

This short story shows you how Kain is doing after the battle. There is nothing else to it. Obviously, you should read the previous 6 stories in the arc to make a sense of this story.

[Kain and Suu arc] [7] [Valid concern] [9636]

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Time heals wounds.

And time slowly but progressively healed Kain's spiritual wounds.

The loss of his wife struck him hard. While he had no passionate affection, AKA love, toward her, he considered her a very good friend. Her death broke him, not completely but he became a changed man afterwards.

It was another woman's touch that healed him, perhaps not perfectly but her dedication restored most of him back to where he was.

Kain and Magenta were on a king size bed. The bed cover was half withdrawn which revealed bare upper bodies of the two. He pillowed his arms and was

staring at ceiling while Magenta was half asleep and laid sideways toward him.

It had been years since Ritsuki was killed in an explosion. He hadn't forgotten about her but moved on. Soon after her death was confirmed and announced at the outpost, the members of the Maeka were initially concerned that they'd expelled.

Kain assured that such would not occur and he declared that he would continue supporting the clan. He also had a private conversation with Gaer in order to maintain the alliance. For Gaer's credit, he did offer another woman, in fact his own daughter, from the clan, but Kain firmly refused.

"I am not marrying anyone anymore," He declared during the conversation.

How he and Magenta were on the same bed, naked, was a long story. A short version was that she forced herself onto him. Actually, in her defense, she had known that having sex sometimes helped a man to regroup his broken mind. It was one of her expertise she learned from her line of work as a spy. Besides, she did have some feelings for him which made forcing herself on to him a lot easier.

Suu's reaction to the sudden development between two was indifferent and stoic. She did not question Magenta's method also.

A soft beep sounded and Kain clicked a button on a wall.

“Yes?”

A holographic window appeared a distance over Kain’s face. It was Suu who noticed Magenta’s presence next to him.

“Admiral, you are needed at the command center. Saturn administrator Gaer is currently on line,” She reported.

“I see. On my way.”

He lazily got up and carefully walked past half asleep Magenta. He took a shower, shaved, and then dressed up properly before leaving the quarter.

“I see you took your sweet time,” Gaer greeted him sarcastically.

“It’s been a while, Gaer.” Kain gave him a casual salute. “What made you to contact me?”

Kain was on the commanding bridge of Uranus outpost. Over half of crews were of the Maeka origin. Suu was standing next to his chair with both of her hands on her back. She was as stoic as a person could have been.

After he was promoted, Suu was subsequently promoted as well to the rank of Commodore. But President Fraser didn’t promote her. Kain did. As an

admiral, he had the authority to do so especially when someone was under his direct command.

“I would like to visit Uranus outpost, Admiral,” Gaer stated. “A lot from my clan is there and I’d like to see how they are doing. If you don’t mind, of course.”

Kain beamed a faint grin. “That won’t be a problem, Administrator. Feel free to visit here at any time.”

“I will take on that offer. I will be departing in few days.”

“Very well. I will see you soon then.”

After the channel was over, Suu told him in a low tone.

“Are you sure about this? You don’t have a connection to the Maeka clan anymore. Personally, I think you need to keep a distance.”

Some of the crews around glanced at Suu.

“I do have a connection to them. It may not be present but a connection nevertheless,” He said with a voice loud enough for everyone to listen.

Nodding along, Suu remained silent.

“Sorry I am late.” Magenta entered the bridge in a rush. “Should have woken me up when you did, Admiral.”

“Sorry, girl. I watched your boobs for too long and forgot to wake you up. Maybe don’t sleep naked next time?” He explained with a mild shrug.

“Well, Rituski was right. You do love playing with boobs,” She talked back.

Suu glared at her when she mentioned Ritsuki, but Kain didn’t seem to mind nevertheless.

Ever since the latest invasion, Uranus outpost had been very active in patrolling outer Sol. They also had been actively manufacturing ships in order to replenish lost ships. He aimed to have at least 5,000 ships under his command ideally.

With the new upgraded 4bn aid package, the financial situation of the station was no longer under threat. However, he still sought to maximize commercial opportunities. He also maintained the positive relationship with Freedom colony.

Then came Moon inhabitants.

Initially, it was just few groups who somehow overheard that there were job opportunities on Uranus outpost and came over to restart their lives. And then the number started to increase rapidly. They were really fed up with how the Ark had been seemingly ignoring them. First the embargo which put a huge dent on Moon economy. And then there was no attention paid to

them when they were in a deep hole. Most were getting by somehow, but tens of thousands suffered from bottom barrel poverty.

Once the job opportunities rumors turned out to be true, those who were fed up and were stuck at Moon had no hesitation and flocked into Uranus outpost. It certainly encouraged them that Kain was originally from Moon as well.

