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Some characters in this story are based on the comic appearing in the 1993 issues of Nintendo Power Magazine.

Special thanks goes to Kenneth Weaver, from whom I have based a majority of events on. You might want to read his story "Bygones" first, because this story takes place about one month after his story ends. AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO MARYBETH KICZENSKI FOR HER BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF ARTWORK AT THE END!

**\*NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR**

For all of you people who want to know a little more about the background of this story, I suggest you read the following stories IN ORDER. They can be found on the fanfic section of Fox's Den. Oh, and one more thing! I've taken some lines and maybe even an event or two from Return of the Jedi and modified them to fit in with my story. Try and find them!

1. "Illiria's Curse" by Julia Glassman.
2. "Bygones" by Kenneth Weaver.

## Prologue

A month had passed since Fara's near-fatal death after her encounter with the black hole. Fox and Fara both decided that they should start their relationship again. Whether they knew it or not they truly loved each other. While the plumbing was being fixed at Fara's house, a gas pipeline ruptured, engulfing her house in flames. Heartbroken and homeless, Fara gathered whatever she had left and walked to Fox's house.

Fox slept in that day. He woke to the sound of his doorbell ringing. Fox got dressed and went to open the door, only to find Fara standing outside in torn clothes and crying. "Fara are you okay? What happened?" he asked, putting his arms around her. Fara put her head on Fox's shoulder and continued to cry. They both went inside where they sat down. Fara told him about her house being destroyed and that she had nowhere to live. "You could live with me," Fox offered as he held out his paw. Fara took it and stood up.

"I wouldn't want to impose," Fara said, "But you're the closest person I know,"

"Of course not!" Fox said reassuringly. "But we'll have to sleep together. I threw out that air mattress a month ago. Remember?"

"I don't mind that," she said, "It's just that I have very few things left! Most of my possessions and clothes were destroyed in the blast," Fara cried in despair.

"That's not true. You have some clothes on Great Fox. And you also have all the pictures of your family and of us together," Fox pointed out.

"I guess you're right," Fara said smiling. She looked into Fox's eyes. He looked back into hers. They began to kiss. "Wait," Fara interrupted.

"What is it? I'm going too fast, is that it?" Fox asked gently.

"No, it's not that, we're moving along just fine. It's just that..,"

"What?" Fox asked, looking puzzled.

"Remember, last month, when I fell for your cousin. And when Annie told me that Grey was trying to take advantage of me," Fara said.

"Yeah. Why?" Fox said as he took a deep breath.

"She also said that you kept saving my life not to get rewarded, just to make sure that I was safe and happy. Or that you love me for who I am, and not because that I look like your mother. Is that true?" Fara asked.

"Of course it is," Fox said, his voice sounding as gentle as possible, "Everything that Annie said about me caring for you is true,"

"It's just that... remember that night when you slept on the couch? And I was in bed with Grey?" Fara asked.

"Yeah," Fox said as his voice suddenly went dead.

"Don't worry," Fara said as she put her hand on Fox's lap, "Nothing happened between us," Fox was silent. So many thoughts were rushing through his head at once. He didn't know what to say, but Fara did. She reached over and kissed him.

"Fara, we'd better get your things unpacked. It's getting late," Fox said. He took the knapsack, that he had given to Fara for her birthday, when he noticed the clock on

the wall. It read 2300 hours. "It's getting pretty late. You'd better get dressed," he suggested.

"Fox... I just remembered that my night gown was destroyed in the blast," she told him. Fox thought back to when he had first met her, he remembered seeing Fara in his mother's dress. Fox remembered that he had put it in the basement when he moved in.

"Fara, I just remembered that I have my mother's old dress in the basement. You know, the one you wore back on Papetoon. You can wear that," Fox said as he went into the basement. Fara laid back on the bed thinking about what it would be like to spend the rest of her life with Fox. Fox walked in their bedroom. "Fara, I found the dress. Here, get changed," Fox said. He handed her the dress then left. Fara began to take her clothes off.

"I hope this still fits," she said to herself. It wasn't long before Fara got into it. She heard a knock at the door.

"Fara. Are you dressed yet?" Fox asked her.

"Yeah. You can come in," she answered. Fox came in wearing his boxers. They got in bed as Fara kissed him goodnight. Fox kissed her back as he turned out the light.

The next morning, Fox woke up with Fara lying next to him. He had remembered the events that had happened yesterday. He remembered Fara standing at his doorstep crying and then seeing her in his mother's dress for the second time in years.

Fox kissed her. She smiled. Fox began to get dressed, Fara was still laying peacefully in bed. Fox finally finished and went over to Fara. "Fara. Fara," Fox said, shoving her gently.

"Fox?" she said smiling.

"Come on, get dressed. We don't want to be late for target practice," Fox said as Fara sat up and stretched.

"Okay. I'll be down in a minute," she said.

"I'll be in the kitchen," Fox said as he closed the door behind him. Fara got out of the dress that she was wearing, and looked through the clothes she had left. She found the outfit that she wore the first day that she had met Fox and changed into that. Fara went downstairs to where Fox was making eggs.

"Fried or scrambled?" Fox asked, turning around. He noticed the outfit that Fara was wearing.

"Scrambled," Fara said, picking up the newspaper.

"Hey Fara, you might want to read that first story," Fox said.

"Why?" she asked, looking at the article that Fox had circled in red.

"There's something you need to see," Fox answered. Fara began to read it.

"Fox. This says three Venom soldiers infiltrated the CIA building. It also says that they stole the personnel files from the "personnel" mainframe," Fara told him.

"I know. Check out the list of names on the next page," Fox said back. Fara began to read the list of names whose personnel files were stolen. It read: Fox McCloud, Peppy Hare, the entire staff of the CIA, Bill Grey, and... Fara put down the paper.

"What is it?" Fox asked.

"Fox, the last name on the list is..,"

"Who?" Fox interrupted.

"Me!" Fara said, "But what would Andross want with updated personnel files?"

"I don't know. It could just be nothing," Fox said back.

"Yeah, you're probably right. I'm ready, let's go," Fara said as they finished their breakfast. Fox grabbed the car keys, they both got into his Cornerian Trident. Fox backed out of the driveway and headed towards Cornerian Central Command. Peppy, Falco, and Slippy were waiting for them outside. Fox and Fara got out of the car and made their way towards the front door.

"Come on you guys, we don't want to be late," Peppy shouted over the sound of an Arwing that had just taken off. With that, they headed towards the hangar that their fighters were in. The five pilots got into their Arwings and checked their gear.

"Is everybody ready?" Fox asked over his com. Each of his wingmen acknowledged. They took off.

\* \* \* \*

Meanwhile on Venom, Andross sat back in his cold padded chair. He was thinking of ways to capture Fox McCloud when a lizard came bursting into his chamber. "I told you not to disturb me!" Andross yelled.

"I'm sorry your highness, but I have the personnel files you wanted," the lizard said, handing Andross the data pad.

"Fine. Now leave!" Andross yelled. The lizard gave him a quick salute then left. Andross sat back and began to study it.

It wasn't long before an idea finally came to him. Thoughts of the past started rushing through his mind. "I've got it! Andross said to himself. He had a photo and description of Fara laid out in front of him. "I'll just persuade him to come to me. I've already killed off his entire family, I'll just use his girlfriend as bait. And when he comes to rescue her, I'll kill them both!" Andross said, smiling sinisterly. He headed toward the docking bay.

Andross finally climbed onboard his flagship and made his way towards the bridge. "Helmsman. Set course to Corneria immediately!" Andross ordered.

"Yes sir," the nervous officer responded. Andross's fleet soon entered hyperspace.

Back on Corneria, the Star Fox team was out in a nearby canyon shooting at drone fighters, boulders, and old debris from previous battles. Fara's Arwing was being chased by a drone fighter. "You need help?" Fox offered.

"No, I can handle him!" Fara shouted over the comlink. The drone zoomed across her six and fired, hitting her engines twice.

"Are you okay?" Peppy asked, sounding concerned.

"Yeah, I'm fine," Fara responded. She pulled back on her control stick so that the drone would smash into the rock face. Fara pulled up with enough time to see an explosion roar behind her.

"Nice move Fara!" Fox complemented over the comlink.

"I could've done that," Falco said sarcastically.

"Hold on you guys, I'm getting a message from General Pepper!" Peppy said.

"Patch it through," Fox instructed. There was a small amount of static, but they could all hear General Pepper well enough to understand what he was saying.

"Help us Star Fox! Corneria is under-- Fwzzt whzzt," the transmission suddenly ended.

"What happened?" Falco asked.

"The transmission is being jammed," Slippy answered.

"Come on, we'd better go help!" Fox said, "Everybody check in,"

"Falco here. I'm off to your left," Falco reported.

"Peppy here. I'm on your right," Peppy acknowledged.

"Fara here. I'm right behind you, hon," Fara said.

"Slippy here. I'm behind Fara," Slippy said. The team flew towards Corneria City in a diamond slot formation, with Fara in the middle of them. The five Arwings entered Corneria City, where two Venom cruisers were firing on the city.

"All aircraft brake off and find a target," Fox ordered. Three of the ships broke away from Fox. Fara kept her distance behind him.

Andross sat back in the captain's seat on the bridge as he looked on the radar screen in front of him. "There she is," Andross said to himself. "You all know what to do," Andross ordered. The communications officer picked up his microphone and began to give out instructions.

"Attention all ships! Disable Fara Phoenix's Arwing and tractor her into the cargo bay. And Andross wants her ALIVE!" the comm. officer warned. As soon as the message finished, several Wolfen-class fighters poured out of the flagship. They headed straight towards Fara's position.

Two fighters came up behind Fox and drove him away from Fara's Arwing. Another darted in front of Fara, diverting her attention from the two fighters that secretly made their way behind her. The two Invaders fired at Fara's rear, causing the computer behind her head to shoot out sparks. She felt a sharp pain hit her neck. A Wolfen emerged behind the two Invaders which immediately broke off. The Wolfen activated its tractor beam, causing Fara's ship to suddenly stop. Fara's scream ended as her head violently rammed into the dashboard. She was knocked unconscious.

"Fara!" Fox yelled as Fara's Arwing was pulled into the docking bay of Andross's warship. Fox turned towards the warship, but it was too late. Andross's fleet had already entered hyperspace.

\* \* \* \*

Meanwhile, on the bridge of Andross's warship. "Sir, we have Fara's ship in cargo bay 1 now," the tactical officer reported.

"Very good, put her in the brig. I'll go torture her later," Andross said. A smirk came across his face.

"Yes sir," the tactical officer replied. He left his station to carry out his orders.

When Fara woke up, she found herself in a dimly lighted cell. She saw that she was bleeding badly. It wasn't long until Andross came into her cell. He was holding a small metal box. Andross pulled up a chair and sat across from her. "So how long have you known Fox?" Andross asked.

"I'm not talking!" Fara scowled. Andross pushed a button on the box he was holding.

"You better cooperate. I've put pain implants throughout your body," Andross said, pushing a button.

"Aghhhh!" Fara screamed, as a burning pain rushed through her body.

"They're the same thing I used on Fox's father. And that was only a demonstration!" Andross explained. He pushed the button again.

"Aghhhh!" Fara yelled in agony. She was sprawled on the floor. She barely managed to sit up against the wall.

"I've already killed Fox's mother and father. Don't tempt me to kill his girlfriend!" Andross threatened. He slapped Fara hard across her jaw. "I'll be back to check on you later," Andross said, as he cruelly kicked her, then left.

\* \* \* \*

Meanwhile back on Corneria, General Pepper was in the war room reading a map. The Star Fox team walked over to him. "Where's Fara?" Pepper asked, putting down his map.

"Andross captured her, sir," Fox said sadly.

"I see," Pepper said.

"Sir, aren't we going to do something?" Falco asked trying to sound worried.

"Right now, I don't think there's anything we can do. We should at least wait until Andross makes his demands. God help her," Pepper said.

"Falco's right. We should go rescue her!" Fox said.

"We can't do anything until we know she's alive. Look, if we don't hear anything within two hours, I'll mobilize a rescue team. Okay?" Pepper offered.

"Yes sir," Fox acknowledged. The General knew that Fox was crushed. He felt that if they rushed off on a rescue mission too soon without knowing if Fara was alive, he'd lose Fox too.

It was about a half hour after Fox had reported what had happened. General Pepper was sitting in his office when his phone rang. He picked it up, "Yes," he answered.

"Sir, you'd better come out here. We're being hailed by Venom," the voice said.

"It's about bloody time!" Pepper muttered to himself. "I'm on my way, get Fox and his team up here," the General ordered.

"Yes sir," the voice replied. Pepper hung up the phone and went to the war room. Fox and his colleagues were there waiting.

"Put it on screen," Pepper ordered as he entered the room. The view screen came to life. There was a picture of Fara badly injured and Andross was standing next to her.

"General Pepper I presume. I believe I have something that belongs to you. If Fox doesn't surrender to me I will eliminate her," Andross said.

"What have you done to her?! She's bleeding to death!" Fox interrupted.

"Fox, don't do it!" Fara yelled as she tried to free herself.

"Silence!" Andross scowled.

"Fox, save yourself. I love you, aghhhh!" Fara screamed just before Andross shot

her. The blast knocked Fara down to the floor. Her motionless body just lay there.

"Noooooooooooo!" Fox screamed, trying to keep himself from ripping the screen apart.

"Ha ha ha ha ha!" Andross laughed just as the transmission ended. The room was silent.

"I failed her. I failed her! Noooooooooooooooooooo!" Fox yelled. He was emotionally torn apart.

"Fox... I'm sorry," Peppy said, wiping the tears from his eyes.

"Yeah, me too!" Slippy said. "She was a good friend,"

"Same here. I know she meant everything to you. Katt will be upset when she finds out. They were great friends," Falco comforted.

"I just want to be alone," Fox said. Fox drove back to his house and went into the bedroom. He took out the picture of Fara wearing his mother's dress and kissing him. He took it when they were on Papetoon, not long after they had first met. Fox put the picture down and began to sob uncontrollably.

\* \* \* \*

Andross headed towards Fara's cell. Blood was trickling down Fara's face. She felt very weak. Fara had a broken arm from when Andross got frustrated at her then beat her. Andross came into her cell with a smile on his face. "Your friends think you're dead. I can't believe they bought the fake execution. Especially Fox!" Andross taunted her.

"You're a liar!" Fara scowled.

"Maybe you've forgotten who's in control here," Andross snapped back. He took out his shiny metal box and fiddled with the controls until Fara was lying on the floor in agony. She had no strength left, only hope that Fox would find out that she was alive and come to rescue her.

It had been two hours since Andross had called. Fox was still lying on his bed sobbing. He was interrupted when the phone rang. Fox wiped the tears from his face and picked up the phone. "Hello," Fox answered.

"Fox, I've got great news! Fara's alive! It just came through the intelligence reports! The execution was a complete fake! Get over here quick! General Pepper is forming a rescue plan right now!" Peppy said excitedly.

"I'm on my way" Fox said. He got into his car and drove towards the CIA building as fast as he could. He parked his car and ran towards the briefing room. Fox made it just before the briefing started, and sat down next to Katt and Bill.

"Attention," General Pepper said as he cleared his throat, "We've learned that Fara Phoenix's execution was a complete fake. We'll be attacking on two fronts. Fox McCloud and his team will be given a cruiser outfitted with a cloaking device on loan from a Venomese defector. The ship will then clamp onto Andross's flagship. After the ship has docked they will search for Fara. After Fara is safely onboard, the cruiser will then take off. About a half hour after Fox and his team launches, I will lead an assault on the Venom fleet; acting as distraction as they carry out their assignment. We will be leaving in five minutes,"

\* \* \* \*

No sooner then General Pepper finish his briefing, Andross walked in Fara's prison cell carrying his pain box. "Wake up!" one of the guards yelled.

"Leave us," Andross said annoyed, "I can do it myself!" The guard saluted him and then left. Fara woke to the smell of radiation fumes. She saw Andross standing in front of her. There were blood stains on her fur and all over her clothes.

"No. Please, no more. Please don't- aghhhhhh!" Fara shrieked out in utter pain.

Back on Corneria, Fox put on his comlink and boarded the modified stealth ship. Peppy, Slippy, and Falco followed him. Fox walked onto the bridge. A light blinked, indicating that they were being hailed. Fox turned on the radio. "Fox, you're cleared for take off. The fleet will launch thirty minutes after you jump into hyperspace. Good luck," the voice said.

"Thanks, we're lifting off now," Fox replied.

General Pepper sat in his Cornerian flagship and watched as Fox's ship took off. "That man is Fara's last hope," General Pepper said.

"No, there is another," Bill said, standing beside him. The Cornerian fleet jumped into hyperspace.

Peppy sat uneasily in his chair. Falco and Slippy were in the bunks getting some rest for the big mission ahead of them.

The cruiser had a small bridge just big enough for three people to sit in. It also had a crude medical bay with a medical pack and a bed. The ship had none of the luxuries that Great Fox did, but its cloaking device and laser dock systems made it a great spy vessel. Fox sat down next to Peppy. "Fox, why don't you try and get some sleep," Peppy suggested.

"I can't sleep, knowing that Andross could be torturing Fara right now," Fox said.

"Don't worry. We'll have her back soon," Peppy assured him.

"If he's harmed one hair on her body, I'LL RIP HIM APART," Fox said furiously under his breath. A light blinked on their navigation panel. The ship came out of hyperspace and headed straight towards Andross's flagship.

"Falco. Slippy. Get up here, we're going in," Peppy said over the ship's comm. Falco and Slippy came from their quarters and stood by the docking clamp.

Fox and Peppy came to the docking clamp just as the laser dock finished eating through the massive warship's hull. The team spread out, looking for Fara.

Fara awoke in her cell. She had no feeling in her left arm. It was the one that Andross had broke when he beat her the day before. Fara had managed to tear the sleeve off of her shirt and use it as a sling. The cuts on the left side of her muzzle and just over her right eye became infected. She was weak, suffering from malnutrition. Andross didn't feed his prisoners. He considered it to be a waste of food. Andross wanted her to stay weak, so she wouldn't try to rush out the cell door every time one of the guards came in.

About an hour later, Andross walked into her cell. "I see you've been busy," Andross said, looking at the sling that was on her arm. Andross spoke to the guard next to him. "Remove her bandages and tear the sleeves off her clothes. I don't want our



guest healing until Fox arrives,” Andross said. The guard came over to Fara and removed the sling she had made. She tried to resist, but the guard hit Fara hard across her face. Then he continued to tear the sleeves off of her arms and legs. When the lizard finished, an alarm sounded throughout the ship.

"Your highness, we're under attack!" one of the officers said over the comm.

"Fox... has... come... to... rescue... me...," Fara managed to word out. Fara knew that if Fox didn't come soon, she would die.

Falco made his way through the bulky corridors. Two lizards tried to rush him from behind, but he turned around quickly enough to stun the first one. Another shot deflected off the wall, silencing the other. Falco cautiously continued his search of the deck he was on.

Peppy and Fox were searching through empty rooms when Fara let out a blood curtailing scream. "It came from over there!" Peppy pointed. They both ran down the hall and stopped at the doorway. Fara was bleeding severely as she screamed in intense pain.

"Go get the others. I'll keep Andross busy," Fox ordered. Peppy nodded as he ran off to find Falco and Slippy. Andross released the button on his control panel. Fara fell hard to the floor. "HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!" Fox yelled, pointing his blaster directly at Andross.

"You! How did you get in here? It doesn't matter. If you don't surrender, Fara's life will end right here and now!" Andross shouted. Fox felt the blood rush through his veins. He could either surrender, or save his one true love. Fox fired his gun, stunning Andross, the laser blast sent him halfway across the room. Fox threw down his blaster and rushed over to Fara.

"F.. O.. X.. Andross tortured and beat me. I can't feel my left arm," Fara whispered weakly.

"Don't try to talk. I'm gettin' you out of here," Fox said as he saw the cuts and bruises all over her. He looked at the small pool of blood behind Fara's body. Fox noticed that the sleeves were torn off her clothing. Falco, Slippy, and Peppy rushed in.

"Oh my god!" Falco exclaimed.

"Falco. Slippy get her back to the ship, quickly. And watch her left arm. I think it's broken," Fox ordered. The two of them picked Fara up, trying to avoid injuring her further, and carried her towards the ship.

"I'll go cover them," Peppy said, leaving the room. Fox was filled with rage. Andross tried to get up, but Fox kicked him.

"You killed my father just to get to my mother, but she got in the car instead of my father, killing her. Then you killed my father. After that, you decided to capture, torture, and critically injure my girlfriend just to get at me. YOU WILL PAY!!" Fox said vengefully. When Andross tried to get up again, he was met by Fox's boot. Fox kept kicking him until he was unconscious. A voice came over Fox's comlink. "Fox, it's time to go!" Peppy said.

"I'm on my way," Fox said back. Before he left, Fox went inside Fara's cell to get her comlink.

Fox ran down the corridors to where the ship had docked. "Hold it right there brother," Wolf said. This immediately got Fox's attention, because he stopped to a dead halt.

"Wolf? BROTHER?! What are you talking about??" Fox asked. He continued to run towards the ship. Wolf ran after him.

"You mean your father never told-- oh that's right. He's dead!!" Wolf said, laughing. A voice came over Wolf's comlink.

"Wolf, let Fox and his friends go! Fox'll be back with his girlfriend later- then you can kill them!" Andross ordered.

"Yes emperor," Wolf said back. He stopped running to let Fox escape.

Fox turned the corner to see Falco standing by the shuttle's door holding off the lizard sentries. Peppy and Slippy carried Fara inside the ship and put her on Fox's bunk. "Fox, get in!" Falco yelled. Fox ran into the ship as Falco closed the door behind him.

"Peppy, get us out of here! I'll be tending to Fara, just get us back to Corneria in one piece!" Fox ordered. The ship detached itself from the Venom flagship and went into hyperspace.

\* \* \* \*

Meanwhile, on the bridge of the Cornerian flagship, General Pepper sat back in his chair as the Cornerian and Venom cruisers exchanged laser fire. "Sir, McCloud reports that the mission is accomplished," the comm. officer reported. Her name was Tera Bravehart. She was a leopard, about 5'2", Fox's age, and was a very good friend of General Pepper.

"Good. Did Fox mention what Fara's condition was?" Pepper asked.

"Yes sir. Fara has bruises all over her body. She has two infected cuts, one on her muzzle; the other is just above her right eye. The sleeves on her arms and legs are torn off. Her left arm is broken. And she has lost most of her blood," she said.

"What did he do to her?" Pepper wondered.

"Sir. It's time to pull out, isn't it?" Tera asked.

"Oh, yes. Of course. Signal the fleet and tell them we're leaving. After that, get an ambulance to where Fox's ship lands. We may need to rush Fara to the ER," Pepper ordered.

"Yes sir," she replied. The Cornerian fleet withdrew their attack and headed back towards Corneria.

As soon as Fox's ship landed back on Corneria, he opened the door and carried Fara's dying body to the ambulance that was awaiting him. Fox strapped himself inside as the ambulance sped to the nearest hospital. He put his paw on Fara's neck to check for a pulse. She had one, but it was very faint. When the ambulance arrived, several doctors rushed Fara to the emergency room.

Later that night, Fox, Falco, and Peppy were in Fara's room, awaiting her arrival. About five minutes later, Fara was placed on her bed and put on a respirator. Peppy picked up the clipboard at the end of Fara's bed and began to read it. "This says that Fara has lost about ninety percent of her blood. It also says that the only available donor is Fox," Peppy said as he put back the clipboard.

"How much does she need to survive?" Fox asked, sounding worried. It was unlike Fox to worry.

"About two liters," Peppy replied. "It also says that if she doesn't get a blood transfusion within two days, she will die," Peppy added.

"I'll be back," Fox said.

"Where are you going?" Falco asked.

"To the registration desk. I'm going through with the transfusion," Fox called back. He walked down the hall to the registration desk. A young tiger was sitting down.

"Can I help you?" she asked.

"Yes. I understand that you need a blood donor for Ms. Phoenix," Fox said politely.

"That's right. We could fit you in tomorrow. Just fill out this form," she said, handing Fox a clipboard. Fox sat down and began to read it. It took him about five minutes to completely fill it out. Fox handed the clipboard back to the receptionist and walked to Fara's room.

"I'd better be getting back to Annie. She might be worried about me," Peppy said as he left.

"Yeah, me too. Come on Slip," Falco said. They both left. Fox was left alone in her room. Fox sat down next to Fara's bed. He held her paw. Thoughts of him losing Fara rushed through his head, overwhelming him. Fox couldn't hold any of his emotions back any longer. Tears started to pour out of his eyes. Fox put his head on Fara's lap sobbing.

"I failed you! I FAILED YOU when you needed me the most. Because of me, Andross did THIS to you. If I had only been there sooner, you wouldn't be on life support. Thanks to me, Andross nearly killed you. If I lose you, I'd never forgive myself. You're my ONLY true love. I can't imagine what my life would be like if I were to lose you now," Fox said still crying. He stroked his paw across Fara's arm. He felt a bump. Fox got up and turned the light level up higher. Fox wiped the tears off his eyes and looked closer at it. He saw a small metal object sticking deep in her fur. 'What the HELL is that?!' Fox thought to himself. It looked like an implant, but he had never seen it on her before. Fox looked up at Fara's face and noticed three more of them. One was on the left bottom side of her muzzle. The second one was at the base of her skull. And the last one was by her throat. There were more of them. A LOT more of them. Fox thought back to the night when Fara had moved in with him. It was something that both him and Fara had neglected to mention to their friends. Fox took out his cell phone and called Peppy's house.

"Hello," Annie answered.

"Hi Annie, is Peppy there? IT'S URGENT!" Fox said frantically. Annie could sense that Fox was terrified.

"Yeah. Hold on," Annie said. Peppy was in the kitchen. He walked up to Annie.

"Who is it?" Peppy asked.

"It's Fox. He's terrified. I think something's wrong," Annie said back as she handed him the phone.

"Fox, what's wrong?!" Peppy asked, showing concern.

"It's Fara. Get everyone over here. EVEN General Pepper. I don't have time to explain. Just hurry!" Fox said frantically as he hung up.

"Fox? FOX?" Peppy called, but it was too late. Peppy could already hear a dial tone. "Annie, go warm up the car. I'll be out in a minute," Peppy said rushing to get his coat and his cell phone. On their way to the hospital, Peppy had called General Pepper, the Star Fox team, Bill, and Katt. They were all waiting at the entrance.

"What's going on?" General Pepper asked.

"I'm not sure. He told me to get all of you out here and into Fara's room as soon as possible," Peppy explained. So the seven of them rushed in, just to see Fara being taken into the emergency room. Fox had found them and told everyone what he had seen on Fara's body.

"I need a donor!" one of the doctors said coming out of the ER.

"That's me. I'll finish later," Fox said as he ran down the hall. As Fox entered the emergency room, another doctor took a syringe and extracted two liters of blood from him, which was immediately pumped into Fara's body. Fara let out a light moan.

It was nearly an hour after the ordeal in the emergency room. Fox had finished telling everyone about the bumps that were on Fara's body. She was brought in and placed on the bed. Fara was conscious. "I think it's best if we let these two 'catch up'," General Pepper said, "We'd better head back to the C.I.A. building. Katt, you stay here and guard these two,"

"You can count on me sir," Katt said saluting. The rest of them got into a military transport. Katt knocked on the door.

"Yes?" Fox said.

"Fox, it's me, Katt. General Pepper ordered me to stand guard here. Just knock on the door if you need anything," Katt said.

"Okay," Fox replied.

"Katt?" Fara said as she tried to sit up, but she was too weak.

"Easy. Easy. Fara, you haven't fully recovered yet," Fox said as he tried to soothe her.

"Fox? W..w.. where am I?" Fara asked. Her voice was still pretty weak.

"You're at the hospital on Corneria," Fox said gently, "Don't try to move. The injuries that Andross gave you are still very serious. How's your arm?" Fox asked, looking at the cast.

"It's been better," she whispered. Fara gathered enough strength to smile at him.

"I hope you don't mind, but I signed your cast while you were unconscious," Fox confessed. Fara glanced at her cast. She managed to read some of Fox's writing. The cast read 'Fara, don't leave me again. You had me scared. I love you.-Fox.' Fara smiled.

"I love you too," Fara replied.

"Fara. What do you remember?" Fox asked. His voice sounded as soothing as him rubbing Fara's back.

"When the tractor beam caught my ship, my head slammed hard on the console. After I woke up, there was blood all over me. Then Andross came in, holding some sort of box. When he pushed a button, it would send an intense pain all over my body. He

would come in every twenty minutes and torture me. When I tried to get up, one of the guards pulled a knife on me. He slashed me across the face twice," she said. Fara suddenly felt weak.

"But there was an execution. I SAW Andross shoot you," Fox pointed out.

"Andross's idea of a sick joke. He's trying to get to you through me. When Andross found out that the fleet was coming, he beat me and kept kicking my arm until I couldn't feel it. After that, you came to rescue me. Then I woke up a few minutes ago with you looking over me," Fara said.

"Fara, there's something you need to see," Fox said. He took her paw and showed her the metal object.

"What is it?" Fara asked, taking a closer look.

"We don't know," Fox said, trying to assure her that she'd be okay.

Meanwhile, back on Venom, Andross was watching what was being transmitted from the camera he had implanted in Fara's skull. "How touching!" Andross said, laughing to himself. Andross pushed one of the buttons on his chair and a guard immediately rushed in.

"Yes Sir?" the lizard asked.

"I have a little mission for you," Andross said. He gave the lizard the pad with Fara's photo and background.

"Do you want me to capture her sir?" he asked.

"No, we've already done that. You may not know, but she's the young pilot of the StarFox team that we captured about a week ago. Her name is Fara Phoenix, Fox's girlfriend. I want you to sneak into her hospital room and KILL her. If she dies, then Fox will lose all control over himself. Then he will become reckless, making him easy to capture. Do you understand?" Andross questioned.

"Yes emperor. I'll have Fox crying over her dead body," the lizard said as he exited, and went towards the hangar.

Later that night, everyone except Fox, Fara, and Katt were sitting in the projection room of the CIA building. General Pepper stood next to a screen displaying Fara's skeletal structure. There were three screens displaying the front, back, and sides of her body. At least four dozen red dots began to blink all over her body. A narrow picture wiped inside a fifth of the screen from the left. It displayed a small picture containing one of the implants. "Attention," General Pepper said. The room grew quiet. "As you know, when we rescued Ms. Phoenix from Andross two days ago, Fox discovered several of these implants all over her body. Let's hope they don't endanger her life,"

"But what are they?" Bill asked with a puzzled look on his face.

"That's the problem. Nobody knows!" Pepper answered.

"I do," Katt said. She stood at the doorway almost out of breath.

"Shouldn't you be protecting Fara?" Pepper asked.

"Yes, but once I learned that Fara had several implants in her body, I had to come warn you,"

"But is Fara safe?" Pepper asked.

"I gave Fox my gun and my communicator. I told him to contact you directly,"

Katt answered.

"You said you know what these are. What are they?" Falco asked.

"Many years ago, shortly before Fox and Fara first met, I was en-route to Sector X. A Venom patrol squad captured me and took me directly to Andross. I was in his torture chamber when he walked in with a funny looking control box. He pushed one of the buttons, causing me to scream out in pain. Andross said that he could control the location and intensity of the pain that he wanted to inflict on me from any of those implants," Katt said. Apparently, the flashback triggered some sort of traumatic event because she was on the floor crying. Falco came over to Katt and put his arm around her.

"Katt, don't cry. We need to know how you got them out," Falco said gently as he leaned over and kissed her.

Katt got up and wiped the tears off of her face. "I didn't!" Katt said, showing everyone a metal implant in her wrist. "The only reason that I'm not being tortured now is because either Andross forgot about me or he doesn't consider me to be a threat to him. The only way you can remove them without instantly killing her is to destroy the deflector dish Andross uses to transmit the instructions. Once that happens, the implants Fara's body will become inactive, which will allow you to surgically remove them,"

"What about yours?" Peppy asked.

"They'll become inactive too," Katt answered.

"Okay then, we'll create a mission plan tomorrow. Everyone should get some sleep," Pepper suggested.

"Oh no!" Katt shrieked. "I just remembered one last thing. When Andross captured me, he also put a camera in my skull. I managed to damage it before I escaped. But he could be watching through Fara's camera right now!"

"Okay. Everybody grab a gun and get in the transport," General Pepper ordered. They were soon on their way towards the hospital.

At the same time that night, Fox was back at the hospital talking with Fara. Fox leaned over to kiss her. Suddenly a disheveled figure came up from behind Fox and hit him over the head. "Fox!!" Fara screamed, but it was too late. Fox was already sprawled on the floor. The back of his head started to bleed. The lizard took out his blaster and set it to LEVEL 16. He pointed it directly at Fara. Fox saw that he could get up, but he would have to do it slowly, in order not to attract attention.

"Goodbye Ms. Phoenix. It's a pity that your boyfriend isn't here to save you. Fox quickly threw himself in front of Fara as the lizard fired his gun. Fara let out a scream of crying pain.

"Fox! Noooo!" Fara screamed. Just as Peppy, Katt, and Bill rushed in, the lizard managed to fire his blaster one last time. The shot hit Fara bluntly in the face, silencing her and the camera implant as well. Peppy, Bill, and Katt shot mercilessly at the lizard with their blasters. Andross was watching the battle as his screen suddenly went dead.

