

Part 5:

As Kelly rounded the last corner before her room, a hand reached out and touched her shoulder. Kelly jumped back with her fist drawn back. The figure came out of the shadows. Kelly put her hand down when she saw Noranti standing there.

“I am sorry, I didn’t mean to frighten you.”

“That’s okay, I was just heading to my room for a little while. Was there anything you needed?”

The old woman nodded her head, “I believe I have found what you requested. But it will put you in such a deep sleep, you will have no dreams, no thoughts. Is this what you wanted?”

Shrugging her shoulder, Kelly said, “Sort of, but it will have to do until I can figure out something more permanent. How long does it last?”

The smile that Noranti had on her face faded. “That is the unfortunate thing, I could not mix it without one small side effect. If you take this, you will sleep for 10-12 arns.”

“10-12 arns! I don’t want to sleep for that damn long.”

“You might find it very restorative. A chance to catch up on much need rest.” Noranti began walking toward her cell.

Kelly followed, “Of course it’ll be restorative. It’s a frelling coma.”

Turning towards Kelly, “Not a coma...just much needed sleep...with no thoughts or traveling.”

“Sleeping for 12 arns...with no thoughts...that’s a coma.”

Kelly turned to walk away, when she suddenly became dizzy, she closed her eyes and held onto the wall. When she opened them again, she realized she was on the floor looking upwards with Noranti looking down at her with concern on her face.

“Okay, maybe I ‘do’ need some restorative sleep. Let me have the magic potion.”

Together they walked back to Noranti’s quarters.

#

John heard footsteps approach from behind him. He turned around and saw D’Argo entering the room.

“Hey D. Ready for another fun filled day?”

“Not really, I could of used a couple more arns for sleep.”

Picking up his notebook, John said, “Don’t worry, I’ll catch them for you.”

D’Argo sat down, “Very funny, now get out of here before I change my mind and go back to sleep myself.”

John laughed, “See you in a few arns.” Then went to his room.

#

Walking down a dimly lit corridor, Kelly stopped when she realized where she was. “I’m going to kill her...I swear to God. I am going to kill her.” She started walking again. When she saw a familiar figure, she walked up to him. John turned toward her.

“Again?” He asked.

“Yeah, unfortunately.”

Looking around, John asked, “So do you think this is live or Memorex?”

“I really don’t know anymore. You got me.”

“I believe it’s real. I saw the ident markers and they are from a carrier you have never seen before Crichton.”

Kelly and John whipped around at the sound of the new voice and saw Aeryn walking toward them.

“Ah Crap! This is getting out of hand. How in the hell did I bring you along?”

John looked at her as Aeryn joined them. “It’s okay. Just make yourself wake up like the two other times and we’re outta here.”

Looking back and forth between the two of them, Kelly realized how bad she had just screwed up.

“Uh, well I...we have a small problem. I kind of asked Noranti to fix me up something that would let me sleep without dreaming or accidentally going out of my body. The only problem with it was it lasts about 10 arns.”

John screamed, “Are you insane!” Then stomped off.

Aeryn asked, “10 arns? We are stuck here for 10 frelling arns?”

“Or 12, she wasn’t sure.”

John looked at her, “12? Okay, you really screwed us here, didn’t you?”

“Listen, I only took that crap to make sure this ‘didn’t’ happen. She said I could sleep with no dreams or thoughts at all. I was afraid that if I brought John back here and Talyn wanted to stay with Moya, we would both be stuck. So I went to the old woman because she knows about medicines.”

John thought, “I wouldn’t exactly call them medicines.”

As Kelly was talking, she became upset that she had harmed them, even unintentionally. Aeryn understood that Kelly had acted in the best interest of all of them when she took the drug, she went over to Kelly and put her arms around her. John looked on in surprise, it was a very rare occasion that Aeryn offered sympathy, especially of this type. It was something he liked seeing.

Aeryn took a step back and held Kelly’s face, “You know you felled up. But just remember this. That drug lasts for 10 arns or more. Which means that ‘yes’ we are stuck here for that time, but also Talyn cannot control your body with it being under a sedative. Just keep trying to get us back and as the drug wears off, we’ll get back with no ill effects. Alright. Now I want you to calm down and remember to concentrate on getting us home.”

Kelly nodded her head, then rubbed her eyes. “Damn, I don’t know why I’ve been so damn emotional lately.”

John chuckled dryly, “Stress...it’ll get you every time. Come on, if we’re stuck here for a little while, it might be to our advantage to check things out. Aeryn was right about one thing when you first told us about this. With us being out of our bodies, we can do a little recon and for once we don’t have to worry about being seen.”

Aeryn reached down for her pulse pistol, she jerked her head up when she saw it wasn’t there.

Kelly slowly shrugged her shoulders, “You don’t have a body, so no gun.”

“This is so felled.” Aeryn stated and walked off.

John smacked his hands together, “Let’s go exploring!” and followed Aeryn.

