

Sometimes, a story takes years to complete even if it turns out to be a short one. And, sometimes, a story can be completed within a month. This story is such a case where it is completed within a month.

The 3rd invasion by Juron. The foreshadowing is there. Kain is exhausting his options. Not that he had many to begin with, but he is running out. Parallel story is [Juron arc] [7] [3rd invasion] [9652].

[Kain and Suu arc] [13] [3rd invasion] [9652]

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The 3rd invasion was expected. After all, it didn't take a genius to figure out that Juron had been preparing for yet another war.

The non aggression pact between Freedom colony and Andromeda union signalled Juron's intention clearly even further.

And, on year 9652 76th day, Juron formally declared a war on United Sol.

Thus, Kain called for an emergency meeting.

He and Magenta were already present in the conference room when Suu and Cesper rushed in.

"Juron has declared a war formally," Magenta said, "And his fleet of 18,000 ships have crossed Freedom colony."

Kain added, "The President has been made aware of although I am not sure what the Ark will do to help us at the moment."

"We have only 3,400 ships," Suu responded, "Against 18,000, our odds are against us. Earth defense fleet has to assist us."

"The Ark will not help us," Cesper declared, "I'd know since I was closely connected to the politics on Earth. Before I left, there were some strong voices that they should be contemplating an emergency alliance with Venus and Mars. And they need Earth defense fleet to form the alliance."

"Why is that?" Suu demanded an answer.

Shrugging Kain responded instead, "I assume that you need to have a fleet before asking for a fleet assistance."

Nodding, Cesper replied, "Indeed, if Earth defense fleet is wiped out, asking for an emergency alliance at that point is moot. Besides, I doubt Earth defense fleet would be of much help, considering only a small portion has been restored."

"According to my informants," Magenta stated, "Earth defense fleet has only 2,000 ships and over half of them are the infamous Mice."

The Mice class USF cruiser was a cut-down version of a normal cruiser. It was stripped of its armor plating and its A.C.M. reactor was replaced with numerous fusion reactors. Overall, it cost 50% less but proved to be far less reliable. Kain never chose to build those whereas the Ark was desperate enough to build them.

Grim air blew in the conference room. The situation was dire and they were running out of little options they had previously.

"The mothership," Kain said to which Magenta responded promptly, "It's not 100% ready."

"But it should be functional by now, no?"

"Yes, however, as powerful as it is, it's still just a single ship. It won't change the tide of the war."

Letting out a long sigh, Kain complained with a sarcastic smile, "We knew this day would come and we tried but, in the end, here we are. Sucks, ain't it."

Kain was forced to rebuild his fleet entirely on his own. The budget aid from the Ark progressively shank to a point that it wasn't helpful at all. However, the truth was that, even with the budget aid, rebuilding his fleet wouldn't have progressed much faster. The money required to build cruisers were too much to handle.

A single USF courage class cruiser would cost 125 million credit in 9652 and Uranus colony struggled to build few tens of them per year despite its economical boom it was experiencing. This was primarily because of the low population, thus low tax income overall.

Sagging his shoulders, he mumbled, "So, the grand question is ... what kind of tricks we are going to need to pull..."

Gaer was informed of the war shortly later as well and contacted Kain right away. The Maeka clan on Saturn was also in charge of constructing the mothership in secrecy.

"Admiral, I've heard the news of the impending war. I am here to assist you in any way I can."

Gaer was in one of the Maeka's bars. For them, the bars acted more than what it was on surface. They were the Maeka's secret bases. Natsuko was also present along with few heavily armed guards. There was a holographic screen where Gaer stood in front of.

"Administrator, I will not joke around. It's looking grim over here," Kain said firmly, "How many ships do you have?"

Gaer replied promptly, "About 1,700 ships. Unlike the last time though, they are all fully functional."

On the screen, Kain appeared to be in deep thoughts while scratching his chin.

