

PEDRO  
PRIMOR

## STARGATE – EPITAPH

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*An unlikely crew fights for survival aboard an Ancient ship, "Destiny", launched over a million of years ago now they face their ultimate challenge. This story tells the tale of what happened after the events of Season 2 Finale. What happened to the crew? What happened to Eli? Did they made the jump between galaxies or did they roam the Universe forever frozen?*



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## A Word

*I must begin by saying that I'm not a writer, as you will notice as soon as you start reading "the book", and English is not my first language.*

*I was 31 when SGU was canceled and after I spent half my life watching new episodes of Stargate the news of SGU cancelation was a quite the punch in the gut. But when Brad Wright announced that they were trying to get SG1, SGA and SGU movies done, hope was renewed for a little while. For the longest time news about the movies were all about MGM bankruptcy and the fact that they couldn't afford it. So I had this idea: if MGM couldn't afford to make three movies why not make only one; a story that would involve all three branches of the franchise.*

*When all the deals fell apart I realized that the Stargate Franchise was dead. But I really like my idea, a sort of "One Movie to Rule Them All" kind of thing. All kinds of fan base stuff began to appear online about Stargate and after reading a very well written Stargate Universe – The Virtual Third Season by a Fan called Mike Sather (at <http://www.philotic.com/stargate/>), I was inspired to do the same. I don't really remember how the idea for the story came to me, but it did, and I found it really good and worthy of the attempt so I started writing it. First I thought of doing it like a movie script (like Stargate Universe – The Virtual Third Season) I quickly realized that I couldn't, so I tried to do it like a novel couldn't cut it too, so I ended up writing it partly script partly novel (if it's even possible).*

*In my short story I haven't spent a lot of time describing the ship and her surroundings or her crew because chances are, if you are reading this you're a fan of Stargate and you know how everything looks. I felt that describing everything would serve no purpose except making the story longer for no reason.*

*I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it.*

*I still believe that this story would make an awesome Stargate movie.*

***The "author"***  
*Pedro Primor*



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## **Stargate Prologue**

*The Stargate, found in Giza, Egypt in 1928, we now know it was originally built a millennia ago by an alien race we call the Ancients.*

*There are thirty-nine symbols representing star constellations as seen from earth, capable of transporting people, objects, hundreds of thousands of light-years via an interstellar wormhole. Within the Milky Way Galaxy a seven symbol address is used. The first six symbols lock down a point in space, while the seventh represents the point of origin. When a connection is made between two stargates and unstable energy vortex emerges from the gate and settles in the event horizon, or puddle, as we like to call it.*

*When we first stepped through the stargate over a decade ago we found that the galaxy was dominated by a race of beings known as the Goa'uld. A parasitical snake-like creature which burroughs in to the body of a human host and takes complete control. It was the goa'uld Ra, who Jack O'Neill and Daniel Jackson defeated on the very first mission through the stargate. Ra, along many others of his kind had posed as an ancient Egyptian god, in order to enslave a transplanted human population. The identity, iconography and wardrobe of pretty much every ancient god in human history has been purloined by the goa'uld to dominate and enslave humans on other planets for thousands of years. That is until Stargate Command, a US Air Force covert agency comprised of several teams created to explore and obtain advance technology in order to protect the planet, along with the allies of Earth managed to defeat the goa'uld in the early twenty-first century.*

*The Lucian Alliance is an organization of humans from a number of sovereign planets who have taken control of the resources and technology left behind after the goa'uld were defeated. Not unlike the mafia, or street*

*gangs from our own fair planet, the Alliance is made up of power-hungry criminals who used violence as a means of enforcing their dominion. Leadership is tenuous and constantly changing, but the association itself is formidable and must be taken seriously. They control a sizable army and numerous ha'tak vessels, or former goa'uld motherships, as well as a fleet of smaller gliders and bombers. The Lucian Alliance is also known for insuring the servitude of less fortunate followers through the distribution of an addictive corn like food crop known as Kassa.*

*The Ancients were once a race of humans known as Alterans. They left their home galaxy to avoid a war with another race of humans called the Ori. They flew to the Milky Way millions of years ago and first landed on the planet Dakara. From there they made their way to Earth, which they would call home for some time. The Ancients are the inventors of the Stargates, and much of the advance technology that was later usurped and used by the Goa'uld to enforce their rule.*

*When a mysterious plague threaten their existence in the Milky Way they build a giant flying city called Atlantis and fled to the Pegasus Galaxy where they populated and lived for many years, until a great threat in the force of an alien race called the Wraith force them to return to the Milky Way, where it is believed they used their knowledge to restart human life as we know it on earth. At some point they evolved both physically and mentally to the point where they no longer required their human bodies becoming the ascended Ancients.*

*Ascension is an extremely advance evolutionary process whereby the human consciousness becomes pure energy, and actually rises to a higher plane of existence. While it takes several thousands of years of evolution for humans to reach the point where they can attain the 'state of being' naturally, a less evolved person can actually be ascended by other ascended beings. Ascension comes with a much greater understanding of the universe and the forces of nature within it. The power that comes with that knowledge is potentially dangerous if misused, as we have seen with*



*the Ori. It is for this reason that the ascended ancients now have a strict rule about non-interference in our human existence.*

*The Wraith are intelligent humanoids who are genetically close to insects, though they are predominantly human. They evolved in the Pegasus galaxy after a human population, seeded by the Ancients, was fed upon by an insect called the irratus bug, which has the ability to draw upon a human's life to heal itself. As they fed, the bugs incorporated human DNA into themselves, giving rise to the Wraith. The Wraith too feed on humans, treating them akin to livestock and regarding the act of feeding as nothing more than natural predation.*

*Some thousands of years ago, the Wraith went to war with the Ancients (whom they knew as the Lanteans) over control of the galaxy. Although technologically superior, the Ancients were a passive people by nature, and lacked the familiarity with aggression and strategic thinking to successfully neutralize the Wraith. This naivete allowed the Wraith to lure Ancient warships into unprotected areas of space where they were ambushed and captured, along with their ZPM (Zero Point Modules, a power supply that draws upon subspace to generate energy) power supplies, which the Wraith used to power cloning facilities that increased the size of their army a hundredfold. Vastly outnumbered, the Ancients sent a delegation protected by their most powerful warships to sue for peace, but they were wiped out. The Wraith steadily pushed back the Ancients until only Atlantis remained. The war with the Ancients lasted for more than 100 years, until the Ancients decided to submerge the city and return to Earth. With the Wraith victorious, they became the dominant power in Pegasus.*

*In the ensuing feeding frenzy following their victory, the Wraith quickly learned that their wartime population was too great to sustain. Lacking the technology for intergalactic hyperdrive, and having depleted the ZPMs for the war, the Wraith were unable to safely venture outside of Pegasus to explore neighboring galaxies; ignorant of Earth or prior Ancient civilizations in the Milky Way, they had little incentive to try. Unable to leave, the Wraith were collectively forced to hibernate for extended periods of time, often centuries, while the human population of Pegasus regenerated. Small selections of Wraith were tasked with remaining active during this time to maintain watch on the galaxy to prevent human reprisals. With most of the population in suspended animation, and given*

*the competitive nature of their species, the Wraith were unable to make significant advancements in their technology, and aside from small experiments by individual Wraith over the millennia, they have remained largely stagnant for 10,000 years. Their existence is restricted to waking en masse every few centuries to replenish their health by galaxy-wide abductions of humans called "cullings."*

*Later it was discovered that using an eight symbol address would actually dial another galaxy. Stargate Command used that knowledge to send an expedition to Atlantis. The Atlantis Expedition found the city abandoned and submerged. After restoring the city to a minimal working capacity, the Atlantis Team used the city as a base of operations to fight the Wraith and help the people of Pegasus Galaxy. Within a couple of years the Atlantis Expedition was in a full blow war with the Wraith over the freedom of Pegasus. After a death defiance encounter with a Wraith Super Cruiser powered by a ZPM, Atlantis was forced to return to Earth to defend it. And in Earth it remains...*

*It was believed that an unprecedented amount of power was required to reach the mythical nine chevron destination. Icarus base was established on a planet discovered two years ago, a planet that had a uniquely powerful core made of the mineral naquadria. The entire purpose of the project was to hopefully one dial the ninth and final chevron address found in the ancient Atlantis database. With the help of Eli Wallace, a young genius collage drop out, who was recruited by solving a millennia old mathematic equation, embedded in a computer game. When the Icarus Base was attacked by the Lucian Alliance the people on the base had no choice but to use the 9<sup>th</sup> chevron address( without knowing where it would lead) to escape. The 9<sup>th</sup> chevron address dialed Destiny, a million year old ship built by the Ancients. Destiny was the primary vessel of an unmanned fleet of ships, comprised of Destiny and an unknown number of Seed Ships built and launched a short time after the Ancients arrived on Earth. Its technology was a precursor to every piece of technology invented by the Ancient. The main function of the Seed Ships was to search habitable*

*planets and deposit a first generation Stargate on every planet suitable in every galaxy possible and all the Seed Ships would relay that information back to Destiny who then pre-programed a fixed course through the stars. The Ancient never used Destiny because they discovered how to ascend and the Destiny Project was abandoned and left to roam the universe alone. Why the Ancients built Destiny was unknown by the Icarus Crew for a long time, Destiny's true mission was to uncover the meaning behind a signal embed in the cosmic background radiation present at the Big Bang. A signal that the Ancients believed could prove intelligent design behind the Big Bang. Being several Billions light years from Earth, with no way back and very little resources it was very difficult for the Icarus Crew to survive. But with the help of the Stargates scattered throughout the galaxy, they managed, against all odds to survive. After many trials and afflictions the Crew encountered the remnants of an ancient alien fleet, which they called the Drones. The Drones were unmanned flying machines built with one purpose, to destroy every piece of technology they encounter. The Drones pursued Destiny something fierce until the Crew had no choice but to undergo a three year hibernation voyage.*

*PEDRO PRIMOR*

# *Stargate – Epitaph*

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*Home Made Ideas*



# Chapter I

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Destiny is in FLT, the sea of bluish light slides off her like she was a rock thrown in a shallow pond. Inside her not a sound is heard, not a light is seen. Her crew is still sleeping waiting to wake up, after the travel between galaxies is complete. A sound echoes. A metallic vibration is heard throughout her, like a wave pounding in the dry sand, she drops out of FLT, is the journey over?

The Stargate starts to spin, one chevron activates then another and another soon a horizontal wave of light and energy lights up the once called "Gate Room". Destiny starts to power up; every console, every corridor, every system is activating; she comes alive like she was meant to be.

Someone step through the bluish/grey puddle. It's a man in a military type cloths, he looks around in wonder: "She's beautiful." He says in a low voice like a whisper to himself. He steps aside and a sea of people start pouring in, every single one of them carries one or more suitcases. it's a boarding party of 10 people. When the Stargate shuts down and the discharged vapors flood the Gate Room everyone is startled, everyone except the first man that stepped through, the leader.

The leader turns around to face them all:

- You know what to do.

They throw the suitcases to the side and scatter through different corridors. The leader

heads directly to the main console in the Gate Room, he pulls up what appears to be a map of sorts. He looks at it for a couple of minutes then turns around and starts walking in rapid steps like he's in a race against time. Soon after that he's in the Control Interface Room; starts to press a few buttons, there's no hesitation and no mistakes he knows exactly what he is doing. In the blue 'Head Up Display' shows the location of the suspended animation pods. He follows the path displayed on the screen with his finger; he's drawing a mental map of the way to the pods. When he's done he turns off the console, as the blue HUD slowly fades out the man turns around and walks away.

He enters the room filled with the suspended animation pods, the room lights up. He's walking slowly looking into every pod. He stops, in front of him is Dr. Rush, not who he is looking for. He turns around and looks at Master-Sergeant Greer still not the person he is looking for, continues to search and in the end of the row of pods is the person he is looking for: Col. Everett Young. After glazing at Col. Young he goes to the console and presses another set of buttons, the pods light up and steam starts to run down from the top of the tubular shaped pods.

Col. Young opens his eyes, the pod door swoops up. He steps outside, very groggy from the sleep. At first Col. Young has trouble speaking it's like his vocal cords are fused together but he clears his throat and:

**COL. YOUNG:** Eli, are we there yet?

Eli was not there. He open his eyes and focuses, there's a man standing in front of him.

**LEADER:** Hello, Col. Young. Welcome back.

**COL. YOUNG:** Wait... I know who you are.

**LEADER:** I would hope so.

He extends his hand to greet Col. Young.

**LEADER:** My name is Jonas Quinn. I've come here to help you.

Col. Young also extends his hand back and greets Jonas, at the same time he turns his head and sees everybody coming out of the pods, the same disoriented and groggy look he had a moment ago. He turns to Jonas:

**COL. YOUNG:** How? How did you get here? How long has it been? What happened back home?

**JONAS QUINN:** Everything in good time. Help our people first then if you don't mind ask everyone to the Observation Deck so I can address you all.

Col. Young did just that. Everyone came out of the pods with the same questions: "How long has it been?", "What happened?", "Where are we?", "Are we safe?"

Lt. Johansen stepped out of her pod and hugged Col. Young completely ignoring Jonas Quinn standing by his side. Greer greeted Varro with a solid hand shake, Varro turned to Johansen nodded his head and smiled, she smiled back. Greer then



turned to the side and helped Dr. Park get out of her pod, she hugged him and planted a soft kiss in his lips. Dr. Volker opened his eyes and saw that display of affection between Greer and Park and a wave of sadness overcome him as he turned and walked away to greet Dr. Brody and Varro. Lt. Scott salutes Col. Young and rushed to Chloe's pod. She smiled when he came around the bend of the pod and jumped into his arms and they kissed passionately, after that she looks both ways and says:

**CHLOE:** Where's Eli? Shouldn't he be here?

**LT. SCOTT:** Maybe he's in one of the other pod rooms.

Dr. Rush walks out of his pod and looks around, nods to Col. Young and then he sees Jonas Quinn, for the first time Col. Young sees an surprised expression in Rush's face.

**DR. RUSH:** Who the hell are you?

He speaks in a loud tone. Everyone stops and for the first time notices that there's an unknown person standing there.

**DR. BRODY:** Wait... How did you get here? Aren't we in space?

Everybody looks at Brody for a moment and then turn to the unknown man standing next to Col. Young.

**JONAS QUINN:** My name is Jonas Quinn. When all of you are able, please join me in the Observation Deck. Dr. Rush when you feel up to it, please go up to the bridge and turn of the countdown clock, thank you.

Jonas nods to Col. Young and leaves the room.

**COL. YOUNG:** You heard the man. Spread the word. Observation Deck, 15 minutes. Rush... countdown clock.

**CHLOE:** Where's Eli? Anybody seen Eli?

No one answered. Rush looked at Col. Young, and Young looked back. Both knew that there was a small chance that Eli could be dead if he failed to fix the last pod.

**DR. RUSH:** Let's go to the Observation Deck, he may already be there.

Rush walked away from Chloe, leaving her with Scott and went to have a talk with Col. Young.

**DR. RUSH:** What do you think, Col.? You think he made it?

**COL. YOUNG:** I don't know... Out of all us three, I believe he had the best chance of fixing the pod in the allotted time. For all I know, you are right. He

may already be at the Observation Deck, after all the last pod wasn't in this level.

**DR. RUSH:** Or he didn't and in that case he may be dead somewhere in this ship.

Col. Young said nothing, he looked at Rush and started walking to the bridge. But deep down he knew that Rush had a valid point.

The crew arrived at the Observation Deck; leaning against the railing was Jonas Quinn and his men. All of them were gasping at the view. Destiny was sitting in space at the distance, amongst the sea of stars, lay a planet and behind it a big yellow sun. Jonas turned first then his men, he stepped forward and:

**JONAS QUINN:** I know all of you have questions, I will do my best to answer them but first I will tell the tale of how we got here and what we have come here to do.

Chloe entered the room still looking around for Eli. Everybody was already there, expect for Eli, she was about to shout for Eli when Jonas Quinn started to talk...

# Chapter II

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Atlantis was left sitting in the San Francisco harbor, until the logistics could be resolved. But after a week it was decided that she couldn't be left there for much longer, the risk of discovery was going up exponential and with Atlantis on Earth the Gate in Stargate Command was no longer the primary and that interfered with normal ingoing and outgoing missions. It was decided that Atlantis would be better, for the meanwhile, on the Moon. After the incident with the Langaran government about the life-line for Destiny Dr. Rodney Mackey return to Atlantis with the intent of finding a way to help those people trapped aboard Destiny.

Mackey was working at his desk as usual, trying to find a way to reconfigure the long range sensors to work in hyperspace. He yells "I'm a genius" and runs out the lab leaving Zelenka starring at his back with a "typical Mackey" type expression in his face.

**DR. ZELENKA:** Where are you going now, Rodney?

**DR. MACKKEY:** I have to talk to Woolsey, immediately.

**DR. ZELENKA:** Why?

Mackey doesn't bother to answer, he just walks out. When he reaches Woolsey office, the door is open and as soon as he enters the office he starts to talk:

**DR. MACKEY:** I found a way, like I always do. I knew if I just thought about it I could find something more viable solution that those so called doctors at the SGC.

**WOOLSEY:** Excuse me, Dr. Mackey you can't just walk in here and...

**DR. MACKEY:** Yeah... yeah... sorry about that but this is very important, like all my work and it couldn't wait. I found a way to help the crew.

**WOOLSEY:** Crew? What crew? What are you talking about Doctor?

**DR. MACKEY:** Destiny. I think I have found a way to help Destiny's crew.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** How?

Mackey turn his head and saw that Sheppard was sitting in the chair looking at him very intently. He didn't even noticed him there, when he came in.

**DR. MACKEY:** After the fiasco with the Langarans, we needed to find another Icarus Type Planet so I started to think about an easier way to find one.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** And you found it?

**DR. MACKEY:** Of course I found it. Who do you think you're talking to?

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Come on, Rodney.

**DR. MACKEY:** Sorry, I'll explain.

**WOOLSEY:** Please, do.

**DR. MACKEY:** The major problem with creating a life-line for Destiny is finding an Icarus Type Planet. i.e.: A planet with an naquadria core, which we all know that is very hard to find because naquadria is not an nature occurring element.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Of course we do...

**WOOLSEY:** Carry on, Doctor.

**DR. MACKEY:** I managed to, brilliantly I might add, change the way the long sensors work. It's now able to detect naquadria core planets.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** If it works, what do you suggest we do Rodney? Fly around the galaxy scanning every planet?

**DR. MACKEY:** First of all, of course it's going to work. I did the modifications myself...

Sheppard and Woolsey look at one and another...

**DR. MACKEY (cont.):** What's with that look? Never mind... Like I was saying, we don't fly around the galaxy because I configured two separated settings. The one always used, the one we are using now and one that detects naquadria.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** What's the catch?

**DR. MACKEY:** What do you mean?

**COL. SHEPPARD:** There's always a catch, and sometimes you forget to mention it early on.

**DR. MACKEY:** Well, when the naquadria setting are one, we basically only detect naquadria. If any Wraith ships or anything for that matter came in danger of reaching Atlantis we wouldn't detect it.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** I knew it. There's always a catch.

**DR. MACKEY:** That doesn't really matter anyway.

**WOOLSEY:** Why, Dr. Mackey?

**DR. MACKEY:** Because we will be in hyperspace where the long range scanners are pretty much useless.

**WOOLSEY:** Unless we came out of hyperspace into an asteroid field.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** That's right. – *Sheppard replies pointing to Woosley.* - See there's always a catch.

