

Spinning Wrong

Warning:

This story contains some strong language and violence...

Prologue:

The last few installments of this series have been, shall we say, a tad dull. I'm more of a dramatic writer than an action writer. That's still no excuse. While being super-powerful normally means to most that the characters should go about kicking ass everywhere they go, or performing feats of strength and power that would make the JLA and the Avengers, both owned by DC Comics and Marvel Entertainment respectively, cringe in inadequacy, the problems of living with the responsibility of having such great power are foes that can not be so easily thwarted in combat.

There are times, however, when great power breeds great opportunity and that happens far less frequently. When it does, go with it...wisely...

Say Please...

The tall wolf still looked tiny next to Kina's towering and muscular frame. Stories of how a few squads of armored lionesses and lions slaughtered platoons of Imperial Shocktroops, in the territory wars during the fall of the Leonus Confederacy, with little more than their acid-edged, armored, claws and sheer ferocity, made seeing Kina ready to tear this uniformed Aphkian Wolf limb from well appointed limb more than just nerve-wrecking but a virtual certainty. Kina knows this wolf and she clearly hates him...

Mikhael stood in his deep green uniform, looking like 18th century French military, with a dead certain look of what he knew Kina would do. His large hat, which Mikhael typically refused to wear was held most calmly in one hand by its brim. Long feathers tangled down, shimmering in a hundred colors. Unlike most wolves, this one wore glasses. Thin clear lenses, on delicate frames, obviously made for private video screens. Still the whole ensemble made for a dashing figure despite Kina...

The lioness took firm grasp of his coat lapels, hoisting him off the ground with ease. Her anger visibly threatening to boil over into violent rage, "What the FUCK are *you* doing here?" Her voice rumbled and fangs shown as she spoke.

"Kina put him down," Meniko said placing a hand on the lioness' broad, taut shoulder, "And watch your swearing..."

Kina snarled, bowing her head eyes shut and moment to gather her wits, she looked at Mikhael, still perfectly calm as if this was all absolutely normal, "Well, asswipe? Why?"

"Put me down first," Mikhael looked her straight in the eyes. It was a commanding stare. The kind that scared Casid. She did so and stepped back as if still in firm control, though it was obvious she was more afraid of him than the other way around. "My goodness," he started straightening his uniform noting a small cut done by one of Kina's claws, "You really haven't changed much have you. Tell me, cub, have you found at least one willing lov..." He never finished the word when a fist found his face, shattering the glasses, sending him flying across the room like a small toy, sliding over a fine marble and glass table, through the decorations on the table, to crash into a finely ornate bookshelf some fifty feet away. Thin shards of glass and metal were firmly embedded in his face as he stood up. There was a silence. No one was sure whether to berate Kina for her act or be astounded the wolf was still alive...

"Don't you ever even try to mention Mouro, you butchering bastard!" Kina visibly fighting tears. Mouro was a sore subject for the lioness. A Cersile Ferrelline, he was her first lover. But they ran with a bad group for a while and by sad chance Mikhael shot Mouro in cold blood and was going to do the same to her. Menikomenqolui knows all the details. It couldn't be helped, being a telepath sorting through one of her then newest students tortured memories.

Mikhael rounded the table gathering his hat, noting its poor shape left it on the table he slid over. He strolled over to Kina smiling, "you know the rule..." A sudden muzzle flash from a repulsor gun, the drawing so fast no one in the room saw it coming, and Kina was laying flat on the floor, shot in the face. "You slap me. I slap you."

Rae ran to her friend as she sat up on her own, "Kina? Thank Aul that wasn't a disruptor."

"Nah. I would have lived just long enough to kill him back," Kina spat out a tooth, which was no problem, a new one would fill it in a few minutes. This was a benefit of gearing most of her powers for healing and endurance.

"Commander Sarvic you should have informed us of your concealed weapon," Deputy Mezzo Fierteh said placing his hand on the gun, "Surrender it. Now." Without a word Mikhael gave it up.

Jetglide ran her hands under the coat again and into the sleeves, "That is the last of it."

"Did you find his deck?" Jeh'haun pointed to the pockets in the cuffs of his sleeves. A deck of cards. Wardcasting was like giving a belt of grenades to a soldiers. Except these grenades can do more than just explode. While specialists are allowed to create or are issued summoning cards to call up creatures, monsters, and all manner of being for various purposes, officers, like Mikhael, got very special cards that could do incredible harm or allow him to do terrible things. Mezzo Fierteh is well versed in Aphkian wardcasting and he knew Mikhael's personal deck very well. It was all about the "bigger hammer" and that scared him.

"Got it," Jetglide said handing it to the Deputy. He flipped through the deck a moment and grimaced at some of the cards there.

"Shield Goddess of Kyo? Lagra's splitter? Demasseo and Demasseo 2?" Meniko's own face fell at some of the cards there as Mezzo read them off. He looked at Mikhael, "You're walking around with an arsenal of mass destruction. Do so again, sir, and I will run you through. Are we clear?"

"Very," Mikhael said looking down at Kina who all too quickly stood up.

"I'm sorely tempted to kick you out right now for what you did here," Meniko putting a hand around the back of Kina's neck squeezing firmly to remind the lioness who was in charge, "But before I make that decision, what business do you have here? The royalty cleared you to come so be quick or I might cast "berserker" on Kina and let her loose on you."

"Indeed. She might actually be able to hurt me then," Mikhael leaned on the table, half sitting, "Rae Iksaki?"

"What is it, sir?" Rae was so sweet, even to this pompous officer. "But why isn't he hurt worse?" she thought seeing the glass and metal from his glasses fall free as the wounds healed, "Nano-healers? Maybe he's an immortal or a mutant..."

"Have you ever heard of Del'pa?"

"Uh...not really. What is it?"

"Noxi?" Mikhael pointed callously at the bunny, "Same question."

Noxi took a moment to get over her upset with his shooting a good friend in the face, took a deep breath, "Del'pa is an artificial planet made of asteroids, planetoids, and whatnot. It's a very complex structure that was an experiment my people attempted over two-thousand years ago to build worlds instead of having to hunt for planets suitable for colonization. The planet itself is too unstable to repeat but has become a major hub of travel and commerce..."

"See Meniko. You do have a very competent school here," Mikhael smirked. The dragoness clenched a fist. His attitude was nearly unbearable. He stood up straight seeing their collective outrage, "Yes yes. The point..."

"If you please," Meniko said loosening her grip on Kina feeling the thick muscles in her young neck and shoulders bulge.

"Del'pa is about to spin itself apart." Mikhael said with a sudden shift to a proper professional. It was surprising. So complete a shift in attitude could mean a he was quite possibly insane. But for whatever reason it was not as unsettling as everyone there had remembered later on.

"Spin apart?" Illia, not always "the sharpest tool in the shed", said meekly despite being the most massive person there, besides Menikomenqolui. She looked at him with a puzzled but still smiling face.

"Del'pa is starting to spin out of phase," Noxi spoke flatly, "Del'pa, like I said, was made from space junk, a lot of big rocks stuck together. It lacks the relatively uniform density of natural planets..."

"But I thought planets didn't spin in phase anyway," Illia was navigating around the room to start cleaning up. Behind the table kneeling down she continued, "That's why lots of planets have volcanos and quakes."

"That's true," Noxi agreeing, "But Del'pa wasn't made from rocks that were close to the same size. In fact its center of mass is a whole 2000 miles way off from the core."

"So does that mean that the biggest chunks will pull free from inside the planet?" Rae looked worried about the answer.

"Not unless we can get engineers to the gravity gyro at the core and fix it," Mikhael said sounding less and less like the detestable agent that plagued them earlier with every word spoken.

"Fix it?" Noxi laughed, "The Gyro was built first and is a very simple machine the size of a small moon but it weighs nearly 7 planet tons. Mere mortals....ooooohh..." Her voice trailed looking slowly to Meniko who stepped forward.

The dragoness looked at all the students assembled. Most were too young and unsure of their powers. Others were over-eager, most likely to show up the four most talented and qualified students there. The remainder were just too afraid to try and Meniko could see it in their minds if not their eyes. She turned to the students, "Illia, Rae, Noxi, Kina stay. The rest may go. Say nothing. Nothing here can be told to others until the task is done."

There were no arguments. The students left, some sporting obvious looks of relief.

"It gets worse doesn't it?" Mezzo finally spoke comparing his deck with Mikhael's.

"It does," Mikhael's voice lowered as if announcing certain failure, "All the maintenance passages have been collapsed from the surface to the core. There is no way in."

"Did you try boring with a beam cannon or something?" Illia was barely audible from behind the wrecked bookshelf as she carefully pulled it out of the wall.

"We tried that. Twice. The shifting of the masses that make up Del'pa collapse the tunnel before they can be used. We don't dare send in a crew if we can't even guarantee we can get them in and/or out. The core was set up with several interdiction wards and effect fields so teleporting, and dimensional shifting is out of the question." Mikhael said firmly anticipating questions.

"So you need us to dig our way in and fix the core and dig our way out if we should fail or succeed?" Noxi glared at the wolf. "The is so much B.S.! What makes you think we could care less about some depot that can be moved elsewhere overnight?"

Meniko looked to Noxi with sympathy, "I know you didn't realize this but Del'pa fell out of historical context over three hundred years ago. Since then it has been terraformed and more than two billion people call Del'pa and the space immediately around it home. Two Billion, child."

Rae looked at Mikhael, then to Kina, hoping she'd never come to hate someone as much as she did. A cold chill ran down her back. She caught herself wondering about sex for a moment. She ran a finger down a thick vein over the top of her relaxed bicep, a small sign that she was not going to enjoy this trip...

"Oh, brave new world..."

Del'pa was far from the urbanized moon of so many colony planets. If not for a few fairly visible lakes, this artificial world would have been wholly green. Massive space colonies, some the size of small continents, loomed like permanent white-gray clouds in orbit above the planet. The dense traffic around these colonies and going up and down from the planet liked like a crazy barrage of tiny shooting stars. To anyone seeing for the first time, it was an amazing sight.

