

Sister

by

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Story by

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EXT. ALIEN FIELD - DAY.

Johana disembarks from a ship. She survey's her surroundings. She walks away from the ship, into the forests of the alien planet. The ship takes off behind her, and her eyeline follows it into the sky.

EXT. FIELDS - DAY.

Johana continues onward accross the alien planet, journal in hand. She comes across some shattered stones. She examines a symbol on one of them and replicates it in her journal.

EXT. SITE - DAY.

Johana enters an abandoned site.

JOHANA

Nina, anything of note in here?

The voice of NINA (her Natural Interface Nano Assistant) describes the danger.

NINA (VOICE)

It does not appear as though this site contains any immediate danger.

JOHANA

Danger is danger, I'm not worried about the immediacy of it.

Johana comes upon a casket. It is open and empty.

JOHANA

This site's no good.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT.

Johana finishes her meal and settles down for the night.

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

Johana meanders through the forest, journal in hand. A sudden PING of a proximity alert brings her to her senses.

JOHANA

Talk to me, Nina.

(CONTINUED)

NINA (VOICE)  
I'm tracking several signals to the northeast.

JOHANA  
Looters?

NINA (VOICE)  
There have been reports of zealot activity, but no confirmed reports of looting in this area.

JOHANA  
Well what would be worse, zealots or looters?

NINA (VOICE)  
That would depend on the scenario, doctor. Probability would indicate that an encounter is inevitable. Would you like me to generate a list of probable outcomes?

JOHANA  
I don't think that's necessary right now, Nina. Thank you though.

Johana continues walking.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT.

Sounds of the forest echo endlessly through the miles and miles of trees. Johana sits beside a small fire, writing notes down in her journal. A rough map of the planet and a textbook are also set beside her.

JOHANA  
I can see why so many people have gotten lost on this planet.

NINA (VOICE)  
Dioliev is the largest planet in this system, doctor.

JOHANA  
Don't I know it.

Johana looks over some number in her book. She scans over a list of numbers pertaining the current number of people on Dioliev. At the bottom of this list it says "Unaccounted For: 2,763"

(CONTINUED)

JOHANA

Who was that professor Seiken said  
went missing out here?

NINA (VOICE)

Eamus Kazemedede. Former professor of  
philosophy at the Royal Academy.  
Left his post and came here  
twenty-three years ago. Disappeared  
soon after. His body was never  
recovered.

Johana writes in the journal.

NINA (VOICE)

Any updates you'd like to make to  
the current route?

A noise in the forest startles Johana.

NINA (VOICE)

I'm reading several animal signals.  
No human lifeforms nearby.

Johana kicks some sand onto the fire.

JOHANA

Let's get some rest. We've got a  
lot of ground to cover tomorrow.

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

Johana walks through the forest. She stops to sketch  
something in her notebook.

EXT. FOREST - LATER.

JOHANA

Nina, could you route a call to  
James for me?

NINA (VOICE)

Sure.

Johana continues walking through the forest as the RINGING  
of the phone call sounds in her ears.

EXT. GARDEN - DAY

FLASHBACK

Johana and her brother JAMES walk through a garden.

JAMES

So, I looked over at this kid, and he wasn't just asleep mind you, but he was leaning over *and* drooling on the girl's shoulder next to him.

JOHANA

No.

JAMES

Dead serious. She was not amused in the slightest. So I walked on up there and poked him with my ruler-

JOHANA

Careful now, people have gotten in trouble for less than that.

He gives her a look.

JAMES

Right- so he wakes up and just kind of looks up at me. Huge trail of saliva all down his cheek. So I say to him, "Would you like me to get a rag, because you appear to have sprung a leak."

JOHANA

Okay, you have officially turned into Dad.

JAMES

Hey, come on know, it's clever and you know it.

JOHANA

No. You're my brother and I love you, but that does not mean I have to laugh at your jokes.

JAMES

My humor is just too high brow for someone in your field I guess.

(CONTINUED)

JOHANA

You know, a new study came out that said archaeology is one of the top five funniest professions.

JAMES

So I should mail all of my jokes to you then, for approval?

JOHANA

Please do not.

JAMES

I'll have to get more stamps.

JOHANA

Do not. Just keep testing out your bad jokes on your students.

JAMES

Maybe. Honestly, I don't really see myself there much longer.

JOHANA

Yeah?

JAMES

Yeah, they've got plenty of history professors as it is, and you can only have so many kids fall asleep in your class before it starts getting you down.

They walk by a pair of people praying in the garden. Johana gives a look of disapproval. They keep walking.

JOHANA

So what's next for the great James Shenzra?

JAMES

Well, you know, I've got a couple of different things laid out. But I'm thinking of moving some place a little quieter than here.

JOHANA

Well, where are you thinking?

JAMES

I was looking into either Dresher or Kaesyn.

( CONTINUED )

JOHANA

Dresher has a good market, but Kaesyn is just that moon that had the monasteries built on it forever ago. What's there that you're looking at.