**DR. MACKEY:** I'm not saying it is perfect but we are not going to sit here forever. Atlantis will, sooner or later, return to the Pegasus Galaxy. And because we can't use the Wormhole Drive again, I'm still amazed it worked the first time, we have to fly back to Pegasus. We just need to turn the naquadia settings on and let the scanners do all the work while we fly home. With a bit of luck we find an Icarus Type Planet within the range of the scanners, range that I managed to increase, brilliantly like I mention earlier.

**WOOLSEY:** Good job, Dr. Mackey. I'll run it by Gen. O'Neill.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Yes, Rodney. Nice job. But maybe you should calculate the hyperspace jump before we decide to do this, just to make sure that we won't need the normal setting in the long range scanners, during the trip back.

**DR. MACKEY:** Yes, that is a good idea.

After a few weeks and with the approval of Gen. O'Neill, Atlantis lifted off the surface of the Moon after a couple of months of just being there, after all I.O.A. bureaucracy can be tedious.

The crew gathered in the balconies scattered around the main spiral. Small pockets of people, here and there, witnessed the start of the voyage home. After the dust of the lift off settled, everybody got the chance to say goodbye to that beautiful blue planet, the third rock from the sun. Most if not all of them would not see Earth from that perspective again.

**WOOLSEY (Ship-wide):** We still have a mission to complete, and people still need us in Pegasus. Friends left back there must be anxious to see us again, as we are to see them. So guise upon Earth once more time and say your prayers because, Atlantis is returning home.

**WOOLSEY:** Dr. Mackey, initiate the naquadria protocols in the long range scanners.

Mackey didn't reply. He just pressed a button and soon was outside, with the others looking at the shrinking Earth. When Atlantis was at the designated safe distance, she jumped into hyperspace and the journey home began.



# Chapter III

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Mackey and Zelenka were working in their lab, like they usually did, when all of a sudden an alarm went off. Mackey jumped out of his chair, in his hypochondriac way and started to look around. Zelenka just followed him with his eyes and soon realized that the alarm was coming from Rodney's laptop.

**DR. ZELENKA:** Rodney, calm down. It's just your laptop.

**DR. MACKEY:** Yes, I know. But it is always prudent to be cautious.

As he slowly approached the screen, his eyes became wider. He sat down, pressed a few buttons read the result displayed in the computer screen and jumped out of his seat again and ran out the door, completely ignoring Zelenka inquiries as to what was going on. A few minutes later he arrives at Stargate Operations completely hyperventilation like he had just ran a marathon.

**DR. MACKEY:** Stop.

Amelia Banks was sitting at the helm. The main console in Stargate Operations, the one that controlled the basic functions of the Stargate, was considered the helm because from there she could control the basic functions of the Star Drive.

**BANKS:** Stop, what?

**DR. MACKEY:** Stop. Stop everything. Stop the ship.

Amelia had no time to stop the ship, Mackey reached the console and pushed her aside, not aggressively just enough so he could operate the console himself. He stopped the ship using the emergency shutdown, soon after that Woolsey came out of his office at the end of the corridor.

**WOOLSEY:** What's going on? What happened?

**BANKS:** I don't know, sir. Dr. Mackey dropped us out of hyperspace.

**WOOLSEY:** Doctor?

**DR. MACKEY:** Atlantis found it. At first I didn't realized what she had found, because I forgot that the program was running. We left the Milky Way a few days ago, I was supposed to shut off the scanner program, good thing I forgot, otherwise she wouldn't have found it.

Sheppard arrive at Stargate Operations in time to listen to Rodney ramblings.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** What's going on? What did Atlantis found?

**DR. MACKEY:** An Icarus Type Planet.

**WOOLSEY:** What? In the Pegasus Galaxy?

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Yeah?! Isn't naquadria a non-natural element? It was created by some Goa'uld a long time ago, right? How can it exist in the Pegasus Galaxy?

**DR. MACKEY:** I don't know. Maybe a Goa'uld came here to experiment without being discovered by his fellow System Lords.

**WOOLSEY:** Is that possible?

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Why not? I mean if the Asgard did it, why not the Goa'uld.

**DR. MACKEY:** Not "the" Goa'uld. One Goa'uld, Thanos if memory serves me right. Who's to say that before he went to Langara he didn't do some experiments somewhere else? That's beside the point, the point is that Atlantis was detected an Icarus Type Planet.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** I'll contact Stargate Command to inform them of this. Where's the planet, Rodney?

**DR. MACKEY:** It's on the edge of the galaxy. It's one of the first planets in Pegasus, if you came from Earth. If you came from Atlantica, the water planet that Atlantis was in, then it's one of the last planets of the galaxy.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Yes, Rodney. We get the point.

**WOOLSEY:** Do we have a Stargate Address for that planet?

**BANKS:** Doesn't appear to have one, sir.

**WOOLSEY:** Col. Sheppard, go to Stargate Command and inform them of the situation. We will see if we can borrow a Stargate from a planet nearby.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Yes, sir. Banks, dial the gate.

**DR. MACKEY:** No, Banks. Don't dial the gate.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Why, not?

**DR. MACKEY:** Look... Right now Atlantis is sitting in the middle of empty space, without a point of origin you can't get to anywhere using the gate.

**WOOLSEY:** So we wait. Can we do a small hyperspace jump into the naquadria planet and use it's coordinates to operate the gate?

**DR. MACKEY:** Yes. That would work. I need to do some calculations, so we don't accidentally drop out inside the planet. That would be very bad.

**WOOLSEY:** Ok, Doctor... Make it happen.

# Chapter IV

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After a few hyperspace calculations provided by Dr. Mackey and Dr. Zelenka, Atlantis jumped into the vicinity of M4S-781; the planet the crew called the Naquadria Planet. To avoid any danger Atlantis jumped within a few thousand kilometers from the planet and used sub-lights engines to approach orbit. It was only when they were almost in orbit that something happened, something that no one had predicted. The planet displayed an unusual high activity both on the surface and in space. Because of the interference from the planet's core the instruments on Atlantis were unreliable; Mackey was trying to work around the interference but with little luck. It was only after the ship achieved geo-synchronized orbit that they notice something coming their way from the other side of the planet.

Sheppard and Woosley stepped outside into the balcony of Stargate Operations to see if they could make out whatever it was that was coming. It appear to be three ships flying in close formation, from the silhouettes they appear to be of Wraith designs. When Sheppard realized what they were, two Wraith Cruisers and one Hive Ship, it was too late all three ships opened fire simultaneous. The impact of the energy based weapons shook the entire city; all three ships were firing continuaselly on Atlantis, the shield was doing its best to absorb the damage.

Sheppard was trying to get back inside. He was walking almost in all fours when he looked back to see if Woolsey was alright, he was crouched behind the railing and he too was trying to get back to Stargate Operations. Woosley gave Sheppard the signal to keep going, he'd be alright. Sheppard with a bit of effort finally got inside:

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Rodney, get us the hell out of here.

**DR. MACKEY:** To where? We don't have any coordinates plotted.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Doesn't matter. We can't take much more of this. Just jump way...

Mackey didn't even let Sheppard finished the sentence, we pressed a few buttons and a hyperspace window formed and Atlantis just jumped away. By this time Woosley had entered Stargate Operations and was in front of Mackey who was sitting in the main console. In the back stairs, that led to the lower levels, were Teyla and Ronon who came up to see what was going on.

**WOOSLEY:** What happened?

**RONON:** We were ambushed.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** It couldn't be an ambush; they didn't know we were coming. It looked like they were protecting something.

**DR. MACKEY:** Oh, my god.

**WOOSLEY:** Doctor?

**DR. MACKEY:** I was trying to clear the interference from Atlantis systems, that's why we couldn't see the ships earlier; by the time we jumped away I managed to do a quick scan of the surface of the planet and the surrounding space.

**TEYLA:** What did you find, Rodney?

**DR. MACKEY:** It's a shipyard. Well... more accurately it's a Cruiser Farm.

**WOOSLEY:** Excuse me, Doctor?

**DR. MACKEY:** We know that the wraith ships are bio-mechanical. In fact they are grown to a certain extent before any actual fabrication is done on the ship. This planet is a huge factory, on the surface they grow ships and in orbit they finish the construction.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** That explains the heavy defensive perimeter.

**RONON:** I'd say that we were lucky. A planet like this is of massive military importance, and they had only three ships I guaranty it that the next time it will be a lot more.

**DR. ZELENKA:** Maybe they weren't expecting to be discovered, remember that we are in the very beginning of the Pegasus Galaxy. For what reason would any other Wraith faction even come here, it's the perfect place for something like this.

**RONON:** He has a point.

**TEYLA:** What do we do now?

**WOOSLEY:** Nothing. It's too much of a risk. The planet is very well protected. We can't handle that much firepower. We just need to keep going and with any luck find another Icarus Type Planet somewhere else.

**DR. MACKEY:** You don't understand. We won't find another planet like this, it was incredibly lucky to have found this one in the first place.

**DR. ZELENKA:** He's right.

**DR. MACKEY:** Of course, I'm right. Naquadria is extremely rare in your own galaxy, where it was created, let alone in Pegasus. I'm telling you this is the only chance we get to help the people on Destiny.

**WOOLSEY:** The risks are too high. As a scientist you understand numbers better than I do, the risks do not outweigh the benefits.

**DR. MACKEY:** Tell that to the people stuck on Destiny.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Ok, ok... Everybody settle down, get me to a planet where I can use the Gate and report back to Gen. O'Neill, maybe the folks in Stargate Command can come up with a better solution.

When Atlantis found a planet with a usable point of origin Sheppard stepped through the Stargate, with a fully working ZPM it was possible to get to Earth with a simple gate travel. When Sheppard arrived at Stargate Command, he immediately asked to brief Gen. O'Neill on the situation.

Sheppard was escorted to Gen. O'Neill's office by an airmen who was stationed in the Gate Room. Gen O'Neill was on the phone when Sheppard arrived at his door, he didn't enter until the General signaled him. Sheppard entered and saluted the General. After a wave of O'Neill, a wave that meant "I don't really like salutes", he sat down and explain the situation; the "miracle" of discovering a planet with a Naquadria Core in the Pegasus Galaxy, the Wraith Shipyards and the incredible powerful armada of Wraith Cruisers that defended the planet. Armada that was responsible for the absentee of Woosley, in reality it was Woosley's job to report to Gen. O'Neill but he was busy coordinating rescue and repair operations on Atlantis itself after the run in with the Cruisers. After that brief report an Emergency Briefing Session was called for all Stargate Command's officers.

When Sheppard entered the briefing room everybody was already there, except Gen. O'Neill. Before taking his seat he saluted the room. At the table were: Maj. Gen. Landry the leader of Stargate Command, Lt. Col. Mitchell as leader of SG-1 and interim Commander of the Daedalus, Col. Carter as Commander of the Hammond, Col. Caldwell as Commander of the Odyssey, Col. Ellis as Commander of the Apollo, the newly promoted Lt. Col. Reynolds as Commander of the Sun Tzu and Col. Telford as commander of Destiny Affairs. Everyone looked at Sheppard and saluted back, he then made his way to a chair that Carter was signaling him to sit in. His seat was next to Carter's in the middle of the oval shaped table on the right side facing the rectangular window that overlooked the Stargate. After sitting down Sheppard realized that there were three empty seats next to Gen. O'Neill place at the top of the table on the left side, making it four people absent from the briefing, one of those people was of course Gen. O'Neill; "But who could be the others?" he asked to himself.

A few minutes later Gen. O'Neill entered the room, everyone got up and saluted. O'Neill did a quick and at ease salute without even stopping and went directly to the window and stared at the Stargate as if waiting to see something happening and it did. While everyone sated back down, the PA activated and throughout Stargate Command Operations Level was heard the familiar voice of Sgt. Walter Harriman: "Scheduled Off-world

Activation". The Stargate 'kawoosh' sound was also heard soon after Sgt. Harriman turn off the PA and the bright light that accompany the Stargate Event Horizon flooded the entire room. Through the Stargate stepped out four people and O'Neill signaled them to come up immediately, he then turned around and returned to the table to sit down.

Up the stairs came Teal'c, Vala Mal Doran, Daniel Jackson and the fourth person was a man that Sheppard didn't recognize. Teal'c, Daniel Jackson and the unknown man continued forward in the direction of the table while Vala stayed behind, she smiled and waved with the normal Mal Doran enthusiasm and went back down the stairs without saying a word. The only people who got up and personally greeted the three men were O'Neill and Carter. Carter gave the unknown man a hug, while everyone remained seated and silent. She then turned to the table and introduced him:

**COL. CARTER:** Sirs, this is Jonas Quinn a former member of SG-1 and the current liaison between the SGC and the Langaran government.

After the introduction both Jonas and Carter took their seats and O'Neill gave a nod to Sheppard and he began the briefing, he started by explaining everything; the discovery of the naquadria planet, the occupation of the planet by Wraith, the shipyard facilities, the heavy defenses and the near destruction of Atlantis.

**GEN. O'NEILL:** Now that you all are apprised of the situation, we need to discuss options.

**COL. TELFORD:** I would like to start by reminding everyone of the importance of a life-line to Destiny and the chance to help those people.

**COL. CARTER:** It's truly amazing that a naquadria planet was discovered in the Pegasus Galaxy.



**JONAS QUINN:** Really amazing. We thought that the Thanos naquadria experiments were only done in the Milky Way.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Mackey said the same thing.

**JONAS QUINN:** Who?

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Dr. Rodney Mackey, he is the lead scientist on Atlantis. He was the one that discovered the planet, by accident I might add. Although he will never admit it that it was a fluke, it only happened because he forgot to turn the program off.

**GEN. O'NEILL:** Regardless of how it was discovered, we need to figure out what to do with this information. In one hand we have a highly defended planet in enemy hands that may cause a high number of casualties if we try to storm the shipyards; on the other hand we have over two hundred of our own people trapped in an ancient vessel that is falling apart. But many also consider Destiny the most important discovery of mankind after the Stargate itself.

**DANIEL JACKSON:** To me it's obvious we have to try. If two hundred of our own people are in need of help and it isn't enough to support such action, imagine the secrets and the knowledge that Destiny may hold. We are talking about the Ancients, the gate builders, and the database on Destiny is of an unimagined value.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** But we already have the database of Atlantis, which is more advance and for all accounts, with a lack for a better expression, filled with better information.

**DANIEL JACKSON:** We can't know that for sure. When Destiny was launched, millions of years ago, the ancients were in the beginning of their evolution [in our galaxy] who knows what secrets they may have discovered at that time, secrets that later may not have been relevant for them but for us is of vital importance. Imagine if they cured cancer in those earlier years and have eradicated the disease, they had no need to include the information on Atlantis database. In a more specific example the background radiation that Dr. Rush unconverted in Destiny's backlog is

not mentioned in any other database or location in recorded Ancients texts.

**COL. CARTER:** Daniel is right. The information on that ship may be of vital importance.

**COL. CADWELL:** Doctors, the problem is not the information. The problem is that the planet is heavily protected by the Wraith and having fought the Wraith numerous times, they are not an easy enemy to battle especially in greater numbers. This is will not be a favorable fight...

**COL. ELLIS:** I agree this will not be an easy battle. We must really counter-weight the risks and the potential benefits.

**COL. REYNOLDS:** Sirs, if I may. As a commander, I must think of my men and their safety first but as a member of Stargate Command it pains me to do nothing for those people.

**COL. CARTER:** I agree with Col. Reynolds but I must remind everyone that, if we manage to liberate the planet from the Wraith and build another facility like the one on Icarus, there is no certainty of actually creating a life-line to Destiny; it may only work once like the two previous attempts.

**COL. TELFORD:** If we get it to work, even if it is just one more time, it would make all the difference in the world. The precarious state of that ship makes living on it a daily nightmare. A heavy shipment of food, water and more importantly medical supplies would save countless lives many times over.

**GEN. LANDRY:** Don't we have a window of three years? Isn't the crew in suspended animation and between galaxies? Risking that many resources and not having a guarantee that a connection to Destiny can be established, makes this briefing mute.

**JONAS QUINN:** That's where I came in. My latest research into naquadia may hold the answers.

**GEN. O'NEILL:** Please elaborate, Jonas.

**JONAS QUINN:** I have been developing a safer and more stable way to use naquadria as a viable power source.

**COL. CARTER:** Really? That's amazing.

**JONAS QUINN:** As you all know my government will not allow the use of our naquadria powered Stargate in Langara for a rescue mission, but they have allowed me to share the plans so you can construct another facility like our own, for that we need that planet. This alone will increase the probabilities of safely use the Stargate to connect to Destiny. And I have an idea that will make possible ONE return travel from Destiny to Earth. But for that I need help with the calculations. I was hoping you could help, Col. Carter.

**COL. CARTER:** Of course, anything you need. May I ask what your plan is?

**JONAS QUINN:** Well, I was thinking of using your blueprints for the Mark III naquadah generator and make a naquadria generator.

**DANIEL JACKSON:** A naquadria generator?! Isn't that incredible dangerous...

**COL. CARTER:** In one word: Yes. But your advances in naquadah generators have made them incredible safe and powerful. We never tried to use naquadria because of its extremely unstable nature.

**JONAS QUINN:** My work in naquadria stability has made it so that we can use naquadria in a Mark III type generator. I only need to fix a problem with the input-output requirements. That is why I need Col. Carters help.

**COL. CARTER:** I would be glad to help. – *Carter turns to Gen. O'Neill.* - Sir?

**GEN. O'NEILL:** Sure. You have to conduct the research off-world and at the first sign of danger everything stops. We don't want another Langaran incident.

**DANIEL JACKSON:** That's for sure...

**COL. TELFORD:** So what's the point of discussing what to do about the planet if we don't even know if a naquadria generator will work?

**JONAS QUINN:** We only need the generator for the journey back. Even if it doesn't work we still can send supplies to Destiny.

**GEN. LANDRY:** So we need to discuss ways to take control of a heavy fortified and defended planet?

**COL. ELLIS:** I say we attack them with everything we got.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** So it's decided? We are doing this?

**GEN. O'NEILL:** I will not send you all on a suicide mission. Convince me that this is not a suicide mission.

**COL. ELLIS:** This is what I was thinking: We take our entire fleet on a two-way assault. Col. Sheppard said that when Atlantis jumped into orbit they were immediately under fire, so I propose we do it again. Using Atlantis was bait, we draw their force away from the planet, make them chase Atlantis. The shields should hold out long enough for the Apollo, Daedalus, Odyssey, Sun Tzu and the Hammond to attack and destroy them from behind. With their attentions on Atlantis and their backs towards our fleet, I foresee little or no casualties on our side.

**COL. CADWELL:** And we need to scramble their communications so that the Wraith don't call for reinforcement or inform anyone that we have taken the planet.

**GEN. LANDRY:** Not a bad plan but there's only two problems. First: Earth will be completely defenseless with our entire fleet on Pegasus. Second: Your plan uses one of our greatest assets as a decoy, which may end very badly.

**COL. CARTER:** If we take the ZPM from the Odyssey and use it to power up Atlantis shields it may increase our chances of success.

**COL. CADWELL:** Won't the Odyssey need the ZPM?

**COL. CARTER:** Not necessary. Odyssey's ZPM is primarily used so that the hyperspace journey from the Milky Way to Pegasus take less time than it normally would but if we use Atlantis to ferry the ships there, Odyssey can function without it. The ZPM does make the energy based weapons a little

more powerful but in this case I believe that it would be better served powering Atlantis's shield.

