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Fall into Me

by [otp324B21](#)

Summary

Cosima crash lands on Earth. Delphine, hidden away in self-imposed solitude comes across the crash and nurses the visitor back to health. Alien Cophine AU.

Notes

Yeah this is totally an alien cophine story. So what? who doesn't stay up till midnight thinking about alien smut? I blame all of obfrankenfics.

Chapter 1

Alarms.

They sounded everywhere, blinking lights across a panel lit up like the night sky. She could feel more than see the ground approaching fast, her ship's display only half working, flickering in bursts of color and lines. Her hands flew over the controls, begging whatever deity was listening, from Earth or home, to assist her in altering the angle of descent. She just needed the nose of her ship to come up just a big more. Just a few degrees would be the difference between a broken arm and a broken Ja.

All around her, the force of the Earth grew more viscous. She could feel the life of the planet pressing on her, tempting her to merge. There was so much life, so much pain, so much emotion. She couldn't let it pull her in, not until there was no other choice. She had to rely on her flight plan. How had her calculations been so wrong? The best in her field, and she was making mistakes worse than a recruit. She was going to miss her designated landing by a distance she was ashamed to even calculate. Instead she focused on the nose of the ship. Sensors blared, reminding her of her imminent failure, and her eyes fell on the cargo hold controls.

She couldn't.

She wouldn't dare.

Even as the calculations poured across the visor of her head-guard, she knew there was only one solution, her hand already shaking as it hovered over the blinking blue panel. "Ja-teil forgive me." She whispered, her heart breaking as she hit the button. The doors beneath the nose of the ship opened and a box, unmarked and just the same size as her own body, slipped from the cargo hold. The moment the doors of the hold closed, she felt the ship beginning to level. Hopefully the tracking device would help her locate it later, if she survived.

If they survived.

She'd made the decision too late. She was coming in hot and she couldn't slow down enough. Green. She was swerving through tall monstrosities of green and brown. Trees her training reminded her. Her arms strained as she struggled to keep control, fingers digging into the gel of the steering panel, taking over manual control. Sensors continued to flare and she pushed them aside in her mind, closing her eyes as she let the world fall into her. She couldn't avoid it anymore. The ship swerved with her as it fused with her Ja, the world submerging into her mind and she was able to become the forest. Even as she lost altitude, she was able to minimize the damage, already knowing where every tree in the forest was.

The world was beautiful. It was painful. It was whipping by in a blur and she was losing herself in the life forms hidden in the branches and bushes. She was becoming one with the flowing life of the Earth, the scents and flavors ingraining themselves in her memory, matching experiences to the lessons she learned back home. Water. Dirt. Deer. Owl. Rat. Wind. Grass. Flowers. Bees. So many sensations were overwhelming her, almost making her forget that she was fighting to survive.

And then she was crashing. Her body jerked forward on impact, ripping her hands from the panel, cutting off the merge and bringing her back to reality. The ship slid for what seemed like forever along the bank of a river, the muddy ground thankfully absorbing some of the shock and slowing the progress. She was aware enough to feel the pain in her body, her hands reaching out unsteadily to open the pilot hold. Air and smoke rushed in and she felt her body shudder to gulp in

the atmosphere. It was thicker, harder to breathe than training had prepared her for. It was so bright that she had to shield her eyes, seeing her blood dripping down her arm. With a curse she took inventory of her body, sensing something inside her not right. She could feel a rupture, one of her organs seeping blood and the deity only knows what into her body. A groan pulled from her lips as she unbuckled her harness, reaching for the med kit that was thankfully still in its place, swallowing one of the med capsules, knowing in doing so she would be left vulnerable.

As the capsule took hold of her system, she felt her eyes closing, the world falling in on her again as her body began pulling energy from the world around her, knitting her body together one cell at a time. Darkness attempted to claim her as she sent off a prayer that her body would recover before someone found her. Before she finally passed out, she heard the words of her mother.

Find Earth, Cosima. Save us all.

Chapter 2

Chapter Notes

Ok, here's pt 2 of backstoryish stuff...this is turning out longer than I thought it would as it was supposed to be a oneshot alien smut piece. Yeah so much for that. I apparently have major issues and feel the need to make everything a chaptered fic. Anyway enjoy..

Peace and quiet. That was the whole reason Delphine was living in the remote wilderness in the middle of Northern Ontario, miles from any main highways. The nearest town was over an hour's drive away and although she at least had running water, that was the only bit of modern living she had. Well, it was the only one she used. Of course she had a satellite telephone, a laptop tucked away and an emergency generator in the outside shed that she hadn't used in over a year, so she could only hope they still worked.

A year, four months, 3 days to be exact. That's how long she'd been off the grid, having given up her life's worth of school and training for solitude and reflection. Peace and quiet. That was the official story, the one she'd told anyone who cared to ask. Once one of the greatest immunologists in her field, now she was just Delphine Beraud. She had taken her mother's surname in exchange for the shame her father's name had brought her...or the shame she had brought her father's name.

The daughter of Quebec's most renowned neurosurgeon, Jean Sébastien Cormier.

The black stain on his otherwise pristine record.

It didn't matter anymore. Only a few people were even aware she resided in the area, her contact limited to only one other human on a normal basis: the older woman she paid handsomely to deliver necessary supplies once a month. The other 29 or 30 days, she spent in complete solitude, sometimes writing, sometimes painting. Anything that would clear her mind, anything to forget about medicine and research and light hazel eyes glazing over as recognition and love morphed into emptiness.

Peace and quiet. That was a lie. In truth, she was broken. Her spirit was beyond repair and despite having lost her license, she doubted she'd have been able to continue along her chosen path. Not without the one positive force in her life driving her forward. This solitude was the punishment of her own choosing. The world was a better place without her in it.

Rolling out of bed, Delphine moved to the bathroom, splashing water on her face to clear the sleep from her eyes. She didn't need make up or hair product or anything of the sort. Instead she brushed her teeth before pulling her unruly blonde curls into a messy ponytail. She changed into a white button down shirt and shorts, slipping on a thin hoodie. Transitioning from Spring into Summer, it was still a bit chilly out, especially near the water. Today, she would go out to the river, see what sort of fresh fish she could catch. She had learned quickly how horrible she was at hunting, but fishing she was rather proficient at.

"Good morning, Scott." She knelt down and ran her fingers through the retriever's long golden hair, scratching his belly affectionately. "You're gonna stay here, right boy? Don't want you

falling in the river again." She chuckled softly at the dog's small whine. He was almost 10 years old now and Delphine had adopted him just before she had made the decision to leave the modern world behind.

"He's been crying since we took him home." Mary Fournier had given her a look that was half defeat, half hopeful. "He's only known one master his whole life and well...Danielle would have wanted you to take him home." It was the last thing she would have imagined they would be asking, especially after what she had done. "You need to stop blaming yourself. My daughter was stubborn from the day she was born and when she set her mind to something, you know as well as we do that she would get her way. I'm sorry she forced you into being a part of it." And the older woman had hugged her, holding her tight for the last time before Delphine disappeared off the face of the earth.

Delphine couldn't help but wonder if Scott felt sorrow and despair like she did. Did he miss his previous master the way she did? Was his heart left cracked and damaged forever like hers was? She leaned down and hugged his head to her chest, listening to his heavy breathing. She hoped not. He didn't deserve to suffer like she deserved to. With a wrinkle of her nose, she pulled away and laughed. "You need a bath, boy. When I get back with supper we'll take care of that, ok?"

It didn't take long to pack up. She already had everything available and ready, having spent the previous night collecting bait. "I'll be back soon, boy. Don't watch TV all day." It was a joke. As she walked, she thought back to a different time, remembering when that was exactly how they left the apartment back in downtown Montreal, back when she was just half of a normal couple, living a normal life, before sickness and scandal and life was changed forever. Her life... and Scott's life that is. Not Danielle's. There was no chance for change in death.

The hike to the river wasn't a far one. The memory of when she was just a little girl came to mind, spending the summers on the banks of the same river, the only grandchild of her Grand-père on her mother's side. The only child of an only child, she was the person the cabin went to on the day of his death years ago, her mother having passed when she was 5. Her father, as successful as he was in medicine, was equally unsuccessful as a parent, deferring to whatever relative was available during the summer, and boarding school during the rest of the year.

All she had left in life now was a father that she didn't talk to and a dog that wished she were someone else. Some days she took comfort in that. It meant less people she could ruin. It meant a freedom from obligation and consequence. Some days she couldn't drag herself out of bed, instead spending the day curled in a fetal position lamenting over happier times. Some days she...

Her thoughts were cut off by a loud screeching sound accompanied by the sound of trees breaking. The ground beneath her seemed to shake and she could feel the very air around her heating up. There was a sudden boom accompanied by a violent shaking of the earth that brought her to her knees.

"Merde." The sudden silence after the boom was close to deafening. She pushed herself to her feet which took her towards the river. If she looked up, she could see a thin stream of smoke coming from the river, and that was where the boom had sounded. Maybe it was her recent dealings with loss, or her new nonchalant look on life, but she felt no fear in her heart even when after the long bit of silence there was a loud hiss and the sound of something hitting the ground as she emerged from the line of trees.

She didn't know what she expected to find when she got to the river, but what looked like a small pod-shaped plane sinking into the muddy banks was not one of them.

Chapter 3

Chapter Notes

Thank you for continuing to read this. I appreciate the comments and follows. I know it's a bit of an odd story and not the normal cophine situation but I just needed something a little different. Thank you guys.

Pain.

Pleasure.

Pain.

Pleasure.

As consciousness tugged at Cosima's senses, she felt an odd combination of both sensations. There was pain radiating from her side, the injury must have been worse than she thought. Focusing on her side, she could tell it had healed substantially, but she could feel that her accelerated healing had stilled, the cells no longer knitting together at the rapid pace. Now there was just the slow, steady healing at its normal rate. Suddenly, a wave of pleasure radiated through her and she shuddered. The sensation was very familiar and she focused on it, zoning in on the touch that traced down her amrita. The feeling radiated out from her spine and through her entire being.

It was almost impossible to ignore, but she tried to sort through her surroundings. She took a mental inventory of her body. Apparently she was laying face down on a soft surface, her suit having been removed completely. There was a light covering over her lower body but her upper body was revealed. Taking a breath to concentrate, she attempted to merge, extending her ja through the hand that was moving down the center of her back. She had to keep it one sided, so the earth-dweller wouldn't know she was awake yet. The pain and pleasure muted her senses and she was barely able to grab a hold of the stream.

It was confusing at first, merging with the Earth-dweller. Her...yes it was a her. Her mind did not operate at the same pattern as her own people. There were conflicting languages she had to sort through, to absorb and understand, and she focused instead on the emotion stream. There was worry there, curiosity, confusion.

As she pushed deeper, she found other emotions. Sadness. Despair. Guilt.

She gained what information she could with the limited merge. As far as she could find, there were no negative intentions so she severed the merge, blinking open her eyes. She wasn't prepared to be almost blinded. Saying the light was harsh on her eyes was an understatement. On her own planet, she was so used to the low light, the thick atmosphere blocking out a majority of the light from the nearest star. She instantly closed her eyes, willing the burning to go away.

"You're awake." The voice floated over her, embracing her in a soothing balm. "Is the light bothering you? Let me cover the windows." The pleasure radiating from her amrita disappeared along with the warmth she could feel from the nearby body. Beneficially, when she reopened her eyes the room was dimmer and she could see again.

"Are you in pain?"

Struggling to push herself into a seated position, Cosima winced, looking at the Earth-dweller. Delphine. The name came to her from the merge stream that still lingered. It was odd, looking at this woman who wasn't too different in form from her people. Taller yes, Cosima could tell even in her seated position. What surprised her the most was her hair. On her planet, everyone had hair as dark as her own, but this Earth-dweller's hair was like the color of the star the Earth circled. It cascaded in waves just below the woman's shoulders. She remembered suddenly that she had been asked a question and searched her mind for the correct response. "No pain." The words tasted strange in her mouth as she sorted through the data she had acquired through the merge. "Thank you."

Delphine nodded, her eyes avoiding looking at the naked woman. "You're welcome. Here."

Looking at the stack of material offered to her, Cosima hesitated just a moment before accepting. It was warm and smelled of sweetness and trees, not designed much different than the training uniforms she was given in her younger years. "Thank you." She winced as she lifted her arms, pulling the material over her upper body.

"You are in pain." It was a statement, not a question. "Your side, there is a lot of bruising, but it seems to be going away." There was confusion there. "Who are you?"

Her survival instincts were starting to kick in, but she noticed a fuzziness on the edges of her perception. "Cosima." She looked around the room, noting all doors and windows in case of an emergency situation.

"There are some scratches...along your spine." Delphine licked her lips. "They do not seem to be injuries. You were unconscious for three hours and I did not see them at first. They just appeared in the past ten minutes."

"They are not injuries." Cosima slipped off the table, pulling on the soft pants. To touch someone's amrita was sacred, but she knew the Earth-dweller did not mean anything by it. She didn't want to have to explain that though. She had other things to worry about. "I need to get to my..." She tried to find the words but the world was tilting and she was finding it hard to continue standing. There was too much oxygen in the air. Her body was not yet adjusted and she was finding it difficult to breathe. It hurt and she was having trouble thinking.

"You should not move yet." Delphine shook her head, leading the woman back to the padded surface. "Please, you need to rest."

Cosima grunted as she slumped back onto the bed, her face contorted in pain. There was something wrong still. The pill had healed her, but not enough. Her own healing was inhibited by the unusual chemical mix of the atmosphere. "My...plane." She finally found the correct word. "I need to get to my plane."

"Non." Delphine put her hands on her hips. "I don't know why you were flying around here, or what sort of plane it is but it is not safe." She sighed heavily. "You need to rest before you injure yourself further."

"ALAM!" Cosima winced at the pain in her chest. She realized too late that she had spoken in her native tongue and quickly translated. "Stop, please." She reached out, grabbing the Earth-dweller's hand, extending her Ja. It was dangerous to merge with the Earth-dweller, but she was in a hurry. Almost instantly she was overcome with an intense feeling of fear and confusion. She struggled to keep control, transferring soothing feelings towards the woman, an attempt to calm her.

"What is this?"

They weren't so much as words as they were her understanding what was being asked. The pain in her side was beginning to worsen and she felt the Earth-dweller mentally cry out in pain. Merged, they shared all feelings, including fear and pain.

"You are hurt." Unknown to Delphine, the woman's mind was open to Cosima, allowing her to gain history and memories without the woman knowing. "This is incredible. I can feel your pain. You need to rest"

Cosima sighed mentally. "I need you to go to my ship." She tried to convey the urgency, so the woman would avoid the dozens of questions she could already hear through the merge.

"You are not from Earth." There was shock, confusion and understanding.

How she had gained that information, Cosima didn't know. With those untrained in the stream, she was in charge of leading the flow. The woman wasn't supposed to know how to navigate through the emotions and information. She would have to worry about that later. She chose to explain as much as she could as quickly as possible. "Delphine. I need you to listen to me."

"How do you know my name?" Suspicion flooded through.

"Listen to me and I will tell you." Cosima tried to gather her thoughts. "It is important. If you do not go to my ship, I will not survive the night."

There was shock in the stream, and understanding. "Tell me what you need."

"Our minds are one. That is how I know your name. It would take too much time to explain everything so I will show you instead." Cosima took the woman to a vision of her cockpit. "There is a kit I need. When you found me, I had opened it and it was on the panel." She focused on the memory of her opening the kit and taking the capsule so the woman could see what she meant. "I need the entire kit."

"Ok. I can get that."

"Without the kit, I cannot survive. My body cannot adapt to your atmosphere in its current state." Cosima felt her control slipping. "There is one more thing I need you to get." She struggled to remain conscious but she could feel the merge starting to pull apart. "My bag, attached to the back of my seat. I need it." She focused on the memory of her strapping the bag to the back of the pilot seat. "Please." She begged just as the connection was severed and darkness overtook her.

Chapter 4

Chapter Notes

I might be addicted to this story. I was going to wait before publishing this chapter but...oh well. Thank you for the awesome messages and support.

"Merde." Delphine cursed as she slipped into the cockpit of the craft through the open hatch. There were lights and alarms still going off softly, but the smoking she'd dealt with the first time she'd entered was gone now. It was significantly easier to see and she took her time looking around.

It was odd really. The first time she'd entered, she had been so confused. She had found the pilot slumped over the console, hands clenched around the kit that she had ended up prying from her hand. She had been forced to remove a helmet, revealing long locks of hair that were grouped in thick twists. There was a gash down one side of the tan face but it looked superficial and she ran her hands down the spine, looking for more serious damage. That was when she had discovered the pilot was a woman, which she was thankful for as she struggled to pull the unconscious body from the ship, her own arms shaking with the strain. Despite her erratic breathing and being unconscious, Delphine knew she had to get her back to the cabin to care for her. It had taken her almost half an hour to gather enough materials from the ship and surrounding forest to make a suitable litter to drag the woman back.

Now, her mind was clouded but not by smoke or an unknown pilot. Cosima. Her mind rolled over the name and things she couldn't possibly know surfaced. She gathered the kit that the woman had wanted, making sure to grab the pills that she knew the pilot needed. Stashing the kit in the bag she brought, she located the bag attached to the back of the chair, her fingers easily undoing the clasps she'd never seen before. She knew she should be worried, her medical mind unable to understand how she now had information about things she had no business knowing, but she wasn't.

The merge.

She had a name for it. How she had a name for it, she wasn't going to question. She could still sense the pain radiating through her from Cosima. The strength it must take to keep her composure while injured as bad as she was, Delphine shook her head in wonder as she pulled herself out of the cockpit. She had to get back. She had an injured pilot to take care of. Over a year of solitude away from the public and she so easily was slipping back into the role of doctor.

The jog back to the cabin was much quicker when she didn't have to drag a body, taking just over ten minutes. The scene she found was a curious one. Cosima was once again sitting up, but she had moved to the floor. She was leaning against the mattress, her skin paler than Delphine remembered, and her arm was braced against her side. What was curious was the fact that Scott was seated on the floor in front of her and their eyes were locked on each other, both heads tilted in the same direction.

As if sensing her presence, Cosima quickly broke the stare, a smile on her face as she looked up. "Delphine. Scott and I were having a lovely conversation." The words seemed to flow easier now, if not a bit strained.

"A conversation?" Delphine sat on the floor beside her, handing over the pilot's possessions. "You can speak with him?"

Fumbling with the medical kit, she passed over the pills and reached for one of the vials, seeing the amber liquid still intact. "You cannot?" Cosima gave her a curious look, loading the vial into a small inhaler shaped tool before bringing it to her mouth and pressing the trigger.

Delphine watched in wonder as the vial filled with mist just a bare second before the pilot inhaled it. The look of distaste on the dark-haired woman's face was almost comical as she dropped the inhaler, pulling out two different colored pills from the kit, swallowing one and putting the other to the side as she sealed her kit, setting it on the side. "Will you be alright?" Delphine took note that that color seemed to be returning to the woman's cheeks and her breathing seemed to come easier. Whatever it was she had inhaled, it was obviously helping her lungs.

"Yes, thank you for your assistance." Cosima rested her head back. "I require another pill but once I consume it, I will lose consciousness." She took a deep breath, clearing her throat. "If you are able, I need your assistance to get up."

"Of course!" Delphine moved forward, wrapping her arms around the small frame and helping her back onto the bed. She was a lot lighter now that she was conscious. This close, she felt the pain pulsing off of the woman flowing through her own body, making her grunt in discomfort as she pulled the sheet over the woman.

"Can you feel this?" There was a confused look on Cosima's face as she adjusted her position.

"It is not so much unless we are touching." Delphine pulled up a stool and sat down. "Right now, we are not touching, but I know you are in pain. I cannot feel it, but I can sense it. When we are touching, it is as if I am in pain." The look of confusion on Cosima's face intensified as she swallowed the pill, eyes closing as she seemed to be concentrating. "Is it not the same for you?"

Opening her eyes, Cosima shook her head. "My senses are overwhelmed by medication and my injury." The response seemed like a placation.

Delphine watched as the woman's eyes began blinking heavily, the pilot's frame relaxing visibly. She risked reaching out to push aside dark locks of hair just before dark eyes closed with a sigh. She couldn't sense the pain coming from the woman anymore and it was interesting. Her medically trained mind was going rampant trying to figure out exactly what was going on. The gash that had previously marred the side of the woman's face was disappearing completely, now just a slight discoloration of her skin.

From what she could tell, the woman's body was no different from a human. There had been a few peculiarities, such as the darkness of her blood, but she had a heart and lungs. She had a bone structure that appeared to be the same. The only peculiar thing she could find were the slits that went down her spine, starting between her shoulders to about halfway down her back.

Delphine wasn't even sure how she could describe them. They were thin lines in the skin, like perfectly formed scratches, pressed into the skin and darker in color. They were only about two inches wide but they were all identical in size and spacing. The most intriguing thing is that she hadn't seen them when she had first undressed the pilot, searching for injuries. Her back had been perfectly smooth up until she began to wake up. Delphine had rolled her onto her side to inspect the bruise that took up a large portion of her abdomen when she sensed the woman waking. It was then that the marks appeared and she rolled the woman onto her stomach to get a closer look.

Part of her wanted to see if they were still there. Did they appear and disappear with consciousness? Were they controlled consciously by the brunette? She had a million questions but

she knew they would have to wait until she was awake.

"Woof."

Delphine looked down at Scott. The golden retriever had grabbed one of his favorite toys and put it on the edge of the bed, sitting down and waiting expectantly. "I don't think Cosima can play fetch right now, Scott." She reached out and ran her fingers through his golden fur. "What did you two talk about?" When she got no answers she snorted, amused by her own silliness. "How about some dinner, huh boy? I didn't get any fish but we can have your favorite! Powdered eggs!"

As she prepared meals for both herself and Scott, she couldn't help but wonder what the pilot was able to eat.

Chapter 5

Chapter Notes

this is a contribution to #cophinefluffathon. I'm glad everyone is loving this fic.
Thank you for all the awesome support.

"Breathe in."

Cosima did as she was told, a small smirk playing at the corners of her lips as she appeased the blonde. After a full night's rest and a breakfast consisting of a sweet meal called cereal, she had consented to the woman's shy request for a complete physical, having detected nothing but curiosity and concern in her intentions. She looked over her back at the Earth-dweller, noting the look of confusion on the woman's face. Her breathing was significantly easier now that the cells of her organs had knit together, finding it much easier to stay in the seated position on the stool as the blonde probed at her side.

"So you have no pain anymore?"

The touch turned soft, almost a caress. "You tell me." Light eyes looked up at her, a question in them. "You can feel when I feel pain." It wasn't a question, Cosima already understood that much. It had been her fault. She had allowed the Earth-Dweller to fall into her, to merge without limits. The bond was so rare that she had taken the gamble and she had lost.

Delphine was quiet, her hands tracing where the skin was just a yellowish bruise now. "Non. I don't feel any pain." She ran a fingertip down the back that was now completely smooth. "I have so many questions." Curiously, she could see the pattern beginning to darken on the woman's back.

As her Ja reached out to the hand on her back almost on instinct, she could feel her senses opening up, her amrita surfacing against her will. A thrill settled in her gut as a light touch traced down her spine. She knew she had to stop this. It was almost painful to pull away from the touch. Damn the bond. Leaning away, she pulled her top down, turning completely to face the Earth-Dweller. She could see the flushed yet confused look on her face and knew that the woman had felt what it did to her. "Sorry."

"Non...I..." Delphine shook her head. "I'm sorry. I did not realize."

Cosima gestured for Delphine to sit down on the chair closest to her. Her own mind was racing, confused by her own body being so out of control. She'd had mates in the past and she'd often merged during intimate moments. Never had she lost control of her body. She was always a soldier, always on alert. Emotions overran her senses: attachment, arousal, affection. Every child is taught about bonding and the dangers of it. It was a weakness, especially for an active soldier. No one had ever told her how it actually felt. No one told her that the simplest touch of someone you're bonded to could be felt through your whole body. She cleared her throat, trying to gather herself. "Give me your hand."

Adjusting in her seat, Delphine hesitated just a moment before taking Cosima's hand.

It happened almost instantly. Once Cosima made the decision to merge, she didn't even have to

concentrate. It was the complete opposite actually. She had to concentrate on not going too deep, on not losing herself in the Earth-dweller's mind. She tried not to delve into the memories that were spilling into her own mind. There was a lot of pain and she felt it hitting her. There was love, and pleasure, the memory of a woman with long black curls, pressing against Delphine's pale skin. There was sickness, and the gut-wrenching agony of losing that love. Guilt. Despair. Solitude. These were not her memories. She had no right to be in them and she tried her best to pull away. It took all her effort to wade through the stream that had become a dangerous under toe, threatening to consume her. Finally she made her way to middle ground.

"This is different from the first time." Delphine was there with her, feeling what she felt, thinking what she thought. "Everything is more intense, brighter and louder. I can taste things I've never tasted."

Cosima laughed. "No, you just are thinking what I am thinking. It is confusing at first, I am sorry. With practice you are able to sort out which thoughts are your own. I am trying my best to assist you, but there are parts of this that are new to me as well." She could sense the questions in the unguarded mind and began gathering the answers. She concentrated on the stream feeding the woman the information she wanted, careful to filter out things she didn't need to know. What seemed like forever was the barest of seconds and Cosima was pulling her hand away, breaking the merge.

Opening her eyes, Delphine's brows furrowed. "What was...how is this possible?" She stood up, moving away, pacing.

Another laugh. "It would take too long to explain everything to you. You now know what you wanted to know. You just have to take a moment for your mind to process the information." She knew the Earth-Dweller just needed a minute to process. She was very familiar with the disorientation, having had missions dumped into her mind before. It was an odd sensation to suddenly gain information, not having a memory associated with it. "Sometimes it helps if you talk through it."

Delphine took a deep breath. "I'm ok. I'm just...I'm feeling so much right now. I don't even know why I am feeling this. It's..." A light blush colored her cheeks and she cleared her throat. Cosima's brows furrowed at that. She hadn't meant to transfer any emotions. What had she transferred? She tried to think about what she had passed over. She had been so careful sending over just the answers to the woman's questions, nothing else.

Taking her seat again, Delphine looked at Cosima with a curious expression. Her hand rose slowly to brush along Cosima's cheek. "I am feeling this intense...longing. Peculiar." Leaning into the touch, Cosima licked her lips. What was going on? She could feel her ja reaching out, searching, daring her to merge again.

"Ja." Delphine's nose scrunched up as she said the word. Her mind tried to translate the word.

Cosima nodded. "You call it a soul, or a spirit. It is that which connects us to everything." She brought her hand up to cover Delphine's. "Sometimes when my people merge, a bond is formed. It is a rare occurrence, and almost only happens when two are genetically compatible. I did not expect it to happen but your Ja and mine are now one." She looked up into the large eyes watching her. A thumb traced her lip and she smiled.

There was no response at first as the blonde thought over the explanation. "Does that mean what I think it means?" Delphine's brow furrowed.

