

The Imperial Chronicles of Parduum

By

Chelle Morency

The Zaphiraas Series

Michelle Wheaton 2008

Copyright 2008

U.S. Copyright #

Writer's Guild of America w  
#

Chelle Morency

5332 East 45th Street

Yuma, AZ 85365

(928)276-1373

(928)271-0940

[chelle@bluechelleproductions.com](mailto:chelle@bluechelleproductions.com)

EXT. PLANET EARTH-SPACE. DAY.

Shot of Earth from space. It is clear that something very wrong has happened and the Earth appears dead or dying. Thousands of space shuttles and ships are fleeing into space.

KYRSHASSA:

(V.O.) Mankind was forced to flee Earth, after something called Armageddon left it unable to sustain life any longer. The third of humanity which survived, wandered in space for 40 years looking for a new home, until they reached the Zaphiraas System. A few, made their way to Parduum...MY Parduum. And there was peace for 400 years. Until one day, they discovered our most beloved and highly lucrative watersilk. And...they coveted it. Coveted it, and remembered their old ways. For the battles began... all...over...again. Mankind seems doomed to always repeat their past, never learning from their mistakes. And now, they're here...

Image of "Kyrshassa" looking up into camera with her luminescent and glowing blue eyes and long, wild blue hair.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
(cont'd)

On MY world.

Camera shot of the Planet of Parduum, it's vast ocean, camera zooms off into event horizon eventually reaching land on which a mighty battle is taking place and smoke is rising in certain places.

EXT. GRASSY KNOLL. DAY.

The battlefield. CROWN PRINCESS KYRSHASSA ELOII, (A robust, long, blue-haired Aquiaan woman with luminescent blue eyes, wearing navy blue high collared battlegarb and boots), knocks a human enemy down with her CHAACA STICK. (An ornate, long pole, fitted with electrodes on either end) LORD OMPEKO ELOII, (A tall, slender, long blue-haired Aquiaan male with luminescent blue eyes and the clan woad of the Eloii on his forehead, is nearby finishing up fighting off an attack also.

(CONTINUED)

A loud sucking noise whooshes by, up above their heads. Kyrshassa looks up and sees LORD FATCH AMEXXI, (a comical looking, Aquiaan male with the clan woad of the Amexxi clan in the shape of a chevron pattern on his forehead) zoom past and land clumsily.

KYRSHASSA:

(gasp)

Oh, Fatch! When are you ever going to learn how to use the percusser?

LORD FATCH:

Sorry, my Lady. I keep trying...

KYRSHASSA:

(to Lord Ompeko)

He's going to kill himself one of these days. Who the shell keeps giving him percussers?

LORD OMPEKO:

(shrugging)

I have no clue...

KYRSHASSA:

(gasp)

Ompeko! He's your best friend!

LORD OMPEKO:

Yeah...I know. (shrug)

KYRSHASSA:

So, stop trying to kill him!

LORD OMPEKO:

Trust me, he can handle himself.  
(smirking, looks back at Lord Fatch)

Fatch is greeted by large kilted Scotsman who is showing off his moves with a very large chaaka stick. Undaunted, Fatch takes out smaller chaaka stick from behind himself and goes right up to his enemy and whacks the larger man hard on the knuckles and zaps him with it. And the Scot, is so shocked, he yelps in pain and drops his much larger stick. Fatch then wails into him, defeating him.

LORD OMPEKO: (cont'd)

See?

Kyrshassa sighs and looks over to her left and sees her brother, PRINCE MA'AT, (Aquiaan male) up ahead downed by a blow to his chest by a human wielding a chaaka stick, who

(CONTINUED)

plunges it into his body, shocking him. Kyrshassa goes over to give aid, but the already tired enemy engages her instead. When he hits her, Kyrshassa becomes angry and grabs a hold of his throat and snaps his neck.

When the enemy falls, Kyrshassa falls to her knees and holds Prince Ma'at in her arms and weeps for him.

KYRSHASSA:

Oh no, not you too. Oh, not my Ma'at!

PRINCE MA'AT:

Kee...I'm so sorry about your Theyo. He fought well. But, go...go find father. He needs you now more than I. Don't worry about me, I am already healing, I can feel it.

She gently puts her forehead to his.

KYRSHASSA:

Alright then. But, I will return for you. Only do not move, or you'll create more injury. I love you Ma'at.

PRINCE MA'AT:

And I you, sister. (urgently)  
Now...GO!

Ma'at dies in her arms. She screams out.

KYRSHASSA:

WHY??(weeps bitterly)HUMANS!!!

Kyrshassa rocks with him in her arms and weeps.

LORD OMPEKO:

Oh, your royal highness, please..I'm so sorry, but he was quite right, you *must* find your father...Please, come with me. His highness' body is empty now. We must take care of the *living*.

Ompeko helps her to her feet and as he does so, his hand touches something sticky, he lifts his hand to realize that Kyrshassa has been wounded in the back, which is saturated with blood and her long hair is stuck in it.

Kyrshassa looks overwhelmed at the sheer amount of bodies everywhere. GENERAL PAAKO joins them.

(CONTINUED)

General Paako, (a very tall, good looking, well muscled, dark skinned, bald Aquiaan male. He is wearing the clan woad markings of the Eloii on his forehead.) Kyrshassa looks at Paako and stares at his percusser. Paako notices Kyrshassa staring at it and also looks at it. It is a implosion weapon and multi-function tool strapped to the wrist, hand and fingers.

GENERAL PAAKO:

Uh, your Royal Highness, your father has been found...he has been wounded, but it is believed he will live and he has been calling for you. Uh, Highness?

KYRSHASSA:

Ma'at...he needs your help General Paako. H-h-he needs h-h....

GENERAL PAAKO:

Lord Ompeko, her Highness is going into shock, she's going to need to be carried.

Kyrshassa then falls into Paako's arms, and he lifts her up. Paako, Ompeko and Kyrshassa depart the battlefield, and as they depart, we see SHARYS, (an "Amuy" a ghostly image of a tall, dark skinned, very long and white haired woman with glowing eyes), who has been watching the entire spectacle...

INT. AQUIAAS PALACE THRONE ROOM. NIGHT

Kyrshassa and KING AARDUR, (an older Aquiaan male with long blue tinged with white hair, average height and build), are present in Throne Room. Kyrshassa looks out large window, she sees all the beautiful lights down below much like city lights, fish swimming past, and a vast tree kelp-like forest with large, luminescent blossoms, known as WATERSILK TREES, and is saddened by what she sees.

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, father. Just look at all those blooms. I cannot recall there ever having been such a substantial bumper crop. What should have been a blessing, has become a curse! Why...after all this time, did the humans suddenly have to remember and revert back to their old ways and become so covetous, that they would eagerly destroy a 400 year peace agreement over (looks at Aardur)...a mere commodity?

(CONTINUED)

KING AARDUR:

Well, Kee...it isn't ALL humans, just a select *few*. And, I do not understand it myself. For that matter, neither does their own king or queen! So many of the humans have been acting out of character lately. And no one seems to know why or even how, this thing is happening. Though Omie tells me since her return from school on Zaphiraas Prime, the fighting outbreaks are not everywhere amongst the humans. It just seems to be isolated here on Parduum. Even so, I don't want her going back there, it's just too dangerous and too far from the safety of her people. I'm just thankful she was able to return to us safely.

KYRSHASSA:

Mmmm...That, was nothing short of a miracle in of itself! Especially considering how bad things are getting on the surface. And, judging by this latest crop, there will even be more deaths this harvest than last year's, father. I fear perhaps even more so, than ever before. But, I confess it is good having her home again. I just wish her return weren't during such a volatile time. You know, she no longer has an Aquish accent, she sounds more like a New Merican!  
(sigh)

Aardur swims over to his daughter with some effort. He winces in pain, but tries to hide it. Kyrshassa notices.

KYRSHASSA:

Faffee! Are you all right? I can't bear seeing you in so much pain. Is it your battle wounds?

KING AARDUR:

(sighs)

I'm afraid so my dearling. They've never really healed properly and the pain just seems to be getting worse and worse lately. But, (raises a hand) we have more important things to discuss.

(CONTINUED)

He turns to look out the window too, and puts his hands behind his back in deep thought.

KING AARDUR:

(cont'd)

This year's harvest IS the most bountiful than even I can recall ever seeing. And I am afraid you are quite correct, more WILL die. So something must be done, and soon. Harvest is due to begin the day after tomorrow. And as you know, it's always then that the fighting begins. (shakes his head in despair) I would do anything to make the skirmishes stop. *Anything.*

KYRSHASSA:

Father, what is it?

KING AARDUR:

As you know, we have been unsuccessful at every attempt to keep our people from fighting the land dwellers and they have not been able to contain their people from fighting ours, despite the laws passed on both sides. I hate having to ask this of you, Kee..but, (takes deep breath and sighs and turns to her)..what would you say to the idea of entering into life bond with their crown prince?

KYRSHASSA:

(laughs till almost choking)  
WHAT?? Oh Faffee, you had me so worried.

KING AARDUR:

Kyrshassa, I am quite serious. I understand you are still grieving the loss of Theyo and Ma'at, but please consider that your people need you right now. Since your husband and brother passed, you have gone off your genomic diet altogether and have become far too overweight, and you have neglected your royal duties as well. You need to come back to us and rejoin the living.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

(turns away in shame) Oh, Faffee. I know what you say is true. I-I do. And you're right, of course. But, I'm just not ready. How can I marry again, and of all land dwellers...to HIM in particular? Oh Faffee, you just don't know what you ask.

KING AARDUR:

Oh, don't I? Look here my dearling, I realize you have no love for humans or for this human in particular, and I realize your first meeting with him didn't go well, AND that he carries a bad reputation, but we have no other choice. Peace between our two nations is all that matters now.

KYRSHASSA:

I agree...but, (sighs) can I at least go to the temple and pray for wisdom and guidance before giving a final answer?

KING AARDUR:

Oh, yes...of course. I would have advised for you to do so anyway.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-COURT ROOM. DAY

Empty throne room except for KING OUIILLIAM, (a good looking older Scotsman with medium-long gray hair and beard), QUEEN MAIRI-MARGARETTA, (a short, rotund, yet elegant granny-type lady), BARONESS FUQUAY (an average height, middle aged, blond haired and blue eyed lady, who is Head of Police and Investigation) ADMIRAL HASTE (a tall, Polynesian human male,) and Crown Prince Iain MacAlbainn, a tall, medium-well built human male, with shoulder-length, salt and pepper hair and designer stubble.

IAIN:

You want me to do WHAT? Da, no!

KING OUIILLIAM:

Wheesht now, Iain, my son. Hear what I have to say.

King Ouilliam raises hand to silence his son.

(CONTINUED)

KING OUIILLIAM:

You know very well this is quite necessary to keep the peace of our peoples. We have had enough of war and death. And I myself, have had a gutful of it! And I'll not hear you whinge about it, for it'll not work! Not this time, lad. It is the only way to peace left to us now.

QUEEN MAIRI:

My son, you have had your whole life of freedom and wild ways and we've indulged you thus far especially since Stevie and Maev's deaths, but now it is time for settling down. You are almost forty years old, and have naught to show for it, no wife, no kids, no nothing worthy of any mention. And, you are the last of our line. So, now it is time to grow up and pick up the heavy mantle of kingship from your father and marry the Aquiaan lass.

Queen Mairi tousles Iain's hair and smiles at him. Iain rises, looks at her in a distinctly annoyed manner and at his father and exits.

King and Queen turn to face each other.

KING OUIILLIAM:

Well, that went much better than we thought it would.

EXT. IMPERIAL PALACE-COURT ROOM-BALCONY. EVENING

Iain is discussing the outcome of the meeting with his parents with his best friend, CAPTAIN LEANDER MACRAE, (a tall, clean cut, good looking Scotsman).

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Do you even know what she looks like lately? I've heard that she really let herself go since her brother and husband died.

IAIN:

Aye, I've heard that too. Leave it to my parents to marry me off to an old, fat, crippled, widow woman!

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Och sir, you make her sound like she's this ancient, hump-backed three legged beastie with chest hair and a drooling problem! Hang on a minute...isn't she the same age as you?

Iain shrugs shoulders.

IAIN:

Och, I dunno Lee. All I can remember of her was when we were bairns. My parents brought me with them to visit with her parents on Meeting Island, when her mother was still alive.

Memory shot of two children about ten, on beach near water's edge. Boy is obviously enamored with pretty, long, blue-haired girl. Boy tries to kiss girl. Girl is appalled, kicks him and runs away.

IAIN: (cont'd)

That's it, that's all I can remember of her.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Well, er..not that my opinion is worth more than a mountain of beans, but I think that you are doing the right thing in marrying their Princess, sir.

IAIN:

Eh? You do??

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Aye, sir. I do. They say she's not ugly to look at and she's quite wealthy to boot! Er, not that she'd ever have someone like me, but I'd marry her in a heart beat!

Iain laughs.

IAIN:

Aye, I reckon you're quite right there, Lee..She'd not have a nutter like you, that's for certain!

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Well, maybe it won't be as bad as you think. I mean, you could certainly do a whole lot worse than marry a wee wealthy queen. In fact, come to think of it, you have done!

Leander laughs.

IAIN:

Ha ha, very funny. Thrilled I can be a source of amusement for you!

Iain turns to face the setting sun on the horizon.

INT. AQUIAAN PALACE-TEMPLE. NIGHT

Kyrshassa is alone and on her knees and is finishing her prayers on the temple floor.

Enter: PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE, a pretty, 10 yr old Aquiaan girl with long blue hair with blue, twin mini-bun hairstyle on top of her head. Princess Omie-Kaye heads over to a massive stone wall with gold lettering, known as the SHARING WALL and is seen reading and touching it. Kyrshassa joins her.

PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE:

Shem sha eh he. Oh, I'm sorry Auntie Kee, I didn't mean to interrupt your prayers.

KYRSHASSA:

I'm pleased you remember Aquish Omie-Kaye. Too many of us only speak in human tongues these days. You, my dearling don't even sound Aquiaan anymore. You've been away with the humans for far too long! Your Great Faffee and I are so happy you're home safe now though. I've never liked the idea of you being schooled off-world. But, you're fine Omie, I was finished with my prayers anyway.

PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE:

Auntie, at school on Zaph Prime, they're teaching the humans all about our Sharing Wall and it's record of all life that the Great Father created throughout time. And, I have to say, the species

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE: (cont'd)  
that fascinates me the most, are  
the Amuy. What do you know about  
them?

KYRSHASSA:  
Ah, yes. The Amuy. They have always  
been a source of fascination for me  
too. Well, I'm afraid no one really  
knows much about them. Only that  
they are a race much like the  
cherubim and seraphim. They too  
have the natural ability to fold  
space and time as though it were  
nothing more than mere pages in a  
book. We, are simply characters in  
the book for them. I doubt they  
hold much interest in us.

PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE:  
Really? Wow...That's really kinda  
scary.

KYRSHASSA:  
Well, Omie, sure... I can  
understand how you might find them  
so, dearling. But, do not fear so.  
No one has seen or heard from them  
in several millennia.

PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE:  
Oh? Why?

KYRSHASSA:  
Well, it's just who they are, love.  
They are a hermetic species in  
nature.

PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE:  
What does that mean?

KYRSHASSA:  
Oh, just that they don't associate  
much with other species. They  
prefer to keep to themselves.

PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE:  
Oooh...how sad.

KYRSHASSA:  
Mmmmm...I agree.

Omie and Kyrshassa continue to look at the Sharing Wall. A  
GHOSTLY IMAGE OF SHARYS IS QUIETLY OBSERVING THEM.

(CONTINUED)

ENTER: LADY UEA. (an elegant, ethereally dressed, slender, Aquiaan female wearing the clan woad of the Benoii on her forehead)

LADY UEA:

Great Lady, your father has taken a turn for the worse and has been taken to his bed chamber.

KYRSHASSA:

(gasp)

Oh no! Come, let's get there as quickly as we can!

INT. AQUIAAN PALACE-BEDCHAMBER. NIGHT

As Kyrshassa and the ladies enter the bedchamber, present are Fatch, who is Prime Minister..Paako, and STARQUIN DARR, (a rotund, middle-aged Aquiaan male). All are surrounding King Aardur in his sleep pouch which is tethered to an ornate bed stand. They clear a space for Kyrshassa and Omie-Kaye.

KYRSHASSA:

Faffee, you must get well, as it breaks my heart to see you so ill, I love you so much.

KING AARDUR:

Peace, Kee. I have been speaking to the surface and they tell me that their Crown Prince has agreed to take you for his wife and will even marry you in our Life Bond ceremony. The both of you will be crowned Emperor and Empress and are to *both* rule over all Parduum, equally.

KYRSHASSA:

Now, just a moment, father...I haven't agreed to it yet.

KING AARDUR:

But, I know *you*, my sweet Kee. And may you know the pleasure of a daughter just like you!

Kyrshassa bursts into tears at his words...

(CONTINUED)

KING AARDUR: (cont'd)  
(cont'd)

Kee, you must be strong for me.  
Marry their prince and rule wisely  
and keep our ways. They will always  
guide you. Remember me with love,  
Kyrsha and my dear Omie-Kaye. Your  
mother and father would be so proud  
of you, Omie as I am. Kee, tell  
your sister Shallia Rose that I  
love her too. Please tell her that  
I...

KING AARDUR DIES IN KYRSHASSA'S ARMS.

KYRSHASSA:

Noooo...Faffee! Not you too! Don't  
leave us, we need you too much! Oh  
no, no, no...WHY???? (Screams out  
in grief)

Kyrshassa tears her garment over her heart and everyone else  
in the room does the same. And all weep for their poor king.

EXIT: Starquin, Paako and Fatch.

A few seconds later we hear the crier "The King is dead,  
long live the Queen!" And Kyrshassa bursts into tears again  
and clutches at her father.

INT. AQUIAAN PALACE-THRONE ROOM-NIGHT.

Kyrshassa is alone, staring out the window. A beeping noise  
from the telecom monitor gets her attention.

AQUIAAN TELECOM OPERATOR:

Majesty, your call has connected.

KYRSHASSA:

Thank you, Seshie.

Kyrshassa leaves window and sadly heads over to telecom  
monitor and sits on throne. Image of operator is replaced by  
image of PRINCESS SHALLIA ROSE. (a pretty, slender Aquiaan  
female about 21 y.o).

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

Sister.

KYRSHASSA:

(Sniffling)

Sho henu Ha! Coldo rui shehenu  
rei-...

(CONTINUED)

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

(eye roll)

Oh, don't speak to me in Aquish!  
English, Kyrsha! I've been living  
in New Merica for years now, man!  
What do you want?

KYRSHASSA:

(pause)I am so sorry Shallia, but I  
have terrible news, the worst kind  
to ever have to give. But I thought  
it only right that you hear it from  
me first.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

Whatever. Tell me what, exactly?

KYRSHASSA:

Oh Shallia..Father has died...he  
just passed..

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

(interrupts)

So?

KYRSHASSA:

(stunned)

What..what do you mean..So? Did you  
not hear me properly? I said our  
father is..*dead*.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

And, I'm supposed to care?

KYRSHASSA:

Yes, of course you are. You're his  
daughter!

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

Oh really? That didn't stop him  
from shipping me off-world to marry  
the old dustbag's 2nd son now, did  
it? And I see you're quick to take  
the throne. And how long has the  
old goat been dead? Never  
mind..you're welcome to it  
Kyrshassa! I have other plans...

Screen blips off. And Kyrshassa just stares in horror and  
disbelief at the screen.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:  
Old goat? Shallia!

Kyrshassa falls to her knees from the throne and cries.

EXT. BODY OF WATER-MEETING ISLAND-DAY.ESTABLISHING SHOT

Ocean and Meeting Island, stellar and water ships are in small harbor.

EXT. MEETING ISLAND-MEETING ISLAND PORT-DAY.