The Imperial command ship, Berretica 20, the twentieth and last ship in the line, was Mikhael's personal vessel. His business dictated the need for a permanent vessel base. The four students aboard were now dressed more like Imperial "Ridge Raiders", specialized troopers suited to operate on and in mountains and subterranean environments. Kina was probably the only one who liked the clumsy suit, its heavy boots and the massive belt of tools and matching survival pack. Noxi and Rae couldn't stand its constant itching. Illia was constantly tearing hers with her huge muscles that expanded radically as she moved normally. Eventually she was issued a gel-suit. A thin layer of gel ran over her becoming a perfectly sealed, self repairing, body glove expounding every detail of her hyper muscular frame. Noxi and Rae instantly begged in unison, "Can I have one?"

Kina was the only one wearing the standard suit. She did roll up the sleeves to expose ripped and massive arms. She was really proud of her forearms and the strength they gave her hands. Long meaty biceps and tightly corded triceps linking to bulbous deltoids finished the deal and gave her a very buff, action heroine look... Then she cut her mane very short for the helmet, a modified space helmet...

"Ladies," Spoke the ship's quartermaster, a small Mahnaran rat, somewhat shady looking but, as Rae noticed, very honest at heart, "I just got your new briefing right here." His eyes drifted to the firm high buttocks and mighty bosoms the three sheerly clad girls sported in the revealing gel-suits. He shook his head to clear his thoughts, "I'm turning into an old pervert here."

"As long as you admit it," Illia said lightly bouncing her chest. The Gelsuit became slightly transparent where it was stretched too far.

"Maybe we should add a second generator so you don't over-extend the one you got now," The Quartermaster said tossing the ursine a second generator bracelet.

Illia snapped the second band onto her other wrist and the fading in and out stopped, "Thank you." With that, she gave him a firm hug and a light kiss on the cheek. his ears blush hotly.

"Guys, " Kina said reading the pad with the briefing on it, "Imperial Intell was nice enough to show what they think is the fastest way down. But damn if this doesn't double back on itself more than a shady salesman."

"It gets worse," Noxi frowning hard, "They estimate that even with our powers it'll take more than a week to get there and they estimate the planet will spin apart in three days. Four tops..."

"Their hoping we'll find a faster way," Illia smiled ever the optimist. That was one of her strengths she was never able to see things as grim. There is always a good side to everything.

"Looks like it," Rae checking her gloves. Big clumsy looking things but with the ability to stick to nearly anything, except ice, these would likely be the most valuable tools she'd be carrying. "We shouldn't hang about then..."

"Yeah, " Kina taking charge like she always tended to, "Time's our enemy more than this pile of rocks..."

The four girls walk out briskly. Illia never able to say thanks only once, looks back at the quartermaster a blows him a kiss and a "thank you". He is instantly floored with stunning arousal.

The bridge was off limits to non-crew. The quick tour before getting to the conference room told the girls why. Imperial shipboard bridges were like a whole other reality. One where the ship did not exist and the crew seemed to float free, walking on an invisible floor. A flat colored, light blue, grid and orange nav-corridor pointed the way the ship would travel. Various markers noted every object of interest around the ship

including one, a battleship over ten miles long hanging in orbit, The Berretica's rendezvous.

"There's so much information here," Noxi cooed as she watched the monitors scroll vast amounts of information, the omnidirectional viewer, making sense of the vast reaches beyond the ship, and the greatest military secret of all, Imperial chromatic language, the use of color -over 288 million- to communicate. "A seasoned spy could learn tomes in a few minutes just standing here."

"That's why you won't commit any of it to that flawless memory of yours," Kina snapped eyes locked straight ahead. Rae and Illia were doing the same. They didn't want to go through an Imperial Psi-probe and, if she were smart, neither would Noxi.

"Right," Noxi snapped her view straight ahead following the young male ensign. A sleek young fox in his uniform. Neatly appointed for his duties aboard ship, he was very sweet eye candy for the girls. Later Kina suspected that is why he was chosen as their guide.

The conference room was a well polished and brightly illuminated space occupied mainly by a large table that formed an ellipse around a holo-graphic floor panel. About the table were more than a dozen chairs sized mainly for Lupine Aphkians and were thusly very large for Rae and Noxi but much too small for Kina and Illia. Kina chose to stand. Illia knelt.

Mikhael was reviewing options for the mission as the girls made themselves comfortable. The vulpine ensign offered a small refreshment, tea or a snack. Kina sent him on out before anyone could decide for themselves.

"Well," Kina said stamping her heel, hard enough to shake the room noticeably, for attention.

Mikhael looked at the lioness sternly, "Do that again and we'll kick you out the airlock, girl." Kina never softened her stance tapped her foot slowly and loudly. Rae held Kina's hand firmly and the lioness stopped. "Cute. The Lailsette is going to drill a one mile deep shaft for you to get a start in some of the spaces beneath the surface. You'll be dropped off by transport shuttle and will be sent on your way."

"The plan you gave us will take a week to do. The planets gonna pop in three days," Kina groaned.

"The mission planners assumed you were merely fast and not strong." Mikhael looked at all four girls, "Do you think you can dig where you need to get there in time?"

"Just so I can rub your face in it," Kina smirked defiantly, "We'll do this in two days."

"Kina we aren't professional heroes yet," Rae chimed in. She turned to Mikhael bowing humbly, "Please keep trying to evacuate the planet or find another solution."

"Don't worry," Illia stood up bumping her head on the ceiling, "Owie... We can do this in time. When do they dig the hole?"

Mikhael tapped a pale blue light on his clear screen, a specially made glass pane made as a screen monitor. A face, a wolfess, appeared saying, "The Lailsette has begun drilling and will make one mile in just over five minutes but geological activity is already collapsing the hole."

"Guys?" Rae said summoning the other girls into a huddle, "We should orbit dive..."

Kina smacked her fist into her palm, "Right! The shuttle drop'll take too long. Let's do it."

"How are we going to land?" Noxi nervous. She didn't dedicate a lot of time to developing strength and so wasn't sure of her own durability.

"We dive as far into the rock as possible smashing our way in," Illia smiled gleefully, "If you need a ride I'll take you, Noxi" The bunny gulped now afraid but as Illia rubbed her friends trembling back all fear seemed to subside.

"Then let's go!" Kina shot standing tall as the huddle broke, "Show us the airlock!" Kina points the just returned ensign to the door with authority.

Mikhael sat back watching the scene as the girls left for the door, "Use drop bay 2. Have Lieutenant Rockas supervise for a Jump Op."

"Aye, sir," the ensign said with professional confidence. He saw the girls for what they were or, if they lived, could be...

As the door slid shut behind them, Mikhael sipped his coffee-like concoction smirking, "Not professional heroes? Hardly... Just return so you can get to be expert heroes..."

That first step...

Orbit dives are among the most dangerous maneuvers to be attempted by people. A fairly common military tactic for delivering troopers from orbit. It was used to assail worlds too heavily defended to be confronted with large vessels. Individual troopers and smaller landing craft would literally skydive from orbit, through the atmosphere, and hopefully through enemy fire.

The heavy re-entry suits and dive-shields used by mere mortals are wonders in

and of themselves. But for the four mystic leaguers about to take that perilous plunge, these tools would only get in the way. For as orbit jumping troopers are seen as falling stars from the ground, Kina, Rae, Noxi, and Illia are about to become real falling stars determined to smash their way into the side of a dying planet...

The Drop bay doors open revealing four large shuttle craft and several smaller fighter craft. Standing on an extended E.V.A. gantry platform, Kina, Rae, Illia and Noxi, who has climbed onto the urasa's great back. Lt. Rockas, a scaly skinned alien with heavy legs but thin arms, checked their suits out last time. Kina's was well made for hard impacts and searing heat. But the gel-suits the other girls wore were made for use under a spacesuit. They couldn't withstand the heat and force of re-entry.

Over the comm-systems in their helmets the Lieutenant spoke, "Ladies your gel-suits are not gonna make it through the atmosphere with out shields."

Noxi peeking over Illia's mammoth shoulders looked down speaking almost afraid, "If we retune the suits molecular dynamics to become reflective shielding we should make it."

"Only if the batteries hold up." he said placing a hand over his lower left ribcage, " If you had a bio-energy core to change your body heat into energy then I wouldn't mind your idea. But reflective shielding would eat up you suits power supply before you actually hit the air."

Kina turned to her team smiling, "Kaaseyo oli magkata..."

"Yeah... The strongest shield spell Meniko taught us," Rae beamed placing her hands out for the others. They join their hands chanting the spell quietly to themselves. A faint glow envelops them all. They look downward seeing the beam from the Lailsette drilling away both making and holding the tunnel open.

"Commander Sarvic, sir?" Rae spoke still looking down. She understood he had a duty in his callous and vicious behavior at her school. How it made her feel. Shock, anger, fear. She'd seen people kill others for fun, sport, or simply out of boredom. But her heart felt for him. She sensed that he was forced to do more then he ever wanted by his station in life. That there was someone he loved that he missed grievously. She felt a warm ember of loving compassion for that poor and weary soldier...

"Go on, child," his voice was wry, feigning hope for them and/or the mission. A visual link showed him on the bridge sitting calmly. The look in his eyes were uncertain but muted by arrogance. The effect was one of neutrality, or indifference...

"Sir, please don't worry. We'll succeed for all these people, their homes, their lives and their happinesses," Rae smiled her most reassuringly.

"May Aul provide and Nuhn take woe from your way," Mikhael suppressing a certain crack in his voice. It was inspirational to see these girls, one he crossed so cruelly before, about to cast their lot against disaster.

"Hey Mikey!" Kina smirked rudely grabbing Rockas by the "Ops-cam" on his helmet turning it toward her, "If I don't make it back," She raises a straight as a new nail middle finger, "Fuck you for crying!!!"