“Welcome, welcome!”

Kain opened his arms to greet a new fresh batch of Moon refugees. He was flanked by several guards from a short distance. Magenta was among them and was keeping watchful eyes.

“Admiral!” A middle age man gladly took the opportunity to grab Kain’s hands. “The nation needs more men like yourself!” The man was close to sobbing.

He nodded along and patted his back like a father would do to his child.

“I’ve got you covered. I’ve got you,” He repeatedly told him with a soft voice.

Magenta later informed Kain of their background stories. Most of refugees had only three-digit amount of credit in their bank accounts. They were literally on verge of becoming bankrupt.

“Just like how I was,” He remarked then let out of a short laugh afterwards. “I can really relate to them. I really do. I don’t know whose fault it is though. Is it the Ark? Or is it the Bau?”

Magenta sighed. She was a Bau and knew the Bau council fairly well. But she was clueless in what was causing the whole meltdown United Sol was currently experiencing. She felt that it was really a miracle that Kain stopped Juron’s invasion somehow. With loss of Earth defense fleet, she felt United Sol as whole would not stand a chance because she thought Emuel would have surrendered if Juron’s fleet approached Jupiter.

Suu was a Bau as well but she was completely disconnected with the Bau’s internal affairs. She couldn’t care less about the Bau in addition.

“I’d say it’s both,” She responded with her own guesswork. “Both are rotten as hell. That’s all I can say.”

“How many refugees have arrived so far?”

She pulled up a datapad and fiddled with it for a moment. She eventually gave him her reply. “So far, approximately 4,000 people but they are entering here fast now. I expect the number to substantially increase in the upcoming season.”

Kain crossed his arms and let out a grunt. “Can we hold them?”

“Not a problem,” She replied promptly. “We need people. We need the manpower. We have so many vacant jobs. The Moon refugees are more than welcome.”

“Alright, good to know. Let’s keep this up.”

“Sure thing.”

Then Gaer finally arrived some days later with a small fleet of cruisers. The cruisers bore the clan emblem of the Maeka clearly and boldly.

Watching the cruisers landing down on the docking bay, Magenta remarked over the clan emblem.

“I don’t like this, Kain.”

“What?”

“The clan emblem. It looks almost as if they’ve purposely painted the emblem for everyone to see.”

Scratching his chin lazily, he looked over at the cruisers landing down. United Sol cruisers didn’t tend to have any sort of emblem on its armors. Only some ships in Earth defense fleet bore emblems. But his experience on this was limited. He started off in Jupiter and stayed at Uranus for pretty much his whole career. He had to assume that Magenta was speaking truth. He personally did not think too much about the Maeka emblem though.

“Admiral!”

“Administrator!”

Exclaiming loudly, the two men exchanged a brief hug followed by a handshake. Gaer had several people with him, one of whom appeared to be his daughter, given she resembled much of his appearance. She was also checking Kain out with quick glances.

At this point, Magenta figured out what he was here for.

Gaer and Kain were led by Magenta to a private bar where they were asked to have seats and Magenta started working on making drinks. She wasn't actually planning to do this but her whole plan had to change upon realization of Gaer's intention. She needed to be there.

“I see you've got yourself a fine woman,” Gaer remarked as he looked over Magenta who was quickly arranging drinks. She was certainly skilled in the task.

Kain responded with a casual laughter, “Hah, she was here even before I knew.”

“That so.” Gaer glanced over at her who was seemingly busy with arranging drinks and was seemingly not paying attention to the two men.

“So, what brings you here?”

“Mmm.” Gaer was clearly reluctant to speak his mind in front of Magenta.

Confused by his reluctance, he asked again, “Administrator?”

Gaer eventually sighed with a shrug and then spoke, “Admiral, I’ve come here to form an alliance with you.”

“The drinks are ready, sirs,” Magenta informed at which point Kain picked up his glass and replied.

“Administrator, I did inform you that I had no intention to break our relationship. I have no plan to send back the Maeka members present on the station. I am also willing to accept more if you wish.”

“I fully trust you, Admiral,” Gaer said, “But I cannot trust those who work under you.”

Therefore, logically, he wanted to leave someone he could trust by Kain’s side.

He nodded repeatedly and slowly in acknowledgment after taking a dip on his drink. “I see, Administrator. But I am not going to marry anyone from the Maeka if that is what you want.”

“I’ve brought my daughter here with me. She is fully aware of the tasks given to her, and a marriage is not required. A mistress is fine,” Gaer said indifferently.

Kain frowned faintly. He married Ritsuki who was an outcast insider which meant taking Gaer's daughter as a mistress would be very rude, for both sides. If he was to take his daughter, a marriage was the only way by etiquette.

