



THEMISCIRA WAS AS ALIVE AS ANY CREATURE LIVING ON IT AND DIANA COULD FEEL POWER DRUMMING THROUGH THE SOIL.

SHE LEARNED TO SENSE WHEN THE ISLAND WOULD SOON SHIFT, LIKE A CREATURE SLOWLY TURNING OVER IN ITS SLUMBER.

SHE COULD ALSO FEEL IT SUFFER AS THE ILLNESS GRADUALLY SPREAD.



AS THE LAND PALED, EVEN THE AMAZONS COULD SEE DANGER NIP AT THEIR BOUNDARIES.

LIVESTOCK MYSTERIOUSLY DIED IN THE NIGHT, AND FOOD SOURCES WITHERED. THE FORESTS GREW WURMLY AS ITS CREATURES EYED THE SAFETY OF THE CITY IN DESPERATION.



AS A SHADOW OF FEAR FELL OVER THE AMAZONS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CENTURIES, THE SOURCE OF THEMISCIRA'S ILLNESS REMAINED ELUSIVE TO DIANA AND HER MENTOR.

BUT THEIR WATCH CONTINUED, IN HOPES SOMETHING WOULD CHANGE IN THEIR FAVOR.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL ONE DAY, NOT AUDIBLE TO ANYONE BUT THOSE IN TUNE WITH THINGS LONG LOST, THE ISLAND WHISPERED IN WARNING--



--"THE TIME HAS COME."

YOU GOT ME GOOD THIS TIME, ALCIPPE! I WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME HIDING THIS ONE FROM MOTHER.

NEXT TIME DO NOT TRY ANY EXTRAVAGANT MOVES.

YOU MEAN MY ATTEMPT TO TAKE YOU DOWN WITH MY ROPE? I ASSUMED YOU WOULD BE PROUD I TRY TO MASTER IT.

IT IS A CLEVER WEAPON, ONE THAT ENTANGLES THE ENEMY WITHOUT UNNECESSARY BLOODSHED.

ALTHOUGH, SOMEHOW I GET THE FEELING YOU DO NOT APPROVE...

WHEN BATTLE IS UNAVOIDABLE, A MORE TRADITIONAL WEAPON BETTER SUITS VICTORY.

DO YOU TRULY THINK TO BEST ME WITH A TOOL USED TO CORRAL KANGAS AND GOATS?

I AM BEGINNING TO THINK NOTHING I ATTEMPT WOULD HELP ME TRIUMPH OVER THE UNDEFEATED ALCIPPE, CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD.

I HAVE BEEN DEFEATED BEFORE. ONCE.

REALLY?
BY WHO?

YOUR MOTHER.

HIPPOLYTA!

I HAVE NEVER SEEN HER SO MUCH AS BEAT A RUG! I ASSUMED THOSE STORIES OF HER WERE EXAGGERATED.

THEY WERE NOT. SHE IS THE GREATEST WARRIOR THIS WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN. WOMEN FROM EVERY CORNER OF EARTH WANTED TO JOIN HIPPOLYTA, THE GOLDEN WARRIOR.

THERE WAS A TIME IN THE BEGINNING WHEN SHE AND I WERE AT ODDS. I FELT SHE WAS NOT MIGHTY ENOUGH TO LEAD. SHE...PROVED ME WRONG.

DO NOT LET HER CURRENT COMPLACENCE FOOL YOU. THAT SAME FIRE STILL BURNS IN HIPPOLYTA'S EYES, THOUGH IT HAS BECOME BURIED BY PEACE AND OUTF.

HUH. WELL, GOLDEN WARRIOR HIPPOLYTA WANTED ME BACK BEFORE NIGHTFALL.

I SUPPOSE SHE WILL WANT TO SEE ME TO MAKE SURE I AM KEEPING UP ON MY STUDIES.

AND ARE YOU?

YES. BUT IT WILL DO ME NO GOOD. MY MOTHER IS A GREAT RULER, OUR PEOPLE HAVE NO NEED OF A SECOND QUEEN.

I AM BETTER UTILIZED HERE.



I SEE. HOWEVER, SUPPOSE YOU DO NOT BECOME QUEEN, AND OUR DANGER RESOLVES--WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR FUTURE?

THE POWER OF THE ISLAND DOES NOT PERMIT MEMORY OF THE PAST TO THOSE WHO INTRUDE HERE, OR OF THEMYSCLIRA IF THEY MANAGE TO ESCAPE.