**GEN. LANDRY:** That solves one problem. What about leaving Earth defenseless? What if the Lucian Alliance decides to attack again?

**COL. REYNOLDS:** Aren't Atlantis, Daedalus, Apollo, Odyssey and the Hammond enough? I say leave Sun Tzu behind to defend Earth if need be, besides Atlantis can't ferry all the ships.

**TEAL'C:** I will talk to the Jaffa Council and ask them for a couple of Ha'tak Vessels to help the Sun Tzu.

**GEN. O'NEILL:** Do you think that they will help?

**TEAL'C:** Indeed.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Didn't the Lucian Alliance tried to attack Earth already and failed? They would be foolish to try again so soon.

**COL. MITCHELL:** What do you think, sirs? Do we have a go?

**GEN. LANDRY:** I believe it's doable. General O'Neill?

**GEN. O'NEILL:** Yes, you have a go. Provided that the Jaffa Council agrees to help, I will not leave Earth defenseless.

**TEAL'C:** They will, you have my word.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** I should return to Atlantis and inform Mr. Woosley of our plan.

**COL. CADWELL:** Not to mention that Atlantis needs to come back to pick us up.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Right.

Sheppard gets up and salutes everyone again before exiting the room. Soon after that the Stargate was active and Sheppard stepped through the event horizon on his way back to Atlantis.



**DR. ZELENKA:** I have another contact on screen.

**DR. MACKEY:** Where?

**DR. ZELENKA:** On the other side of the planet. It's the Apollo and the rest of the fleet.

**WOOSLEY (SHIPWIDE):** Our people have arrived. All personal, men your posts and prepare to fight back.

**WOOSLEY (ON RADIO):** Col. Sheppard, they are here. You may begin firing.

**COL. SHEPPARD (ON RADIO):** Roger.

**RONON:** What can we do?

**WOOSLEY:** If this works, SG-1 may need your help. Go suit up.

**TEYLA:** Understood, Mr. Woosley.

The Apollo was the first to come out of hyperspace, not far behind were the rest of the Tauri Fleet. The Apollo and the Deadalus targeted the two Hive ships while the Odyssey and the Hammond began their attack run on the Cruisers. The timing had to be perfect; Sheppard fired a 'salvo' of drones at each ship with the purpose of knocking out their communications and their engines in the hopes that the Wraith couldn't maneuver nor call for help. The drones successfully hit the antennas of both the Hive ships but only the second ship had its engines crippled because the drones were intercepted by a wave of Darts, that were launched seconds after Atlantis began to return fire. With the element of surprise on their side, Odyssey and the Hammond had no trouble destroying the first two Cruisers in their path, Wraith Cruisers were no match for the Asgard beam weapons but the remaining Cruisers were now alert to their position and had begun evasive maneuvers, making them a much harder target to hit for both the Odyssey and the Hammond. Sheppard's initial drone 'salvo' had no problem destroying the remaining Cruisers antenna but had little or no effect on the engines. The battlefield

was now split in two battle arenas, on one side there was Atlantis, Apollo and Deadalus against two Hive ships and on the other, Odyssey and the Hammond against three Cruisers. All ships had launched their F-302 fighters and Atlantis her Jumpers, to counter the actions of the Wraith Darts that now occupied the entire battlefield like locusts.

Apollo and the Deadalus had no problem destroying the disabled Hive ship; the Hive already suffered extensive damage when Atlantis fired the drones at her engines and antennas. It took three Asgard beam shots from both the Apollo and the Deadalus to render the Hive completely useless, within a couple minutes the Hive blew up and the shockwave from the explosion helped destroy a few Darts that were close enough. With the rail guns and missile batteries targeted on many remaining Darts, both ships altered course to attack the other Hive ship that was trying to destroy Atlantis since the fight begun.

The Wraith cruisers are not as resilient to the Asgard beam weapons as a Hive ship but due to its increased maneuverability they are very hard to successfully hit with the beam full strength. The Hammond and the Odyssey were locked in a ferocious battle with the three remaining cruisers until the Hammond finally landed a critical hit on one of the cruisers main Dart Bay and a chain reaction caused the ship to enter into an uncontrollable low orbit re-entry and it disintegrated leaving the Hammond free to re-engage the fight and help Odyssey, with little opposition the two ships destroyed the last cruiser with deadly and precise maneuvers. When all the cruisers were destroyed Odyssey stayed behind to assist the F-302s in clearing the skies of the Darts. Meanwhile the Hammond joined Apollo, Deadalus and Atlantis in the fight against the Hive ship; with all four ships against the Hive the fight didn't last long, within minutes the Hive was destroyed. All that remained was the Darts.

Col. Mitchell ordered the Deadalus to approach Atlantis so they could beam Sheppard's team onboard; with all the ships destroyed it was time to sweep the facilities on the planet, Sheppard and his team joined SG-1 for the terrain assault. Atlantis, Apollo and the Hammond joined Odyssey in assisting the F-302 fleet to clear out the Darts.



Col. Sheppard, Mackey, Teyla and Ronon joined Teal'c, Vala and Daniel Jackson on the deck of the Deadalus Bridge for the beam down.

**COL. MITCHELL:** Marks connect me to the Hammond.

**MARKS:** Yes, Sir.

**COL. MITCHELL:** Sam, it's not too late for you to rejoin SG-1 for the ground assault.

**DR. MACKEY:** Yes, Sam. I would love to see you in action.

**RONON:** I bet you would...

**COL. CARTER (OVER RADIO):** I would love to, but there's still a lot of Darts up here.

**COL. MITCHELL:** There's enough fire power between the F-302s and the rest of the ships to clean up the remaining Darts. Last chance, we are about to initiate beam down procedure.

**DANIEL JACKSON:** Come on, Sam for old time sake... Teal'c really misses you.

**TEAL'C:** Indeed.

**VALA MAL DORAN:** Yes, Sam. Come on, we need girl power to counter act all this testosterone. It's just me and Teyla here.

**COL. CARTER (OVER RADIO):** Alright, give me two minutes to suit up.

**MITCHELL:** You can have three.

Col. Mitchell signaled Marks and he connected him to the ships internal communications system.

**COL. MITCHELL (ON RADIO):** We are nearly ready to start the ground assault. I need you here.

**COL. TELFORD (ON RADIO):** On my way.

When Col. Telford came around the corner corridor and made his way to the commanders' chair, Carter was already there and all of them were ready to go. Before he took his seat Telford greeted everyone. It was his first time commanding a Tauri battle cruiser but he felt little or no pressure. The burden of command was nothing new to him.

**COL. TELFORD:** Ready?

**COL. MITCHELL:** Beam us down, Scotty.

Telford lifted both his eyebrows in admiration as he looked at Marks and gave the "go-ahead" nod, Marks replied with a look that said it all: "It's a normal thing." Telford wasn't accustomed to such loose manner while on duty but couldn't really say anything because both Mitchell and he had the same rank and besides he didn't have the time after the bright flash of the beaming technology they were gone.

Mitchell, Carter, Jackson, Teal'c, Vala, Sheppard, Ronon, Teyla and Mackey beamed down with no problems, the structure was not protected against such technology like most of the Wraith spaceships. The place was deserted at least that particular spot, like many other Wraith structures the building was of an organic nature with walls covered in a skin like attire that felt cold and soft to the touch. Sheppard's team was accustomed to such sites but SG-1 (except for Carter) was a little lost and a bit disgusted by the dark and damp atmosphere of the room.

**VALA MAL DORAN:** This is just horrible for my hair.

Everyone just stopped and look at her. She smiled and carried on like it was the most natural thing to say in a situation like that. The rest of SG-1 didn't even mind the quirky comments of Vala it was a normal thing for them, Sheppard's team not so much they looked at each other before continuing:

**COL. SHEPPARD:** We know your way around this kind of structures, I suggest that we search for the power source and destroy it while you guys clean house.

**COL. MITCHELL:** I agree.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Mackey, give them one motion sensor display.

**DR. MACKEY:** Yeah, almost forgot about it. We pack this, figuring that they might come in handy.

Mackey handed one white rectangular motion sensor display to Carter; it had already been initialized by Col. Sheppard so they could operate it. Carter could initialize ancient tech she'd been given the gene therapy while on command of Atlantis but Sheppard didn't know she be involved in the ground operation and felt it was better to be safe than sorry.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** We'll go this way, you go that way. If everything goes right we met here in one hour?

**COL. MITCHELL:** Roger, one hour.

The hallway they beamed in was a three way intersection. To the right there were two corridors, the first was directly ahead of them and it aligned perfectly with the third exit on the other side and about forty degrees to the north of them there was the second corridor. On the wall

facing the second corridor it was a little alcove with the pods that the Wraith usually would store their food in but all of them were empty. Just below their ankle line there was this strange mist that obscured the floor, the walls were dark gray and it looked almost like rock if it wasn't for the reddish skin type material hanging from the ceiling and walls. It looked like someone tried to plaster the walls with this thin red sleeve thing but because there wasn't enough of it they stretched it to the max and it ripped, this was the general look for the entire building.

Sheppard's team took the second corridor and SG-1 the third.

SG-1 was clearing rooms like SOP demanded, like they had done countless times before, but this time the building seemed to be empty not a single bullet had been fired since they had beamed down. The life signs detector seemed to agree with Mitchell assessment, the screen was empty except for them. An uneasy thought was glooming in Mitchell's mind: "Something doesn't feel right." And judging from the look on everyone's face they were all starting to have the same feeling. Especially because the ship's scans detected a high number of life signs on the ground. They were well inside the building when the radio clicked:

**COL. SHEPPARD:** This is Sheppard, have you found anything?

Mitchell was point man, followed closely by Teal'c and neither of them even flinch at the inquiry, so Carter picked up the radio and responded.

**COL. CARTER:** No, we haven't found anything or anyone. The facility seems deserted.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Same here, something definitely isn't right. Where did everyone go?

The conversion was interrupted by a transmission from the Deadalus, it was Telford informing everyone that they had detected a massive launch of Darts from the surface and wanted to know what had they done to cause such a reaction because the sensors hadn't detect anything of major significance on the surface.

**DR. MACKEY:** If they are abandoning the facility that only needs...

Mackey didn't even finish the thought out loud, he quickly grabbed his radio:

**DR. MACKEY (ON RADIO):** They activated the self-destruct; we need to get the hell out of here.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** Are you sure, Rodney?

**DR. MACKEY:** Of course I'm sure.

**COL. CARTER (ON RADIO):** I agree.

**COL. MITCHELL (ON RADIO):** Let's not take any chances; we leave and if nothing happens we can always come back.

**COL. SHEPPARD (ON RADIO):** Okay, let's go... Col. Telford, do you read?

**COL. TELFORD (ON RADIO):** Go ahead.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** We need an immediate extract. We believe that the Wraith have activated the facility self-destruct that's why they are evacuating.

After a brief pause:

**COL. TELFORD (ON RADIO):** Hmm... Wouldn't a self-destruct blast put in jeopardy the planets unstable naquadria core?

**DR. MACKEY:** Oh, God. He's right. We have to stop the self-destruct.

**RONON:** Go, get out. I'll deal with this.

**TEYLA:** No, Ronon. Wait...

Ronon started to run and didn't look back. At the same time on the other side of the compound.

**COL. CARTER:** Oh, God. He's right. We have to stop the self-destruct.

**TEAL'C:** Go, get out. I'll deal with this.

**VALA MAL DORAN:** No, Teal'c. Wait...

Teal'c started to run and didn't look back.

After a while Ronon and Teal'c ran to each other on the search for to the self-destruct, without saying a word Teal'c gave Ronon a nod "lead the way". Ronon was used to the layouts of Wraith facilities from his years as a Runner and then as member of Sheppard's team, the layouts normally didn't vary. After just three wrong rooms they found it.

The room was like many others, a dark moist compartment that off shouted from the main corridor. On the left side of the room was a cabinet groaned right into the wall, there's was nothing in it, the doors had been ripped off presumably because the Wraith were in a hurry. On the right side was a long rectangle wraith console; in the middle sticking out of the console was a roundish wraith type computer, the thin electric membrane that acted as the screen was facing the wall.

**TEAL'C:** Do you know how to disarm it?

**RONON:** Yes.

Ronon raised his gun and point it at the computer. His energy powered 'Travelers' weapon hummed as he turned the setting to deadly. Teal'c cocked his eyebrow and did the same. After they both fired, the self-destruct was deactivated.

**TEAL'C (ON RADIO):** Col. Mitchell, the self-destruct has been deactivated.

**COL. MITCHELL (ON RADIO):** What?! You found it?

**TEAL'C (ON RADIO):** Indeed, with Ronon's help.

**COL. MITCHELL (ON RADIO):** Great job, you two. Get back here and Ronon tell Sheppard to meet up with us.

Ronon informed Col. Sheppard of Col. Mitchell's request and he and Teal'c made their way back to the rendezvous spot. After a few minutes everyone was reunited and accounted for. Mitchell called for the extraction and within seconds they were beamed up and soon Sheppard, Mitchell and the rest of the gang were standing in front of Telford in the Deadalus Bridge.

**COL. TELFORD:** So? How did it go?

**COL. MITCHELL:** The facility is cleared.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** What happened with the Darts?

**COL. TELFORD:** We got them all. Between the Hammond, Apollo, Odyssey and the Deadalus plus the F302s it was easy-pickings.

**COL. CARTER:** Are you still detecting any life signs in the facility?

Telford looks to Marks for the answer.

**MARKS:** No, Sir. No life signs.

**RONON:** Damn... didn't get the chance to kill any Wraith.

**TEAL'C:** Indeed.

**DR. MACKEY:** How about the communications? Did the Wraith managed to send any radio or sub-space messages? Should we prepare for an assault down the line?

**COL. TELFORD:** I was informed by Mr. Woosley and the rest of the Captains that no sub-space communications were detected and that all radio transmissions were successfully scrambled.

**TEYLA:** And I didn't sense any telepathic call for help.

**COL. TELFORD:** Any what?

**COL. CARTER:** Teyla was the ability to tap into the telepathic network that the Wraith use to communicate with each other. – *She smiles at Teyla* – Very useful ability to have on our side.

**COL. SHEPPARD:** So are we in the clear?

**COL. TELFORD:** All reports suggest yes.

**COL. CARTER:** Good, now we can begin.



# Chapter VI

## ᠒᠗᠗᠒:᠒᠒᠒ ᠒᠒

As Jonas Quinn tell the tale of how he and his men arrived on Destiny. The crew eyes begin to light up and a glimmer of hope was now clearly visible in everyone, everyone but Rush who maintained his septic look as he listen to every detail trying to picture the events in his mind. If everything that Jonas had told was true then it was very possible that they could return home. A murmur between the crew had started, it was but a whisper heard between Jonas words.

**JONAS QUINN:** After the Wraith structure was carefully demolished, construction of our facility began. It took a bit of time but in the end we managed to get the facility and the Stargate operational and a couple of months after that, we initiated Operation Long Retrieval: And were we are.

**DR. RUSH:** How stable is the planet? I mean, the last two times that a dial-in to Destiny was attempted both planets exploded and both had an enriched naquadria core. So?! How sure are you, that didn't happened this time.

**JONAS QUINN:** First, we are sure. We used the stones to report back soon after we arrived on Destiny. Second, the planet is very stable but we can't dial-in at any time. The scientists back in Stargate Command have come to the conclusion that for the planet's core to fully recover from the energy extraction; a Destiny dial-in can only be done once every six months and no longer than 30 to 40 seconds at the time. I know it seems a low number but it's enough to act as a life-line for the people on board.

**DR. RUSH:** Excuse me, one more question. With the time that passed since the discovery of the naquadria core, the planning, the assault on the planet, the demolitions and the construction of the facility and not to mention that there wasn't a Stargate on M4S-781, there's only one question of significant importance... How long have we been in hibernation?

Everyone got really quiet and turned to Jonas.

**JONAS QUINN:** Well... you all knew the chances were slim, to say the least, when you entered the hibernation pods and...

**COL. YOUNG:** Stop stalling and answer the man, please.

**JONAS QUINN:** Seven years.

A loud "What?" was spoken simultaneously by everyone. The hope that had begun to grow in the crew minds as they heard Jonas' tale of what happened, was crushed and replaced by a shared state of disbelief.

**COL. YOUNG:** How in the hell did that happen? Eli? – *He looks around.* – Eli where are you?

**CHLOE:** That is what I was trying to tell everyone before Mr. Quinn started talking, I can't find Eli anywhere.

**LT. SCOTT:** What do you mean, anywhere?!

**CHLOE:** Look around he isn't here. No one has seen him.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** Calm down, Chloe. There must be an explanation.

**DR. RUSH:** I'm sure there's an explanation but that doesn't mean that you'll like it.

**COL. YOUNG:** Rush, head up to the bridge and see if you can find any signs of Eli on the ship or if any of the hibernation pods are still active. – *Rush didn't reply, he just turned around and head to the bridge.*  
- In the meantime: Dr. Volker, Dr. Brody and Dr. Park go and see if you can find a reason as to why we took seven years to make the jump between galaxies. Everyone else go do the rounds and make a stock of our supplies.

Lt. James took the rest of the military personal and went to inspect the ship while Wray and the civilians went to the kitchen area to make an assessment of the food and water. Varro looked at T.J. and smiled as he walked away with Wray, she smiled back while walking with James. Col. Young made his way to Jonas Quinn; Chloe, Scott and Greer went with him.

**JONAS QUINN:** Who's Eli?

**COL. YOUNG:** He's our designated brilliant kid.

**JONAS QUINN:** You mean "Math Boy"?

**LT. SCOTT:** Yes. – *He answered with a little smile in his face.* – Just don't call him that, not in front of him unless he says it first which most likely he will.

**JONAS QUINN:** I was looking forward to meet him. Dr. Mackey spooked very highly of him.

**COL. YOUNG:** He did? Not very 'Mackey' of him...

**JONAS QUINN:** No doubt, that was what made me more interested in meeting Eli. If you need any help, me and my men are at your service.

**COL. YOUNG:** Thank you, much appreciated.

**CHLOE:** Yes, thank you. And thank you for risking your life in coming here, trying to save ours.

**LT. SCOTT:** How exactly are you doing that?

**JONAS QUINN:** We have in our possession a Mark IV Naquadria Generator that will provide enough energy for one return trip back to the Pegasus Galaxy.

**COL. YOUNG:** Why Pegasus? Why not Earth?

**JONAS QUINN:** The initially plan was to gate you all directly to earth but soon we realized that the power requirements were astronomical and the energy from both the generator and Destiny wasn't enough or at least not enough for a stable connection. So we calculated that a smaller jump would increase the odds of success and since Pegasus is the nearest galaxy with a direct pipeline to Earth it was the obvious choice.

**COL. YOUNG:** Makes sense, in Pegasus it's fairly easy to get to Atlantis and then to Earth.

**JONAS QUINN:** That's the plan.

**COL. YOUNG:** I hope you realize that we aren't going anywhere until we find Eli.

**JONAS QUINN:** Of course. When we made this voyage we expected to stay here a while, if needed be.

**LT. SCOTT:** I imagine you will need some help to install the generator.

**JONAS QUINN:** Actually we don't need any help; we arrived a few hours before you woke up. The generator is hooked up and ready to go.

**CHLOE:** When you were walking around the ship, did you notice any sign of Eli or any sign of what might've happened to him?

