**He came from the stars. 3 Hunting, passion and more.**

*by* [Tokyo_lover](http://archiveofourown.org/users/Tokyo_lover)

**Summary**

Ter'kan, the handsome Yautja clan leader and Emma his beautiful human lover are now on the planet where they will be able to fulfill their dearest and most awaited dream. They will hunt together, at last.
Wishes come true.

*Eighteenth month. Sixth day of the first week.

It was before the rising of the two suns. Emma grabbed her weapon and left the home, accompanied by Ter'kan. Two of the leader's apprentices who were caring a few of his and Emma's belongings, followed just right behind. The leader and his mate enjoyed exchanging their thoughts about their soon-to-be departure all the way back to the docking area. They stumbled across some members of the clan as soon as they manged to reach the ship. The usual greetings followed while the two apprentices went up the ramp, loaded with bags. Ter'kan had a brief conversation with his comrades before boarding the new ship with Emma walking by his side.

To their surprise Seki'sen, Alrik'taden, Shun'ji as well as two other males of the clan were already waiting in the control room. More greetings followed. Soon after another group entered the place. The leader addressed his mate: 'Emma!...I need to speak with our comrades due to our long and upcoming absence. You can stay with us or take a tour of the ship. What do you think?'

Emma responded with a smile: 'In that case I prefer to take a tour.' She then exited the control room after having waved at the group as a farewell. She visited each room, walking nonchalantly before she chose to retire to an empty room that was meant for displaying trophies. She remained in there, standing, and listened to the deep voices coming from the control room. It lasted until the sounds of heavy foot steps stomping in the corridor caught her attention. She understood that her comrades finally began to evacuate the ship. Ter'kan showed himself in the middle of the doorway as soon as the foot steps ceased.

So she asked, walking towards him: 'Did they all leave at last?'

He slowly stroked her right cheek: 'Yes! It's good to get you alone.' He then took her hand: 'Come!'

They headed back to the control room and sat at the pilot post without further delay. Ter'kan made sure that Emma was comfortably seated then started to operate one of the consoles situated in front of him. An holographic screen soon appeared. Emma watched how the leader kept operating the console and the holographic screen at the same time. The powerful but somehow soothing rumble of the engine soon resounded in the control room. Slight vertical tremors followed right after due to elevation. The ship took off smoothly under the watchful eyes of Seki'sen, Alrik'taden and their comrades. The males watched until their leader's ship disappeared into the blue-orange sky brightly lit by the two suns. They then split into groups and went in different directions.

During the journey.

Emma briefly fixed the outer space through the window situated in front of her then took a keen interest in the planet they were traveling to. So she made her remark just as she saw the leader typing on the holographic screen: 'The description you made of the planet prior to our travel sounded really promising. What is the name of that amazing place?'

'It's a small planet called Alpheus-Rey 421. A Yautja clan had discovered it a very long time ago due to emergency landing. And since then the planet had become a very sought after destination for hunts.'

Emma asked with a smile: 'Is Alpheus-Rey known only by those of your species?'
Ter'kan brought some confusion: 'That was the case before but things are about to change.'

She had a slight frown before asking: 'What do you mean by that?'

The leader explained while typing on the holographic screen: 'That's because you will soon become the first human to ever walk that planet.'

Emma added after a sigh and still smiling: 'I should have thought about it in that way.' She paused for a few seconds then continued asking questions: 'Why is 421 attached to the planet's name?'

'Because there are 421 species of mammals that have been discovered.'

She nodded then went on: 'What about the other species? What about the flora?'

Ter'kan made a tempting remark as he continued operating the holographic screen: 'There are birds, reptiles, invertebrates and many plants as well. I won't give you further information because I want you to discover them all by yourself. You will love it.'

'I'm sure about that! This said now I'd like you tell me about the weather.'

'There are two seasons! One is hot and rainy. The other is a little bit less hot without rainfall. We will arrive on Alpheus-Rey during transition so we will certainly experience both.'

Emma expressed her own thought as she fixed her eyes on the leader's clawed hands. 'The same phenomena happens on Earth during seasonal change.' She then asked more questions after a brief silence: 'What about the night?'

Ter'kan responded after a glance towards her: 'The night is relatively short. And to give you an idea of the duration I'd say five Earth hours.'

'I just had a thought. Are we going to land on the same area you have already been before or on a different one?'

The leader answered after another glanced towards her: 'We are going to land on a different area because I'm with you!'

They looked at each other. So the leader took Emma's hand and squeezed it gently. That was his silent and favorite way in order to make her understand how much she meant to him. Emma felt the need to show him affection, in turn so she kissed the palm of his hand. Long minutes passed before she broke the silence with another random question: 'By the way my Ter'kan, how long the journey will take until we finally land on Alpheus-Rey?'

The leader answered without looking at her because he was typing important data on the holographic screen: 'We are going to land during the morning of the day after tomorrow. This is according to Yautja time.'

'It's satisfying to know that Alpheus-Rey 421 isn't so far anymore. On the other hand surely we aren't the only ones who travel to Alpheus-Rey. Also what is going to happen if we have encounters with other hunters?'

'Nothing is going to happen! Don't worry! No one is going to prevent us enjoying each other's company or intrude into our hunting territory. They know about the laws and rules as much as we do. You remember those rules, don't you?'

'Yes, my Ter'kan!' She then made another pause before changing the course of the conversation
again: 'What is the biggest mammal living on Alpheus-Rey?'

'It's an herbivore that looks like a rhino with three horns with a height up to two meters at the shoulders. It is mostly found near lakes.'

'Why is it found near lakes?'

Ter'kan stopped typing: 'That's because aquatic plants are also included in its diet.'

Emma asked as suddenly seriousness appeared on her face: 'According to your description that rhino must be a sight to behold. Are you going to hunt one of them?'

The leader began to type again: 'Not me! You are going to be the one who will hunt that rhino.'

She shared her apprehensions with seriousness still visible on her face: 'Your statement really surprised me. Also don't you think it is going to be too much for me? You know...I'm just a beginner!'

Emma didn't add anything else. The leader understood what was going on in her mind at that very moment so he said in order to reassure her. 'I tested your skills a lot for the past weeks and I know what you are capable of that's why I chose it as your first big prey.'

A new smile appeared on her face: 'Yes! You are right, my Ter'kan. I shouldn't worry because you know what suits the best for me.' She paused for a few seconds before showing more interest in the planet they were traveling to: 'Could you tell me more about mammals that live on Alpheus-Rey?'

Ter'kan pushed two buttons on the console situated on his right: 'There is a predatory feline mammal the size of a leopard from Earth and it's the most beautiful too. It has black and turquoise blue rosettes on a immaculate white coat.'

From then on Emma became more enthusiastic: 'Your description is really appealing that's why I intend to hunt one of those too.' She took great pleasure in asking more questions about the fauna on Alpheus-Rey 421. She ended up falling asleep on the reclined seat after the leader had answered her question about the area of the planet he chose to land on.

Ter'kan looked at her because Emma was beautiful even during her sleep. He then operated his console a few more times in order to let the ship flying on automatic pilot because he needed to have a rest himself. So he unwound with his eyes shut as he kept thinking about the upcoming hunts that will soon take place. He knew those hunts were meant to become special due to the fact that's going to be his first time to ever hunt with a human. That human had been sharing his life for almost two years now. That human managed to adapt to what was the most important for him. That human had achieved goals and enriched her knowledge by working hard. He loved that human as much as she loved him. That human was his little and beautiful Emma, the new love of his life.

Much later.

Emma has just returned to the control room. She sat to the leader's left, saying: 'Hey, my Ter'kan! I believe we must be almost there.'

He answered while operating his console: 'That's right! I have already commenced the manoeuvre for landing.'

The ship already entered the atmosphere of the planet. It was slightly shaken due to high altitude winds. It lasted for a moment before it stabilized completely as soon as the descent commenced. Meanwhile Ter'kan kept operating the console or the holographic screen. Luckily the weather was
sunny which gave them the opportunity to have a magnificent bird-eye view of the landscape. The surroundings were becoming bigger and closer gradually. Suddenly a faint bump was felt because the ship has just touched the ground. The leader operated his console one more time before the soothing rumble of the engine ceased completely.

Emma stood up. She exclaimed as she looked through the bay window of the pilot post: 'Here we are at last! I'm so happy.'

The leader took her hand: 'Come!'

They left the room. Ter'kan typed twice on his wrist device as soon as they came out onto the area that gave access to the exit of the ship. The doors started to slide open and the ramp to lower. The whole process took only a few seconds. They approached the doorway and stood there at the top of the ramp, silent, taking in the landscape. The weather was hot, occasionally swept by a light wind. Emma sighed contentedly. She then looked up and met the leader's fiery and amber gaze. So he said: 'Let's have a better look at the surroundings!'

They went down the ramp, holding hands. Emma let go of his hand and took a few steps. She turned towards him with a smile on her face and expressed her joy again: 'I'm so happy. This place is fantastic.'

He approached her and embraced her from behind. So she leaned her head against his chest and put one of her hands on his right arm. They cuddled like this as they continued admiring the landscape and its horizon. There was a small crystal clear water lake surrounded by a few big, grey and pink rocks of hexagonal shape not far from the ship. Dark green plants that looked like ferns were contrasting with the colors of those rocks. There were also all sort of tall trees mixed with exotic and strange-looking vegetation as far as the eye could see. Hills covered by an equally diverse and lush vegetation could be seen far beyond the jungle.

It seemed that mother nature had been very generous and didn't hesitate to bestow that planet with the most unusual but also beautiful living things. Birds with colorful plumage were flying high in the sky. Vibrantly colored butterflies fluttered in the sunshine while distant and eerie trumpeting indicated the presence of imposing mammals. The buzzing of a flying insect mingled with a strident bird call. Little by little more smells and sounds began to fill the air thus leaving to imagination what the fauna and flora had to offer. Plants that looked like a much bigger version of the clover from Earth were growing here and there on the sandy ground. The surface of the lake was undulating due to the light wind that was blowing from time to time. The blue sky was peppered with fluffy and white clouds.

Suddenly a shadow flew over Ter'kan and Emma. They looked up and saw a big bird of prey. It glided above the trees top then flew away towards the hills. By now the sun was at its zenith thus making the heat more intense. So they took in the landscape for another brief moment then went back inside the ship and began to prepare things in order to make their stay on the planet enjoyable. Emma retired in the living quarters and made sure everything was according to her needs because she wanted to feel at home right away. Meanwhile Ter'kan was coming and going between the control area and the other rooms, concerned to prepare the ship and its equipment before hunts would take place. There were items displayed in one of the corner of the equipment room that he took time to examine and check the functioning. That was a part of the hunting gear he intended to surprise his beautiful mate with.

Ter'kan and Emma spent the afternoon, working in separate areas until they finally met up again in a room adjacent to their sleeping quarters. That room was meant for any purpose, including eating and repairing things as well. The leader asked: 'How are you doing?'
She responded after a sigh: 'I'm fine and content. Everything is so beautiful. It must feel wonderful
to take a dip in that crystal clear water lake. Did you notice that the color of the water changes
according to the intensity of the sun?'

He agreed by putting one of his hands on her right shoulder: 'Yes, the surroundings are so beautiful
and this will give us the opportunity to experience outdoor lifestyle to the fullest extent.' He then
added, taking her hand: 'Let's go back outside!'

By now the sun had already began to set so making the heat a little bit more bearable.

Ter'kan said while pointing at the hexagonal and colorful rocks: 'Look at these! They are perfectly
located for sunbathing and more.' He exclaimed by showing the jungle with his whole hand: 'What
a magnificent place this is! It's so inviting for hunts!

Emma glanced at him with a smile before she focused on the landscape again. But as she kept
looking towards the lush jungle a spine-chilling roar soon came from the distant hills. Two others
followed right after. So she asked by moving closer to him because uneasiness washed over her:
'With a roar such as that I imagine how monstrous that creature must be.'

He made his remark as he looked towards the hills: 'That was the roar of the largest predatory
feline mammal. It's the animal I love hunting the most on this planet.'

Emma looked at him again, visibly stunned. She then asked a series of questions: 'How big is it?
How does it look like?'

The leader took a few steps before giving her explanations: 'It is as tall as you! As how it looks
like... well... do you remember that skull with the eighty centimeters long jaws and armed with
razor-sharp teeth as big as my thumb?

She confirmed her thoughts while looking towards the hills, in turn: 'Yes, I do! That's the one you
put on display in the right upper corner of your personal trophies room on board the big ship. It
gives a good idea how it must look like when alive.' She paused for a few seconds before making
her remark with seriousness on her face: 'I bet you are going to hunt that animal again?'

'Yes and you will be able to witness that.' He then stepped behind her and took her in his embrace
again before concluding: 'New thrills await us.'

And so the couple's first day on Alpheus-Rey 421 ended with a sense of new achievement and
anticipation. They stood near the lowered ramp and contemplated the sun slipping slowly below
the horizon. They got back inside the ship as soon as it completely disappeared behind the hills.
Preparations and Emma's first hunt.

Eighteenth month. Second day of the second week.