James lowers his head.

JOHANA

Wait, what? You can't be serious.

JAMES

I was talking with Dean last week, and it turned out he's a follower too. We were just talking - I can't remember how it turned to the subject of faith. But, you know, it really makes a lot of sense when you think about it.

JOHANA

Jim, we've been over this. What would Dad think if he heard you were thinking of moving to Kaesyn to become what? A monk?

JAMES

Well, he's not here, Jo. And Mom isn't either. I've been thinking about this for a while, and I've really felt it weighing on me, you know? I need this right now. I'm sorry.

INT. HOME - DAY

James stands at the door with a bag packed. Johana stands further in the home, resigned to what is about to happen.

JAMES

The monastery allows visitation on Saturday afternoons, so I guess just let me know a couple days beforehand if you'll be there.

JOHANA

Okay.

JAMES

I can hire somebody to take care of the house while I'm gone.

( CONTINUED )

JOHANA  
It's fine. I can handle it.

Embrace.

JAMES  
I love you, you know that right?

JOHANA  
Yeah. I love you too.

James begins to walk out.

JAMES  
Would you be mad if I prayed for  
you?

EXT. ALIEN FIELD - DAY.

BACK TO PRESENT

SFX: Phone ringing

NINA (VOICE)  
It's unlikely Mr. Shenzra will  
answer.

JOHANA  
I know.

She takes a few more steps before a DIAL TONE stops the ringing.

NINA (VOICE)  
I can try again in a couple of  
hours if you'd like.

JOHANA  
Okay.

EXT. RUINS - DAY.

Johana walks through a series of ruins. She and Nina converse. Johana has her journal out.

JOHANA  
This place really fell apart,  
didn't it?

The PING of a proximity alert stops Johana in her tracks.

(CONTINUED)



NINA (VOICE)  
Human signals.

JOHANA  
How close?

A robed ZEALOT steps out from around the corner. They spot each other. An awkward silence falls over the ruins.

ZEALOT  
Desecrator.

He pulls out a knife and runs at her. She dodges but trips. The zealot tackles her but Johana kicks him off. As the zealot stumbles off of her, he pulls a page out of the journal. Johana runs out of the ruins. A foot chase ensues. More Zealots appear and chase her as well. She trips over something and the Zealots are almost upon her. A series of gunshots ring out through the forest, and one by one the Zealots fall to the ground. EAMUS emerges from the woods.

JOHANA  
Did you-

EAMUS  
Yes. Those shots will have alerted others nearby. Who are you?

JOHANA  
Dr. Johana Shenzra. Who're-

EAMUS  
You have a weapon?

JOHANA  
No, sir. I do not. I'm an-

EAMUS  
That site's been empty for ages, what were you doing in there?

JOHANA  
I stumbled through there accidentally. Now look, I don't want any trouble. I'm just passing through here and-

EAMUS  
This planet has been dead for a thousand years, no one just passes through here.

Voices are heard in the distance.

(CONTINUED)

EAMUS

What're you really doing here?  
Better talk fast.

JOHANA

I'm looking for a tomb. That's all.  
I'm an archeologist.

EAMUS

Not enough grant money for a whole  
team?

The voices grow louder and nearer. Eamus lowers his weapon.

EAMUS

Come with me. But don't try  
anything stupid, or I'll leave your  
body here with the others.

Johana looks off towards the voices.

NINA (VOICE)

I think you should go with him,  
Doctor. Twice as many signals  
approaching as before.

JOHANA

Well we don't really have a choice,  
Nina, do we?

EAMUS

What's that?

JOHANA

Nothing.

NINA (VOICE)

Signals getting closer.

EAMUS

Now, please.

EAMUS

Any particular tomb you're looking  
for, Dr. Shenzra?

JOHANA

Yes, actually.

She gets out her journal.

(CONTINUED)

JOHANA

This one. I found a book that mentioned it, and I wanted to see if there was any weight to the theories about it.

He looks at the journal and stops walking.

JOHANA

What?

EAMUS

Looking for big game I see.

He continues walking.

JOHANA

Excuse me?

EAMUS

Bet you could get a nice couple billion for the body on the open market couldn't you?

JOHANA

Sir, you miss the point entirely. My purposes here are strictly academic.

EAMUS

That why you didn't come here with a weapon?

Johana keeps silent.

EAMUS

Okay, look-

Eamus stops walking. He pulls out another gun and gives it to her.

EAMUS

Take this. I ran into a scout party week before last who heard rumor that someone may have found the entrance to that tomb in the mountain range north of here. No word on what happened to that someone since then though.

JOHANA

Well why haven't you gone to see it?

(CONTINUED)

EAMUS

I like to keep my business under the radar. That find there is very much over the radar. Big finds bring big names to come looking for you.

Johana writes 'north' on the map in her journal.

JOHANA

Thank you.

EAMUS

Don't be afraid to use that gun next time.

Eamus begins to walk away.

JOHANA

Next time?

EAMUS

Yep. They'll be back. They'll always be back.

