarek sighed. "Anubis lost a lot of his power when time ravaged the temples, the gods are a close knit group, and their power is centered in many ways. Anubis has power over the funeral, the burial, the judgement of sin. His wife who dies had power over the heaven of our world, she died to keep it maintained. Kebechet, has dominion over the purification of the dead. She brings the purity to the dead. Osiris... he has power over the dead, so he became the King of our death Gods mainly because he was reborn into the power, Isis made him and made us look weak. But make no mistake, Anubis is still more powerful in terms of magic, he preserves it. Ra makes the rest of the gods look like kittens, he is our Creator, the Sun god."

Peace Keeper

"There's more to it than the books say." Juliet sighed.

"I think you will be fine, most everyone leaves Anubis alone." Zarek smiled. Juliet leaned up and kissed his cheek, his skin burned from the contact, he wanted more of it. This princess didnt know what her touch did to him. He held still as she settled herself on his lap, he was aching by then, glad his cock was trapped but cursing it at the same time.

"You'll protect me is what youre saying." Juliet smiled, he nodded. "You always have?"

"Always." He nodded. "Cain has too."

"Cain?" She asked.

"He was your gaurdian as I was, only he is your mothers creation." Zarek said, she looked away then nodded.

"I dont know him yet, but you wont leave will you?" She asked, he nodded.

"I am yours to command." He said with devastating desire, he wanted to be hers more than he wanted to work for Anubis. Perhaps he would be the offering to her when she became part of the fold.

"Then kiss me." She demanded, those sparkling blue eyes shifted gold, he couldnt resist that order, he was trained to never disobey the blood of Anubis. Her moan set his blood on fire as they devoured each other, his mouth might as well be fused to hers, she pulled back for air then dove back in, he tilted laying her below him. Heat flushed his skin, he wondered if she was hot too? As he dove fro another kiss he was flung back by energy he knew for a fact wasnt his masters.

"Keep your mangy mouth from my daughters lips." Isis... damn. Zarek laid back as her energy threatened to tear him apart, Juliet's touch banished the energy.

"Was that my mom?" She asked. Her eyes wide with wonder, Zarek nodded and decided no matter what the order he needed to keep it in his pants. Juliet's real parents would geld him just for looking at her. She was pleased with finally hearing her mothers voice, and Zarek couldnt find the heart to begrudge that to her.

Chapter 7: Partners

Cain sat tapping his boot as he waited. He was listening to his Mistress order him about as usual, she was frantic with the arrival of her daughter. To be honest Cain was awed to find the lost princess alive. Trust that mutt Zarek to sniff out anything in sight. Cain was relieved, they were back in business, the shame of their failure... more Cains than Zareks... could fade away. As he saw them enter the terminal he saw Zarek's black hair first, then he came into view, carrying the most beautiful woman he'd ever seen. She had long auburn hair, and bright blue eyes. She was carried into Zarek's arms, he walked close and Cain let his temper flare. "What took you so long idiot?" he hissed at Zarek.

"Princess this is Cain, your mother's guard." Zarek spoke, he smirked as Cain's hackles raised at his flippant tone, this was the Peace Keeper. "Well Cain, come help."

Cain looked at him oddly, what did he mean? Zarek shook his head and let out an exasperated breath. "Carry her to a chair so she can rest." Zarek said as Cain lept to hold out his hands.

"What is wrong with her?" he asked.

"I have a crippled leg." She said and he looked at her in shock, she could understand their language. He saw Zarek's ankh on her neck and knew why. He turned as Zarek went off to collect her belongings. He walked to a line of chairs and sat her down.

"Which leg?" he asked, she looked at him and pointed to her left. He sat back as pain assailed him, this was his fault. If he hadn't been tired that night, hadn't been so trusting of the wind, he'd have known... he could have saved her. He cursed and turned his back to her, she touched his back.

"Zarek told me you two blame yourself." She whispered, he turned to her, seeing those bright blue eyes of Isis. She smiled at him and he was undone, this wasn't the infant he had carried to Zarek. This wasn't the child Anubis and Isis had hidden away, this was a woman ready to see change. She was ready to face fate head on, and with a cripple no less. He cursed fate and looked at Zarek, who was carrying two bags, that was all? Surely their princess had more.

"Where's the rest?" he asked.

"She left it behind, said it wasn't needed for the future." Zarek said before kneeling in front of her. "The leg?"

"Still stiff." She said, then looked at Cain. "Can I touch your hair?"

He started from his spot and looked at her in shock, he sat next to her as Zarek stayed where he was massaging her knee, before it traveled up the outside of her jean covered leg, the muscles jumped. Her hands travelled into his hair and she laughed. "I was right, I do know both of you." She smiled and sat back her eyes closed as Zarek worked. Cain felt relief in his heart, she did recognize him, he looked at his rival and partner Zarek. He looked pleased but shot an annoyed look at Cain, "Go get us a cab."

"Watch it hound, you go get the cab." Cain hissed, his eyes flashing at Zarek as the princess lifted her hand and signalled them to silence.

"Let's all go get a cab." She smiled and Cain felt her warmth wash through him, he felt his arousal stir and he looked at them sitting there, a foreign emotion lodged in his chest. Was it lust? For both of them? He swallowed hard as he stood, "I'm Juliet by the way."

Peace Keeper

Zarek swooped her up and was gone down the walk way, Cain stared at them in shock, before he burried the emotions under the surface. He was a servent to Isis, lusting after her daughter and a predetor of his species was forbidden and just plain stupid. he had a job to do and he'd be damned if Zarek would mess with his head, like he had all those years ago, when they had been fools with the princess in their custody.

Chapter 8: Gods

Juliet was safe, she felt that to the marrow of her bones as they exited the city to find a small oasis hotel, the car they drove was okay to get this far, but after that it was all desert and camels. She looked at the small motel and felt content, they were keeping her in her element, in her air the usual. She was poor, she knew that, and she had a feeling going to Duat would shock her meager sense of the norm. Hell she was already out of the usual feelings. Looking at the small hotel she felt at ease, they were with her. And she kept seeing small flashes of their faces, holding her, looking at each other. "Zarek?" Juliet asked as he came to pick her up, her leg refused to unlock its muscles and she was aching from it. She needed a hot bath, Cain had gone inside to check in was Zarek lifted her up. "What's your relationship with Cain?" She asked, there was an undercurrent of hostility between them.

"He's a cat, I'm a jackal, we fight literally like cats and dogs." he picked her up and she slung an arm around his shoulders, he looked annoyed, but he wasn't looking away from her.

"When you saw him you looked happy, then angry." Juliet remarked, he frowned and walked her inside, Cain looked back his blue eyes darkened as he dangled the room key.

"I got the one with the hot spring." Cain said, "So she can relax and rest before we head to the Duat Portal."

"How far is it?" Juliet asked as she stood on her feet and clutched her leg, Cain walked over and looped an arm around her waist to lead them to the room.

"We have to go to the Anubis portal, so we have to travel a long distance to the entrance, I'd say we could go through the Isis portal but I don't trust any of the gods in her household." Cain said.

"Why?" She watched him and Zarek exchange a look before they continued on, perhaps they weren't allowed to talk about the gods. "So am I in danger?"

"There is significant danger for you, an unclaimed goddess. Had any of the other gods found you they would have tried to corrupt you or kill you." Cain sighed, "Anubis will protect you, you will be under his house, his name."

"It's still our job to ensure her personal safety Cain." Zarek sighed and opened the door to the room, it was spacious, with a large wall of sliding glass, the huge single bed was a monster compared to her bed she'd left behind. "I hope you don't think Duat is filled with all ancient things, there are some palaces with modern things. Kebechet keeps Anubis updated on the times, as do I."

"Isis' palace isn't filled with that, Osiris likes the old ways." Cain grumbled. "The only reprieve I get is when I go to Horus' palace and he's a real piece of work."

Juliet smiled and hobbled to the bed where she sat down, she rubbed her leg and frowned at how stiff it was. Zarek ran a hand through his hair and turned, she looked at him as he yanked Cain out the door. She shrugged and proceeded to change into a different set of clothes. Not really wanting to show off her horrible scars she changed into a tanktop and a pair of sweats. She forced herself to do some exercises to ease the ache.

Zarek paced as he felt his mind whirl a thousand thoughts through his mind, Cain leaned against the wall next to the door, he was waiting. Why did he have to be so silent, so contemplative. It made Zarek remember times

Peace Keeper

when they had almost been close, almost close enough to be more. The Princess was back, was it because of her that they were reverting to a peaceful coexistence. "I'm going to beg Anubis to make me an offering." Zarek spoke to Cain who's feline blue eyes widened.

"What?" Cain asked.

"I can't trust anyone in her guard detail, whoever Anubis chooses will bow to Osiris and the other gods. She needs guards loyal to her Cain, that's you and me." He raked another hand through his hair before Cain ripped his hand away.

"Stop that you'll lose hair." Cain hissed and glared at Zarek, "Anubis will kill you if you let on you're attracted to her."

"He knows." Zarek said as Cain was suddenly filled with fury, Zarek could sense the feline rising inside his partner. He stepped back as Cain lunged, they went down in a tangle of limbs. Cain's fist connected with his jaw.

"Fool, she needs you!" Cain roared as his teeth lengthened, Zarek felt his beast rise for the insult, a feline hissing at him?! He started fighting back, fists flying, blood falling. Suddenly they were separated by wind, both pinned to the wall, Juliet stood there her eyes golden with anger.

"Seriously, fighting?" She asked. "Jeeze just like cats and dogs."

Her fiery eyes lit desire in Zarek's body, he looked to Cain who was likewise rapt by her. What was it about her that made them angry and relaxed, concerned and comforted? She was really a Peace Keeper, but she had a long way to go if she could find peace between him and Cain.

Chapter 9: Short Comings

Juliet watched as the men eased back into a grudging silence. She decided it was time to relax in the hot spring and hope her leg eased up some. She changed into a robe and left them to sort out their differences. She headed out and walked the patio of their closed off room, she heard the spring gurgle as her destination. Seeing it was wonderful. They had taken what was natural and built around it, the heated water was relief as she felt the chill on the wond. She stopped next to the spring and shed ehr robe. Her warning to the men was if they even dared to walk out into the spring without warning they would be limping. She eased into the water legs irst, the water was warm not overly hot but enough to elicit a moan of joy for Juliet. she slid in her bare flesh reveling in the heat, she was naked, and decided that was the righ decision. She slid into the water and dunked her head before relaxing.

She heard noise as Cain called out to her, she was glad for the mist as the two men joined her, clad in towels they climbed in as well. Her face flamed and she jerked her gaze away, gorgeous men were her downfall. They were hot, both of them, and she was crippled. She didnt deserve the right to look at men that gorgeous, they waded over as she leaned her chest against the rock wall, she perchedher head on the towel behind her, they perched similar to her. "How's your leg?" Cain asked.

