

The bar on Rigel was full of local patrons and travelers.

“Ok Pavel,” Dr Patrick was just slightly tipsy. Patrick, Chekov and Sulu were the only Starfleet officers in the bar. “I have to know.”

“What Pat?” Pavel smiled and drank his beer.

“Why do you call Jimmi Princess all the time?” Pat asked. He looked from Chekov to Sulu.

“Don’t look at me.” Sulu laughed. “It was before I met her.”

“You knew her first?” Pat asked, obviously confused. “But you were both on Enterprise at the time?”

“Yep.” Sulu nodded and drank his beer. Dr. Patrick looked from Sulu back to Chekov. The Captain laughed and said. “Tell him the story, Pavel.”

“There is not much to the story.” Chekov said. “The year I was to report to Enterprise, I came to Starbase 12, but Enterprise was late.”

“Battle damage.” Sulu interjected. “We had limped back.”

“While I was waiting, I saw a 16 year old Jimmi McCoy sitting on one of the park benches near tears.” Chekov said. “I was bored. She was pretty. I asked her what was the matter.”

“And?” Pat asked.

“She had used all her funds to get from her boarding school to the Starbase with the intention of surprising her father.” Chekov explained. “But her father wasn’t there.”

“Why didn’t she just go to the civilian liaison office?” Pat asked.

“She did not know what to do.” Pavel shrugged. “I made some reference to a damsel in distress and offered to rescue her. I helped her get a room and contact her father. We kept each other company for the two days it took Enterprise to arrive.”

“Ok,” Pat said slowly. “But that does not explain the princess name.”

“Well,” Chekov said. “We spent those two days talking. When She told me that the CMO was her father and that she considered the Captain and First Officer family as well, I started teasing her by calling her the Princess of Enterprise. She thought it was funny. It stuck.”

Lt. Commander Tomas Smith sat at the bar of the Fly by Night with a beer in front of him. Rosa Gonzoles had just walked out of the bar after a few sharp words and he was trying his best not to talk to any of his ship mates. Unfortunately, Captain Sulu saw him and sat down next to him. Smith stared intently into his beer.

“Problems, Mr. Smith?” Sulu asked.

“Nothing I can’t handle, Sir.” Smith said.

Sulu laughed. Smith turned and looked at his captain. It did not seem like a laughing matter to him. Sulu explained. “I can recall a day when I sat at a bar just like this and said the exact same words to my commanding officer.”

“And did you handle it, Captain?” Smith asked. He could not imagine that Captain Sulu ever had the kind of relationship problems he had.

“Eventually.” Sulu shrugged and drank his beer. “Of course, I had an added complication. My girl friend and my commanding officers were family. And she never understood how that could be a problem for me.”

Smith drank his beer. He was not sure he wanted to know any more about the Captain's problems, surprised that he was sharing as much as he was.

“Demora Jean!”

Dee turned around in the halls of Excelsior when she heard her father call. A baseball was coming at her. She reached out automatically and caught the ball barehanded. “Sheesh Dad. A little warning would be nice.”

“I yelled.” Captain Sulu grinned as he walked up to his eleven year old daughter. He held out her baseball glove. “Come on, the boys want to get in some batting practice and I need a pitcher.”

“Ok” Dee said taking the glove. “But only if I can try and strike them out this time. No more mister nice guy.”

“Maybe a few easy ones.” The Captain suggested as they walked off together towards the gym. “After all you are a few years older. You have to at least give them a chance to hit a few.”

“We’ll see.” Dee grinned, tossing the ball into her glove as they walked along together.

L.J. walked up to Pavel Chekov at the bar of the No Ranks Café. The bar was crowded with newly commissioned ensigns, star ship crews on liberty and the families that came to meet the ships whenever possible.

“You are in trouble, Pavel.” L.J. grinned as he sat down on the bar stool next to Chekov.

“Oh?” Chekov laughed. “Why is that?”

“Big Joe wants to meet you.” L.J. said and drank some of his vodka.

“And you think that should scare me?”

“I’ve never heard Dad tell C.J. he wanted to meet one of her boyfriends before.” L.J. shrugged. “He seems to think she is serious about you.”

“And that should scare me?”

L.J. laughed. “It doesn’t?”

Chekov shrugged and drank his beer. Cathy returned to her seat at the bar to find it occupied by her twin brother. He was dressed casually in brown slacks, a white linen shirt that was rolled up at the sleeves topped by a leather vest. She tapped him on the shoulder. “Hey! Move!”

L.J. just laughed and got up. “See what I mean, Pavel?”

“What?” C.J. asked as she reclaimed her bar stool. She was dressed in black silk slacks and camisole. She accented it with diamond earrings and necklace.