**JONAS QUINN:** No, the place looked deserted and clean.

**DR. RUSH (ON RADIO):** Col. Young, no signs of Eli and there are no hibernation pods active. But I found one thing; Eli never fixed the last pod.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Without that pod, most likely his dead.

**CHLOE:** He can't be dead. Where's the body?

**DR. RUSH (ON RADIO):** Don't think so, where's his body?

**DR. PARK (ON RADIO):** Sir, we found out what happened to Eli, can you come here to the bridge?

**COL. YOUNG:** On our way.

Jonas men stayed in the Observation Deck as he followed Col. Young, Scott, Greer and Chloe to the bridge. Once there, Park explained what she, Volker and Brody encountered in the ship logs. Before Destiny left the previous galaxy she dropped out of FTL and a very brief outgoing Gate connection was made. All evidence pointed that Eli, on his own free will, left Destiny and stayed behind. While they were discussing for what reasons Eli chose to leave Destiny, James and Wray walked in and informed Col. Young that the ship was in the same condition as always and that the food and water were good and it would last for about one month. Both of them were informed of the situation by Col. Young.

**WRAY:** What are we going to do about this?

**DR. VOLKER:** What can we do? He's on another galaxy.

**DR. RUSH:** We left on his own free will. There's nothing to do.

**CHLOE:** We can't leave him behind.

**DR. RUSH:** What do you suggest we do, Chloe?

**CHLOE:** We can use the generator that Mr. Quinn brought and go get him.

**JONAS QUINN:** That generator can only be used once; if you do this you will be condemning everyone here.

**DR. RUSH:** We didn't have any right to stop Dr. Caine and his friends from staying behind and we still have no right to stop Eli. He chose to leave, there is nothing to do. I understand that the situation is hard to accept but you really need to.

**COL. YOUNG:** He's right. Even if we use the generator to dial the planet he gated to, he may not be there. He may have gated to another it's been seven years who's to tell where he is now.

**LT. SCOTT:** The Colonel is right, Chloe. There's nothing we can do. You have to believe that he is in a better place, for good or for worse.

**DR. BRODY:** Anybody else felling a bit groggy?

**JONAS QUINN:** Its normal, Col. Carter and Dr. Mackey suspected that you may suffer from some kind of hibernation sickness; after all you spent seven years in hibernation. It's going to sound like a joke but you all need some sleep. Let your bodies adjust themselves.

**COL. YOUNG:** You heard the man. I'm ordering an obligatory bunk time for all personal, military and civilian. We will continue this discussion tomorrow.

Col. Young picked up his radio and informed everyone that they were to drop all non-essential affairs and report to their rooms for an obligatory sleep. Everyone got up and went to their rooms.

# Chapter VII

## ᠒᠗᠗᠒:᠗᠒᠒ ᠑᠑

Destiny was parked in the same place since she dropped out of FTL, Rush told Destiny to wait until the engines were fully recuperated from the long jump between galaxies. The crew had to rest from the hibernation and they still had to deal with Jonas Quinn's team, so Young and Rush both agreed that they shouldn't move until the situation was resolved. Rush also instructed the four-legged droids to effect repairs, where needed, while the crew slept and the FTL engines rested.

The next day, after they all had a good long night sleep, the crew and Jonas men met on the Observation Deck after breakfast to discuss the next step in the plan to bring them home. Everyone was there, they all look much better except for Chloe, the thought of losing Eli weighed heavily on her face. Jonas got up when Col. Young gave him a nod to start because everyone was present and account for:

**JONAS QUINN:** Hello, everyone. For those that weren't here yesterday or didn't catch every detail, the SGC now has a fully working facility that will provide a constant supply of food, water and medication for Destiny. My men and I used that facility to get here and have in our possession a Naquadria Generator that has enough power for one return trip back to the Pegasus Galaxy; from there you can get a ride to Earth.

**COL. YOUNG:** We had this conversation before, Destiny's mission is still of the utmost importance so now we have to decide who goes back and who wants to stay and carry out the mission. While

those who stay will have the support of the SGC via the Naquadria Facility back on Pegasus it must be said that this may be the only chance we will ever get of going home. The decisions made last time are null and I will give everyone a chance to decide again either you want to go or stay.

Rush got up but didn't speak until the Colonel gave him permission.

**DR. RUSH:** Nothing has changed. In fact, far as I see it, the conditions have improved. I still believe that Destiny's mission is the most important undertaking mankind has ever initiated, for that reason I'm staying. We may have ended up on this ship by accident but we are not here by chance. If any of you agree with me in any way, I encourage you to stay and help Destiny fulfill her mission, Thanks.

**COL. YOUNG:** I too will stay. But I feel that it's my duty to remind you all that the speech that Col. Telford made last time was not without its validations. On one hand; this ship is old and she may not last long enough to complete the mission, on the other hand; the mission, Destiny's mission is truly important for all of mankind. And who's to tell the wonders we still have installed for us but one thing is for sure life will not be easy here even with the full support of the SGC.

Rush got back up and without saying a word walked behind Col. Young. Greer was sitting next to Dr. Park with his arm around her shoulder, he gently turned his head and whispered something in her ear, she smiled and nodded and they both got up and got behind Rush. Brody also got up right after Greer and Park and he too got behind Col. Young, Rush thanked him with a nod as he walked past him. TJ got up but didn't move, it was obvious that she was weighing in the pros and cos. Finally she looked and Col. Young and then at Varro smiled and started walking, she took just two or three



steps when Varro stood up and followed her, they were staying. Chloe and Scott followed them. Wray and Volker stood up at the same time, she started to walk but Volker just stood there looking out through the giant glassed window of the Observation Deck. His expression was so heavy that everyone looked at him, without taking his eyes of the glass he raises his arm and points outward into space:

**DR. VOLKER:** What is that?

Everyone turned around to see what it was that he was seeing; they just stood there no one spoke for a few minutes, whatever it was it was getting bigger.

**COL. YOUNG:** Bridge Crew with me.

Scott, Volker, Brody and Rush followed Col. Young. Greer took Park's hand and placed it on Varro's arm, he nodded and Greer took off running after Col. Young. Jonas and the rest of the crew stayed behind looking out into space.

After a few minutes they were all on Destiny's Bridge. Col. Young sat on the "captain's" chair while everyone took their usual places: On the first console was Volker, Eli's console was empty so Rush took Eli's place; since Park had been stroked blind Brody had been using her console, next to Brody was Scott and Greer in the last two consoles.

**COL. YOUNG:** Talk to me, what are we dealing with?

**DR. VOLKER:** Well, sir. It looks like a ship of some kind.

**LT. SCOTT:** Already?! We just arrived in this galaxy and we already have enemies?

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** Weapons at the ready, sir.

**DR. BRODY:** The ship design is somewhat familiar...

**DR. RUSH:** He's right, looks like a seed ship.

**COL. YOUNG:** Is that possible?

**DR. VOLKER:** Err... sir?! We are being hailed, audio only.

Young looked at Rush, they were both a bit surprised.

**COL. YOUNG:** On speakers.

Volker hit the button and the speakers activated. For a few seconds there was nothing but static. Scott, Greer, Volker, Brody and Rush turned their chairs towards Col. Young and waited for a sign from the mysterious ship.

**ON SPEAKER:** Hello, is this thing on?? We came in peace. Always wanted to say that...

No one spoke, they were all dumbfounded and speechless.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Eli?!

**ELI (ON RADIO):** Hello, Col. Young nice to hear your voice, Sir.

**COL. YOUNG:** Err... Is that really you? How?!

**ELI (ON RADIO):** All in good time, request permission to come aboard, Sir.

Col. Young pressed a button on his semi-circular console to mute the microphone on his side.

**COL. YOUNG:** Can this be a trick? How sure are we that it's really Eli?

Rush turned his chair back toward the console and pushed a few buttons.

**DR. RUSH:** The transmission is coming from the ship "in real time", it looks real.

After Rush's confirmation, Col. Young repressed the mute button, effectively turn on the microphone.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Permission granted.

**ELI (ON RADIO):** Okay, see you soon. Boy, do I have a story to tell you guys.

**COL. YOUNG (INTERNAL P.A.):** Security Team to the Dock Airlock.

Young got up and left the Bridge, they all followed him. On their way to the airlock Young, Scott, Greer, Volker, Brody and Rush passed the rest of the crew, they still were in the Observation Deck. Scott stayed behind to explain what they knew to the rest of the crew. The ship was apparently friendly and all indications pointed to the fact that Eli was alive and on that ship, they were on the way to the airlock to meet up with him. Hearing those words Chloe and Camille left the group and followed Young. Scott signaled Jonas to follow him and asked everyone else to stay there.

When Scott and Jonas arrived everyone was in position behind the Security Team, the space was

tight for all those people but they were all so focused on the other side of the door that no one complained. The Security Team had formed an inverted triangular in front of the door, Col. Young was in the top center of the manmade triangular, his right hand was resting in his side arm. After a metal “chimed” the door opened, the Security Team raised their guns, and from the other side came Eli. It was weird to see Eli; he finally had gotten rid of his red “you are here” shirt. He had lost some weight, not a lot but it was noticeable. Eli was wearing a Descendant type uniform, judging from what the rest of the men behind him were wearing. The jacket vest was dark brown, underneath the vest Eli wore a long sleeve black shirt, the shirt sported a flag of some kind on the shoulder pad, the pants were black but had a short triangular shaped skirt over the left side of the pants, which was where the men had their empty holsters and Eli had nothing, he refused to carry a weapon. To finish the uniform the boots were dark brown like the jacket vest.

**ELI:** “Lucy, I’m home!”

**COL. YOUNG:** I’m not Lucy.

**ELI:** Really?! I must’ve made a wrong turn somewhere. – *He raised his arms while he smiled at his own joke.* – I mean you no harm, another thing I always wanted to say.

**CHLOE:** Is that really you, Eli?

**ELI:** Of course it’s me.

**COL. YOUNG:** Prove it?

**ELI:** How do I do that exactly?!

**DR. RUSH:** It’s him.

Eli gave him a look: “really?!” Young instructed the men to lower their weapons. Eli stepped inside

Destiny for the first time in seven years. Chloe passed through everyone and hugged him intensely he hugged her back, after that Eli raise his arm and shook Young's hand. Eli then took turns and greeted everyone on the room even the Security Team until he got to Jonas.

**ELI:** Who the hell are you?!

**JONAS QUINN:** I'm Jonas Quinn. I'm a former member of SG1 and I've came here to help you all get home.

**ELI:** What?!

**WRAY:** You are not the only one with an awesome story to tell.

**ELI:** Okay?! Oh, and don't mind them – *He pointed to the people behind him.* – They are with me.

Col. Young ordered everyone to the Observation Deck for another round of storytelling. When Eli entered the Deck everyone got up and greeted him. Varro accompanied TJ while she waited for everyone else to settle back down before walking up to Eli, TJ gave him a big hug and Varro gave him a friendly tap on the shoulder. Eli had a big smile when we greeted T.J.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** What is it?

**ELI:** I'll tell you in a bit.

**COL. YOUNG:** Any time, Eli.

**ELI:** Okay, everyone take a seat. I've got one hell of a story to tell you. – *He waited a few minutes before continuing.* – So last we saw each other you all got into the hibernation pods and I was left with three weeks to fix the last pod and join you in the galaxy jump. Well, that didn't happen. By the end of the first week I realized that I couldn't fix the pod, I hadn't enough materials, so I devised a new plan.

**DR. RUSH:** And in the process condemned us to seven years of hibernation.

**ELI:** What?!

**CHLOE:** We only came out of hibernation a couple of days ago.

**ELI:** I'm so sorry...

**COL. YOUNG:** We will discuss that later. Now finish your story, Eli.

**ELI:** So, there I was alone on Destiny almost at the end of the galaxy and with no way to fix the pod and save myself. So I made some calculation on the power reserves and the math worked out, I can't believe you spent seven years in hibernation...

**DR. RUSH:** Focus, Eli.

**ELI:** Right. After I did all the calculations I had enough energy for a 20 second power usage. I took into consideration that I had to drop the ship out of FTL and that Destiny still needed enough power to jump back into FTL and finish the jump. So I prepared everything down to the last second, my plan was to activate the gate and send a subspace message to our descendants. – *He points at the men that came with him from the other ship.* – The Gate activation and travel would use up 15 seconds and the transmission would use the rest. The message I sent was simple, "come and get me". The energy from the life-support and minimal systems that the ship reserved aside for my three weeks window would be enough for everything. I don't know what went wrong...

**COL. YOUNG:** Eli!!

**ELI:** Sorry... Before I left I copied everything that Destiny had on FTL Engines from the database and everything else I could find to help me complete my plan. I prepped everything: food, water, clothes,

medical supplies, a gate remote, the data drive with the info and a tent that I made. After all I didn't know if they would come for me or how long it would take them. And finding the planet was no easy task, it needed to be in range of Destiny but not too far or it would waste more energy and it needed to be close enough for the subspace message to reach the Descendants.

Eli took a deep breath before continuing.

**ELI:** So I finally found the perfect planet. Had all the supplies on a very big backpack, because I figure that when I activated the gate and went through the Drone would detect the gate activation and would come to investigate. Everything was set all the "T's" were crossed and all the "I's" dotted.

**DR. RUSH:** Apparently not.

**LT. SCOTT:** Let him finish.

**ELI:** Thanks. I activated the gate and sent the message and ran like hell. As soon as I arrived on the other side the gate shut down and I ran for the hills I tried to get as much distance from the gate as I could before the Drones arrived.

**DR. BRODY:** How did you know that the planet was viable?

**ELI:** Tell you the truth I didn't thought of that until I was on the planet.

**DR. RUSH:** Another mistake...

**COL. YOUNG:** That's enough, Rush.

**ELI:** Comes without saying that the Drones didn't found me. So I set up camp far from the gate but in a direct line of sight so I could see when the Descendants arrived. I lived on that planet for three months before they finally got there. Luckily the

planet wasn't that bad at night, it would on occasion get a bit cold but it was acceptable, it had to be.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** I'm impressed, Eli. Three month alone in an alien planet. Didn't think you had it in you.

**ELI:** Thanks, I guess. After they arrived by gate, we made our way back to their new home planet Novus Sperus, it means A New Hope.

**DR. VOLKER:** A New Hope, really?!

**ELI:** I know, right!

**LT. SCOTT:** What are you talking about?

**DR. VOLKER:** A New Hope is the name of Episode IV of the Star Wars Saga.

**COL. YOUNG:** Can we get back on the subject at hand?

**ELI:** Sorry, where was I? Oh... Yes, we made our way back. And let me tell you, that wasn't easy for the longest time we had to travel and hide, travel and hide. Only when we were sure that we arrived in a planet that had no Drone presence we could dial Novus Sperus directly. It took a few weeks but at least I wasn't alone anymore. When I arrived I was greeted like a returning hero, it was a nice feeling. After I told the Sperunian government (the ruling body of Novus Sperus) what had happen to you, they immediately made available to me all of their research and resources.

**DR. RUSH:** What was your plan anyway?

**ELI:** Glad you asked. I believe it was a stroke of genius. My plan was to take the FTL research from Destiny and use it as a base to create a hyperspace engine. With Destiny's database research into faster than light travel and the advance knowledge of our Descendants I believed it was possible. And it was but with a little help from the Drones, I'll explain later. So, after about five years of work my team and I did it, we created a working hyperspace



engine. Actually it was two engines, because while we worked on the engines two ships were built. One was built with the single purpose of finding Destiny, I named her 'Fortunus' it means "Fate".

**COL. YOUNG:** Why Fate?

**ELI:** What follows Destiny? – *Eli responded with a smile, like it was a very clever name.* - The second ship was named 'Inquirus' it means "to search for" and her mission was to find the last people to leave old Novus, since those ships didn't have any hyperspace capability it would take them a long time to get to Novus Sperus. I spent the bigger part of the last two years looking for you.

**CHLOE:** Why did it take so long to find us?

**ELI:** I manage to copy Destiny's flight plan, provided by the seed ships, but I didn't took into account that you would take seven years to make the jump. So we have been jumping along Destiny's pre-programmed flight plan for two years. Thank god you stopped after the jump.

**COL. YOUNG:** That was thanks to Jonas Quinn.

**ELI:** Right the former SG1 member, who mysteriously is on board Destiny...

**COL. YOUNG:** We will get to that. So you have hyperspace engines technology now? Can that help us in anyway?

**ELI:** Not really, the distance is so immensely big that hyperspace travel isn't really an option; our somewhat direct line to Novus Sperus will one day be nonviable because of the time that takes to make the journey back and forth even in hyperspace. That's the bad news.

**CHLOE:** You have good news?

**ELI:** Oh, indeed! Because it took us this long to find you, Inquirus has found the last of the Novus people.

**CHLOE:** What does that mean?

Eli put his hand on his pocket and took out a little Novus data drive and held it in front for everyone to see.

**COL. YOUNG:** What is that?

**ELI:** Within this data drive is the cure for ALS and how to mend and fix burned corneas, among other things.

A tear started to roll down T.J.'s face when she heard Eli's revelation. She got up and walked to him, she couldn't hold the tears anymore, when she hugged Eli she was crying and sobbing. T.J.'s emotion state made most women tear up, even Lt. James. Varro helped Park get near Eli, so she's could thank him, she was crying too. Col. Young walked past Eli and thanked Eli's men from the *Fortunus*, in his eyes we could see that he was truly touched by the news. Scott did the same. Greer put his rifle away and went over to Eli; he thanked him and took Lisa's arm. Varro then pulled T.J. from Eli's arms; she turned away from Eli only to hug Varro. As both of them backed away from Eli, Varro thanked him with a nod. Eli had a big smile on his face, he never felt so good with himself.

**ELI:** That's all I have to tell, now will someone tell me what's going on with Mr. Jonas Quinn over here. – *Turning to Jonas.* – How did you get on board?

Jonas came close to Eli and started to tell the tale of how he and his men got to be on board *Destiny*. Eli listen with a slightly look of wonder, people started to leave the Observation Deck when Jonas began telling the same tale he told them and soon only Eli and Jonas where on the Deck. After Eli was brought to speed on all information by Jonas they both headed to the Bridge, Eli had one thing to ask the Colonel.

# Chapter VIII

## ᠒᠗᠗᠒:᠗᠗᠗᠒ ᠑᠒᠒᠒

When Eli entered the Bridge he soon realized that there was no empty sit for him, he had been replaced but deep down it didn't bothered him, he was glad to be there. For a brief moment, about a year back, he almost lost hope of finding the ship and his friends. Now he had been reunited with his family and friends he truly felt at home.

The Bridge Crew was all there. Jonas stayed on the railing up near the entrance while Eli went down to the middle of the Bridge; he cleared his throat before he started to talk:

**ELI:** I didn't spend all this time looking for Destiny just to find you.

**COL. YOUNG:** What are you talking about, Eli?

**ELI:** Our descendants need our help.

**DR. RUSH:** Look at the state of this ship and of its crew, do we look like we are in a position to help anyone?

**ELI:** When we helped the Ursini, where we any better? And they are our descendants. We can't refuse them, can we?

**COL. YOUNG:** What do they need us for?

**ELI:** As you all know, their galaxy is plagued by the Drones; even we suffered the Drones wrath. – *Eli used the quote/unquote sign for wrath.* – They need our help to stop the Drones permanently.