"I will take no mistresses from the Maeka, sir, and I certainly won't take your daughter as a mistress," Kain replied firmly. "You will have to just trust my words on the alliance."

Out of frustration, Gaer raised his voice. "Kain! There is no place for personal feelings in politics. We both need the alliance."

Kain, taking the last drop of his glass, placed it down with a force. "With all due respect, sir, I wish people would stop treating other fellow beings like pieces of shits," He complained with a raised voice, "Your daughter is an individual. Does her will count at all?" Having vented so, he stood up from his stool. "We are done here. Magenta, let's go."

"Admiral!" Gaer attempted to stop him but Kain ignored him flat and left the bar. Magenta followed swiftly afterwards.

"Are you sure about this?" Magenta asked while they were walking down a corridor. "We can't afford to lose him, you know."

"Then what?!" He barked at her. "Take his daughter?! Is that what you want me to do? Would you like that??"

Magenta stopped him. "Kain, personally, I don't mind. I am not with you because I am expecting something in return. I am not sleeping with you because I want to tie the knot. I am here on my own accord and just want to help a man who is genuinely concerned about what he is supposed to do."

He was clearly agitated. "I. Am. Not. Marrying. Anyone!" He exclaimed violently. "Especially not for some stupid fucking alliance!"

"Okay, okay!" Magenta pulled him to her chest and hugged him. "That's fine," She said with a soft voice.

Sighing, he muttered, "I wish life was less complicated."

Patting back of his head, she agreed, "So do I. So do I..."

Kain eventually went back to the bar after Magenta encouraged him to do so. She told him to formally decline. And he did.

"I apologize for the outburst but I want you to know that I meant what I said."

Gaer was actually surprised that he came back.

"It wasn't entirely your fault, Admiral. I suppose I was wrong about your staff..." His glance met Magenta's.

His concern that he could not trust Kain's staff was certainly valid. After all, both Magenta and Suu were from the Bau clan. In other words, Kain's two top officers were of the Bau.

Indeed, big alarms went off when Gaer was informed that Ritsuki perished at the battle of Uranus outpost. It wasn't entirely her death that set off the alarm; it was a harsh reality that Kain would be surrounded by two Bau women. Both of them were young women and both of them were unmarried.

The Maeka dreaded a possibility that Kain would work with the Bau instead of them, and Kain's own assurances did not comfort them. They wanted a solid proof that the alliance existed, and that was where Gaer's own daughter came in.

However, at this moment, Gaer realized that they weren't quite correct about the two Bau women who surrounded Kain. He considered a possibility that, despite Magenta being a Bau insider, she may not be in touch with the Bau council. That was the only explanation on why she brought Kain back to the bar. If she was truly acting on behalf of the Bau council, she would have done everything she could to break the alliance between him and Kain.

"What's wrong with my staff? Why can't you trust them?" Kain innocently asked because he really had no idea.

"I am a Bau, Kain," Magenta told him.

He shrugged in response. "So?"

"Suu is also a Bau, Kain."

"So what?" Then he blurted, "Oh..., I see." Then a smile emerged on his face.

"Now it all makes sense. I thought you were pushing too hard. I see why now."

Gaer beamed back a smile in response.

"Administrator, I can bet my life that neither of the women is working with the Bau.... Wait a sec. Aren't you a Bau agent, Magenta?"

"Was," She replied promptly.

"Well, you heard her. She was. Not anymore."

Magenta stepped forward explained, "Administrator Gaer, I was in fact a Bau agent and I was sent here to keep eyes on Admiral because the Bau did not trust him. I still believe they do not trust him. I cut my ties to the Bau when I decided to stay put. As for Suu Bau, she is like a fallen noble within the Bau clan. She has no active connection to the Bau, sir."

"Fair enough, miss. I will certainly tell them that," Gaer said. "I do have a question though if you don't mind me asking."

"Go ahead, Administrator."

"Why did you leave the Bau? It doesn't make sense to me."

“The Bau is rotten like a thousand years old cheese, sir,” She replied with a crooked grin. “I could endure only so much.”

Gaer also beamed a crooked grin in response. “Fair enough.”

And Gaer departed Uranus outpost on that day. As Kain and Magenta saw them off, it was when Suu rushed toward them.

“Admiral! I heard Saturn Administrator has arrived?!”

She was away to patrol and had just gotten back.

“You missed the party, girl. He is leaving now.” He pointed at a group of cruisers lifting off docking bay platform.

“What did he come here for? It couldn’t have been good,” She muttered.

“Well, what do you know. Even she knew something was up,” He told Magenta who was snickering. “Maybe I am an idiot or something.”

“Nah, the problem with you is that you have two brains. They sometimes don’t communicate each other,” She replied with a smile.

Twisting her head in confusion, Suu demanded, “Mind telling me what’s going on?”

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