The foursome look over the edge one last time, then while holding hands, Kina yells, "Jump!" and the leap off the side toward the beam and the shaft it dug and held open.

On the Bridge, Mikhael chuckled at Kina's parting shot, "...and a jolly good well fuck you too, Kina."

"...and the people who live in it..."

"Wow!" Illia swooned at the view of the whole space around her. The black of space neatly punctuated with the pin lights of thousands of visible stars. The predominately green planet below. The two ships, one emitting a brilliant white-blue beam of light, just behind. She'd never gone on a space walk before. For that matter neither had Rae or Noxi. Kina had on her roamings through the universe before coming to the Mystic League. Still they all shared a certain awe of this moment. "I wish we could stay here all day."

"Illia's right," Kina said with a sadness not often heard in her voice, "Maybe we can get the E.V.A. suits and go on a space walk when we get home. For now though," she glided down toward the planet, "Going down..."

Thanks to the use of cosmic string based sorcery, a Mystic Leaguer is able to use many of their powers in space, and survive there. Even wearing their suits, each girl is able to fly among other things. But without the life force of a living world, Del'pa's is very weak because of its age and creation, these spells and their powers are now limited compared to the near demi-god-like proportions they were used to. With time and training they'd overcome this fault.

The four girls, in a three wide formation, glide silently to a path along side the beam. The first signs that they were entered the atmosphere were the faint whispers of wind passing over their suits. Still none of the expected flames but then they were not traveling very fast yet. Rae pushed forward picking up speed. She was the first enveloped in the red-pink and orange flames of re-entry.

She felt the warmth from the flames. Not painful heat, just warmth, comfortably, soothing warmth. She could feel her powers surge and expand again. Her muscles swelled and hardened with new strength as she continued to dive faster. Passing the sound barrier and beyond.

Kina's diving form was as flawless as Rae's but was no where near catching her. She felt an intoxicating calm amidst the fire and buffeting turbulence. The violence of re-entry made her...happy...

Illia curled up in a cannonball giggling all the way. Her massive body gaining speed while not rotating at all. Noxi cling on for dear life as the ursa enjoyed the fall, "Egas, I'm gonna die!"

Rae saw well ahead the beam evaporating rock the clean sheer walls of the shaft cracking under the stress of the shifting rock strata, and the beam burning away the rock that intruded. She could feel the strength of the stone and rock. It was like styrofoam to her now and it felt so illusory. This wasn't the power she had, yet...

The four made impact as three glowing streaks of light and flame. Their trails pointing down past the maw of the shaft. The beam cutting out as the team entered. The bottom of the shaft, glowing with 10,000 degrees of heat slowly fades. The walls of the shaft crumble again filling in the hole.

"Sir!" called a bridge officer aboard the Berretica to Mikhael, "we've lost contact with them."

"Don't worry she said," Mikhael sat, head planted on a single fist propping him up over his chair's armrest, "Do you believe in the old gods, before the reavers? I think I'm starting to..."

Rae was the farthest in because of her greater speed stood up in a high ceiling passage between the great boulders that made up Del'pa. The darkness, native to this place, seemed nurturing and fearsome at the same time. It was an unsettling feeling one that caused action. "Luminas!!" and the space filled with light from her own body. She glowed like an angel in the night. The features of the rock were sharp and quite frightful to anyone not so protected as she and the others.

Looking about she saw no sign of the others. she touched her forehead with two mighty fingers, soft and gentle in character. Closing her eyes she whispered the names, "Kina... Noxi... Illia..."

"Noxi's fine. A little airsick," Illia mused as always. Her joyful optimism was a welcome sound in her mind.

"Airsick? I'll give you airsick!" Noxi bellowed passing her upset on, then calmer, "Rae you're more than twenty miles deeper in. We'll try to catch up. Now where's Kina."

"Found a long fissure folks," Kina's voice was strong but confused like an action hero or heroine at the start of most movies, "But I have no idea where you guys are or where I am. Makes no difference every one just head for the middle. Down is still down on the crazy rock pile right?"

"Yes," Noxi checking her Palm-puter, "All gravity vectors point to the core and the gravity gyro."

"Dig dig dig dig dig dig..." Illia sang as she effortlessly plowed her way into the rock. Shovelling it aside like a pile of dry leaves. Noxi followed noticing some writing on the wall.

"Kina?" Rae stood still whispering in the cavern, "This place feels ...I don't know... occupied..."

"Shit girl," Kina checking over her shoulder, "The fuckin' place is crawlin' with somethin'. I'm headed on down... What the hell!" she cuts contact sounding shocked and ready for a fight.

"Noxi! Illia! Kina's in trouble! I know where she is go on without me!" Rae ran into the rock like it were thick fog. A seismic convulsion ripped outward for miles.

Illia looks back at Noxi, "How's she know where Kina is?"

"Maybe it's a power she picked up from Meniko. Our Headmistress did raise her," Noxi looked at her palm-puter, "We'd better go at this rate we can get to the core in a day."

"What if Rae needs us? Or Kina?"

"This planet needs us more than they do."

"Right. They'll be the back up team!" Illia chirped glibly. She resumed digging.

Pausing, Noxi could feel something watching them. She followed with a nervous caution in her steps.

The ones here first....

Kina developed a peculiar method of dealing with unwelcome advances. She dives in with both fists swinging...

The beings who lived in this place were small, naked but comely, mammaloids. Their fur was soft and warm brown. Gentle features and mannerisms. Standing erect on beefy digigrade legs, with slender hands and thin tails. They were about to be pummelled out of existence.

"Who the Fuckin' hell do you think you assholes are!" Kina roared raising a quake of frightening magnitudes, "Grabbing my ass in the dark like that!" She reeled back a fist then she got a good look at them. They were all afraid. Not of her but the shaking and tearing of their underplanet and her ranting was making it worse.

"We...we.." trembled one small male, his eyes wet with tears of fear, "We were here first..."

"The shit you say," Kina settled down. They were all less than four feet tall and tiny to the lioness.

Another stood forward. Kina noticed no weapons, not even for hunting, which made her feel very stupid for threatening such helpless beings. No weapons, no discernable powers, and the most muscular ones had arms as thick as two of her fingers. Still they were cute fuzzballs. "We awoke and the sky was stone and the stars were gone. We thought we had survived the end of things. Then we realized that the end was coming for us when a great womanly beast appeared before us. Choosing one of our men she raped him to death and went to the center of the universe where she is making the universe come apart."

"Kina?" Rae said quietly. It was a story she'd heard before and seen more than once, after a fashion.

"She's come back!" one, a female judging from the small breasts, screamed in horror. They all ran off afraid.

"Rae?" Kina looked puzzled and concerned, "Did you get that shit?"

"Yes," Rae's shoulders sank a bit. She was blamed, worse who ever did this was very powerful and cruel. "We should get going. We have to save their world too now."

"Bitch don't you start blaming yourself for what some asswipe did," Kina grabbed Rae's face framing it in her black claws, "Fuck! You'd blame yourself if the sun rose a few minutes late."

The two leave Kina running on ahead Rae sulking. She glanced over her shoulder seeing several of the tiny beings peering over rocks. She quietly vowed to avenge this. But first things first. Their fear of her sat on her shoulders like a great weight. Unable to take their stares any longer she ran, at blinding speed, down the tunnel.

One of the creatures looks out. He looks at the tunnel, "The one who hurt us was not that one. That one is a kind spirit."

"The gods have come for us?"

"To make the sky clear again..."

Low prayers fill the chamber...

Monster in the dark...

Corulians, of which Illia is one, are a happy industrious people. Their great strength and endurance made them easily able to do the work of legions allowing them to construct great cities and monuments across their galactic territory. Corulians greet work like a wonderful hobby or pastime. Illia with her "joy-o-meter" always set to "happy", did so as well and even now as a planet is about to pull itself apart, is humming a happy children's work song. The undertones of it all reflect the moderate communist world she grew up in...

Noxi, an Oliverian rabbit, comes from a world of high technology and firmly held tradition. One of many worlds conquered by the Aphkians, but thankfully was spared the horrific fates of so many others. Once a relatively primitive, feudalistic civilization, the Oliverians learned the secrets of Aphkian technology and made their own to match. Their interest in strength and power like that which has made Noxi famous amongst her own people, is a product of generations of reliance on their acquired science to make life easier and to some traditionalists, too easy. Noxi is heralded as proof that one can achieve great strength by using technology properly. Noxi's love of technology is strictly academic. She uses it to do what she can not and nothing else. She checks her map again amazed that Illia is digging straight through a deposit of nearly pure titanium like it were softly laid sand...

"Can we stop for a while?" Illia looking over her shoulder, still digging, "I'm getting hungry."

"No," Noxi said powering up a spell. Her free hand glowing a bright orange-yellow, "We can't stop but I'll dig a while if you don't mind eating on the go."

"Sure thing!" Illia chimed patted the dirt and debris off her hands. Small cuts and scraps healing instantly. She clapped her hands together to materialize a large basket of food. Illia had a modest appetite despite her size but all that hard work probably made her more hungry than usual. The basket held several dishes that Illia prized, like her mother's best fish recipe with the appropriate side dishes. The smell of fish and meat made Noxi ill in that tight space but she tolerated it as best as she could. The ursa gave a great inhalation of the aromas before eating ...or rather inhaling the food. She wanted to get back to digging. "Oh, Noxi I brought a salad for you, too."

Noxi, burning the hole as they went, smiled back, "Thanks..." A sudden chill struck Noxi and she stopped digging.

"Something the matter?"

"Someone is watching us..."

"I don't see anyone..."

Noxi knew one of her people's worst traits was their "predator/prey" instinct. It was a good thing eons ago when they were lowly prey animals set upon by stronger less intelligent creatures. But now it was constantly going off, little bit here and a lot there. This time it was screaming, "Danger! Danger!"