EXT. RUINS - DAY.

A group of zealots has gathered to mourn their dead comrades in the ruins. The LEADER looks at the bodies.

LEADER

These were good men. Let them find the warm embrace of the holy Sister.

ZEALOTS

Let their memory be praised.

LEADER

Let they who did this find our Brothers' everlasting damnation.

He notices that one has a crumpled up piece of paper in his hand. He pulls out the paper to look at it. It is the rendering of the goddess and a portion of Johana's map.

LEADER

Brothers and sisters...

The zealots gather round. The Leader holds up the page.

(CONTINUED)

LEADER

Another poor child had been  
deceived by those who would wish to  
blaspheme the holy Sister.

Murmurs emanate from the other zealots.

LEADER

We cannot allow this homeworld to  
be turned inside out by people who  
refuse to accept the one final  
truth of the universe.

They have gone silent. The Leader looks to two of the  
zealots, AJAX and XAN. He hands them the page.

LEADER

Find this person, and purge them  
from this place.

EXT. FOREST - LATER.

Johana walks through the forest. She stops for a moment to  
examine her journal again. Where she had written 'north',  
she had previously written 'south'

NINA (VOICE)

Do you wish to continue on the  
present path?

JOHANA

Yes.

NINA (VOICE)

Reports show increased zealot  
activity along our present course.

JOHANA

Okay.

Johana keeps walking.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT.

Johana sits by the fire reading and writing in her journal.

JOHANA

Hey, Nina.

(CONTINUED)

NINA (VOICE)  
Yes?

JOHANA  
Is there anyone nearby?

NINA (VOICE)  
Not a soul.

Johana looks up at the stars.

JOHANA  
Then let's have some music.

NINA (VOICE)  
Anything specific?

JOHANA  
Surprise me.

Nina begins playing (NINA'S SONG). Johana sits and listens.

Johana looks up to the sky.

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

Johana walks through the forest. She stops in a small clearing and looks at a pile of rocks. One has a symbol on it. She makes a note of it in her journal.

EXT. RIVER - DAY.

Johana walks beside a river.

JOHANA  
Nina?

NINA (VOICE)  
Yes, doctor?

JOHANA  
Could you try calling James again?

NINA (VOICE)  
Certainly.

INT. HOME - DAY.

FLASHBACK

Johana throws on a coat and heads for the door. A picture of Johana and James sits on the table next to the door.

JOHANA

Hey, Nina, I'm going out for a bit.  
I've got an appointment with Dr.  
Seiken.

NINA (VOICE)

I'll lock up after you.

JOHANA

Thanks.

Johana heads out.

INT. OUTSIDE SEIKEN'S OFFICE - DAY.

Johana sits outside an office. She notices a bulletin posted to a corkboard on one of the walls. She zeros in on a peice of paper that reads "DIOLIEV SURVEY TEAM: SIGN UP NOW".

SECRETARY

Dr. Shenzra? Dr. Seiken will see  
you now.

INT. ACADEMY - DAY.

Johana walks into DR. SEIKEN's office. His office is strewn with the typical trappings of an academic, most of which are more than familiar to Johana. She notices that there is a beautiful stained glass artifact sitting in the window.

SEIKEN

What's brings you by this time, Jo?  
Need more grant money? Because I'll  
give it to you.

JOHANA

You can't give me grant money, Dr.  
Seiken.

SEIKEN

I know, but it always feels good to  
offer. I've actually got a staff  
meeting I need to run off to soon.  
Do you mind if we walk and talk?

(CONTINUED)

He gathers some papers and stands.

JOHANA  
Not at all.

She gestures to the artifact.

JOHANA  
Is this a new piece?

SEIKEN  
Yes, it's really quite remarkable.  
Regardless of the subject matter,  
you can't deny the craftsmanship  
involved in its creation.

He begins to walk out. Johana follows. The following  
dialogue is delivered as they walk out of the office.

JOHANA  
Did you hear about my brother?

SEIKEN  
Ah, Jim, yes. He was a good kid.  
Sad to have him go.

EXT. UNIVERSITY - DAY.

Johana and Seiken exit the building. The following exchange  
occurs on the steps of the university.

JOHANA  
Did he tell you why he was leaving?

SEIKEN  
Indeed he did.

JOHANA  
What do you think?

SEIKEN  
Well you and I have had this  
conversation before. You know I've  
never been one to buy into the  
notion that all the chaos in the  
universe is just a series of cosmic  
ripples from some sort of sibling  
wrestling match.

JOHANA  
He and I had had this conversation  
before too. That's the part that  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



JOHANA (cont'd)  
really gets me. I don't know what  
changed. I thought he knew better.  
But somehow his mind changed. And  
that's why I want you to put me on  
the Dioliev survey team.

SEIKEN  
What?

JOHANA  
You know I can get out there and  
find it. Your survey team will just  
go out there and dust off some old  
hunk of rock and say it's the  
discovery of the year. Let me lead  
the team, and I'll go out there and  
find her body.

