

About 5 months later, Enterprise was on her way to Starbase 12. It was the new Enterprise; the old one having been destroyed. But that was all classified now. The new ship had been hastily built and even after it's mission to the galactic center the Enterprise-A was in need of a few adjustments. This was the official reason for their visit. Unofficially they were going to see Jimmi. Dr. McCoy was anxious to see his daughter, Sulu his fiancé.

They were just a few hours shy of the Starbase when Commander Uhura reported there was a hail from Starbase 12. Before Kirk could order it on screen, she added that it requested Dr. McCoy and was coded personal. McCoy took the communication in his office. To his surprise, Lenny Vasco's face appeared.

"Doctor," Lenny's normal easygoing manner was very subdued when he said. "I understand you're coming here."

"Yes, Lenny." McCoy said. He leaned back in his chair and studied the young man he had known for years. "Is there a problem?"

"Jimmi doesn't know I've called you and I would appreciate it if she never did. But I think you ought to know before you walk in here that Jimmi is pregnant."

"What?!" Dr. McCoy asked, sitting up straight in his chair. "We haven't seen her in at least six months."

"Sounds about right." Lenny shrugged. "Anyway, she wants to tell Sulu herself, face to face. And I think emotions are going to run a little high. I just thought it would be better if it wasn't a surprise to everybody."

"I see your point." McCoy said slowly. There was nothing more he could do at this point, so he said, "Thank you, Lenny. We will be there by dinner time."

After the connection had terminated, McCoy sat in his office lost in thought. He could only guess at his daughter's emotional state right now. He had to respect Jimmi's wanting to tell Sulu herself. But he could make it as easy as possible. McCoy was just about to ask Kirk to come to sickbay, when the captain walked into his office.

"What was that all about?" Kirk smiled as he sat on the edge of McCoy's desk. "What does Jimmi consider so damn private?"

"It wasn't Jimmi." McCoy sat back in his chair to watch his friend's reaction. "It was Lenny Vasco calling to tell me Jimmi is pregnant."

"What?" It was pretty hard to make Captain Kirk speechless.

"Yeah." McCoy chuckled, glad he wasn't the only one shocked. "That was my reaction."

"Does Sulu know?"

"Not yet."

"It's been at least six months." Kirk said. "What is she waiting for?"

"She wants to tell him in person." McCoy explained. "Which obviously has not been possible up until now."

"Hikaru is the father." Kirk asked. "Right?"

"That was the impression Lenny gave me." McCoy said. He hadn't considered any other possibility. He couldn't even entertain another possibility. "He wants to make it easier for her."

"He still loves her." Kirk said.

"So it would seem." McCoy nodded vaguely. But Lenny's motives were not important to him right now. "Jimmi pregnant. I wonder how Hikaru is going to take this."

"I don't know." Kirk grinned. "We'll just have to make sure that they have some time alone, Grandpa."

When they were finally in orbit around the Starbase, Captain Kirk relieved Commander Sulu of duty and assigned him to immediate shore leave. Sulu practically jumped out of his seat and left the bridge. He walked into the Café. It was almost empty. Sulu went up to the bar. "Randy, where's your Boss?"

"She's in her office, waiting." Sulu noticed Randy's serious expression but ignored it. He was whistling to himself when he walked into Jimmi's office.

"Jeanie!" He grinned at her. She was sitting at her desk. She stood up slowly, steadying herself with one hand on the desktop. She was wearing a pair of pale blue stretch overalls and a plain t-shirt. Sulu's grin faded. It was obvious. She was very pregnant.

"Hello Harry." She said softly. Jimmi watched him closely. She had played this meeting over in her mind so many times in the last six months. She had practiced what to say over and over again, but could not remember a bit of it now.

Hikaru stopped in the middle of the room. It took a moment to sink in. He took a couple of steps towards her. His smile widened again. "Look at you. You beautiful girl!" He took her in his arms and hugged her. "Come sit down. Tell me everything." He took her hand and led her to the couch.

Jimmi wasn't sure what to say or where to start. She didn't know what she had expected but for some reason she was not prepared for the sudden rush of emotions that flooded her. She sat on the couch and stared at him. "Harry, I don't know..."

The worried look on her face did not make an impression. The tears threatening to spill out of her eyes did not matter. Hikaru could not stop himself from smiling at her. He said, "It's ok, Jeanie."

"So much has happened." Jimmi held his hand tightly. "I thought you were dead. Then you were alive, but there was the court martial. And I when needed to be with you the most, you told me to stay away."

"I didn't know." Hikaru said. "You should have told me."

"How could I?" Jimmi asked. "Would it have changed what you were doing? Giving yourself up to Starfleet for whatever punishment they wanted to give out. What were you thinking?"