A small stellarship is being loaded with a cargo of watersilk. The watersilk is in six feet long by three feet wide metal containers, each using straps to load them into the stellar ship's cargo bay, ready and waiting for pick up. There is a flurry of activity as Aquiaan workers are loading the containers into the ship.

A human man dressed in a stellarship crewman uniform and sun glasses comes out from the side of the ship and into view. The four men who were loading up the containers walk down the ramp of the stellarship. The man dressed in a worker's uniform walks up to them. He is CAPTAIN DAN PRUITT.(a Canadian descendant human male, in his late 20's)

CAPTAIN PRUITT:  
Is all the watersilk loaded on board? What's taking so long?

AQUIAAN WORKER:  
Considering how early you were in getting here sir, we're doing the best we can. We were not expecting you until after our king's funeral. However, we are just about to deliver the last parcels now.

Pruitt pulls out melter pistol and removes glasses.

CAPTAIN PRUITT:  
Excellent. Then, you won't mind taking a rest over there to join your colleagues. Go on, sit down over there.

As the Aquiaan worker sees where Pruitt was pointing to with his pistol, behind some boxes, he sees the other workers huddled together sitting on floor, he gasps, and tries to turn back to face Pruitt. But, Pruitt shoves him down to join the others. Pruitt pauses as he feels a presence behind

(CONTINUED)

him. He turns around and sees a very large Aquiaan male in guard's uniform, looks behind him and smiles.

TALL AQUIAAN GUARD:  
And what are YOU smiling about?

CAPTAIN PRUITT:  
Oh...*nothing*. (grinning)

SASHA RUSSKEY (a tall, good looking, Russian descendant Male, about 25 y.o.) is behind the tall guardsman with pistol locked on him. Sasha knocks out the Guard with his fist as he turns around to look at him. Sasha stands over the unconscious body and grins at Pruitt.

Pruitt turns his attention back to the Aquiaan workers, huddled in corner. His baby sister, JANNA PRUITT, (a pretty teenager with interesting colors in her hair) walks up to his side. He gives her a quick nod in the direction of the watersilk containers, while keeping his pistol trained on the workers.

Janna walks over to one of the watersilk containers and opens it.

JANNA PRUITT:  
Yup, it's the shipment of watersilk alright. And...it's a really excellent quality too!

Footsteps to their side get their attention. Pruitt and crew turn to face two more on-coming Aquiaan guardsmen, who have percussers trained on them. Sasha and Janna pull out large guns, but Pruitt already has one gun trained on them, while the other is still trained on the workers. A stand off happens. And then, BESTER THRAXXI (a handsome, black American-descendant male in his 20's) emerges from the ship, seemingly from nowhere, catching everyone off guard.

BESTER THRAXXI:  
Anything I can do to help?

The Aquiaan guardsmen turn to look at Bester, and Sasha takes the advantage and rushes the guards. Pruitt hands Janna his pistols to cover the workers while he leaps in to help Sasha. After they overpower the guards and force them to join the other guard and crewmen, Sasha heads to the seated Aquiaan workers and draws his knives and shows them to the terrified workers to effectively intimidate them further.

(CONTINUED)

SASHA RUSSKY:

Sasha no like witnesses. I kill you! I kill you!

CAPTAIN PRUITT:

No, no Sasha, no killing. We're ready to go.

Sasha looks disappointed over at Capt. Pruitt who is tearing off name sign on ship to reveal the ship's true name, the Luna Gem. Sasha then looks back at the clearly scared workers.

SASHA RUSSKY:

(with narrowed eyes)

I watch you! I watch you! (he tells them with knives drawn, as he slowly backs into the ship's cargo bay)

As Bester and Janna close up the ship's loading doors, Sasha continues to stare down the workers wildly. And points to his eyes and back to the wide-eyed men with the blade of his knife. Pruitt grabs Bester by the collar.

CAPTAIN PRUITT:

Where the sam-heck have you been??

BESTER THRAXXI:

(shrugs, fixes collar)

Hey like, I had things to do, alright?

JANNA PRUITT:

C'mon Danny..we have to go...NOW.

CAPTAIN PRUITT:

(narrows eyes at Bester)

Don't even think of being late again!

Bester just blinks a few times and looks nonplussed.

EXT. PLANET OF PARDUUM-SPACE

The stellarship exits watery atmosphere.

INT. LUNA GEM STELLARSHIP-BRIDGE.

Capt. Pruitt sits at telecom. Janna looks over from navigator's seat.

JANNA PRUITT:

Oh, geez...Danny! This is so the  
wrong time to be calling your girl!

But, Capt. Pruitt ignores her and still makes the call.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

(V.O)

Hiya Danny-boy...

EXT. BODY OF WATER. DAY.

Scene opens with the Royal Aquiaan Entourage swimming to the surface. Just before they break the surface waters, they exhale all water, and purge as much as they can and break the surface inhaling the pure oxygen with a loud sigh. They swim to Meeting Island where the royal human delegation awaits their arrival.

EXT. MEETING ISLAND. DAY.

A funeral procession for King Aardur; his body is paraded in a watersilk covering, for all Aquiaans to see. A funeral fit for a beloved king. Kyrshassa, dressed in high priestess robes and head and face veils follows behind her father's body as does Omie, Paako, Ompeko, Uea and Fatch. Aquiaans and humans alike, line the island watching and feeling the sorrow of King Aardur's death.

Among the humans, are interstellar reporters and cameramen covering the funeral services for the rest of the Zaphiraas system.

The Procession continues to the entire length of the small island until they reach a small port where a regal water ship awaits.

EXT. MEETING ISLAND-PORT-SHIPS-

Establishing shot.

INT. AQUIAAN SHIP-DAY.

Ouilliam, Mairi, Iain, Leander, Haste and Fuquay are on board waiting for the procession to arrive. Ouilliam is the first to see them approaching.

KING OUIILLIAM:

Here they come now. They should be here any second.

IAIN:

I still don't understand. Why are we here? We could've just sent a card!

KING OUIILLIAM:

Wheesht! We're here to pay our respects, lad.

IAIN:

Why? They didn't come to my brother's or sister's funerals.

QUEEN MAIRI:

Iain! You know very well they couldn't, it would have been too *dangerous* for them. Don't be so disrespectful, and don't ruin this day, it is a chance for us to show our support, helping to restore peace.

IAIN:

Peace! Ha!

Funeral procession arrives, with Kyrshassa, Lady Uea, Princess Omie-Kaye, Paako, Lord Ompeko in tow.

Reporters try to follow, but Paako and Ompeko block them, shaking their heads no.

GENERAL PAAKO:

Guards!

Guards engulf the reporters leading them away.

LORD OMPEKO:

Why do the humans have to broadcast our sorrow to the universe?

GENERAL PAAKO:

(shakes his head)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO: (cont'd)  
I believe even the humans have a  
name for these people. Uh...  
vultures?

LORD OMPEKO:  
What's a...vultures?

GENERAL PAAKO:  
(Shrugs shoulders)  
I have no idea...

Kyrshassa walks across the ship and she walks past Iain, she looks at him through the corner of her eye. His eyes meet hers. And time slows in that moment. She then casts her gaze back ahead and sits onto a makeshift throne, next to the body of her father. Everyone either bows or curtsies to her.

Iain makes a move when Haste stops him.

ADMIRAL HASTE:  
You can't go over to her,  
Sire...or, speak to her. It's a  
sign of disrespect. You may only do  
so, *after* his body is cast into the  
great whirlpool.

IAIN:  
Disrespect? And how would you know  
all their rules, Haste? Clearly,  
it's why my sister had married you,  
you have *all* the answers! However,  
they have far too many rules, for a  
fishy folk!

Ompeko walks past and overhears what Iain said, and gives a dirty look back.

KING OUIILLIAM:  
Iain! He *is* quite correct. (To  
Haste) Just dismiss him whenever  
he's being that rude...he's still  
working on his diplomacy skills.

Paako walks up to them.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Her majesty wishes to thank you for  
coming, she would say so  
herself..but, our laws..

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN MAIRI:

Och no, that's quite all right, we understand.

GENERAL PAAKO:

(bows in respect)

Thank you, your majesties. (Turns to look at Iain, and narrows eyes) Highness.

Paako turns to rejoin Kyrshassa, Omie, Uea and Ompeko.

The ship leaves and sails a short distance to an islet where the procession continues as King Aardur's body is taken to the edge of the giant whirlpool. Kyrshassa, Uea, Paako, Ompeko, Omie, Ouilliam, Mairi, and Iain stand as witnesses to the proceeding while Aquiaan music is played throughout the ceremony. Kyrshassa sings a song of farewell and love to her father in Aquish with Aquiaan drummers. When she finishes her song, she places "watersilk" flowers on him and leans in close to him.

KYRSHASSA:

(whispers) Good bye faffee. I love you and I'll miss you.

Once the ceremony is complete, they return to the ship and sail in silence, all the way back to Meeting Island.

As Kyrshassa is being escorted off the ship, she stops in front of Ouilliam and Mairi, and curtsies to them. Ouilliam and Iain bow in reply and Mairi returns the curtsy.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

We thank you kindly for coming, it would have meant a great deal to my father to know his dearest friends came. He was very fond of you both.

KING OUILLIAM:

It's the very least we can do, lass. The feeling was quite mutual. He was a good man. A man of honor and integrity. I both liked him and respected him deeply. He will be greatly missed.

KYRSHASSA:

(sniffs and whispers)

Thank you ever so much, Majesty.

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:

Tell me now, why do you cover your face, have you grown ugly with age?

KYRSHASSA:

What? No! I..it's traditional...I,

QUEEN MAIRI:

(gasp)

Iain! I cannae believe you just said that! You can be a right ned sometimes, you ken?

It is clear Kyrshassa wants to say something more as tears well up in her eyes, but Ompeko intervenes and he takes her by the arm and guides her away. Paako follows, but glares at Iain first, then gives a glance to Ouilliam and Fuquay and looks back at Iain.

Ouilliam gives his son the dirtiest and angriest look.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-FAMILY ROOM. DAY.

Queen Mairi, King Ouilliam, Lady Uea, Princess Omie-kaye, Lord Ompeko, Lord Fatch and General Paako are present in family room each sitting around doing their own thing.

QUEEN MAIRI:

My dear, your wedding dress has been completed, and should fit well.

KYRSHASSA:

My wedding dress? I have not yet agreed to marry your son, my lady. It is a heavy decision I must make, not only for myself, but also for my people.

QUEEN MAIRI:

Oh, I thought...

KING OUILLIAM:

Have you not yet decided, my lady? Are there any other choices available for our peoples that you know of and have not shared?

LADY UEA:

Majesty, it is the only way to peace left to us now...

(CONTINUED)

PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE:

It WAS what Grand-faffee wished,  
Auntie.

GENERAL PAAKO:

Your Majesty, you must do whatever  
is in your heart to do. And not  
what we wish for. Whatever you  
decide, you have my support.

Kyrshassa is startled for such a thing to be said by Paako  
and looks up at him.

KYRSHASSA:

Paako?

Kyrshassa rises, looks at everyone and heads to balcony to  
look out and ponder.

LORD OMPEKO:

The question is, what IS in her  
heart?

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-BED CHAMBER- DAY.

The wedding day has arrived. Camera shot of Queen Mairi, Uea  
and Omie helping Kyrshassa into her wedding gown. Kyrshassa  
seems distant and sad.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-OUTSIDE BEDCHAMBER- DAY.

Paako and Ompeko are waiting outside the palace bedchamber,  
where Kyrshassa is preparing for the wedding.

Paako notices Fatch coming towards him and is about to walk  
up to him, but pauses when he notices Fatch is missing his  
eyebrows. He raises a single eyebrow, and when Fatch  
notices, he grins.

LORD FATCH:

Ompeko's revenge.

Paako sighs and rolls his eyes. Looks at Ompeko, who shrugs  
and then back at Fatch.

GENERAL PAAKO:

Whatever have you done now, Fatch?

LORD FATCH:

Nothing! Well, much...I did sort of  
cream him..you know, shaving cream.

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO:

You...creamed him? What does... never mind. I really don't want to know! You know Fatch, you thoroughly deserve everything you get! That said, you may want to consider drawing on a pair of eyebrows...you look uh, creepy.

Paako turns and walks away quickly. Until he turns corner. He then looks back around corner and steps back. He creases up laughing. He has to place his hand on wall to steady himself. He exits while looking over his shoulder to make certain no one saw anything.

Omie exits room to let them know that Kyrshassa is ready. And is startled when she sees Fatch's missing eye brows.

PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE:

Oh! Geez, Fatch! You really scared the snot outta me! And...you're really kinda creeping me out too!

Omie squeals with laughter and giggles as she leaves. Kyrshassa comes up from behind Omie.

KYRSHASSA:

(gasp)

Oh Fatch! What have you done now?

Kyrshassa shakes her head and walks away towards Ompeko and as she does so, she snorts and giggles to herself. Ompeko narrows his eyes at Fatch, signaling that he's watching him. Fatch simply smiles back and waves to him, so innocently.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-THRONE ROOM. DAY

The Aquiaan delegation arrives in throne room, with great doors thrust open to full Aquiaan music and fanfare to celebrate the hand over. As they enter, the Aquiaan music stops. The Scottish pipers and musicians begin to play. Ompeko takes Kyrshassa's hand and places it on his arm.

As Kyrshassa and Ompeko head over to Haste, who is waiting for them near the beginning of the aisle, Kyrshassa begins to deep breathe in panic.

KYRSHASSA:

(V.O.)

Remember your duty Kee, this is all for your beloved people. Remember them. You're doing this for them, and for Faffee.

(CONTINUED)

As they approach Haste, he bows to Kyrshassa, who then curtsies as does Lady Uea and Omie-Kaye in reply.

ADMIRAL HASTE:

We humbly welcome your Majesty and the Aquiaan people. I'm sorry your father could not be here to escort you down the aisle. But, I hope that I make a suitable substitute in his absence.

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, Admiral. Thank you kindly. I am honored and I know my father would have been as well. Shall we proceed?

Ompeko takes Kyrshassa's hand and gives it to Haste who, takes it and places it on his own arm and guides her down the aisle.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-COURT ROOM. DAY

The couple are at the altar under a chuppah in front of their thrones. The HIGH PRIEST comes forward with two page boys, each carrying a pillow with an item on it.

High Priest bows before the royal couple who bow in return.

HIGH PRIEST:

Today, I have been given the honor and sacred duty of uniting two royal families and persons in holy matrimony. Do you both understand fully why you have come here today and all that it entails? And do you come of your own freewill?

KYRSHASSA AND IAIN:

We do.

HIGH PRIEST:

Then we shall proceed.

Camera shoots scene of Kyrshassa and Iain making their vows and the giving and receiving of rings, and the witnesses and everyone cheering.

Kyrshassa and Iain head over to sit on their respective thrones and are being crowned by the High Priest as Ouilliam, Mairi, Ompeko, Lady Uea, Omie-Kaye look on.

A great and thunderous applause roars throughout the great temple, and beyond. It is almost deafening. The new Emperor and Empress rise and hold hands and face the people.

INT. PUBLIC HOUSE. DAY.

People in pubs watching telly. News reporter Jackie Brae is reporting the Imperial Wedding on a large screen inside the pub.

JACKIE BRAE:

(On screen)

Ladies and gentlemen, our new Emperor and Empress! God save the Emperor and Empress! How magnificent they are! I'm Jackie Brae, reporting to you live..

On screen shot of Iain and Kyrshassa holding hands, waving and smiling to the applauding people.

INT. IMPERIAL BED CHAMBER-BALCONY- NIGHT.

Kyrshassa stands facing out to the horizon, still in her bridal clothes, her face veil in her hands, and she looks at time piece to demonstrate the lateness of the hour. She's alone and looking solemn.

INT. IMPERIAL BED CHAMBER. NIGHT

Iain opens door and walks into bed chamber, Leander and Haste are behind him, Iain pauses and whispers something to Leander who then leaves with Haste. Iain, looking distinctly uncomfortable, looks around for Kyrshassa. Finally seeing her on the balcony, he walks over to her as he straightens out his clothes.

INT. IMPERIAL BED CHAMBER-BALCONY- NIGHT.

Iain leans against the wall and crosses his arms.

IAIN:

(sarcastic tone)

My Empress, you wanted to see me?

Kyrshassa walks over to Iain and curtsies. He rolls his eyes, but bows back in reply.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:  
(nervously)  
I am...your wife and I am here for  
you, my Emperor and husband.

IAIN:  
Aye, and? I know all this...do you  
have a point, my lady?

KYRSHASSA:  
But, I belong to you as your wife  
now. And tradition would dictate...

IAIN:  
(interrupts)  
Tradition? Who gives a toss about  
tradition? With the exception of my  
parents who have scarpered off to  
retirement on Ernath...I'm really  
not bothered about it one way or  
the other, to be honest. Now, why  
did you want to see me? Was it just  
to tell me all this drivel?

Kyrshassa takes a step back and gasps in shock and horror at  
his attitude.

KYRSHASSA:  
Drivel? But...this is our wedding  
night! My...bridal time and this is  
our bed chamber.

IAIN:  
So?

KYRSHASSA:  
So?...

IAIN:  
Look, we both know that this is a  
marriage of convenience my lady.  
Nothing more. This bed chamber, is  
yours, not mine, not "ours". I'll  
be sleeping in my own bed  
chamber... *alone*.

KYRSHASSA:  
But, what will our people think? We  
are supposed to be united.

IAIN:  
My people know this for what it  
is. A marriage of politics and  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IAIN: (cont'd)  
 convenience. And they're not all caught up in some romantic fairytale delusion. And...if *your* people don't get that, then that's their problem. Actually, I take it back, there's not a rotten convenient thing about it!

Iain storms off into the bed chamber to leave. Kyrshassa attempts to stop him by touching his arm.

KYRSHASSA:  
 A marriage of politics and convenience? That is exactly what this *shouldn't* be! I had no intention of ever telling you this, but when I had agreed to become your wife, I had also decided to be more than just a mere political alliance. But rather, to be a real wife to you and give my heart and loyalty to you...

Iain pulls from her grip and turns to her. He is clearly surprised and moved.

IAIN:  
 Why do you do this? I know there is nothing in your laws or faith that require this.

KYRSHASSA:  
 (removes her head veil and crown, her hair comes loose)  
 Well...love..it..it isn't just a feeling, you know. It is also a *choice*.

IAIN:  
 No. (whispers) Don't do this to me.(he reaches out to touch her, but thinks better of it) Not *now*...

KYRSHASSA:  
 My lord, we can try to be happy. It doesn't have to be a miserable alliance.

Iain seems to be thinking this over.

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:  
That's just it. That is what this  
is. An alliance. Nothing more.  
Figure that out, woman!

Iain turns back towards the door and storms out. After he is gone, Kyrshassa collapses to her knees in tears.

KYRSHASSA:  
Oh, Faffee...what have you gotten  
me into?

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-OUTSIDE BEDCHAMBER- NIGHT.

Iain enters hallway from the bed chamber, where Leander and Haste are waiting for him.

IAIN:  
(to Leander)  
Is it ready?

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
And waiting, aye, sir.

A bit further down the hall as the men walk past, is Ompeko, standing guard.

LORD OMPEKO:  
Your Majesty.

IAIN:  
Ompeko.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-TRAVEL HANGAR- NIGHT.

A small, private stellarship, one of several docked in the hangar flies out of the hangar.

EXT. PARDUUM SKY- NIGHT.

The small stellarship flies in the night sky of Parduum heading up and beyond the atmosphere, leaving Parduum behind.

EXT. LUNERIA-TRAIL OF TEARS CASINO. NIGHT.

Establishing shot of casino on habitable moon. TEXT of casino's sign and of ships coming and going. Iain, Haste and Leander's ship arrives and lands in parking bay.

