

(Funeral music. INANNA and GESHTINNA enter. They both wear mourning. INANNA wears a gold circlet, indicating she is a god)

INANNA He shouldn't be dead. He married a god.

GESHTINNA You made us mortal.

INANNA We had to make room for babies.

(She continues moving forward, but GESHTINNA stops her)

GESHTINNA We have to wait, Inanna. Dumuzi's preparing for his journey.

INANNA He's dead, Geshtinna.

GESHTINNA His spirit isn't. That's our comfort.

INANNA I've lost my husband.

GESHTINNA Dumuzi was my twin. Welcome to what mortals go through.

INANNA I didn't know it was like this.

GESHTINNA You do now.

(ENKI enters. He too wears a gold circlet)

INANNA Enki!

(She hugs him. GESHTINNA kneels. ENKI motions her up)

ENKI Please, Geshtinna - no worship. I'm here as family. Not a god.

INANNA Thanks for coming.

ENKI You're my sister, Ini. Of course I came.

INANNA Erashkigal didn't.

ENKI Eri's always been Eri. *(To GESHTINNA)* I'm sorry about your brother. He was a good king. We'll miss him.

INANNA I want him back, Enki.

ENKI You know that can't happen.

INANNA Why not?

ENKI The law.

INANNA Gods make the law and I'm a god.

ENKI There are laws older than us. Dumuzi's a mortal. He has to die.

INANNA I married him. That must change things.

ENKI The laws say no.

INANNA Why be a god if you can't have what you want?

ENKI You still have your memories.

INANNA Memories don't caress your body, Enki. They don't say they love you when you feel foul. They just look at you. Row after row of them.

GESHTINNA My lady.

INANNA What?

GESHTINNA We have to ask the priests to invoke Inanna's help. I know that's you but...

INANNA What can I do?

GESHTINNA Ask Erashkigal to welcome Dumuzi to the Great Beyond. Like you do at every funeral. You have been doing that?

INANNA Eri's not talking to us.

GESHTINNA You can't help?

ENKI Ask the priests to do the usual. Erashkigal likes protocol.

(**GESHTINNA** exits)

INANNA I've let them down again. I can't cope, Enki.

ENKI You can.

INANNA Shara's wetting his bed. Ten years old and king of Uruk. He's missing his daddy so much. What can I

do, Enki? Everyone's looking to me to help them. I'm not blaming them for that - I am their god - but they might as well turn to a plank of wood. At least that wouldn't be crying all the time. (**ENKI** puts his arm round her) I keep thinking he's going to be here any minute. But he's not, is he?

ENKI No.

(The priests have begun their chant. GESHTINNA returns)

GESHTINNA It's time to scatter the earth. *(She stoops to pick some up. INANNA copies her)* The dust will carry your words to the Great Beyond.

INANNA *(Stepping forward and scattering)* Take care of him, Erashkigal. You've always wanted what I had. I hope you're satisfied

(She steps back. GESHTINNA takes her place)

GESHTINNA We're twins, Dumuzi. We'll meet again.

(She steps back. ENKI takes her place)

INANNA You're lucky.

(They wait. The chanting ends)

GESHTINNA It's over. *(They exchange comforting hugs)* Why did you say I was lucky?

INANNA One day you'll follow him. I can't. Gods don't die.

GESHTINNA You're saying it's really true - we will meet again? Tell me you are.

ENKI We're not allowed.

INANNA Stop bluffing, Enki. We don't know what happens in the Great Beyond.

GESHTINNA You must. You're gods.

INANNA Well, we don't.

GESHTINNA You're just saying that to stop me asking. That's not fair, Inanna.

ENKI Let me explain. When Father Anu divided the world,

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he gave me the heavens and Inl here the Earth. Erashkigal was left with the Great Beyond. She wasn't happy bunny about that. We've heard nothing from her since. Not even an invitation to her wedding.

INANNA Eri's married?

ENKI See?

GESHTINNA You knew.

ENKI She married a mortal. I can keep track of you.

INANNA This is amazing. So someday she'll know how I feel.

ENKI She already does. He died last month.

INANNA He died?

ENKI Last month.

INANNA You didn't tell me.

ENKI You're not each other's favourites.

INANNA All the same. Poor Eri. What am I saying? Dumuzi dies, where does he go? To Eri. Where does her husband go? To Eri. It's not fair. Eri used to be big on fair.

ENKI If she was here, she'd put her arms round her little sister, and let you cry on her shoulder.

INANNA She's not here.

ENKI She might not be sure of her reception.

INANNA It's not me holding a grudge.

ENKI Eri's a pain sometimes, but she means well. It would hurt her to see you unhappy.

INANNA She'd understand?

ENKI She's just been through it herself.

INANNA I suppose she has. Bless you, Enki. You're always turn up when I need you.

ENKI I daren't think what you'd get up to if I didn't.

Beyond

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(He gives her a farewell hug) I wish I could say something to help you.

INANNA You have.

ENKI I'm glad. *(To GESHTINNA)* Keep an eye on her, won't you?

(ENKI leaves. INANNA looks thoughtful)

GESHTINNA Does he really know everything we're doing?

INANNA What?

GESHTINNA Enki said he knew everything mortals did?

INANNA He thinks he knows everything full stop.

(She takes off her mourning cloak)

GESHTINNA You can't give up mourning yet.

INANNA It's for Dumuzi's sake. Where's my St Christopher? I need some luck.

(GESHTINNA finds it)

GESHTINNA You're going to Erashkigal.

INANNA Ask no questions, get told no lies.

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

INANNA She's my sister. We've both lost our husbands. We should be there for each other.

GESHTINNA But she's not talking to you.

INANNA That'll be history. Find me something sombre - but not too mourning. I don't want to seem needy.

(GESHTINNA brings several cloaks. INANNA chooses one. GESHTINNA helps her put it on. INANNA tries a few twirls until she is satisfied)

GESHTINNA You want her to give back Dumuzi.

INANNA Maybe.