Decisions needed to be made swiftly because time wasn't on their side. Kain ultimately made the decision to face him at Uranus colony and called for temporary evacuations. However, majority of citizens chose not to leave the colony and volunteered as workforce. For many of them, Uranus colony was the last place. Many of them fled from Moon's economical slaughter and did not even want to consider going back to the hellhole.

"I'd rather die here than let the Bau have my money," One of Uranus citizens cried out when the evac announcement was made. And his statement resonated with majority of populace at the colony.

Their hatred toward the Bau was deep and profound. It was beyond healing at this point.

Suu was put in charge of the defense fleet and she started an immediate drilling and Magenta began overseeing overdue station repairs. The station still had the "wax armor" from the previous invasion but they needed to be inspected.

While everyone was very much occupied, Kain himself had little to do. Therefore, he decided to dig into the "emergency alliance" Cesper mentioned. He attempted to call President Fraser but was told that he was at the Ark chamber. Instead, he conversed with Len regarding the alliance.

"I will not lie to you. It is true," Len admitted without a fuss. "Current United Sol is too weak and the alliance has been on the agenda for a while now."

"And Venus and Mars are willing to do this?"

Len grinned bitterly. "Mars, we don't know. The fact is that the Dietrich would never work with the Bau. However, as long as Cecil is willing, Mars should follow."

Kain had to let out of a weak laugh at this point and responded, "How far the mighty has fallen."

"Again, I will not lie to you. The powerful United Sol we all remember is no more. The federation is in rapid decline. We've tried to put it back on track. Alas, it's been getting worse. Your region is doing well, though."

"You do realize my odds here, don't you? It's 18,000 against 3,000-something."

"You've managed such odds before. We are all counting on you."

Kain slammed his desk at this point. Veins popped on his forehead and his eyes became bloodshot.

"You probably don't care and this might have not made into the report to the Ark," Kain raised his voice, "But a close friend of mine sacrificed to earn us time during the last invasion." He slowly stood up from his desk. "A fine Captain named Maragret led a group of 10 cruisers and exploded themselves in middle of enemies to make them withdraw for a breif moment so that we could reorganize! I would have FUCKING loved to have drinks with such people and pass out. I can't anymore. They are all dead. I've been losing those I care from each invasion. I lost my friends, I lost my

wife. What else must I lose to protect this nation I was born in?!" He slammed his desk once more. "And what the fuck have you lost?!"

Len chose not to, or couldn't, respond to Kain's emotional response. Deeply sighing and shaking his head once, Kain made another point.

"We can't keep losing good men and women and expect the federation to survive, Kain out."

Sitting back on his chair, Kain sighed deeply again. He dropped his head on the desk and loosened his shoulders.

"My end is near...", He whispered to himself.

He wasn't being pessimistic. In fact, he was being realistic. With his government unable to help, he felt it would only be a matter of time before his luck finally ran out. Andromeda union was just too strong and there was another aspect that deeply worried him. It was that, despite he repelled two invasions, he didn't quite inflict a defeat on their fleet. The enemy retreated for other reasons and was never actually defeated.

So, indeed, he had plenty of reasons to be pessimistic.

Kain paid a visit to the downtown for a change of scenery where he found people working busily to reinforce windows and barricading doors of buildings. Despite the upcoming battle, people were in good spirits. They were whistling and smiling while working hard and fast to seal buildings.

"Yo, Admiral!" A citizen noticed Kain and raised his hand.

He responded with a nod and a grin. People were used to seeing him that nobody bothered to surround him on this occasion.

Many of them had fled from the hardship from Moon and Kain felt special bonds with them. He acted like a big brother to them and he sincerely cared about them. It would have been better if they evacuated but he also understood their refusal to go back to Moon. Even he wouldn't want to go back there.

Magentha was in his office when he returned.

"Where have you been? I've been looking for you."

"I was out in the downtown. What's up?"

She was reading off a data pad with her hand on waist. "Radiation has damaged majority of the wax armor plating. They require immediate repairs and we are on it, but there is an issue."

Kain sighed. "Let me guess, budget."

She nodded. "Since materials are coming from Saturn, they are willing to do this for us at no cost right now, but we will need to pay them eventually."