INT. LUNERIA-TRAIL OF TEARS CASINO-LOBBY. NIGHT.

Iain is drinking and gambling at a table, a beautiful woman is seated on his lap, her arms draped around him. Leander is seen checking out the beautiful casino girls going from table to table. And Haste is walking off with a woman.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-TRAVEL HANGAR- NIGHT.

The stellarship lands in the hanger. After a few seconds, the door portals open and Iain stumbles out clearly very drunk, and Leander helps him up. Haste walks out behind them, looking disgusted at his Emperor.

IAIN:  
(to Leander) Cheers, mate.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-OFFICE. DAY.

Paako and Leander are in the office and are prepping Paako's arm for an Imperial chip implant. Leander is preparing a computer device, while Paako is prepping with a gel-like substance on his hand.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
So, how many of my soldiers and police have undergone this procedure so far?

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
Uh...none. You're the first.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
WHAT? None?

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
Look at it this way, now that you're co-head of Parduum's Imperial Military and Police along with Baroness Fuquay, you're leading by example. (turns his attention to the computer) You should feel only a slight pinch.

(CONTINUED)

As machine loudly starts, Paako jerks violently and tries to pull his arm out, but can't.

GENERAL PAAKO:

Slight pinch?? Oh, I'll show you a slight pinch!

The clamp then releases him and Paako pulls out his hand and stares at it, and checks for damages. Notices it's glowing inside his hand and glares at Leander, who now looks worried.

GENERAL PAAKO: (cont'd)

Hang on. Is it supposed to glow like this? I notice yours doesn't.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Uh...(he looks at his) not..as far as I know...

Paako rubs the bank of his hand.

We see the ghostly image of Sharys standing there, looking puzzled.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-IAIN'S PRIVATE BED CHAMBER-DAY.

Iain walks into his bed chamber to discover Kyrshassa waiting for him, seated at the foot of his bed.

IAIN:

What are **you** doing in here? These are MY private quarters. If you're lost, I can call someone to lead you back!

KYRSHASSA:

I am not lost. I know very well where I am. Besides, you don't need privacy from me. I am your wife now.

IAIN:

Not, by MY choice!

KYRSHASSA:

Regardless, I am still your wife. And last night, was our wedding night. We should have consummated the marriage, instead you fled to the casino and into the eager arms of the night-ladies of the casino.

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:

How did..oh, it doesn't matter.  
Consummate? You must be joking.

KYRSHASSA:

By our laws and yours, our marriage  
isn't legal until it has been  
consummated. Besides, would  
consummating with me be such a  
terrible thing for you? (tilts  
head)

IAIN:

Fine. Let's get this over with  
then.

Iain turns to lock the chamber's doors, then takes his shirt  
off, and begins to remove his sporran.

KYRSHASSA:

What? Now? No, not like this.

IAIN:

Well, you seemed dead keen.

A loud banging on the chamber's door interrupts them. They  
both face the door. Iain goes to answer it. It is Ompeko.

LORD OMPEKO:

(seeing Iain undressed and  
Kyrshassa on bed)

Oh! Uh...I beg your pardon, your  
majesties for..uh, interrupting.  
But, both of you are required in  
the throne room, immediately.

KYRSHASSA:

It's alright, Ompeko...you're not  
interrupting *anything*. (getting off  
of bed and walks to Ompeko)

Iain glances back at her. She gives a reciprocal glance back  
as she walks past him.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

(To Ompeko)

What's wrong?

LORD OMPEKO:

Uh..Lady Uea has urgent news that  
the both of you will want to know.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

Ok, we'll be right there. Thank you. (to Iain) We'll finish *this* later.

Ompeko leaves with Kyrshassa behind him.

IAIN:

Finish what? We never started.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-COURTROOM. DAY

Uea is alone, pacing back and forth, quiet, clearly upset. As Ompeko, Kyrshassa and Iain enter the courtroom, Uea, falls to Kyrshassa's feet and tears her garment over her heart.

LADY UEA:

Your Grand Majesty, I have dreadful news, something of which has not happened in recorded Aquiaan history!

KYRSHASSA:

Lady Uea! Please tell me quickly, you are frightening me!

LADY UEA:

Murder, your Majesty!

KYRSHASSA:

Murder? Whatever do you mean, and to whom?

LADY UEA:

Your father, your Grand Majesty! He had been poisoned!

KYRSHASSA:

(gasp)

POISONED? No, there must be some mistake. Who would do such a thing? And to MY father of all people, *everyone* who knew him, loved him! (narrows her eyes) Who is it we have in custody, Lady Uea?

LADY UEA:

This does not come easy Majesty to say, nor will it be easy for you to hear. But, it was Starquin Darr, Ma'am.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

My father's own best friend and manservant? I..have known Starquin Darr my whole life, and he has always been like an uncle to me. No, there must be some mistake...

LADY UEA:

I beg your pardon great lady, but he confessed and apparently, from what we've been able to learn from documents left at Starquin's apartments, he had been poisoning his Majesty for quite some time.

IAIN:

But, I still don't understand why they chose to go for the king and not me or my empress.

LADY UEA:

Well, sire. Everyone knew that his Majesty was old at 357 years of age and...and that he never properly healed from last year's skirmish. His death would not have appeared that suspicious. And also...

IAIN:

Lady Uea?

LADY UEA:

Well, they knew that if he asked her Majesty to marry you, she would do it. Everyone knows she'd do anything her father asked, so they figured a preemptive move would solve everything. But, for a reason we cannot yet quite understand, it has now become clear to us, that it is not only humans that are affected by this inexplicable behavioral change but now, Aquiaans too.

KYRSHASSA:

This is a nightmare in which I can have no joy in waking from!

Kyrshassa walks over a window and begins to cry.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

It was bad enough losing my father to old age and illness, but... *murder*? And by a trusted friend no less!

LADY UEA:

Oh Majesty. This has shocked everyone in Aquiaas.

IAIN:

Thank you Lady Uea.

Iain walks over to Kyrshassa and gathers her hands in his, she falls into his embrace. Iain looks angry.

Uea curtsies and EXITS.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-COURTROOM. DAY

Kyrshassa and Iain are seated on their respective thrones. A court case is clearly just finishing up. There are common people as well as nobles seated on the benches. The Imperial Prosecuting Solicitor is SIR ALDDAIR HERKES, (A wiry, gray haired Scotsman, human male, with mutton chop side burns and wearing his legal robes and spectacles). There are two Aquiaan prisoners having plead their case before Iain and Kyrshassa, but have just been found guilty.

The men fall down to their knees bowing before Kyrshassa, pleading their cause. Kyrshassa however, remains unmoved.

KYRSHASSA:

You have heard our final verdict and have been sentenced justly. Sergeant Moore, take this lot away, we deliver them into your capable custody.

To which, SERGEANT MOORE bows before Kyrshassa and Iain, and takes the men away.

IAIN:

Is there anyone else to see, General Paako? What of this Starquin Darr?

GENERAL PAAKO:

Your Grand Majesty, Starquin Darr will have to wait for his trial as there hasn't been enough time to collect all the evidence against him yet.

(CONTINUED)

Enter: IRULAN. (A young girl about 12 y.o, brown mussed hair, awkward and gangly in appearance with crooked teeth and filthy clothes and dirty face), enters into the court and falls at Kyrshassa's feet after ducking and diving, outrunning and dashing the court officers. Ompeko tries to pry the girl off of Kyrshassa's feet, however, Kyrshassa shushes him into silence.

KYRSHASSA:

Whatever is it child? Come here and tell me what troubles you so.

IRULAN:

Oh, Majesty...I am so scared, my father...he will kill me, he tells me so every day after he beats me. Everyday, when he comes home from the pub, he does horrible things to me, unspeakable things. He even refuses to allow me to go to school.

Kyrshassa and Iain get visibly enraged at her words. Kyrshassa cradles the child in her arms.

KYRSHASSA:

Is there anyone here in our court that can attest to this child's claims, further validating what I've just seen in her mind?

Several people rise.

1ST OF THREE WITNESSES:

Majesty, this child is known to us, and we know well her father. They are from the province of New Aberdeen, as are we. And, he is known to be a harsh man, violent and argumentative and has been seen regularly beating his daughter.

2ND OF THREE WITNESSES:

Yes, Majesty. It has been attempted many times to take this child away from him, but has only ever been met with violence and threats. And when she has been taken successfully, he only steals her back.

(CONTINUED)

## 3RD OF THREE WITNESSES:

Aye, to the detriment of those that would foster her. But, we can tell your Majesty, this child does in fact, speak the truth.

A scruffy and clearly DRUNKEN MAN enters the court huffing and puffing. One can practically smell him as he is so foul in appearance.

## DRUNKEN FATHER:

Come here, you wee troublesome upstart! Majesties, don't believe anything she says. She's a little lying ratbag and a dirty trollop to boot!

At which, Kyrshassa tucks the child in behind her.

## KYRSHASSA:

If there is one thing I cannot abide by, and that is bullies. I loathe bullies. And all those that prey upon the weak. In absentia, you have been found guilty of the most grievous and disgusting behaviors. Witnesses have even come forward and attested to your guilt!

## DRUNKEN FATHER:

But, she's a liar!

## KYRSHASSA:

You would dare presume to question me? Such arrogance you possess, the sheer...audacity!! (clutches his throat and stares into his eyes)

Iain rises from his throne and is about to intervene, but second thoughts stop him.

Close up of Kyrshassa's eyes. She is reading his thoughts and is horrified by what she sees in his perverted and twisted mind: image 1 of the murder of Irulan's mother with Irulan as a very small child witnessing it, image 2 of Irulan cowering in fear and as he enters her room, he shuts door.

Kyrshassa cries out at the horror she's witnessing.

## KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

I see for myself in knowing your thoughts, not only are you indeed  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
guilty of that which you are  
accused of, but of even far worse,  
that, which is *not* known amongst  
your peers. Face your accusers, and  
realize... your guilt is revealed!

Kyrshassa clutches the man's hair and shows him to those  
still standing.

DRUNKEN FATHER:  
(hisses) You! I know who y'are!  
I'll be coming after you, as  
soon as I'm out!

KYRSHASSA:  
Oh, you'll never be out again, not  
this time!

Kyrshassa throws the man down to Paako, and points at the  
man.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
Such a beast as this deserves no  
mercy for he is without pity or  
remorse, *even* for the sake of his  
own daughter! General Paako, remove  
this filthy stain of humanity, and  
remand him in custody until we  
design his fate! (addressing  
Fuquay) Baroness Fuquay, you'll  
find the physical evidence needed  
against him, in a blue woosher car  
behind The Red Lion Pub in New  
Aberdeen.

Fuquay gives a quick nod and speaks to Moore who quickly  
departs, while Paako drags the man, kicking and screaming  
away. Kyrshassa trembles and fights back tears of anger and  
rage. Then, she remembers the child.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
Now, precious child, what is your  
name?

IRULAN:  
Irulan Linnock, your Majesty.  
(curtsies)

KYRSHASSA:  
(looks up at Iain, smiles then  
turns her attention back to  
the child)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
 Irulan, would you like to one day  
 serve us here at court?

IRULAN:  
 Oh, aye...Majesty, that would be a  
 dream come true, especially for  
 someone like me.

KYRSHASSA:  
 Shhh. Now, you shouldn't say such  
 things, nor even think them. You  
 are valuable, and wanted and you  
 are needed.

Iain walks over to join Kyrshassa.

IAIN:  
 Aye, and you shall be schooled and  
 whenever you are ready to serve us  
 at court, in whatever field you  
 should desire, you shall return to  
 us.

KYRSHASSA:  
 And you shall want for nothing. And  
 no one shall ever hurt you ever  
 again.

Irulan then hugs Kyrshassa vigorously.

IRULAN:  
 Oh, thank you Majesty!

KYRSHASSA:  
 Today, we make you Lady Irulan of  
 the Imperial Court of Parduum. Lady  
 Uea, Princess Omie-Kaye, please  
 take Lady Irulan here to be dressed  
 properly and see to it that all her  
 needs are sorted.

Kyrshassa leans close to Omie and Uea and whispers to them.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
 Omie, darling.. befriend the girl.  
 For she has none. Perhaps, we'll  
 place her in school with you.

PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE:  
 Oh Auntie, of course. I promise,  
 I'll look after her.

To Uea, Kyrshassa whispers...

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

And see to it, that she has a bath..(she looks over Lady Uea's shoulder at Irulan) Perhaps, two, or three even!

Fuquay steps forward and curtsies.

BARONESS FUQUAY:

Please excuse me, your majesty. But, as her young ladyship no longer has any family to care for her and as you are aware, our Emperor's own brother..my husband, Prince Stevie and I, had always wanted children, but since he died before we could ever have any, I wondered if...well, if she would have me, if I could adopt her.

Kyrshassa and Iain both look at Fuquay and at each other and then to Irulan.

KYRSHASSA:

And how would you feel about this, my lady?

IRULAN:

Me? I...barely remember my mother. I have always wanted a mother. (addressing Baroness) You would want *me*, your Grace?

BARONESS FUQUAY:

Oh yes, very much so.

Irulan hugs Fuquay, who welcomes the hug and reciprocates.

IAIN:

Well...we shall make it official then. Welcome to the clan, my lady. (bows to Irulan and smiles)

Irulan curtsies and looks at them and the people, who rise and applaud for her.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-BED CHAMBER. NIGHT

Kyrshassa is in bed. Kyrshassa is in the midst of a nightmare. We see images of what was in Drunken Man's mind. she wakes, screaming in horror. Iain bursts the door open and rushes in, dressed only in pajama bottoms and armed with a cricket bat. Kyrshassa looks at him and screams again.

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:

What? What is it, what's wrong? Is there someone in here?

KYRSHASSA:

That man! Oh, the images in his mind! Oh, beloved God...I never knew it was possible for anyone to have so much evil in their very thoughts. Oh, why did the Great Father have to bring mankind here, such as he is?

IAIN:

Uh...I'm not sure I follow, Kee.

KYRSHASSA:

I have often wondered what our most beloved Ancient of Days saw in mankind. I remember well the nights I've spent, grieved that he brought your kind to MY Parduum. I worried that as your ancestors had to flee Earth because they left it completely unable to support any kind of life, what then would they do to our world? You see, I know I am neither young or beautiful, slender or even fit, indeed, I have done much that I am ashamed of. But even I, such as I am, would *never* destroy my own world simply to better an enemy. No Aquiaan would. Is it any wonder then, that we fear your presence on Parduum?

IAIN:

I dunno...What can I say to that?

KYRSHASSA:

(Continued)

Indeed, what can you say sir? You see, it is the very ugliness that seems to dwell in mankind's every thought, motive, act and deed that terrifies me so. But, it is only now, at long last...through your thoughts and actions today at court, that I begin to have hope. I was overjoyed at the thoughts that ran through your mind today. Are you not aware that I knew well what you thought of me, when we married?

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:

Oh God..look...I'm so sorry. I never meant to be so horrible to you, I have just been so angry. Taking it out on you for being forced into this... marriage. It's just that my whole life, everyone has always wanted something from me...demanded things..even my parents. They wanted the perfect son especially, after my brother and sister died. All the women, they wanted to be queen, my "friends" wanted more power or to attach their name to mine. But, when I saw how you were with that wee lass today, I began to see you as the partner I have always needed. The strength and compassion you demonstrated...it reminded me about what's really important. Somehow, I had *forgotten*.

KYRSHASSA:

Well, we *have* been going through the hardest times lately with these outbreaks of fighting, and with the loss of our family members. I confess, didn't exactly have the highest opinion of you either...but, after witnessing your compassion for young Irulan today, I have since changed my mind about you and, I am ashamed to admit, I did not even know this other side of you existed...the one that genuinely cares about others. Perhaps, we *will* make a good team and maybe...there *is* hope for us after all.

Iain takes Kyrshassa in his arms and kisses her.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-COURT ROOM. DAY

Kyrshassa and Iain are seated on their thrones and the court is filled with people and every seat filled.

IAIN:

Have him brought before us now, Paako.

(CONTINUED)

Paako bows and exits, to return with Starquin Darr a few seconds later. Paako casts Starquin down in front of Kyrshassa and Iain. Starquin is bound in chains.

KYRSHASSA:

Starquin Darr. Why have you done this most despicable thing? Why would you shame your most honored and prominent clan, not to mention your entire race?

No answer comes from Starquin who, simply rocks back and forth mumbling incoherently. Kyrshassa stands, and with her walking stick steps over to Starquin. Her feet just below his face.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

We understand you will not speak to our police, your appointed solicitor, nor anyone else about what happened or even why. However, I am Kyrshassa Eloii MacAlbainn, Empress of all Parduum, Queen of Aquiaas, First Lady of the Eloii, and High Priestess of the Great Father, oh you will answer to me!

Starquin remains silent and trembling. Kyrshassa slams her walking stick down hard mere inches from his face. Starquin lets out a small scream of fear, but still does not speak.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

No? No answer still, even now? Starquin Darr, you are perhaps the most despicable and vilest thing I have ever had the misfortune of knowing. You, have single-handedly robbed a great people of their beloved king and a family of their patriarch. And have shamed our entire race! So, not only has your treachery ceased at being merely a traitor of a life-long friend, but you are also a thief, a liar, and a treasonous murderer. And are therefore, the most vile of all creatures. I should kill you here and now and do our world a favor and be done with you forever!

Kyrshassa grabs Starquin by the throat and thrusts him up to the nearest pillar. As she does so, she raises high her walking stick ready to strike him down, Starquin screams in terror waiting for the strike.

(CONTINUED)

People in the courtroom gasp. But, Kyrshassa has second thoughts and releases him and falls to her knees, places her face into her hands and wails loudly.

STARQUIN DARR:

(Starquin drops to his knees  
and crawls to Kyrshassa)  
Mercy! Your Majesty, I beg you for  
mercy. Punish me if you will, I  
deserve it, but please don't take  
my life. I throw myself upon your  
mercy! I beg you!

KYRSHASSA:

Mercy? (looks up at Starquin) HOW  
can you ask *me* for such a thing?  
Did you show my father, my beloved  
father, your *best friend*...mercy?  
DID YOU? Starquin, the only  
consolation I have is knowing that  
he died never knowing that it was  
you that betrayed him and stole his  
very life away.

Kyrshassa grabs Starquin by the shoulders and shakes him.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
(Cont'd)

He loved you Starquin, his whole  
life, he loved you! Oh Starquin, in  
you, the blood of your ancestors  
was *not* well spent!

Kyrshassa begins to wail loudly in grief, as she tears her garment over her heart. Everyone in the courtroom also weep and wail out loud. Many also tear their garments over their hearts and some even tear at their hair in grief. Even Iain weeps, caught up in the moment. None are left unmoved.

The press are in the court shooting this emotional scene. Camera cuts to scenes of people in pubs and public places watching this scene on holographic images. Most are also weeping. Even Jackie Brae is seen crying.

Starquin merely hangs head down in shame and cries bitterly. C/U of Kyrshassa and her hand reaching out to touch his head, but then seeming to have a change of heart and withdrawing her hand back.

Kyrshassa with the aid of her walking stick rises up off the floor, and faces her father's murderer from her throne.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

Starquin Darr, by your own testimony and evidence gathered, you have been proven guilty. We are Aquiaans and are known far and wide for our honor, integrity and faith, and yet you have demonstrated *none* of these qualities, to which we hold so dear! Therefore, I shall indeed show you mercy by not taking your life.

As Kyrshassa says this, Starquin closes his eyes tightly in relief.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

(Cont'd)

But, as of this moment, you are hereby cursed to walk this world friendless and alone. You will be shunned by all society! No one shall speak to you, feed you, clothe or even shelter you. Your name will be accursed to all humans and Aquiaans alike! Friends like you, do not deserve to have friends.

STARQUIN DARR:

My punishment is more than I can bear Majesty, for there will be some who will want to kill me should they happen upon me.