"Damn it!" he yelled furiously.

"I need a medic!!" Peppy yelled. Several doctors rushed in carrying Fox and Fara to the Emergency Room.

Fox was put on the operating table. One of the doctors took out two electric cables and tried to restart Fox's heart. "Clear!" he shouted.

"Nothing," the technician replied.

"Again!" the doctor repeated.

"I have a pulse!" the technician answered. Fox's heart began to work. Two minutes later, Fara was rushed into the Emergency Room. She was placed gently on the operating table. The laser burn that covered all of Fara's face, was immediately treated by one of the surgeons. He took out a jar of gel and began to rub some on her face. There was blood covering the other side of Fara's face. Another surgeon placed a bandage over the wound.

Fox was let out of the hospital, and his condition was reported as 'OKAY'. Fox was back in Fara's room again, and he was pacing as he awaited Fara's arrival. Fara was carried in her room and placed in her bed. "Fox! Thank GOD you're alive!!" Fara cried out joyfully.

"That lizard must've accidentally had his blaster on STUN when he shot at us," Fox pointed out.

"I love you," Fara said.

"I love you too. Just try and get some sleep," Fox said as he kissed her. Fara put her right arm around Fox's neck, and began to kiss him passionately. After a minute of kissing Fox, she soon fell asleep.

"Fox, we need to talk!" General Pepper interrupted.

"Goodnight Fara," Fox said to her. Fox got up and closed Fara's door behind him. "What is it?" Fox asked. General Pepper began to tell Fox about the briefing they had. He explained why that Fox couldn't say anything important to Fara, or else Andross would know of their mission. Katt walked up to them.

"Sir, I need to check for the camera," Katt said.

"Okay, go ahead," Pepper answered. Katt went inside Fara's room and went over next to her bed. Fara began to moan in her sleep. She was obviously dreaming about Fox, but Katt couldn't tell. Katt came up to Fara and her paw across Fara's forehead, looking for a camera beneath her fur.

"Oh Fox..," Fara moaned softly. 'Man, she's really got it bad for Fox. I know he feels the same way about her.' Katt thought to herself as her paw hit what looked like an implant.

"Just as I thought, broken," Katt said relieved. She walked out of the room, telling both of them that the camera had been destroyed.

"When will Fara be back on her feet?" Pepper asked.

"I wouldn't know sir, but if I had to give it a guess, I'd say about a week. Her cuts and her arm still need to heal completely," Fox explained.

"Okay, then I'll give her a week. Then we'll just see what her condition is then," Pepper said back as he left. Fox and Katt both walked in Fara's room and sat down next to her bed. It wasn't even a minute before Katt started a conversation.

"So, you and Fara are close," Katt said.

"Yes, very. It was about a day before Fara was captured when both of our lives changed," Fox answered.

"Oh, really?" Katt said back.

"Yeah. We didn't want to tell anybody too soon, but I guess Fara wouldn't mind. Anyway, do you remember when Fara's house got destroyed?" Fox asked.

"Of course, it was on the news that day," Katt replied.

"Well, later that night, I found Fara wet and crying outside my doorstep. She was carrying most of her salvageable possessions in that knapsack I gave her for her birthday the year before. Remember?" Fox asked.

"Yeah, who could forget that year?" Katt answered. Fox cleared his throat, and continued on with his story.

"Unfortunately, I didn't know what was going on, because I had slept in that day. I took Fara inside and got her a change of clothes. We sat down, where she told me about what had happened. Fara said that she had nowhere else to go, and that I was the closest person she knew. Anyway, I offered that she could live with me,"

"And did she?" Katt interrupted.

"Yeah, that's the reason we were both in my car when we came to target practice," Fox said back.

"Oh," Katt said, "I'm happy for both of you. I mean you two living together,"

"Katt, it's getting late. You'd better head on home," Fox suggested.

"Yeah, you're right. Wake me if anything happens," Katt said.

"I will," Fox answered. Katt left the room and went out to her car. Fox was still in Fara's room. He saw that there was an empty bed next to her.

Fox climbed in to the hospital bed and went to sleep. Fox had a vision. Usually, this sort of stuff only happened to Peppy. Peppy had told him all about this sort of experience. He explained that Fox could interact (touch) and talk to any deceased family member or friends who were in the void. He said that whatever the reason for the vision was, a place from that event would be projected. Peppy had also told Fox that the only way for a vision to occur to a non-telepath was that the spirit had to choose to talk with that person. For telepaths, such as Peppy, it was much easier. They could contact a spirit anytime they wanted.

Fox really didn't care why this was happening to him. He just wanted some very important questions answered. Fox saw that he was on the freighter where Fara and him had first met, but it was empty. He sat down on one of the empty cargo containers. His mother, Vixy, appeared and stood in front of him. "Hello Fox! Let me look at you. It's been a very long time," Vixy said.

"Mom!," Fox said excitedly. He rushed up and hugged her.

"Fox, I love you very much," Vixy said back. They both sat back on the cargo container.

"Mom, there's a question that I need to ask you. And I really need to know the truth," Fox said.

"Of course son. What is it?" Vixy said. She put her paw on his lap.

"Is Wolf O'Donnell my brother?" Fox asked looking very confused. Vixy's image



slowly began to fade away. "Mom, I must know,"

"Yes he is," Vixy said.

"How many? How many other people know?" Fox asked her.

"Let's see... me, James, Andross, Michelle, Wolf, and now you and your comrades. Fox, I'll talk to you again sometime. I love you," she said. Vixy's image had completely vanished. Fox put his head in his lap.

"I can't do it. I can't go on alone!" Fox said to himself.

"Your mother will always be with you," a voice said. An image of Fox's father, James, appeared.

"Dad!" Fox said trying not to sound too accusing. James sat down next to him.

"I've been observing what has happened over the past couple of days, son," James said.

"I thought you might," Fox answered.

"Aren't you glad to see me son? It's been a long time since we last talked like this," James pointed out.

"Yes, I know father. It hasn't been too long, just about six months," Fox said replied.

"I know there is something on your mind. Go ahead," James said, encouraging his son to speak out.

"Why didn't you tell me? Why didn't you tell me that Wolf was my brother?" Fox asked.

"Fox, let me tell you a story. Many years ago, when I was in Andross's dungeon, there was a young beautiful female wolf. Her name was Michelle O'Donnell. She said that Andross would agree to let me go if I had a child with her and agreed to help raise it. Naturally, I wanted to get back to Corneria to see you, so I had no choice. Then Wolf came along. You see Fox, wolves grow up much faster than any other species we know of. So about two long and hard years after labor, he reached the equivalent of a 15-year old. However, Andross made a genetic modification, which made Wolf age at normal speed after he hit 18. When I first knew Wolf, he was already a great leader, but I was amazed at how strong he was at being a pilot. I took it upon myself to train him as an expert fighter pilot, like you and me. I thought I could instruct him just as well as you. I was wrong. Wolf chose the quick and easy way, which partially led him to be as corrupt as Andross," James explained.

"What else made him go bad?" Fox asked.

"Several of Andross's sessions which taught him to hate the Cornerians, and most importantly, the McCloud name. Michelle feared for my safety, so she led me to a ventilation shaft. Before I left, she said that she would take care of our son. I was going through the network of ventilation shafts, when I accidentally opened the hatch to Andross's chamber. He immediately shot me, then let me bleed to death. Then he called in Michelle and executed her. Andross took Wolf and continued to raise him as his own son. He later met Leon Powalski, which really isn't important right now," James said.

"I can't do it dad, no matter how much we hate each other, I can't kill my own brother. If I did, I'd be just as bad as him," Fox admitted.

"You can not escape your destiny. You must face Wolf O'Donnell again!" James said.

"I won't do it," Fox said to him.

"Then the Emperor has already won! You were our last hope!" James said regretfully.

"Bill spoke of another," Fox said.

"The other he spoke of was your twin sister," James said.

"But I have no sister," Fox said back. He was VERY confused.

"Fox, to protect you both from the Emperor, your mother and I hid your sister after birth. Her name is Vixy McCloud junior. We gave her to a friend, so she could be raised secretly," James explained.

"Then how does Bill know?" Fox asked.

"Bill met her at the Cornerian Flight Academy. She went under a false name, so nobody knew who she really was. Bill and Vixy began to see each other regularly, and soon started a romance. On the night after graduation, Vixy told Bill the truth. He promised that he wouldn't tell you about her. They both had planned to get married the next week, but then the war broke out. Bill and Vixy promised each other that soon after the time came for you to know about her, they would get married. They've secretly kept in touch for years. " James answered.

"But why didn't you tell me this before?" Fox argued.

"I hadn't planned this. You weren't supposed to know yet," James answered.

"When was I supposed to know?!" Fox asked.

"She was going to come to you," James replied.

"Who is she? Where can I find her?" Fox asked.

"She will find you when the time comes," James said.

"Is it Fara?" Fox asked nervously.

"No. Fara is your sole mate, your one true love. Now you must realize that I can not interfere with you and your sister finding each other. It will just happen in time," James answered.

"I understand," Fox replied. James began to yawn.

"Fox, it's time for me to go now. I promise I will talk to you later. Okay?" James asked.

"Alright. Goodbye father," Fox said, giving him a big hug. Everything went black.

Fox woke up as Fara was brought back into her room. "Fara, what happened?" Fox asked, getting out of the bed.

"Nothing. I just got some of my bandages taken off and my cast was removed," Fara said.

"How's your arm?" Fox asked.

"It's as good as new!" she said back. Fara got up and went over to Fox.

"Shouldn't you be in bed resting?" Fox asked.

"No, I'm back on my feet now, but the doctors think I should rest at home for at least another day," Fara answered.

"Okay, then do you want me to take you back to the house?" Fox asked.

"I'd like that!" Fara said. Fox checked Fara out of the hospital and helped Fara walk to his car.

Later that night, Fox and Fara were awake in bed. Fox was reading one of his magazines. Fara lay next to him, just relaxing. Before they went to sleep, Fox told Fara all about the mission to destroy the deflector dish and the vision that he had the night before.

It was soon the next day. Fox and Fara were both walking towards the CIA building. They both walked up and waved their ID cards past the computer scanner. The automatic door slowly opened. Fox and Fara went into the briefing room and sat down. Several of Fara's comrades welcomed her back cheerfully. General Pepper stood up and began his briefing. "Attention, the Emperor has made a critical error and the time for our attack has come. Using the information brought to us by the Kraytaxian spies, we've managed to pinpoint the exact location of Andross's deflector dish. Billions of Kraytax died bringing us this information. Fara, if you choose to go on this mission, Andross might kill you," Pepper began.

"I understand the risks sir, I want to go," Fara replied.

"Very well. You can go. Now, our fleet will try and keep the Venom forces occupied, while the StarFox team sneaks in. Fox, you'll be using the same cloaked ship as before. You should be cloaked at all times. We'll all be leaving in five minutes, and may God help us all!" Pepper finished. The pilots broke into several conversations. Fox walked up to Fara, who was standing alone in the corner of the room.

"Fara, the General is right. If you get captured again, Andross would most likely kill you. If anything happens to you, I'll never forgive myself. I care for you too much to let you just throw away your life on what may be a suicide mission. I can't imagine losing you like this," Fox admitted.

"I'll be fine, as long as I'm with you. Come on, we'd better get going," Fara said.

"Okay, whatever makes you happy--" Fox's sentence stopped short as Fara kissed him. Peppy walked up to them.

"Fox, Fara, it's time to go," Peppy said.

"Come on Fox," Fara said. The StarFox team soon found themselves inside the docking bay of General Pepper's own flagship.

"Where's Slip?" Falco asked.

"Something important came up, so he signed out on shore leave," Peppy replied. They all boarded the ship. Fox walked into the cramped bridge and sat in the captain's seat. A light on the display next to his chair blinked.

"Fox, you're cleared for take off," a voice said.

"Okay, we're lifting off now," Fox answered. The small cruiser left the docking bay and entered hyperspace. Peppy, Fox, and Falco were on the bridge. Fara was in her bunk.

"Fox, try and get some sleep, I'll call you when we arrive," Peppy suggested.

"Maybe you're right, I'll see you two later," Fox said. Fox walked down the narrow hall to the crew's bunks. Fox walked in to see Fara lying in her bed. She was fast asleep.

Fox climbed into the bunk beside her and dozed off.

Fox and Fara woke as Peppy came in with a blaster at his side. "We're approaching Venom you two. Come on," Peppy said. Fox saw Fara and helped her to her feet. The three of them walked up to the bridge.

"We're preparing to land. Hang on!" Falco said. The cloaked cruiser landed with a thud. The docking hatch opened and all four of them walked out cautiously.

"Fara, where's the map?" Falco asked. Fara opened her knapsack and took out a small handheld computer. (It's supposed to look like a tricorder off of Star Trek: Voyager.)

"I've got it right here," Fara whispered. She handed it to Fox. He opened the small computer up. There was a display of a map. There were two dots. One was for their landing site, and the other was for the transmitting station.

"It's one kilometer this way," Fox pointed. The group followed him. Five minutes later, Peppy stopped them.

"Peppy what is it? Are you sensing something?" Fox asked. Fox and Fara sat down on a log. Peppy and Falco remained standing.

"Yes. I'm sensing about ten Venom guards coming this way. They're VERY close," Peppy whispered.

"Everyone get down," Fox whispered. Fox, Fara, Peppy, and Falco knelt down and withdrew their weapons.

"Where are they-". Fara's voice was muffled by a Venom lizard. Two more jumped out of the bushes and restrained Fox. Fara struggled to get away, but three more helped the first one restrain her. The lizards began to drag Fox and Fara to a nearby armored transport.

"Don't worry about us!" Fox yelled. The lizards quickly backed away from Falco and Peppy. Fara was able to get the lizard's claw off from her mouth.

"FINISH THE MISSION!!" Fara screamed as Fox and her were thrown in the Venom transport. Fox hit Fara's body as he was tossed inside the ship. They both passed out. Falco and Peppy were left alone.

"What can we do now? Maybe we should head back and--"

"NO. If we don't destroy the transmitter soon, Katt and Fara will most likely die slow and painful deaths. We're not quitting! They NEED us, and I need you! I can't do this alone. Now come on!" Peppy ordered. Falco followed Peppy through the jungle terrain towards the transmitter station.

Meanwhile, General Pepper sat back uneasily in his chair. On the bridge of his flagship. "Computer, what is the current time?"

Pepper asked. A flat toned computer voice answered him.

"The current time is 2300 hours," it replied.

"Sir, it's time," Tera said.

"I know. Open a channel to the fleet," Pepper said uneasily.

"Yes sir," Tera replied. She pushed a few buttons and a star chart appeared on the bridge's large a/v screen. "Channel open sir, but I can only give you audio,"

"Very good. Put me on the speaker please," Pepper said.

"You're on now sir," Tera answered.

"Fleet, this is General Pepper, all groups check in," he ordered. Several voices came over the comm.

"Red Group standing by," Katt replied.

"Gold Group standing by," Bill answered.

"Very good. All ships enter hyperspace now," Pepper ordered. All of the fleet entered hyperspace and sped towards Venom.

Fox woke up as two guards dragged him down the long corridors of Andross's flagship. They soon entered a door. Fox was thrown inside Andross's chamber. "Guards, leave us!" Andross ordered. Both lizards left and locked the door behind them. "Welcome young McCloud. I've been expecting you,"

"Where is Fara?!" Fox yelled furiously.

"Who? Oh yes, the girl. Look right above you," Andross said. There was a large rod coming down from the ceiling. Two paw cuffs were holding Fara about fifty feet from the ground. Fox looked up to see her.

"Fox! Help me!" Fara screamed.

"That's enough out of you!" Andross scowled. He pushed a button on his chair. It was linked directly to Fara's pain implants. She let out a loud scream of pain.

"Leave her alone!" Fox screamed. Andross pushed another button on his chair.

"Don't move or Fara will DIE!" Andross threatened.

"Let Fara go. Let Fara go and you can torture me instead," Fox offered nervously.

"Why? Now that you're here, you get to watch her suffer! In time you will call me master," Andross said.

"Soon I'll be dead. And you with me!" Fox quipped. Andross began to laugh.

"Perhaps you're referring to the imminent attack of your Cornerian fleet. Yes, I assure you, we are quite safe from your friends HERE. It was I who allowed the Cornerians to know the location of the secret transmitter. It is quite safe from your pitiful little band! An entire legion of my best troops await them. Oh, I'm afraid the transmitter will be quite operational when your friends arrive!" Andross taunted. Andross flicked a switch on his chair. One of the paw cuffs that held Fara on the ceiling opened. Fara began to scream.

"Wolf, you can come in now," he said. Wolf walked in the huge chamber unarmed.

"Well if it isn't my dear old brother!" Wolf said joyfully.

"Hello Wolf," Fox growled. Wolf came closer to Fox and began to probe his mind.

"Join us Fox, it is the only way you can save your friends," Wolf offered. Fox could feel Wolf accessing his thoughts and memories. "Yes... Your thoughts betray you. Your feelings for them are strong. Especially for... sister! So, you have a twin sister! Your feelings have now betrayed her too!" Wolf taunted.

Fox put his paws on his head.

"Get out of my head!!!" Fox yelled. He tried to block Wolf, but he failed. Wolf became silent for awhile. He finally spoke.

"If you will not turn to our side, then perhaps SHE WILL," Wolf. Wolf had chosen

the wrong fox to threaten. Fox felt a large burst of rage come from within him.

"Noooooooooooooooooooo!" Fox screamed. He got up and charged directly at Wolf. Fox jumped on him and started to strike Wolf mercilessly. Wolf stood up and put his paw over his mouth. It was badly bleeding. Fox struck at Wolf again and knocked him down unconscious.

Peppy and Falco entered the abandoned transmission station and began to place charges all over the building. Peppy placed the last bomb and set the timer to ten seconds. "Let's get the hell out of here!" Peppy yelled as he pushed the detonator. They both bolted out of the door and ran for cover. A deafening explosion burst out from the surface of Venom.

"Looks like we've done it!" Falco said.

"Yeah, let's get off this rock. Come on!" Peppy said. They both ran towards the cruiser.

Andross was endlessly torturing Fara when his control over her implants went dead. "Damn! I've lost control," Andross muttered.

The Cornerian fleet emerged from hyperspace. "All ships are ready," Tera reported.

"Very well. All ships, this is General Pepper, fire at will," Pepper ordered. All the fighters acknowledged and broke their formations to find targets. Dozens of fleas poured from Andross's flagship and engaged the superior Cornerian strike force.

Bill sat in his new customized Arwing, and shot down one flea after another. Two invader-class vessels came up behind Bill's tail and fired at his engine. Three more fleas came at Bill and fired at him from his starboard side. "I can't get these guys off me!" Bill yelled into his comm.

"Bill. Fly closely along our flagship. The fighters will have to break off," Tera said.

"Okay, I'm coming Tera," Bill responded. He hit his boosters and flew right along the side of General Pepper's flagship. The fleas and invaders didn't break off like Tera said they would. Bill's shields began to buckle. Katt came right behind the fighters that were pursuing Bill, and fired at them. All of the Venom fighters broke off. Three other Cornerian bulldog pilots chased and destroyed the Venom fighters that were retreating from Bill.

"Are you okay flyboy?!" Katt asked.

"Yeah Katt, I'm fine. Say, where did you come from anyway? I didn't even see you," Bill asked jokingly.

"That's my little secret hun! Follow me!" Katt said playfully.

"I'm right behind you Katt!" Bill answered.

"Just try and keep up, sparky!" Katt challenged. Katt and Bill went towards the cruiser that Fox and Fara were on. Bill and Katt both fired at the bridge of the massive warship. Katt's last laser bolt punctured one of the windows. The entire warship began to rock violently.

"What the hell happened?!" Andross yelled into the comm.

"Sir, the power core will overload in five minutes!" the lizard shouted.

"Begin evacuation procedures," Andross ordered. "I was just beginning to like this

ship,”

Wolf woke up. "Sir, let's go!" Wolf urged.

"Okay. You may have won for now. Catch McCloud!" Andross taunted as he pushed the button releasing Fara's other paw cuff.

Andross ran to an escape pod with Wolf right behind him. Fara began to plummet to her death.

"Fox!!!" Fara screamed. Fox dove on the floor just in time to catch Fara. Fara was struck unconscious after what had just happened. Fox regained his balance and carried Fara in his arms. He ran towards the shuttle bay. Several lizards ran to their escape pods and ignored what Fox was doing. Fox reached an empty shuttle and quickly opened the door. Fox dragged Fara's almost lifeless body into the shuttle and closed the door behind him. He ran up to the cockpit and hit the boosters on full. The stolen ship pulled out just before the shuttle bay engulfed itself in flames. Fox searched for the comm. and turned it on.

"This is Fox McCloud of the Cornerian Army. I am in a stolen Venomian shuttle and I have Fara Phoenix with me. I need assistance," Fox shouted.

"I hear you Fox, you're cleared to land in Shuttle bay 2. Just turn on your autopilot," Tera instructed. Fox engaged the autopilot on his ship. The ship slowly headed for the Cornerian shuttle bay. Fox got out of his seat and knelt down to Fara's body. He put his paw over her face

"Fara...Fara, can you hear me? Oh god, please answer!!!" Fox cried.

"Fox...what happened?" Fara asked. She tried to get up, but she whimpered in pain.

"Don't try to move," Fox said. He gently pushed Fara back down to the floor. "I think your leg is broken from that fall,"

"Will I be okay?" Fara asked.

"Yes, Fara, you'll be just fine," Fox assured her. The Venom shuttle came onto a landing pad. The door opened and some flight crew helped both of them to the medbay.

General Pepper was on the bridge. "Tera, where's that cruiser?" Pepper asked the leopard.

"It's safely in hyperspace sir," Tera smiled.

"Good Tera. Signal all the ships and tell them that we're going home," Pepper said.

"I've already finished sir," Tera answered. An hour later, Fox walked into the medbay just in time to see Fara getting a cast fit on her leg. "How's your leg Fara?" Fox asked.

"It's been better than this," Fara said smiling, "I can still walk, and the cast can be removed tomorrow,"

Fox helped her get up. Fara hugged him.

Later the next night, Fox and Fara were back from surgery. Fara had got her implants removed. They both got dressed and got in bed. Fara picked up a magazine and started to read. Fox just lay in bed thinking about what he was about to do. "Fara, over the past couple of days, I almost lost you because I didn't get to you

fast enough. I never want that to happen to us again. What I mean is... I guess what I'm trying to say is..."

"Fox, what?" Fara asked curiously. She put down the magazine that she was reading.

"Fara Marie Phoenix, will you marry me?" Fox proposed. Fara was silent for a moment. She finally answered.

"Yes! Yes, I will," Fara responded. She put her arms around Fox and kissed him passionately as she turned out the light.

Early the next day, Fox and Fara announced their wedding plans. They had asked Katt and Bill to be the bride's maid and the best man.

The following morning, Fara lay in their bed. She felt warm sensation throughout her body. "Oh, you're up," Fox commented. He came over and handed Fara his mother's dress.

"Just think, in several hours we'll be Mr. and Mrs. Fox McCloud," Fara sighed. She sat up on the bed.

"You'd better get dressed, we don't want to be late," Fox said as he walked out of the room. Fara was left alone. She began to undress. 'I hope this still fits.' she thought to herself. Fara put her arms through both of the sleeves. She finished getting dressed, and put her comlink on the bed next to Fox's. Fara opened the door and walked through the hallway. She was suddenly swept off her feet.

"Fox, you scared me half to death!" Fara laughed.

"Come on Fara, we have a wedding to get to," Fox said. He managed to open the front door and carry Fara to his car. Fox gently placed Fara on her feet. They both got in the car and drove to the local chapel. Fox was in a very uncomfortable tuxedo. He hated wearing them, but he decided to tolerate it. Here After all, it was their wedding. "Fara, where do you want to go for our honeymoon?" he asked.

"Somewhere special. Some place where we can be alone for awhile," Fara said happily. Bill and Katt were waiting outside.

"Come on you guys. General Pepper has been given the honor of being the preacher," Katt said.

"Don't worry, we have the rings," Bill said excitedly. They were both escorted down the church isle. Bill walked next to Fox. Katt walked beside Fara. Fox and Fara stopped at the end of the isle. Bill and Katt returned to their seats. General Pepper stood behind the couple. He began reciting the ceremony.

"Dearly beloved. We are gathered here today to join Mr. Fox James McCloud and Ms. Fara Marie Phoenix in holy matrimony. Fox McCloud, do you take this beautiful young vixen to be your lawfully wedded wife? In sickness, in health, and to cherish until death do you part?" Pepper asked.

"I do," Fox answered. He put the ring on Fara's finger.

"And do you, Ms. Fara Marie Phoenix, take this handsome young fawn to be your lawfully wedded husband? In sickness, in health, and to cherish until death do you part?" Pepper asked.

"I do," Fara cheerfully responded. She put the other ring on Fox's finger.



"If there is anybody who thinks that these two should not be wed, then speak now or forever hold your peace," Pepper said. He looked around the room. Nobody spoke out, so he continued. "Then by the power invested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss the bride,"

"I've dreamed of this moment for almost ten years!" Fox said happily. He put his paw around her.

"Me too," Fara replied. They both kissed each other.



It had been a week since Fox and Fara's wedding. General Pepper had loaned them a ship to use on their honeymoon. It was a small luxury vessel with no weapons or shields. Fox had the ship on cruise control as they headed towards a local resort planet at least two days away from Corneria. Fox and Fara were sleeping in their small living quarters as an alarm went off. "Fox, what's that?" Fara asked.

"I don't know!" Fox said as he walked up to the cockpit and sat down at one of the consoles. "I've lost control!" Fox said frantically as he tried to regain control of the ship. Fara soon joined him.

"Fox, do something!" she said. Fox saw a distant planet through the window.

"I'm going to try to land" Fox said. Their ship entered the planet's atmosphere. The heat shield on their hull began to crack.

"Fox, are we going to make it?" Fara asked.

"I don't know. Hang on!" Fox replied as he struggled to keep their ship leveled with the horizon. The ship crashed on the desolate planet's surface. Everything suddenly went black.

Fox woke up. There was an emergency bulkhead resting on his chest. He felt dizzy. Fox looked around for Fara, who was lying right next to him. He managed to wiggle his right paw free and put it on Fara's face. Fox looked her over. She didn't seem to be bleeding. "Ugh..." Fara moaned. She got up and saw the bulkhead which pinned Fox down. "Oh my God! Fox!" she exclaimed. Fara bent over to lift the massive bulkhead off of him. She managed to slide it off.

"Fara...." Fox whispered.

"Don't try to move! You're bleeding." Fara said frantically. She picked up a medkit that had survived the crash. There was blood all over Fox's left leg.

"Is it serious?" he asked.

"No, you'll be okay." Fara answered.

"Where are we?" Fox asked, rubbing his head.

"I wish I knew." Fara replied. She turned off one of the medical instruments she was holding. "There. I've stopped the bleeding."

"We'd better get some sleep." Fox suggested.

"Yeah, you're right." Fara said. She brushed her head up against Fox's chest. Fox managed to put his arms around her just before they both passed out.

Fara woke up with Fox's head leaning on her shoulder. She placed her paws around his body and lay Fox on the floor. Fara placed herself on top of his injured body. "Fox! Fox! Oh god, please don't be dead! I need you!" she cried. Fara checked for Fox's pulse. It was very strong.

Confident that he would survive, Fara got up and searched for the homing beacon that was installed inside the ship. Fara made her way into what was left of the cockpit and looked for the homing beacon under one of the control panels. She placed both of her paws on a loose panel and started to force it open with all of her strength. The hinge snapped and Fara was thrown back into the wall. She placed her paw on her head and waited for the dizziness to leave her body. When that happened, she made her way back to the control panel she had forced open and activated the homing beacon. Satisfied, she

left what was left of the cockpit and went to see Fox.

"Fara..." Fox groaned.

"Don't worry Fox. I'm here. Are you okay honey?" Fara asked. Fox felt his strength returning to him, so he sat up against the wall.

"Yeah, I'm fine." Fox replied.

"This wasn't exactly what I meant when I said that I wanted to be alone with you on our honeymoon." Fara confessed.

"Me neither. Say, when we get rescued, I'd like to try our honeymoon again. If that's okay with you." he offered.

"I'd like that." Fara said. She placed herself in Fox's lap.

"Fara, what do you remember?" Fox asked.

"I'm not sure. It all happened so fast. The last thing I remember is you saying that you were going to try and land. Then everything went black. The next thing I know, I woke up with your paw over my face." she explained.

"Oh, sorry. I was checking to see if you were still alive." Fox said.

"Fox, can I share something with you?" Fara asked.

"Of course. What is it?"

"Over the past couple of months, after you picked me over your cousin, when you rescued me from Andross, and then married me. You've made me feel... well... complete." Fara said.

"I have?"

"Yes, you have Fox." Fara said lovingly. She brushed her body up against him affectionately. Fox placed both his arms around her and gazed into her eyes. Fara put her arms around Fox and started to kiss him passionately.

"Fara, I love you!" Fox said. He continued to kiss Fara.

"I felt the same way when I met you ten years ago." Fara answered. Suddenly, a dark disheveled figure entered the doorway.

"Having fun, Fox?" it sneered. Fox got a better look when it stepped into the light.

"Wolf?!" Fox exclaimed.

"Yes. That's right. ME!" Wolf replied.

"But how? Why?" Fara asked. Her nerves began to tense up. She held on to Fox tighter and secretly motioned her blaster out of her hoister and behind their back. Fox took the handle and got ready to pull it out from behind him.

"Simple my dear. Andross gave me a new ship. It's able to fire while cloaked. I've been following you ever since you left. I was the one who shot you down." Wolf explained. He took out his blaster and pointed it at the couple. "Well Ms. Phoenix, you've led a young life. I'm so sorry it has to end."

"It's McCloud!" Fara growled.

"We got married last week. We're on our honeymoon." Fox added.

"Married? Well, I guess I'll enjoy this even more. Fara, stand by my side and love me, and I will spare your life. Refuse, and you will die with your husband." Wolf offered.

"I'll NEVER love you!" Fara growled.

"Fine. Goodbye then Mrs. McCloud. I could have shown you true pleasure, but you wasted your life with this poor excuse of a man." Wolf said. He pulled the trigger.

The shot nearly missed Fara. Fox took Fara's gun out from behind him and managed to stun Wolf. He fell to the floor. There was silence once again. Things settled down and life in the wrecked ship returned to normal.

"Why are they doing this?" Fara asked.

"I don't know." Fox answered.

"Fox, I'm scared!" Fara cried. She dug her muzzle into Fox's body and began to cry wildly.

"Fara, don't cry. Everything's going to be okay. I promise." Fox comforted.

"Do you mean it?" Fara asked in tears. She slowly took her muzzle out of Fox and looked up at him.

"Yes, I do." Fox said. He placed his paw below her muzzle and pulled it up so they were looking into each other's eyes. Fox kissed her warmly. Fara felt a chill go through her body. She began to shiver.

"Fox, it's getting cold." she said.

"You're right. I'll go try and find some of the sheets that were in our quarters." Fox said. He tried to get up, but Fox fell back in pain.

"Fox, you shouldn't be walking in your condition. Here, just sit back and wait. I'll go get them." Fara comforted. She kissed Fox and dug through the debris to get to what was left of their quarters. Fara pulled a large blanket out from under a heavy piece of shrapnel. She came back with the heavy blanket. "Sorry it took me so long. This was all I could find."

"It's okay." he answered. Fara sat next to him and pulled the blanket over them. She moved up on top of Fox and brushed up against him for warmth. Fox put his arms around her. They both soon fell asleep.

*"I have finally met my reason for living. Her name is Fara McCloud. Yet she is the wife of my darkest enemy. I know that she will never love me by choice, so I will have to make her love me. To do this, I must turn her over to my side. I don't care how long it takes, but I will never stop trying. I know that I will succeed. Even if I have to torture her mercilessly, I know that she will one day be my wife." Wolf O'Donnell ~Venom.*

About twenty minutes after Fox and Fara fell asleep, Wolf came to. He remembered what had happened. He could kill Fara now, but now he felt attracted to her. It was something that he couldn't explain. It had just happened. He knew what he had to do. Wolf got up and saw the young married couple. Wolf knew that what he was about to do would change his life, and maybe the war. He pulled off the sheet Fox and Fara, and kicked Fox in the head. Wolf slowly put his arms around Fara, so he wouldn't wake her and dragged her towards another part of the ship. He put down Fara and lied on top of her. Wolf stroked his paw across Fara's loosely dressed back. "You can be turned Fara. I will never stop trying. Andross may have his ways of getting to Fox, but I have mine. Turning you against him. It can be done. You'll just take more time than usual. I guarantee that in the near future you'll have your arms around me. I just have to wait." Wolf smiled. He fell asleep on top of the young vixen.

Wolf had his left arm squeezed tightly around Fara's neck. His other arm was around her waist. Fara slowly became conscious. Her eyes were still closed. She felt a body on top of her. Fara took her paws and moved them around Wolf's waist. Fara

thought that she had been kissing Fox all night, but she had actually slept with Wolf. Fara began to kiss Wolf. Wolf was pleased by the vixen's mistake. He loosened his hold on Fara's neck and moved both his paws down her body. "Fox... I wish you held me like this every morning..." Fara said.

"I can arrange that honey..." Wolf smiled. Fara opened her eyes only to see that Wolf was lying on top of her. Shocked, Fara tried to get up, but Wolf had her restrained to the floor. Fara lay helpless in the arms of Wolf. Wolf began to touch and kiss Fara all over her body.