Ter'kan took Emma out for an early morning stroll in order to make her discover more about the surroundings. Each one was caring a spear, just in case. First, they explored the surroundings not too far from their camp before they ventured even farther into the jungle. Emma was instantly fascinated because the place was bustling with interesting life. There were animals and plants similar to those she had the opportunity to admire on Earth or on Yautja Prime that mingled with unusually shaped insects or plants that looked confusing at the first sight. There were red and black, six winged dragonflies with two tails which made them look like as if they had two abdomens. Flora that looked like mushrooms but were in fact carnivorous plants. And the foliage of very tall trees meant for an easy and fast climbing were intertwining with thick and lush creepers that were producing some sort of red berries with an odd, fruity smell. The hot air was increasingly weighed down with more smells while different insects or small mammals were crossing their path.

Emma was becoming increasingly astonished as they kept venturing farther and farther into the jungle. However the presence of some big, flying insects was also making her feeling uneasy at the same time. Cicadas and moths were very colorful with an average length of ten centimeters. She never liked those she had seen on Earth but the ones she had found on Alpheus-Rey 421 looked even freakier due to their size.

And then as they were clearing themselves a path through some bushes, suddenly screeches that came from one of the trees drew their attention. So they looked up and saw two mammals perched on a thin branch and crouching on their hind legs that looked like small lemurs. The mammals emitted their high-pitched cry once more then moved away, hopping from branch to branch. Another small and different mammal appeared a few steps in front of them once they managed to get out of the bush. That one looked like a terrestrial fox. Its orange coat was speckled with brown spots. Its eyes were big and light green which suggested it must had a good nocturnal vision. It looked at Ter'kan and Emma for a few more seconds while hissing then it quickly slept through some thick vegetation and disappeared. As the couple set off more bird calls and animal screeches began to echo through the lush and steamy jungle. Some were quite loud which aroused Emma's curiosity. She always asked questions whenever an animal cry or a bird call was filling her with uneasiness or enchantment as well. Ter'kan was giving her explanation which triggered her to make comparisons with animals native from her planet Earth.

Later on, Ter'kan and Emma were on the way back to their camp. The young woman continued expressing her thoughts about what the jungle had to offer. She had the opportunity to make even more new and odd discoveries due to the fact that Ter'kan had chosen a different path from the one they walked through when they started exploring the jungle earlier in the morning. That new itinerary didn't go without some more uneasiness for Emma. She saw thistles with thorns big enough on which a small mammal could easily impale itself, a yellow salamander whose back was oozing black poison, many others strange looking plants with foul smells and hairy, creepy crawlies. And for that Emma didn't hesitate to express her uneasiness or on some occasions cussing mildly. Ter'kan was amused by her reaction and always clicked his mandibles rapidly for a joyous laugh before asking her how was she supposed to manage once she will have to face the enormous and furry ones. Emma was retorting by saying that she'd rather see fur on mammals than see it on insects. Her witty remarks appealed to Ter'kan nevertheless which encouraged him to add more tease into their conversation.
When they finally reached their camp they were full of pep and in a good mood. They both agreed enthusiastically to retire to the control in order to discuss about the hunting party whom Emma will have the privilege to witness. First Ter'kan showed her a recorded video of his last hunt that dated back to more than two years ago.

And so Emma had a first glimpse of the animal that Ter'kan loved hunting the most. on Alpheus-Rey 421. She remembered how much the sight of that skull had scared her but since she saw what the animal looked like when alive, it definitely terrified her even more. On the other hand her former job also helped her to relate that animal to another one which roamed The Earth millions of years ago.

Meanwhile the holographic video has just come to an end so she expressed her thoughts out loud: ‘You stated in one of our previous conversation that the animal you love hunting looks like nothing I've ever seen before. However I've become aware of something since I saw the video. Do you know that your favorite prey has very similar anatomy with another animal that roamed the Earth millions of years ago. It was called a gorgonopsid and one of the biggest predator of its time.’

The leader emitted a trill before making his remark: 'That's a very interesting fact. I believe your former work helped you to achieve this conclusion.'

Emma approved with a smile: 'Absolutely! And there is something else. I came up with another conclusion since we went for a stroll through the jungle. I've seen also plants specimens that were similar to some that thrived on Earth a very long time ago. There were palm trees and ferns. I have always found those species of plants very beautiful to look at and I'm sure I will see more as we will continue exploring the surroundings further.' She sighed with visible contentment before asking more questions about the predatory mammal that he intended to hunt: 'Are there any differences of the size between males and females? And which one are you going to hunt?'

'Yes, there are! Males are dark grey while females are rather light grey with brown speckles. I will hunt an old male because that's what I have always used to do.'

She continued after a brief pause: 'I see! And how will you be able to differentiate an old male from a young one?'

'Most of them have missing fangs and multiple scars around the neck due to many years of fighting during the mating season. That's when they are the most aggressive too. This makes hunts even more thrilling and demanding.'

Emma slightly raised her eyebrows, looking a bit perplexed before asking: 'How do they live? What about their physical abilities and strength?'

'They live in small groups but solitary individuals can also be found. I'm targeting one of those for my next hunt. They are also fast runners, moving very nimbly and capable of jumping high.'

She exclaimed with seriousness on her face: 'Scary! Not only do they look and sound terrifying but all these abilities you mentioned, make them even more scarier! Now I understand why that animal became your favorite prey on this planet! And like you have already said it yourself: "The bigger the beast, the more thrilling the hunt will be."

The leader gently brushed his clawed fingers on her cheek in order to show how appreciative he was about her words. And so the lovers spent a long time inside the control room. They viewed more videos and conceived how their upcoming adventures together would be.
*Eighteenth month. Third day of the second week.

Ter'kan and Emma woke up with the rising sun. First they ate light a meal consisting of meat, vegetables and fruits before retiring to the room in which weaponry and hunting gear were put on display. The young woman knew very little or nothing at all about the basic equipment of a hunter in spite of the fact she had seen males wearing it many times before. So her love leader had to explain the functioning of each device and answer her questions as well.

All his equipment had pride of place on the table. So he said by pointing at the bio-mask with his whole hand: 'The mask protects the head but acts as a respirator as well. It has a zoom function, two kinds of recording systems, and multiple visions modes as well. There are normal vision which the same as a human in order to fit in with the first shooter genre, a thermal for spotting regular beings like humans or any other hot-blooded sentient beings, an electric one which gives a red background and used to spot Xenomorphs by their white outline while the one with the green background is used for spotting other Yautja or technological objects also shown in a white outline. There is even a neuro vision which shows the prey's current emotional status. The recording system work has a playback mode that shows what the wearer has witnessed or been involved in.'

Emma added enthusiastically her own thought; 'Yes and I remember those recordings can be downloaded to a console on board the ship then visualized again as holographic videos!'

'Exactly! Your remember that well.'

She smiled. So the leader went on: 'The mask also has another important device meant for recording voices and translating. It can plays parts of audio which are used to listen to the prey's voice in order to study its language or as a lure.'

She said while touching the mask at the same time: 'This is very interesting and I can only imagine the possibilities. For instance if I wanted my human prey to fall into a trap I'd play an audio of a child or woman in distress.'

He concluded, eyeing her with interest because her statement came as a surprise: 'You are right! I often used those kind of recordings myself. I made those recordings when I casually went around my hunting ground for observations.'

She smiled again then continued by pointing her index at a part of the mask: 'What is this? It looks like a miniature lightning.'

The leader went on with his explanation while brushing his clawed fingers on that part of the mask Emma pointed at: 'This is the targeting and tracking system. It's a laser target designator for shoulder based plasma canon which compromises three corners of an open triangle to aim at the targeted prey that is incorporated to finalize the shot. As the prey is decided upon, the designator will zoom a triangle on the prey from the head-up display or as you called it a miniature lightning, which will flash and turn solid read then fires. It also has a zooming capability so allowing to shoot at preys from great distances. And last but not least it also helps to locate trajectories of thrown objects.'

Emma responded with a nod as she looked at the gear put on the table. He then grabbed another device: 'This is the wrist gauntlet. It is a small computer device which as its name implies it's worn on the wrist. It's the most important and prized piece of the equipment because it has several technological advanced features with different displays. It has a sat-com, a self-destruct device, control for the cloak and in some cases a control for the plasma canon as well.'
Emma looked attentively at the gauntlet for a few seconds before asking: 'Could you tell me more about the cloak?'

The leader answered just as he activated the gauntlet: 'This device provides the hunter with active camouflage at long ranges and it's reserved for hunts against preys that use firing weapons. And of course there is one item that I must cover my body partially with in order to be fully operational! An item you thought was there for aesthetic purposes only.'

Suddenly she had a soft laugh before evoking some of her past memories: 'I remember at the beginning I had the wrong idea about the net real purpose. I thought it was there to make you look more attractive.' She paused for a few seconds before asking with a smile: 'How does the net work?'

'It bends light around the wearer and projects a semi-transparent image, rendering the wearer partially invisible. However it has weaknesses. It's effective on dry terrain and it will become inoperable if there is contact with water. The other disadvantage is that the light has to be retracted through the entire cross section of the hunter's body at short ranges which means the distortion of the light around the cloaked body becomes noticeable thus making the cloak ineffective during close fight.'

Emma nodded again. An then Ter'kan took an elongated and small, metallic case that was beautifully embossed with Yautja letters and intricate intertwining geometrical designs. He said as he pushed an oval button and opened it: 'This is the medical kit. It is a complex and versatile first aid used by Hunters while on hunts and contains various serums or medicine including tools that can be used to treat and heal a various range of wounds fast with effectiveness. Most of the methods used are painful.'

The young woman made her remark while looking at the strangely shaped surgical instruments: 'I can imagine that.'

Ter'kan put down the open case on the table then began to explain about different parts of the armor: 'This is the armor and like the bio-mask, it varies in appearance. It's very light, strong and made of several layers of metal.'

Emma grabbed one of the pauldrons. She exclaimed, weighing it with both her hands: 'It's almost weightless, indeed. I remember that Mar'ten's bio mask was almost weightless first time I grabbed it and now finally I know why.' She sighed as now she was fixing the breastplate. She then asked: 'By the way could you tell me more about the wrist computer and explain what is a sat-com?'

'A sat-com is a Yautja holographic map projector that shows the graphic of some object or building. It can work as a positioning unit in order to locate enemies or other targets as well. It works by displaying a miniature and 3-dimensional holographic image that is projected out of the wrist computer.'

Emma continued as she brushed her fingers on a metallic object: 'And now I'd like you to tell me more about weaponry.'

'Ter'kan grabbed his plasma canon: 'Weapons varies from hunter to hunter and these are the most commonly used ones.' He continued by giving her the small canon to hold: 'The plasma canon is as you have already noticed it's the distinctive mark of the equipment. This weapon has long range and very powerful projector capable of guiding armor-penetrating plasma bolts at distant targets. Also the weapon's bolts explode in a burst of plasma shrapnel causing wounds and damages to the other enemies near the point of impact. These energy bolts can be pale blue or yellow. It's aimed via a targeting system built into the bio-mask, making the weapon to track with the user's head.
movements. Generally a three-pointed targeting laser sight arranged in a triangular formation is used to increase accuracy. It's fired by operating it from the wrist gauntlet.'

Meanwhile Emma has just put the small canon down on the table. Ter'kan grabbed another metallic piece then went on: 'This is the articulated arm in order to mount the canon on the shoulder.'

Emma took the articulated arm in her hand. She said, weighing it: 'This is also really light.'

The leader grabbed another device that was displayed on the table and wore it on the wrist of his right arm. He made a slight movement with his hand. He began to explain as two serrated and pointy blades of forty centimeters in length and five centimeters wide extended from the device over the back of his hand: 'As you already know these are called wrist blades and are the weapon of choice for most hunters. It sharp enough to cut through bones and is also used against unarmored or disarmed opponents.'

She said, while slightly bending over in order to have a better look: 'The sight of these big blades with razor-sharp cutting edges bring visions of tremendous amount of blood and lethal damage. One fast and powerful strike would be enough to cut a human in half.'

The leader nodded in agreement then continued: 'Wrist blades are considered among the most honorable weapon that a hunter can use when he kills his prey due to its close-range nature.' He retracted the blades into his wrist device and grabbed one of the combisticks that was displayed on the table. He said a bit triumphantly: 'Here is your favorite weapon! I don't think you need explanations about this one!

Emma took the weapon from his hand and extended it. She explained with a smile: 'I love this weapon so much because it's telescopic thus making it relatively small and easy to store when not in use but can extend to spectacular lengths when it's needed in combat.' She put Ter'kan's combistick down on the table and grabbed hers. She continued as she extended it: 'I love mine more than anything else because it has such a sentimental value for me and you know why.'

Ter'kan responded as he stroked her cheek once which made her smile: 'I do, love!' He then grabbed another weapon. Emma's reaction was loud and immediate. So she exclaimed as her smile disappeared: 'Here is the shuriken! I can't say that this weapon brings back pleasant memories. I remember when I cut myself with it badly. There was also a time when my relationship with Alrik'taden was difficult and somehow scary.'

The leader unfolded the shuriken. Six pointy and curved, fifteen centimeters long blades came out of the hub. He added by holding the weapon at ninety degrees angle: 'Luckily the shuriken you unfolded had only four small blades. You healed quite fast but if you had the bad fortune to unfold one of these your hand would have been cut off.'

Emma clouded over because she felt uneasy about that nightmarish vision. She said while analyzing the blades of the weapon: 'Tell me more about this terrible thing!'

