

## 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.

### From Chapter One...

A human stood from the Captain's chair, and turned to face Jason. He wore a black uniform, with his rank insignia on his uniform cuff's in a gold colour. "Welcome aboard the RSS Aeon. I'm Colonel Cormac. This is my first officer, Commander Dowell."

Commander Dowell stood from his chair, and as Jason recognized his face, his jaw dropped, almost falling on the floor.

### Chapter Two

"Oh my god, Jason!! It is so good to see you again." said Commander Dowell.

"Yeah, you two Chris. It's been too long, but... Commander?!? Really? When did you become a Commander?" Jason asked, visibly excited to see Commander Dowell again.

"I take it you two know each other?" asked Colonel Cormac.

"Yes, sir." replied Jason. "Chris was a few years ahead of me. We both went to York University. I was in theatre, he was in some useless degree like science, or the environment." The last part was said by Jason jokingly.

"Well then why doesn't Commander Dowell show you to your quarters?" Colonel Cormac ordered. He then looked to Chris Dowell. "But I want you back here in operations in an hour."

"Of course, sir." With that order, the two old human friends left operations, heading for the quarters.

Colonel Cormac looked over to his helmsmen. "Leftenant, set course for Nepharia II. Best

speed.”

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Back to 2 days later in the forest...

“Mr Kikki,” Colonel Addison started to say, “they seem to be a pretty unique group. Go over and say hi, see if you can find something out. You are an intelligence analyst, gather some intelligence.”

“Of course, Colonel.” The olive-skinned humanoid got up from his spot, and taking a long way around so their position wouldn't be seen, approached the camp. As he made his approach, he made no pretense of being quiet, yet as he walked into the camp, no one really paid him any attention.

He walked over to one woman who was tending to the camp fire. She stood about 5'5" tall with skin like his, and bones on his head like himself. In fact, they were the same species. In his native tongue, he said hello to the woman.

“Hello” she replied back in the native language, not at all visibly defensive about his presence.

“The human, is he... is he... a captive?” asked K'eNu Kikki.

“No, what made you think that? He needed help. We found him passed out in the forest. He got poisoning from one of the local flowers” replied the woman.

“Thank you” K'eNu replied in English, walking over to the man. He was wearing a clean t-shirt and pants, but looked a bit pale still. “Are you Jason Bezner?” Asked K'eNu.

“Yes, who is asking?” Jason looked up to the alien, whom he had not met.

“A friend from the RSS Aeon” replied K'eNu.

“Oh thank God!! I thought help would never come.” Jason replied to the alien.

“The Colonel sent down a team after you failed to report in.” K'eNu replied.

“That's kind of him. When can we return to the Aeon?” asked Jason.

“Soon. We were told you had been taken captive.” K'eNu said.

“No, I don't think so. But I made friends with one of the locals.” As Jason said that, a tall alien came out of one of the tents. He stood about 6' tall, with dark red skin. He had a bald head, with two long, but squishy, and skinny pieces of flesh reaching his shoulders coming out just above his ears.

The red man walked over to Jason. He nodded politely to K'eNu. “Is everything ok? Do you feel better?”

“Yes, thank you Keith.” Jason responded to the alien. How he got a human name, he'd have to eventually find out.

K'eNu looked over the red alien who was dressed in military fatigues as well, but lacked any rank insignia.

“I need to get going, but I hope to see you soon.” Jason said to Keith.

“Me too, Jason. I appreciate the two days we have spent together.” Keith said somewhat quietly.

Jason and Keith embraced, before Jason started to follow K'eNu back to the group still hidden in the forest. Reaching Colonel Addison, Jason said, “Why are you two hiding in the forest?”

“We were making sure you were ok, Mr Bezner.” replied the Colonel.

On the what seemed like a long shuttle ride back to the RSS Aeon, Jason sat thinking about spending the last two days with Keith. It was Keith who had found him passed out, and brought him back to his camp. The people there nursed him back to health, but it was Keith who spent most of his time by his side. He talked to him, even when he was asleep. Though Keith talked, he didn't really say anything, Jason realized. He didn't really know anything about Keith, or even how to find him. Keith, on the other hand, knew how to find Jason.

After returning to the RSS Aeon, Jason just proceeded right to the quarters he had been assigned. They were spacious enough, but Jason just changed into his pajamas, and laid down on his bed. Quickly he drifted off to sleep.

“I see, sir” said Commander Dowell to the alien on the screen. He looked exactly like Keith, but with green skin.

“Return to Rigel Prime, Commander. We will see you when you arrive. Imperial Guard out.”

Colonel Cormac stepped onto the bridge with Colonel Addison, following a debriefing of the mission to rescue Jason Bezner.

“Sir, General Drake just called. He has ordered us to proceed to Rigel Prime, and to bring the encampment from Nepharia II with us.” reported Commander Dowell.

“Very well” said Colonel Cormac. He looked over to Colonel Addison. “Take Lieutenant Saunderson back down, and gather the group you found Mr Bezner with. We will transport them as ordered.”

“Aye, sir” replied Colonel Addison.