

A couple of weeks had passed. Excelsior had finished its shakedown cruise. All systems performed as expected at all levels of warp speed. Captain Sulu had cleared it with Starfleet command and now the fleet's largest ship was again in orbit around Starbase Twelve.

Jimmi hadn't slept well. It was the only night she could remember when she had wished Hikaru was not home. It was just past oh five hundred and he was sleeping soundly. Jimmi had just made her seventh trip to the bathroom since going to bed. With a sigh, she gave up trying to sleep and went out to the common room. She sat in the rocking chair her mother-in-law had sent. Rocking gently, she closed her eyes and thought about the baby. Only a few more hours and she would be a Mom.

"Baby." Hikaru whispered softly. Jimmi opened her eyes. He was crouching next to the rocking chair wearing just the silk robe she had given him. "What are you doing out here?"

"Couldn't sleep." She rubbed her eyes and sighed. "What time is it?"

"Six thirty."

"I guess I did sleep some more then." Jimmi said. "I better get dressed."

"There's no hurry." Hikaru smiled and rubbed her tummy. "How's the baby?"

"Quiet." She said. "Maybe he knows today is his birthday. I just wish he'd get his head off my bladder."

She grabbed her husband's hand and let him help her out of the chair. As she slowly started towards the bathroom, he asked. "How do you know it's his head?"

"Beth did a scan yesterday before you got home." She explained as she went. "She said it was good that he was head down. It means he's ready."

"Good." Hikaru followed her back to the bedroom to get dressed himself. He had just put his uniform jacket on when the communicator signaled. "Sulu here."

"Captain," Commander Kyle said. "Admiral Reese is waiting to speak to you."

"Put it through to the Café, Mr. Kyle." Sulu ordered as he was on his way down the steps to Jimmi's office. He sat at her desk and accessed the channel from Excelsior. Admiral Reese appeared on the screen. "Admiral, what can I do for you?"

"You are still at Starbase Twelve." Reese said.

"Yes Sir." Sulu nodded. "I informed your office that I would be here for a day or two for my child's birth."

"How's that going?" Reese smiled.

"Jimmi and I are on our way to medical for the induction within the hour." Sulu said.

"The doctors are vague on just how long this is going to take."

"They always are." Reese nodded with a smile. He turned more serious when he said. "I have bad news. Captain Warren of Saratoga is dead."

"How?"

"We're not sure." Reese said. "His first officer, Jacob Habib, found him dead in his cabin. Apparent suicide."

"Suicide?"

"There is something wrong here, Sulu." Reese said. "A star ship captain committing suicide is inconceivable. Bill Warren just wasn't that kind of man. I have ordered Saratoga to rendezvous with Excelsior. I want you to find out what is going on."

"Aye Sir." Sulu nodded. Jimmi was coming slowly down the steps. "I'm on my way."

"Take care of your family first, Hikaru." Reese said. "Saratoga will wait for you. Reese

out."

"What was that all about?" Jimmi asked.

"New orders." Hikaru stood up and smiled at her. "Are you ready?"

"Not really." Jimmi tried to smile. But she really just sighed. "But then I don't really have a choice, do I?"

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Six hours later, the nurse put a newborn boy in Captain Sulu's arms. She smiled at the father and son when she said, "He looks like his Daddy."

Hikaru didn't know what to say. He sat on the bed next to his wife. "My god, Jeanie. He's beautiful." He leaned over and kissed her. "You are beautiful."

"You wanted a boy." Jimmi grinned. She was exhausted, but exhilarated too. Before she even realized she was cold the nurse put a warm blanket on her and it felt wonderful.

"Aw," Hikaru smiled at the baby. "Look at that yawn."

"It's hard work being born." The nurse said. "Let his Mommy hold him now. We'd like him to nurse as soon as possible."

Hikaru gently handed the baby over to Jimmi. While the nurse helped her with the intricacies of nursing, Sulu opened his communicator. "Sulu to Excelsior."

"Gonzoles here."

"Lt. Gonzoles, send a message to Enterprise." Sulu said. "It's a boy! Hikaru Leonard Sulu."

"Congratulations Captain." Gonzoles said. "The message is on its way."

"Harry!" Jimmi called from the bed. "His name is Harry!"

"Sulu out." He closed his communicator and went back to his family. The medical staff left them alone for awhile. It wasn't long before the baby drifted off to sleep. Jimmi yawned. Hikaru sighed. "I hate to say this."

"You have to go." Jimmi said. Her eyes filled with tears. "Those new orders."

"I am so glad I was able to be here today. You amazed me." Hikaru rested his hand lightly on the sleeping baby's head. "I'm sorry."

"I know." The tears ran down her cheeks.

"I don't want to leave you now."

"I know."

Hikaru kissed her and then said, "I'll talk to you soon."

"Stop at the Café." Jimmi said as he started for the door. "Tell George and Randy."

"Ok."

"And call your mother." Jimmi called.

"I will." He said and was gone out the door.

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Sulu strode into the Café. A small crowd had gathered for lunch. As soon as he saw Sulu, Randy called George out of the kitchen. Randy did not wait for him to come up to the bar. He asked, "Well?"

"A boy!" Sulu laughed before he was even half way across the room. He came around behind the bar. It was something he rarely did when the Café was open. "I've got to get back to

the ship. Where's that box of cigars?"

"Here." Randy found it and handed the box to Sulu. Laughing, he hugged the captain. "Congratulations."

"A boy." George laughed. He also hugged Sulu and then took charge as he always did in the family that was the core of the Café staff. "Now, don't you worry. We'll take care of the two of them."

"Thanks George." Hikaru opened the box. He handed them each a cigar. "I know they're in good hands. I've got to go."

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On Excelsior, the captain came onto the bridge to find everyone smiling at him. Dr. Patrick was among them. He found it hard to keep a straight face himself. "Lt. Gonzoles, set course for the rendezvous point."

"Aye Sir." Gonzoles nodded.

"And have a cigar." Sulu laughed and handed out cigars to every member of the bridge crew.

"These are against regulations." Pat said as the Captain handed him a cigar. "And they are poison."

"One cigar is not going to kill anyone, Pat." Sulu finally sat down in the command chair. "And no one told anyone to smoke them on the ship. That would be against regs. Lt. Lee, warp six as soon as we clear the Gamma system."

"Aye Sir."

Once they were on their way to the rendezvous point, Sulu turned to his first officer. "Mr. Kyle, have we received the reports on Captain Warren's death?"

"Yes Sir." Kyle replied from the science station. "The medical reports, the official duty log, the report to Command, and the orders to Saratoga to wait for us."

"No personal logs?"

"No Sir."