Ter'kan pushed two buttons simultaneously and the six blades folded away into the hub. He went on, still holding the weapon: 'The shuriken shares several similarities with the smart disc which I'll explain about afterwards. It has an in-built tracking and flight correctional capabilities which means it can track a target and return to the user. However this is not always the case and it rather become stuck in solid surfaces instead of returning to the one who threw it. And last but not least it has incredible cutting power and also allows to pin imposing preys to the ground.'

He put it back on the table and took the smart disc then carried on with the explanations. 'Like the shuriken, it's a thrown weapon and as you can see it has a sharp circular edge. A computer-
controlled gyros ensure that returns to its user when thrown and gives some auto-guidance thus allowing it to follow a moving target too.'

Emma asked: 'What if it becomes embedded in solid material? What are these holes for?'

The leader answered while inserting his fingers in the holes: 'In that case it can be returned to the thrower by pushing a button on the wrist gauntlet. The holes are the hand grip for use as a melee slashing weapon.'

She concluded: 'The smart disc and the shuriken are two complex, deadly weapons. It must take a lot of time until a hunter is skilled enough for a perfect and accurate use.

Ter'kan said as he nodded in agreement: 'Absolutely! It takes years of harsh and long training.'

Emma went on by pointing her whole hand at a gun-shaped device: 'What is this weapon for?'

'This is the netgun. Its a small handheld weapon that fires a net that rapidly expands and travels at great speed. It hurls the target across the place, pinning it to a nearby surface which makes it an easy target for killing. Not only that, once fired the net has the ability to tighten around the wrapped target with so much force that causes the wire mesh to carve into the flesh of victims.

Emma let him know about her wish: 'According to your explanation this is a weapon of easy usage with deadly consequences. I'd like to carry one during hunts just in case.'

Ter'kan confirmed as he put the weapon back on the table: 'You will have one.' He completed the introduction of the weapons with brief explanations of the whip that acts like a cutting weapon and the scimitar or single wrist blade. Emma listened to him, astonished but also with a hint of visible disgust on her face because he told her in details how he had finished off one of his preys by using his whip.

They then started to prepare themselves for the hunts to come. That's when the leader took the opportunity to show his mate the hunting gear he had made especially for her. Emma couldn't believe how well all the beautifully crafted parts were fitting her. Armor plates were moldable to the natural relief of her round breasts or her thin waist and pauldrons finely embossed with the clan's insignia and exotic flowers were protecting her shoulders. A metallic silver codpiece finely embossed with tiny and golden floral and geometrical motifs was attached to a belt made of black leather with a silver buckle inlaid with tiny beads of lapis lazuly was covering her private nudity. Additional and special parts of the hunting gear allowed her to hang weaponry in her back, around her legs and hips as well. To her great surprise there was also a bio-mask crafted to fit a human head.

Emma asked questions with great enthusiasm while Ter'kan was helping her with all that new hunting gear: 'How did you manage to obtain this beautiful hunting gear according to my size without even taking my measurements?'

He answered on purpose just to see her reaction: 'I'm afraid, I can't reveal you my secret!'

She complained with an adorable and impatient tone: 'Come on, Ter'kan! Don't say that! I really need to know.'

He clicked his mandibles rapidly for a brief and joyous laugh because he loved the way she was showing her impatience. Emma insisted, looking a bit annoyed: 'Please say it!'

The leader spoke while he was buckling the strap of the armor plate on her right thigh: 'I memorized a few things and used an item from your outfits.'
Her mood changed instantly. So she asked with shiny eyes: 'How?'

Ter'kan gave her further explanations while buckling the strap of the armor plate on her left thigh: 'I saw you naked countless times and this helped me to imprint in my memory the exact shape and size of certain regions of your body. I also took one of your brassiere in secret in order to make the mold and forge the chest plate of your armor according to the exact size and shape of your breasts.'

Emma exclaimed after a laugh: 'Oh, my Ter'kan I must admit that was an excellent idea and I love you even more for that!'

He complimented her while he was checking if the straps of her shoulder armor plates were well fastened: 'It's fabulous to see you dressed like this. You will look even more beautiful once you will add the weaponry.'

Emma breathed a sigh of relief then said with a smile while checking the buckle of her belt: 'I love it. And i must admit that I feel pride and joy at the same time.'

The leader came up with a tender-hearted conclusion while caressing her cheek once more. 'I'm sure about that.'

Emma kissed the hand of her love leader as a sign of affection then continued her preparation. Meanwhile Ter'kan also began to prepare himself. He did so, supervising Emma at the same time in order to make sure that she was doing things right.

A moment later Emma was all armed and equipped and so beautiful to look at. Her long and black, silky hair was arranged in a high and braided ponytail to which she had attached a few small silver rings encrusted with onyx in order to sightly weigh it down.

They went down the ramp as soon as the leader put his mask on. He typed on his wrist gauntlet twice right after and the ship cloaked within seconds. They headed for the hills by taking a short cut and for this they had to walk on a path through the jungle half the way. The weather was hot and cloudy.

Their itinerary led into the immense plains with the lush hills as background. Herds of herbivores from different species were grazing peacefully. Among them there was also a small herd of animals that Emma intended to hunt. She and Ter'kan remained at the jungle's edge. First they crouched down, hidden by big bushes with dense foliage and looked silently at the animals for a long moment before they climbed one of the tall trees for a better observation. Long minutes went by. Meanwhile Emma was asking questions about animals that were the closest including those she will hunt soon. That's when she learned that males and females were of the same size and color. And the length of their horns was the only detail in order to differentiate them. Suddenly one of the males started behaving with hostility because a solitary and smaller rhino from a different species approached the herd too close. The intruder was quickly intimidated by his attacker's size resulting in his retreat so the smaller rhino galloped away. Another long moment went by.

And then a favorable change occurred which caught Emma's attention. So she expressed her thoughts in a low tone, all excited: 'The guardian got away from the rest of the herd, at last. What if I'm going to start my attack now?'

Ter'kan emitted a purr before saying. 'You could but you won't have an area wide and empty enough in order to move freely and hunt without any possible intrusion of an another animal. That's why you'd better wait and observe it until it isolates itself from the rest of the animals completely.'

Emma looked at him, asking: 'And what if it doesn't isolate itself?'
The leader made his remark while typing on his wrist gauntlet: 'In that case you will have to lure it.'

She sighed then asked without looking at him: 'How am I supposed to do that in an accurate way?'

He responded without looking at her, either: 'You will have to place yourself in its field of view in an empty area and make any kind of loud noises. It will dislike your intrusion and will come to you thus making it move away from the rest of the animals further more.'

This time she glanced at his masked face, visibly a bit perplexed before asking: 'Right! What kind of loud noises am I supposed to make?'

He answered as he kept observing the herbivore that Emma had already targeted: 'Any kind you want. This is your hunt after all.'

Ter'kan and Emma remained silent for another while as they kept observing the plains. Suddenly they saw the guardian galloping far away thus completely isolating itself from the rest of the animals. The huntress expressed herself again with excitement in the tone of her voice because the situation was definitely turning to her advantage: 'That's my chance and that's so good because I can't wait anymore.'

Ter'kan nodded in agreement. So they climbed down from the tree and moved in order to be closer to the animal by using the big bushes as shields. They crouched down and kept watching the animal grazing peacefully. Emma spoke again in a low tone: 'I suggest to change our position so when I will get out of the bushes I will be able to show myself far in the distance by standing just in its field of vision before I will start my attack.'

The leader said by putting his hand on hers: 'Your strategy is correct.'

Emma gave him a smile then got out of the bushes once she considered her position right for the attack. Ter'kan remained in place and watched how she kept going.

So she approached her prey from side a little bit as silently as possible then stopped and briefly looked at it before she walked towards it again. That's when she grabbed the dagger that was hanging at her waist and brandished it by shouting war cries twice in order to draw the animal's attention in her direction. The herbivore turned its head to the right and kept looking towards the source of the sound. Emma stepped forward a little bit more before shouting another war cry. And then suddenly the three-horned rhino ran towards her. She threw her dagger with intent to wound and immobilize the animal before she would make her kill but she missed. The rhino kept galloping. Emma extended her combistick and waited as the herbivore was coming up to her closer and closer. She waited until she judged that was the accurate moment to renew her attack so she threw her weapon. This time she manage to injure the animal's neck with a deep and accurate stab. Surprisingly, in spite of the wound the rhino kept galloping towards her. Emma walked quickly sideways. She grabbed the spear that was hanging at her back and threw it with all her strength. The spear traveled at great speed and sank into one of her prey's front leg. She shouted another war cry because she finally managed to immobilize it. The rhino growled and breathed heavily before collapsing on its side. Emma approached it at a run. She grabbed the combistick with both her hands and removed the weapon from the animal. She raised it and sank into the animal's abdomen. She renewed the gesture with the spear and delivered another fatal blow thus killing her prey instantly.

Emma removed her weapons from the animal again just as she saw Ter'kan walking towards her. She exclaimed in a loud voice while brandishing them: 'I've never felt so great! It was such an
awesome sensation when I made my kill. I loved this hunt and I can't wait to go on another one.'

Ter'kan put his right hand on the armor plate of her right shoulder and praised her: 'I was amazed how quickly you acted and used your skills with accuracy. I didn't expect this hunt to be over so soon. You did really well considering this is your first one.'

Emma rewarded him with a smile as she was still trying to catch her breath: 'To tell you the truth, me neither.' She added as she proudly poked the animal with one the tip of her combistick: 'I should have played with this beast a little bit more before I made my kill.' She then grabbed another dagger with a longer and wider blade that was hanging at her left hip and said: 'Now I'd like to collect my very first trophy.'

The leader contemplated her with admiration a few seconds before making his remark: 'That dagger is a weapon of good choice.'

Emma raised her dagger by holding the handle with both her hands and sank the entire blade into the rhino's neck. She began to cut through thick flesh. First Ter'kan didn't do or say anything. He watched her a brief moment in order to see if she could manage things. But as she kept cutting with difficulty, he addressed her by putting one of his hands on hers: 'I'd better take over from here.'

Emma gave him the dagger then took one step back. Ter'kan began to cut into flesh. First she observed him for a short while before she praised him because he was working with such a quickness: 'Look at this! With you strength, you make it look so easy. It's as if you are slicing fruits.'

She then asked just as he finished to cut the flesh all around because the head was still attached to the body by the bones: 'With what are you going to cut these big bones?'

He didn't say anything and just torn away the head with a shower of blood droplets before Emma's amazed eyes. She praised him again, looking at him with shiny eyes and more amazed by his strength: 'That was really impressive!'

Emma put away her weapons. She left the plains, proudly holding her trophy in spite of the weight and went back into jungle with the leader walking by her side. The couple decided to follow a different path on their way back to the camp. Of course this new itinerary gave them the opportunity to go through a few beautiful spots. And then the huntress wished to make a stop by another lake in which a small waterfall was pouring. That's when the opportunity for another hunt came to her. That was totally unplanned. However she chose to go for it because that was the feline, she intended to hunt for its fur. That second hunt has been scarier than the previous one because the animal moved much faster and growled in a really unsettling way. She knew it didn't like water so she used that trick to her advantage in order to slow it down and delivered her death blow by simply throwing her spear.

Ter'kan had to carry the carcass of the feline on his right shoulder. They set off as soon as Emma finished washing her face with water from the lake. And then as they were cutting across a clearing, Emma saw a bird whose feathers had caught her attention. That's when she saw the opportunity for a third hunt. She said by putting on the floor, the fruit of her first hunt: 'This is going to be my third and last hunt for today.'

Ter'kan made a remark that was clearly meant in order to praise her: 'There may be a fourth one by the time we are going to reach our camp!'

Emma just glanced at him. She then grabbed her spear and threw it at the bird just as it flew over her head but missed to her disappointment. So the leader dropped the dead feline and took quickly
into action by throwing his dagger at the bird thus killing it in flight instantly. He then picked up
the dead bird and removed his dagger from its chest before he handed it to the beautiful huntress.
Emma put the dead volatile on the top of the rhino's head. She then picked the whole thing up and
moved on. The leader loaded the dead feline on his back again and followed just right behind her.

When Ter'kan and Emma returned to their camp later that day, the weather had become hot and
humid which heralded the approach of the rain. The camp was situated between the ship and the
lake. There were six posts made of freshly cut high and thick tree branches fixed upright in the
ground that marked the camp. Rectangular and white pieces of fabric were displayed on two of
them which fluttered in the wind like flags. Various bladed weapons and furs of different colors
were hung on a third post flanked by two others topped with unlit torches so giving the camp a bit
of an unsettling air. Cooking utensils, tools for different purposes and two metallic boxes were
scattered around the campfire marked by many round, grey and smooth stones.

The hunters put down the fruits of their hunts then went back to the ship in order to proceed with
the removal of their hunting gear. A moment later the leader got down the ramp covered only by
his metallic codpiece and a loin cloth whereas Emma had only her bikini on.

First they made some arrangements inside the camp according to their needs before they began to
proceed with the cleaning of the trophies which brought awkward but also amusing moments into
the situation. So Ter'kan grabbed some tools with one of the metallic boxes then crouched down
next the three horns rhinoceros severed head. Emma crouched down next to him right after. The
leader slipped four fingers of his right hand under the skin at the base of the neck where the head
had been cut off from the animal's body. He then moved his hand all around in order to detach the
skin from the flesh before he turned inside out the part of the skin that he has just peeled off.
Emma frowned with a pout of disgust just as he continued the skinning process thus revealing the
bloody and dark red flesh little by little.