He started to massage his forehead. "How much deficit are we talking about here?"

"I ... don't know yet. I have yet to crunch numbers, but we are going so deep into red that it isn't funny."

Considering it was war time, normally they wouldn't worry. Any overbills would be covered, again normally. However, Uranus colony was different. Actually, Outer Sol had been financially independent for some decades because the Ark had been cutting down on budget aids.

Ultimately, it meant that any overdue bills incurred by the war would have to be paid by Uranus colony.

"Let's... survive first, shall we?" Kain tried to smile although it didn't work too well. And Magenta sagged her shoulders with a weak reply. "Yeah..."

For how long can we hold on?

17 days passed ever since Juron declared the war and scouts confirmed that they had just crossed the border.

Kain, Magenta, and Suu were briefing in a conference room. Cesper was in charge of the colony itself and he was busy maintaining public order.

"It appears that they aren't even bothering with Pluto this time. Their projected destination is right here," Magenta made her report. "ETA is about 10 days."

Frustrated by the whole situation, Suu inquired, "Any positive news from the Ark? Any aids or anything at all?"

Magenta shook her head weakly.

Kain remarked, "We are on our own. I am sure you knew that."

Suu growled and then gritted her teeth before storming out.

"Well, that was rude," He joked, "Can't blame her though."

Ignoring Suu, Magenta inquired, "Kain, do you have plans to fight them? I know you said you'd fight them here at the colony, but if we are simply fighting them here, I don't think we will stand a chance."

"I do have few petty tricks I discussed with Administrator Gaer. Other than that, nothing really. We've exhausted our options which I am sure you are aware about."

"Can I make a bold suggestion then?"

"I'd listen to any suggestions at this point, so shoot."

"Venus."

A moment of silence passed between them.

"Venus," Kain repeated what she told him, "You mean that we talk to Venus about a fleet reinforcement?"

She explained, "The Dietrich on Mars will not assist United Sol. I can guarantee that. But Cecil – He has always been an oddball and hard to predict."

"Isn't the Ark trying to negotiate a deal with them though?"

She scoffed. "Knowing the Ark, it's not going to work out. I bet they haven't even passed anything to begin the talk. Fuck them. It's not their lives on the line at the moment. It's ours."

"How powerful is Venus?"

"Only 7,000 ships but rumored to be highly disciplined and their ships are updated unlike ours. And Earth defense fleet was defeated by them once on 9607 with a single digit loss."

"Oh, yeah, the first Earthian-Venusian War...."

The first Earthian-Venusian War was started by former President Gvew who was eventually assassinated at the end of the Milky way tragedy. Gvew's reasons to start the war was that he saw Venus as the root of United Sol's economical problems and sought to take Venus back and then Mars, re-uniting Sol.

However, Earth defense fleet was soundly defeated and a non aggression pact was signed between United Sol, Venus, and Mars.

"If they assist us, we do stand a chance." There was confidence in Magenta's voice and her eyes were sparkling. She had thought about this option for a while apparently.

"So, by look of your face, you have considered this for a while."

"Yes," She answered firmly.

"Have you set anything up though? I mean, can we begin a talk ASAP? We have only 10 days, you know. It will take more than twice of that for a Venusian fleet to reach Uranus."

"I've started a preliminary talk without your permission actually. I wasn't sure how it'd go, so I haven't told you... until this moment. It's been positive."

Kain shrugged with a smile. "That's fine. You are my wife; wives do things behind their hubby's back all the time."

She took his sarcasm well and beamed a smile back. "And someone can be here within seconds if you want a discussion."

"I am ready."

As soon as Kain gave his approval, a figure appeared in the room. It was ESP teleportation. It was a woman in a black formal suit. Unlike her sparkling formal suit though, she had disheveled hair.

"This is Kisia, a member of the Hammers." Magenta introduced her. "You know the Hammers, right?"

"Vaguely." He stood up regardless and offered his hand for a handshake.

