

A story centered on Saturn soon after the fall of United Sol.

[Warring era arc] [3] [Legacies] [9671]

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Saturn administrator Gaer was one of few people who deeply mourned Kain's passing. He truly wanted to work with Kain as long as possible and was willing to go as far as revolting together if Kain wished.

When he was informed that Kain had perished, he foresaw that United Sol was going down for certain and made a bold decision of cutting ties with the Ark which meant soft revolting.

Being a rational man, he would never make such a decision normally but he was livid enough to cut the tie and didn't even regret it. He was willing to defend Saturn if he must. And the populace of Saturn was on his side, who were deeply fed up with the Ark.

Thankfully, Emuel also cut ties which meant that the Ark had become virtually powerless to enforce anything on their own.

Fast forward a decade or so, United Sol did fall.

“Everybody saw that coming, probably except for the Bau themselves,” Gaer remarked in front of a window in a dimly-lit room. He was half-naked.

There was a bed by him with his wife, Natsuko, in it. She was fully naked.

“What are we going to do now?” She asked, softly.

He sighed and said, “I wish the admiral were alive, but he is not. I really resent that. He and I could have done great things together.”

“If he were alive, United Sol wouldn’t have fallen,” She replied to which Gaer let out of a brief chuckle.

“Indeed,” He eventually replied.

Saturn independence wasn’t a subject on minds of those on the planet, but as United Sol became progressively worse, the topic inevitably came up among the populace as well as Gaer’s inner circle.

The general consensus was that Saturn would declare independence if they must and Gaer had been preparing for that event, silently making changes to Saturn economy that it would stand up when they declare independence.

The news that United Sol fell spread at the speed of light, and within days, Uranus colony that had gone rouge contacted Saturn, asking for protection.

A man named Lucian was apparently the leader of the group that was running the colony.

“Lucian was the leader of the underground resistance the last time I checked,” Cesper said in a conference room. Ever since he resigned and left Uranus colony, he had stayed on Saturn for protection.

Normally, Gaer wouldn't hire a Bau member, but Cesper was different. He was a down-to-Earth man who knew where he stood. In short, he was too good to simply be buried in history. Additionally, he had close ties with Kain. Thus, Gaer decided to employ him.

“Can we trust him?” Gaer asked.

In the conference room, there were four people. Gaer, Cesper, Natusko, and an engineer named Brian were present. Brian was the acting CEO of Lightwave shipyard. Saturn had been working closely with Lightwave shipyard for generations. The shipyard was in charge of constructing cruisers for the planet as well as training crews for them. It was a lucrative contract for the company, and for Saturn, they wouldn't need to invest trillions to build shipyards and such.

Cesper replied, “I don't know. His hatred toward the Bau was profound and deep though. I discovered few of his plots to assassinate me when I was on the colony.”

“It is time to test him then. Reply back to meet him on a ship in midway. Cesper, you are coming with me.”

“Very well.”

Gaer wanted to see Lucian's reaction from meeting Cesper.

When Lucian saw Cesper in a conference room on a cruiser in midway between Saturn and Uranus colony, he jumped.

“What is the meaning of this?!” He barked while pointing at Cesper. “What the hell is a Bau doing here?!”

Gaer replied calmly in contrast, “He is one of my men. Is there a problem?”

“That man is a Bau!”

“The Bau is no more,” Gaer said, “He is just Cesper.”

“That is not the point and you know that!”

At this point, Gaer glanced at Cesper who nodded back. Lucian’s reaction was enough to learn his character. He immediately turned around and left the room. The talk broke down even before it began.

Gaer, Cesper, and Natsuko were walking down in a passageway after having left the conference room.

“What now?” Cesper inquired.

“Uranus colony has no fleet. Whoever is ruling the place has no money as well. We will take it over by force,” Gaer responded firmly.

“Aren’t you being too rough with them though?” Natsuko pointed out.

Gaer explained, “United Sol is no more. We must act fast before Emuel takes it.”

Cesper replied with a nod, “I agree.”

“Tell Captain Lisette to besiege Uranus colony.”