Suddenly Ter'kan addressed her as the foul smell of the blood dripping flesh got into her nostrils:
'From now on you are going to do it by yourself while I will continue giving you instructions.'

She pouted again with that same expression of disgust then protested shyly with an hesitating tone:
'Oh no! I...I don't think I...will be able to...do it.'

Ter'kan looked at her with his head slightly tilted before asking: 'Why?'

She answered after a sigh and lowering her gaze: 'Because it's too much!'

Ter'kan became aware of her feelings and state so he didn't hesitate to lecture her: 'You are
surprisingly fussy and to tell you the truth I didn't expect that! I explained to you things prior to the
hunts in order to prepare you for all that and you accepted it.'

She said, looking up at him again: 'Well...listen to a story is one thing but then see it happen is
something else.'

The leader paused for a few seconds, emitting a clicking sound then surprised her with rather an
harsh question: 'Now! How am I supposed to go on hunts with you if you are unable to prepare
trophies?'

She complained with sadness in her eyes and feeling offended, nevertheless: 'Please, Ter'kan! Don't
say that! It's just the beginning that's why I need time and practice in order to become accustomed
to some situations.'

He put his hand on her right shoulder: 'Precisely! There is always a beginning for everything and
you should throw yourself into it as the opportunity comes to you.'

Emma remained silent, visibly hesitating. So Ter'kan tried to encourage her: 'Remember that awesome sensation of pride the moment you made your kills! Wouldn't you like to feel the same again?'

'Yes, of course I'd like that!'

The leader went on: 'In that case you really should complete the preparation of your trophy.' He then added out of the blue, certain it will have an even more positive effect on her: 'Do you know that my first trophy wasn't as big as yours?'

His remark put a smile on Emma's face. She then grabbed her tools and began the preparation of her trophy under her love leader's guidance. First she completed the skinning before she used a special device that looked like a very big gun and was producing a powerful jet of very hot steam in order to boil the soft tissues, including the brain so facilitating the removal. She put all that messy matter in a metallic and big, lidded container meant for waste before she washed the skull again with hot steam carefully. The last step was the polishing of the wet skull which she did really well. A moment later she got up. She said as she smiled again and holding the big skull high with both her hands: 'Now let's do the feline!'

Ter'kan grabbed the hind paws of the lifeless animal with one hand and lifted up. He spoke as he dropped it at her feet: 'I'm going to watch while you do this one all by yourself.'

Suddenly the smile on her face was gone. She frowned at him then retorted by repeating the end of his sentence, feeling seemingly uneasy: 'All by myself!'

The leader must have felt that. However he took a big dagger with razor-sharp cutting blade. He said as he handed it to her without paying attention to her state: 'You are going to start with the head.'

Emma stared at him a few seconds with that same uneasy expression on her face then took the weapon and crouched down. She held the dagger-handle with both hands and was about to cut into the animal's neck but stopped. So the leader pressed her with a commanding voice: 'Do it! What are you waiting for?'

Emma didn't say anything. She raised the weapon, ready to stab the animal's neck but stopped again. She said, sitting on the ground and looking sad: 'Really! I can't do this.' She then dropped the dagger and ran away. She took refuge inside the ship.

Ter'kan stood there for a brief moment, fixing the dagger on the ground then followed her inside the ship. He found her sitting a the pilot posts, pensive. He observed her for a few seconds before he began to explain things in a softer way: 'Learning isn't easy most of the time. We are put into tough situations and we have no choice but deal with them and this no matter how hard it is. We must deal with them if we really want to broaden our knowledge positively.'

Suddenly she looked up at him and expressed herself with a nervous tone: 'You are so damn right! I've been always so fascinated by the stories of your hunting parties and knew what to expect. I mean, I wasn't scared or disgusted by those bloody scenes you told me about! Really! I loved them and had always wished to do the same. Unfortunately since the real thing came to me, it isn't the case anymore. I won't deny this makes me sad because I know you expected something different from me.'

He took her hand: 'Emma! Listen! This is your first time for preparing trophies and to tell you the
truth I've never expected you will go through all the steps without fears and apprehensions. Sure, you were brave and used your skills efficiently during all the stages of the hunts. I remember how happy and proud you were when you made those killings. That was a pleasant and bright side of an hunting party. And then came the less brighter one. The preparation of a trophy isn't a pleasant thing for those who do it for the very first time. I understand your feelings because I've been myself through that. Not as scared as you are but still the situation put me through some stress.'

She asked, squeezing his hand: 'Really? And how did you overcome your fear and uneasiness?'

'Simply by practicing! The more I went on hunting parties, the more I learned to work quickly and get accustomed to the sight of blood and guts!...I did it because I've been always thinking about those rewards that brought pride and sense of great achievement for a hunter. I was even prouder each time I showed my trophies to the others and proved I was worth into the eyes of my society. He paused then added, certain that would have another positive impact on her: 'I remember Alrik'taden saying when he had to prepare his first trophy: '-This is awfully good because I can smell the scent of my pride and victory.'

A silence followed during which Emma seemed to hesitate again. And then suddenly she addressed her love leader, determined. 'Your speech really helped me that's why now I'm looking forward to try again because I'm stubborn and so willing to learn.'

Ter'kan gently stroked her cheek: 'These are some character traits of your personality I love.'

Emma kissed the same hand that caressed her then added with a smile: 'That's me!' She stood up and announced thus changing the course of the conversation: 'The weather is so hot. I'd better work on that feline without further delay before it starts to get smelly.'

Ter'kan just nodded in agreement. They left the control room and went back outside. So Emma picked up the dagger and started cutting through the animal skin and flesh. She cut into it deeper and deeper, using more strength until she managed to detach the head from the body. And then she proceeded with the preparation of her second trophy by using the same methods when she had to prepare the rhino skull. She exclaimed as soon as she finished the process while holding the freshly polished skull: 'And that, my Ter'kan, is how I do that!'

He complimenting her, looking at her face and the skull alternately: 'You did really well!'

Emma went on by brushing her hands against the fur of the carcass: 'And now let's carry out with the removal of the fur!' She grabbed the hind paws and tried to lift the carcass up but she had troubles due to the weight. So Ter'kan took the paws from her hands. He said by walking towards the nearest post. 'Come! We are going to do it together!'

Emma followed him, holding the dagger in one hand. The leader tied the front legs of the feline with a thin rope then hung it on the post. He said, stepping back: 'First make a cut all around at the base of the neck!'

She made the cut around the neck skillfully. The leader added once she was done: 'Now make another one, starting from the neck and go all the way down straight to the tail! This is going to make the skinning easier and faster.'

She said with a nod before proceeding: 'Alright!'

The leader watched the movement of her hand until she finished making the second cut. He then added: 'Now turn inside out the fur at the base of the neck before you start the process!'
Emma nodded in agreement then began to peel off the fur of the neck. She pulled it down a little bit but had to stop soon after. She said, turning her head to one side: 'Oh, no! I don't want to see this. That's creepier and more disgusting. I may not see but still I can hear. I hate the watery like flesh sound it makes when the skin detaches from the flesh.'

Ter'kan clicked his mandibles rapidly for a short and joyous laugh before making his remark: 'That's because your are doing it too slowly.'

No sooner had he pronounced his words that he suddenly grabbed her wrists with his hands and pulled the skin all the way down so rapidly that she didn't have time to say anything. He then let go of her.

Emma exclaimed, looking at the fur she was holding: 'That was fast!' But as she turned her head to the right she protested just as she laid her eyes on the flayed carcass: 'I really don't want to see this.'

Ter'kan said as he unhooked the carcass: 'I'm going to dump it in the jungle. Many animals will feed on it.'

She shouted as he walked away: 'I'm going to prepare the rest of the game.'

The leader didn't say anything and just raised his hand as a sign of agreement. First Emma spread the freshly flayed fur flat on the clean and sandy ground before she carried on with her work. So she grabbed the lifeless, exotic bird and sat on the floor in the shade of the hexagonal rock. She began to pluck it. When Ter'kan came back a while later she had already plucked half of the bird. He sat in front of her. So she said as she went on working: 'The feathers are really beautiful. We could use them as decorations in many ways.

He explained as he took between his index and thumb one of the feathers from the pile: 'Sure! Some of its bones are small and interestingly shaped and could be used for decoration purposes as well.'

She exclaimed after a soft laugh: 'I think necklaces made of small bones and feathers would make a beautiful design!'

The leader put the feather back on the sandy floor and confirmed: 'You are right but until then we are going to enjoy eating the bird. It tastes really great.'

Emma had another soft laugh before concluding cheerfully: 'Now I became hungry. I'd better hurry.'

So Emma continued plucking the bird. Meanwhile Ter'kan was making more arrangements in the camp. Sometimes he was going back inside the ship, taking equipment, tools or weaponry before he was appearing again, caring new ones. When Emma was finally done with the plucking and the cleaning of the bird, Ter'kan joined her, bringing a beautifully carved, wooden basket filled with four kinds of vegetables and three kind of fruits that he had taken from the small reserve situated underneath the room meant for many purposes. He began to cut all the veggies, including one of the fruits into small chunks while Emma was busy preparing the meat. She cut the bird into pieces and arranged it in a circular, shallow pan before she seasoned it generously with tinny yellow seeds that produced an oil as fragrant as the coriander when heated and three pinches of black powder that smelled like mix of ginger and lemon. The leader added the veggies and the fruit pieces. From then on that was the beginning of another joyful moment. They cooked and ate their food outside again. That day they chose to stay out well after dark. They had a long conversation while cuddling under the dark sky peppered with bright stars.
*Eighteenth month. Fifth morning of the second week.

Despite the fact Emma wasn't going to hunt that day, she still had some of her gear on. And that day was meant to be special due to the fact that she will accompany Ter'kan for his hunt for the very first time. An event she had been anticipating for months. The leader explained as soon as he completed his preparation: 'Today we will walk through a new part of the jungle because that's where I want to start my hunt.' He then put the bio-mask on his face and fixed the small hoses situated on both sides of his head to his hunting gear.

The couple left the weapons room some time after. The leader typed something on his wrist gauntlet with the claw of his index finger as they were going down on the ramp of the ship. The sliding doors and the ramp closed back within seconds. They set off, after a glanced at the hills seen far in the distance. The weather was a bit cooler than the previous day. It was the beginning of a long walk through the jungle. That itinerary gave Emma the opportunity to discover once again new surroundings. Beautiful plants or strange looking small mammals led to enriching discussions with her the leader. Suddenly the same spine-chilling roar that Emma heard upon her arrival on Alpheus-Rey 421 resounded twice far in the distance. A third roar louder than the previous one echoed right after which proved that the enormous feline was now even closer. So they stopped and listened.

Emma looked to the right then to the left then expressed her anxiety: 'That roar always give me the chills. The animal could be anywhere! And if one doesn't wear the bio-mask in order to use those various vision modes it mustn't be easy to discern it among the dense vegetation.'

Another minute went by during which they lent a constant ear to the sounds of the jungle. Ter'kan was about to type on his wrist gauntlet because he needed to use his different vision modes, when suddenly the rustling of dry leaves and the snap of twigs caught his attention. The metallic rings of his dreadlocks clacked as he quickly looked back. Emma imitated him right after. And suddenly, there it was. The big and grey feline was several meters away from their location. It was the same beast whose Emma admired the skull then watched a video in which she saw a live one. That video scared her but now to see it for real was, indeed, even more terrifying. So she instinctively stepped behind the leader for protection. She watched the enormous feline as she remembered parts of the conversation she had with him prior to the hunt. It, indeed, looked like the prehistoric beast from Earth that she had already mentioned about before.

Emma's state of anxiety quickly augmented so she made Ter'kan understand with hands gestures the she wanted to climb a tree. Meanwhile the feline has just stopped behind a large bush. They heard it sniffing noisily. Emma repeated her wish of climbing a tree with more hands gestures but the leader refused with a wave of the hand. He then pointed at the feline because a change was taking place. Emma let out a sigh of relief once she saw the feline moving away from the place where they were standing. She spoke in a low tone while putting her right hand on the leader's left forearm: 'It didn't see us.' She then asked still in a low tone as she looked around her with anxious eyes: 'What is going to be next?'

The leader responded after a trill: 'We are going to follow the feline on foot and this until I decide that we should continue our stalking by using the trees. This will allow us not only to have a good insight of the animal but also to observe his behavior and habits more easily.'

Emma took a more keen interest in the hunt just as bird calls pierced through the hot air of the jungle: 'How long do you think the stalking is going to last?'
The leader explained while typing on his wrist gauntlet again: 'It really difficult to say because it is a period during which the hunter is put into unpredictable situations thus allowing him to learn about his prey as much as possible. And the longer the stalking will last the better his knowledge will become. This will allow him to start his attack in the most rewarding and efficient way.'

Emma let out another sigh: 'Your explanation gives a vivid idea about what's going to come next.'

They set off again. They were making their way through the vegetation and not taking their eyes off the enormous feline that was cruising quite far in front of them. More long minutes went by. Soon the distant and rapid splashes of a waterfall were heard in the distance. That's when Ter'kan made Emma understand with hand gestures that now the time has come to continue their stalking by using the trees. So the leader put one knee down in order to allow her to cling to his chest by wrapping her legs around his waist and her arms around his neck. He nodded once then got up. He began to climb a very tall tree with a trunk of an imposing circumference and many thick and lush branches. It took him only a matter of seconds to be almost at the top due to his incredible strength and agility. He put Emma down as soon as he reached a branch as thick as her torso then typed on his wrist gauntlet again. He searched the surroundings for a brief moment by using his thermal vision before the stalking resumed. The hunters continued stalking the beast by using the trees and for this they had to move from one branch to another. This wasn't always easy for Emma because she didn't have the strength nor the balance required for a fast and neat climbing.

