

It's rare to see Suu acting on her own.

[Kain and Suu arc] [12] [Chaos therapy] [9650]

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Stories in parallel

[Juron arc] [6] [Stormchaser] [9649] <- This should be read first.

Year 9650 125th day,

Magenta rushed into the bridge of Uranus colony where Kain was overseeing traffic operations over crews. It was one of his regular routines.

"Admiral!" She exclaimed as she rushed in to find Kain snoring on the job.

"Wh... Wat?" Kain lazily woke up.

Once Magenta dragged Kain to his office, she informed him that General Garrick of Andromeda Union had his fleet of 17,000 ships sailing toward Freedom colony and that the colony formally requested an aid.

"How many ships does the colony have?" was Kain's quest inquiry.

"About 7,000."

He scratched his head in amusement. "It doesn't look too good, isn't it. Though how did this happen? I am sure they could have avoided this?"

"They are asking us to send an aid. Actually, they are on the line waiting for our reply."

It took a moment for Kain to reply. "Magenta, what do you think? We can send an aid but will that be enough? At the same time, they did save our asses before."

"Given how much they've done us in the past, we should even if it's small."

Folding arms, Kain groaned. "So, sending the aid, it is then. Tell them we are sending

a fleet ASAP."

Once the decision was made, a plan needed to be drafted. Kain recalled Suu from her patrolling duty and informed her of the situation.

In a conference room, Kain, Magenta, and Suu were attempting to come up with a plan that was workable.

"It will be 10,000 versus 17,000. Sounds bad I know, but we've had worse," Kain explained, "We need to have a plan before sending the fleet and we haven't decided on who to send."

Without hesitation, Suu volunteered. "I will go."

"That was easy," Magenta said.

Shrugged Kain replied, "Well, she's the only choice anyway. Who else do I have here? I can't go in this situation."

Kain explained that the colony was likely going to use the battle as leverage to strike a deal.

Suu argued, "Then why are we even sending a fleet? Wouldn't making a deal with them mean they will be turning their back on us?"

"They are. They don't have a choice." Magenta explained. "Even if we don't send a fleet, they will be able to strike a deal, perhaps a little less ideal than what they have in mind but nevertheless the colony will stand independent."

Kain added, "We send the fleet. We let them have the deal they want and they will turn their back on us, on surface."

Not pleased with what she was hearing, Suu narrowed her eyes.

He continued, "They won't be able to help us in battles but they can certainly assist us in many other ways. We need it."

Magenta nodded in agreement and she glanced at Kain and he noticed it.

Clearing his throat, Kain told Suu, "Now, having said that, I will leave little details to you, Commander Suu."

Surprised at the freedom she had just been given, she became skeptical.

"What's the deal?"

"Nothing. I just feel that it's about time you spread your wings on your own. That's all."

Kain and Magenta both felt that Suu needed to earn some fame on her own. Despite of having been promoted to the rank of commander, she hadn't accomplished much outside of NPNG protocol and general patrolling of Outer Sol.

And they felt this was the perfect opportunity.

"So, you are on your own. Go nuts, girl," Kain told her jokingly.

How little did he know, at the time, that she'd really go nuts, literally.

Having been assigned 3,000 ships and total command of them, Suu quickly called Capt. Mack who was her most trusted captain. She also called her father.

With Capt. Mack and Cesper, Suu attempted to draft a plan while on their way to Freedom colony.

Cesper was quick to catch on the general idea even before Suu explained anything.

"This is a big chance for you to shine," He told Suu. Nodding, she turned her attention to Capt. Mack and explained their mission.

Capt. Mack was a quiet officer who simply did whatever he was ordered. As expected, he nodded firmly and asked what was her order.

At this point, she looked at her father for an idea or two.

Folding arms, Cesper groaned and gave it some thoughts for a moment.

"You know, Andromeda has invaded us twice now. And the irony was strong. It

should have been us, not them, who invaded. So, I feel we should let them feel the irony."