SEIKEN  
I'm not going to do that, Jo.

JOHANA  
Why not? You know I could.

SEIKEN  
That's neither here nor there. I'm  
not going to put an entire survey  
team at risk so that you can hunt  
down what is essentially a very  
academic hunch.

JOHANA  
Tell me that there isn't historical  
evidence of those three siblings  
having lived on that planet.

Seiken lets her continue, knowing he won't be able to stop  
her until she says her piece.

JOHANA  
Tell me there isn't historical  
evidence that, yes, they did rule  
there for a long time. And people  
in a position like that would have  
gotten the best burial rites  
available. Correct?

SEIKEN  
Correct.

(CONTINUED)

JOHANA

So unless they actually became gods, her body is out there on that planet somewhere, frozen in a pillar of glass. Right?

SEIKEN

And we have absolutely no idea where that would be.

JOHANA

But the only reason it wouldn't be able to be found is if they were actually gods, yes?

SEIKEN

Johana.

JOHANA

Do you think she's a goddess?

SEIKEN

No.

JOHANA

So you think she's out there?

SEIKEN

Yes, I do.

JOHANA

So let me find her.

SEIKEN

Johana, I know this is a rough time for you. But you have to let James make his own choices. I don't agree with them either, but he's a grown man. And I'm not setting you loose on that planet without some firm evidence of the location of whatever burial site might be out there. I'd lose my job, and you might lose your life.

He checks the time.

SEIKEN

I really need to get going. I'm sorry I can't be of any more help right now.

(CONTINUED)

JOHANA  
It's alright. Thanks for letting me  
vent.

SEIKEN  
Any time.

He walks away.

INT. HOME - NIGHT.

Johana sits at her table reading a textbook about the  
Siblings. She gets out an empty journal and begins to write  
in it.

JOHANA  
Hey, Nina?

NINA (VOICE)  
Yes, doctor?

JOHANA  
What was the name of the pilot we  
met at last year's conference?

NINA (VOICE)  
The one from the Naval Academy?

JOHANA  
Mmhmm.

NINA (VOICE)  
Seargent Henry Marcius.

JOHANA  
Give him a call for me would you? I  
want to book a flight.

NINA (VOICE)  
Certainly, doctor.

SFX: Phone ringing

EXT. RIVER - DAY.

BACK TO PRESENT

SFX: Phone ringing

This phone call follows the same course of events as before.

(CONTINUED)

NINA (VOICE)  
We can try calling him again  
tonight, doctor.

JOHANA  
Thanks, Nina. I really appreciate  
having you to talk to.

NINA (VOICE)  
Thank you, doctor.

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

A pair of zealot trackers follow Johana's footsteps through  
the underbrush. The wield wicked looking blades.

EXT. NORTHERN RUINS - DAY.

Johana walks amongst ruined columns. Several bodies lay  
around her, various religious looking weapons protrude from  
the dead treasure hunters. Johana pulls out the gun given to  
her by Eamus. She notices a symbol on the boots and bag of  
one of the bodies. This symbol appears in various other  
places on the other bodies.

JOHANA  
Nina, are you reading this?

NINA (VOICE)  
Looks like this was the survey team  
from the academy.

Johana descends into the ruins.

INT. ANTECHAMBER - DAY.

Johana descends into the antechamber, and immediately  
recognizes that this is not the place she is looking for.

NINA (VOICE)  
Something in this chamber is  
obscuring my sensors.

Various religious relics are strewn about, but this site is  
obviously not a tomb.

JOHANA  
Let's get out of here then.

She climbs out of the antechamber.

EXT. NORTHERN RUINS - DAY.

Johana comes out of the antechamber. She makes her way through the strewn bodies of the dead to continue on into the forest.

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

Johana continues through the forest just outside of the ruins. The all too familiar PING of a proximity alert rings in her ears.

NINA (VOICE)  
Human signals.

Johana takes cover behind a tree and arms her gun. She peaks around the tree to see Domiel walking through the woods towards the site she was just came from. He is talking on some sort of communicator.

DOMIEL  
I'm about a kilometer out from the  
site, any word from whoever sent  
the signal?

Somebody on the other side of the communicator responds.

DOMIEL  
Copy. I'll let you know what I  
find.

Domiel continues on into the ruins. Johana moves from her cover further into the forest.

JOHANA  
Nina, let's re-evaluate our route.  
This was a dead end.

NINA (VOICE)  
Will do, Doctor.

They continue through the forest.

EXT. RIVER - DAY.

Johana hikes through the forest and comes to a river.

JOHANA  
We need to get across.

Johana pulls out her journal and a map.

(CONTINUED)

NINA (VOICE)  
I'm detecting a new signal nearby.

JOHANA  
Human?

NINA (VOICE)  
Yes.

JOHANA  
How many?

NINA (VOICE)  
Only one.

Johana draws her gun and approaches the riverbank. She sees TOVIS fishing. She approaches. The only other gun in sight is set on a rock out of Tovis' reach. She picks it up.

