

## Chapter 4

February 18, 2133

The hotel restaurant was far more welcoming this morning. The voices, sounds, smells, colors all seemed to blend into a kind of harmonic composition. The only ones appearing out of tune were Bram and Fia. Little Greer was floating from table to table greeting everyone, while her parents were glowering at the group. They feared for their daughter but felt helpless to protect her. They didn't understand what was driving her and by extension them, to be there with these people. That could be a problem.

Tam waved Maddy over to their table. "How are things going today?"

"Well, Tucker is refusing to speak to me, so surprisingly good. We have the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) presenting and handling all the discussion groups today. I imagine you know that some small offshoot panels are being held in several of the larger meeting rooms. Tam do you think you could find an appropriate one for Greer and her folks? I'm worried they may bolt."

Tam had to think for a bit. "I know just the one, Joha and his wife will be there, Isa is the quintessential grandmother, both commanding and compassionate at the same time. She can create a safe place for them to find out what's going on, and what's happening to their daughter."

"Thanks, just promise me you won't let Jimmi talk to them."

"I swear."

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Tam gave Joha and his wife a nod as she ushered Greer's family into the room. Isa made her way down to accompany them to the seats she saved. Joha took a seat next to Bram, and Isa situated herself between Fia and Greer.

The assembly settled in, murmuring trailing off, and three people stepped forward. One was a tall black man in a military uniform. He was thin with slightly greying hair and a soft gentle smile. The woman following him was amazingly short by comparison, dark hair tucked under a baseball style hat. Her eyes

twinkled, reflecting kindness and geniality. The last of the three was a young man, with caramel colored skin, and thick black hair. An air of mischief around him was palpable.

He was first to speak. "I'm Idal Machado from Brazil. Our issues have not changed, they are, as with all of you, just getting worse. Mining operations, as well as sugar cane processing byproducts continue to pollute the water, which is the lifeblood of the rainforest. It is the focus of several lawsuits as well as protests. I have posted all of the necessary information on our shared gathering site. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or want to be involved.

I've been told the waters can take little more of this. In less than two years there'll be a reckoning. The trees and the wildlife will prepare. It'll not be noticed till it affects humans. Then it will be too late."

Bram turned to Joha, "What did he mean by that? Who told him? Why isn't anyone surprised?"

Joha whispered, "He means we're all in danger if we don't take better care of the earth. He was told by the same individual that told you to come here. No one is surprised because we have heard the voice, much as your daughter has."

The short baseball capped woman stepped forward. "For those of you who don't know me, my name is Uki Tremblay. My husband and I are bush pilots in Canada. Our issues are no secret, warming temps and loss of sea ice. She said it's beyond critical, protests and legal avenues are of no use. The action taken will be more dramatic than can be imagined."

The military man is next up. "I'm Chief Master Sergeant Royal Gibbs, I live in Solvang California. I can guarantee things will not get better. The corporate military has no plan or desire to stop taking, destroying or profiting from this world. She said soon it will be impossible for them to continue their plundering. We know something is coming, and we know Maddison Bear's Heart is going to tell us what to do."

Joha stood up. "Wait, wait, wait. We don't know any such thing."

Royal stopped him. "Please identify yourself."

"Sorry, I'm Joha Bird from the Kola peninsula in Russia. The voice has spoken to both my wife and me. Maddison is a part of this but never has she said Maddy will tell us what to do. We met yesterday, and Maddison never indicated she expected us to follow her."

“Adelphi told me Maddy would lead us.” The child's voice owned the room.

Royal interrupted, “Who said that? Stand and identify yourself.”

Isa stood up. “This is Greer. She’s eight years old and both Gaia and Gaia's sister Adelphi speak to her. Greer traveled here with her parents to bring a message to this congregation. and you will get the information when it’s time. For now, it would be best for you to share amongst yourselves the issues Gaia is most concerned with.”

Joha and Isa hurried the Leask family out of the meeting room while everyone was still trying to process the youngster’s statement.

Isa linked her phone as the group made their way to the hotel. “Maddy, I thought it would be best to get them out of there. We’re headed back to the hotel. Should we take them to their room or our room, what do you think? Okay I’ll get them to their room. Joha and I will stay with them till you get there. You might want to hurry. Bram is beside himself.”

Entering the room Fia settled Greer in front of the screen as Bram pulled out their suitcases and started packing. Joha tried to get him to slow down and listen. “You have to understand how important it is for your daughter to be here. This is bigger than all of us.”

“You’re telling me a planet in space is talking to my daughter, a planet in space is talking to my daughter. How can I make sense of that? I’m a farmer. I know cows and sheep and crops. I don’t understand planets at all.”

Joha engaged the agitated farmer seeking to calm him. “You know more than you think. As a farmer you know the weather, you understand the soil and the behaviors of the animals. And you live on an island, so you know the moods of the sea. That’s the life force, that’s earth, that’s Gaia.”

Bram slowed his packing, Fia encouraged him to sit and talk to Isa and Joha. “We’ve come all this way, we should at least hear what they have to say. Greer is being driven by something, I need to understand what it is, and why it’s chosen her. She’s our little girl.”

Bram hugged his wife “You’re right woman, we have to think of Greer first. All right, tell us what we need to know.”

Isa started making a pot of coffee. “Maddison will be here soon, she’ll have some words of wisdom I’m sure. Joha and I have our own perspective. Gaia has spoken to us both for many years. It will be good to hear from someone that has not heard her voice.”