"It all worked out." Hikaru said. "And so will this. Captain Kirk can marry us tonight. I'll take care of everything."

Jimmi pulled her hand back, "No, you won't."

"It won't be a problem." Sulu assured her. "It's not like we weren't already engaged."

"You don't get it." Jimmi said. Why didn't he understand that nothing they had planned mattered now? Why didn't he see that everything had changed for her? Didn't

he see that when the Enterprise exploded, her life had shattered? But all she said was, "We are not getting married."

"Of course we are." He insisted. Now his smile disappeared. Why did she have to make these things so difficult? "It is what we were planning anyway. There is no reason to wait."

"No." Was all she would say.

He stood up and took a couple of steps, trying to think. To Hikaru Sulu there was no other choice. Aside from the moral issue, this was the family that he wanted. It was what he had always wanted. He could not see why she would not want it. He asked her, "What is the problem?"

"The problem?" Jimmi asked, pushing herself off the couch. Fighting back the tears, she said, "The problem is you don't give a damn what happens to me while you are off on Enterprise."

"How can you say that? You know that's not true." Hikaru said. He hesitated before adding, "But I do have my job to do."

"Right. Your job." Jimmi shook her head and started walking away from him. "You just go do your damn job and leave me alone."

"I will not." Hikaru said. Jimmi kept walking. He just stood there, watching her go.

Randy was behind the bar when Jimmi came out of the office. Captain Kirk and Dr. McCoy were the only customers in the bar. Jimmi stopped when she reached the bar and just stared at them. They were smiling at her. She was too angry to smile at her fathers. Jimmi was breathing hard with the frustration and anger. How dare Hikaru come in and start giving her orders. He didn't even ask her what she wanted. Sulu came out of the office after her.

"Jeanie, do not walk away from me." He said in his command voice. She didn't think about it. She just did it. Jimmi picked up a shot glass off the bar, turned, and threw it at him. Sulu ducked in time and the glass crashed against the wall.

"Leave me alone." Jimmi yelled. Sulu stared at her, shocked. He knew she had a temper but this was beyond anything he had seen before. But it had felt good to Jimmi. She picked up another glass.

"What is wrong with you?!" Sulu yelled back. She was about to throw the glass when her father grabbed it out of her hand. She had not noticed him get up from the bar. She turned to yell at him, but the look in his eye stopped her. He wasn't smiling any longer.

"I will see you in your office now." He said softly but firmly. He took her by the arm and walked toward the office. As they were passing Sulu he said, "You too."

Once the three of them were in the office, McCoy said, "Enough of this childish behavior, young lady." She pulled her arm away from her father. Sulu stood just inside the door effectively blocking a retreat into the bar. He had his hands in his pockets and he was glaring at her dangerously. McCoy continued, "Now if you will sit down, I'd like to be sure you and my grandchild are both healthy."

Jimmi sat down in her desk chair and snapped. "We are."

"So humor me." McCoy said. Neither Jimmi nor Hikaru questioned why her father just happened to have the scanner for his medical tricorder with him. "Computer, interface with medical scanner. Display on this screen."

"Working." the computer replied. In a few seconds the picture of the fetus appeared on the screen on Jimmi's desk. Sulu softened and walked over to them. He couldn't look away. Jimmi rested her hand on her belly. No matter how many times she saw the child on the screen, she couldn't help but smile. Hikaru tentatively reached out and covered her hand with his. Jimmi looked up at him.

"Now that's a beautiful baby." McCoy said.

"Boy or girl, Doc?" Hikaru asked.

"I don't want to know." Jimmi said quickly to her father. She looked up at Hikaru. "I want to be surprised."

"A lot of people feel that way." McCoy nodded. "Now, if you promise not to throw anymore breakables, I'll leave you two alone to talk it out."

Jimmi didn't bother answering. When they were alone, Hikaru stepped back from her self-consciously. He hesitated and paced around a bit, his hand on the back of his neck. She watched him. To Jimmi, he looked like he wanted to run.

"There is no obligation here, Harry." Jimmi said softly. "You are free."

"Is that what you think I am worried about?" He asked turning towards her.

"I am not asking anything of you."

"Stop it." He ordered. "I am not upset that you are pregnant. I welcome our child. I am thrilled with the idea."

"You don't sound thrilled." Jimmi said.

"Excuse me." He paced around the small office. "But I walk in here to find you six months pregnant and you haven't bothered to tell me. And to top it off you are calling off the engagement."

"When was I supposed to tell you?" Jimmi asked. "When you were stealing Enterprise? When you were putting your life and career on the line? For my fathers? While you were waiting to be court-martialed? We haven't exactly talked a lot lately."