**LT. SCOTT:** How?

**ELI:** In the coming years after I got there we fought long battles with them, I was able to gather more and more information with each encounter. Using the Friend or Foe technique that we used in Destiny's last big battle with the Drone Fleet I was able to disable and board a Drone Command Ship, that's when I copied some part of the Drone's hyperspace technology to advance my team's work. Although they are unmanned and completely automated the Command Ship where designed to carry occupants if needed be. I since discovered who build them and why. They were a race of humanoid beings that were about 1,5m tall. The size reminded me of hobbits from the Lord of the Rings and everyone knows that another name for hobbits is Halfling so I called this race the Lings...

**DR. RUSH:** Halflings, of course.

The tone on Rush's voice as clear, he was making fun of Eli. But Eli didn't care one bit.

**ELI:** Inside the Command Ship I discovered many things. I discovered that although the Command Ships don't communicate with each other they do communicate via sub-space with a core computer on the Lings Home World, but we will get back to that. I also discovered a little of their story and I've deduced the rest. So the Lings where a small race, and like the hobbits they lived a simple life but unlike the hobbit they had simple and uneventful lives because of their technology, they were very advance. A few hundred years ago they were invaded by an unknown enemy and because of their small size or because they had little experience in warfare they soon found themselves on the verge of extinction. In the last attempt of survival they created the Drones and programmed them to destroy all advance technology, because in their minds if a race was advanced enough for space travel they were advance enough to invade them. With one bold plan they ensured that they would win the war and prevent the same thing from

happening again. Now either the plan failed and they were destroyed or the plan worked and they are still safe in their Home World.

**COL. YOUNG:** Why do you say that?

**DR. RUSH:** Because if they were destroyed then there was no one left to turn the Drones off or they are safe in their Home World while the Drones destroy every potential treat out there.

**ELI:** What he said. But I am inclined to believe the latter.

**COL. YOUNG:** Why?

**ELI:** Because I discovered another thing when we captured a second Command Ship. Using the sub-space connection of the Command Ship I was able to pin-point the origin of the core computer. The Lings Home World isn't on the previously galaxy, it's on this one. And why would the Drones spread outside the core galaxy?

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** Because they ran out of enemies to destroy.

**ELI:** Exactly.

**DR. RUSH:** It's possible but it's also possible that the Lings, as you called them, simply didn't care and didn't bother to keep the Command Ships in check.

**COL. YOUNG:** Regardless of the reasons the Lings did what they did; I still don't see what our descendents want from us.

**ELI:** They want us to help them reach the Lings Home World and disconnect the core computer, presumably it contains the shutdown command and because all Command Ships are connected to that core computer, we would in fact turn off all Drones everywhere.

**LT. SCOTT:** Why do they need us? Don't they have ships with hyperspace travel? They would get there a lot faster than us.

**ELI:** Yes, but Destiny's weapons are a lot more powerful than anything they have, not to mention the shields.

**DR. BRODY:** But they must have shields, otherwise all hyperspace travel would be fatal.

**ELI:** Yes, again Destiny's shield is a lot better than anything they have. Look I didn't think that far ahead when I copied all that information from Destiny, I only copied stuff about the engines.

**DR. BRODY:** Aren't they supposed to be more advanced than us? How come that Destiny has better weapons and shields? This ship is freaking old...

**ELI:** Their society never needed better weapons or better shields, they were a peaceful civilization. Even when the "Font People" left – *Eli had a little smile when he said "Font People"; Volker immediately understood the joke and laughed out loud.* – They did it peacefully.

**LT. SCOTT:** Font people?!

**ELI:** Yes, Brody's nation: Futura.

**DR. BRODY:** What's wrong with Futura?

**DR. VOLKER:** Dude, it's the name of a Font...

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** Not to burst your bubble Eli but didn't the Tenarans and Futurans weighed war with nuclear weapons?

Everybody stopped teasing Brody over what his other-self had done and returned to a more serious tone.

**ELI:** Yes, but that cold war was the only act of violence in Novus history and when they realized that the planet was in self-destruct mode they came together. Anyway until that point they never

needed any type of space-faring technology because they used the Gates for everything. My guess would be that they never even thought about it until they had too, and by then it was too late.

**COL. YOUNG:** Back to the part that they need us, basically they want us to be a decoy and provide cover fire when we arrive at the Ling's Home World.

**ELI:** Yes, basically.

They argued a long time about what to do, help the Descendants or not. In one hand they had a very viable plan from Jonas to return to Earth, and a lot of people wanted that but in the other hand they had the Descendants plea for help. In the end they all agreed that they had to help them. The Descendants had done a lot for the crew in the past, directly or indirectly, the final understanding was that the Crew "own one" to the Descendants, Destiny was going to help the Descendants get to the Ling Home World. And a plan was envisioned. Both ships would go to the planet together and while Destiny provided a large target decoy the Descendants ship would go to the planet and try to find the central computer.

All arrangements had been made; Chloe helped with the FTL calculations so that their jump would coincide with the hyperspace jump of the Descendants ship. Everything had to be prepared before the journey, because they figured that when they arrived at the Ling's Home World, they would be immediately under fire and they had to be prepared the best they could. The journey in FLT took around two weeks; in that time Col. Young had the crew run a lot of drills and simulations, in every other battle that Destiny had been involved they were always caught off guard and he made it very clear from the beginning that that wouldn't happen this time.

During that time T.J. went through the medical studies that Eli had brought from the Descendants, trying to figure out what she needed to heal her

ALS and fix Park's blindness. She and Park spent most of their days in the infirmary working on the problem. Varro was with them, he helped Park get around the ship while Greer was on duty. He and Greer had starting developing a friendship of mutual respect, besides it was a good way to spend some time with T.J.

Eli was in his old bunk; since he returned to Destiny he had been sleeping in his is old room again. He was having the most relaxing dream about Ginn when the radio chimed and Col. Young's voice woke him up:

**COL. YOUNG:** Eli?! Are you there? We are about to exit FTL, I need you here on the bridge.

**ELI:** Wha?!... Oh... Yes, sir. I'm on my way.

Eli was still a bit sleepy when he made his way up to the bridge but by the time he got there the feeling had worn off. Everyone was already on the bridge including Jonas Quinn and Chloe. Col. Young was in the captain's chair with Rush standing on the right side of the console, he had a very relaxing pose with his right arm over the railing of the console and his feet were crossed. Chloe and Jonas Quinn were standing in the middle upper part of the bridge after the door. Volker, Brody and Greer were seated in the three main consoles and Scott was on the secondary console on the right just behind the captain's chair; the left chair was empty. Eli greeted everyone with a broaden "Hi" and took his seat. Col. Young signed to Brody to turn on the ship wide P.A., Brody pushed the button.

**COL. YOUNG (ON P.A.):** We are about to exit FTL and will be in the vicinity of the Ling's Home World. As you know we may be under fire immediately after exiting FLT. You all know what to do, remember the training and the simulations and everything will be fine. All hands, man your battle stations!



**DR. RUSH:** Let's just hope that the Descendants Ship will be there.

**CHLOE:** They will. Have I ever missed a FTL calculation?

**DR. BRODY:** There's always a first time.

Everyone looked at Brody...

**DR. BRODY:** What?!

# Chapter IX

## ᠒᠗᠗᠒:᠒᠒᠒ ᠒᠒

An unexpected thing happened when Destiny exited FTL, nothing. Nothing happened; the Descendant's ship was in front of them a few thousand miles away, they were intact. Both ships jumped and were met with no resistance, no Drone presence of any kind and there was no other type of planetary defences anywhere. The only thing that was there was a massive debris field all around the planet, at some points in orbit it was visible chunks of debris starting re-entry and crashing into the planet. Everything looked extremely dead.

**COL. YOUNG:** I want an intense scan of the entire area, the drones have fooled us with this tactic once before.

Rush headed towards Brody's console he wanted to help, Rush called it help, Brody called it "taking over". Rush started to press a few buttons and a lot of information began to be displayed in the small console screen. Brody rapidly found himself being pushed aside by Rush so he could sit in the chair. Brody was becoming accustomed to that kind of behaviour from Rush, they all were, the crew tried not to take offense by that. It wasn't easy.

**DR. RUSH:** We are alone. No life-signs no energy readings, nothing.

**COL. YOUNG:** And on the planet?

**DR. VOLKER:** There's too much debris, the magnetic field from the debris is messing with the surface sensors.

**COL. YOUNG:** Dr. Brody, take us closer to the planet and inform the Descendants that we are about to go down there. Boarding Party, it's time to meet the Lings.

**DR. BRODY:** When you get down there you may not be able to contact us. If the magnetic field is strong enough to scramble Destiny's sensor it most likely will be strong enough to scramble our radios.

**DR. VOLKER:** He's right.

Col. Young acknowledged and got up off the commander's chair, turned around and exited the Bridge. Brody tapped Rush's shoulder so he would move out of his chair, Rush complied without saying a word. By the time Brody swung his chair around so he could do what Col. Young asked, Rush had already sat in the captain's chair and Eli, Chloe, Scott and Greer had left with Col. Young, they were the Boarding Party. Jonas asked if he could take one of the empty chairs, Rushed acknowledged. The only people left on the Bridge were Rush, Brody, Volker and Jonas Quinn.

Col. Young, Scott, Greer, Chloe and Eli made their way to the shuttle they were going to use it to get down to the planet. When they got there Greer pressed the large round button that operated the bulkhead doors. The large door opened and they went in. Col. Young sat on the right next to the pilot chair, which was Scott's seat and Greer sat on the left so he could operate the weapons, like many times before. Eli and Chloe both sat on the passenger area, one on each side. After getting the "all clear" from Rush the shuttle took off.

Destiny's shuttle and two of the Descendants shuttles met halfway to the planet. The plan was: after they got clear of the debris field and the interference they would determine the most likely place for the location of the central computer and

make their way there. They found four possible locations from the planet-wide scan. Each of the shuttles was assigned a location; if they didn't find anything all three would converge on the last unassigned place and run the sweep together.

Scott guided the shuttle to their assigned location. From the air it was clear to everyone inside that the Ling Civilization was gone, the whole thing was reminiscing of the first time they arrived at Novus; from what they could see most of the erected structures were intact but not a soul could be seen, at least not from the shuttle.

**COL. YOUNG:** There.

Col. Young was pointing to a square of some kind, it had enough open space so Scott could land the shuttle and it wasn't all that far from the structure that they had identified from the energy reading in low orbit as the possible location. Scott made his way to the place that Col. Young had indicated and he landed the shuttle with no problem.

Greer was the first to get out of the shuttle, weapon drawn, followed by Col. Young and then Eli, Chloe and finally Scott. Eli and Chloe were between Col. Young and Scott for protection. Immediately off the shuttle Col. Young tested the communication, it looked like Brody was right they couldn't communicate with Destiny. They made their way outwards away from the shuttle, Eli and Chloe were admiring the landscape while Col. Young, Scott and especially Greer were maintaining a watchful eye on their surroundings. The lay of the land felt awkward; after all they were on an alien planet, the buildings weren't very tall. Eli assumed it was because the Lings were hobbits size creatures. No building was taller than two storeys, at least it was what they would perceive as two storeys but the grand majority was just one storey tall. All buildings, all structures, all accesses everything was made in a type of material that

resembled clay at least in colour. It gave the city a very dry and brownish colour; it was like walking inside a maquette. There were no beautifications of any kind. The way that the city was designed was like nothing that they had ever seen before and it didn't make much sense but they were looking at a very old and very alien city. The buildings had no order to them, almost looked like that the Ling's build a structure where ever there was room enough for it, some of the erected building were not build straight up some of them were, for a lack of a better word, crooked. It made no sense, what could be the purpose of that design... Because of the lay of the land, they didn't had a direct line-of-sight big enough to see what was up ahead, and that made Greer very uncomfortable he kept all of his focus on scanning for any possible threats. The roads just followed the structures with no apparent order or purpose, made it very hard to keep going forward. Greer raised his closed fist; it was a sign to stop.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** Sir, I have the feeling that we are walking in circles.

**ELI:** Can we walk in circles in this place?!

Greer looked at him but didn't reply.

**COL. YOUNG:** I think you're right, Sergeant.

**CHLOE:** Does anyone have a marker, we can write on the walls.

Everyone went through their own pockets; no one had any marker or pens. Greer un-shouldered his weapon, a standard HK G-36 assault rifle, and bang it against a nearby wall. The clay like material was very resistance but a piece broke off, Greer picked it up and hand it to Eli. The material seemed to lose it's resistance when out of the wall, because it came apart in Eli's hands with little effort; it looked like sand glued together.

**ELI:** Weird. How the hell did they do this?!

**LT. SCOTT:** Doesn't matter. We now have a way to mark our path.

**COL. YOUNG:** Carry on, Sergeant.

Greer didn't respond, he re-shouldered his weapon and moved forward. They walked for about ten minutes before they arrived at their destination. The building that they were looking for was different from the rest; it was one storey tall and it was completely round with the straight top making it look like a cylinder sticking out of the ground. The structure was no bigger than two meters in diameter. It had no windows and no other way in except for a door in the front.

**ELI:** This clearly can't be it. It's too small.

Greer kicked the little brown door in, revealing a stairs that went down.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** See, it's bigger on the inside.

**ELI:** Just like the Tardis.

**COL. YOUNG:** Like what?

**ELI:** Never mind.

Greer was the first to go inside; he and the rest had to crouch so they could fit in the doorway. Inside the building the structure changed, it was now mechanical in nature; it looked like a space ship, long corridors with vast and wide rooms everywhere. From time to time they would come across small rooms with more stairs leading down.

The rooms were filled with various things, from what they could make out it looked like living quarters. The ceiling was a little higher than the doorway so they could walk upright but barely. The floor was metallic much like the walls but it displayed a grid like pattern that was pretty much the same everywhere except in the doorways to other corridors or rooms. The walls weren't always straight, some parts seemed to be banged up others were very smooth and just before every door there was a rectangular shaped panel sticking out on both sides of the doorway. In the top of the walls, where the wall connected to the ceiling, there was a round tube that ran the entire length of the wall it looked like that the round tube was holding up the ceiling, on the bottom part of the wall the same thing happened when it connected to the floor. The main corridor had enough room so two of them could go side by side but they continued in single file. The entire complex was filled with this yellowish ambient light coming from inside the walls.

**ELI:** Now it makes sense.

**CHLOE:** What are you talking about, Eli?

**ELI:** It was strange that the race that created the Drones would live in brick like houses.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** You mean that this isn't strange?! – *Greer asked with a little grin.* – I guess you're right it makes perfect sense, now.

**ELI:** You know what I mean. Apart from everything else, an advance society living in a brick house is strange. Maybe that's why the surface had no colour or no decorations; they must've lived the majority of their time underground.

**LT. SCOTT:** Who cares what they did and how they lived. Let's finish the mission and get the hell out of here.

**ELI:** Right.

Eli reached in this backpack and pull out a Destiny Gate Remote that he had rigged to detect the same frequency that the shuttles had picked up in low-orbit.

**ELI:** This way.

Eli tried to walk past Greer, but was immediately stopped by Greer.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** You don't do anything without my saying so.

**ELI:** Right, that way then.

Following the directions that Eli got from the remote, Greer led the group through the many corridors and down a few flight of stairs until they reached a huge round room. Unlike the previous rooms that they had passed this one was mostly empty except for what appear to be a console on the back wall, far away from them. Eli seeing the room empty forced his way past Greer toward the console. He had just walked a meter forward when a loud click was heard; Greer reacted in time and pulled Eli back, without realizing Eli had triggered some kind of a defence system and several beams activated and filled the room with a deadly red glow. The only part of the room that wasn't covered by the beams was the wall by the door, where they all were now.

**ELI:** Thanks.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** Didn't I tell you not to anything until I said so?!

**ELI:** Sorry, but the room was empty. I thought it was clear.

**CHLOE:** What is this?



**COL. YOUNG:** It's a defence system of some kind.

**LT. SCOTT:** What are we going to do?

**ELI:** We need to find a way around this.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** What makes you sure that this is it?

**ELI:** Usually something this protected must be important, isn't that the way it works?

**LT. SCOTT:** Yeah, but for all we know it could be their pay checks.

Soon after that the beams went off, and the room went back to looking harmless. Col. Young picked up his radio and tried to contact the other teams:

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** This is Young, can anyone read me? We found something.

**BELTHROS (ON RADIO):** This is Belthros, Descendant Team one. We found nothing, this looks like a food storage warehouse. The energy readings are from what appears to be a generator that conserves the food.

**LAVIK (ON RADIO):** Lavik, Descendant Team two. We haven't found anything.

**BELTHROS (ON RADIO):** We are about to go to the fourth location now.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** We think we found something but it's heavily guarded. I want to make sure that this is it before we try anything. I don't want to risk anyone's life. Go check the last location and report as soon as you know something.

**BELTHROS (ON RADIO):** Yes, Sir.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Lavik, return to the Fortunus and inform every one of our progress.

**LAVIK (ON RADIO):** Roger.

**COL. YOUNG:** We can't stay here. Let's go topside and wait for Belthros Team to report in before we decide what to do.

They were on the way back when they came across another room with a console identical to the one on the Danger Room, as Eli called it, they decided to stay and investigate maybe that console could lead to a better understanding of the Ling's technology.

Because Chloe still had some of the knowledge of the Blue Aliens in her DNA, Eli convinced Col. Young that Chloe was the best shot of decrypting the Ling's language. She sat on the ground in front of the console; it would appear that the Lings worked standing up; the console was round with a little alcove where the control interface was, the controls were sticking out of the wall of the console, leaving an empty space between the controls and the floor, "perfect" thought Chloe, she could slide her crossed legs underneath the controls and stand much closer to the console, the top of the device was flat with some kind of tubes sticking out, there were three that were positioned to form a triangle on the flat surface.

Chloe placed her hands on the controls, nothing happened, she tried to push multiple buttons the machine still didn't respond to her touch. Eli was crouched behind her; he noticed a rectangular shaped pad on the floor in the middle of the alcove. Eli signed Chloe and she touched the pad with her left hand, it moved inward and the console lighted up. There wasn't any display; they knew that the console was on because the control interface had some kind of backlight coming from inside, much like the corridor lights. She removed her hand from the pad and the whole thing died, the pad was a dead man switch she needed to keep the

pad pressed to operate the console, Chloe positioned herself so one of her legs kept the pad pressed at all times, as soon as she had both her hands on the control interface, the three tubes on the top lightened up and a mist started spilling out, Greer immediately targeted the console with his weapon, the mist was thick and after a while it solidified and Eli determined that it was the display for the console, partly because symbols were now visible to the naked eye.

**ELI:** Wow, very cool.

**LT. SCOTT:** Can you understand any of that, Chloe?!

**CHLOE:** Give me a minute.

While Chloe and Eli tried to make head or tails of the Ling's technology Scott, Greer and Col. Young stayed by the door, always keeping a close eye on their surroundings.

**LT. SCOTT:** Don't you find it strange that there is not one picture anywhere?

**COL. YOUNG:** What do you mean?

**LT. SCOTT:** The surface was bleak to say the least and in here there's no indication of personal items, any decorations of any kind. The place is empty and I'm not referring just to the lack of bodies I mean everything. Hell, there isn't even a picture or statue of their leaders. Even on Destiny, which was inhabited before we got there, has does strange looking decorative plates on the walls. It's all very strange to me.