YET FROM ITEMS THEY CARRIED WE LEARNED OF A CITY BESIDE THE ORONTES SHAKEN TO DUST AND A PLAGUE WHERE HEALERS WORE MASKS TO BLOCK THE STENCH OF DEATH. AND LASTLY, A DEADLY WAR THAT ENCOMPASSED DECADES.

IT HAS BEEN CENTURIES SINCE AN OUTSIDER STEPPED FOOT ON THEMYSCLIRA. PERHAPS THEY FINALLY SUCCUMBED TO THEIR WARS AND DISASTERS.

IT IS VERY LIKELY NONE OTHER THAN US NOW EXIST.



I DO NOT KNOW. SOMETIMES I FEEL...

ALCIPPE...WHAT WAS THE OUTSIDE WORLD LIKE? DO ANY SURVIVE THERE NOW?

WHEN WE LEFT, FEW SURVIVED THE DEATH AND FIRE THAT CONSUMED THE EARTH FROM THE GODS' WAR WITH THE TITAN.

HOWEVER, SOME ENQUIRED, FOR OVER TIME A SMALL NUMBER OF OUTSIDERS HAVE FOUND THEIR WAY TO THEMYSCLIRA, AND FROM THEM WE DISCOVERED THE WORLD TO STILL BE RIDDLED WITH CRUELTY AND SUFFERING.



BEFORE THE TITAN'S DESTRUCTION, HOWEVER...THERE WAS BEAUTY, AND VAST, BOUNDLESS LANDS...SO MUCH YET UNDISCOVERED.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SEEN THE WORLD AS SUCH ONCE MORE...AND MY PEOPLE...



YOU SHOULD LEAVE NOW, PRINCESS. THE QUEEN IS EXPECTING YOU AT THE FESTIVITIES. I WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.



BY THE BIDDING OF DIONYSUS, IT WAS THE TIME OF YEAR TO CELEBRATE ANTHESTERIA.

DESPITE THE TROUBLES THAT FLAGGED THE CITY, THE AMAZONS WERE DEEP INTO "CHOES," A DAY OF MERRYMAKING, FEASTS, AND CELEBRATION OF BLOOMS.

HELLO, PRINCESS!

GREETINGS, TROIA.

TOMORROW WOULD COME "CHYTROI," A DAY OF CELEBRATION FOR THE DEAD.

AS A CHILD, DRAMAS HONORING SOULS OF THE DEPARTED WERE WHAT DIANA LOOKED FORWARD TO MOST.

THIS YEAR HER ANTICIPATION WAS CLOWDED BY DARK THOUGHTS.

HOW MUCH LONGER WOULD HER PEOPLE HAVE HAPPINESS, WITH DANGER CONVERGING ALL AROUND THEM?

I SEE MY NIECE FINALLY MAKES AN APPEARANCE.



GREETINGS ARES' HIGH PRIESTESS ANITOPE, HADES' HIGH PRIESTESS MELANIPPE. APOLOGIES FOR MY LATENESS, I HAVE BEEN...OCCUPIED.

APPARENTLY. SO BUSY YOU DID NOT ATTEND COUNCIL TODAY THOUGH YOU ARE NOW OF AGE.

I THOUGHT ONLY IMMORTALS WERE ALLOWED ON COUNCIL, AND FELT I WAS NOT NECESSARY.

PERHAPS IN THAT I WOULD AGREE, BUT YOUR MOTHER WISHED YOU PRESENT.

SPEAKING OF HIPPOLYTA, I SEE SHE CONTINUES HER ANNUAL ABSENCE FROM ANTHESTERIA.

THE ENTIRE COUNCIL HAS REASON TO DETEST ATHENIAN FESTIVALS, BUT I SUPPOSE *SOME* TAKE THEIR DUTY OF APPEARANCE MORE SERIOUSLY THAN OTHERS.

MELANIPPE, GIVE THE PRINCESS HER MESSAGE.

WHAT IS THIS?

I-IMPORTANT NOTES FROM TODAY'S COUNCIL WITH THE QUEEN. IT IS CRUCIAL YOU UNDERSTAND ITS IMPLICATIONS.

DOES THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE ISLAND?

READ THE SCROLL. YOU WILL SEE. COME, MELANIPPE.

ENJOY THE FESTIVITIES, DIANA, AND MAY ARES BLESS YOUR NIGHT WITH TRIUMPH.

DO YOU HAVE CLUES AS TO THE SOURCE OF OUR TROUBLES?

