

This is, bluntly put, a filler story.

[Kain and Suu arc] [15] [Relationships] [9654]

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Kain, Magenta, Suu, and Cesper were in a restaurant. It was a celebration of some sort. With Kain being promoted to Grand Admiral, it was certainly worth while to celebrate a bit.

With Kain being Grand admiral, he also had powers to appoint his second-in-command as a rear admiral. He appointed Suu to become the rear admiral.

Around an exquisite round table, the four sat down. Kain and Magenta sat next to each other. Suu and Cesper sat in the opposite direction. A waiter took their orders and left, leaving the four in a somewhat awkward silence. This was due to an ongoing rumor.

The rumor was that Suu was Kain's mistress despite a fact that they never even held each other's hands. While Suu did nothing to dispel the rumor because it wasn't true and she couldn't care less, Magenta advised Kain that something needed to be done. The other purpose of this celebration party was this.

Clearing his throat, Kain brought up the rumor to which Suu responded.

"The rumor is not true."

Everyone at the table, of course, knew that. However, the public felt otherwise.

Cesper saw what Kain was getting at and told Suu.

"What he is trying to imply is that you need to have a relationship that people can see. That will kill the rumor."

Suu looked troubled. She never had a boyfriend in her life and never had any intention to make any. In fact, she was still a virgin. Her life had been so focused on her goal and career that she deemed relationships to be a distraction.

Therefore, her logical reply was,

"I do not wish to enter a relationship. I am not even sure why this should be a topic here."

This much was expected. If Suu was going to have a boyfriend, she would have already. It had been more than 40 year since her journey with Kain.

"Well, I see the point," Magenta responded casually, "Then make the rumor true."

"Woah, woah, I beg your pardon?" Kain blurted out as he startled.

"This rumor hasn't done anything good for your reputation as well as hers. We need to end the rumor," Magenta explained, "If she isn't interested in making a boyfriend, then you might as well be. Make it official."

Both Suu and Cesper were shocked to hear the proposal. While Suu remained shocked and midly angry, Cesper soon came to his senses and saw Magenta's point. He, too, had been trying to arrange some form of relationship with his daughter to a man in order to repeal the rumor as well as trying to settle her down. He had tried years and realized that there was only one man for her; Kain was the only man her daughter was not uncomfortable being with.

Granted, he didn't like the fact that her daughter would have to become a mistress but, seeing the casual relationships Kain had with his first wife and then his second, Magenta, the status of being a mistress didn't sound as bad as it would normally. Truthfully, he would absolutely refuse his daughter from becoming a mistress on Earth, but the situation was vastly different at the moment.

However, Suu had a different idea. She slammed the table weakly as she stood up.

"This is ridiculous! I am leaving."

Then she swiftly walked out of the restaurant.

"Well, I don't blame her. I might have done the same if she didn't do that first," Kain remarked while calling a waiter to cancel her share of order.

"Kain, something needs to be done regardless. The rumor isn't good for us,"

Magenta pushed on, "It attracts unnecessary attention, especially the media's."

Kain tapped his index finger on the table for a moment in thoughts and eventually said, "This is why I never like politics. You two trying to tie a woman to a man who both aren't interested in each other is fucking bullshit. I am outta here."

He, too, then left.

When Magenta arrived at Kain's quarter, she found him eating some dummy food from cafeteria on a table.

"Pissed at me?" was what Kain said to her.

Beaming a grin, she replied, "No, you had a point."

Kain joked, "I wish I stayed. I mean we ordered real beef steaks."

Not saying further words, she simply sat down next to him. "We should just run away," She said to him softly.

Snickering, Kain replied jokingly, "To where?"

"I don't know... Somewhere quiet... Far away from all these wars and politics..."

"I'd love that. Don't know any place like that though."

Magenta had a place in her mind but she wasn't going to let him know at this point.

It was just too early.