The Hammers was a group of ESPs and Hyper humans handpicked and later trained by Cecil. As of year 9652, they were effectively the ones in power on Venus with Cecil only overseeing the operation.

"Time is not on our side. Therefore, let us begin right away," Kisia spoke without moving at all from the spot she appeared. "First of all, allow me to make our stance clear. It is in our interest to keep United Sol afloat as long as possible. It is also our interest to keep you alive, Admiral Kain."

Unsure of how to respond, he replied, "Uh..., thanks?"

"I also understand that you have very little to offer in terms of finances. Therefore, we ask something else in exchange of a fleet assistance."

Kain narrowed his eyes. "What is it you want then?"

"We've had spies in the colony for more than a decade now. But that hasn't been too successful since you discuss only with your inner circle which is limited to your wife and Commander Suu. Both of whom also have kept tight shops. Thus, we ask you to hire someone from us and share your information."

Both Kain and Magenta were stuck back for a second. What Kisia was asking was shocking.

Kain had to make sure what he was hearing was correct. "You were going around a little, but you are essentially asking me to deflect?"

"No," Kisia replied firmly. "However, that is not out of the question. What I am asking is that you keep someone from us within your inner circle, though."

"And, of course, keep his identity hidden from the Ark?" Magenta inquired and Kisia gave her a nod.

"To me, that's defelcting," Kain said.

"We will not demand you to do anything nor are we asking you to deflect. And trust me that this someone will be very useful in your ranks."

Kain and Magenta glanced at each other few times, exchanging silent signals. They were a husband and a wife after all. Kain clearly looked uncomfrotable with the deal while Magenta was giving him a firm look to say yes.

Because, quite frankly, they really stood no chance against Juron's fleet as is.

In the end, scratching his head repeated out of frustration and anger, Kain reluctantly agreed.

"Very well, our fleet of 5,000, will be here as soon as possible. I hope that you will be still here when they arrive." Then she simply vanished on the spot.

A short moment after she was gone as if making sure that she was gone for sure, Kain stood up at once and kicked a wall nearby hard. "Fucking hell!" He bellowed. "Am I a puppet or what?!"

"We had no choice, Kain." Magenta comforted him.

Panting weakly, Kain wondered, "Can they even enter United Sol space? Surely, a fleet of 5,000 can't sneak through the entire Sol system undetected?"

"Honestly, I don't know, but she wouldn't have lied about the reinforcement."

"Ok, okay..., let's not think about small details. Good news is that we now have a reinforcement of 5,000 ships. We now have a chance."

"We just need to hang in there until they arrive."

"Yeah."

Kain's concern about how the reinforcement would reach Uranus colony was well founded as he received an urgent call from the President's secretary, Len.

As soon as the channel was established, President Fraser on screen exclaimed, "Do you realize what you've done?!"

Kain was flanked by Magenta at the moment. Quickly caughting on, he replied, "Sir, I had no choice."

"There was reasons why the Ark was deeply hesitant making a deal with Venus!"

"Calm down, uncle," Meganta spoke, "And tell us the reasons."

The non aggression pact signed by United Sol, Venus, and Mars forbade entering each other's territory. Of course, there was an exception to that rule. Under emergency, if requested, they could enter other's territory. And, with Kain being an admiral, he had the authority to grant this entry and he did.

However, Kain honestly did not see much of an issue. "Sir, with all due respect, I was forced into this choice. May I remind you that it is 18,000 ships against around 5,000?"

Fraser talked back fiercely, "Then you fight with what you have! What you've done is almost treason!"

For the Ark, they had their own concerns regarding allowing the Venusian fleet to sail through. Since it'd be impossible to keep tracking them, they'd have plenty of chances planting spies during their journey.

Of course, for Kain, none of that mattered.

Kain's eyebrow twitched. "Treason?" Then he raised his voice. "Trying to survive amid absolutely no support from his government is treason?"

Magenta saw where he was going and attempted to calm him down with no little success. Kain pointed at the screen and barked, "If you motherfuckers did anything remotely useful, I wouldn't have done this, would I?! Arrest me if you want! I am so fucking sick of this!"