“So, the woman that we came all this way to see doesn’t know anything about it, but my little girl does?”

Isa chuckled, “When dealing with Gaia it is far more about faith and acceptance than anything else. She gives us what we need, and in turn asks for respect and trust. It’s very simple and beautiful. Your daughter was chosen because she has a good heart, she was open to Gaia’s love. That’s because of the two of you.”

There was a knock on the door as Bram and Fia let Isa’s words sink in. “That will be Maddy.”

“I hope I’m not interrupting, Isa told me events at the meeting got a bit intense. I thought maybe we could break things down and try to make sense of what you heard and what’s going on with Greer.”

Bram spoke up, “Isa and Joha are doing a pretty good job of talking us down. I was ready to go home but I think my little girl is a part of this. You and she need to spend some time together.”

Isa pointed Maddy to Greer. “Joha and I will stay with these two. I think that little girl has a lot you need to hear.”

Greer rushed to hug Maddy. “I’m so excited to see you, I have so much to tell you. Adelphi can’t wait to meet you and the others. She said she has everything we need --- all we have to do is come.”

“What do you mean come? Do you know where she is?”

“Gaia will show you.”

“Why do I have to go to her?”

“She said because of the fifth world. Some will stay and some will go. It must be this way. Adelphi is like Gaia was before the greed came, untouched and clean. She welcomes those who have respect for life and beauty, like you and me. You will take us there.”

Maddy smiled, thanked Greer and let her get back to her screen. Making her way back to the others her mind whirled with what she needed to do next. “I think we have a problem,” was all she could manage to say, while interrupting their conversation.

Fia’s concern was evident. “A problem, with Greer? Is she in danger? What did she tell you?”

“I have to get more information, but if I’m right we’re all in danger, and by all, I mean literally everyone and everything. I must talk to Zyhna. Now I know why she made me feel so uneasy.

“Please stay here and don't talk to anyone. I’ll send Tam. She can keep you updated on what’s happening. We’re all going to have to meet as soon as I figure this out. Keep that child safe, no one is to speak to her.”

Maddy ran from the room linking her phone as she did. “Tam I need you to get to the Leask’s hotel room now. Don’t let anyone in or out, I’ll explain later. Is Jimmi with you? Give her the phone. Zyhna is from Arizona, Hopi, right? You have to get her to my room as soon as you can. Do it quietly, but quickly. I’ll meet you there. No, I can’t answer any questions --- please just do as I ask.”

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Maddy paced back and forth in her suite wondering how it was possible yesterday she was thinking of how great it would be to get back home sitting in front of the wood stove with a good book, and now she’s trying to wrap her head around the end of the world.

The knock on the door shocked her back. Zyhna and her grandson Emory met her eyes as she opened the door. No words but volumes were spoken. She stepped aside allowing them to enter, Jimmi followed. She looked at Maddy, “They were sitting in their room like they were waiting for me, never said a word on the way over. What’s going on?”

“Just sit down, this information will be hard to hear. It’s about what’s coming.”

She addressed Zyhna, “How long have you known.”

“For many months. The fifth world is coming, and we must prepare. Nearly all the signs have come to fruition. You are to orchestrate the impending end and new beginnings.”

“How? How do I see to the trees and the creatures? Gaia doesn’t speak to me.”

Zyhna smiled, “She will take care of her own. You are charged with the righteous humans.”

“Oh, that’s all.”

“You are not alone there are many here to help you. Rely on them, they are her people. There is however one duplicitous beast hiding amongst the gentle virtuous speakers of this world, beware of him.”

“You mean Bog?”

“No, it is his young follower. He watches you and listens to us. He has no idea what he hears, but he is eager to repeat it.”

“He’s at the conference?”

“Yes, he speaks often to Emory. He will show you.”

“I appreciate that, but my priorities are focused in a different direction.”

“The words of the child?”

“That together with your revelation shot right to the top of the list.”

“Gaia is already speaking to many; they will bring her words to you. It is the beginning.”

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The room was filling up quickly. Maddy recognized some but even those she hadn't met had a familiarity, a kind of kinship. She was uneasy but confident at the same time. Jimmi and Tam were at her side, she was not facing this on her own.

The doors closed, so Maddy began. “Thank you for coming. I know it's very late. But there is an urgency here. I don't have to tell you why we're here. It's perhaps you that can tell me.”

Isa stood up. “We all have a piece of this, who needs to be first?”

A young woman's voice was heard. “I am Jedda. She told me she will be restored. Her friends, the sun and the moon will help. Those who stay must prepare.”

Maddy asked, “Who's next?”

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The closing event for the conference was nearly finished. Bog of course took to the stage amid cheers and chants, complimenting and challenging the participants to go out and save the world. Maddy was the last to speak, supposedly to simply thank the attendees, reiterate contact information and emphasize coming events.

Tucker relinquished the stage to her. “Our final speaker is Maddison Bear's Heart to let you know how to say in touch with us.”

The applause as she approached the stage was far more intense than the first meeting. "I want to thank you all for coming and sharing this experience with each other, but particularly me. I have to say my life will be forever changed. I trusted and had faith that Gaia existed, but now I know she's real, and she will save us, if we save her. The native or indigenous people have always known her but there is a nascent native knowledge growing in all peoples of this world. We must seek that out, nurture it and grow stronger in our resolve because of it. We will begin anew."

The applause was deafening. As was Bog's look at Maddy.