And for that, Ter'kan was always lending her a hand or carrying her whenever they needed to take high and perilous parts in order to go faster and not to lose sight of the feline that was constantly on the move. It lasted for a long moment. And then suddenly they heard the splashes of another waterfall pouring in a lake. Undeniably the beast led them to that place. They moved from a few more branches to others until they considered their position was right. So they stopped their cruising and crouched down on a branch that allowed them to have a good overall view of the waterfall and the surroundings. They saw the feline lapping at the small lake. That's when the leader felt the need to express his thoughts in his own language. So he emitted a menacing and low purr as he typed on his wrist gauntlet with the claw of his index finger. He then turned his masked face towards Emma and emitted another menacing purr. And without further delay he jumped on the branch of a nearby tree. He continued all the way down by jumping from one branch to another. He moved among the vegetation in that way until he set foot on the ground again and not far from the tree in which Emma was hiding.

Meanwhile Emma kept observing the movements of the enormous feline. The animal was walking around the edge of the lake as if it tried to catch something in the water. That's when she saw Ter'kan cautiously approaching his prey from behind. The leader extended his wrist blades on purpose in order to disturb the animal once he thought his position to be ideal. The feline turned its head and snarled at the hunter. The latter used his ways of intimidation as well. So he arched his back and emitted his own menacing sounds. He growled loudly as he was getting nearer to the increasingly angry feline.

Suddenly the leader retracted his wrist blades into the device attached to his right forearm and grabbed the spear that was hanging in his back. He started to handle while growling threateningly in order to provoke the animal and force it to attack.

Exactly at the same moment, Emma kept watching the scene, standing still on the thick branch at almost twenty meters above the ground. She was concentrating on every movements and so stunned that her eyes were wide open and her breathing fast and regular. And then all at once she startled because the animal tried to strike Ter'kan with a blow of its paw. The leader stepped back quickly and roared by brandishing his spear. The feline snarled again as it tried a second blow of its paw. The leader avoided it by moving to the left. This enraged the animal even more which made
it to renew its attack with more speed and ferocity. This time it managed to hit its target. The leader got his right thigh scratched. Blood started trickling from the wound. So he threw his spear with the full strength of his arm and injured one of the animal's front legs. The wounded beast roared in agony. It roared again then ran back into the jungle with the spear embedded in its flesh.

Ter'kan pushed a button on his wrist gauntlet and went after his prey. Emma turned her head towards the part of the jungle where the leader and his prey have just disappeared. For a moment there were only the white noises of the jungle. Emma was waiting with a beating heart. Another short while passed when suddenly she heard the leader's distant roars and those of the feline which proved that the fight, she couldn't witness anymore, continued taking place somewhere else in the jungle. So she kept concentrating on those distant and terrifying sounds overwhelmed by anxiety and trying to imagine the progress of the fight. This lasted for a long moment so she sat on the thick branch with her legs bent in front of her and leaned a constant ear to the distant and terrifying sounds of the fight.

And then to her astonishment the distant roars ceased. A moment of great anguish passed. So she got up and waited. Suddenly she turned her head to the right as rustling of the leaves caught her attention far in the distance. Something was moving at a fast pace through the vegetation. The fast pacing movements were soon followed by roars which indicated that the animal wasn't far away. And then suddenly it appeared again running out of the jungle. It had many injuries and obviously looked much weaker. It stopped at the edge of the small lake and was about to lap for a drink but was disturbed right after by the hunter himself who has just come out of the jungle. He was holding his spear in his right hand and his combistick in the left one. Parts of his tall and muscular body were covered by small patches of his neon green blood.

Ter'kan approached his prey growling and threatening it with both his weapons at the same time. The feline roared a few times as it rushed towards the leader. So the latter threw his spear at the feline and pierced it in the neck, hoping this blow would slow it down. This attempt was unsuccessful. Now the feline was only two meters away and ready to renew its attack. The leader chose to quickly step back without letting his guard down. And then after another menacing growl, he threw his combistick with such a strength that half of the weapon went to sink into his prey's chest. The feline collapsed on its side. So he extended his wrist blades again and approached it at a run. He slashed the animal's throat with one blow. Blood spurted and splashed the sandy soil around. The feline roared in agony once more before it finally stopped showing signs of life.

That's when Emma's voice echoed. She shouted, waving her raised arms at the same time in order to make the leader look up in her direction: 'MY TER'KAN! That was absolutely fantastic.'

The leader didn't say anything. He just waved back as a response. Emma's voice echoed again: 'Come and help me with the climbing down! I really want to see it close.'

The leader waved once again as a sign of agreement. A while later he was setting foot again on the branch on which Emma was standing. She exclaimed her enthusiasm as she took a hold of his left arm: 'That was exactly how I've always imagined it! Powerful, scary, thrilling, mesmerizing and that's not all.'

He agreed with a nod then ordered as he checked the wound on his left arm: 'Let's move! It's time for my trophy collection.'

So Emma clung to Ter'kan again for the climbing down. She expressed herself enthusiastically as soon as they reached the spot where the leader had killed the feline because the size of the animal astounded her a lot: 'I wasn't fully aware of how big this animal was when I saw it in the distance, foraging for food in the other side of the jungle earlier. But now since I'm standing so close, I can
see how big it really is. You were right to say that it is as tall as me. It was a terrifying experience to see the animal from far when it was alive but now it's equally scary to see it so close even when it's dead.' She leaned closer and went on as she kept looking at the enormous and pointy, curved teeth of the animal: 'Look at these jaws! It gives me the creeps when I compare its size to my whole body. It could rip me in half so easily then swallow me just as an appetizer. I shudder to think of it.' She took a few steps back and added while looking at the scars around the animal's neck: 'Look at the belly of this old male! I find it quite fat.'

Ter'kan took his mask off and made rather a scary remark: 'Surely! You wouldn't be enough to fill its belly.' He then grabbed a box that was hung in his back and put it on the ground. First he proceeded with the removal of the weaponry from the carcass then crouched down and began to collect his trophy. Emma was watching him with silent admiration, standing nearby. And then suddenly she had a slight pout of disgust just as the leader finished the boiling process. So she felt the need to comment with visible uneasiness on her face about that obvious thing the leader was about to do: 'Don't tell me you are going to eat this!'

Ter'kan retorted, amused by her reaction as he scooped a small and white, gelatinous chunk from the skull: 'The brain is really delicious and full of nutriments too!'

He put the chunk between his jaws then pushed it in his mouth with two fingers. Emma had another slight pout of disgust. She said as she looked away: 'I can't watch this.'

The leader clicked his mandibles rapidly for a short and joyous laugh before teasing her affectionately as he scooped another small chunk from the skull: 'Say, beautiful! Don't start making fuss again! Weren't you the one who had always insisted on the fact that you wished to live with the other me?'

Emma looked at him again. She said as she forced herself to smile: 'Yes, of course! I remember that!'

The leader swallowed the chunk before making another remark: 'Well now...that's the case!'

Emma asked as now she refrained from showing her uneasiness again: 'Do I have to witness this each time I will go on hunting parties with you?'

Ter'kan just nodded as a response then took another chunk, smaller than the previous one and ate it before he completed the preparation of his trophy. He then hung the metallic box and some of his weaponry on his back as soon as he finished treating his wounds.

Emma expressed her need as she wiped her forehead with the back of her hand twice: 'It's so hot! I'd really like to swim in that lake near our camp.'

The leader approved her idea: 'Yes, you will do that!' He then put the mask back on his face. He moved away from the headless carcass after having washed his hands in the water lake. He was walking, holding his trophy against his chest with his left hand and Emma's hand with his right one.

Much later.

It was at the soothing and golden evening sunset when the sounds and smells of nature were changing. Strident screeches of nocturnal birds of prey and different animals cries coming from the jungle echoed. The hot air was occasionally swept by a breeze thus bringing the heady smell of some exotic flowers. The light silver colored ship was changing into a darker one due to the light at the end of the day. The bird screeches and the animal cries ceased gradually. And the only
soothing sound was the rustling of the leaves coming from the jungle. Suddenly an unpredictable
gust of wind swept across the lake, so undulating the surface of the water and bending the ferns
that were growing around the hexagonal rocks at the same time.

Emma appeared at the top of the lowered ramp soon after. She looked towards the landscape far
beyond the jungle lit by the golden light of dusk before taking off the silky scarf that was covering
her body partially. She then went down the ramp, naked and approached the edge of the lake.
Another bird screech came from above. So she looked up and saw a bird flying away towards the
lush hills. She followed it with her eyes until it disappeared at the horizon before she ventured
herself into the crystal clear and warm water of the lake. She walked on the stony bottom, cutting
through the water slowly. She went farther and farther until she was submerged to the waist. She
started to paddle with the right hand around her slowly in order to feel the water flowing against
palm. She did it for a short while before she stepped even farther in order to go for a swim. She
glided through the water gracefully until she was out of her depth. She stopped swimming again
and continued paddling on the spot with her arms and legs.

That's when she saw Ter'kan coming down the ramp, covered by his loin cloth only. The leader
waved at her, silent as he walked towards the lake's edge. He looked at her for a few seconds with
his head tilted to the right then got into the water. His height allowed him to walked on the stony
bottom all the way towards her. He said once he was treading the water, next to her: 'I knew you
would go for a swim sooner or later! You had mentioned about it earlier today.'

Emma described her feelings with a smile as she slowly kept paddling on the spot: 'Yes and now
it's the perfect moment. You know I love spending time outside once it starts getting dark,
especially when I'm with you. I find the ambiance mysterious and romantic at the same time.'

The leader said while splashing his chest with water: 'I'm sharing your feelings. Besides it also
brings back an unique and unforgettable memory.'

She clang on to his arm. She evoked that memory in a low voice: 'Yes! Our very first encounter
took place during the late afternoon hour.'

He kneaded her shoulder gently thus encouraging her to put her right hand flat on his abs while she
still clung on to his arm with her left one. She then looked up and met his fiery and amber eyes full
of anticipation. His gaze enticed her to carry on with a more sensual approach. So she caressed him
slowly a few times by burying her face in his chest.

The leader suggested after a trill as he stroked the nape of her neck: 'Let's get out of the water!' He
then scooped her up in his arms and carried her out of the water. He put her down near one of those
hexagonal rocks situated near the edge of the lake and began to provide her with caresses on the
upper part of her body again. His touch made her increasingly more excited. By now Emma really
had the urge to give him more pleasure, in turn. She brushed her hands on his abs a few more times
then removed his loin cloth, dripping with water and let her passion speak. She enjoyed covering
with kisses his chest while stroking the ridged head of his cock at the same time.

Ter'kan felt the need to change the course of the action again as soon as he became fully aroused.
He sat on one of the hexagonal rock and pulled her between his muscular thighs. They continued
providing each other with hotter caresses which lasted for another moment. Their foreplay took
another turn when the leader brushed his clawed thumb on Emma's soft and rosy lips. This
augmented her arousal state. And for this she firmly stroked his cock a few more times then knelt.
She leaned towards him and began to run the tip of her tongue all around the top of his cock, using
her saliva in order to lubricate him even more. The leader threw his head back as content growls
rumbled in his broad and muscular chest. He enjoyed that sensation for a while then requested as
he continued caressing the back of her head: 'Take it in your mouth!' 

Emma gave him a sensual look then complied. First she licked the ridged head a few more times, humming with delight in order to show him how much she enjoyed the taste of his cock before she took a good length in her mouth. She began to suck with back and forth movements. Her performance encouraged the leader to add more heat into the foreplay. That's when he leaned forward and careful of his claws he began to slowly tease her wet entrance with his middle finger while emitting more trills. He did it until this part of the foreplay boosted his desire to a point that his impatience grew bigger. He stimulated her wet entrance a few more times then stood up. He said as he picked her up off the ground and made her sit on the same rock that he got up from: 'Lie on your back!' 

Emma positioned herself with her bottom at the edge and opened her legs. The leader was standing next to her with his legs slightly apart. She was waiting, eyeing him with desire. The leader let out a breathy growl as he slowly pushed his cock inside her. He began to thrust at a regular pace, holding her open thighs with both his hands. 

Meanwhile the sunlight was diminishing. The shadows were stretching thus plunging the landscape into the darkness, gradually. Now that torrid scene was silhouetted against the setting sun. Ter'kan was making love to Emma with that same and regular pace. Soon the sounds of their ecstasies mingled with those of the nature. Moans, growls and heavy breathing were accompanying bird calls or distant animal cries. A warm breeze loaded with flowery scents was blowing from time to time. The leader slid inside and out of her for another long moment and this until he felt the need to change his position. So he leaned on his arms with his hands placed on both sides of Emma's head and continued thrusting. Emma was enticing him either by looking into his eyes or by holding her head high slightly because she had wanted to see how his rock hard cock was going in and out of her. And then she began to express her ecstasy even louder and also by sinking her nails into the pebbly skin of his biceps. The leader knew she was getting close so he continued piercing her with fast thrusts. Suddenly he saw her turning her head to the right. There was a flight of birds just as she let uncontrollable and loud moans coming out of her mouth with her eyes shut. The leader stopped his thrusts and skimmed his clawed hands on her waist as he emitted trills again. He did so a few times before moving his hand up to the upper part of her shapely body. EMma opened her eyes as she expressed her well-being with softer moans. He fondled her breasts gently twice then took her in his embrace with his cock still inside her. He sat on the rock so that his chest was against hers. Now he just had to hold her waist with both his hands and slam her down on his cock with continuous movements. This new action made her vocal again as she kept clinging on to his broad shoulders. The leader gave it to her that way until he reached his own climax. Deep growls accompanied deep breathing just as he released his hot seed inside of her. Emma hugged him, leaning her head against his muscular chest so becoming intoxicated with his spicy and wild scent. He responded to her passionate tenderness by holding her with one hand while he gently kept caressing the nape of her neck with the other one. 