Tilting her head, Cosima sorted through the emotions she was getting through the bond. Uncertainty? Excitement? Hesitation? Arousal? She grabbed on to two of those emotions,

channeling her ja to focus on those instead of the other two. To soothe the woman's feelings of uncertainty, she tried to share her own feelings, unused to the openness of the bond between them. "It means, when you feel pain, I feel pain." Moving closer, she captured the woman's face between her hands, giving her a smile as she flooded the connection with her own feelings of affection and need. "It also means, when I feel pleasure, you feel pleasure." Sensing no more hesitation or uncertainty, she closed the distance between their lips, the kiss being returned after the barest pause.

Strange did not quite cover what was going through her. This was not like any merge she'd ever been a part of. She had never felt the mixture of confusion and arousal to that degree before. She pressed closer, wanting more, unable to resist the warmth she could feel radiating off the woman's body. It was as if the more they were connected, the more she needed. She didn't know if it was her own need, or Delphine's, but she didn't care. She was a part of the Earth-dweller, and the Earth-dweller was a part of her, even through just a kiss. She didn't know how long the kiss lasted, only that it was long enough to have her struggling for breath, her hands clenched in the woman's top and just barely stopping herself from taking things further.

Delphine pulled away, her own breath ragged. "I...what..." She struggled with the words.

This close, she could sense the questions the woman couldn't actually get out.

"What's going on? Why is this so strong? I shouldn't be feeling this way after one day. You are not even human."

Cosima smiled, just barely resisting the urge to kiss her again. "It is the bond. Things have a tendency of stacking, building, multiplying when we both want the same thing." She caressed a soft cheek, nearly getting lost in the arousal that kept coming through the connection if not for her own uncertainty. "I am sorry. I did not mean for us to bond like this." She felt her own insecurities coming through, breaking through the haze. She didn't expect to feel the wave of adoration that came from the blonde.

"Cosima...it's not your fault." Delphine smiled. "You didn't know." Unable to stop herself, she pulled Cosima forward again, the softest of kisses pressing against her lips.

If it were possible, Cosima felt like she was melting. A warmth spread through her, consuming her whole and drawing her in. It was physical without being physical and she was surprised at the moan that emerged from her lips. With an embarrassed laugh, she pulled away from the kiss, leaning her forehead against Delphine's, feeling the wave of comfort and affection continuing to embrace her.

Chapter 6

Chapter Notes

Thank you so much for the comments and kudos. I greatly appreciate all of them and I'm glad you guys are liking this story. My tiny little sci-fi heart is growing immensely.

Fire.

The heat seared through every inch of Delphine's skin, not damaging her flesh but making it unbearable, coming from everywhere and anywhere. Symbols and calculations flooded her vision as she felt herself falling. The gravity latched onto her ship and she was plummeting, warnings emitting a high pitched screeching as she lost altitude. She had lost several of her thrusters, eaten up by the atmosphere. She could only hope her stealth held long enough.

Nevermind stealth. She hoped the ship held together long enough as the ground came at her fast. Calculations continued to be fed to her and somehow she understood them. She just had to pull up. Just enough. She knew what she had to do.

The cargo hold. Her hand floated over the control for the doors. She just had to find the courage to let go.

Delphine shot up from the couch in a panic, her heart beating fiercely. She looked around the room, disoriented. "Merde." She held a hand up to her chest, willing herself to calm down. A soft whimper got her attention and she turned to the bed where she saw Scott with his head sitting on the bed. Concern taking root, she pulled herself up from the couch, the early morning sun peaking through the windows. "Hey boy." Delphine pat Scott on the head, pushing him away gently as she took a seat on the bed, concern coloring her features. They hadn't gone much further the night before, exchanging a few kisses and gently probing what was obviously just the surface of their connection before falling asleep. Delphine had chosen to keep a slight distance by sleeping on the couch, still a bit wary of the connection.

Cosima was curled on the bed, her face bearing a grimace of either discomfort or confusion, Delphine couldn't be sure. Her hands were clenched around the sheet that covered her, her body trembling just slightly and covered with a thin layer of sweat. "Cosima." She reached out, stopping short just before making contact. The last thing she wanted was to be pulled into what appeared to be a bad dream. She thought about her own dream and shook her head. Maybe she already had been. "Cosima, wake up." She put a little more force into her voice.

In a panic, Cosima sat up, her eyes looking around wildly. It took a minute for her to gather where she was, her gaze settling on Delphine. She visibly relaxed, her hands unclenching from the sheets. "I am sorry." A small furrow appeared in her brow as she cleared her throat, moving to the edge of the bed. "I did not mean to frighten you."

Woof!

Both women looked down at Scott who had squirmed closer to Cosima, his head dropping to her lap. Cosima smiled, her hand gently flowing through his fur, visibly relaxing.

Sensing they were in another conversation that was a mystery to her, Delphine decided to get the day started, escaping into the bathroom to freshen up. As she brushed her teeth, her mind went to the dream and the crash. It had felt so real, as if she were the one falling in the plane. She recognized the interior of the ship now that she was able to think about it. It had been the one she had pulled Cosima from. Had she tapped into the woman's dream? Is that what Cosima had felt as she entered the Earth's atmosphere? The burning heat? The cargo hold. What had happened with that? Pulling her hair up into a messy bun and washing her face, she peeked out the door and saw Cosima and Scott sitting together on the floor, gazes locked. Rolling her eyes, she went about making breakfast. She had yet to ask what exactly they discussed and Cosima didn't really say anything about it. A quick review of her stock revealed a need for replenishment and she wrinkled her nose, checking the calendar. She had a few days before her supplies would get restocked and she was looking forward to fresh vegetables again. It would be enough time to come up with a valid story to tell the woman who delivered her supplies. She cut up the last apple she had from her last hike and split the slices between two plates along with the peanut butter covered toast.

"What is fish?"

The voice nearly made Delphine drop the plate she had just picked up. She turned to find Cosima looking up from the floor, her hands scratching Scott behind the ear. "Fish?"

"Scott says that the day I arrived you promised him fish and never brought any." Cosima pushed herself up from the floor, stretching out her limbs and spine before sitting at the table. "From what I can gather it is some sort of food?"

Giving Scott a look, Delphine rolled her eyes, depositing the plates on the small table before filling Scott's bowl with dog food. "Fish is a type of water-dwelling animal. We eat them for sustenance, yes."

Cosima paused mid-bite, looking down at her plate. "You eat animals?" She looked up at Delphine. "Is this an animal?"

Taking her seat, Delphine shook her head. "Non...do you not eat animals on your planet?"

Quickly shaking her head, Cosima picked up a piece of toast, taking a small bite before smiling and taking a bigger one. "There is much more diversity in your meals here. All of our meals are distributed and strictly monitored. I have never had anything like this." She paused, confusion obvious on face. "Does everyone eat animals here?"

"Well, there are people who have decided not to eat animals, but it is something human kind has done since the beginning of time. If you prefer, I have a few more days worth of non-animal meals I can prepare for you but it won't be enough for the both of us. I still need to go fishing." Delphine finished her toast quickly. "Your ship is near the spot I intended to fish at if there is anything you need to retrieve."

Cosima pursed her lips momentarily. "I will do as you do. If you consume animals, I will do so as well."

Delphine finished her breakfast, giving the last bit of toast to Scott. "I want to check your side when you are done. I know you're not in pain but it was still bruised yesterday."

Swallowing the last bit of apple, Cosima nodded, removing her top in a tug, leaving herself in just a pair of shorts.

A blush flooded Delphine's face as she covered her eyes. "I um...Cosima..." She cleared her throat, not wanting to stare at the now half-naked woman in front of her. "Nevermind." She

moved to the brunette's side, her hands pausing before sliding over the woman's side. There wasn't a single sign of bruising to be seen. "Your healing is amazing." She felt a tug in her gut and looked up to see dark eyes watching her. Almost of its own accord, her hand traced over the woman's abdomen. Her eyes moved a slow path up the long expanse of tan flesh, seeing the dark lines becoming visible on the once-smooth back. "Cosima...can you explain these to me?" She could feel the heat of the woman's body as her fingertips stopped just a bare inch from touching the lines. Even without actually touching, she could feel as though she was teetering on the brink of pleasure, but not being satisfied.

"Amrita." The word rolled smoothly off of Cosima's tongue. "It is a genetic modification from many generations ago to help decrease genetic flaws that were starting to flourish." Leaning forward, she breathed in Delphine's scent, a smile easily appearing. "Historically they were meant as an indicator. It is a place in which my Ja is closest to the surface. The presence of a genetically ideal mate will lead to the Amrita surfacing, deepening the mating process and in turn persuading one to stay with that particular mate." She leaned back just slightly, feeling the fleeting touch against her skin. "Over time we have learned to raise the Amrita at will. Can you feel what you do to me?"

Delphine let her fingertips brushed along one dark line, feeling a thrill course down her own spine, setting her blood on fire. "Oui." Her voice came out a bare whisper and she heard Cosima's breathing increase, looking up to catch her nostrils flaring. She bit her own bottom lip, the urge to moan suddenly taking over. "It gives you pleasure."

Cosima reached up to caress Delphine's cheek, even the simplest touch engulfing her. "We are connected." A grin played at the corners of her mouth as she slipped her hand into Delphine's, pulling her up so they were both standing. "It will give you pleasure as well."

With a questioning look, Delphine allowed herself to be pulled into an embrace, feeling their spirits connecting. Lips brushed against her neck just below her ear. "Are you raising it intentionally?"

"No." Cosima whispered, her voice thick as honey. "Press your palm against my Amrita, Delphine."

The voice sent a shiver down her spine and Delphine leaned back, looking into the dark eyes. Very tentatively, she pressed her hand against the dark lines. She could feel the pressure of her hand as if it were against her own back, a sudden wave of arousal coursing through her and settling in her groin. She felt her knees buckle slightly and the arm around her waist tightened as if expecting the response. She moaned softly, dragging her fingertips down the uneven skin. It was enough to make her cry out, the arm around her waist trembling as teeth nipped at her throat softly. She wanted the woman's touch, more than anything. She could feel her own insecurities and uncertainties being wiped away as soon as they arose and she wondered if that was a result of their merge. She could feel the brunette's need and desire fusing with her own and she found her strength in it, pressing her body against the shorter frame and finding soft lips. Her hand pressed the woman closer and at the same time sent a shock through her whole body, a whimper escaping between their joined lips.

It was too much, too soon. She was close to losing it and her mind was flooded with the desire to feel skin against skin. She didn't know where she got the strength, but Delphine found herself pushing the brunette away, barely able to catch her breath. She pushed the woman out of her mind, not even knowing how she was doing it, and put some space between them. No longer touching, she could feel the weight of it all, the pain that a year of solitude hadn't erased, the guilt she felt being added to by the desire for Cosima. How could she forget so easily? How could she want someone else so easily? What was this connection doing to her? In exchange for what she

was gaining, what was she losing? She looked up at Cosima in confusion and was surprised when the brunette took a step back, a look of confusion and fear in her own eyes.

Chapter 7

Chapter Notes

Sorry, this is getting a little angsty in this chapter, but I feel like this needs to get out of the way so smut can happen. Thank you for continuing to read.

So many emotions. Fear. Loss. All of the arousal and affection Cosima had felt before was gone in an instant. Suddenly she felt exposed and raw and she pulled on her shirt, her brows furrowed in confusion. She felt an ache in her heart she'd never felt before. It took over completely, tearing her apart from the inside, sorrow and grief overwhelming her ability to control her own emotions, nevermind Delphine's. It was paralyzing, a torrent of guilt and despair. She wanted to curl into a ball, protecting herself from the onslaught of emotion.

It was all coming from the connection. Despite the lack of physical contact, she could feel the emotions radiating from the blonde, snaring her into the web of distress. "Delphine." She had to do something. Their connection was feeding off of itself, Delphine's sorrow and guilt feeding her confusion and worry, multiplying itself as Delphine felt her reacting to the emotions. Trying to gain a foothold on the situation, she focused on the woman. She had to get through to her, not realizing that in the effort she would find herself accidentally pulled into the Earth-dweller's memories.

"Marry me?" Dark hair slipped through Delphine's hands as the naked woman on top of her peppered kisses down her neck. "I want to spend the rest of our lives together." Sunlight flared through the bedroom window, casting shadows and creating a halo behind the woman.

A smile spread across Delphine's face as she rolled their forms over, pinning the woman to the bed, their bodies pressed together in a comfort of long-time lovers. "Yes." She met lips with a kiss, leaving no doubt. "Yes yes yes." They both laughed. "Je t'aime, Danielle." She whispered between more kisses, hands releasing wrists as they began to explore long expanses of flesh.

"I'm sick, Delphine." The woman was fraailer now, her skin pale and clinging to bones like a living skeleton. She'd been sick a while, but now it was confirmed. There was no getting better. There was no happily ever after. There hadn't even been time for a wedding before things got worse.

Surrounding the bed were machines, constantly on, constantly monitoring and beeping, a constant reminder of death just being prolonged, standing just outside the hospital room waiting to claim another. Delphine was crying now. Assisted suicide was legal, if you were able to jump through the required hoops. If you had the strength to prove the case. They hadn't had time to even file the paperwork, not while Danielle was still able to communicate. It was just the night before when begging eyes had pleaded with her, the strictly monitored morphine not enough to take away all the pain, trapped in a body that refused to give up, a body that refused to give mercy. "Je t'aime." Delphine brushed her lips across a pale forehead, the lights of the hospital room reflecting off her tears. Taking a deep breath, she looked around before removing a syringe from her pocket.

"TAKE CONTROL!" Cosima could almost feel her own mother's hand slapping her across the face, pulling her out of the blonde's mind.

"No!" Cosima wasn't sure if she shouted out loud or not, but she managed to take charge of the

stream, fighting back the nausea and dizziness that was overwhelming her. She reached deep into herself for control, locking onto the memory of soft kisses the night before, the feeling of her own hands slipping through golden curls. As she reigned in her own emotions, she didn't give the woman another chance to pull away as she stepped up to her again, pulling her into a hug. She didn't try to alter the blonde's emotions, instead she felt the form melt against her, shaking with tears.

She could feel the sorrow threatening to merge into her, but somehow she managed to keep her own emotions under control, radiating a mild sense of comfort to the woman. Cosima could feel the her need to work through this and she could only offer the affection she felt. "It's ok, Delphine." The woman broke, uncontrollable sobs wracking the tall frame that clung to her.

Somehow they ended up on the floor, Delphine cradled in Cosima's lap, neither speaking, neither needing any reason to. Cosima did her best to offer comfort as the blonde's tears carried away a year's worth of despair. She didn't know how many minutes or hours had passed, but she was content to stay there, letting the Earth-dweller control the flow.

Finally Delphine sat up, her hands wiping furiously at her face, eyes red and swollen. "Désolée." With a sigh, she pushed herself off the floor, fingers running through her hair as she disappeared into the bathroom.

Scott came over and nosed Cosima in the shoulder. She smiled, scratching him behind the ears. Of course she knew about Danielle. Scott had fond memories of the woman. She'd gotten flashes and pieces of information from the animal about Delphine's relationship with her, but it was nothing compared to Delphine's memory stream. The emotions had been so...overpowering.

Hug?

Looking at the animal, Cosima smiled, pulling the dog into an embrace. He was very fond of them it seemed and she could hear his long tail swishing back and forth across the wooden floor.

"Do you have any spare hugs left or are you all hugged out today?"

Cosima looked up from her spot on the floor, seeing the blonde leaning against the bathroom door frame, eyes still red but her tears washed away. "You may have as many hugs as you wish." Standing, she found her arms filled easily, the long arms slipping around her waist. Gone were the overwhelming feelings of guilt and despair, and she felt a steady wave of affection coming from the blonde. It was...strange to say the least. At home, they were taught at a young age to take control of their emotions, to never let it control them. Earth, it seemed, did not harness the same restraint.

"Cosima..." Delphine pulled back but didn't pull away, instead bringing a hand up to caress her face. "I'm sorry for dragging you into that. I could feel you..." She shook her head, obviously trying not to cry again. "I have done some things in my past..."

"Delphine..." Cosima leaned into the touch. "Some do not understand the weight of the decisions one has to make when the life of a loved one is involved. There is no judgement." She covered Delphine's hand with her own, her eyes closing. Just a moment passed before she felt the touch pulling her closer, lips pressing softly against her own. This time it wasn't her pouring the positive emotions into the connection.

Delphine slipped her hand down Cosima's throat, caressing soft skin, pulling her closer. A soft whimper escaped her throat as she deepened the kiss, her arm wrapping completely around the slim waist, all space between their forms disappearing.

She knew they shouldn't be doing this. The blonde was obviously still grieving, still attached to her past lover, but as she pressed against the woman and hands began to wander, there was no hesitation present. Instead of Delphine feeding off of her arousal, she was feeding off of Delphine's. She gave up containing her own desire, tentatively loosening the reigns on her own emotions. It was almost as if the air got knocked out of her when her Ja reached out to Delphine's and they became one.

With a soft groan, Delphine pulled her back towards the bed.

Cosima didn't need a connection to understand the woman's intentions.

Chapter 8

Chapter Notes

Thank you all for continuing to read. In honor of your dutiful dedication, I offer the chapter that some have been patiently (and some not so patiently) waiting for. While it is not explicit, it is still nsfw.

Delphine slipped the woman's shirt up and off, breaking the kiss. A million thoughts flew through her mind but she didn't want to address them. She wanted to feel anything besides the gut-wrenching sorrow she'd felt for almost 2 years. She wanted to fall into the delicious delirium that the brunette was offering. Human...alien...it seemed the labels she'd known her entire life didn't matter anymore, not when she was almost feeling complete for the first time in what seemed like an eternity. The sorrow was still there, but it paled in comparison to the warmth and affection she felt traveling through a connection, a bond that she'd never known before. She'd known Cosima for such a small amount of time, but she felt as though she'd known her forever.

A long shuddering breath passed her cheek as she applied slow lingering kisses across Cosima's jaw, running a single fingertip down the center of her spine. A soft groan emerged involuntarily from her own throat as she felt the thrill of pleasure it caused through their bond. She captured an earlobe between her teeth, applying gentle pressure and feeling nails bite into her hip. Her eyes fluttered closed as lips brushed across her jaw, placing soft kisses at each corner of her mouth.

"Open your eyes." The words were soft, but a command none the less that came over the connection.

It was a struggle but she managed, finding hazel eyes just inches from her own. Her mind couldn't even fathom the idea of what was happening. The simplest of touches was sending her reeling, settling in her gut and setting her entire being on fire. She barely even noticed her clothes being removed, being pressed into the cool surface of the bed and the warm body covering her own.

"Show me what you want."

She wasn't even sure if it was voiced anymore. It didn't matter. All of Cosima's thoughts and sensations were open to her and she knew it was true for the reverse. Were their bodies the same physically? This woman was not human and yet she felt breasts pressed against her own, nipples grazing against her sensitive flesh. Forget the fact that she hadn't been with a woman in close to two years. Would she be able to please the visitor? Looking into a smiling face, she fell into the gaze, her mind already focusing on just what she wanted, watching the smile widen across the brunette's face.

"We are not so different after all." It was cocky and brazen, hips settling between her thighs and pressing against her heat as lips coursed down her throat.

Delphine felt a shuddered breath leaving her own lungs and she brushed her fingertips against the lines once more, her breath catching in her throat as the smaller form arched into her. It was confusing and unrelenting. A hot mouth discovered her nipple and a moan slipped from her lips. Each brush of her fingers against Cosima's back and she could feel the pleasure radiating from the form. Combined with the tongue lavishing her breasts, she was not sure how much longer she would last. Each tendril of pleasure she felt, she in turn could feel Cosima experiencing it as well.

It was a never ending cycle of sensation and she felt as if she had been split open and held under a waterfall of desire.

Lips began to travel down her abdomen and she was hit with an irrational fear that it would end too soon, that she wouldn't be able to hold back when she wanted to scream Cosima's names to the heavens. If this was how intense it was without lips traveling below her waist, what would happen when..

The fear was followed almost instantly by a reassuring amusement. "Don't be afraid." Cosima's thoughts coursed through her, a tongue tracing the lines of her abdomen, the warm breath sending tingles through her skin. "Don't hold back."

Delphine was overcome by an unexplainable warmth, as if it were cradling her soul, wrapping around her entirely and eliminating all doubts she felt. Lips pressed against her core and all breath was robbed from her. As a tongue slipped between her folds, she pulled the woman closer, unintentionally pressing harder against the dark lines than planned, a white hot bolt of pleasure shooting through not only Cosima's body but her own. "Merde." The word was a whimper and a moan all at once and her eyes snapped shut at the sensation. She could feel the shaking in the brunette's own hands that spread her thighs wider, a tongue beginning to move gently against her. She could barely stand it. It was too much and not enough. She was overflowing and still wanting more. She wanted to scream but her mouth fell open and remained silent.

"So beautiful." Cosima's thoughts traveled through her mind, reassuring her. She could feel the woman's desire coursing through her, an insatiable craving making itself known with each flick of a tongue. She could even just barely taste herself on the outer boundaries of her senses.

Suddenly she was crying, tears falling to the pillow beneath her head as her hips rolled uncontrollably against the hot mouth. It was more than she could take anymore, emotionally and physically. She was coming apart at the seams and, as if she'd spent an eternity loving an extraterrestrial, she brushed fingertips along Cosima's spine firmly, feeling herself being pushed off the plateau into oblivion. She came undone beneath the insistent tongue, her body frozen in time as surges of pleasure ripped through her, first her own and then Cosima's, feeling their bond fusing permanently and not even caring. Wave after wave of pure bliss crashed over her and she couldn't tell if it was from herself or Cosima. Even as her body was coming down, the pure exhaustion of the moment settling in her limbs, trembling aftershocks passed between their bodies, rebounding and reverberating.

Cosima groaned softly, collapsing beside her on the bed, gathering Delphine in her arms and running fingers through her hair. She pressed kisses against a sweat covered brow, chuckling softly.

"Why are you laughing?" Delphine asked softly, her head resting against Cosima's shoulder. Experimentally she reached out and circled a nipple with her finger, smiling when the woman twitched.

"You were worried...earlier...about pleasing me." Cosima looked down, meeting Delphine's glance with amusement. "You barely touched me and it was enough to undo me." She twitched again. "There are no words for what you do to me." She reached out and circled the wrist that belonged to the pestering fingertip. "And you are too tired to even continue this so do not start what you cannot finish."

Delphine chuckled, capturing soft lips in a kiss, her senses still awake as she tasted herself. "I've never felt anything like that. Your people are very...lucky." She settled on the word as she looked away, feeling it was the safest one she could muster at the time. She didn't expect to have her face captured, a soft pressure under her chin tipping her gaze up to the brunette's.

"Delphine...I'VE never felt anything like that." Cosima's voice was a bare whisper as her touch turned to a caress, cupping the reddened cheek in her palm. "That wasn't just my people or your people. That was us." She brought Delphine's lips to her own again, enjoying a slow and tender exploration until they were once again breathless. "We should sleep, because I plan on exploring this further when we awaken.

Laughing softly, Delphine nodded, feeling the exhaustion lulling her into a peaceful slumber, her mind going over what had just happened including that one moment in which she'd felt everything click into place, when she'd become complete without exception and an unbreakable bond forged without regret. What did that mean for their future?

Chapter 9

Chapter Notes

This chapter is mainly informative bio stuff mixed in with a little bit of nsfw. The smut dam hath broken. ;)

She felt...different. Stretching while avoiding jarring the sleeping brunette, Delphine ran a hand over her stomach. She could feel the life move inside her and a smile stretched across her face as she hummed in delight. After a minute of quiet contemplation, a hand covered her own and she found hazel eyes watching her with a smile. "Bonjour, mon amour." She brushed her lips across the smile, sighing in content as the woman snuggled closer.

Cosima spread her palm across the pale flesh of the slightest of bumps. She closed her eyes, a look of concentration on her face for the barest of moments before the brightest smile Delphine had ever seen took over her face. "It's a girl and...she's going to have your hair." The second statement seemed to delight her far more than the first.

Delphine smiled, tugging on one of the dark twists of hair. "Is it wrong that I want her to look like you?" She could feel the wave of energy coming from the woman, gently probing. "I would love to have a child that resembled the woman I love." She hummed softly as the energy continued to course through her. "What else can you tell me about her?"

With a soft smile, Cosima leaned forward, brushing her lips along the blonde's. "She is the second most beautiful soul I've ever seen." She brought her hands up to caress the blonde's cheeks, peppering kisses along her cheek.

A movement from inside her made Delphine wince. "She's growing quickly." Looking down, her stomach was just slightly larger than when she first awoke. She knew she should be worried, but all she could feel was contentment.

"She'll be here within days." Cosima nuzzled the woman's neck, still caressing her stomach. "And when she is born, we can create another." There was a look of delight on the brunette's face.

"Maybe that one will look like you." Delphine spoke as she pulled the woman to her in a deep kiss, feeling the hand slipping down her body.

"Merde!" Delphine sat up in bed, her eyes searching the dark room wildly. She looked down at her bare stomach, happily finding the surface as flat as it was when she passed out. "Mon Dieu." With a sigh she laid back, pulling the blanket up over her form. Off to her side slept the woman laying on her stomach beside her, her face turned away.

Once again the woman's back was smooth and she ran her fingers over the soft surface. By the time her fingers were halfway down, the skin shifted, sinking into the dark lines. She was rewarded with a soft whimper from the woman that was slowly waking.

Cosima groaned, waking and turning to her. Her face was a mixture of delight and confusion. "What is this vision you have put in my mind?"

Pulling her hand back, Delphine felt her cheeks flush. "Just a dream. Too many alien movies."

She shook her head, not really having an excuse for the completely absurd thoughts in her mind.

"Do you really think I am here to breed with you?" Cosima pushed herself up to a sitting position.
"I am a soldier, Delphine. I am not permitted to breed."

Rolling onto her back, Delphine ran a hand over her stomach, remembering the dream. "Pay no attention to it, Cosima. It was just a dream." She captured the woman's hand in her own, her mind suddenly echoing with thoughts not her own. "Soldiers are not allowed to bond either and yet..."

Cosima sighed heavily, pausing as if to choose her words carefully. "Do you actually want me to breed with you?"

"Could you?" Delphine laughed at that.

"Not without access to a lab." Cosima answered quietly, removing her hand from Delphine's and hugging her knees to her chest. "We are from different planets Delphine, but the simple basics are the same. Male...female...child." She rested her cheek on her knee. "But...the bonded are very rare and treated in high regards on my planet. We would have access to the breeding labs which allows children to be created no matter the sex of the parents."

"But you would not be a soldier anymore." Delphine could sense the sadness coming from the woman.

Cosima sighed again. "When...if I return home, I will not be allowed to continue to serve." She paused to think for a moment. "I don't know what I would do."

Even in the darkness, Delphine could see the tears welling in her eyes. "Cosima..." She sat up and pulled the smaller woman to her, doing her best in her untrained way to send comforting feelings to her. "I'm sorry...I..."

"No apologies, Delphine." Cosima interrupted her. "I do not regret any of this." She smiled, caressing a soft cheek.

Delphine leaned into the touch, feeling the warmth radiating from the woman. She knew she had to change the subject. "So...tell me about breeding on your planet." She chuckled softly. "Do the women bare the children?"

Cosima laughed at that, adjusting her position so that she was straddling the woman's lap, facing her. "Yes. Women bare the children." She brushed a fingertip down the blonde's side, a smile on her face. "Our biologies are almost identical." She looked into hazel eyes as she cupped a breast, grinning when Delphine pressed closer. "Genetic modifications aside, of course. It is why we chose your planet." She brushed a thumb over a nipple.