"I know. I know. It hasn't been business as usual lately." Sulu said. "But things have calmed down and there is no reason not to go ahead with the wedding."

"No reason?" Tears filled her eyes. But Jimmi did not want to start crying now. "No reason?"

"What reason, then?" Hikaru asked.

"I just can't..." Jimmi breath was coming faster as she struggled not to cry.

"Jeanie, talk to me."

"I just can't." Jimmi closed her eyes. "I need to talk to Dad."

"Fine. I need a beer." Sulu walked out of the office and into the bar. It was filling up with Enterprise personnel. He walked down the bar and took the stool next to Dr. McCoy. Randy put a beer in front of him. Sulu took a deep breath. "She won't talk to me, Doc. She wants you."

Jimmi was pacing when McCoy came into her office again. He stopped her, took her in his arms and held her. She leaned into him. Jimmi was so grateful that he was

alive and well. In the previous months she had tried to tell him how she felt when she thought he was dead and when no one would explain what Starfleet had called his breakdown, but she never was able to completely explain. But now, without uttering a word, he offered the unquestioning love and support that she needed. She did not know how she would ever be able to survive without his strength.

After a moment, she asked. "Dad, what am I going to do?"

"What happened?" McCoy asked.

"I don't know, Dad." She said as she turned away from him.

"Don't give me that, Jimmi." McCoy stopped her and turned her face back towards him. "There was some magic phrase in your mind that you wanted Hikaru to say; something that would have made everything ok. Only he has no idea what it is. Tell me."

"I just want him to think about me."

"Jean Marie." McCoy shook his head. "I've been with him these last few months when we thought our careers, even our lives, were over. Believe me, he thinks about you. There is more going on here."

"Dad, I'm so happy to see you alive and well. I was so worried and there was nothing I could do." Jimmi said quickly. "I didn't know how I was going to go on when I thought you were all dead. Then I realized I was pregnant and I thought I'd never see you again. How can I marry him now? What if he goes off and gets killed? What if..."

"Jimmi!" McCoy cut her off. She reminded him of when she was ten and would talk nonstop. "Slow down. Take a deep breath."

Jimmi did as her father directed before starting again with a little more control. "I never really thought anything would ever happen to Hikaru or you. You always were ok. I guess I just thought you always would be."

"It's one thing to say you understand that Starfleet is a dangerous occupation." Dr. McCoy said. "It's another all together to face the possibilities you've had to face recently."

"I can't do it again, Dad." Jimmi said. "I can't watch his ship explode on the news without any idea if he got off."

"Jimmi. Sit down." McCoy sat down on the couch. Slowly, Jimmi sat down too. "It could happen again. You know that. And you have to face it."

"How am I supposed to protect the baby?" Jimmi asked.

"What do you mean?"

"If it was just me, I could go on believing everything is ok and just hope and pray I was right." Jimmi explained through her tears. "But I've got to take care of the baby. What am I suppose to say? Don't get too attached to your Daddy because he could be gone in the blink of an eye?"

"Will it be any easier if you push Hikaru away?" McCoy asked. "If you keep his baby from him?"

"I don't want to hurt him, Dad. I just don't know what to do." Tears ran freely down her cheeks.

"Jimmi." McCoy said softly. "Would you rather you had never known your mother?"

"That's not fair."

"I know." McCoy nodded. "And I understand what you are feeling. But would it be fair to Hikaru or to the baby if you kept them apart?"

"I want to do what's right for the baby. I want to be a good mother." Jimmi wiped the tears from her face. "But Dad, I'm scared."

"I know." McCoy said. "Have you talked to Hikaru about it?"

"Dad."

"I am going to send him in here." McCoy said. "I want you to tell him everything you are feeling. And no more fighting. Got it?"

Jimmi sighed and nodded. The statement made her feel like a kid, but in a comforting way. She responded, as she would have as a teenager, as the daughter of any Starfleet officer might have responded, "Yes Sir."

While Jimmi and her father talked in the office, Mr. Spock came to the bar. He went immediately to Captain Kirk and asked to speak to him alone. They sat down at a table off away from the rest of the Enterprise crew. At the bar, Chekov sat down on the barstool next to Sulu.

"Now what?" Chekov asked.

"You've got me." Sulu finished his beer and motioned to Randy for another.

"You might want to slow down." Chekov advised as Randy put another beer on the bar in front of Sulu. "You don't want to be too drunk for your wedding."

"You think there's going to be a wedding?"

"I'd bet a week's salary on it." Chekov smiled drinking his beer. Sulu shrugged, what could he say? "Has she ever denied you anything you asked of her?"

"There was that first time I asked her to marry me." Sulu said and took a long drink of beer.

"Yes." Pavel shrugged. "But that was just a matter of timing."

"Well, my timing doesn't seem to be too good here."