"Wolf?! No! Stop! I don't want to kiss you! Wolf, what do you want from me?!" Fara cried.

"I want you. I want your loyalty, your obedience, your love, and most of all, your body!" Wolf said. Fara continued to yell, but Fox couldn't hear her muffled screams for help. Fara lay helpless in Wolf's arms. Wolf decided that it was time for them to go. He knew that once he turned her, Fara would be kissing him all over, so he wouldn't miss much if they left now.

Wolf finished kissing Fara, then forced her to stand up. He put Fara's arms behind her and held them together tightly since he didn't have any paw cuffs with him. "If you don't cooperate, I'll kill your husband right now. Do you understand me?!" Wolf threatened. Fara nodded, staying silent. "It's time for us to go. Now move your tail precious!"

Wolf and Fara both walked out of the wrecked ship from the hole where Wolf had gotten in. Fara saw the landscape of the barren planet. It was covered with snow. They could have been on Fortuna, but if they were, then her and Fox should have been rescued immediately.

"I'll freeze!" Fara cried.

"I could have kept you warm, but you refused!" Wolf replied. Fara stomped on Wolf's foot causing him to let go of her paws. Wolf was not amused. Fara ran across the tundra back towards her wrecked ship. Wolf started to chase her. Suddenly, Fara tripped. She fell down. Her head rammed into a rock. Fara slipped unconscious. "It's a pity we have to do this the hard way my dear."

Wolf picked up Fara and hoisted the young vixen over her shoulder. Wolf started to walk back to his ship. Wolf had made it nearly half a mile, when a laser bolt suddenly hit him in the back. Wolf fell to the ground with Fara on top of him. Everything went black....

Fara woke up in the medical bay of Great Fox. Fox was in a bed next to her. Fara had no idea how she had got there. She felt a sudden relief, thinking that it was all a dream, but she felt a chill go down her spine when she saw her feet were submerged in a tank of warm water. There was frostbite covering both of her legs. She couldn't feel them. Fara was now horrified. It wasn't a dream. It was real. Fara realized that Fox and her HAD been on their honeymoon and that she HAD slept with Wolf instead of Fox. Peppy sat beside her bed. Fara tried to sit up, but Peppy gently pushed her back down. "Easy... You've been through a lot." Peppy said.

"W-W-where's Wolf?" Fara asked in terror.

"Don't worry, he's in the brig. Falco and Bill are watching over him and Katt is on

the bridge." Peppy assured her.

"What happened?" Fara asked.

"We picked up your homing beacon yesterday. You're lucky we found you when we did. You almost died on me in the operating room this morning. There's frostbite over parts of your body. I'm sorry, but there's a strong chance that you may never walk again." Peppy said regretfully. Fox started to come around. He sat up and rubbed his head. Fox saw the cast on his leg. "I'll leave you two alone."

Peppy got up and walked out of the room. Both of the twin doors slid shut behind him. "Peppy told me everything yesterday before I fell asleep. He told me about your legs. Fara, honey, I'm sorry..." Fox said sympathetically. Fara didn't seem to care about not being able to walk. She just sat back in her bed, staring at the ceiling. Fox thought that she was in shock, but Fara was moving parts of her body, indicating that she knew what was going on. "Fara, I didn't get to hear what really happened with you and Wolf. Did he hurt you?" Fox said. Fara let out tears.

"Yes. Oh god, Fox, it was horrible! I woke up with Wolf on top of me. I thought it was you, so I moved my paws down his body and kissed him. We embraced romantically and he kissed me back warmly, but when I opened my eyes, I saw it was him. Wolf instantly pinned me to the floor and began to touch and kiss me all over my body! Fox, I was helpless! There was nothing I could do! Wolf said that he was going to turn me over to his side. He also said that I'd have my arms around him. Fox... don't let him take me!" Fara cried hysterically.

"Fara, I won't. I swear, I won't let Wolf take you! Please, Fara, calm down and go to sleep. Everything will be alright." Fox promised.

"Okay." Fara said. She wiped the tears from her eyes and lay back in her bed. "Fox..."

"Yeah Fara?" Fox asked. He turned to look at Fara.

"Fox, will I ever walk again? Will I ever stand by your side again? Will I ever make love to you on a romantic beach?" Fara asked. She had a blank expression on her face. She just stared off.

"I don't know." Fox answered sadly. Fara continued.

"Will we ever have a family together? Will you ever embrace me romantically again? Or will I just spend the rest of my life in a wheelchair being a burden to you?" she asked.

"I don't know. Fara, I just don't know, but the last thing you would be to me is a burden. Whatever happens, I won't stop loving you. Wheelchair or not..." Fox said. Fara felt comforted by Fox's promise, so she settled down and went to sleep. Fox lay in his bed. He stared out the window into space.

"Wolf, I will kill you for what you did to my wife!" Fox said vengefully. He pulled the covers over him and lay there until he could fall asleep. He had all the time in the world to help Fara through what she had been through. All he could do was wait. Just sit and wait.

Fox woke up. Fara was standing over him. He was surprised. "Fox, I can walk again! I tried to this morning. I managed to get all the way over here." Fara cried happily. She slowly moved down into a chair and just sat with him.

"I'm happy for you." Fox said. That was all he could think of. Both of them just sat in silence. Neither of them knew what Wolf and Leon were planning to do Fara in the future, but they were about to find out.

It was a month since their wedding, and it was two days since Fox and Fara had returned from their second attempt at a honeymoon. Fox was in bed that night reading as he waited for Fara to join him. "Honey, where are you?" Fox called.

"I'll be with ya in a sec," Fara said back to him. She came in the bedroom wearing her robe, and got into bed next to him. Fox kissed Fara as she moved closer to him. They soon fell asleep. It was soon the next morning on Venom. Andross's fleet was more powerful than ever. He had about 1,000 fighters consisting of Fleas, Wolfens, Wolfen II's, and all three classes of Invader type vessels. He also had over 50 cruisers, frigates, and warships. Andross walked onto the bridge of his new flagship he names 'The McCloud Killer'. "Set course for Corneria," Andross ordered.

"Yes sir," the lizard said as the fleet entered hyperspace.

Andross got up and left the bridge. He walked into the observation room where Wolf O'Donnell waited for him. "You called emperor?" he asked.

"I thought we've had this discussion before. I told you that you could do whatever you wanted with Fara AFTER I have Fox! I want to see BOTH of them in my chamber. Not just one or the other. BOTH! I don't want to hear about your little escapades like trying to marry Mrs. McCloud until I tell you it's okay! Is that clear?!" Andross yelled at the mercenary.

"Perfectly," Wolf answered, lying directly into the ape's face.

"Good, now get out of here! You have a job to do!" Andross scowled.

Fox woke up to his phone ringing. It was a message from General Pepper. "Fox, we need your help. Andross's fleet is heading towards us. I've already contacted the rest of your team. Please hurry!" General Pepper said.

"Yes sir!" Fox said as he hung up the phone. Fox got dressed and turned to Fara nudging her side gently. She opened her eyes and saw Fox in his flight suit. "Fox, what's going on?" she asked, yawning.

"Pepper called. He said Andross's fleet is moving towards us. Here, change into this," Fox said. He handed her a new Cornerian flight suit.

"Fox, when did you get this?" Fara asked, looking at the golden name plate. It read 'McCloud, Fara M.'

"I bought it before our honeymoon. It was supposed to be your birthday present, but I guess you get to see it now," Fox said.

"It's beautiful!" Fara said. She put it on, showing her great figure.

"We'd better be going," Fox suggested.

"Fox, if... when we get back, I'll give you a night you'll never forget!" Fara said as they got in their car.



Fox and Fara were both met outside the CIA building by Peppy and Katt. "Come on, we don't have much time!" Katt said. The four of them walked into the briefing room. A very disturbed General Pepper walked in.

"Attention, ladies and gentlemen, the last twenty-four hours have seen some extraordinary Venom activity. Over 100 cruisers and 100,000 fighters are heading towards us now. All of our defenses have regrouped over Corneria. You are our last hope Star Fox! Please come back in one piece! All pilots SCRAMBLE!" Pepper ordered. All the pilots ran to their ships. The pilots then took off to the skies.

"I can't believe Andross is attacking us. Why now?" Falco asked over the comm.

"I'm not sure. He's probably trying to ruin my life," Fox said.

"No, that can't be it," Fara said, "I think he's tried enough times,"

"I see something ahead. It looks like Andross's fleet," Peppy said. A familiar voice came over the comm.

"Hello dear brother! We finally meet on the battlefield," Wolf said. He swung around and fired at Fox's ship, slightly missing.

"Wolf? How'd you get out of prison?" Fox asked, looking shocked.

"While you two lovebirds were on your second attempt at a honeymoon, some of the guys sprung me. Then I came to find you!" Wolf explained. "I'm here to make sure that you and your wife never make it back alive onto Corneria!"

"You'll never win, Wolf," Fara said. The Arwings broke formation. Falco swerved away so he wouldn't collide with Katt. Katt turned around and headed towards a Zeram-class cruiser.

"Katt, what are you doing?" Falco asked. Katt increased her speed.

"I'm taking out the cruiser, hon!" Katt said back to him.

"You'll get killed!" Falco yelled.

"I'll be fine," Katt said. She aimed right for the cruiser's bridge and fired her lasers wildly. Her lasers impacted deeply as the windows on the bridge shattered. The cruiser blew apart.

"Katt? Katt! Are you there?" Falco asked, sounding worried.

"Yeah, I'm fine!" Katt said back.

"Get these guys off me!" Peppy said as two fleas came up behind him.

"Wolf is right behind me! There's nothing I can do," Fox said regretfully.

"I'm coming. Hold on!" Bill said as he came up behind both of the fleas. He fired wildly at the one on his left, causing it to spin into the other.

"Thanks Bill!" Peppy said as he went to find another target.

"Anytime. Watch yourself," Bill said as he broke off and went towards the dogfight between Wolf and Fox.

"Andross has ordered me to completely ruin your life!" Wolf said, laughing over the comm.

"Well that won't happen!" Fox said.

"Oh really?! Right now, the rest of my squadron is capturing your precious wife's ship. She'll be my wife by the end of the week,"

Fara's ship was being pursued by Pigma, Leon, and Andrew. The three ships fired mercilessly at Fara's rear. "Someone help me!" Fara screamed.

"Oh no you don't!" Andrew said. He pushed a button in his Wolfen that jammed Fara's communications.

"I'm coming! Hold ON!" Fox said as he managed to get away from Wolf and go help Fara. Fara's ship was under heavy fire. She recklessly tried to maneuver away from the fighters. Every time she would get away, the other two would sneak up behind her.

"Fox, where are you?! If I get fired on a few more times, you won't have a wife to come

home to-agh!" Fara's message ended as a laser bolt hit Fara's Arwing. The comlink on her head

overloaded, sending a short electric shock through Fara's body. The built-in comlink in her Arwing kicked in.

"Fara? FARA? Are you there?!" Fox asked nervously. There was no response. Fox checked her vital signs on his computer. They were weak.

"Fox. Help me!" Fara said coughing. There was an exhaust leak in her cockpit. Leon,

Pigma, and Andrew trailed behind her.

"Falco, Bill, ANYBODY! Come here quick! Get these fighters away from Fara!" Fox yelled over his comm.

"We're coming Fox!" Peppy said. Three Arwings came out from the depths of space, firing at the Wolfens. The three Wolfens immediately broke off their attack on Fara's battered Arwing.

"Fara, are you okay?" Fox asked, worrying.

"Fox... I'm badly hurt!" Fara managed to word out.

"Can you make it to the cruiser?" Fox asked.

"I don't know. It's hard for me to stay focused," Fara said.

"Fox, I've called a medical ship. Just get Fara to land safely and she'll be fine," Peppy said.

"Fara, listen to me carefully. Steer left and head towards the cruiser," Fox said.

"I can't! Leon, Pigma and Andrew are right behind me," Fara yelled.

"Don't worry. The cruiser's lasers will keep you clear. Trust me!" Fox said convincingly.

Fara's Arwing cut through the friendly laser fire. Pigma stayed on Fara's tail.

"Pigma! What the hell are you doing?! I told you I want her alive! If she dies Pigma, I'll kill you myself!" Wolf screamed.

Andrew broke off and retreated towards Wolf's fighter. Fara fought to stay awake as she

tried to keep her ship leveled. A stray laser from Pigma's ship hit Fara's Arwing, tearing off her left wing.

"Fox, I love you-" Fara's sentence ended just before her Arwing crashed into the flight deck, engulfing in flames. Tears swelled up in Fox's eyes as he saw Fara thrown

onto the deck floor by the explosion of her Arwing. She was lying on her back, barely alive. Fox became raging mad and turned towards the bridge of Andross's flagship.

"Fox. What are you doing?!" Peppy exclaimed.

"Fox don't do it!" Bill yelled.

"Why not! I've lost everything! Andross has finally managed to kill everyone I cared about! My mother! My father! And MY WIFE! He has tried to ruin my life since I was born! Now he will DIE!" Fox yelled vengefully. Fox turned off his comlink.

Fox hit his boosters on full. A computer voice, which he programmed to sound like Fara's, filled his cockpit. "WARNING! COLLISION IN TEN SECONDS. PULL UP," it said.

"Fox, please, EJECT!" a very scared Katt pleaded.

"WARNING, FIVE SECONDS!" the computer voice warned. Fox ejected as the last second before he hit the hyperdrive. Fox's Arwing sped right through the bridge.

"Fox. Fox, are you there?!" Falco asked as the flagship exploded. Several escape pods launched from it's hull.

"Yeah, I'm fine," Fox said.

"Fox, hold on. I'm towing you to the medical ship," Peppy said as he turned on the tractor beam.

About ten minutes later, Fox jumped out of his escape pod and ran next to Fara's burnt body. "Fara? Fara! Oh God, don't leave me. Please don't leave me! Honey, can you hear me? Please don't die," Fox said as he checked her pulse. It was very weak. Peppy walked up to Fox.

"Fox, Fara's dead," Peppy said sadly.

"I felt a pulse," Fox said.

"Even if you felt a pulse, it doesn't mean she can be saved," Katt said.

"I won't accept that!" Fox said, administering CPR.

"There's nothing you can do," Peppy said. Fox stopped what he was doing and put his paw on her body.

"There are burns on ninety percent of her body. Fox, I'm sorry. Fara is gone!" Falco said.

"No! She can't be!" Fox said as he put his paw around Fara's neck.

Fox continued his effort at mouth-to-mouth on the dying young vixen. "Please! Oh God, please don't go," Fox said as he started to cry. He heard a faint cough coming from Fara's body.

"Fox?" Fara said softly.

"I'll get a doctor!" Katt said as she to the closest turbo lift she could find.

"Fox. Fox... I'm alive?" Fara said.

"You should thank Fox. He wouldn't stop trying to revive you," Peppy pointed out. Fox helped her lean up against her Arwing and sat next to her. Fara put her head on Fox's shoulder and began to cry. Fox leaned his head on hers and put his arm around her.

"I never thought I'd see you again!" Fara said as she put her arms on Fox's chest. A sharp pain hit in her back. Katt rushed in with several doctors. Fox helped get Fara onto the stretcher.

"Will you be okay?" Fox asked sounding worried.

"I'll be fine. Get back out there and win this battle for me," Fara said as she was carried away.

"Come on guys. We have a battle to win," Falco said.

"But I don't have a ship," Fox said.

"Here, use mine!" Katt said as she tossed Fox the keys to 'The Catspaw'.

"But where will you be?" Fox asked.

"I have to keep Fara company," Katt said.

"Shouldn't I be doing that? I'm her husband," Fox said.

"Fox, she wants you to go protect her. Make sure nothing bad happens to her. Please go!"

Katt said convincingly.

"Okay, then let's go!" Fox said as Falco, Peppy, and Bill took off. Fox sat down in Katt's heavily modified Invader 2-class vessel. He managed to take off and return to the raging battle. Fox turned on the comm. switch. Several voices overlapped.

"I won't let you get away from me!" Peppy yelled at the fighter he was chasing. The flea

began to head towards one of the Venom warships, but it turned to dust as Peppy blasted it to hell. Peppy turned fifty degrees to the left, and went to help Bill.

"Get this guy off me!" Bill yelled into his comm. A Wolfen was chasing him. Bill tried to avoid him, but the Wolfen was too fast for him to escape. Peppy came right behind the fighter and fired at it. The Wolfen broke in half.

"Gotcha!" Peppy said excitedly.

"Thanks Pep!" Bill said.

"Anytime," Peppy said as he went off to find another target.

Fox sat back in Katt's sleek fighter. He kept firing on the bridge of each warship, which destroyed each of them. Wolf's voice came over the comm. "Here kitty kitty!" Wolf taunted.

"Put a sock in it!" Fox snapped back.

"Fox? How? I thought you killed yourself," Wolf said, looking confused.

"You crippled my WIFE!" Fox yelled furiously. He was really mad. Fox swung around Wolf's ship and fired at it. Wolf was sent spinning out of control. It was about to explode, but Wolf managed to eject. Leon came from the battle he was fighting, and helped tow Wolf to safety.

"What did you do? I've never seen Fox act like that before!" Leon asked.

"I crippled his wife," Wolf said. "Well, she'll be my wife soon,"

"He has a wife?" Leon asked surprisingly.

"Yeah, that young vixen Pigma sent crashing into flames an hour ago," Wolf said.

"Her?! Well how did Fox take it?" Leon asked.

"Not too well. I'll never stop trying to turn her. I want her!" Wolf

"Maybe I can turn her and make Fara love you," Leon suggested.

"Then she'll marry and I can seduce her," Wolf smiled.

Meanwhile, Katt and Fara were talking about the last couple of months. "So, how did Fox propose?" Katt asked.

"It was about a month ago. Just after I got back from my surgery. We were in bed, when Fox started to tell me how important I was to him. He said that he wouldn't let anything bad happen to me. Fox kissed me before he asked me the question. I took a minute to think about all the good times we've had together. I said yes and kissed him back. And you know the rest," Fara said smiling.

Back in orbit... Fox was sweating as he shot down another fighter. Peppy and Bill flew along side Fox as they approached a cruiser.

"This brings back memories of your dad!" Peppy said. Fox turned suddenly as he noticed an endless stream of fighters heading towards them.

"Let's take out this cruiser," Fox said as the three ships headed towards the bridge of the cruiser. They all fired at the bridge, destroying it. The cruiser began to engulf in flames. Just as the ship was destroyed, several escape pods managed to get clear of the explosion.

Wolf and Leon were back on their own ship, Wolf had named it the 'Fox Hunter'. It was the size as Great Fox, but it had slightly more weaponry and it was painted black. Wolf and Leon were walking towards the docking bay.

"Why didn't you tell me that Fox was married?" Leon questioned.

"I didn't know until after I shot them down. I was testing the new prototype fighter. You know, the one that could fire while cloaked," Wolf explained.

"Yeah, I know. I'm the one who designed it. Remember?" Leon said.

"Well, I landed about half a mile away from their crash site. When I arrived, I saw both of them kissing. Fox had a splint on his leg and Fara didn't seem to be hurt. Anyway, before I tried to end their pitiful lives, I turned to Fara and asked her to join me on StarWolf. I fired my blaster, but missed. A second later, Fox took out his gun from behind him and shot me. I woke up a little later. I walked over to Fox and kicked him in the head. Then, I dragged Fara across the floor and lay her on top of me. We fell asleep on top of each other. When I woke up, Fara was partly conscious. She thought I was Fox so she moved her paws down my back. Fara rubbed up against my body and started to kiss me. She woke up, so I restrained her. We made it halfway to my ship then everything went black. The strange thing is that I love her. I'll do anything to have her marry me," Wolf said.

"Are you nuts?! Hell would freeze over before she'd even think about joining StarWolf. And besides, she's married now! It's too late now. Pigma shot her down. She's dead! Fara McCloud died a horrible death when she tried to land on that medical ship," Leon said.

"She dies hard. I told them to capture her unharmed. That bastard! I said to CAPTURE Fara, not kill her. When I see that fat tub of lard, I'll kill him! That fat stupid bastard!" Wolf shouted.

"You seem to be so sure of yourself. Nobody could've survived that crash!" Leon urged.

"There's one more thing I want to ask you," Leon said.

"What is that?" Wolf asked.

"You're trying to take the only thing he has left. His wife," Leon accused.

"She will be turned, or she will be destroyed," Wolf said coldly. Wolf got into his spare fighter and turned on the engines. Leon got into his Wolfen and did the same.

By the time Wolf and Leon returned to the battle, most of the Venom fleet had either retreated or was destroyed. "Where's that ship I sent Mrs. McCloud to die on?" Pigma asked.

"It's about 10,000 meters off your starboard. Are you sure you know what you're doing Pigma?" Andrew asked.

"Yeah, come on. We'll finish Fara off, then we'll kill her husband. By the end of today, the Lylat system will be rid of the McCloud name!" Pigma ordered. Both of the ships turned towards the medical ship.

"Fox, Pigma's ship is heading towards the medical ship!" Falco said.

"What the condition of the medical ship?" Peppy asked.

"Its shields are down to ten percent," Bill responded.

"He won't give up!" Fox muttered as he made a U-turn and went to defend Fara's ship. Bill, Falco, and Peppy followed him.

Pigma and Andrew managed to pack off a few shots before they had to break away. The room that Katt and Fara were in began to shake violently. A fire broke out on the deck they were on. "Attention! All hands, prepare to evacuate!" the captain said over the comm.

Katt helped Fara try to get up. "Can you walk?" Katt asked Fara.

"I think so," Fara said as she struggled to get up, but she was too weak.

"Here, let me help you," Katt said as she helped Fara get onto her feet. Katt managed to get both of them to the turbo lift. Katt pushed the button marked 'ESCAPE HATCHES'. The turbo lift came to a halt and the doors slid open. The entire deck was full of escape pods. After Fara was secured, Katt sealed the door. It was a tight fit, because the escape pod that they were in was only designed to fit one person; but Katt

and Fara managed. Katt hit the button that flashed "jettison" and the escape pod lifted off.

"Fox get away! It's going to blow!" Peppy yelled. Fox quickly broke off as the medical ship, that Katt and Fara were on, exploded.

"Fara!" Fox yelled.

"Relax, flyboy! Fara is with me in this escape pod," Katt said.

"Thank God you're alright!" Fox said, relieved.

"Katt, can you make it to Great Fox?" Falco asked.

"I'm not sure," Katt replied.

"Peppy. Falco. Go protect Katt's escape pod until she's safely onboard Great Fox,"

Fox

ordered.

"Roger Fox!" Peppy said.

"Sure thing Fox!" Falco said. Falco and Peppy flew along side the escape pod and headed

towards Great Fox.

"Looks like it's just us Fox!" Bill said.

"Let's finish off the rest of these cruisers," Fox suggested.

Andross was infuriated as he saw that most of his fleet had either retreated or was destroyed. He was sitting in his escape pod heading towards Venom. Andross was thinking about the ways that he tried to capture the young McCloud.

He had placed a bomb in Vixy's car. It was meant for James, but Vixy triggered it as she got in. He had captured, tortured, then eventually killed Fox's father; which he had stumbled upon when James accidentally opened the air vent leading to Andross's chamber. Andross took his blaster out and instantly killed James.

Andross remembered his last attempt to capture Fox. He had captured Fara, who at the time was just Fox's girlfriend. Shortly after Andross captured her, he staged Fara's fake death, which was displayed in the war room of the CIA building. It would have worked, but the Cornerian Army had found out that the execution was fake. Fox had later rescued Fara, where she was rushed to the emergency room. Andross later sent an assassin to kill Fara while she was in the hospital, but that failed. Andross finally had Fox where he wanted him, but that was cut short when he was forced to abandon ship.

Andross thought that the only way to capture Fox was to turn or kill of his family. Once that happened, Fox would become careless, making him easy to capture. Andross would not give up until his plan worked. The only family Fox had left was his wife. Andross would stop at nothing until the young vixen was killed, or until she was in Wolf's arms, kissing.

Fox looked at his radar. Venom's fleet began to break away.

"We've won!" Bill said excitedly.

"For now. But we'll be back McCloud, and you won't know what hit you!" Wolf said laughing.

"We'll see about that, StarWolf!" Fox said back as he flew towards Great Fox. Bill followed him into the docking bay. Fox got out of Katt's Invader 2 and went to the

medical bay. Falco, Peppy, and Katt were around Fara's medical bed. Fara had severe burns on her entire body. Fara was sleeping as Fox rushed in.

"How is she?" Fox asked.

"Fara will be fine. She just needs her rest," Peppy said.

"Can I talk to her?" Fox asked.

"Yes, but please, keep it brief," Peppy said.

"Here," Fox said as he tossed the keys to the 'Catspaw' back to Katt.

"Come on, let's leave them alone," Katt suggested. Peppy, Falco, and Katt left the sickbay

leaving Fox and Fara alone.

"Fara. Fara?" Fox whispered to her.

"Fox... why are they doing this to us?" Fara asked.

"Andross is out to ruin my life by killing all my family. And you're next on his list. He won't stop until you're dead or in Wolf's seducing arms. I'm afraid I won't always be around to save your life every time Andross tries to kill you," Fox said, kissing her.

"I love you," Fara whispered to him.

"Don't try to move. You're suffered severe burns all over your body," Fox said.

"Is it true what Peppy said when he told me you wouldn't stop trying to revive me?" Fara asked.

"Yes, I didn't want to lose you. I sat beside you performing CPR for about an hour," Fox admitted.

"Fox, I feel tired," Fara said. The young vixen's eyes began to close.

"Goodnight honey," Fox said kissing her. Fox left, leaving Fara asleep. Fox walked up to the bridge of Great Fox. Katt was standing at the window, looking at the last of Andross's ships retreat. Fox walked up to her. "Katt," Fox said. Katt turned around looking startled.

"Oh Fox, it's just you. You scared me," Katt said.

"Oh sorry," Fox apologized, "I just wanted to thank you," Katt looked up at him.

"Thank me? For what?" Katt asked, looking puzzled. Fox cleared his throat and continued.

"Well Katt, if you weren't onboard that medical ship when you were, I would have lost my wife today. I just wanted to thank you for saving her life," Fox said. Katt blushed.

"Fox, I would have done the same for anybody. Besides, Fara is lucky to have a husband like you," Katt said, trying to cheer him up.

"But if she wasn't married to me, Andross wouldn't be after her. I'm the reason that Fara is in that medical bay struggling for her life. Andross won't stop until he's killed Fara and I'm in his torture chamber. If she dies, then it's my fault," Fox said.

"Don't talk like that. Fara loves you. She doesn't care that being married to you is the reason Andross is out to get her. And if Andross ever did kill her, she'd NEVER blame



you. No matter how many times Andross tries to spit you up, or kill you, Fara would never leave you," Katt said truthfully.

"Are you sure, Katt?" Fox asked. A renewed feeling of strength entered Fox's body.

"Of course! She told me herself when we were in the escape pod," Katt said.

Peppy walked up to them.

"Fox, about Fara," Peppy said.

"What's wrong? Is she okay?" Fox asked, beginning to panic.

"Don't worry, Fara is fine," Peppy said.

"Then what is it?" Katt asked.

"As you know, she's suffered severe burns all over her body. She'll need about a month to

fully recover," Peppy explained.

"What if Andross tries to kill her or capture her again before Fara fully recovers?"

Fox  
asked.

"She may not survive another torture session at the conditions she's in now. It's not over, Fara's burns may get worse," Peppy said. Fox turned around and began to pace. An idea finally came to him.

"It's me. I'm the one he wants. Andross won't stop trying to kill her until he has me," Fox said. Katt turned to him.

"What are you getting at?" Katt asked, putting her paw on Fox's shoulder.

"The only way he'll stop trying to kill Fara is when he has me. And personally, I'd rather sacrifice myself than to have my wife spend one more second in Andross's torture chamber," Fox said.

"But what am I going to tell Fara? That her husband turned himself over to Andross so that his wife could live?!" Peppy asked.

"Yes," Fox replied.

"But we'll never see you again! And more importantly, Fara will be heartbroken!" Katt said.

"I will survive. I just need to be rescued," Fox said.

"We don't even know what will happen to you. Andross may decide to put pain implants in you—or something worse. Fox, if you're going to do this, at least let me come with you," Katt pleaded.

"Are you crazy? he'll kill you! Besides, I can't ask you to do this. You have your whole life ahead of you. I have to go," Fox responded.

"But you'll need someone to keep you alive. Please, let me go with you," Katt begged. Fox began to think about it.

"Alright. You can come. Are you sure you want to do this? You saw what he did to Fara. He could do the same to you," Fox said.

"I don't care. I have an old score to settle," Katt replied.

"Fine, then we leave tomorrow," Fox said.

It was ten minutes after the meeting on the bridge. Fox was walking towards the medical bay. He sat beside Fara's bed.

"Honey, I don't know if you can hear me, but listen anyway. I have to leave. I swear to you that I will kill Wolf. He doesn't deserve to live after what he did to you. I promise I will be back. I love you!" Fox said giving her a long passionate kiss goodbye. He walked towards his bunk.

\* \* \* \*

It was soon the next day. Fox and Katt met in the docking bay of Great Fox. Fox and Katt got into the shuttle and lifted off. Their ship slowly headed towards Venom. Katt and Fox were in the cockpit talking.

"Fox, if we don't make it back alive, I just wanted you to know something I've been keeping a secret from you since we first met," Katt said shamefully.

"Well, what is it?" Fox curiously asked.

"I shouldn't, you might laugh!" Katt said sadly.

"No, go ahead," Fox said.

"Okay," Katt sighed, "When I met you, after Falco and I started our relationship, I've always had a crush on you,"

"You have? Why that's nothing to be ashamed of!" Fox said, letting out a short laugh.

"You're right, anyway, can I ask you something?" Katt asked nervously.

"Sure, but why are you so tense?" Fox wondered. Katt sat back in her chair. Fox put his paw on Katt's shoulder. Her nerves loosened up.

"Well, it has something to do with what happened to you on your disastrous first honeymoon," Katt explained.

"Ask me anything," Fox said as he looked at a control console.

"Well, what did Wolf do to Fara?" she asked. Fox was suddenly silent. Katt could tell that her question had made him uncomfortable.

"Fox, if this upsets you, you don't have to tell me," The feeling finally returned to Fox's body.

"No Katt, you have a right to know, but..."

"But?" she asked. Katt was very concerned.

"Well Katt," Fox suddenly began to cry, "Wolf tried to seduce Fara... he forced her to sleep with him. Fara was barely conscious, so she thought it was me,"

"Oh my god!" Katt gasped. Katt moved closer to Fox so that she could comfort him. Fox buried his muzzle in his paws. Katt put her paw around him.

"No, fortunately Fara is okay physically, but she's still really suffering emotionally," Fox answered.

"It's fortunate that she survived. Isn't it?"

"Yes, it is," Fox said. Their ship finally reached Venom. A warship began to hail them. Fox pushed the 'transmit' button on the console.

"This is Fox McCloud of the Cornerian Army. I wish to surrender!"

"Stand down and prepare to be boarded!" the voice blurted out.

"I will comply," Fox said hesitantly. Katt never imagined that she would find Fox say that.

"Is that it?" Katt asked.

"I don't know," Fox replied as the ship was boarded. Sleeping gas was used, causing Katt and Fox to pass out.

Fara was in the medical bed on Great Fox. She woke up, as she found Bill in the cot next to her. "Bill! What happened?" Fara asked shocked.

"A power conduit in my cockpit overloaded when I was making repairs," Bill said.

"Are you going to be okay?!" Fara asked the young fighter pilot.

"Yeah, I'll be fine," Bill responded.

"Well, it looks like I have a roommate," Fara mused. The young vixen's condition improved each day. She was able to move some parts of her body without feeling a burning pain.

"How are you doing?" he asked. Bill shifted himself into another position on the bed carefully so the burns on his face and chest wouldn't sting when he tried to move.

"Peppy said I'll be in here for at least three more weeks. It still hurts when I try to move my head and legs," Fara explained.

"So don't move them," Bill said sweetly. She smiled at the young hound.

"Okay, I won't," Fara said kindly, "I'm glad I have someone to talk to,"

"Yeah, me too," Bill answered. They both sat back and relaxed. Fara started a conversation. It was something that ate up at Fara since her and Fox had first started their relationship so many years ago.

"Bill, I have something to confess," Fara said.

"Sure, what is it?" Bill asked.

"It's something that I've been doing to Fox since we first met. Something that I have felt guilty about for not telling him. I wanted to, but when I tried, we always seemed to drift apart," Fara said. She could never forgive herself.

"Well?" Bill asked. Fara cleared her throat.

"Ever since we met, I've treated him like a child. I mean, I ALWAYS had feelings for him, and now that he's my husband, I still do. It's just that... out of all the bad times we've had together, no matter what I've done wrong, even when I cheated on him, Fox has always been there for me. Bill, If I die I want you to apologize to Fox for ignoring

him, for all the bad things I've done to him, and for treating him like a child all these years," Fara said.

"Hey! What kind of talk is that? I promise that you'll live to tell that to Fox himself. Now try to get some sleep. Okay?" Bill said.

"Thanks, Bill, you're a great friend! I'll see you in the morning. Goodnight," Fara said

cheerfully. She slowly turned on her side, so she wouldn't rush and risk further injury of her badly burned body, and went to sleep. Fara started dreaming.