Even after grand admiral Kain perished and Suu led her suicide attack on Juron, there were still few hundreds of ships that retreated intact. Most of the remaining ships went to Saturn and sought refuge there.

Among them, there was Lisette who had just been given her first ship to captain during the fourth and final invasion by Juron. She was originally rear Admiral Suu’s first mate.

She never saw eye-to-eye with Suu and chose not to follow her to death. Initially, she returned to Jupiter. However, after experiencing ripples created by Kain as well as Suu, she regretted her decision.

Whether she liked them or not on a personal level, there was little doubt that they went down as heroes in the minds of the people. They sacrificed themselves to protect their country.

Lisette felt ashamed that she did not join Suu. She also felt ashamed that she didn’t support Suu better. In the end, she defected from Jupiter and went to Saturn with her ship, USF Bismarck. To her mild surprise, all of her original crew agreed to join her, reinforcing her brief that she made a bad choice when she chose to go to Jupiter.

As soon as Lisette received the order, she assembled her fleet of 500 ships and departed for Uranus colony. How she became a fleet captain was Gaer’s decision

which was actually an advice by Cesper. He informed Gaer and she used to be the first mate to rear admiral Suu and that she was given her ship only recently.

Wanting to harness on Kain's legacy, Gaer fast-tracked Lisette to a fleet captain.

"We've arrived at Uranus colony, Captain," Lisette's first mate, Alisa, reported from her console.

Lisette was an imposing woman. She was tall and quite masculine for her gender. Her blond hair and straight shoulder-length style were probably the only femininity she had going. Not that she cared either way in truth.

"Open a channel," Lisette commanded to which Alisa responded with a beeping sound which was an indication that a channel was open.

She continued after clearing her throat.

"I am Captain Lisette of Saturn. We are here to take over the colony. I am authorized to use lethal force if required."

Lucian had no fleet but he did have militia of few thousands. Since Saturn would want to take over the colony instead of destroying it, he would have a chance to fight them off on ground level.

However, his men were unwilling to put up a fight because they weren't from the Ark. After all, he was able to lead his men on a promise of repealing the Bau. With the Bau gone, however, his legitimacy had sharply fallen.

In the end, Lucian attempted to flee with a shuttle but was caught soon after, and Lisette was able to seize the colony with ease.

She was on a line with Gaer in her captain's quarter.

"Lucian has been captured and the colony is under our control," She reported.

"Good work, I want you to send him over to Saturn."

"Understood."

"Say..., Captain, would you be interested in governing the colony?"

It was quite a bombshell from him.

"I beg your pardon?" was all Lisette would say in response.

"You saw how the admiral did things. All you have to do is follow his steps."

With her eyes downcast, she gave it a thought. In a moment, her eyes were back on the screen.

"Sir, with all due respect, I am going to be honest, I am not fit to govern. I failed the admiral and I failed my direct superior officer. My failure as well as regret haunt me every day."

I should have joined her.

I should have avenged the admiral.

Gaer understood where she was coming from. However, he had his reasons to push Lisette.

For entirety of history of Saturn, the planet never had a strong navy. Sat in heart of Sol system, it didn't need to have a strong navy. A basic, rudimentary, patrol fleet was all it required.

During his regime, he attempted to strengthen the navy and assisted Admiral Kain in any way he could so that his fleet would gain experience. However, his fleet lacked a leader, a good captain who knew what he was doing.

Admiral Kain had plenty of good captains. It remained a complete mystery to him on how Kain was able to acquire so many good captains seemingly without even trying but he had good captains and navy officers.

And he considered Lisette one of fruits from Kain's chain of command which was backed by Cesper who mentioned a fact that she was able to work with others despite disagreeing on principles which showed her professionalism. Additionally, she had an ability to see her own mistake, admit it, and then correct her mistake by defecting from Jupiter. Therefore, Cesper made a full recommendation on her.

Beaming a grin, Gaer told Lisette, "We all make mistakes, Captain. What matters is how we react once we make such mistakes. Would you dwell on it? Or would you move on to correct it? I will say that you've done great so far. Why not take a step further?"

Sighing deeply, she was in thoughts.

“I will give you some time to think over but my mind is set,” Gaer said.