"Have you asked her what she wants?" Chekov asked. Sulu turned and looked at his best friend. He had assumed there was only one course of action. It had not occurred to him to ask her anything. There was no point in answering the question; Chekov knew him well. "Have you reminded her why you wanted to get married in the first place?"

"When did you get so smart?" Sulu laughed now that he knew what to do.

Standing up, he putting his hand on Chekov's shoulder and said. "I'll be needing a best man later. You available?"

"Of course."

Sulu was about to go back to Jimmi's office when Spock stopped him. Together they joined Captain Kirk at the table. "This isn't how I would generally do this. Sitting in a bar when you are obviously involved in other things." Kirk said. Sulu waited patiently.

The captain had his own way of getting around to things. "But we've received new orders. You are to return to Earth to take command of the Excelsior. Congratulations, Captain Sulu."

Kirk extended his hand. Sulu shook it, smiling, not at all sure what to say.

"Thank you Captain Kirk." Sulu laughed. "This has been one hell of a day."

"And it's not over yet." Spock added.

"When do they want me?" Captain Sulu asked.

"Yesterday." Kirk said.

"The next transport to Earth leaves at eleven hundred hours tomorrow." Spock said.

Sulu nodded, wondering how Jimmi was going to take the news. "Well, I better get this other business squared away then." He got up from the table and headed for the office. Dr. McCoy came out before he reached the door.

"How's she doing, Doc?"

"Ok," McCoy said. "She's a little overwhelmed, that's all. But she's calmed down enough to talk now."

"Thanks Doc." Sulu said and walked into the office. He didn't see Jimmi at first. After a minute she came out of the bathroom. "There you are."

"Here I am." She sighed and ran her fingers through her auburn curls. "I seem to be a real mess today, Harry."

"I'd have to agree with that assessment."

"Well, thanks a lot." She said, but it was the first time she really smiled at him. He breathed easier, this was the woman he knew.

"I'm tired of talking about you, would you like to hear my news?" Sulu asked smiling. He sat on the edge of her desk. She came over to him, waiting for him to continue. "I just got a new assignment. Comes with a promotion."

"Promotion?" Jimmi asked. He was already a full commander. He was smiling and seemed very happy with himself. "Captain Sulu?"

"That's me."

"Harry, that's wonderful! It's what you always wanted." She hugged him, somewhat awkwardly. "What ship?"

"Excelsior." He said. No wonder he was all smiles. It was the ship he had wanted; the newest and biggest in the fleet. "Of course you know what this means."

"What?"

"We had an agreement." Hikaru reminded her. She stepped back from him. "We were going to get married when I was captain of my own ship. Remember?"

"I remember. But," Jimmi's smile disappeared when she said. "We didn't plan on this."

"So the timing of the baby is a little off. We can't change it now." He took both her hands in his. "I still love you. I want to marry you. Will you do me the honor of being my wife?"

"I am so sorry I was so awful to you earlier."

"That is not an answer."

"I have to answer?"

"Yes or no, will you marry me tonight?" Sulu insisted.

"Can we talk first?" Jimmi asked quietly.

"Of course, Baby." Hikaru said softly.

"I'm scared."

"Of?"

"I can't tell you how awful it was to see the news footage of the Enterprise exploding knowing my entire family was on board." Jimmi said. "I have always been able to tell myself you were safe before. I don't know if I can do that again."

"I am here. I am safe." Hikaru said. The destruction of the original Enterprise had been months ago. So much had happened since then that Hikaru did not really understand why she was focusing on it. It was already history to him. "Trust me."

"When I thought you had all died, I felt like I died too. Like there was no reason to go on." Jimmi said. "Except that I had to go on. I couldn't just stop living because I had to keep the baby healthy. Oh, I'm not explaining this well."

"You've known Enterprise has been in danger before. But you are saying this is different?" Hikaru asked. Jimmi nodded. "Because you saw the explosion or because of the baby?"

"I don't know. Maybe both." Jimmi sighed. "But I have an intense need to protect this child."

"I think they call that maternal instinct." Hikaru smiled. "But please, don't protect the baby from me."

"Harry..."

"I can't promise you nothing will happen to me." Hikaru said. "But I can promise that I will be highly motivated to stay alive so I can be a good father and husband."

"You won't take any chances?"

"Nothing unwarranted." Hikaru promised.

Jimmi had to laugh. That statement sounded just like James T. to her. With a wink, she teased him when she said, "You sound like a real captain now."

"A captain who needs an answer." He smiled. "Yes or no, will you marry me tonight?"

"Tonight?" Jimmi swallowed hard, closed her eyes and said. "Yes, I'll marry you tonight."

Sulu took her in his arms. "There, was that so hard?"

