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South of Heaven

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Looking out the window he flashed back to the day they flew into the compound. The compound was south of Heaven; Heaven was a little village 40 kilometers north of them. The propellers of the chopper spun above them; he had been eager to get away from his wife for a while. Jeff had just found out that she had an affair and wanted to patch things up with him. In truth he couldn't stand looking at her. Not once did he ever step out of their 18 years of marriage, not once did he even entertain that thought. Mitch was telling them; it was a scientist and himself that were being flown into the compound that was working on highly classified experiments. Mitch was pointing out major attractions as the flew past them. When the chopper landed, he hopped out and waved his arm around him, 'Welcome to South of Heaven.' It was in the jungle deep in Peru. The company he worked for had bought the land and was working on a cure for cancer among other experiments, noble causes. Jeff worked as a senior IT manager, and they had shipped down some equipment that he needed to get installed and up and running by the end of the week.

"Hey Jeff, just the man we are looking for." Carlos waved to him. Daniel was in tow; he was their IT staff down here.

"What can I do for you?"

"We want to move the equipment in Lab 105 to 304."

Groaning on the inside, wasn't it enough that he managed to get everything installed three days ahead of schedule? Now they wanted to move a lab that was working perfectly fine, to a dead zone. "Well, I guess I can take a look at it." He heard himself saying.

Three hours later after inspecting both labs, the three men sat staring at the wall. "If we run a relay through a drop ceiling, it might work."

"You mean down the hall?"

"I was thinking through the closet of lab 205."

"Oh, why didn't I think of that!" Daniel shook his head.

"Well let me get started on it," Jeff laughed.

Lab 205 belonged to Doctor Shanka, a tall, slim dark hair beauty that wasn't fond of men. The struggle was real, he was hours into the new set up when his stomach growled fiercely, forcing him to take a break.

Stepping back, he frowned staring down at the mess.

"Call it a night? Boss?" Daniel came up behind him. "Dinner?"

Jeff nodded. "Yeah, we can regroup in the morning and continue. It should be safe to leave this here tonight."

Daniel led them down the hall and back upstairs to the cafeteria. The eating area was empty; the buffet was still left out and looked like they left the leftovers for the stragglers. Grabbing a plate, Jeff didn't care, he would have eaten a shoe at this point. Filling up his plate he headed over to a table by the window. It overlooked a small valley. The sun was setting and casting long dark shadows across the landscape. Like long fingers reaching out as far as they could reach.

"What's it like here?" He asked Daniel.

“It’s quiet for the most part. When I am not working, I’m gaming in my office. There is a lot of time for me to do that.”

“What about companionship?”

Daniel laughed. “No, there’s none of that here. There is a couple lab technicians, but they’ll only entertain you if they are bored.”

“Ouch.”

“Meh, I’m a computer nerd so it doesn’t bother me too much.” Daniel shrugged his shoulders. “As the saying goes, it is what it is.”

They ate as Daniel told him about a couple new games he found online. Later that evening Jeff sat in his room, on the side of his bed, in the dark. The moon light came in through the sky light and lit up the room. He couldn’t sleep, dressing he headed back to the lab and began going to work on the wiring.

Doctor Shanka cleared her throat. He bumped his head and came out of the closet, rubbing his head.

Doctor Shanka smiled, he never noticed how green her eyes were. “Sorry, I couldn’t sleep,” he stumbled over his words.

“Same. I won’t bother you if you don’t bother me,” she smiled.

He nodded and went back to the wiring. He couldn’t get her green eyes out of his head. Glancing over his shoulder a couple times, he caught a glimpse of Doctor Shanka deep in thought as she was studying her beakers and tubes of colour bubbling liquids. Graceful, the woman was the embodiment of graceful.

A couple hours later, he decided to take a break. Sitting crossed legged he looked up at her. Her lips twitched into a grin.

“Taking a break?” she turned and smiled at him.

“Yeah, you want to join me?”

She paused and gave him her full attention. Smiled then nodded. “Yeah, let’s go get a cup of tea. By the way you can call me Kalli.”

Sitting in the cafeteria area, it was clean and empty. They sipped tea and chatted. This went on for a couple of nights. She reached out and grabbed his hand. “Why don’t we go back to my room?”

“Sure,” he heard himself saying. They got up and, in a few minutes, they were alone in her room with the door closed. She was taking his shirt off. He was kissing her. This went on every night for the next week. Until they were lying in bed, and she was looking at him with those green eyes. She blinked but she had a second set of eyelids that blinked sideways, like a lizard! He rubbed his eyes and chalked it up to being tired. He hadn’t been getting much sleep with the long days and late nights. Rolling over he nestled into her neck, and they fell asleep.

The next night they were in her room again, he caressed her cheek. “You know last night I thought I saw you blinking funny.”

“What?”

“Like you blinked sideways or something.”

She looked at him studying his face. “What if I did?”

“It would be different.”

“Wouldn’t it?”

He leaned down and kissed her.

She turned and walked over to her bed. Sitting down on the edge. “I don’t normal tell people this but I’m not from here.”

“Neither am I.”

“No, I mean,” she looked up at him and blink sideways, then regular blinking.

He paused in his step, “where exactly are you from?”

“Earth, I’m not human. I look human now but I’m a reptilian.”

“I’m sorry what?”

“Jeff come sit.”

He complied.

She put her hand on his leg. Looking at him, she smiled. “I don’t tell many people this.

When I look into your eyes, I can see that you won’t tell anyone. My secret is safe with you.”

He nodded, knowing he wouldn’t say anything. “Why are you telling me?”

“Because I feel like I can trust you.”

“You can.”

“I know.”

“But you look human?”

“I do. It’s a trick of the mind.”

“You’re using jedi mind tricks?” he grinned at her.

“Kinda,” she laughed. “Close your eyes.”

He did. She touched his temple.

“Okay open them.”

She looked humanoid but was green and scaly. He reached out and gently caressed her cheek, “You’re beautiful.” He meant it. Her green eyes were the same and the rest of her body was different, but it suited her better.

He was there for a couple more days and spent every minute with her. She kissed his cheek. "I guess I'm going to have to break something here and request you to come back."

"If you do, I'll come running." He grinned.

"Deal."

"You can always come visit me?"

"I like the humidity down here better."

Nodding, "makes sense. I'll be back."

"You better be."

He headed over to the waiting helicopter and got in. Watching her as he flew away from the compound. It wasn't going to be the last he saw of her, he knew it. He could feel with every cell in his body.