"Okay, goodnight," Bill said as he lay back.

Fara sat in the crash site of the ship during their first honeymoon. Fox was next to her. She recognized that they were near the time where Wolf was due to appear. "Fara, I love you," Fox said as he continued to kiss her.

"I felt the same way when I first met you ten years ago," Fara said. As she kissed Fox, she looked for Wolf's body at the doorway. Wolf wasn't there. Fara closed her eyes and continued to kiss him. Fox stopped kissing Fara. "Fox, what's wrong?!" she asked. Fara opened her eyes.

"Hello honey!" Wolf greeted. Wolf had taken the place of Fox's body. Fara was taken by surprise.

"Get away from me!" Fara screamed. She pushed herself away from Wolf and ran towards the exit of the ship. At the arc of the exit, she bumped into a mysterious figure. The stranger pushed Fara back inside. They both returned into the light.

"Ah, right on schedule!" Wolf said charmingly. Fara looked up to the stranger who was holding her.

"Fox," Fara said excitedly. She swung her arms around him and began to cry. "Fox, protect me!"

"You will die!" Fox growled. He held Fara's arm as tight as he could. Fara reacted immediately.

"Fox, what are you talking about?! Fox, you're hurting me! Fox let go! Fox PLEASE!" Fara begged. Wolf came over to Fara and restrained her.

"Fox, do you recognize this vixen?" Wolf questioned.

"Yes," Fox answered.

"Who is she?" Wolf asked.

"She is-was a friend. She is now a traitor!" Fox replied.

"Was? A FRIEND??!! Don't you remember our wedding? I'm your WIFE! God dammit

Fox, what has gotten into you?" Fara cried.

"You don't remember, do you?" Fox asked the very frustrated vixen. Fara began to shiver uncontrollably.

"Remember WHAT?" Fara yelled.

"You and your petty love games! Every time we had a relationship, you would drive it apart. You had no feelings at all when you broke up with me. You did that just

because you felt you looked like my mother! Then, during the tangle with Illiria, you had my picture under your pillow. You didn't even have the nerve to tell me how you truly felt. And after that crisis, you never even suggested any of your feelings towards me! You gave me all the right hints, and you knew it too! Then, when you met my cousin, you went right into his arms! You didn't even stop and think about how I was affected! You chose to sleep with Grey, but at least you had enough common sense when you didn't let him seduce you! After you met Grey, you never cared about the damage you did! You emotionally scarred me! Now I realize that it was a mistake to save you from that anomaly. I should have let you die a horrible death! When you were in the hospital, after Andross captured you, I should have pulled the plug on your life support when I had the chance!" Fox accused.

"You don't mean that!" Fara cried.

"Yes, I did then, and I do now!" Fox snapped back.

"What are you Fox?!" Fara asked frightened. Fox pulled a knife from his boot.

"I'm doing what must be done!" Fox said. Wolf held Fara tighter than ever. She desperately struggled to get away. Fox came over to Fara with his knife drawn.

"Fox, listen to me, I love you- no please DON'T- Aghh!" she screamed out just before Fox stabbed her in the heart.

"I'm very proud of you, brother!" Wolf said.

"No, Fox, please don't, NOOOOOO!" Fara cried out. Peppy, Falco, and General Pepper had to restrain her. The nightmares that Fara experienced were too much for her. She was hysterical.

"Fara! FARA! Wake UP!" Peppy shouted. Fara woke up. She began to cry.

"Make it stop! Please, make the dreams STOP!!!" Fara cried.

"Don't worry. We're trying to develop something to help you. The scientists on Corneria are working on some sort of chip. Like the one you used during the crisis of Illiria. It's still on the drawing board, but you must hold on," General Pepper assured her.

"Please hurry! I don't know how much more I can take!" Fara cried out.

"Okay, we'll be looking out at the comm. Bill, if Fara starts having the nightmares again, inform us immediately," Pepper said.

"Yes sir," Bill said. Bill and Fara were left alone again.

"Fara, hang on. They'll find something any day now. I'm sure!" Bill said.

"Fox... Fox... please... help... me!" Fara cried out with her last ounce of strength. She passed out. Her vital signs started to drop rapidly. The burns on Fara's body got worse from all the moving she did when Peppy, Falco, and General Pepper had to retrain her after the terrible nightmare she had. Bill turned on the comm.

"Bridge, this is Bill! Fara vital signs have dropped to critical!" Bill shouted into the comm. next to his bed.

"We're on our way!" Falco said. The three of them rushed to the medical bay.

"Hang on Fara!" Bill said. Peppy, Falco, and General Pepper arrived.

"What happened?!" Peppy asked as he picked up a medical scanner and ran it over her body. Bill told Peppy what happened.

"Shortly after you left, Fara let out a cry for to help her. It overwhelmed Fara then her vital signs began to drop," Bill explained.

"Fara is in a coma. We almost lost her. She must be saved soon, because if her burns don't kill her, the dreams will. They'll shatter her mind to pieces," Peppy said.

"Well, what can we do until there's a breakthrough at the labs-or something?"

General

Pepper asked.

"Well, sir, all we can do now- is pray," Peppy sadly answered.

"Okay, then may God help you Fara. Especially for Fox's sake," Pepper said. They all sat

next to Fara and Bill, and just sat there.

Katt woke up alone. "Fox?" Katt asked nervously. Two lizards dragged Fox into her cell.

"Katt!" Fox moaned. Katt rushed over to him. Both of the guards left them.

"Fox, can you hear me?" Katt asked as she tapped Fox on his muzzle. She looked into Fox's eyes.

"Please... help me,"

"Fox, I can't find any physical injuries," Katt told him.

"Katt, I have some bad news," Fox said grimly. Katt helped him sit up.

"What?" Katt asked him.

"I overheard a discussion between Leon, Wolf, and Andross. They're planning on capturing Fara again!" Fox said alarmed.

"Hasn't he done it enough? Why does he want her now?" Katt asked.

"Leon's going to try to turn her to their side. Similar to what Illiria did to me a little over a year ago. Remember that?" Fox asked her.

"Yeah, Fara was devastated. When we were in our bunks, every night, she would hold a picture of you over your bunk and just start to cry," Katt said as she began to shiver.

"Katt, what's wrong?" Fox asked. Fox began to feel better.

"I'm freezing. It's probably just me though," Katt admitted.

"No, you're right, it is getting cold. Come closer, I'll keep you warm. Just don't get the wrong idea or anything," Fox said. He let out a short laugh.

"Of course, but I mean you're married," Katt said back.

"Katt, our actions are that of survival. Whatever we do, we're doing that because we need to depend on each other to live. So let's just stay focused on keeping each other alive, okay?" Fox said.

"Okay," Katt answered. She moved up to him. Fox rubbed his paws back and forth across

Katt's body. Katt continued to shiver. Fox took off his heavy sweat shirt and his under shirt.

"Fox, what are you doing?" Katt exclaimed. Fox handed her his shirts.

"Here, put these on. If these won't keep you warm, then I don't know what will!" Fox said.

"But you'll freeze!" Katt protested.

"Katt, please, put on the shirts. I'll manage. I'm not going to have my wife's best friend die when I could have done something to save her. Please,"

"Okay Fox," Katt said reluctantly. She took Fox's undershirt and squeezed into it.

Fox

handed her his sweatshirt, as she put the thickly layered piece of clothing on.

"There. Is that better?" Fox asked. Katt took her paws and rubbed them across her legs.

"I can't feel my legs!" Katt said, frightened.

"Hold on," Fox said. He put his paws at his belt and began to unbuckle it.

"Now wait just a damn minute!" Katt interrupted. Fox was left in his boxers.

"Katt, don't object. I have a thicker coat of fur than you do. I don't want you to die. Fara

would be crushed if she lost both of us. Please, just put them on!" Fox insisted. Katt thought about it for a minute. She didn't want to freeze to death, but she didn't want to leave Fox shivering in his boxer shorts.

"Okay," Katt said hesitantly. She knew that she couldn't change his mind.

"Well, well, how touching!" Andross said to himself as he watched the performance over the hidden security camera in the cell.

"Wolf, Leon, get in here," They both came into his chamber.

"Yes Emperor?" Wolf reported.

"Leon, I'm putting you in charge," Andross ordered.

"For what?" Leon asked surprisingly.

"The torture of the female," Andross said, pointing at the screen. "Wolf and myself will torture Fox,"

"Yes Emperor Andross.," Leon said.

"Wolf, go get the young McCloud!" Andross ordered. Wolf rushed out to get Fox.

"Leon, stay,"

"Wolf told me that you could possible turn Fox's wife over to our side. Is that true?" Andross asked.

"Yes, but it will be a very long and hard process. I'll need to emotionally scar her first, or something that makes her feel so guilty, that she'll have a nervous breakdown. Then I can work with whatever memories she has left, and start turning them against her until she obeys us," Leon explained.

"Very good. I'll start to plan something after I let McCloud and his friend go in a few days," Andross said.

"LET HIM GO?? YOU are going to let FOX MCCLOUD go?" Leon asked hysterically.

Leon couldn't believe what he was hearing.

"Yes, I want his life to be completely ruined. I could easily kill the young vixen when we capture her, but that would serve no purpose at all. Instead, after we turn Fara to our side, it would be more fun having Fox watch his own wife kill him. Wouldn't it?" Andross explained.

"Yes, I suppose so," Leon answered. At the same time, Wolf walked into Fox and Katt's cell. Katt was keeping warm and Fox was shivering.

"Well hello brother!" Wolf said cheerfully. "It's time for us to go," Wolf had a snow coat on.

"YOU! I'm going to KILL YOU for what you did to my wife!" Fox yelled. He lunged at Wolf and started to punch him wildly. Wolf tried to fight back, but he had really pissed Fox off. The last thing Wolf could do to make him enraged was to get to Fox's wife. Two guards rushed to pull Fox aside. Wolf stood up and walked towards the guards that were restraining Fox.

"Your wife is a beautiful young vixen," Wolf said.

"I know. That's why I married her," Fox snapped back.

"Well, I learned that after I finished kissing her. Soon, your wife will be turned to our side. Not now, not in a month, but soon," Wolf said.

"Why you!" Fox said as he tried to free himself so he could kill Wolf, but both the lizards managed to hold Fox back.

"Take MCCLOUD to Andross, but get him clothed first. We wouldn't want our guest showing up in his underwear, now would we" Wolf ordered. Fox was dragged out of the cell. Wolf walked towards Katt, who was dressed in her own and Fox's clothes. Katt became uneasy.

"If you even try to do what you did to Fara on me, I'll scratch out your other eye!" Katt threatened.

"I wouldn't think of it, my dear. Tell me, why are you wearing Fox's clothes?" Wolf asked.

"Because Fox said that he'd rather sacrifice himself, then let me freeze," Katt explained.

"So that's why you're wearing Fox's clothes and he's freezing in his underwear?" Wolf questioned her.

"Yes, he gave me his clothes so I wouldn't freeze," Katt answered. She became very nervous.

"Fox cares for you, doesn't he?" Wolf asked.

"Y-y-yes," Katt answered. She was very scared of what Wolf might do to her.

"I'd better get going, but don't worry, you're next!" Wolf said as he left. Katt was left alone.



"Fara, I hope you're okay!" Katt said to herself. Little did Katt know, that Fara was fighting for her life in the medical bay of the Great Fox.

Onboard Great Fox, Bill's bandages were being removed.

"There. Is that okay Bill?" Peppy asked as he helped Bill get up.

"Yeah, it's just fine," Bill replied. "Anything from the labs on Corneria?"

"Yes, they think they're close on developing a device to cure Fara's nightmares!"

Peppy said excitedly.

"How close?" Bill wondered.

"A few days, at most," Peppy said back.

"Will Fara survive a few more days?" Bill asked.

"Not if she's dreaming. I think she can survive only two more nightmares, maybe three,"

Peppy said regretfully.

"If Fara gets hysterical again, what will her burns do?" Bill asked. He sat down beside Fara's bed, and stroked his paw gently across her head.

"Well, if her burns aren't treated and fully repaired before that happens, the shock will

overwhelm several areas of her body. Then..." Peppy stopped and became very uneasy.

"Then what?" Bill questioned.

"Then Fara will seize up and die a slow painful death, I'm sorry. The only way we can save her, is if we can get the device and attach it to the base of Fara's skull before she goes ballistic again," Peppy said regretfully. Bill stood up and covered Fara's body with a blanket.

"I'm going to stay here and keep Fara company. Let me know as soon as the device arrives from the Cornerian Labs," Bill said.

"Okay!" Peppy said. He walked towards the lounge. General Pepper was sitting at a table

looking at a file folder. Several snapshots of Fara were lay out across the table.

"Busy night, huh?" the hound asked. He looked up from the pictures he was studying.

"Yes, a very busy night. What are you looking at?" Peppy asked, he sat down beside the General.

"I'm just looking at Fara's records. It's been a while, hasn't it?" Pepper asked.

"Since when, sir?" Peppy asked, puzzled.

"Since Fox and Fara first met. You know, I promised Fara's parents that I'd look after her before they were killed. It's funny, really," Pepper said.

"General, I don't see how the fact that Fara's parents are dead is funny," Peppy said. He was shocked over what he was hearing.

"No, no... you misunderstood. I meant it's funny that I'm looking after both of them. Both of their parents... dead. It's hard to believe that Fara doesn't have any immediate family left behind anymore," Pepper said.

"I'm confused. How did Fara's parents die?" Peppy asked. The General sighed.

"It was during Fox and Fara's second attempt at a honeymoon. Her parents were in a transport when it was ambushed by StarWolf. Fara found out when they returned from their trip. She was crushed. Fara was more disturbed than Fox was when he lost his parents. She couldn't bear the thought of living anymore. Fara tried to kill herself by jumping off the balcony of her house, but Fox managed to stop her in time. He convinced Fara not to take her own life. They both have suffered much emotional trauma over the years. I can't figure out how they manage to go on," Pepper explained.

"They say that they have each other, and that it's all they'll ever need," Peppy said.

"Look at this," Pepper said. He handed Peppy a photo of a very young fennec climbing a rock. Peppy examined the photograph closer.

"Who is she?" Peppy asked. The General put down a copy of Fara's background and history, then turned towards Peppy.

"She is your friend and teammate," Pepper replied.

"This is Fara?!" Peppy exclaimed. He couldn't recognize her under all the safety gear.

"Yes, it is. Fara is fifteen years old. This was taken a year before she met Fox and the others,"

"Fara never said that she enjoyed rock climbing!" Peppy said.

"Of course not. Fara quit after she broke both her arms, her left leg, and her neck. She didn't want anyone to know," Pepper said.

"But you know," Peppy said.

"Of course, I was there," Pepper said.

"You, sir?" Peppy asked.

"Yes, I'm a very good friend of her family. Or at least I used to be," Pepper said.

"Well, I'd better be getting some sleep. Goodnight sir," Peppy said. He went towards his bunk and went to sleep.

Fara was still lying in her medical bed. She was having another nightmare. This was different from her last one. They were on the resort planet during their honeymoon. Fara was standing on the balcony of their hotel room. Fox was beside her. "Beautiful isn't it?" Fara asked.

They stared at the sunset.

"Yes, but not as beautiful as you," Fox complimented. He put his arms around her body.

Fara kissed Fox. A shadow emerged from their room carrying a knife. Fox looked up.

"Fara, look out!" Fox screamed. He pushed himself in front of her and battled his assassin.

"Fox, be careful!" Fara said, worrying that he would get killed. The stranger pulled out a knife and stabbed Fox in the back.

"Aghh!" Fox yelled in agony. Fara was very annoyed and heartbroken. Fara cursed to herself and lunged at Fox's killer. The assassin grabbed Fara and stabbed her in the shoulder. She stumbled and managed to crawl towards Fox's dying body.

"Fox, no, please don't leave me!" Fara cried. Her killer picked up Fara's dying body.

"Goodbye, my sweet!" Wolf said. He threw Fara's dying body over the balcony.

"Noooooo!" Fara screamed as she fell to her death. Bill sat beside Fara's bed. Fara began to shake again. He tapped the comm. unit that was next to her bed.

"Bill to anybody, it's happening again!" he screamed. Peppy and Falco rushed in. Peppy was holding a metal chip, he handed it to Bill.

"What is it?" Bill asked.

"Fara's cure. We'll hold her down while you place it on her forehead," Peppy instructed.

Peppy and Falco struggled to keep Fara restrained. Bill placed the chip on her forehead. Fara

stopped moving and went silent.

"Will she live?" Falco asked.

"Yes, she'll live, but the burns on her body are close to life threatening. I'll have to keep her in bed until her burns fully heal," Peppy said, "I only hope Fox and Katt get back alive,"

Back on Venom, Fox was dragged into Andross's chamber. He was in a P.O.W. (Prisoner Of War) uniform. "Where is HE?!" Fox yelled infuriated.

"I'm right here, young McCloud," Andross said.

"No! Wolf, where is WOLF?!" Fox asked angrily.

"Wolf will be along shortly," Andross said.

"I'm going to KILL Wolf!" Fox yelled.

"Leon, you can go torture the female now," Andross ordered.

"Yes Emperor," Leon said.

"No! Katt hasn't done anything! Leave her alone!" Fox pleaded. Leon went to torture Katt. Wolf walked into the room. Fox was in paw cuffs.

"I'm going to KILL you!" Fox yelled. He rammed directly at Wolf.

"Get off me!" Wolf yelled.

"No! Not until you're dead! I'm going to make sure that you pay for what you did to my

wife!" Fox yelled vengefully. Fox tried to strangle Wolf with the chains of his paw cuffs. Wolf

punched Fox in the face, and sent him sprawling on the floor. Fox lay unconscious.

At the same time, Leon walked into Katt's freezing cell. "Hello, kitty cat!" Leon greeted.

"Get away from me!" Katt shrieked.

"Not yet, I'm here to torture you. Get up!" Leon ordered.

"No!" Katt yelled. She was VERY scared. Leon became angry.

"I said get up!" Leon yelled. Katt lay still. Leon moved closer to Katt. Without warning, Leon smacked her across the face. Katt jumped up at Leon and began to claw at him, but Leon threw her down. Katt tried to get up, but Leon hit her in the head. She fell down on the cold hard floor. There were cuts all over Katt's neck. Leon picked her up, and walked towards his torture chamber. Katt woke up in a bright room. She tried to move, but found her paws were restrained. The temperature in the chamber was the same as her cell. Katt found that she was lying on a cold metal table. There were several instruments above her face. One of them looked like a laser drill. The beam's emitter was aimed right between Katt's eyes, but it was several feet away from her. Katt heard a door open.

Leon entered, wearing a snow coat. He picked up a remote and pushed a button. The table that Katt was restrained on began to turn vertically. Katt tried to get loose, but she failed.

"Don't bother, it's titanium alloy. I doubt that you can get free," Leon cracked. He picked up an electric shocking device, which looked like a tazor, and prodded it at her skull. Katt let out a loud scream of agony.

"Aghh!" Katt screamed as several trillion volts of direct current rushed through her body.

Leon pressed the button again. Katt stopped screaming.

"I think that's enough of the shocker for today. What would you like next? The electric whip or a physical beating?" the iguana asked pleasantly.

"Go to hell!" Katt answered back.

"Oh come now Ms. Monroe. You only have two days left," Leon said.

"Until what? My execution?" Katt asked frightened.

"No my dear, until you and your friend are let go," Leon answered regretfully. He'd hate to lose a good victim.

"You're letting us GO?!" Katt said surprisingly.

"Yes. It's all part of Andross's master plan. A few years ago, we were successful in capturing and turning Fox McCloud. Perhaps you remember that nasty little skirmish with Illiria. Do you?" Leon asked.

"I wasn't there when it happened, but I read all the reports," Katt responded.

"Well, we're planning to capture Fara again," Leon said.

"Again?! Haven't you done enough to her? In the last three months, you captured and tortured her. Then, after she married Fox, Wolf showed up on their honeymoon and tried to abduct her. Fara was exposed to severe frostbite, it was a miracle that she walked again. And after Wolf shot Fara down, she has severe burns on every inch of her body. Thanks to Wolf, Fara is having nightmares that are tearing her brain apart. Why won't you leave her alone?" Katt said.

"That's not my decision. Besides, all I know is that Andross has given me whatever I need to make Fara MCCLLOUD turn to our side. See that laser above your head?" Leon asked.

"Are you going to use it on m-m-me???" Katt asked frightened.

"Oh no. It's not for you. It's for Mrs. MCCLLOUD," Leon answered.

"So that's your idea of turning somebody? By drilling holes in their heads?" Katt asked quizzically.

"No, it's not that kind of drill. I'm saving it for her!" Leon answered as he picked up the whip. Leon turned the dial on the handle. Katt suddenly changed the expression on her face. Leon started to strike the whip hard across Katt's upper body. She screamed out so Fox could hear her.

"FOXXXX!" Katt screamed. Leon became pleased. He loved hearing the helpless screams from his victims.

"Keep it up, kitty! Your screams are like music to my ears," Leon ordered. Katt continued to scream for help.

"Fox help me!" Katt yelled. Even she knew that Fox couldn't hear her. Leon smacked Katt in the face to hear her scream even more. Katt became very angry. She struggled to free herself, but Leon kept striking at her mercilessly. There was a knock at his chamber's door.

"Help me!" Katt screamed at the top of her lungs. Leon walked away from Katt and opened the door. Wolf was standing there.

"What is it. This better be good!" Leon murmured to himself.

"Andross said your time is up for now. You can continue tomorrow before we let them go," Wolf ordered.

"Do I have to?" Leon asked hesitantly.

"Yes, but I promise that when we capture Mrs. MCCLLOUD, we'll have all the time we need," Wolf said.

"You're working with me?" Leon asked.

"Yes," Wolf answered flatly.

"Why?" Leon asked.

"Because when this is all over, that young vixen and her body will be MINE! One way or another. Is that understood?" Wolf asked.

"Yes sir," Leon answered.

"Do you need help taking Ms. Monroe back to her cell?" Wolf offered.

"Yes, but look out, she is very resistant," Leon warned.

"Okay, where's the manual release button?" Wolf asked. He searched for a button on one of the control panels and withdrew his blaster.

"It's the red button on your left," Leon pointed to a large red button next to Wolf. He pushed it. The restraints that were holding Katt released. Katt made a dash for the door. Wolf immediately reacted by shooting her in the back of the neck. Katt instantly

fell. Wolf picked Katt up, and carried her over his shoulder. Wolf carried Katt down the endless corridors. He opened the cell door and threw Katt in. Fox was lying against the wall. Fox rushed to Katt's body.

"Katt? KATT? Can you hear me?" Fox asked.

"Fox? Fox, help me!" Katt begged.

"Where does it hurt?" Fox asked, looking at the cuts and bruises on her body.

"I can't feel my legs," Katt cried.

"Try not to move. You're going to be okay," Fox said. Katt gathered enough strength to talk.

"Fox, about Fara," Katt started.

"Yes, I know, they told me everything. I can't believe they're doing this to her," Fox said.

"Why aren't you hurt?" Katt wondered.

"When Wolf entered, I tried to kill him again, but he hit me over the head. After I woke up, Wolf was holding me back, and Andross explained everything. The next thing I know, I'm lying here when they threw you in," Fox replied.

"When are they letting us go?" Katt asked.

"Tomorrow morning," Fox answered.

"I may not survive," Katt said.

"Don't talk like that!" Fox said.

"No, Leon said that he's going to torture me again before we leave. Fox, I'm scared!" Katt cried.

"Don't worry. I'm here. Just go to sleep. I won't let anything happen to you," Fox assured her.

"Do you mean it?" Katt asked. She stopped crying.

"Yes, I do," Fox said.

"Okay, then goodnight," Katt said. She rested her head on Fox. Fox stayed up the entire night in his freezing cell.

Katt woke up dazed. She realized that Fox was still lying next to her. Fox had stayed awake the whole night.

"Katt, are you awake?" Fox asked nervously. He left Katt's body rub up against him. Fox was relieved.

"Yeah, I'm here. You really stayed awake the whole night?" Katt asked.

"Yes, I did," Fox replied, "How are you feeling?"

"Better," Katt answered. Fox saw a laser burn on the back of Katt's neck.

"Katt, what's that laser burn on the back of your neck?" Fox asked.

"I don't know," Katt replied.

"Maybe I do. Katt, can you move your legs?" Fox asked.

"No," Katt cried.

"Oh no," Fox gasped.

"Fox? Fox, what is it? Fox, tell me the bad news," Katt begged.

"Katt, I don't know if you can take this, but I think you're paralyzed from the waist down.

I'm not sure if it's true yet, but I'm sorry," Fox said regretfully. Katt instantly broke out in tears.

"Fox... Fox... WHY?!" Katt sobbed. Wolf came in the cell door holding a blaster at them.

"Hi Ms. Monroe. It's time for your last torture session. Now get up!" Wolf ordered. Fox

could feel Katt hold him tighter.

"Please! No more!" Katt begged.

"I said GET UP!" Wolf ordered.

"She can't move her legs. You paralyzed her from the waist down," Fox defended. Wolf

motioned for Leon to come forward.

"Pick up Ms. Monroe. It seems that I paralyzed her when I shot her last night. I know you've been looking forward to this, so whenever you're ready, I'll drop the force field," Wolf instructed.

"I think what Katt is suffering right now is enough torture. Let's leave them until it's time that they leave," Leon suggested.

"Okay Leon, it's your call," Wolf sighed. They both left Fox and Katt alone. Time passed as Katt continued to cry. Fox did his best at trying to comfort Katt. Her only hope was to get to Great Fox's medical bay before it was too late. Fox couldn't determine Katt's injuries for two reasons. First, he had no medical equipment. Second, he had no medical experience like Peppy did. Katt suddenly began to clutch her heart.

"Katt? Katt?!" Fox yelled. Katt's scarred body lay on the floor. Fox leaned over to Katt and checked her heart beat. It was gone. Fox knelt beside her. He began to administer CPR to Katt.

"Damn it! Breathe, Katt, breathe!" Katt began to cough.

"Ack, ack," Katt coughed, "Falco?" A blurred image appeared in front of her.

"No, Katt, it's me... Fox," Fox replied.

"W-what happened to me?" Katt asked. She lay on the ground, still in shock from what had just occurred.

"I don't know. One minute, I was trying to comfort you. The next, you had your paws over your heart and passed out. I almost lost you, almost like I did Fara..." Fox said. Wolf entered their cell.

"Get up MCLOUD. Pick up the girl and get moving," Wolf ordered. Fox picked Katt up. He put his left arm around Katt's back and his right arm underneath her knees. Fox carried Katt out of their cell. Wolf had ten guards swarm around Fox and Katt so they couldn't escape. They soon reached a small escape pod. The hatch was open.

"Get in!" Leon ordered. He came in from behind Wolf. Fox carried Katt inside the escape

pod, and Wolf closed the door behind them. Fox was strapping Katt into her seat when the escape pod rapidly began to accelerate. Fox was thrown towards the rear and hit his head hard on the wall.

"Fox!" Katt shrieked. She took off the straps that were keeping her in place and fell to the floor. Katt lay on the floor. She saw a medkit under one of the seats. Katt managed to grab it and crawl over towards Fox's body. She opened up the gray metallic box and withdrew some bandages and a pain killer. Katt took her paw and checked Fox's pulse. She felt that it was strong, and was relieved that he wasn't dead. Katt saw a wound next to Fox's left ear. She took one of the bandages and placed it firmly over the cut. Fox began to moan.

"Katt?" Fox moaned weakly.

"Fox, you're going to be fine," Katt answered. Fox got up and checked the sensors. It read

that the Great Fox was within tractor beam range. Fox switched on the comm.

"Great Fox, this is Fox MCCLLOUD. Do you read me?" Fox asked.

"Fox. Fox, is that really you?" Falco asked.

"Yeah. Yeah Falco, it's me?"

"Hey, is Katt with you?" Falco asked nervously.

"Yes, but she's paralyzed from the waist down! We need medical attention," Fox yelled.

"Hang on. We're towing you in," Falco said. The sparkling blue stream of light, which was the Great Fox's tractor beam, grabbed the escape pod and pulled it into the docking bay. Peppy and Bill ran towards the escape pod and ripped open the hatch. Fox picked up Katt and carried her out. Just after Bill took Katt from him, Fox collapsed.

Fox woke up in the medical bay next to Fara and Katt. Katt was fast asleep. The microchip that had been placed on Fara's forehead earlier was gone. "Honey. Honey, are you there?" Fox asked.

"Fox... Fox... I'll NEVER forgive myself for what I did to you!" Fara cried out.

"Fara. Honey, what are you talking about?" Fox asked.

"Fox, it was horrible. I had nightmares again. We... we were on the ship! Wolf-Wolf and you-" Fara rushed out.

"Whoa, honey slow down. Take it easy. Now tell all about it slowly," Fox urged.

"Okay," Fara said. She was still unable to move most of her body.

"Now, what happened first?" Fox asked.

"I woke up with you next to me. It was on our first honeymoon. We... we were kissing. I looked up for Wolf, but he wasn't there. Then I turned around to where you were, and Wolf was there. I got up and ran towards the door in the ship. I bumped into you. You grabbed me and gave me to Wolf and you pulled out a knife. You blamed me for cheating on you, pretending that I love you then taking it back, and you said that I emotionally scarred you. Then... you took your knife and stabbed me in the heart. And



the worst part is that it's true. Fox, I'll never forgive myself for what I did to you over these years. Fox, I don't deserve to live!" Fara cried out wildly.

"Fara. FARA! Don't talk like that! You DO deserve to live. Honey, I know what you did to me in the past. We both do. And as far as I'm concerned, what's done is done. Fara, please, can you just try and forget all those horrible memories?" Fox pleaded.

"Yes, I'll try. Honey, I love you," Fara answered.

"I know. I know you too. Just get some sleep honey. Goodnight," he said. Fox turned on his side until he was comfortable. He slowly reached towards the end of his bed and grabbed the blanket. Fox pulled the blanket over himself. Fox soon fell asleep.

Katt woke up. Falco was next to her. "Katt, don't worry, your legs are fine. You'll walk again," Falco said cheerfully.

"Then why can't I move them?" Katt asked.

"They've suffered severe trauma, but they just need time to heal. Katt, I love you!" Falco answered.

"I know, I love you too. I just need some time to myself. Okay?" Katt said.

"Okay, I'll see you later," Falco said. The automatic door in the med bay slid open as Falco walked out. Katt was left alone with Fox and Fara. Fox still lay in his bed with the covers over him. Fara was in her bed and had bandages all over her body. Fara didn't know it, but Katt looked up to her often. When Fara was relaxed, hurt and dying, or even when she wasn't thinking straight, Katt saw her as a maternal figure. Fara let out a yawn.

"Fox... honey, are you awake?" Fara asked. She saw that Fox was fast asleep and decided to let her husband sleep in.

"Fara, are you feeling okay?" Katt asked.

"Yeah. Why?" Fara wondered.

"I just don't want to lose a good friend. Fara, can I ask you something?" Katt asked.

"Of course. What is it?" Fara answered.

"What does it feel like to get married?" Katt asked.

"Why? You and Falco?" Fara asked.

"It's not official yet, but I have a feeling he's going to ask me soon," Katt answered.

"Well, it's the best feeling in the world. Don't let anything stand in your way," Fara said.

Peppy entered the room carrying a clipboard.

"Hi everybody," Peppy said.

"Hi Pep!" Fara said.

"Hey Peppy!" Katt said. Peppy walked towards Fara's bed.

"It's time to take your bandages off,"

"What about my husband?" Fara asked.

"Fox will be fine. He just has a mild concussion. He'll be back on his feet tomorrow," Peppy assured her.

"What about me? Am I going to be okay?" Fara asked. Peppy began to remove the bandages from Fara's body. Her burns were almost healed. She was now able to move freely without hurting herself. Peppy removed the last of the bandages from her back. He helped Fara get to her feet.

"Lucky you! You can walk," Katt sighed. Fara walked towards Fox.

"Yeah, you'll be on your feet soon Katt, just be patient," Fara assured her.

"Oh, Fara, one more thing," Peppy said.

"What?" Fara asked.

"Your burns haven't fully healed yet. So don't move around too much. Okay?"

"Okay," Fara said. Peppy walked out of the med bay. Fara knelt beside Fox's bed and put her paw beside his muzzle. Fox began to talk in his sleep.

"Mom? Mom, it that you?" Fox groaned.

"No honey, it's me, Fara," she answered.

"Fara?" Fox asked opening his eyes. Fara stood over Fox and kissed him.

"Good morning honey," Fara said sweetly.

"What's good about it? We're both hurt and in the med bay," Fox said jokingly. Fara smiled.

"I'm fine now. I just can't move around like I used to. At least until my burns have fully healed," Fara said. She took the blanket off him.

"When will that be?" Fox asked.

"In two days. By then, we'll both be back home on Corneria," Fara said smiling. Fox sat up in his bed. Fara climbed up on his bed and sat on his lap. Fox shifted the pillow behind his neck.

"Fara, I love you," Fox said. He kissed Fara.

"I know," she replied. Fara kissed him back. She slowly pulled her legs onto Fox's bed and lied down next to him. Fara put her arms on his chest.

"Fara, what are you doing?" Fox asked. Fara rested her head against him.

"I just want to keep you company until your concussion is healed. Unless you want me to..,"

"No honey. I'd rather have you keep me company," Fox replied. Fara looked at Fox's face. Something told her that Fox had bad news.