JOHANA  
Are there even any fish in this river?

Tovis is startled and turns around. He sees that she has his gun.

JOHANA  
Now I don't want any trouble. Is there a bridge anywhere nearby?

TOVIS  
There's one about five miles from here.

JOHANA  
Upstream or downstream?

TOVIS  
Nope.

JOHANA  
Nope what?

TOVIS  
Give me my gun and I'll tell you.

JOHANA  
I'm not an idiot.

TOVIS  
Neither am I.

(CONTINUED)

JOHANA  
What's your name?

TOVIS  
Tovis.

JOHANA  
Why should I trust you, Tovis?

TOVIS  
Because I was just here fishing?  
It's quite cathartic. Why should I  
trust you? You're the one with the  
gun drawn.

Johana lowers her gun.

TOVIS  
I'm a botanist. Now I am here with  
a someone else if you must know,  
but he's just my guide through this  
area. Can I have my gun back now?

NINA (VOICE)  
Physiological readings indicate he  
is telling the truth.

JOHANA  
Don't do anything stupid.

Johana tosses him the gun. He holsters it. She lowers her  
gun.

TOVIS  
So what's your story?

JOHANA  
I'm an archeologist.

TOVIS  
Right, so you're Doctor 'what'  
then?

JOHANA  
Shenzra. First name's Johana.

TOVIS  
Nice to meet you, Dr. Shenzra. I  
would've preferred it at a  
conference or something, but I  
guess this will have to do.

He picks up his fishing gear.

(CONTINUED)

JOHANA

Where's the bridge?

TOVIS

Well, it's more of a fallen tree, but it's five miles upstream. We were actually headed that direction, but Domiel went off to check something out, so I've been waiting here.

JOHANA

Anything interesting about him?

TOVIS

I hired him to show me around this area. There's a nocturnal flower that only grows during this season, and this is the only planet it grows on. What are you here for?

JOHANA

Just investigating a rumor.

TOVIS

Just you?

JOHANA

For now.

TOVIS

Well you can come with us if you want, as long as we're traveling on the same route. We haven't seen any of those religious fanatics all the freighter pilots talk about, but there's always more strength in numbers. In case.

JOHANA

That's true.

Johana looks out at the river. Domiel calls in on the comms.

DOMIEL (VOICE)

Tovis. You there?

TOVIS

I'm here. What's the situation over there?

(CONTINUED)



DOMIEL (VOICE)  
Looks like something hit this place  
hard before we got to it.

TOVIS  
That's too bad.

DOMIEL (VOICE)  
You still by the river?

TOVIS  
Yeah.

DOMIEL (VOICE)  
Night's falling soon. Head about a  
kilometer upstream. There's a more  
secure area up there that I think  
we should hole up in for the night.  
I'll send you the coordinates.

One of Tavis' bags DINGS. He pulls out an electronic map.

TOVIS  
Got it. Meet you there?

DOMIEL (VOICE)  
Yeah. Stay out of trouble. I don't  
want any unnecessary paperwork.

TOVIS  
For what?

DOMIEL (VOICE)  
If I have to mail your body off  
this planet.

Johana gives Tavis a look.

TOVIS  
He jokes like that.

DOMIEL (VOICE)  
You still there?

TOVIS  
Yep, sorry. Will do. Over and out.

Tavis puts the comms away.

JOHANA  
Seems like a charmer.

(CONTINUED)

TOVIS  
Want to come with?

NINA (VOICE)  
It couldn't hurt to go with them.  
He is right about strength in  
numbers.

EXT. NORTHERN RUINS - DAY.

Ajax and Xan looks about the ruins. Xan points to a disturbance in the dust, in the shape of Johana's footprints. The footprints lead away from the ruins and into the woods.

EXT. FOREST CAMP - NIGHT.

Tovis and Johana set up a meager camp. He cooks one of the fish over the fire.

TOVIS  
So what's this mysterious  
fact-finding mission you're on,  
doc?

JOHANA  
Just trying to get some historical  
documents.

TOVIS  
Historical documents?

JOHANA  
Yeah.

TOVIS  
What, a novel? A map? Thousand year  
old tax audits?

JOHANA  
Not quite sure yet. But crossing  
that river is the first step.

TOVIS  
Well, I'm glad I could be of  
service on that front.

JOHANA  
I guess it's pretty lucky I ran  
into you.

(CONTINUED)

TOVIS

What do you mean?

JOHANA

Well, from what I've seen so far of this place, most people here just want to kill you. And you didn't try to kill me.

TOVIS

Well, I figured it was the polite thing to do. But I don't think it was lucky. Luck isn't real.

JOHANA

I don't follow.

TOVIS

Luck isn't real.

JOHANA

Do you always get this intellectual when you first meet somebody?

TOVIS

No, but I think it's an interesting conversation starter. Why do you believe in luck?

JOHANA

I wouldn't say I 'believe' in it. That makes it sound like some kind of religion.

TOVIS

Exactly. And that's ridiculous right?

