

Heroes of Polus

Chapter 1

Argus woke up and stretched. Today was his first day on-the-job at Polus. He'd been training quite a bit for the past month. Polus had always fascinated him, from the molten core and freezing cold surface, to the purple rock that enveloped said core, it was all amazing. He thought about what he'd find there. He practically skipped down the stairs once he'd showered and whatnot. "Alright mom, first day on Polus!" He hugged his mom.

"Will you still come to visit me?" She held her son's hands in hers.

"Of course! I'll at least be home for the holidays I bet!" Argus started moving boxes of belongings out to his car.

"Do you have everything you need?" His mother helped move the cargo.

"I.. believe so." He pushed a box to the back of the trunk. "Oh, thanks mom."

"No problem. Now, you better get going. You still have to pick up Luna." His mom put a box in the trunk.

"Shit, I forgot about Luna." He quickly put the other boxes into the trunk and hugged his mom tightly. "I'm gonna miss you mom. If I can call you, I will, alright?"

"Yes, dear. Your father would've been very proud of your accomplishments. I know I'm proud of you." She patted Argus' head. "I'll be here waiting for you when you come to visit."

—

Argus arrived at Luna's house, where the rose crewmate was waiting outside his house. "ARRGUUUSSSS HIIIII!!" Luna ran up to Argus' passenger side window with his suitcase.

"You've only got a suitcase? You do realise you're going to be living on-site, right?" Luna nodded.

"Of course I do. I never had much. It's like a new life! A fresh start!" Luna hopped into the car's passenger seat with his suitcase up front with him. "I could find love.. or something like that." He shrugged quickly.

"You don't seem to realise that this is important work and research, Luna..." he muttered. Lina giggled.

"Of course I realise it's important. I.. just have some side things to keep me busy afterwards. Lots of people do that, so I've heard."

"Well, I intend to do my job, so don't try anything with me." Argus said gruffly. "Hope you're not forgetting anything." He put the car in drive and started off towards the launch site.

At the launch site, Argus got help taking his boxes into the storage room. He had a tough time staying focused, however, as the crewmate helping him was admirably strong. Once everyone's luggage was strapped in, the dropship was launched. Lucky for Argus, the strong crewmate was in their shipment. Argus sat down beside him once he shook Luna off.

"H-heyy.. sir." He did some admittedly awkward finger guns. The navy crewmate turned his head halfway towards him.

"What do you want." It sounded more of a demand than a question. Argus swallowed hard.

"I.. uh- wanted to say hi and- uh..." he found himself staring at the man's outstanding pectoral muscles that looked as though they'd rip through the shirt if any sudden movements were made or if he flexed them.

"What're you staring at." He turned fully towards Argus, who immediately felt his heart rate spike and his hands grow clammy.

"I-er- w-well uh- s-sorry..!" He ducked his head, looking away. Argus heard a gruff laugh. "I-I'm sorry?" He tried again.

"I get gawkers all the time," he held out one of his huge hands. "Python. You?" Python Argus hesitantly took Python's hand in a handshake. Python jerked Argus' hand a little hard.

"Ah-Argus." He stuttered. "And uh, I have a friend with me, Luna," Argus pointed to the rose crewmate who appeared to be trying to flirt already. "He's.. a card."

"So it would seem. Very.. flamboyant." Python observed. Argus had started staring at Python's muscles again. Python seemed to notice. "You seem.. interested." Argus didn't want to be creepy, but he really, really wanted to touch Python's muscles. "You know," Python continued. "I get women asking to touch my muscles all the time around here," Python squinted at Argus, who snapped his head up in attention. "Oh. You're a man. My apologies." Python chuckled.

"Wha-?! Y-you thought I was a girl?!" Argus felt a shock course through his body for a moment.

"Well, with the way your body's structured, yes. You're very scrawny." Python pat Argus' head, which made Argus bob up and down with the weight. He had to get away from this guy before he said or did something he regretted. He wasn't mad, he was aroused. Argus bet that that was probably what Python was trying to achieve. And Argus was falling for it hook, line, and sinker.

"What's wrong? You seem like your mind is racing." Python seemed to smirk, standing up. "Follow me, short stuff." Argus quickly stood up, keeping his hands at his sides and seeming quite stiff. He took a glance back at Luna, who didn't seem to give a rat's ass about what was happening, then followed Python.

"S-sir..? Where are we going?" Argus piped up nervously. Python opened a door and held it for Argus.

"You'll see, princess." Python's voice seemed to get more seductive. Whatever Python was planning, Argus definitely wanted it right now. He wasn't usually the easily aroused type. It seemed that Python had a silver tongue with him. Argus shivered and walked into the dimly-lit room.

"What's this place?" Argus looked around, blinking more than usual to get his eyes adjusted.

"Captain's quarters. Also known as my quarters. Make yourself at home." Python sprawled out on a throne-like chair, legs spread in an obvious seductive fashion. Argus' mouth watered and he felt clammy all over. He wasn't sick, no, he was more aroused than he'd ever been before.

"Erm.. what.. did you have planned? F-for..! Us? To do? Like- er..." the words fell out of Argus' mouth and he covered his face in embarrassment. Python chuckled.

"I brought you back here because I knew what you wanted. I could tell from the moment you laid eyes on this," he gestured to his muscular body. "That you'd want some of that." He gestured to his crotch. Argus swallowed hard. While Python was right, Argus was certainly not ready for whatever size 'weaponry' Python might've had. He knew anything this guy thrust in him would end up tearing him up and leaving him to bleed out with rectal prolapse or something. Fear and anticipation swelled in his throat. "Afraid I'll tear you, eh? Don't worry, princess, I'll go easy on you." Python started unbuckling his belt. "Why don't you hop on up here and go for a ride?" Argus felt a shiver go down his spine. It was as if his feet were moving on their own, as if he were possessed.

"Mm- y-yes, sir." Argus definitely wanted this. If he didn't, he'd probably hide in the corner somewhere.

"Closer, I can't reach you." Python sat in the chair normally, legs spread apart. Argus' heart dropped in his chest. This guy was massive, Argus could tell. Once he stepped closer, Python grabbed Argus' vest collar. "Tell you what. If you can satisfy me, I can get you almost anywhere you want in this galaxy. Furthermore, I'll pay you once a session if you keep coming back. How does.. 200 dollars per session of cold, hard cash sound?" Argus needed that money.

"O-oh, yes s-sir! I-I'll do almost whatever y-you want me to for that kind of pay." Python unzipped Argus' vest.

"Attaboy.. oh, and don't worry about being too noisy. The captain's quarters are soundproof." Python finally freed his sizable cock from it's cloth prison.

"P-please tell me you have.. um.. I-lubricant of some sort." Argus wanted to get his own length out as well, but feared Python would get mad.

"Of course I do. I'd tear you if I went in without it. Although..." Python trailed off and turned Argus around quickly, yanking his pants down.

"Ah-?!" Argus nearly fell down from the force. He heard a tube of something be opened and soon felt Python's fingers prodding at his entrance. "Ah! P-Python, wha-?!"