"Fox, honey, what's wrong?" Fara asked.

"Wolf is planning to capture you again. Then he'll try and turn you to his side. He's obsessed with you," Fox informed.

"But that won't happen," Fara said.

"I'm afraid that it will. Fara, when I married you, I never thought anything like this would happen to us. I won't let him take you," Fox sad.

"I'm sure you won't. Fox, if I get captured, I promise that I'll be alive when you come to rescue me," Fara said sweetly.

"Leon is in charge of your torture. He plans to tear your mind apart. I'm afraid that when I come to rescue you, you won't want to leave. I can't imagine what our lives would be like if this keeps happening to us," Fox admitted.

"Fox, no matter what happens, I'll always want to be with you. You want to know something?" Fara asked. Fara lay next to Fox in his hospital bed.

"Sure honey. What is it?" Fox asked curiously.

"Well, when this madness is over, I want to settle down with you and have a kit. I mean, if you want to," Fara blurted out.

"I do. You know, I've always been looking forward to having a family with you," Fox answered. Fara let out a yawn.

"Fox, I'm getting tired," Fara whispered.

"Just go to sleep," Fox answered.

"Oh Fox," Fara sighed. She let out another yawn.

"Oh Fara," Fox sighed. They both fell asleep. Katt just lay awake in her bed. She had just overhead the vixen's desire of having a child.

At the same time, the StarWolf team was on the bridge of the Fox Hunter. Wolf sat on the bridge with Leon and Andrew. "Does everybody know our mission?" Wolf asked.

"Yes sir," Leon replied. A light flashed across his screen.

"Yes sir," Andrew answered.

"It's time sir," Leon said. Wolf sat back in his leather seat.

"Time..... time indeed," Wolf answered.

\* \* \* \*

Vixy sat back in her soft velvet bed. She was in the bedroom onboard her small cloaked space station which was orbiting Titania. Vixy led a very tragic life. She was separated from Fox and her parents when she was two. Her mother, Vixy McCloud senior, had given her daughter to a friend of the family so she could be raised secretly. Her birth certificate, pictures of herself, Fox, and her parents were part of a special photo album which she kept under her pillow. Vixy even had a sound recording containing all the lullabies that her mother would sing to Fox and her. She would play it every night in her bed, and would sometimes start to cry. Fox was one minute older than her.

When Vixy Jr. was fifteen, she learned about the deaths of her parents. Heartbroken, Vixy left her foster home and went to the Cornerian Flight Academy under a false name. She was as gifted a pilot as her brother. There, she met Bill Grey, and they got to know each other very well. Vixy and Bill soon started dating and they began a romantic relationship. On the night of graduation, she told Bill everything about herself and revealed her real name. Before Vixy left to live on her own, Bill promised that he wouldn't tell Fox about her, and when they ever met again they'd get married. Bill and Vixy secretly keep in touch.

Vixy lived by herself on a space station, but she was never bored. She had various computer links secretly installed in the CIA building and in the vast gateways of the Venom Military Intelligence mainframe. Vixy knew everything that was happening around her. She knew that Fox and Fara got married, but she didn't show up at their wedding because Fox would never have remembered her. Every little detail that happened to Fox and his friends, or anything that Andross was currently planning, Vixy knew it.

Vixy moved to a more comfortable position in her bed and pulled the covers over her. She thought about Fox and his wife. Even though Vixy had never met Fara, she took a liking towards her. Mostly because she kept Fox happy. All Vixy cared about was the happiness of her brother, and Fara did that very well. She switched off the light about played the tape of her mother's lullabies. A tear rolled down Vixy's face as she cried herself to sleep.

Vixy awoke to her a/v screen ringing. She got out of and walked towards the monitor. "Hello?" Vixy yawned.

"Vixy? Vixy McCloud junior? Is that you?" Bill asked. Vixy was shocked. Nobody had ever called her directly before.

"Bill? What the-" Vixy said.

"Don't worry honey. No one knows I'm calling you. Do you know what may happen to Fara?" Bill asked.

"Yes I do. Wolf's ship is heading towards you right now. I'm ready to rescue her. I can't believe what she's been going through," Vixy sighed.

"Neither can I," Bill responded.

"Bill, I love you," Vixy sighed.

"If we could only married..," Bill said.

"Yeah. Maybe someday... After I make my existence known to the entire Lylat System," Vixy said imaginatively.

"Remember those days at the academy?" Bill asked.

"How could I forget? It's where we fell in love. Bill, did you forget that one night when we were alone?" Vixy asked. Bill let out a short laugh.

"I'd never forget that! It was the only night in four years that we could be alone for more than five minutes," Bill said amusingly.

"Well it isn't like that now. Why don't you come over later, and we could 'catch up' on all those empty nights," Vixy offered.

"I'd like that. I'll see you tonight," Bill said. The a/v image of Bill flickered off the screen. Vixy sat back and thought of all the times they had together.

Fara sat next to Fox as he got up from the medical bed that they both spent the last night in. Peppy took the bandage off Fox's head. "Falco, ready my shuttle please," Fox ordered.

"Yes sir," Falco replied. He went to the shuttle bay.

"Where are you two going?" Peppy asked the couple.

"Back home on Corneria," Fara answered.

"Yeah. As long as we're together, Wolf would have to think twice before he tries to capture Fara," Fox said. They both left the medbay with their arms around each other and entered the turbo lift.

"Fox, what's going to happen to Katt?" Fara wondered.

"Well, Peppy says that she'll have to learn to walk again. If Wolf's shot been an inch to the left, every inch of her body would have been paralyzed," Fox said sadly. The turbo lift door slid open.

"Your ship is ready Fox. Have a nice trip you two," Falco said.

"Thanks," Fara answered.

"Fara, you go ahead, I'll be there in a minute," Fox said.

"Okay," Fara replied. Fox walked over to Falco.

"Uh, look Falco, about Katt. If there's anything I can do..,"

"Fox, I have to thank you. If it wasn't for you, Katt wouldn't be here right now. Look Fox, go and be with your wife and protect her. I'll talk to you later," Falco said as he walked away. Fox walked up the boarding ramp into the shuttle.

Fox and Fara were soon on their way to Corneria. Wolf sat on the bridge of the Fox Hunter. The image of Fox and Fara's shuttle appeared on the view screen. "Ready the tractor beam. Prepare to declaim," Wolf ordered.

"Yes sir. Tractor beam ready. Standing by to declaim," Pigma reported.

"Declaim," Wolf ordered, "I've got you now McCloud!"

Fox and Fara were passing time by sleeping. The shuttle was fairly large. It had one bunk bed, a cockpit, and a food replicator as standard equipment. The shuttle began to rock violently. Fox fell out of the top bunk bed. Fara awoke confused. "Fox! What's happening?" Fara asked.

"I don't know!" Fox said. Fara walked towards Fox and held onto him.

"Fox, I'm scared!" Fara cried. The shuttle continued to shake.

"Don't worry, I won't let anything happen to you!" Fox promised. Fara continued to cry. The shuttle entered the Fox Hunter's shuttle bay.

"The shuttle is secure Wolf," Leon said.

"Good, everybody follow me," Wolf ordered. The four of them soon were in the shuttle bay. Wolf climbed up the shuttle and unlocked the hatch. Fox and Fara sat on the floor and waited for something to happen. Wolf opened the shuttle's door. All four of them pointed their blasters at Fox and Fara.

"Wolf?! Fox, get him away! Don't let him touch me! Oh god! Fox, please don't let Wolf touch me!" Fara cried. She tightened her arms around Fox.

"You first," Wolf commanded as he pointed his blaster at Fox, "You second. UP!"

Fox stood on his feet. Fara followed him. "What are you going to do with us?" Fox asked.

"You never mind that!" Wolf scowled. He walked towards Fara and grabbed her.

"Get your dirty paws off ME!" Fara shrieked.

"Get off my wife!" Fox yelled. Pigma and Andrew held Fox back.

"Take Fox to a holding cell," Wolf ordered.

"Fox, help me!" Fara cried. It was too late. Fox was already inside the brig.

"Come on, let's go!" Wolf ordered. Leon and Wolf dragged Fara screaming to Leon's torture chamber.

Vixy and Bill walked through the halls of Vixy's elaborate space station. "This is a lovely place you've got here," Bill complimented.

"Thanks. It gets a bit lonely sometimes, but I still have that ring you gave me on the last night we were together on Corneria," Vixy said blushing.

"Yeah, if it wasn't for the war, we would be married right now," Bill sighed.

"Well, I thought that when all this was over, we could get married," Vixy suggested. Bill glanced at her.

"It only seems fair. I mean, it HAS been ten years. But what about Fox? He doesn't even know about us," Bill said.

"What about Fox? I'm sure he's figured us out by now," Vixy assured him. They both walked into her bedroom.

"This is your bedroom? It's so... small. I mean there's only a bed, an a/v screen, and a dresser. How do you move around in here?" Bill wondered.

"I manage. Bill, I've really missed you over these years. You really don't know what it feels like to wake up in an empty bed every morning for ten years. Do you?" Vixy asked.

"I have some idea," Bill answered. They began to kiss. Vixy's computer screen began to ring.

"What's that?" Vixy scowled.

"I'm not sure. It's coming from your a/v monitor," Bill said. Vixy pushed Bill aside on her bed and went to the monitor.

"Vix, what's wrong?" Bill asked, concerned. Vixy glanced at him.

"It's time!" Vixy cried.

"Time? Time for what? Vix, honey, what's going on?" Bill asked.

"It's time for me to reveal myself to the entire Lylat system. This panel says that Fox and Fara have just been captured," Vixy explained.

"What?! How?! Are they okay?! Vixy, how do you know this?" Bill asked. He got up from Vixy's bed and put his paws on her shoulders.

"I have computer chips secretly installed in the Great Fox, the CIA computers, the Fox Hunter, Venom Military Intelligence. Everywhere. I could call up a security camera on the Fox Hunter if you want," Vixy offered.

"Do it," Bill said. Vixy began to type on her keyboard.

"I can give you a visual only. Is that okay?" Vixy asked.

"Yeah Vix, a visual is fine," Bill said. An image of Wolf beating Fara appeared.

"Oh my god! Bill, we have to do something!" Vixy shrieked.

"How? The Fox Hunter is a fortress. Vix, I don't see anything that can be done," Bill argued. Vixy walked out of the room and walked towards a small shuttle bay. Bill walked after her.

"Look, Bill, sweetly, I know we've only talked over the last ten years, but I'm not about to lose my brother or my sister-in-law to Wolf O'Donnell. I'm getting them out of there. I don't care if I get killed doing it. If we can bust Fox and Fara out and arm them, then we can even the odds. Bill, honey, will you help me?" Vixy pleaded.

"Okay, but if we both get back alive, I want to get our wedding planned. Alright?" Bill said. Vixy entered the shuttle bay and opened one of the storage lockers. She pulled out two heavily customized laser rifles and twin laser proof vests. Vixy handed Bill a vest and a rifle.

"Do you know how to use one of these?" Vixy asked.

"Yes. Honey, where did you get all this stuff?" Bill answered.

"I made them. I ordered the parts separately, assembled them, then added my own modifications. Surprisingly, I have a large amount of free time on my paws," Vixy smiled.

"And is it the same thing with the ships?" Bill asked.

"You've got it!" Vixy smiled.

"I'm going to marry a genius. Probably the most beautiful one in the system," Bill complimented. Vixy began to blush.

"Bill, save it! We've got a mission to do. Which ship do you want? I have a lot of them to use. Each of them have cloaking devices, state of the art weapons, regenerative shields, one tractor beam at forward and aft, two photon torpedo launchers at forward, and in all my single fighter vessels can be made to fit two people. So, what do you think?" Vixy asked.

"It's incredible. Corneria would pay anything to have their pilots fly in these. Vix, how did you afford all of this? You need to have more money than God to pay for all of these parts!" Bill exclaimed.

"Thanks to dear old dad! He secretly paid for all this. Similar to how he paid for Great Fox. Come on, we'll take this ship," Vixy said. She opened the ship's door and walked up the boarding ramp. Bill followed her. They sat down inside the cockpit.

"What can I do?" Bill asked.

"Just sit down and relax. We'll intercept the Fox Hunter in ten hours," Vixy reported.

Wolf hesitated as he struck Fara with an electric whip. "Just promise you'll marry me, and I'll stop!" Wolf yelled. Leon hit her in the back. Fara fell to the ground.

"No!" Fara screamed.

"You'll soon learn to love me. In time, you'll be mine!" Wolf taunted.

"I'll never love you!" Fara yelled. Wolf came over to Fara and kissed her roughly.

"Leon, this is getting us nowhere. Get out the drill," Wolf ordered. He held Fara tightly.

"I need her unconscious," Leon said. Wolf took a syringe and injected Fara with one of his drugs. She fell to the floor. Wolf picked her up and placed her in the restraints of Leon's torture table.

"Turn on the drill," Wolf ordered.

"Fara's memories will be suppressed in two sessions," Leon smiled.

"I'll see you later precious!" Wolf said. He gave Fara a kiss goodbye and left the room.

Bill and Vixy sat in their shuttle as they approached the Fox Hunter. "There it is, it's so... big," Vixy remarked.

"They could be anywhere!" Bill exclaimed.

"No, they're in the rear," Vixy said. A map appeared on one of the consoles.

"What's that?" Bill asked.

"It's a map of the Fox Hunter. Fox is being held in a cell behind the bridge. Fara is on one of the lower decks and her memories are being suppressed. You go rescue Fox and I'll see if I can save Fara. Hold on to something, we're about to dock," Vixy said. Bill grabbed his seat. Their shuttle's laser dock dissolved through the hull. Both of them spread through the Fox Hunter.

Fox was in his holding cell. It was cleaner than the others that he had been in. There was a single bed and a small dresser. A force field was in place and made Fox feel helpless. He feared for his wife's safety.

Fara lay still. The drill's sparkling red beam cut through most of her recent memories. Leon was in the room monitoring his progress. Vixy cautiously walked down the corridors of the Fox Hunter. She quickly turned a corner and ran into Wolf.

"What the- who are you? How did you get in here?!" Wolf yelled. Vixy took her rifle and pinned him up against the wall by his neck.

"Where is Mrs. McCloud?" Vixy growled.

"S-she's down that corner on your left!" Wolf whimpered. Vixy straightened herself and stunned Wolf. She ran down the hall and stopped at the doorway to see the laser drill's beam cut through Fara's skull. Vixy pointed her rifle at Leon.

"Turn it off NOW!" Vixy growled. Leon looked up from what he was doing.

"What the? How did you get in here?" Leon questioned. Vixy became agitated.

"Maybe you didn't hear me. I said turn it off NOW!" Vixy repeated.

"No," Leon objected. Vixy fired her laser rifle, stunning him. She ran to the control console and tried to shut off the drill. Vixy found herself locked out from the controls.

"Damn it!" Vixy growled angrily. She took her rifle and fired at the laser drill. Its beam immediately terminated. Shrapnel from the drill covered the room. Fara began to cough.

"Fox? Honey, are you there?" Fara whispered. Fara opened her eyes to see a young vixen standing over her.

"It's okay. I'm a friend. Come on, we're getting out of here!" Vixy explained.

"What about my husband?" Fara asked.

"Fox is fine. Just follow me," Vixy said. She helped Fara to her feet.

"Wait. How do you know my husband's name? You don't even know who I am," Fara questioned.

"I'll explain later. Please, trust me," Vixy said.

"Well, okay," Fara hesitated. Fara and Vixy walked to the shuttle.

Bill ran through the halls of the Fox Hunter and tried to find Fox. Andrew and Pigma sat at the control room that activated the force field. Bill burst into the room. Andrew fired his pistol and shot Bill in the face. Bill dropped his blaster. The gun misfired and killed Andrew. Bill's vision slowly began to fade. He made his way to the control panel and barely managed to lower the force field. Fox raced over to Bill. "Bill, speak to me!" Fox begged.

"Fox, I was supposed to be rescuing you," Bill whispered.



"Bill, hang on!" Fox pleaded. He began to panic.

"I can't. Everything's going dark. Fox, tell Vixy I love her. Goodbye Fox," Bill gasped out his with last breath. Fox reached over and felt Bill's pulse. It was fading fast.

"You're not dying on me," Fox said, "I'm going to get you to a hospital,"

Vixy sat back to Fara. "Where are they?" Vixy asked herself.

"Do you think my husband's still alive?" Fara cried.

"Without a doubt! You stay here, I'm going to look for Fox," Vixy said. Fara lay by herself. Vixy walked down the corridors and found her brother carrying Bill. She was shocked.

"Mom?!" Fox gasped.

"Bill. no!" Vixy shrieked. She took Bill in her arms.

"How do we get out of here?" Fox asked.

"Oh, this way," Vixy said. She led Fox to her shuttle. Fara looked up to see Fox unharmed. Fara ran to Fox and swung her arms around him.

"Fox, oh Fox!" Fara cried.

"Fara. I thought I'd never see you again! Are you okay sweetheart?" Fox asked.

"Yes, honey, I'm fine," Fara whispered. Vixy picked up a med-kit and sedated Bill.

"Bill! Will he be okay?" Fox asked.

"Not unless we get him to a hospital soon. Okay, everybody in!" Vixy commanded. They each entered the shuttle. Vixy detached the shuttle from the Fox Hunter and headed towards Great Fox. Vixy switched on the auto pilot and went to join Fox, Fara and Bill. She sat down next to Bill.

"Who are you?" Fox asked.

"My name is Vixy McCloud... Junior. I'm you're long lost twin sister. We were separated at birth. Fox, I've missed you!" Vixy cried. Vixy sat and told Fox and Fara her entire life story. She told Fox about all of her mother's possessions that she had.

"What will you do now?" Fara asked. Vixy looked up at Fara.

"If Bill lives, we plan to get married. If he dies, I'll kill myself and join him," Vixy sighed.

"Fara, I know we've just met, but I want to thank you for keeping Fox companionship for his life. If Bill and I survive, I want you to be my bride's maid at our wedding," Vixy said.

"I'd like that," Fara smiled. Vixy's shuttle headed towards the Great Fox. The shuttle touched down in Great Fox's docking bay. Vixy opened the shuttle's door and carried out Bill in her arms. Peppy ran up to them.

"What happened?!" the hare asked.

"He took a shot in the face. He's dying! Please, help him!" Vixy cried. Peppy took Bill from her and rushed him to the medbay. Vixy followed him.

Fara was carried out of the shuttle embraced in Fox's strong arms. Fara began to groan. "What's wrong sweetheart?" Fox asked.

"I don't know. It's probably nothing," Fara replied. Fox carried her to their quarters onboard the Great Fox. Fox carried Fara inside and lay her on the bed. Fara let out a low groan.

"Honey, what's wrong?" Fox asked, showing concern.

"I'm not sure. My back is starting to hurt," Fara cried in pain.

"Here, let me take a look at it. Just help me slide off your shirt," Fox said. Fox took off her shirt and saw a whip marking on her back.

"Fox, what's wrong?" Fara asked.

"Come on. I'm getting you to the medbay!" Fox said. He picked her up and ran down the hall towards the medbay, carrying Fara in his arms. Fox rushed in. Peppy got up from tending to Bill.

"What happened?!" Peppy asked.

"It's her back!" Fox cried.

"Put Fara in the bed next to Katt," Peppy said. Fox placed her next to Katt.

"Will she be okay?" Fox asked.

"It's nothing serious, but I may have to operate. I have to sedate her now, she just try to get some sleep. If I don't need to do surgery, Fara will be back on her feet tomorrow. I'll call you as soon as she wakes up," Peppy assured him.

"Where's Vixy?" Fox asked.

"Who?" Peppy asked the fox.

"My sister," Fox answered.

"Your what?!" Peppy asked him again. Fox became restless.

"The vixen who you took Bill from," Fox replied.

"Oh, she went to the lounge after I sedated Bill. Do you know her?" Peppy asked as he sedated Fara.

"Yes, I'd say so!" Fox replied. He kissed Fara passionately, then left to find Vixy. Fara had been in the bed or a hospital four times since she married Fox. Fara often imagined herself in a hospital, but she wanted it to be because she that was pregnant. Fara wanted nothing more than to settle down with Fox and have kits, but she feared that Wolf would stand in their way. She was afraid Wolf would never stop trying to seduce her or try to capture her. Fox felt the same way as Fara did when they both discussed having kits. He also said that once Fara had their kit, he'd want to give up piloting. Fox told Fara that he didn't want their child to grow up in a tragic life that he went through. However, Fara disagreed. Fara told him that she would feel much safer knowing that Fox was out protecting her and their kit from any opposing danger.

Fox walked towards the lounge onboard the Great Fox. General Pepper had left to go rest in his quarters onboard the passenger accommodations deck. The double doors slid open and shut as Fox walked in. Vixy looked up at her brother. Fox could tell that she had been crying.

"Vixy, what's wrong?" Fox asked.

"I just can't stop thinking about dad. You look like him so much. You were lucky Fox. You were the one who grew up with mom and dad. I just have pictures of them, but you have something much better. Memories. You don't know how it feels to live alone with no companionship for ten years. All those empty nights, the lonely birthday parties, Father's Day, Mother's Day-" tears poured out of Vixy's eyes. Vixy began to cry wildly. Fox moved closer to comfort her. Peppy walked into the lounge.

"Fox, oh hi. Uh, look, maybe I should come back later,"

"No, Peppy, what is it?" Fox asked.

"Bill is going to make a full recovery. Fara's back injuries have been fully treated. She is waiting for you in your quarters. Katt has learned to walk again, and I expect her to make a full recovery in about a week," Peppy said.

"Peppy, this is my sister Vixy. She-" Fox began. Vixy wiped the tears from her eyes.

"Fox, you just go be with your wife. I'll explain my life to Peppy and your friends. Good night," Vixy smiled. Vixy kissed her brother good night. Fox left down the hall and walked into his quarters. Fara awaited him.

"Hi honey, come to bed, I've kept our spot warm for you," she smiled. Fara opened the covers on their bed. She was naked.

"Okay. Let me get into my boxers," Fox answered. He started to undress.

"You won't need them. I mean, not for what I have planned for us to do tonight!" Fara smiled. Fox stood in his boxer shorts, overwhelmed. He was finally able to speak.

"And what's that?" Fox asked playfully. He lay down in bed next to Fara.

"Sex," Fara smiled seductively.

"I never thought I'd hear you say that," Fox said in disbelief.

"I've wanted to do this with you every night for the last ten years. Now is the perfect time. We're both naked in bed, and the war is far away from here," she smiled. Fara slid off Fox's boxers and pulled him on top of her. "Fox, make us a kit,"

"Okay honey," Fox said. He lied on top of Fara and started to kiss her.

"Oh Fox," she moaned. She spread her legs and let Fox slip into her. Fox slowly began thrusting into her and the fennec wrapped her legs around his hips. Her inner walls pulsed several times before giving one big squeeze. Fox was coaxed to blast his semen deep into her body and it was over.

It was the next morning. Their clothes lay strewn on the floor. Fara lay naked beneath Fox. His were around her. Fara's paws still pulled Fox's waist into hers. Fox saw a large smile on Fara's face. "Good morning honey," Fara smiled.

"How was last night?"

"Incredible! Fox, I never knew you could do that so well! It felt great!" Fara exclaimed. She looked at the self pregnancy test she took the night before. Fara took her right paw off of Fox's waist and held it up to the light.

"What does it say?" Fox asked.

"It's blue! Fox, I'm pregnant!" Fara smiled.

The Andorian Resistance was an alley to Corneria in the fight against Andross. It was a league of hotshot pilots who preferred a mercenary way of life. The resistance members were currently on a mission to Katina so they could destroy a biological weapon site. Several teams of resistance members scurried out of the installation. Along them were two wolves. Their names were Mary Beth and Matt Starlight. Mary was 25, 5'6", she had brown eyes and hair. There was a white stripe down her forehead. Her fur was grayish, but on her front side there was white fur extending from the bottom half of her muzzle to her waist. Her tail was very bushy. It was grey with a white and black tip. Matt was 26. He was 5'7". He also had grey fur all over. His tail was bushy and there was a white tip at the end. Matt also had a white stripe down his forehead.

Mary and Matt ran to their team's assigned transport. Mary Beth struggled not to give in to her exhaustion. The bomb exploded, knocking Matt and Mary down to the ground. Matt quickly got up and ran over to Mary. She was in pain because the explosion had thrown Mary on her sprained wrist. "Mary! Mary! Are you okay?" Matt asked.

"Go my love! Leave me!" Mary begged.

"No, I won't leave you here to die! Come on, I'm getting you to that transport," Matt said. He picked up Mary in his arms, and ran to their transport. Matt finally reached the transport and climbed in with Mary Beth. He sat down next to Mary just as the shuttle took off. Mary rested her head on Matt and kissed him.

"Good night Matt," Mary said.

"Good night Mary," Matt said. He kissed Mary good night and went to sleep.

The next morning, Matt awoke with Mary's paws around him. "Honey, wake up," Matt said. He nudged her gently.

"What time is it?" Mary asked, still half asleep.

"Ten hundred hours. We're approaching Corneria," Matt said. He handed her a thermos.

"What's this?" she asked.

"Coffee. I thought you'd need some after what we went through last night on Katina," Matt smiled.

"You're right. Thanks," Mary said. She took a sip and laid up against Matt.

"Why are we going to Corneria?" Matt asked.

"We're joining Star Fox. I wonder what it's going to be like," Mary said.

"Don't worry. I'm sure it'll be great," Matt said.

"You're right," Mary said. She put the thermos down and brushed back her brown hair. "How do I look?"

"Beautiful. That's why I married you. Remember?" Matt asked.

"Yeah. The wedding seems like yesterday," she commented.

"You know, I've always wanted to meet Fox McCloud and Fara Phoenix..," Matt said.

"It's McCloud now. They got married a few months ago..," Mary corrected.

"Oh, I didn't know that," Matt asked.

"Are you kidding? It was all over the news. Where have you been?" Mary laughed. The transport came to a stop in Corneria City. The hatch opened and led towards the CIA building. Matt helped Mary out of the vehicle. They both reached General Pepper's office.

"Good morning. You must be Mr. and Mrs. Starlight," Pepper said.

"Yes, that's right," Matt said. They shook paws.

"You two are very lucky. It's hard to get on the Star Fox team. Especially right now. I've already sent your papers to Fox. You'll meet him tomorrow. We've got quarters for you onboard Great Fox. It's a bit small. They used to be Fara McCloud's quarters. Before she married Fox. I've arranged a transport to head up there right now. It's empty, and you two are free to wander around. Fara had her old quarters specially decorated, so look for a pink door," Pepper explained. He walked them out of his office and

escorted them to a landing pad. Matt and Mary climbed aboard the automated transport. Matt helped Mary into a seat. The shuttle took off, and the image of Great Fox began to get larger. And Then They Arrive...

\* \* \* \*

It had been almost nine months since Vixy McCloud junior had stepped out of hiding and introduced herself to the Lylat system. She was put on the Star Fox team by request of her older brother, Fox. Fara was going through the last stages of her pregnancy. Because Fara was due to give birth in about a week, General Pepper had given her and Fox three weeks off under maternal and paternal leave. The Great Fox was empty and in dry-dock high about Corneria. The rest of the Star Fox team was on vacation.

Fox and Fara lay asleep in bed of their two story house. Fara's alarm clock went off. Fox woke up and rubbed his paws in his eyes. Noticing that Fara was still asleep, Fox reached over her to turn it off. The alarm terminated. He noticed that it was almost 11:45. Fox shook Fara gently. "Fara. Hey, Fara," Fox whispered. A smile came on to her face.

"Good morning honey," Fara smiled.

"Fara, it's almost noon. Get dressed, we have to get to Great Fox," Fox told her.

"Why? Are we going to war again?" Fara asked, yawning.

"No. We have to meet two new additions to Star Fox. I don't think you know them, but in their personal files, it said that they both graduated from your old high school the same year they did," he explained. Fara got up and put some of her new clothes on. She took out a pair of shorts and put them on.

"Hey Fox, where's that sweat shirt you always used to wear?" Fara asked. She stood at the dresser inside their bedroom.

"You mean the one that hides your stomach?" Fox asked.

"Yeah, that's the one," she answered.

"It's in the third drawer down. Can you see it?" Fox asked. Fara opened the drawer and saw Fox's teal blue sweat shirt. She took it out and put it on.

"Yeah, I've got it!" Fara replied, "Hey Fox, do you know what the names of the new additions are?"

"Yeah. Let's see, I think their names were Matt and Mary. I forgot their last names. Does that bring back any memories?" Fox asked. He walked out of the bathroom wearing blue jeans and a large white t-shirt.

"Yes, in ninth grade. I met two wolves, Matt Starlight and Mary Emerson. We became best friends and did a lot of fun stuff together. At the middle of our freshman year, Matt and Mary fell deeply in love. They also went to the spring prom together. Mary was on the track team. After we graduated, they got married. It was a small ceremony. I was the bridesmaid. Later, Matt told me how he proposed to Mary. It was in the park on a date. Mary and Matt were kissing in a gazebo under moonlight. Then he knelt down in front of Mary, took out a shiny silver box with a diamond ring, and asked her to marry him. Three months after their wedding, they both disappeared. I thought they were dead. I wonder how they are," Fara said to herself. Fox took out a picture from his pocket and handed it to her.

"Is this them honey?" Fox asked. He stood beside Fara and put his paw on her stomach. He was feeling for one of the twins to kick.

"Yes," Fara smiled, "How does it feel?"

"Warm," Fox smiled. Fara put her paw over his.

"Good... So what do we do now?" Fara asked. She stared at the old photo.

"We go to Great Fox and greet them. After that, we go to Macbeth and pick up their Arwings. Then tonight, a formal ceremony is held," Fox explained. "We'd better get going,"

"You're right. Let's go," Fara replied. Fox helped her stand up. They both walked out of the house and got into Fox's car.

It had been three hours since Fox and Fara had left. They walked down the empty halls of Great Fox. Fox held paws with Fara. They stopped at Fara's old quarters. Fara knocked on the pink door of her old quarters.

"Hello?" Matt called.

"Matt!" Fara called.

"Fara!" Matt exclaimed. He opened the door and saw his old schoolmate. "Fara Phoenix! How long has it been?"

"Ten years. It's McCloud now. This is my husband...," Fara suddenly couldn't remember his name.

"Fox," Fox answered.

"Oh, that's right!" Fara said. She scolded herself for forgetting her husband's name.

"How have you been?" Matt asked.

"Fine. Where's Mary?" Fara asked.

"She's asleep. We've had a long trip. Oh, are you expecting?" Matt asked. He looked at Fara.

"Yes, I'm due sometime next week," Fara said.

"Congratulations," Matt said. Fox walked closer to them.

"Uh, I don't mean to interrupt you two, but it's getting late. Fara, we'd better get some sleep. We can talk in the morning," Fox suggested.

"Fox is right. Hey. I'll talk to you in the morning. Okay?" Fara asked.

"Alright," Matt agreed. Fox and Fara walked out of Matt's quarters and went to theirs. Fox changed out of his hot flight suit and got into bed. Fara slowly got in next to him.

"How are they?" Fox asked.

"Fine. I can't believe it's been ten years...," Fara said.

"No, I meant our twins," Fox laughed. "How are they?"

"Oh, they're doing-" Fara stopped. She placed her paw on her stomach.

"Honey, what's wrong?" Fox asked.

"Nothing. One of the twins just kicked. I'm fine," Fara assured him. She lay up against Fox and put her paws around him. Fara was soon asleep.

It was three hours after everyone was asleep on Great Fox. Suddenly, alarms sounded throughout the ship. Matt awoke startled. So did Mary. "Matt, what's happening?!" Mary asked.

"I don't know. Come on, let's get to the bridge," Matt answered. Matt and Mary walked out of their quarters and went to the bridge. Fox and Fara were already there. "Mother of God..." Mary gasped. Thirty Venom warships had completely surrounded Great Fox. Wolf O'Donnell's image appeared on the view screen.

Fara became frightened. Flashbacks of when Wolf tried to abduct her started pouring through her mind. "Fox, get him away from me!" Fara cried. She cowered behind Fox. Wolf finally spoke.

"Fara, why are you frightened? You should be excited!" Wolf laughed.

"Excited about what?" Fara asked, frightened.

"In ten hours, you'll love me. That's why. Now, if you surrender yourself, I'll let your husband and friends live," Wolf ordered.

"What if I don't?" Fara asked, terrified.

"Then I will take you!" Wolf said seductively.

"I don't want to go!" Fara screamed. Wolf wasn't amused.

"Well you are! As we speak, fifty Venom troops are boarding your ship. You're coming with me!" Wolf said smiling. His image disappeared from the view screen. Fara started to sob.

Several troops ran on the bridge firing their blasters. Matt, Fox, and Mary were stunned. Before Fara could react, a lizard came up behind her and stuck a syringe in her arm. She fell to the floor. The troops dragged the four of them to the shuttle inside the launch bay.

Mary woke up in a large cell. Fox and Fara were also awake. "Matt?" she called.

"He's gone, Mary. Wolf took him about an hour ago. Matt is being tortured right now," Fox said. He was trying to comfort her. Wolf came in their cell dragging Matt's battered body by his paws. As the force field dropped, Wolf threw Matt into their cell. His body slammed hard into the wall. Wolf quickly reactivated the force field.

"I'll be back for you in an hour," Wolf said, pointing at Fara.

"No!" Fara yelled.