"Fine, how are your backs?" She asked. She didnt know what happened but hearing them argue had snapped something inside her, she had used a power inside her that startled her. She'd commanded them to stop with an energy foreign to her. Sure she always tried to break up fights but that was because fighting was stupid. Was that because she was the Peace Keeper, Juliet found it hard to believe she was a goddess. It all seemed ridiculous being in egypt, her birth home, and seeking out paretns rumored to be gods.

"Fine." Zarek smirked on her left side, "We heal fast." He looked up at the moon, glowing bright in the sky, she looked as wellas Cain did.

"Is it okay to do this?" Juliet asked, they looked at her in shock, she sighed and moved into the water, forcing her leg to straighten out, it felt better just resistant. "Is it okay to do all of this? I'm just some cripple from L.A."

"You're not a cripple." Zarek growled coming to her side, she felt Cain join them, she hugged her shoulders covering her breasts. "If I could break my orders Juliet I would prove to you I dont see you that way."

"And what can I do here? Meet people I havent ever known?" She sighed. "I dont deserve happiness, I killed my adoptive father."

"A driver killd your father, destroyed your leg." Zarek growled, "You dont deserve to live in debt, you dont deserve to be held back by your leg."

"I would show you that leg isnt a hinderance." Cain said his blue eyes dark with anger. "When you were a child, we couldnt keep up with you, you disapeared when we fought, making us seek for you. Nothing has changed, only now you've grown, you know just how to make us stop. When I was in the airport I expected to see that baby I held so long ago."

"Instead?" Juliet looked at Cain, his blue eyes spearing into her and she felt Zarek next to her, a reassurance in her turbulant emotions.

"I saw a woman who put that baby to shame, she grew into something more beauiful than my mistress, but an injury has plagued her with thoughts that need to be banished from her mind." Cain raked a hand through his

Peace Keeper

white hair, "Order me to kiss you."

"What?" Juliet asked.

"Order me to kiss you Juliet." Cain loekd at her, Zarek stepped behind her then to the side, his gold eyes flicking to Cain.

"Kiss me." Juliet said as Cain leaned in, their lips brushed, and the same heat that filled her for Zarek filled her for Cain. She leaned in, ignoring how her breasts pressed to a hard muscled stomach. Their tongues tangled and Zarek stepped back into the picture, she pulled back from Cain, the taste of light on her tongue. She looked at Zarek, "You too, Kiss me."

Needing no argument he kissed her as well, they were so different in texture and heat she was lost under the weight of their masculinity. Zarek's tongue took possession of hers just as heatedly as Cain's had. Where Cain was light, Zarek was darkness. She felt at peace, for the first time since she had woken up in the hospital. She cursed and pulled back, Zarek looked at her with a deep smirk. "You too now Cain?" he asked.

"Yeah, I'm going to beg too." Cain growled and waded to the edge to wipe his head off, he was muscular just like Zarek. Juliet felt her mouth water, and she wondered if they would want her without seeing her leg? Was she allowed to have them? Two at once was an astonishing thought... one she'd never had before. Perhaps her short comings didnt matter with them. Juliet was out of her mind.

Chapter 10: Camels and Banter

Zarek had started his day like any other, gotten up from his perch in a chair, to relieve Cain from watch. Had showered and readied for the day, called the camel owner, and prepared for the long trek through the desert to the Anubis Portal. But as he had walked out he had practically swallowed his tongue. Juliet was sleeping alone on her bed, but she had gone to bed wearing a tiny white night gown made of silk. It had hitched to the tops of her thighs, delectably hiding the small crevice between her legs. It was enticing to see, two steps and he could slide that nightgown up, seeing her breasts straining at the top of the gown. He'd groaned and looked at Cain who was likewise tortured by the sight.

This was their eternal torture, seeing something they wanted, and knowing they could never have it. They were animals in human guise, and they were beneath a princess such as Juliet, Aishe the Peace Keeper. He saw Cain as he stood up to go to the bathroom, Zarek stood next to the door as he closed it, the feline's scent of sand and water in his nose. He lifted a hand to touch the door longingly. Unlike Cain, Zarek went back to their time guarding infant Juliet with fond memories. It was all Zarek's fault, Cain couldn't bare to be around him if it wasn't out of obligation. Zarek looked to the princess who was watching him from the bed, her eyes attentive as she watched. Zarek let his hand fall away. He wasn't worth her desire, he wasn't worth Cain's skill. Zarek was a mutt jackal. That was all.

Cain had to admit it was funny watching Juliet get skittish around the camel she was going to ride with Zarek. He watched as Zarek helped her up then climbed up himself. Cain mounted his camel and patted its head as it trembled sensing his power. He started ahead, to leave the small outpost. Zarek took the lead and Cain followed slightly behind him. He listened as Zarek explained the desert to Juliet, about why it was important Juliet covered her head as well as the rest of her. It may be hot now but it would be freezing as the night came.

Cain watched the horizon deciding it wasn't his time to watch them, the princess who called a lust from him so potent Cain remembered he was painfully male. And Zarek who had been Cain's trust in the past, now with so much hostility between them it was hard to imagine talking to him normally again. Instead they fell into an odd banter for most of the day until they made camp in some old ruins. Tonight there would be no rest for Cain or Zarek but Cain decided to take up a perch on an old pillar as Zarek scouted the ruins. "Cain?" Juliet's voice had him scrambling down immediately. She stood awkwardly and he crossed to her.

"Does your leg hurt?" Cain asked. She nodded but looked at the sky.

"I wanted to ask you something, come sit." He sat next to her but set out a dagger next to him, just in case something needed killing. She sat and he pulled her leg into his lap to massage. She sighed from it but looked at him seriously. "Who is my mom really?"

"Zarek didn't tell you?" Cain asked, she shook her head and he then regretted any slip he may have made. "I shouldn't tell you, it isn't our place."

"Zarek said my mother made you." Juliet said looking at him.

"Your mother made me centuries ago to be a ferry for her errands and a guard that wasn't corrupted by her brother." Cain said. "I'm an extinct breed of feline, I'm a Mau, she gave me human shape with her magic and has used me for centuries."

Peace Keeper

"Who is she?" Juliet asked. Cain sighed, she would ask when it wasn't really his place. Sure Isis hadn't ordered him not to tell her but if Zarek wasn't telling he shouldn't either. Cain watched her eyes as she frowned, he sighed and held out his wrist, on it was the brand of his servitude.

"This is your mother's mark, the symbol of her power, Zarek has given you the ankh of Anubis, so you can understand our ancient language. This symbol is her power, I show this to you because she wears this everywhere she goes. It may not be my place to tell you, but you will know the moment you see her."

"Fair enough." Juliet sighed and leaned back as he rubbed her knee then her leg again. "In exchange you have to tell me exactly what's up with you and Zarek."

He bristled at her question, who was she that she was so astute. He looked around for Zarek and sighed. "When my mistress and your father had their secret affair I was charged with keeping her secret. When she disappeared saying she wanted space from the politics I was charged to go with her. She was in labor when Anubis was ordered to track her down. I met Zarek halfway and informed him of Isis' pregnancy."

"I really was a secret." Juliet grumbled.

"Your mother didn't want anyone to know that you weren't her husband's. She feared his reaction, so she had intended to have you in secret and claim she had found you. But at birth you looked exactly like Anubis' other daughter. He found you and was shocked, she had kept it a secret even from him. He insisted he take you instead, claiming it was his late wife's last gift to him. It hid you perfectly." Cain explained. "So when he returned and announced he had found Anubis' last gift your mother offered to lend him a hand raising you. Kebechet was too pure to know how to care for a child, and your mother had experience. Her husband allowed it but he wasn't to see you. He suspected but he could find no proof of her affair."

"They hid it well?" Juliet asked.

"Yes, and in turn they wanted to protect you fiercely, because of that I suspect he found out." Cain rubbed his head as the memories of the failure of that night rang in his mind. "You were secretly carried between the two portals. I saw you out and Zarek would receive you, sometimes we met in between. When major gatherings happened we watched over you. Zarek and I we formed a sort of friendship that overturned our base instincts to fight. You calmed our instincts, and in secret even we met up, mainly to see our battle skills. And once we kissed, I was hopeful we could be more... but when you disappeared we began to blame one another for losing you."

"But it wasn't your fault." Juliet sat up outraged, her anger humbled Cain but he calmed her with a soft brush to her leg.

"Princess, we blamed ourselves, had we met up that night as planned we could have prevented the whole thing. But we had fought the weeks before and refused to see one another. After you were lost, Zarek accused me of negligence. I accused him of failure. I was tortured for the loss, Zarek was granted amnesty under the orders of Anubis to find his daughter the prophesized Peace Keeper." Cain said and she looked at him in shock, he smiled and looked at the sky. "Zarek toured the world hunting for you for years, our anger grew until we didn't speak, I was betrayed by him Juliet. That peace we had then will never return, I don't know what I wanted from him in the first place. It was you who brought us together, but it was him who tore us apart."

Cain stood up and handed her a canteen of water, he picked up his dagger as he heard Zarek approach, he waved to Juliet as she held out her hand but he was already walking away. He didn't want to see Zarek, and he didn't want to face anymore of his past. Juliet's concern for him was genuine, but she didn't know his heart raced for her just as it did for his enemy Zarek.

Chapter 11: Anubis and the City of the Dead

It was day two out in the desert and Juliet was strangely at home, she wasn't overly thirsty, nor was her leg aching unnecessarily. Cain sat behind her and continued to educate her on the shifting sands and how to get to this portal should something happen to her. Zarek commented every so often about being safe at dark and during the day should she ever find herself alone out here. Or even in the spirit desert should that arise. When they came upon the ruins that held the Anubis portal she was absolutely sure she saw nothing but rubble and sand. They both looked skyward as sand began to swirl around them, and suddenly the ruins rebuilt themselves, she was staring in wonder at the stacking rocks. She was stunned, then Zarek climbed from his camel and Cain followed. A man in ancient clothes came forward and bowed, "Master Zarek, allow me to return the camels." He whispered. Zarek passed the reins over and helped her down. Cain followed and tugged an amulet out of his shirt.

"What's that for?" She asked.

"So no one bothers me." Cain said. "I'm a cat, a pure being in the Anubis' City of the Dead."

"He means so no one can touch him, his amulet means he won't shame his mistress by using his powers to harm the house." Zarek took her hand and led her ahead, Cain close at their backs. She marveled at the place before her, it was built just like an ancient village with a huge palace and pyramids flanking the palace. She was awed by it, what had been ruins but moments ago. "This is Duat, it is the underworld and home to the gods. There are many palaces and many pyramids here. All separated by the spirit desert. This is Anubis' domain, he is the god of burial and his daughter is the goddess of purification."