Noxi looked at the looming shape behind them in the darkness. It looked like a monstrously musclebound female form but what species was too hard to say in those shadows. Two eyes glowed brightly, like high-beam headlights, a chilling blue. "Illia..."

The ursa turns to see the figure, "Oh Hi. Sorry I didn't bring anything for you..." The shape, easily as big as Illia, drove a fist into the ursa gut, driving her into the rock wall of the tunnel. Noxi falls back in terror as the figure, somehow immune to the light, remaining a moving shadow, battered Illia with a merciless barrage of punches, kicks and bites. Illia's screams of agony muted Noxi's own screams.

The assault continued as large chunks of flesh and fur were ripped from Illia's body exposing bone and organ. Blood ran freely from the each wound. The sound of breaking bone further terrified the bunny and sickened her as well.

A sudden blinding flash of light and energy, and Illia was firmly planted in the wall apparently dying. Noxi crawled away unable to rise to her feet. Like a small child in the throes of a nightmare all she could do is watch as the figure approached. A wicked toothy smile was now visible on that featureless face.

"Rae...Kina...anyone...help me..."

The Deep Soil...

Rae never did understand how it was that she was so aware of what was happening to her friends, but it was one of the myriad of miracles that she performed each day for the sake of her new family. There were times when Rae would drop everything to stop Kina from drinking herself into a stupor or Illia from accidentally hurting someone during training or practice. At first, it was taken as her butting in to everyone's business until it was obvious she was actually saving lives not just interfering. This and she never took any kind of personal advantage of it. Never claiming any kind of superiority or great importance.

As her fellow students and friends became more aware of their behaviors, Rae's sudden appearances slowed and she was able to get back to her normal life of studies and tending to her baby sister, Fatima. Still Rae was always aware of what was happening to her friends.

Kina paused just long enough to realize that Rae had gone in a direction contrary to their course into the core of the planet, Del'pa. She wanted to go with her much smaller canid friend but the mission was more important. She continued to dig like the dense

hard rock was dry sand. "Damn it all! Why does she always have to be the lifeguard?" Then she stopped to think about that for a moment and grinned, "Because I'd fucking break their arms so they wouldn't go 'swimming' for a while..." She shook her head looking back at the side passage where Rae had gone off, a mile or two back, and continued with haste.

Rae entered the half collapsed chamber at the end of the tunnel Noxi and Illia were in. Noxi was a battered and crushed mass of flesh and splintered bone. By some small miracle, or insane cruelty, the bunny was still alive. Her gel suit so damaged by the assault it was deactivated leaving her buck naked.

Having the memory of not being able to save her mother and so many others from deadly injuries, Rae studied the healing magics with a near blind fervor. She was soon able to do all but reverse death and that only expanded Rae's powers and her ability to care for others.

Placing her hands on Noxi's barely breathing chest and bright glow suffused the bunny as the mangled form straightened and the wounds healed. There was no sickening sound of flesh reforming or bones unbreaking, just the soft gentle corrections of injuries.

Healed, Noxi curled up exhausted and unconsciously still in terror from her ordeal. The only article of clothing she still had on was a cracked waist computer and map. Her taut thick muscles were tense in her sleep.

"Noxi..." Rae sighed stroking her friend's pale pink mane, "What happened here?" She then turned to dig up Illia who was already healed but unconscious. The beating visibly increased Illia's strength and power but not enough to fend off whatever did this in the first place. The ursa snored softly as Rae pulled her out of the debris like an oversized stuffed animal.

Illia stirred lightly and looked down at Rae as she woke, "Rae?"

"Illia... What happened here?"

"Someone attacked us..." she murmured looking at Noxi. Her own gel suit generators were still working and put one on the bunny. It instantly adjusted to the smaller user and Illia's reformed as a legless leotard. It was very thin but covered where it needed to. "She was strong and really mean. She got mad because I didn't bring lunch for her, too." Her voice and words were distressingly innocent but at least she wasn't terrified... or even nervous...

"Her?" Rae questioned half in shock.

"She has huge boobs and bigger muscles. She moves like when Kina's mad..."

really fast." Illia still looking at Noxi with a straight face obviously trying to cry or look upset, "I wanted to stop her but my body was so broken..." She started to smile, "But you came. Thank you." That bright, glib face shone again.

Rae scooped up Noxi placing her on her back, "Let's go. Kina's not going to have the foggiest idea what to do if she gets to the gyro before us."

"Dig!!!!" Illia dove into the end of the tunnel with a devastating explosion of rock as they went on their way down.

In the back of Rae's mind she was glad Illia was not normal in terms of moods. Such an event would have totally broken a normal minded person. Illia was right as rain, though her steps filled with optimistic caution, in mere minutes of waking up.

Kina had come to a large open space and stopped. She wasn't tired, in fact she was enjoying just mindlessly pounding away as hard and fast as she could. A quick relaxing curled of both mighty arms, getting a loud rip out of her tattered outfit, and she pressed her pointer and middle finger to her forehead taking a deep breath.

"Guys?" Kina murred feeling her body adjust to the strain she had put it through. It was fairly common knowledge that Casid lions, especially the sand lions, grew stronger faster than virtually all other mammalian races. Kina never advertised this fact, even when she was the strongest one in the Mystic League. She just enjoyed a good workout.

Curling several thousand tons with one arm, two million pound squats, three hours of the infamous ab bar with over 10,000 tons -and she had the eight pack of cannonballs to show for it, and some truly diabolical workouts all because if she weren't half drunk she was writhing in agony from muscle overload and because she loved it. She loved physical pain. It was like sex to her. The more the better.

"Guys?" Kina called again still feeling pretty good. She was sure she was using the spell correctly. She still had her problems in school with studying be never performance. When she did it at all, she did it perfectly.

A faint voice echoed in her mind, "Kina... I found Noxi and Illia..."

"They didn't kill each other did they?" Kina laughed at how comical those two were. Noxi was always worrying and a tad nervous around the "big girls". That passed with maturity but for now it was a hoot now and then.

"Someone attacked them. Big, mean, and female..." Rae continued sounding worried. She should Kina was on her own.

"Hooray for our sex! You can always find an asshole with big tits if you stand on a corner long enough" Kina moaned, "They hurt bad?"

"Illia's 150% already but Noxi's exhausted and out like a light. We're headed straight down. But please try to catch up. If she was strong enough to maul Illia and good enough not to kill Noxi outright..."

"Right. Right..." Kina dove straight into the rock face, "I'm on my...way..?"

"Kina?" Rae's voice froze with fear.

Kina backed away from the massive figure bursting forth from the rockface like wet tissue paper. "Aww...Shit!!!"

Raising her hands, Kina forms a brilliant ball of energy some ten feet wide and bright red intensifying to a pink white. But before the lioness could throw the projectile a monstrous fist drive into her gut wrapping the large girl like a wet noodle about a fork.

"Asshole am I?" the voice was low and grumbly. Filled with malice and mischief. "Well I do have bigger boobs than you or any of your friends. For that I'll let you off with *only* a bloody whippin'!"

Kina, winded from the gut punch, stands quickly but is disoriented as another fist falls down on her. Realizing only too late what was happening, Kina tries to block the attack. A deafening sound like an explosion cut short cracks the walls of the chamber.

"Rae?!" the much smaller pooch caught the fist on the end of her kick. The long extension revealing the detail of her thigh training. Rae's inner thighs rippled with potent muscle and a slightly expounded series of thin surface veins under a healthy padding of smoothing body fat. Her crotch was neatly detailed through her own gel suit, catching Kina's attention for a moment. Kina assumed a ready stance.

The enormous figure dives in on Rae who blocks and deflects every blow with little effort frustrating the huge female, her form obscured in black like the light of the girls' "luminas" spell was not able to reach her. Rae was almost not challenged by the barrage and her own expression was one of amazement as she felt her powers steadily escalate in response to this challenge.

Kina didn't wait long to rush the huge female and tackle her into wall driving her more than ten miles into the rock face, pounding on her all the way. Rae followed readying a spell.

"Kina! Move!!!" Rae screamed and the lioness finished her flurry of punches and kneekicks with a gruesome glob of spit in the face stunning the creature with the extreme show of disrespect. Kina jumped into a hole blasted out by her jumping clear into the side of the tunnel.

"GO AWAY!!!" Rae shouted as a faint ribbon of light struck the creature and she disappeared. Rae stopped next to Kina as she emerged from the hole she made.

"She gone?" Kina cocked her neck popping it loudly.

"For now. But she's powerful. More powerful than anything I've ever even head of..." Rae shook afraid for the wrath this creature is going the wield.

"We'd better go.' Kina pulled out a necklace and started in the direction gravity had it point, "This better be right in this crazy rockpile." Looking back at her friend and heroine, ignoring the arousal she felt being near the pooch, "So where'd you send to fu---"

"Kina..." Rae chided, "Language. Stop swearing so much... please" She was still so sensitive even after knowing Kina for so long.

"Sorry..."

"If I did it right I warped her to the Sargasso Void, beyond Gimirey."

"I'll take her centuries to get back at the Ulihi Limit." Kina smirked, "You meanie."

The Ulihi Limit was discovered by a Scientist and engineer Makatif Ulihi over 2000 years before. Even though Hyper flight, faster than light transit usually not in normal space, existed an numerous forms across the Great Wide Universe, no one knew how fast they could really travel in normal space. Ulihi discovered that limit based on the universal constants and to date no one has ever broken the ulihi limit of 5,432.91 times the speed of light in normal space.

Both girls dive into the rock. "Going down..."

Illia nuzzles Noxi who stirs to find that they were the first one's there...

The Gyro that held Del'pa together... One problem...

"Don't Gyros spin or something?" Illia looked at Noxi who was still trying to settle her fight or flight reflexes. The enormous ursa smiled to the bunny who was breathing deeply...

Looking at the gyro, Noxi's face went pale, "It's been completely wrecked. The mangled mess of machinery the size of a moon was groaning and vibrating. It was a definite miracle that the planet hadn't shaken itself to bits already. "I can't fix this. The smallest parts art over a hundred miles across." The bunny looked at her hands and the

mighty arms that attached them to her.