“It is nothing.” Pavel smiled at her. “Your brother is just trying to start trouble.”

She looked up at her brother. “What?”

L.J. grinned and said, “I just told him a little about the conversation at the dinner table last Sunday.”

“Oh my god, no!” Cathy squealed. Pavel and L.J. both laughed at her reaction. She looked to her brother. “How much of that conversation?”

L.J. held his forefinger about an inch from his thumb and said. “Just a little. Honest.”

“What else was said?” Pavel asked with a grin.

“Never mind.” Cathy laughed. L.J. shrugged and returned to work. C.J. looked at Pavel. “Just what did he say?”

“Just that your father wants to meet me.” Pavel smiled and rested his hand lightly on her back just where the silk met her skin. “What did you say to him about that?”

C.J. shrugged and sipped her drink. After she put her glass back on the bar, she said. “That you never get back to Earth.”

“Ah.” Pavel nodded.

“What?”

“You are not ready.” Pavel said. “I understand.”

“Pavel.” She said quietly.

“It is not a problem, Catrina.”

“You don’t understand.” Cathy sighed. “If I bring you home to meet him, he is going to start talking about a wedding.”

“You assume he will not hate me and throw me out on my ear.” Chekov said in an attempt to lighten her mood. Although he had never met the man, Pavel knew he was called Big Joe for a reason. “From what I hear, he would have no trouble doing it.”

“He loves you already.” Cathy assured him with a laugh. Pavel could always make her laugh. She knew in her heart that her father would welcome Pavel with open arms. “Both Jimmi and L.J. have told him good things about you.”

“Really?” Chekov said. “I will have to thank them. And what about you? What have you told him about me?”

“I think I will take the fifth on that one.” Cathy laughed and sipped her drink.

“There you are.” Captain Sulu said as he joined his wife at the table in the corner of the officer’s mess.

“Here I am.” Jimmi smiled. She was slouched comfortably in her chair with one elbow leaning on the table and a bowl of ice cream in front of her.

“Silly me, I thought you would be sound asleep by now.” Sulu said as he watched her eat the ice cream.

“I couldn’t sleep.” She shrugged. “I was starving.”

“I thought the cravings were suppose to stop after the baby was born.” He teased her.

“Hey, let me see you nurse a hungry 4 month old and not want ice cream in the middle of the night!”

“Ok, ok.” Hikaru laughed.

Captain Sulu walked into Chekov's quarters without bothering to signal. Chekov, Gonzoles, Smith and Yazdani all sat around a table playing poker. One chair stood empty next to Chekov's chair.

"You're late." Chekov said.

"Sorry." Sulu took off his uniform jacket and hung it on the back of the empty chair. Gonzoles gave him a stack of chips. "Jeanie could not decide where she wanted to go while the ship is in spacedock for the upgrades. The discussion went on longer than expected."

"The game is Rigillian six card." Yaz said as he started to deal. "So what did she decide, Captain?"

"I've been promising to take her to Risa for the last few years." Sulu shrugged and he picked up his cards. "Looks like we will finally make it there."

"Risa is a great vacation spot." Smith said. "Right Rosa?"

Gonzoles just smiled at him and said. "I'll open for ten."

"I'm in." Chekov said. "Jimmi will love Risa. It's first class all the way."

"Does that make a difference?" Smith asked tossing his chip into the pot. "I'm in."

"It does to my wife." Sulu said and added his chip to the pot. "She says when she goes on vacation, she wants to be the one waited on."

"And heaven help them if they don't do it right." Chekov added. Sulu laughed and nodded.

"What about you, Pavel?" Sulu asked. "What are you and C.J. going to do?"

"I don't know." Pavel shrugged. "I told her to pick me up and we would do whatever she wants."

"You could end up anywhere." Sulu said. Chekov just grinned and shrugged.

"Cards?" Yaz asked. "Gonzo?"

"Two." Gonzoles said

"What are your plans, Yaz?" Smith asked. "Two."

"I've got to go home to Mars." Yazdani shrugged and dealt the cards. "Need to see my wife."

All conversation and movement around the table stopped as the other four officers stared at Yaz. Finally Gonzoles broke the silence, "You're married? When did that happen?"

"Before I signed on Excelsior." Yaz laughed at the surprised looks he was getting. "We've been separated for years just never officially divorced. Now she wants to make it official."

"I would think you could do that by subspace with all the time that has passed." Sulu commented.

"Probably." Yaz nodded. "But I think I should do it in person. Besides, I want to see the man who wants to marry my wife. Cards, Captain?"

"One." Sulu said.

"I'll play these." Chekov said and laughed at the oooohhhh that went around the table.