"Don't be so smug, Harry." She said. Jimmi took a moment to just relax in his arms before she pushed him away gently and added, "If this is going to happen tonight, you better go talk to James T. I've got to think of something to wear. Damn."

"You look beautiful." Sulu smiled.

"I am not getting married in ugly stretched out maternity overalls." Jimmi started towards the stairs to her apartment. "I don't know what I'll wear, but I'll find something."

Sulu walked out of the office. It seemed like every one was waiting. Many of the Enterprise crew present stopped to watch him as he walked up to Dr. McCoy at the bar. "Looks like there is going to be a wedding."

"Good." McCoy smiled. "The drinks are on me."

Commander Uhura and Dr. Chapel didn't bother with the drinks. They went through the office and up the stairs to Jimmi's apartment. They found Jimmi in her

bedroom. She had undressed and wrapped herself in a navy blue terry cloth robe. Sitting on the edge of her bed, she was staring hopelessly into her closet.

"So, what are you wearing?" Uhura asked.

Jimmi jumped. She hadn't heard them come in. "There's nothing in here that fits. Nothing that looks good anyway."

"We'll just have to get creative." Christine said. She and Uhura started going through the clothes. Everything they brought out Jimmi rejected as too casual or too tight. It wasn't long before most of the clothes from her closet were piled up on the bed.

"It is hopeless, Christy." Jimmi sighed heavily. Christine Chapel put her arm around Jimmi's shoulder. "We'll never find anything."

"Never say never." Uhura said. Taking another piece of clothing from the back of the closet, she asked. "What is this?"

"It's beautiful." Chapel said. She joined Uhura and held up the garment for a better look.

"It's a robe." Jimmi dismissed it.

"No, it's a kimono." Uhura said. "Where did you get it?"

"Hikaru's sister, Kiko." Jimmi explained with a shrug. The silk kimono was the blue of an Earth sky on a clear cold day, trimmed in white. It had seagulls in flight hand painted on the back. "It was her bird period. She painted sea birds on everything."

"Put it on." Uhura commanded. Jimmi put on the kimono. It took a couple of tries to get the sash to look just right. They had to tie it above the baby. But it was comfortable, delicate, and attractive. She wore her hair down; the way Harry liked it. "It's perfect."

"All we need is something old and something borrowed." Christine said. "The kimono is blue. And the baby is new."

"You can borrow my bracelet." Uhura said taking off the golden chain. "We still need something old."

She didn't have anything old. Dr. McCoy came up the steps. "Are we ready for a wedding?" he called from the common room.

"All we need is the father of the bride." Dr. Chapel opened the bedroom door. "And something old."

"I qualify on both counts." He came into her bedroom and stopped. "Jean Marie, you look exquisite."

"Doctor." Uhura corrected. "Brides are radiant."

"That too." McCoy agreed. "Are we ready?"

"We still need something old."

"Superstitions Christine?" McCoy asked. He took a small item out of his pocket.

"How about this?"

"We'll wait downstairs." Christine said and left with Uhura.

"You still carry that with you, Dad?" Jimmi smiled. It was an antique locket. Inside was a picture of Jimmi as a baby. It was the only thing Maggie O'Brien had left him when she died.

"Yes. And I want it back." McCoy said. "Not to long from now, you'll know how

it feels to love a child."

"I love you too, Dad." Jimmi hugged him. "I guess I'm as ready as I'll ever be."

Jimmi walked into the bar on her father's arm. She had no idea what to expect since Hikaru had made all the arrangements. The ceremony was a simple straightforward military wedding.

Captain Kirk and Captain Sulu awaited them on the dance floor in front of the stage. Chekov, Spock, Uhura, and Chapel were with them. They were her family. Just about everyone she knew from the crew was there as well as all who worked at the Café. Her father took her hand and placed it in Sulu's. A few minutes later they were officially and legally husband and wife. Sealed with a kiss.

Then there was a party. It was quite a celebration for the Enterprise crew. A jazz trio that played together on Enterprise retrieved their instruments and commandeered the No Rank's stage. Sulu received many congratulations on his promotion as well as his marriage.

After dancing with her father and Captain Kirk, Spock cut in. "Spock, " Jimmi smiled up at her tall partner. "I didn't know you danced."

"Did you think me incapable?"

"No." Jimmi said. "I just did not know it was logical."

"My mother felt it was important to learn certain social graces to be able to mingle with species of different cultures on a diplomatic level." Spock explained.

"Is it possible your Mom just wanted you to learn some of her culture?" Jimmi asked.

"That is a possibility." Spock nodded as they danced. "Are you looking forward to motherhood?"

"Yes, but it is a huge responsibility." Jimmi said. "I just hope I'm up to it."