"This town?" She asked.

"His most faithful followers in life were given a choice. Have their hearts weighed or remain his followers. Many chose to follow him, so they were given places to live in this village. Most are dead, some are followers of this time period." Zarek explained. "You won't be spending much time here, this is my home, yours is in that palace up there."

They continued through the trek and Cain became as solid as stone, his face wiped clean of emotions. She wondered about that, she worried she'd been the cause of their distant relationship. Cain refused to reiterate on their discussion, they obviously cared for one another if they were being so stubborn. She wondered if she was on their radar, as a princess or because she was crippled. Were they not allowed to feel for her, she was beginning to wonder about a lot of things now that she was seeing the supernatural right in front of her.

The palace loomed high above them, Juliet was awed by it as guards rushed out all had heads of jackals, armored for war. She was staring as Zarek pulled her cowl down over her head. "I come with greetings to Anubis my master, my search was a success." The guards listened then moved to allow them entry. She bristled as she felt their dark eyes on her, sizing her up, her limp. Cain took her arm.

"Use me to ease the limp." He spoke, she nodded and the limp lessened as she held on to him. They walked into the ornate marble doors and there he stood. He was huge, muscular and bare in the torso. He wore jewelry around his neck and on his arms. The silk at his waist covered his hips and ran to his knees. He had huge legs, bulging with muscle. She could understand why her mother had had an affair. By the looks of the hulking man in front of her he was her father, and he was hot. He didn't have a jackal head. Instead he had long curly black hair, and bright golden eyes, a goatee was trimmed and pulled into a goatee that graced his chin. He had serious no-nonsense lips. This was the God Anubis, she could feel it in her bones. And a small part of her was overjoyed to see him. She knew him she knew she did.

Peace Keeper

"Aishe." He breathed as she saw her, she smiled as memories she never knew surged before her eyes. His smiling face over her, his voice in her dreams, this was her father. She smiled as he drew close to examine her, as if she wasn't real. Suddenly she was hauled up into his arms for a hug she melted into. This was far different from her dad's hugs. He had been stiff, afraid of her more than anything else. But he had been warm, loving. She had been all too aware that she wasn't his daughter, she wanted to be that for him but she knew she never could. She had tried harder than anything else though. But in this man's arms, she knew he was her father, he loved her and she could feel it in her head and heart. "My Aishe." he breathed and looked at her again. "I have missed you daughter, it has been so long, too long."

She saw the shimmer of tears in his eyes and her heart ached, whatever had happened that night had been awful. She may have been saved and safe in America, but he had suffered, his daughter had been presumed dead. All these years, all the lost time, she felt tears glisten on her cheeks, he brushed them away with a warm tan palm. "Gods, my Aishe has returned." She didn't have the heart to correct him on the name. She didn't have the heart to leave the arms of a father that was really her father. She had said goodbye to the man who had loved and cared for her all her life. Now looking up she was saying hello to the father she had never met, the one who had missed her. Her a cripple. She smiled at him and hoped he hadn't seen her limp, she didn't want to ruin the loving gaze he set on her.

Chapter 12: Report

Watching his master was comforting. Zarek had watched Anubis deteriorate into the dark side of himself for years since Juliet had gone missing. But seeing the jackal god now, he was calm, he was happy. That was rare since he showed his relaxed side with only Kebechet and Anput. Since Anput was dead to them he was now coming back to life. Juliet clung to him her real father, Zarek's heart thumped for them. What would it be like for a child that was his to hug him? Would he have the same look of rapture that Anubis had? Zarek suspected not, no one would breed with a monster like him.

Anubis pulled back from Juliet and smiled at her, his dark gold eyes were twinkling with life once again, it was worth it. It was so worth it to give up the past twenty years to find her. The look on her face made it all the more worth it. "I assume you're tired, I have a room readied for you, go and rest we will catch up later." Anubis stepped back and stopped as Juliet held onto his hand, she smiled at him with her teary eyes before she nodded and let go. Anubis smiled and waved for a servant to come. "Take them to Anput's quarters. Zarek come and report to me."

With a last look of longing Anubis turned and left the foyer to head down a long hallway to wherever he had taken up space. Zarek nodded to Cain as they moved to get Juliet back into her self. She was crying in silent sobs. "Is this really okay?" She asked. Cain touched her cheek, "He doesn't know, I couldn't move, my leg..."

"Princess, your father won't care about your leg." Cain whispered to her.

"I don't want to fail him." She sobbed and Cain enveloped her in his arms. Zarek stood back, not wanting to encroach but simmering with the desire to do so. "He's everything I thought he would be... but he's a god... Isn't it a shame to have a cripple like me?"

Zarek couldn't stand back anymore, he cupped her cheek and stared into her gold eyes, she blinked back the tears and he traced her cheeks, then her lips with his thumb. "Princess... Anubis is... I swear to you he is never going to see you as a cripple. You are his daughter, the one he didn't think he could have after Anput died. You are a ray of light in this dark castle. He loves you, he always has and always will." Zarek spoke, his eyes dark he stepped back when all of his being screamed to kiss her. Wipe the insecurity away, who had hurt her this bad? He looked at Cain and his partner nodded, he took Juliet's hand and they began the trek up the long stairs to the floor where Anput had once taken up residence.

Zarek turned and allowed his human guise to vanish, he stood in a leather pair of pants, his feet bare, his torso covered in gold jewelry, he lifted a hand and thumbed the gold hoop embedded in his left nipple, it was the band keeping his magic contained. Anubis had gifted him with more the world had ever known, but that was a secret even among the gods. He started forward and found his master in his oasis room. Kebechet had built it in memory of Anput, the spring in the corner gurgled the purest water in the world. Anubis was sitting on the edge staring into its depths. "It was like she wanted us to find her." Anubis mused. "Anput would have loved her better than any other had she been hers."

"The Mistress would have loved her either way my lord." Zarek said as he sank to his knees to bow. He pressed his forehead to the marble floor and waited for his master to address him.

"Indeed, Isis will be thrilled Aishe is back. But I do not trust the others." Anubis hissed. "Osiris and Horus left their scent all over that sight. I do not want her anywhere near Aishe."

"I agree, in the sunlight her eyes are blue like Isis' eyes." Zarek said. "I did not tell her about her mother, I felt it a story for you to tell."

Peace Keeper

"Very good Zarek, now tell me what you have learned about her." Anubis spoke.

"The night she was presumed stolen and dead a human man found her before I did. The carrier couldnt be breached by god's so she remained untouched. The human took her to Cairo and adopted her within weeks. She was then taken to America to be raised." Zarek spoke, he watched the emotion on Anubis' face. He was eager to kwo but he feared what the knowledge would bring. "She was raised as his daughter Juliet Williams. She goes by Juliet."

"Juliet?" Anubis seemed to turn the name over and over, wondering about it.

"Yes, my lord I shoudl not be telling you this because it is her story to tell but she was severely injured two years ago." Zarek spoke. Anubis' eyes sharpened dangerously, as if determining the best course of action to punish Zarek. Zarek would take the punishment, that night was entirely his fault, he made many mistakes, but not taking the torture was the biggest one of all.

"How?"

"She was driving with her adoptive father, and a car caused them to swerve, she drove off a cliff and the fall killed her father." Zarek spoke. " I suspect her powers awoke then, they feel new unused. A peice of the door embedded itself into her leg and she had to have it reconstructed."

"Her leg?" Anubis looked horrified, his eyes dark with rage.

"Yes, she cannot walk properly on it, she has a heavy limp but she is well." Zarek sighed at what he was to share next. "My lord, her adopter had died and left her many debts. Because she shared his name his funeral costs as well as her hospital bills took up all of her money. The man was an archeologist and his dig funds were dried up, his loans went to her, his bills went to her. She was drowning in debt when I found her."

"He left her his debts?" Anubis looked thoroughly pissed off, ready to shift from mostly human to his jackal god state. Zarek nodded, and Anubis reigned himself in. "Pay the debts Zarek, and have what is left of the home brough here for her."

"It will be done." Zarek spoke. Anubis sighed, his eyes looked tired again, calculating.

"Isis said she should have a consort." Anubis said. "I amnot comfortable with the idea."

"Why my lord?" Zarek asked, daring to hope Anubis would offer him to her as a servant.

"The gods are petty, all loyal to Osiris, that serpent doesnt know the first thing of honorable marriage. I believe Ai- Juliet can make the decision herself about these things." Anubis sighed. "Zarek you are sworn to me, and I enjoy your company greatly, but right now I need you to protect Juliet."

"My lord what of you?" Zarek asked, he wanted to be an offering, btu he wanted to care for his master. Time had not been good to his mind, and the modern world was alien to Anubis. The gods were quickly adapting, and Anubis was content to remain as he was, without Zarek there was no money control. Zarek needed to care for his master until he caught up.

"Please, I would dare any god to come at me." Anubis huffed. "It is Isis I worry for, if those fools learn of ehr deception they will come for Juliet. I need you to protect her, that is what you are good at."

"I will do so my lord."

"Do not fail me this time."

Chapter 13: Anput

Juliet woke from her nap to hear Cain and Zarek in the outer room, they were discussing plans for her protection. She sat up in the huge bed to see a pale gray jackal on her bed. It looked at her and winked, bright golden eyes watching her. "Hello Aishe." It greeted her. She blinked and stared with disbelief. "I'm Anput."

"Arent you dead?" Juliet asked in a whisper.

"They cant hear you, I am merely here for you child." She smiled and walked the length of the bed to place her head on Juliet's hurt leg.

"Why?" She asked.

"You should have been my child, but I was killed Aishe, my body was lost and my soul seperated into pieces." Anput spoke, she sighed. "That murder ocured at the beggining of the century, I was weakened because our people are begging to give up on the old ways. Anubis needed the strength stolen from him eons ago."

"Stolen?" Juliet asked.

"Yes, we were a happy family, him, I and Kebechet." Anput looked at her. "We were always happy, we ruled over death, we were worshiped and seen for our might. But that usurper and his wife took our position. She caused this, I have always respected her but when she placed her husband back toghether and his powers changed... It was all over for us. We were at the bottom of the food chain."

"Who caused that?" Juliet asked. She was appaled.

"It is not for me to say, my time is limited, and I am destined for true death." She smiled and licked Juliet's stomach. "I am not meant to ba apart of this world anymore, but I can be your guide. I can help you for as long as you need me."

"What about Anubis, he would want to know you are still here." Juliet said.

"No, our time was done, when I died a part of him died with me." Anput sat up her fur rippling. "When you no longer need me I am going to return to where I came from."

"Where?"