KYRSHASSA:

Very well then, we shall place our Imperial Seal upon your forehead, that should anyone harm you, they shall suffer your fate! Starquin Darr, the Great father may forgive you, my own father may have forgiven you, and perhaps in time, even I may forgive you, but for now, I cannot. So, be gone and let me not cast me eyes upon you ever again, for I have nothing further to say to you!

Paako picks up Starquin and removes him from the courtroom. Kyrshassa rises from her throne and exits the courtroom. However, she just barely leaves and collapses on the way, Omie and Uea scream for help.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-OFFICE. DAY.

Kyrshassa is meeting with Paako in her office and are seated around desk.

GENERAL PAAKO:

I still don't understand why you won't ask *Baroness Fuquay* to help you, Majesty. This is more her forte than mine, my lady.

KYRSHASSA:

General Paako, I both like and admire her Grace very much, in as much as I am capable of liking any human. Indeed, she is remarkably kind and compassionate. But as wonderful as she is, she is still...a *human*, and therefore is not to be trusted. And in as much as I am beginning to *understand* them, I don't know that I will ever completely *trust* them. So, I know I don't need to tell you to be as discreet as you can be. I want this to remain between you and me for as long as possible.

GENERAL PAAKO:

I understand fully, your Majesty. But, you know well that you can trust me completely.

KYRSHASSA:

Yes, Paako. I do. I appreciate your loyalty more than I can ever say. I don't know what I would ever do without you. You are the last of my father's closest confidants. Please, be very careful Paako.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-OFFICE. NIGHT.

Iain is now meeting with Paako.

IAIN:

I know I can count on you Paako for your discretion on these matters. No need to worry our Empress needlessly.

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Absolutely, your Majesty. I will  
get to the bottom of this. You can  
count on me!

Camera close up of Paako looking a bit worried.

EXT. COUNTRY VILLAGE-OUTSIDE PUB. DAY.

Starquin is seen being shunned by local villagers wherever he wanders, people turning their backs to him, doors closing as he approaches, and his despair that follows.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-OFFICE. DAY

Leander and Paako are seated around large desk shifting documents.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
So, where do we begin sir? At King  
Aardur's death?

GENERAL PAAKO:  
No. I think well before that, even.  
Something keeps bothering me. For  
400 years, our people got along  
well. Then, one day...we decide to  
take our friendship up a notch and  
share our most beloved watersilk...  
and then, just like that, we go to  
war?

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
(nods)  
I suppose that is a wee bit odd,  
sir. To tell the truth, I've never  
understood it myself. For that  
matter, neither has our royal  
family.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Well, it seems to me only a certain  
*few* became that way and *then*, like  
an incurable virus, it seemed to  
spread over the last five years and  
it only keeps getting worse and  
worse. I don't yet know *how*, but I  
believe it is all somehow related.  
And we need to find a way to put a  
stop to it, before it overtakes the  
entire populace. And time, is  
running out!

(CONTINUED)

A human woman is arguing with a human man, who knocks her down and leaves the room. And as she sits up and tries to rise, her eyes are human eyes, but as she tilts her head briefly into the light, it is clear they have become "Amuy" eyes.

Leander is pre-occupied with holographic forms.

GENERAL PAAKO: (cont'd)  
(Cont'd)

But where to begin? We may have to go off world for help, as we do not yet know just *who* or how far this goes. It could be anyone, *anywhere*. And I don't mind telling you Captain, I have a bad feeling about it. Do you know why some of your people began to want the watersilk so badly?

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

No, not really sir. The details of how it all began have always been rather sketchy.

GENERAL PAAKO:

*Sketchy*? Well, I shall tell you then. Watersilk is woven into a fine fabric, which we wear as clothes, yes?

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Aye, sir. A super fine, and most beautiful fabric, softer than anything ever known before.

GENERAL PAAKO:

Yes, but much more than that. It is also highly conductive in nature. If an electrical charge is passed through it, it becomes tougher than any man-made material. That is why our armor and buildings are also made with it.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

But sir, on the battlefield, so many Aquiaans died too...

GENERAL PAAKO:

Yes, Captain. That's all because our king had chosen to also share a few of our weapons with your

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO: (cont'd)  
people, like our chaaka stick  
which, as you know, has electrodes  
on the ends. Thus rendering the  
charged watersilk to be inert when  
tagged, as well as being effective  
at electrocuting the enemy.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
Oooh, this explains a lot,  
actually. I never knew the physics  
of it.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
No, well you can see why we don't  
exactly advertise it.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
Aye, and I can also see why it is  
also so lucrative. But why did he  
not share the percussers with us?

GENERAL PAAKO:  
After seeing what humans did with  
our chaaka sticks, can you blame  
him? Besides, the percussers are  
relatively new tech anyway. A few  
of us are still having trouble in  
figuring them out.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
Oh, like Lord Fatch Amexxi.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
(looks up at Leander)  
Mmmmm. Like him. We should first  
check out all flights going into  
Zaphiraas Prime. Everything tends  
to end up there one way, or  
another.

Paako presses telecom button from desk. A pretty, young  
woman comes online.

TELECOM OPERATOR:  
Thank you for using New Aberfeldy's  
Interstellar Telecom service. How  
can I help you today, sir?

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Uh, yes I wish to speak to Admiral  
Jean-Claude Morency on Zaphiraas  
Prime.

(CONTINUED)

TELECOM OPERATOR:  
Which province and city, sir?

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Oh, yes...New Merica City, Stellar  
Travel Headquarters.

TELECOM OPERATOR:  
Thank you. Right away sir.

Paako awaits the communication and turns to look back at  
Leander.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Can I ask you a question Captain  
Leander?

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
Aye sir, of course.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Aren't you the same age as our  
Emperor? Why aren't you a higher  
rank?

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
Oh! Well, now that's a long story.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Oh I'm sure, but why don't you try  
me?

Leander looks at Paako and swallows hard.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
We-e-ell...it would seem uh, that,  
well, trouble just sort of finds  
me.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Uh huh, enough said...But you'd  
better have proper respect for the  
rules and chain of command while  
with me Captain, or I'll drop kick  
you from here to New Scandinavia,  
do I make myself abundantly clear?

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
(swallows hard)  
Aye, abundantly clear, sir.

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO:

Excellent. A very good start indeed! Now, we'd better head out to New Caledonia City and take a stellarship transport from there.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

But sir, we have our own stellarships and travel forum right here in New Aberfeldy, why do we need to go all the way out to New Caledonia City?

GENERAL PAAKO:

Because we must be as discreet as possible Captain. You *do know* that this Imperial township is constantly under scrutiny, simply because the Imperial family live here, right?

EXT. PARDUUM SKY- NIGHT.

Stellarship is seen leaving Parduum.

EXT. ZAPHIRAAS PRIME-ESTABLISHING SHOT. DAY.

Establishing shot of Zaphiraas Prime.

INT. ZAPHIRAAS PRIME-POLICE QUESTIONING ROOM. DAY

Paako, Leander are seated at a table with a STELLARSHIP CREWMAN, (a fair skinned, robust young man who looks scared). Paako has been questioning the crewman for awhile already.

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN:

H-h-how, d-did you know about that??

GENERAL PAAKO:

That is our business to know. Why don't you just tell us who went with you on your last mission.

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN:

D-don't you already have the ship's logs and manifesto?

The poor stellarship crewman is sweating hard.

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO:

Do you think we would be that naive  
to to believe that it listed  
everyone and everything? Just how  
gullible do you think we are?

Paako leans forward in the face of his suspect to intimidate him further. Stellarship crewman's eyes open wider and swallows hard.

GENERAL PAAKO: (cont'd)

If you don't tell me what I need to  
know, I can arrange to spend time  
alone with you. And believe me, we  
won't be dancing!

Paako shows the poor crewman a fist and shakes it at him.

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN:

But, (whines) I don't know all the  
details, just that there was a last  
minute passenger. Oh! Uh...probably  
why it wasn't on the passenger  
list.

GENERAL PAAKO:

Oh, I'm sure. Go on.

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN:

Well I happened to assist on board,  
an Aquiaan lady. She works for  
Colonel Akolikya. You know, I think  
he's from one of those Polynesian  
Islands on Parduum. But, that's  
going by rumor. No one really knows  
for sure.

GENERAL PAAKO:

What? Who the shell cares where  
he's from originally? Who is he  
exactly and why does he have you so  
scared?

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN:

Well, there's never been any  
proof...only rumor, but he's known  
as...a-a-a pirate, you know,  
favoring the ships carrying  
watersilk in particular. And,  
seeing *her* is a bad sign for  
people, because it means he's  
scoping for himself. Look, I could  
be killed just for telling you this  
much.

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO:

You have a bigger reason to fear me! But, there's something else though, isn't there?

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN:

No! No! That's all I know. Truly.

GENERAL PAAKO:

Now...why don't I believe you? Do you believe him Captain Leander?

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Uh..sorry no, not really. No, sir.

GENERAL PAAKO:

Tsk. Well, it would seem you'll have to do better than that, my friend.

Paako responds by shaking his head and looking at the poor Crewman, woefully. Crewman looks at Paako and Leander...and cringes.

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN:

Ok! He..he never leaves witnesses...he doesn't even care whether it's women or children.

Cut to darkened room, visual of hands and torso killing and dropping a child and its mother trying to rescue it but, a hand grabs her by the throat, shot of her body landing by his feet.

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN: (cont'd)

(Cont'd)

It is even said that he has sold out his own species to better his own fortune, but...the details on that are kinda sketchy. No one really knows what this rumor means. I think anyone who knew anything more, no longer breathes.

GENERAL PAAKO:

So, who is this Aquiaan lady? Do you have a name?

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN:

Uh...

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO:  
We're waiting...

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN:  
Lasha.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
That, is a common Aquiaan female  
name...I need more.

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN:  
Khrett, sir. Lasha Khrett.

This news clearly shocks Paako.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Anything else?

STELLARSHIP CREWMAN:  
No, sir. I swear it. Look, the  
longer I am here, the more I am in  
danger... please, please let me go  
now. Please?

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Fine. I'm satisfied, for now. But,  
don't even *think* of leaving  
off-world. I may have other  
questions for you.

Crewman swallows hard in fear.

INT. ZAPHIRAAS PRIME-TRAVEL FORUM. DAY.

Paako gazes out the window and watches ships coming in and departing. Leander sits in a seat nearby. Paako turns around and looks at holographic time chip on back of his hand. His ship is late. He walks over to Leander.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Captain Leander, do you recall that  
crewman had mentioned Lasha Khrett?

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
Aye, sir. I do. What of it?

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Well...she is a member of the  
Khrett clan and they are the tribe  
responsible for inventing our  
percussive weapons and  
multi-function tools. I am very

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO: (cont'd)  
concerned at the implications of  
this and what it may mean for our  
people. I'm sending you back to  
Parduum, we can't risk this getting  
out over the telecom. I know their  
Majesties will want to know of  
these findings as soon as possible.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
Aye, that they will. I'll take the  
next stellarship out. Should I go  
grab a ticket and see you when you  
return?

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Yes. Give my regards to their  
Majesties.

Paako and Leander shake hands, nod heads and go their  
separate ways. Paako waits for Leander to leave, then makes  
a call.

GENERAL PAAKO: (cont'd)  
Majesty, there isn't much time...

KYRSHASSA:  
Alright, this is what I need you to  
do. I won't be able to leave today  
as I have Imperial duties keeping  
me here...

Paako is seen talking to Kyrshassa and then camera cuts to  
STELLARSHIP ARRIVING. He then disconnects and heads to his  
ship's embarking dock, waiting for the arriving passengers  
to finish disembarking. He notices that the ship looks like  
it has seen better days. He approaches a couple of the  
Stellarship TRAVEL STEWARDS.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Has anything happened on your  
journey here?

The Travel Stewards look at each other than at General Paako  
and walk over to him.

TRAVEL STEWARD 1:  
Why yes, sir. We were threatened by  
stellar pirates, apparently they  
thought we had valuable cargo. But,  
we only really had a few trivial  
travel cases and the travel gear of  
our crew.

(CONTINUED)

TRAVEL STEWARD 2:

Yes, that's right. And also we had changed our usual schedule, so had crew constantly on duty.

TRAVEL STEWARD 1:

Hmph! I guess they weren't too pleased about that, or that we didn't have as much as they had hoped for, as they blasted the ship after they left.

TRAVEL STEWARD 2:

Well, if you ask me...you just can't travel anywhere these days without some...(fade to chickens clucking)

She continues chatting to her colleague. Leaving Paako confused and wanting to desperately leave. Paako looks at one woman then the other and back and decides to make a quick departure.

GENERAL PAAKO:

(over his shoulder as he hurries off) Well, just make sure you report it to the appropriate authorities as soon as you all can.

The travel stewards look at him and then at each other, as they walk away.

TRAVEL STEWARD 2:

(to travel steward 1)

You know, I thought he was the proper authorities.

TRAVEL STEWARD 2: (cont'd)

*I know, so did I!*

The travel stewards continue to chatter amongst themselves as Paako makes his way onboard.

INT. LUNERIA-TRAIL OF TEARS CASINO-NIGHT.

Establishing shot of Luneria. And of Trail Of Tears Casino.

INT. LUNERIA-TRAIL OF TEARS CASINO-OFFICE. NIGHT.

COLONEL AKOLIKYA (a tall, dark skinned man with military hair cut, though we can only see his back) is looking out his office window watching various stellarships arrive and depart. COMMANDER FARPI is seated in chair across from his desk.

COMMANDER FARPI:

When do you think he'll get here, sir?

COLONEL AKOLIKYA:

I think he will arrive on the very next transport in, due in any minute now.

COMMANDER FARPI:

Wow...how do you know these things, sir?

Visual of torso turning from the window and walking over to Farpi.

COLONEL AKOLIKYA:

Because...that's what SHE told me, you easily impressed idiot!

Hand slaps Farpi in the head, knocking him out of his seat.

COLONEL AKOLIKYA: (cont'd)

(Cont'd)

How do you even breathe on your own?

EXT. LUNERIA-TRAIL OF TEARS CASINO-NIGHT.

Establishing shot of Paako's stellarship arriving.

INT. LUNERIA-TRAIL OF TEARS CASINO-HOTEL ROOM. NIGHT.

A hotel room with Captain Dan Pruitt present. There's a knock on the door. Pruitt goes to open the door. Enter: Paako.

CAPTAIN PRUITT:

Ok, you found me. How can I help you General Paako?

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO:

How do you know me? And how..

CAPTAIN PRUITT:

General Paako, everyone knows who you are. You're the head of the entire Parduumian Military and Police Force along with Baroness Fuquay, and are friend and personal adviser to the Emperor and Empress of Parduum. Like I asked, how can I help you?

GENERAL PAAKO:

Well, you can start by telling me what an Aquiaan woman is doing working for the likes of Colonel Akolikya.

CAPTAIN PRUITT:

Ah, yes. You're referring to Lasha Khrett. Well, for one thing, she doesn't exactly "work" for him, she's his girlfriend. And, she goes on business trips for him.

GENERAL PAAKO:

But, do they have anything to do with the death of our king?

CAPTAIN PRUITT:

Ahhh...now, THAT'S the real question you wanted to ask, isn't it? Well, I'm sorry, I don't know all the details. Only that it somehow involves a lady serving in the royal household of Zaphiraas Prime.

GENERAL PAAKO:

There is a large court serving there, you'll have to be more specific. Do you have a name?

CAPTAIN PRUITT:

Only one. Lady Irela MacPherson. I believe she serves your princess, does she not?

GENERAL PAAKO:

Yes, I believe so, but how is she involved?

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN PRUITT:

That, I do not know. I have only overheard this bit of information myself from Commander Farpi talking to the Colonel. Colonel Akolikya keeps all things to himself, no one has ever even seen him, because he trusts *no one*, except perhaps Farpi, and even then...Now we haven't discussed my payment for this information. Information doesn't come for free here, my friend.

GENERAL PAAKO:

I see...well? What do you want, credits? I didn't bring a scanner to scan any credits onto your I.D. chip.

CAPTAIN PRUITT:

Ha! Hardly! No, what I want, is for me and my crew to get the heck off this rock for good. We need shelter from Colonel Akolikya. It's been nearly ten years of serving him. And we're tired of it all, constantly being on the run, always looking over our shoulders. I also have to think of my sister, she's spent her whole life pirating and smuggling. She deserves to have a normal life. We want to become legitimate. We're asking for sanctuary, General Paako.

GENERAL PAAKO:

Oh! Uh... I do not have that kind of power to grant you amnesty. But, what I can do, is promise to talk to my Emperor and Empress and speak to them on your behalf. They are quite honorable as people go and they do listen to me. I'm fairly confident that they would approve, if I asked them. But, you understand that there will be laws and rules there too, that you will have to follow, like every other citizen.

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN PRUITT:  
Can't be any worse than the pure  
torment we have here.

Janna appears seemingly from nowhere.

JANNA PRUITT:  
Do you really think they'll let us  
stay on Parduum, Danny?

CAPTAIN PRUITT:  
Janna! I told you to stay hidden.  
Remember the bit about whether we  
can trust him or not?

Both Pruitt and Janna turn to look at Paako.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Uh...yes, well I don't see why not.  
Just how many of you are there?

CAPTAIN PRUITT:  
Just me, my sister Janna, my best  
mate and pilot Sasha Russky. Oh,  
and then there's Bester...

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Bester?

CAPTAIN PRUITT:  
Yeah, Bester Thraxxi, he's one of  
my crew.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
That wouldn't be THE Bester  
Thraxxi, younger brother to  
Ambassador Jemyn Thraxxi of  
Zaphiraas Prime, would it?

Enter: Bester Thraxxi wearing particularly loud clothing.

BESTER THRAXXI:  
The ONE and ONLY, baby!

Everyone just stares at Bester for a few seconds. Paako lets  
out a loud sigh.

CAPTAIN PRUITT:  
Aw geez, Bester!

GENERAL PAAKO:  
I do apologize, but I have to ask  
everyone...do any of you know  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO: (cont'd)  
 anything about our king being  
 murdered?

Bester looks utterly confused and looks at Pruitt who looks back at him and shrugs and shakes his head.

BESTER THRAXXI:  
 Huh? What? Me? No! I didn't have  
 anything to do with the murder of  
 good King Aardur. I have never  
 taken *any body's* life. Came close  
 to it a couple of times, but...um,  
 always on accident though.

JANNA PRUITT:  
 Yeah, that was back when he had to  
 pilot the ship whenever Danny and  
 Sasha got drunk and it was up to  
 Bester to get us home. He tried to  
 kill us several times.

BESTER THRAXXI:  
 I wouldn't exactly say "tried" to,  
 Janna. But, I might know someone  
 who may know something about it,  
 and it may be a whole lot more than  
 just something.

Paako looks up at him in surprise.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
 Huh? What, who?

BESTER THRAXXI:  
 Oh, no! You'll have to get us off  
 this moon, first! No way am I going  
 to say that name here!

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-DINING HALL. DAY.

Great dining hall with large, elegant dining table with regal table placement and seven course banquet set on table. Iain and Kyrshassa are dining close together, and chatting and are clearly enjoying each other's company. Fatch, Uea, Omie, Ompeko and Irulan are also present, and eating at other end of table. Iain looks up at Kyrshassa.

IAIN:  
 I'm so glad you like haggis, Kee.  
 I've loved it ever since I were a  
 wee lad. We used to have this crazy

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IAIN: (cont'd)  
 chef that used to do his best to  
 creep me out, whenever I'd come  
 down to the kitchen. He used to  
 make this baa, baa sound as he was  
 cleaning out the sheep's stomach to  
 prepare for the haggis.

Kyrshassa looks up at him.

KYRSHASSA:  
 Ewwwww..that's really disgusting!  
 Although it *is* tasty...I'd really  
 rather you didn't mention or remind  
 me of its ingredients  
 again...please?