JOHANA

But I would word it differently. I think luck is a thing, like love, or happiness.

TOVIS

Okay, so if luck is some tangible thing, what power did luck have over us running into each other on this particular planet?

JOHANA

It's metaphysical. It doesn't exert force.

(CONTINUED)

TOVIS

So then why say it's lucky we met?

JOHANA

It's a description of the situation. "It's lucky we met". It's like an adjective for the meeting.

TOVIS

Right. And that's why I say that luck, as most people see it, is not real. Luck isn't a thing, like gravity or time. It's no thing.

JOHANA

I see what you did there.

TOVIS

Yeah?

A small smile crosses Johana's face.

TOVIS

I figured this was better than the traditional kind of small talk people make the first time they meet.

JOHANA

I can't say I disagree with you.

They sit for a moment.

TOVIS

So, there sure are a lot of stars up there, huh?

JOHANA

Alright.

EXT. FOREST CAMP - DAY.

Some smoke still emanates from the ruins of the fire. Tavis is sleeping soundly. Johana wakes up to find Domiel watching over the both of them.

DOMIEL

And who might you be, miss?

Tavis stirs.

(CONTINUED)

JOHANA

Johana Shenzra. Are you Domiel?

DOMIEL

Yes ma'am. Tovis didn't tell me you're with him. Almost tripped over you when I came back to camp last night. Thought you were some wild thing. Nearly put you down.

Tovis is awake now.

TOVIS

Well, we're all glad that didn't happen.

DOMIEL

Now, I'm all for her tagging along, but I've only been paid to look after you. Her security is none of my concern if the shit hits the fan.

JOHANA

I can take care of myself.

DOMIEL

I hope so.

Domiel begins to pack up his things.

DOMIEL

Now let's get moving.

Domiel leaves the camp.

JOHANA

He's even more charming in person.

TOVIS

That why I pay him the big bucks.

Tovis follows Domiel out of the camp.

JOHANA

See what you can find out about this guy, Nina. Begin with the known databases.

NINA (VOICE)

I don't imagine he'd be on any of the known databases.

Johana follows them out.

(CONTINUED)

JOHANA

I know.

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

The three travelers move through the forest.

JOHANA

So what's this flower you're looking for, Tavis?

TOVIS

It's called the Red Star Bloom. Hasn't been found on any other planet, so the lab sent me to try to get some samples of it. Its actually pretty interesting. Historically, the natives called it the 'mind killer' because it's pollen would make the insects go crazy. They thought it was possessing the bugs' spirits.

DOMIEL

I'm glad you showed up, Johana. Now I get to hear all of this again.

TOVIS

It's interesting!

DOMIEL

Its a flower. It blooms, it wilts, it dies.

TOVIS

And it's beautiful the whole time.

DOMIEL

And what are you here for, Jo?

JOHANA

Just investigating a rumor.

DOMIEL

Got lot's of those out here. Any one in particular.

JOHANA

Yes.

( CONTINUED )

DOMIEL  
Care to enlighten us?

JOHANA  
Not particularly.

DOMIEL  
Fair enough.

Domiel begins to walk a little faster.

DOMIEL  
Let's pick up the pace.

Tovis speeds up to match Domiel, Johana lingers behind a bit.

JOHANA  
Nina, what can you find out about this guy?

NINA (VOICE)  
Not much. I would assume he keeps most of his business of the books, like that other fellow we encountered.

JOHANA  
I don't like this.

TOVIS  
What's that?

JOHANA  
Nothing, just talking to myself.

DOMIEL  
You shouldn't do that, Jo - people will think you're crazy.

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

The zealot scouts have come upon the travelers' campsite.

BROTHER AJAX  
The Siblings have sent us a blessing. The heretic is traveling with two others.

BROTHER XAN  
Poor souls.

(CONTINUED)

BROTHER AJAX

We will give them a chance to  
recant of their heresies. But do  
not assume they will.

EXT. RIVER - DAY.

The travelers walk beside a river. Tovis loses his footing  
and one of his feet slips into the river. Domiel pulls him  
up.

TOVIS

Thanks.

Tovis takes the waterlogged boot off.

DOMIEL

Let me have that, boss. I've got a  
spare set here you can borrow.

Domiel takes the boot and removes a new pair of boots from  
his bag. The boots have the academy's symbol on them.

JOHANA

Nina, do you see that?

NINA (VOICE)

Yes, Doctor.

TOVIS

Thanks.

DOMIEL

No problem.

Domiel catches Johana staring at him.

DOMIEL

What the matter, never seen a man  
this pretty?

Johana says nothing. Domiel laughs and keeps on walking.

DOMIEL

The river forks further on. I want  
to get there before nightfall.

Tovis has finished putting on the new boots and begins to  
follow Domiel.

(CONTINUED)



NINA (VOICE)  
Doctor, I think it would be  
advisable to part ways with these  
men as soon as possible.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT.

Tovis, Domiel, and Johana sit around a fire. Johana is  
writing in her journal.