"Inside Anubis' heart." She became mist and vanished.

"Wait, who is my real mother?" Juliet asked, the air seemed to vibrate with her laughter. Anput was an interesting woman, even if she was a jackal. Juliet looked around her new spacious room, it was golden with its marble, the bed itself was on a circular dais. She wondered if it was okay to stay here, if Anubis would look beyond her leg. She didnt want to leave, she wanted to enjoy this, she wanted to kow Anubis.

She stood and moved to change clothes, she'd taken a bath in the huge bath that was dominated by the marble sculpture of a jackal, she now knew it was a tribute to Anput. She smiled and wondered why she hadn't been born to Anput, she was loving even though Juliet wasn't her blood. That left the question who exactly was her mother. Once dressed Juliet decided to snek out of the room without Zarek and Cain. She wasnt in the mood to deal with their issues, she snuck out the side door in the bathroom, cleverly hidden by a hanging plant. She

Peace Keeper

was out in the hallway, she snuck down to the bottom floor and began to snoop.

She was stunned to find her father, he was speaking to a few oddly dressed men, when he looked up his jackal face shocked her. The long black ears perked and his golden eyes slid to her. Barking orders to the men they scrambled to obey. He walked over his human face returning, he looked at her and stood his ground a few feet away. He held out a hand. She looked at him warily then she hobbled to him. "So it is true." He breathed. She looked at him in shock. "I ordered Zarek to tell me everything."

"I'm sorry." She whispered.

"For what? An idiot human thinking he had control of the road?" Anubis huffed indignant. "I only wish we had been faster finding you, saving you from the carriage that night."

"Who attacked it?" She asked, curious about that herself. He looked away and ground his teeth, a tic worked into his jaw.

"We had suspicions, but we could prove nothing." Anubis sighed. He took her arm into his and began to walk towards a doorway to their right. "Let's feed you, I suspect the night treated you well?"

"I slept without any pain." She said.

"I'm glad." he said as they entered and elaborate modern kitchen. "Kebechet likes the modern world, she insists I convert everything to the modernized versions."

"I take it you don't like that much." Juliet stifled a smile.

"Sometimes I like it, the kitchen was a nice change, bathroom upgrades were nice as well. I do not however like the t.v. or the phones." He smirked and looked over at a clock on the wall. He began to count, and she looked at him questioningly. She frowned and jerked started as she heard running feet then in came Cain and Zarek scablight over one another. Anubis turned on them swiftly. "Late! Ten minutes late to be exact, good guards realize the moment the princess has escaped. For the failure you two don't get to sit in while Juliet and I get acquainted. Stay inside and remember your failure."

She tried not to smile as they looked at each other angry. It might not have helped that Anput had tweaked their hearing first, and who knew when it came back. But Juliet was looking forward to getting to know her real father. She'd speak to them later and attempt to wade through their personal mess of a life.

Chapter 14: Princess

All in all her meeting with Anubis was fruitful, though he didn't tell her about her mother yet. She was limping towards her room when she felt the two men at her side lift their hands to assist her. Usually she would snap at them to let her do things on her own, but it was nice to see people not unsure of her. Perhaps it was the constant reminder that her leg was bad in others' eyes, when she couldn't decide if they should ask to help or let her be. She hated that reminder. There was no uncertainty in their eyes, they would insist to help her unless she told them not to. She smiled as they arrived in the room, she saw no glimpse of Anput, but she had a feeling if the goddess wanted to speak again she'd appear.

"So what exactly can I do?" She asked.

"Whatever you want princess." Cain spoke, she rolled her eyes as she hobbled to a huge balcony. She breathed in the crisp air feeling a slight draft as the night air dusked the sky.

"That's not what I mean, Anubis said my powers can stop confrontation, and bring a air of peace to any I meet with." She said, "He also said the other gods will make offerings to gain my favor."

"They will, a type of bribe they can't revoke, it is a gamble to appease you." Zarek said, his gold eyes moved about checking the area, she looked around and saw nothing.

"Why?" Julie asked.

"Power such as yours is rare, there has been power of justice, and order, but never peace." Cain spoke, he leaned against the balcony railing, watching the room while Zarek watched the town below. She chose to look at the stars, it was so similar it was hard to believe she was in an alternate dimension. She looked at the stars and tried to imagine what it was she could do. She had stopped time, had seen the truth in that fight in the beach. She had even separated Cain and Zarek in the midst of a fight. Was that all she could do?

"Let me demonstrate." Zarek said as he grabbed Cain and slugged him hard, Juliet felt her eyes widen, Cain hissed and uppercutted Zarek, they started fighting violently, Juliet felt her soul scream and her skin cool to freezing as she watched them. She lunged and shouted, time stopped again, she looked at them as they stood frozen, a snarl on Cain's face, it was angry, he was venting his sorrow and fury. Zarek was venting his frustration at not being able to do anything. She felt that deep in her heart, it sang to her the method to fix the wrongs, she wanted to, gods she wanted to help them.

She quieted the fight and they shifted into animal forms, Zarek stopped as time restored. Cain was a bright white cat with gray spots down his spine, black markings circled his eyes, as he sat back and nodded. Zarek shifted back and she watched his eyes look at her. She now had the power to fix them, give them the love they deserved. But in doing so where did she end up, as strange as it was she liked that devotion in their eyes. It was the first time she had seen it in her lifetime. She needed to speak to Anput, she walked away and sure enough there she was her jackal form laying in the shadow of her bedroom. As she entered and closed the door Anput looked up at her. She sat on the bed and let her tears fall, she was horrible, why didn't she fix their problems as she knew she could?

"Why did your soul cry out for me child?" her white head looked up.

"I saw something in my power I have the means to fix, but I lack the courage to do so." Juliet rubbed her eyes.

Peace Keeper

"Sometimes when you have the gift to change things it is not always best to do so." Anput spoke, her golden eyes narrowed and she padded over laying her head on Juliet's cheek.

"I didnt fix it because I'm afraid of what will happen to me." Juliet punched the bed angry. "Thats wrong, its so wrong."

"Selfish impulses will be apart of you Aishe, it is in all of us." Anput spoke, she winked. "The tears you shed are for your heart, you dont want to be alone, I know this, but you must learn to chose the correct path."

"What is the correct path?" Juliet asked, her hands ghosted through the jackal as she stepped back.

"Only you can know this." Anput spoke before she vanished. Juliet frowned as she heard the knocking on the door.

"Princess?" That was Cain, he was breathign heavy, as if he couldnt fathom what was wrong with her. She sighed, of course they didnt know, she was in here.

"I'm sorry I fought with Cain, I just wanted to show you you can use your powers." Juliet yanked the door open her body thrumming with energy, she yanked both of them adn touched flesh her skin buring with the effort she was using to make them aware of the others feelings. She watched the understanding dawn on them and hoped she'd chosen correct.

"Just because you think something is right Zarek, doesnt make it so." She growled before she walked back into her room. Her eyes were a waterfall as she slid to the floor arms still holding the doors closed. Thsi was correct, what she had done was not selfish, they could have what they deserved, they wanted eachother and they deserved to try again. She crawled into her bed and cried herself to sleep.

Cain blinked as Juliet left them, his body was swarming with her energy, making him painfully hard, shit she had a way with her powers. But he now knew that was going on with Zarek, he'd been desperate to prove Cain's innocence and find the lost Princess he had thrown Cain to the wolves, it was unintetional but he had truely loved Cain back then. He knew that now, but as he heard Juliet weeping on the other side of the door he knew Zarek wasnt the only person who had wormed into his heart in a deep way. He looked at Zarek as he looked at Cain. "I'm so sorry." Zarek said. His golden eyes looked down, "I'm the worst."

"We both are." Cain said, he waved to the door as he heard Juliets sobs even off into sleep. "As we sit here realizing we were in love back then, our Princess is weeping because she thinks she's lost us."

"I know." Zarek looked at the door, his fingers ghosting over the handle. Then he pulled back and walked to his position on one of the chairs. He sighed and ran hands through his hair. "We cant pursue her Cain."

"I know, we're servents and she a princess." Cain sat across from Zarek and they stared for a long while, unwilling to admit further the feelings shimmering between them. Honestly Cain was feeling a stronger intensity from Juliet and they were at an impasse. They wanted her but they were worthless slaves to her name, pursuing her meant death. Plain and simple.

Chapter 15: Ascending

Zarek was ready to pull his hair out, mostly because he and Cain couldn't get close to their princess like they had before. She had built a solid fortress around herself that made them immediately forget what they were going to say to her. It had been a full week since their shut out, she had withdrawn herself from them, and they were relegated to being exactly what Anubis wanted them to be. Guards. In exactly three days she was going to meet the rest of the gods, and she had yet to ascend to her true powers. Anubis had offered a way to try and she had accepted without fail. Zarek wanted to rip his hair out now because as she stood on the edge of the portal Anubis at her side as they spoke in ancient words of a cleansing spell. The drum beats around them was enticing, calling to the goddess within her as it called to the beast in him. He looked at Cain and saw his partner struggling too.

"She is ready, travel until you are content you have awoken the goddess sleeping inside you Juliet," Anubis spoke, she looked at him with all the adoration Zarek craved to see towards him. He was aching for her, but she was adamant that they would stay away from her. "Zarek, Cain, you will follow behind her and protect her from the humans passing by, you are to remain in animal form and do not interfere with her attempt."

Zarek shifted and Cain followed, Juliet looked back the filmy white dress that covered her made her look pure, like the goddess she was, she stepped forward and began to limp through the portal, Zarek and Cain waited a moment then they followed her. Zarek trotted after her as Cain bounded to keep up, he snatched the cat up and they followed her. She was limping but her energy was rolling in the sands, it was night time, and the chill breeze was all over, he wanted to warm her but as he tried to shift he realized he couldn't. He dipped his head as he stopped. Cain looked at him helplessly, he set him down and they stared after Juliet who continued to take her even steps that were even for her. She glared ahead and Zarek was helpless, he couldn't speak to her, he couldn't help her, she was going to continue and become the goddess she was meant to be, heal everyone... even him and Cain... she was alone, she was empty. He could do nothing.

Juliet was filled with energy, feeling the elements around her, especially her two guards behind her, she was cold. She was so cold she was sure her heart would crack from the cold. She was so empty she was sure the power would give her purpose, maybe she could find a consort that wouldn't look at her leg and think cripple. But this task had a reward, when she became a goddess and returned Anubis swore he would contact her mother and she would come to see her before the meeting of the gods. Juliet desperately wanted to meet her, she had never known a mother's love. Sure she had her father who had loved her the entirety of his life but Anubis was different, she felt the connection to him spirit deep.

