

She expected to find the Demiurge's demons waiting for her at the end of the hallway. What she didn't expect to see was Savil and a member of the Kalturo she knew. Had been friends with once upon a time.

"You're under arrest, Sister," Savil's words echoed off the walls of the cavern.

Saraya wasn't prepared for emotional impact the sight of her brother had on her. The hurt alone was nearly overwhelming, filling up her chest, spilling into the back of her throat, threatening to choke her. Her anger intertwined with that emotion, sharpening it, shooting through every muscle in her body like a shock of lightning. It tightened her hands into fists, and pushed the tears from the corner of her eye.

"She was your sister!" Saraya screamed before she had any thought to the words. Her tanarulls glowed.

Savil sneered. "She was a traitor. She died like one."

The words were like a blow. She physically recoiled, one foot stepping back, her teeth grinding together. She could see his lie, colored in his aura. Jochlan would have been able to see it more clearly than she. As children they had loved each other so. Hadn't they? But now... "Murderer!" she hissed.

"Me? ME?" Savil's eyes flashed in the torch light, some unknown emotion lighting their color. Betrayal? Pain? He took a step forward, pulling apart his <shirt> to reveal the scar on his chest, over his heart. "Mother did this to me. *My. Own. Mother.* What I am sister, is the only one on Dacwen who gives a damn. Now where are they?"

"You killed her daughter, Savil! Our sister! You did this! You let the Demiurge out! Why? What the <curse word> is wrong with you?"

"How funny you think I owe you an explanation." His tone held his disgust.

Saraya inhaled slowly and uncoiled her fists. "The three of you will not get past me."

Savil's smile was pure malice. "Show her."

<Kalturo Name> hesitated, his eyes pleading with Saraya. "Narosel, please tell us where the humans are and come with us. We do this to protect Dacwen. You will be given fair trial."

Saraya glanced at <Kalturo Name>. Emotion tugged at her heart. She didn't *want* to have to fight her own people. "We both know that's a lie. And I don't know what he's told you, but the humans are no threat to you. The doorways are under attack, <KN>. And my sister *did not* arm that weapon."

"The doorways are at risk because of the humans you protect! They know how to open them don't they sister? Why do you continue to lie to your own people?"

She saw the surprise on <KN's> face. He looked at Savil, then at her.

"You twist the truth to suit your lies, Savil. I will show our people what you've done, and I will clear my sisters name if it's the last thing I do."

"You avoid the question because you know I'm right. You put a lesser species ahead of your own, and it's not the first time law breaker. Show her!" Savil barked the order.

<KN> drew himself straighter at the command. There was just a moments hesitation before he waved his hand, and a gust of energy blew out the torches in the chamber. In the darkness she saw them; the snake like creatures she had fought in the lecture hall, a dozen of them slithering along the walls on either side of her.

<Fuck> there were too many, she realized in silence. She'd have to draw the attention of as many as she could and rely on Jochlan to get Will and Elena out. She abruptly spun

around, pointing her fists to the ceiling, rapid blasts of red energy pulses shooting from her knuckles and striking the ceiling. The Demiurge's snake like creatures attacked immediately, wrapping around her arms and legs, trying to claw and bite their way through her armor. One coiled around her neck, tightening like a vise, making it more than difficult to breath. Silently she screamed her rage, her pain, but continued firing at the ceiling. It took seconds for the rock to crack and crumble, wave after wave of stone crashing down and filling up the chamber, blocking the way to the other side.

She wanted to cough but she couldn't get air into her lungs. She tried to bring her arms down to get at the snake around her neck, but the ones on her arms tightened around her joints, leaving her arms outstretched. They all flung themselves simultaneously. She stumbled hard, and her back struck the wall. They kept her pinned there. She gasped, trying to get in air, but the snake like creature around her throat only tightened it's grip further.

She could hear the Savil and <KN> coughing. "Lights! Light!"

The torches on the walls abruptly sprang back to life, but a thick cloud of dusk filled the chamber, muffling the brightness of the torches. The sight of the <DM> vanished but Saraya could still feel them around her neck, coiled around her legs and arms, their teeth not quite piercing her armor but sharp enough that she could feel the pressure of their fangs. Her eyes and lungs burned as she struggled to choke and get in enough air. Watching Savil and <KN> stumble through the smoke, she hesitated, not wanting to hurt her fellow <KN> but... she pointed her palms at the ceiling...

The force of Savil's fist jerked her head to the side and made her vision swim worse. She felt the skin tear, blood rolling down her cheek.

"<Savil's Title>!"

"Shut up! Don't you see what she's done? The <DM> cannot move through the walls here. This <bitch>..." Savil snarled looking back at Saraya. "Has cut us off!"

"I don't care!" <KN> put a restraining hand on Savil's shoulder. "You will not treat the Narosel that way! She is restrained. I will take over from here, sir, and get her back to Dacwen. The humans will have to wait."

Savil sighed. "The Demiurge has so much work to do on our planet."

"Excuse me, sir?"

"Kill him," Savil said in a cold, casual tone. He came to stand in front of Saraya and the last thing she saw before he knocked her out was his smirk, and the screams of her friend.