Both Suu and Mack were clueless as to what Cesper was trying to imply.

Grinning, Cesper explained, "If you look at the history of Andromeda union, a certain someone has used certain tactics to fend off an invasion from United Sol. I say we use the exact same tactics."

It took a while for Suu to figure out what her father was exactly saying.

"Dust off missile banks and 100% make sure that they function when we need them," She firmly gave out the order to Capt. Mack.

"Aye, Commander." And he left at once.

Cesper added, "This battle won't be about winning or losing. This will be about how you deal with them."

It turned out that repairs would be needed on numerous ships. Additionally, fleet coordination and training would be required to pull off what Acshell the liberator had gone to former President Mirren's fleet.

All of this meant that they stopped in deep space and performed their training as well as repairs in middle of nowhere.

"I am surprised that you were even carrying missiles," Cesper remarked on Suu's bridge where she was teaching her fleet the new fleet formation. "The Ark put a stop on missile production for Earth defense fleet decades ago. I thought the Ark sent out the order to stop production on other parts of Sol."

On the bridge, a holographic horizontal map was on display where Suu was orchestrating a new formation. Other captains were watching the feed from their bridges.

"The admiral was adamant that we mustn't stop missile production even if it meant for us to go into red," She explained, "Since we lacked number, we needed options." Cesper nodded with a satisfied expression on his face.

"I can see his point. Since the Ark hasn't exactly been helping him, he must do whatever he can do."

Suu was actually about to raise her voice at her father for the Ark being so useless but soon shut her mouth with a weak sigh. Her father had nothing to do with the current situation after all.

After spending three days in middle of nowhere training for the new formation, the fleet resumed its course and arrived at Freedom colony without troubles.

"Welcome, I am Reed." It was Reed on the channel. "I am pleased that Admiral Kain has chosen to aid us."

Suu was in her captain's chair, flanked by her father, Cesper who was standing.

"Quite frankly, I am not even sure why I am here," Suu spoke out boldly. "You are expected to lose this, yes?"

Reed had a weak grin on his face and didn't seem too surprised by Suu's bold statement. He responded, "Losing can be a part of a plan. I am sure you can understand that, given the Admiral's history."

At this point, Cesper remembered. "Reed? The son of Gvew?" He accidentally said out loud.

Reed's attention moved to Cesper. "That'd be me, aye."

"I am sorry about what happened to your father," Cesper said in an apologetic tone. However, Reed replied stoically.

"He deserved it more or less. I am sure you don't care," He said, "Anyway, this isn't

about a dead man. Let's talk business, shall we?"

Reed's proposal was simple in concept. Suu's fleet would aid them until they get to find the right moment to begin a negotiation. And, in return of their support, Freedom colony would continue to provide financial benefits.

Suu and Cesper were in a conference room after the initial talk with Reed was over. There was a small round table in middle of the room where they sat down, facing each other.

"What he has presented is a solid plan and probably the only plan they can come up with at the moment," Cesper stated while crossing his fingers.

Suu questioned, "Do we have an option to withdraw at this point?"

Cesper scratched his chin slowly in consideration. "We can certainly depart now. Though Andromeda union will probably still find out that we were here. To be honest, withdrawing now would be pointless."

Suu sighed. "I feel like they are getting far more than what we get from this."

"They are and they are fully aware. I am sure they will make this worth a while. I suggest we stick with them."

Both of them went silent for few seconds until Suu brought up Reed.

"Officially, the Ark wanted to find Gvew's children in name of protection," Cesper explained, "In reality though, the Bau wanted them. The council was aware that Reed would be hard to be found since there was virtually no info on his whereabouts, but his daughter, Devon, acted as his bodyguard at the Ark. Therefore, the council sent numerous agents to find and bring her alive."

"Devon..." Suu narrowed her eyes. "Yes, I do believe I've heard of her."

Cesper sighed. "But we never found her until a decade later the assassination."

"So, she was brought to the Bau?"