Closing her eyes against the sensation, Delphine groaned. "Chose our planet for what?"

"Integration." Cosima leaned forward, capturing Delphine's lips in a kiss. "Let's talk about this later." She mumbled, trailing kisses across her face. "You are too beautiful for my mind to think of anything but touching you right now."

Delphine hummed in delight as her own hands slid over soft hips and pulled her closer, feeling a damp heat pressed against her stomach. "You are the beautiful one, Cosima." One hand slipped up the woman's back, tracing the lowest line of her amrita and biting her bottom lip at the sensation. Almost instantly the brunette's hips began grinding against her and she could feel exactly what the woman wanted through their connection. "You say we are almost identical?" She asked with a grin, her hand slipping between their bodies. "Well well well...we are." She chuckled, the brunette having seemed to lose interest in speaking, pleasure radiating from their

connection as hips rolled against her hand.

A moan emerged from Cosima's mouth as she leaned forward to capture Delphine's lips. Both women whimpered into the kiss, Delphine's fingertips brushing across her amrita with intent.

Delphine could hear words through their connection, words she could never translate, and yet she understood them. She could understand the words for harder, deeper, more. She complied with each wish, feeling the woman respond to her touch, her own body responding to the pleasure that coursed through their bond. Most of all, she understood the word for love. It wrapped around her like a fire, weaving around the pleasure that radiated from Cosima's body, searing itself into her soul.

Chapter 10

Chapter Notes

Ok, now that the smut is out of the way, time to start working on the plot again. thank you for continuing to read this. I'm so excited for this story with every part that I write, I can't wait to share so much with you guys. Thank you for reviewing as well for your comments sustain me.

Cosima groaned as she dropped into the cockpit, lifting the tinted glasses off so she could see. The alarms were still silently going off and the first thing she did was turn them off with an exasperated growl. She had left Delphine fishing on the banks of the river as she went to inspect her ship. The outer inspection had revealed more damage than she thought there would be, numerous dents here and there and even an entire panel missing. Not to mention half the ship was sunken into the soft mud. There was so much damage. Every light seemed to be blinking and she kicked the pilot seat to make sure it was sturdy before dropping into it with a grunt. Where did she even start?

She couldn't even think about trying to turn the ignition on without checking the fuel cells which were currently about a foot deep in the ground at the moment. Instead she activated the ship's sensors, thankful when the display screen blinked into life. "Praise Ja-teil." She pulled up the physical keyboard and began typing in commands. There was no way she was going to try merging with the ship in it's damaged state so she had to do things the old fashion way.

She didn't know how long she had been typing, but she managed to zone in on a few problems she would be able to fix while her energy level rebuilt. Maybe it was the atmosphere, or the extent of her last injury, but she found herself tiring faster than normal. She just had to deal with recovering the old way. She wasn't going to waste another med capsule. She shook it off, pulling up communications and typing up a scan of the system. When an error flashed across the screen, she growled in disapproval. Her ship hadn't transmitted a signal since the crash which meant as far as home knew, she'd crashed without recovery. She was the last chance her people had sent to check on Earth, their first landing party having never been heard from again once they hit the planet's atmosphere. Here she was, alive and well, with good news that the Earth was bountiful and compatible with their biology, and she had no way to send message back.

"Merde!" The word slipped from her lips as she slammed her fist against the panel. If she couldn't get a message back...she didn't even want to think about the possible consequences. She had to find a way to send that message.

"Did you just say 'merde'?" Delphine's head popped through the opening.

Cosima smiled, the amusement radiating from the blonde enough to calm down her frustrations.
"Did I?"

"I'm pretty sure I heard it. Visitor from another planet and I'm teaching her how to cuss." Delphine laughed. "Are you hungry? It's past lunch time. You've been in here for a while."

Looking around, Cosima nodded with a sigh. Now that she was actually thinking about it, she was feeling very hungry. "Yes. I could eat. Are we going to eat the fish?" She slipped off the chair, and pulled herself out of the cockpit, coming face to face with the blonde. "Hello."

"Hey." Delphine grinned, leaning forward for a quick kiss before pulling away, slipping down the side of the ship and landing on the ground with a grunt. "The fish will have to wait until I can cook it. How is everything going?"

Dusting off the shorts she wore, Cosima gave her a grim look. "Well...there is a lot of damage. I will have to dig it out in order to see if I can start it or not. It will not leave the planet without a lot of repairs and I do not have the supplies to do so." She followed the woman over to the shaded area where there was a blanket spread on the ground. "This is pleasant."

Delphine laughed at that. "Yes, pleasant."

Her eyebrows furrowing, Cosima sat where she was told. "Is that not the correct word?"

"It is a suitable word, just a little formal." She sat down beside the brunette, pulling over the bag with their lunches in it. "Here." She opened a wrapped bundle, revealing a recently acquired bounty.

Cosima picked up one of the small red objects, watching as Delphine bit into it and followed suit. It was sweet and soft with little grainy were delicious and she quickly ate the rest of it, making a face when she tasted the earthy bitterness of the green bits.

"They're strawberries. Don't eat the green part, only the red." Delphine chuckled, unwrapping the peanut butter sandwiches. "There is a plant a little further in over there." She pointed. "I didn't think they would be ripe yet but we got lucky."

Torn between the berries and the sandwich, Cosima settled on alternating bites. This peanut butter substance was one that was becoming a quick favorite of hers and she was enjoying it immensely. "I like this." She laughed. "I wish I could share it with my people. My sister would greatly enjoy it as well." Her smile faltered as she thought about her, feeling the sadness threatening to bubble up.

"You have a sister?" Delphine paused in her chewing, feeling the edge of despair threatening to take over the brunette. "Did you want to talk about it?"

Cosima shrugged. "There isn't much to tell. She...she was sick before I left. Her name is...was Sarahma...Sarah" Taking a bite of her sandwich she paused to think over how much she wanted to discuss. "The air...on our planet has become poisonous. When you become a soldier, you are given the inoculation to sustain it without needing a filter, but she rebelled against the service and lived outside of the colony. She got sick."

Delphine reached out and rubbed her shoulder comfortingly. "You don't have to talk about it if you don't want to."

With a sigh, Cosima took a sip of water. "There isn't much more to tell. She went into cryo sleep before the trip. I was hoping that Earth would offer her a chance at a new life, but...she did not survive the crash."

Delphine paused, giving her a troubled look before realization dawned on her face. "The cargo hold."

Clearing her throat, Cosima took another drink of water. She didn't really want to think about the sacrifice she'd made to survive the crash. There hadn't been a choice. She had been too heavy to pull up. At the angle she had entered the atmosphere at the time, she would not have walked away and Sarah's chance of survival was already cut down significantly by the illness. "Can we not talk about this now? I do not wish to ruin our...picnic?"

Giving her a slight smile that didn't fool anyone, Delphine nodded. "Ok. Do you want more

strawberries."

"Yes please." Cosima smiled a slight smile, accepting one of the red fruits. "These are very delicious." She smiled a little wider, glad for the distraction. "Can we find more?"

Delphine laughed, nodding. "Yes there were more but I gathered just enough for lunch. We can collect more for dessert tonight." She leaned forward and brushed her lips against Cosima's. "I have more supplies coming in a couple days so we're going to have to figure out what we're telling my delivery woman about you."

Cosima smiled, too focused on the nose bumping against her own to worry about fake stories or supply deliveries. She focused on the eyes that were like starbursts and the green around the edges that was much brighter outside the cabin. "You look...very pleasant."

Delphine laughed again. "We have to find you a new word."

Meeting Delphine's lips in a soft kiss, Cosima chuckled as she tasted peanut butter and strawberries, feeling the strong wave of arousal coming from the blonde, mixing with her own. "How about...delicious?"

Swallowing loudly, Delphine nodded, the look on her face as if she'd seen exactly what was on Cosima's mind. "That'll work."

Chapter 11

Chapter Notes

Glad to see people are still reading. I don't know how everyone else is fairing after the season starting but I'm happy for the retreat that fanfic allows. We'll be finding out who's delivering Delphine's supplies after this chapter, so it will be nice to bring someone else into the story.

"Mother?" Cosima stuck her head into the small domicile, finding her mother leaning against the dome window that overlooked the colony. "How are you feeling today?"

"It is as expected." The older woman smiled, holding out an arm to her youngest daughter. "Is it that time already?"

Cosima nodded, taking a seat beside her on the padded bench. She removed the small tablet from her pocket. "I want you to take my creds." She pulled up the program, holding out the screen to her mother. "I need to know you're going to be taken care of."

"Cosima...no." She shook her head, her hair twisted in the same fashion as her daughter except it was pulled back into a knot. "I have what I need."

"Mother...I'm not going to need it."

"Don't say that." She captured her daughter's face between strong fingers. "If anyone can be successful, it will be you."

Cosima gave her a weak smile. "You always have such belief in me."

She laughed. "Well, Ja-teil saw fit to bless me with one of the most gifted children in the colony. It's my job to make sure you see that too."

"Even if I am successful..."

"When you are successful."

Cosima rolled her eyes. "Yes, when I am successful, I will have no use for creds mother. You will be coming to me. Use it to buy enough filters for you and Kirama. Then when you receive word of my success, purchase passage on the first ship that leaves this forsaken planet." When she was given a reluctant look, she sighed softly. "

With a heavy sigh of her own, her mother pressed her hand against the screen. "I am only taking this because I have absolute faith that you will be successful." With a heavy heart, she pulled her daughter into an embrace, pressing their temples together in a gesture that was reserved for mothers and their children. "May the light of Ja-teil watch over you and guide you to your destiny."

"I will see you on the other side of the universe, Mother." With one more embrace, Cosima stood, looking around the domicile that she had been raised in one last time. Whether she was successful or a failure, this would be the last time she would be here. She would do what she planned to do,

even if it killed her.

Snapping the component into the equipment in her hand, Cosima blew out a long stream of breath, clearing her throat. She was feeling a little tired but she had just about...the device in her hand beeped and her face lit up with a big grin. Finally something was starting to work. The device was not much bigger than her hand, and while the bio-merge had not survived the crash, the screen had just the smallest fracture going through the length of it. Unfortunately it was significant enough to make typing on the screen difficult. She watched as it plotted out the area around her.

A blip.

That's all it was and her heart beat a million times against her chest. Sarahma's tracker. The tracker was sending a signal and she would be able to find it. She didn't dare have hope though. Chances were that the cryotube was damaged on impact. Chances were she didn't make it, but now she could be sure. She watched as the screen calculated distance and duration. It would take at least three days of travel by foot. As much as she wanted to head out at that moment, Delphine had said there would be supplies delivered more than likely the next day and she could use the blonde's help in navigating the area.

Turning off the device as to not waste its energy source, she rooted around in her bag and removed her few belongings. She shook out the thin outer wear, breathing in the scent that reminded her of home. It smelt of the plants her mother would seep in water and serve with meals. It had been the last jacket her mother had bought for both she and Sarah, their names stitched by hand into the pocket flap. No doubt Delphine would just see the letters as odd squiggles and dots, but it was a name that was all hers. Cosima of the Niehaus clan. Her finger traced the loops of her clan sigil. Would she ever see them again?

Would she see her mother? Or Sarahma's daughter? Her clan was not large, meager numbers in comparison to some of the other overpopulated clans on the planet, but there were more than enough for her to mourn the loss of their presence in her life.

Delphine was the only shining light right now. Just a few Earth days and she was feeling inseparable from the woman. Their connection was impenetrable and even as the woman moved around the domicile, she didn't have to look up to know where she was. It was as if she could feel the room around her, her senses on overdrive in regards to the blonde, and she could feel the air moving around the woman.

She had thought their bond was strong before they mated. When their minds had merged together the first time, they had bonded mentally. Her Ja had reached out to Delphine's and connected on a level in which she never thought possible. It was the deepest thing she could feel, or so she thought. She had been so wrong. Feeling Delphine...touching...being touched by her. There were no words that could explain how much she felt...everything. It was as if a million senses awoke in her body at that moment and there were no secrets. If the blonde had the training, she could easily tap into Cosima's Ja and find out anything she wanted to. The thought was both terrifying and exhilarating. To know for certain, without a single micron of doubt that someone wants you...needs you...she felt the truth of it settle in her gut and other places.

Ever since they mated the first time...her hands shook just thinking about it. She was aroused constantly and it was a bit distracting at first, but now she'd just learned to live with it. It had never been a big thing for her before. Mating. Relationships. She was never adverse to it in the past, but it also held no interest for her most of the time. Now, however, looking up and seeing the woman checking on a large pot on the wood-burning stove...a smile tugged at the corners of her mouth.

She watched as the woman carried the pot into the bathroom, having denied the brunette's offer of assistance with the first couple of buckets.

"Cosima?" Delphine called from the bathroom before she came over to lean against the couch.

"Yes?" Cosima couldn't stop the smile from spreading across her face. How odd a sensation, to not be able to control one's facial features. "Are you finally willing to allow me to assist you?"

"Non. I have something I want to share with you. It is an age-old, traditional, cleansing ritual." The tone in her voice was one of humor.

Cosima saw images in the blonde's mind and couldn't stop the blush. "A bath?" The word came to her from their connection.

"Oui. I've subjected you to enough cold showers. I think you would really enjoy a nice, hot bath." She offered her hand down to Cosima, tugging her up into a standing position before starting to undress her.

"If this is a cleansing ritual, why am I not getting any ideas involving soap coming from you?"

Delphine chuckled, raising her arms up as her own clothes were removed. "Are you done fixing whatever it was you were working on?"

Cosima nodded, allowing herself to be tugged into the bathroom. She eyed the tub suspiciously, the length of it filled halfway with steaming water. As if sensing her hesitation, Delphine slipped into the water first, a small look of bliss crossing her face before she reached her hand out to Cosima.

"Be careful...it's slippery." Delphine cautioned as the brunette placed one foot between her knees and then the other, slowly lowering herself into the water in front of her.

It was an odd sensation. Fresh water was a treat in itself, even the idea of wasting it on cleansing, seemed strange. She had already been mesmerized by the showers, but as the heated water enveloped her, she let out a tiny moan. That was before the slick arm moved around her waist and pulled her backwards against the blonde's naked form. She wanted to say something witty...something intelligent and humorous to make the woman laugh, or chuckle seductively in her ear, but all words were robbed from her.

"So...what do you think? Better than cold showers?" Delphine pulled the dark hair to the side, nibbling a path down the smooth neck, one hand sliding over wet skin to cover a breast.

Cosima just nodded. She didn't trust herself to try to speak. She felt lips travel down the back of her neck as the other hand around her waist began to travel down her body. The breath was robbed from her as a tongue flicked out against the top most line of her amrita just as fingertips slid lower. The simplest of touches and it was almost enough to unravel her completely. She'd thought they'd been bonded before.

She had no idea.

Chapter 12

"Come on Scott." Delphine tapped her thigh, trying to get the attention of the slumbering animal.

Scott whimpered, ignoring her and burying his head in the crook of Cosima's arm.

Cosima made a similar noise in her sleep, just a thin sheet covering her naked form as her arm draped over the golden body, unconsciously pulling him closer.

Delphine didn't sense any panic coming from the woman, not like she had when they'd shared the dream about the crash, so she knew there wasn't any reason to wake her. With a shake of her head at the dog, she grabbed a basket and stepped out of the cabin, making her way over to the clothes line she'd set up long ago. She felt almost domestic as she unclipped the clothes Cosima had brought back from the ship. A small smile tugged at her face as she took down the jacket, running her fingers over the delicate stitching. Somehow, she understood the strange letters that were across the pocket, mysteriously able to make out Cosima's name.

There had been so many details crawling through her mind the past few days, information she couldn't explain. As she held the jacket to her nose, she could detect a faint scent that was close to mint and she couldn't explain how, but it reminded her of Cosima's mother. She shook her head, and thought maybe to ask Cosima about it later. No doubt it was their connection, but she felt as though she was learning something new every day.

Humming softly to herself, Delphine took down the rest of the clothes, folding each shirt before dropping it into the basket. It was in these moments, when half of her connection was slumbering, that she was allowed the liberty to dwell on the past. Not that Cosima would mind, she doubted the brunette would even mention it, but when they were both awake, there was a palpable attraction that overtook both of them.

She couldn't believe how much had changed in so little time. She still missed Danielle, but somehow the pain wasn't as strong as it previously had been. She knew that on some level, she was still grieving, but she didn't spend each night thinking about the woman that had died by her hand. Danielle had been the first woman Delphine had ever loved, and there had been a fear in her that she would compare the two, but the experiences were so far apart they were incomparable. She had loved every moment she'd spent with Danielle, and she cherished every memory she had, but she was beginning to realize it was nothing close to what she shared with Cosima. She felt a trickle of guilt coursing through her for comparing the two, but she couldn't help it. With Danielle, it had touched her on a level she'd never been touched, at the time. She had finally discovered what love was after a string of meaningless relationships, and for that she was forever grateful, but with Cosima, it went even deeper. Their relationship, even in its new stages, ran so deep she didn't know where she ended and Cosima began. She wasn't a religious person, but their bond was the closest she'd been to spirituality.

She couldn't help but wonder if they would be so close without the bond. What if Cosima had just been a normal human on Earth and they had gone through the normal courting rituals of dates and first kisses and waiting till the third date before sex...or getting caught up in the passion and not waiting. Would they have bonded over favorite books? What would Cosima do on Earth? Would she be a soldier? Would Delphine be able to deal with being the partner of a woman in the military, having to deal with deployments and training?

She remembered the first moment her eyes fell on the woman's face once she removed her helmet. There had been a brief moment when she had paused, taking in the button nose and pouty lips, beautiful even when unconscious. Yes, even before they'd been connected, the physical attraction

had been there, but would they be mentally compatible? From the information she'd gotten, the brunette had a very scientific yet disorganized mind. There were always a thousand thoughts going through her mind, always chattering in the background of Delphine's consciousness like white noise whenever the woman was awake.

Speaking of which...she felt the slight confusion filling her senses and practiced one of the exercises Cosima had been teaching her, focusing on the laundry basket. Less than a minute later, Scott came bounding outside, looking for a tree. He was followed by a sleepy-looking and completely topless brunette who had at least put on a pair of boxers before emerging. The woman turned her way and gave her a small smile before making her way over.

"Bonjour, ma cherie." Delphine laughed as the small body came up to her, not stopping in time as she wrapped arms around her waist from behind, nearly knocking Delphine off balance.

"Mmmmm. Scott was not the blonde I was hoping to wake up next to." Cosima complained sleepily, burying her face between Delphine's shoulder blades.

Delphine couldn't help but laugh, thinking back on how formal the woman had been the first day. She took the shirt she had just pulled off the line and turned to slip it over the half-conscious woman. "You are beautiful, but I don't know when our visitor is coming." She placed a kiss on soft lips, humming in delight as she felt the connection between them become a palpable force from even the slightest of touches.

"Well then we should make the best of being alone right now."

The tone in the woman's voice sent a thrill through Delphine and her nostrils flared as she tried to handle the rush of arousal. She really had to figure out a way to handle this irrationally intense attraction.

But not today.

Delphine laughed as she found herself pressed into the soft cushions of the couch, her tank top somehow tangled with Cosima's shirt, draped over the back of the couch. Her lap was being straddled by the smaller form as the woman kissed and nipped at her lips. She was tempted to slip her fingers under the thin material of the boxers, to feel the arousal she knew would be waiting for her, but she was also trying to keep it light in the chance that her supplies arrived. The brunette, however, seemed intent on torturing her, grinding her hips down against her, somehow moving her top half in a way that caused their breasts to rub against each other. It was killing her.

Running a hand through the long blonde curls, Cosima pulled away, a playful grin on her face. "You're getting stronger at resisting me." She commented with a smirk. With a daring look, she circled a nipple with a fingertip, her smirk widening as the woman increased the pressure by leaning forward. "All this time resisting, we could have been mated already." She leaned forward, brushing a light kiss against Delphine's lips. "Maybe I should take care of things myself."

Swallowing loudly, Delphine watched as Cosima pinched her own nipple, an exaggerated gasp coming from the brunette. She knew that the woman was trying to lure her in, but she couldn't stop from watching the hand slipped past the elastic waistband of the boxers, her view of what was going on suddenly blocked by the thin material. She didn't need to watch to feel the pleasure that suddenly flooded through the connection, and she moaned against it.

Suddenly, there was a loud sound from outside and Delphine groaned. "That should be my supplies." She watched as the hand came out of the boxers, fingers glistening just slightly. "You are a fucking brat." Delphine growled, pushing the brunette off her lap and trying to gain her bearing as she stood up. Slipping on her tank top, she gave the brunette a smirk, tossing her the

shirt that was draped over the back of the couch. "Hopefully this won't take too long and then you are in trouble."

With a laugh, Cosima slipped on the shirt and looked towards the door, the amused smile being replaced by a troubled look taking over her features.

"What?" Delphine could sense the confusion coming through their connection. "Are you alright?" She pulled her hair up into a bun, trying to not look like she'd just been making out like a teenager. She knew that her lips were probably bruised and her cheeks were flushed, but there was not much else she could do.

Sliding off the couch, Cosima covered her bag with the throw blanket, trying to make sense of what was going on. "I cannot sense her."

"What?" Delphine looked at the woman who had started to fidget. "What does that..." She was cut off by a knock on the door.

"Delphine." The voice called through the door. "Are you here?"

With a wary look at Cosima, Delphine opened the door. "Sorry, I was in the middle of something." She smiled at the older woman, taking the crate she had in her hands. "Come in, come in."

"There's still more in the truck, Love..." Her voice trailed off as she froze in the doorway, her eyes looking past Delphine and falling on the short brunette. "What..."

Delphine gave her a tight-lipped smile, setting the crate down. "Cosima. This is..."

"Siobhan." Cosima cut her off, a thousand emotions showing on her face at once.

"Cosima." Her hand raising to her lips in surprise, the older woman took a step forward, hesitating uncertainly.

Delphine felt a wave of joy from the brunette as the shorter woman rushed forward, stopping just less than a few inches from Siobhan, both women leaning forward to press temple to temple and to Delphine's surprise, she watched as a tear slipped down the shorter woman's cheek.

Chapter 13

Chapter Notes

Thanks for all the comments and reviews. I'm sorry if I've been a little slow responding. I do appreciate all of them. Thank you for continuing to inspire me to continue writing.

"Cosima. Come here love."

She was halfway through her childhood years and had been in the middle of her mid-day lessons when she heard a beckoning from the living quarters. She set stylus down, saving her screen.

"Mother will be upset if she catches you not studying." Sarah didn't bother looking up, having been quickly rushing through her own work, not caring if it was correct or not.

"It will be Siobhan's fault." Cosima smirked, slipping her jacket on, ignoring the ladder and hopping out the portal door that separated their loft bedroom from the main room. Landing without so much as a grunt despite the high level, she made her way to the study where Siobhan was leaning over a star chart. "You summoned?"

"Do you have much studying left?" Siobhan held a stylus in one hand, taking notes across the chart without looking up.

Rocking on her heels, hands clasped behind her back, Cosima shrugged nonchalantly, not wanting to lie but also not wanting to be sent away. "I have maybe a chapter or two more until I have completed for today."

Looking up finally from the chart, the older woman gave her a mischievous smile. "Would you like to help me prepare for this trip? You could finish your studies later."

Cosima nodded in excitement but paused. "Will you explain to mother if she asks?"

Siobhan laughed. "Don't you worry about your mother. I have a small bit of persuasion." She winked, handing a small screen to the girl. "Do you know where I'm going?"

Taking a seat on one of the chairs, Cosima nodded again, her fingers sliding over the screen to the far away galaxy. "Planet Lucarious-438C."

"That's right." Siobhan nodded, pulling up the planet on her own larger chart. "The inhabitants call it Earth."

"Earth." The name rolled off of Cosima's tongue and she smiled. "I like that. It's much prettier than what we call it."

Siobhan chuckled. "That it is, Love. That it is." Zooming back out so that Earth was on one side of the screen and their planet was on the other, she blew out a long breath. "Alright. Since we are only sending out a single-pilot ship and un-monitored cryo-sleep is not recommended, how do we

get through this distance with minimal time loss?"

Her face scrunching up in thought, Cosima looked down at her screen, studying the chart for a moment before smiling. "An exotic singularity." Cosima supplied quickly.

"Exactly." Siobhan tugged on one of the girl's locks before bringing up another chart.

Cosima watched as the woman made a few marks on the new chart. "Do you think they'll like us on Earth?"

Pausing in her writing, Siobhan put her stylus down, smiling at the girl as she got down to one knee in front of her. "I don't know, Love, but that's why I'm going. We've learned all we can from their satellites, and now it's time to send a landing party." She captured the girl by the jaw between her thumb and forefinger, giving her an endearing look. "I can't imagine there's a single person in this whole universe that wouldn't love you, Cosima." Leaning forward, she pressed her temple against the girl's, feeling the wave of affection pass between them.

Cosima leaned back, looking over the woman she hadn't seen since she was little. "This is unbelievable." She held the woman at arm's distance. "You are looking amazing. How have you aged so well?"

Siobhan laughed at that. "I think you're biased, Love, but you'll be surprised how much good a breath of fresh air can do you." Her eyes raked over the girl that was now a woman, shaking her head in disbelief. "But look at you...my god you are beautiful." She reached out and tugged on one of the dark locks. "What are you doing here?"

Sensing the growing confusion coming from the blonde, Cosima tried to send a comforting feeling towards her, begging for just a minute.

Biting her bottom lip, Delphine gave her a small nod. "I'm going to get the supplies. You two should talk." She excused herself from the cabin, not without one final look back at the women.

"She knows." Siobhan gave Cosima a look.

Cosima nodded. "There was a miscalculation. Something wrong with the data."

Siobhan nodded as if familiar with the problem. "Our information on the strength of their gravity was wrong."

"Exactly!" Cosima sighed. "I..." She tried not to think of the cargo hold. There were a few things she had to discuss with Siobhan before she got yelled at for not finding the cargo hold sooner. "I came in too steep and crashed near the river. There was a lot of internal damage and Delphine found me." She gestured to the table so they could both sit down. "She managed to get me out of the ship and back to the cabin on her own. I would not have survived without her."

Nodding, Siobhan reached out and pat the woman on the hand. "I'm glad someone was there to help." She sighed softly, obviously dealing with her own memories and troubles. "I was not so lucky when my own ship came down. I just barely had enough energy to take a med capsule in hopes I didn't bleed out all over the forest." Sitting back in the seat, she took a deep breath. "I wish that I'd been able to send out a message...any message to you. There hasn't been a day that's gone by that I haven't missed you girls or your mother."

This time it was Cosima who reached out and covered the woman's hand. "She still thinks of you." She swallowed against the emotions, looking up as Delphine entered, a look of concern on her face as she set the two crates in her hands down near the door. "She has accepted the inevitability that you two would not meet again, but there has been no one since you in her life."

She looked up as Delphine moved over to the stove, starting a fire and getting a kettle of water on before disappearing out the door again to continue bringing in the supplies.

Siobhan pulled her hand away, clearing her throat as she tried to gather her emotions. "She shouldn't just be waiting around for me. There's no way for me to leave. My ship was practically destroyed." She shook her head.