"I do not see any cause for concern."

"Spock." Jimmi hesitated. He raised his eyebrow at her. "What do you know about Hikaru's promotion?"

"Enterprise received Captain Sulu's orders twenty three minutes after coming into orbit of this base." Spock said. "He is to report to Excelsior as soon as possible."

"Where is Excelsior?"

"In Spacedock."

"Is Enterprise going to take him?"

"No." Spock said. "There is a transport bound for Earth leaving at eleven hundred hours."

Jimmi sighed. "I wonder when he was planning on telling me."

"May I cut in, Mr. Spock." Chekov asked formally.

"Of course." Spock nodded and stepped back from Jimmi. "Thank you for the dance, Mrs. Sulu."

Jimmi giggled at his formal manner and started dancing with Chekov. "Well Princess, do you now have everything you wanted?"

"Everything?" Jimmi said. "No one ever gets everything."

"What else is there?"

"Right now, Pav., a good night's sleep would be nice." Jimmi laughed.

Pavel nodded and laughed with her. "Now that things are settled between you and Hikaru, perhaps you will get that sleep as well."

"Perhaps." She said as the song ended. As they left the dance floor, Jimmi caught Mikey's eye. When he came to her she said, "Get me a glass of juice, please, lots of ice."

Mike nodded, but it was Lenny who brought her the drink. She had sat down at a small table on the edge of the dance floor. L.J. sat down and placed her drink on the table in front of her. "Here you go, Baby. Or do I have to start calling you Mrs. Sulu?"

"Don't you dare." Jimmi said with a laugh and took a drink of the cool Rigelian shwa juice. She looked across the room at her new husband as he laughed with a group of Enterprise pilots. "I just hope..."

"What?" Lenny asked.

"Nothing." Jimmi sighed. "Just that it all works out."

"It will." Lenny assured her. He would have told her that he would always be there for her, but she knew that. He didn't think it was a good thing to bring up on her wedding day.

While Jimmi and Lenny talked, McCoy walked up behind his new son-in-law and put his hand on Sulu's shoulder. "Captain."

"Doctor." Sulu answered, turning away from the group he had been talking to. McCoy nodded towards a table. They sat down.

"So how does it feel?" McCoy asked.

"Which part? The new wife? The child on it's way in less than three months? Or finally making Captain?"

"All of the above?" McCoy smiled. It had been a big day for Sulu. The doctor was sure that it would take awhile for everything to sink in.

"With Jimmi I feel like things are finally settled. You know she's been ducking this wedding up until today." Sulu smiled "As for the baby, ask me about that one in a couple of months."

"And the promotion?" McCoy asked.

Captain Sulu laughed. "Doc, I can't wait. It's a good thing there wasn't a transport to Earth tonight. It's going to be hard enough to tell her I'm leaving in the morning."

"You haven't told her yet?"

"And give her an excuse to put the wedding off again? Not on your life."

It was near midnight when Jimmi sat down at the table where her husband and father were talking. She was exhausted. "Harry...." She laid her head on his shoulder and smiled at him. "Captain, I need to go to sleep."

"A little rude to leave your own party, isn't it?" Sulu asked.

"I don't know. I think it might be a worse breach of etiquette if I just nodded off in mid-sentence." Jimmi said as she stood up. Then she leaned over and kissed her father, "Goodnight Dad. I'll see you tomorrow?"

"I'll be here. Goodnight Dear."

The newlyweds made their way through the room. Hikaru kept his hand lightly on

her back. Jimmi said goodnight as she went. It took awhile, but finally they made their way through her office and up the steps to her apartment. When they were alone in her room, Jimmi sighed and sat on the bed. Harry bent down and took off her shoes.

"Tired?" He asked softly. Jimmi responded with a yawn and a nod. Sulu sat on the bed and reached for the sash of her kimono.

"Harry." She stopped him with her hand over his. "I need to sleep, Baby."

"It's ok." he smiled at her. "Let me help you."

"I can do it." Jimmi stood up and turned away from him to undress.

Hikaru reached for her and helped slip the kimono off her shoulders. "Are you hiding from me?"

"Harry, why don't you go back to the party."

"I'd like to at least kiss my wife goodnight." Hikaru whispered in her ear.

"Oh Harry." She turned around in his arms. Frowning, she looked down at her enlarged body when she said, "I didn't really want you to see me like this. I look so..."

"Beautiful."

Jimmi's frown turned to a smile when she met his eyes and said, "Liar."

He chuckled softly and let his hand slide over the belly that held his child. He kissed her lightly. She tried to hide the yawn. Hikaru just nodded toward the bed.

While Jimmi slipped into bed, Hikaru took the kimono to hang it in the closet. With his back to her, he said, "I will have to tell Kiko that you wore this for the wedding. Perhaps it will be a new line of business for her."

