

*(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,

**Beyond**

**Roy Chatfield**

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**

**Roy Chatfield**

*(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.