"No, we found her on Venus under Cecil's protection which meant the council had virtually no way to bring her back."

Suu seemed to have remembered something and told Cesper, "ENN made it sound like it was Cecil who was behind the assassination. I find it hard to believe she ended up under him."

"Never trust ENN," Cesper declared, "In fact, never trust any mass media. I am actually glad that she ended on Venus."

"Why would you say that?"

"If Devon was brought back to Earth, I am pretty confident that she would have ended up as someone's concubine."

Suu exclaimed, "What?!"

"That was the council's intention as far as I know. They wanted to exact revenge that Gvew stole the presidency."

"I don't believe this."

Shaking his head weakly, Cesper let out of a snicker. "This is the true face of our clan now. It's rotten."

And several days later, long range sensor picked up the incoming enemy fleet.

With doors sliding, Suu walked into the bridge with haste.

"Reprort," She demanded while on her way to her chair.

"Enemy fleet approaching, 17,000 ships."

"ETA."

"47 minutes, Commander."

She took her seat, adjusted her uniform and crossed her legs as she commanded, "Red alert, form the formation. Order final checks on weapons and equipment, we are doing this."

"Aye, aye, Commander."

Reed's fleet was blissfully unaware of what Suu's fleet was going to do. All he did know was that they were going to provide support and that was it.

It was also Suu's intention not to get anyone else involved. It was her battle after all in her mind.

Therefore, when Suu's fleet began accelerate toward Juron's fleet after both sides just started opening fire, Reed demanded to know what was going on. Blatantly ignoring him, her fleet flew toward Juron's fleet and fired missiles.

The rest was history.

Before Cesper's eyes, a busy scene unfolded before him. In some ways, the scene resembled a busy council he was once a part of. However, in some ways, it was very different.

"Engine and reactor are overloaded by 45%, Captain!" A crew shouted. He had to. The bridge was loud with vibrations and other internal noises. "We are getting too close!"

Ignoring the crew's cry, Suu exclaimed, "On my mark!Fire!"

"Missiles enroute...., all hit!" A crew reported.

"The others are reporting near perfect hits as well, Commander!"

"Commander, I must remind you that the engine and reactors are dangerously

overloaded!"

Suu exclaimed, "Nevermind that! We must keep it up! Full speed! We must make a round journey! Check missile banks and reload missiles! I don't want any of them to malfunction right now!"

"Aye, aye!"

"The enemy fleet is tracking us tightly!"

"We are keeping our plan as is!"

It wasn't the first time for Suu and her crew to be under heavy duress. After all, Kain's journey to fame wasn't smooth. However, it was the first time for her father, Cesper, to see such a stressful, yet functional, scene.

Everyone was barking at each other and the whole scene looked like chaotic but there was a strange rhythm. What mattered though was that the chain of command was in tact and it was working.

When the call for seize fire was made, everyone on the bridge was drenched in sweats. They were panting and some of them looked like they were about to pass out on the spot.

Suu commanded while huffing, "We've done what we've come here for. No need to wait for results or talk. Re-organize the fleet and withdraw at once. Can you give me a damage report?"

"Aye, Captain. I've recorded a loss of 17 ships."

"Seventeen, huh..."

Propositionally speaking, that was 0.5% loss which was more than acceptable given the size of their opponents.

"You've done well," Cesper comforted her.

Not responding to her father's compliment, she stood up at once and noticed sweat

drops floating in the air. There were a lot of them.

"Somebody clean the bridge up. I will be in my quarter."

The detailed result of the negotiation between Freedom colony and Andromeda union was never revealed to Suu. She could have found out if she really wanted but chose not to. What was known on surface was that it was a non-aggression pact with some strings attached in favor of Freedom colony along with a promise that they would not specifically meddle themselves in the affairs between United Sol and Andromeda union.

Truthfully speaking, none of it mattered. Suu along with everyone else knew that they'd have to take on Juron by themselves at one point.

And that moment was coming.

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