Meanwhile, Kain was back at the shipyard where the Maeka was finalizing the mothership. The ship was completed a while ago and could have had its maiden sailing during the third invasion but Kain adamantly refused because the ship didn't go through any actual testing.

Since then, the ship had gone through numerous test sailing and bugs had been ironed out.

Kain was on the bridge of the mothership. No name has been given yet and it was simply referred as the mothership at this point. The bridge resembled a cruiser's bridge but was far large in size with additional stations. The ship, due to its size, featured three bridges for the sake of redundancy. Kain had been testing all three bridges and everything looked fine.

A crew infomed, "Administrator Gaer on the line, Admiral."

"On screen."

A large holographic sceen popped up on the front wall of the bridge where Gaer appeared. He looked around and had a pleasing grin on his face.

"Good good, Admiral," Gaer said.

"The Maeka did a good job. The testing has been mostly bug-free."

"The engineers tell me that they are proud of it. So should you. That is the largest warship ever built."

Kain smiled. "We need to give her a good name though. I haven't got a clue."

Gaer stroke his chin on screen with a long groan. "To be honest with you, the engineers have been calling it 'Shinigami' which, in their ancient language and religion, means the God of Death."

"Shinigami, eh. Sounds good to me."

"Woah, woah, you should give it some thought. I mean you don't get to name a ship often. Most captains never get to name their own ships."

True, but Kain named his first cruiser as well as the second. The Goddess of luck followed him often.

"Shinigami is fine by me. The engineers designed it and built it. They have the right. Shinigami that is," Kain declared.

The testing crew on the bridge cheered. After all, all of them were from the Maeka. This was the pride of their work. And, for Saturn and the clan themselves, it was the first time they actually produced something of note. It would go down in the books of Saturn history at school.

When Kain arrived back at Uranus outpost, Cesper was eager to meet him in person to discuss a sensitive matter.

He looked utterly clueless and repeated after Cesper, "The resistance?"

"Yes, well, it seems an underground faction has formed by migrants from Moon."

Cesper had been a fair mayor. He was more effective as a mayor than Kain although he was a traditional bureaucrat who played by rules whereas Kain didn't follow any rules because, quite frankly, he didn't know any.

Despite Cesper's fair performance as a mayor, it did not change the fact that he was of the Bau clan and, at this point, more than half of Uranus colony population was migrants from Moon. Their profound hatred toward the Bau eventually formed an underground resistance and he just reported that to Kain.

Now, one could argue that Magenta and Suu were also the Bau and why they didn't freak out then. Well, they were women and the perceived feeling was that the two women belonged to Kain. Cesper was certainly different and independent. He was also a famed bureaucrat back on Earth.

In other words, some felt he was "one of them" which was certainly understandable. Kain himself knew how screwed he was under the Bau's rule on Moon. However, being a rational man, his hatred toward the Bau did not extend to individuals.

"Hmmm," Folding arms, Kain groaned in thoughts.

"I should resign. I feel that is the best way."

"No, you shouldn't," Kain replied right away. "You've done nothing wrong here or have you?"

"I've done nothing wrong."

"Then why should you resign just because of your lastname? That's bullcrap."

"True, but-

"I won't accept your resignation because of that. Consider it a challenge."

Cesper still felt his resignation was the best solution but Kain wouldn't have it. Thus, the matter was settled.

Kain later inquired Magenta about Cesper's situation in his office. She confirmed that she was aware of "the resistance".

"And you didn't tell me?"

"Their number is too insignificant and their target is not you. It's Cesper. In short, this doesn't really concern you. It's his problem, not yours."

He took a deep breath. It was indeed between the Bau and the public which had a long history of disagreements. In Inner Sol, the Bau was simply too powerful for the citizens to voice complaints. Kain knew that for sure. He was from Moon after all.

In Uranus colony, however, the table had turned and citizens had much more significance.

"So, you are telling me there is nothing I can do."