IAIN:  
 Oh..ok. Deal.

Smirking, Iain picks up small piece of potato and flings it  
 at her. She looks up so shocked, but then smirks..as she  
 then reciprocates..a food fight erupts and laughter ensues  
 and echoes in the great hall. Uea, Fatch, Irulan and Omie  
 also begin to laugh and throw food.

IAIN:  
 Heads up! Go long, Ompeko!

LORD OMPEKO:  
 (looks up from plate, oblivious)  
 Huh? Wha-..

Corncob hits Ompeko in the head. He does NOT look amused.

INT. LUNERIA-TRAIL OF TEARS CASINO-HOTEL ROOM. NIGHT.

Pruitt, Paako, Janna and Bester are finishing up packing and  
 are preparing to leave, when the hotel room door smashes  
 open and in come several men all with various weapons. Janna  
 screams...and the startled group starts throwing anything  
 they can at the intruders. Pruitt takes control.

CAPTAIN PRUITT:  
 All together, now!

Pruitt, Janna, Paako, and Bester group together as Pruitt  
 operates hand-held teleporter.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-BED CHAMBER. DAY.

Kyrshassa is sitting at her dressing table and Uea is styling Kyrshassa's hair and Omie is sitting on the bed chatting to Irulan and Kyrshassa. Enter: Iain.

IAIN:

Is she almost finished now, Lady Uea?

LADY UEA:

Just...one...thing more (finishes up the hair) And then..yes, sire now she's done. Here's your mirror Majesty, are you pleased?

KYRSHASSA:

Oh yes, Lady Uea, I love it. Thanks ever so much. (addressing Irulan and Omie) Go on girls, time for school.

PRINCESS OMIE-KAYE:

(groaning)

Awww Auntie...

Uea bows and exits, Irulan and Omie follow close behind still chattering.

IAIN:

Kee, General Paako has returned and has asked us for help for his new friends. Apparently, they want amnesty and sanctuary. But, I'm not so sure about it. They do have a rather dubious past. And the last thing we need, is more of these kinds of people messing around down here on Parduum.

KYRSHASSA:

Well, what does General Paako say about them, does he appear to be coerced in any way?

IAIN:

Well, no. I don't think so. At least, he doesn't seem so to me. And he does go on to personally request that we give them a chance. He even says that he'll vouch for them and is even willing to put them up in his own home. I ask you, what does he think they are, *pets*?

(CONTINUED)

Kyrshassa and Iain laugh.

KYRSHASSA:

Well...if he'll vouch for them, I say why not give them a chance? But, perhaps make it a conditional stay, and if it goes well and they become productive members of our society, *then* we can consider making it a permanent arrangement. What say YOU, my lord?

IAIN:

Mmmm...I think that sounds fair enough. Ok, I'll let him know. Och, I'm ever so glad you can make the heavy decisions. (wink)

KYRSHASSA:

(Eye roll)

Ye-e-e-s, only because if it turns out to be wrong, it's my bottom on the line!

IAIN:

Oh, absolutely!(shrugs shoulders and grins)

Kyrshassa chucks pillow at Iain, while smirking. Iain exits chamber, and Kyrshassa begins applying lotion to elbows when there's a knock at the door.

KYRSHASSA:

Enter.

A young Aquiaan girl about 8 years old enters with holopad and curtsies to her.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

Lady Nala-Chiara? What brings you dearling? Where is your Uncle Fatch?

NALA-CHIARA:

Uncle Fatch is at court, your majesty. He has asked me to deliver this to you personally as he could not do it himself. He said it is very urgent.

Nala-Chiara then hands the holopad to Kyrshassa, who looks at it. She looks up.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:  
Who else has seen this?

NALA-CHIARA:  
No one Majesty, it only came in  
just a few moments ago.

KYRSHASSA:  
Thank you Nala. You may return to  
your uncle, I have no reply for  
him, other than thank you.

Nala-Chiara curtsies to her and departs. Kyrshassa looks pale and alarmed as she continues to read.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-HALL. DAY

Iain is heading to palace office and runs into Paako.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Oh! Forgive me sire, I was just  
coming to see you. Have your  
Majesties come to a decision?

IAIN:  
Aye. We have, Paako. Have you got  
any other news for me?

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Oh, you mean about...Yes, sir. I  
do. But, I don't think you're going  
to like it. For that matter,  
neither do I. (Leans forward to  
whisper information in Iain's ear)

IAIN:  
What? Oh no...Ok, whatever you do,  
don't tell her Majesty. At least,  
not yet. Right. Let's head over to  
the office so we can talk proper.

Paako turns back to face in the direction of the royal apartments as he follows Iain. As they pass, Admiral Haste steps into view of the camera and turns to watch them leave.

EXT. IMPERIAL PALACE GROUNDS. DAY.

Outside of the Imperial Palace's grounds, a reporter and camera crew are shooting a brief.

(CONTINUED)

JACKIE BRAE:

As you know, there are more and more casualties of this as yet unknown disease, changing our beloved ones into violent and murderous beasts. The fighting is at an all time high. The hospitals are filling up with more and more wounded and the morgues are filling up with the murdered and dead. The doctors are overworked, exhausted, and don't know what to do. And each day, more and more are succumbing. And word has now reached us ladies and gentlemen, that it has spread clear across the Zaphiraas Galaxy. It is no longer isolated on Parduum alone. There's fighting on Zaph Prime and Ernath as well. And no word yet from the Imperial Palace. What is causing this plague? And what is being done about it? The entire Zaphiraas Galaxy looks to the Imperial Family for answers.

Jackie Brae looks to the Palace. We see guards pacing back and forth in front of the palace itself. Jackie Brae looks back into the camera.

JACKIE BRAE:

But can anything be done? I'm Jackie Brae, coming to you live from the Imperial Palace grounds in New Aberfeldy, New Alba Province.

People in pubs are watching, heads are bowed, some cry, while others look to each other. In other places, people are fighting. Police are present with shields. Bodies everywhere. Woosher cars are smoking. Buildings are burning.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-FAMILY ROOM. DAY.

Ompeko, Fatch, Uea are watching the news.

LADY UEA:

You know, it isn't really fair. Their Majesties are doing all they can to discover the cause and the solution.

(CONTINUED)

LORD OMPEKO:

It's true, but people never know what we do outside the public glare. But, it is imperative at this point, that they *don't* know, if their Majesties are to be successful.

LORD FATCH:

Let's just hope they discover the solution soon. For everyone's sake.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-BED CHAMBER. DAY.

Kyrshassa is standing in front of the telecom screen talking to someone. A knock is heard. She quickly switches off the telecom, sits down on the chaise, and picks up a book she pretends to be reading.

KYRSHASSA:

Enter.

Admiral Haste enters the room and bows to her. She nods in reply.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

Admiral Haste? What brings you?

ADMIRAL HASTE:

I beg your pardon, Majesty, for intruding on your quiet time but the Emperor requests your presence.

KYRSHASSA:

Oh. Thank you, Haste. I shall be there presently.

ADMIRAL HASTE:

May I retrieve your stick Majesty?  
Or, may I escort you?

KYRSHASSA:

No, thank you Admiral. I shall take my floater.

Haste bows and exits the room.

EXT. IMPERIAL PALACE-BEDCHAMBER-HALLWAY. DAY.

Haste is hiding behind a wall. He watches Kyrshassa leave her bedchamber. C/U of Haste's face. He has Amuy eyes. He smiles diabolically.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-OFFICE. DAY.

Iain is at his desk and is speaking to Leander on Telecom. Paako is seated across from him.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

(V.O) Sire, she won't speak to anyone other than you. Believe me, I tried to reason with her.

Kyrshassa floats close to the office door and is about to knock and enter when she overhears the conversation, stops at the door and continues to listen.

IAIN:

Oh, for pity's sake. Women! They're all the same! Fine, I'll be on my way to the casino. But, I don't need to tell you to keep this between us. Especially her Majesty, she must not find out, not under any circumstances.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Of course.

Screen blips off.

Kyrshassa gasps, and then quickly floats away.

IAIN:

Paako, do you think we can trust what he told you?

GENERAL PAAKO:

I would stake my life on it. He may not be the sharpest shell in the sea, but he *is* honest and honorable. But, I wonder if we can trust *her*? I know she's your cousin sire, but her loyalties...

IAIN:

If I know her as well as I think I do, I'm betting that we can and not only that, but I'm also betting

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IAIN: (cont'd)  
that she's agonizing over what to do. She's probably torn between her duty and setting the truth free. So, I'm betting on the latter. I'm just surprised she wants to meet me at the casino. It's just never been her scene.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Well, sire...I'll take your word for it. But, I still worry that her loyalty might just as well work against us.

IAIN:  
I think we'll just have to take that chance Paako. I don't see that we have much choice at this point.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Yes, sir. When do you want me to leave for Zaphiraas Prime?

IAIN:  
Take the next stellarship out. Meet up with Captain Leander and take Baroness Fuquay with you. I'll head over to the casino myself and see what she has to say. Time, Paako..has become the most valuable commodity.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Agreed. Sire.

EXIT: Paako. Both men, as they separate...look worried. Paako looks back at the Kyrshassa's quarters but, continues on.

EXT. LUNERIA-TRAIL OF TEARS CASINO-NIGHT.

Establishing shot of outside of Casino.

INT. LUNERIA-TRAIL OF TEARS CASINO- NIGHT.

Noisy casino sounds. Shot of Iain and Lady Irela talking in darkened corner. Lady Irela appears frantic, as she's explaining things to Iain who looks serious and concerned.

EXT. ZAPHIRAAS PRIME-ESTABLISHING SHOT. DAY.

Establishing shot.

INT. ZAPHIRAAS PRIME-ROYAL PALACE-RECEPTION HALL. DAY.

Paako, Fuquay and Leander are waiting for an audience with Shallia. Enter: Shallia, her Aquiaan blue hair is cut in modern short-hair style, is dressed elegantly in gray-blue human clothing.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:  
General Paako, Captain Leander,  
your Grace.

BARONESS FUQUAY:  
(curtsy)  
Greetings, your royal highness. We  
have been sent by their Imperial  
Majesties to inquire after your  
well being. As no one has heard  
from you in months.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:  
Is that so, Baroness? I am so  
shocked, as I was not invited to my  
own sister's wedding, or  
coronation. I had to watch it on  
the news, like a mere commoner!

GENERAL PAAKO:  
But, your highness, she only just  
found out herself the very night  
before! She was asked by your  
father *on his deathbed*...there was  
no time for invitations or such.  
Only people already on Parduum  
attended the wedding.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:  
I see. So our father arranged her  
marriage too? Well, I'm touched and  
surprised that she cares. Just be  
sure to let me know when you leave  
and I'll have a gift for you to  
take to her for her marriage. Stay  
as long as you wish, I will be sure  
to not send you back empty handed.

Shallia half-heartedly curtsies to the group, the men bow  
and Fuquay also curtsies in reply.

EXIT: Shallia. The group watch her leave.

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Well, that went better than I thought. Albeit, a wee bit awkward.

Fuquay and Paako look at each other and then at the captain.

GENERAL PAAKO:

It was not as it appeared to be, Captain. She was in essence telling us that she knows why we're here.

BARONESS FUQUAY:

And that we can stay as long as we wish, but we'll be leaving empty handed.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Whoa, are you sure?

GENERAL PAAKO:

Yes, Captain. There's no mistake.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

(looks back over shoulder) Oh well, bloody heck. I always thought Aquiaans can be a bit fishy. Oh, no offense, sir...

Paako shoots him a dirty look. As Leander and Fuquay leave. Paako lags behind, sniffs himself and looks up with eyes narrowed at Leander.

INT. ZAPHIRAAS PRIME-HOTEL ROOM. DAY.

Paako, Fuquay and Leander are in hotel room making telecom call, already in progress.

IAIN:

(on telecom screen)

Are you quite sure, and there's no chance of there being any misunderstanding her words?

BARONESS FUQUAY:

None, Majesty. Her royal highness was quite clear. And how did the meeting with your cousin go, sire?

IAIN:

(On telecom screen)

You were quite right. Lady Irela was eager to talk. In fact, she's

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IAIN: (cont'd)  
determined to help. Not that she  
gave me much choice.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
(On telecom)  
Any ideas to what she has in mind,  
sir?

IAIN:  
Only that she requested a  
surveillance chip. Which I had  
provided her with. Also, that she  
plans to meet with this Colonel  
Akolikya fellow and Lasha Khrett on  
Ernath. We really need to find out  
who this guy really is. I will need  
you to keep a very close monitor on  
her.

BARONESS FUQUAY:  
Of course, and should she need back  
up, we can teleport there easily  
enough from here.

IAIN:  
(On telecom)  
Fair enough. I don't like that she  
wants to do this on her own, I  
think she's doing it as some kind  
of misguided type of penance. I  
just don't like this. Nae, not one  
bit. She is just like my Kyrshassa,  
stubborn and determined.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
We will be sure to let you know of  
anything further that happens.

IAIN:  
Aye...cheers, see that you do. Good  
luck to you all. I have to head  
back to Parduum before I am missed  
and the press have a field day with  
this.

Paako and Leander bow, Fuquay curtsies. Screen blips off.

INT. ZAPHIRAAS PRIME-HOTEL ROOM. DAY.

Paako, Leander and Fuquay are present. Paako and Leander are listening in on espionage surveillance devices planted behind their ears. C/U of device behind Leander's ear.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
Oh! Did you get that sir?

GENERAL PAAKO:  
(to Baroness) We need to get over there now. Something doesn't feel right.

BARONESS FUQUAY:  
I was going to say the exactly same thing!

EXT. PLANET OF PARDUUM-SPACE.

Establishing shot.

INT. IMPERIAL TRAVEL FORUM. DAY.

Shot of Kyrshassa dressed down and in human clothes sitting on her floater, investigating and asking questions. Camera close-up of Kyrshassa's face having clearly discovered bad news. She leans against a wall, away from everyone and is clearly distressed.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-DINING HALL. DAY.

Kyrshassa and Iain are dining at opposite ends of the table. Both are quiet. Iain looks up at Kyrshassa.

IAIN:  
Is there something wrong with the food?

Kyrshassa looks up at him and back at food, picking at it.

KYRSHASSA:  
The food is fine. I'm just not feeling terribly hungry right now.

IAIN:  
Are you not feeling well?

Kyrshassa drops fork and looks up at him, clearly angry.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

Why? Why must you pretend to care?  
I understand your parents forced  
you to marry me. But, please..do  
not act like you truly care.  
Because that is just adding insult  
to injury.

IAIN:

What?? What are you talking about,  
woman? What injury? I only asked..

KYRSHASSA:

(interrupts)

You went back to the casino!...and  
don't lie. I know you did! I  
over-heard you plotting with  
Captain Leander about it... Are the  
night ladies so much better than I?  
I thought that after all this  
time...

IAIN:

No, Kee..it's not like that, I  
swear it!

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, please...now you insult my  
intelligence too? I, myself  
checked! You DID go. And then lied  
to me...

IAIN:

Oh, for p...look, I don't have to  
tell you every...little...thing!

They both get up from the table. He heads over to her.

IAIN: (cont'd)

You know, I am so sick of everyone  
my whole life telling me what to  
do, what to say, how to  
feel...what's right, what's  
wrong...

KYRSHASSA:

I see..the old "self pity" ploy!  
Can you not do any better than  
that? (sigh) I don't want to do  
this anymore. I'll not stand here  
and listen to poor excuses for bad  
behavior. I'm leaving!

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:

Oh? You want to leave? Okay! Fine!  
 Maybe it *would* be better if you  
 leave! Go on...Pack your bags, bug  
 off back to Aquiaas then...leave  
 your human people to their own  
 devices. So much for an "Aquiaan's  
 life-long commitments"!

Kyrshassa stands looking at Iain with wide eyes and mouth open.

KYRSHASSA:

I...I only meant..the *room*.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-FAMILY ROOM. DAY.

Kyrshassa, Irulan, Omie and Uea are watching the news and talking, when Ompeko and Fatch enter, tripping over one another, clearly in competition with who gets there first.

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, for pity's sake, will either of  
 you two ever grow up?

OMPEKO AND FATCH:

Majesty..(argue over who gets to  
 tell her)

KYRSHASSA:

Look, I'm not in the mood for your  
 games right now. Just what is it?

Shot of Ompeko stepping forward to speak to her. Kyrshassa looks shocked and hangs head down shamefully.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE- OFFICE. DAY.

Iain is sitting at desk working on documents. Enter:  
 Kyrshassa. She sits down at chair in front of him. He looks  
 up.

IAIN:

You need something, my lady?

KYRSHASSA:

Yes. To make..an apology. I  
 misunderstood *why* you went to the  
 casino. I..I jumped to conclusions  
 and, I thought..

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:

(Interrupts)

I *know* what you thought! But, this is one time I was innocent. And it was so hard for me to deal with me finally doing the right thing for once, but still being *assumed* guilty.

KYRSHASSA:

I *am* sorry. Forgive me?

Iain stands up and walks over to her.

IAIN:

I will, if you answer me this.

KYRSHASSA:

What's that?

Iain helps her up and holds her.

IAIN:

Tell me the truth. Do you love me?

KYRSHASSA:

Don't be silly. You're my husband.

IAIN:

That's not an answer Kee. Do you love me?

KYRSHASSA:

Well, Iain...it's a complicated question...

IAIN:

(interrupts)

No, no it really isn't. Do you love me?

KYRSHASSA:

I know I couldn't bear the idea of you in another woman's arms...

IAIN:

Do...you...love...me?

Kyrshassa remembers the following: their food fight, of the both of them swimming and splashing each other at a beach, (V.O) echoes of Kyrshassa exclaiming, "Oh fish" and running into deeper water, Iain (V.O) teasing her saying "Oh, you think you're the only one who can swim?" And his diving in

(CONTINUED)

the water after her, the night he came in to save her with a cricket bat, his tenderness at comforting her.

KYRSHASSA:  
God help me...but, yes I do.

IAIN:  
I knew it. I...just *knew*.

KYRSHASSA:  
(Teasing)  
You knew? Well, that's a bit presumptuous, don't you th-

He silences her with a deep and passionate kiss.

IAIN:  
You, my lady had captured my heart from that moment you first looked at me at your father's funeral.

KYRSHASSA:  
But, you behaved so badly...

IAIN:  
I know. I'm so sorry. I didn't know what to do, say, think or feel...it made me crazy.

KYRSHASSA:  
Is this a dream? Oh Iain..now, when we lie together, I will no longer be alone, naked and vulnerable, because now...YOU clothe me.

Kyrshassa and Iain kiss passionately.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-BED CHAMBER. DAY.

Kyrshassa awakes in Iain's arms. Her head in resting on his chest.

IAIN:  
Good morning, sleeping beauty.

Iain kisses Kyrshassa on her forehead.

KYRSHASSA:  
Good morning to you my husband, my love. I could lie here happily listening to your heart beat for the rest of my life.

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:

Hmmm..could get a wee bit boring after a while, ye ken? Kee, tell me what Aquiaas is like, I'm dying of curiosity.

KYRSHASSA:

Well sure, I love talking about Aquiaas. Um, let's see...you know that we absorb oxygen from the seawater through our skin right?

IAIN:

Aye, and?

KYRSHASSA:

(V.O)

Well, as you know, we live very, very deep in the sea. Your bodies of flesh and bone would be crushed, it's so deep. But down there, there are also mountains and valleys, and fresh water rivers, just like here on the surface. There are even waterfalls. We even have our own UV light sources, separate from the sun, in various flora and fauna. And vast forests. During harvest season, everyone takes part, from the highest to the lowest. And then we all celebrate and give thanks together too.

Images of motorized vehicles, people playing and swimming. Farmers harvesting crops. Camaraderie everywhere. Luminescent plants, trees and fish.

IAIN:

I never knew. Ah lass, it's actually rather sweet when you talk about Aquiaas, you really light up.