Ter'kan and Emma cuddled like this lulled by the sounds of the surrounding nature and providing each other with caresses from time to time. They unwound on that rock until they felt the need to take another dip into the crystal clear water lake. They then got out of the water and went back to the ship as soon as the darkness had taken over the landscape.
*Eighteenth month. Sixth day of the second week.

It was during the afternoon hours. Emma was watching through the window of the pilot posts. Soon after Ter'kan joined her. He said as he began to type on a round console of medium size, situated in the middle of the bridge: 'Let's watch the videos of our most recent hunts!' She said as she approached him with a smile: 'I've been waiting for that!'

The leader typed one more time and an holographic screen with a fuzzy image appeared above the console. He touched one more button then the image became clear and a video began to play. Emma took pleasure in commenting because that was the video of her first hunt: 'That's moment when we had just arrived at the plains.' She watched another part of the video before adding: 'I can't believe that I was able to do that in spite the danger.'

The leader put one of his hands on her right shoulder: 'It's normal to feel this way, especially since it was your first hunt.'

They continued watching the video, silent. And then Emma spoke again with more astonishment because now the video was showing the part in which she was about to start her attack: 'It seemed I wasn't scared at all. I went straight for it. That rhino was frightening and imposing sight. I still can't believe I dared to attack it.' She paused for a few seconds then concluded after a sigh: 'I must admit that I love seeing myself in such a video. It brings an undeniable, mixed feeling of pride, accomplishment and fright. I'd love to experience this same feeling again. I also do know that I will get greater satisfaction each time I will team up with you that's why I'm so looking forward to go on more hunting parties.

Ter'kan agreed with a nod.

A moment later that video was followed by another one. It showed when Ter'kan had hunted that enormous feline. Emma was always making honey-tongued remarks, looking at the video and her love leader alternately. Her enthusiasm became more jovial and sweeter once the video of the two hunts that took place the same day when she was coming back from her previous and very first hunt. She showed how eager she was to go on more hunts. The leader approved her anticipation by praising her with words of love and giving her some detailed explanations about a few animals that could make good preys. These possibilities raised Emma's curiosity and brought new questions about her expectations. She knew that was meant to be more exciting and rewarding because two of the animals that the leader suggested could be hunted only during the night time. He spent another long moment with her and kept providing her with more satisfactory recommendations in order to appropriate her choice.

When the conversation about hunts was over, Ter'kan decided to surprise Emma with a different and further information: 'I think now the time has come to make contact with our clan.' He then moved to another console situated to the left of the pilot posts.

Emma followed him while asking: 'I'm wondering where did they go since we left?'

The leader responded as he typed on the console: 'They traveled to Arcadia-Syrinx! It's a planet on which there is a Yautja colony.'

She made her remark after a soft laugh: 'Yes, I remember! Alrik'taden mentioned about it once
during my stay on the mother ship. Is that planet far from Yautja Prime?"

'It depends on the departure point!'

Emma continued asking questions while leaning against the console: 'And...how long it would take from Alpheus-Rey?'

'It would take only one day, Yautja time.'

Meanwhile Ter'kan finished operating the console. Eerie and electronic sounds soon echoed in the control room as an holographic and empty screen started to form above the console. Suddenly the eerie sound stopped and a fuzzy image appeared on the screen accompanied by a deep and distorted voice. It lasted until the image became clearer and the voice recognizable. It was Alrik'taden. First he exchanged words with his father about his current situation before addressing Emma too: 'Hi! How are you my tiny huntress? How is your stay on Alpheus-Rey?'

Emma returned the courtesy: 'Hi! I'm fine. I'm really having a great time. Also I didn't expect you will be the first to talk to us. I thought Seki'sen would be the first because he is in charge.' She then paused for a few seconds before asking: 'Do you know where he is now?'

Alrik'taden didn't have time to answer that Seki'sen came next to him immediately afterwards. The second in command had a brief conversation with the leader then spoke to Emma. The young male took the initiative of translating for her: 'Seki'sen is satisfied to have this contact with you. He wishes your return soon.'

Emma nodded as a response while looking at the second in command with a faint smile.

Alrik'taden translated again before disappearing from the screen. The second in command agreed with a nod which made Emma smile again. Meanwhile some other males of the clan appeared behind him in order to greet and exchange words with their leader and Emma as well. The young woman was delighted to share with them a few significant moments since she had landed on Alpheus-Rey. Ter'kan enjoyed translating every short conversation Emma had with each one of them with promises of greater revelations upon his return.

And then Seki'sen added something else just as Alrik'taden appeared again next to him. So the young male translated: 'What if you come and join us at the colony? This will give us the opportunity to go on hunting parties together.'

Emma glanced at his father before responding: 'Yes, I have already thought about that!'

Ter'kan joined in the conversation again: 'I think Emma won't be able to resist once I will tell her about the beautiful landscapes and incredible fauna on Arcadia-Syrinx.'

Emma expressed her enthusiasm, looking up at the leader: 'I won't deny that your words are tempting me.' She then addressed his son again: 'Don't be too surprised once I will announce my arrival on Arcadia-Syrinx any time soon!'

Alrik'taden concluded flirtatiously on purpose because he really wanted her to know how pleased he would be by her presence: 'My tiny huntress, I will welcome you with open arms and more. I'm sure we are going to have great times together.'

Emma added after a soft laugh in order to bring more tease into the conversation: 'I miss the friendly but also naughty side of your personality.'

The young male didn't add anything else and simply raised his hand as a proof of how much he'd
like that to happen. Ter'kan addressed his second in command for another brief moment then cut
the contact. He left the control room right after with Emma walking by his side.

Eighteenth month. Seventh day of the second week.

During the late afternoon hours.

A freshly killed herbivore of medium size was hanging on the post topped with an unlit torch. Meanwhile Ter'kan and Emma were in the weapons room busy removing their equipment as they exchanged thoughts about the hunt that took place not so long ago. That day Emma had managed many powerful and accurate strikes that amazed the leader. Her achievement made her not proud but also triggered some new sensations she didn't expect to experience. For some reasons her successful kill boosted her libido. And that's exactly what was happening to her at that very moment. To see Ter'kan removing his equipment and so exposing his tall and muscular body, it soon welled strong sexual desire for him that she needed to fulfill. So she stripped naked as soon as she had finish to put on display her hunting gear.

Ter'kan flared his mandibles and widened his eyes. So he asked after having removed the last plate of his armor, visibly astonished: 'What are you doing?'

Emma approached him with a smile, swaying her hips. She looked up into his yellow and fiery eyes and whispered as she started to brush her right hand on his abs: 'What do you think I'm doing?'

The leader put the armor plate on the table and stripped naked before kneeling in front of her. Emma flew into his arms and began to assault him with passionate caresses. She was smothering with kisses his neck and wandering her hands all over the upper part of his body. This inflamed passions and made him aroused as much. They passed from foreplay to sex after they provided each other with a few more torrid strokes. The leader laid on his back directly on the metallic floor with his legs stretched and apart. Emma straddled him. He held her waist with both hands as she began to ride him. Their session lasted for a long moment. They possessed until they filled the place with sounds of their ultimate ecstasies. They then laid next to each other and cuddled for another while before completing their work inside the weapons room.

Emma announced while putting her bikini on: 'I'm going for a swim.'

The leader agreed just as he was placing his bio-mask on a device that permitted a rapid recharge: 'Yes, of course! You do that before we can start working on our kill.'

Emma left the room after she touched her spear one more time. She headed to the exit of the ship while humming a melancholic tune. A warm and light wind swept across her face as soon as she stood at the top of the lowered ramp. She looked towards the lush hills before going down the ramp. She then approached the edge and stepped into the water. She walked on the stony bottom until she was submerged to the waist then continued going farther by swimming. She swam back towards the edge of the lake after she did the back crawl a few times. She got out of the water and sat on the hexagonal rock in order to dry herself in the sun. The vegetation was constantly rustling and bending due to light gusts of wind that were blowing. She was enjoying those wonders of nature when suddenly a loud clunk interrupted that bliss. So she turned around abruptly and saw a mammal of medium size near the post on which was hooked the carcass of the animal she and the leader had hunted earlier that day. It looked like the feline she had hunted for its fur except it was darker and bigger. Panic took hold of her so she stood up and cautiously approached the lowered ramp in order to take
shelter inside the ship while keeping an eye on the feline over there. Luckily Ter'kan appeared at the top of the ramp at that very moment, holding a big dagger in his right hand.

Emma mumbled and stricken with more anxiety: 'Oh, my Ter'kan! Look at that beast! It literally came out from nowhere.'

Ter'kan made his remark, going down the ramp: 'This animal has an excellent sense of smell and can locate its preys from miles around. The smell of the carcass must have brought it to the camp.'

Emma added as she instinctively stepped behind him in order to shield herself: 'I hope it will go away.' She hardly had time to complete her sentence that a change suddenly took place. So she expressed out loud the obvious situation: 'Bad luck! It's coming towards us.'

The leader ordered her with a hand gesture: 'Get inside the ship!'

Emma went up the ramp at a brisk pace and placed herself in the middle of the doorway. She watched the animal that was now a few steps away from Ter'kan. He stepped back quickly, raising his dagger and ready to fend off any blow. That's when the feline tried striking him with a blow of its paw right after. The first attack was followed by a more ferocious one right after so the leader slashed the paw of the feline with a fast strike of his dagger. The beast retreated, growling with pain, leaving small traces of blood on the sandy ground. It growled a few more times before it ran away. Ter'kan and Emma followed the feline with their eyes until it disappeared back into the jungle.

Emma got back to the leader. She complained about her uneasiness after a deep sigh: 'Talk about an unexpected and frightening encounter.' She then added as she glanced at the carcass: 'I think we'd better work on the fruit of our hunt before its smell attracts more animals.'

He agreed with a nod then grabbed one of the metallic boxes and walked towards the post on which the carcass was hanging. Emma followed him. The hunters busied themselves until the sun set as they evoked important events that they anticipated, be it on Alpheus-Rey 421 or Arcadia-Syrinx. Later they took time to eat their food outside before they felt the need to retire to their sleeping quarters. That night they made love again.

Eighteenth month. First day of the third week.

It was during the late hours of the afternoon. Ter'kan and Emma have just finished preparing themselves. They left the weapons room and headed to the exit of the ship, reassured. The leader trilled before saying as they were standing at the top of the lowered ramp: 'What a busy and amazing night is going to be!'

Emma said as she took his hand: 'Yes! I approve so much the idea of going on a hunt when it gets dark.'

They went down the ramp. The leader typed on his wrist gauntlet. The sliding doors and the ramp closed before the ship cloaked. They set off for the area of jungle they've visited the least since their arrival on Alpheus-Rey 421. The color of the sky heralded a warm night without rain. Emma loved that place especially since various kind of plants and trees were among her favorites. She swore, she had the impression that she was traveling through time due the great similarities she found in some parts when compared to a Carboniferous forest from Earth. She also enjoyed collecting a few beautiful plants and made a small bunch that she hung at her waist near the small dagger. But soon she had to get rid of one of the flowers because its heady scent was making her nauseous. Meanwhile the fauna and flora had always something new to offer as they continued going all over the area. By now the sun light had already started to diminish thus gradually
transforming the jungle into a dark and more mysterious place to be.

And then as she had more and more difficulties to guide herself, Ter'kan addressed her: 'You'd better start using your hunting gear.'

Emma typed on her wrist gauntlet and switched her bio-mask to night vision mode. The leader carried on with his explanation: 'First time you went on a hunting party it was during day time and your prey was in full view so the bio-mask was by no means useful. I have already taught you how to use your mask by operating it from your wrist computer. Now the situation requires a different approach that's why the time has come to put your knowledge into more practice. You can start combining different vision modes and set their intensities according to your needs while taking also into consideration the surroundings.'

She confirmed while typing on her wrist gauntlet again: 'Yes, I remember! That's why I'm going to switch on my infrared and add zooming option. This will allow me to adapt easily in this dark and lush environment and track my prey with efficient accuracy.

The leader approved as he, in turn, typed on his wrist gauntlet: 'That's the most appropriate choice for the time being.'

She added by touching with her index another button of her wrist computer: 'However looking through the eye-shaped holes when my natural vision is needed and the virtual screen of the mask alternately isn't a skill easily acquired. I still need practice especially when I must use several vision modes.'

He reassured her with a hand gesture: 'In that case you should save the latest operations you set your mask with before you switch off the virtual screen thus allowing you to use your natural vision only. But of course it will depend on how far your hunt has progressed. It wouldn't be right to do it once you started stalking your prey.'

Emma paused for a few seconds before concluding: 'According to what you just have told me I think I'd better forget about my inconvenience and start practicing from now on.'