He really did mean what he said. He had been stressed to his limit for years and he simply snapped upon hearing that he was risking treason.

Magenta dragged Kain out of the conversation and she took over.

"Uncle, I share his sentiment. What are you guys doing over there?"

Fraser seemed slightly shocked to see Kain snap but he was overall calm. "The chamber is dysfunctional. Everything is getting a tie right now and the senate is turning everything down."

"Do they not realize that Uranus is their first and likely last defense?"

Should Uranus colony fall and Juron's invasion fleet would reach Jupiter, Emuel was likely surrender instead of putting up a fight. That was also a big concern at the Ark.

Fraser was hesitant in response. "They... don't trust the admiral."

Magenta downcast her eyes. Apparently, the Bau wanted to take Kain down. It seemed Kain's outburst was actually justified in this case.

Sighing, she spoke, "Arrest him if you like. Take him down. Actually, I think he'd be glad to step down. He's been stressed for years. The only reason I think he is hanging on is because he cares for the people of Uranus colony."

Ultimately, Kain wasn't charged with treason. However, it was this moment that Magenta began to sincerely consider defection. With the reinforcement from Venus, she was fairly confident of defending the line. Her real concern was the future. Juron would likely invade again. What then? The nation was, to put it bluntly, seriously fucked up. There was no hope. There was no sign of recovery at all. In fact, it was becoming worse.

For the time being, however, surviving the invasion was the priority.

And the 10 days went by. As fully expected, Juron's fleet of 18,000 ships was in visual range.

Kain was present at the station bridge while Suu was commanding the whole fleet just outside of the station. Their strategy was straightforward. Hug the station to reduce damage and hold the line as long as possible until reinforcements arrive. They expected two reinforcements, Gaer's and Venus'. Kain intentionally delayed Gaer's reinforcement in order to manipulate moral.

"Enemy fleet in visual range, Admiral," A crew reported. The bridge was calm. It wasn't their first time experiencing what looked like certain doom.

"All decks reporting green. Residential block has been locked down. Emergency batteries are online and green. All weapons reporting green. Commander Suu is also reporting green, Admiral."

Kain responded, "Alright, guys, time to get the show on the road."

There was absolutely no communication between Kain and Juron. The battle simply began with Juron's fleet firing the first.

Suu was in her captain's chair. Her cruiser was hiding behind the station while overseeing the battle. The fleet formation was sphere which was the most defensive formation.

"The fleet is taking heavy damage," Lisette reported. She was a helm officer. Ordinarily she would have little reports to make. However, since the ship was parked, thus having nothing to do, she was making reports. She was recently recommended to be a new captain by Suu herself and was going to be given her own cruiser once this war was over.

She continued making reports, "Captain Mack is reporting that no unusual movements is seen from the invasion fleet."

Suu remained motionless in her chair with her eyes fixed at a tactical overlay screen in front of her. The fleet wasn't actively attacking. Rather, it was actively moving around in the sphere formation to prevent hull damages. Shields could be simply recharged with just energy whereas hull damage required manpower and parts to repair.

Back on the bridge, it still remained calm.

"Deck 81 has a breach. No personnel detected. Sealing the deck," Said a crew making a report.

"Fire on deck 112. No personnel detected. Therefore, sealing the deck." Another report was made.

Proper evacuation meant outer decks were void of lives. Therefore, it was much easier to deal with, leaving Kain virtually nothing to do other than watching his tactical overlay for the time being.

He expected Gaer's reinforcement in a day or two, but ETA for Venus' reinforcement was in question and Venus' reinforcement was what really mattered to him. With additional 5,000 ships, they could duke out with ease and Juron would be forced to withdraw at some point.

When the first day of siege was over, Suu's fleet reported destruction of 90 ships and the station reported minor damages on outer decks.

Kain was reading the report on the bridge brought by Magenta.

"We are holding on," She told Kain, "Barely but holding on."

"Did we manage to destroy any ships of theirs?"