**COL. YOUNG:** Would it make you feel better or worse if you had any familiarity to this?

**LT. SCOTT:** I guess you are right, sir. When we were trapped underground in that alien planet with

the sizable spiders and were left for dead, I wonder if it was the fact that the planet didn't look so foreign that made us feel at ease and it lead to that situation.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** Doesn't matter what lead to that situation what matters is that we made it out, and we will make it through this one too.

**COL. YOUNG:** I have to agree with Sergeant Greer. Keep your head here and keep focus and we will get this done. We are billions of years from home, what are the chances we find familiarity out here.

**LT. SCOTT:** I guess you are both right.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** And besides, for all we know the Ling's were blind, and there for didn't have any need for pictures. Best we keep quiet and vigilante, sirs.

After a few long minutes, Chloe was able to understand some rudimentary commands and she began to operate the console, to some degree. Every time Chloe changed something the mist would de-solidify change and re-solidify making a hissing sound. Some of the symbols also changed, Eli figure that they had found a way to change menus.

**ELI:** We figure out how to work the menus.

**COL. YOUNG:** Keep at it. You need to work faster.

**ELI:** This is not easy...

A loud bang was heard and the structure shacked with such a force that they were knocked off their feet. Greer, Scott and Col. Young got back up immediately. Eli and Chloe were still on the ground:

**CHLOE:** What was that?

**LT. SCOTT:** You guys are ok?

**ELI:** I think we need to get the hell out of here.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Belthros, came in?

After a few seconds of static, the radio chimed.

**BELTHROS (ON RADIO):** Sir, I think we are in trouble...

# Chapter X

## ᠠᠷᠠᠨᠢᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨᠠᠨ X

Rush, Volker, Jonas Quinn and Brody were still on the bridge. Volker was running a diagnostic on the life-support system to see if there were any implications of having additional people aboard Destiny, he figured that Jonas Quinn and his team could somehow be stressing the system and if so what would that imply on the long run. After a few beeps he was informed that everything was within normal parameters, apparently the material that Rush brought up from Novus was perfect for Destiny's life-support system and they could have the ship completely filled with people that it would run smoothly for a very long time. Jonas was playing around with the menus of his console just to see how it worked, he was fascinated by the technology. Rush was ignoring everyone, like he normally would, and kept writing little calculations on his faithful notepad, Brody was the only one looking out at the planet.

**DR. BRODY:** What was that?

Everyone stopped doing what they were doing, and looked at the various windows in the bridge.

**DR. VOLKER:** What?

**DR. BRODY:** I saw something in the corner of my eye; it looked like a bright light.

They were paying very close attention to the outside of the ship trying to see if they could, in fact,

see anything. Jonas was the first to see it again, pointing to the bright light in the far left of his line of sight.

**JONAS QUINN:** There!

**DR. VOLKER:** Is that what I think it is?

In that exact moment, T.J. and Varro entered the bridge. They were on their way to get a situation update.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** What's going on?

**DR. RUSH:** It appears that some of the debris have been caught by the gravitational pull of the planet and are beginning re-entry.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** Will that cause any trouble for our people on the planet?

**DR. BRODY:** Hard to say. 99% of all debris normally burns up upon re-entry, but if a chunk is big enough it will survive and it may end up crashing in the surface.

**JONAS QUINN:** Oh, my. That's a big one.

He was referring to a very sizable piece of debris on the very edge of re-entry. It looked like the entire front end of some kind of ship.

**DR. VOLKER:** That is going to survive re-entry for sure.

**DR. RUSH:** I agree. That will cause major destruction and if it hits anywhere near our people, well let's just say, that they could be in trouble.

**JONAS QUINN:** There must be something that we can do to help them.

**DR. BRODY:** Like what? We can't exactly deflect this entire debris field off its orbit.

**VARRO:** No, but we can destroy them. We can use Destiny's defence system to obliterate the bigger pieces, so that when they enter the atmosphere they will burn up. It may give the men down on the planet a better chance.

Everyone turned to face Varro; they all had an expression of "Why didn't I think of that before?" on their faces.

**DR. RUSH:** That's not a bad idea, actually. Mr Quinn would you mind sitting in another empty chair, that's the weapons console.

**JONAS QUINN:** Sure... wait, you mean I've been playing with the weapons menu all this time?!?!

**DR. RUSH:** Not to worry I disabled the weapons the minute you sat down.

**JONAS QUINN:** No wonder I didn't see any mention of weapons.

**DR. VOLKER:** Hmm... I think we may need the guns for something else...

He said those words as he was getting up. When everyone looked at Volker he already had his arm stretched out, pointing out to the window. In one continuous move everyone looked at him and then followed his arm, on the other side of the debris field they saw a Drone Command Ship. They looked just in time to see a hyperspace window opening and see another Command Ship dropping out. They were in for a hell of a fight.

Back on the planet Col. Young, Scott, Greer, Chloe and Eli were still inside the Ling's structure.



**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** What do you mean, we are in trouble?

**BELTHROS (ON RADIO):** Some pretty large pieces of debris field are starting to enter the atmosphere, large enough to survive re-entry. The earthquake we felt just a moment ago was one of the pieces hitting the planet.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** How do you know that?

**BELTHROS (ON RADIO):** Lavik, sir. His shuttle is serving as a beacon between us and the ships.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Nice thinking.

**BELTHROS (ON RADIO):** That's not all, sir; Destiny is reporting that two Command Ships have shown on the other side of the debris field.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** What? We need to get out of here. Belthros take your men and return to the Fortunus...

**ELI:** Wait! Col. Young this console is the best weapon we have against the Drones, if we can turn it off we can disabled the Drones forever. We must stay.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Hold one.

**BELTHROS (ON RADIO):** Yes, Sir.

**COL. YOUNG:** Eli, do the Descendants shuttles have any type of weapons?

**ELI:** Yes.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Belthros, take your men and your shuttle and provided support for Lavik, at least one of you must serve as a beacon but don't take any risks if you can't handle the drones, return to the Fortunus. Just remember to warn us if that happens. And see if you can make it so I can speak to Destiny directly.

**BELTHROS (ON RADIO):** Yes, sir. Belthros out.

Eli turned all of his attention to Chloe who was still trying to work out how the console and the mist worked. Col. Young, Scott and Greer took defensive positions, they were prepared for anything. Scott expressed his opinion to the Colonel, he should return to Destiny. He was the best shuttle pilot they had and in the battle that was sure to follow, he was going to be needed. The Colonel replied that it was too dangerous to leave them alone down there with no way off the planet, because there was just one shuttle left. If they needed to go then they would all go together.

Meanwhile on Destiny, Varro had sat down on the weapon console and was standing ready to engage the Drones. Rush had given him complete control over the weapons, and he delegated control of the small defensives turrets to Volker. Jonas asked if he and his men could do anything to help, Volker told him to get one of his men; they could help him control some of the turrets. Soon after that Jonas's right hand man was on the bridge, a man by the name of Ordil, each of them took one of the two secondary consoles.

**DR. RUSH:** Dr. Volker, patch me thru to Dr. Park.

**DR. VOLKER:** What...? What for?

**DR. RUSH:** We need someone in the Control Interface Room to monitor the energy levels.

**DR. VOLKER:** But she is still recuperating from the surgery, she's in no condition to do anything.

**DR. RUSH:** Look, I can't be in two places at the same time and we need someone that has some understanding of how Destiny's energy flows thru the conduits.

**DR. BRODY:** He's right. I could try but monitoring the shields and the energy levels may be too much.

**DR. RUSH:** I'll ask Lt. James to help her. Now please connect me to Dr. Park.

Volker pushed a few buttons to link the bridge directly to Lisa's room where Rush explained the situation to her and she immediately agreed to help. She was halfway to the Control Interface Room when Lt. James caught up with her.

**LT. JAMES:** Wait, Lisa. Dr. Rush asked me to help you.

**DR. PARK:** Thanks, but I feel fine.

**LT. JAMES:** Good to know, but I need something to do. We are about to start a battle with Drones and I don't really like to stay still waiting for something to happen.

**DR. PARK:** Okay. If it means that much to you then you are welcome to come.

They both had a little grin in their faces as they made their way to the Control Interface Room.

Destiny received a hail from Belthros shuttle, Brody connected it to the bridge P.A., they all listened to Belthros as he told them what Col. Young ordered him to do, including if they knew of a way to connect directly to Col. Young on the planet. Rush pushed and rotated a few buttons and:

**RUSH (ON RADIO):** Col. Young, can you read me?

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Rush?

**RUSH (ON RADIO):** Yes, Col. Young. Good to hear your voice.

They both knew that those words were spoken for the benefit of the crew more than anything else.

Col. Young asked how were they able to communicate now, when it was impossible before. Rush explained very quickly that he used Lavik shuttle was an automatic relay station and as long as he didn't move to fast they should be okay.

Col. Young asked for a status update on the current movements of the Drones. Rush told him that the debris field was serving as a barrier between them and Destiny. Although the Command Ships had launched the Drones they were being forced to move around the many broken pieces of debris and it was causing them to slow down significantly giving Destiny and the Descendants ample time to prepare. Everyone on the bridge was focused on the battle ahead; T.J. was in the infirmary ready for any injured people that may end up needing medical attention. The Descendants Ships had launched their entire shuttle fleet and they had been positioned in between Destiny and their ships so that the shuttles could provide assistance to Destiny if needed be.

Col. Young heard Rush speak and it felt that Rush had all the bases covered, although he really wanted to be up there but he felt that Destiny was in capable hands for now.

**VARO (ON RADIO):** Sir, the drones are here. This battle is about to begin.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Keep me informed of everything.

**DR. RUSH (ON RADIO):** Of course, Colonel.

**COL. YOUNG:** You heard him, Eli. You and Chloe should really figure that console out. They are going to needed it real soon.

**CHLOE:** I'm trying, Sir.

**COL. YOUNG:** Try harder.

# Chapter XI

## ᠠᠷᠠᠯᠢᠨᠠᠭᠤ ᠬᠢ

The battle had begun as soon as the first Drones reached firing distance; they immediately opened fire on Destiny. Some of them fired on the Descendants shuttle but their main focus appeared to be Destiny.

They had destroyed a great deal of Drones when a third Drone Command Ship dropped out of hyperspace flooding the battle field with even more Drones of various sizes, by this time three Descendants shuttles had been destroyed. Battle planning was not Rush's best quality but Varo had really stepped up and almost took control of the bridge, and for the first time Rush didn't mind being overruled so many times.

Things seemed to be getting under control when:

**DR. BRODY:** Oh God...

**DR. RUSH:** What now?

**DR. BRODY:** The main reason we are not neck deep in drones it's because of the debris field...

**DR. RUSH:** Yes, Yes, so what?

**DR. BRODY:** That's about to change.

**DR. VOLKER:** He's right. Look...

As everyone turn their gaze into the large debris field it was clear that the largest piece in the

field was about to enter the atmosphere and it would create a large hole in space between Destiny and the Command Ships, so large a hole that the three Drone Command Ship would have no problem advancing towards them.

Varo was the first to react:

**VARO (ON RADIO):** Tamara, ready everything you have we are about to get in trouble.

**LT. JOHASSEN:** What is happening?

**VARO (ON RADIO):** Dr. Park, how are the energy levels?

**DR. PARK:** They are in normal parameters, why?

**VARO:** Dr. Rush, connect me to the ship P.A. and to the Descendants.

Without hesitation Rush pressed a button and knotted to Varo. Varo informed Destiny's crew and the Descendants that when the large piece of debris started re-entry it would open a large enough gap that the Drone Command Ships could actively engage Destiny and that would turn the tide in favour of the Drones...

**VARO (ON P.A.):** This battle is not been easy; we have lost friends and shed blood. As we speak a large enough piece of the debris field, that we are using as cover is about to enter the atmosphere and clear a big enough hole so that the remaining Drones Ships can engage us with little effort. All we need to do is buy some time, Eli and Col. Young are on the planet trying to end this once and for all, not just for us but for our Descendant's as well. I know I ask a lot but all we need to do is to make them take as long as possible to destroy us. Because even if we don't make it, at least the millions of people back on New Novus will be safe. And if Col. Young were here he would say the same. So hang in there just a little longer and believe in Eli, as I do.

After the speech Varo told the civilians to stay away from windowed areas as the Observation Deck or the former Hydroponics Chamber because the probability of shield failure in those areas was high. He instructed Dr. Wray to lead them into a large room at the centre corridor of the ship, close to where they held the invading Lucian Alliance members for the first time. He assumed that those portions of the ship would be the best place for them.

Wray refused at first, she was helping T.J. with the wounded. But T.J. agreed that it was the best course of action, to protect the civilians.

Jonas ordered his men to stay behind and help Lieutenant Johanssen with whatever she needed. But only after his men arrived in the infirmary did Wray lead the civilians to safety.

**VARO:** Dr. Rush, patch me to Col. Young.

Varo then explained everything to Col. Young and the rest of the crew down on the planet. Chloe hearing that they could be running out of time started to shake and sob; Eli comforted and rallied her so that she could do her best because a lot of people were depending on them:

**ELI:** We need to do this as quickly as possible, because above all else if that piece of debris big enough to clear a hole so that three Drone Command ships can pass it is big enough to survive re-entry and wipe out this planet. So... no pressure...

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Understood. Good luck, Varo.

**VARO (ON RADIO):** You too, Colonel.

As Chloe returned to the console to keep working, Col.Young ordered Greer to protect Eli and Chloe while he and Scott would go up to the surface and see if they still had a clear path to the shuttle just in case they needed to make a quick escape. Greer remained in the corridor with his back to Eli and Chloe and facing the multiple hallways in front of them.

As the battle in space raged on, Destiny started to suffer from the damage inflicted by the Drone Command Ships.

**DR. PARKS:** The shields are weakening; the energy levels are dropping fast.

**L.T. JAMES:** What can I do?

**DR. PARKS:** Inform the bridge, please.

**L.T. JAMES (ON RADIO):** Dr. Rush, can you hear me? Lisa says that the energy levels are dropping fast, she can't syphon any more energy from Destiny's other systems. The shields are weakening...

**DR. RUSH:** Thanks for the obvious information, Lieutenant.

As Rush uttered those words, Destiny was hit by a huge energy blast by the first Drone Command Ship that made it through the gap. As a result the console where Ordil was seated exploded, injuring him. Jonas Quinn got up immediately and tried to help his friend.



**VARO:** Take him to the infirmary, Mr. Quinn, T.J. can help him.

**JONAS QUINN:** Don't you need my help.

**DR. RUSH:** Oh, I think we can manage.

**VARO:** Don't mind him. Go, help your friend, there's nothing more you can do here.

Jonas knotted and carried Ordil to the infirmary where T.J. was already expecting him because Volker had radioed in and warned T.J. that they were coming.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** How is he?

**JONAS QUINN:** Unconscious. The console blew when a Drone Command Ship fired at us.

**L.T. JOHANSEN:** Yes, Volker told me. Let's see what I can do. Put him on the bed.

After the scanner finished, T.J. went over to the screen on the side of the scanner and read the results.

**L.T. JOHANSEN:** Don't worry, he'll be fine.

**JONAS QUINN:** If we get through this...

**LT. JOHANSEN:** If we get through this.

Meanwhile on the bridge things were becoming clearer: Destiny was losing, by this time all three Drone Command Ships were at firing range and were continuously firing on Destiny. She was getting weak.

The Descendants Ship and shuttles were powerless at this time, because they had been overrun by the Drones. They were fighting to stay alive like Destiny.

**DR. PARKS (ON RADIO):** Destiny can't take much more of this. The shields are about to go out for good. Without those shields we can't survive a direct hit.

Hearing that Rush turned on the intercom to talk to Col. Young. He explained that it was only a matter of time, there was no escape this time.

**DR. RUSH (ON RADIO):** This is it, Colonel. "The day this ship dies" when I heard Col. Telford utter these words I never suspected that I would be alive to see it.

When Rush connected to Col. Young, he and Scott were on the way back to the building where they had left Greer, Eli and Chloe. The shuttle was secure. They both stopped running and looked up, trying to see Destiny, they couldn't.

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** What is going on up there, Rush?

**RUSH (ON RADIO):** Sorry, Colo...

**COL. YOUNG (ON RADIO):** Rush?! Come in, Rush?

Lavik shuttle was destroyed effectually cutting all communications with the planet. They were all alone now. Col. Young fought the urge to go back to the shuttle and fly towards the battle. He couldn't, because he had left Greer, Eli and Chloe behind. Col. Young and Scott started to run toward the building when:

CHLOE (ON RADIO): Don't worry, Colonel. I know what to do...

ELI (ON RADIO): Chloe, noooooo!!!!

# Chapter XII

## ᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ XII

Chloe hearing Rush's words of the radio, got up and grabbed the radio out of Eli's hands:

**CHLOE (ON RADIO):** Don't worry, Colonel. I know what to do...

Chloe pushed Eli out of the way and ran towards the other room, the room with all the heavy defence security, the room with the Drone Control Server.

**ELI (ON RADIO):** Chloe, noooooo!!!!

Greer turned around when he heard all the commotion just in time to see Chloe run out of the room where Eli was and head straight to the Control Room, he whispered:

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** Chloe...

She stopped, look at him:

**CHLOE:** There is no other way.

She smiled, turned her head looked at Eli and stared back at Greer, he knotted, fully understanding the meaning of her look, and dropped his weapon just in time to grab and hold Eli

who had just came out of the side room and they both saw her ran at full speed in to the red room.

She was almost at the console when the reddish light turned on, she screamed but didn't stop. Eli was struggling with Greer trying to get free but it was in vain, Greer grabbed him good and he wasn't letting go.

On the surface, Col. Young and Scott after hearing Chloe and Eli on the radio, looked at each other, and immediately ran towards the building the fastest they could.

Chloe was in agonizing pain but she didn't stop, she powered up the console and accessed the menus, meanwhile the light started to intensify and the pain started to get worst, but she didn't stop.

Eli was yelling at her to stop and get out of the room and he was yelling at Greer to let him go. Greer was determined to help Chloe.

Chloe dropped to her knees from the pain, but she didn't stop, she navigated the many menus of the console until she found the right one. She yelled so loud that Col. Young and Scott heard her as they made their way down. Eli was crying and trying to break free from Greer with no effect. Chloe was still screaming when Col. Young and Scott got there, they entered the corridor to see Greer grabbing Eli, who was screaming and kicking, and the reddish light so bright it illuminated the entire floor. Scott quickly realized what was going on and started to run towards Chloe, Col. Young followed him. When they were almost near Greer and Eli, Chloe stopped screaming and all the lights in the building had gone out; they were in pitch black darkness.

Back on the ship, Rush was still seated in the Captain's chair with Varo, Volker and Brody on the consoles, they were trying to manoeuvre Destiny out of the Drone's path, but they could hardly keep their eyes open because of all the sparks flying out of Destiny's systems. The Drone attack had seriously diminished Destiny's capabilities. The move they were trying to complete was simply a 90

degree turn to avoid one of the Command Ship firing solution but by the time they had completed the turn there were the other two right in front of them.

**DR. VOLKER:** Oh god, this is it.

As soon as Volker spoke everyone looked out of the windows and saw that there was no escape possible, they were in a direct line of fire with no debris as cover and they knew that Destiny couldn't survive a direct hit let alone two.

**VARO:** Gentleman, it was a privilege...

**VARO (ON RADIO):** TJ, I... I...

He never finished the sentence, one of the Command Ships fired.

**DR. RUSH:** I wasn't supposed to end like this.

They were all looking out seeing the energy blast heading towards them; time seemed to slow down as the blast came closer and closer when all of a sudden a Shuttle appears on the left side coming at full speed.