Meanwhile the hunters continued clearing themselves a path through the jungle, silent. Emma spoke again after a while. She began to ask question as she was passing by a tall and lush species of palm trees: 'Could you tell me more about the animal we are after?'

The leader let out a trill before giving her a direct and scary explanation: 'It's a wolf like animal and bigger than the feline you have hunted for its fur not so long ago. But that's not all. Its head is very special. It has two pairs of jaws.'

Emma made her remarks, shivering with uneasiness: 'Two pairs of jaws! Goodness! It must be such an ugly and weird sight. How is this even possible?'

'The animal we are after has a mouth inside another one. It looks as if it has only one mouth as long as it keeps the bigger jaws closed. This is until it opens its mouth and then you can see the smaller and inner mouth.'

She paused for a few seconds, her mind occupied by that creepy vision then went on: 'Why did you choose it as the prey for our first hunt together?'

'I chose it for its strange appearance but also for its unsettling cry.'

This time Emma exclaimed a bit jokingly after a nervous giggle: 'It's getting better and better! You like to scare me, don't you?
Ter'kan just let out another trill as a response. A few more minutes went by as they kept clearing themselves a passage through the vegetation. Meanwhile Emma was typing on her wrist gauntlet again. That's when suddenly a high-pitched and eerie cry pierced far the hot air of the jungle. It sounded like the loud squeal of a pig and the cry of a wolf combined. The hunters ceased their march. Emma asked, looking towards the area of the jungle where the cry just came from: 'Did you hear? What was that?'

The leader responded while looking in that same direction: 'That was the cry of the animal we are going to hunt!' He then grabbed her left forearm: 'Time to encounter our prey! Let's go!' Emma muttered: 'This is a hunt in history.'

Ter'kan and Emma continued clearing themselves a path through the vegetation. That's when another and closer creepy cry than the previous one pierced the hot air of the jungle. So they scanned the surroundings by using their thermal visions as they kept marching cautiously and always guided by the approaching cries. Soon the stench of the rotten flesh started filling the air. And then they had to stop again in order to identify the noises that would lead them to their prey before they engaged into a wide path aligned with tall trees and giant ferns. Their walked along the wide path until they came out onto a clearing. They then crouched down, hidden by the dense foliage of some big and round bushes situated at the edge of the clearing and watched the scene that was taking place just a few meters away from them. And there it was! The strangest animal on Alpheus-Rey 421 feeding on the half-eaten carcass of a big horned herbivore. That vision was an obvious proof of the creature's scavenging habits.

The hunters continued observing how the beast was feeding. It didn't take long until they finally had to witness that unsettling fact about its mouth. Suddenly the animal stopped eating and moved on the other side of the carcass. It opened its jaws wide enough and extended its inner and smaller ones. It began to eat again by tearing small shreds of flesh from the bones as it sniffed continuously.

Emma spoke as low as possible: 'Frankly it is one of the most disturbing thing I've ever seen in the animal kingdom. I think it uses its smaller and inner jaws for eating parts of that herbivore that it wouldn't be able to if it had to use its bigger ones.'

The leader expressed his opinion after an barely audible trill: 'Your statement is absolutely correct. I have come to the same conclusion after having seen this animal feeding many times before.'

Emma put her right hand on his and added still in a very low tone: 'I'm glad that we are on the same wavelength. Alpheus-Rey is definitely a place for us.'

The leader took her right hand and gently squeezed it because that was one of his silent ways in order to make her understand how much he approved her words. They kept holding hands as they continued observing how the animal was eating. They remained hidden until their prey finished eating its macabre meal. Now it was resting on its side. That's when Ter'kan made Emma understand with hands gestures that was time for them to start their attack. She responded with a nod before taking a hold of her weapon that was hanging in her back. The leader grabbed his own. So they extended their weapons and changed their position by walking bent double in order to appear just right in front of the animal once they will get out of the bushes. They observed it for a few more seconds before they found the time appropriate in order to come out of their hiding place. The animal reacted to their presence by emitting its loud and creepy cry. The hunters position themselves in that typical stance with feet apart and legs slightly bent, all ready for the attack. Suddenly the animal tried striking Emma with a blow of its paw which made her to quickly step back.
The leader ordered her right after without letting his guard down: 'Step aside and be ready to battle each time it will go for you!'

Emma had hardly time to respond that a high-pitched, creepy cry resembling to the one she'd already heard came from behind. She turned abruptly and saw the same kind of wolf-like creature but smaller. So she shouted as she raised her weapon ready to strike, without letting her guard down: 'Darn it! Here comes another one!'

Ter'kan turned his head in order to have a quick glance. He then said as he continued watching the adult: 'It's a juvenile! You can handle that. They are slower and less aggressive!'

Emma shouted with fright in the tone of her voice: 'No way!' But it quickly became evident to her that in spite her fright she had no other choice but to battle against that beast. An then suddenly the juvenile tried striking her with a blow of its paw. She moved aside with agility. And by doing so she found herself standing back-to back with Ter'kan. They had that defensive stance as they raised their weapons at the same time. And then the adult tried striking the leader with a blow of its paws twice. The juvenile struck Emma with a blow of its paw again at that very moment. This time she had her leg scratched. She let out a cry of pain as she attempted to injure her prey with the combistick but had been unable to do so. The animal jumped back, emitting its creepy cry.

Exactly at the same time Ter'kan had already started a ferocious battle with the adult. Soon he had to move away from the clearing and pursue it into the jungle. He could have killed it easily but he enjoyed tormenting and injuring the animal many times thus making it angrier and much more aggressive which added a thrilling satisfaction to the hunt. The leader played with his prey until he decided to put it out its misery by stabbing it in the throat. The wolf-like creature collapsed on its side with its mouth opened from which a trickle of very dark, red blood was flowing. Ter'kan looked at the his lifeless prey and his wounds alternately and still growling. Parts of his body were covered by trickles of blood due to cuts on his left arm and right leg. He then grabbed the animal's hind legs and went back to the clearing by dragging it behind him.

When Ter'kan reached the clearing again he found Emma who was still defending herself from her prey. She was swinging her weapon at the animal with all her might. So he stood there and watched her from a distance. By now she was becoming obviously weaker due to her injuries. However she kept maintaining her good technique and made the most of her skills. The leader watched her for another short while before he finally intervened. So he flared his mandibles and roared. His diversion instantly caught the animal's attention thus allowing Emma to move around faster and position herself in the ideal spot in order deliver that fatal blow.

So she stabbed her prey with the blade of her combistick. She repeated the blow, making sure it was really dead. She then said, sweaty and catching her breath as she was fixing her eyes on the dead animal: 'What a stubborn beast! Really nasty one too.' She then grabbed the weapon with both her hands and removed it from the carcass and added: 'However I must admit that your help came not only at the right time but also as a surprise.'

Ter'kan dropped the fruit of his hunt on the floor. He spoke as he walked towards her: 'I had to do this in order to prevent you of having worse injuries.'

Emma said after a wince as she examined the scratches on her hands: 'It stings! I really need to treat these.'

The hunters removed their masks and proceeded with the treatment of their wounds. This didn't go without some unpleasant moments for the young woman because that was the first time for her to use those medicines meant for a fast healing of the wounds. It still hurt in spite of the fact those healing concoctions had been prepared especially for her by Lorik, the doctor of the clan in order
to reduce the pain.

The couple set off again as soon as they finished treating their wounds and preparing their trophies in the light of a campfire. They headed to the area of the jungle where they intended to spend the rest of the night. They had quite a long walk until they reached a wide path aligned with egg-shaped, white rocks of medium size in the middle of which a clean stream of water was flowing. Emma clung to Ter'kan and the climbing began. The leader chose one of these big, old trees with very wide and gnarly trunk that was adding mystery and enchantment to the place. The tree also had multiple thick and long branches so that someone like Emma could lie down comfortably without any fear of a fall.

The couple stopped on the part of the tree with branches placed in a way that allowed them to have a good overall view of the lush hills far in the distance. First they removed their equipment and put it away on a branch along with their trophies before they settled on another one situated above. Ter'kan sat and leaned his back against the trunk with his legs stretched and opened wide. Emma drank water then went to sit between his legs with her head leaning against his muscular chest. They cuddled like this as they lent an ear to the various sounds of the nocturnal fauna. A bird or a flying insect greeted them with their brief appearances. They were always looking up each time a bird landed on a branch above them and sang shortly before it flew away. Emma had a soft laugh each time fireflies were flying a bit too close. The luminous insects looked like little stars moving among the vegetation. Sometimes a mammal as small as a squirrel was showing itself and emitting its cute screech then it was jumping from one branch to another so disappearing in the thick foliage.

They remained silent and admired the landscape far in the distance. And to add more enjoyment to their time together, a breeze loaded with a light and flowery scent was blowing at close intervals so rustling the leaves and pleasantly refreshing the warm air. Meanwhile the fauna continued showing itself. Emma sighed with her eyes shut because the well-being she was experiencing at that very moment must have brought back distant and romantic memories that took place when she and Ter'kan were residing on board the space ship, hidden in the vast Amazonian forest of planet Earth. A period during which their mutual interest towards each other grew more passionate. Emma felt the need to show the leader more affection so she took big and clawed hand and squeezed it. He let out a few trills as he began to caress her right arm with his free hand. They cuddled for quite some while. And then Ter'kan addressed beautiful Emma again but didn't get any response. He realized that she had fallen asleep. So he moved cautiously and made space so allowing her to be lying on her back. He then climbed on the branch above and sat next to their trophies and equipment. He made himself comfortable by stretching out his legs in a recumbent position. He unwound like this while staring at the vegetation above him until he also succumbed to sleep.

Meanwhile the sounds of the jungle were already starting to change. The nocturnal wild life was becoming more and more inactive until it ceased completely at the first light of dawn.

Later on Ter'kan was the first to wake up. So he got up and checked on Emma before moving away. He stepped from one branch to another, in order to take a closer look at the nearby trees. A long moment went by. Now he was quite far from the tree he had spent the night on. So he stopped cruising among the vegetation and crouched down, perched on a thick branch. He continued checking the surroundings down below as he emitted a few low clicking sounds. Suddenly he heard Emma calling his name just as a bird flew away. He looked up at the rustling leaves on the top then went back to her.

She greeted him with a smile as soon as she saw him standing on the branch situated above her: 'Good morning!'
The leader greeted her while jumping down on the branch next to her: 'Good morning! How are you today?'

She took his left hand: 'I'm feeling great! It was the first time for me to fall asleep in your arms in such a place. I wish we will be able to renew this experience wherever we will go.'

He stroked her cheek with his right hand then asked: 'Would you like to spend more time in this place?'

She responded with a smile: 'I don't feel like anymore. I'd prefer that we go back to our camp.'

So Ter'kan and Emma began to prepare themselves. Moments later they were all equipped again. Emma hung her trophy at her waist then clung to her love leader for the climbing down. It took him only a matter of seconds until he set foot on the ground. The hunters set off without further delay as they kept expressing their thoughts about the surroundings and the weather. The sky was clouding over and the hot air was becoming increasingly humid.

It started drizzling just as Ter'kan and Emma were reaching their camp.
More thrill and fun.

*Eighteenth month. Third day of the third week. During late afternoon hours.

The weather was hot with an overcast sky. Giant stripes of dark grey clouds were floating at the horizon which heralded the upcoming rainfall. The camp situated near the crystal clear lake was deserted. Tools and utensils were neatly arranged here and there. The white and rectangular pieces of fabric hanging on two of the posts were immovable due to the absence of wind.

A bird circled the camp a few times before it landed on the top of the post on which a long and thin rope was hanging and looked at the surroundings with jerky movements of its head. Suddenly a shot echoed not far from there. The bird became frightened and flew away.

Ter'kan and Emma came out of the jungle right after. The leader was carrying the freshly killed carcass of an adult wolf-like creature on his right shoulder while his mate was holding a bird in each hand. One of these birds was the same as the one she had already hunted the day she went for her first hunt.

Emma expressed her enthusiasm about the demonstration that the leader has just given her: 'The plasma canon is really an amazing weapon. It's small, easy to carry around and yet it is so powerful and destructive at the same time. I like the sound this weapon generates when fired.' She then added as now she was hanging the dead birds on post with the rope: 'However that sound brings back scary and sad memories as well! It reminds me the day when my late friend Sebastian was killed.'

Ter'kan dropped his kill nearby. He said, by putting his hand on her arm: 'I have already though about that.'

She sighed, pensive before asking: 'What if you are going to fire yours again?'

The leader nodded as an agreement then gave her another demonstration of his plasma canon. He fired the weapon towards the direction of the jungle where they came from.

Emma took off her bio-mask. She gazed at him lovingly for a few seconds before she got even closer to him. She spoke her mind by staring at the eye-shaped holes of his bio-mask and knowing that she was looking straight into his eyes: 'You look even more attractive when you are all equipped.' She went on as she brushed her hands against the part of his muscular chest that wasn't covered by the armor plates: 'Would you believe that I just got a special idea?'

He shared his thought, stroking her cheek at the same time: 'You do know that I enjoy our moments together even more each time you use your imagination. This adds spice into our relationship.'

She suggested as she kept brushing her hands on his chest: 'Guess what? You are going to give it to me while being all equipped. Right here! Right now!'

Ter'kan's reaction was immediate. So he pulled her even closer thus pressing her body against his gently. He began to caress her bottom, purring contentedly.