"We did a single digit damage."

"Alright..., let's keep this up."

It was the third day of siege when a beacon sent an encrypted message that Gaer's fleet had just passed.

"Administrator Gaer's fleet had just passed a proximity sensor beacon. ETA will be 5 hours," A crew reported.

Upon hearing it, Kain replied right away, "Alright, inform Commander Suu. The first offense is about to start."

Gaer's 1700 ships wasn't going to be able to change the flow of the battle if the fleet showed up as a mere reinforcement. Both Kain and Gaer were aware of this.

Therefore, they came up with a plan to make an impact.

Instead of simply joining Suu's sphere formation, Gaer's fleet was to attack Juron's invasion fleet from two different directions. In other words, Gaer was to divide his fleet into two and create addition diversions for Suu's fleet to go on offensive.

This was the "petty trick" Kain mentioned previously.

Lisette reported, "Received a message from Admiral. Operation Cornered mice is on."

Suu exhaled as if she was waiting for this moment. She responded, "Inform Captain Mack. Gather the selected captains discreetly."

"Aye, Commander."

As soon as Gaer's two small fleets were in visual range, as if expected it, Juron's fleet formation altered. That was expected since they would have noticed them on their sensors.

Suu stood up from her chair at once and pointed forward. "ATTACK!"

The sphere formation around Uranus colony altered at once into an arrow formation. The rapid speed of alteration indicated that the fleet drilled on this practice for a while. Then the fleet accelerated into Juron's fleet.

Juron's fleet, now being tackled on three fronts, started to take some damages. The three attacking fleet may have been small but they were more desperate to use any advantages they could.

As expected, Suu's fleet was doing the most damage with her arrow formation and highly organized target switching. The front line was led by Captain Mack and volunteered captains who were ready to die if required. Suu's cruiser was positioned in middle where she was being a tactical overseer.

However, United Sol's offense did not last long. In less than an hour, one of Gaer's fleets was routed at which point Suu ordered swift retreat and Gaer's remaining fleet joined hers in sphere formation as they sailed back to the colony.

"Damage report," Suu commanded on her bridge.

A crew was reading off a live report that was coming in. "234 ships lost from our fleet. One of Administrator Gaer's fleet was routed with only few making out. Their total damage is 1002 ships."

"And their damage?"

The crew continued reading, "Not 100% accurate at the moment, but we believe it's around 1800."

"Did Captain Mack survive?"

"Aye, Commander."

"We are going to maintain our sphere formation until further notice."

"Aye, sir."

At a similar time, Magenta delivered the outcome of the operation to Kain.

"Operation Cornered mice was a success although not a big one," She added as she handed a datapad over to him.

Kain grumbled and muttered, "Damn, Administrator Gaer lost shitton."

"I am sure he expected such loss."

"Any sign of Venusian fleet?"

"We have absolutely no idea. The fleet doesn't appear to be using the normal route, so we are unable to track it. But they should be here in 14 days. It's calculated by using USF Courage's max speed."

Kain scratched his chin slowly as he fell into deep thoughts.

Every passing day resulted in greater number of ship losses for Kain's side. They were losing at least one hundred ships per day and by sixth day, ship loss exceed total of 1,000.

With about 2,300 ships left, it was really a matter of time.

However, everyone on Kain's side was still calm. They believed in the Venusian fleet's arrival and they had nowhere else to go. Finally, it wasn't their first time, either.

All in all, Juron's fleet was essentially attacking a stonewall that was progressively chipping away with little sign of bigger cracks appearing.

Then they arrived. The Venusian fleet, they arrived.

"THE VENUSIANS ARE HERE!" A crew shouted with both of his arms high. "THEY ARE HERE!"

"YAHOOOOO!" Another joined in the celebration.

Kain made a fist which started to shake involuntarily and whispered to himself,

"About damn fucking time..."

The Venusian fleet arrived from rear of Juron's fleet and started to batter them. Juron's fleet was fully prepared to take them on but that didn't matter. The Venusian fleet chewed them away like a man eating a boiled potato.