"What if we help?" Illia smiled pumping up double biceps taking a step forward. She was always confident and willing to do any hard work.

"I can tell you what to do but even so it'll take you weeks to do it alone."

"Maybe if she had some extra hands?" Came a rough female voice.

Both the bunny and the bear turn to see Kina and Rae. Both were very pleased to be there and more than just a little wary.

Noxi looking relieved ran up to her friends, belatedly hugging Rae tightly, "Thanks for saving my life."

"You're welcome," Rae returned the hug looking at the ruined gyro. "We should get to work. How long have we been down here?"

Noxi looks at her wrist-comp and grows dim with despair, "I don't know...."

"Fourteen hours and twenty-two minutes," Illia said with a smile, "More than enough time..." Illia was never the brightest but she was a talent at little things like keeping time without a watch or very advanced long math without so much as a piece of paper and a pen. She was a lifesaver.

"Let's hope," Kina ripped off the remains of her sleeves revealing two rippling arms of muscle. "So puff-ball, where do we start?"

Above in orbit, a steady stream of transport vessels both arrived and left the seemingly doomed world. Visible tears in the surface of the planet were forming. An armada of Imperial warships watched to maintain order and assist as needed.

Mikhael Sarvic, sat half brooding in his ready room as his rat yeoman entered with reports. He was staring at the scene of evacuation with a critical eye.

"The operation reports from the evacuation as well as the new enlistee's requests, kehn."

"What of the four 'errand girls'?" he did not look away. His lunch, which sat on his desk was cold now. *Did we send those girls to their deaths? Did they get lost? Scared? Maybe they weren't the ones for the job.*

"We lost contact with them ten hours ago, kehn. Our psi-techs are searching for them but, as you know, Rae is protected against psionic probes and detection by a

Dragaseir mind link. We may not find her even if she is alright. The others seem to share that protection when near her..."

"That may be a good sign... What is the status of the evacuation, yeoman?"

"The particulars are in the report, kehn. However, estimates show that we can save roughly 75% of the inhabitants before Del'pa suffers complete structural failure..."

Mikhael turns to his desk and pressed a light suspended over it shining surface, "Lieutenant Ruu?"

"Aye, kehn. Bridge here."

"Contact one of the class 2 transports and have them take on our surplus. I want every military ship here helping with the evac. We may occupy one transport but we gain seven more transports worth of space."

"Aye aye, mas kehn!"

Sky of Stone

In the bleak emptiness of the Sargasso Void, nothing lives by choice. There is nothing there. Tens of billions of light years across its narrowest dimension, this hole in creation has been popular as a prison for the most dangerous life forms. Time stands still there and so vast it is that most things die before ever seeing stars again. But to its newest inhabitant, it was nothing to get excited about.

"So she's the one they're all so afraid of? She's just a baby. Let's see how much I can make her cry before I slay her." Looking toward where she can from the massively musclebound female waved her tail before flying off in that direction so fast that it was as if she was never there. She laughed maniacally traveling faster and faster beyond all limits of reality...

Three hours had past when the gyro was completely dismantled. Illia and Rae were clearly the strongest but even they couldn't unmake the device without someone to undo the connections. At its center, hung a glowing core, the source of power for the gyro. Noxi and the other girls floated in midair taking a moment to appreciate the ingenuity and sheer scale needed to build a whole planet.

"This is frightening," Noxi flew over to examine the damaged parts, arching girders stretching on for thousands of miles. They were mangled like cheap tin even though their smallest details were miles across. "Nothing alive can do this..."

Kina ran her hands along a section of the girder and winced, "What is it like being

strong enough to destroy something meant to last for a million years like it was one day?"

"Maddening..." Rae whispered in awe and terror. She had nightmares of being so powerful she couldn't help but destroy everything she touched. What if something was this powerful and doing this for... fun? She shuddered and wrapped her arms about herself as if cold, even though she ceased feeling the chill of cold some time ago with her rising powers.

"I think if we figure out how these parts were damaged we can fix them and..." Noxi looked at Illia, who was smiling brightly but, in disturbing contrast, her eyes were running freely with tears. Noxi couldn't speak further as the ursa's eyes dried up before anyone else could notice. "You okay, Illia?"

"I'm okay," she chirped glibly and drifted to a damaged section of a girder and started bending the segment back into shape. She was quick and remarkably precise but the massive metal parts demanded incredible effort from her. It wasn't long before Kina and Rae joined in and within two hours the mangled parts were all repaired with liberal doses of reforging, using their incredible powers to generate the heat of nuclear blasts prolonged over more than an hour, and bending and reshaping with their utterly inconceivable strength. All done in short time with their speed, at times barely visible to the normal eye.

Soon like a vast jig-saw puzzle, the four girls reassembled the moon sized device. But it did not spin. Noxi flew about and though the machine unsure what to do. It was too far and difficult to go ask and with her wrist comp damaged, they couldn't call for assistance.

"Everything looks right and we didn't have any parts left over. Why isn't it working?"

Rae drifted over to the bunny, "Mother taught me that not everything can be saved. I don't want to believe that this is one of those things but we have to be ready for that possibility..."

Noxi looked at her friend with fear and determination, "I know but... Del'pa is the pride of my people's science and industry. We built a planet to last for eons. I won't let it die..."

"Yeah. Well what if?" Kina wasn't good at being gentle. Her heart was always in the right place though.

"We make sure we save everyone on..." Noxi looks back at the gyro

"...and in the planet..." Rae interrupts looking out ward toward the strange lonely people living between the boulders and rock that made up the planet. "We have to save everyone..."

"Can we run the gyro on our strength?" Illia asked sweetly drifting over to the bunny. She was oddly below everyone not trying to be at eye level, like she wanted to be smaller or something.

Noxi looked at the ursa then to the machine. Her grim face lit a bit, "I think so..."

"Great! Then we might get this pile of crap running on its own," Kina boomed heroically. She stood firm, chest -donning large lioness breasts- pushed out -straining her shirt, Chin up, eyes squinting comically. Then she slumped over frankly embarrassed at herself, "What do we do?"

They all had a chuckle at that not realizing just how badly they needed a laugh right then. The planet was still falling apart and a mystery being, who looked a lot like Rae, was still out there who was easily as strong as all of the put together. The girls laugh a bit just poking fun at Kina who took it all so well. Then Noxi drifted in to the machine past the first layer of drive rings.

"Follow me..." Noxi led the others into the machine.

Just beyond their field of view, some hundreds of miles away, the tiny beings who call the interior of Del'pa home emerge from tunnels to see the gyro, still and quiet.

"The heart of the universe..." they said in awe. Their eyes were fixed on the huge device never seeing the four girls fixing the machine. "It is quiet."

"Like a dead one's heart?" asked one younger and frightened. He had a whole life left to live and the universe was dying to him.

"Let us hope the universe truly is immortal."

"Captain Commander..!" the yeoman dashed into the office unbidden, a serious offense on other ships but Mikhael had soften in his maturity and was more interested in a quick and creative crew not a perfectly polished one.

"What is it, Yeoman Teekroh?" Mikhael looked up from his reports.

"We got a signal from the observation post at the Sargasso void periphery. It was a bio-logic with and energy index past 9-9. It was moving faster than the Ulihi limit and accelerating at..."

Mikhael raised a hand stopping the half panicking rat. "From your nervousness and the fact you didn't even chime in before opening the door tells me this thing is a Neo-

Ceknuyrian and is heading straight here."

"Aye, kehn..."

"How long do we have?" as if he already knew the answer

"A little more than one standard day... 10 standard hours, kehn."

"At two standard hours we pull out with everyone we have. This small patrol group can not take an NC. They have powers to defy all the laws of physics and nature and a few of them live to destroy everything they come across. Most will stop those few rogues but we are pretty much helpless. I'm coming up to the bridge."

The Sargasso Void Observation post, was generally a lonely assignment. Two months stint as a systems controller and maintenance chief out on the edge of no where looking for signs of any of the myriad beings and fiends tossed into these utterly bottomless hole in the cosmos.

Most days they see absolutely nothing. On very rare occasion, they might catch sight of a stray comet or asteroid careening into the "big dark" as they call it. But never have they seen something come out.

They saw something coming out...

"Chief?"

"I know. How long?"

"Our sensors can't make out how fast since nothing we have can measure vectors over the Ulihi Limit. But if you will allow a best guess, sir?"

"Permitted..."

"It'll pass our position in just over 8 standard hours. But that's making the assumption that the tip of the signal is the object and not the whole signal..."

"Whole signal?"

"Yes, sir. The signal measures over two light years in length, just like a hyper flight signal but we aren't using dimension displacement scans to see it, just standard space corrected sensors."

"It's an NC. Damn. How close will it pass to us?"

"NC? Sir?"

"Neo-Ceknuyrian. Most damnably powerful beings known. There's hardly a thing they can not do. One went on a rampage a few centuries ago and nearly wiped out the Ekkogian Republic. They through everything they had at it nearly killing themselves off and the most they did to it was make it angrier."

"It?"

"Him or her... I'm not sure... Direction vector?"

"It'll pass within four light-years of us. That's assuming it doesn't see us..."

"It sees us and hears us. Space is an NC's natural element. They can do anything we can do but they can do it in space . If the NC changes course at all I want to know. I'll relieve you in an hour to pack your PFX for evac. I don't want to be here if it wants to play kick the can with the first space station it gets close to.

"Yes, sir"

Oliverians are considered a very recent addition to the communities of the known universe. Found by the Imperial armadas out to conquer to universe, they were immediately subjugated but they "rabbits" quickly endeared themselves to the "wolves" learning all they could from their oppressors and eventually earning not only their freedom after only 200 years under Imperial rule but a very secure place in the outlying Imperial economy becoming one of the wealthiest people known.