"Yes!" Wolf scowled. He left the room. Mary crawled over to Matt. He was barely alive. His shirt had been torn off, there were whip slashes all across his chest, his body was battered and beaten, blood was dripping out of his mouth, and his left leg seemed to be broken.

"Matt, oh Matt, please speak to me!" Mary cried.

"M-Mary?" Matt whispered. Mary placed her paws around him.

"I'm here. You're going to be okay," Mary said, panicking.

"Mary... I-I-I-love-you..." Matt whispered. He could hardly word out a sentence.

"I know. Matt, is there anything I can do?" Mary asked.

"Yes," Matt whispered.

"What is it? I'll do anything. Just tell me," Mary promised.

"Hold me. Be with me," Matt pleaded.

"Okay," Mary answered.

"Don't-don't ever..." Matt worded, coughing out blood.

"Yes?" Mary asked. She tried to help Matt word out his last sentence.

"Don't ever-leave me..." Matt requested.

"Don't worry, I won't leave you!" Mary cried.

"Ugh..." Matt fell unconscious.

"No! Don't leave! Stay with me! You're stronger than this! Fight it! Don't fall asleep! We need you! I need you! I need a husband! Oh god, no!" Mary cried out in despair. But it was too late. Matt had given into his overwhelming desire to sleep. She lay her head on Matt's bare chest and started to cry. All Fox and Fara could do was sit and watch. Mary really began to let out the tears now. The ruffled fur on Matt's chest was not wet, but Mary didn't care. She continued to sob on top of Matt's crippled body. Mary rubbed her muzzle up against his body.

"Fox, do something. I can't stand to see her like this," Fara said.

"Okay," Fox said, kissing her. He stood up and knelt beside Mary.

"Mary, Matt is alive. He's gonna make it through the night, but it won't help if you're sobbing all over him. Matt wouldn't want it. Come on, let me help you up and you can sit next to us," Fox offered.

"Okay," Mary cried. Fox helped her sit beside Fara. Fox sat on her other side. As soon as Fox sat next to Fara, she scolded him.

"What the hell is the matter with you?!" Fara whispered, elbowing him.

"What?" Fox asked. Fara saw the glow of confusion in Fox's eyes.

"Look at the condition she's in. Mary needs to be comforted," Fara explained. She placed her paws around Mary and comforted her. Mary had soon fallen asleep. Fox still sat beside Fara. She looked up at Fox.

"Fara, how are the twins?" Fox asked. He held her paw.

"I don't know. The contractions are getting shorter apart. I can't stay like this much longer. Ugh... Fox, I think it's time," Fara said.

"Time? No, Fara, not now!" Fox said.

"Fox, this isn't something I can control. It just happens. Oh god, it's starting! Fox, do something!" Fara cried. Fox stood up at the cell door.

"Help! Someone please help!" Fox yelled. Wolf got up from his seat and walked up to Fox's cell.

"What do you want McCloud?" Wolf asked.

"My wife! She's going to give birth! Please help her!" Fox cried. Wolf grabbed a med kit, lowered the force field, and handed it to him.

"Your family's life is in your hands McCloud. Don't fail them," Wolf said. He raised the force field and left the brig. Fox knelt in front of Fara and attempted to deliver their kits. Matt and Mary still were both asleep.

Wolf walked into his quarters. He lay on his bed and thought of the events that had just happened. Why had he done it? He could have just let Fara and her kits die, but he didn't. Was he getting soft? What was happening to him? He didn't have the answers, just questions. It would not matter. For he was going to commit an act that would force Fara to him forever.

Fara sat up against the wall. It was an hour since Wolf had settled in his quarters. She was exhausted as she continued to give birth. "It's almost over Fara. Just a few more pushes," Fox said.



"That's easy for you to say!" Fara said, moaning. Fox pulled the twins out of her. She sat back relieved. Fara startled to breathe normally again.

"There. It's over... Fara say hello to our kits," Fox said. He's took off his shirt and wrapped it around both of the kits. He handed them to Fara. Fox started to patch Fara up. Fara held the twins in her arms.

"Fox. Look, they're so cute!" Fara whispered. Fox finished patching up Fara and put the med kit away. Fox sat next to Fara and put his paws around her.

"I hope they make it through the night," Fox added.

"Don't worry. I'll make sure of that," Fara said.

Mary woke up dazed. She sat up and rubbed her eyes. Fox and Fara were asleep. Both of the newborn kits were held tightly in their Fara's arms. Mary crawled up to Matt's dying body. She felt a strong pulse. "Matt. Matt, please answer me!" Mary cried.

"Mary? I'm alive?" Matt whispered.

"Yes, you are. Don't move. You're injuries are very severe. I'm not going to leave you,"

"No. Of course you're not," Wolf snapped. "You and your husband are leaving,"

"We are?!" Mary asked. She was shocked.

"Yes. You, your husband, and Mrs. McCloud's newborn kits. Don't ask me why I'm doing this. I just am. Get up and take Fara's kits," Wolf ordered. Mary got up and knelt beside Fara. She took both kits from their mother.

"Now what?" Mary asked. Wolf lowered the force field.

"Follow me," Wolf said. Mary followed Wolf down the halls of the Fox Hunter. Wolf led Mary into one of the escape pods. Then he dragged Matt's crippled body in next to Mary. Wolf closed the hatch and launched the pod.

Fox woke up in his cell. Fara was crying her eyes out. "Fara! Fara, what's wrong?!" Fox asked. He put his paws around her.

"They're gone! Our kits are gone!" Fara cried hysterically. Wolf walked up to their cell.

"No, they're not. Your friends have them. All four of them are drifting in an escape pod heading towards Corneria. I let your children live. Be thankful," Wolf explained. He left them alone and walked out of the brig.

"Fox, tell me this is all a bad dream! Tell me that we're still in bed onboard the Great Fox!" Fara pleaded. She wrapped her paws around Fox's body, placed her head on Fox's bare chest, and started to cry over the separation from her kits.

"Fara, I wish it were. I promise that we'll escape. I swear that we'll be back on Corneria, and we'll raise our kits. I promise. Okay?" Fox asked.

"O-o-okay!" Fara cried.

The next morning, Wolf came up to their cell with a gun. He lowered the force field and grabbed Fox by the arm.

"You're coming with me McCloud!" Wolf ordered.

"No!" Fox opposed. Wolf reached for his gun.

"Fox, go! Do it for Max and Felicia," Fara said.

"Okay Fara, for them," Fox said back. Fox walked over to Wolf. He raised the force field so Fara couldn't escape. Fox and Wolf walked down the corridors of the Fox Hunter towards Leon's torture chamber.

"Wolf," Fox said. Wolf led him into a turbo lift. The doors slid shut.

"What?" Wolf asked sternly.

"Why? You could have let my wife and kits die, but you didn't. Why did you do it?" Fox asked in disbelief. Wolf stiffened and answered his prisoner.

"I-I love her," Wolf confessed. The doors opened and Wolf took Fox into Leon's torture chamber. Leon was sitting at his desk fixing the whip that he had beat Matt with the day before. He look up at his new victim.

"Oh good, your shirt is already off. Saves me the trouble of ripping it off!" Leon sneered. Wolf threw Fox to the ground and turned to leave.

"Wolf, where are you going?" Leon asked. "Aren't you going to stay?"

"No. I'm going back to the brig. I have a few things to do with Fara while I seduce her!" Wolf smiled.

"If you try to take advantage of my wife, I'll kill you with my bare paws you sick bastard!" Fox screamed. He left Leon's torture chamber and headed towards the brig. Leon took Fox and placed him on the cold metal table. It was the same table that Katt was restrained on when they both surrendered eight months ago.

"Well, the last time you were here, I had the pleasure of torturing Katt. Now it's your turn!" Leon sneered. He finished locking the restraints which held Fox up.

"What are you going to do to me?" Fox demanded.

"I'm going to batter and beat you up like I did to your friend Matt," he smiled. Leon took the whip off from the table, and started to slash Fox with it. Fox let out screams of pain, and yelled for Fara to be with him. Leon continued with his savage beating.

At the same time as Leon was torturing Fox, Wolf was in Fara's cell. "Get away from me!" Fara screamed. Wolf wrestled Fara to the ground, sat on her, tore off all of Fara's clothes, pulled down his pants, and started to rape her. "GET OFF ME-NO!" Fara cried out loud. Wolf wouldn't get off. She lay restrained under Wolf and struggled to throw him off. Wolf continued to seduce her, but Fara pushed him off. Wolf became stunned. Fara got up, walked over to him, and kicked Wolf continually until he was bleeding on the floor unconscious.

Fara quivered and lay shocked in her prison cell. She was terrified. Wolf had just raped her. Fara started to put her clothes back on. Her sweat shirt was destroyed. Fara's shorts had been severely torn. She put on whatever she could. She fled out of her prison cell in her underwear. Fara ran down the corridors of the Fox Hunter looking for her husband.

Leon slashed mercilessly at Fox with his whip. Fox had lost all of his strength. Confident that Fox couldn't get up, Leon released Fox's restraints. Fox fell to the floor. Leon walked towards Fox with a tazor. He held up Fox against the wall. His claws jabbed into Fox's throat. Leon took the tazor and rammed it into Fox's bare chest. Fox was in agony. Fara rushed into the room and was shocked at Fox's injuries. "My love-

NO!" she screamed. Fara gathered all of her strength and charged at Leon. She struck Leon unconscious. Fox dropped to the floor. Fara knelt beside him.

"Fara..." Fox whispered.

"Don't try to talk. I'm getting us out of here!" Fara panicked. Blood was all over Fox's body. He was in the same condition as Matt was when he had come back from his torture. Fara struggled to drag Fox to what looked like an escape pod. Fara read an inscription on the door. It read 'Wolf O'Donnell's personal escape pod. Private property'. She lay Fox down gently and forced off the lock to Wolf's personal escape pod. The black hatch, and launched the pod.

Mary sat up against the wall of the small escape pod. Mary was able to heal Matt's severe injuries with a med-kit that she had found. Matt was not able to move. All his cuts and bruises still ached. Matt lay next to her. She lay in her jeans and bra. Mary had taken off her shirt, tore it up, and bandaged some of Matt's cuts. She held both of Fara's kits. A survival pack lay next to her. It was empty. They were out of food and water. The newborn kits were crying. "Mary, do something," Matt said.

"What? We've never had kits before! I just changed them. I think they're hungry!" Mary panicked.

"Then feed them," Matt suggested.

"With what? We're out of food and water!" Mary cried.

"Well couldn't you... you know..." Matt prompted.

"Breast feed them? Yes I can, but what if they don't take? I'm not their mother. If they don't feed from me, they'll be finished!" Mary explained.

"Mary, it's their last hope. Please, try," Matt said. Mary took a deep breath.

"Well, I've never done this before, but okay, I've got my paws full. Could you hold these two?" Mary asked.

"Yeah," Matt said. He took both kits from Mary. Mary moved her paws behind her back and unstrapped her bra. She placed it beside her. Matt handed the twins back to Mary. She cradled the newborn foxes in her arms. Mary held them up to her breasts. The twins began to feed from Mary. "How do you feel?"

"Like a mother," Mary smiled. "Matt, do you want to have kits in the future?" Matt smiled at the question. "Sure, when this war is over. I'll pick you up in my arms, carry you to our beach house on Katina, open a bottle of champagne, and lay down with you next to a romantic fire,"

"It's a date," Mary smiled. "All we have to do is survive. Hey, I think they're asleep,"

"That's good. We've only been in this thing for almost two days now. We should be spotted by a Katina patrol by tomorrow morning. Why don't you put those two little ones down and come over with me?" Matt suggested.

"Okay," Mary said. She took the bundled up twins and set them gently beside Matt. Both of them still lay peacefully asleep. Mary took her bra and strapped it back on. She lay on the other side of Matt. Mary placed her paws around Matt's body. She took her muzzle and nudged up across Matt's chest. Tears began to pour out of her eyes.

"Hey, what's wrong?" Mary, everything will be fine. We'll be okay," Matt comforted.

"No it won't! We'll never be rescued, we'll never make love and have kits, and Fox and Fara's kits will die because of us!" Mary cried. Matt placed his paws on Mary's shoulders and shook her hard.

"Mary, listen to me! We'll live, both of the kits will live, and we'll make love to each other in front of that romantic fire in our beach house, I promise! But right now, all we can do is wait. Okay?" Matt asked.

"Okay!" Mary cried. She knelt beside Matt, dug her muzzle hard into Matt's scarred chest, and cried her eyes out. Matt put his paws around Mary and pulled her up against his body. Mary climbed on top of Matt and stroked her body up against him, with her nose still buried in Matt's ruffled fur. She soon fell asleep with her husband's arms around her. Matt closed his eyes and went to sleep.

Fox woke up confused. He rubbed his paws at his temples to relieve the headache he had. Fara sat across from him shivering. It was only when Fox finished rubbing at his eyes, he saw what Wolf had done to her. "Fara, where are your clothes?" Fox asked.

"W-w-Wolf came into my cell. Then he forced me on the ground and stripped me naked! After that, he pulled down his pants and -he-and-he- RAPED ME!" Fara cried, hysterically. Fox opened a nearby storage closet locker and took out a blanket. He sat next to Fara and covered her with it. She sat on his lap, nudged at Fox affectionately with her muzzle, then hugged him tight.

"Hey, what was that for?" Fox laughed.

"Nothing. Just hold me," Fara said. Her eyes filled with despair and fear.

"Okay," he replied. He placed his paws around her. Fara just sat there with him. "Fara, everything is going to be alright,"

"No, it's not! Fox, Wolf impregnated me! Now I'm stuck with his kits! He violated me! Fox, I want Wolf to be stopped! I wish he would leave me alone!" Fara sobbed.

"He will. Don't worry Fara, he will!" Fox promised. Fara cried herself to sleep. Fox sat with Fara asleep in his lap.

Mary woke up in a bright room. A light was shining in her face. She lay on a medical bed. "Where am I?" she asked, sitting up. Bill gently pushed her back down on her bed.

"You're on Katina with friends. My name is Bill. What's yours?" he asked.

"Mary," she answered.

"Well, Mary, we found your escape pod drifting by. Luckily, we got you here just in time," Bill explained.

"Where's my husband?" Mary asked. She started to look around the room.

"He's in surgery. Don't worry, he'll be fine," he assured her.

"And the kits?" she asked, sounding nervous.

"Your twins will be fine,"

"They're not mine. They're Fox and Fara's,"

"McCloud?" Bill asked, surprised.

"Yes," she nodded.

"But how?" Bill asked. He was very confused. Mary spent most of the day telling him their story. She told him about joining the Star Fox team, being ambushed by Star Wolf and Fara giving birth in their prison cell. Matt was rolled in on a stretcher. He was unconscious. Bandages were wrapped all over his chest and face. He was rolled over next to Mary's bed. Bill looked at his watch. It was 20:45. Vixy would be making dinner by now. "I'd better be getting home, Mary. I'll visit you before I leave in the morning,"

"Leave? Where are you going?" Mary asked.

"Looking for Fox and Fara," the tired bulldog answered.

"Bill promise me that you'll find them,"

"Don't worry, we'll find them," Bill smiled. "Good night,"

"Good night," Mary replied. Bill walked out of the room and shut the door behind him.

Matt suddenly let out a yawn. "Matt!" Mary cried. She got up and went over beside him.

"Mary, where are we?" Matt asked.

"On Katina. The Husky and Bulldog units are looking for them now," Mary said.

"And the kits?" Matt asked. He became worried.

"Where their godparents," Mary smiled.

"That's wonderful. The doctors say I'll be back to normal tomorrow. If these bandages come off. Mary, remember in the escape pod and you said that you wanted to have kits with me?" Matt asked.

"Yes. I meant it," she said.

"I don't doubt that. How many do you want to make?" he asked.

"Well..." Mary started.

"Come on Mary, tell me. It's nothing to be ashamed of. We'll have as many as you want," Matt comforted.

"Four to six kits. Maybe more. I mean, if I could keep up with you,"

"I won't go too fast for you," Matt smiled.

"You'd better get some sleep. I'll see you in the morning," Mary said. She kissed Matt Good night and climbed back on her small hospital bed. She turned out the light and pulled the covers over her. Mary soon fell asleep dreaming of having a family with Matt.

It was 11 p.m.. Bill and Vixy lay in the small bed of their apartment. Vixy lay next to Bill with her arms around him. The phone rang, startling Vixy. She clamped herself on to Bill, but let go when she saw it was just the phone. Bill sat up and rubbed at his eyes. He picked up the phone. "Hello?" Bill asked. He was still half asleep.

"Sir, sorry to call you this late, but we found both of the McClouds," the voice said.

"Where?" Bill asked.

"Their escape pod just landed over at our base. They're both in the hospital," the officer said.

"I'm on my way," Bill said. He hung up the phone and started to put on his clothes.

"Did they find them?" Vixy asked.

"Yes. Come on, we're going," Bill said. He zipped up his jacket and grabbed his sunglasses from the desktop and helped Vixy up out of bed. Vixy randomly picked out an outfit and got dressed quickly. Bill and Vixy were soon on their way to the hospital inside the Katina Central Command (KCC) base. It was only twenty minute drive, but traffic was always a problem inside the huge base perimeter. Even early in the morning.

Matt and Mary lay asleep in their medical beds inside their large hospital room. There was enough room for six beds, but with all the medical equipment, it could only support four.

Fara lay asleep in the bed next to Mary. She held both of the sleeping kits in her arms. They were both wrapped in separate blankets instead of Fox's old blue sweat shirt. Fox was in surgery because of his severe injuries that Leon had inflicted.

Vixy and Bill sat in the waiting room of the large base hospital. They both lay asleep. Vixy woke up. She looked at her watch. It was 0900. Vixy turned to Bill and nudged him. "Vixy?" Bill yawned.

"Good morning," Vixy smiled. She kissed him. "Come on, their room is down the hall. They should be awake by now,"

"Okay Vix," Bill said. They both walked down the hall and entered their friends' room. Fox was still asleep from his surgery. The bandages that were all over Matt's body were stuck to him. Fara and Mary were holding both the twins.

"Bill. Vix," Fara greeted.

"Hi Fara," Bill welcomed.

"Hi," Vixy smiled. Bill and Vixy sat by them.

"Bill, did they find Great Fox?" Mary asked.

"Yeah. It was drifting over Sector X. It's in orbit now. There's a large hole in the docking bay doors though. It's nothing that can't be fixed. I see that you've given birth," Bill remarked.

"Yeah. Fox delivered them. Fox and I decided on names on the night I conceived. We're naming them after parents. Meet Max and Felicia," Fara said. She took her daughter and handed her to Mary.

"Well congratulations," Vixy smiled.

Wolf sat on the bridge of the Fox Hunter. Everything was clear to him now. Why hadn't he thought of it before? He had to capture Fara when she was alone. Wolf just had to wait for the right time. Leon sat with Wolf at the console. "Are you sure this will work Leon?" Wolf asked. The iguana stiffened.

"Yes. In one or two weeks, Fara McCloud will be your wife. And I'll be at the wedding," Leon smiled.

"Good. Do you know where she is now?" Wolf asked.

"Yes. I just checked. All four of our prisoners are on Katina," he said.

"Fine. Engage the cloaking device and set course for Katina. Full impulse," Wolf ordered.

"Cloaking device operational. Course set. ETA is five minutes," Leon reported.

"Good. Fara, you will soon be mine! And you'll have your arms around me after you give birth to our kit," Wolf smiled.

It was later that night. Mat and Mary were released from the hospital. They left for their beach house so they could wait for Fox and Fara to recover. Fox and Fara sat alone in their hospital room. Both the newborn kits were with Matt and Mary. "Fara, do you know if Wolf impregnated you yet?" Fox asked.

"Yes Fox, I am," Fara cried.

"Well couldn't you-"

"No! Fox, how can you be so cold? Desired or not, I'm going to have this kit. I'm its mother," Fara cried.

"Okay Fara," Fox comforted.

Leon and Wolf sat silent outside the window of Fara's hospital room. "Are you ready?"

"Yeah. We'll go in, abduct Fara, and run like hell. Right?" Leon asked.

"Exactly. On the count of three. One, two THREE!" Wolf yelled. The glass of the window shattered. Wolf blasted Fox with his gun. Leon secured the door. Wolf picked up Fara and hoisted her over his shoulder.

"Help!" Fara screamed. Leon shot the security guards from the door. Fara was struggling to escape, but Wolf ran with Fara to his shuttle. Leon followed him. They ran into the shuttle and took off. Wolf sat with Fara restraining her. Leon handed Wolf a syringe.

"What's this?" Wolf asked.

"Sedate her!" Leon yelled. Wolf took the syringe and pricked Fara on her shoulder.

"Agh!" Fara screamed. She felt the tranquilizing liquid flow through her veins. Fara knew she couldn't hold out much longer. She passed out in Wolf's arms.

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Wolf sat back with Fara inside the cloaked shuttle. "Okay. She's sedated. Now how are we going to turn her?" Wolf asked.

"We? I can't do anything. That drill was the only guarantee we had that Fara could be turned. Now it's in five-hundred pieces. Why don't you just probe her mind? You could just make her believe she's your wife. All you have to do is manipulate her mind. Right?" Leon asked.

"Yes, I guess I could," Wolf smiled. The small shuttle entered the docking bay of the Fox Hunter.

Fox sat up in his medical bed. Bill had notified everybody he could about the situation shortly after he met Mary. Only Katt, General Pepper, and Peppy were able to join him and Vixy. "What's the last thing you remember?" Bill asked.

"Fara and I were talking when our window shattered. Somebody shot me, then everything went black. Now Fara is back in the paws of Star Wolf," Fox cried out.

"Don't worry. We're going to rescue her as soon as we can," General pepper assured him, "We have to find then first,"

"But what if she's being tortured?!" Fox cried. He only prayed that Wolf wouldn't harm his own child. After all, wasn't that why he captured her? To take what was his?

Wolf sat in the brig outside the force field from Fara. He was probing her as best he could. Fara was resisting, but Wolf would always slip through a hole when she would

tire. She gave it all she had. Fara was at the brink of insanity. There was nothing left she could do. Fara fell on her knees and let out a loud scream of emotional agony.

Thoughts of Fara's past streamed in and out of her mind. Wolf started to suppress her memories. He knew exactly where to begin. He started with Fox. Thoughts began to conflict with each other inside her head. Questions started to form. Fara hated Wolf, but she had kissed him. No, Wolf had tricked her. She thought he was Fox. Fara didn't want to marry Wolf, but she was carrying his kits. If she was carrying Wolf's kits, it must have been by choice. That means that Fara must have wanted to marry Wolf. No, Wolf raped her. The questions stopped. Fara could no longer resist. Her mind was now easy pickings for Wolf. Wolf had finally succeeded. He began to lock Fara's memories away one by one. Her life with Star Fox went blank. Fox was next. Her precious memories of Fox began to fade. She forgot about how they first met. Then their first date and the movies. Wolf moved on to her recent memories. The night when Fara arrived in torn clothes, half-naked on Fox's doorstep in tears. Fox and Fara's first honeymoon slipped away. Wolf got to the two most important memories of all. Wolf worked hard with this one. He was at the memory of when Fox and Fara had sex that night on Great Fox, making both Max and Felicia McCloud. It took Wolf a long time to suppress that. He had only one last memory to suppress. Then Wolf knew he would have Fara crawling all over him. Fara's last memory of Fox was when he was delivering their twins in the same cell she was in now. The thought suddenly caved in on itself. Wolf hadn't won yet. He had to know how Fara would act when she woke up.

It was ten minutes after he had finished suppressing Fara's memories. She regained consciousness. Fara moaned softly and slowly sat up. She looked over to Wolf. A sudden impulse of love and sexual desire towards Wolf overwhelmed her. Wolf hastily lowered the force field that separated them. Fara ran up to Wolf. She jumped on top of him and started to kiss Wolf all over. He became pleased so he put his arms around Fara and kissed her back.

"I love you Wolfy!" Fara said. "What are we doing in the brig? Why don't we go back to your quarters, slip off our clothes, then do something fun to pass the time by," she suggested. Wolf had been waiting for this to happen.

"Okay babe. Let's go," Wolf said. They left the brig with their arms around each other. They reached Wolf's quarters. Wolf took off his flight suit and lay in his bed. Fara ripped off all her clothes and jumped into bed on top of Wolf. She pushed him onto his back and straddled his hips, beginning to ride on her new lover.

It was early morning on Katina. General Pepper and Katt were the only people who were able to arrive on such short notice. Fox was in his hospital room still recuperating from Leon's torture. Katt, Bill, Vixy, and General Pepper were in the hospital room with him, talking about Fara's kidnapping the night before. There was a small comm. screen on the wall at the end of Fox's bed. It suddenly flashed on. It displayed the bridge of the Fox Hunter. Fara stood by Wolf with her paws around him.

"Hello McCloud! I'd like you to meet someone. This is my wife and the mother of our daughter," Wolf smiled. He placed his paw over Fara's abdomen. She smiled. The room was silent.

"Fara?" Fox asked. He didn't believe any of this.



“Who are you?’ Fara asked. He was a stranger to her. All Fara knew was that she was married to Wolf.

“Don't you remember me? I'm your husband. Don't you remember our wedding day or our honeymoon?” Fox asked.

“No, but you do look a little familiar,” Fara said. “It really doesn't matter. I love Wolf. Before I go, I'm telling you, all of you, don't come to rescue me. If you do, you will fail. I will not leave my husband!”

Fara punched a button on the console next to her. Both screens went black. Tears started to pour out of Fara's eyes. She turned to Wolf and hid her muzzle into his chest.

“Don't worry, Fara. I won't let them take you,” Wolf comforted. He carried her over to his captain's chair and sat down with her on his lap.

“Wolf, hold me..,” Fara said.

“Okay babe, I'll hold you,” Wolf said. Fara was curled up in Wolf's lap. She was practically rolled up in a ball. Wolf sat back in his chair stroking Fara across her abdomen with his paws. Fara became silent. She had fallen asleep with her muzzle digging into him. He slowly got up with Fara in his arms. He knew the final battle over Fara was near. And he intended to win it.

Fox sat in his hospital bed. “Fox, I can't believe this,” Vixy said in disbelief.

“Aren't we going to do something?” Bill asked.

“Fara... why Fara? This should be a conflict over me. Not Fara. I can't believe Wolf turned her. My poor wife..,” Fox cried.

“Don't worry Fox. We're going to get Fara out. And I promise that we'll find a way to turn her back to who she was before this all happened. Now, the doctors tell me that you're going to be out of her tomorrow. So in the morning, everybody on the Star Fox team will be waiting for us. All we have to do is figure out a plan. Okay?” General Pepper said.

“But what about our twins?” Fox asked.

“Vixy and I will be taking care of them. Fox, they'll be safe with us,” Mary interrupted. Vixy turned to Mary.

“I thought I was going to tell him,” Vixy said.

“Sorry, Vixy. I guess it just slipped out,” Mary apologized. Vixy took Max off Mary's lap and held him against her.

“Okay, I know this is a stupid question, but is Matt coming?” Fox asked. He looked over at the bandaged wolf who lay peacefully asleep in his bed.

“Yes. His wounds are okay now. I volunteered to force the bandages off Matt. I thought that he'd want me to be the one with him while his fur gets ruined,” Mary said.

“Well why? It's not like the bandages are super glued on him,” Bill joked. Mary stared at the husky.

“It's no joke, Bill,” Mary laughed,” Somehow the bandages have clamped onto Matt's fur. I have a feeling that yanking off his bandages is going to hurt my husband more than Leon's torture did,” Mary said. She let out a laugh.

It was the next day. Matt, Mary, and Fox had been released from the hospital on Katina. They met up with the rest of the StarFox team on Vixy's space station. Everyone sat outside the guest room, which Vixy had rarely used. Matt's screams could be heard

all over the space station.

Mary was sitting on top of Matt in the guest bed. Matt was in his boxer shorts, so Mary could easily reach the bandages which had mysteriously clamped to Matt. His chest, back, arms, and legs were painted with white bandages.

"Honey, hold still!" Mary scowled, "Your fur will grow back. I promise!"

She stripped off another bandage on Matt's chest.

"Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!" Matt screamed. He looked up to see another strip of his shiny gray fur removed from his chest. Mary placed the bandage on top of the pile next to them.

"Peppy, you can come in now! It's time for the next load!" she yelled over Matt's screams of pain. Peppy opened the door and came in with an empty trash can.

"How much do you have left?" Peppy asked. He loaded the fourth pile of stripped bandages into the wastebasket.

"A lot," Mary said. She stripped off another bandage. Peppy left the room. It was an hour later.

"Oh my God! My shiny fuurrrrrr!" Matt shrieked as the last bandage was yanked off. Mary lay down on top of Matt in their bed. Matt was furless except for the portions on his face, tail, waist, and paws.

"I'm proud of you, Matt. You handled that well," Mary said. She kissed him on the cheek.

"I'd better get some sleep. I'm going to need it for the big search tomorrow. Goodnight Mary," Matt said. They drifted asleep. Matt was anxious for the big mission ahead of him.

*Al have only been with Star Fox for a short time, but the stories I have been told about Wolf O'Donnell's recent sexual obsession with Fara McCloud lead me to believe that Wolf is nothing but a sex crazed freak. He is a threat to himself as well as the entire Lylat system. Wolf O'Donnell is scum and must be stopped. I only hope that Fara will live to see his execution,"*

*- Matt Starlight, Star Fox*

Wolf lay next to Fara in their quarters. "How was last night?" Wolf asked. Fara turned to him and put a smile on her face.

"Wonderful! I wish we could live like this forever," Fara sighed.

"Me too... Fara, I'm afraid that it's time,"

"Time? I'm not due for another eight months silly," Fara laughed. She kissed Wolf warmly and cuddled with him.

"No baby, it's not that," Wolf yawned.

"Then what is it Wolfy?" Fara asked.

"You know that man you talked to yesterday?" Wolf asked.

"Yes..,"

"I'm afraid that him and his friends are going to take you. I won't let them,"

"I won't go. I'm gonna stay here with you Wolfy," Fara said. She was exhausted from the night she had with Wolf.

Vixy stood in the docking bay of her cloaked space station. The Star Fox team, including Katt, Bill, and Matt stood in a line. Vixy took out laser proof vests and helmets. Each of them took their assault rifles and started boarding one of Vixy's ships. Vixy put her paw on Bill's shoulder. "Be careful," Vixy said.

"Don't worry Vix. I'll be back before you know it," Bill said. He kissed her goodbye. Bill left Vixy and walked up the boarding ramp. The doors closed. The assault shuttle lifted off and left to find the Fox Hunter.

Mary entered the docking bay with both twins in her arms. "They've left. Right?" Mary asked.

"Yeah. I hope they come back alive," Vixy sighed.

"Don't worry. They'll come back," Mary said. A tear left her eyes and strolled down her cheek. "I hope..,"

Vixy's private shuttle scanned around for the Fox Hunter. Fox had the cloaked shuttle on cruise control. The ship's sensors were automatically searching for the Fox Hunter. Fox was in the passenger compartment briefing his team. "So, Fox, what's your plan?" Matt asked, cleaning his rifle.

"Simple. We get in, get Fara back, and run like hell," Fox explained.

"But what if she doesn't want to come?" Falco asked.

"I was hoping it wouldn't have to come that. We'll carry her out. Even if she's kicking and screaming. We'll take her back to Corneria," Fox explained.

"When do you think we'll find them?" Katt asked.

"I'm not sure. We need to get some sleep though,"

"Who'll be at the sensors?" Bill asked.

"We'll take shifts. I'll be the first one. The rest of you get some sleep. I'll wake one of you up when I feel tired. Goodnight," Fox said, trying to hold back a yawn. Fox walked up to the cockpit and sat down next to a console. Each member of the Star Fox team sat up against each other and went to sleep. The shuttle flew along its course looking for the Fox Hunter.

Mary and Vixy sat in the guest room aboard her space station. Mary held Felicia in her arms. They were talking about themselves.

"So, how did you and Matt first meet?" Vixy asked, placing Fox to bed.

"Matt met me on the Internex. We began to e-mail each other everyday. We became friends. Then, one day, he told me he loved me," Mary explained.

"Then what?" Vixy asked. She sat next to Mary on the bed.

"Then my family moved to Matt's hometown on Katina. I'll never forget the first time we saw each other... It was in the beginning of our freshman year. You should have seen the look on Matt's face when I walked into his first-period classroom," Mary smiled.

"What did he do?" Vixy asked.

"Well, he jumped out of his seat, ran over towards me, swung his arms, and kissed me," Mary smiled.

"Sounds romantic..," Vixy smiled.

"That was nothing compared to how he proposed to me. We were both seniors. Matt and I were walking in the park on a spring night. We sat in a gazebo under the moonlight. Matt knelt across from me, took out a shiny silver box with a diamond ring,

held my paw, and asked me to marry him. He caught me off guard, but I accepted; so he slid the ring on my finger, sat next to me, placed me in his lap, and kissed me. We got married that summer. Then the war broke out. We never had the chance to go on our honeymoon or have kits. Both of us joined the resistance to fight Andross later that week..."

"I'm sorry to hear that you two never went on your honeymoon. You know, there's a tropical resort not too far from the command base on Katina. Both of you could just spend some time there when the guys get back," Vixy suggested.

"I know which one you're talking about. But Matt says that when he gets back, he'll carry me into our beach house and we'll make our own honeymoon. I mean... if he gets back. I just have this strange feeling that something terrible is going to happen to him," Mary said. She realized that Felicia had fallen asleep. Mary opened the covers on the bed and placed the newborn vixen next to her brother. As soon as the twins were settled, Mary and Vixy quietly slipped out of the room.