"You might be too small for me anyways.. hmm.. not sure if you'll be able to take me..."

"I-I can! I can, sir! I can take you!" Argus blurted out. Python chuckled and started working his fingers in and out of Argus' ass.

"Good to hear, princess. Let me prep you first, though. You're awfully tight." Argus squirmed around as Python messed with him. "I was surprised at first when I revealed you. I was expecting a pussy. Forgot you were male." Argus was confused but aroused by Python's strange teasing. "Hmm.. I think I could fit. Back up for me." Argus did so almost immediately, feeling the leaky, throbbing tip of Python's cock touching his entrance.

"Y-you're bigger than I thought you were, s-sir..." Argus swallowed hard and adjusted himself. His cock was only about half the size and girth of Pythons. With a low chuckle, Python turned Argus around, and held him above his cock.

"Don't be shy.. spread yourself for me, princess." Python cooed. Argus quickly did so, nearly becoming desperate for this already. Slowly, Python lowered Argus onto his cock, making Argus squirm and whine. He was still a virgin, much to his dismay. "Ah.. virgin, I see. Interesting..." how did this guy know everything Argus was thinking? He closed his eyes. Okay, test, think about wanting him to put more in.

"More? Are you sure you can handle it?" Argus already felt full, but he felt his arousal spike as Python brushed a wall inside him. He squirmed around, drinking in that little bit of pleasure he was given. "Alright, then." Python lowered Argus more, causing that sweet spot to be brushed. Argus' eyes shot open.

"Ah?! Mmmnhh! P-Python!" Argus cried out. This was better than anything he could've done at home. "M-more, please, sir!"

"Hmm.. okay." Python lowered Argus more. He moved argus a bit, causing Argus' sweet spot to receive a boatload of pressure. Argus cried out, wanting more.

"Please! T-there! Python!" Argus felt painfully hard. Python started slowly moving Argus up and down on him.

"Easy, princess. This is your first time, right?" Python worked more of himself into Argus.

"Y-yes, b-but—!" Argus cut himself off as his sweet spot was hit once again. "Ah! Python, Python, please! Please! I l-like it when you h-hit r-right th-there..." Argus panted. Python leaned Argus back a little, causing more pressure to be put on that spot. Argus let out a full-blown moan, tipping his head back.

"What a wonderful noise that was, princess. Do it again, please." Python lowered Argus abruptly, so that he took Python's entire length inside of himself. He gasped and moaned as Python rocked him around a bit to stimulate him. Argus couldn't take much more of this. He was pretty sure his organs were getting rearranged. After a particularly good hit on his spot, Argus came undone with a loud moan, his cum squirting out in large, hasty, hard spurts. He definitely had just had the best experience he'd had in a long time, if ever. "Done already? Hm.. I guess that was expected." Python shifted around slightly. Argus started to feel a bit sick and sore. Python was too deep inside of him. "Your poor organs are probably getting squished in there. My apologies, princess." Python tipped his head slightly. Argus was relieved when Python slid out of him a bit. "I have an idea for you. One that will be less painful." Python slid himself out of Argus completely. "You hug me so tightly. It feels amazing." Python set Argus down in front of him. "I know you still want this." He lowered his cock to Argus' eye level with his hand.

Argus could barely stand being empty. He hesitantly wrapped both hands around Python's slick, girthy length. Argus' eyes widened as he massaged it in his hands, causing it to drip. "Before you continue, I have to contact our pilot." Python got out his phone, dialling up a number. "Hello? I need you to hold down the fort up at the front for me. I've got a special guest with me right now... okay! That's great. Remember, the destination is Polus." Python hung up. "You're a quiet thing, aren't you, princess?" Python leaned up and patted Argus' head.

"N-no, maybe- I— uh..." he blushed heavily at the comment. "I guess so s-sir..." he ducked his head a little. Argus felt Python's cock twitch in his grip. The navy man chuckled gruffly.

"Alright, get going now. As you can see, the anticipation is almost unbearable." Python leaned back in his chair. "If you want, you can use more of this," he handed Argus the lubricant bottle. "If you think you can take me again, go right ahead."

"Yes, sir." Argus massaged some more lube into the length, watching it throb and leak with greedy eyes.

"Your hands feel like a woman's, but you have the technique of a man who knows his way around a cock. You haven't done much in the way of physical labor, have you?" Python adjusted himself. Argus shook his head ruefully. "Polus has a lot in store for you then." He chuckled.

Argus prodded at the tip, which was leaking profusely. It spurt a bit more opaque liquid and made Python's thighs jerk a little.

"My mom might kill me for this..." Argus muttered.

"Why would she? You're just doing a job." Python was panting softly. Argus rubbed the length up and down in a slow motion.

"I guess so..." he sighed, going back to what he was doing. "Do you like this?"

"Of course I do, princess." Python huffed.

"Are you close..?" Argus massaged the tip of Python's dick.

"I think so. Why? You have something planned?" Python said breathily.

"Maybe." Argus got up on Python's lap.

"Ah, you want me to release myself inside you? Hmm.. I suppose that's fair..." Python picked Argus up, lowering him onto his dick. Argus squirmed and whined, squeezing his eyes shut. "Prepare yourself, princess."

"Ah-! Y-yes sir!" Before he could even finish his sentence, Argus' body was flooded with warmth. He tilted his head back, groaning. Python suddenly shoved as much of his cock as he could fit into Argus. "AH! Python! Th-that's too deep!!" How much more can this guy pump into me? Argus wondered hazily.

"Almost done. Don't worry." Not even two seconds later, the flow stopped. Python groaned a sigh, pulling himself out of Argus. Argus tried to keep the cum from leaking out of him. He was full. Too full. "You tired, princess?" Python hugged Argus to his chest.

"Umh- yes sir." Argus was very tired now. "P-permission to sleep?"

"Of course. Hopefully we'll be at Polus by the time you wake up." Python reclined in the chair, still holding Argus. "Another thing, princess," Python added when Argus was about to doze off. "This ship's crew are space pirates."

Chapter 2

Argus woke up fully clothed and sore. He was back in the main lobby of the ship. Luna was standing in front of him, waving his hand in his face.

“Heeyyyyyy! Argussss, sleepy head, wake up!” Luna grabbed Argus’ hand and tugged on him.

“Luna.. five more minutes...” Argus muttered.

“We have to get off, we’re on Polus.”

“Oh.. great.” He got up, feeling lethargic. Not a good first impression for his coworkers. He trudged out of the ship, seeing Python helping unload stuff. His heart sank in his chest as yesterday’s memories came flooding back vividly. “Ooh.. Python...” he murmured, accidentally bumping into Luna.

“What was that?” Luna had stopped walking at some point, now seeming concerned about Argus.

“Er, nothing, nothing. Really..!” Argus put his hands up. “I just uh.. am a bit sore from sleeping on those chairs. I could use some rest on a softer mattress, but I know I have to get started with work right away.” He sighed. Luna seemed to ignore everything Argus said.

“You know him don’t you? The buff guy? He looks cute, what’s his name?” Luna nudged Argus playfully.

