

Love, unconventionally.

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Author's Note: The rank's used in this article are from the Canadian military, except for the Commander rank on which I made a mistake, so it represents the rank of Lt Col.

<http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/phoenix-writing>

From Chapter Ekeven

"Wha... what happened to the Aeon?" Jason asked, looking between Captain Nicols the medical officer, Jarred Zrell and Colonel Cormac.

"It was badly damaged, Major" The Colonel replied to Jason. "It is beyond repair. We got everyone off the ship who was alive, and then we had to destroy it."

Jason quietly walked over to Keith's medical bed, taking a seat next to him. He laid his head on the bed, praying that his fiancé would be okay.

Captain Nicols looked over at Colonel Cormac and Captain Zrell. "Should he be doing that, sir?"

"He" started Colonel Cormac, "is here because of your patient."

Chapter Twelve

Dreams last for so long
Even after you're gone
I know that you love me
And soon you will see
You were meant for me
And I was meant for you.

- Jewel, *You Were Meant for Me*

During the day-long trip to Rigel Prime, Jason had never left Keith's side. He read a book to

him, sang to him, and even ate his meals next to him. Every few hours his new friend Jarred would stop by for some conversation, not realizing the connection between Keith and Jason. Jarred was quickly becoming a good friend.

“So if I may ask, why do you spend so much time here with this individual?” Jarred asked, realizing he didn't know his name.

“He is my fiancé.” Jason replied simply.

“Oh” Jarred replied a little embarrassed. “I didn't realize you were to mate with him.”

Jason shrugged a little as Colonel Cormac stepped into the medical bay. Everyone else who had been injured had either died, or returned to active duty at this point. None of them were as injured as Keith.

“How's he doing, Major?” The Colonel asked.

“He looks so peaceful, Colonel. But I wish he were awake. I miss him so very much.” Jason replied.

The Colonel summoned Captain Nicols over to the medical bed.

“When we arrive on Rigel Prime, your patient is to be immediately transported to Rigerass Memorial Hospital.” The Colonel said a little on the quieter side.

“Why there, sir? It's a backwater hospital that shouldn't still be in operation today.” Nicols said in contempt.

“It also houses the royal wing, he will be well treated.” Cormac replied.

“The royal what, sir?” Nicols found himself asking, Jarred also wondering what was said.

“The royal wing. Did the Chief Medical Officer not tell you? That's the Crown Prince.” Cormac said matter-of-factly.

Nicols just looked a little stunned, so did Jarred.

“I didn't get the memo, sir.” Nicols replied.

“Just get him ready.” Cormac grumbled, heading for the door. What was it with this ship's memo's and the lack of getting them?

Jarred looked to Jason.

“So you're the future Queen then?” Jarred asked, Nicols writing in Keith's chart.

“Not if he doesn't wake up.” Jason replied, sadly.

Jason tossed and turned in his bed that night. Sure it was a comfortable bed, he was in the largest quarters on the ship, but he was having nightmares. Nightmares that his beloved might never wake up, or worse, might die.

Beep, beep, beep.

The machines made noises, Jason sat beside Keith as he laid in the hospital bed. Rigerass Memorial Hospital on the outside looked like it was ready to be torn down, but on the inside looked like it had just been built. For a few moments, Jason thought he had stepped inside the TARDIS from *Doctor Who*.

Pharaoh Limesley gave a polite nod to Lt. Saunderson who was standing outside the door, guarding the room from uninvited visitors. He saw an empty chair next to Jason, and quietly took a seat. He looked at his son for a few moments, the first time he had seen him since the destruction of the RSS Aeon.

Beep, beep, beep.

The machines kept working, keeping Keith alive. The doctor's had told Jason that it was likely he would never wake up.

The Pharaoh looked over to Jason. He quietly spoke, "Major..." he started. "Jason, the family has talked it over. We..." he paused for a moment, "everyone really likes you, cares for you. Keith was head in heels in love with you." Another pause while the Pharaoh released a few tears. "I have a gift for you, when you are ready to come and see me."

Jason looked over to the Pharaoh for a moment, having briefly heard him in between his absence of thought. He then turned back to look at Keith.

The Pharaoh quietly stood from his seat, exiting the room as quietly as he had entered it.

So I say
Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing
Thanks for all the joy they're bringing
Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty
What would life be?
Without a song or a dance what are we?
So I say thank you for the music
For giving it to me

- ABBA, *Thank you for the music*