

The end is nigh for United Sol.

[Shattered union arc] [11] [Darker than black] [9662]

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When the news that Kain perished, the Ark was in total meltdown. The Ark house members called for an emergency meeting and was about to trigger a vote to mobilize Earth defense fleet.

Which, quite frankly, made Fraser scoff. Where were they when he asked for that exact vote? Oh, yes, ignored. He was watching the house chamber where house members in panic were about to trigger the vote.

Then another news was delivered that rear admiral Suu had successfully killed Juron at expense of her own life.

Then the Ark cheered and house members talked as if they were actually glad of this outcome, the outcome that Kain perished. They talked as if Kain's influence was becoming too large to handle and that his timely demise was good.

The Bau house members were especially pleased because Cesper Bau was left in charge of Uranus colony. They were willing to vote him to be the full administrator of Uranus colony.

"I cannot watch this fuckjob, Len." Scoffing hard, he turned around to leave a special guest area. Len opened a door for him to leave.

He was deeply saddened to hear Kain's death. At the same time, he would be lying if he didn't feel relieved by a fact that Juron was killed.

"United Sol survives for the time being," He remarked while they were walking down in an empty corridor.

"We still have no conformation about Magenta. Some crews that made out of his mothership says he asked her to leave," Len said to which Fraser shook his head.

"She is dead, Len. I do understand you care for her, but she is dead."

Len insisted, "It has not been confirmed, sir."

"Even if she is alive somehow, do you think she will come back here?"

Len couldn't answer because he knew the answer.

Fraser continued, "She did all she could and watched her husband as well as a close circle of friends die because we did absolutely god damn nothing. If I were her, I wouldn't come back here. I'd go either Freedom colony or even go to Venus to ask for revenge."

Len gulped. "She would never...!" To his knowlege, Magenta was never a fan of Cecil's methods.

Fraser remained silent until they were in his presidential office.

"Secure the room," He said and a clicking sound was heard. "Len, if Magenta wants revenge, there is only one person who can pull that off and that's Cecil. I know Magenta never liked Cecil's methods but his method works and takes the least time."

Sighing, Fraser walked around the office, pointing out that Magenta knew too much about the Bau as well as the Ark.

"She knows a lot of secrets. If she lends her knowledge to Cecil, he may really be able to take us down rather swiftly," He added.

"She wouldn't, sir," Len insisted.

Fraser shook his head. "No, Len, you do not understand. She is not the same girl anymore. The beautiful thing is that the house is completely clueless about this."

Soon enough, the house triggered a vote to promote Cesper Bau to the full administrator of Uranus colony. However, to their complete susprise, Cesper handed

in his resignation. Before handing the resignation though, he had a chance to talk to Fraser.

"Hello, Mr. President," Said Cesper who looked rather pale and downbeat on a screen in Fraser's presidential office.

"I am sorry about the loss of your daughter." Fraser attempted to comfort him.

"I am not practically sad about her death. She chose that end and I would say she chose wisely. I am proud of her."

"You should be." And Fraser meant that. He added quickly, "I am sorry but I must talk about this; are you aware that the house is planning to vote in your favor to promote you to be a full Uranus colony administrator."

Cesper nodded. "Aye, I've heard."

"What do you plan to do?"

"I am going to hand in my resignation soon. I am actually in middle of writing the letter right now."

Sighing, Fraser responded weakly, "I see." He had no intention to change Cesper's mind.

Cesper explained why he is looking to resign. "I am quite sickened about how useless the Ark is at the moment. Always debating for something but no outcome. Only acting when it's too late or too close to being late. This has been going on for far too long and I feel the federation is on its last legs."

"I sincerely apologize."

"You don't need to be sorry. I know, for a fact, that you tried very hard to make this government work but your powers as the president is too limited."

Too correct to even argue, Fraser thought.

"I am going to voice my opinion to the house that I want a member of the Maeka to take over the station."

"That's going to be rejected for sure."

"Probably. I can bet my life that they will want to install a Bau member and they probably will. But I won't be backing down."

It was this point that Len signalled Fraser. He was asking him to ask about Magenta's whereabouts.

Clearing his throat, Fraser changed the subject. "Cesper, I am sorry to ask this now but do you know Magenta's whereabouts?"

"Ah, her." Cesper made a short pause before continuing. "You probably aren't aware but Venus sent a spy when we asked them to assist during the third invasion. We had to accept the spy or they wouldn't have assisted us."

Fraser as well as Len looked shocked. Yes, they weren't aware.

"The spy's task, it seems, was to secure someone from Kain's inner circle and I believe the someone was Magenta."

"Why her?" Fraser raised his voice.

"I don't know. I believe it could have been anyone as long as it was someone close to Kain. Come to think of it, she was probably the only choice since both Kain and Suu perished."

"But why?"

"I don't know, Mr. President."

"I see." Fraser repeated, "I see... Thank you."

Shortly after the conversation, a vote to promote Cesper passed in the house and then he handed in his resignation.

The house speaker, Abell, was conversing with Cesper in the house chamber.

Cesper's face appeared on a giant holographic screen in front of the chamber.

Abell spoke first.

"Cesper Bau, you've just handed in your resignation. Do you realize that we've just

promoted you to be a full administrator?"