An alarm sound in the cockpit of the assault shuttle. Fox's senses came to life. He looked over the sensor display. The screen read that it had found a ship identical to the Fox Hunter. He got up out of his chair and went to wake his team. "Hey guys, wake up. We've found them. Get your gear on," Fox whispered. Everybody slowly awoke and put on their helmets and grabbed their guns. Katt got on her feet and walked over next to Fox. He was gazing out the cockpit window.

"My god... that thing is huge! It'll take forever to find Fara in all of that," Katt exclaimed.

"No it won't. They're on the bridge," Fox said.

"How do you know? It's not like you can just peek through a window," Katt said.

"Well, wouldn't you be on the bridge if you were expecting intruders?" Fox asked.

"Yeah, I guess so. But what if both of them are-"

"Katt, please, I don't even want to think about that. I can just pray that they're not," Fox answered. "Hold on, we're about to dock. Brag onto something and brace yourself," The shuttle clamped onto the Fox Hunter. The laser dock system ate through the thickly plated hull of the Fox Hunter. Peppy opened the hatch and peered out the corner. Satisfied that it was safe, he motioned for everyone to follow. Everybody cautiously made their way towards the bridge.

Wolf sat on the bridge of his warship with Leon and Fara. Leon wore his traditional Venom flight suit. Wolf and Fara were in their nightclothes. Fara sat in his lap. She put her arms around Wolf and pulled closer to him. "I love you my Wolfy!"

"I love you too baby!" Wolf answered. Fara looked up at Wolf and kissed him. Suddenly the turbo lift doors slid open. Matt and Fox ran out the doorway and flanked Wolf. Katt and Peppy followed. Leon reached for his gun, but Katt caught him and shot Leon. He fell dead to the ground. Wolf and Fara jumped out of their seat. Wolf withdrew a heavily modified laser pistol. Fox motioned for the group to fall back. Katt and Peppy made it safely into the turbo lift. Fox ducked behind a console. Matt was running to join Fox under the computer, but he tripped. He was drawn to the floor. His head gear slipped off and the helmet rolled past Wolf's feet. Wolf saw the helpless wolf struggling to get up. He remembered Matt from when he was captured with Fox, Fara, and Mary.

Wolf decided that he should take the opportunity to kill one member of the Star Fox team, and aimed for the base of his skull. Matt could hear Katt and Fox calling for him to grab their paws, so they could drag him to safety. Wolf pulled the trigger. The laser hit Matt in the head. He let out a blood-curtailing scream. Matt felt the burning pain rush through his body. His vision started to blur. He knew that all hope of him and Mary having a family was lost. With his last ounce of strength he screamed out Mary's name before he passed out. Somehow, he prayed that she would hear him.

Fox was angry. He took out his gun and jumped up from his hiding spot. He fired madly at Wolf. "DIE YOU BASTARD!" Fox yelled madly. The blasts from Fox's assault rifle pierced Wolf's body. Blood started to pour out of the laser wounds. Wolf O'Donnell was now dead.

Suddenly, Fara grabbed at her head. All the memories that Wolf suppressed started to surface simultaneously. It was too much for Fara to handle at once. She let out a wild scream before she fell unconscious. "Katt, Bill, get Matt back to the ship. The rest of you follow them, we're getting out!" Fox ordered. Katt and Bill came out from hiding in the turbo lift and started to carry Matt's dying body back to the ship. Fox picked Fara up and followed everyone back to the shuttle. Fox walked into the shuttle with Fara in his arms and closed the hatch. The ship detached and entered hyperspace. Matt lay dying in one of the bunks. Peppy knelt beside him with a medical scanner. Fox stood over him. "Matt, is there anything I can do?" he asked.

"Y-yes," Matt whispered.

"Name it," Fox smiled.

"Tell Mary- tell my wuffy- I love her-" Matt said. He passed out.

"Peppy, will he be alright?" Fox asked.

"No. He's in a coma. Matt may never wake up. Mary will be crushed," Peppy said sadly.

Mary and Vixy stood excited in the docking bay while the shuttle's doors opened. Fox, Katt, and Falco walked down the ramp. Fox started to look for Mary. he didn't know how she would take the bad news. "Where's Matt?" Mary asked excitedly. Fox put his paws on Mary's shoulders. Mary looked up at Fox. She saw a sad look on his face. "Fox, what's wrong? Where's Matt?"

"Mary, something awful happened. Wolf shot Matt in his face. He slipped into a coma about an hour ago. Mary, I'm sorry," Fox said regretfully. Tears started to drip down Mary's face. Bill and Peppy carried Matt's dying body out of the shuttle and placed him on the floor. Mary knelt over Matt's body, put her head on his chest, and sobbed uncontrollably.

*"I can't explain it, but somehow I knew that something terrible would happen to Matt. I could've stopped him from boarding that shuttle, but I didn't. I only have myself to blame for what happened. As I look over my husband's motionless body, I realize that if he doesn't wake up, we will never live to have a family. My worst fear is that if Matt dies. I will never know what it feels like to be mother," - Mary Starlight, Star Fox.*

It was around 1900 hours on Vixy's small space station. Matt was moved to the bed in Vixy's guest room. Everybody had given Mary privacy so she could mourn over the condition of her husband. She locked the door shut and sat on Matt's bed. Mary

stroked her paws across the ruffled fur on Matt's chest. As she moved her paws down his body, mixed emotions flooded her. Mary took Matt's right paw and held it tight. All of the emotions that Mary fought hard to hold back suddenly erupted. Mary burst into tears and started to deliriously mutter "Matt, Matt, Matt..."

Mary began to dig her muzzle into Matt and nudged it into his fur. "Oh god... Matt... Matt why? We were supposed to have kits when you got back, but now you're in a damn coma! You don't deserve this! It's just not fair! I want you to hold me in your arms and make love with you next to a romantic fire! Oh god- why?!" Mary cried. She moved on top of Matt's body and kissed him warmly. Mary's face was a huge mess of tears. "Matt, my sweet wuffy, come back to me! Please come back to me!"

Mary moved her paws around Matt's body. She cried herself to sleep on top of Matt with her muzzle rubbed up against his neck.

It had been nine months since the final battle over Fara had been won. Fara had just went through three hours of back-breaking labor with delivering Wolf's undesired daughter. She was sitting with Mary in her hospital room. Matt was laying in his bed. He was still in his coma. Matt had been moved to the base hospital on Katina. Fara had somehow been placed in the same room as Matt. "Mary, I'm really sorry about what happened to Matt," Fara comforted. Mary wiped the tears from her eyes.

"I don't know how I feel. Both of us were supposed to settle down here and have a few kits after he got back from that mission. Thanks to Wolf, Matt and I haven't made love in nine months! All we wanted to do was have a family. Is that so wrong?!" Mary cried out.

"No, it's not wrong. Mary, Fox and I have been thinking this over for a long time,"

"Thinking about what?" Mary asked.

"Well, about this little one," Fara said, holding her newborn daughter a little closer to her. "I thought that you could give her a permanent home,"

"No, I couldn't," Mary objected.

"Mary please... take her. Fox and I can't handle her. She flashes back a VERY bad memory. Fox and I want you to have her," Fara said.

"Well okay...Fara, I don't know what to say," Mary exclaimed. Suddenly, Matt started to move. He let out a faint groan. "Matt?"

"M-M-Mary..." Matt whispered.

"Matt!" Mary said. She jumped out of her chair and threw herself at Matt's side.

"Mary! Oh god, Mary, what happened to me?" Matt asked. Mary didn't want to talk. She only wanted to be with Matt and celebrate that they were back together. Just then, Mary broke out into tears. She climbed into his medical bed and lay on top of him. "Mary, what are you doing?"

"Matt, I haven't been held in your arms for nine months. I thought I'd never see you again!" Mary cried.

"Nine months?" Matt yawned.

"Yes...Matt, you've been in a coma for nine months. Just shut up and kiss me!" Mary pleaded. Matt became confused. This was all happening so fast. He saw Mary wasn't joking. Why would she? He decided to comfort his wife. He put his paws around Mary and just lay with her on top of him in his medical bed. Mary continued to cry, and

brushed her head up against him affectionately. She began to kiss Matt and soon fell asleep with her muzzle rubbed against Matt's neck.

"Funny, isn't it?" Matt laughed.

"What's funny?" Fara asked.

"I'm out of it for nine months, and I wake up with Mary crawling all over me affectionately. Not that that's a bad thing. When everything went black, I thought I was dead and that I'd never see my sweet Mary again. And there she is, the most beautiful site that I see when I wake up. It seems like I only saw her yesterday," Matt said.

"Matt, when Bill and Peppy carried you into the guest room of Vixy's space station and placed you on that bed, Mary burst into tears. She placed her head on your chest, held your paw, and refused to let anyone in her room or see anyone. Mary would stay in that room all day and cry over your body. I'm just glad to see that she's recovered. Did Mary tell you about your daughter?" Fara asked.

"Oh no... Nine months!" Matt panicked.

"Matt, relax. It's not like that. We can discuss that later," Fara said. "Fox should be coming by any minute now,"

"Well, I'm just lucky to be alive," Matt smiled.

It was one week since Matt had woke from his coma. Everyone had been assigned to shore leave so they could take care of any business they had. Obviously, romancing with their loved ones.

Mary tucked Monica in her crib. She quietly closed the door behind her so she wouldn't wake her. Mary walked into the bedroom. She heard the shower running. Curious, she changed into her robe and went into the bathroom. Matt stood outside the running shower wearing nothing but a towel. "Well, what's this?" Mary asked playfully.

"Our shower's ready and I have a fire going downstairs. I heard it's going to be below zero tonight, so I thought we could keep warm by cuddling in the shower. After that, we could lay down next to the fire and stay warm," Matt explained.

"Well that sounds like fun," Mary said. Mary slipped off her robe.

After their shower, Matt and Mary lay down next to the warm fire in their bath robes. Matt took out a bottle of Champaign and two glasses. He opened it and filled each glass. "Matt, this is so romantic!" Mary sighed.

"I know Mary," Matt smiled. "I've been saving this bottle of Champaign for a long time,"

"Well, what else have you got planned for us to do tonight?" Mary asked, smiling. She drank from her glass.

"I was going to let you decide," he smiled.

"Well, I want to just lie on top of you and snuggle," She said. She saw a warm expression arise on Matt's face. Mary took both their empty glasses and placed them on the table. Matt quickly stoked the fire. Mary lay on top of him. She opened her robe and covered them with it like a blanket. Matt moved his paws around Mary. "Oh Matt, I hope this honeymoon never ends,"

"It doesn't have to. As long as we're together," Matt smiled. Mary kissed him goodnight. Afterwards, she brushed her muzzle up against his. They lay asleep next to the glowing fire.

Fox sat next to Fara in their bed. They held both twins in their arms. Fara cradled Max in her arms. She sat back closer next to Fox and Felicia. Fara began to sing to them. Five minutes later, Fox and both their newborns were asleep. "It worked better than I expected," Fara said to herself. She rubbed up against Fox, kissed him, and fell asleep with Max in her arms. A warm smile came upon her face. Fara knew that she was now safe from Wolf O'Donnell.

Vixy and Bill sat in her bedroom of her space station. It had been towed into orbit over Katina. This was now Bill's permanent home, aside from his bunk at Katina Command and his small quarters on Great Fox. "I guess it's over," Bill laughed. He looked over to Vixy. She sat next to him on their bed.

"What's over? The war?" Vixy asked. She tried to hold back a smile, but Vixy found that she couldn't.

"No, it's not that," Bill laughed. "I mean it's over. Having to move from home to home. We're finally together. You and me... forever,"

"Oh Bill..." Vixy smiled. She moved her right paw across Bill's back. "Bill...kiss me,"

Bill moved his paws around Vixy and lay her down in their bed. He moved next to Vixy. Vixy smiled and kissed him warmly. "I love you Vixy," Bill whispered. Vixy reached over to the bedpost and turned off the lamp.

Peppy and Annie sat on the balcony of their apartment. They were cuddling on their love seat. "Annie, I'm glad this war with Star Wolf is over. Aren't you?" Peppy asked.

"Yes, I am, but I fear that we're not done with this conflict. Star Wolf may be dead, but Andross isn't. He's the reason this whole thing started," Annie said.

"We can worry about that later. Let's just relax for now," Peppy said.

"Okay," she said. They sat there and watched the sunset.

\* \* \* \*

Fara ran down the dark, narrow hallway. She quickly glanced behind her to see if Andross was still chasing her. He was gone. Fara suddenly tripped and stumbled across the floor. She looked up to see Andross in front of her. "I'm coming for you Fara! Soon, I'll have your little fennec head on my trophy wall. And that goes for the rest of the McCloud family. I'll skin the fur off your two little brats. They'll make fine slippers!" Andross laughed.

"NO!" Fara screamed in mercy. "Take me instead!"

"Oh, I'll have you and the rest of the McCloud family at my mercy. Then you and Fox will watch the rest of your family die. One by one. Starting with your precious little kits,"

Fara sat up in bed. It was just a dream. Fara was relieved that it was only a dream. She looked over at her alarm clock. It was 5 AM. Fara felt hot. As if she had just taken a shower. Fara noticed that her night gown was wet. She was covered in her own sweat. Hastily, she slipped it off and walked over to the linen closet. Fara took out a towel and dried herself off. When Fara finished, she wrapped it around her. She walked over to Fox. He lay peacefully in their bed. Fara nudged at Fox's shoulder. "Fara? What time is it?" Fox yawned.



"Fox, I had a nightmare. Andross is out to get us! I can feel it!" Fara cried. She collapsed on top of Fox. Fox sat up against the wall and comforted her.

"Fara, honey, calm down. It was just a dream. That's all," Fox comforted.

"But it was real. I can feel that Andross is coming to get us. Me in particular," Fara cried.

Fara lay back closer to Fox in their bed. Fox moved his paws around her back and waist, and pulled her up against him. He held Fara tightly.

"Don't worry Fara. If Andross comes for you, he'll have to get through me," Fox promised.

"Oh Fox, I hope so!" Fara cried. She rubbed up against Fox.

Annie lay asleep with Peppy in their apartment. She was having one of her premonitions. Several images flashed through her mind.

The first memory was of Fara. Fara walked out to her car. She carried Mar and Felicia in their stroller and parked it beside where she was standing. She reached into her purse for the car keys. Fara took them out and put the small silver key into the door's keyhole. As she turned the key, the car burst into flames. Fara was thrown hundreds of feet and landed on her back. Blood was pouring out of her nose and mouth. The stroller engulfed in flames. Max and Felicia both burned alive. Fara couldn't feel any part of her body. Just then, Fox drove up into the driveway. Fox jumped out of his car and ran to Fara. He fell to his knees and tried to wake her. A passing ambulance helped move Fara to a hospital.

The second memory was of Bill and Vixy. It was not as detailed as the first one. Vixy and Bill were eating dinner on their space station. Suddenly, the station began to rock violently. Annie now saw wreckage from what had happened. Vixy was pouring out blood. Bill had a sharp piece of shrapnel go right through him. He was dead. Vixy lay on the floor until she died of blood loss.

The last memory was of Fox. Fox was in his Arwing until it exploded. Fox's corpse drifted through empty space.

"He's coming!" Annie shrieked. She sat up in bed next to Peppy.

Fara woke up with Fox's paws still around her. The towel that covered her had slipped off during the night. Fara moved Fox's warm paws off her. She got up out of bed and put on her pink robe. Fara walked over to her dresser and randomly picked an outfit. Afterwards, she walked over to Fox and kissed him. Fox let out a smile. "Good morning honey," Fara whispered.

"Hi," Fox yawned. He looked at the small alarm clock he had on his side of the bed. It was 7:30.

"I'm taking Max and Felicia to daycare. I'll be back soon," Fara smiled. Fara took her black purse off the dresser and swung it over her shoulder and walked out of the room. As she got to the door, Fox called to her.

"Fara, I'll miss you!" Fox said.

"I'll miss you more!" Fara smiled. She walked into the twins' room and picked Max and Felicia up out of their crib. Fara carried both her sleeping kits down the stairs and out to the porch. Their stroller was parked just outside of the door. She placed Max in the back and Felicia up front. Fara rolled the stroller down the ramp and parked it. She

walked up to the car and opened up her purse. Fara opened the flap and placed her paw into the purse for her car keys. She took them out and put the shiny key into its lock. With one turn, the car exploded. Fara was thrown back hundreds of feet.

Fox came to life. He jumped out of his bed and put on his robe. Fox looked out the window to see his wife bleeding on the ground and his car in flames. He picked up his cell phone and ran out the door. Fox stopped, relieved to see that their kits weren't caught in the blast. Next, he ran to Fara. Blood was slowly pouring out of her nose and mouth. Fox picked up his cell phone and called 9-1-1. A voice answered. "Corneria City 9-1-1," it calmly said.

"Hello? It's my wife! She's dying! My car exploded! Send an ambulance! Hurry!" Fox said.

"Sir, calm down. Just give me your address and we'll be right there," it said.

"Uh, 7408 Corneria Terrace. Please hurry!" Fox said. He started to cry.

"We're on our way!" it said. Fox knelt over to Fara's body.

"Oh no! It's happening again! Fara, please answer," Fox prayed. Fara's face was covered in her own blood. Fox felt Fara's pulse. It was weak. Fox knew it was happening again. Fara came around.

"Max and Felicia... are they-" Fara asked. Fox took Fara's paw and held it in his.

"They're fine. Max and Felicia are fine," Fox smiled.

"I'm going to die. Won't I?" Fara whispered.

"No. Of course not. I've called an ambulance. You're going to be okay," Fox promised.

"Fox... it's Andross. Isn't it? The car bomb... it's a sign," Fara said. She became delirious. Fara began to cough out blood.

"Yes," Fox said. An ambulance drove up to where Fox lay over Fara's body. Two doctors rushed out the back of the ambulance with a stretcher. They came up to Fara and placed her on it. Both doctors lifted the stretcher into the ambulance and took off. Fox was left on his knees. Fox slowly got up and walked over to Max and Felicia. They were both crying loudly. Fox unstrapped both of them and held them. "It's okay. Mommy is going to be fine. She is going to be okay. Don't cry," Fox comforted. He kisses Felicia on her forehead. Fox sat down on a chair that was sitting on the porch. The twins slowly drifted off to sleep.

Fox took out his cell phone and called the only person he could think of who could make sense of this. Annie Hare.

The small phone in Peppy's bedroom suddenly rang.

"Hello?" Annie answered. She sat up against the wall and rubbed at her eyes.

"Annie! Annie! There's been an accident. Well, I don't think it was an accident. Fara is in the hospital. My car-"

"Exploded?" Annie interrupted.

"Yes. How did you know?" Fara asked.

"I had a dream last night. Fox, there's more. we need to talk. Your entire family is in grave danger. I'm coming over," Annie said. She hung up the phone and looked over at Peppy. He was still fast asleep. Peppy had always been a heavy sleeper. Annie got out

of bed and slipped on the first clothes she could find. She grabbed her car keys and took off for Fox's house.

Bill nudged Vixy at her waist. Vixy rolled over in her bed and looked up at Bill. Bill stood with a silver tray. The heavenly aroma of a fine breakfast entered Vixy's nose.

"What's this sweetie?" Vixy asked playfully.

"This is our first day in our permanent home. I took today off so I could pamper you," Bill smiled.

"This is a great start. You're too good for me Bill," Vixy smiled.

"You only deserve the best Vixy," Bill said. Vixy blushed. Bill handed her the silver tray filled with eggs, waffles, toast, and orange juice. Vixy started to eat and Bill went to the door.

"Where are you going?" she asked.

"To get you a pillow and a towel," Bill answered.

"For what?"

"The massage I'm going to give you when you're done," Bill smiled.

"Breakfast in bed... a body massage... Bill, I can't even imagine what's next..." Vixy wondered.

"Something we'll both like," Bill said. He put on a devious smile on his face. Vixy smiled back at him. Bill left their room to find a towel. Vixy had soon finished her wonderful breakfast and put the silver tray on the floor.

Suddenly, the small space station began to shake violently. "Bill!" Vixy shrieked.

Bill heard his wife's scream. He ran to their quarters. As he was running, Bill glanced out the window. He saw several Venom warships firing at them. "How did they know?!" Bill cursed to himself. Bill reached their bedroom and found Vixy severely bleeding on the floor. An explosion erupted inside their quarters. Bill was suddenly sprawled on the floor.

The phone rang in Matt's beach house. Matt picked up the phone. "Hello?" Matt answered.

"Matt, this is General Pepper. Listen, an hour ago, we've lost contact with Vixy McCloud's space station. You and Mary are the closest members of Star Fox. Go down to Katina's Command Base and lift off. The rest of Star Fox should be joining you shortly after you reach Vixy's space station. If it's still even there. I've already contacted Katina Base. Everything has been arranged. Just get over there, and the flight crew will escort you to your ships. Good luck," Peppy said. Matt hung up the phone and turned to Mary. She was in front of the hall mirror brushing back her silky brown hair. Mary turned towards Matt.

"Who was that honey?" Mary asked. She put down her hair brush and walked over to Matt. Mary put her paws around him.

"It was General Pepper. Mary, I have to go on a mission. You stay here with our kits. I'll be back as soon as I can. I love you Mary," Matt said. He kissed Mary.

"I love you too. Matt, be careful. I don't want to lose you again," Mary said.

"You won't. We'll be in each other's arms soon," Matt said. He kissed Mary again and left for the base.

Fox sat on the porch of his house with Annie. Felicia and Max were cradled in his arms. Annie had just finished explaining her dream to him. "In your dream, you said that Max and Felicia would die in the explosion, but they're right here," Fox said.

"I know. My dreams are never accurate," Annie said.

"What about Vixy and Bill?" Fox asked.

"You should check up on them. I fear that they'll die horrible deaths," Annie said concerned. Fox handed the twins to Annie and he took out his cell phone. He dialed up his sister's number. A computer voice answered.

"The number you have dialed is inoperable," said the whiny computer voice. Fox put down his cell phone. Annie stared at him. Fox had a shocked expression on his face.

"It didn't work. Did it?" Annie asked. She knew it wasn't just a wild dream anymore. It was two of three. Fox was left. His death could be prevented. Fox took the twins back from Annie.

"No. It didn't," Fox said. "It's been almost an hour. I'd better go see Fara,"

"I'll come with you," Annie said. "We'll take my car,"

"Alright," Fox said. He got into Annie's car next to her. They made their way to the hospital.

Matt approached Vixy's battered space station. From his Arwing he saw tons of small debris. Matt made his way into what was left of the docking bay. He opened the hatch and climbed out. All of the assault shuttles and weapons that Vixy had prided herself over making were destroyed. Matt was lucky that there was a cleared space big enough to fit an Arwing. He made his way through all the shrapnel that covered the floor. "Vixy! Bill!" Matt called. There was no answer. Matt exited the docking bay and wandered through the empty halls. He came up to a dimly lighted door. A Mittened paw stuck out. The doorway was barricaded with loose shrapnel, broken glass, and puddles of blood. Matt knelt down to the paw that stuck out of the doorway. He placed it in his. It felt soft and silky. He could smell the scent of fine perfume. Matt stood up and began to dig through the debris.

Matt had finished digging through the shrapnel. He was in the master bedroom. Vixy was in her nightgown and Bill was in his robe. They were obviously in the middle of being romantic. Matt knelt over to Vixy. He felt for her pulse. It was strong. He carefully dragged her out so he wouldn't worsen Vixy's injuries. After Vixy was out from the clutter, Matt noticed a large tear in her white dress. There were also blood stains all over her body.

Matt got up and turned around to look for Bill. He gasped in horror. Bill lay on his back. A sharp piece of shrapnel was lodged all the way through his right leg. Blood was pouring out of the wound. Vixy let out a faint moan. Matt rushed over to her. "Vixy! Vixy! Are you okay?" he asked.

"Matt? How'd you get here? Where's Bill?" Vixy asked. She was in shock. Matt moved his paws under Vixy's neck.

"Vixy, you shouldn't see. It's too much for you. If Bill isn't helped soon, he'll die," Matt had a sound of remorse in his voice. Vixy looked over at Bill. She burst into tears. Matt could do nothing but hold Vixy. He had treated Vixy's wounds as best he could.

"Matt, what's happening? Why did this have to happen?" Vixy asked.

"I don't know Vixy," Matt answered. Footsteps suddenly rang out from the hallways.

"Vixy! Bill!" Katt called. Matt placed Vixy's head down on the floor and rushed to the door.

"Katt?" Matt called.

"Matt? Matt! Where are you?" Katt asked.

"In here!" Matt said. He opened up a small hole in the barricaded door. Matt took Katt's paw and helped her inside.

"Oh my god!" Katt gasped. Falco and Peppy had soon found them. They managed to clear all the debris that covered the doorway.

"Any survivors Katt?" Peppy called. Katt looked up.

"Yeah. Bill is dying. Vixy seems to be okay," Katt answered. Peppy and Falco set a stretcher beside Bill and lifted him in. Both of them rushed Bill off to their small shuttle that was parked in what was left of the docking bay. Matt and Katt carefully lifted Vixy and carried her back to the shuttle.

Fox and Annie walked into Fara's hospital room. Max and Felicia lay asleep in Fox's arms. Fara was badly burned and there were several plastic tubes leading into Fara's body. Fox sat down next to Fara. He handed her their daughter. She took Felicia from him and kissed her. "How are you?" Fox asked.

"I have bad news. Fox, I'd not going to die. I'm paralyzed. When I landed on my back, my spinal column fused. I can't feel anything below my waist. The doctors say that the only treatment will take a year to set up. Fox, I'm stuck like this. Fox, I'm sorry," Fara cried.

"Oh Fara! No!" Fox cried. Annie came over to Fox.

"Fox, I'm sorry," Annie comforted.

"Fox, I'll be let out of here in two weeks... in a wheelchair," Fara cried.

"Fara, I don't care if you're in a wheelchair. We'll face this together. I promise," Fox said. Fara managed a weak smile. She began to yawn.

"Fox, I'm getting tired. Can I get some rest?" she asked. Fox smiled down at her.

"Of course," Fox said. Fara handed Felicia to Fox. Fox reached down to Fara and kissed her goodnight. Fox and Annie headed for the door.

"Goodnight Fox," Fara said. Fox turned to her.

"Goodnight Fara," Fox said back. Fox closed the door to Fara's room. Fara pressed a special button on her bed. The lights flickered off. Fara fell asleep.

Vixy woke up in a medical bed. She slowly sat up and looked around. She was in the Great Fox medical bay. Vixy looked over herself. There were stains all over her nightgown. The small tear in her dress was now a large hole. Matt came in and sat beside Vixy. "Hi," he said.

"Matt... what happened? Where am I? Where's Bill?" Vixy panicked.

"Hey, Vixy, calm down. You're safe. Bill is in surgery. This morning, General Pepper called me and said that he lost contact with your space station. I was the closest Star Fox team member, so I was sent to check on you. Your space station was a mess when I got there. The rest of Star Fox was sent to help investigate shortly after I left Katina. I was walking down one of the halls when I saw your paw sticking out from

under a pile of debris that blocked the door to your quarters. I dug my way through and pulled you free. Almost five minutes later, I heard Katt's voice. She helped me clear the debris from the doorway and Peppy dragged in a stretcher. After we secured you and Bill, we went to Great Fox. Peppy rushed Bill into surgery, and I carried you in here," Matt explained.

"But what happened to my space station? The last thing I remember was that Bill was about to give me a massage when the space station began to rock violently. It was all so sudden," she said.

"We don't know what happened either. We couldn't get a hold of Fox, Fara, or Annie. We're looking for them now," Matt said.

"Matt, when is Bill coming back?" Vixy asked.

"Soon Vixy. Soon," he answered. Peppy stood beside Bill and helped him walk in. He had a large cast over his leg. Bill worked his way over to an empty bed and lay down in it.

"Bill, are you okay?" Vixy asked.

"Yeah, Vix, I'm just a little battered. Hi Matt. Thanks for rescuing us. I guess I owe you..," Bill laughed weakly. Peppy finished tending to Bill and went inside his office. He sat at his desk and picked up his phone. Peppy dialed Fox's number hoping that Fox would answer. He didn't. Peppy tried Fox's cell phone.

"Hello?" Fox answered.

"Fox! You're alive!" Peppy blurted out.

"Of course I'm alive. What's going on?" Fox asked.

"We tried to reach you earlier, but you weren't home," Peppy said.

"I'm at the hospital. Where are you?"

"The hospital? What happened?"

"It's Fara. She's paralyzed,"

"Paralyzed? How?"

"Andross planted a bomb in my car. Fara got in and she was thrown up and landed on her back. Her spinal column fused together. She can't feel anything below her waist. The only treatment will take a year to set up," Fox said.

"Well, something had happened to Vixy and Bill. Their space station was either attacked or something went wrong onboard. We don't know which," Peppy said.

"Vixy and Bill... are they-" Fox paused, hoping Bill and Vixy would be alive.

"No. They would be if Matt hadn't been there sooner. Listen, can Fara be moved?"

"Yes. Why? You want us to come to Great Fox? You are there. Right?"

"Yes, it would help if I took a look at her. When can I expect you?"

"I don't know," Fox said. "Listen, I have to go. I'll get Fara up there as soon as I can. Bye,"

"WHAT?! What the hell do you mean that none of them are dead?! I ordered you to obliterate that space station! Not fire at them until they're helpless then just retreat! I guess I have to do this myself. First, I hire Star Wolf. That was a complete failure. Wolf spent more time turning Fara into his own personal sex slave and jumping in bed with her than he spent trying to capture Fox. Then, I send you to destroy the McClouds' space station, but you retreat right when you could've had them! Okay, where are the

McClouds now? I'll get them myself!" Andross yelled to the terrified security guard. The tiger straightened up and continued.

"Your-your highness... our latest reports indicate that every member of the McCloud family is on the Great Fox," he said, trembling.

"Good. Now I won't have to chase them all across the Lylat system," Andross laughed. He stormed out of his chamber and headed for his warship that was in the docking bay.

Fara lay face-down, naked on the cold metal operating table on the Great Fox. Peppy placed his paws by the neck. "Okay Fara. I'm going to move my paws down your spine. I want you to tell me the instant you feel anything below your waist. Are you ready?" Peppy asked.

"Yeah, I'm ready," she answered. Fara rested her head on the soft velvet pillow she was holding. Peppy moved his paws slowly down Fara's back.

"Do you feel anything yet?" Peppy asked.

"No," Fara said. She lay there impatiently. Fara wanted her legs back and she didn't want to wait a year for some operation that probably wouldn't work. She would do ANYTHING to walk again. Peppy moved his paws down her back. He pressed his fingers in and out of her spine, trying to look for an undamaged area.

Anything now?" Peppy asked. His paws were at the small of her back.

"No," Fara sighed. Peppy continued, but then stopped. "Peppy, what's the matter?"

"Fara, I'm a married man. I feel uncomfortable about feeling you on your rear. I don't want to get Fox upset because I felt you there," Peppy said.

"Peppy, I don't care if you rub your paws over every inch of my naked body. Just give me my legs and my tail back," Fara pleaded.

"Okay. If that's what you want Fara," Peppy sighed. He continued moving his paws down her waist.

"Oh!" Fara stuttered.

"What's wrong? Did I-"

"No. I felt my legs and tail. Touch me there again," Fara said. Peppy moved his paw back over her. "There it is again. I felt my legs and tail,"

"You're sure you felt your legs?" Peppy asked.

"Yes," Fara answered.

"You'll need surgery on your spinal cord. Right above your tail. I can perform it as soon as tomorrow morning. You can go now," Peppy said. He took Fara's robe from her wheelchair and handed it to her. Peppy helped Fara dress and placed her in her wheelchair.

"Peppy, thank you. For all your help. If the operation doesn't work, I know that you tried your best. And that I won't blame you," she said. Peppy smiled at her.

"Hey, don't worry. You'll have your legs and tail back soon. I promise," he said. Fara turned and wheeled herself out of the operating room and towards her bedroom.

Fara wheeled herself next to her bed. Fox extended his paws so she could climb in. Fara took his paws and climbed up with Fox in their bed. "How did it go?" Fox asked. He moved his paws down her body.

"Good. I might get my legs and tail back. Peppy will have to operate right above my tail," Fara said with hope filling in her voice.

"That's great news. I hope we'll never need that wheelchair again," Fox said.

"Me too. Fox, if this operation doesn't work, what will happen?" Fara asked.

"Fara, I don't know," he answered.

"Fox...," Fara asked.

"Yes Fara?"

"What will happen now that Andross was out to get us?"

"I'm not sure. If he's after our family, we won't go without a fight," Fox said. Fara smiled. She looked over to Max and Felicia. They lay asleep in their crib. Fara soon drifted asleep.

Fara stood in Andross' execution chamber. Fox's paws were gripped tightly around her. Vixy and Bill stood beside her. Fara held Max and Felicia in her arms. They were both crying. Mary wore a collar chained to her neck.

"I'm going to enjoy killing all of you. Before I start to execute you, I want to introduce the heir to my throne," Andross said, holding up Monica.

"NO!" Mary screamed. Andross pulled back hard on the chain which was attached to Mary's collar. Mary snapped back as Andross jerked. He handed Monica back to Mary. Andross took out his blaster and aimed it at Bill.