**BELTHROS (ON RADIO):** Good Luck, Destiny.

**RUSH (ON RADIO):** Thank you.

Belthros Shuttle flies between Destiny and the energy blast and is destroyed immediately. Rush trying to take advantage of Belthros sacrifice, initiates another evasive manoeuvre. But soon realizes that even if he finished the manoeuvre, Destiny will still be destroyed.

**DR. RUSH:** Theirs is no escape.

They all sat down and waited for the inevitable. Rush, Volker, Brody and Varro were staring at the Drone Command Ship on the other side of the window when an energy pulse came outward from the planet it engulfed the entire debris field and it kept going. The pulse was Translucid white in origin it was like an outward explosion blast but it wasn't destroying anything upon impact, in fact it seemed to go through solid matter with no effect. At first they didn't realize the presence of the pulse; although it moved extremely fast they were so focused on the Command Ship that only when the pulse was directly in front of them they saw it.

They all got up and followed the path of the pulse, everyone but Rush who remained seated on the captain's chair looking at the Drone Command Ship.

**DR. RUSH:** Curious...

After hearing Rush speak, they all looked at him and saw that he was looking at the Drone Command Ship. They followed his line of sight and looked at the Drone Command Ship. It was just seating still, in the same exact spot it had been for the last 20 minutes, preparing to destroy Destiny. But it hadn't fired yet, very strange they all were thinking, when one small drone ship drifted past them. It was sliding away from them and it was rolling on herself; it was clearly out of control. Suddenly another past in front of the window, and another and another, one even crashed into Destiny but it was a very small one it did little to no damage on the hull.

**DR. BRODY:** What the hell is going on?

**DR. VOLKER:** It looks like they are dormant.

**DR. RUSH:** Of course...

**DR. VOLKER:** You think I'm right?!

**DR. RUSH:** Don't be an idiot.

Volker rolled his eyes out, he was not offended, he and everyone on the crew gotten used to the way Rush spoke but still he couldn't stop thinking "What an asshole..."

**DR. RUSH:** The energy pulse that came from the planet must've been the kill off command. Col. Young did it which means that Destiny and the Descendants are safe. Heck, everyone on the galaxy is safe.

**VARRO:** As long as no one turns them back on.

**DR. VOLKER:** How can we be sure, maybe it's a trick.

**DR. BRODY:** Doesn't make any sense, they had us at their mercy. Why pull something so weird when we were on the verge of destruction.

**VARRO:** We should try and contact them on the planet, see if they are ok.

**DR. RUSH:** Good idea.

**VARRO:** If you don't mind I'll go to the infirmary. I want to see if T.J. needs any help.

Varro got up before anyone could answer; he made his way to the infirmary via the elevators. When he arrived, T.J. was still taking care of Ordil while Jonas Quinn was sitting on a nearby table just paying attention to what T.J. was doing, hoping to learn something.

T.J. turned around; she couldn't help but smile a little when she saw Varro.



**VARRO:** How's he doing?

**LT. JOHANSEEN:** He's going to be fine, it's just a laceration. It seemed worse because cranial cuts always bleed a lot.

**VARRO:** Good to know.

**JONAS QUINN:** How are things out there?

**VARRO:** Rush thinks that Col. Young managed to turn off the Drones.

**JONAS QUINN:** And did he?

**VARRO:** We don't know. We haven't heard from him in a while. But the Drones have stopped their attack.

**LT. JOHANSEEN:** Is anyone else injured?

**VARRO:** Don't think so. I just came to see if you... I mean to see if Ordil was alright.

Varro said it with a big smile in his face. When he saw T.J. smiling back his smile got even bigger, he looked like a kid on a candy store where everything was free. Jonas seeing those two smiling said:

**JONAS QUINN:** Hmm, I... I... I'm going to the bridge. If Ordil wakes up, call me.

He didn't even wait for a reply, he jumped off the bed he was sitting on and made his way out of the infirmary. As he was walking out, Camille Wray was walking in.

**DR. WRAY:** What's going on? I haven't heard anything since I took the rest of the civilians to the safe zone.

**JONAS QUINN:** Please, come with me. I'm going to the bridge to get more information.

Jonas grabbed Camille gently by the arm and twisted her around so they both faced the corridor leading to the elevators. As her body spun around, by Jonas's gentle push, she saw Varro and T.J. laughing and was unable to hold back a little smile. As her eyes rolled away from the infirmary doorway she saw a man on a bed, he look like he was sleeping. She didn't recognize him.

**DR. WRAY:** Is that one of your men? Is he all right?

**JONAS QUINN:** He is now. LT. Johansen fixed him up.

Soon they were in the elevator and on their way to the bridge. When they arrived Brody and Volker were explaining what had happened to Vanessa and Lisa, who had just come from the Interface Control Room. They were just starting which meant that Jonas and Camille arrived just in time. After they finished talking:

**LT. JAMES:** So... Now, what do we do?

**DR. VOLKER:** Now we wait, there's nothing more we can do.

**DR. BRODY:** We lost communication with them when Belthros and Lavik's ships were destroyed.

**JONAS QUINN:** Can't we ask your Descendant's to send another shuttle to help us?

**LT. JAMES:** That's a good idea. Tell them to come and pick me up on the way down.

# Chapter XIII

## ᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ XIII

When the lights went out Col. Young and Scott immediately turned on the flashlights mounted on their guns. Greer was still holding Eli, he gently let him go. Eli ran inside the room where Chloe was, he only stopped when he reached her. Eli would probably have fallen if not for Greer, he turned on his flashlight and pointed in so Eli could see the way. Chloe was lying face down on the floor. Scott had to concentrate because his instinct told him to secure the area but his will was to drop everything and run to Chloe. Eli dropped to one knee and turned Chloe over, after a few seconds; Eli turned his head back and yelled "She's breathing." He grabbed her and quickly carried her out of the room for fear that the security system would activate again. Greer backed away from the doorway so Eli and Chloe could fit through. Eli seated her gently on the floor, kneeling behind her as to provide support for her back so she didn't lay completely on the ground.

**ELI:** Chloe, wake up.

Eli spoke with a pitch a little higher than usually, he wasn't screaming but almost. He resisted the urge to shake her like they do in the movies, but being the genius he is he knew that it could do more harm than good. Scott holstered his weapon and knelt on beside Chloe holding her hand, he too told her to wake up. She didn't respond in any way, she just sat there.

**COL. YOUNG:** Master Sergeant, pick her up. We must get her to T.J. as soon as possible. We also

need to get out there and see how things up there are.

**ELI:** Let's just hope that Destiny is still up there.

**LT. SCOTT:** They are; they must be. She can't have done this in vain.

Greer stepped forward and picked up Chloe, while Eli got behind Scott who led the way, behind Eli was Greer carrying Chloe and in last place was the Colonel. They made their way to the shuttle fairly quickly considering that all the lights on the Ling's Building were off.

When they arrived at the shuttle, Scott immediately sat on the pilot's chair and initiated the take off sequence. Eli sat on the right side of the shuttle while Greer laid down Chloe on the left seats. After Greer sat on his seat by Scott's side Eli got up and sat next to Chloe placing her head on his lap. Col. Young was the last to get in the shuttle, the planet was deserted but he kept a watchful eye on the horizon while everyone got ready to take off. When they were ready Scott signalled Col. Young who got in the shuttle and sat on the remaining seat by the right side window.

**LT. SCOTT:** Everybody hang on...

Back on the ship, Rush received a radio transmission from one of the Descendants Ship, they informed him that there was at least one shuttle available to take them down to the planet. Rush instructed the Descendant's to dock on the starboard side shuttle pad. Volker heard Rush giving permission for the Descendant's shuttle to land, he radioed Vanessa to get ready, their ride down was about to arrive. Volker got up and relayed to Brody that he was leaving to join Vanessa and the rest of the volunteers, which included Varro, T.J and Jonas Quinn.

Jonas Quinn volunteered basically because he was very curious to see the outside of Destiny, this way he would quench his curiosity while being useful. T.J. was going because she was the medical officer aboard Destiny and if the crew down on the planet needed medical attention she was on her way, Vanessa was the armed escort for the team, and she was very worried about Col. Young, her commanding officer was like a father to her. In the past her main reason would be Scott, but that died a while back when she realized that Scott loved Chloe and that changed everything. To tell the truth Vanessa James began to have a crush on another man aboard Destiny but was very secretive of that crush mainly because she felt that she wasn't as smart as him, seen that he was a scientist, and felt that he couldn't be very interested on a warrior woman. Varro went as backup to help Vanessa and to keep an eye on T.J., Volker went because he genuinely wanted to help.

Soon after that they were all gathered near the bulkhead door leading to the starboard shuttle pad. Rush's voice came on the PA and informed them that the Descendant's Shuttle was about to dock. They backed up against the opposing wall and waited. After about 2 minutes a great sounding "clank" was heard throughout the hallway, the shuttle was docked. Vanessa took a defensive posture, when Destiny's inner door opened revealing the docked shuttle closed outer door, Varro imitated Vanessa and stood between her and T.J., they didn't draw their weapon they just stood ready for anything.

The shuttle door opened and from inside came three men and two women. The leader introduced himself:

**LEADER:** My name is Eahrl.

Vanessa stepped forward and shook his hand. Eahrl continued by introducing his fellow shuttle

members. But when Vanessa started to introduce herself and the rest of crew she was quickly interrupted by a very polite:

**EAHRL:** Excuse me, we know who you are. Your faces are in the historical archives. Well, everyone but him.

Eahrl pointed to Jonas Quinn. Jonas gave a quick smirk. Varro quickly explained that the unknown man was a friend who had come aboard to try and help the ship and its crew. They could treat him and his men like the rest of them. Eahrl bowed in reverence towards Jonas, which made Jonas smirk even more.

**EAHRL:** Friends of Destiny are friends of our people.

Jonas felt the need to bow back after that comment. After that everyone greeted everyone. They were about to enter the shuttle when the PA activated:

**DR. RUSH:** Not so fast, people...

Seconds after Rush's voice was heard from the PA, another "clank" echoed through the hallways. It came from the port side shuttle door. Vanessa looked at Varro and they both shouldered their weapons and proceeded towards the giant bulkhead door. T.J. pulled her pistol from the hip-holster and took two steps forward, so she could provide assistance and at the same time protect those behind her.

Vanessa walked pass the door and took position on the left side of the bulkhead while Varro stood on the right side, their backs where pressed hard against the side of the bulkhead door. Varro

looked at Vanessa; she gave him a nod that signified that was ready. Varro then looked at T.J. she did the same gesture as Vanessa, they were ready. When the door opened both of them swung around and dropped to one knee, they were in the perfect position to open fire without mercy.

The inner door opened:

**COL. YOUNG:** Lower your weapons.

Col. Young shouted the order as soon as the door was half way opened. Varro and Vanessa complied immediately while rising up from their kneeling position. When the door was open Col. Young stepped sideways so Scott could pass with Chloe on his arms.

**LT. SCOTT:** T.J.!!! Someone get me T.J. ASAP.

T.J. hearing Scott cry for help lowered and holstered her pistol and ran toward the opened bulkhead door. When Scott saw her, he placed Chloe on the floor so T.J. could examine her.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** What happened?

**LT. SCOTT:** The Drone mainframe was protected by some kind of defence system. Chloe stepped inside to turn the mainframe off and was hit by some kind of light thing; she's been unresponsive ever since...

**LT. JOHANSEN:** Help me get her to the infirmary, quickly.

**COL. YOUNG:** The rest of Military staff and Varro, with me.

**LT. SCOTT:** Sir?!

**COL. YOUNG:** Okay, Lieutenant. Meet us when you can. The rest of you, lets go.

Scott picked up Chloe again and followed T.J. to the infirmary, Eli was right behind him. Colonel Young started to walk towards the elevator when he noticed Jonas Quinn, Earhl and his men. He asked who were this people and what were they doing on Destiny. Jonas stepped forward and explained that the Descendants brought a shuttle so they could go down to the planet to see if they needed help. Colonel shook Earhl's hand and informed him that they were welcome aboard Destiny and he and his men could stay or go whenever they wanted but he should inform him of their intention to leave, when the time came. Earhl didn't spoke he just bowed his head before Young who replied the bow and then turned around and continued to walk towards the elevator, Earhl and his men along with everyone else followed.

Rush was still sitting at the commander's chair when Col. Young arrived, when the Colonel got close enough to sit down Rush got up and stood next to the chair. Young sat down and ordered a situation update. Rush, Brody and Volker told him what happened while they were down on the planet, from the moment the communications were cut off to Belthros sacrifice to save Destiny. When they were finished Rush asked the same thing from Col. Young's who told everyone what happened.

**DR. VOLKER:** Is Chloe going to be all right?

**VARRO:** T.J. is with her now.

**DR. RUSH:** I'm sure that she will be fine, but in the mean time we should try and fix some parts of the ship before we continue.

**DR. BRODY:** They're bodies aren't cold yet, sort to speak, and you want to leave?

**DR. RUSH:** There's nothing more we can do here.



While the crew discussed what to do next, Greer came down next to the Colonel and asked to leave the bridge. Seeing as he couldn't do much, he would like to check on Lisa. Colonel Young grinned a bit and gave him permission to go to the Control Interface Room.

When Greer left, Earhl stepped forward and addressed everyone in the room.

**EARHL:** First of all, I would like to begin by saying that it was a privileged to know you all but our time together has come to an end. I need to go back to my ship and see how I can help there. But if Destiny needs us for anything don't hesitate to call. Colonel Young, permission to leave Destiny.

**COL. YOUNG:** Permission granted. And thanks for your help.

**EARHL:** No, Colonel. Thank you. You were the ones that turned of the Drone Mainframe; you were the ones that saved us and our entire galaxy from that threat and to great cost to the crew and Destiny.

**COL. YOUNG:** We were not the only ones that lost people. In this fight you and your people can held your head up high because without you, this endeavour would have failed.

**EARHL:** Thank you for saying so, Colonel.

Earhl and his men bowed before everyone, then turned around and exited the bridge; soon they were on their shuttle and on their way back to their ship.

Everyone soon realized that they didn't confirm if the Drones were permanently disabled on the Descendants home galaxy yet, for all they knew the effects could only be felt around the Ling's planet. Seen as they were safe there it was agreed that

one of the Descendants ship, the Fortunus, would do a hyperspace jump back to their home world to confirm this, and the other one would stay behind to help Destiny while the crew affected repairs to the damage parts of the ship. Jonas Quinn and his men agreed to delay the return trip so they could lend a hand in the repairs.

When the discussion was over Varro, under Col. Young's orders, took Jonas Quinn and his men to find suitable accommodations for them seeing as they had been sleeping in one of the empty storage rooms. Col. Young, Dr. Rush, Dr. Volker and Dr. Brody remained on the bridge trying to determine if they had enough materials to repair the ship and which place was best to start. After a bit T.J.'s voice was heard from the bridge internal intercom:

**L.T. JOHANSEN:** Sir, can you come to the infirmary? It's about Chloe.

**COL. YOUNG:** On my way.

Young got up and made his way to the infirmary; everyone followed him, leaving the bridge unattended. When he arrived at the infirmary Varro, Jonas, Greer, Lisa, Camille and Vanessa were already there. Chloe was lying on a bed in the middle of the infirmary with Scott next to her holding her hand with teary eyes, T.J. was standing by her feet with Varro behind her leaning against another bed. Varro had his hand on T.J.'s shoulder trying to comfort her, she was crying. Eli was sobbing sitting on the corner bed with Vanessa at his side, with tears ready to roll down her face, we could see by the colour of her cheeks that she was having a hard time holding the tears back. Greer and Lisa were by the door were Col. Young and the rest entered, Greer had his arms around Lisa. Jonas was with Camille next to one of the tech pillars that were scattered in the room, Camille was crying.

**COL. YOUNG:** What happened?

T.J. composed herself and walked towards Young who had stopped a few meters from Chloe's bed.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** I couldn't do anything for her.

**DR. RUSH:** Is she dead?

**LT. JOHANSEN:** No. She's in some kind of coma. I never saw anything like this. I can't find anything wrong with her. Except that she won't wake up. She responds to some external stimulus but not all, sometimes we can see rapid eye movement, like she's in a deep sleep, but it's very faint. Almost like her mind is trapped inside her body because her body stopped taking commands from her brain. It's the best way I can explain it.

**DR. BRODY:** That's one hell of a defence system.

**COL. YOUNG:** So, what can we do?

**LT. JOHANSEN:** I'm not sure there's anything we can do.

**COL. YOUNG:** Dr. Volker, get back to the bridge and contact the Descendants see if they have anything that can help us.

Rush grabbed Volker's arm.

**DR. RUSH:** I'll go.

When Rush let go of Volker's arm, he made his way to Vanessa and took her hand. She looked at him, smiled and pressed passed her arm between his arm and torso and laid her head on his shoulder. She couldn't hold the tears any longer, Vanessa James began to cry.

T.J. after submitting her analysis to Col. Young and hearing Vanessa crying couldn't keep her tears too; she turned around and embraced Varro. Col. Young stepped forward towards Chloe, place his hand on her head leaned in and whispered softly in her ear:

**COL. YOUNG:** Thank you. I promise I will do everything in my power to get you back.

Col. Young was about to cry and he knew that the men under his command could not see him cry. He placed his hand on Scott shoulder, "I'm sorry" he wanted to say but the word didn't leave his mouth, then turned around and exited the infirmary. Brody was left alone, standing in the middle of the room, without knowing what to do he just said "I'm going to see if Rush's as got a reply" and left.

Eli wiped his tears from his face, got up and spoke:

**ELI:** We can't leave her like this. We must make arrangement to make her comfortable until we find a way to help her. Can't we move one of this pillars units to her room?

**LT. JOHANSEN:** It's best if she remained here, where I can supervise her better. – T.J. said after passing her sleeve through her eyes wiping the tears off. – We can turn of those corner beds in her semi-private room. That way she'll be comfortable and have some kind of privacy while I can monitor her better.

**ELI:** What does she need?

**LT. SCOTT:** I'll get some stuff from her room. She keeps her father's watch by the night stand I know she would love to have it by her side.

Scott got up and when he passed by Greer, he tapped him on the arm. Greer knew what that meant; it meant Scott wanted his help. Greer kissed Lisa and accompanied Scott to his and Chloe's bedroom.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** Camille, can you bring me that tray next to you? I need to insert a catheter so Chloe can be fed intravenously, it's been a few hours since she eat last.

While they arranged the infirmary to house Chloe until they could figure a way to help her, Rush's voice echoed through the P.A.

**DR. RUSH:** Just spoke with the Descendants. They can't help. They never heard of anything quite like this. I'm sorry...

# Chapter IX

## ᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ IX

It has been a month since the Ling planet events. In that time Destiny's repairs were well under way, the Fortunus returned with news that Chloe's actions did indeed stop the Drones and that their Home Galaxy was made safe. Unfortunately Chloe's health didn't improved; T.J. was still baffled with her condition.

After the return of the Fortunus, the crew felt safe enough to leave the Ling planet and return to Destiny initial flight plan. They found a nice habitable planet to rest until Destiny repairs could be finished. From the start Col. Young made clear that he would not allow what happened last time to re-occur, when they found a habitable planet and Dr. Cain and a group of people stayed behind, everyone agreed. The possibility of a return home provided by Jonas Quinn and his men quelled any desire of staying behind.