DOMIEL  
Whatcha got there, Jo?

JOHANA  
My notes.

DOMIEL  
Mind if I take a look?

JOHANA  
As a matter of fact, I do.

Domiel chuckles. Johana keeps on writing. Tovis is grooming  
a small plant. Domiel checks his gun. There is a single shot  
in the magazine. He loads in a second shot.

DOMIEL  
Sure I can't take just a quick  
peek?

Johana keeps writing. Domiel gets up and walks over to her.  
She closes the journal and looks up at him.

DOMIEL  
What're you after?

Tovis looks up from his plant.

DOMIEL  
Let me see that book.

JOHANA  
No.

Johana begins to put the book back in her bag. Domiel  
reaches out and grabs her arm.

JOHANA  
Let me go.

(CONTINUED)

DOMIEL

What are you looking for?

Tovis gets up.

TOVIS

What are you doing?

Johana punches Domiel in the face. He lets her go. Johana stands up. Domiel lunges at Johana but is intercepted by Tovis. Tovis and Domiel struggle for a moment before Domiel pushes Tovis away. Domiel pulls out his gun and shoots Tovis. Tovis falls to the ground as Domiel turns back to Johana and shoots her in the shoulder. She falls to the ground and leans against the log she was formerly sitting on. Domiel kneels down beside her.

DOMIEL

You sure are beautiful.

Domiel begins to rifle through her belongings. He finds her journal and begins to flip through it. Another gunshot rings out through the night. Domiel falls to the ground. Johana loses consciousness.

INT. EAMUS' HIDEAWAY - DAY.

Johana awakens, bruised and bandaged. She looks around. Eamus enters.

EAMUS

Feeling better? You were out for a long time.

Johana looks around. She notices the bandages around her shoulder.

EAMUS

Sorry I couldn't get to you sooner. I didn't know that hunter was going to go crazy like that.

JOHANA

Where are we?

EAMUS

Somewhere safe.

JOHANA

Were you following me?

(CONTINUED)

EAMUS  
Yes. As a field test of sorts.

JOHANA  
Why?

EAMUS  
To see if I could trust you.

JOHANA  
Excuse me?

EAMUS  
I know. Not the smartest move I've  
ever made. I shouldn't have let you  
fall in with those two.

EAMUS  
We can talk more about this when  
you're feeling better. I just  
wanted to make sure you were okay.  
I'm Eamus, by the way, Eamus  
Kazemedede.

JOHANA  
I figured.

EAMUS  
What tipped you off?

JOHANA  
My AI told me about you when we  
came to this rock. I just kind of  
assumed it was you. I don't imagine  
there's too many other reclusive  
hermits out here.

EAMUS  
Well, now you can understand why I  
wanted to stay under the radar.

Johana lays back down.

EAMUS  
I'll check back in in a couple  
hours. You'll be safe here. The  
zealots don't know about this  
place.

He leaves.

INT. EAMUS' HIDEAWAY - DAY.

Johana gets up out of bed and rummages through her bag. She finds an earpiece and puts it in.

JOHANA

Nina?

NINA (VOICE)

Yes, Doctor? I was beginning to worry about you.

JOHANA

Same here.

She looks toward the door.

JOHANA

Any signals outside?

NINA (VOICE)

Only Dr. Kazemedede, but he's a mile or so outside the perimeter.

JOHANA

Let's take a walk.

EXT. EAMUS' HIDEAWAY - DAY.

Johana walks around the hideaway, taking in the beauty of the area.

JOHANA

What day is it, Nina?

NINA (VOICE)

It's the twenty-seventh day of the current solar cycle.

JOHANA

I want to try calling James again.

NINA (VOICE)

As you wish.

The phone rings, and is picked up this time.

MAN (VOICE)

Hello?

(CONTINUED)

JOHANA

Yes, hello, is this James Shenzra?

MAN (VOICE)

No, he's in prayer this afternoon.  
May I ask who's calling?

JOHANA

Um, this is his sister, Johana.

MAN (VOICE)

He should be available in another  
couple hours, I'll let him know  
that you called.

JOHANA

Thank you.

The man on the other end hangs up.

INT. EAMUS' HIDEAWAY - DAY.

Eamus comes in with some food. He sets a plate down in front  
of Johana.

JOHANA

This place is beautiful.

EAMUS

I found it on a scouting  
expedition, and moved in when I  
decided it wasn't safe to go off  
world anymore.

JOHANA

Why was that?

EAMUS

Because I found it.

Johana lets that settle in.

JOHANA

What's inside?

He begins eating.

EAMUS

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

JOHANA

Excuse me?

EAMUS

What?

JOHANA

You don't know what's inside?

EAMUS

No.

JOHANA

So you've been sitting accross the discovery of the millenium and you don't actually know what's in there?

EAMUS

I couldn't open the door.

JOHANA

So break in some other way. I'm sure we could figure something out.

EAMUS

No, I'm sure the door works fine. I just couldn't bring myself to open it.

A moment of silence.