"Well... Mr. Grey err... McCloud, any last requests?" Andross asked.

"Yeah. One. Go to hell!" Bill growled. Andross pulled the trigger. Bill fell dead to the ground. Vixy froze. She was in shock from watching her husband die.

"Vixy, I'll ask you the same question. Any requests?" he asked. Andross pointed the blaster at her. Vixy pulled herself together.

"DAMN YOU!" Vixy screamed. She charged Andross, but was shot after she had taken two steps.

"You sick murderer!" Fara cried.

"Oh come now, you're not dead, which means you get to watch your children die!" Andross laughed. He aimed his blaster so he could hit Max and Felicia without hurting Fara. He wanted Fox and Fara to experience true torture. Witnessing the death of their children. Andross held his blaster steady and let out two shots. Both shots killed Max and Felicia. They both died instantly. Fara knelt to the floor and placed Max and Felicia down. Enraged, she ran up to Andross so she could kill him. Fara stopped as she was shot in the chest. She fell to her knees and dropped on the floor. Fara died slowly as blood began to pour from her chest wound.

Fox looked around the room of dead bodies. Bill and Vixy lay dead on top of each other. Matt was slain next to Andross' chair. Mary still wept on her husband's body. Fara lay in her own pool of blood. Max and Felicia lay dead. Fox lost all control. He charged at Andross. Andross fired his gun at Fox, but Fox dodged the shots and leapt at Andross' throat. Fox strangled him to death. An eerie silence filled the chamber. Fox turned to Mary and sat beside her. Mary brushed up to Fox with Monica cradled in her arms. Mary started to cry. "Fox, we've lost everyone we've ever cared about! What are we going to do?!" Mary panicked. Fox placed his paws around Mary.



"We'll rebuild our lives. You, me, and Monica. I don't know how, but we'll manage," Fox comforted. Suddenly the base exploded, killing everyone that was in it.

Fara ran down the dark hallway again. She heard Andross's voice again, but she couldn't see him. "I'm getting closer to you Fara! Soon I'll have you!" Andross laughed. She saw an image of her head mounted on his trophy wall. Fox, Bill, Vixy and Matt were beside hers.

"Fox!" Fara cried. She woke up. Fara was covered in sweat again. Her robe was wet. Fara was terrified. The dreams were getting more intense. One more terrifying than the last. She nudged at Fox.

"Fara? What's wrong?" Fox yawned. He felt a wet body in his arms.

"Fox, it happened again! The dream! It happened again!" she cried. Fox got out of their bed and turned on the light switch. The lights flickered on. He saw Fara in a dampened robe.

"You're wet! Hold on, let me get a towel," Fox said.

"Well I can see that Fox! I don't believe it happened to me again," Fara cried. He opened a small linen closet next to the twins' crib and took out a large towel. Fara tried to sit up, but she forgot she was paralyzed. Fox placed a towel beside them and helped Fara take off her wet robe. He threw it aside on the floor and began to cry her off. There was sweat covered every fur of her body. Fara started to calm down as Fox rubbed the towel across her.

"I guess I shouldn't have taken the first one so lightly," Fox said. He knew that Fara was terrified, and he wanted to cheer her up; but whenever she would think about her legs and tail she'd get depressed. "Well, do you want to talk about it?"

"Yes. I heard Andross again. He said that he was getting closer. Fox, I'm scared!" Fara cried. Fox moved his paws around Fara to comfort to comfort her.

Annie woke up. "He's here!" Annie shrieked. Peppy turned over to Annie.

"Annie, is it the dream again?" Peppy asked, still groggy.

"Yes," she said. Annie got out of bed and looked for something to put on. "You just go back to sleep. You have an operation to do in the morning,"

"Okay," Peppy yawned. Hw went back to sleep. Annie put on her robe and walked towards Fox and Fara's quarters.

Fara lay with Fox in their quarters. She was asleep in Fox's arms. Fox lay awake in their bed. He wondered why this was happening. He heard a knock on the door. "Who is it?" Fox asked.

"It's me, Annie. Can I come in? I had another dream," she said. Fox looked over at Fara. She lay in bed. Fox took the towel that covered her. Fox got up and opened the door. Annie stood outside. She was very tense.

"Annie, I could leave Fara here, and Peppy could just pick her up in the morning. Let's go to the lounge for now, okay?" Fox suggested.

"Alright," she replied. They walked towards the mess hall.

Fox and Annie sat down at an empty table. "So, Annie, what happened in your dream?"

"Everyone except me, Peppy, and Falco were in Andross's chamber. Mary had a collar chained to her neck. Andross held up Monica and said that she was the heir to his

throne and he said that Mary will be forced to help to raise her. Matt whispered 'save our daughter' to Mary right before he died. Then, Andross began to execute you. Your entire family was lined up and killed one by one. You were the last, but you became enraged and fought your way up to Andross. You strangled him. Then, you sat next to Mary and Monica. She brushed up against you and started to pout. He's getting closer Fox," Annie said, worrying.

"But I thought you said your dreams weren't always accurate," Fox interrupted.

"I know, but one way or another, you'll end up in his chamber. You'll either be killed or mortally wounded. There was only one thing good in my dream. Fara could walk," Annie said.

"Well, that's good," Fox said. They both sat and stared into space.

Fox paced across the hall by the operating room. He had been pacing for over an hour. The door to the operating room suddenly opened. Fara slowly walked out. Fox looked up to see his wife standing by the door. He walked over to her, pulled Fara up to him, and kissed her. "Fox, I thought you'd never hold me again!" she cried happily.

"I thought I had lost you to that wheelchair,"

"I was scared of that too, Fox," she said. Fox put his paw around Fara and sat down with her. Peppy walked out of the operating room and towards the medbay.

"Peppy, how is Bill going to be?" Fox asked. Peppy turned to Fox.

"Not good. The shrapnel fragment tore right through his leg. The only thing I can think of is to amputate him. If I do that, I could attach an artificial leg, but Bill would never be the same again," Peppy said sadly.

"Well can I see him?" Fox asked.

"Yes,"

"Does he know about the amputation?"

"Yes and Vixy isn't taking it well either,"

"By the way, how is Vixy?"

"Your sister is fine. Just some cuts and bruises. If Matt hadn't pulled her out from under the shrapnel, she would be in intensive care right now," Peppy said. Fox helped Fara to stand up. The three of them walked into the medbay.

"Well look who's up and about!" Bill cheered. Fara smiled. Fox walked over to Vixy's bed and sat next to her. Fara sat beside Bill.

"Hi sis," Fox smiled.

"Hi Fox,"

"When are you going to get out of here?"

"By tonight. Did Peppy tell you about Bill?"

"Yes. Vixy, I'm sorry," Fox comforted.

"I am too... Fox, why? Why must this happen to us?"

"I don't know, but I can promise that it'll stop soon,"

"Fox, how do you know?"

"It's just a gut feeling," Fox assured her. At the same time, Fara was talking to Bill

"I guess you heard about my leg, huh?" Bill asked.

"Yes," Fara choked. She didn't know if she could say anything to cheer the husky up.

"I guess. I'm going to end up as a one-legged freak. I can see it now, 'Bill Grey: the one-legged freak,'" Bill mused. Fara was shocked.

"Bill... Peppy said he could attach-"

"An artificial leg? Of course, I'd have my leg back, but it wouldn't be the same. It wouldn't be the leg I used to win second place in the academy marathon. It wouldn't be the leg I broke when we all went paint-balling. It just wouldn't be the same Fara," Bill said. Fara could see that he was depressed. He had every right to be. All he wanted to do was pamper Vixy, but instead him and Vixy get crippled. Fara took Bill's paw into hers.

Fox sat with Vixy and Fara in the hall outside the operating room. Fara and Vixy had their heads rested on Fox's shoulders. They were both asleep. Fox wanted to join them, but he found that he couldn't sleep. Fox was busy wondering what would become of his best friend. He only hoped Bill would accept his new fate. Five minutes later, Peppy walked out of the hall. "How did it go?" Fox asked.

"Fine. He's learning to walk again right now. You can go see him. He's been asking for Vixy since he woke up," Peppy answered. Fox turned to the two vixens whose heads were rested on him.

"Hey Vixy, Fara, wake up," Fox whispered. Both of the tired vixens slowly woke up.

"Huh? What time is it?" Fara asked, still tired.

"Where am I?" Vixy moaned. She slowly got up.

"Come on. Bill's waiting for us," Fox said. He helped Fara stand up. Vixy, Fara, and Fox followed Peppy through the double doors and found Bill adjusting to his new leg. Bill fell to the floor and cursed. Vixy came into the room and leaned over to Bill.

"V-Vixy?" Bill stuttered.

"Hi. Let me help you," Vixy offered.

"No. I need to do this myself," Bill refused. He placed his paws against the wall and lifted himself up.

"Are you okay?"

"Yeah. I'm just getting used to this new leg," Bill said. Vixy kissed him. He held Vixy's paw and limped out of the operating room. Fox, Fara, and Peppy met them.

"How does it feel?" Peppy asked. Bill shifted on his new leg.

"Fine. It feels just like my old one,"

"That's good. You can go now. Just get some rest,"

"I will," Bill said. Vixy walked with Bill to their quarters.

"He's taking it better than I thought," Peppy admitted. "I was expecting for him to lose it.

Vixy sat on her soft bed next to Bill. "Vixy, what are we going to do about our space station?" Bill asked.

"It's going to be rebuilt. Oh, that reminds me, did they find it?" Vixy asked. Bill reached under Vixy's pillow and pulled out a photo album.

"Yes. Matt pulled it out from the debris when he was cleaning up the space station. I hid it under your pillow so it would be a surprise, but here it is now," Bill said. He handed Vixy her special photo album. Vixy opened it up and saw that everything was intact.

"The album has always been good luck,"

"Some good luck," Bill mused.

Fox sat with Fara in the lounge with his muzzle buried in his paws. He was thinking of what happened. The dreams Fara had been having. Obviously the work of Andross's new telekinetic amplifier. The car bomb that paralyzed Fara, maybe one of Andross's assassins who planted a bomb in her car. The attack on his sister's space station, crippled by Venom assault cruisers. Fox's worst fears were confirmed. Andross WAS out to get him and his family.

Andross sat in the command chair at his warship. He let out a smirk as the Great Fox grew closer and closer in his view screen. "I've waited ten years for this... Hail them," he ordered.

"No response," an officer said.

"Fire on them," Andross ordered.

"Yes sir," the officer said. Several laser shots pierced the hull of the Great Fox.

Fox was startled as the Great Fox began to violently shake. Sparks flew out from the walls. A computer voice sounded. "WARNING! Oxygen generators one and two off-line. Oxygen depletion in fifteen minutes. Begin evacuation sequence,"

Fox jumped up from his chair and sprinted towards his quarters. He opened the door and saw Fara cradling Max and Felicia in her arms. "Fox, what's going on?!" Fara cried. Fox grabbed some blankets from their bed and took Fara by the arm.

"Come on! We have to get out of here!" Fox yelled. He led Fara down towards the lower decks which housed the escape pods. They met up with Peppy, Annie, Falco, Bill, Vixy, Katt, and Mary.

"What's going on?" Katt shrieked.

"We've got to get out of here! We're losing oxygen!" Fox shouted.

"Wait! Where are Matt and Monica?" Mary panicked.

"I don't know! You guys get to the escape pods! I'll go find them!" Fox ordered.

The party scrambled towards the escape pods.

Fox ran down the empty halls of the Great Fox. From there, he heard a kit crying. "Matt!" Fox yelled.

"Fox! Help us!" Matt coughed. Fox tried to open the door to Matt's quarters, but they would only open two feet. Fox saw Matt was badly hurt. Matt bundled up Monica and slid her through the door's small opening. "Take Monica and go!"

"I won't leave you!" Fox opposed. He picked up Monica off the floor.

"Fox, go! Just go!" Matt begged. The computer's warning sounded again.

"WARNING! Oxygen depletion in ten minutes," it said. Fox hesitated. He took Monica and went to the escape pods where everyone waited for him.

Mary paced across the hallway. "Where are they?" she scowled. Fox soon turned the corner with Monica in his arms. "Where's Matt?"

"He doesn't want to go,"

"Damn it Matt!" she cursed. Mary started to walk to Matt's quarters. Fox grabbed her by the arm. "Mary, we have to go now!" Fox yelled. Mary hesitated. She didn't want to leave Matt to die, but if she stayed with Matt, then Monica wouldn't have a mother. Mary let out a curse and got into her escape pod. Everyone else did the same. Each

escape pod was jettisoned, except Matt's. Mary was crying wildly. She just left her husband to die a pointless death.

Fox sat with Fara, Max, and Felicia in their escape pod. "Fara, are you okay?"

"No. Fox, it's happening. The dreams..." Fara cried. Just then, the pod began to shake. Fox looked out the window. Everything went black.

Matt got up. He saw severely bleeding. Matt put his paws up to the door and forced it open. The Great Fox's alarm sounded. "WARNING! Oxygen depletion in five minutes!" it said in its monotonous tone. Matt was dazed. He fought to stay awake as he limped towards his empty escape pod.

He soon arrived at his escape pod. With all of his strength, Matt opened the hatch, climbed in, and hit the "launch" button. The pod launched off down towards Katina's surface. Matt collapsed on the floor. He lay down, breathing hard until he slipped unconscious.

Fox slowly woke up. He rubbed at his eyes with his paws. Fara leaned over to him. "Fox, honey, are you okay?" she asked. Fox looked around their cell.

"Where are we?"

"Andross's prison, and there's no one to save us!" Fara cried in despair. Fox noticed that only Bill, Vixy, and the twins were with them.

"Hey, where's everyone else?"

"Andross took Mary and Monica an hour ago. Falco, Katt, Annie, and Peppy are in a cell on the deck below us. This is the end, isn't it?" Fara cried.

"Yes... Fara... I never thought I'd hear myself say this, but you're right Fara, this looks like the end," Fox said. He looked down at Max and Felicia. They were peacefully asleep.

Suddenly, a guard stormed into the cell. "All of you will come with me! It's time for your executions!" he sneered. The lizard aimed his gun towards the children.

"Okay! Okay! Just don't hurt our children," Fox reasoned.

"You with the twins, get up!" the guard ordered. Fara bundled up Max and Felicia and stood up next to Fox. The lizard motioned his gun at the prisoners for them to follow him. Fox, Fara, Bill, and Vixy walked with him. Two more guards took up the rear, pointing their guns at Vixy and Bill.

Andross awaited their arrival in his chamber. Mary wore a collar chained to her neck. Andross held the chain with one paw and played with Monica in his lap with his other. The chamber door opened, showing the prisoners in. "Welcome McClouds!" he smirked. "I FINALLY have you right where I want you. NOBODY can rescue you! Before you die, I want you to meet the heir to my throne, Monica. Now I've saved the executions for now. Mary will kill all of you to prove her loyalty to me. Mary, we're going to start the executions. Do you understand?"

"Yes," Mary answered. Her voice was monotonous. The collar on her neck was controlling her mind.

"Now take your gun and start with Bill," he ordered. Mary held up her gun and pointed it at Bill. Mary fought to keep control of her actions. A memory of her wedding. It shut out. She knew what she had to do. Mary turned and shot Andross in the head, killing him. She pressed the gun up against the soft white fur of her muzzle.

"Mary, what are you doing?!" Fara asked, in shock.

"I don't deserve to live... after my wedding... I had an affair and I kept it secret from Matt. Tell him I'm sorry. Fara, we've been friends for a long time... find Matt someone else to love... I'm just scum. Goodbye my friend. Oh Matt, my wuffy, please forgive me!" Mary cried. She pulled the trigger. Mary fell dead to the floor. Fara handed Max and Felicia to Fox and ran over to Mary, but it was too late. Mary was dead. Monica still sat in Andross's dead lap. She began to cry. Fara picked her up and cradled her.

Matt woke up. He was in a bed in a strange room. He looked up to see a beautiful white wolf lying on top of him. Matt became in instant shock. It wasn't Mary. It was a stranger. Matt moved his paws up to her and nudged gently. She woke up startled. "Oh, you're awake!" she smiled.

"Who – who are you?!" Matt panicked. She could tell that he didn't like the position they were in. Matt started to sweat.

"My name is Katie, Katie Night, but my friends call me Karma. That is, if I had any friends," I know the way this looks, but trust me, nothing happened," Katie said.

"Uh, how did I get here?" Matt asked. He sat up and noticed that all of his clothes were missing. "And where are my clothes? Did I sleep with you?!"

"Yes... well, technically no. We slept in the same bed, but we didn't do anything we'd regret. Your clothes are in the dryer. I found you by the drenched and washed up unconscious on the shore by the river. I took you home, but you wouldn't wake up. I had to take your clothes off so I could put them in the dryer. As for sleeping in the same bed, I only have one and the floor isn't exactly as comfortable as this mattress," Katie said.

Matt sat up in the bed. Katie got up and looked for a towel so he could cover himself. "Here, put this on," she said. Katie handed Matt the towel and he covered himself with it.

"Thanks,"

"How'd you end up in the river anyway?" she asked.

"My escape pod crashed,"

"Your escape pod?" Katie asked, surprised.

"Yeah. I'm a member of Star Fox. Great Fox was under attack. Everybody had to evacuate, but I didn't make it in time, so they left without me. At the last second, I escaped the wreckage and made it to my escape pod, but instead of getting captured with everyone else, I ended up here," Matt explained.

"Star Fox?! Oh my god! Can I do anything to help you?"

"Yes. Do you have an a/v monitor I can use?"

"Of course. It's in the next room. You do whatever you have to and I'll get your clothes," Katie said. She left the room and started to get Matt's clothes and Matt went into the next room and started dialing.

Fox ran down the halls of Andross's warship. "Fox, how do we get out of here?!" Fara cried. She held Max and Felicia in her arms. Vixy was next to her, holding Monica. Bill trailed behind them carrying Mary's dead body.

"I don't know. Let's try and find the shuttle bay," Fox answered.

"What about Katt, Peppy, and everyone else?" Vixy questioned.

“We’ll get you guys to the shuttle bay and then Bill and I will look for them,” Fox said. He gripped his gun a little tighter. Fox turned a corner just in time to take out two guards.

“Fox, I think I’ve found the shuttle bay,” Bill said. He motioned towards a door.

“Good job! I think it’s kinda weird that we haven’t been found yet,”

“Yeah. It is weird,” Bill commented. “It’s like we’re invisible or something,”

As soon as Fox turned a corner, he was greeted with laser bolts streaking towards him. Fox dove away from the gunfire and knelt beside his teammates. The party sat up against the corridor and started thinking of a plan to help them out of their situation.

“Great! Just great! Bill, give me Mary’s gun,” Fox said. Bill took out Mary’s suicide weapon and handed it to Fox. He peered around the corner and quickly shot both the guards. “It’s okay. They’re dead. Come on, I think the shuttle bay is over this way,”

Fox led them down the hall towards a large door. “Oh god, please let this be the shuttle bay!” Fara beckoned. Fox opened the door, and to their surprise, it was the shuttle bay but nobody was in it.

“This is getting weird! Where is everybody?” Bill questioned.

“Who cares?! Let’s just get the women settled and out of this hell hole!” Fox quipped. All of them soon got into one of the shuttles and got ready to lift off.

“Fara can you fly this thing?” Fox panicked. He placed a paw on her shoulder.

“I think so,”

“Good. Get everyone out of here. Bill and I will return later with everyone else. Good luck!” Fox smiled. He kissed Fara goodbye. Fox and Bill moved out of the shuttle and started their search for the others.

Fara bit hard on her lip. She hated being put under intense pressure. Fara started the shuttle’s powerful ignition. The shuttle lifted itself off the landing pad. Fara piloted the shuttle up towards the warship’s doors. Vixy came up and sat beside her. “Fara, why aren’t the shuttle bay doors opening?!” Vixy cried. The doors grew larger in the cockpit window.

“I don’t know!”

“Do something!”

“I’m trying!” Fara cried. “There’s nothing I can do! Hang on, we’re going through!”

The shuttle crashed through the doors and went out into open space. Fara switched on the autopilot for Katina. She turned to the rear window and looked at the ship her husband was left on. “Come back to me my Fox…” Fara whispered to herself.

Fox and Bill scurried down the hallways of the warship. Fox stopped at the door to the prison section. “Bill, can you believe this?!” Fox asked. He gripped Mary’s gun tighter.

“No Fox, I can’t. Where are all the guards? It’s like they all just disappeared!” Bill said.

“Well, hold on. There should be some guards in here,” Fox said. He suddenly barged down the door and scouted out the room. No guards were there either. Satisfied, he put his gun away and searched for his friends. Bill followed him in.

“Fox!” Katt shrieked. “Fox, get us out of here!”

“Okay Katt. Stand back!” Fox said. He took his gun and shot at the control panel. The force field dropped. Peppy, Annie, and Falco stormed out of their cell. Katt ran up to Fox and threw her arms around him.

“Fox, how did you find us?” Peppy asked.

“Never mind that. We just have to get out of here!” Bill said. The five of them ran out of the prison section.

“Have you noticed the lack of guards in this place?” Fox asked.

“Yes. All the guards were ordered to evacuate awhile ago,” Annie said. “A few were left behind,”

“Ordered to evacuate? That must mean something is wrong. You just don’t order a crew to abandon ship unless something life-threatening is happening,” Bill commented.

“I guess so,” Fox said. “Come on, let’s get out of here,”

The five of them walked silent down the halls, towards the shuttle bay. Bill started to think of Mary and Matt. “Fox, do you think they would have wanted us to bury them together?” Bill asked. A tear slid down his cheek.

“Bury who? Matt?” Katt asked.

“Yes,” Fox said sadly. “I guess so,”

“And bury who with him?” Katt questioned.

“Mary...” Fox said. He thought back to when he first saw her lying asleep on the bed in her quarters.

“What? What happened to her?!” Annie interrupted.

“She shot Andross and then she held her gun to her muzzle and shot herself,” Fox sighed. A tear slipped down his eye too. “I can’t believe she had an affair like that,”

“Me neither,” Bill said.

“Fox, Bill, what happened?” Katt interrupted.

“I’ll tell you on the way home,” Fox said. His nose rammed right into the shuttle bay’s door. “Owww!”

“Fox, are you okay?” Peppy asked.

“Yeah. The damn door won’t open!” Fox groaned. He rubbed his nose with his paw.

“Here, let me try,” Bill said. He worked with the control panel until the doors slid open. They walked into the shuttle bay and saw a large hole in the bay’s outer doors.

“Is this why they had to evacuate?” Peppy asked.

“No,” Fox laughed. “That was probably Fara trying to get out,”

“Well, she made a big enough hole,” Katt remarked. The door that led to the shuttle bay closed behind them. A voice recording of Andross started as soon as the doors sealed themselves.

“Hello Fox. If you’re hearing this, then it has been an hour since my untimely death. You and your friends have less than five minutes to get off this ship before it explodes. Goodbye Fox. I enjoyed killing your parents. I especially loved torturing your girlfriend. At least, when she was your girlfriend. It reminded me of killing your mother,” The recording ended abruptly.



“Shit! Let’s get out of here!” Fox yelled. They ran into one of the shuttles and started its engines. Fox piloted the shuttle out of the large hole that Fara had made. As the shuttle reached the safety of empty space, the warship they were on exploded.

“That’s it Fox. For ten years, it’s finally over,” Bill said, exhausted.

“No Bill. We have two funerals to attend,” Fox said. A tear slipped down his cheek again.

One week later at Katie’s house, Matt finished putting on his clothes. “Come on Matt! We have to get to Katina Base and meet your friends,” Katie called. Matt zipped up his pants and walked down the spiral staircase.

“What’s the hurry? They all think I’m dead,” Matt said.

“Then we’ll surprise them. Your wife will be very excited to see you,”

“Yeah. I can’t wait to see her and Monica,” He said. Matt walked out of the house and got in Katie’s car.

“Monica? You didn’t tell me about her,” Katie said.

“How stupid of me. We adopted her from Fara. She couldn’t bare to raise her,” Matt said.

“Why not?” Katie asked.

“Well, you know Wolf O’Donnell?” Matt asked her.

“Yeah,” She said. “Thank god he’s dead,”

“Before he was killed, he raped Fara. Fara didn’t want to have an abortion, so she gave birth to Wolf’s daughter. It’s very tragic, I have to admit. The poor vixen...” Matt explained.

“Oh, I see,” Katie said. They remained silent for the trip.

Matt worked onboard the Great Fox with Katie by his side. Everybody was happy to see him, but nobody knew how to tell Matt what Mary had done. Fara ran up towards Matt and threw her arms around her old schoolmate. “Whoa, Fara, I’m happy to see you too,” Matt smiled. Fara decided that she was going to break the news to him.

“Matt... there’s something we didn’t tell you over the phone,”

“Well, what is it?”

“It’s about Mary...”

“Mary? That reminds me, where is Mary anyway?”

“I’m going to get right to the point Matt. Mary – Mary shot herself. Before she did that, she said that she didn’t deserve to live. Afterwards, Mary told us that she had an affair shortly after your wedding. She begged for your forgiveness and then shot herself. Matt – I’m very sorry. I don’t know what to say except that I’ll help and comfort you whenever you need me to. I know that this must be a shock to you,” Fara said. Matt was at a loss for words. Mary was truly gone. All he could do was cry.

Matt sat on his bed crying. Katie stood outside the door to his quarters with Fara beside her. “Are you sure you want to do this? I’ve known him since high school and he can get pretty stubborn,” Fara asked. Katie stiffened.

“Yes. I can’t stand to see somebody suffer like this,” Katie said.

“Okay. Good luck,” Fara said. She walked into her room. Katie knocked on Matt’s door.

“Go away!” Matt cried.

“Matt, it’s me, Katie. Can I come in? I want to help you,” she said. Matt thought about it. He wanted to be held and comforted. Especially by a friend.

“Okay... come in,” Matt said. Katie opened the door and walked in to see Matt in tears. He ran up to Katie and threw his arms around her. Katie moved over towards his bed and sat down with Matt in her lap.

“I know losing someone is very hard.... I’ve lost enough people in my life to know that firsthand,” Katie said. She hugged Matt tight. “I’m the only person left in my family. The only friend I have left is a nice red fox, Dermot. I think he’s a preacher now, but that’s not important. What’s important now is that you get better,”

“I.. I just need a shoulder to cry on,” Matt whimpered. Katie leaned the both of them back into Matt’s bed. Matt turned to Katie, buried his muzzle deep inside her shoulder, and started to cry. Katie looked down at the young wolf who was heartbroken. She couldn’t stand to see him suffer. Katie moved her paws around Matt’s back and waist and wrapped her white bushy tail around them and started to comfort him.

“I understand how much this must hurt you,” She soothed.

“No you don’t! You don’t know how it feels to get emotionally stabbed in the heart by someone you love! Mary had an AFFAIR behind my back! And then she goes and kills herself, causing me more pain!” Matt cried. Katie could feel his hot breath against her neck. She moved her paw around the back of his neck and pulled him closer. Matt slowly calmed down. “Mary...no...no...oh GOD PLEASE, No!”

“Shhh... it’s okay. I’ll be here to comfort you for as long as you want me to... Just try and relax. I’ll give you all the warm physical contact you want. Lie back and think of all the good times you’ve had with Mary. I’m going to move you off of me for a minute so I can reposition. Okay?” Katie asked.

“Okay,” Matt sniffed. He moved off of Katie and let her get up. She brushed back her hair.

It was a week since Katie had began helping Matt. As Matt cried, he thought about what he was going to say to Katie. She moved her paws around him. “Katie, since you started helping me, I’ve felt kind of attracted towards you. I hope I just didn’t scare you away,”

“Matt... I have to confess... I’ve grown sort of attracted to you too,” she said.

“I know this may sound a little sudden, but Katie... will you marry me?”

“Yes. Yes I will,” she said excitedly.

“I’m glad. It sort of reminds me of... Mary...” Matt cried.

“Oh Matt, I hate it that you’re back in this state of mind again. We were doing so well five minutes ago,” Katie said sadly. Tears started pouring from his eyes. Katie moved her paws slowly around his body. “It’s okay my wuffy, let it all out,”

“Katie, hold me... feel me... distract me with something to help me keep my mind off Mary,” Matt pleaded.

“Well, what do you want me to do?” she asked.

“I don’t know. Do whatever you want,”

“How about this...” she smiled. Katie brushed up against Matt and stroked his back with her warm paws. She turned him towards her and kissed him. Fara sat up in bed with Fox. “Fox, they’ve stopped. She put down her magazine.

“Stopped what?” Fox yawned.

“They’ve stopped crying. It must mean over Mary or they’re asleep,” she said.

“I don’t think you want to kiss me,”

“Why wouldn’t I?”

“Well, look at all that’s just happened. You come in here to help me over Mary, but then we’re suddenly engaged. I thought that you would be a little uncomfortable with all of this. Especially with kissing me. Doesn’t it bother you that this is all so sudden?” Matt asked flatly.

“I realize that all of this is sudden, and I’m very comfortable with kissing you now. Matt, I am comfortable with everything that has just suddenly happened. I must admit that I’m a bit surprised. I know that you’re still hurt over Mary. I’m going to help you through this until you’re better. We’ll have all the time in the world once we got married. My main concern is that you’re happy. Are you happy with all of what’s going on? If not, then tell me whatever it is that I can do to make you happy,”

“Yes, Katie, I’m happy now. And now I feel comfortable with kissing you. I just wanted to hear what I thought about this,” Matt said.

“I’ll always hear what you have to say. Katie smiled. She kissed him.

“I love you Katie,” He said. Katie wrapped her paws around Matt, brushed her warm muzzle up his chest, and nestled it into his neck. She drifted to sleep with Matt’s warm paws bushy tail wrapped around her.

Matt woke up in his beach house. He was obviously dreaming because Mary stood in front of him with angel’s wings. “Hello Matt. This is what I look like now. I’m so sorry for what I did,” she cried.

“Why? Wasn’t I good enough for you?! Wasn’t I romantic enough to you?! I was pretty damn intimate, but I guess now if you had an affair on me! I hate you Mary!” Matt growled. His face quickly turned from anger to tears. “Mary... I’m sorry... I didn’t mean to lash out at you like that,”

“Don’t be. I don’t deserve to talk to you. I deserve to be put in hell for all the pain I’ve caused you. Matt, come here,” she said. Matt sat in Mary’s lap and she wrapped her soft white wings around him. They felt warm against his fur. Mary lay them down on the bed and they made love one last time.

Afterwards, Matt sat up in their bed with Mary. “Mary, you didn’t have to kill yourself,” Matt said. “We could’ve worked this out,”

“I know. I regret even pulling the trigger,” Mary cried.

“Mary, I’m really going to miss you,”

“Me too. I’ve been watching you Matt, and this person you met seems really sweet. I’m happy for you. Tell Monica about what I did when you think she’s old enough. I’d better be going now. I vow to visit you every night in your dreams. That is, if you still want to talk to a slut like me. That’s what I am Matt, a slut. Listen, I’ll talk to you tomorrow. Good night,” Mary said. She stood up with Matt and they embraced. Mary gave Matt a passionate kiss. Her image soon faded away. Matt dug his muzzle into his paws and began to cry.

Katie woke up with Matt crying next to her. “Matt! Matt, what’s wrong?” she asked.

“M...M...Mary!” Matt cried. Katie wrapped her paws around him and began to comfort him.

“Matt, I’m sorry that you’re back like this. We were doing so well yesterday. Just let it all out... I’m going to do whatever you want,” Katie comforted.

“Stay with me... Cry with me...” Matt whispered. Katie rubbed up to him and cried with Matt. Katie and Matt lay in bed and cried all morning.

Day after day passed by. Katie and Matt spent two weeks crying. Matt was almost healed. Katie was holding Matt close to her. “Katie...” Matt began.

“What is it Matt?” she asked.

“I’m over Mary now. Thank you for helping me,” Matt smiled. “Now all we have to do is get married,”

“That can wait for awhile. Let’s just tell everyone else first,” she smiled.

“Okay,” Matt said. He smiled back at her.

It had been a year since the fateful day that Matt had recovered over Mary with Katie’s paws of comfort and understanding wrapped around him. Matt and Katie were in a local chapel on Corneria. Dermot, a friend of Katie, was chosen to be the preacher. The ceremony was almost over.

“Matt Starlight. Do you take this wolf to be your lawfully wedded wife, to cherish and to hold, in sickness and in health, until death do you part?” Dermot, a handsome red fox, asked.

“Yes, I do. Now... and forever,” Matt smiled. He gazed into Katie’s sparkling brown eyes. Dermot turned towards Katie.

“Katie Night, do you take this wolf to be your lawfully wedded husband, to cherish and to hold in sickness and in health, until death do you part?” Dermot asked.

“Yes! OH GOD YES! Until I live my last breath!” Katie cried joyfully. Everyone else was surprised at her devoted answer.

“If there is anyone who believes that these two should not be wed, speak now or forever hold your peace,” Dermot said. Nobody interrupted. “Then by the powers vested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may now kiss the bride,”

Matt swung his paws around Katie. She swung her paws around him. They embraced in a long passionate kiss.

Mary watched her husband kiss his new wife. Her transparent angel-like image hovered in the center of the chapel. A tear slipped down her cheek. As Matt and Katie were kissing, Matt caught a glance at Mary. He knew Mary was trying to tell him that she’d be waiting for him in his dreams that night. Like she was every night. He winked at her and she smiled. Matt looked back at Katie and continued to kiss his beautiful new bride.

THE END