But Jimmi did not hear him; she was already asleep. He turned and watched her for a few minutes. Captain Sulu kissed her on the forehead before returning to the party in the bar.

The party was winding down. Sulu got another beer and sought out Captain Kirk. They sat and talked late into the night Sulu asking questions. Kirk giving advise. Finally they were the only two left in the Café. Even Lenny and Randy had left. Kirk eventually went back to Enterprise and Sulu went upstairs.

He had to give Jimmi a little shove to make enough room to get into bed, but he was not about to spend his first night of married life sleeping on the couch. The next morning Jimmi woke first. She sat up in bed and looked at her sleeping husband. She rubbed her tummy and spoke softly to her baby. "Don't get used to it, sweet pea. Daddy doesn't spend a lot of time in this bed." The baby kicked her right in the bladder, so Jimmi got up and went quickly to the bathroom. When she came back, Hikaru was awake.

"Good morning, Mrs. Sulu." He smiled at her and patted the bed next to him.

She got back in the bed. "Good morning Captain Sulu."

He kissed her shoulder. "I never got a chance to ask you something last night." He said while he gently caressed her. "Have you talked to your doctor about making love? Is it all right?"

"What's wrong, Captain?" Jimmi asked while returning his caresses. She had asked the doctor as soon as she found out he was coming home. "Never been in bed with a pregnant woman before?"

"Not to my knowledge."

Jimmi laughed. He was so good at keeping a straight face when she was teasing him. "She said it was fine as long as I'm comfortable with it. No medical reason to abstain."

He kissed her again, more insistently this time. "You'll let me know if anything gets uncomfortable."

"Aye-aye." She said with a giggle.

After they had both showered, Jimmi put on her maroon overalls. They were made of a soft flowing material that did not require fastening and went on and off easily. That was very important to Jimmi at this point and she had several sets of the overalls.

While Hikaru was putting on his uniform, he took a deep breath "Now for the bad news."

"Let me guess. You have to be on the next shuttle to Earth." Jimmi said as she stepped into her shoes. "Right Captain?"

"Are you guessing or did you know?" Sulu asked.

"Spock told me last night." She admitted. "He made it sound very logical, of course."

"Of course. Did he also tell you it left at eleven hundred hours?" Hikaru asked. She nodded. "Then the only thing I have left to do is go clear out my quarters on Enterprise."

"Can I come with you?" Jimmi asked while selecting a pair of earrings from the jewelry box on top of her dresser. "It isn't much of a honeymoon but I'd like to spend every minute with you that I can."

He came over and hugged her from behind, resting his hands on her expanded belly. "I think we already had the honeymoon."

"That doesn't count." She leaned back against him. "You still owe me one official honeymoon. I don't care how long it takes me to collect, Captain, I'm not letting you off the hook."

"Come on then. I've only got a couple of hours and we still have so much to talk about." He said.

"Such as?" Jimmi asked as they left her bedroom and headed down the steps to her office.

"Well there is the call we need to make to my mother." Hikaru said.

"You will be on Earth this afternoon." Jimmi said. "You can tell her in person."

"No." Hikaru laughed at her. He knew his mother scared Jimmi to death although he was never sure why. "We need to do this together. Are you afraid?"

"Of course not." Jimmi lied. "What else?"

"Baby names?"

"I already know this one." Jimmi smiled. The Sulus had a family naming custom. "If he is a boy, he will be named Hikaru after you, with Leonard as a middle name for my dad."

"Right

“So why doesn’t your family have a naming custom for girls, Captain?” Jimmi asked.

“I don’t know.” Hikaru laughed.

“I was thinking Margaret, after my mother.” Jimmi said. “Or maybe something different. The Haliians have some beautiful girls names.”

“You’ve been looking through some baby naming database, eh?” He asked. She just laughed and shrugged. As they were approaching the transporter room, he asked. “Are you going to continue to call me Captain?”

“I thought you didn’t like Harry.”

“I guess I’ve gotten use to it.”

“Maybe I’m just helping you get used to your new title, Captain.” Jimmi said and winked at him. “After all, you are going to hear that from everyone now.”

“And you’re afraid I’ll forget who they are talking to?” He laughed.

“No.” Jimmi laughed too. “I don’t think you’ll have any trouble remembering it.”

On the ship, she helped him crate up the things that filled his cabin. Sports equipment, remnants of old hobbies that he had left behind including his collection of rare weapons, a few hard copies of some special photos and his Starfleet medals were all packed away to be taken to her apartment. He packed only the essentials in the duffel he would take to Excelsior with him.