"If we can just get word home..." Cosima tried to reason. "This planet is fertile. It's compatible with our biology. Just look at you. You look fantastic. I mean, there's damage to my ship but it's not completely destroyed. Maybe we can find a way to fix it or somehow use something from Earth."

"This planet..." Siobhan sighed, her hand coming up to rub her temple. "The technology is not the greatest. They're only now inspecting planets in their own system let alone sending communication across the universe."

Cosima nodded in understanding. "Well, maybe you could take a look at my ship?" She offered. "I mean, there have been some technological advances since you left, but I could use an extra set of hands that are not going to stick their hands in the fuel cells or something." She chuckled as Delphine entered again with a few more crates, moving to check on the water, 'accidentally' bumping her on the way.

Siobhan watched the interaction curiously. "I must say, Delphine. You're looking a bit more refreshed this month. Maybe some company finally did you good."

Delphine smiled. "It has been interesting." She retrieved enough mugs for the three of them, pulling out her stash of tea bags.

"Siobhan..." Cosima bit her bottom lip, rocking in her seat slightly. "Delphine didn't just help heal me." She tried to find the words, not expecting it to be this strange for her. Siobhan was her second mother, the woman who got her interested in space exploration in the first place. She wasn't exactly sure how she was going to explain how she bonded with a human. She looked up when a drink was put in front of her, smiling softly at the blonde. "Thank you, Delphine."

"You're welcome." Delphine returned the smile before setting a cup in front of Siobhan.

Siobhan's eyes narrowed as she watched the blonde make a third cup for herself, turning to look at the brunette who was watching her. She tried to reach out to Delphine's mind and found it blocked somehow. Only one of their kind was able to block others and she knew Delphine wasn't from her planet. She took in the look on the younger brunette's face and it suddenly clicked. "Cosima..." She spoke in an exasperated tone.

Cosima jumped, looking at the older woman. Judging from the look on the woman's face, she knew they'd been caught. "Don't get upset."

"If you wouldn't mind explaining to me, why is it that you are sent to Earth to save your people, and THIS is the first thing you do?" Siobhan spoke with a growl.

"It's not like that Siobhan." Cosima sighed softly. "My ship needs major repairs and I've been ill." She shook her head, taking a sip of the tea. "Something is wrong. We went to the ship and my energy level just disappeared."

With a scoff, Siobhan rolled her eyes. "It's the sun. The star that this planet circles. You're not used to living in a clear atmosphere. You're not drinking enough water." Her motherly instincts kicking in, she looked at Delphine as the blonde sat down. "She needs to drink twice of what a

human needs until her skin can adapt and it will. Don't give her any carbonated beverages. I don't think I brought any but it'll make her sicker than a dog."

Cosima's brows furrowed. "The dog is sick? He didn't say he was."

Unable to stop herself, Delphine laughed, quickly covering her mouth with a hand. "Sorry. No, Cosima. It's just a saying."

"Oh." Cosima cleared her throat. "I'm sorry, I'm being improper." Cosima looked at Siobhan who nodded her approval. "Delphine, Siobhan is from my planet. She was the first landing party that we sent." At the blonde's surprised look she laughed nervously. "She's also my second mother."

"Merde." Delphine looked at the older woman nervously, seeing the suspicious look. "Like...your mother and her created you?"

Cosima nearly spit out her tea, instead she choked on it. "No." She shook her head, sensing the quiet anger beginning to build in the older woman. "I was created the good old fashion way. My father died not long after Sarah and I were born. Siobhan helped to raise us and a few years later, she and my mother were joined."

"You told her about Visarjana?" Siobhan glared at the brunette. "Cosima, that is not to be spoken of with humans. It is sacred." She looked between the two women in exasperation. "What would even make you think of telling her that?"

Swallowing audibly, Cosima looked the older woman in the eye, knowing she had no other choice. "There is something else I have not told you yet." She looked at Delphine who gave her a worried look. "I don't know how it happened, or why, but..." She grimaced trying to find the words to soften the blow. "...somehow Delphine is my Atma Mitra."

With a cool and collected look, Siobhan ran her fingertip around the edge of the mug of tea, looking back and fourth between the two. After what seemed like an excruciatingly long moment, she finally spoke. "Delphine? Would you mind giving me a moment alone with my daughter?"

When Delphine looked to Cosima, the smaller woman nodded, giving her a reassuring smile despite the overwhelming sense of dread. As the blonde nodded, disappearing out the front door, Cosima looked at Siobhan, gulping loudly at the look she found.

Chapter 14

Delphine sat on the tailgate of the truck, trying to sort through the emotions and thoughts she was getting from the woman in the cabin. There had been a lot of yelling at first in what she guessed was their native language, but now she heard nothing but silence. It was an odd sensation she could feel coming through the connection she had with Cosima. It was as if there were someone watching her but she felt it from the connection with Cosima. Maybe Siobhan and Cosima were merging?

She was surprised to feel irrationally jealous at the thought of someone else in Cosima's mind, combing through her thoughts and more than likely witnessing what she and the brunette had shared over the past week. It was completely uncalled for considering that the woman was Cosima's mother. Step-mother. And Siobhan of all people! Siobhan had been delivering her supplies once a month for over a year now. The woman was so...human. She wasn't anything like Cosima who had trouble understanding concepts like sarcasm and euphemisms. The older woman had no problem with the English Language, but then again Siobhan did have a tendency of calling her "Chicken" for some reason.

The sensation of being watched was ripped from the connection so suddenly, it left her dizzy and confused, disorienting her to the point that it took a moment before she realized the yelling within the cabin had started again. This time she could clearly feel the guilt coming from Cosima. It was as if she was ten years old again, her father yelling and telling her she was irresponsible for knocking over a vase on one of the rare weekends she'd been home with him. She wanted nothing more than to run indoors and take Cosima into her arms, hugging her and letting her know she was loved. Instead, she concentrated on the memory of Cosima's body in her arms, the feeling of her lips against Cosima's neck, trying to erase that feeling of shame and guilt. To her surprise, she felt the presence of those emotions in their connection lessening. Security and adoration blossomed through Cosima's Ja and Delphine smiled. Cosima was beginning to calm down.

After a moment more the yelling stopped again and Delphine felt Cosima calling for her. She'd gotten over being surprised by these new sensations, feeling the call summoning her like a siren's song she was unable to resist. It didn't matter to her if Siobhan was ready for her to enter or not, she opened the door and her eyes fell on the small brunette. Recent tears stained Cosima's eyes a dark pink and Siobhan was faced away from her, hands on hips. Delphine instantly moved to Cosima's side, grabbing a chair and pulling the brunette into an embrace. This close, with the brunette's barrier's down, she could easily absorb the information that the older woman had brought to the surface and taken from her. She was surprised to learn about Sarah, or more so that Cosima hadn't told her about what had been in the cargo hold, but she felt the sorrow attached to that knowledge. As she pulled back and looked into dark eyes that were still rimmed with tears, she could see the sorrow and regret once again and leaned their foreheads together. Cosima had already accepted her sister as dead, and there was a mission planned to retrieve her body. Delphine could sense how raw and exposed Cosima felt and she did her best to comfort her.

Siobhan turned to them, her head tilting to the side as she observed the two. She sighed heavily before approaching them. "Delphine, stand up." When the blonde gave her a suspicious look, she rolled her eyes. "I'm not going to read your mind or chastise you, just stand up."

Casting a concerned look towards Cosima, she swallowed when the brunette nodded. Standing up, she was surprised when Siobhan pulled her into a hug, long arms wrapping around her and pulling her close. The woman was warm and oddly Delphine could sense an aggravated affection being directed towards her for some reason. Siobhan pulled out of the hug, looking her over with a speculative eye before leaning forward and pressing her temple to Delphine's. It was the oddest

sensation, a wave of motherly love suddenly pouring over her. It wasn't as powerful as what she felt with Cosima, but it was strong and it reminded her of some of her earliest years of childhood, the feeling of sitting in her mother's lap even when the woman was sick. She could feel a bond creating between she and Siobhan, not like the one she shared with Cosima, but another that felt warm and secure. It brought the sting of tears to her eyes as Siobhan pulled away but the feeling remained.

"I know." Siobhan reached up to wipe away a tear that slipped from Delphine's eyes. "It's a little overwhelming the first time." She whispered with a conspiring tone. "Never thought I'd have a human daughter, but Cosima never was one to conform."

Delphine had to laugh at that, looking at Cosima who was watching the scene in shock.

"What?" Siobhan threw at Cosima. "Even I can't argue with an Atma Mitra bond." She chastised the shorter woman. "I can only trust in Ja-teil." She looked at Delphine and shook her head in disbelief. "Well...I'll leave you ladies alone to continue defiling ages of the traditions of our people with this inter-species bond and I'll see you in the morning."

Delphine's brow furrowed at that, watching as Cosima rolled her eyes before leaning towards Siobhan, touching temple to temple before the older woman left. "Tomorrow?" She asked as the sound of the truck got farther away.

"She is going to bring a stronger vehicle, to assist in the search for the cargo hold." Cosima commented, knowing Delphine knew about Sarah. "I'm sorry I never mentioned that Sarah was in the ship."

Sensing the bit of fear in the shorter woman, Delphine pulled her forward, capturing her face between her hands. "I know you are. I'm not upset." She paused for a moment. "Did Siobhan just bond with me?" Leaning down, she pressed her lips softly against hers in a kiss that was meant to be soft and tender.

Smiling against her lips, Cosima slipped her arms around Delphine's waist, disbursing any bit of air between their bodies. "A mother's bond. Don't worry, she cannot read your mind without merging. It's more of a...danger sensor." She ran her fingers through blonde curls, pulling the lips back to her.

Delphine hummed softly against the exploring tongue that pushed past her lips, knowing exactly where this was headed and on the cusp of letting it pull her in. With a regretful groan, she pushed the woman away, laughing at the pout she was rewarded with. "Not until you help me put away all this stuff."

"But you promised as soon as the supplies were delivered." Cosima's eyes narrowed as her pout turned into a smirk, the bridge of her nose wrinkling in amusement.

Delphine didn't understand the look until it hit her. The rush of arousal flooded her senses, causing her skin to flush and her heart to speed up as it settled in her groin. The desire to touch Cosima was overwhelming, coursing through her entire body, making her fingers twitch and her body sway. She whimpered softly as arms slipped around her waist again, fingertips slipping under her tank top and tracing patterns against her back. "That...that is not fair." She licked her lips as she pressed closer to the brunette.

Cosima chuckled, lifting the shirt up and off the blonde, brushing kisses over the soft skin of her neck. "Totally fair." She whispered, her tongue tracing the rim of a pale ear. "Is there anything that needs to be put away immediately?"

Shaking her head, Delphine removed the woman's shirt, draping it over a chair as they made their way towards the bed, trading bruising kisses for lingering touches. She wasn't sure if she should be upset considering the brunette had used their connection to get her way, but as the hands grazed over her sensitive skin, she couldn't muster an ounce of anger.

The bed bowed beneath their combined weight, Cosima straddling Delphine's hips and pressing her back onto the pillow.

As soft lips coursed down her chest, lavishing her sensitive skin with attention, Delphine sighed softly, tracing the top most line of the brunette's amrita. Yeah she definitely couldn't be upset, she thought as she arched into the woman's touch. After all, she did promise.

Chapter 15

Chapter Notes

So...this is nsfw. LOL. Yeah I'm keeping with the alien smut train... Thanks for continuing to read.

Cosima laid awake, watching the blonde sleep. Delphine was laying on her stomach, her fingers twitching against Cosima's side. Even in sleep, Cosima could feel the primitive pull of the woman that filled her every waking thought. She wanted to run her hands over the smooth skin that lured her in, tempting and tormenting at the same time. "Love." Humans had such a simple word for what her people had no words for. What this one word covered, her people passed through emotions and actions.

Siobhan had been furious. Having lived with them for so long, she'd grown very wary of their intentions. She thought they were weak and entitled, and definitely not worthy of a bond.

As she ran her fingertips through the blonde curls, Cosima frowned. Delphine wasn't weak or had the most beautiful ja Cosima had ever felt. She was warm and gentle, completely genuine, unlike any of Cosima's past lovers. Delphine never tried to control her, never manipulated her, never used their connection to her benefit.

Cosima felt a wave of guilt come over her. She'd done it herself, more times than she wanted to admit these past days. It was second nature to her, learning to manipulate situations to her benefit, a tactic from her training. It was a hard habit to break.

If they were to integrate with humanity, lessons would need to be taught. People would have to learn to defend their minds and it was a lot of work, one that her people learned at an early age, to shield their ja, and to sense others.

An unprotected mind was easy to tap into without physical contact. Siobhan had tried to do it with Delphine. She'd felt the sensation through their bond and her senses had acted on instinct, extending to block Delphine even through their bond. She hadn't known the bonded had that ability, but then again her people didn't need it, did they? All of her people had the skill to protect their own mind.

Well she was glad for it, even if Siobhan had been upset at the defensive tactic she'd used, even if it was unintentional. Cosima smiled at that, proud that her own instincts went past social constructs, not caring that her mother would see it as offensive to protect the human against her. As she pressed a kiss to the blonde's temple, she felt a wave of contentment, and then she was falling.

She could feel the merge happen suddenly without her permission. It swallowed her whole and she was falling into Delphine's Ja, feeling it welcome and embrace her fully.

"Delphine?" She was confused as everything moved in slow motion and she felt the sensation of lips brushing over her own. Hands she couldn't see but knew better than anything else caressed her, making her burn with pleasure.

"Je t'aime." A whisper flowed through her mind, a breath passing by her ear as she felt arms

circling her from behind, the sensation of a hand slipping between her legs and lips brushing along her amrita. She was lost in a haze of pure bliss, feeling Delphine's emotions coursing through her.

She groaned in frustration as she felt a physical touch on her side, reminding her that it wasn't actually happening, bringing her out of the merge. Fast to recover from the withdrawal, she leaned forward, capturing soft lips in a kiss that was returned sleepily. Her body was humming with the desire that still coursed through her from the merge as she pulled away. Delphine was dreaming. The blonde had managed to pull her into a merge while dreaming, leaving her heart beating wildly and her need to taste the woman overpowering. Adjust her position, she hovered over the slumbering woman and she couldn't help but wonder how receptive the human would be, considering she was sleeping.

Leaning forward to brush her lips lightly against the woman's one more time, she felt the kiss returned again, feeling the merge tugging at her Ja, a feeling of sensual pleasure tempting her to fall in. Well, if the blonde was already dreaming about it...she brushed her lips down the pale skin of her neck. As she kissed her way down the woman's chest, she stopped to circle a nipple with her tongue, getting rewarded with a soft sigh from the sleeping blonde. She smirked, continuing her path down the woman's abdomen. Thighs had spread to accommodate her hips and she felt the woman's hands on her shoulders, pushing her lower, even in her sleep.

As she moved lower and settled herself between the woman's legs, she looked up to see eyelids still closed over eyes that were darting back and forth, stuck in a dream. She couldn't stop the grin as she took the moment to look over the woman's sex. How far were their planets and yet her body was no different. She ran her tongue between slick folds, the woman's arousal undeniable. A soft moan escaped the blonde and Cosima looked up to see the woman still sleeping. What would it take to wake the woman? She let her tongue explore, and still the woman dreamed, attempting to bring Cosima into the merge. However Cosima was lost in her own delight, reveling in the taste of her lover, her partner, her Atma Mitra. She pressed closer, wrapping an arm around each thigh as her tongue circled the center of her pleasure, her hunger persevering even as her tongue moved against the small bundle of nerves, swollen even in sleep. Or maybe not.

"Mmmm Cosima."

Looking up, Cosima found heavy-lidded eyes watching her, momentary confused until those beautiful lips curved up in a smile before the bottom lip was pulled between white teeth. A hand found its way into the twisted locks of her hair, pulling her closer, hips beginning to move against her.

"I was dreaming..." Delphine gasped, her back arching from the ministrations of the merciless tongue. "and awoke to my dream becoming reality."

Cosima moaned. Since the woman had awoken, the pleasure she felt radiating through their connection had doubled and her own wetness was pooling between her legs. She longed for Delphine's touch, even if only a few hours had passed since she'd last felt it. As her tongue moved against the slick flesh, she felt the pleasure radiating through the woman. She could feel the pleasure building in the blonde, feeling it build in her own gut even without being touched. The taste was intoxicating as her tongue drove against the woman, feeling the grip in her hair tighten, pulling her closer.

"Merde." Delphine was gasping for air, her hips rolling against the brunette's mouth, her body already beginning to tremble. "Je t'aime, je t'aime, je t'aime." She repeated over and over again.

Whimpering into the slick flesh, she could feel the blonde nearing the edge. Each stroke of her tongue brought Delphine closer, teetering on the cliff of oblivion. Unable to stop herself, she dropped a hand to her own sex, moaning as she worked her fingers against her own clit. She sped

up the movements of her tongue to match her fingers and in moments, they were plummeting together, both women moaning in ecstasy as pleasure stacked on each other, wave after wave compounding with their connection acting as a catalyst until they were both weak, Cosima taking a moment to enjoy addictive taste that was all Delphine.

"Non." Delphine whimpered as her body jerked against the woman's tongue. "Come." She seemed to be unable to say more than one word at a time and she whimpered.

Cosima grinned, making one more broad stroke of her tongue before she crawled up the woman's body, meeting soft lips in a hungry kiss. Her hands tangled in blonde hair as teeth raked over her lip and she chuckled. "Morning." She groaned as she collapsed on the blonde's side, draping an arm over her waist. "Sorry, you were having the most amazing dream."

"I know. It was my dream." Delphine laughed softly, brushing her lips against the woman's forehead. Looking at small wind up alarm clock on the nightstand, she winced. It was still way too early to wake up. Still recovering, her mind focused on one memory, the woman writhing in pleasure with her. "Did you just..."

Cosima chuckled, already sensing the question. "Mmm, sorry but I had to take matters into my own hand...literally."

Delphine captured the woman's hand, seeing the remnants of the brunette's arousal. The thought of those fingers running through Cosima's slick folds was intoxicating and she licked her lips, tasting herself on them from the kiss. "I want to watch you do it again." She rolled onto her side, brushing her lips against a surprised smile. "If you're not too tired."

Raising an eyebrow, Cosima looked down as Delphine guided her hand between her own legs, the paler hand covering her own, lined up finger to finger. She moaned as her own finger was pressed against herself, being guided by the blonde's hand. "You are going to be the death of me." Cosima spoke as her lips were covered with another kiss.

Chapter 16

Chapter Notes

Thank you guys for being so amazing. Sorry it's been a couple weeks since the last update. Been getting destroyed by canon and it's been just a little difficult to get motivation to write.

"Delphine... take deep breaths. You're making me sick." Cosima grumbled, grimacing as she adjusted herself in the seat.

"Sorry." Delphine clung to the handle, sitting closest to the door. They were all piled into the front seat of the off-road truck and the bumps and jolts of driving through the forest over roots and rocks was not the best thing for her stomach. "I'm not trying to."

"I know...sorry. I didn't mean to sound upset." Cosima bumped her gently, threading her fingers through the hand not gripping the handle. It felt like she was going to lose her meal and she tried to send soothing feelings to the blonde. "Think of something else."

"Like what?" Delphine winced when the truck scraped between two trees. They had been driving very slowly through the forest for about half an hour now and she was on the verge of throwing up. Suddenly her mind was filled with less than pure images. She could almost feel soft hands slipping up her thighs, nails raking over her skin, leaving a path of fire. Swallowing audibly at the thrill it sent down her back, she risked a glance at the brunette and was rewarded with a soft smile. Squeezing the hand in her own, she returned the smile.

"Good Lord, would you two please cut that out?" Siobhan complained, shaking her head as she maneuvered over a large root. "Not when we're in such close confines." She shifted, trying to eliminate the amount of contact she had with Cosima's side, difficult considering how cramped they were together.

Sensing the immediate embarrassment from Delphine, Cosima laughed, trying to ignore the fact that Delphine was distracting enough to make her forget about shielding her thoughts. "Definitely not sorry." She stuck her tongue out at her mother before grinning widely. She reached forward, picking up the tracking screen. "It doesn't look too far away."

Siobhan nodded, a grimace on her face.

Delphine swallowed, glad the bumpy ride would be over soon. Siobhan had arrived just minutes after they'd emerged from a shared shower, chastising them thoroughly in a way that only a mother could. She was glad that she hadn't felt any regret from Cosima. Instead, she felt a streak of defiance, and had caught a glimpse of a smirk on her lips. They had piled into Siobhan's truck and after all the bumps and jolts, she was glad she would be getting a break. She had been feeling an anxiety coming from the shorter woman and she knew Cosima was glad they would be reaching their destination. Of course the woman was anxious, they would soon be finding out if her sister was alive or not.

They continued on for about ten more minutes before Cosima sat up higher in the seat, her eyes

anxiously scanning her surroundings. They were almost on the blip on the screen. "There." Cosima pointed out some scattered debris littered about the forest floor. "We should stop and investigate further by foot." She spoke right as the truck was shut off.

"We should fan out, cover more of the area." Siobhan hopped out of the truck, scanning the area. "What else did you have in the cargo hold?"

Cosima strapped her bag on, taking the walkie talkie Siobhan was handing her with a confused look. "Just some surveying equipment and survival gear like rations."

"Alright."

"Can you show me what we're looking for?" Delphine asked politely, strapping her own bag on, having packed it earlier with medical supplies and water. She didn't expect her lips to get captured, a soft tongue exploring as she was pressed back against the side of the truck. She was offhandedly aware of the mental picture of the cryotube being passed through their connection but she was focused on the hands cupping her cheeks, the warm body pressed against her own.

"Hey! Did you forget we're looking for your sister?!" Siobhan interrupted them.

Licking her lips, Cosima stepped back, clearing her throat. "Yeah, sorry. I um..." She shook her head, confusion coming over her senses.

Delphine swallowed, nodding. Where the hell had that come from? After a quick explanation to Cosima how the walkie talkies worked, she watched for a minute as Cosima and Siobhan headed off in separate directions. She sniffled before heading in her own direction, following some debris. There seemed to be a lot of supplies completely decimated by the fall. Cases filled with mechanical equipment were scattered about, not looking like anything she'd ever seen before. She nudged supplies with her boot, having been warned by Cosima not to touch anything.

A branch cracked and Delphine looked around, not seeing Siobhan or Cosima anywhere near. Her brow furrowed but she shook her head, continuing to look around.

A bit away, Cosima was tracking her own trail of debris, looking through a box of supplies that had cracked open. There were packets of rations spilled all over the ground and she picked one up, her eyes focusing in on the torn packet. The rations inside were gone, but she wasn't sure if it had been an animal or not. She tucked the wrapper in her pocket, planning on showing it to Siobhan.

There was so much trash everywhere. It didn't sooth her nerves. This much damage gave her very little hope to find the cryotube undamaged. Walking over a small ridge, she paused. There was a huge hole in the trees and the ground was littered with broken branches and dead leaves. In the center of the mess, the sun reflected off of metal and glass. Cosima felt her heart jump up into her throat as she fumbled with the walkie talkie. "Siobhan. Delphine. I found it." She slid down to the lower area, the ground slippery under her feet.

There was a reluctance in her step as she neared the device, inspecting it as she got closer. It was turned on it's side facing away from her and she bit her bottom lip as she got closer. She heard a soft beeping from one of the panels as she came around the side of it and froze. "Merde."

"Siobhan. Delphine. I found it." Delphine paused having been looking through what appeared to be tools of some sort. She reached for her walkie talkie and suddenly there was a presence behind her. She tried to turn but an arm crossed over her throat, cutting off her breathing as a fingers wrapped around her wrist, twisting her arm behind her back painfully.

Chapter 17

Cosima was running, following the pull of urgency coursing through her. She could feel the terror coming from Delphine as she ran, somehow instinctively knowing where she needed to go. She could hear Siobhan running behind her but all she could focus on was the blonde, trying not to think of what could be happening.

Cosima looked around the cryotube, confusion set on her face as she saw the shattered glass and the lights coming from the inside. It was empty. Sarah was nowhere to be seen. That was all she could think of before she felt a sudden jolt through her Ja. She fell to her knees as an invisible presence wrapped around her neck, cutting off her breathing. For the first time ever, even with her training, she couldn't block the feeling coming through her connection. She couldn't control the panic or the almost physical feeling of something or someone pressed against her back, something wrapped around her neck making it hard to breath, and the pain of something pricking her cheek. Delphine was in trouble.

Her lungs burned as she jumped over a fallen log, stumbling when the ground sloped down suddenly. Her energy reserves weren't what they normally were, whether it be because of the dehydration Siobhan mentioned, or the stronger gravity of the Earth, but she felt herself not covering as much ground as she normally would. She was close. She could sense the blonde, sense her panic. She suddenly heard yelling and she followed the sound, her eyes catching movement from behind a tree. Her battle-trained mind went through several tactical scenarios and she took a wide path around, trying to get a visual. When she was close enough to hear what the sounds were, her heart stopped for a second, feeling both relieved and frightened.

"Sarahma! Stop!" Cosima called out, switching to her native language, feeling relief flood through their connection coming from the blonde hearing her voice. She grabbed onto that relief, building on it, trying to transfer positive feelings to the blonde and reassure her that she was going to be ok. The problem was that she was frightened herself.

There was a long silence before a rough voice called out. "Cos?" It was definitely her sister. She could recognize that voice anywhere, even when she sounded strained.

"Praise Ja-Tiel." Cosima approached slowly, trying not to startle the woman. When she circled the tree and got a look at her sister, she tilted her head. "Sarah, let her go." Slowly edging out into the open, she got the full picture. She tried to give Delphine a reassuring smile before letting her eyes rake over her sister's form. The woman was bleeding in several places and she was gasping for air, a blade pressing against Delphine's cheek, drawing a stream of blood down her pale skin. A cold rage at such a sight came over her and she caught her sister's eyes, her voice dropping a few octaves. "Sarah, drop your weapon and let her go or I assure you, death will not come to you soon enough."

Blinking in confusion, having never been threatened by her sister like that, the injured brunette released the earth-dweller. To her surprise she watched as she ran straight into Cosima's arms.

Cosima gave Delphine a worried look, reaching up to wipe away the blood from her cheek, surprised at the anger she felt as she inspected the cut. "Are you ok?" She probed at the long pale neck, searching for any winces or signs of discomfort.

Delphine nodded, instantly feeling better in Cosima's arms. "I'm fine, but I think your sister is injured." She cast a glance at the woman who was standing there, hugging her arms to her chest. The brunette was shaking, cuts leaking dark red blood. The most alarming thing she noticed, however, was the fact that she looked exactly like Cosima. Every time she had seen her through

their merge, it was always looking through the frosted glass of the cryotube.

Cosima smiled at Delphine's concern. "She tries to kill you and you are worried about her being injured." She placed a kiss to the woman's temple before facing her sister.

"Cosima?" Siobhan skid to a stop, her hands on her knees as she struggled to breathe.

About to say something, Sarah froze, eyes wide as she turned to the older woman. "Siobhan?"

Turning, a smile spread across Siobhan's face. "Sarahma." She stepped forward, pausing to take in the brunette's injuries, her motherly instincts taking over. "Delphine do you have Cosima's med kit?"

"Yes." Delphine removed her pack, dropping to one knee so she could dig through it.