Leaving her captain’s quarter with her shoulders down, she made to her captain’s chair slowly on the bridge. Alisa and others noticed her downbeat manner and asked why.

She told them earnestly that Gaer wanted her to be in charge of Uranus colony.

“Congrats, Cap. Isn’t that a big promotion?” Alisa said while clapping few times.

“Oh, come on, that’s a burden more than a promotion,” Said Lisette, sulking in her chair. “Following the admiral’s step is easier to be said than done.”

The crews on the bridge became quiet, recalling the joyful days of Kain’s regime.

“It sure was fun days,” A crew said. Some had tears in their eyes.

For many of them, Kain’s regime was full of excitements. Kain himself was very informal and would actually hang out with low ranking crews, chit chatting and even playing games together while Suu was hell bent on exterminating pirates in Outer Sol.

In short, Suu hardened crews while Kain relaxed them. It was a mysterious combination of whip and heal.

Lisette eventually accepted Gaer's offer to become the administrator of the colony.

She sat in an office that was void of anything other than a simple desk. It was the very same office Kain used to use. The place had long already been ransacked by Lucian's men. But just being in the office brought her memories. Inhaling deeply to sniff air, she whispered to herself in the lonely quarter.

"My apologies."

Just then, Alisa beeped.

"Come in."

She entered the quarter with a tablet display unit.

"Captain, I have the report on the colony," She said softly.

"Would you mind reading it for me?"

"Sure thing."

There were some mild damages done by Lucian's men due to ransacking but the damages were mostly minor. Additionally, populace had some complaints regarding his men's behaviors but, since they were gone, the issues were moot at this point.

"We captured Lucian and only few tens of his men. I was told that he had thousands," Lisette pointed out.

"They were militia. So, my guess is that they simply dissolved."

“Alright..., let’s get the show on the road.”

Lisette made an announcement to the populace that the colony was now under Saturn’s control and that Saturn President Gaer was aiming to exercise virtually similar policies as Admiral Kain did and that they had nothing to worry about.

Uranus colony had always worked closely with Saturn even in Kain’s regime. Therefore, there was no resistance to the takeover.

Within weeks of being taken over, Maeka engineers flooded into the colony to make repairs and effectively take over.

This was when a suspicious figure paid a visit to Lisette with a charming offer.

“President Emuel wants you,” He said. He was dressed in a dark gray hooded robe. He literally reeked suspicion.

She was mildly amused rather than shocked. Security checks hadn’t been too good. Therefore, she wasn’t too shocked that someone like him got in.

“He is going to put you in charge of 1,500 ships and raise your rank to Commodore. All he asks is hand the colony over to him when he launches an attack on Saturn. You shall also attack Saturn.”

It was indeed a charming offer. However, she wasn’t even remotely interested.

Looking bored, she casually told him, “Sod off.”

The man in the hood was quite shocked and was unsure of how to react.

“Did you not hear me? Sod off,” She repeated while placing her hand on her belt where there was a pistol attached. “You may stay but I am going to shoot you.”

When the man turned around and was about to run off, that was when Alisa entered at which point, the man pulled a gun out in panic.

Long story short, the man was shot to death by both Lisette and Alisa.

“Checked his DNA. The man does indeed belong to Jupiter,” Alisa said while reading off data on a tablet. “What did he try to do to you?”

“He gave me a charming offer to sway me into his fold.”

Alisa rolled her eyes. “I can see how that went.”

“Right. As if I am going to fall for that, but that’s the snake for you.”

“I am sorry about the security though. It’s been hard with just us but now that the Maeka engineers are here, it will improve.”

“Yeah, we will see.”

They both knew that it was far from over. Emuel was going to hit them sooner or later in some other form. Gaer was also aware of this as well which was why he took a very aggressive approach of taking over the colony.

Navy strength wise, Emuel was far superior but he had no allies which made it very difficult for him to mobilize his fleets. Even if he did, he could only mobilize a

small portion. What this meant was that even Saturn whose navy fleet was tiny compared to Emuel's, they had a chance to stand against him.

As for Lucian, he wasn't even given a trial to stand. He was promptly executed.

- **Fin**