Their feudal society crumbled under the weight of Imperial heels and never recovered. A new, more free, society rose up as firmly set to celebrate individual greatness as well as the greatness of their whole race. The pursuit of political recognition and power as well as advanced technology spurred this once dismissible race into to center of attention.

The creation of Del'pa was their crowning glory as a race, showing how far they had gone in a few millennia from their time-frozen sword age world. Now the glory was fading and it seemed to fall on the shoulders of one of the strongest and most powerful members of the Oliverians race to set things right... But even she can not do it alone.

Noxi picked at the gel suit about her tense neck trying to understand just who the gyro had failed. Her finely trained and thoroughly educated mind raced to solve the puzzle before her.

Meanwhile, Rae was writing a letter to her baby sister, Fatima, careful to phrase it like some wonderful fairy tale. For the tiny pup, left at home, the Mystic League was a

dreamland where nothing was impossible and someday nothing would be for her as well. Kina performed isometric exercises straining the seams of her imperial issue "terrainer's" outfit. It was like the lioness' muscle were steadily growing. She had already opened her top completely to let her chest expand unhindered - as if solid chains could hold her back. Illia wandered about the construct like a curious child hoping to find something useful.

"Nothing yet?" Kina finally said after giving Noxi almost a hour to think and study the moon-sized contraption.

The bunny turned and stared at Kina envying her friends vast strength and utterly defiant nature. She wished she was that strong, at least, as a person. She was always so skidish, even if she was nearly indestructible... Having that behemoth smash her into ground chuck didn't help matters as she shivered. "I... it... this is hopeless. The gyro won't restart if we push it. Even if we could we'd have to push equally over more than million points or risk destroying the gyro completely..."

Rae drifted over to Noxi and held her firmly feeling the bunny's nervous fear subside. Rae had the power to comfort even if she weren't such a powerful young pooch. "It's alright. Maybe we're just looking at this all wrong..."

Suddenly Noxi froze in Rae's embrace, her mind racing to a solution. "The main core..."

"Wuh?" Illia called flying back quickly.

"The main core." Noxi repeated flying out of Rae's arms into the gyro. The other girls follow, kina zipping up her top. The bobbed and weaved around the components of the gyro as Noxi explained, "I'm such a bone head... kinda' like Rae sometimes..."

"Hey! I'm not dumb!" Rae barked in a cute but plaintive voice. There are times when Rae seems rather stupid... but it made her approachable and easier for her to cope with certain problems when they came up. truthfully Rae is a wonder of personal interactivity. She exuded love and happiness, even when she was not happy. It made her very disarming such that no one could ever actually get upset with her. As they flew on, Rae stayed right next to Noxi, smiling and completely attentive to what the bunny said next.

"Sorry, Rae... but seriously... The main core is the main motor of this machine. if we can get that running again, the gyro will start spinning again... and Del'pa in saved..."

"That's great, Nox," Illia suddenly dashed in a hugged the bunny from behind, burying her in those two gigantically muscled arms and mountainous breasts, " I knew you could find a way!"

"Let's just hope its as easy as we think it'll be..." Kina murmured holding up the rear her instincts warning of attack. *I hope I'm just being paranoid...*

The Main Core of the Gyro looking like a great sheer wall of stone and metal stretching on for thousands of miles up, down, left, and right. The girl came to it and stopped with a gasp. A sphere within a sphere with scarcely a few miles between it and the rest of the gyro, there was no way to see the whole core.

"...huge..." Illia whispered in awe.

"This place should be alive with energy. The Core in a massive liquid metal kinetic electro-generator like a nature planet but this one is a lot more powerful," Noxi zipped over to the sphere and touched in. "Even second this thing should be making more power that the whole Oliverian defense fleet does in a week a thousand times over."

There was no sign of such power. It was quiet and dead. The sphere wasn't turning... not even a sparkle of metallic luster.

"Damn! We'd better start inspecting," Kina flew upward over the sphere, "What are we lookin' for, Nox?"

"A... The whole shpere should look like this area here. If not report it..."

The three girls respond flying away in a basic direction, Illia down, Rae to the right, Kina of course going up, leaving the left to Noxi. "Right-o!" The bunny's friends called out in unison zooming away at utterly supersonic speed..

"Commander, I have an active track on the NC," the elvish sensor chief in a cool monotone, his face devoid of expression looking up sending his information to the Captains console. A holographic screen updates before Mikhael as trajectory data and path-lines draw themselves. Clear symbols marking stations and cruisers damaged or destroyed by the being of cosmic power are numerous confirming the intentions of this devastator.

"ETA, Mister Eerwynn?" Mikhael was even cooler not looking back or moving. For any Imperial Aphkian this was ideal behavior. No wasted movement, reaction, or words. Just straight and to the point... Many called this machine-like and they would be right. It was simply the way the wolves would have it. No one complained to an Imperial Aphkian's face. No dared to see what a wolf was like without civilization.

"A current velocity and rate of acceleration: just under four common hours."

Mikhael taps a blue glowing symbol on his console calling up a rubbery looking being with many clear gray eyes draped in a fleet uniform, "Transport master, Status on

the evac of Del'pa?"

The language was not audibly translated. Only text appeared in a separate holo-screen from the Transport master's saying, "We should be able to clear everyone off this planet when the next squadron of transporters get here... in one hour."

Mikhael glanced over his shoulder to the sensor chief eliciting the response, "They won't make it the current acceleration vector indicates an ETA of two hours...."

Mikhael looked at the planet, the girls within, and those people desperate to escape certain doom. In the back of his mind there was a desire to cry for these people and things. But his discipline precluded such a response. He, without even a pausing breath, said grimly, "Get everyone you can. We can not be here when that NC arrives. Simple enough. Comply."

"Compliance, sir!" the transport masters voice wobbled as his image was replaced with the Imperial emblem, a inverted triangle divided vertically in thirds of its height, alternating between blue and red, bordered in gold.

"Okay, folks..." Rae said in awe. "I think I found the problem..." She hung in space over what could only be described as a violently torn gash in the side of the sphere. A pool of seething energy boiled and sputtered its last best efforts but too much medium, the liquid metal core, had bleed away through the hole.

"I'm on the way," Noxi said seamlessly speeding toward her friend. Her mind was filling with dread as she saw what Rae saw. The almost empty sphere and the hole ripped in it by the same being, most likely, who nearly killed her. She began to quake and slow as she got closer until she was drifting toward Rae with her other friends waiting.

"Ey' bookworm!" Kina zipped up to Noxi. She was clearly several times the size of the bunny as she drifted toward to hole. The bunny did not answer drifting past until the lioness wrapped her huge powerful hand around the bunny's neck a squeezed... hard.

Noxi screamed pulling free instantly turning to blast Kina, "Wuh? ...no... I..."

"We're here for you, nerd," Kina said floating to the bunny, "Sorry about that but it kinda' shows what's bitin' your little ass."

"Kina..." Rae started flying over and holding her friend securely, "Don't do things like that..." The bunny began to cry.

"We can't fix that..." Noxi sobbed, "We'd need to make over ten thousand cubic miles of liquid metal to replace what was lost. We can't... not in time..."

"Noxi..." Illia landed on the sphere. She was glib, if modestly so. "Maybe we should work on saving all the people instead. The colonists, the underground people..."

"Our freakin' selves!" Kina shot. "I can't argue with that thinking."

Noxi fell limp as all hope in her people faded away.

"You know what's weird," Rae started holding on to Noxi. "Where's all that liquid metal. When we tore down the gyro to fix it we didn't find any on it. It couldn't have seeped toward the surface or someone would have found it long before now. Where'd it all go?"

"Does it matter..." Noxi mumbled weakly, "Del'pa is dead."

"No," Rae said turning Noxi to face her shaking her firmly to snap the bunny back to her senses, "You can't give up like this! I need you more than I need my muscles, Noxi! You're my brain when *I* don't know what to do. There has to something we can do..."

"How about dying?" came a dark voice. The four turn quickly to see the darkened figure in the distance.

"She looks like you Rae..." Kina murmured, "I never got a good look before but now... Shit!"

"Kina... Mother told you not to swear so much," Rae drifted forward. "Besides she said she was after me... I think."

"I never told you that..." the figure lurched with some surprise, "Well then. Let's fight, puppy!"

"let's not..." Rae hushed herself as the enormous fist lashed out at her from what was still more than half a mile away. She dodged it then instinctively blocked a following punch with a dull thud, but the force of the fist ripped a shockwave of near nuclear force over the sphere. The other three girls dive into the hole in the core sphere to escape harm.

"I was told you were some awesome little girl who could defeat a neo..." The huge dog woman drifted back with a chuckle. "Or maybe Keiluko just likes to tell tales taller than herself."

"I didn't like to fight..."

"Rae?" Illia said peeking out of the hole. What she saw made her swoon as Rae stood on the surface of the sphere glowing a faint blue as the giant Neo-Ceknuyrrian Dgeddii Aphkian hung in mid air over her. Rae looked so heroic standing her ground, her eyes still filled with hope now focused on defeating this being and saving a world.

"That's fine with me. I'm Saranue and you must be Rae. I do have to tell you that you will fight and if you..."

Rae wasted no time with a flying elbow to Saranue's gut. She springs back clear of the giantess who folds over with the force of the blow. The pooch had caught this monster off guard. It would not happen again...

The fleet was pulling out. They had everyone they could stand to rescue with a dangerous power like a neo-Ceknuyrian nearby. They formation of ships moving into to the dark void of deep space before dropping away into the elseworld of hyperspace and well clear of one of the single most unstoppable known beings in the universe.

It is with a heavy heart that Mikhael looks back at Del'pa knowing that he has left three very promising young ladies to their fate... He did not and yet hoped to see them again.

He said nothing as the Brettica, his command ship, faded out of view of the crumbling world.

Rae slid back as the giantess struck her directly in the chest with a hand wide enough to cover that chest. The smaller pooch's bosom exploded, having been pressed so hard and violently, out of her top causing a sudden gush of milk to spray free. Rae staggers back in sudden mammary arousal and a bit of shame.