She was so afraid, she felt so unsafe without Cain and Zarek watching her. Sure they were her guards but she felt an ocean between them now. She was empty, no one had looked at her the way they did. But it was an escape from the problems between them, she refused to be a distraction. She deserved to be seen, she deserved to be loved for the woman she was not the cripple she was limited to be. She looked up at the moon and slid to the ground her eyes welling with hopeless tears. She crumpled in around herself and wept. Why was she so broken? If she were normal perhaps she could have been more on Zarek and Cain's radar.

It was so uncharacteristic of her to like two men at once, to imagine horrible things about them, her mind when blank and her body heated up everytime. She punched the cold sand beneath her, angry with herself and her failings. She wasn't worth the devotion of any man. She had fixed the problems between Zarek and Cain, that should be the end of that. But why did her heart scream out for her to turn around right now and tell them how she felt. She screamed in raw emotional agony. She wanted to be free of these stifling emotions, it was too much.

Peace Keeper

She heard the wind howl around her and she looked up seeing a dust storm raging towards her, she stared at it in horror, she wasn't able to run from that. She'd get barely three feet before it barreled over her, she shifted to stand in fear as she felt Zarek and Cain run past her, their animal shapes weak against the wind that howled through their fur and through her hair. It was close, they'd get swept away. She threw herself over them and flattened them against the ground, the wind was biting, the sand that flew was like blades. Zarek was snarling and squirming as Cain hissed and tried to get free. She closed her eyes and held them under her, ignoring the pain that wracked her back and arms.

She felt peace overcome her as her power burned deep inside her, waking from somewhere deep in her soul. She felt the wind dissipate around her as she stood, she floated into the air her arms stretched wide. It was like the sun was on her face, warming her entire being. She breathed out as she was filled with the knowledge of her power, her abilities, who she was. She blinded and stared at glowing gold hieroglyphs that floated around her, all detailing who she was, what her powers were, they sank into her skin one by one, she swirled in the air feeling alive, feeling as if she could control the stars themselves if she wanted to. She sank to the ground and realized she was smaller than she had been originally, she looked around and saw white feathers around her. Zarek and Cain were in human form looking at her in awe, she turned away. "You ascended." Zarek breathed.

"Your animal of spirit is a egret." Cain looked at her in surprise, she looked away and lifted up only to feel one of her legs crumple beneath her. She closed her eyes, still a cripple even if she was an animal. She hissed and looked back at them. "You can't move?"

"Imagine yourself back into human shape." Zarek said, she closed her eyes and willed herself back, she was surprised to see she was. She looked at them and stood with effort but made her way back to the porta, she could feel its heat now, it was a beacon towards her home. "Wait, princess."

"Stop." Juliet hissed, she jerked away from his outstretched arm, "I fixed you both, leave me alone."

"That's just it, you fixed us." Zarek spoke, "You fixed us but we still fight, we still want to kill each other."

"We need balance Juliet." Cain whispered, she stepped away from him too and swatted his hand away. "You are our balance."

"I intended to stay away as you bid us to, but just now you covered us from the wind storm trapped as we were." Zarek closed the distance and his scent was all she could sense, Cain came up behind her and she was covered in their energy, she tried to escape, but she found her power abandoning her, hiding from her grasp. "You saved me, and ascended, I can't stay away."

"May we be killed for our absurd desires." Cain's lips met her neck as her hair was swept to the side, she shivered as her skin heated. She blushed and tried to step aside, her leg buckled but they caught her sitting in the sand her back against Cain's chest, his legs bracing her sides. She looked at Zarek as he leaned in his breath ghosting over her lips.

"Forgive me princess, forgive me Juliet, but I'm unable to mind my place." He kissed her, she moaned as the kiss was joined by Cain's hot mouth on her neck, her shoulder, her ear. She was blanketed by their safety, their energy, she was here drowning in these two men. "If I have to keep you in the desert and hide from Anubis I will, gods Juliet I won't be able to stay away from you."

"It's okay." She breathed as Cain laughed.

"It's not, when Anubis find out we came on to you he'll have us killed." Cain chuckled, "If I have to die, I want to die for a reason my princess, let me be with you if only for tonight."

Peace Keeper

"Me too, let us share you, show you what it is to be seen as a woman, not a goddess, not a cripple, but a woman." Zarek smiled as she looked at him then Cain, she didnt want them to die if they really truely lusted for her. She was finally feeling peace withing her even as her body heated up at the prospect of making love to them.

"Okay." She breathed just as they moved in to kiss her one at a time.

Chapter 16: Belonging

Juliet was on fire, her power had awoken deep within her, and she had learned that Cain and Zarek had not forgotten her. They were determined to be with her, as evident in the way they held her between them, Cain's lips caressing Juliet's ear. And Zarek's hands slowly lifting her gauzy gown up her legs. As if on que bot men laid hands on her scarred leg, one up near her hip, the other curled above her knee. She wanted to squirm as pleasure came from their gentle massaging hands. She hissed in surprise and Zarek lifted the dress off of her. "Blanket the area in your power." Cain instructed. "Lets make this last."

When was the last time she'd been with a man? She wondered about that and found it had been too long. She moaned as Zarek's hands engulfed her breasts, Cain's roved across her stomach, up to join Zarek's hands then up to sink into her hair. Unable to stand it one hand slipped around Zarek's shoulders, the other curved back to draw Cain in for a smouldering kiss. She was lost then, a blur of actions that led to them both sinking fingers deep inside her, she was wet panting as they flicked her walls and drove her body insane. Cain rocked her back as she felt him pressed against her back, Zarek leaned over kissing her as he and Cain exchange a look. Cain nodded and leaned her fully against him as Zarek stripped down. She marveled at the lean hard muscles of his body. Damn he was sex on a stick, she look one look at him and was in awe. This man was sculpted all over. He came to her and damn did she want to be fucked into the sand. He crawled to her his body liquid in movement, she had no doubt this man would wow her universe.

She was aware of Cain's hands sinking to her entrance, she hissed at the contact, archign for more contact, Zarek's erection was there, the blunt tip of him sinking into her as Cain's fingers squeezed them, She cried out as Zarek sank into her completely. Her head was tossed back over Cain's shoulder, Zarek started moving and she was an inferno of desire. Her body was screamiong for more as he sank deep into her, added sensation of Cain massaging her and runnign his other hand over the rest of her made her want to scream in ecstasy. She did when Zarek growled her name to the sky, she was up there with him, it was an explosion of bliss that had her clutchign onto him as Cain milked them for what they were worth. She was reeling when they switched places.

How she could tell the difference between them was stunning, but when Cain slid deep inside her, still quivering and wet from Zarek, she instantly felt a shift in the air. She could tell he was not as wide as Zarek, but damn did he cuve in just the perfect place to cause her to cry out again. Cain lifted her up into his arms, one hand curving below her the other bracing on the ground. His hips pistoned up into her and he lowered to the ground with her on top. Zarek was suddenly there, assisting helping her moved ontop of him. She arched as he sank deep inside her. What was is with these men? She didnt have to speak, but looking down into Cain's face, agonized by the pleasure that was reeling inside him. The same look of pure bliss that Zarek had had. She was in love, she knew it and it sank into her just as she felt her body rising towards another orgasm. Cain panted, "Thats it." He breathed, his hand came up cupping her face, "Give it all to us."

She came hard as his voice resonated deep inside her, her power rushed forth and Cain roared his climax. She felt her power swirling and she cried out as the gold light that had given her power swirled and branded both men. Cain's arm was emblazoned by a bird. She looked back at Zarek and he had a bird of the same type on his chest. She looked down as her hip burned, right above her damaged leg was the swirled shape of a bird, a cat, and a jackal. She smiled and felt with the power of peace there was serenity between them. They were hers and she was theirs, Cain sat up and kissed her, his tongue danced with her, then he pulled back and Zarek took possession of her lips. She was a goddess, and she had ascended; she was rightfully where she knew she was susposed to be. Gordon would have died to know the truth of her, his desire for knowledge was living on in her and she missed him. But she would look forward now, she had power, she wasnt going to let Zarek and Cain die because they desired her as she did them. She smiled and stood up, her dress rematerialized on her and she held out hands, they shifted into animal form and they moved towards the path to the portal once

Peace Keeper

more.

Cain padded quietly as they entered the Anubis Portal, truth be told he didn't want to die, he wanted to explore everything there was to know about Juliet, and about Zarek. They were united again and this time she wouldn't shut them out. Anubis was there and joy filled as Juliet walked to him, a triumphant look on her beautiful face. He shifted forms as Zarek did, Juliet looked at Anubis. "Father." She said, her eyes widened at the words that struck the funeral god deeply. "I want to keep Zarek and Cain, they are my servants and my guardians."

"Anything you wish daughter." he smiled and nodded, the slave band around Cain and Zarek's arms turned ivory and they blinked at one another. She had claimed them, marked them as hers, Anubis looked to them. "Every need my daughter has will be taken care of by the both of you."

"My lady's will is mine." Zarek knelt and Cain followed.

"Your will is mine princess." Cain spoke. A shout rang out as a bolt portal opened and out walked Isis. her long black hair glistened with gold and ornaments, she wore a white gown and she walked through with an air of dignity. She had bright blue eyes that landed on Juliet with disbelief and adoration.

"Daughter, this is your mother, Isis." Anubis announced.

Chapter 17: Isis

Nothing could describe the fear that iced Cain's heart, his elation at the band that was now bonded to his flesh. Looking at it he was reminded of the pleasure he'd found in the desert with Zarek and Juliet. But here looking at his former mistress he was unsure of her reaction to his no longer being her servant. His soul, his being now belonged to Juliet, to the goddess of peace Aishe. Juliet looked at Isis in shock, her eyes misted as she twisted away and abruptly vanished in the wink of an eye. Cain reached out for her as she vanished and froze as Isis' blue gaze fixed on him, noticing his presence. Zarek stepped between them, "What are you doing?" Cain hissed.

"Something I should have done a long time ago." Zarek growled as he looked back, "Go find her, this time I'm staying."

Cain touched his partners back but Zarek shrugged him off, Cain punched him then took off after Juliet. Any longer in Isis' presence and he feared she'd undo the gift that was Juliet's band on his skin. He flashed himself towards her, she was in the gardens. She was slumped next to the huge fountain pool, she was clutching her sides and trembling. Cain moved to her drawn to the woman that had captivated his soul. He touched her and she jerked looking up at him with wet eyes. Unable to bear her tears Cain gathered her into his arms. "Juliet..." he whispered.

"I can't see her Cain." Juliet spoke, her gold eyes lifted to him and he inhaled sharply, he wanted her again, gods would he never tire of the scent of her skin. He dipped his head and they kissed. Her hands gripped him violently and he growled, pulling back, he cupped her cheek.

"If you don't want to you don't have to." He spoke.

