

Reflection of the heart

Despite her jovial and youthful appearance and physique, Nyotengu had plenty of years to her name. Yes, it was true that as she was not human the flow of time was different for her and her kind, and it also rang true that she would inflict a slow and painful punishment to any and all that dared ask her about it. But, one thing didn't make the other less true, and she could grow so very bored. That had been her main drive and motivation to dabble in the martial arts, always in search of rivals she would deem worthy. She found herself enjoying such fights, where she could cut loose and simply enjoy the thrill, lashing out and pummelling her enemies until they were soundly defeated. And among the fighting, she loved to indulge in her guilty pleasure, teasing her opponents while driving them to their defeat. Double entendres and suggestive poses were plenty and varied in the way she moved, and she loved so very much how off-guard they caught the opponents. All in all, it had been a change for the better. A healthy body, plenty of chances to fight and utterly defeat her opponents and, above all, plenty of sightseeing as she travelled the world. With those voyages also came the chance to taste plenty of spirituous drinks, which was a lovely cherry on top.

One of such times she had ended in the sunlit lands of former pharaohs, reminders of the past still visible on the landscape. Towering monuments and ruins of a bygone era, that nevertheless were as imposing and massive as they had been back in their heyday. It had been impossible for her not to take a closer look. Such massive accomplishments deserved her attention, and, truthfully, she had always wanted to visit monuments that were older than her. Facing something that was older than her and those of her kind was a rarity, and now she couldn't help but stare in awe. She didn't know by which name the ruins went, but she didn't really care. Under a radiant sun, the battered stonework was as impressive and awe-inspiring as it could be. It didn't matter that many pillars were damaged, in fact, seeing them in such a state saddened her. Despite the damage and the doing of the elements, the limestone, the granite and the sandstone retained much of their pride. In her amazement, she walked on her own, occasionally stretching her arm and caressing the warm stone with her hand. She made her way through them, wandering aimlessly but never worrying about getting lost, since she could always take flight should it happen.

She could spend so much time admiring the ruins, feeling like a young girl that was left to wander while carefully being watched by much older beings. Her mind drifted off, accompanied only by the sound of her footsteps and the occasional sound from the ambient, be it the whisper of a gentle breeze or a small critter that would immediately scurry away. However, something brought her out of her mesmerized wandering. It was a door, leading to the interior of the complex. A stone door that was in a strangely good condition, not displaying the same scars as its surroundings. She approached it, touching it. It was smooth, unlike the rougher exterior ruins, and after a simple push it opened. A short hallway waited in absolute silence, the woman stepping inside as the light lit the way, revealing a chamber not far from her. The walls were beautifully decorated with floral motives, a stark contrast with the worn out outside. The decorations depicted plenty of flora over a flowing river, inciting her to go deeper and enter the chamber that was close to her.

It was... odd. The hallway and the chamber were spotless and completely undamaged, which disconcerted her. She wasn't keen on architecture nor artistic conservation, but this seemed completely outlandish. More so if one took into account the hole that crowned the chamber, allowing light to slip in from above. When the door was closed, it would be the only source of light, but it had not damaged the place in the least. And the chamber itself was rather unique, not for its shape but its contents and the decoration it displayed. Once she reached the entrance, she had two golden women by her side, one to the left and one to the right. They were absolutely stunning with perfect short hair that had not one strand out of place, slender and toned bodies with noticeable curves and generous busts. Their faces had a completely neutral expression, each of them holding before her a vase of some sort. They were empty, as she confirmed herself. The two golden twins faced forward, their blank eyes looking at one of the two main attractions of the chamber. A lone stone pedestal, which held in display a treasure. She wanted to get closer, to take a better look, but the decoration of the walls made it rather difficult.

The walls also displayed images of nude golden women, carved in the stone walls or painted in them; she wasn't quite sure. But, in stark contrast to the stalwart golden twins, these golden ladies were in all sorts of lewd and sexual poses, many depicted in mid love making. It was enough to have the tengu princess blush, her cheeks reddening as the heat

made itself manifest. The longer she looked at the depictions of those golden women, the harder her heart pounded in her chest and the heavier her breathing became, running a hand through her long and smooth bluish black hair. Thankfully, she could direct her eyes towards the other main attraction, the pedestal with the golden artifact. It was... strange that no one had picked it up yet. In plain sight and still in place... could it be a trap? She had tentatively taken a first step towards it, but she stopped, carefully eyeing the two golden women behind her. What if... what if they were not decorations, but silent guardians? Women transformed into flawless and spotless gold that would look over the chamber and the treasure until time itself became undone.

It could be due to the visible effect the decoration had in her, but she couldn't help but wonder. And maybe fantasize just a little bit. What if each of those golden women in the wall was a former thief? Surprised by the guardians in mid heist, and having fallen to their own greed. Pleasured and transformed into the same gold they coveted so much, only for the guardians to embed them in the wall, adding one more to the golden sorority they watched over... Thoughts that made her blush kept piling over, as she slowly made her way towards the pedestal and the golden treasure. It was smaller than looked at first glance, completely made of glistening gold; a brooch with a simple design that was nevertheless elegant. She stood before it, looking at it with eager eyes. It could be quite the souvenir to bring back with her, but she couldn't help but briefly look behind her at the golden twins again. What would happen if she took it? Would she become the newest addition to the chamber's decoration? The latest golden beauty in the collection, sharing the same fate as her would be sisters? Would that be the fate of the tengu princess?