Siobhan smiled compassionately as she saw Sarah's lip quiver just slightly, switching to their home language. "Oh, my daughter. I've missed you." Stepping forward, she leaned forward, pressing her temple against the younger woman's.

Cosima sighed, watching her sister and mother connect. She could feel her nerves still on edge and it made her uncomfortable.

Delphine stood, handing the kit to Cosima. "Are you ok? You look very pale." She asked worriedly.

Cosima nodded. "Yes. You... I could feel your panic and pain. I'm sorry she did that."

"Non, it is not your fault." Delphine gave her a concerned look. "I should have been more cautious."

"I shouldn't have been so far away from you." Cosima pressed her forehead against Delphine's breathing in the knowledge that the blonde was safe. She took a deep breath before stepping back, turning to her sister, who seemed to be barely standing on her own two feet. "Sit down before you fall." She spoke tersely to her sister.

"Cosima..." Siobhan spoke in a warning tone. "She didn't know."

"She could have killed her. She could have killed me." Cosima growled, kneeling in front of Sarah. "I am very glad you are alive, but if you put a blade to her again, I will rip your arms off and throw you into the wilderness to fend for yourself, bleeding and suffering."

Sarah's brows furrowed as she looked up. "That's some way to greet your sister." Sarah leaned back against the tree, struggling to breath. "Who's the yellow hair?"

Siobhan knelt beside Cosima, setting up the inhaler and Cosima sorted through the pills. "That's your sister's Atma Mitra." She gave Sarah a wry grin, holding out the inhaler.

Blinking, Sarah looked between Cosima and the woman hiding meekly behind her. "An Earth-dweller?" She took the inhaler and breathed in the medicine, coughing against the tight feeling. "My sister, the wonder soldier, bonded with a lesser species." Her laughter turned into a heavy cough.

Cosima unscrewed the cap of her water bottle, handing it to her sister with three pills. "Take these." She kept the healing capsule, knowing they had to get her to the truck first. "And she is not a lesser species."

"So she can understand us than?" Sarah asked, looking at the woman.

"It... it's difficult to explain." Cosima shook her head. "She can understand because I understand, but speaking is difficult for her."

"I..." Sarah blinked, the world moving. "I think I'm going to sleep." She said before promptly passing out.

"Shit." Siobhan huffed, slapping Sarah's cheek, not getting a response. She could still feel a pulse and she was breathing. "Well, I think she's had a full day." She commented, switching back to English. "Delphine, can we get those bandages you brought? We need to clean these wounds before we get her in the truck."

Delphine nodded, her medical brain taking over as she assisted Siobhan in inspecting the woman for injuries, cleaning cuts. Cosima's fidgeting didn't go unnoticed. She could see the brunette clenching and unclenching her fingers, watching closely for any sign that her unconscious sister was going to attack. She was definitely going to have to talk to her as soon as they got Sarah into the truck.

Chapter 18

"She'll be alright." Siobhan wiped her hands on her jeans, having settled Sarahma on the couch, the ride back to the cabin having been a long and slow one with the passed out woman laying in the bed of the truck along with some of the salvaged supplies. Having regained consciousness halfway back, Cosima had managed to get her to take a healing capsule, practically shoving it down her throat when her sister resisted. "She'll be out for hours. Just let her sleep. I'll be back in the morning." Siobhan paused in front of Cosima, seeing her fidgeting. The younger brunette had been wound up tight since they'd found Sarah and she tilted her head just slightly, following her gaze that was locked on Delphine who was making some tea. "Cosima, are you listening at all?"

Blinking, Cosima turned to her mother, a disturbed look on her face. "I'm sorry, what?" She felt on edge, irrationally so. It was as if she couldn't wrap her mind around anything except for the blonde. Their connection was visceral, tangible, and it was pulling her in the direction of the earth-dweller. It took everything in her to stay where she was.

Siobhan sighed, patting Cosima on the shoulder. She recognized the very familiar signs of combat fever, having been there before, but this seemed much more severe, no doubt a consequence of the bond. "Cosima!" When she got her daughter's attention again she sighed heavily. "This is one of the reasons the Atma Mitra are not allowed into combat. You need to focus... work through it."

Cosima blinked, her eyes drifting over to Delphine than back. "Combat? What? Focus? What do you mean?" What was her mother going on about? She hadn't been in combat. She was on Earth. There was no...Her eyes fell on Sarah, still unconscious on the couch, and then Delphine and she remembered the feel of a blade cutting into her cheek, an arm cutting off her breathing, but it wasn't her neck, and it wasn't her cheek. It was Delphine. Delphine who looked up from the tea she was making with such a trusting look, such adoration that shined warmer than the sky that was painted with brilliant oranges and yellows.

It was obvious it was hopeless and Siobhan shook her head, patting her daughter on the shoulder. "Try not to wake your sister, please." She pressed her temple to Cosima's, careful to make it a one way stream as to not risk being pulled into the fever.

Cosima's brow furrowed as she watched her mother speak with Delphine, seeing the blush cross her cheeks as, once more, bashful eyes looked across the room in her direction, watching as Siobhan laughed before escaping out the door. As the blonde strode across the cabin towards her, Cosima licked her lips, feeling jumpy. It was as if she was feeling too warm, as if she had too much clothes on.

Delphine bit her bottom lip, reaching up to push one of the blonde's twists over Cosima's shoulder. "Are you alright?" Her face was colored with concern, taken back by dark hazel eyes that burned into her. She could feel the oddest sensation coming from her, anxiety, impatience, lust, frustration.

Cosima raised her hand to caress the blonde's neck, seeing the bruise darkening against the pale skin, the scratch across her cheek no longer bleeding. Her nostrils flared, trying to bite back the anger she still felt, a fire in her blood. "Are you?" It was odd. Everything came through stronger, taking over her mind, consuming her, directing her actions.

Delphine felt it, the luring, the calling in her veins. "Yes." She nodded, her hands coming up to cup the blonde's face before pulling her forward, their lips colliding in a passionate embrace. She could feel the sensual pull, noting the threefold strength she wasn't familiar with. It was an odd mixture of rage and concern, desire and worry. Her nostrils flared as she was slowly led back

towards the bed, casting a glance at the passed out brunette and then back to Cosima. It was completely inappropriate, the cabin being just a single room with exception of the bathroom. It wasn't wise, not with Sarah there breathing just a few meters away, but as hands slipped up her side, easing her shirt up and off, she didn't care.

It was almost as if Cosima couldn't control herself. She was filled with an insistent need to make sure Delphine was ok, to make sure the blonde was alive and well and unharmed. She wasn't satisfied until they were skin to skin, pressing Delphine into the soft mattress as her lips brushed over the bruised neck.

Delphine whimpered, trying desperately to remain quiet, but unable to control herself, not with the hot breath against her neck and the hands reverently caressing her body. "Je t'amie." She whispered, hips pressing into her core as lips captured her nipple. She felt the brunette's response, knowing her people had no words to express such feelings. They didn't label this absolute surrender with as small a word as love.

Every second was an eternity, every pulse of pleasure carrying it's own promise of forever. As their bodies pressed together, banishing all light from between limbs and torsos, Delphine felt their minds slipping together and she was Cosima and Cosima was her, their legs locked together, hips moving in sync, thighs pressing against cores slick with arousal. As the ecstasy coursing through her veins continued to increase, she felt the anxiety and frustration seeping away, fading like the dying light of the sun as night came upon them. As the moon crested, breaking free of the horizon, so did they, a haze of never-ending possibilities, never-ending pleasure, never-ending desire washing over them.

One mind, one body, one Ja. There was never a point in which Cosima ended and she began because there was no separation. As trembles continue to pulse in waves through their bodies, they laughed, breathing in each other's air.

Cosima tucked a lock of blonde hair behind behind Delphine's ear, running a fingertip along her jaw. "Do you feel that?"

Of course Delphine did. She could feel the energy passing between them, along every inch that they were touching, ja flowing from Cosima to Delphine and to Cosima again. She nodded, pressing her forehead to Cosima's, feeling the same flow at the new contact point. "I can feel you everywhere." She bumped her nose against Cosima's, their lips barely ghosting against each other. "You are in every pore on my body and it is not enough." Their lips met and she was moving again, savoring such sweet friction, intending to make the moment last as long as possible.

Chapter 19

Dropping into the cockpit, Cosima turned to assist Sarah, the woman still huffing from the run to the ship. She dropped into the pilot seat, pulling up the interface and beginning a diagnostic on the major systems, needing to see exactly what was offline. Pulling out a small notepad she had borrowed from the cabin, she started taking notes on the results. "Sarah, above the bunk is a compartment with some supplies. Could you empty everything into one of the bags we brought?"

Taking a long sip from the bottle of water, Sarah nodded, moving sluggishly to the area. She found the compartment and opened it, to her surprise finding sealed food pouches from the food hall. "Nothing like rations for breakfast." A laugh bubbled up unexpectedly as she tossed the packs in the large bag. Labeled packs bearing the seal of their colony became fewer as she noticed other containers... from home. "They let you bring this stuff with you?"

Cosima laughed at that. It was true that in the service you were put on an even stricter diet than normal colony members, but their mother's greenhouse bore the best herbs to spice up the bland food. "I don't want to say I smuggled it on board, but I might have accidentally mislabeled a few supply crates." She typed a few commands in, bringing up the comm system diagnostics. "You have to try this planet's food though. It is quite fascinating. I've never had anything like it. Did you know that they eat living animals here?"

Sarah mulled over that, reading one of the hand-written labels on one of the bottles. "You didn't waste any time in sampling the local flavors, did you?"

Pausing in her writing briefly, Cosima shook her head. This wasn't a discussion she wanted to have with her sister. "That is very inappropriate, Sarah." Her tone was exasperated but she couldn't stop the smile from spreading across her face, reflecting on the blonde that she had left sleeping, the earth-dweller quite obviously exhausted and with good reason.

"Ugh, stop that. Get your mind out of the gutter." Sarah gave her a disgusted look, or rather she gave one to the back of the pilot's chair.

Cosima cringed at that. She had the ability to shield her thoughts from everyone, having been in the top tier of her training in mental combat, but no amount of training could counteract genetics. She and Sarahma had shared a birthing sac within their mother's womb. While their connection was nowhere near what she shared with Delphine, her sister was able to tap into her mind and emotions when they were in close proximity. Childhood had been an interesting time as she herself led with her heart while Sarah led with her fist. "Sorry." It hadn't been much of a problem since she joined the service and Sarah went rogue.

"No you're not." Sarah tugged the bag closed laying down on the cot to rest her still exhausted body.

"No I'm not." Cosima couldn't help laughing. "She is an earth-dweller and we just met, but she fulfills a need I never knew I had." Not wanting to divulge too much information that she considered very private, she sighed softly. "You know, as part of the service, we are trained that bonding with another is to open yourself up to weakness, but it is a weakness I would gladly endure." She looked up as Sarah stood beside her. "She doesn't make me feel weak. She makes me feel like I could take on the world. I feel like every event in my life has led me to this moment, to being on a planet galaxies away from our own and finding this magnificent creature who without a doubt needs me equally, despite our differences."

Sarah was quiet for a minute before snorting. "So... the sex is good then?"

Cosima groaned, feeling her body becoming aroused at just the thought of the blonde's skin moving against her own. "There are no words." She grinned, unable to stop her own heart from racing. "No words at all."

Delphine woke with a start, her heart beating out of control. The sun poured in through one of the windows, highlighting the dust in the air. She scrubbed the sleep out of her eyes, reaching out an arm and noticing the bed was empty and the sheets were cold. With a frown, she sat up, holding the flat sheet to her chest when she remembered they weren't alone. It wasn't her intention to sleep so long, but Cosima had kept her up much longer than intended. Speaking of her lovely brunette companion, she looked around, not seeing the shorter woman anywhere. Quickly slipping on a shirt and shorts, she stretched slightly before searching the area thoroughly, even poking her head outside to see if the woman had just slipped outside. The cabin was silent and the couch was empty, Sarah apparently gone as well.

Doing a quick inventory of her body, she felt an erotic hum coursing through her veins. There could only be one inward, she probed their connection as Cosima had taught her, her mind following the thread that bound them together, telling her the direction the woman went off in which was the same direction as Cosima's crash site. It was an odd feeling as the arousal coming through the connection, changed, developed and became precise and intentional, like an arrow aimed straight at her. Well, it was safe to say that Cosima was aware she was awake. She shook her head, heading into the bathroom.

A quick scan of supplies showed they hadn't been disturbed. It didn't seem like anyone had eaten yet so Delphine began to put a breakfast together, stoking the fire on the stove to get it going again. Her brows furrowed as she looked around, seeing Scott was missing as well. Making quick work of cutting up some mushrooms and tomatoes she planned on mixing with the eggs, she licked her lips, not having had a good omelette in a while. Normally eggs only lasted a couple days and the rest of the time she only had access to powdered eggs. It was as she was shredding some cheese when she heard the sound of a truck arriving. She had guessed Siobhan would be coming by, but she had hoped Cosima would be here to intercept the woman. "Come in!" She yelled when there was a knock on the door.

Siobhan stepped in, looking around the small cabin, her eyebrows raising in question.

"I'm pretty sure they went to Cosima's ship. I just woke up." Delphine commented with a shrug. "I just put a kettle on if you would like some tea? Or maybe some water?"

Siobhan nodded. "Thank you, Chicken. Tea would be lovely." She sat down at the table, a curious look on her face.

Delphine smiled as a sudden presence made itself evident and she looked up as Cosima strode through the door, supporting Sarah who had one arm over her shoulder. "Cosima! What happened?"

Sarah laughed. "Cosima is...fast." She spoke, her mouth not familiar with the English words.

"You lot went out running?" Siobhan exhaled loudly. "Are you trying to kill your sister?"

Scott trotted in the door, tongue lolling out before he got to his water bowl, lapping up the liquid quickly, obviously having been ditched by the running twins.

Dumping Sarah on the couch and dropping the duffle bag on the ground, Cosima laughed. "No. She insisted to race back and tripped!" She defended, moving up to Delphine, wrapping her arms around the slim waist and capturing her lips in a soft kiss. "Good morning."

Delphine blushed, her emotions all over the place. On one hand she was completely unsettled with the idea of Cosima's family watching them, but on the other hand she still felt the arousal that had waken her and feeling the heat radiating off of the woman, she bit her bottom lip, trying not to think about it. "You taught her English?"

"Of course." Cosima grinned, getting a glass and filling it with water, having taken Siobhan's suggestion seriously. She drank down the first glass of water before refilling it for a second drink.

"You should really drink that in small sips. You're going to make yourself sick." Delphine chastised.

Cosima laughed, filling up a second glass and bringing it over to her sister who was being checked up on by Siobhan. "You alright?"

Draining the glass quickly, Sarah nodded, wiping her mouth with the back of her hand, muffling a cough. "You would think with all this fresh air my insides would heal faster."

Cosima snorted at that, snatching the empty glass back. "You're going to need more meds for that. We need to go back to the cargo hold and see if we can find anymore med kits. We should also see if we can salvage some other supplies."

"We should really pick up all the debris. No one else lives around here but I would hate for someone to stumble upon it." Siobhan commented as she dabbed at a small scratch on Sarah's chin from when she'd tripped.

Delphine pursed her lips, jumping at the sound of the kettle. "Did anyone else want some tea?"

"Oh." Cosima tugged the duffle bag she had dropped over, digging out a canister. "Let me help you with that." She cast a look at Siobhan who was busy tending to Sarah. "Hey." She whispered, her arm pressing against Delphine's, needing any physical contact. "You might not like this, but I have some... tea? It's from home. I know Siobhan would..." She grinned, opening the canister. Inside there was a small dispenser and several small pellets. "These herbs are grown by my mother. She created the strain herself, when I was very young, after years of cross breeding." She popped one of the pellets in the dispenser, pushing down on the center button which crushed the pellet with a soft crunch. "I... I couldn't bear the thought of living the rest of my life without this small piece of home."

"Then you should drink it. Don't waste it on me." Delphine smiled, reaching up to push one of the dark twists over Cosima's shoulder.

"I want to share this with you. This one dose will fill the pot so there will be enough for all of us."

The look in Cosima's eyes was enough to convince her. She nodded and watched as the biggest smile came over the woman's face.

"Yesss. You're not going to regret it." Cosima dropped the dispenser into the kettle, letting it seep. "What are you cooking?"

"Eggs." Delphine bumped her away.

Cosima looked at all the bits of food that were cut up, ranging in more colors than she'd ever seen associated with food. She picked up one, the red color and soft flesh so different than what she was used to. "Tomato." The name came to her from the info she'd gathered in an earlier merge. She breathed in the scent of it, noticing drastic differences between the green and red parts. "Everything here is so fresh."

Delphine smiled before looking towards the couch. "Siobhan would you like an omelette?"

Siobhan gave her a curious look. "Just the tea for me. I'm not an egg fan." She paused, looking from Cosima to Delphine. "You have explained where eggs come from?"

"Eat... animals." Sarah commented, half a grin appearing.

"Yes, Love." Siobhan pat the brunette on the knee.

Delphine laughed as she easily made three omelettes packed with vegetables. Cosima helped her by taking out the plates and mugs, dispensing out the tea evenly. It didn't take much longer for breakfast to finish cooking and they were taking a seat.

"Here you go." Cosima spoke, sitting the cup in front of her mother, smiling before taking her seat.

"I'm sure this is going to be a huge shock for..." Siobhan's voice trailed off as she glanced into her cup, the bright red tint catching her attention. "Cosima..." She looked up at her daughter who was giving her an innocent look as she took a seat on one side, scooting her chair closer to Delphine. Siobhan lifted the mug, the familiar scent almost instantly making her eyes water with emotions she had long since given up on.

Delphine watched as the older woman took a small sip, her eyes instantly closing and a small smile tugging at her lips. Delphine looked into her own glass, a little off put by the color but taking a small sip. It was earthy, but there was also a peculiar cooling sweetness, like a sweet version of mint that slipped down her throat. It was both interesting and delicious.

Siobhan cleared her throat, obviously fighting the emotions. "It's... just as I remembered it." She smiled at her daughter. "Brat. Trying to trick me."

Cosima chuckled, her mouth full of her breakfast, obviously enjoying it.

"You know..." Siobhan quickly stood up, moving to where the supplies obviously haven't been touched. Checking the labels on the crates, she quickly dug into one, removing a bottle.

"Oh...no no no." Delphine shook her head quickly. "That is not for eggs."

Siobhan laughed. "She's going to love it, Chicken." She poured a bit on her daughter's plate.

"That's what I'm afraid of." Delphine muttered.

Cosima looked between the two women uncertainly. Her mother was smiling and Delphine was scowling. Looking down, she inspected the small pool of red on the corner of her eggs, poking it with her fork. She could sense the disgust rolling off the blonde but the look on Siobhan's face made her curious. She cut off the corner of the eggs, carefully popping it into her mouth. The flavor was sweet with little hints of tartness. It was better than anything she'd ever tasted before and she quickly reached for the bottle, looking over the label, her mind taking just a moment to read the word. "Ketchup?"

Delphine huffed. "She's going to be putting it on everything now." She cringed as she watched Cosima spread more over her plate before she took a bite of her own thankfully ketchup-free eggs.

Blowing on her mug, Siobhan laughed softly in delight. "So, one of the rims on my other truck cracked yesterday and a replacement will take a few days to come in so we won't be able to visit the cargo site till then. I have a spare room, so if you would like, I could take Sarah back with me to town, introduce her to a bit more culture... work on that English of hers."

"Hey!" Sarah protested. She had no problem understanding the words they were using but she had difficulty saying them.

Cosima looked at Delphine, raising an eyebrow, the corner of her mouth lifting in an ill-hidden smirk.

Delphine didn't need their connection to interpret the brunette's look. She cleared her throat and shrugged. "It is up to Sarah. She can take up the couch for as long as she wants."

"I'm sure she'd love to see a bed though." Cosima added.

"Cosima would prefer to get rid of me so she can continue to taste her new bride." Sarah commented in their own language, getting a slap to her arm. "Ow!"

"Watch yourself."

"I'm not the one that decided to breed with the first male to vihanti ma vivara." Cosima responded, her arms crossing over her chest. It took a sense of shock coming from Sarah to realize what she had just said and she looked at Siobhan who's eyes had doubled in size then at Sarah who was giving her the evilest look.

"Breed?" The older woman looked at the injured brunette. "You have a child?"

Sarah shrugged, leaning back against the couch cushion.

"Kirama." Cosima commented, moving the food around on her plate, feeling instantly guilty. "She lives with mother, but I'm sure you two will have enough time to talk about it when you get to town, or along the way. Delphine has told me it's a very long ride."

"Vineya!" Sarah cursed at her sister vehemently.

"*Phalin!*" Cosima responded with a snarl that was ruined by her mischievous grin.

"Language!" Siobhan huffed. "Both of you shut your gobs and finish your breakfasts."

Both siblings were quiet for a minute until Cosima leaned towards Delphine. "What's a gob?"

Delphine smiled. "What's a phalin?"

"Cosima happy show you." Sarah grumbled from her seat.

Cosima coughed on her tea, unable to stop herself from laughing.

Chapter 20

Hahaha it's been far too long since I updated this and y'all will probably not be satisfied with this because there's no real point to it and it's not even enough smut or really any smut at all so I'm sorry lol

Closing the door as the sound of the truck pulled away, Delphine turned to find herself pinned against the wooden surface, a grinning face just inches from her own. "Hello." She reached up to push a twisted lock of dark hair over Cosima's shoulder, taking a moment to caress a soft cheek, her thumb tracing the shape of her mouth.

"Hello." Cosima dropped her hands to the blonde's hips.

Unable to resist against the beautiful face and the urge stirring in her gut, Delphine leaned forward, capturing soft lips, pulling her closer, feeling the hands slipping up her side. After a long moment, she pushed the brunette away just enough to glance into her eyes, a suspicious look on her face. "What does Phalin mean?" She had tried to decipher the meaning but the definition she derived was confusing to say the least.

Cosima laughed, her fingers tracing the edge of Delphine's shorts. "Oh no."

"Is it that terrible?"

"It is...It's like a... a made up word... used by the children..."

Delphine smirked. "Slang is the word you're looking for."

Cosima nodded quickly. "It just does not translate well to your language." She leaned forward, placing a kiss to the corner of Delphine's mouth. When the blonde gave her a look., she sighed. "Ok..." She searched for the words to best explain. "Phalin is the female body part... why do you have so many words for this body part... chatte?"

A laugh erupted from Delphine. "That is one word for it. So it's a vagina?"

"Yes." Cosima nodded. "But... not just a ... vagina." She tugged on the front of Delphine's shorts, the button popping open easily. "It is a vagina that has sustained... much injury during ... over-zealous copulation?"

There was a silence from Delphine as she mulled over that, looking down at fingers that were sliding down the zipper, moving slow enough as if waiting to be stopped. "What in the world did she call you to deserve that?"

Her hand slipping down the front of Delphine's shorts, Cosima grinned. "Vineya." Her fingers found the blonde already aroused and easily dipped into slick arousal to explore precariously. "It's someone who follows blindly... it is a very insulting word specifically aimed at those who serve."

Delphine groaned, her head tipping back against the door, biting her bottom lip as she concentrated on the digits moving against her. "You are far from a follower, Cosima." She whispered as lips moved down her throat and she could feel the hot tongue tasting her skin.

Cosima chuckled, the hips beginning to move against her hand. "I'd follow you anywhere." She spoke against the pale skin. "Especially if you're headed to bed."

Delphine captured the woman's wrist with her hand, extracting it from her shorts. "As much as I would love to continue this, we should talk."

With a pout, Cosima watched the blonde button her shorts, moving to clean off the table, her brow furrowing as she attempted to read the blonde's emotions, sensing a bit of worry and arousal, but nothing else. "Are you well?"

"You mean besides completely aroused whenever I'm within a meter of you?" Delphine smirked, dumping the dishes in the sink and tossing an uneaten chunk of egg to Scott who snapped it out of the air. "I'm good, Cosima. We just need to talk about a few things." Wiping off the table, she smiled. "Come sit."

With a sense of foreboding, Cosima took a seat, looking up at the blonde.

"Stop." Delphine laughed, pouring the brunette a glass of water before taking her own seat. "Stop looking like you're in trouble, I just..." She bit her bottom lip. "We have this... connection... and because of that we've never talked."

Cosima's head tilted to the side. "But that is because we don't need to talk." She took Delphine's hand into her own, holding it to her cheek. "Words are not always sufficient."

Delphine groaned as the arousal and need coursed through her, amplified by the physical contact, and she pulled the woman forward for a quick kiss before pulling her hand away. "Cosima..." She sighed. "I understand that your people are raised to use your minds in a certain way, but mine have not." She sighed softly. "Je t'aime, Cosima, but we have to talk."

Sighing heavily, Cosima crossed her arms over her chest, if only to keep her hands to herself. "What do you want to talk about?"

"Well..." Delphine sipped her own glass of water. "What is going to happen with Sarah and Siobhan?" Sensing the woman's confusion she continued. "What is your plan? All three of you?"

Cosima tilted her head to the side, trying to decipher what was coming from the blonde. "Are you worried I'm going to leave?"

Delphine bit her bottom lip, thinking about what she meant. Was she? Of course she was, but that wasn't the only worry she had.

"Delphine, even if my mother and sister were enough to help me get the ship running, I would never leave you." She moved her chair closer, taking the blonde's hand. "Je t'aime, Delphine." She spoke the words she knew the blonde needed to hear,

Delphine brought the woman's hand to her lips, brushing her lips over the back of it. "I know, and thank you for saying that. That is not my only worry, mon amour." She pulled the woman to her, swallowing as the woman straddled her lap, arms resting on her shoulders. "What will happen when you get the radio working? Will an entire planet of your people come here?" Her eyes closed as fingers ran through her hair, nails scratching her scalp softly. "Humanity is not always the most understanding."

Cosima leaned forward, brushing her lips against the woman's temple and across her brow, down the bridge of her nose. "Not a whole planet, just a carrier-full. My planet does not have the means to send everyone." Her lips traveled over the blonde's, nipping the soft skin. "We have ways of influencing peace. We do not wish to conquer, only to integrate."

Delphine found it harder to concentrate on being a responsible human being who sat down and had mature discussions with their partner; however, as lips continued their pilgrimage down her

throat, it was impossible to stop her hands that were sliding up the woman's thighs, not a fan of the pants she wore. Her hands moved up the woman's sides, pushing the woman's shirt up her torso, getting the shirt taken from her as the brunette shucked it off. As her hands brushed up bare ribs, she gave in to the desire to merge, to reach for Cosima's Ja but finding the woman being resistant. Her brows furrowing, she pulled back, looking at Cosima.

"You were the one that said you needed to talk." Cosima tugged on the blonde's shirt, getting no resistance as she pulled it off and dropped it to the floor. "Keep talking Earth-dweller."