"My mother is Isis." She looked down at her hands. "She cheated on her husband."

"Isis is the sister to Osiris, they married to rule the gods. Set, their brother is a scheming and jealous god, he killed Osiris and scattered his body around the world. Isis and her sister set out to find and repair Osiris, in doing so they gave him life, he lost his powers over nature and became the god of reincarnation. He usurped Anubis as the primary god of death and funerals. Anput and Kebechet were furious they had lost their rights so easily. Anput and Isis never saw eye to eye, but when the ages took its toll on our kingdom Anput's heaven began to weaken, threatening the soul resting there." Cain sighed as he recapped the time in his own mind, seeing the ages as if they were happening anew, he'd lived them but now Juliet deserved to know the truth. "She sacrificed herself to fuel the heaven realm for eternity, her loss crippled Anubis, Kebechet rarely remains home often, she says she can feel her mother here, as the ages continued to pass Anubis found comfort in Isis, she herself refused to bare children for Osiris, Horus was her only child. Until you."

"She cheated with Anubis." Juliet sighed and Cain tipped her head up to meet his gaze, his beautiful mistress was crying because she felt alone. He hugged her and tried to soothe the truth to her, Isis and Osiris were more a political marriage than anything else. But who was he to speak the truth of that to her, Isis did indeed cheat on her husband. And that knowledge had been gained by prisoners during Cain's torture, the truth had been spread among the gods who silently snickered at Isis and wondered when Osiris would go after Anubis. But no one would dare, Anubis was the most mysterious of all the gods, history was full of lies and speculation about him and Cain suspected he wanted it that way.

"Yes." Cain answered, "The result of which gave Zarek and I purpose outside our usual stations, the result had been you, and without you Juliet, I find this world to suddenly lack color, lack the luster you taught me to see in the desert. Out there I learned that the blending of the Goddess of Motherhood and the God of Burial gave

Peace Keeper

Zarek and I a princess and goddess of Peace to worship. In you Juliet Zarek and I have found what we most desire."

"What is that?" She looked at him her eyes bright with curiosity.

"Your love." Cain whispered and she leapt in their mouth's clashing. He felt his body light with fire and he wanted nothing more than to take her here, but he felt a shift in the air, and sure enough when he stood he saw manifestations of reanimated demons. He held out his hand and summoned a short sword, Juliet rose to her feet and he kept her behind him. He didn't have Zarek to back him up, with Juliet behind him he couldn't outright go for them, it was dangerous. Almost immediately three dove for him, he stabbed one and flung him into the water, then he lopped the head off of another one. As he struggled he heard Juliet scream. Cain's body reacted on instinct, he shifted forms, but when he would usually be small and domesticated size he was monstrously huge. He towered over Juliet's form as he snatched the corpse up and tossed him. He slipped down and helped Juliet climb onto his back.

He ran off, seeking the castle, with one leap he was on the balcony, but the corpse walkers were already following him. He needed to get Juliet to safety, that was his first concern. He leapt up the walls climbing until he could run across the top, he soared out over the town until he landed in the square where Anubis was speaking to Zarek sharply. He turned and saw the corpse's chasing Cain and Juliet. Isis shouted as Anubis roared his fury, the corpses burst into flames and shattered into nothing.

He swept Juliet off of Cain's back and she clutched onto her father. He looked enraged, Cain felt enraged. As he shifted Anubis looked at him, "She has good taste in guards." He spoke before he led them back to the palace where more corpses were quickly dispatched. Anubis rounded to Isis the moment they were inside his blazing eyes made her shrink visibly. "How dare you allow them here, this is my domain."

"He goes where he pleases." She spoke looking to Juliet. "I am so sorry."

"It's Osiris isn't it?" Juliet looked up her gold eyes dark with anger. Cain watched Zarek go to her, he was too afraid to move, lest Isis looked at him and demanded him back. "He wants me dead."

"He won't succeed." Anubis spat, "I allow you here out of courtesy, this was what we had tried to avoid, and now look, thanks to your indiscretion Juliet is now a target, I am not comfortable having her at the summit."

"I will not allow my daughter to be killed." Isis hissed her blue eyes glowing in anger. "Do not mistake me for a fool Anubis, I don't control Osiris nor does he control me."

"Some would think otherwise Isis." Anubis turned and waved a hand. "Go back before he sends more minions for me to destroy."

"I came to meet my daughter." Isis insisted.

"Meet her again when it is safe." Cain spoke up, Isis looked at him sharply.

"I don't believe you have the right to address me slave." She snarled. "I don't desire the counsel of a failure guard. Summon us a portal and I will forget this in the wake of your success in bringing Aishe here."

"I cannot." Cain spoke.

"Excuse me?" Isis looked dumbfounded her eyes seemed impossibly bright but Cain held his ground.

Peace Keeper

"I cannot obey this order."

"I gave you life, and you seek to defy me once again?" She looked supremely pissed off. "I can end you just as I gave you form."

"I do not obey you anymore Isis." He spoke in such a way Anubis chuckled and Zarek smirked. Cain lifted the sleeve of his shirt to show his new slave band. "Princess Juliet holds my soul now."

Isis looked at him in fury then at Anubis, then she vanished. He closed his eyes and sank to the floor, Zarek was there this time, catching him. "Nice job Cain."

"Indeed feline." Anubis chuckled. "Daughter, this was not the meeting with Isis I wanted for you. She is a good woman, but like me she is of another age."

"It's fine, I need to figure all of this out before I meet her again." Juliet sighed and leaned on a wall, Cain found his footing and he stood back up. This time he'd faced his mistress with dignity, without fear. And now he was no longer bound to Isis. He was bound to Zarek, he smiled to himself and helped Juliet up the stairs, Zarek pulled up the rear and this felt right. He felt right helping his princess, he looked at Zarek who was smiling himself, what was the asshole thinking?

Chapter 18: Sit Down

Zarek waited for Juliet to choose her seat in her chambers before he forced Cain to sit as well. He moved to find the medical kit and once he did he motioned for them to show their wound. Juliet's feet were scraped, and Cain had various wounds on his body. All of which made Zarek tense more and more. "I should have followed." He hissed finally.

"I'm sorry, this wouldn't have happened if I hadn't run." Juliet winced as Zarek swapped her feet with antiseptic. He paused to instruct her on how to heal and with a violent wince on her face the cuts healed instantly. Zarek turned to Cain who looked indignant about being helped, a growl cut out of Zarek's mouth and Cain hissed.

"Relax." Cain snarled. "I handled it just fine, or did you want to do it all by yourself again?"

"That's not what I—" Zarek started his temper rising as Cain cocked an eyebrow.

"What did you mean?" Cain demanded. "Are you saying I didn't protect the princess as well as you could. If I seem to remember you stayed behind. As afraid as I am of Isis I still stood up to her, I still went after Juliet, I am not ashamed to admit I am afraid. I handled my first battle in her defense exceedingly well."

"Hey, guys—" Juliet started.

"I'm not saying you didn't, Cain, I'm saying I should have been there to help." Zarek said.

"So I can't handle a few reanimated corpses without the all mighty Zarek to protect me." Cain stood up angry and Zarek followed, damn this prickly idiot for his sensitive attitude. And damn himself for not being able to word how he felt for Cain and his safety, for Juliet's safety. Juliet stood between them and shoved them apart, her hands jolted them into a calm that made them relax instantly.

"What Zarek is trying to say is that he should have followed to make sure you didn't get so injured, because he cares about your well being." Juliet said, her eyes glowing blue in the light. She huffed and pulled Zarek down to her level, "Thank you for the concern, but I was safe, the next time you can run after my dumb ass."

"Juliet—" Cain said she turned to him and kissed him fiercely. Zarek watched with heat in his blood, he wondered what had happened to her.

"Thank you Cain." She smiled and flopped back into her seat. "Now, Zarek, patch him up while we discuss this."

Zarek sat and Cain sat across from him on the table. Zarek moved to clean Cain's wounds, the feline hissed every so often until a tender spot made him jerk. "Don't be such a kitten." Zarek chuckled.

"Shut up." Cain growled.

"So Isis is my mother, she cheated on Osiris and had me." She said and reclined before she frowned. "How do I change clothes?" She asked.

"Imagine what they look like on you and the outfit will change." Cain explained as Zarek got the bandages out, he started bandaging the cuts and scrapes. All mostly superficial, about two days and he'd be good as new.

Peace Keeper

"Your mother went out in the desert on a journey she'd claimed. Cain went with her as protection, but it was a ruse, she went to hide her pregnancy, and when she was close to birth, Osiris felt her weakening, and sent Anubis to find her. So he took me with him and we sought out Isis, when we found her she was giving birth. The moment Anubis saw the baby he knew you were his. He was angry and Isis fought him over you for days. Until finally they struck a deal." Zarek said. "I've said this before but they knew you would only be safe if Anubis claimed you to be his power child. So he took you in and claimed you would need a mother's help in growing. So Isis volunteered."

"Then you were farried between the two kingdoms, mostly through the portals to keep the other gods at bay." Cain said. "The night you dissapeared the caravan that was taking you from me to Zarek was attacked."

"By who?" Juliet asked and Zarek inhaled, he remembered that night clearly, remembered the scents and heat off the sand mingling with the chill of the air.

"By Horus and Osiris." Zarek said. " We cannot rove it but seeing the undead attack tonight means they know who you are."

"That would be my fault." Cain sighed and Zarek looked at him in shock, he lifted a hand and ran it through his hair. "See when Zarek left to hunt for you I was left to take the fall in front of the gods."

"Cain-" Zarek started.

"I've told Juliet the calm version of this but here it is," Cain breathed and Zarek watched the way his throat moved, the way his eyes darkened in rage. "When you left Isis blamed me for negligence, and Osiris leapt on it, to cover his ass. Unlike Osiris Anubis still has most of his power, like Ra, Isis, and Horus. To keep Anubis from deciding it was time to take back the role as death deity he ordered my execution."

"Cain!" Zarek was shocked, that news hadnt been shared with him. All this time, he'd been gone, he'd neglected his partner and left him for dead.

"Bast spoke up for me, saying that it wasnt me who had kidnapped the child so I shouldn't be killed to save face. Anubis agreed, but Isis was livid. Her only daughter had been stolen, so she ordered me tortured instead. So I was taken to the lower realms and tortured along side the sinners. By her because she had no one to lash out at, and by Osiris because he couldnt kill me. In the dungeons, they thought themselves safe, and Isis spoke freely of you and her affair with Anubis. I suspect Osiris didnt know about you only that your power could dwarf his if trained properly. So when he learned of the affair through the prisoners he's decided to kill you to hurt Anubis. Since he wont attack outright."

"Shit." Juliet rubbed her jean covered leg and Zarek touched her hand.