“I have a bad feeling about this.” Kelly said and joined the other two.

#

An alarm sounded on one of the consoles to Scorpius’ right. Walking over he looked at the readings.

“Officer Telka, I see by the these readings that the energy signals have returned, but there are

now three registered.”

Officer Telka hit several control buttons on the panel in front of him, “Yes sir. I have sent word to the techs to isolate them and determine their nature sir. They just informed me it will take ninety microts to establish the phase variance in the spectrum, but we will have them isolated shortly.”

Commandant Grayza walked into Command, “Where are they located at this time?”

Telka looked at the readings once again, “Corridor five, section ten Ma’am.”

“Inform me when you have them contained. I want to know what these energy readings are and where they are coming from.”

#

Looking around the corridor; Kelly said, “So do you think this is the same carrier from the first two times?”

“These damn things all look the same to me; but yeah, I think it is.”

Still walking ahead of them; but looking behind her, Aeryn said, “You said you both saw Grayza and Braca, and Kelly saw Scorpius the second time. If they are all working together, we need to make certain to find out any details we can dealing with their plans to us.”

John looked at Aeryn, “You don’t have to say that twice, but I’m not getting near that witch.”

John rubbed his arms as if a cold chill went through him. Both women looked at him wondering what could of caused that reaction.

Kelly turned back toward the direction they had been walking, “No problem, so we need to head for Command. That’s were we will find what we need, right?”

“Then we hit Scorpius’ quarters. I don’t think that after what Grayza did to him, he’ll have too much free reign of this place yet.” John said.

As they went down various corridors, suddenly Kelly felt lightheaded. She grabbed John’s arm to steady herself against him.

They stopped and John looked at her, “What’s wrong?”

Kelly couldn’t hear him, all she could hear was a droning noise that was steadily growing louder. Just as suddenly as it started, it stopped.

Shaking her head, “What in the hell was that?”

Still holding onto her, John could see she was still unsteady. "I don't know, you tell me."

"It was like a hundred bees buzzing in my head. It was fast too, like being hit with a brick wall."

Aeryn asked, "How often does this happen to you?"

Standing on her own, "Never, it came out of no where and left just as fast. I couldn't hear anything else."

"Maybe its due to the unusual circumstances with this 'trip' we are on. Have you ever brought two others with you before?" John asked.

"Of course not, but I don't think that was it. The buzzing was kind of like static in a way, it's hard to explain. Let's just get going."

#

Grayza looked at Officer Telka, "What happened? You said ninety microts and they would be contained."

Standing in rigid form; Telka said, "Yes Ma'am! According to Tech Mekkah, there was a power surge and it burned out the nelix cable. They will have it repaired in one arn."

"Tell them to have it done in half an arn or there will be consequences for their ineptness."

Without saying anything else, Officer Telka turned and relayed the instruction to the techs doing the repair. He was sure the repairs would be done before the time Commandant Grayza specified.

#

D'Argo was sitting in the center chamber trying to eat First Meal when Chiana's voice came over the comm.

"D'Argo, something's wrong, I need you to come to Aeryn's quarters."

Putting down his utensils, he replied, "I'm on my way."

When he arrived, D'Argo saw Chiana and Sikoze standing over Aeryn's bed, deep in discussion.

"What's wrong?" He asked.

Chiana looked over to him, "I don't know, I came in to see if she wanted to eat yet, but she didn't wake up when I called her name. She hasn't moved a muscle. She wouldn't do that, unless something was wrong. So I called you, Crichton, and Sikoze."

"Then where's Crichton?"

Shaking her head, “I don’t know, he should have been here by now.”

D’Argo hit his comm, “Crichton, where are you? You need to get down here to Aeryn’s quarters.”

No answer, “Crichton.”

No answer, “Pilot, is there something wrong with his comms?”

Pilot pushed a couple of buttons, “No, I see no malfunction, but he is still in his quarters. I will try again.”

Growling in frustration, “Don’t bother, I’ll get him.”

D’Argo started toward John’s quarters. On his way, he noticed that Kelly was still asleep herself. Reaching the entrance to John’s quarters, he saw that John was still wearing the same clothing he had been wearing at the end of his shift. It appeared he had just let himself fall into bed, not caring whether he was dressed or not.

“Crichton wake up, we’ve been calling you.”

John didn’t move. Reaching over, D’Argo started shaking him. He got no response at all.

“Chiana. Sikoze. We have the same problem with Crichton. I’m going to check on Kelly, on my way here, I saw she was still asleep too.”

When he reached Kelly, he received the same response. He decided it would be better for Sikoze to examine the three of them together, so D’Argo picked up Kelly.

“Sikoze, get to the med bay, I’m taking Kelly there now and I’ll bring Crichton and Aeryn there shortly. See if you can find what is causing this.”