Magenta shrugged. "You could tell the people that you vouch for him but do you think that will work out?"

It wouldn't. It certainly wouldn't.

"You have a point," Kain replied.

"Just leave it be. As long as you are here, they won't do anything dramatic."

There was an option of replacing Cesper but with who? The reality was that Kain needed Cesper more than Cesper needed his position. Kain's hands were full. He was dealing with massive amount of paper works daily and there were other affairs to deal with. Who would be trustworthy enough to take on the crucial role of Uranus mayor? There were little choices.

Several days later, a confernece meeting was held. It was a regular routine between Kain's inner circle. These meetings were required to pass information and progress of their projects. While this could be done digitally, Magenta enforced this method due to security. She did not trust frequent encrypted transmissions. Random encrypted transmissions were fine but she was adamant that fixed regular encrypted transmissions were too dangerous. This was to prevent Juron as well as the Bau from spying on Kain.

Magenta, Suu, Cesper, and Kain were present in the room.

Suu was the first one to make her report and progress.

"The security of Outer Sol is firm. There has been only one incident since my last report. My ships continue to track down pirates. On the other issue, Befriended merchants vessels have informed me that Freedom colony is secretly preparing to assist us in case of another invasion by Juron."

Since the peace deal between Freedom colony and Andromeda Union, Freedom colony was effectively barred from officially communicating with United Sol. However, that wasn't going to stop them. By using solo merchant vessels, they had been communicating. These solo merchants vessels were volunteers and were virtually impossible to track down by Andromeda Union because, on papers, they had no connection to either side.

Cesper made the next report.

"Economical growth of the colony is outstanding at the moment. The business sector grew by 18% since the last year. Population overall increased by 7%. Crime rate remains identical at 6%."

There wasn't any mention of the resistance and it was going to stay that way.

Finally, Magenta made her report regarding fleet status.

"We are currently manufacturing one cruiser every week. This is as much as our budget allows. Because there hasn't been any losses to pirates, the fleet number is slowly increasing although I fear that may not be enough. We have plenty of eager engineers from the Maeka, so it saves us some money not having to train engineers."

Kain, who had been listening quietly, said just as her report finished.

"And Juron?"

"He has been staying low. The support he gets from middle and low class citizens is still very high, so Andromeda council cannot fire him."

"So, it's pretty much given that he will force another invasion?"

She replied promptly, "Yes,"

After a short moment of uneasy silence, Kain said weakly, "I see."

Nobody was shocked to hear that. Also nobody had an idea of how to defeat yet another invasion, either. Still, nobody was panicking; they had been winging it for so long.

The conference ended soon after.

While Elemist wasn't present in the conference, Magenta handed a result report over to him. Originally, it wasn't in her interest to aid him, but given the fact that she wanted to defect, cooperating with him was in order.

Giving him time to read, she eventually inquired.

"What do you think?"

"My opinion matters not. I will send this over to Venus."

"You must still have your own opinion, no?"

"Yes," He replied after a moment, "You are not going to win an invasion."

She chuckled. "People have been saying that since the second invasion."

"True, and during each invasion, an unexpected help arrived. Admiral Kain no longer has the cards."

Magenta wondered whether he knew about the mothership. It was a top secret project and she wasn't planning to inform him about its existence. Besides, the mothership alone wasn't going to be enough to change a tide of a war.

There was also a loose promise of Freedom colony willing to assist Kain but whatever they could do, it wasn't going to be a fleet.

Having noticed that she had become quiet, he made a quick apology.

"My apologies if I sounded too pessimistic."

Magenta beamed a stoic, bitter, grin. "Don't be. Being optimistic doesn't get you out of a trouble like this."

Indeed, looking back, being optimistic had nothing to do with Kain's survival so far. In fact, he had rather been pessimistic. What had gotten him this far was luck and few moments of ingeniousness.

"I am going to report this to Venus. I will see you around, ma'am."

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