KYRSHASSA:

Light up?...What do you mean? (sits up to look at Iain)

IAIN:

Well, you're glowing. Does that mean that you're happy?

Kyrshassa's eyes widen. She checks her hands and leaps out of bed, runs over to mirror and gasps, and frantically gets dressed.

(CONTINUED)

IAIN: (cont'd)  
What's wrong?

KYRSHASSA:  
Uh...I'm not sure. I need to speak  
to Dr. Khrett straight away.

IAIN:  
Ok, is it a bad thing, should we  
worry?

Iain heads over to the bed chamber's telecom.

KYRSHASSA:  
I don't know for sure. We'll see  
what Dr. Khrett has to say about it  
at the office.

TELECOM OPERATOR:  
Good morning. How may I help you  
sire?

IAIN:  
Uh, aye. Good morning. Get Dr.  
Khrett to the Palace office as soon  
as possible.

Iain turns to look at Kyrshassa, but she is already gone.

TELECOM OPERATOR:  
Yes, Majesty straight away.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-OFFICE. DAY.

Kyrshassa is sitting in office. DR. KHRETT, (an average height and build Aquiaan male, wearing a doctor's uniform and coat and the Khrett clan woad markings on his forehead), is examining Kyrshassa's abdomen with a medi-scanner.

KYRSHASSA:  
Are you quite sure, Dr Khrett? Will  
there be any complications?

A holographic image rises from Dr. Khrett's palm, of a blue haired fetus.

DR. KHRETT:  
Well, look at this! There's no  
mistake, is there? From what I can  
see on the medi-scanner, there's  
shouldn't be any complications  
whatsoever, Majesty.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:  
(gasp)Look... she has human eyes,  
like her father! Oh, she's  
beautiful!

Kyrshassa tenderly touches the image of the fetus' tiny head  
and it kicks her in reply.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
(gasp)  
Is THAT is that was? I thought all  
this time, it was indigestion from  
eating human food.

DR. KHRETT:  
Didn't Ma'am suspect anything?

KYRSHASSA:  
Well, no...not really. I've felt a  
bit tired and achy, but I thought  
it was from being on land for all  
these months and sleeping in a  
human bed instead of a bed pouch,  
oh, what I wouldn't give for a  
sleep pouch now though. Mmmmm...

Kyrshassa watches the baby sucking its thumb.

DR. KHRETT:  
My lady, it is imperative that you  
submerge in saltwater everyday,  
especially now. And do not mix with  
the population as you so love  
doing. We do not yet know what is  
causing this plague. It could  
always mutate and effect unborn  
babies. We just don't have any  
answers yet. So, it is of vital  
importance you and the baby are  
kept safe, Majesty. I would even  
advise you to not leave the palace  
grounds until after the baby's  
birth.

KYRSHASSA:  
I see.. alright, Dr. Khrett. We  
have many duties and  
responsibilities to attend to. But,  
I promise to do what I can. And  
take every precaution. Thank you  
for coming to our call so quickly.

DR. KHRETT:

Don't worry about it, Majesty. I am here for you whenever you need me. Coldo rooea ha.

KYRSHASSA:

Yes, I know and I thank you. Cha ouea ha!

Dr. Khrett bows to Kyrshassa, who exits.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-HALL. DAY

Kyrshassa is rushing to find Iain, when she bumps into him in the great hall.

IAIN:

Did you see him then?

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, yes, yes I did.

IAIN:

Well, what did he say? Is it serious?

KYRSHASSA:

Oh yes, it's quite serious. And it is what I thought it could be.

IAIN:

(gasp)

What's wrong then Kee, why are you glowing?

Kyrshassa looks up at him.

KYRSHASSA:

Well, you know that we, meaning Aquiaans, eat certain species of luminescent fish, right?

IAIN:

Oh, ok aye. Did you eat a bad one?

KYRSHASSA:

(laugh)

Uh, no. But, it apparently causes a reaction to Aquiaan women's hormones who are at a certain stage of pregnancy. Simply put, it causes us to literally glow when we're pregnant.

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:

Pregnant? Do you mean we're going to be parents? I...am going to be a father? Me?

KYRSHASSA:

Yes. Considering the amount of time we spend pillowing, are you really so surprised?

All Iain can do is stand there in shock. He swallows, and takes a deep breath.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

Are you displeased, my husband?

IAIN:

Displeased? No! Absolutely not. I'm just in shock. We have never talked about this possibility, Kee. What will our child be like, being half human and half Aquiaan?

KYRSHASSA:

I wondered about that myself, and according to Dr. Khrett, there is no need for any concern. She is quite the amalgam of you and I both. She even has your eyes.

IAIN:

Oh, so we're having a wee lass then?

KYRSHASSA:

Yes, does that please you?

IAIN:

Aye, it does. A lad or a lass will still inherit the throne regardless. But, a wee lass! I hope she looks like her mammy.

Iain picks up Kyrshassa and swings her around.

Iain and Kyrshassa kiss and look out the large window together in the hallway, full of hope.

EXT. ZAPHIRAAS PRIME-HOTEL ROOM. DAY.

Paako, Leander, Fuquay are speaking to Iain on telecom.

IAIN:  
What happened?

BARONESS FUQUAY:  
We simply got there too late, sire.  
They used a highly concentrated  
dose of the same poison they used  
on King Aardur.

IAIN:  
Are you certain?

BARONESS FUQUAY:  
There's no mistaking that sweet  
smell, sire. Unfortunately, there  
was no other evidence left, as they  
tore out her surveillance chip that  
you had given to her, but what they  
didn't realize was that I would be  
there to recognize the poison. Poor  
Lady Irela. She did in her death,  
what she couldn't do in life.

IAIN:  
This is exactly why I didn't want  
her going in alone. (sigh) Why  
couldn't she have been more  
reasonable? She was always so  
headstrong! I don't know how I'm  
going to break this to my mother  
and father. They had hoped to  
retire in peace without more loss.  
Alright, gather what evidence you  
can, arrest her murderers, get the  
necessary extradition documents and  
come home. Thanks for all the hard  
work, everyone. I'll see you all  
when you return.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
Yes, sire.

Paako, Leander bow and Fuquay curtsies. Screen blips off.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:  
(to Baroness)  
How did you know it was the same  
poison? I couldn't smell a thing,  
other than the pine trees.

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL PAAKO:

The Baroness has a particularly sensitive nose, and she's never wrong. I have never known another human to have such olfactory talents as our Baroness here.

CAPTAIN LEANDER:

Whoa...I never knew!

BARONESS FUQUAY:

Our poor Empress, she must be so worried to be expecting a child in these diabolical times...

Everyone sadly nods and begins packing to head home.

EXT. ZAPHIRAAS PRIME. OUTSIDE ROYAL PALACE. NIGHT.

We see Shallia and Pruitt hand in hand attempting to flee the palace. We don't see Pruitt's face. They begin loading their bags into their woosher, when sirens begin sounding. Shallia looks up and sees the Primean Royal Police zooming towards them. She grabs Pruitt's arm.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

Go, beloved! There isn't time! I will find you and meet you as planned. I promise!

Pruitt starts to protest, but Shallia pushes him forcibly in the other direction.

PRINCESS SHALLIA: (cont'd)

GO!

Pruitt flees the scene as the Primean Royal Police whose faces are covered, converge on Shallia. And scene cuts to the covered face of one of the "police," who removes her face cover..it is Kyrshassa, who wipes her eyes as she watches the others take her sister into custody.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-FAMILY ROOM. DAY.

Kyrshassa is seated on chaise lounge and is gazing down at her belly, which is now starting to show. Enter: Iain.

IAIN:

Where are you my wife?

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, I'm here. Just lost in thought  
of our child.

IAIN:

Oh, I see. Well, that explains it  
then.

Kyrshassa looks up at him as he sits down next to her, and  
places an arm around her.

KYRSHASSA:

Explains what?

IAIN:

The far off look. You looked so far  
away, I worried how I'd bring you  
back. How is she doing, behaving  
her wee self, I hope?

He drops to his knees to touch and kiss her belly and looks  
up at her. She touches his head.

KYRSHASSA:

Yes! And letting me know that she's  
keen to be a footballer. I'm glad  
she has your eyes. I had hoped that  
at least one of our children would  
look like you.

Kyrshassa stands up and wanders away...

IAIN:

Oh, aye? And just how many children  
did you want, my lady?

Iain also stands and begins to follow her.

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, I don't know...at least,  
*fifty!*

Kyrshassa strolls away from him giggling. She ducks behind  
one of the pillars.

IAIN:

Och... fifty, eh?

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, you bet your sweet sexy kilt!

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:  
Well, that'll take some work!  
But, (tugs up belt of sporran on his  
kilt) I'm up for it, I think!

KYRSHASSA:  
Oh, really now?

Iain begins to look for Kyrshassa, but can't seem to find her. Kyrshassa is behind a pillar holding up a flash.

IAIN:  
Aye. Oi! Where'd ya go?

KYRSHASSA:  
I'll never tell, but I stole a  
flash!

The sing-song echo reply is accompanied by a giggle. Iain looks down and sure enough, one IS missing.

IAIN:  
Now, how in the world did she  
manage to do that?

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-FAMILY ROOM. NIGHT.

Kyrshassa and Uea sit in opposite chairs chatting and embroidering, Ompeko and Fatch are playing chess in corner of room. Iain enters with Leander and Fuquay.

KYRSHASSA:  
(looks up and tilts her head)  
What troubles you so, dearling?  
Tell me.

Iain walks directly to her.

IAIN:  
Kyrshassa...

KYRSHASSA:  
Oh dear. It's one of those, is it?  
Ok, well I'm sitting down. Proceed.

IAIN:  
Aye. This is very difficult. But it  
is imperative for me to do so, as  
you will hear a few things soon  
enough in court. But, the Baroness  
and I feel it would be better for  
you to hear it from us first. Isn't  
that correct, your Grace?

(CONTINUED)

Kyrshassa looks up at Fuquay who nods, then back at Iain.

BARONESS FUQUAY:

Oh, uh yes, that would be quite so your Majesty.

KYRSHASSA:

Ok...you have my complete attention. Oh, this is agonizing. Please, I beg you, just *tell* me. Whatever it is, it can't be as bad as all this! Such drama!

Iain rubs his beard and sighs before beginning.

IAIN:

Well, my love...it has come to our attention that it was Shallia Rose who was the main instigator behind your father's murder.

KYRSHASSA:

(gasp)

My OWN sister did this? Oh my poor father..

IAIN:

I'm so very sorry to have to tell you all this Kee. But we have both physical and testimonial proof provided by Queen Ariamne herself. She and the Primean Royal Police have been conducting an investigation for some time now. And there's more...it turns out that your father, King Aardur, was not biologically *her* father too.

KYRSHASSA:

WHAT? No, that's just not possible, because water is conductive and we can easily hear whispers from a great distance. Secrets are things that *humans* make, not Aquiaans...no offense. And certainly not *my* father!

IAIN:

Well, I don't know what to tell you, Kee darling, but I need to tell you, your father had *not* been duped, he had known all along that

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IAIN: (cont'd)  
 the child his second wife carried  
 was not his, but rather that of a  
 close friend, his *best* friend,  
*before* they married.

Memory shot of a younger Aardur and Starquin sitting and talking on Meeting Island. Aardur placing his hand on Starquin's shoulder.

KYRSHASSA:  
 No, Iain! You can't possibly  
 mean...

IAIN:  
 Aye, Kee, I do mean Starquin Darr.

KYRSHASSA:  
 But, this just raises even more  
 questions, such as how did Shallia  
 find out, and when?

IAIN:  
 I'm so sorry my love, I really  
 don't know anything more.

KYRSHASSA:  
 For how long, how long have you  
 known about this? And speak the  
 truth to me, Iain.

IAIN:  
 Uh...It's been a while now. But, we  
 didn't have much in the way of  
 proof until now. And, you were  
 having such a hard time in dealing  
 with your father and brother's  
 deaths already, I couldn't bear the  
 idea of hurting you even further  
 and possibly pushing you over the  
 edge of sanity itself.

KYRSHASSA:  
 (reads him, sighs)  
 Is there anything else you have  
 hidden from me Iain? I can handle  
 many things but, what I cannot and  
 will not abide by is deception,  
 secrets and lies. Understood?

IAIN:  
 I *am* very sorry. But, I didn't  
 deliberately mislead you. I just  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IAIN: (cont'd)  
didn't know how to break it to you.  
And didn't want to without  
evidence. Do you forgive me, love?

KYRSHASSA:  
\*sigh. Maybe later. I need to  
think. (to Fatch) What time is it?  
I wish to speak to Shallia...now.

Fatch looks down at time nodule.

LORD FATCH:  
It is still only the 18th hour, my  
lady. But, are you sure you wish to  
see her? She is of particularly  
ugly temperament lately, even seems  
to not be in her right mind. She  
may even be too ill to stand trial.

KYRSHASSA:  
I see. Well, I'll take my chances  
as regardless of all else, she is  
still my sister. After all, my  
father accepted her as his own  
child and gave her his name and  
clanship, therefore THAT has to be  
respected above all else.

Everyone nods their heads in response. Kyrshassa turns to  
Ompeko.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
I apologize for interrupting your  
game Ompeko, but will you please  
escort me there?

LORD OMPEKO:  
Oh, yes. Of course, Majesty. I am  
not known as your personal shadow  
for nothing, my lady!

Ompeko stands and offers his arm to Kyrshassa to assist his  
treasured cousin.

KYRSHASSA:  
I shall fill you all in on any  
answers I learn upon my return.

The group just nod and watch her leave with Ompeko.

EXIT: Ompeko and Kyrshassa.

INT. NEW CALEDONIA CITY-HOLDING CELL. NIGHT

Shallia sits on her cot, when she hears voices coming and smiles when she recognizes one of the voices and stands up, fixes her hair and smooths out her prison garb.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

It was only a matter of time! I  
felt your presence at my arrest...  
I *knew* you would come.

KYRSHASSA:

Did you now? Why would you be so  
presumptuous to assume that I would  
WANT to, after you had our father  
killed and by his own best friend,  
no less?

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

Are you telling me that they  
haven't told you, yet?

KYRSHASSA:

If you are referring to your being  
the natural offspring of Starquin  
Darr, yes, of course they told me.  
But, I want to know it from you  
personally, why did you do it? And  
don't give me the same mental  
illness drivel you gave to Fatch,  
that won't count with me!

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

I see I underestimated your  
intellect.

KYRSHASSA:

And now you try to flatter me. Do  
not dance with me so Shallia, for  
you'll not like the way I dance to  
your tune...I promise you!

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

Fine. I told Starquin he owed it to  
me and my mother. And the fact  
that Aardur wasn't my real father  
just made it so much easier for me,  
as I feel no remorse in having done  
it.

KYRSHASSA:

You...feel NO remorse...at all?

(CONTINUED)

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

No, I don't! Not at all. He got rid of me as soon as he could. Your father clearly didn't want me and so he married me off to the first available bachelor that came sniffing around!

KYRSHASSA:

Shallia, calm yourself and let's not quarrel. Faffee loved you, cared for you, gave his family and clanship to you. He supported you and raised you to adulthood. I remember well the pride he felt in your accomplishments. Blood or not, you were his daughter. In fact, his last words were to ask me to tell you that he loved you.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

Shut up, shut up, shut up! I don't want to hear that waste wash! It isn't true! (covers ears and screams)

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, I realize it makes it easier for you to have done what you did believing that, but it isn't true. And I will not lie, not even to comfort you! And you know something else? Even if it WERE true, it is still not a reason to have him or anyone else killed, Shallia!

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

Says you! (clenched teeth) Bug off back home Kee!

LORD OMPEKO:

Watch your tongue, Highness! She is still your Empress.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

Aaahhh...I wondered if you had brought your shadow dog!

KYRSHASSA:

Ompeko is our dear friend as well as first cousin and bodyguard. Shallia, why do you say such insulting things to those that love

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
 you and care about you? Whatever  
 have we done to you?

PRINCESS SHALLIA:  
 Rather, the question should be,  
 'What have you done FOR me?' Where  
 were either of you when father sent  
 me off to another world, and where  
 were you when my "ever loving"  
 husband was lying, cheating or  
 beating me? Hmmm? I tell you!  
 NOWHERE to be found! No one to turn  
 to, except for Lady Irela, and even  
 she betrayed me in the end! And  
 you...you were worst of all! Not  
 only did you have me arrested, you  
 even *participated* in the arrest  
 itself!

LORD OMPEKO:  
 (looks at Kyrshassa)  
 WHAT?

SHALLIA:  
 Oh dear, she didn't tell you, did  
 she?

KYRSHASSA:  
 (whispers to Ompeko)  
 I'll explain later. (to Shallia)  
 What a load of waste wash, Shallia!  
 I did what I had to because you had  
 become a danger to yourself as well  
 as to others! You know very well  
 that I would have helped you if you  
 had only asked. And now, you are  
 about to be the first Aquiaan ever  
 to be executed, and for murder and  
 high treason of all things. You *had*  
 to be stopped. In as much as I *want*  
 to help you, I don't believe there  
 is anything that even I can do  
 because you have left a trail of  
 evidence in your wake! But, I will  
 still try to do what I can,  
 Shallia.

Shallia goes to sit back down on her cot.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:  
 Oh whatever. Go away Kyrshassa. And  
 don't come back. I will never  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PRINCESS SHALLIA: (cont'd)  
forgive you for not being there  
when I needed you the most, or for  
betraying me. You never even *tried*  
to stop faffee from shipping me off  
in marriage.

LORD OMPEKO:  
Oh, I beg your pardon, but yes she  
did! I should know, I was there!

KYRSHASSA:  
Come now Ompeko, she has already  
made up her mind. And we cannot  
make her see reason now. It is how  
she justifies what she did in her  
own mind. *Our* Shallia is long gone  
from us.

Kyrshassa tries to pull Ompeko away from the cell door.

LORD OMPEKO:  
She did try, Shallia. She did.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:  
Whatever.

INT. NEW CALEDONIA CITY-PRISON. NIGHT

Ompeko and Kyrshassa are leaving Shallia's cell and are  
discussing what just happened.

KYRSHASSA:  
Ompeko...I do not know who that was  
in there, but it was not the same  
little sister I helped to raise.  
Shallia needs to be kept locked  
away to stop her from hurting  
others. Because that's exactly what  
she has in her mind to do, I saw  
it. She has become this angry beast  
that feeds off the rage. But,  
justice must be served even for one  
of our own, even if it means death,  
which for her, it does. Unless, I  
can find a legal reason... but,  
*how?*

Shot of Kyrshassa contemplating.

(CONTINUED)

LORD OMPEKO:

Kee, you cannot control *everything*, no matter how hard you try. And in your condition, you shouldn't even be getting directly involved. His Majesty will find out, it is only a matter of time. I can only cover you so far. (looking around and whispers) If Paako or his Majesty find out, we're *both* done for! But, if you're planning on doing something, it must be done soon. She hasn't got long. Immediately after her trial tomorrow...

KYRSHASSA:

I know Ompeko, *I know*. It's a race against time...Nothing like piling on more pressure! As if I didn't have enough, trying to solve the mystery of this diabolical plague! Oh, my beloved people!

Ompeko opens the exit door for her.

EXT. IMPERIAL PALACE-FAMILY ROOM-BALCONY. NIGHT.

Kyrshassa is seen looking up at the stars. Enter: Fatch. He notices her looking up and also looks up.

LORD FATCH:

Uh, I beg your pardon your Majesty...but, what are you looking at?

KYRSHASSA:

The stars, Fatch.

LORD FATCH:

O-o-o-kay...why?

KYRSHASSA:

I'm just looking for answers.

LORD FATCH:

Oh, right. (looks back up) Well, if you see something amazing or discover the cure for something really hideous and obscure..please, let me know...