After half an hour, D’Argo had carried Aeryn and John up two tiers to the medical bay. Sikoze had already begun the scans on Kelly and Aeryn by the time he carried in John.

Looking at D’Argo laying John down on the examination table; Sikoze said, “So far the only readings I am receiving, show no foreign substances, but I have only just begun. Give me another hour to complete the scans.”

“Just do what you can.” D’Argo said.

After little more than an hour, everyone was standing around the med bay, waiting for word. Everyone except for Noranti, no one knew where she was, nor cared.

Rygel was becoming impatient with the waiting, “When are we going to be done with all this

yotz? I'm growing tired of waiting."

Sikozu looked at the readings, "It is almost finished. I had to run one of the scans a second time, due to inconsistencies, but I have found nothing to cause this condition."

D'Argo said, "Nothing? How can there be nothing?"

"What I meant was Crichton and Officer Sun show nothing wrong physically really, but Kelly has an unusual chemical in her system. It is unknown to Moya, but from it's properties, I would say it is sedative. Also the readings I had to recheck had to deal with the brain activity of all three. I am showing almost no brain waves from any of them, it is as if they are victims of major head trauma."

D'Argo just stared at her, "How is that possible, and how in the hezmana did Kelly get a sedative?"

"Well I gave it to her of course." Noranti said.

Everyone turned around in shock. D'Argo charged the old woman.

Lifting her up by the front of her dress, "Why in the frell would you do that? You don't know what humans can tolerate. No one does."

Fear crossed Noranti's eyes, "She wanted no dreams, to not travel. So she asked me to help. So I provided what she required."

"You both have gone completely farbot." Rygel said.

Noranti tried to explain, "No dreams, no thoughts, but it lasts too long. I could not shorten the time."

Chiana asked, "How long?"

Looking at the others, "Too long, too long."

D'Argo growled, "How long?"

"Twelve arns."

D'Argo looked as if he was about to throw Noranti across the room. "Are you saying they are stuck sleeping as if they are dead for the next twelve arns?"

Chiana stepped up to him, "D'Argo put her down before you hurt her."

Slowly, he did as Chiana requested.

“Obviously it didn’t work as you said, it looks as if she sucked Crichton and Aeryn right along with her.” Rygel stated.

Noranti took a step back from D’Argo, “It should have worked. Maybe she is too strong for the remedy.”

“And maybe you should have come to us when she made this request.”

“She asked that I not speak of it to anyone.”

Chiana slowly shook her head, “She has only been here four monens, she doesn’t know melkit about us. You should have at least gone to Crichton.”

Stepping forward; Sikozu said, “There is nothing more I can do, we have to let the sedative run its course.”

D’Argo turned towards Noranti, “First planet, populated or not, you are off Moya for good.”

Then he walked out of the room before he could do what Chiana asked him not to.

#

The buzzing noise was back, but not as strong as before. Kelly looked up to tell the others, but noticed something else to bring to their attention.

“Hey guys, do you see that?”

John asked, “What are you talking about?”

“Just ahead of us.”

Aeryn commented, “I don’t see anything but the junction ahead of us.”

Looking more closely, “I can’t believe you don’t see it. It’s weird, it looks like a wall, but it’s as if it has waves overlapping one another. It showed up at the same time this buzzing came back.”

“You don’t seem to be as affected this time.” Aeryn said.

Glancing at Aeryn; Kelly said, “No, this time it came on gradually. Listen, I don’t want to get near that thing, I say we go back.”

Turning around, she saw the way they had just come was also blocked.

“Ah dren, that way is also cut off too.”

“Frell it, let’s just go through it.” Aeryn said.

“Wait!” Too late, Aeryn touched the field and screamed. Jerking her hand back, she just looked at Kelly.

“Are you okay?” John asked her.

“No, I’m not. That frelling burned!”

Kelly yelled, “Hurry, let’s try this way!”

And ran towards an opening she saw between the energy fields, with both John and Aeryn following quickly behind.

Once on the other side, John asked, “Why in the frell can you see that and we can’t?”

“I have no idea. This part is new to me too. All I know is I don’t want to get caught in the middle of them.”

“We need to keep going. Kelly, keep an eye open for anymore of those fields.” Aeryn said as she took the junction to her right.

#

Time was passing at a torturous rate, D’Argo had waited in the med bay for almost the entire ten arns that had passed. Sikoze kept telling him there was nothing that could be done.

Chiana walked into the room, Sikoze had called her to try and convince D’Argo to leave, he kept getting in her way as she was updating the medical data.

“Umm...D’Argo, you need to get something to eat. You’re not doing them or yourself any favors by just standing in here. Come on, before Rygel eats your share.”

D’Argo crossed his arms, “Your right, but for some reason, I don’t want to leave them. I want to be here when they wake up.”

“I understand, but if Noranti is right, it won’t be for a couple more arns.”

She took his hand and led him out of the room.

‘Finally. I can accomplish some work.’ Sikoze thought.

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