Delphine narrowed her eyes, but she was never one to give up on a challenge. She smiled, running her fingertips up the woman's back. "Cosima..." As she let her hands travel to the center of her back, Delphine's brow furrowed again as she found nothing but smooth skin. Looking at the woman's face, she saw the strain in the woman's posture, a smirk on the lips she loved so much. "Cosima..." She leaned forward, brushing her lips along Cosima's jaw. Her fingertips traveled over the soft expanse of flesh as she whispered the words she knew would edge her closer, "... fall into me." She tempted. "You know you want to." She felt the slight shift under her fingers, knowing the woman was struggling to keep the lines hidden from her. "You can't hold back for long, mon amour..." She whispered, her hands sliding instead up the solid form of the brunette's body, cupping soft breasts. That was all it took before Delphine felt the return of the warmth that engulfed her. She felt their Ja merge and it consumed her, pushing the brunette to lean back slightly so she could wrap her lips around a nipple, teasing the hardening flesh with her tongue.

Cosima groaned, her fingers tangling in curls, pulling her closer. "Bed." It was just a word but it carried the world on its shoulders. She felt herself lifted by strong arms and before she knew it, the bed was pressing against her back, her head sinking into the pillow as lips refused to give up her breast until the blonde moved to strip her of the rest of her clothes.

Her hands hooking around the back of the brunette's knees, Delphine pulled her a little lower, kneeling between her spread thighs. She pressed her hands against the woman's abdomen, fingers spread wide as she slid them up the soft flesh. "I believe I have an entire night of making you scream as loud as possible ahead of me." She commented, shifting her position so that she was pressed against the length of the brunette, her core pressed against Cosima's in an exchange of searing body heat. She concentrated on what she planned on doing to the brunette and smiled at the groan she was rewarded with.

Chapter 21

My brain is mush right now and this chapter is pure amazement and this is what happens when you write a story over 2nights and on both nightz you're less than sober.

"Cosima, I'm serious. This planet is crazy." Sarah is sitting on the ground beside Cosima, sipping from a bottle of water as her sister was wedged in a small cove they had dug under the ship, working on one of the control panels. It had taken a week for Sarah to get acclimated to the planet, her lungs getting better every day. She had spent the past week going back and forth between visiting Cosima and spending time with Siobhan in the small town, apparently going on Earth's main information source known as the internet, and watching something called television... a concept that seemed very odd to her.

"I saw on the internet there are these people that sell artificial sexual appendages that can deposit alien eggs into various orifices." She gave her sister a wide eyed look before she took another sip of water. "Not real eggs, but I guess they are made from some sort of food substance and the humans like to feel them turning to liquid inside. Is that what you and Delphine do in bed? Does she make you insert eggs into her so she can feel them slowly melt?"

"What? No." Cosima gave her sister a disturbed look. She couldn't even imagine such a thing, and Delphine seemed more than satisfied with what they had been doing. However, she couldn't help wonder if it was something Delphine enjoyed. She thought back on the dream Delphine had had the first night they'd spent together, the odd dream of being impregnated with some swiftly-growing monster. No. Delphine had seemed horrified by that. She didn't want to be injected with fake alien eggs. "It's the same as back home..."

Sarah shook her head. "You can see anything on the internet and buy anything you could ever need or want. These Earth-dwellers are lucky and they take so much for granted. They don't really know what it's like to have the air be toxic and the water undrinkable. They're like children, fighting over toys." She shook her head. "And everyone is so... big. They eat too much and partake in no exercise." She shook her head. "I can't help but think of all the starving kids back at home."

There was a silence between them as they both thought about the dying planet they had left behind, and the clan that still lived there. Cosima kicked Sarah in the side. "Hey... before I left, I transferred all my credits to Mother. She'll make sure Kirama is taken care of." Even from under the ship, she could see the emotion in her sister's face, she could feel the sorrow through their connection. "She'll be alright, and you know with Mother's position in the tribe, she'll be on the first carrier out here as soon as we get a message sent."

Sniffling just slightly, Sarah nodded. "Yeah." She looked out into the forest, finding an almost peace in the sound of the river flowing and the wind traveling through the trees. She was quiet for a minute, offering Cosima the wrench-like tool when she asked for it. "Has Delphine ever used a... a strap-in on you?"

Cosima looked out from under the ship. "A what?"

"It is like an artificial avastha, and females use it to replicate sex as a male with another female."

Pausing in what she was doing, Cosima crawled out from under the ship. "What?"

Sarah laughed. "They have merchants dedicated to selling just that, and sometimes old women will bring them to someone's domicile where females would gather together to talk about different lengths and shapes. They have so many things just for pleasure." She rooted around in the bag Delphine had packed for Cosima, quickly snatching a peanut butter sandwich. "We need to find out how to make this."

Cosima laughed at that. She knew her sister would enjoy it, but her eyes narrowed as she realized her sister was currently eating her lunch.

"Have you heard of fisting mittens?" Sarah mumbled around a bit of sandwich. "Humans put these things on their hands and shove them where only healers should when extracting a child...or in other holes..."

With a roll of her eyes, Cosima shook her head. "You realize that our ancestors genetically modified their DNA to increase pleasure during sex."

"Yeah but that's different." Sarah shook her head. "That's totally organic and besides, that was to purify the gene pool to increase the chance of the best genetically compatible pairs. We don't strap ourselves up with synthetic organs for the sake of sex."

Cosima's eyebrows furrowed, resting her arm on her knee as she tried to think of the concept. She had been with a male before and found that it did have benefits as far as sexual encounters went, but unfortunately had a significant amount of negative aspects. "So... does it feel real?"

Shrugging, Sarah plucked a strawberry from the small bag. "I don't know, but I imagine it does, or else why would so many be interested in such a thing?" She laughed. "But, Ja-teil, do earth-dwellers like it deep."

"Sarahma..." Cosima gave her sister a warning tone. If there was one major difference between them, it was that Sarah was not a believer. Sara held no respect for the greater being and she didn't understand how her sister could be so blind.

Sarah rolled her eyes. "Sorry... sorry." Despite her words, her tone was less than apologetic.

Cosima was about to slide back under when she paused. "Wait... how deep?"

"Delphine?"

Delphine looked up from the book she was reading. "Hmmm?" She had been sitting next to the brunette at the table, her fingers idly running over Cosima's thigh. She glanced over the schematics as Cosima drew what looked like an electronic circuit drawing. Even though she could sense what the woman was thinking and feeling, she didn't have the background knowledge to understand any of it. The room was littered with parts of Cosima's ship, each cleaned and organized, set in groups of related parts, the result of two days worth of dragging equipment with the help of Siobhan and Sarah who had left not that long ago.

Cosima put down her pencil, turning to look at the blonde. "I need to ask you a question and I want you to answer me honestly."

Setting the book down, Delphine's brows furrowed. "Ok. What's going on?"

"Are you satisfied by our sexual activities?"

Delphine had to blink as she took in the question. Surely the brunette wasn't asking her what she thought she was. "I think you know the answer to that already, mon amour."

Cosima frowned at that. "Do you think we need a strap-in?"

Her eyes doubling in size, Delphine had to stop herself from looking around for a camera because this had to be one of those joke tv shows. "A strap-in?"

"Yes, an artificial male appendage to increase your pleasure."

"Merde." Delphine cupped the brunette's cheeks between her hands, pulling her forward for a kiss. "Cosima. I am very satisfied by what we do in bed. We do not need a strap-on nor do we need to add any other toys to our love making."

Cosima's brows furrowed. "But...is this something you wish to feel?"

Delphine bit her bottom lip, thinking about the suggestion. "While I will admit there is a benefit, it is not necessary. You are everything I need." She leaned forward for another kiss but the brunette pulled back.

"If this is something you desire, why not get it? Perhaps we can ask Siobhan to..."

"Non!" Delphine covered Cosima's mouth with her hand, stopping her from continuing. "We are not going to ask your mother to pick up a sex toy." She laughed, moving her hand and pulling Cosima forward, kissing her between giggles. "You are... the most precious... thing in my life." She commented between kisses. "I love you so much I can't even explain it."

Cosima returned the kiss, still not sure what the result was of the conversation. She let her hands reach up to tangle in blonde hair, pulling her closer. "Mmmm... wait." Pulling back suddenly, she pursed her lips for a second before adding, "I want to see the town Sarahma and Siobhan are staying in."

Delphine blinked at that. She hadn't gone into town in close to 6 months. Why would the woman...she concentrated on the brunette, getting a feeling of defiant determination and she had to stop herself from laughing again. "Cosima... there is nowhere in town that sells sex toys."

Dark hazel eyes narrowing in suspicion, Cosima bit the corner of her lip. "You say it is not necessary yet..." She ran her fingertip along the woman's jaw. "Why is it that when I mention purchasing one, I can feel your arousal and your mind is filled with images of..." She let her words trail off. "Is that really what it looks like?"

"Damnit." Delphine tried to clear her mind of the sudden images of her pinning Cosima to the bed, pressing a toy slowly into her. It was almost as though the images were taking over her mind and she was vaguely aware of Cosima falling into her as their Ja merged and suddenly Cosima was moaning, her hips moving to meet Delphine's thrusts. She was thrusting her hips, rolling in an unstopping rhythm as she buried her face in the blonde hair, feeling the hot air of each moan or whimper passing her ear.

"Cosima!" Delphine pulled herself out of the merge, her breathing ragged, her skin flush. The blonde had a look that was pure desire on her face. "What are you doing?"

"Making my argument." Cosima responded before picking up the pencil and returning to her drawing. She didn't have to be permanently bonded to Delphine to predict the hand that took the pencil from her and set it down. This discussion was destined to end somewhere between the

comforter and the mattress.

And destiny was knocking.

Chapter 22

Just some mental insight and technicalities I suppose. Thank you for continuing to read.

"Ok... start her up!" Siobhan stood back from the box, straightening the safety goggles on her face.

Cosima put her foot on the generator and gripped the handle of the cord, gritting her teeth as she gave it a quick strong pull. When nothing happened, she frowned and fed the cord back into the device before giving it another hard tug. There was a puff of black smoke as the generator came to life, a smile spreading across her face. "Yes!"

Siobhan leaned over the panel on the box they had just unpacked, nodding as the power gauge began to move. "Ok, we've got about twenty hours until that is charged." She gave Delphine a smile as they both removed their safety glasses, the blonde gnawing away at her thumbnail. "Relax, Delphine. Your cabin's not going to blow up."

"It's not that." Delphine sighed softly, looking at Cosima who was inspecting the generator, the cords going to speed up powering the new battery pack that would eventually recharge off the solar panels Siobhan had installed. "I've just been out here for so long without power..."

"I understand the hesitation, Delphine. This isn't a bad thing." Siobhan wiped her hands on a towel. "You don't have to use it if you don't want to, but we need to charge the tools somehow."

Delphine nodded. "I understand. Are...how can normal tools work on a craft built for space?"

Siobhan laughed. "The human race needs to spend less time developing the newest model of iPhones and should work on things that actually matter. Our ships have a force-field around them." She smiled at Delphine's raised eyebrows. "Makes ships weigh substantially less, increasing flight speed and reducing power consumption." She stretched her back. "You know, Cosima can transfer a sort of space flight 101 to you if you were interested in learning more."

Delphine felt a headache coming on. "That's alright." This was a little too much. She wasn't sure how much she was looking forward to electricity. She wasn't lying, she did understand what was needed, but she didn't really understand. There was so much to this that she didn't technically comprehend. There were ship parts scattered around the cabin and the large black panels now fastened to her roof were proof of the change. She felt a little out of control with the situation.

Over a year she had spent in solitude and suddenly she found herself surrounded by Cosima's family. It was nice, but it was completely overwhelming. She wasn't particularly opposed to the invasion, but she would have liked to be asked. She could sense what the plan was, but she was human. She needed to talk things through to process.

She'd never felt so connected to someone before, and yet she'd never felt so disconnected. It didn't bother her at first, the silence that transpired, the way the three of them worked together, sensing things from each other, tools passed without asking, water bottles being tossed at each other without mentioning thirst. But as she spent more time with the group, she began to realize that her only real avenue in what was going on was from Cosima. It was so strange. Cosima and Sarah

were connected, and Delphine could sense what was being communicated whenever Cosima tapped into that, but she wondered if they sometimes forgot she was human.

Siobhan was a little more considerate and aware of what was going on, having lived with humans for so long. Cosima and Sarah were a little less aware. Delphine found it frustrating, especially since Cosima could sense her own emotions, but the brunette seemed to be in some sort of zone, focusing on the work in front of her and lost to everything else. If it weren't for Delphine breaking the silence with announcements of lunch or dinner, the group together as a whole seemed completely absorbed in the work, not even noticing how much time was going by.

With a soft sigh, Delphine returned to the cabin and began assembling a snack for the group. Dinner was currently cooking on the stove, a slow cooking roast made from what Siobhan had brought that morning. It wouldn't be ready for a few more hours still so she was making a few peanut butter sandwiches, adding slices of banana to Cosima's sandwich but not Sarah's after a previous disaster. She had to roll her eyes at the weird obsession they had for peanut butter, but it was easy to make at least.

She never thought of herself as the domestic type. Even with Danielle, they ate out more than they ate in. They were more urban types, walking to the corner shop for sandwiches instead of wasting time trying to assemble any themselves... of course that was when they had time together. She had been so busy with work that she didn't have time to be domestic. Danielle had done most of the cleaning, preferring that Delphine spend her off time relaxing together. Now she found herself on the opposite side of the spectrum, preparing meals and cleaning for Cosima as the brunette spent most of the day working on the components of her ship or at the ship itself.

That wasn't the only disturbing thing. With Cosima's mind so focused on something else, Delphine found herself almost free from the connection that had been consuming her since the alien had landed. Not to say the connection was gone, but with the woman's attention taken by more technical details, she found herself without that overwhelming arousal. It allowed her to think more about her situation and what was going on. She was finally able to get a bigger scope on everything.

Cosima was an alien. She was a human. They were bonded together in an unavoidable connection. There was no avoiding it. She didn't hate the connection. She loved the bond they shared, but when she had time to think about it, she didn't appreciate the lack of consent she had given to the connection. It took away her privacy and control. She had spent so much of her life fighting for solidarity, to not be under the shadow of her father, to be her own person, and now here she was again. She was reduced to being just Cosima's partner, her Atma Mitra. She could feel her own mood going downhill even as she thought about it. Was it always going to be like this? If they were able to get a message out and Cosima's people came to Earth, would they just see her as the Earth-dweller who managed to bond with one of their own? The first inter-species connection. There was no escaping being defined by that.

"Delphine?"

Jumping, Delphine turned to find Cosima watching her. The woman hadn't been able to sneak up on her due to their connection, but she was so lost in her own thoughts that she didn't notice. "Are you alright?"

Cosima's brow furrowed. "Are you?" She had a confused look as she stepped up to the blonde, resting her hands on the woman's hips.

Delphine felt her own frustration melting away as she felt their connection strengthening with the physical contact. "I'm fine. Just thinking too much." She couldn't stop herself from smiling if she tried and she found herself pressing closer, the connection once again taking over, reminding her

of how much she needed the bond between them, even if it reduced her identity to just being Cosima's Atma Mitra.

"You'll never just be anything, Delphine." Cosima pushed herself to her toes, pressing her lips to Delphine's in a soft kiss. "We are equals in this bond." She grinned as the woman nipped her bottom lip, a soft groan coming from her own throat.

A fire coursed through Delphine as it always did, consuming everything in its path and she slipped her arm around Cosima's waist, pulling her closer. "You are too cute for your own good." She bumped her nose against the brunette's, enjoying the moment of closeness. Maybe that's why she had been in such a bad mood. She missed having the woman all to herself. Even though they had only been alone together for a few days before Siobhan and Sarah entered the picture, she missed it. She missed spending the entire morning with the brunette wrapped around her, not worrying about who was going to show up.

"Hey..." Cosima twirled a blonde curl around her finger, a smile stretching across her face. "How about... I tell them we're taking tomorrow off and it will just be you and me and that very soft bed of yours?"

"Ours." Delphine corrected, tugging on a twist of blonde hair. "I think that's the best idea you've had all day." She pressed her forehead against Cosima's, smiling softly.

"You two going to just rub up against each other all day?"

Cosima and Delphine both jumped. and turned to face Sarah who was standing in the doorway of the cabin, arms crossed over her chest. Cosima grinned, turning to grab the plate of sandwiches that were already prepared. "Just grabbing a snack Delphine made."

"Uh huh... sure you were."

Delphine pulled her forward for another kiss before letting her leave, biting her bottom lip as she watched the blonde disappear, but not without one last look back at her.

Chapter 23

Hey everyone. I want to thank you all for continuing to read this story. I've loved writing every chapter of this and I know at some points I kind of fell down the smut tunnel but what can I say, this whole idea was supposed to be a one shot alien smut piece. Sorry I've let so much time transpire between updates. There are only a handful of chapters left in this particular story and you guys have made it amazing, so thank you.

Loving Cosima was entirely too easy, Delphine decided as hands slid over her skin, tracing a path that had been traveled more times than she could count in the past weeks. Warm fingertips and a hot tongue moved with skill and precision, knowing where to touch, where to nip, and exactly how to make her cry out in ecstasy. This alien... this woman knew precisely how to ebb when she flowed, to push when she pulled. Together they created perfection, not the sort where one traveled through life in a bubble of no flaws or mistakes, but in a way that her flaws in her actions or personality were complimented by Cosima's.

Perfection, Delphine decided as lips grazed a nipple and her own hands gingerly traced the lines of Cosima's amrita. Perfection was a simple word that lacked the depths that they had achieved. Perfection was the taste of the brunette still on her lips, on her tongue which still wanted more yet allowed her lover this small reprieve of her own attentions.

Loving Cosima was only difficult in one way. Delphine could never get enough of her. As fingers slipped into her, they could never go deep enough, never be too much than what her body could handle. She exhaled and Cosima inhaled in a synchronous pattern of breathing each other in, giving life and taking it. She didn't just fall into Cosima, and Cosima didn't just fall into her. They fell together.

As they merged, limbs trembling, kisses pressed against smiling mouths, their souls fused in one endless wave of desire and need and Delphine understood what it was to be complete. She had thought she'd known completion in a relationship that had seemed to long ago now in her mind, and she still cherished the woman that had passed too early from this world, but her true love was not from this world. Her true love had traveled further than she could even conceive of. Just as Danielle's death had only pushed her into the desolate outback of Canadian wilderness, Siobhan's "death" had pushed Cosima towards the vast unknown expanse of the universe into a ship that was destined to crash. They were both life borne from death.

Delphine cried out, both in pleasure and of sadness. There was only ever a feeling of morose regret due to the limitations of her body, that she had never been more physically sated in all of her life, and will never be sated again because there was never enough. Her body always gave out too soon. Pulling the shaking form to her own quivering self, their bodies tangled like the threads of fate that brought them together that one chilled morning, Delphine felt the tears stinging her eyes.

How was this even possible? How had she been so blessed and so cursed at once? How had she come to taste the sweetest ambrosia she'd ever discover, only to be cursed with the gluttonous need of never having enough?

She was selfish, but was that wrong? How many nights had she spent crying and alone?

It was only in that moment, when dark hazel eyes were watching her closely, feeling what she was feeling, knowing what she knew, that she understood it was a price she had already paid. She had met her quota on loneliness. She had surpassed the limit of sadness in her life. She had had

her share of the world's suffering and she was cashing in now. This was her paid vacation that life owed her.

She had cried so many tears of loneliness and heartbreak, but as she closed her eyes, feeling the hand sliding through the length of her blonde hair, trying to organize what their passion had left in disarray, she allowed the happiness to consume her. She knew in that moment, recognizing the attachment that could never be broken, that she would never be alone again.

Even in death. As she ran her own fingertips over the smooth skin of the brunette's clavicle, circling a bright red mark she barely remembered leaving, she knew that should anything happen to Cosima, there would be no solitude. There would be no life after because in that moment she would die as well.

She had seen it in Cosima's eyes, the day when Sarah had held the blade to her throat, and she had felt it in their connection. Cosima wasn't just saving Delphine from her sister, but saving herself.

She was no longer a singularity. She was half of a whole, part human, part alien. She didn't belong to Cosima and Cosima didn't belong to her because they were a part of each other.

Soul mates.

Atma Mitra.

"Are you alright?" Cosima spoke as if she needed an answer, but as she reached up to wipe away the tear that escaped the light hazel eyes, she was smiling.

Delphine nodded, burying her face in the woman's throat, listening to the steady beat of a heart that was alien yet so human. She no longer questioned how species from two planets so far away could be so similar. She no longer questioned this fusion of Ja. There was no room for regret or despair, even as her lover managed to pull from her grasp, a moment that brought laughter and groans of discontent as Cosima slipped out of bed, her bare feet padding silently across the cabin floor towards the kitchen.

"Cosima... Come back to bed." Delphine complained, laying on her stomach with her chin propped up on her hand, watching the brunette move around the cabin, having not bothered to adorn clothes after slipping out from under the blankets and out of her arms.

Some would say such co-dependency was unhealthy, but they could never understand this. They could never know this feeling of completion.

Sipping the water, Cosima chuckled, her body still humming with delight. "Are you not thirsty?"

Delphine smirked at that, licking her lips. She felt mildly guilty, knowing that the alien form required more fluids than her own, knowing that she was responsible for the woman's state of duress, but she also felt her conflicting need to have the woman beside her, on her, inside her. "Yes... come give me something to drink."

As her mind was filled with less than pure intentions coming from the woman, Cosima rose an eyebrow, unable to avoid the grin. "This is a... slang for your people?"

With a laugh, Delphine at least had the decency to blush as she reached out her hand toward the brunette. She would never grow tired of explaining these things to Cosima. Everyday it seemed the brunette learned more about her, and more about the people of the planet. "Come back to bed, mon amour. I've missed you."

With a smirk, Cosima set the glass on the nightstand before slipping into bed, finding arms

slipping around her waist as she straddled pale thighs. "You know you are irresistible." She wrapped her own arms around Delphine's neck, pulling their bodies together as her lips met the blonde's. She enjoyed the lazy exploration, feeling no rush as hands slipped up her back. Insatiable. That was the word the Earth-dwellers had for Delphine as just the bottom line of her amrita was caressed, sending a thrill through her. She felt the blonde's body shiver just slightly as the sensation trickled through their connection.

She could never get tired of this. They could spend all day in bed, every day, and she would still count the moments until her fingers could once again walk the path of desire. Pulling her lips away, she brushed her fingertips along the blonde's jaw, hazel eyes dark with desire pinning her in place. "How far I've come to find the most beautiful creature in the universe." She felt the thrill of excitement course through her lover, accompanying the ever-darkening blush.

"You say that because you haven't seen any other humans." Delphine chuckled. "Say that after tomorrow."

Tomorrow. Cosima let her thoughts linger for a minute on the future trip into town they would be taking. Did the woman really think that? Did she really believe Cosima only loved her because of lack of competition.

It had taken her a few days to understand the reasoning behind the way the woman thought. Humanity lacked the stark honesty of her people. Growing up in a society where your thoughts and emotions can often be felt by others, you learned to be speak in truths.

Of course Delphine didn't really think Cosima only loved her because she was the only human she'd ever met. She could feel the lack of threat in the Earth-dweller's Ja. Humans had such complex minds, saying one thing while thinking another. Always deception and manipulation, even when they don't mean to. The playful accusation was a ruse, a statement of false jealousy to lighten the intense feelings she'd been receiving through their connection. Even if it took her a minute to process the statement and identify it for what it was, she was learning.

"I've seen my share... up here." Cosima ran her fingers along the woman's temple, leaning forward to press their foreheads together. "I've seen the faces of those you've met in the past and none compare to you." She smiled. "You're very... pleasant."

Delphine gave her an outraged look as she moved, turning their bodies so that she was pinning the brunette to the bed. "I'll show you pleasant, you brat." Halfway to crushing her lips against Cosima's, she had a change of heart and instead brushed the tip of her nose against the woman's, placing a feather-soft kiss against the brunette's.

"Thank you for doing this." She whispered as if speaking too loud might break the peace between them. "I know that what you are doing together...the work on the ship... everything... I know it's important." Brushing her lips once more against Cosima's, she traced her brow with a fingertip. "Thank you for convincing them to take a day off."

Cosima ran her fingertips through messy blonde curls again. They were damp with sweat and completely in disarray, but she loved every part of the woman. "It didn't take much convincing." She chuckled. "I just told them the truth."

"What?" Delphine pulled back just slightly. "What do you mean you told them the truth?"

"Um..." Sensing she'd once again done something inappropriate, Cosima chuckled softly. Humanity and its false truths. "I just told them I wanted to spend time with you." Pulling the blonde back to her, she pressed her lips against the woman's grimace. "I told you before, Delphine. The atma mitra are well-respected by my people. There was no explanation needed

beyond that."

Biting her bottom lip, Delphine sighed softly, her body melting into the brunette's, her irritation brief as her lover's calm sensibility became her own. "One of these days I'm going to get mad at you and I'm going to be able to stay mad."

Cosima laughed at that, pulling the blankets over their forms, sensing the weariness in both their bodies. "I'm sure you will." It was a lie on her behalf, a small one. There was no room for anger between them. She let her arms wrap around the woman's waist again, allowing sleep to tug her towards unconsciousness...or she would if it weren't for the fingertips that trailed down her side with intention.

Who needed sleep anyway?

Chapter 24

Chapter Notes

This is just a small bit. There will more than likely be two chapters and an epilogue after this. Thanks for sticking with it guys.

Humanity was a strange race, Cosima thought, as she watched the people passing by her. The variety of Earth-dwellers was boggling, humans of every height and skin tone, hair in not only locks of gold like Delphine's or brown like her own people, but shades of red, blue, green, and she'd even seen a woman with shades of many colors. Delphine had explained to her the concept of hair dye, a completely vain modification that she didn't quite understand.

She'd also seen families with so many children, they barely were able to keep them in line. And the children... at the age of many of the children she'd past, both she and Sarah had been enrolled in training, a fierce discipline buried into their behaviors. It took years mixed with the wrong crowd for Sarah to eventually break from the lessons of discipline.

The availability of food was quite confusing. Here they were, in a store where there were just shelves and shelves of food of all types, an amount which would feed her colony for an incalculable length of time. There was no one dying of hunger in this town. Quite the opposite in fact. Gluttony seemed to be a strife to the entire race.

"Ice cream."

"What?" Cosima hugged the jacket to her, a warmer and softer layer of clothing than what she was used to that Delphine had called a hoodie. She watched her sister who seemed completely comfortable despite the noise in her own mind. Humans had no restraint and she could feel the emotions of almost everyone in the building Delphine had called a department store.

Sarah held the box out to her, brightly colored pictures on the outside of it. "This is ice cream. It is cold and sweet. Siobhan has many boxes in her freezer in different tastes. It's amazing."

"Oi! You can't just go spilling a woman's secrets." Siobhan faced her two daughters, hands on her hips. "Put that back, Sarah."

Dropping a jar into the cart, Delphine chuckled at Siobhan. "Many boxes?" With a kiss to Cosima's cheek, she wrapped an arm around the woman's waist and pulled her away from the freezer. "It's a treat, and completely bad for you."

Cosima's brow furrowed. "If it's bad for you, why do they sell it?" She looked at Siobhan who was arguing with Sarah, trying to stop her from buying an armful of the chilled boxes.

"Because humanity loves to eat things that are bad yet delicious." Delphine rolled her eyes, leading her out of the food section of the large store and towards the hardware. "I'm sure we can find a few things you are looking for here."