JOHANA

I don't get it.

EAMUS

Look. If I went into that tomb and there was no body inside of it, then nothing would have changed and people could go on living their lives the same way they have for thousands of years. But, if I went in there and found that woman's body, then hundreds of billions of peoples' lives would be shattered forever. An entire swath of humanity suddenly without a way of life, because of me. I was standing there at the door, and suddenly I didn't want to know what was inside.

( CONTINUED )

JOHANA

So what? If she's there people should know.

EAMUS

Archeology was about preserving people's culture, not destroying it.

JOHANA

Don't try and pull that. This is bigger than just some archeological expedition. This is about finding the truth.

EAMUS

Is that what you told yourself to get this far?

JOHANA

Now look, I didn't travel all this way to get a lecture from some old man in a cave. The universe needs this. If she's there I need to know.

EAMUS

Why? What good does it do if you find her?

JOHANA

Think about the people that chased me out of those ruins. They wanted to kill me. And they would have if you hadn't gotten to them first. You're telling me this is the kind of culture we need to preserve? One where people try it kill you if you disagree with them?

EAMUS

You're not just disagreeing with them. You're exhuming the woman they worship.

She gives him a look but continues eating.

EAMUS

Okay, I'll make you a deal. Take a day to think this over. If, by tomorrow, you're sure this discovery is something you want, we can talk about where the tomb is.

(CONTINUED)

Johana keeps eating.

EAMUS

Besides, you have to finish healing anyway. Just take some time and think this through.

EXT. EAMUS' HIDEAWAY - DAY.

Johana awakens and leaves Eamus' abode to explore the surrounding area and give some thought to his offer.

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

The two zealot trackers look at the bodies of Tovis and Domiel before heading towards Eamus' hideaway.

INT. EAMUS' HIDEAWAY - DAY.

Eamus looks through some of his old books. He pulls up old maps and texts regarding the Siblings. He looks out the window to see Johana outside.

EXT. SPRING - SAME TIME.

Johana sits by the water. Eamus walks up.

EAMUS

Lunch is about ready if you want it.

JOHANA

This place reminds me of a moon my family used to travel to. Every summer we'd go there. Everyone would always want to go to the lakes, but I would want to stay in the cities and go to the museums. That's why I became an archeologist. Figured I could get the best of the academics and the exotic locations.

Eamus sits next to her.

JOHANA

Can't even remember the last time we were there as a family. James would know.

(CONTINUED)



EAMUS  
Who's James?

JOHANA  
My brother.

EAMUS  
And what does he do?

JOHANA  
He joined the priesthood.

Eamus understands. He stands up again.

EAMUS  
Come on. Come inside and get some food.

INT. EAMUS' HIDEAWAY - DAY.

Eamus has some food prepared on plates. An assortment of books are also on the table. A map is being used as a tablecloth. Johana and Eamus sit.

JOHANA  
Thanks.

EAMUS  
I think I understand now.

JOHANA  
What?

He pulls out a journal of his own.

EAMUS  
Here's all my notes on the tomb, including it's location. I can't handle the weight of knowing what's in there, but I think you're different. This is obviously a much more personal thing for you than it ever was for me.

She reaches for the journal. He hold it back.

EAMUS  
I need you to understand the weight of this information. This could change the lives of billions of people. I need to know that that's something you're okay with.

(CONTINUED)

Johana nods. He hands her the journal.

EAMUS

We can leave in the morning if you'd like. I can take you as far as the perimeter of the site, but after that you're on your own.

JOHANA

Thank you.

EAMUS

I hope you know what you're getting yourself into.

JOHANA

I do.

EAMUS

Good. Now-

A sudden PING on one of Eamus' consoles breaks the conversation. Eamus gets up to check on the alert.

EAMUS

Something triggered my perimeter relays. Two signals.

Eamus grabs his gun. Voices can begin to be heard in the distance. The liturgical chants of the zealot trackers begin to fill the air.

EAMUS

We may have to move that morning departure up a bit.

EXT. EAMUS' HIDEAWAY - DAY.

Eamus and Johana emerge from the hideaway and begin their escape. The trackers spot them and give chase. Eamus is shot in the leg. He falls, Johana turns around. Eamus looks at here, and there is an understanding between them.

NINA (VOICE)

We should go, Doctor.

JOHANA

Thank you, Eamus.

She goes. The trackers approach. Eamus aims his gun.

EXT. FOREST - SAME TIME.

Johana hears a series of gunshots ring out in the forest. A dark silence falls over the forest. She waits for a moment before continuing.

JOHANA

Signals?

NINA (VOICE)

I can detect no signals in the  
nearby area.

Johana continues on.

EXT. TOMB - DAY.

Johana stands at the doorway to the tomb. She checks Eamus' journal to make sure she is in the right place. She reaches out a hand to touch the door, but is stopped by the RING of her phone.

NINA (VOICE)

Incoming call from James, Doctor.  
Should I respond?

Johana thinks for a moment.

CUT TO BLACK.