The battle was being displayed on the main bridge of Uranus colony where the crews were in awe with their jaws open.

Kain wasn't an exception, either, because he planned to go full defensive once the reinforcement would arrive.

He mumbled, "Holy mother fucking God, those are the same USF Courage cruisers but ..."

"Fully upgraded with the latest technologies, their weapons, shields, engines, thrusters, all latest models," Magenta added, "Not to mention highly trained crews with a probably good leader as well."

"I still find what I am seeing hard to believe though."

Magenta let out of a short chuckle. "True that. But then the same fleet did beat the crap out of Earth defense fleet, so this is to be expected."

"Admiral, Commander Suu is requesting permission to join the battle."

Kain replied promptly, "Granted, let her have fun. And someone bring popcorn."

Within a day, Juron's fleet was in complete disarray and was split into half. The Venusian fleet was focusing on one half while Commander Suu was picking on the other half. Juron's fleet, then, began to disperse.

Kain wondered, "I doubt I can get a battle report right now, right?"

Magenta replied, "No, too early. But we won. That's all that matters."

Loosening his body, Kain exhaled deeply as his body sunk deeper into the chair.

"How anticlimactic," He muttered.

When the battle report came in, the destructive power of the Venusian fleet became clear. Juron's fleet lost about two third of the fleet, leaving just about 5,000 ships that fled into deep space. Juron was expected to have survived along with the fleet general, Garrick.

What was the most surprising was that the Venusian fleet lost only 250 ships. Considering it was approximately 7,000 versus 16,000, it was an astonishing feat.

As Kain read through the report, he told Magenta who brought the report.

"You know, I get the feeling that Venus doesn't even see United Sol as a target. That woman, Kisia, told us that it was in their interest to prolong United Sol. I think she meant us as meat shields."

She agreed. "I am getting a similar vibe."

As he put down the report on his desk, he chuckled. "Where is the fleet now?"

"Still at the same spot. They are picking up some debris at the moment."

"They probably want to collect their own debris to stop us from stealing tech."

"Perhaps."

In few days, the Venusian fleet sent out a shuttle that docked at Uranus colony. Then they left.

There was a lone man in the shuttle who was brought to Kain by Magenta.

A tall and slender man stood in front of Kain in his office.

"My name is Elemist. As per agreement, I am here to join you, Admiral."

Kain was clearly not happy about it and it showed on his face. But he said nothing of such feelings.

"Welcome aboard. So, what are you good at? So that I can assign you."

"I work best in shadows but have adequate training as a captain as well as an officer."

Crossing arms, Kain asked him bluntly. "So, how do you want me to leak info?"

"There is no need for you do anything. All I ask you is to summon me in your meetings."

"Fine, easy enough. Dismissed."

Saluting, Elemist left at once. Once he was gone, Magenta told Kain of his background.

"An ex-terrorist from Freedom colony," She said to Kain, "Infiltrated Venus decades ago, got caught and joined them in the end. Before getting caught on Venus, he was known for breaking into even the tightest places."

"ESP or hyper human?"

"Class B hyper human."

Kain sunk deeper into his chair. "What should I do with him?"

Placing her hand on her waist, she replied, "If you can't come up with any roles for him, I sure could use him. I need an assistant."

He was more than pleased to let Magenta handle him without realizing that she had an ulterior motive.

Back on Earth, the Ark breathed a sigh of relief as the invasion was defeated. The evil was in details, however, since it was Venus who repelled Juron's fleet in essence. Still, the Ark celebrated regardless.

While they were discontent voices regarding Kain's "abuse of power" in calling Venus for aid, many agreed that there were little choices.

Fraser also preached that there was no one else to replace Kain, should the Ark take him down. He also continued to pressure the Bau that Kain's presence was acting as a balancing force in the wake of rapidly increasing public hatred toward the clan.

And finally, a notion to promote Admiral Kain to Grand admiral Kain passed, making him the second man who reached the rank in the history of United Sol.

Fin