That's when Emma added, using cruder words: 'Yes...that's it! You are going to express your satisfaction like this while you will fill me with your cock.' She moistened her lips then requested while putting her hand on his metallic codpiece: 'Show me more of the other you!'
The leader cupped her face between his big and clawed hands. He approached his masked face close to hers for a short moment, silent, before he removed all the things she had on her one by one with a bit of roughness. He took Emma's hand once he finished undressing her completely and walked towards one of these hexagonal rocks at a fast pace so forcing her to scamper along.

From then on an audacious and sensual foreplay followed. Ter'kan was having total control over Emma and she loved every bit. Suddenly he made a slight movement with his right hand and extended his wrist blades. He grabbed her throat, growling menacingly. He then ordered her as he approached the blades next to her face: 'Do whatever I will ask you to!'

Emma struggled a bit on purpose. This made him growl again. So he added, leaning over thus approaching his masked face closer to hers again: 'Obey me or...else!'

This time she responded in a low tone as she timidly looked up at the eye-shaped holes of his mask: 'Yes!'

Ter'kan emitted another growl before retracting the blades into his wrist device. He stepped behind her and took her in his embrace. He began to rub the lower part of his body against her while purring seductively. Emma let out soft and breathy moans with her eyes shot because she was experiencing new sensations as now the leader was brushing the claws of his hands against her waist and lower abdomen gently. He did it until he decided to pleasure her by using a harsher approach. So he bent her on the rock and began to wander the claws of his right hand all over the softness of her back. He touched that part of her body for a short while then moved up his left hand and took a hold of her long and braided ponytail. He asked while slightly pulling her hair: 'What do you want?'

Emma whined with discomfort before responding: 'You! I want you!'

He ordered her as he pulled her hair with more severeness: 'Say it louder!'

She shouted, always whining with discomfort: 'YOU! I WANT YOU!'

This time he emitted a trill as he brushed the claws of his right hand against her spine, starting from the neck all the way down to the tail bone. He then leaned over her, shifting to his forearms in order to keep his weight off her. He asked pressing the bulge of his metallic codpiece against her bottom and his mask touching the back of her head: 'What were your thoughts when you laid your eyes on me for the very first time in the Amazon jungle?'

Emma responded after a deep sigh: 'I found you physically very attractive even though you were not human!'

He asked after another trill: 'Why?'

'Because I was impressed how well built your tall and muscular body was!'

From then on Ter'kan kept asking her questions so adding more thrilling seduction into the situation: 'What part of my body did you watch first, once I stood next to you?'

Emma moistened her lips again before revealing her thoughts: 'I watched your big and clawed hands. I found them sexy and beast like at the same time even though it scared me somehow.'

Ter'kan purred again with that same growing satisfaction then got up and brushed the claws of both his hands against her back again, starting from her neck all the way down to her bottom. Emma let out more soft and breathy moans.'
That's when he grabbed the nape of her neck with his left hand, so pinning her down on the rock. Emma protested again with another slight struggle. So he said as he held her like this and continued tormenting her by trailing his claws of his right hand on her back: 'I told you to obey me. Now! How about feeling my hand on another part of your body?'

He didn't wait for her answer and moved his right hand down. He began to gently stimulate the part of her pussy he knew that was meant to intensify her sexual desire. He did so while still holding the nape of her neck with his left hand. His commanding, deep voice and the just right amount of brutal sensuality he was using augmented Emma's arousal state even more. So she simply requested, her words mixed with breathy moans: 'More!'

That's when Ter'kan released the nape of her neck. He unbuckled his belt and removed his metallic codpiece so exposing his half-harden cock. He dropped that piece of his gear on the floor and careful of his claws he slipped one finger inside her.

Emma said, panting with arousal in the tone of her voice: 'Oh, yes! Yes!'

The leader took time to finger her in spite of his strong urge to possess her. And the more he was giving her pleasure like this, the more his cock was hardening too. He did it until he was fully erect. At this point he really needed to fulfill his urges so he took hold of her round and smooth bottom with both his hands and slowly pushed his throbbing cock inside her as he let out an heavy and throaty breath. First he thrust at a regular pace before speeding up things. His performance was making Emma moan louder and louder. It lasted until the leader decided to change the course of the action again. He stopped his thrusts and spanked her twice so making her whine with discomfort again. He let out deep growls then began to thrust again, saying: 'We are not done yet!'

She turned her head and looked at the eye-shaped holes of his mask for a few seconds before taking her former position with her forehead resting on the smooth surface of the rock.

The leader fucked her for another while as he kept expressing his own pleasure with grunts and growls. Suddenly he grabbed again the nape of her neck with his left hand as he held her ass cheek with his right one. He asked on purpose as he kept pounding her knowing that it will make her hornier: 'Do you need more?'

Emma responded brokenly after having let out more breathy moans: 'YES! Don't...don't stop!'

He didn't add anything else and just kept sliding his cock inside and out of her fast so making her really vocal which proved that she was getting close.

Meanwhile it started to drizzle. The loud and enticing sounds of their ecstasies were accompanied by the soothing sound of the falling rain.

And then suddenly Emma spoke again: 'Fuck me! Fuck me harder!' No sooner had she pronounced those words that she closed her eyes and leaned her forehead against the smooth surface of the rock. She let loud and uncontrollable moans coming out of her mouth and panting heavily at the same time.

Ter'kan ceased his thrusts and caressed her back once more while emitting trills. He then took a hold of her bottom with both his hands and began his fast thrusts again. He fucked her until he came. Emma turned her head at that very moment in order to enjoy the sight of his ecstasy. She saw him throwing his head back, growling and breathing heavily as he sprayed her bottom with loads of hot and thick cum. He rubbed the ridged head of his cock against her wet entrance a few times then leaned over her again, shifting to his forearms in order to keep his weight off her. They remained in this position for a moment, their bodies dripping with water and catching their breaths.
Ter'kan took his uprising position and stripped naked too. They completed their session with a dip in the lake just as it stopped raining.

*Eighteenth month. Morning of the fourth day of the third week.

Ter'kan and Emma were working together in the trophies room. They were displaying each skull on the wall by hanging them on special hooks while they were exchanging their thoughts about the hunts that allowed them to gather their newest trophies.

Emma said, looking content and while wiping the three-horned rhino skull with a small piece of white linen: 'From now on, the sight of this trophy will always bring back awesome and unforgettable memories! I already started considering it as an important and sentimental value not only because this is the result of my very first hunt but also because you were the one who had chosen the animal as my first prey.'

Ter'kan trilled with satisfaction then he explained: 'I chose something imposing but relatively easy to kill because I wanted you to put your skills to practice thus giving you a sense of meaningful achievement without exposing you to a situation that would be too life-threatening for you.'

She smiled. She then added as she kept wiping the skull: 'You have always made the right choice in order to suit my needs! And the way my first hunt took place then the success as a result of it proved that very well.'

The leader wiped a few more times the trophy of his hunt that Emma had the privilege to witness then said as he hooked it to the wall: 'I have observed you many times and this gave me the opportunity to learn about you a lot. It helped me to evaluate your skills in many fields and select the best and most appropriate for you.'

So Emma hooked her own trophy to the wall then got closer to him. She took his hand and said, looking up at him amorously: 'You are my love leader. You are my master and I can't do without you. I love you!'

He concluded after a purr: 'Your presence had brought extraordinary and new sensations into my life. I really enjoy teaching you. It's always great that you share with me what matters the most in my life.' He then took her face between his hands and added, looking straight into her green eyes: 'I love you too!'

They embraced, taken by a surge of affection. Emma wrapped her arms around the leader's waist and buried her face in his chest with her eyes shut. He began to caress the back of her head slowly. They enjoyed that sensual approach for an instant before they carried on with their work. They stayed in the trophies room for a long time and kept bring up again memories of their hunts. The leader took a keen interest in Emma’s speech. Not only that it really became a pleasant time for both from the moment Emma began to evoke memories of the day when Ter'kan went to hunt that enormous feline in the jungle. From then on more words of love and praise were exchanged thus adding more passion and feelings of respect into their relationship. They returned to the bridge as soon as they had completed their tasks in the trophies room.

All of a sudden a downpour began to drum on the bay window of the pilot posts. The leader typed twice on a round console situated in the middle of the room and the video of their latest hunt together started to play. Soon a beep sound came from another console nearby, indicating that someone has just sent them a message. Ter'kan checked and saw It came from the second in command. The message was about different needs concerning their comrades so the leader had a brief radio contact with him in order to inform him about the choices that would fit for each case. He then went back to Emma and continued watching videos with her. The rain stopped just as they
were focusing on the last scene of video.

Emma said, looking towards the bay window: 'At last, it stopped! This will allow us to continue working outside!'

Ter'kan said after a nod: 'Today I intend to add some extra fun into our tasks. As we have already collected so many items, I think it would be nice to make jewelry.'

She agreed after a soft laugh: 'That's an excellent idea! I must admit that I was looking forward to it.'

The leader took her hand and left the control room after last glance at the pilot posts. The lovers headed to the exit of the ship. First they stood at the top of the lowered ramp and admired the surroundings for a short instant before they got down the ramp. The sunlight was streaming in through the last shred of grey clouds.

The weather was becoming sunnier as they began to cook. Emma grabbed a small wooden basket filled with various kind of vegetables washed by the rain and began to chop them one by one. Meanwhile Ter'kan went back to the ship. He came out again shortly after, holding a white and rectangular ceramic plate containing small chunks of meat preserved in aromatic plant oil and spices in one hand and metallic skewers in the other. He sat in front of her and started to make brochettes by sticking the chunks of meat with the vegetables cubes alternately into skewers. He took dried pieces of wood from a lidded, metallic box as soon as he finished preparing the brochettes and lit the campfire. He waited until the wood turned into a bed of hot ashes then placed a stainless steel grill on which he carefully arranged all the brochettes. He began to grill them. Emma was watching him with a slight smile on her rosy lips. They enjoyed eating their meal, sitting in the shade of the biggest hexagonal rock situated nearby the lake.

By late morning Ter'kan and Emma gathered all the feathers, small bones, tiny colored pebbles, thin strips of leather, thick and white thread along with various tools in order to make necklaces. Time passed so. Emma was about to start making her third necklace that's when she realized that her work required the usage of a tool which would ease the task but didn't have on hand. Ter'kan nodded then went to fetch it inside the ship.

Meanwhile Emma grabbed her bottle of water and sipped once from it. She was about to drink again when suddenly a distant roar followed by the sound of a plasma canon being fired came from the jungle. So she put down the bottle and got up. She fixed her eyes on the part of the jungle where the sounds came from while shielding her eyes from the sun with her left hand. A moment went by before four Yautja males of various heights and skin colors finally came out of the jungle. Emma got near to the lowered ramp and called the leader out loud as she kept watching the four males coming towards her. Ter'kan appeared at the top of the ramp right away, holding a very small hammer. She pointed at the four hunters by simply saying: 'Look!'

Ter'kan got down the ramp. He gave her the small hammer before he engaged into a conversation with the four other males. Emma was watching them, silent and motionless. And then the leader addressed her by translating the words he has just exchanged with the group. He explained as he pointed his whole hand at the tallest male: 'Emma! This is leader Saman'gu. He and his clan had landed on Alpheus-Rey last night.'

Emma made her remark as a faint smile appeared on her face while scrutinizing Saman'gu's bio mask: 'It's pleasantly interesting to see more hunters on this planet at last.' She then asked, still looking at the other leader: 'How many are they altogether?'
'They are eleven, including Saman'gu!'

'Did you tell them who am I and what I am doing here?'

'Yes, of course I explained who you are and the reasons of your presence on this planet. They think that it makes the encounter special and unique.'

Emma added after a soft laugh while looking at Saman'gu and his comrades alternately: 'Tell them that my thoughts about them are the same!'

Ter'kan translated Emma's last sentence before he continued exchanging words with the group. Emma was watching them with visible interest because most of the time they were using the non-spoken Yautja language. In addition to the regular body or sign language, the males were also using growls, clicking sounds and trills that she had heard countless times before. She's been with him for nearly two years now and still she had troubles to wrap her mind around the fact that all those sounds had distinct meanings for him and his own kind.

The meeting ended some moments later. Saman'gu and his comrades went back to the jungle while Ter'kan and Emma carried on with the making of their necklaces. Naturally the encounter they just had triggered a lively conversation between them. They spoke until their necklaces were ready. Later that day they ate out again. They went back inside the ship at night fall and checked their hunting gear before putting it on display.

The following day during late afternoon hours.

Ter'kan and Emma have already started to pack. They were bringing their belongings back to the ship, working in separate ways thus emptying the camp, gradually. They were making comments on the work progress each time they were passing each other in the corridors of the ship or outside. It lasted until the twilight's first gleaming. They also removed the posts and cleaned the place where their camp stood once. They made it look as if no one ever had been there. They then sat on one of those hexagonal rocks and glanced at the landscape and its horizon one more time before boarding their ship. A bird of prey flew over just as they were going up the ramp, holding hands.

They returned to the control room and took a seat at the pilot posts. The leader began to operate a console above which an holographic screen was formed within seconds. Emma watched how he was operating the console and the holographic screen. And then suddenly the powerful but somehow soothing rumble of the engine resounded in the control room. It was followed by slight vertical tremors due to elevation which lasted for a very brief moment. The ship took off and disappeared in the scarlet, evening sky.

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