“Uh-! I-I don’t know him, I don’t know why you’d think that I do.” Argus stuffed his hands into his pockets.

“Of course you know him! I see that look in your eye!” Luna got up in Argus’ personal space.

“I- don’t? Okay, look, we’re gonna be late to unpack if we don’t get moving, alright?” Argus brushed past Luna.

“Alright, alright.” Luna followed Argus and the their coworkers to the office. Polus was freezing cold. Argus wished he’d worn warmer clothes. In the office, a black crewmate with a Polus wall guard hat was waiting for them, along with Python and two other men.

“Alright. Listen, all of you. You all managed to get here alive, which is a good start.” Argus swallowed hard. Did people normally die getting here? “Now you have to learn to stay alive as well as do your research. I have some seasoned scientists and workers on-site now to help you navigate the facility,” the black crewmate snapped his fingers and an orange man next to him placed some brochures down on the table. “These contain all of the basic things you need to know about this place. Rules, schedules, and a map. In addition to the rules you see here, we have one, very, very important rule: nobody is to leave the facility and explore the planet without a go-ahead from me first. And that rarely happens. Your bunks are located in the southern part of the facility. You are to attend daily meetings at 14:00 ON THE DOT. I would assume you all have a watch or clock handy.” The man glared around the room at Argus and his coworkers.

"I trust that you all understand the gravity of your position, yes?" He slammed a hand down on the table, making everyone in the group shift around uncomfortably. "Now, split off! I want people with lab applications in front of Viper, orange, supply and electrical management in front of Python, navy, and facility defence in front of Diamondback, tan. Everyone move!" At once, the room was filled with the shuffling of feet and near inaudible 'sorry's' and 'excuse me's'. Lucky for Argus, he was in Python's group. Luna applied for lab work. Like he'd get anything done there. Argus peered around the heads in front of him, locking eyes with the navy man. Python seemed to smirk, until Diamondback nudged him. "Now. To your stations!" Everyone split off, following their faction leader. "And don't think about returning until AT LEAST 20:00. Those who do WILL be punished!" Argus got a bit nervous. The line turned into a cluster as they walked to the second building, and Argus nudged his way to the front with many apologies to his coworkers.

"Ah, it's you. Lucky us, we got paired together, huh?" Python said quietly without looking down.

"Ahaha, y-yeah. Um.. what's the black dude's deal..?" Argus shivered.

"Well," Python clicked his tongue. "He.. wants to make sure the facility is run at peak performance, you know? He's also my boss." Python shrugged. "I don't care much for the guy either, but it is what it is."

"I see... um.. why aren't we allowed out of the facilities boundaries? Is it dangerous out there?" Argus looked up at Python.

"Personally, no. Mira is just worried about impostors." The word sent a chill down Argus' spine.

"Oh. This planet's inhabited by impostors?" Argus said quietly, yet fearfully.

"Yep. The one's I've met are nice, though. In fact, if you can keep a secret, theres a village of them right outside of the facility here, to the south."

"Oh really? Are they the nice ones..?"

"Mostly, yes. There's this fiery yellow-orange one named Ichor, he looks to be about your age." Python poked Argus' head. "He got lucky, he says, but he won't tell me why."

"Oh. That's strange. Sorry for all the questions but er.. what's your bosses name?"

"Mamba. He's.. interesting." Python looked down at Argus who was shivering. "You cold, pr— Argus?" He barely caught himself from calling Argus 'princess' again.

"V-very..." Argus huffed, squeezing his eyes shut momentarily.

"Well, the building's just across this field, see?" Python pointed to the building a few yards away.

“Yes, s-sir.” He knew he should get some warmer clothes on when he got the chance.

“You should absolutely get warmer clothes on.” Python whispered. After a while, they stepped into the building. “First off, electrical. I know some of you may have heard horror stories from this place, but this place is mostly free of any threats, despite what my boss says. I’ll split you guys up into two groups. One group manages wiring on the west side of the facility, while the other manages the east. I’ll handpick a few of you a couple days in to help with supplies. Sound good?” Python clasped his hands together. The group nodded. “Alright! It’s go-time.” He split the group up, and Argus ended up back at the other side of the facility, but at least he was on the same side with Luna. “Don’t worry, princess, I’ll give you my jacket on the walk back. Even better I’ll carry you if you like.” Python whispered to Argus when everyone separated.

“Uh-? Y-you don’t need to do that. It’s a short walk.” Argus blushed and looked around at the rest of his coworkers. Python patted Argus roughly on the back.

“Alright. Can you all walk back yourself after I demonstrate a few things? I’ll be over shortly to explain building-unique tasks.” Python started explaining tasks to the group.

After the demonstration of rewiring the building, Argus’ group walked over to the other building. Along the way, he noticed tracks in the snow which looked fresh(er) . Glancing about, Argus slipped away from the group. The tracks seemed to have come from the direction of the impostor village. Day one of work and he hadn’t done any work and now he was breaking the most important rule of not leaving the site. He needed to know about this village. He, with much difficulty, climbed up the rocky wall, starting to walk in the direction of the impostor village. It was very close to the Polus lab, you could see the lights from the cliff edge. There were people over there, actual people, as well as impostors, but Argus was too far away to tell what was going on. He trotted up to a rock, ducking behind it. He was close enough now to see. It looked like some Mira workers were rounding up.. children, impostor children, in cages. Said cages seemed to be stacked in a small moving van. Some of the workers had electrically-charged spears that they’d jab at unruly parents or children. Argus watched on in horror. This was awful.

Where were they taking those children? It sickened Argus to think of what they could have been doing. Did the site’s lab take them as live specimens? No wonder the impostors have attacked Mira all these years if this was what they were doing. They were at war. The human race was at war with these creatures. Argus heard, heavy, rushed footsteps behind him and he whipped his head around, small tears blurring his vision. Python had gone after him.

“Why’d you wander off? Are you trying to get me or yourself fired..?” Python stopped, staring in confusion at the sight in the village below. “What’s going on here?” He asked Argus.

“It looks like they’re taking the children away. Stuffing them into the back of that van.” Argus pointed to the van, who’s doors were now closing. “We gotta go check on them. Those poor families, their children were just taken from them.”

“By the humans. You’re the last thing they’d want to see after that.” Python furrowed his brow. “This is.. disgusting. Isn’t that a Mira truck?”

“Yeah, sadly. Where do you think they’re taking them?” Argus struggled to stand up. He felt like his body was freezing solid. He wondered if it actually was.

“I don’t have a clue. These guys know me, I’ll introduce them to you, and we’ll get out of there if they aren’t too friendly. Either way, you need warmth, fast.” Python took Argus’ hand in his. “You might get frostbite soon. Come on.” Python started down towards the village. The truck had left just a minute ago. Argus was struggling to move. He wasn’t used to this cold. It never got this cold at home. It never got too terribly cold at home, period. He huffed, pressing on. Python scooped him up all of a sudden. “Keep fighting like that and you’ll freeze quicker.” Python held Argus to his chest. Argus gripped Python’s coat, shivering like a leaf. Once they touched down in the village, Argus heard a great deal of hissing and snarling.