When the repairs were almost complete the Fortunus returned home. It was a bit hard on Eli; he had been with those people for seven years. The farewell was simple yet brutal, Eli made a lot of friends in those seven years but his family was on Destiny and he always knew if they ever found Destiny he would not be returning with the Fortunus. Petrosch was a tall and lean man with very dark hair and brown eyes, he sported a clean shaved face now that he was appointed acting captain of the Fortunus. After saying goodbye to Eli he stood in front of Col. Young and saluted him, Col. Young responded equally. Petrosch informed him that they would try and visit them from time to time, at least until the voyage between Novus and Destiny was affordable. Col. Young remembered Eli's

explanation that even with hyperspace capabilities the distance between Novus and Destiny would, eventually, be so astronomical that a round trip would be impractical. Before he left, Petrosh gladly told Col. Young, that they would leave behind one of their shuttles. Destiny was in need of another and for them it wouldn't be a problem, he offered to leave more but since there was only two working docking stations in Destiny leaving more was impossible. After that he turned around and entered the shuttle and took off. Scott went with them so he could return with the shuttle. They could hear the sound of the engines taking off. A few minutes later Scott was back aboard.

After a few days, everyone that was down on the planet had returned to Destiny, they were in the final preparations for the dial home. For security reasons they were going to dial the Beta Site within the Pegasus Galaxy, from there they could use the gate to travel back to Atlantis, from there they could use the Gate or the Odyssey. Col. Young was on his way to the infirmary to check on Chloe. When he entered the infirmary, he saw T.J. working on Camille's wrist; she apparently hurt it while carrying supplies back to Destiny when they left the planet. On the corner sitting next to Chloe was Scott, who got up when he saw Col. Young enter. Col. Young waved his hand to signal "at ease" and Scott sat back down.

**COL. YOUNG:** How are you, Camille?

**DR. WRAY:** I'll be fine. It's just sore from carrying a barrel of water back to the shuttle.

He looked at T.J. looking for confirmation. T.J. nodded yes.

**COL. YOUNG:** What about Chloe?

**LT. JOHANSEN:** No change, yet.

**COL. YOUNG:** When will she be ready to move?

**LT. JOHANSEN:** Sir?

By this time, Scott had gotten up and was near them.

**COL. YOUNG:** I want her ready for the return home.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** She can't leave.

**LT. SCOTT:** Why not?

**DR. WRAY:** Wouldn't she be better off, back on Earth?

**LT. JOHANSEN:** Not really.

**COL. YOUNG:** Please, explain.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** This condition is like nothing I've ever seen.

**DR. WRAY:** But back on Earth we could get her the best possible care with, no offense, better doctors. Doctors that are, somewhat, specialized in this kind of conditions.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** In a normal situation you wouldn't be wrong, but we already had a specialist on board, using the communications stones, and he was as baffled as me.

**DR. WRAY:** Really? Why wasn't I informed that we could use the communication stones again?

**COL. YOUNG:** You were down on the planet at that time. I still don't see why Chloe has to stay here.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** This is the best way I know to explain: for the body the process of falling asleep is like dying, that's why sometimes you get those involuntary spasms when you are almost a sleep. That's the body way of finding out if the brain is still



there. Well in Chloe's case the brain isn't there, so to prevent the body from shutting down Destiny is keeping her alive. When medical spire detects the spams it sends an electrical impulse that emulates her brain. I'm afraid that without it she would in fact die.

**LT. SCOTT:** Couldn't the doctors back on Earth construct something to that effect?

**LT. JOHANSEN:** Probably. If they had enough time, but since the last doctor from Earth, had the same opinion I do now, it's fair to say that it will not happen anytime soon.

**COL. YOUNG:** I guess that Chloe is staying.

Col. Young exited the infirmary and made his way to the Gate Room; it was almost time for the return trip. When he got there, the Gate Room was almost full of people. Jonas Quinn was on the upper deck; his men were on the left stairs case. Standing next to Jonas Quinn was Dr. Rush they were speaking but it inedible with all the chatter in the room. Varro and Greer were next to Eli who was manning the Gate Console. Lisa, Volker and Brody were in the middle of the room surrounded by both civilians and military personal. Vanessa was near Lisa but was speaking with Becker when Col. Young called for silence and made his way to the right stair case, he climbed a few steps when Scott, T.J. and Camille arrived from the infirmary.

**COL. YOUNG:** Good, everyone is here. Mr. Quinn?

When Col. Young started the talk everyone stopped what they were doing and turned to face him. Varro, Eli, Greer, T.J. and Camille who at that point were standing beneath the upper deck joined the others in the middle of the room.

**JONAS QUINN:** The generator is installed and ready. We will only get one chance at this, so I suggest that everyone gets ready.

**DR. RUSH:** I have checked and rechecked their calculations and their generator. This will work with virtual no danger for anyone, staying or going...

**COL. YOUNG:** As you all know, not all of us are going back. I for one will be staying along with Dr. Rush and Chloe.

A murmur started after Col. Young revealed that Chloe was staying.

**LT. JOHANSEN:** Chloe's condition doesn't allow her to go back. Unfortunately, for the moment, Destiny is the only thing keeping her alive.

**COL. YOUNG:** Thank you, Lieutenant. Well folks, this has been a long time coming, so like before I'm rendering all previously choices voided. Those who wish to remain aboard Destiny make your way to the Gate Console; those who wish to go back stay where you are.

For a time, nobody moved. Col. Young came down the stairs and made his way to the Gate Console behind him with no hesitation came Rush. Greer kissed Lisa, very gently, in the cheek and walked past Col. Young to turn around and stand behind him facing everyone else. Scott did the same. Lisa, Volker and Brody looked at each other and without saying a word followed Scott. Vanessa shocked Becker's and grabbed Volker as he passed next to her. He smiled realizing that she would stay with them, with him, on board. Varo stood still looking at T.J. who returned the stair with a tear in her eye, she nodded her head, "Do you want to stay?" he just took her hand and they made their way pass the crowd and joined the others.

**DR. RUSH:** Anyone else?

**COL. YOUNG:** Camille?

**DR. WRAY:** I can't. I need to go back. I can't leave Sharon all alone, if I have the opportunity to go back I have to take it.

**COL. YOUNG:** I guess this is it. How long to start the dialling process, Mr. Quinn?

**JONAS QUINN:** Five minutes, I just need everyone to clear the vortex area so the event horizon can form.

**COL. YOUNG:** If anyone of you wants to take anything back, you have five minutes to get it.

After five minutes, everyone was back in the Gate Room. Col. Young waiting for everyone to finish saying goodbye and then he ordered Jonas to begin the dialling sequence. Jonas was standing in front of the Gate Console with Eli by one side and Rush by another, he pressed a few buttons and the Stargate started to spin. As the chevrons began to light up energy spike could be seen coming out of top of the gate. People started to get frightened; the whole thing looked like the previous attempt to dial home, the "dial home from inside a star" scenario that could've ended very badly if not for Dr. Rush.

**DR. RUSH:** Everything is within acceptable parameters.

Shouted Rush after looking at the Gate Console monitor.

**ELI:** He's right.

As the gate approached the ninth chevron lock, Destiny started to shake; it felt like she was going to come apart at the seams but when the ninth chevron locked and the vortex exploded onwards into a stable event horizon, she stopped.

**JONAS QUINN:** Stable wormhole established, Sir.

Col. Young looked at Rush for confirmation, he in turn looked at Eli, and they both concurred: Stable wormhole established.

**COL. YOUNG:** Send the Kino.

Scott walked halfway into the room and extended his arm, from his hand flew a Kino. Greer was behind him, with his weapon drawn upon the gate. As the Kino got through the event horizon, every eyeball turned to the Gate Console. Waiting for a confirmation for either Eli or Rush. Eli started to smile, in the Kino feed it was visible a man standing in front of the Stargate on the other side. He was wearing a black Stargate Command uniform, in his shoulder it was visible a SG-18 patch. He stood there smiling and waving to the camera.

**ELI:** You are good to go.

**COL. YOUNG:** Ok, folks. It's time. Godspeed.

After the authorization from Col. Young people started to walk into the event horizon, two at a time in an interval of 5 seconds apart. They all knew what to do when they got to the other side; they just needed to step aside to make room for the people coming next. Col. Young had made them rehearse so that they would not trip on one another like the first time they came aboard Destiny. Camille and Jonas Quinn were the last of them. Jonas greeted

everyone and reassured them that he would personally be involved in the Life-Line from the other side and he would make sure that they would be provided for. Camille was crying but she managed to say goodbye to everyone except Col. Young. By the time she finished, all the women were crying too. As she stepped through the Gate, she took one last look back and within seconds she was gone. It took about fifteen minutes for all of them to go through. When the Gate shut off and the steam vented, everyone had a nostalgia feeling lurking in their minds even Rush.

Somehow Destiny didn't look the same anymore. Eli smiled and left for his room, he had a lot more material for his movie. Varo took T.J. in his arms and they left for her room. Rush looked and nodded at Col. Young and went to the bridge, he had a lot of work ahead of him. Greer and Lisa retired to their room. Scott turned around without saying a word or looking at anyone, he went to the infirmary to be with Chloe. In the gate room were Col. Young, who had gone up the chairs and was on the upper deck looking at the Stargate. Below the deck were Vanessa, Volker and Brody. Brody looked at both of them and had an expression on his face that clearly meant that he had no idea of what to say so he just turned around and exited to the nearest door. Volker followed him with his eyes and when he was out of the room he took one step closer to Vanessa when he was about to open his mouth and say something, Brody came back:

**DR. BRODY:** It's the other exit...

Vanessa didn't move, Volker closed his mouth and shrugged his shoulders. When Brody was out to the room, again, Volker tilted his head so he could see if he was really gone; He was. He took few steps towards Vanessa; at this point she was standing right in front of him. He was trying to speak, he was having some difficulty, Volker was nervous...

**DR. VOLKER:** Hmm... Would... Would you like... to go out with me sometime?

Vanessa didn't say anything, she smiled leaned forward and kissed him.

Everyone was in the Gate Room for scheduled dial in from Pegasus Galaxy; it was there life-line working at full strength. Time had flown since everyone left Destiny, in the three months that passed Lisa and Greer moved in together, Varro and T.J. had public assumed their relationship and Vanessa and Dale started to date. Chloe's condition hadn't change, the only thing that changed was the amount of time Scott passed with Chloe, it was becoming extremely difficult for him to see her like that every day.

**COL. YOUNG:** Where's Eli?

**VARRO:** He's not here, yet.

**DR. BRODY:** Eli's been absent a lot, this past month. Something's up.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** I'll go get him.

Greer made his way to the Kino Centre aka Eli's Room. When he got there, Eli was sitting in his chair in front of the Kino Control Monitor like usually. But unlike usually he wasn't editing his movie he was scribbling on his book. Greer was a little taken aback, it was a while since he had been there, and the walls were covered with white paper sheets filled with calculations and drawings.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** Eli, Col. Young wants you on the Gate Room.

Eli didn't respond, he continued to write on his book. Greer shouted:

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** Eli...

He took a step inside the room and was about to put his hand on Eli's shoulder so he could force him on his feet, when Eli stood up.

**ELI:** I got it...

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** Got what?

It was only then that Eli noticed Greer standing there.

**ELI:** Oh... hello, Ronald. Come with me, please.

**MASTER SGT. GREER:** To?

**ELI:** The Gate Room, I need to speak to everyone.

Greer took a deep breath to let out the frustration then turned around and followed Eli out the door. Within a few minutes they were in the Gate Room with everyone else. When they got there Eli called out for attention:

**ELI:** Everyone... first, good day. I come, baring good news.

Rush rolled his eyes, he didn't care much to the theatrical.

**ELI:** For the last month I've been studying the Naquadria Generator left behind by Jonas Quinn.

And I've made a great discovery, if you can call it that.

**DR. RUSH:** Doubtfully...

**ELI:** At first I thought that the generator was fried from the Dial Out but I was wrong it was just completely drained of any power. I was trying to figure out how it worked, because I was bored and needed a hobby but something amazing happened. I figured out how it worked and how I can get it to work again.

By this time all eyes and hears were fixated on Eli.

**ELI:** I just finished running the calculations when Greer entered my room.

**COL. YOUNG:** Are you telling me that we can make a nine chevron connection right now?

Eli nodded his head yes but said:

**ELI:** NO.

**COL. YOUNG:** Eli...

**ELI:** The calculation weren't about how to make it work; they were about how to charge the Generator.

**DR. RUSH:** Destiny's energy source.

**ELI:** Exactly.

**COL. YOUNG:** Excuse me?!

**DR. RUSH:** As you all know Destiny charges herself by harnessing the energy of blue stars...



**ELI:** Exactly, I figured out a way that we can siphon some of that energy to recharge the generator to working conditions.

**DR. BRODY:** But the energy built up would completely obliterate the Generator capacitors.

**ELI:** That's why we take only a Nano fraction each time.

**LT. SCOTT:** How long would that take?

**DR. VOLKER:** A year. Give or take.

**ELI:** He's right. By my estimate we can make a nine chevron dial out to the Pegasus Galaxy once every Earth year.

# Epilogue

## הִי:יִשְׁרָאֵלִי

Everyone was on the mess getting ready for dinner, everyone except Eli, again. Since there was now a lot less people on board Destiny, the crew had joined enough tables so they could eat together. The long table sat five on each side and one at the head of the table, normally that seat was Col. Young's. The couples tended to stay together so the disposition of the seat was usually the same: Col. Young at the head of the table with Eli, Brody, Lisa, T.J. and Vanessa on one side and Rush, Scott, Greer, Varro and Volker on the other. But today Eli's seat was empty.

**LT. SCOTT:** Never thought I'd say this... but I miss Becker's cooking.

**DR. PARK:** Hey!!

**LT. SCOTT:** No offense to today's cook.

They all laughed a little, while they passed around the food platters. They were all so focused on the food that they didn't notice someone at the entrance. T.J. was the first. When she picked up the bread tray, since the Life-Line was fully operation they would get bread from time to time, she noticed a shadow at the door. Everyone was startled because T.J. dropped the tray on the floor after she focused her eyes to see who was there. The large bang of the tray hitting the floor brought after it a deafening silence. Everyone soon realized that T.J. was staring at something. They followed

her eye line and everyone gasped for air when they saw it too.

At the entrance of the door was Chloe:

**CHLOE:** Hello.

Scott after the initial shock wore off, got immediately up and made his way towards her. He puts his arms around her and then leaned in for a kiss, she stopped him.

**CHLOE:** I'm not Chloe...

Scott took two steps back in shock. By this time everyone had gotten up from their seats and was near them.

**COL. YOUNG:** What the hell is going on? Who are you?

In a moment of perfect timing, Eli turned the corner and appeared behind Chloe.

**ELI:** Wait...

He was out of breath.

**COL. YOUNG:** I'll ask again, what the hell is going on?

**ELI:** Everyone, this is Ginn.

**LT. SCOTT:** What did you do, Eli?

**ELI:** Everyone, calm down. I'll explain everything. Best we all sit down.

Eli began to explain the “why, how and when” of that situation.

**ELI:** I had an idea a couple of months ago. If Chloe’s condition was caused by the fact that her mind had somehow disconnected from her body, why not replace it with a working mind?

**LT. SCOTT:** What are you talking about?

**ELI:** I uploaded Chloe’s brain into Destiny memory banks and I downloaded Ginn’s into Chloe’s body.

**COL. YOUNG:** Are you insane?

**ELI:** Let me explain everything.

**LT. SCOTT:** Explain.

**ELI:** Chloe’s body was slowly failing because she eats almost nothing, doesn’t move and the only thing keeping her alive was Destiny med spires. Not anymore. I uploaded Chloe’s mind into Destiny memory bank so that Destiny could help Chloe directly. And I download Ginn so that she could help us maintain Chloe’s body healthy.

No one spoke a word. They were a little shocked.

**LT. SCOTT:** You had no right to do that.

**ELI:** I had the same right as everyone else on this ship. Something had to be done. She wasn’t getting better in fact she begun to show signs of body atrophy.

**COL. YOUNG:** T.J.?

**LT. JOHANSEN:** He’s right about the atrophy, sir.

**ELI:** So I helped her the only way I could.

**LT. SCOTT:** Helped?!

**ELI:** Yes, helped. This way her mind is getting the treatment it needs, while the body stays healthy. This is only a temporary arrangement.

**GINN:** I'm really sorry. I am fully aware that this is a temporary thing. As soon as Chloe is ready I will trade places with her again.

**DR. RUSH:** Well this works out well for you, doesn't?

**ELI:** Like you care, you're only mad because it's not Dr. Perry. I don't know about you all but I will rest a lot easier knowing that no one is trying to destroy the ship just because you didn't love her.

Rush stepped forward upon hearing those words, he had a look in his eyes. Greer stepped in front of him to calm him down or forced him to calm down.

**ELI:** I understand that this is not an ideal situation but it's the best I could come up with. God knows I was tired of waiting for improvements that were never coming, this way she has a chance.

**DR. VOLKER:** Putting all that aside. How did you do it, last time I checked Dr. Perry, Ginn and Franklyn were mashed together in the quarantine area of the memory banks?

**DR. BRODY:** You connected her to the chair didn't you?

**DR. RUSH:** Of course he connected her to the chair.

**COL. YOUNG:** Everyone calm down let him talk.

**LT. SCOTT:** Don't tell me that you condone this?

**COL. YOUNG:** I don't. But that doesn't mean I don't want to know what happened.

**ELI:** Actually, it was because of Dr. Franklyn help that this was possible. At first it was extremely difficult to make out any of the three. But Dr. Franklyn must've understood what I was trying to do, he began to block Dr. Perry some time to time until eventually he managed to separate Ginn from the collective and hold Dr. Perry back enough time so I could perform the upload/download.

**GINN:** He's right. Dr. Franklyn opposed the idea of being him who downloaded into Chloe body and since Dr. Perry actions had put everyone on board in danger he felt, and I concur with his assessment, I was the only viable choice. Dr. Perry simply cannot be trusted. Sorry, Dr, Rush. So I volunteered. But if everyone is against it, I will go back.

**ELI:** No... Can't you guys see? This is Chloe's best chance.

**COL. YOUNG:** T.J.? What do you think?

**LT. JOHANSEN:** It makes sense to me, Sir. Besides Chloe wasn't getting any better maybe this way she has a fighting chance.

**COL. YOUNG:** You have three months to show me that this is in fact helping Chloe, if not Ginn will go back. Sorry Ginn.

**GINN:** I understand. I knew the terms from the start and I agreed to them.

Everyone returned to the table to finish the meal. Everyone except Scott, he walked towards Eli. Greer noticed and followed, he was afraid that Scott might turn on Eli.

**LT. SCOTT:** I do not agree with this. In three months if nothing changes with Chloe, Ginn will go back you have my word. You may have your girlfriend back but

that his Chloe's body, you do well to remember that.

**ELI:** Come on, Matt... You think I don't know that. Chloe is my best friend you really think I would do this if there was a remote chance I could hurt her?

**LT. SCOTT:** I know. It just... You took me by surprise. Why didn't you mention any of this?

**ELI:** I didn't want to get anyone's hope up, especially yours.

**LT. SCOTT:** Sorry for my reaction, Ginn. And thank you for your help.

**GINN:** I am the one who should thank you. This way I'm helping a friend while I visit other friends.

Ginn embraced Scott then they all turned around and sat down to finish their meal.

The End  
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