Kyrshassa reverts her attention to Fatch and laughs.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

I just wish that Paako were here,  
and not out on a mission. He *always*  
knows what to do...

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-COURTROOM. DAY

Iain and Kyrshassa are in full Imperial regalia and are seated on their thrones, and the courtroom is full of people. JUDGE WARNER, (a large middle aged man with thick spectacles wearing black legal robes) is seated at judge's bench.

Sir Alldair Herkes rises and steps forward before Iain and Kyrshassa and bows. Fatch is seated at the Defense Table.

SIR ALDDAIR:

Your Majesties, (turns to the judge)  
your honor, (turns to the people)  
People of Parduum, their Grand  
Majesties have cited conflict of  
interest and have yielded authority  
to the Imperial Court Magistrate  
Judge Warner. Today, we shall  
discover why and how, the accused  
came to stand before us accused of  
these charges. I therefore call  
forth, Her Majesty, Queen Ariamne  
Memei Udexi of New Athenia, Queen  
of Zaphiraas Prime.

The crowd gasps in shock and surprise. Enter: QUEEN ARIAMNE (a beautiful, olive skinned, dark haired, Greek version of "Princess Grace" about 40) Ompeko guides Ariamne to the witness box. Ariamne raises her hand and is sworn in by Alldair. The press are there recording everything live. Lights flash from cameras.

SIR ALDDAIR: (cont'd)

Thank you so much your Majesty for  
coming in to testify, I am certain  
it was no easy decision to make.

Ariamne nods as tears well up in her eyes.

SIR ALDDAIR: (cont'd)

If it pleases your Majesty, could  
you please tell us in your own  
words, how did you first meet  
Princess Shallia Rose Eloii of  
Aquiaas who stands accused before  
us today?

(CONTINUED)

Ariamne nods her head and glances down at her hands, neatly folded in her lap. She begins to speak, but in a whisper.

SIR ALDDAIR: (cont'd)

I apologize Ma'am, Could you please speak up, louder if you will?

QUEEN ARIAMNE:

I first met Princess Shallia Rose when she was introduced to my younger son, Second Prince Joshua. Her royal highness seemed sweet in the beginning. But, in time things became ugly. My youngest child, Princess Aracet began telling me fanciful stories of things she had witnessed. I did not know what to do. Perhaps this is all my fault. I should have interceded at some point. But, I never thought...

SIR ALDDAIR:

Your Majesty, if there is any fault or blame to be had, it certainly does not lie with you. The fault must always be accounted for by the guilty. Please, continue.

QUEEN ARIAMNE:

It had come to my attention that there was someone who visited her frequently. And when I asked her directly who it was, she, rather rudely told me to mind my own business.

Memory scene of Shallia in the arms of a man, who's identity is obscured. Royal guardsmen break in to Shallia's bed chamber and cut to Pruitt escaping via the balcony, his face is seen just before he drops off. Shallia begins shouting at the guards and at Ariamne who, followed them in.

A multitude of gasps. People in public places and homes are watching and talking about it.

QUEEN ARIAMNE: (cont'd)

(cont'd)

When she said that, I was so shocked, I didn't know what to say. No one had ever spoken to me like that before, you see. I realized then that she had no respect for me and therefore, I could not be the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN ARIAMNE: (cont'd)  
one to help her through her  
difficulties.

Shallia stands and shouts.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:  
Oh, like you ever really cared!

Crowd starts clamoring and judge pounds his gavel.

JUDGE WARNER:  
Lord Amexxi, silence your client,  
or she will be forced to stand  
trial from her prison cell!

LORD FATCH:  
Yes, my lord.

Fatch bends down to speak to Shallia. Which only provokes her further into screaming out.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:  
Oh don't give me that Fatch! I  
can't believe they allowed you to  
be my solicitor! Everyone knows  
you're an incompetent piece of  
drift waste! Actually, come to  
think of it, maybe that's exactly  
why you were assigned!

The judge pounds his gavel, the crowd are all in uproar and chaos breaks loose in court.

Paako orders Moore to take Shallia back to her cell, when amongst the chaos and noise, a loud and high pitched scream flies right past his head and instinctively, he ducks and looks to see where it came from, and is shocked to discover it comes from Pruitt. He helps to restrain Pruitt, and as Pruitt struggles, his eyes change to become Amuy eyes. Paako looks down at Pruitt's face, and then at his hand, which is once again glowing. He looks down to see Pruitt staring at him. He sees Pruitt's eyes change and is puzzled.

Iain and Kyrshassa go to the queen's aid..

Judge Warner adjourns court and postpones the trial. The ghostly image of Sharys the "Amuy" appears again...She notices Paako seemingly looking at her and appears concerned.

EXT. IMPERIAL PALACE COURT. DAY.

Jackie Brae and crew are reporting on the day's proceedings.

JACKIE BRAE:

Such drama today, ladies and gentlemen. Her Majesty, Queen Ariamne originally from the Greek province on Zaphiraas Prime has been shot, though it doesn't look life threatening, merely wounded in the shoulder. Insiders say it was some antiquated projectile weapon that had been used. Our beloved Emperor and Empress are by her bedside now. Speaking of their Majesties, how sad that now in these terrible times, even they have their own problems in their family, like the rest of us. Have you seen the behavior of her Royal Highness? Shameful! Our poor Empress, how embarrassing! But, still no word yet on day 366 of the vile plague on what is causing it. I'm Jackie Brae, reporting to you live from the Imperial Court of Parduum, New Alba Province. As soon as we know, you'll know!

EXT. NEW CALEDONIA CITY-PRISON. DAY.

Establishing shot.

INT. NEW CALEDONIA CITY-HOLDING CELL. DAY.

PAAKO IS VISITING PRUITT, SITTING ON CHAIRS IN HIS CELL TALKING FACE TO FACE.

CAPTAIN PRUITT:

Shallia and I have been in love for some time. Her husband was going to divorce her anyway, and we were going to move to New Scandinavia together. But we knew with my background, I would not be allowed to settle with her there. So she told me to ingratiate myself with you. You gave me the backup I needed to immigrate here. But Queen Ariamne had to ruin everything with

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN PRUITT: (cont'd)  
her investigations. It's all her  
fault Shallia, my beautiful Shallia  
Rose, is about to be executed.

GENERAL PAAKO:  
You realize that the attempted  
murder of a Queen or any royal for  
that matter, is high treason. So  
you will receive the death penalty.  
As will our princess as soon as her  
trial is over, which thanks to you,  
has been now been postponed until  
we know how her Majesty fares and  
begin again.

CAPTAIN PRUITT:  
Oh, what do I care? If I can't have  
my Shallia Rose and grow old with  
her, I don't want to live anyway.  
(sits back down on his cell cot)

INT. NEW CALEDONIA CITY-PRISON. DAY.

Fuquay is looking out the window. Paako's hovercar turns the  
corner to prison's gates of car park, Fuquay watches as  
Paako scans himself out, using identichip in his hand. A  
massive implosion blows in his hovercar and the percussive  
energy creates an aftershock that takes out several other  
cars in the car park.

BARONESS FUQUAY:  
Oh my God, oh God no, not Paako! Oh  
noooooo! (bangs on window)

EXT. PAAKO'S FUNERAL. DAY.

Many are gathered around down by pier for eulogy. Fatch is  
present, screaming himself hoarse and wearing a torn  
garment. The press are having a field day filming him.  
Though Jackie Brae is holding her microphone down by her  
side as she sadly watches Fatch.

LORD OMPEKO:  
Oh, I am so going to kill him!

Kyrshassa places her hand in front of Ompeko to stop him.

KYRSHASSA:  
No! No, Ompeko...no. Despite all  
appearances that Paako gave, he  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
adored Fatch. He told me once that he thought Fatch was the funniest and craziest Aquiaan that ever lived, no one made him laugh more than Fatch. This would not have offended him, Ompeko. (tearfully)

There is much grief displayed: people tearing their garments and hair and throwing dust on their heads. Kyrshassa walks over to Lord Fatch.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
Come now, Fatch. Escort me to the chuppah.

The tears still come for Fatch and Kyrshassa. Fuquay walks up to Kyrshassa and Fatch with Irulan and both curtsy.

BARONESS FUQUAY:  
Our sincerest condolences Majesty.

IRULAN:  
Majesty, I adored General Paako. In fact, it was because of him, that I had decided to enter the Imperial Academy for Investigation and Forensic Research after I was promoted beyond Princess Omie's class.

BARONESS FUQUAY:  
Yes, Majesty. My daughter has turned out to be quite the child prodigy actually. (hugs Irulan)

KYRSHASSA:  
Yes, quite so. I have been closely watching your progress and I am so very proud of you Lady Irulan. We miss your presence at the palace. Especially my Omie. You have chosen a noble profession. Of course, quite a bit sooner than anyone had ever anticipated. But, it warms my heart that Paako was able to encourage and inspire the next generation. Do well, my Lady and make him proud.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-COURTROOM. DAY

Court has resumed. Courtroom is full and Ariamne is back in the witness box.

SIR ALDDAIR:

Thank you so much, your Majesty for coming back to finish giving your testimony, we sincerely appreciate it.

Ariamne sits up straight and holds her hands very lady-like in her lap.

QUEEN ARIAMNE:

In time, I began to suspect something was very wrong with Shallia and so I had a guard follow her. We found out a number of things that shocked us. Though we discovered that it was true my son was seeing other women, he *wasn't* however, beating her, as she claimed. Rather, the marks that we would see on her, were done by none other than herself!

The crowd gasp and murmur.

QUEEN ARIAMNE: (cont'd)  
(cont'd)

One day, one of my guards followed her to her bed chamber to catch, and hopefully find out *who* her lover was. However..

Inside Shallia's bed chamber, Shallia is hitting herself, screaming and is seen being thrown around by some unseen force. She is seen with glowing Amuy eyes.

QUEEN ARIAMNE: (cont'd)  
(cont'd)

Within the hour, this guard who has asked not to be identified, had come to me with his face so white, I thought he was ill. He asked for reassignment immediately, and that if he couldn't be reassigned, that he would take early retirement, effective immediately. I was horrified. This man was amongst our very best, and one would even say hardened. I don't need to tell you,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN ARIAMNE: (cont'd)  
what I felt. But, where does one  
turn to for help, on something like  
this? It got so bad that, despite  
our advice, my son divorced her. He  
wants nothing more to do with her.  
He too, is very afraid. We just  
didn't know what to do...

SIR ALDDAIR:  
What did you do then?

QUEEN ARIAMNE:  
Well, we figured the first thing to  
do, would be to get proof. We  
tapped her telecom, her entire  
quarters, trying to see if we could  
catch anything unusual.

SIR ALDDAIR:  
And did you?

QUEEN ARIAMNE:  
Oh, yes. I brought the evidence we  
discovered, with me here...(takes  
out pad from case)

Ariamne raises a small 4-d holopad recording displaying  
Shallia standing by her balcony looking out. Male voice is  
coming from another holographic display, clearly asking her  
for instructions. And Shallia giving the order of Lady  
Irela's murder. He tells her that he'll take care of it.  
Shallia is then seen disconnecting the call.

More gasps from crowd. Cameras flash.

SIR ALDDAIR:  
Was there any chance of mistake,  
Majesty?

QUEEN ARIAMNE:  
No, the records of his telecom  
confirms receipt of the call, and  
voice analysis confirms it was in  
fact, this "Colonel" on Luneria.  
Though, it also confirms that it is  
a manufactured voice, which implies  
he has another, true identity...

SIR ALDDAIR:  
Have your people been able to  
arrest him, or even find out who he  
is?

(CONTINUED)

QUEEN ARIAMNE:

Oh, no sir. Not as yet. His identity is still a mystery and he seems to be able to slip through every trap we have thus far attempted, it is as though he knows and counteracts every move we make, in ways we find impossible to explain.

SIR ALDDAIR:

Thank you kindly, your Majesty. Have you anything further to add?

QUEEN ARIAMNE:

No sir, I have not.

JUDGE WARNER:

Lord Fatch, do you intend to question this witness?

LORD FATCH:

No, my honorable lord. I have no questions for her Majesty at this time.

JUDGE WARNER:

Very well, then your Majesty, we thank you for coming in to testify and now you may be excused. Sir Alldair?

Ariamne bows her head then rises to leave the box. Sir Alldair rises.

SIR ALDDAIR:

I call forth Princess Shallia Rose of Zaphiraas Prime to take the stand.

Everyone turns to face the doors and as they open, a frail, much older-looking Shallia enters. She sits down after being sworn in.

SIR ALDDAIR: (cont'd)

Do you swear to speak the truth in it's entirety?

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

(she looks up at him)

Whose truth, yours or mine?

(CONTINUED)

SIR ALDDAIR:

Your Highness, truth is not subjective, it simply is, or is not. Now, will you speak the truth?

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

It depends on how you look at it...

SIR ALDDAIR:

Stop toying with us, Highness. One may not like the sun rising, but like it or not, it will still rise in the morning...*that*, is truth. Now, will you speak it?

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

(sarcastic and venomously)  
Oh ok, fine! Yes.

SIR ALDDAIR:

Did you have King Aardur of Aquiaas and Lady Irela MacPherson of New Alba Province murdered?

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

Yes, I did and I have no regrets whatsoever. They both deserved to die!

All courtroom people are clamoring and Warner is pounding his gavel.

SIR ALDDAIR:

With all the evidence presented and with witness testimony and on her Highness' own testimony, I rest my case. (sits down in his chair in shock)

JUDGE WARNER:

Have you no further questions for your client Lord Amexxi?

LORD FATCH:

No, your honorable lord. Especially as my client refuses to speak to me. I move for a change in defense solicitor.

JUDGE WARNER:

Denied, it is far too late in the trial. We are almost ready for sentencing. You will make do Lord Amexxi.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

Poor Fatch.

Image of Sharys watching, shaking her head in despair.  
Ompeko notices his ID Chip is glowing and taps it.

EXT. IMPERIAL PALACE COURT. DAY.

Jackie Brae is reporting with her crew.

JACKIE BRAE:

What a day, ladies and gentlemen!  
Her Imperial Highness Princess  
Shallia Rose has been declared  
guilty and sentenced to death. We  
caught on camera Her Majesty  
showing outward signs of grief as  
her sister was sentenced. And how  
Her Imperial Highness did not  
behave very royal or dignified as  
they took her away to her cell.  
Shameful! Still no word on day 367  
of the Vile Plague. I'm Jackie Bray  
reporting to you live. And,  
(emotional break) I hope to be the  
one that is reporting to you live  
when it finally breaks that a cure  
has been found...

INT. LUNERIA-TRAIL OF TEARS CASINO-OFFICE. NIGHT.

Commander Farpi is speaking to Colonel Akolikya over telecom  
and is clearly plotting. Outside the open door, Bester  
overhears entire conversation. He faces camera horrified at  
what he is hearing. He then quickly exits.

EXT. NEW ABERFELDY ALLEYWAY. NIGHT.

Camera close up of Kyrshassa's face as she covers her head  
with a hood. Kyrshassa is quickly leaving a darkened  
doorway. Luminescent Aquiaan eyes are blinking in the  
darkness, someone is watching her. As she turns the corner,  
he follows her. He follows her around a couple more turns.  
He turns once more to find Kyrshassa's knife at his throat.

KYRSHASSA:

Who are you and what do you want?  
Are you a "vultures"?

(CONTINUED)

LORD FATCH:  
What's a "vultures"?

For a moment, Kyrshassa is confused and then realizes who her stalker is.

KYRSHASSA:  
Actually, I dunno, I think  
it's..(gasp)*Fatch?*

Kyrshassa removes his face cover.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)  
Fatch! What are you doing following  
me, who else knows?

LORD FATCH:  
No one Majesty. I just had to  
protect you and make sure you were  
kept safe. I, I saw you leave the  
palace. My lady, what are YOU  
doing, besides endangering yourself  
and our unborn princess?

KYRSHASSA:  
I, I have to do something Fatch, my  
sister will die in less than 24  
hours, if I don't do something and  
fast. Her very life is at stake, I  
can't just sit by and do nothing.  
My people are suffering.

LORD FATCH:  
Oh, my Lady..you don't have to do  
these things alone. Please let me  
help you. Especially since her  
highness will not let me help her  
at court, perhaps I can still do  
something anyway.

KYRSHASSA:  
Well, alright...but, none of your  
games Fatch, this is serious  
business. We may be killed for  
getting directly involved, these  
are very dangerous people. I  
hesitate to even call them people.  
Come now, we must hurry before we  
are missed! I'm due at the temple.

Kyrshassa and Fatch flee into the darkness.

INT. NEW CALEDONIA TEMPLE-ALTAR. NIGHT.

Kyrshassa as high priestess, is carrying out her various duties with religious artifacts in the Aquiaan land temple. It is a darkened and empty place, but beautiful and ethereal in appearance. Enter: Commander Farpi, who sits down in a pew and watches Kyrshassa.

COMMANDER FARPI:

You do your duties well, Majesty.  
Why am I hardly able to move in  
here?

KYRSHASSA:

(turns to face him)This temple is  
nearly pressurized at Aquiaas  
City's depth pressures. If we were  
really below, your body would be  
crushed.

COMMANDER FARPI:

What is *that*? (lifts finger with  
difficulty and points at aqualight)

Kyrshassa places a special "aqualight" with "watersilk flower" inside it on altar. Turns to look at Farpi out the corner of her eye, not stopping what she is doing.

KYRSHASSA:

This is our beloved watersilk. It  
provides us with fresh drinking  
water and light, perfume and cloth,  
armor and building materials. It is  
our most precious commodity. And so  
we gladly return a sacrifice of  
thanksgiving and praise for it. I  
confess, I am surprised to see a  
human in here. How may I serve you?

COMMANDER FARPI:

Well, you could stop your  
investigating, for starters. The  
colonel knows what you have been up  
to my lady, and he wants a  
cessation at once! Already, you are  
a target on his list.

Kyrshassa stops mid-action and faces him.

KYRSHASSA:

Perhaps these are things he should  
have considered long *before* he sold  
out his own species as well as  
mine!

(CONTINUED)

COMMANDER FARPI:

So... you don't even try to deny it.

KYRSHASSA:

Why should I? I am not human. It is very much a *human* trait to plot, plan, scheme and deceive.

COMMANDER FARPI:

Ah..but isn't that exactly what you are doing to your own husband no less, your majesty? He has no idea what you've been up to, all this digging and investigating, placing everything, including your own unborn child, at risk...does he, my lady?

KYRSHASSA:

Who are you to question me? Oh, return to your master, you foul minion! Be quick and speak your peace, for already I tire of you!

COMMANDER FARPI:

Very well my lady, we *know* things are not all rosy in the Imperial House of MacAlbainn...and my boss *appreciates* strong ladies like yourself...

KYRSHASSA:

(Gasps in disgust)

What do you want of me?

COMMANDER FARPI:

Are you telling me you do not know?

KYRSHASSA:

What, that you seek to supplant my throne and that of my husband's by using my sister?

COMMANDER FARPI:

Well, that may have been the original plan, but since you insist on keeping your nose into our business...the boss has decided to go into a different direction.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

A different direction? Perhaps,  
like out of our solar system?

COMMANDER FARPI:

Very amusing, your Majesty...no, he  
is willing to make a deal with you.  
He can be very generous, you  
know...

KYRSHASSA:

What sort of deal?

COMMANDER FARPI:

Join forces with us and keep your  
throne. You always bang on about  
how you would do anything for your  
people...this, is a way to *true*  
peace for them.

KYRSHASSA:

True peace? A *false* peace, more  
like! And, what of my husband?

COMMANDER FARPI:

Oh, just leave him to us...

KYRSHASSA:

And what else does your "boss"  
want?

COMMANDER FARPI:

Like I said, just stop what you're  
doing, and let us take over.

KYRSHASSA:

Or? What are your terms?