“I smell a fucking human! Did one of them get left behind or something?!”

“Kill it! Find it and kill it!!”

“Relax. He’s right here. We saw what happened, and he hates it just as much as you all do.” Python tried to reason with them. Argus kept his face buried in the fluff of his own and Python’s coat. “I’ll talk once I’m in a warm building. He could very well freeze solid soon.” Python adjusted Argus. Argus felt drowsy. His head felt muddled and fuzzy. His body ached whenever he was moved. The voices around him became muffled and soon, he passed out.

Chapter 3

Argus awoke to someone inches from his face. He slowly opened his eyes halfway, seeing a fiery orange person standing there. He blinked, realising he was being weighed down. This fiery orange person was laying on him.

“Uh.. w-who are you and.. why are you laying on me.” Whoever it was seemed to be purring. This got Argus’ attention. Humans do not purr. His eyes shot open, and he saw that they had a mouth with sharp teeth. Argus yelped, starting to struggle.

“Ah! Sorry! Sorry! I just heard you were cold and I wanted to help warm you up!” Whoever it was got off pretty quickly. Python was standing next to wherever Argus was laying. They seemed to be in a stone hut of sorts, with a small makeshift fireplace. Argus appeared to be laying on a cot, one from Mira, most likely, as it was the classic Mira colors.

“Don’t be alarmed, this is Ichor, the one I mentioned earlier.” Python gestured to the fiery orange man, who waved shyly.

"Ohh.. Ichor," Argus was still a bit wary. He was much warmer now. Python was squinting at the two of them.

"I'll leave you two alone in here." Python walked outside, the cold gust of air brought in by the open door making Argus shiver. Ichor hesitantly approached Argus again, who found himself backing against the wall the cot was against.

"Um.. h-hi?" Argus cleared his throat. "S-sir?"

"I-I'm sorry I scared you, I was trying to save you. I'd just heard you were likely going to freeze to death," he paused and looked at what Argus was wearing. "You.. really need warmer clothes."

"I know, I know. A vest probably wasn't the smartest thing to wear here. Luckily, I packed warmer clothes, but they're back at the site in our sleeping quarters." Argus examined Ichor. "Are those horns real? And that tail?"

"Yeah, I was hatched with them." Ichor turned halfway and flicked his tail around. "Oh- promise me you wont cut them off? Please?"

"Wha-? Cut them off? Why would I do that?" Argus was very confused, but an idea was forming as to why Ichor would think that.

"Well, the.. um.. M-Mira, they.. well..! Y-you saw what happened right!?"

"Yeah, the workers.. kidnapped your young?" Argus nodded.

"W-well sometimes they chop off our appendages! My father got his horns and tail cut off in the prime of his life, when they were the most healthy. They took them back to the lab to study..!" Ichor sat down on the ground, disheartened and distressed. "I-I'm sorry, the experience was traumatic to watch..." he sniffed.

"I'm.. I'm so sorry." Argus stood and knelt next to Ichor to comfort him. "I didn't realise- or.. think to realise. I'm sorry."

"You didn't know, it's fine." Ichor fiddled with his tail tip. "However.. you.. you work for Mira, don't you..?" Ichor grabbed Argus' hands in his own. "You don't work in the lab, do you!?"

"..er.. no? My friend Luna does though. I work on that side of the facility as an electrician and storage manager." Argus gently tried taking his hands back. Ichor let them go.

"Sorry. So, you work on the lab side of the facility, yes?" Ichor went back to fiddling with his tail. Argus nodded hesitantly. "I recently lost a very nice friend, they took her to the lab because of her unique color and features. I've heard from Python that she's still alive. I know you just got

your job there, but could you help us get her back? Python and I have been planning this for a while now.”

“I’ll help. I’ll do everything in my power to help. Honestly, from what I’ve heard, you seem nice enough.” Argus paused. Was he really about to say a bunch of stuff to a stranger? Yes. Argus sighed. “I’ve been taught to hate and fear impostors, but when I heard about this village, I wanted to give you all a chance. Plus, um.. you kinda saved my life. I gotta repay you.”

“That’s.. very nice of you, um..?”

“Argus.”

“Yes, Argus.”

“So.. am I welcome back here? I want to get to know you better.” Argus adjusted himself, wanting to get off the ground.

“Ah, yes, but there’s a s-slight issue...” Ichor stood up, and Argus followed suit.

“What’s that?”

“W-well, impostor heat season is just around the corner...” Ichor fidgeted.

“Ohh. Oh. Yeah, that’s.. that doesn’t sound good.” Argus kind of grew uncomfortable.

“I already feel some of the symptoms.” Ichor rubbed his abdomen. Argus looked at the ground where Ichor was sitting, his eyes widening. There was blood on the ground.

“Um.. Ichor..?” Argus pointed to the blood when Ichor looked at him.

“Oh! Shit! Shit!! I-I’m sorry you have to see that! I didn’t know it was already time for that!” Ichor stood with his legs together and his hands over his face.

“Hey, it’s fine. I know it happens. It happens to humans a lot, I’m sure,” Argus thought for a moment. “You’re.. not biologically male, are you?”

“Um.. n-no...” Ichor seemed a bit defeated. “Sorry...”

“Why are you apologising? I was just asking. There’s nothing to apologise for.” Argus reached up and pet Ichor on the head. He seemed to like it, because he leaned into Argus’ touch. “You like that?” Argus asked. The fur on Ichor’s head was soft, like a paintbrush. Argus thought for a moment if this was what the paintbrushes humans used were made out of.

“Mmhm.. thank you.” Ichor brought his hands to his abdomen again. “I should’ve known this was coming.. I got these pains yesterday.”

“Here, um, sit down if you need to. I can stay longer I bet. Python has to go though, since he’s got a group of crewmates to teach. I bet I can walk back by myself.”

“And risk almost freezing to death again? You should stay, at least until you have a safe way to get back.”

“I could get fired though...” Argus looked anxiously towards the door, then an idea dawned on him. “Tell you what, I’ll be back once I get into the swing of things back on site, yeah? Should take about a week. If I can, I’ll come here at night.”

“That sounds good.. um.. Argus.” Ichor ducked his head a little. Argus stood up, petting Ichor one more time before walking outside where Python was waiting for him. Seeing the village while he was fully awake, it looked shabby, yet cozy. The streets grew quiet when he exited the door. Small children that hadn’t been taken retreated behind their guardians and into snow forts. Argus felt bad for them.

These creatures shouldn’t have to live in fear because of what he was, and he shouldn’t have to live in fear because of what they are. Argus had a new goal: set things right with humans and impostors. He decided he would try to end this war himself.

Python motioned for Argus to follow, and he did. “Python?”

“Yeah?”

“I’ve got a plan for helping you and Ichor.”

