

Nicholas Henry Hoyt Lance

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### Homogenous Humanity

A loud bell sounded. Well, bell I use lightly, the sound it sent forth was really more bellowing and gong-like. Time to run.

I shot like lightning out of the doorway. I was moving so fast that I barely heard the magnetic clanking of the door closing behind me. I could feel my assisted muscles pushing me so much faster than my natural running ability.

The bell sounded again. Luckily I had upgraded my legs recently. Time to leap. With a slight effort I shot upward leaping the building in front of me.

I remembered talking with Lil about my new jumping abilities. It's interesting how short the older buildings in the city truly were. Hundreds of floors, bounded in an instant.

Almost there. I could practically see her standing on the balcony of her apartment. I landed softly on her garden balcony. Avoid the lilies. She loves the lilies. It seemed so ironic, yet perfect, for Lily to love lilies.

I entered the apartment, "Lily, they're calling in the evacuation."

I could hear the pop of her claws as she stretched before leaving the couch and entering the room. I could never get over her beautiful fur. It was filled with Swirls of colors that changed to match her mood and outfit.

"Don't be in such a rush. It isn't like we've never been called to leave a planet before."

I think Lily forgot that this was only my second planetary move. For an instance, I wondered what it was like before. Back before humans moved from world to world discovering alien creatures and cultures and incorporating them equally into their lives. Going so far to push

equality that even the very definition of humanity was expanded to include all sentient beings. We were now the Society of Humanity. Not only composed of the traditional human being, but a society composed of all the separate races from across the universe that had combined to redefine humanity. No time to think.

“I'm sorry. That was a little harsh. You'll get used to moving eventually. With all the comets and asteroids and things floating around in space it's unsafe to stay on any one planet for too long.”

Transferring to new planets wasn't really a big deal. In short, scientists and engineers ventured in space shuttles to the next planet and set up a transit warp station. Then all we had to do was go to our local transit warp, set the destination for a part of the new planet and go.

In a flash Lily had packed our things and already pre-warped our stuff to our new apartment on Xilon II. With the furniture arrangements settled, she leaped onto my back and we were off. I loved feeling the vibration from her soft purrs on the back of my neck. She was such an erotic feline. I was a lucky man to have her.

With a few leaps we were at the transit warp station. We stood in queue amongst the great hodgepodge of humanity. People of all shapes and sizes. People with all sorts of enhancements, natural and cybernetic. Everyone was waiting in anticipation of their new homes.

Suddenly I was tackled from behind. I immediately went into war mode. From my outer forearms raised blades that extended to below my fingertips. My wings protruded menacingly from my back, and as I rolled to my feet, facing my attacker, they spread ominously to their full width. During the roll I had grabbed the two pistols from each of my thighs. I was ready to bring death to this disturber of the peace.

The mechanical man who had tackled me began laughing hysterically, “Is that how you

say hello to all of your friends? Or am I something special?"

Rob, what a bastard, "You silly grease-bucket, I was about to rip you limb from limb."

I casually retracted my wings and blades and I put my pistols back into my leg compartments.

"You'd have never come close. I've just added a protruding turbine to my arsenal."

"I thought you left weeks ago. What're you still doing here?"

Rob's still being on this planet was a bad sign. I just hoped he wasn't here looking for recruits.

"We've found an ectohive on Xilon II. I've returned here to put together a small squad to go in and eradicate all potential threats to humanity."

Ectohive was the term we used for a non-human settlement of creatures. Ectohives tended to be hostile to outsiders. The Society of Humanity was not a colonial society; any group of creatures were welcome to peacefully join our society or not, as long as they were not hostile. Ectohives were generally composed of non-sentient hostile beings or beings whose culture was based entirely on war. In order to maintain peace and safety for all mankind these ectohives had to be eliminated if hostile.

I casually glanced at Lily. She gave a slight nod and the decision was made. We would join the team and sniff out this ectohive.

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We were set to meet up with the rest of the group in a few hours. Lily and I only had a limited amount of time to enjoy our new apartment. I was standing on the balcony looking out at the beautiful landscape in front of us. The Scientists and Engineers really knew how to pick a planet.

I looked from the 100<sup>th</sup> floor at the city stretching out before me. The swiftness with which we could build cities was still amazing to me. The green skies and blue planes beyond the buildings were fantastic. Her fur gave me a slight startle as it ran up my back.

One turn and we embraced. One strong, smooth kiss and we were on the bed. One extension of her claws. One climactic motion of passion, love, and lust. One great collapse into each other's arms. One long rest before the salvation of mankind.

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Her claws had dug a little too deep. My back was sore as we walked to the reconnaissance point. The strike team was small, consisting of Rob, Lil, me, and two other people I had never met. The unfamiliar were dressed similarly with reptilian skin hiding beneath their enhanced armors. They introduced themselves as brothers and we were off.

Each of us had transitioned to war mode so we all had our hidden appendages of mass destruction displayed threateningly. Without fear we walked into the heart of the ectohive. The native creatures of this planet seemed to have evolved from the grassy planes surrounding us. Their skin bore the same greenish-blue color of the grass and grass-like extrusions seemed to grow all over their bodies, akin to hair.

As we walked into the center of their town, which consisted mostly of layers of grass huts built on the inside of a giant crater, I couldn't help but notice a system of tunnels leading off in all directions. The tunnels were on level with the height of the crater, but definitely underground for the new city of Humanity. The villagers kept their distance, but didn't seem very alarmed at our presence. We entered the largest hut at the center of town.

“We wish to talk with the leader of this civilization.”

A small fellow approached us from the back of the building. The building looked more

or less like a town hall. Strange are the commonalities of town structures across the whole of the galaxy. The man who approached began to speak in a soft, beautiful, yet incomprehensible language. As he spoke each of our language enhancements kicked in and his words became clear and understandable.

“Welcome, we are the Lomes. We are the land and we share it freely and equally. How may I help you kind visitors?”

“We represent the Society of Humanity. A society of limitless resources and protection for all citizens on all known worlds. We extend the hand of peace and offer you Lomes the opportunity to join our civilization and never worry about any problems you may have again. You will also be allowed free passage to any known world of our society.”

He turned and began a feverish discussion with the other Lomes in the room. As he turned back, his eyes and face were lit with an, as of yet, undetermined emotion. We each steadied our hands over our weapons. This was the point, make or break.

“We would gladly like to consider joining your civilization. We do have many questions and will need time to debate amongst...”

I interrupted as politely as possible, “Of course you do. We'll call in the diplomatic societal representatives who will discuss the benefits joining our society will give your people. They will also cover any negative aspects they may foresee, which are generally few.”

Lil opened a connection with the diplomatic council.

“We have met the Lomes of the Xilon II ectohive and they are friendly. Send in the transition units.”

We finished talking to the Lomes and began to leave just as the first transition diplomats were landing. A peaceful extension of humanity had been made and we were all glad to call it a

day.