Through all her training and development, Rae had the body of a young goddess but every biometric scan indicated that she was barely seven years old, ignoring that she was already 16. In some ways she shouldn't have any form of involuntary sexual reaction but there she was set for her first orgasm in the middle of a fight at the core of a dying artificial planet.

Rae blushed, looking up, at Saranue and steadied herself tucking one breast under what was left of her top. The other stood out, firmed by her unnatural youth and preposterous physical integrity and strength. The gel of the suit slowly reformed into its uniform bodysheath.

"That's why Neo-C's don't wear clothes," Saranue chuckled reeling back like a baseball pitcher building a massive fireball. It was pure cosmic power not the refined energies that the Mystic League taught the use of and endowed its best students with.

Rae was silent as she started to build her own energy ball. She was far less powerful but she being far more clever. While it looked like she was trying match her foe, Rae was forming a very powerful spell to end this fight. She bowed her head slightly

to communicate to her friends who tried to stay out of the way as they were trained to do. Illia was far stronger than Rae and Kina far more skilled. Noxi was still too afraid to move.

“Illia I need you and Kina to help me with this,” Rae whispered through the etherscape to her friends who were truthfully ‘chomping at the bit’ to help their friend win this.

“Okay. What can we do?” Illia peeked out of the hole in the side of the core shell.

“You need a distraction?” Kina smirked, pulling herself up, ready for action as ever.

“That was what I wanted,” Rae thought her spell was starting to gain more mass and power but Saranue up her power even further. The radiance of the fireball was like a sun blinding Rae as she bowed her head further felling the heat of the powerball being formed with complete disregard for the planet around her. *“I’m turning all her power into liquid metal for the core...”*

“Noxi!” Kina snapped at a trembling bunny floating in the void of the empty sphere.

Noxi absently looked up to the lioness and the blinding light above. She did not speak at first, barely reacting until Kina teleported into the bunny’s face. For a moment they hung still as if time had frozen briefly.

SLAP!!!!

Noxi flew back holding her face looking shocked at the lioness who easily could have taken off her head. “Wh... why?”

“Dammit! You act smart but you’re a little dumbass ain’cha?” Kina snarled teleporting into Noxi’s face again, “We need you top side to steer all the goop that Rae’s gonna make into the sphere. I won’t ask you fight but I need you to do this job and save your people’s planet...”

“I... I’m not strong enough...” Noxi sniffled the fear showing in her face.

“That’s a load of fucking shit!”

“You didn’t get killed by that monster!” Noxi bawled out as Kina snapped her up in her arms in a loving embrace.

“No... I didn’t. I wish I was there to help you.... I won’t ask you fight her again. Just fight your fears.... You’re strong enough to do that. Please... Save this planet... We aren’t gonna make it out unless you do...”

As the blazing sun of power Saranue formed grew larger, Rae's gel-suit melted away to reveal her nude form in harsh shadow in the light of that energy storm caused by Rae's spell and Saranue's power.

As Illia jumped up into the energy storm her gel-suit disintegrated leaving her nude, exposing her massive muscles. Her ability to passively absorb energy caused her huge muscles to grow and strengthen further she pushed her hands forward injecting her own great energy dimming the storm enough to see Saranue like a dark demon holding star.

Kina and Noxi rose out of the hole leaving the bunny to prepare to funnel the liquid metal.

“GOOD YOU'RE ALL HERE. LIKE IT REALLY MATTERED. AT LEAST, YOU CAN ALL SEE IT COMING!!!!” Saranue roared pulling back a bit more to throw her death star.

“Don't be afraid Noxi...” A voice came to the bunny as she felt the heat of Saranue's power beat on her naked body. Deeply etched abs and thighs led up to the quickly swirling arms of greatly developed arms as another spell formed. The voice was warm and comforting...

“Headmistress...” Noxi murmured and her trembling ceased completely no longer relying on focusing on her task but also the love and respect she had earned from her friends and second family, the Mystic League.

Her muscles swelled picking up some of the energy that was filling the space.

She watched Kina dive straight at Saranue. The Lioness grappled with the monster pooch for several moments before the lioness was slapped aside by the beastly bitch, whose muscles grew as she gained more strength and power. The site terrified them all... Saranue was growing stronger at will.

“DIE!!!” Saranue screamed with a voice heard throughout the planet. She threw the star at Rae as she looked straight at the star.

The smaller pooch then reached forward and shoved her spell into the blast. A wave of force washed over everyone.

Kina lay naked on the surface of the sphere, unconscious, but all the energy caused her bosom to swell and her mane to grow several yards in mere seconds. Her claws stretched several inches in mere moments as well.

If any lions saw her now they'd think her a gift for the gods to them. Kina was

always a lovely girl but she never acted or presented herself as the gorgeous creature she really was and as a result was usually the local tomboy and rarely drew a males attention. Right now, naked and utterly helpless, she'd be quite a sight... at least, until she wakes up.

Noxi's own body reacted as her own body swelled with strength and power. Her own confidence was not helped by this but she was feeling new permanent levels of strength growing within her as she push her own spell. She looked up with shock as a tidal wave over a mile high of liquid metal roared out of the spell Rae was sustaining as Saranue continued to mindlessly push her power to crush Rae.

Somewhere in Saranue's mind, the thought that Rae was still there enraged the cosmic being as she pushed harder. Illia ran behind Noxi who was started to be pushed back by the tidal wave...

"I can't control it all!" Noxi shouted over the sound of a thousand oceans in upheaval. Illia put her hands on Noxi's back and simply dropped to her knees as Noxi's own small body exploded with all of Illia's strength and power. Noxi never felt the like before. Her skin felt like it would tear as huge muscles filled and swelled beyond all reason and the bunny was suddenly able to control the wave of liquid metal steering it into the hole filling the sphere at a rate that defied measure.

Under all the flood of metal and blazing energy, no one could see Rae but if she was being affected the same way as the others, she would be at least as awesome as Saranue was now...

The sphere was half full in only a few minutes and the tide of liquid metal was still coming. Noxi could feel two minds in Illia as the ursa began to weaken. One was Illia's ever happy mind. The other... was driven, protective, powerful. She also felt a sudden surge in her own power as her muscles doubled in size and power again and the wave was again more controllable.

Kina sat up, behind Saranue, and cupped an enlarged breast. She felt her mane and claws still growing and... She looked down to her crotch and in absolute terror screamed.

The scream was so loud and sudden the Saranue froze turning slowly as if something unexpectedly horrible had happened. She ended her assault on Rae to look.

Rae stood up glowing with, what could only be described as, a Holy light. Her young body was more shapely and powerful looking than ever before. She cupped her massively engorged bosom. Looking down to the breasts and smirking whimsically, "Mother keeps telling me not to put my power in my tits. Now I see why. I can't see my feet."

"You're really a guy?" Saranue staggered away in shock pointing at Kina as she

stood up hands over her swelled member and testes. She had become a herm.

“Stop staring you fucking moron!” The lioness roared. Her body slowly but visibly turning masculine. Her breasts shrinking to reveal thickly piled pecs and a striking twelve pack of abs. Her voice deepened as she became more male. “Aw hell... I’m a dude now!”

Saranue dashed over to the stunning male Kina had become. She sniffed ... him with lust but Kina, still being Kina, slapped the bitch with... his now foot long claws.

Saranue fell down crying holding her now ripped up face. She screamed rubbing her face against the relatively smooth sphere, smearing blood all over the place.

“K-kina?” Rae whispered in awe. Kina had become a Casid Adonis as he looked over to Noxi as the last of the liquid metal drained into the Sphere, overflowing.

“Bunny?” Kina said while awe as the bunny held Illia on her shoulder with a body that surpassed Illia’s. But just as Rae turned to look, Noxi’s massive frame shrink as she returned Illia’s power to her.

“Kina?” Noxi mouthed noting the trademark of all Casid adolescent males, The prominently unsheathed phallus. It was an evolutionary adaptation to force the young males to show their developments. In Casid culture, a young male may have several females waiting for him and being “quick on the draw” was very attractive to females it also allowed them to size up their prospective mates or masters. It’s a trait that subsides with the onset of adulthood. Kina’s was full and thick hanging more than halfway down to his/her knees. Two nearly fist sized testes forced the hose to park over and between them. The rest of her/him was a picture of a perfect male.

“Don’t mention this to Meniko, Okay?” Kina rubbed his/her abs with a guilty smile. “Gee this feels so good... and tight... I think I really do have a male side after all but I don’t want to make an issue of it. Are my muscles that much larger...”

“Did you assholes forget something?” Saranue groaned as she stood up, her face largely healed.

“You’re right she does look a lot like you, Rae.” Kina snorted with contempt. “Beat it. You got what you had coming...”

Saranue looked at the three girls and the new male and could feel that she had pushed Rae to grow stronger as the smaller pooch walked up to Kina, who stroked his/her deep abs and swooned a bit. Her own muscles tightened and swelled a bit.

“You...” Saranue growled deeply grabbing Kina by the mane, turning the lioness to force him/her to look at the angry bitch, “Shut up! I’m here to fight Rae and...”

Rae didn't waste another moment to drive her fist into Saranue's face. As she fell back stunned Kina raked his/her claws over her face again followed by Illia nearly crushing Saranue in a bearhug.

As the once fierce monstress fell back in shock, Noxi dashed in and punched her with all her might - and some of Illia's residual might - launching the bitch out of the planet and away.

"It sounds like that hit knocked her clear out," Kina smiled. Turning to the others, he/she saw the lustful eyes of the girls. "What?"

"You make a beautiful lion, Kina," Rae swooned staring at the whole package that her best girlfriend had become.

"I hope it temporary," Kina groaned noting Illia and Noxi staring at other parts causing a self-conscious hand to cover as much of his/herself as possible. It was a largely futile gesture given the size of "it".