She swiftly took the brooch in her hand, turning around to face the golden twins, she would not go down without a fight. But nothing happened. The golden statues didn't move, proving once and for all that they were just decorations, beautiful and golden, but decorations nonetheless. She would not turn to gold, nor would she become part of the collection of golden lovers in the wall. She let out a sigh of relief, feeling the tiniest tinge of disappointment, before eyeing the brooch again. The accessory made of gold was light on her hand, and the design relied on its simplicity to enhance its elegance. And the more she looked at it, the more she liked it. With a smile on her face, she walked out, leaving behind the chamber, the hall and the golden women. She spread her lustrous and elegant black wings, stretching them behind her back before flapping and taking off. She would

make her way back to the hotel she stayed in much more quickly than expected, but she could really use a bath and some time for herself after the exploration through the ruins.

Nyotengu let herself fall on the bed. The hotel she was staying in was as luxurious as they could be, fitting for her and her royal status, and she would still stick around for some more days. Today she had chosen to simply remain in her room, relaxing and keeping to herself. She could make use of any of the facilities that were offered, but she had chosen to simply relax by herself. Any food she would have was delivered to her doorstep, while she took the chance to give herself a long and warm bath. This had done wonders, as she could have sworn she was melting away in the hot water, soaking in the warmth and letting any and all worries slip away from her mind. Well, that was not completely true, as there was one particular thing that remained.

Sitting on the bed, she looked at the brooch she had taken with her some days ago. It hadn't been touched again, simply staying still where she had last left it. It seemed like it hadn't even been noticed by the cleaning staff, the room being in pristine condition but the brooch seemingly hadn't moved. However, she unconsciously had almost constantly kept an eye on it, regardless of time of the day and what thought dwelled on her mind. It never went away, the damned thing always coming back time and again; or her own thoughts would return to it, regardless of whether she wanted or not. True, she would concede that the golden accessory intrigued her, being on such plain sight but having stood the test of time and any and all possible thieves. The rather unique decoration that surrounded it also came back to mind, making her let out a sigh at the memory of those two golden statues and the many golden ladies that adorned the wall. But if she was to be completely honest with herself, that it never went away was starting to bother her.

“Once again, maybe with a closer look...”

It was not the first time such a thought came to her, that exact thought, as a matter of fact. She had toyed with it in her hands and she had taken many closer looks, trying to find something, anything, that would give her some sort of reason to know why it hadn't been taken by anyone before her. But she had found nothing before, and would find most likely nothing this time. She quite liked the aesthetic, simple and without many filigrees, relying

on that simplicity to result elegant. It would be a good fit for her, maybe if she combined it with a dark kimono or outfit... some colour that would allow it to stand out without hogging the spotlight. But back to the matter at hand, she focused on the golden trinket in her hands. She spun it around, up and down. She touched here and there to see if anything reacted, but... Something clicked in a moment, making her stop. Finally.

With care and attention, she had finally cracked the mystery it seemed. Hidden in the back seemed to be a switch of sorts. Rather clever, hiding in plain sight as the pin that would hold it in place when used. That raised the obvious question in her mind, the woman flipping the switch to see what came of it. She couldn't tell what she was expecting to happen, whether that was for having no expectations given the aura that surrounded it, or due to its small size. She could tell with certainty that she did not expect a beam of light to come out of the brooch and hit her square in the chest, right where her heart was.

She let out an eek, mostly of surprise, but also of pleasure. From where it had hit her, the light surfaced on her skin, taking a beautiful and glittering golden shade. And from there it started to spread out, carrying with it a wave of warm pleasure that slowly but steadily enveloped her. Inhaling, she let out a sigh of content, simply watching how the golden colour spread all over her. She was also surprisingly happy that she had chosen to wear just a bikini, courtesy of the warm climate and being on her own. It seemed like something had rubbed off from those ladies she had faced in her travels, enough to not be outraged and enjoy watching how her body and bikini turned into beautiful gold. When her chest was completely overtaken by the gold, it spread upward and downward, all over her. It moved through her arms, it climbed her neck to lay claim to her head and hair. It went down rendering her curves in glittering gold, the woman letting a small moan of pleasure followed by a giggle when it surpassed her crotch and moved to her legs. It felt soothing; It felt warm; It felt so good. Looking down at her now golden self, she gave a tentative caress to her own curves, sighing in pleasure. It had been a single caress, but it felt like a dozen of loving hands. She loved it, so much, and would have gladly kept caressing herself, but she was unable to move. Not that she was worried, in fact she was positively ecstatic. Enthralled by the spread of gold over her, she had forgotten about the sheets of the bed and cushions under her, and now everything came back at her at once. She was left overwhelmed, gasping in pleasure and unsure of how to react. Where should she

touch? Did she really have to do anything? Or would any additional pleasure completely overwhelm her this time? The pleasure and the warmth became more and more intense, the woman helplessly gasping as it rocked her to her very core, the world fading to a gentle golden light.