Chapter 4

Once they returned to the facility, they got to work. Python explained the electrics and everyone got to work. Argus found rewiring things fascinating. He was quite good at it as well. It was a process: match, tape, match, tape, match, tape. His only question was why the building needed to be rewired so often. As he strolled through decontamination on his way to the lab to download, a glint of metal off the lava through the grate caught his eye. He approached it, picking it up and turning it about in his hands. It was a knife, one he’d seen used by impostors. He gripped it, stuffing it into his vest and hoping nobody saw it.

Once he got into the lab, he saw Luna and some other scientists examining a vial of liquid. Luna looked up momentarily when Argus entered.

“Hey, Argus.” No flamboyancy. Odd.

“Hey.” Argus started the download. Luna handed the vial to another scientist, slipping off his gloves and walking over to Argus.

“How is it so far?”

“It’s.. fine.” Argus was getting a bit nervous. “Is something wrong?”

“What? No. What made you think that?” Luna adjusted his lab coat.

“You seem off, is all...” Argus tapped the side of the downloader a couple times.

“I’m just focused. We all are. We have an important job.”

“I thought you didn’t care?” Argus squinted at Luna. “Are you possessed?”

“I didn’t but that’s because I didn’t know how cool it was,” Luna pat Argus on the head. “Just because I’m interested in this now doesn’t mean I’m, like, possessed or something. That sort of stuff doesn’t exist.” Luna looked past Argus. “Your download’s done.”

“Oh. Thanks.” Argus turned back and finished the download, starting to walk out the admin way instead of the lab way since it was a little bit of a shortcut.

“Oh, Argus? Mamba said nobody’s allowed in the main office until um.. 20:00..? Whenever that is.”

“Damn, really? 8pm?” Argus sighed and took the long way around. “See you after then, Luna.”

“Okaayyy, and don’t freeze..!” Luna returned to his work.

Argus did his tasks, attended the 2 o’ clock meeting, and returned to the main building at 8pm as he was asked. Python and the others were in the main office.

“I trust these three put you to productive work. I’m surprised I didn’t have to punish anyone today. Though, some of you are on thin ice already.” Mamba glared at a tired looking white crewmate who looked half dead. “ARON! ARE YOU LISTENING?!” Mamba snapped, making the room’s atmosphere tense.

“Hhwha-?! Yes sir..!” The white crewmate nodded, still seeming only half alive.

“Hm. All of you, to your bunks NOW. If I catch any of you snooping around after dark you WILL be punished. And you don’t want to know how we punish here.” He narrowed his eyes, pointing to the direction of the bunks. “Any females stay here. I have another place for you,” Mamba

glared at Luna as he was leaving. "YOU! ROSE RECRUIT! I JUST TOLD YOU TO STAY!" Argus' heart dropped in his chest and he hurried to keep up with the group.

"S-sir, I'm not—"

"I ORDERD ALL FEMALES TO STAY!! YOU ARE NO EXCEPTION, PRINCESS!!" Mamba slammed a hand on the table. Luna looked desperately back at Argus, who couldn't bear to make eye contact. The name 'princess' still made Argus' skin prickle.

Once they reached the bunks, Argus located the white crewmate from before. "Hey, I saw what happened. Are you okay? You look.. admittedly half dead."

"It's just the insomnia getting to me.. I'm fine." He pat the bunk next to him and Argus sat down. They got some weird looks, but Argus didn't mind.

"Is there any way I could help?"

"Not really.. I haven't died yet, so I must be doing something right..." he laid down without closing his eyes. Argus hesitantly rubbed the white crewmate's side. "You don't understand personal space, do you..?" He didn't sound mad, however.

"Oh, um, sorry. Just felt like I needed to comfort you somehow." He fidgeted with his hands. "I'll.. go find my bunk now."

"I think it's um... right up above mine.. you're.. that off-blue guy, right..?"

"Off-blue?" He echoed, kind of confused and hurt, but it was what it was, he guessed. "Um, yeah. I'm azure though. My mom said I was."

"Alright.. listen to your mommy..." the man scoffed. Argus shook his head and headed up the ladder. "Sorry..." he said as Argus climbed.

"It's fine. I'm just.. worn out."

"It doesn't get much better than this.. sorry to tell you. Mamba doesn't take very good care of us. The only cool ones are Python and Viper. Mamba would let us all starve and freeze to death if it weren't for Python. Python and Viper singlehandedly controlled a disease outbreak here a while back. Mamba said we could all just fucking die for all he cared..."

"Oh.. disease?"

"Yeah.. a foreign impostor-borne disease we were studying mutated and infected some of our lab workers. Killed them slowly and painfully. We've all been vaccinated against it, so we can study it in peace. However, they haven't given you shots yet, have they..?"

“Um.. no, I was never told anything about a shot.”

“Oh.. I hope Python isn’t slacking...” the white crewmate adjusted himself and covered up. “I’d cover up if I were you. Mamba turns off the heat at night...”

“Oh. Okay,” Argus covered up. “What’s going to happen to the girls?”

“Oh.. um...” The man sighed. “You aren’t going to like the answer...”

“Wh-why?! Is my friend gonna be okay? Are they gonna kill him?”

“Kill him? No. Once Mamba finds out he’s a male, he’ll scream at him and send him here...” the white crewmate shifted around, then groaned in pain.

“Are you okay?” Argus leaned over the side of the bunk.

“Ugh- yeah.. just.. just gonna need medicine soon...” he breathed shallowly. Argus climbed down.

“I can go get Python if you want.”

“You’ll get- agh- punished if Mamba catches you...”

“If he catches me. Do you know where he could be right now?”

“P-probably the main office still...” the man curled up a bit more. “P-Python or Viper will know what I need.. t-tell them Aron sent y-you...”

“Alright. I’ll see what I can do.” Argus crept out of the room, remembering he had the knife carefully in his vest. He pulled it out, holding it at his side as he crept around the facility. Near the main lab area, footsteps sounded. Argus hid near the decrepit stalls, listening and waiting.

“Let me go! You can’t just do this! Why won’t you believe me?! I’m a male!” It was Luna, and it didn’t sound good for him.

“YOU ARE A FEMALE! THE SCANNER SAYS YOU ARE! THE SCANNER DOESN’T LIE!” It sounded like Mamba. “Whatever. Go back with the group.” Mamba shoved Luna. “Women shouldn’t even be here. This is a job for men. Men who don’t need distractions such as yourselves. Your job is to sit back on Earth and pray for the men working here. However, now that you’re here, I should say that any woman that comes here and faces me is not allowed to leave this planet. You can’t be spreading this around on Earth. It’ll ruin this company. That being said, give me any and all communication devices of yours. If you resist, it will not end well for you.”

“So what? We’re just supposed to rot away here?! Just because we’re female?!”

“SILENCE! Python, take her to the prisoners.”

“..yes, sir.”

Argus was appalled. He had to do something about this, but he needed to get medicine for Aron. He got an idea. If he thought hard enough for Python or Viper, maybe he’d hear him.

Python, Viper, the decon hallway, Python, Viper, the decon hallway, Python, Viper...Hissing sounded from beside him, from the corner. “Viper?” Argus whispered.

“You’re lucky it’s me and nobody else.” Viper stepped out from the corner. “What’d you need?”