COMMANDER FARPI:

Or, we'll be coming after members  
of your household. We've already  
got our targets, beginning with  
your husband.

Kyrshassa walks over to him and looks him dead in the eye.

KYRSHASSA:

One may threaten me, and they'd be  
taking a mighty risk with *that*, but  
to threaten my *family*...

Kyrshassa leans in very close to Farpi's ear. Close-up shot  
of Kyrshassa's mouth.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

(cont'd)

THAT, was the wrong thing to do...  
Very wrong...

She tilts her head and looks at him through the corner of her eye.

Farpi swallows hard, looking wide-eyed and scared.

EXT. IMPERIAL PALACE-COURT ROOM. DAY.

Establishing shot.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-COURTROOM. DAY.

It is clear that court is finishing up for the day, when Bester and Sharys arrive and ask for an audience with their majesties. Kyrshassa recognizes Sharys as an Amuy immediately and walks over to them.

KYRSHASSA:

Hello Bester. (to Sharys) And to you also. It is a true pleasure to see an Amuy. It has been a millennium or more, has it not?

SHARYS:

Why, yes grand Majesty. I had wondered if Aquiaans contained genetic memory of us.

KYRSHASSA:

I really couldn't say anything about genetic memory. But, how may we be of service to you? And not meaning to sound rude, but I *am* in a hurry. Your timing is most unfortunate.

SHARYS:

Grand Majesty, I have been chosen to speak for the Amuy, and it is vital that we talk and, *now*.

KYRSHASSA:

This is something very big and quite serious, isn't it?

(CONTINUED)

SHARYS:

Are all Aquiaans as astute or only yourself, Majesty?

KYRSHASSA:

Do not blow sunshine in my ear, speak plainly, Amuy. What is it you have to tell me? I am in a desperate hurry, my sister is about to be executed and I need to be there for her...

SHARYS:

Forgive me, Majesty. First things, first. My name is Sharys and what we have to tell you must be told in absolute confidentiality and cannot wait. And I have information that might save your sister's life.

KYRSHASSA:

Then come, let us go to my office at once! I can see it's not something I shall like very much, is it?

SHARYS:

I regret...not.

Ompeko walks up to her and interrupts to remind her they must depart for prior obligations.

LORD OMPEKO:

Please excuse me Majesty, but we must leave now, it is almost time.

KYRSHASSA:

Yes, I know..just a minute Ompeko, please.. All right, Lady Uea please show Miss Sharys to our private office. I shall meet you all there in a moment *with* the Emperor.

LADY UEA:

(curtsy)

Yes, Majesty.

Kyrshassa nods her head as Uea, Sharys curtsy and Bester bows and exits. Kyrshassa and Ompeko watch them leave as they make their way to Iain.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

(groans) Why does everything have to happen at one stinking time? I don't know what exactly she has to tell me Ompeko, but it is very big in scale. And she's worried how I'll accept the news. (Turn to Ompeko) Why does everyone think I'm some sort of delicate flower that will wilt at the slightest trouble?

LORD OMPEKO:

I don't think anyone truly believes that, only that no one likes to be the harbinger of bad tidings. You know in the ancient times on Earth, they used to kill the messenger that brought back bad news.

KYRSHASSA:

How uncivilized! Really?

LORD OMPEKO:

Mmmmm.

INT. NEW CALEDONIA CITY-PRISON. DAY.

Shot of Shallia being led out of her cell and taken down a hall by an Aquiaan guardsman and a human guardsman, with an Aquiaan priest reading a holopad.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-OFFICE. DAY.

Kyrshassa and Iain enter office as Sharys awaits.

SHARYS:

Thank you grand Majesties for seeing me. I have come to explain what has been happening with your people. I'm sure you have noticed an outbreak of irregular behaviors in your people. People that normally would be kind, good and law abiding.

IAIN:

Aye, that would be unmissable with all the news coverage, and it affecting so many. Which has made investigating and trying to solve this mystery all the more

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

IAIN: (cont'd)  
difficult. Look, please, make this quick. Time, is of the essence...

SHARYS:  
Yes, sire. You are aware of my people Ma'am, well, so you may also be aware that my people can fold space and time. But, what you may not know is that we can also fold matter too..to become one with it, even enter into... *someone*.

Kyrshassa, who had been sitting, arises in shock.

IAIN:  
What? You mean like demonic possession or something?

SHARYS:  
Well, to put it crudely, yes. (looks at Kyrshassa) And yes, Majesty, without permission. The people affected are "infected" with...a "fallen" Amuy. A few of our kind have become bored with our way of life, so they looked for other ways to amuse themselves. But, among the Amuy, it is forbidden as it is a considered a form of rape and is against our way. Those the fallen choose to target, are those that are weak..or, angry. Anger or despair calls to them like a beacon and leaves the victim open or vulnerable.

IAIN:  
Do we need to call a priest? How do we get them out?

SHARYS:  
We don't know ourselves. We tried to take care of this situation ourselves through our own priests, doctors and scientists, but we no longer believe that it *can* be done by ourselves, and so we have come to you in desperation, for help.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

(To Iain)

You know, I had sensed duplicity in Shallia, only I was confused as to why or how. It would have never occurred to me that *this* would have been the case. But, (gasp) this DOES mean that Shallia did *not* act of her own accord, so therefore is not subject to the death penalty!! Oh Sharys, I could kiss you!

SHARYS:

Oh, I'd rather you didn't Majesty, no offense.

KYRSHASSA:

No offense taken! Come now, we have to get there before it's too late..oh God no..(looking at time capsule)it may already be, we'll never get there in time!

BESTER:

Oh! I may be able to help with that, your Majesty!

He holds up the teleporter device and waves it at them.

INT. NEW CALEDONIA CITY-PRISON-DEATH CHAMBER. DAY.

Shallia is being strapped to wall with several Aquiaan guards aiming percussors at her. Fuquay is present and has tears in her eyes with her right arm risen.

BARONESS FUQUAY:

Ready...aim....

Kyrshassa, Iain, Sharys and Bester appear and Kyrshassa steps in front of her sister.

KYRSHASSA:

STOP! STOP! HALT! Hold your fire! I order you, in the name of the Great Parduumian Empire!

BARONESS FUQUAY:

(looking confused)

Majesties?

Shallia faints.

INT. IMPERIAL PALACE-FAMILY ROOM. NIGHT.

Iain and Kyrshassa are getting ready to head off to bed, when Lady Irulan and Baroness Fuquay enter and curtsy to Iain and Kyrshassa.

IAIN:

Your Grace, Lady Irulan? What brings you this late?

BARONESS FUQUAY:

Your Majesties, I apologize for our coming in this late, and for not communicating on the telecom. But, we cannot take the chance on *this* being overheard. Go ahead, Irulan sweetie tell them, what you told me.

IRULAN:

Majesties, I believe I may have discovered who is directly responsible for the death of General Paako.

IAIN:

Go on, love.

IRULAN:

Well, I was in class at the Academy, when I had to visit the loo..

Memory shot of Irulan leaving class to find the girls bathroom, walking past a barely open door. She hears shouting and stops out to listen. She looks concerned. She overhears Haste rebuking himself for killing Paako. She covers her mouth to stop herself from screaming. She then runs off.

IRULAN: (cont'd)

(V.O)

I figured I'd better tell what I had heard to mum, and see if we could get any evidence or proof.

BARONESS FUQUAY:

This afternoon, the pieces really began to fit after I finally had a chance to speak with Bester Thraxxi myself. Apparently, he had *much* to tell me. With his help, we discovered why people were

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARONESS FUQUAY: (cont'd)  
 disappearing on all four planets in  
 the Zaphiraas System and who  
 Colonel Akolikya really is.

Fuquay explains further as scene plays out of Paako at court during Shallia's trial, checking his ID chip and looking at unseen presence.

BARONESS FUQUAY: (cont'd)  
 He had changed much since your  
 sister's death Sire.

IAIN:  
 Oh, you don't mean..Haste?

BARONESS FUQUAY:  
 Yes my lord, none other. We also  
 now know that the reason that Paako  
 was murdered, was because he  
 figured out that his chip had been  
 reacting to his Aquiaan physiology  
 and was detecting Amuy presence.  
 Apparently, even if unseen, they  
 still emit an electrical current  
 that the chip picks up on, which  
 causes it to glow. And, through his  
 relentless and persistent  
 investigation, General Paako simply  
 got in their way.

Shot of horrified Kyrshassa.

KYRSHASSA:  
 (V.O)  
 Oh my God, I sent Paako to his  
 doom!

BARONESS FUQUAY:  
 Apparently, the Fallen ones had  
 been strategically placing people  
 of power in certain positions,  
 preparing to make their move. Her  
 Highness was simply one of these  
 pawns, as was Captain Pruitt.  
 Neither, were directly accountable  
 for their own actions. However, we  
 have tried to find and arrest the  
 Colonel or, rather Admiral  
 Haste...but, he seems to have  
 disappeared along with Commander  
 Farpi...

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, I wouldn't worry about Commander Farpi...I'm sure he got his comeuppance. But, it's Haste we really want anyway.

BARONESS FUQUAY:

Majesty? (looks at her puzzled, but continues) Uh, well...truth be told, without Mr. Thraxxi's help, we really would not have been able to piece the rest of the puzzle together. I personally recommend him for a special commendation, as well as enlistment into the Imperial Service.

EXT. BODY OF WATER. DAY.

Site of giant whirlpool..Commander Farpi is seen tied and rigged to two boats hovering around the whirlpool. Farpi is face down, crying out for help.

INT. KYRSHASSA'S BEDCHAMBER-EARLY MORNING.

Kyrshassa is sleeping in a specially-made partially underground tank, in a bed-pouch tethered to a highly ornamented stand. Her long blue hair is floating freely in the water and swirls around her. Kyrshassa is clearly having disturbing dreams. Iain wearing only pajama bottoms enters her bedchamber and walks around to the underground portion and glass window of the tank and taps the glass. Kyrshassa opens her luminescent blue eyes. He walks around to the sloped entrance. Kyrshassa undoes the drawstring of her bed-pouch, which collapses when she leaves it and swims to the sloped entrance of her tank and walks up the slope, and squeezing the aerated water from her body and tilts her head back as she surfaces, her hair falls from her face back and her floor-length, wet clothing is clinging to her as she walks up the ramp. Iain, gives her a hand to help her out the rest of the way. He kisses her.

IAIN:

Good morning, my love. How do you like your new sleep tank?

KYRSHASSA:

Good morning, my darling. It pleases me very much. I noticed you had it pressurized to the depth pressures of Aquiaas City itself.

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:  
You can tell that?

KYRSHASSA:  
Mmmm. Of course. That, was an  
incredibly thoughtful thing for you  
to do. My body is definitely  
feeling the difference. Oh Iain,  
you have been so very kind to me, I  
do not deserve it.

IAIN:  
Don't be silly, I love you and I  
care very much what happens with  
you and our dear Cheska. And I know  
that you do too...

He places a hand on her very pregnant belly and gathers her into his arms and kisses her passionately. Kyrshassa returns his kiss and smiles at him, but when he embraces her, her smile over his shoulder then quickly vanishes, fading into a look of worry, biting her lip. Clearly feeling guilty.

INT. PALACE OFFICE. DAY

Iain sits at his desk and is reading daily reports. Enter: Kyrshassa. Kyrshassa sits down on chair facing him, dropping her gaze to her hands folded in her lap.

KYRSHASSA:  
I have a confession and...an  
apology to make...

IAIN:  
Oh...okay, are you finally coming  
clean and are going to tell me  
about you being responsible for  
Shallia's arrest at last, Kee?

KYRSHASSA:  
You think to accuse me?

IAIN:  
Are you going to deny it? Weren't  
you behind it, collaberating with  
the royal Primean police?

Kyrshassa sits and stares at him, dead in the eye. Debating.

KYRSHASSA:  
Yes. I was there. You knew?

(CONTINUED)

IAIN:

Aye, of course I knew. This is my empire too and have my own sources as well. And, yet all this time, you've been hating us humans for being deceptive..

KYRSHASSA:

Iain, I would walk through fire and suffer excruciating pain and annihilation for the sake of our people and would do it all over again for them. The survival of our beloved people are what truly matters most. Not us. We are their servants and protectors. It is our duty. And, I take that duty very seriously and would sacrifice everything for them. Including my own life if need be, even become the one thing I feared most.

IAIN:

Human.

KYRSHASSA:

Yes. And so I have been investigating of my own accord. And, Paako is dead because I sent him out to investigate *separately* for *me*. But, I did so, because I doubted you'd tell me the truth as you tend to keep so much from me. However from my own investigations, I came to suspect that this "plague" was not a biological phenomena, but rather something else altogether. Though, I would never have suspected the fallen Amuy. And, though I discovered Shallia was in fact guilty, I did not know why.

IAIN:

Just *how much* have you been investigating? (puts down holopad) *How* could you endanger our unborn child? All that time that you were angry at me, for withholding information from you, when you were in fact, doing exactly the same thing...to me!

Kyrshassa looks shocked.

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

You're angry!

IAIN:

Aye, of course I'm angry! You acted as deceptively as you accused *me* of being! I felt terrible for my part, but I did it in the thinking I was protecting you! And, why did you do it? Poor Paako, the hell we must've put him through, forcing him to act as a double agent! All, because you couldn't allow yourself to trust a human, not even your own husband! Isn't that right?

KYRSHASSA:

Yes! Yes, it is and I'm sorry for it. Forgive me for doubting you. I just grew so weary of people treating me as though I were too fragile to be told the whole truth. Everyone keeping secrets and lies. I had to know what was really happening, rather than readily accept what I was being *told*. My whole life, I lost those whom I loved, and most of them at the hands of humans. Is it really any wonder that I'm having such a hard time in trusting humanity?

IAIN:

Perhaps not, but if you expect me to trust you, then you must learn to trust *me*. There's no other way Kee. Not, if we're to be happy. (sigh) But, I doubt that it is down to you for Paako's death. He simply got in the way of the Fallen's diabolical plans. Woman, you have got to stop trying to control everything! You'll only drive yourself mad. You have got to accept that some things happen which are *beyond* your control. For the love of God accept it for your own sake, as well as our child's! Ye ken?

Iain walks over to her and grips her by the shoulders.

(CONTINUED)

IAIN: (cont'd)  
(Cont'd)  
Accept it. *Please, Kee.*

KYRSHASSA:  
Duty and honor, family and people.  
What is right, what is wrong? There  
are no simple answers here, Iain.  
The boundaries sometimes blur. And  
oh, how they blur!

Camera close-up of Kyrshassa thinking long and hard about everything that happened, voices and images going through her mind, tears flowing down her cheeks.

INT. NEW CALEDONIA CITY-HOLDING CELL. DAY.

Kyrshassa is visiting Shallia in her cell.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:  
Why have you returned Kyrsha? And  
why are you so stinking persistent?

KYRSHASSA:  
Because my love, persistence is a  
key that opens many doors. Besides,  
you should enjoy my tenacity for  
it's likely what will set you free.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:  
Oh really? After what I did to your  
father, there's no way you'd set me  
free!

KYRSHASSA:  
Well, you may not be free, but you  
are at least home now. You see, I  
am learning to accept that some  
things are beyond my control. So,  
I've let go...of all the anger,  
hate, bitterness, and  
unforgiveness...it's what I choose.  
And, it doesn't matter what you say  
or what you've done, I love you.  
And no matter what, I will always  
stand by you.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:  
Stop it, stop saying that! It isn't  
true, it's all lies!! I need the  
rage. You're killing the rage!  
You're killing *me!*

(CONTINUED)

She turns to face Kyrshassa with clear rage on her face, clenches her fists and begins to hit Kyrshassa, who only fends them off, but never hits back.

KYRSHASSA:

I will not stop saying it for it is truth! You see, everyday of our lives is full of good things and yes, bad too...but it is how we choose to accept it that makes all the difference. If we concentrate on only the bad things that each day contains and the negatives in each person, then we will spend our entire lives where everyone and everything we know is grossly deficient and with such a critical spirit and venomous tongue, we can actually *ruin* our *own* lives as well as those of others and in so doing, make ourselves miserable in the process. So, since I too am also free to make that choice, I choose to rise above all that and forgive you. And to love you... unconditionally.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

No! You can't mean that! I killed your father, you're supposed to hate me!!

Shallia screams and lunges at Kyrshassa, who fends off each blow and grabs her arms, and together they fall to the floor, where Kyrshassa continues to fend off every blow until exhaustion finally overtakes Shallia, and she lays in the arms of Kyrshassa.

KYRSHASSA:

Shhhh..it's ok. There, there my love, my dear sweet sister, I will never leave you, I will never stop loving you. I forgive you everything. Above all else, let there be love...*unconditional*.

Kyrshassa rocks back in forth with Shallia in her arms and begins to pray.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

Noooo!!!

(CONTINUED)

Shallia begins to twitch uncontrollably, in Kyrshassa's arms and screams. Kyrshassa tries to hold on to her, but her back arches up and then she exhales sharply falling back down.

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, Shallia, Shallia. Sweet Shallia, come back to me. Your sister loves you. Come back, dearling. Come back.

PRINCESS SHALLIA:

(mumbling incoherently)

You took away the anger it needed to stay...Kee? I've just been so angry. Oh, forgive me please! I know I agreed to marry Prince Joshua, but I was so hurt no one came to my wedding. I felt so alone. Not you, Ma'at, Ompeko not even Faffee came.. Oh..God..no..I remember everything now! Oh no..Faffee...

KYRSHASSA:

Shh, shh...come here dearling. Oh Shallia, you know very well we couldn't come. The trade wars were in full force, they were threatening to shoot down any watersilk trade ships. We could not have risked it. You know that...Oh beloved God! THAT's when it all began! All that anger...on both sides!

SHALLIA:

I remember becoming bitter as well as angry. It fueled the anger. Especially since it was not the romantic marriage made in heaven I thought it would be. It was awful, Kee. He constantly cheated on me, never came to my chamber and kept calling me horrible names like "fish woman." I was just so lonely and miserable...but then, Danny came along. He...loved me, really loved me. But, the anger and the voice in my head...W-w-where did it go?

(CONTINUED)

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, I don't know, dearling. That's not what's important. It's all over now. Oh, how I've missed you so much. My dear sweet sister. Could it really be so simple? We've been through war, battles and skirmishes, done everything we could think of...and yet, can a mere act of forgiveness and unconditional love really change the ways of the universe? Could it really be so simple? Who then cares where the fallen go?

Princess Shallia throws her arms around Kyrshassa and together they weep.

Camera close-up of Kyrshassa's pregnant abdomen...

EXT. NEW CALEDONIA CITY-PRISON. DAY

Kyrshassa, Ompeko and Shallia holding hands with Pruitt are preparing to leave the prison, when Colonel Akolikya/Admiral Haste teleports seemingly out of nowhere with glowing eyes, armed with a percussor aimed to fire directly at Kyrshassa.

ADMIRAL HASTE:

You cannot take away all our plans!  
We have worked too long and too hard for us to simply vanish away.  
We will rule over all of you and your kind!

Shallia screams as Haste lifts the percusser strapped to his wrist to fire at Kyrshassa, Ompeko knocks her over in time to see a hole melted through Haste's middle, everyone turns to look and see where the shot came from. And there, stands Starquin, who drops his melter pistol and then falls to his knees. As Ompeko holds Kyrshassa, C/U on his hand and chip implant as it begins to glow, though no one notices.

KYRSHASSA:

Starquin? Where have you come from, and why have you just saved my life?

STARQUIN DARR:

Because, it was the right thing to do, and...because I need... forgiveness...

(CONTINUED)

Kyrshassa reaches out, hesitates..but, then touches Starquin's head.

KYRSHASSA:

Oh, how the smallest act of mercy  
can heal SO much...

Kyrshassa takes Starquin into her arms.

KYRSHASSA: (cont'd)

(Cont'd)

Let the healing...*begin*.

END.