"Aye, I am aware."

"Yet you still wish to hand in the resignation?"

"Aye."

Abell sighed. "May I ask why?"

"The fact that you need to ask saddens me, Mr. Speaker. Do any of you down there realize the sad state of the nation?"

Abell put a stop to Cesper. "We are here to speak about your resignation, not anything else."

"Very well," Cesper calmly responded, "Mr. Speaker, do you realize how many people out here hate the Bau? They just don't hate for the fun of it. They truly, from the bottom of their hearts, hate us. We ruined their lives after all. My existence here so far has been stirring up troubles. They've even formed an underground anti-Bau forces. Therefore, I can only resign. If you plan to install a Bau member, you will be a fool."

House members murmured with Abell clearing being pissed at what's been said by Cesper.

Fraser who was watching from a guest's seat had a big smile on it. He wanted to clap but restrained himself. Normally, he had no trouble with letting Cesper resign.

However, with Kain dead, he needed allies and he certainly saw things eye to eye with Cesper. Therefore, he proposed a deal to Abell.

The deal was that he'd convince Cesper to stay in power. In return, the house will ask the Maeka to nominate someone to work alongside Cesper in order to suppress people's displeasure.

Abell, being a typical Bau member, was furious to be even reminded that the people hated the Bau. He was many of the Bau members who lived their entire lives in a

comfortable bubble on Earth. Therefore, even the mention of how people hated the Bau was nothing other than fake news to him. Initially, he declined Fraser's deal outright and sought his own candidate to replace Cesper. However, no Bau member wanted to go that far to Uranus. They'd be leaving their comfort zone. The worst of all, they'd face the reality which they are trying so hard to avoid.

In the end, Abell was forced to take the deal from Fraser. Now, he had to bring the deal to Cesper and make him accept.

"I refuse," was how Cesper promptly responded.

"You want to leave. I get that much. But the timing is not right. Besides, where are you even going to go?"

"I am planning to seek a refugee on Saturn. The Maeka has already agreed."

Fraser sighed deeply. *'Nothing ever works easy,'* he thought.

"Mr. President, I don't feel you really get the situation out there. A Bau member will be murdered here if he stays long enough. The situation here is really precarious. If the Ark installs a Bau member on this colony, you can expect the colony to revolt along with Saturn and Jupiter. You have my word on that."

"You've got to be kidding me."

"I am not. Admiral Kain was what held them back. With him gone, you can tell the Ark that Outer Sol is now lost. I didn't tell Abell this because he wouldn't believe me anyway. The federation right now is in the name only. Jupiter and Saturn are already not with the Ark."

In the end, Fraser was unable to convince Cesper. But the deal wasn't completely dead, he thought. If he could talk to Saturn administrator Gaer and talk things out, he may still be able to make this deal work. Therefore, he had to talk Saturn administrator Gaer first who broke even worse news.

"Mr. President, Saturn will no longer be sending delegates to the Ark. I don't think the Ark wants us anyway."

The current house had 2,700 members. Earth and Moon were strongly pro-Bau and maintained 1,500 seats. Saturn had 479 seats. Since pro-Bau faction already had the powers to pass any bills, Saturn had never been able to pass anything at all relating to their affairs. Even their budget for Saturn had been decreasing.

Gaer added, "Mr. President, I know many Bau members hate Cecil, but when he was in charge of the Ark, all sort of bills passed. He handled concerns of smaller factions very carefully. Do you know that, since his departure, only Bau-related bills have passed?"

Fraser had nothing to say. He couldn't argue really. In fact, he had been busy with his own agenda that concerns of minor factions wasn't even on his mind.

Until now at least.

He inquired carefully, "Is there anything I can do for you to change your mind?"

"No, sir. It's gone for too long. There is no hope for the Ark as long as the Bau controls it."

Abell wouldn't care about the absent of Saturn's 479 delegates.

Then even worse news struck the Ark. Jupiter administrator Emuel had also declared that he was withdrawing his delegates from the Ark which effectively meant he was revolting.

Even Abell, who was very blinded about the darkening situation of United Sol, seemed to be feeling pressure this time. His face turned pale when Fraser informed him that Saturn had done the same.

"It seems Emuel and Gaer are working together," He added as he informed him of the news. He was in Abell's office which was rare. He hardly ever visited his office since they were sworn enemies.

Fraser wanted Abell to wake up and face the reality. He still felt it wasn't too late to amend the situation. The house would simply need to make formal apologies and begin to function as a proper government. He did his research and Gaer was correct. Ever since Cecil's departure, not a single bill concerning other factions passed. Therefore, the ire was justified.

However, it appeared that he deeply underestimated Abell's stupidity. Instead of trying to amend the broken relationships with Jupiter and Saturn, he was determined to install a Bau member on Uranus colony in order to seize some control in Outer Sol. To do so, he was about to trigger a vote to install 100 seats of delegates from Uranus colony.

"What the hell is his IQ score at?" Fraser asked Len in his office.

"His IQ is pretty high, sir. It's 171."

"And he does this?"

"I don't think IQ has anything to do with his behaviors, sir."

Fraser had to accept that Cesper could not be kept. The deal was over. But the deal was the last thing on his mind at the moment.

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