"I hope not," Illia snickered as she went to sealing the rift in the sphere. Noxi followed as her gel-suit, not destroyed, reformed about her even as the last effects of Illia's far greater might wore off. She felt small again but less timid having had a good friend share her power with her to do what she knew best to do.

Kina sneered comically, "I like wearing panties not boxers!"

For a few moments Rae and Illia laughed out loud. Noxi drifted to Rae and hugged her from the side. "Thanks..."

"For what?" Rae leaned her head to the bunny lovingly.

"Not stopping. For saving the greatest feat my people ever accomplished outside of peace with ourselves and others..." Noxi sniffed a bit trying not to cry.

"Noxi..." Rae pulled free a moment before taking up the bunny in a firm hug, Her own gel-suit reforming, "I love you all. I'll never give up. Even if I have to be the only one to keep going... Thanks for staying with me... I made a promise to save this planet and I kept it... With your help. Thank you, Noxi... Thank you, Illia... Thank you, Kin...a?"

"Kino." the lion said still stark naked, " Until I can change back. I'm Kino." He stood there with a long mane down to the ground, ten feet from his head, with wispy tresses flowing over his eyes and shoulders. He didn't want to say that his occasional ogling of the girls and a female was now a very hard to hide sexual lust for them but he had willpower and so it didn't show... much.

"Thank you, Kino..." Rae smiled, "we are going to have to tell Mother... She regularly sends messages to your father. You were exiled not disowned. He would like to

know his favorite daughter is now his favorite son...”

“Can we leave that part out of a year or I turn back?” Kino grimaced.

“Yeah,” Illia said as Noxi mined for metal to patch the breach in the core.

“Hey!” Noxi called out, “a little help here! This will go faster with help.

“Right!” Rae dashed to help the bunny.

“Sorry!” Kino flew over to Illia’s side forming the new patch.

In the distance, largely ignored, the under people emerged and looked to the mile wide tunnel blasted out by Saranue’s expulsion.

“What do you see?” one of them said meekly...

“Stars... days away but I see stars...”

Tears of joy and cries of jubilation rose up from the group as several ran back to inform their villages.

“The universe is no longer stone...” one said his small voice cracking.

“Let us start the long voyage out of the rocks...”

Two of the under people marched up the tunnel leading the way out. Confident that they would be safe.

Victorious Stars

It took almost two weeks for the people to return to their homeworld. The ships came a few at a time. Then several then swarms of dozens at a time.

Waiting for the first ships, were Rae, Illia, Noxi and Kino, sporting some recently purchased clothes from an automated clerk. The big young lion, wore tight jeans that did little to hide his sculpted thighs and robust crotch, a long tunic that reached far enough to mute the phallic presence and toe-less leather socks. His claws proved too hard to trim with the tools available.

Imperial agents whisked the girls and the boy away to avoid the press and get them home...

The under people, now popularly known as, Del’pians, had found a new world to

inhabit and the people of this world gave the Del'pians plenty of room. What the future holds for them is another adventure for this little folk, One Rae expressed the desire to look in on in the future.

Somewhere int the far reaches of the universe, Saranue had left Del'pa for now. She was haunted by how quickly and easily Rae's power and strength had grown. It happened so completely, the neo-ceknuyrian was convinced that there was no way to attack her hard enough and fast enough to destroy her before she was too strong to destroy.

"I have to get stronger than her so I can overpower her..." the bitch murmured to herself as she watched her mighty arms tremble with fear.

"If I said I told you so..." A massive wolfess appeared out of hyperspace. Her dark brown, nearly black, mane hung over her right eye and the other glowed a soft sky blue.

"It's not possible... No one is stronger than a Neo. No one... except another neo..." Saranue looked at the wolfess. "Keiluko.... who is she?"

"If the Arbiter of Fate is truthful. She is the one chosen to become truly and totally invincible. Get your licks in before she leaves you behind..."

"Not now. She increased her power to match my own. If I attack her now she'll just get stronger."

"So what will you do?"

"I won't play into your hands. When you gave this power I wanted to be free of all authority. I will not play your game. I'll get stronger so even you can't order me around and then I'll destroy Rae to become the true "Invincible" in all realities. Then you'll bend to my will..."

Saranue blasted away into hyperspace, leaving Keiluko to hang in space as another figure nearly three times her size materialized. This one as a catwoman with frighteningly ripped and bugling muscle and hefty bosom and long mane of blood red hair.

"So she is driven to kill her. Good"

"Queen Hex," Keiluko turned to face the enormous cat-goddess, "this is dangerous. She is a willful and unprincipled child. If she can acheive the power you believe she can she will use it against us and you..."

“The brat is not my concern. The Arbiter of Fate never lies none makes mistakes. Rae will become an Invincible and could surpass V’tal’nan. That I my hope... But that will never happen if Saranue is able to ever overpower Rae’s ability to grow. Send some of your servants to give Rae some exercise. The stronger the better.”

“Yes, madam,” Keiluko almost choked on those words as the catwoman faded away. The wolfess held out her hand seeing the image of a young lean golden vixen playing with friends at school from her extended palm. Her heart aching she closes that hand snuffing out the image. *“I will have you back in my life, dearest Elizabeth”*

Keiluko booms into hyperspace leaving empty space behind.

The Mystic League had hoped to have four heroines to greet with fanfare fitting returning war heroes. However, One of their heroines did not return. In her place was a male, a young lion who caught the eye of all the girls.

It did not take long for the lion to be brought before the Headmistress, Menikomenqolui, for examination. Most though Kina was dead and some laments rang out before Rae and the others could speak out about it.

In Meniko’s chambers, Kino stood before the vast Phoenix Dragoness in her true form The deep burgundy red, glittering, dragoness smirked a bit before speaking.

“So how does it feel, Kina?”

“Whuh?” Kina started not paying full attention, “The firehose I sprang? It’s maybe a little too big and heavy for my liking.”

Meniko rolled her eyes in response, “That’s not what I meant but I suppose that would be a partial answer. How is being male like?”

Kina was never one to be taken by surprise and this was not different, “ You ask that like you knew this could happen...”

Fortunately they were alone so what was said did not leave the chamber. “If your hormones were adjusted any further toward being male you’d be born a herm or androgyne. You mystical signature belongs more to a herm-type than a female. As it is you were born only of the strongest maned lionesses in recent history.”

“Are you going to tell my father?” Kino drooped his head.

“No... Not for a year or until you turn back which ever happens first...” Meniko paused a moment as Kino looked up half shocked to hear that, “I can tap Rae’s thoughts now and then. She thinks of you all very much. She knows that you are in love with her

even as a female...”

“I...”

“If she approaches you, you may indulge her. Otherwise, keep it in your pants. I trust you will keep yourself ... uhm... holstered.”

Kino bowed his head, “Yes, ma’am.”

“Kino?” Rae ran up to her friend happily. She had changed into a comely and cute short dress and a tunic in dark blue. She was barefoot and padded up to the young lion. “You still haven’t cut you mane.”

“It grows too fast. I don’t have the desire to cut it either. It’ll keep folks from worrying too much about Kina...”

His claws were trimmed but were still a bit long. Then again, Kina was always trying to grow longer claws. He wore baggy pants fresh from the PX but not shirt letting those huge and hard muscles flex and bulge openly, something Kina had trouble doing dressing full as she often did..

“Rae...?” Kino murmured.

She leaned in to listen.

“I have had many lovers. Sura, Zesta, and a half dozen others... I’ve have always had a strong attraction to you. But I... I...”

“It’s okay,” Rae said lovingly stroking his arm, “I bet you always wanted to love them as a male...”

“I wanted to include you in that...”

Rae flew up to meet Kino and kissed him on the cheek, “I love you, Kina...” She then flew down he hall away.

Illia danced to music in the gym ignoring her regular workout that day. She loved wearing that gel-suit and got one of her own. It shone like liquid glass as she followed the steps. It was amazing that she could move so easily despite having such a huge musculature. She was blissful as ever even as Noxi entered the room. She was wearing her own pink chrome leotard.

“Illia...” Noxi stood by as the great ursa came to a graceful stop.

“Noxi,” Illia said with a smile, “Can I help you?”

“No. You helped me enough for a while. I just wanted to workout with you today. But since you’re dancing... maybe I could show you some Oliverian steps?”

“Sure!” Illia smiled as a moment of thought passed, “How much stronger did I make you?”

“What?” Noxi stopped then looked at the wall mirror. She really was much more muscular and she felt much lighter. “I haven’t tested yet but I could wager at least triple.” She flexed a bicep that easily raised up to nearly eye level, more than double what she was previously capable of.

“You’re not so small anymore, yeah?”

“Thanks... I... wow... I can’t wait to show my sister, Linxi. She’s coming tomorrow to continue her training here.”

“That’s good,” Illia’s voice changed. It was a bit older and wiser. Looking at the ursa Noxi could tell that this was not the same person.

“Who are you?” Noxi looked confused but not afraid.

“I’m the one who fights for Illia, I’m the one who protects her, guides her, drives her. You’ll see me again, friend...”

Noxi was silent a moment until Illia spoke again in her usual voice.

“Show some moves!” Illia jumped up.

Noxi smiled happily. It was hard to believe that Illia really needed a constant protector. Then again... Kina turned into a guy...

As the music played Noxi and Illia gave each other dance lessons in the current dance steps used in the universe as they knew them.

Kino had taken up residence in his/her quarters there was little argument. Most thought Kino was Kina’s twin brother. Those who knew better just couldn’t believe it.

He was asleep in the darkened room when Sura, a great Tonnian saber-toothed, cat even larger and more muscle bound than Kina ever was. She is a lover of the lioness and was a youth leader but leaves from time to time to train in other areas. She sneaked

into the bedroom stripping out of her skintight bodysuit.

“Kina...” Sura whispered in the pitch dark room. Feeling the bed she found her lover and crawled onto the bed...

“Hmmm... Sura?” Kino murmured. The deeper voice was a dead give away that it wasn't Kina and the saber-cat jumped.

“What the F...!”

To the next...