“Um- it’s Aron. He says he needs medicine?”

“Oh. I’ll grab them and meet you back in the bunks. Keep him calm for me. And give me that knife, I dunno where you found that but it’s illegal to have weapons here.” Viper took the knife from Argus and walked down the hall towards the lab. Argus returned to the bunks where a couple of Argus’ coworkers were standing at Aron’s bedside and murmuring.

“Is he okay?” Argus approached them.

“No, but you don’t know him. You wouldn’t understand.” A neon green crewmate glared at him. “Did you even do what he told you to do?”

“Wha-? Yeah, Viper’s on his way.” He ignored the rude comment. “What’s wrong with him?”

“IBS. You wouldn’t get it.” The neon crewmate looked back at Aron.

“Th-this is embarrassing... y-you guys don’t have to stand here while I’m- h-hunched over like this...” Aron groaned, slowly rolling over on his side and sitting up. The neon green crewmate helped him up. “S-seriously, g-go back to your bunks...” the group dissipated, but the neon crewmate and Argus stayed.

“He said go lay down.” The neon crewmate said harshly.

“Hey, I’m just as concerned as you are.” Argus put his hands up defensively. The neon crewmate huffed agitatedly.

“He must’ve eaten something his body didn’t like. Aron, what’d you eat earlier? I saw that you had something.” The neon crewmate pat Aron’s back gently.

“Um.. I— do I have to answer..? Everyone can hear us, this is embarrassing to talk about...” Aron huffed.

“Move over.” Viper’s voice sounded from behind them. Viper had a couple pills in his hand as well as some pink liquid in a cup. “Take the liquid first and if it doesn’t get better within a half an hour, take the pills. Nobody else is allowed to take either of these medications.” Viper said sternly, turning to leave. “Get well soon.”

“Thanks- s-sir...” Aron took the liquid medicine. “This stuff tastes like shit...” he murmured.

Argus climbed the ladder to his bunk, deciding to get some rest. He was very worried about Luna, but knew there was nothing he could do about it. He eventually went to sleep.

Chapter 5

Argus woke up to someone yelling into a megaphone. The after a few seconds he recognised it as Mamba.

“ALL RECRUITS REPORT TO THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY!! YOU’RE ALL ON THIN ICE RIGHT NOW!!!” Mamba bellowed into the megaphone, making Argus’ ears ring. “THREE OF YOU DIED LAST NIGHT!!” This woke everyone up. Argus’ eyes shot open and he glanced around. His first instinct was to make sure his bunkmate was alive. Thankfully, the white crewmate was sitting up. Hunched over, but sitting up. The neon green crewmate was by his side. Argus climbed down the ladder as everyone filed out of the room, tired but alert.

“Are you okay?” Argus reached out a little to Aron. The neon crewmate waved Argus’ hand away.

“He’ll be fine.”

“Neo, I don’t know about this time.. it’s just getting worse and worse...” so that’s what his name is.

“Don’t say that, you’re gonna be fine.”

“WHAT’S THE HOLD UP?! MOVE, YOU THREE!!” Mamba stormed over to them.

“He’s dealing with IBS symptoms, sir!” Neo glared at Mamba. Mamba grabbed him by the collar.

“I don’t give a damn. GO TO THE OFFICE OR I’LL KILL ALL OF YOU!!!” Mamba pushed Neo away, who fell onto the bed, jostling Aron and making him groan. “Five minutes, you rat bastards. Then it’s CURTAINS for all of you.” Mamba stormed off.

“At this point I’d rather be dead...” Aron huffed, standing up. Neo scrambled to get up and help him.

“Don’t say that! You’ll regret that decision if you do it, I can guarantee you.” Neo tried to help Aron to stand, but Aron was too weak and too sore to do much. His knees started to give way.

“J-just leave me here, Neo, I can’t do it.” Aron went mostly limp. Neo reluctantly let go.

“O-okay.. if.. if I don’t see you again, uh...” Neo got down and hugged Aron. “Nice knowing you...” this was.. depressing.

“Wait. If I can find Python he can save him I bet.”

“How? How could that guy save him?”

“Well he could get him medicine, protect him from Mamba, maybe help is find a permanent solution to this?”

“You don’t know what you’re talking about, you nutcase.” Neo narrowed his eyes. At this, Argus turned and walked off to find his belongings. Everyones stuff was in the corner of the bunks. He rummaged through til he found his suitcase. He pulled out and put on a coat out that looked similar to his vest, but warmer and fur-lined.

“I’m going to look for Python anyways. At least I’m willing to believe there’s a chance of survival for him.” Argus walked off towards the office. Mamba was screaming at Argus’ coworkers already. Python was at his side along with the other two.

“Look who decided to show up!” Mamba spat. “I don’t suppose you know anything about this, do you?!” Mamba slammed the knife Argus had found onto the table, which was now bloodied. Argus’ heart dropped into his stomach and he looked wide eyed between his shocked coworkers, the knife, and Viper. Viper looked a bit defeated and ashamed.

“I can explain the knife, but the blood, I have no idea..!” Argus stared sadly at his coworkers as they moved away from him.

“No, I can explain.” Viper spoke up. “He found it and gave it to me. I lost track of it once I went to sleep last night, though. I doubt Argus has malicious intentions, sir.” Viper swallowed hard as Mamba narrowed his eyes at him.

‘Python, I need your help, for Aron.’ Python’s head snapped in Argus’ direction as the tension in the room thickened.

“Mamba, sir, excuse me. I’ll take him away.” Python stepped around the table.

"Please do." Mamba glared at Argus, sending chills down his spine. Python led Argus to the bunks.

"Its his IBS isn't it?" Python whispered to Argus.

"Yeah, he can hardly move." Argus nodded.

"I'll see what I can do." Python opened the door to the bunks, seeing Aron still curled up on the floor and Neo at his side. "Alright, Aron. 1 to 10, how bad."

"...11..." Aron managed to say.

"Any caffeine lately?" Python and Argus knelt down.

"Um.. y-yeah.. yesterday... I had to drink a bit of coffee.. to stay awake..."

"Coffee?!" Neo interjected. "Did you not learn anything from last time?!" He seemed frantic now. "How is it still affecting you from yesterday?!"

"B-because I—" Aron cut himself off with a short groan. "I'd rather not say." He huffed. Python squinted.

"I think I've got something. Stay here." Python got up and walked quickly yet quietly down the hall.

"Uh-! Aw, hang in there, dude..." Neo held Aron's hand. In a minute, Python was back.

"Here. It's like a gummy, but it's medicine." Python knelt down and held it near Aron's face so he could see it. Aron took it from Python and ate it. "That should help by this afternoon. Neo and Argus, you have to come with me."

"But-! Sir!" Neo protested.

"He'll be fine." Python said sternly, picking Aron up. "And, Aron, you know where the closest bathroom is when you need it right?"

"Yes, sir..." Aron lay mostly limp in Python's embrace. Python laid Aron on his bunk, covering him up for him.

"Let's go you two." Python started walking back to the lobby. Argus sidled up beside him, with Neo trailing behind them. Once they got to the office and Neo saw the knife, his posture became rigid.