Dodging out of the way of a woman in a hurry, Cosima wrinkled her nose. Humanity was in such a rush. Her head was beginning to hurt and she longed for the solitude of Delphine's cabin. Peeking up at the blonde, she felt more than saw the discomfort, but as she took a look closer, she

noticed the creases of strain in the corners of her eyes, the tightness of her lips even when she was rewarded with a smile. Delphine didn't seem any more comfortable than she did and she was oddly relieved to know she wasn't the only one.

Well, it would be best if she could gather anything she needed and left as quickly as possible... if only she knew what any of it was. There were tools in abundance and wiring and fixtures and everything... unfortunately she had no idea how it translated into the mechanics of her ship and unfortunately neither did Delphine. She needed...

"Alright love. Tell me what you need and I'll find it." Siobhan commented, her hand falling on Cosima's shoulder.

It took over an hour for their shopping to conclude, the cart filled almost to the brim before they checked out.

"Siobhan! We should show Cosima the internet... and television." Sarah exclaimed as they loaded the truck with their load of goods. "And chicken strips."

"There's plenty time for that later, Love." Siobhan shook her head.

Delphine rose an eyebrow at the older woman. "She seems to have quite an affinity for processed chicken." She tucked a bag that was just filled with peanut butter into the truck. "Then again... Cosima apparently has developed an addiction to peanut butter."

"Well at least you've given her a variety of brands to taste. I, personally, can't stand the stuff." Siobhan whispered conspiringly.

"She deserves to try as many flavors as I can offer her." Delphine loaded a bag that was filled with different flavors of tea.

Siobhan reached out and rubbed Delphine's arm. "You don't have to do everything at once. She's not going anywhere, Delphine. There will be time."

With a hesitant sigh, Delphine gave her a worried look. "I know what Cosima says, but... when they find out, the others from your planet, about us... will they be upset?"

"No..." Siobhan shook her head quickly. "Maybe there will be a few that will not be comfortable with it, but the bond is sacred." She looked over at Cosima who was watching as Sarah showed her how to put a straw into a juice pouch. "From an early age, children are put into school in preparation for military service. Unfortunately, much like children on Earth are taught about art and music at an early age, children from our planet are instructed in combat. They are told that the bond is weakness, and if one is developed, they are no longer allowed to serve, but not because of hatred, but because our people know exactly what it is. It is sacred and rare and protected because children of bonded help to strengthen the gene pool." She chuckled softly. "Don't worry, Delphine... at least not about that. The real worry will be more about how the rest of the world will take being 'invaded' as I'm sure it will be seen as. You realize if we are able to fix the transmitter, we're going to have to develop a plan on how to inform the government."

Delphine nodded at that. It was true. She had seen just as many science fiction movies as she was sure Siobhan had. Aliens were never greeted in peace in movies which instilled fear in humanity. What exactly would happen if an entire ship full of extraterrestrials arrived? Would there be war? Would Cosima's people use their empathic powers to persuade peace?

Delphine felt the mental hug suddenly accompanied by a wave of giddy joy. Turning, she found Cosima happily sucking on a juice pouch, grinning at her. "There's no negative reaction to high

fructose corn syrup or anything right?"

Looking at her daughters who were opening up another pouch, Siobhan cursed. "Well... there isn't really a lot of sugary items on our planet, and while I've adapted, it took a while." Tucking the last box into the trunk, Siobhan sighed heavily. "They're going to be unbearably hyper when their bodies eventually break down the sugar... and I can't handle two of them so... let's get you two back to the cabin."

"Well... that's not frightening at all." Delphine chuckled, looking at the trunk full of supplies. "So... do you think this is going to work?"

Siobhan pursed her lips, signalling to her daughters to get into the truck. "I can't really say, Love. The technology has changed so much, but Cosima has always been a genius at problem solving. My heart wants to say yes, there's no doubt, for very selfish reasons, but my sensibility is trying not to get my hopes up."

Delphine nodded, understanding the woman's dilemma. "I think it can be done." She decided to rely on positivity. With a pat on the woman's shoulder, they both slipped into the truck, Siobhan behind the wheel and herself into the back with Cosima. Almost instantly, Delphine felt a rush of arousal, a fingertip grazing against her arm. She gave her lover a stern look, her nostrils flaring. When the brunette winked at her, she took a deep breath in an attempt to calm herself. It was going to be a long ride back to the cabin.

Chapter 25

Ok so I don't even know anymore lol. My brain is just complete mush. Thanks for sticking with this guys. The end is nye!

Stepping out of the bathroom, Delphine paused in mid step. "Cosima..." She gave the brunette an exasperated sigh as she dried her hair, having taken a shower as her lover was supposed to be sorting through the electronics and parts they'd purchased. The woman had been in a weird mood the entire drive back to the cabin, fluctuating between mischievously arousing and eagerly explaining something Delphine gathered was similar to the theory of relativity.

Cosima looked up with a guilty grin, a spoon hanging from her lips as she sat not at the table but on it, a collection of opened jars in front of her and several flattened pouches that once held juice littering the area around her. "Why do these peanut butters taste different?" She picked up two jars, studying them closely, eyes flickering back and forth over labels in a speed that prevented her from really reading it. "They are both peanut butter, but they are so different. How can the same thing taste different?"

"Oh, honey." Delphine sighed, dropping the towel over the back of the chair as she began to cover the jars. "You're going to make yourself sick if you eat all of this." She pressed her lips against the brunette's temple, nearly laughing when the woman refused to give up one of the jars. "Come on, Cosima."

"Non!" Cosima shook her head, pulling the jar back. "This one is the best out of all of them. We should tell Siobhan to purchase more from the market." She looked at the other jars in Delphine's hands. "Take the others. They are inferior and pale in comparison to this one."

Eyeing the jar, Delphine sighed. Of course it would be the brand that was just packed with sugar. She was beginning to sense a trend to the woman's eating habits and she began to wonder about the metabolism of her lover and her people. When curious dark hazel eyes looked up at her through long lashes, she took a step back, overcome by the sudden wave of that same mischievous arousal she'd been assaulted with in the truck. She could see the connections being made in their depths, the mental image she received causing a tightening in her gut.

"What do you taste like covered in peanut butter?"

Delphine shook her head as the brunette crawled off the table, pressing against her with a mind full of suggestions and imagery. "Non non non." Delphine was quick to snatch the jar from her, reaching past the woman to set it on the table. An arm wrapped around her waist, pulling her closer, lips pressing against her clavicle. "You are not ruining my linens with peanut butter, ma chérie."

"They are just bedding." Cosima ran a hand slowly up the pale neck before using her grip to pull lips down for a kiss. "We don't have to go to the bed."

With a chuckle, Delphine cupped the woman's cheeks in her hands, tracing her lips with a thumb. "You are incorrigible."

"Mmmm, and you are very, very clean." Cosima slipped the woman's shirt up and off, letting the material flutter to the ground as she buried her nose in the blonde's throat, inhaling loudly.

Laughing softly at the tickling breath, Delphine brought the lips to her own, enjoying a thorough exploration as her hands moved to tug at Cosima's clothes, lips breaking just long enough to strip away the layers. A grunt slipped out as she was suddenly pressed against the edge of the table, the wood biting into the backs of her newly bare thighs. "We should..."

"Non." Cosima grinned against the blonde's lips, her hands caressing pale skin as she shook off the blonde's ideas of a soft bed. "Here." She moved closer until the blonde was sliding backwards onto the surface of the table, positioning herself between the strong thighs. "There are no linens to run here, Delphine." She wasted no time in letting her hand drop between the two of their bodies, a teasing fingertip tracing the length of the blonde's sex.

Delphine groaned as her mind was filled with images of peanut butter strategically placed on her body, an eager tongue doing its best to remove the substance as fingertips pressed against her core. She could taste peanut butter on the lips she loved so much, shaking her head as she pulled back. "It's very unsanitary, mon amour." she pushed the jar out of reach of the brunette, to keep the idea away from her.

Cosima had to laugh at that. "I love it when you say such arousing things." The teasing tone was emphasised by her free hand cupping a soft breast, feeling the flesh tighten beneath her palm, her thumb circling a now erect nub. "Well... you are always delicious I suppose." She let her lips travel lower, taking the other nipple into her mouth.

A soft sigh of aroused contentment escaped Delphine, feeling the strain in her abdomen as the brunette began to push her backwards to lay flat against the wooden surface as lips travelled down her body.

She didn't need to be psychically connected to her lover to know where this was going, hearing the scraping of a chair against the floor as lips moved along the inside of her thigh.

Normally, Delphine wouldn't complain about such a situation, not even with the empty juice packets biting into her bare shoulder or the chill of the table taking forever to warm to her body heat. With a teasing tongue dancing against her most vulnerable places, she should have found little to argue about, but in her current position, she was at one disadvantage. With the perpendicular position of their bodies, Cosima's back was far too distanced from her touch.

Had she really grown so addicted to the intense pleasure the small lines offered? It's not that she wasn't enjoying the way Cosima parted glistening flesh, leaning forward to run her tongue along the length of her sex and sufficiently sending a jolt of pleasure through her body, but she wanted more. Maybe it was her need to feel that intense desire and pleasure only Cosima's amrita could offer, or maybe it was that Cosima's sugar-riddled mind was focusing too much on the physical and not enough on the connection they shared, but she found the casualness of the encounter...lacking. She wanted to feel the hunger that awoke in her with the simplest of brushes along one line of Cosima's amrita, the pulses of pure pleasure that could leave her quivering in seconds. She wanted... "Cosima!"

Chuckling from her position between the blonde's legs, Cosima ran her tongue along the small bite mark on the fold of flesh. "Sorry but your mind is not here, Delphine."

Having been caught, Delphine blushed awkwardly as she pushed herself up, nearly laughing at the brunette's pout. "Come here." pulling the now standing woman to her, she wrapped her legs around her lover's hips, running her tongue along damp lips and tasting herself on them. No, there would never be anything but this. She needed this too much. "I need you closer." It was a confession to herself as much as the brunette, accepting the fact that the woman had ruined her for anyone else.

She was delighted with a grin from Cosima, the brunette pushing her to lay back down, but following her into the wooden surface as she was claiming Delphine's lips, fingertips pressing into her depths once more.

Delphine whimpered, her hand flat against the lines of Cosima's amrita and feeling the brunette's ja calling to her, enveloping her in its warm embrace. The connections that were between them: physical, emotional, spiritual... she greedily needed them all. She needed to feel their minds joining, intertwining and deepening further than a tongue or fingers could go.

Cosima shifted her position and the table creaked slightly, the brunette freezing. Delphine found her mind suddenly filled with the image of the table giving out beneath them.

"Merde." Delphine had to laugh at the image and regretfully pushed the brunette off of her, a groan slipping from her lips as fingers slipped from her sex. "Bed." Was all she said and got no argument this time as the brunette dragged her towards it, laughing again as she was unceremoniously pushed on the padded surface.

"Now where were we?" Cosima asked as she slipped a thigh between the blonde's, pressing against her heated arousal. "If you would please stop interrupting me..."

Delphine bit her bottom lip with a nod, running a single fingertip down the center of Cosima's back. She felt the body shudder against her just as the wave of familiar pleasure coursed through their linked spirits. No, she had no intentions on interrupting anymore.

Chapter 26

Ok, there was only going to be one chapter and an epilogue, but this ended up being long so I split it. So after this chapter there is one more and an epilogue. The end is still nye! Thank you so much for all the support you guys.

So, I gave into peer pressure and started a Patreon site. For those that don't know what it is, it's basically a tipping/support system for artists and writers. There's no pressure for anyone to do so, but it's there if anyone feels the desire to. It's at www.patreon.com/thatscomplex

Setting the welder down, Cosima wiped a drop of sweat from her brow, removing her gloves. "I hate doing this."

Sitting on the ground watching, Sarah shrugged. "Doesn't look too hard." She had a relaxed air about her as she pulled some grass up from the ground, looking at it closely.

Cosima rolled her eyes, replacing the panel on the side of the ship. They'd made so much progress, digging out a majority of the body, clearing the power cells and one of the main panels that held a majority of the controls. The supplies they had purchased had gone a long way in repairs despite the primitive nature of the technology, but Siobhan had regretfully taken off to make a trip back to town a while ago for a few spools of cable she'd forgotten.

"Everything is so bright here." Sarah commented, looking around the area. She picked up a rock, staring at the smooth surface before chucking it into the river, smiling as Scott took off after it. "All this fresh water and there's no one trying to control it."

"Yeah." Grabbing a bottle of water from the ice chest Siobhan had left, Cosima sighed, dropping down to the ground. She instantly found her lap invaded by a very wet dog that had galloped back when his new favorite person appeared. "Hey... Come on..." With a huff, she nudged him off her lap, allowing him to rest his head on her thigh. "How have your lungs been?"

Taking a deep breath, Sarah gave her sister a half smile. "I haven't breathed this clearly since... ever." She demonstrated by taking another breath. "I'm so used to my lungs always burning, the strain and coughing up all that crud. Being able to breathe like this is amazing."

Running her fingers through the wet fur, Cosima nodded. While her sister had suffered the most, having little access to proper filtration outside of the service, she didn't miss going everywhere with a mask or having to take medication on a daily basis to combat the toxicity. She wanted nothing more than to show her mother what life was like on Earth.

"Do you think this will work?"

Looking up, Cosima gave her sister a smile. "I hope so. If we fail we're gonna fail saying we did all we could."

Thinking that over, Sarah's brows furrowed. "I'd rather we just... didn't fail." When Cosima gave her a look, a smile spread across her face as she laughed.

"Come on, help me with this." Cosima stood up, dusting herself off, looking at Scott with a smirk. Taking his head in her hands, she looked him right in the eye, reaching out to him mentally. She

was rewarded with a bark and the golden form turned and took off towards the cabin.

"Where's he off to?"

"I'm hungry." Cosima responded with a grin, dropping into the cockpit.

It took a while for her to get the interface up again, but unfortunately there was something stopping her from making the correct changes. She wasn't able to communicate with the signal array, which meant she wasn't able to boost the signal strong enough to leave the planet. She had already checked the wiring twice, but something seemed to be stopping her commands.

"Can you reverse the signal?" Cosima wrinkled her nose as she folded her legs under her in the pilot seat, her fingers flying over the keyboard.

"What does that even mean?" The voice crackled over the walkie, Sarah obviously lost in a world she had no part of.

After all that work, they hadn't gotten anywhere near fixing the signal. "There should be a toggle." With a heavy sigh, Cosima massaged her temple. As strong as a connection she had to Sarah, her twin was having no luck in translating the information she had been feeding her. "When is Siobhan coming back?"

"Cosima, that's not very nice."

Cosima jumped slightly at the French voice that came over the radio. "Hey. Get in here." She must have been too focused on the repairs to notice the blonde's approach. When the woman slipped into the cockpit, she grinned. "Hi."

Delphine smirked, leaning down to brush her lips against Cosima's. "I brought you lunch..." Another kiss and she was dropping a bag on the brunette's lap. "Peanut butter... as always. I have no idea what you told Scott but he was going crazy trying to grab the jar from me."

Hiding her grin, Cosima peeked into the bag. "You're very good at this, you know... taking care of us." Cosima commented, removing a wrapped square. "Thank you."

"You're welcome." Delphine smiled, looking over Cosima's shoulder at the symbols flashing across the screen. "How are things going?"

"They're not." Cosima mumbled around a mouthful of bread and peanut butter. She eyed the screen with an evil eye. "Something is going on with the interface. It's not letting me change the configuration of the signal relay. I don't know if it's because the human components not mixing with ours... I don't know what's going on."

Delphine sighed softly, biting her bottom lip. "I wish I could help."

"Would it be cheese if I told you that just by being here you are helping?"

With a soft chuckle, Delphine leaned forward and pressed her lips against the brunette's temple. "The word is cheesy, mon amour."

"Oi. You two aren't shagging in there are you?" Sarah's voice crackled over the walkie.

Her eyebrows furrowing, Cosima turned to the blonde. "What is shagging?"

"Sarah is spending too much time with Siobhan." She blushed, running her fingers through Cosima's hair, sorting the brunette twists to her liking.

Pulling back, Cosima grinned at the mental picture. "Sex? It means sex?" With a mischievous smile, she pulled the blonde closer to her. "Is that what you came for?"

"Cosima." Delphine sighed. "I came to bring you peanut butter and to check on your progress." She looked down as a hand slid up the back of her thigh, groaning softly at the wave of sensual bliss. "That is not fair, ma cherie."

"Cosima, I've toggled the transmitter, can you try it again?" Siobhan's voice interrupted.

Her grin spreading, Cosima's tongue peeked out from between her teeth as she picked up the walkie. "It's about time you got back. Sarahma is pathetically horrible at this." With a chuckle she pulled up the interface, her fingers flying over the keyboard knowingly.

Delphine watched as the woman typed, her face scrunching in concentration and her tongue captured between her lips. She could sense the frustration coming from the brunette and she wished she had the ability to help.

An alarm beeped and a message blinked across the screen. "Merde." Cosima growled in frustration, typing another command and getting another beep.

As if sensing the failure, Siobhan dropped into the cockpit, taking a moment to look around before looking over Cosima's shoulder at the error. "I take it it didn't work?"

With a shake of her head, Cosima chewed on her bottom lip and she looked over at Delphine, the blonde having retreated to the small bunk. There was something going on in the system, something preventing the commands from reaching the signal array. When she had inspected the physical system, there hadn't been any damage, so it had to be something involving the way the computer was processing the commands.

An idea bounced around her head that she knew Siobhan was going to protest. It was dangerous, not only for herself but for Delphine as well. She was at an impasse, knowing that her family and friends' lives were on the line, an entire planet depending on her to find a healthy home for them. But she also knew about the pain it would cause her lover. Light hazel eyes found her own and she watched as the blonde head tilted in worry.

"Did you think maybe we could rewire the panel? Maybe there's a loose cable or something." Siobhan sighed.

"We both know that won't work." Cosima tore her eyes away from Delphine's, knowing the woman understood what she intended to propose. "The problem is that the keyboard interface is meant to be a backup. It's not supposed to be the main communication method between the pilot and the ship."

"Of course. The ship operates better with a merge, but..." Siobhan let the words trail off as she narrowed her eyes at the smaller woman, the plan suddenly coming to her. "No."

With a sigh, Cosima sat up, looking at the merge panel. She had disconnected it on her first trip back to the ship, half of the gel having been dislodged in the crash. "You know it's more than likely the only way."

"You are out of your mind if you think I'm going to let my daughter merge with a ship that's damn near ripped in half."

"I'm doing this Siobhan." Lugging a container from under the control panel, Cosima hefted it up. She knew why the woman was hesitant. Dangerous was not a strong enough word to describe

merging with a damaged ship. When you merged with a ship, all the ships processing spill through your mind, and when there is damage, sensory overload was a real risk. Death was not farfetched if a ship was damaged enough. She had been lucky that her merge had been terminated in the crash, but she still remembered the feeling of the ship burning in the atmosphere and the impacts of trees against the hull of the ship.

"Cosima. Be reasonable, or at least, if you insist it be done, let me do this." Siobhan sighed heavily as she looked over the panel, watching as Cosima renewed the contact gel.

"Siobhan... You don't know the technology nor the pathways." Cosima sighed heavily.

"Then give me the information." Her daughter had unfortunately always been very stubborn and had only grown more so with age.

Re-connecting the cabling, she watched as the panel blinked to life, glowing eerily. "Siobhan... you know I'm the best person to do this. I've already merged with this ship. There will be no adjustment period. I'll be able to get in and get the signal array realigned. With as long as it might take you, you know the chance for damage to your ja increases drastically."

"And what about Delphine?" Siobhan gave her an exasperated sigh, grabbing Cosima by the shoulders. "You forget that you're bonded now?"

"How can I forget that?"

"Well think about it. Anything you feel, Delphine feels and she's never felt anything like this."

Cosima paused. Of course Siobhan was right. It was her only objection to doing it herself. Could she ask Delphine to do this, to ensure what was the equivalent of torture for however long it would take Cosima to navigate the system? Siobhan was right in saying Delphine had never felt such a thing. All her experience in their bond had been loving, a tender caress shared between two halves of one whole. She'd never experienced the mental suffering of merging with a malfunctioning ship. Was that even fair to ask?

"She can do it."

Both Siobhan and Cosima looked up as Delphine spoke, having been quietly watching the scene from Cosima's bunk.

"Delphine..."

"Non. I trust you Cosima. This is the best chance you have. I mean what are we talking about? A few minutes?"

"No love." Siobhan shook her head. "A second could feel like an eternity in the merge. Surely you've noticed."

Cosima felt a wave of purely inappropriate emotion from the blonde and had to bite her lip to keep from commenting. Of course her lover had noticed time slowing down during a merge. The woman lived for it.

"Are you kidding me right now?" Siobhan shot daggers from her eyes at them. "We're talking about mental keelhauling and the two of you are thinking about sex?"

Cosima looked down at her feet, trying to hide her smile. She had no idea what keelhauling was but she understood the implication. One of these days she and Delphine would learn to keep their connection from being broadcasted to anyone in the area.

"I know, Siobhan. I understand. Cosima can do it." Delphine eyed the glowing panel, knowing exactly what was going to happen in the same way that Cosima knew. "I have faith in her."

"Two peas in a pod." Siobhan shook her head. "I'm getting out of the blast zone." With a heavy sigh, she pulled herself out of the cockpit, leaving the two alone.

"Hey." Cosima laughed nervously, bringing Delphine forward for a kiss. "I love you." She tried to soothe the feelings of worry coming from the blonde. "Are you sure you want to do this?" Running her hand through blonde curls, she sighed softly. "It's going to be bad."

Delphine brushed her lips once more against Cosima's. "If you are forced to endure it..." She let her words trail off. She didn't want to think about the memory she had that had come as a dream, Cosima's landing. It had felt like every bit of her skin was on fire as she experienced what Cosima had felt while merged with the ship, feeling the bite of the atmosphere against the hull, remembering each impact.

"Ok." Cosima took a deep breath. "I need you to sit down and... it's ok to scream." She waited for Delphine to take a seat on her bunk before looking at the panel before her, mentally going over the sequences once more. She just needed to merge long enough to navigate the comm system and get the frequencies aligned correctly. Normally, it wouldn't take her long, but compounding all the system damage that would be mentally overwhelming... she wasn't sure how Delphine would take it. She wasn't sure how she would take it. "Ok... I'm really, really sorry about this, Delphine." Cosima commented, gritting her teeth before slipping her hands into the gel surface.

On the edges of her senses, she heard Delphine scream and she felt the air rush from her body like she'd been punched in the gut. The pain that radiated through her wasn't physical, but instead mental and spiritual. It was excruciating, as if her *ja* was being torn to shreds. Each break in the outer shell of the ship screamed at her, the ship's central computer's confusion as it tried to cope with missing parts. It was all hitting her at once, like a beast digging through her mind, as if her skull were shifting, contracting, expanding. In the fog of it, she could feel Delphine barely holding it together, knowing the blonde was curled in a fetal position on her bunk without having to see her.

She had to get a hold of her mind, not just for herself, but for Delphine. She had to focus, to ignore the damaged portions of the ship that were screaming in the pit of her *ja*. It was nauseating, fighting for control when her *ja* was being tugged at, segments of the living skin of the ship demanding her attention. It took her longer than she thought it would to find communications. "*Not much longer, Delphine.*" She could only hope the blonde would be able to decipher the message over the agony.

She found the connections that were damaged, a simple bridge that would easily be reconnected if they'd been able to visually find it, but she was there already and she was passing over it, her mind jumping the gap that the flow of power wasn't able to, finding the transmitter, her mind connecting with the signal relay.

With the ship melding with her *ja*, it took just the barest of moments, the length it took for a thought to reconfigure the signal array, sensing paths realigning and she could feel the signal strengthening. Just the barest of moments and she could feel the signal reaching out, past the atmosphere of earth, out of the galaxy and further than the inhabitants of earth thought possible.

Cosima wasted no time in pulling out, gasping for air as the assault on her senses stilled and she was free. Her body was shaking as she wipes her hands on her pants. The gel never clung to her skin but it didn't stop her hands from feeling clammy and damp. She took a quick evaluation of her body, wiping away the small stream of dark blood that trickled from her nose. Every inch of

her hurt from the strain, her body having tensed under the mental attack.

With a sudden curse, Cosima jumped out of her chair, moving to her bunk where Delphine was still curled up, apparently unconscious. "Delphine?" A white hot fear settled in her gut as she rolled the blonde onto her back, crimson streams dripping from her nose and mouth. "Delphine? Come on." Getting no response, she used a nearby thermal covering to wipe away the blood with a shaky hand. "Delphine...?"

Chapter 27

Well, the holiday season has passed and you all have been so patiently waiting. Thank you so much for understanding my absence. There is one more part after this. An...epilogue of sorts.

"Delphine..."

There was a silence that greeted Cosima and she felt her heart tighten, a million unthinkable possibilities making themselves apparent in her moment of uncertainty.

"Delphine..." Her fingers ran through blonde curls, sorting the messy locks that had held an almost imperceptible dampness from sweat. Nothing could be wrong right? She would know it. She would feel it inside her. They were bonded. Perhaps it was the still lingering disorientation from the merge, but despite their connection telling her the woman was safe, it did little to soothe her nerves. Not when the other half of her ja remained unconscious.

"Wake up, Delphine." With a brush of her lips against the blonde's temple, she probed the woman's ja, feeling a warmth wash over her as she was welcomed without resistance.

As if it had been waiting for her, the blonde's spirit suddenly pulled her in, her blood instantly humming with a sensual wave that consumed her. It was a sensation she'd grown accustomed to the past weeks, a constant arousal when in close proximity to the Earth-dweller. She was intimately familiar with the tug of Delphine's ja, but there was something different, something she hadn't sensed before.

It was familiar, yet it was foreign.

She was pulled in further, unable to resist the vice grip that held onto her own ja, a warm embrace that welcomed her and refused to let her go, pulling her in deeper.

Despite her attempts to navigate out, Cosima suddenly found herself in a memory, a memory that felt apart of her own mind as much as Delphine's.

Soft skin. Her lips brushed over delicious flesh that was darker than it should have been, more tan than pale, valleys and ravines that were familiar yet unknown. Scars and imperfections painted a canvas in a way that was a mystery to her, yet the masterpiece was one she knew intimately. "You're worried." Her voice was strange, but she recognized the tongue of her own people, one she never addressed her lover with.

"I don't want to be, but what will await us? We will have nothing but what we bring." The words coming from Delphine surprised Cosima, but she said nothing as the woman sighed heavily, her lip being worried between white teeth. "I know the planet we're going to is supposed to be perfectly survivable... I just... I don't know."

Looking down into Delphine's eyes, the face that greeted her was unknown, and yet she knew it well. Her eyes were wells of fertile soil, as if the sunlight and foliage that once dwelled there had been sown and plowed anew. "We will be fine, Katira, as long as we are together." The name rolled off her tongue with sweetness and sincerity, feeling the devotion in the bond they shared. She was not Delphine, she was Katira, the daughter of the royal house and her atma mitra.

Yet, looking into the longing gaze, there was no doubt that Delphine was there, experiencing what she was experiencing.

"Promise?"

Their fingers intertwining, Cosima brushed her lips over the knuckles with a smile. "Yes." With a mischievous grin, she traveled down the form, pausing at a swollen belly, pressing her ear against the warm skin. "What about you, my precious one? Are you excited about the new world?" When a kick came to the surface she chuckled. "You are going to be born on the new planet... and from the calculations of all the bonded expecting, you will be the first. The first new life in all of history."

