

**ONE**

*(Uruk, any date. Funeral chant. **INANNA** and **JESS** enter. They both wear mourning. **INANNA** wears a gold circlet, indicating she is a god)*

**INANNA** Duncan shouldn't be dead.

**JESS** You gods made us mortal, Inanna.

**INANNA** He's my husband.

**JESS** I'm not sure that changes anything.

*(**ENKI** enters. He too wears a gold circlet)*

**INANNA** Enki!

*(She hugs him. **JESS** kneels)*

**ENKI** Sorry I'm late. Wrong time zone. No need for adoration today, Jess. Today I'm family.

**INANNA** Thanks for coming.

**ENKI** Not be here for my little sister?

**INANNA** Erashkigal isn't.

**ENKI** Rash might not be sure of her reception.

**INANNA** It's not me holding a grudge.

**JESS** I know you're gods and that, but there is a funeral to finish. We should invoke Inanna's help. I know that's you, but...

**INANNA** What am I supposed to say to me?

**JESS** What you usually do. You haven't been pulling sickies, have you?

**INANNA** Being a god is a busy life.

**JESS** Ask Erashkigal to welcome the dead to the Great Beyond.

**INANNA** Rash's not speaking to us.

**JESS** We've been wasting our breath?

**ENKI** You've been making Erashkigal feel important. She'll be your friend for death.

**INANNA** Rash, listen to me, please. Be kind to Duncan. If you won't do it for me, think of Geshtininna here. They were twins. You see what it's like, Enki? People are needing their God. They'd get more help from a stone. At least it wouldn't be crying all the time.

**ENKI** Busk it, Nina. They'll cope.

**INANNA** Asher's wetting his bed. Eight years old and king of Uruk. And you say busk it?

**JESS** Do gods always chat at funerals?

**INANNA** I thought we'd finished.

**JESS** We haven't scattered the earth. (*They pick up some*) The dust will carry your words to the Great Beyond.

**INANNA** Take care of him, Erashkigal. You've always wanted what I had.

**ENKI** You were a good king to your people.

**JESS** We're twins, Dudu. They can't keep us apart.

**INANNA** I want him back, Enki.

**ENKI** Of course.

**INANNA** Tell me how.

**ENKI** No can do, Nina. The laws of creation and all that.

**INANNA** Gods made them and we're gods.

**ENKI** Not these laws. Duncan was born mortal; he has to die.

**INANNA** I married him.

**ENKI** After he was born.

**INANNA** What's the use of being a god?

**ENKI** You still have your memories.

**INANNA** They'll give me a hug when I feel rotten? You're so lucky, Jess. You'll follow him. Gods never die.

**JESS** We really will be together again?

**ENKI** We don't have permission to answer that.

**INANNA** Stop bluffing, Enki. We've no idea what happens in the Great Beyond.

**JESS** You're just saying that to stop me asking. That isn't fair, Inanna.

**ENKI** Let me explain. When Father Anu divided creation between the three of us, Erashkigal was left with the Great Beyond. We've heard nothing from her since. Not even an invitation to her nuptials.

**INANNA** Rash's married?

**ENKI** See?

**JESS** How do you know?

**ENKI** Facebook.

**INANNA** You didn't tell me.

**ENKI** When did I last see you?

**INANNA** Running love, war, chaos and an eight year old takes time, you know.

**ENKI** He was a typical mortal husband - good looks, more muscle than brain.

**INANNA** Duncan wasn't like that. Did you say was?

**ENKI** Last month. We weren't invited to the funeral either.

**INANNA** Poor Rash. What am I saying? Duncan dies, where does he go? To Rash. Her husband go? To Rash. That's not fair. She used to be big on fair.

**ENKI** Rash's a walking grievance sometimes, well, most times, but she'd hate to see you unhappy.

**INANNA** She'd understand?

**ENKI** She's been through it herself.

**INANNA** She'd help?

**ENKI** You know Rash. She loves meddling.

**INANNA** Bless you, Enki. You always turn up when I need you.

**ENKI** I wish I could drop balm on a broken heart. I mean, god of wisdom and all that.

**INANNA** You've said what matters.

**ENKI** I'm glad. Must fly. They need my advice on Brexit. (To **JESS**) Keep an eye on her, please.

*(ENKI leaves. INANNA takes off her mourning cloak)*

**JESS** You can't give up mourning yet.

**INANNA** It's for Duncan. Where's my St Christopher?

**JESS** You're going somewhere?

**INANNA** Maybe.

**JESS** Erashkigal.

**INANNA** Ask no questions, get told no lies.

**JESS** She lives in the Great Beyond. Only the dead can go there.

**INANNA** When sisters lose their husbands they should be there for each other.

**JESS** She's not talking to you.

**INANNA** Shared grief heals all wounds. Find me something sombre - but not too mourning. I don't want to seem needy.

**JESS** You aren't wanting her to give back Duncan?

**INANNA** Maybe.

**JESS** We're taught Death doesn't give favours.

**INANNA** Gods don't ask. Travel kit.  
*(JESS brings a bum bag and checks the contents)*

**JESS** Torch, phrasebook, mosquito coils, loperamide, dollars. Lots of people go to the Great Beyond. None of them come back.

**INANNA** They're mortals.

**JESS** Duncan's a mortal.

**INANNA** I'm not. Where's the identity bracelet Duncan gave me?

**JESS** Won't she say no?

**INANNA** Duncan is her brother-in-law.

**JESS** I want to believe you. Really I do. But...

**INANNA** I could snap my fingers and this city would be gone in an instant. Want me to prove it? *(JESS shakes her head)* Why do you think I can't to change Duncan being dead?

**JESS** You're not the god of death.

**INANNA** Rash's bossy, but she doesn't mean to be cruel. I just need to explain things.

**JESS** Enki tried that. The great river swept him back and flooded the world. No-one could get insurance for years.

**INANNA** I'm knocking on the door and asking nicely. If Rash says come in, I'm her guest. If it's go away, fine, I'll go away.

**JESS** That's a promise?

**INANNA** Stop fretting and find me a mirror.  
*(JESS finds one)*

**INANNA** That will do nicely. Staff.  
*(INANNA takes it and practices her staff fighting technique)*

**JESS** You're sure you're just going to knock?