“YOU! NEON RECRUIT!! Do you know anything about the murders last night?!” Mamba demanded.

“I don’t, sir.” Neo looked him dead in the eye and said it. Argus narrowed his eyes at him, standing closer to Python.

“Okay. Diamondback.” Mamba glared at the tan male.

“Sir.” He looked around the room. “All of you are to be on high alert. Especially the facility defenders. Remember,” Diamondback pointed harshly to a poster behind him. “See something, say something.”

“Thank you Diamondback. Now, GET TO WORK!!” Mamba slammed his hands down on the table. Argus looked around, not seeing Luna anywhere as the group dissipated. He didn’t have time to worry about that now. He felt eyes burning into the back of his skull. Turning around, he saw Neo glaring angrily at him, inches away.

“You’re next.” He hissed.

Chapter 6

“O-oh...” Argus swallowed hard. “Um.. okay..?”

“Unless you can convince me otherwise.” Neo grabbed Argus’ hand and tugged him down the hall to the abandoned bathroom. “What’s your goal here?” He demanded, jabbing a finger at Argus’ chest.

“I-I don’t know what you mean, man..!” Argus held his hands up defensively.

“I saw you getting all touchy-feely with Aron!” Neo spat. “You’re new here, aren’t you, you mutant freak?”

That really hurt Argus. He wasn’t a mutant freak.

“Um, I am new here, and I wasn’t trying to do anything to him other than comfort him. I do that to everyone.. sorry...” Argus looked at the ground. Neo slammed a hand against the wall angrily.

“That’s a fucking lie.” Neo grit his teeth.

“No it isn’t!” Argus pressed his back against the wall. Neo backed off almost unwillingly.

"Fine, but if I catch anything starting between you two I won't hesitate to kill you." He stepped out of Argus' way. "One more thing, you better not get on the bad side of anyone here. They won't hesitate to kill you either. You're lucky I don't have my dagger." Neo walked ahead of Argus. "We don't trust new recruits like you."

"Um.. what do you mean? Is there like, a gang here or something?" Argus trotted up beside Neo.

"You could say that." Neo didn't look at Argus.

"Oh. Er.. who's in it? So I know not to get on their bad side?"

"A shit ton of people. Probably all of the ones who were already here, before your shipment."

"Oh. Um.. I won't rat you out, but did you kill those three recruits last night?" Argus lowered his voice. Neo nodded hesitantly.

"They were assholes anyways, I could tell." They stepped into the now empty office. Not even Mamba was there. The two walked carefully and quietly around the office, until they heard voices coming from admin. "Stop, listen..."

"...So we've got a big show tonight, huh?" It was Mamba's voice. Argus' heart dropped in his chest.

"Yeah, we got some fire breathers, some venomous ones, and of course the fan favorite." That sounded like Diamondback.

"Ah yes. This should be entertaining. How many tickets have we sold so far?"

"Around 200, sir."

"At normal price?"

"Of course."

"Excellent. Let's grab one last shipment from the village nearby and set up the show."

Argus and Neo looked at each other, equally afraid.

"I know what this is, we should follow them." Argus led Neo out the back office door near the lava pit.

"What are they talking about?" Neo whispered.

“They kidnap impostor children. That’s all I know. It sounds like they sell them, but then they talked about tickets.” Argus hopped into the back of one of the Mira trucks that’d taken children yesterday. “Come on.”

“Excuse me? I don’t want to get involved in this. I’ll be killed if I’m caught.”

“Do you have the keys?” Mamba and Diamondback were just around the corner.

“Get in, they’re coming! You’ll be caught for sure if you stand there!”

“Fine!” Neo hissed, hopping in.

“Under this tarp here...” Argus covered them both up in the nick of time.

“Are all the cages accounted for?” Mamba asked.

“Yes sir.”

“Another important question, is the mayor going to show tonight?”

“I believe so.”

“Excellent. Make sure he has the best seat in the house.”

“Of course, sir.”

“Alright, get in. You have the spears, right?”

“Yes.”

“Okay, in.” The two got into the front after closing the back door of the truck. Neo quickly uncovered them.

“What on Earth have you gotten me into?” Neo grabbed Argus by the collar with both hands. The truck started up.

“Relax. We’ll find out soon eno—“ Argus was cut off as they were both jostled around.
“..enough.”

“Oh my God... what- explain. Explain what’s happening!”

“They’re going to round up more impostor children from the nearby impostor village. Then, I don’t know what’s going to happen.”

“Wh-who’s the mayor?”

“I don’t know. Probably their boss or something...” Argus examined a spear.

“What do they use those for?”

“They stab impostors with them. If the parents won’t let go, they get jabbed.”

“This is.. vile.”

“Says the gang leader...”

“Well, at least we kill them and don’t leave them to suffer..!”

“True...”

“We have an ally in that village. His name’s Ichor. I met him yesterday.”

“So that’s where you went when you strayed from the group?”

“Haha, uh, yeah...”

“This is all.. crazy. I had no idea this kind of bullshit was happening. And I’ve been here for years! I thought I’d seen it all.” Neo rubbed the back of his head.

“They kept it a secret for long enough, though, don’t you think?”

“Absolutel—OOF-!” The truck had gone abruptly downhill, presumably into the valley where the village was. Neo landed on Argus, but quickly picked himself up with a rude comment. “...sorry.” And a halfhearted sorry. The truck came to an abrupt stop.

“Let’s cover up again, hurry.” Argus covered them up with the tarp and got situated. The back of the truck opened, and someone stepped in, taking two spears from on top of Argus, not seeming to care about the lump under the tarp.

“Let’s get to work.” Mamba’s voice said.

“Sir.”

“THEY’RE BACK!! TO YOUR POSITIONS, NOW!!!!” An unfamiliar voice yelled. Hissing, spitting, and snarling erupted from outside. It sounded like there were hundreds of them.

“Ah, they’re trying to fight back, I see.”

"I gotta see this." Neo uncovered himself. "I'll be careful, okay?"

"I'll just go with you."

"Diamondback, open your eye."

Moments later, a horrid, dense fog slammed into Argus, as if a blizzard had suddenly formed and swept any thought away, leaving him dazed and almost numb.

"Oh— oh shit.. what'd they do..?" Neo slurred from beside him, clearly heavily affected in the thoughtless torrent.

"I dunno..." Argus murmured absently. He trudged out of the truck, wanting to get far away from this mindless debacle. He could only possibly hope Mamba and Diamondback were out of earshot. It seemed to be affecting the impostors as well. Argus squinted across the field, where the beings were all just as zombielike and dazed as they were.

"They'll pass out soon enough..." Mamba's voice seemed to echo. Sure enough, Neo flopped down in the snow beside Argus, as well as a good amount of the impostors.

"Oh God, Neo, wake up..." Argus muttered, collapsing to his knees to shake Neo desperately. They had to get out of there! But it wasn't long before he, too, succumbed to the same fate. The last thing Argus saw before darkness was the ground rising up to meet him.