It was nearly time. They strolled slowly towards the shuttlebay. Neither said much as they came closer and closer to the ship that would take him away from her. He had one arm around her shoulders. She had one arm around his waist.

“I know you are anxious to get to Excelsior.” Jimmi said slowly. “And I know it is selfish of me.”

“Not selfish.” Hikaru assured her. “As much as I want to take command of Excelsior, I still hate leaving you like this.”

They stopped not far from the shuttle. Hikaru put his bag down and turned towards his new wife. They ignored the other people moving around the ship. She reached up to caress his face. “Damn Harry, I thought it wasn’t going to make a difference.”

“Being married?” He asked.

Jimmi sighed and bit her lip in an attempt to keep herself from crying. “Yeah.”

“Excelsior will be in orbit around Earth for awhile.” Hikaru said. “You could come visit.”

“You won’t have any free time.” Jimmi said.

“Captain Sulu.” A young officer said from the shuttlecraft. “We’re ready to depart.”

“Thank you, Ensign.” Hikaru said. “I’ll be right there.”

Jimmi looked up at him and whispered, “I don’t want you to go.”

While a computer announced that the shuttle was ready to depart and all passengers must board, Hikaru pulled her to him and kissed her with all his might.

Several people walked past them to board the shuttle.

"Captain." The ensign called again. The computer commanded all non-passengers to clear the flight deck.

Hikaru reluctantly released her from his grip. "I'll call you tonight."

He picked up his duffel and walked the few short steps to the ship. Jimmi called after him, "Harry, be careful."

He turned at the door of the ship and smiled at her. Before disappearing inside he said, "Always."

Jimmi returned to her apartment. She was a married woman now and soon she would be a mom. As much as things were changing, she knew that some things never would. It certainly wouldn't bring him home any more often. She put the uniform he had worn last night in a pile to be cleaned. He had left a spare uniform at her place for years. When he came back this one would be hanging in her closet waiting for him. How could she be so lonely, when he had just left?

She shook herself and went down to the bar. With Enterprise in orbit there would be a lunch crowd. One of the first people to walk into the bar when she opened was her father. He smiled at her and gave her his very subtle southern gentleman bow. "Good day, Mrs. Sulu."

"Hi Dad." Jimmi laughed at him. She knew he only did the bow when in a very good mood and it was usually reserved for an attractive, available lady. "Did you come for lunch?"

"I came to talk to you. Come and sit with me."

Mike was behind the bar. "Mike, will you bring coffee to my table, please?"

"Sure thing, Boss." Mike said. Jimmi and her father sat at the booth on the far side of the café that was her private table. Mike brought coffee for Dr. McCoy and fruit juice for Jimmi.

"My friends are watching out for me." Jimmi explained the juice. "Dr. Gawung told them I should limit my coffee drinking."

"They are good friends." McCoy said. "I talked to Dr. Gawung. She is pleased with your condition. How are you feeling?"

"I would be better if my husband hadn't just left me after eighteen hours of wedded bliss." Jimmi sighed. "Sometimes I hate Starfleet."

"You have a funny way of showing it." McCoy shook his head and sipped his coffee. "What do you think about Hikaru making Captain?"

"I'm very happy for him. It's what he's wanted for as long as I know him. What are you getting at, Dad?" Jimmi asked.

"I just want to be sure you understand your position and his. Being a captain's spouse carries some responsibilities." Her father said. "Especially with you here. You are going to be interacting with his crew whenever his ship is here."

Jimmi started readying herself for a fight and asked, "Are you saying I have to change how I act in my own business because Hikaru is a Captain?"

"I am not saying anything of the sort. But you know how the service is when it comes to gossip. You have to be careful not to undermine Captain Sulu's authority."

"I don't know what gossip you've heard, Dad. But there is nothing going on here that I am ashamed of." Jimmi said.

"I didn't say you had anything to be ashamed of. I know what goes on here." McCoy did not want a fight. He just wanted her to listen to his point of view. He did not want her marriage to end before it began because she wasn't thinking. "I just want you to realize you are in a unique position here. Being captain is going to be harder than he ever thought. Just think if what you're doing helping him or hurting him. Just think."

"Harder how?" Jimmi asked. "Are you saying he's not ready?"

"No Dear." McCoy said. "He is ready. But it is a job that takes every ounce of energy a person has to give."

"And the baby and I, we take the energy he's suppose to be giving to the job?" Jimmi asked.

"That is not what I am saying." McCoy said.

"I guess I am dense, Dad." Jimmi said. "What exactly are you saying?"

"To command effectively, he will need the trust, loyalty and respect of his crew." He said. "How you interact with his crew could impact of the way his crew thinks of him. I am just asking you to let him do his job even when his ship is here."

"Ok, Dad." Jimmi said thoughtfully. "I think I can do that."