And then it subsided, but did not fade away. She lay as motionless as before on the bed, panting and gasping, as the sheets felt just as intense as before. Her own bikini felt just as fantastic, her body tingly and sensitive. However, this was not where her attention focused. Floating over her chest was a sphere of golden light, right where the beam of light had hit her. In silent awe, she watched as it positioned right over her, the orb of light once again became more radiant, the light only getting brighter by the moment. But as the world faded to gold once again, she could see that it was... changing. It became bigger, increasing its size and taking shape. As golden light blinded her, she could make the form of slender limbs and a humanoid shape, but she could not see the details.

She did not have to wait, as the light faded shortly, almost instantaneously, and what revealed took her breath away. Standing next to the bed was... the only way she could describe it to herself was an image of pure beauty. A woman, gold from head to toe, standing next to her with an aura of beauty, elegance and grace. An otherworldly and ethereal beauty that she couldn't take her eyes off. But, the more she looked at her, the more details she took in, and she finally realized. A voluptuous figure, revealed by the golden bikini she wore, with a generous bust and curvy hips; long and slender limbs that irradiated grace and beauty; a long straight golden hair, a cascade of gold that fell behind her while two long sidelocks framed a gorgeous golden face. Despite being completely golden, her blank eyes had a warmth that was only matched by the smile her lips brought to her face. Nyotengu was looking at herself.

Before she could speak, her golden lookalike moved with grace and ethereal movements, joining her in bed. She stood over her, not giving her room to react as she knelt over her legs and held her in place with one of her arms. Nyotengu had questions, many questions, but her golden twin was too alluring, too radiant to look away. And her smile... it made her feel warm and fuzzy. She wanted to ask, she wanted to talk, but her new partner spoke for her.

- Shh... there is no need for you to talk.

It was her own voice, but with a satisfying metallic clang that oozed warmth. It was enough to melt all her worries and questions away, and as her golden twin put a finger over Nyotengu's lips, they did.

- I know what you feel, and what you desire. You think thrills and battle fill you with satisfaction, but deep down you desire for so much more. You have always wanted to bond closer to others, but you fear you will drift apart or lose them. Those thoughts deter you from taking actions to achieve what you desire.

Nyotengu was silent, listening closely as the golden Nyotengu talked. It pained her, but she knew she spoke nothing but the truth, something she had tried to bury under the thrill of battle. She did enjoy fighting but...

- I am what you have always wished to be, your long-bottled emotions given form. Now I can show you, and share those feelings with you. I am gold in appearance only, as you will come to know. Now then... let us begin.

She was right, about everything. As their lips locked in a delicate kiss, passion started to leak from both of them into the other. She was as warm and soft as her own flesh body, but the glittering gold made her that more gorgeous and alluring. It was shortly after that both of them cared little about time. They had each other, one finally letting her long-repressed feelings come to light and the other gladly helping her deal with them. There was joy and sadness, anguish and relief. One moment they were passionately kissing while the next the tengu princess wailed like a child as her golden twin cuddled her. The day was long and calm, and they would do nothing but tend to the other exclusively, the fair skinned brunette going through a roller-coaster of emotions that battled to be the first to come to the surface. And her partner was there for her, regardless of which one would come next. When they were done, night had long fallen, and Nyotengu made sure to repay her kindness properly, giving her best through the night they both shared. They became as close as they could be, and when exhaustion finally took them in, she fell asleep in the loving embrace of her golden self.

Morning had come once more, and by the time both women fully came out of their slumber, it was quite late. Nyotengu had planned to order some breakfast for the two of them, but something terrible was happening, as the golden woman seemed to be becoming... less solid. To the tengu princess' horror, she was slowly fading away, the brunette hugging her passionately and holding her close as she refused to let go. The golden woman gave her a kind smile and a warm look, holding her just as close.

- Do not worry, I will always be with you.

- But it was so short! We were only together for a night! We have so much to do yet...

- It was only for a night, but you are different now. And you have met plenty of people already, haven't you? Should you see them again, do not be afraid.

At the behest of the golden woman, both of them broke the hug, but didn't quite let go of each other, still holding their arms.

- And besides, should you need, you will be able to summon me as long as you keep the talisman with you.

- Talisman?

- That's correct. An ancient artifact able to unshackle even the deepest desires. So, should you struggle again, I will be glad to help.

The golden woman kissed the other, their soft and warm lips interlocking one last time. It was delicate and smooth, but it oozed passion and warmth, and Nyotengu couldn't help but feel a tinge of pain when her golden twin vanished into thin air, fading away and leaving her on her own. Well, that was not entirely correct, as she made her way to the golden talisman and held it close to her heart. She would miss her, but she was so very grateful to her. A massive boulder had been lifted from her very soul, and besides, they would see each other again, eventually. Smiling, she looked outside the window. It was a

radiant day, sunny with clear blue skies and a lovely breeze It was a brand-new day. It was a fantastic day for flight, and she wanted to have some interesting stories for their next meeting.