A child. They had a child together...or they would soon have a child together. Cosima felt her heart swell with a pride that was not her own... or was it. Would Delphine be interested in sharing such a thing? If her people came to Earth, no doubt they would bring with it the technology of Visarjana. As bonded, it was their right.

"There are animals that live on the planet." Fingers tugged on her hair, demanding her attention and pulling her back up.

"Yes but none like us. I've seen the research." Cosima grinned, meeting Delphine's... or rather Katira's lips in a kiss. "It's a much better planet than the other one they're populating. So much water and green life." She chuckled softly. "You know... if you're going to populate a planet... it's going to be one mighty sexy planet." Their lips met once more as she pinned the smaller hands to the bed.

Suddenly the memory changed and Cosima was pushing herself off the ground, a pain throbbing in her head as she blinked away her blurred vision. "Katira?" she spoke in a panic, her finger touching the comm device.

"We are leaving! Where are you? What happened?"

Cosima looked at the small box in her hand, still clasped between her fingers from when she had been knocked unconscious. She had retrieved the last of their belongings, the memory discs from their joining ceremony and the blanket her mother had knit for their child. She hadn't seen the assailant, but when she checked her neck, her data key was missing. It was the only way she could get on the departure ship... or rather the only way she would have...

She should have known better. Seats on their ship for the more robust of the two planets their people were escaping to were in high demand and she foolishly thought she could make the short trip to their old domicile unguarded. She'd just traded sentimental trinkets for a life of misery and despair.

"There's a small problem with that, my love." She felt the weight of the world crashing down on her as she struggled to stand, whether from her own knowledge of her predicament or from her lover's realization, her eyes immediately went to the port window that looked out. She could see the ignition burning on the rocket, heading towards the planet that was mostly blue, splashes of green and white breaking the surface.

"No...please tell me you're onboard. Please."

"I..." emotions overwhelmed her coming from her partner through their bond. The anguish she felt began to take over and she found herself on her knees, bile rising in her throat threatening to spill over the cold floor.

"In... you... come..." the voice over the comm began to break up as distance grew. The distance did little to mute the nausea-inducing panic coming from her mate.

Cosima took a staggered breath, feeling at a loss for the first time since meeting the woman she had bonded with. "This isn't the end. I'll make my way back to you." she tried to reassure the woman, knowing her own words were probably as indecipherable as Katira's had become.

"M... h..." finally there was silence and Cosima felt her world shatter. The ground became a plate for her barely-digested breakfast, her heart breaking into a million pieces repeatedly with every beat.

She didn't know how long she sat there, curled into a ball, feeling misery both her own and her lover's. She hadn't the strength to push herself up again, and instead she held the blanket to her damp face, breathing in the lingering scent of Katira's medicinal oils mingling with the pungent odor of her own vomit.

This couldn't be the end of them. They were a part of each other. Not even death could separate them, let alone a universe.

"I swear by ja' teil. I will find you again."

Once again Cosima felt Delphine's ja tugging her in another direction, away from the memory of her despair-crippled form, fading away until she was on a neutral plane, a figure standing before her, watching her curiously. It was Katira, no longer pregnant, just slightly older, frail yet still beautiful.

"It took you long enough." The woman spoke with a grin, moving to capture Cosima in an embrace, features turning into more familiar ones with each step until a pale forehead was pressed to her own, familiar hazel eyes smiling at her. "I've been waiting for you for more lifetimes than I could count." The voice took on the familiar Earth words, a rich sound that wrapped around her as any physical embrace could. Both women had been Delphine, but this was her version. This was her Atma Mitra. This was the other half of her tale.

"I told you I'd find you again." She responded, knowing the truth behind it. With the vision laying details before them like a map of history, things were suddenly so clear, yet it only added more questions. What did this mean on a deeper level? Would they continue to spend eternity searching for each other? Had physical distance really kept their ja apart?

She ignored the missing details, choosing instead to enjoy the deep intensity in the woman's feelings for her. "I'm never leaving you again." As she pressed her lips to the blonde's, she felt the world dissolving around her, the sound of Siobhan's voice suddenly loud.

"Wake up!"

A hand shaking her shoulder, Cosima blinked her eyes open, finding thin slivers of light hazel watching her. "Are you ok?" Ignoring Siobhan, she brought her hand up to Delphine's pale cheek, wiping away a single tear that slipped from her eye.

"Oui." Delphine nodded with a wince, leaning into her touch. "That dream..."

"Later." Cosima interrupted her, pressing her lips to Delphine's in a quick kiss, careful to not jar the flesh where the blonde's teeth had bit down, before sitting up, turning to see Siobhan watching them with worry. "Sorry about that."

With a relieved look, Siobhan shook her head. "Don't apologize. I just felt as though Delphine was in danger. Are you alright, Love?"

"Yes, I'm sorry." Delphine sat up with Cosima's help, her mind still spinning from what they had just experienced. "I got overwhelmed..." Her brows furrowed. "You could feel that?"

With a small smile, Siobhan nodded. "Parental bond. I'll always know when one of my kids are in trouble." Her face took on a grimace. "Don't think those two didn't give me enough heart palpitations feeling every time they got in trouble and I wasn't able to help from here."

With a groan, Delphine winced at the headache that was not unlike the one that plagued Cosima herself. "Well... that was just horrible. Did it work?"

Cosima nodded, running her fingers through blonde curls to sort the mess before handing her a cloth. "I think so. I was able to get a message out."

Delphine accepted a cloth from Cosima, clearing the remnants of blood from her mouth. "Will you have to merge to send more messages?"

"No." Cosima quickly shook her head, instantly regretting it as a pain seared through her skull. "I just had to align the signal correctly. It should be no different than your walkies here." With a concerned look, she reached up to wipe a trace of red from the corner of Delphine's mouth. "You're sure you're ok?"

"Oui, mon amour." Delphine nodded, capturing the brunette's hand in her own, intertwining their fingers together. "Siobhan was right, though. That was nothing like I expected it to be."

Siobhan rolled her eyes. "That's why I warned you. I..."

"NamaskAra?" A feminine voice suddenly came over the comm speaker, causing the women to jump.

For the briefest moment as all three women froze, looking up at the small speaker the voice had come from.

Finally, Cosima's eyes doubled as she quickly hopped up, dropping into the pilot chair and grabbing the radio. "NamaskAra! Aham NieHaska CosiMa. Rjuvani kRpayA." She felt Delphine step up beside her, a hand falling in her shoulder.

There was a long pause before she finally heard a response, a different voice that was just a bit more masculine, and completely recognizable. "Cos? vayaM sarve vismRtAH vA?" She'd almost forgot the sound of his voice. It had to be Ja'teil's doing. How else would the friend often cited for missing work be in the central communication office at the time her message was received.

"FeikSa!." She laughed, looking up at Delphine, noticing the blonde's curious look. "vRthA bhavAn cintAM karoti." Muting the mic, she couldn't resist closing her eyes, taking a deep breath of relief.

Delphine had been quiet through the exchange. She could sense the meaning of the conversation, simple greetings being exchanged. The person on the other side was obviously a friend, a close one it would seem considering the wave of joy she could feel from her lover.

The joy, however, could have also been in result of the successful contact.

The messages seemed to last forever, neither Cosima or the person on the other end wanting to risk losing communication.

Delphine just kept back, watching as the brunette spoke, hands flying through the air in

excitement as if the person on the other side could see. She could grasp the general themes of the discussion, but the actual words flew by so quickly, she was barely able to connect them to the emotions.

Siobhan instead helped with the translations, wincing as the more technical concepts barely translated.

Listening to Cosima's description of the planet went beyond the words Siobhan translated. The emotions that Delphine felt coming through their bond reflected the delight that shone through the brunette's expressions and it was a pleasure to watch.

She couldn't help but wonder what would happen in the future. Would Cosima's people come immediately? Would they send an envoy? Would they be as accepting as Siobhan had been of their bond?

Troubled, she slipped out of the ship unnoticed, looking around. Still there was a path burnt into the grass from Cosima's rough landing, a trench dug around the ship in an attempt to free up as much of the mechanical elements as possible. Near a tree they often shared their meals, Sarah was stretched out in the shade, asleep with Scott tucked against her side.

Would Cosima's people be able to mix with humans? Would they bring technology humanity never thought possible?

Wandering to the edge of the river, Delphine took a seat on a rock, her mind drifting back to the dream. What had it meant? Was it just a shared hallucination, a result of mental trauma caused by the ship's system? Or was it a vision? A memory that existed only in the bond they shared?

Would Cosima's people bring technology humanity never thought possible?

She remembered looking down her body, the swell of pregnancy having taken over her body. She could remember the pain in her breasts and the flutter of movement from within her body. All of it had been so real, including the adoration and love she had been overflowing with... and the agony of loss as she heard Cosima's voice breaking up over the comm device.

It wasn't just a dream.

She knew it as much as she knew she could never live without Cosima in her life. What if humanity resisted? What if they discovered Cosima's origin and saw it as an invasion, a subtle taking over of a planet they believed was their own?

What did it mean for she and Cosima?

Suddenly, a warmth fell over her and she didn't need to look up to know she was no longer alone. A form settled on the rock behind her, a chin resting on her shoulder as arms wrapped around her waist. She didn't resist leaning back against the form. "Is it silly to be so worried?"

"No." Cosima pressed her lips against Delphine's ear. "Nothing about your emotions are silly, Delphine."

"Everything is going to change, isn't it?"

With a smile, Cosima pulled back, allowing the blonde to turn towards her. "Yes, but that is not such a bad thing, is it?"

Delphine bit her bottom lip, wincing at the pain she was suddenly reminded of. Unable to stop herself, she reached up to cup smooth cheeks in her hands, her thumb tracing the soft flesh of

Cosima's bottom lip. "As long as we stay together... no matter what."

"Of course." Cosima answered instantly.

Ever so gently, she pressed her lips to Cosima's, ignoring the sting and enjoying the closeness, feeling her spirit reach out to tangle with the brunette's. She would never allow herself to lose this. No one would take this away from her.

Ever.

Chapter 28

Okay. So I might have lied. This is not an epilogue. The last chapter that you read was the last chapter of Fall Into Me... Pt 1. This is a first look into Fall Into Me 2: Unstable Ground

Chapter 1

She could feel it in her mind, the gentle tug attempting to lure her in, attempting to break through her defenses. There was a sensuality in it, a warm embrace that reminded her of just what was waiting for her. Instinctively, her hands began to move a little faster, packing up her bag, willing the room to silence so that she might finally be free.

"Dr. Cormier?"

Her hands pausing with a book still grasped in it, Delphine turned to face the girl. "How can I help you Miss Turner?"

"I'm still going to be out of town for my grandfather's funeral on Monday. Would it be alright if I turned my paper in on Tuesday?"

Delphine gave the girl an empathetic look. While normally she was apprehensive, as she'd learned quickly that college kids could be very resourceful, one month into the semester this girl was already proving to be one of her best students. "I'm sorry to hear about your grandfather. Tuesday will be fine."

"Thanks." The girl gave her a quick wave before exiting the classroom.

Delphine sighed softly, shouldering her briefcase as she escaped, locking the classroom behind her. When she had reentered society, she had been surprised when an old friend had recommended her for the job of being a professor. It had never been anything she wanted to do - teaching. She'd always wanted to be a doctor, but despite having regained her nerve, the law would never allow her to be a medical doctor again. Not with her dark and troubling past. Strangely, she found herself falling into the position quite easily, finding beginning anatomy to be quite a refreshing course to teach.

And the schedule was a lot more appealing. Endless hours in the hospital versus teaching a few hours a day?

Now that she wasn't required to pay attention, she let her mind relax, a mental sigh of relief coursing through her as she detected a sense of amusement from her lover.

As if realizing she was paying attention, she was filled with a sudden strong desire for cheesecake. *No.* She tried to convey the message only to be rewarded with a wave of pleading sensuality. "Merde." Delphine cursed, making a quick stop before heading home.

She'd avoided so many people for over a year after the death of her fiancée... no not just her death. Delphine had killed her... even if it was out of mercy, she had done it, and as a result she had been so lost that she locked herself away from the world.

Maybe it was fate, the way everything transpired. The cabin. The crash. Delphine tried not to think about it, because if she did she would start to trace back the events, how her current circumstances were a direct result of being at that cabin.

She would never have met Cosima if not for Danielle's death.

Cosima.

What a curious creature the brunette turned out to be. Born on the other side of the universe, there was no other explanation besides fate that put the brunette in a ship destined to crash to Earth so close to Delphine's cabin of self-imposed exile.

Nothing except fate could explain how this alien, who looked not much different from humans, could prove to be her soulmate, or *atma mitra* as the extraterrestrial labeled it. "*I will find you again.*" The memory that had been jarred loose still weighed on her. If it was true, there were so many questions she still had. So many mysteries locked away in memories they couldn't access no matter how many times they'd tried since that day.

But she had learned to push that aside, to focus on the now instead of the past. How long had they been living in the city now? Two? Three months? It was so strange how she had just fallen into a role she never thought she would have.

Teacher.

Lover.

Soulmate.

By the time she got to the small two-story house, she was her normal frustrated self, the brunette having enjoyed tormenting her after being shut out all day. The door of the house opened as she got up the stairs of the porch, a golden canine shooting out to greet her quickly before attending his own business with a bush. Standing in the doorway, the short form stood wearing a pair of pajama pants and a tank top, the long black twists of her hair pulled up into a bun. "You are a pain in my ass, Cosima."

With a big grin, Cosima accepted the cheesecake and the grocery bag, licking her lips as she took in the sight of the dessert. "A pain in your ass?... Is this because of last night?"

"What?" Delphine paused before her cheeks turned a dark crimson. "No... Cosima..." She blew out a long breath, fanning the sudden embarrassment away as she moved to the bedroom. "Are you packed already?" She called out loudly, stripping out of her skirt and into a pair of jeans shorts. As quiet as things had been for the two of them, tomorrow was the day they had been waiting for.

"Yes." Cosima answered, suddenly right behind her, pressing her nose against the silk between the blonde's shoulder blades. Her fingers found the buttons on Delphine's shirt, helping her undress. "I missed you." Three months and the brunette was still acclimating to the Earth. Despite having attained false identification, she spent most of her day researching everything about the world, mumbling curses about the inefficient method in which humans learned.

"And you tormented me as soon as I let you in." Delphine accused, turning to press her lips to Cosima's. The bond that connected them, unique to Cosima's people, allowed for a somewhat empathic transferral of emotions. While it brought them impossibly closer than either woman thought possible, Cosima, ages more proficient in controlling the connection, used it to her advantage to torment the blonde with waves of arousal and desire. "We have a long drive ahead of us." She whispered as her top was pushed off her shoulders, the thin material fluttering to the floor and lips moved down her throat.

"Yes and how much alone time will we receive this weekend?" Cosima pointed out, her fingers

finding the newly fastened button of Delphine's shorts. She extended her *ja*, her spirit, to merge with Delphine's, an almost viscous connection that shared sensations of desire and arousal.

It was a valid point, Delphine decided as she bit her bottom lip, her own fingers finding the edges of the brunette's clothes. They wouldn't have much time, not with Cosima's twin sister Sarahma who had traveled the distance with Cosima. Sarah had been ill before leaving their planet, the constant toxicity of the air crippling her ability to heal. It wasn't until she awoke on Earth, having been suspended in cryo sleep to preserve her health, that she was finally able to make a steady progress towards healing.

There would also be Siobhan, mother of the sisters who had, in yet another circumstance of chance, been the first envoy to humanity so many years ago, only to find herself crashing as well and stranded on an alien planet with no way to communicate back to her family.

So no, Delphine didn't resist as the brunette led her to the soft pillow top mattress, hands and fingertips exploring familiar curves with practiced ease. As the shorter form covered her own, she caressed the short yet pronounced lines that surfaced down the length of Cosima's spine, her *amrita* - genetic modifications that had once been a method of finding genetically compatible mates that now allowed them to bond with a deeper intimacy humanity alone was not capable of. As her fingers slipped down the uneven skin, she felt the pulses of pleasure coarse through her lover and in result, coursing through her own body.

Loving Cosima was... indescribable... and Delphine stopped trying to describe it long ago. When she felt pleasure, Cosima felt pleasure. When she felt need, Cosima felt need. Each stroke of a tongue or fingertips was felt by both women. There were no words that could come close to describe the intimacy that they shared, and Delphine stopped trying to describe it long ago. She just gave in to the wave of sensuality and allowed herself to be taken away with it.

Tearing themselves away from each other, on the other hand, always proved to be the biggest challenge, which is why they found themselves on the road much later than they intended, the sun already beginning to sink low in the sky when they left.

It was a long drive, close to three hours to get to the small town, and Delphine sighing in relief as she pulled up to a small house.

"I really have to use the washroom!" Cosima called out, not even waiting for Delphine to set the car in park before opening the door and running up the front stairs, rapping loudly on the brightly painted wood.

"Hold your horses..." Came a voice from the other side, the door opening to reveal an older woman with long brunette hair and dark eyes. "You're late..." She commented before she was pushed aside and the brunette ran past. "Well...hello to you too."

Delphine chuckled as she stretched her legs, letting Scott out of the backseat so he could sniff around the yard. "Sorry, Siobhan. She was determined to hold it until we got here." Climbing the stairs, she smiled as the older woman pulled her close, pressing their temples together. She felt the soothing wave of maternal love wash through her, the parental bond that had been imprinted onto her when the older woman had learned that she and Cosima were *atma mitra*.

"Ah, no worries, Delphine. I was just expecting you earlier."

"Yes well... your daughter took her time allowing us to leave." Delphine smirked, waving at Sarah who was sitting on the couch, completely focused on the TV.

They looked up as Cosima came back into the room, launching herself at her sister who wasn't

expecting it.

"What the shite?" Sarah growled as she tried to fight off the woman who seemed intent on squeezing the life out of her. Delphine found it humorous, the way Sarah's English had begun to sound closer to Siobhan's accent, the more time she spent with her, while Cosima had a slight French accent.

"Stop watching TV!" Cosima yelled, wrestling the remote from the woman and quickly shutting it off.

"Eh... I was watching that."

"Will you two cut it out?" Siobhan sighed. "I've got your dinners packed in the kitchen."

"You didn't have to do that, Siobhan."

"Yes she did." Cosima disappeared into the kitchen.

Delphine huffed. "So you two will join us in the morning?"

Siobhan nodded, hugging her knit shawl closer to her. "Bright and early as planned, so please... clothes."

Her cheeks decided to turn a bright red again, despite her attempts to control her emotions. She still wasn't used to the open nature of Cosima's family... then again when you came from a planet populated with an empathic race, it was a little difficult to keep things private, especially when you were bonded with someone who was a twin. "Cosima."

The two brunettes had been whispering together, often spending their time together exchanging stories of their experiences in the new world. Both turned to look at the blonde, Cosima with a big grin on her face as Sarah had a more troubled look.

"Come on. We don't want to be driving too late." Holding her hand out, it didn't take much convincing for the seated woman to hop up without a look back, accepting the hand. "We'll see you two in the morning."

"Bright and early, you two." Siobhan commented, watching them from the porch as they returned to their car. "I expect you to be wearing clothes!"

Delphine barely hid the ever-present blush as she pulled away.

How strange it felt to be driving towards the cabin, when at one time in her life she planned to never make that trip again... that the last drive she'd taken in this direction would be the last time ever, in hope that the desolate expanse of wilderness would swallow her whole in a wave of her own sorrow.

And now they traveled to the cabin regularly. Pulling up to the structure that no longer seemed like a death sentence, Delphine smiled, the brunette already in motion to escape the confines of the car and retrieve their bags from the trunk. This small cabin, now powered by the solar panels and generator they had installed months ago, was their slice of paradise, the place they had come together as one for the first time as *atma mitra*.

The hum of the generator started as Delphine unlocked the door, Cosima not one to waste time in getting the nitty gritty chores out of the way.

"Do you think I should check on the ship?" Cosima set a bowl of food down for Scott before

retrieving their own meals from the microwave, joining Delphine at the table.

The ship. They had spent so much time repairing the brunette's ship that had sustained damage during her arrival, hoping to make contact with Cosima's home planet where her entire species was facing extinction, air quality having turned so poor that those fortunate enough to afford it wore air filtration masks while out of their domiciles. People were dying on her home planet because there wasn't enough air to breathe, or water to drink, or food to eat. The nutritional packets that offered sustenance and nothing else were a pale comparison to the bountiful meals available on Earth.

"You can if you want to." Delphine mumbled around a bite of chicken, the flavors of garlic and rosemary going well with the bottle of wine she had opened. "I don't expect anything to have happened to it since you managed to get the cloaking reinitiated."

Cosima chewed on a stalk of broccolini in quiet contemplation. Coming from a planet that fed on lab-engineered food, once she discovered that there were substitutions for consuming animals, the brunette had leaned more towards a vegetarian diet. After numerous repairs, the ship had been the only means of communicating with her home planet and she was always worried that tie would be severed. She had spent hours in the cockpit, transmitting information about the planet, explaining the damage that had occurred during her crash and the cause of it. During her own flight, the calculations of the Earth's gravitation had been inaccurate, not giving her enough time to compensate before she was crashing through the dense forest.

It had been the same problem that caused Siobhan's crash years ago and she was determined to make sure no one else suffered the same problem.

With tomorrow being such a big day, she really should go check on the ship.

"How is your dinner?" Delphine interrupted the brunette's thoughts, finishing off the last of her own dinner before setting the plate aside.

"Good. I think it would taste better with peanut butter." She comment offhandedly, setting the half empty plate aside. "Or with you." She grinned, moving towards the blonde, pinning her against the couch cushion until she found herself nose to nose with the blonde. "Hi."

"Hi." Delphine smiled, brushing the tip of her nose against Cosima's. "You know... tomorrow's going to be a big day." She let her hands slide up the thighs that were suddenly straddling her lap. "We should really get some sleep."

Cosima nodded, her lips ghosting against Delphine's. "We probably should." She agreed, her *ja* instinctively reaching out.

Delphine groaned. Who were they kidding? She could only hope they were dressed by the time Sarah and Siobhan arrived, knowing the embarrassing teasing she wouldn't be able to escape from Cosima's twin.

"You keep thinking about my sister and I'm going to start getting jealous." Cosima whispered into a pale ear, her hands sliding up under the woman's top. She chuckled at the way Delphine pulled back just slightly, her brows furrowed.

"I would never..." Delphine nearly allowed herself to get upset until she felt the tone of humor coming from the brunette, realizing the joke was on her. "You..."

"You are so beautiful when you're upset." Cosima grinned, running a fingertip over the furrow in Delphine's forehead.

Pushing the brunette off her lap, Delphine stood up in mock anger. Cosima had such a wicked sense of humor that sometimes it was hard to keep up, even with their bond.

"Come on, Delphine." Cosima stood up, following the blonde across the cabin. "It was a joke."

"I know." Turning, Delphine captured the brunette around the waist, having successfully lured her to the bed. "I just don't feel like passing out on the couch again, especially with company coming."

Cosima grinned as she allowed the blonde to pull her shirt off, allowing herself to be lowered to the soft bedding as the rest of her clothes were stripped away. "Tricky Earthling."

"Bratty Alien." Delphine responded with her own grin, pinning the woman beneath her.

By the time morning came, bringing with it Siobhan and Sarah, Delphine was just stepping out of the washroom, at least fully clothed if a little damp from the shower. "Bonjour!" She spoke a little too cheerfully, still just a little out of breath.

"Good morning, Luv." Siobhan gave her a knowing look. "Where is Cosima?"

"Late as always." Cosima piped up from behind Delphine, fully dressed yet still damp as Delphine had been.

"Well... at least you're both clothed." Siobhan shook her head, offering Delphine a coffee cup. "I thought you might need this."

"Hey... where's mine?" Cosima pouted.

"You don't drink coffee." Delphine hushed her. She had given Cosima coffee once, and unfortunately the brunette, having never consumed caffeine before in her life, had been bouncing off the walls.

"Fine." Cosima huffed, grabbing her bag and throwing it over her shoulder, marching out the door with Scott and Sarah in tow. "I'll see you at the ship."

Stepping out of the cabin, Delphine looked around. This would be the day everything would change.

"You seem hesitant." Siobhan watched her with an attentive eye, noticing the slight tension in the blonde's form.

Damn being in a family of empaths. "I just... I know you all have been so welcoming, but from what I've... seen of your home planet... your family is the exception as far as..."

"Not being a group of assholes?" Siobhan supplied with a smile. "That's all due to their mother. She's a kind soul if ever there was one. There are people that are a little more tense than others, but that's just the result of struggling to survive."

Delphine nodded. She was afraid, because what she and Cosima were, bonded like they were, it was sacred to her people. Would they be offended or would they be accepting?

"Come on, Luv. Let's get the day started."

The walk to the ship had been paved with their footsteps, the path leading through the forest having been traveled repeatedly the past few months. Carting back and forth supplies had helped to cut grooves into the earth, scarring the ground mercilessly.

When they got to the ship, Sarah was playing fetch with Scott while Cosima was no doubt in the cockpit. With the cloaking mechanism turned off, the ship was impressive with its large yet still sleek body, the ground around the bottom of it dug away, allowing for the ship to stand on its landing gear. A ladder to the cockpit had been lowered which Delphine climbed easily, seeing Cosima seated in her pilot's chair.

The once-broken display had taken some time to repair but finally it did work, making the front of the hull seem almost transparent from the inside. Schematics she couldn't read scrolled across the screen rapidly as Cosima spoke into the mic.

"vRthA bhavAn cintAM karoti." Cosima reached for a few switches, bringing up what looked like a radar, a dot inching closer to the center of the screen. "alAJchana." The alien language was sharp and rushed, words Delphine barely was able to decipher only because she could tap into Cosima's mind.

Delphine caught the brunette's attention, reaching down to cup a soft cheek. She felt a wave of comfort coming her way and she nodded. Cosima had not told them about their connection, of that she knew. Not that Cosima was ashamed of their relationship, but on her planet, the bonded were not allowed to serve in their military. The *atma mitra* bond, although considered a sacred connection by their religion and the general public, was considered a weakness to the military, a way to hold some sort of leverage over a soldier. So Cosima was terrified that the moment they found out the truth, she would be stripped of her rank.

They were both frightened, yet trying to comfort each other. What was in store for them? They would find out soon enough, as Delphine saw Sarah and Siobhan gather closer to the ship as the trees began to tremble, the small clearing being shaken by the sudden appearance of a ship, no different than the one Cosima had traveled in. On the screen, Delphine could see Scott going crazy, having been leashed and held by Sarah who blocked the wind from her eyes with a hand.

With proper calculations, the ship had none of the trouble Cosima had encountered, setting down easily not that far from Cosima's ship, a landing that caused the smallest of quakes as the landing gear impacted the ground. As it powered down, Cosima stood and turned towards Delphine, an uncertain look on her face.

"Je taime." Delphine whispered, leaning down to press her lips to Cosima's, doing her best to reassure the brunette. "Are you ready for this?" She asked as the kiss broke off, pressing her forehead to Cosima's.

Cosima gave her a small lopsided smile. "No."

Delphine could only smile, allowing the brunette to pass by her, leading the way out of the cockpit and towards an uncertain future.

To Be Continued...this Summer

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