"Your power doesnt rely on worshipers. Your power is sentient, much like Kebechet's is, as well as Isis. As long as people in the world desire or achieve peace you are fueled by that. That includes when you help us stop fighting." Zarek said and sat back. "We will protect you, and we will teach you how to keep Horus and Osiris at bay."

"I almost think she should elist a subject from Set." Cain said and frowned at his own thought.

"Osiris and Horus wouldnt be able to attack her then, a Set follower would be able to prove we're correct, or even keep them from acting for fear." Zarek said. Juliet paused.

"Wait Set is the evil god right?" She asked.

Peace Keeper

"He is the god of Storms, and Chaos." Cain explained. "He actually has a lot of animal shifters, Anubis will be demanding that offerings be given to please Juliet, in hopes of her assistance. You must remember that if we do seek Set's assistance he might not accept without a deal in place."

"Because Peace is the opposite of Chaos." Juliet sighed. "Maybe not."

"What?" Zarek looked at her confused.

"I'm going to ask Set for help, maybe not to kill Osiris and Horus but to have him help me fight them. Peace is sometimes found in the center of Chaos, sometimes it must be achieved through violence." Juliet smirked and Zarek was struck by how cunning she really was. Cain laughed and Zarek joined him.

"Princess, sometimes you amuse me, you're vicious." Cain smiled. "Alright, let's go talk this over with Anubis and set up a meeting with Set."

Zarek couldn't agree more, the more help Juliet had the stronger she'd be, and the less danger she'd be in. If they could keep Osiris and Horus away she'd be just fine.

Chapter 19: Desert Storms

Juliet had to say as she accompanied her father into the temple of Set, that this place was a lot more modern, it was still made of marble and stone, it even had modern technology running through it, but she felt the air. It was dark, it breathed along her like a kindred spirit. They stepped possibly ten feet in before a man appeared, he wore leather pants and a gold silk shirt opened over a golden tanned torso, ripped just as intensely as her fathers. "Ah, Anubis." He spoke, "How are you?"

He had long black hair that was swept from his face leaving his savage looks for the taking, her father greeted him by returning to his mostly human form, his gold eyes shone just as bright as this man. "Set, I am mostly well, and you?" Anubis spoke.

"As well as I can." He smirked then laid eyes on Juliet with darkness. "Daughter of Isis."

"Daughter of Anubis." She snapped. He smirked wider and held out a hand, she took it and he smiled wider.

"She has spunk my friend." Anubis rolled his golden eyes and Set leaned over examining the guards, he seemed to inhale and assess them. "Fair enough, lets go and sit, this business intrigues me."

They walked and Juliet waved Zarek and Cain back a few paces with Anubis' guards. She followed her father into an opulent room where Set flopped into a chair and they sat in opposite ones. She looked Set over and he appeared dark but not as evil as everyone had said. "So, why have you come here instead of going to my dear sister for assistance?"

"Isis is part of the problem." Juliet spoke, Set looked at her amused.

"I can imagine why, her idiot husband is quite an issue. I am quite surprised you were ballsy enough to sleep with her." Set smiled his dark gaze amused and he rubbed his palms. "I had thought I'd done a favor ensuring she didnt bear incestuous children but I suppose I failed."

"Youre one to talk fool." Anubis ribbed.

"My sisters have problems I understand this, " Set grumbled and looked aside. "So everyone knows now, why are you here?"

"Osiris sent his undead to attack Juliet." Anubis indicated. "I fear for her safety since we cant predict their movements."

"As I can see, your feline is expecially injured." Set waved to Cain, "Good job snatching him away too."

"Lets not beat around the bush anymore." Juliet said, "I need one of your people."

"Ah, you want to claim one of my breed as your servent too?" He scowled. "Why should I do that?"

"Because we are kindred spirits." She said, he rose a brow. "I may be the goddess of peace, but even Chaos breeds peace, in your most dangerous Desert Storms, there is always the one place of peace inside it."

"Indeed, we go hand in hand." He smiled.

Peace Keeper

"If I swear an alliance with you shall we do this, I offer you peace in all its forms and you give me a servant to help detect when Osiris and Horus attack."

"It would certainly piss them off wouldnt it?" He appeared to think it over. "I want a demonstration."

"What?" Anubis asked his dangerous gaze sharpening.

"I'll have you look at my shifters, if you can find peace to be gained with any of them, its yours to take, after that you work peace for my Chaos." He spoke. She nodded it was a fair trade.

"Come!" Set shouted, three soldiers appeared. All garbed in black, one with bandages around his face, another had a head dress, the last was bare to the gaze. His black hair was long and braided behind him. She stood and Zarek helped her walk over, "Wait, you are crippled?" Set asked. She watched the soldiers look at her, disdain on two faces, the sharpening of the eyes on the bandaged man. She frowned and allowed her power to flow into her, she lifted up her power fueling her, she stepped forward and touched the bare faced man, he arched his eyes glazing in gold. She could sense his anger at the loss of his family due to Osiris' cruelty. She could offer him no peace, but she did mend the broken feel of his soul, he could love again, btuit would take time for him to forget his hatred.

"I'm sorry, I cannot give you peace, I have eased the pain but only you can move on." She breathed and patted his cheek, he nodded, then stepped back. She touched the other one, he was born to be Set's soldier, his power was dangerous, a double edged sword, he lashed out in his time and slaughtered an entire villiage because he was marked by Set. The lower kingdom demanding his death, he'd annihilated everything, and he was afraid to get close to anyone. He always destroyed what he touched. There was a woman, one he'd hurt, but she lived, she'd survived the attack and still yearned for him.

"I cant offer you peace to quiet the voices, but someone can, Dalila can, she yearns for you as you do her." She spoke to him and his stormy eyes seemed to widen in surprise. She smiled and stepped to the last man, his aura berrated her with anger and regret. She touched his shoulder and she cried out, he was once Osiris' soldier, he'd been bron to it. But when he died Set took him in, saving him from the razing of Osiris' people. He'd showed promise, and this man came willingly. Osiris had used him, slaughtered his family personally. She inhaled as she saw Set give him purpose, give him new life, but he was unfulfilled. This was not his place. He did not belong in Chaos. She felt his eyes onher and she felt him sense in her the same difference. He was crippled like she was, he had a horrible scar along his face. She reached up and pulled the bandages down. The scar ran down his jaw, right up to his lips, she touched it and saw that no one wanted him due to the scar.

"I am the same as you." She swept her gown aside and showed him the extent of her leg wound, "No one will come near me either."

"Lady, I dont need pity." He growled.

"I offer you none." She spoke and traced the scar, she leaned up kissing it, he shook in her grasp. "I offer you the chance to help me live, where Osiris would see me dead. I have just learned of this life, I have just found the place I want to be. Join me in it, and held me overcome this short comming." She patted her leg and he looked at her torn, his white eyes dark with want, she smiled. "What is your name?"

"Typhon." He breathed.

"I am Juliet." She smiled. "Set, you and I have a deal."

Peace Keeper

She touched Typhon and he cupped her hand to his face, she smiled and looked back at Zarek. "He's our new ally." Zarek and Cain nodded and Set stood up, he walked over and touched Typhon's shoulder. He cried out as Set removed his brand from his flesh.

"You are free of me, so I expect you to take care of my niece and see to it Osiris doesn't get to claim another person to his ego." Set commanded. "As for you dear Juliet, show me peace."

She touched Set's outstretched hand and inhaled, she melded into his mind and felt his stormy personality, then she laughed as she saw everything about him. "You don't need peace, you've had it all along."

"Indeed, you are welcome here anytime niece." He laughed with her and touched her face. "This is the child I would have liked to have seen my sister have. Horus is an idiot and a fool, but you, you understand the universe. I am proud to see you join my bloodline."

She walked to Zarek as he helped her to Anubis, her father took over and they bid their leave, she smiled and looked back at her companions. She now had help in all forms.

Chapter 20: Newest Edition

He had to admit, in all his long life, he'd never met anyone quite like the trio that had claimed him from his former master Set. Typhon was a dangerous, violent, assassin, his might and deeds were feared by all the gods. But in the wake of the tiny woman who led them through the opulent palace of Anubis he found himself ensnared by her power and beauty. She had met his turbulent mind and eased his fury, she was something else, something that needed to be protected. And if Osiris and Horus came for her he'd ensure they fell to his blade. They entered a room that belonged to her, and she waved everyone in, Zarek and Cain he knew of, but they had never truly met before. Typhon had received an order for their heads a long time ago, but because it came from Osiris he ignored it.

"Hello, I'm Juliet." She spoke, and flopped into a chair, her clothes shifting to jeans and a t-shirt. She was odd Typhon had to admit; but it was a good odd. "This is Zarek and Cain, they are my guards and caretakers. But even I have to admit my supposed brother and step father want me dead."

Typhon felt rage move through him, he narrowed his gaze and her two guards watched him warily. "None will harm you so long as I serve you." Typhon vowed.

"See I told you Set has the best warriors." Cain smirked. "And Typhon's the most powerful one Set has."

"Had." Zarek said and looked at Typhon. "I can trust you won't betray us?"

"Her slave band circles my flesh, so long as she wills it I am her servant." Typhon said, Juliet narrowed her eyes.

"Take the bandages off, here I am who I am, those that are mine can be as well." She said, he blinked as fear sank through him, no one liked to see the ruin that was his face. She had touched him and not shied away, but what about now that she wasn't with an audience of gods? He lifted a hand and pulled the bandages down freeing his face from their confines. She smiled warmly, and that burned inside him. Zarek and Cain took in his scars and nodded then sat as well. Typhon felt his heart swell for once in his life, he hadn't been the object of discussion, nor was anyone afraid of him.

Juliet waved her hand and he sat across from her. "Now, let's discuss the rules." She smiled and pulled her hair back. "I'm not that good with my powers, so I've been faking it most of the time." She smiled again and laughed. "So I'm leaving it to you guys to act along with me when we meet the other gods."

"No problem." Cain said. His white blond hair slid as he nodded.

"Then, there comes Isis." Juliet sighed. "I don't know if I'm ready for that yet."

"You don't have to see her if you aren't ready." Zarek huffed.

"And her husband and son?" Juliet asked.

"Leave them to me." Typhon growled. "They wouldn't dare come after you with me at your side."

"Good, now; no one bothers me while I'm alone in my room, if I want you you can come in." She said and looked at Typhon meaningfully, then she smiled slowly. "I'll leave the security up to you three."

"Easily done." Zarek said and looked at Typhon.

Peace Keeper

"I can watch whatever you want me to." Typhon said.

"Then its settled, I'm going to clean up." Juliet smiled. "Dont kill each other and no peeking."

She hobbled off as Cain snorted, "I'm gonna peek." He laughed. Zarek growled at Cain, then lunged.

"Want to die?" He growled as they tussled on the floor then started laughing. Typhon was amused by them, at the easy exchange, would being here bring him the same relief? He wondered what bein their newest edition would mean.

Chapter 21: To Serve

Zarek was leaning on the balcony when Typhon joined him, back to being covered. He leaned looking out at the mystical air of Duat and the rising sun. "So what now Zarek?" Typhon asked. "I remember her being attacked, the wind told us in Set's kingdom."

"Now we protect her at all costs. After the Summit she may have to go to each kingdom and bring peace to all who request it." Zarek rubbed his temples. "Fuck I would rather take her out to an oasis, create a place there and protect it from anyone foolish enough to approach."

"It would be safer." Typhon admitted. "I suggest we start with Bast, she isn't a fool and isn't tied into Osiris and Isis's bullshit."

"That is a good idea, maybe after another peaceful unattached god, the less we have to deal with Osiris the better." Zarek rubbed his face and looked back in.

"So did you and Cain reconcile?" Typhon asked. Zarek looked at him in shock. "We all knew, especially those of us who are assassins."

"I guess, we fight, differing personalities and species." Zarek waved a hand. Then he turned around as Juliet walked out to join them. "Princess, are you well?"

"I'm fine, just thinking." She settled into a chair and Typhon crossed to her. Zarek watched as his heart warmed. She settled her palm on her knee and Typhon began to knead the flesh of her scarred leg. "I'm going to make sure your father isn't drowning in paperwork, Cain is inside, Typhon watch is yours."

He left after Juliet kissed his cheek. He patted Typhon's shoulder and walked back into Juliet's suite. Cain was passed out on the couch and Zarek smiled. He trailed a few fingers over his hair and walked off.

Juliet looked at Typhon, he tugged his black bandages down and she reached out a hand to brush over his scar. He looked up eyes bright. "I'm glad you joined us." She smiled. "I think you can understand me the best."

"I think you don't give Zarek and Cain enough credit princess." Typhon said.

She smiled and leaned back looking up. "They have watched over me since I was a baby." She said and then looked down her gold eyes sinking into him. "They have given me something I never thought I would have. Family, security, and unbiased love."

Typhon settled on one knee as he kneaded the flesh just inside her thigh. She covered his hand with her tiny one. "I think you need the same kind of warmth in your life." She leaned forward and captured his lips with hers. His silent gasp was followed by one of his hands coming up to her neck. She swept her tongue purposefully over his lip where the scar split it. Then he tugged her closer his tongue darting to battle hers. Then the kiss burned hot with need and desperation. Typhon pulled back and she looked into bright stormy eyes. "I like you Typhon, you understand me. I love Cain and Zarek, if you can bear to share I will welcome you to this intimate side of me."

He looked lost and overwhelmed and looked at her neck he still held, her eyes that no doubt glowed with power. "I want you Princess." He breathed.

Peace Keeper

"Good. I want you too." Juliet smiled. She kissed him again and stood up. "I'm going to sleep, be careful."

"Sleep well Princess." Typhon said and kissed her knuckles before he started to wrap his head once more. He was young, barely into his twenties by his looks. Juliet didn't doubt his age was vastly more than hers but she wanted to see him out of his shell, they were bringing her out of hers. If anyone could be by her side she wanted it to be Typhon as well as Zarek and Cain. That was what she wanted. She was safe around them. She gave a lingering look to Typhon and entered her room.

The Jackal was waiting for her. "Anput." She smiled and hobbled to the bed.

"You brought yourself a Set follower." Anput spoke. "That is good, they protect Ra himself."

"Yes, now I just have to survive the Summit." Juliet sat down and looked up. "I wish life could be simple like in America, but even there I felt different."

"I think it's time you built the trust with your lovers. Peace between all three of them." Anput said. "Have a cohesive unit before you enter into other lands. As much as Anubis and I would come to help we cannot leave the death lands."

"I will have to rely on them and myself to survive." Juliet nodded. "Form alliances."

"Yes," Anput said. She leaned up and nuzzled Juliet's face. "Kebechet is in Bastet's kingdom. She will be a powerful ally. Her allies will join your bid for peace. Build from there and be the goddess you are inside."

"And my mother?" Juliet asked as her heart clenched. "I should meet her, try to understand her."

"Yes, but she is embroiled in her husband's hold, her son's corruption. She fought tooth and nail to protect that boy and still his father corrupted him. If you could bring peace to Horus you could bring peace to Isis and rise up against Osiris's tyranny." Anput said. "But before then, you should meet Ra himself."

"Ra, the king of us all?" Juliet asked.

"Yes, he is weakened since Horus stole Hathor from him. She was his daughter and would have been his consort if she'd been able to sway him. So Horus took her and she has been with him ever since." Anput said. "You would have a great ally in Ra, he respects our power and your father."

Juliet pondered that and wondered. She nodded and stood up rubbing her leg absently. "You think he wouldn't see me as a cripple?"

"Ra is a good god, he would look at your leg and see it whole. Your limp doesn't define you." Anput said and stood up the ghostly sound of her claws made Juliet look down. "It makes you even more beautiful."

Chapter 22: Summit of the Gods

It was the day of the summit and Ra was thoroughly irritated. Hu and Sia continued to pester him into listening to news he cared little for. Both of his blood creations followed him, garbed in assassin armor and white cloth. "The lost daughter of Anubis has been found." Hu said suddenly and Ra froze. He looked back and they stopped looks of relief of their faces. "Jackal gaurdian Zarek found her in America. Mau gardian Cain and the assassin Typhon have banded together to protect lady Aishe of Peace."

"Peace you say?" Ra asked. "She has returned home."

"The rumor of the lower places say she was attacked as a shild when she was ferried between Isis's portal to Anubis's. Rumors say she is actually Isis's daughter." Sia said.

"I've heard it was Osiris and Horus who ordered her party attacked to eliminate any child of Isis's to live." Hu said and Ra lifted his brows.

"I've heard no such treachery." Ra stated. "But if they did indeed I would like to hear of it."

"Should I schedual a meeting with Anubis and Aishe?" Sia asked.

"No, inform Bastet I want them watched. I dont trust anyone around a new Goddess. They will try to take advantage of her. Bastet is the best at assisting growth." Ra said. "She's a protector."

"I'll give her your message." Hu said and walked off. Ra nodded and looked to his other follower.

"Well come on, we have a summit meeting to attend. I expect you to manage things fromt he shadows, my attention is going to be on the others and keeping Osiris in his place."

Juliet looked at her father as he paced in the waiting chamber they were in. She stood and settled her hand on his. "It'll be alright." She said smiling.

"I know, you are perfect." He sid cupping her cheek. "I just wish Kebechet was able to attend."

"I thought she was with Bastet." Juliet said her heart seizing at the missed oppourtunity to meet her sister.

"She was called off by her followers. A matter concerning her gaurd. She's much like you tied to her gaurds." Anubis sighed and scratched his neck. "She said she would meet you when you go to Bastet on your peace excursion."

"It's okay, Typhon told me how to act in these meetings and both Zarek and Cain taught me the proper ways to handle this kind of meeting." Juliet said smiling.

"I just worry Juliet." Anubis looked at her and then down. "It is Osiris and Isis I worry for. She's a mother above all else, desperate for you. And Osiris wants power. If Ra wasnt our leader Osiris would gleefully take the mantle."

"Father I think you are far more powerful as a God of Death." Juliet said and smoothed his face. "Now, let's go be gods, as everyone keeps telling me, thats what I am."

Peace Keeper

She turned and her plain clothes changed into that of a goddess. Flowing black fell from a gold collar around her neck. It covered her breasts and hooked down to her hips. Her back was bare, the belts of gold wrapped around her hips and bared her whole leg to view. She patted her hurt leg and looked up at her father. "Let's go." She slid her fingers into his palm and his head morphed into the one of the jackal.

They walked together the two guards of her father mixed with her three. She was safe, and right before they entered she looked back to her guards. Typhon nodded and Zarek smiled at her. Cain winked and she felt so much more at ease. That was until they entered the massive room. It had various dais's covered with silk and pillows. Anubis led the way over to one covered in black silk, one attached was covered in cream silk. Another was set up with silver. He handed her to the silver one and Zarek took the moment to help her sit down on a massive pillow. He then changed shape and draped himself on her side with the wounded leg. Cain followed suit and sat in her lap. Typhon settled in the shadows at her back. Her father lounged his two guards becoming jackals at his feet.

Juliet looked around, seeing Isis above, her dais covered in blue silk. Her husband's black as well as her father's, Horus's was a pale yellow. They were all dressed in white silk and gold adornments. Only Osiris's skin had a green hue to it and Horus wore the head of a bird. A falcon it would seem. She noticed more people, one goddess laid with a lion behind her. Another wreathed in cats. Bastet it would seem. There were many gods lounging and they were murmuring to each other. Juliet's eyes lifted as light blinded her. Right before her a man stood. He had pale golden hair and bright white blue eyes. He was muscular all over. He wore a long black robe with no sleeves. Ivory and silver bands covered his biceps and wrists. A small golden sun dangled from his ear and black leather coated his legs. Though his feet were bare. He rolled his shoulders and looked around the room. When his eyes landed on her she felt her heart race painfully.

They were frozen and her hands tightened on Cain and Zarek. The god before her looked down to her guards and stared in wonder at them. Then his eyes shifted to the shadows and he smiled. "Welcome Aishe Goddess of Peace." He spoke evenly. "I am so glad you were brought back well."

She nodded and smiled, he then turned away and settled in the center of the room, ivory and gold pillows appearing around him from nothing. "Welcome to the annual summit. Let's hear the news and set gossip to rest. The first thing on our agenda is Princess Aishe returning to Duat. The first Goddess of Peace to grace our lands."

Juliet waved a hand. And smiled her best serious smile. "What are your plans Peace Keeper?" Osiris demanded from his Dais built into the wall above. Juliet felt her eyes narrow on him and she smiled brightly.

"I plan to visit the gods who wish my presence and bring peace to them." Juliet said. "As is my duty."

"Peace Keeper, I request you visit my lands first." Bastet said from her place surrounded by cats. "I have longed to meet the child of Anubis and sister of Kebechet. Anput would have been pleased to meet you, her last gift to us."

Juliet saw Isis twitch above and chose to smile to Bastet. Anubis grumbled and nodded his ascent. "Well then Ra, what other business do we have to attend?" Osiris demanded. The god in the center waved a hand and light filled the room.

"Careful Osiris, you do not run the pantheon, nor do you get the right to diminish a new arrivals greeting." Ra said and smiled at Juliet anew. "Welcome on behalf of all the gods here, bring prosperity to us all."

Peace Keeper

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