Chapter 7

Luna woke up to someone shaking him. "H-hey, wake up..." He slowly came to, hoping it was Argus and that he just had a terrible dream.

"...Argus..?" He squinted. No, this person was yellow. "Oh..." he sat up, feeling ill.

"Are you okay?" They asked. Luna shook his head gently.

"I dunno.. I feel all groggy and stuff. What'd they do to us..?"

"Chloroform I think." They answered, holding out their hand. "Oh, I'm Yeldiir."

"I'm Luna..." he took Yeldiir's hand in a handshake. "I'm not sure why I'm here..."

"My guess is that Mamba thought you were female." Yeldiir squinted at Luna. "Um.. aren't you female..?"

"Well.. biologically. I'd prefer you call me a male." Luna tried sitting up, but found himself too weak.

"Um.. I guess Mamba liked you..." Yeldiir thumbed over a bruise-like spot on Luna's face. Luna winced. "Oh..! Sorry, that must hurt."

"Is it a bruise..?"

"It's a bite, looks.. like a hickey, honestly."

"W-what?! Did he drug me and—!" He cut himself off. His squealing hurt his head. Yeldiir shushed him.

"I-I'm not saying that's what happened, I'm saying that's possible..!" He noticed the state Luna was in. "Shh, you'll hurt yourself more." Yeldiir sat down next to Luna. "We're in a holding cell.. I think they're gonna make us fight soon..." Yeldiir said sadly.

"F-fight?!" Luna looked at him, alarmed.

"Mamba and Diamondback have an underground fighting business. They pit crew against crew, impostor against impostor, and crew against impostor." Yeldiir looked through the jail cell bars. "It looks like they've got impostor children fighting now."

"They make children fight?!" Luna clamoured to the bars. Sure enough, there were two impostor children, one blue and one purple. They were tearing each other apart. "That's awful..."

"I know. I've had to watch it since I woke up. I saw Diamondback inject them with something that made them go berserk."

"That's just awful. Um.. what happened to the other girls..?"

"Mamba's probably still got them. That fucking pig. If they don't comply with what he wants, he'll kill them."

"I wouldn't have complied! He must've knocked me out and—!" Luna covered his face with his hands. Yeldiir patted him on the back.

"You don't know that yet, it could have just been the mark and nothing else." Yeldiir moved closer to Luna to provide comfort. Luna accepted it, curling his knees to his chest and leaning on Yeldiir.

"You remind me of my friend, Argus."

"How so?"

“He’s always warming up to strangers nearly instantly...” Luna sniffed, looking at the ground.

“Oh. I just can’t stand to see you in this situation.” Yeldiir rubbed the back of Luna’s head.

“I hope Argus finds out about this...” Luna closed his eyes, starting to drift off to sleep with Yeldiir beside him.

Chapter 8

Argus awoke with a start. Ichor was next to him and he was in Ichor’s hut again. “Ichor..?”

“Yeah?”

“What happened?” Argus sat up, rubbing his head.

“Mamba and Diamondback used their space pirate abilities and knocked everyone out. It’s a little overpowered if you ask me.”

“Wait, I thought—“ Argus thought for a long moment. ““This ship’s crew are space pirates’...” he remembered.

“What was that from?” Ichor adjusted himself, then looked down and licked the blood off the floor.

“Uh.. Python. Python said that to me when we um.. were chatting in the main lobby of the ship.” Those memories came flooding back once again, causing his blood to rush. He swallowed hard. “A-anyways— huh-?” Ichor was rubbing against Argus’ knee. “What’s up?”

“S-sorry, I just- I smell arousal, it’s hard to contain myself...”

“O-oh...” Argus shifted uncomfortably. “Are you still bleeding..?”

“Yeah...” Ichor looked down and licked more blood off the floor. “I think I can make it temporarily better by.. um.. climaxing but I should’ve done that earlier. It’s rude with a guest...” Ichor fiddled with his claws a bit shamefully.

“I mean if you need to, then go do it. I’m kind of intruding in your business, don’t worry about me.” Argus pet Ichor’s head. “Question, though, where’s that neon green dude that was with me?”

“Oh.. um.. my neighbor has him. She’ll take good care of him,” Ichor hesitated for a moment.
“Um.. w-will you.. uh...” he trailed off, his anxiety seeming almost palpable.

“Will I take care of you? Of course.” Argus got up, scooping up Ichor and putting him on the cot.
“You consent right?”

“Of course, I trust you. I like you. I want you.” Ichor curled his tail up a little.

“I’m sorry if this offends you or anything, but you kinda look like you got stabbed, y’know, down there.”

“Oh,” Ichor managed to chuckle, sitting up. “Lemme...” he started using his long tongue to clean himself. “Mm, okay, uh.. go ahead.” Ichor laid on his back, legs curled up and his hands resting on his chest. Argus hesitantly took his gloves off, glancing at the door before lightly touching Ichor’s area. Ichor cringed, flicking his tail around.

“Just tell me if I’m doing something wrong, okay?” Argus started trying to replicate the same motions that Python did for him the other day.

“O-okay, but- I- I want you um- inside me? As in, um- your- your reproductive cells. Please?”

“Uh...” Argus did trust Ichor. “Okay.” He stripped his bottom half down. “Um.. sorry there’s not much there...”

“Oh, it’s fine, I just-“ Ichor cut himself off with a needy trill once he saw Argus’ dick. “Please put it inside me already...” he laid back. Argus sighed nervously and started slowly, he quickly lost his train of thought. This felt amazing. Ichor kept urging him to continue even after Argus had come. They did so until they both passed out from exhaustion.

Meanwhile back at the facility, Aron was in near unbearable pain (per usual). He figured whatever medicine Python gave him was about to work, and he didn’t care if it killed him or helped him at this point. He missed Neo. He wished he was there to comfort him. Slowly, he got up and trudged to the bathroom. When he got out, he still felt like shit, but he had to get working or else he’d be killed. Although at this point, he’d rather be dead. He dragged his feet slightly as he walked back to his bunk to rest.

Neo woke up with a hell of a headache, sitting up slowly. A purple being was staring at him worriedly. Neo instinctually looked around for Aron, not worrying about the purple being for now.

“What’re you looking for?” She asked. Neo snapped his head to look at her. She had a mouth full of sharp teeth. That woke him up.

“Wha-?! Don’t eat me! Don’t eat me!! I-I have a knife!! I have a knife!!” He patted his pocket, forgetting he’d lost his knife. “Um...” He looked at the purple impostor who seemed very startled.

"Okay, I don't have a knife, but don't eat me, don't decapitate me, and don't fuck me, because I-um..." The words almost slipped out of Neo's mouth, but nothing was official yet. He scowled.

"...um.. are you done, sir..?" She had covered her face slightly.

"Not until you go away and stop threatening me with that mouthful of sharp TEETH!" Neo backed himself against the wall where his cot met it.

"I'm sorry! I don't mean to harm you!" She covered her mouth. "I heard you'd passed out from the space pirates and wanted to help!" She pointed to the door. "Your friend's in my neighbor's house. He should take care of him."

"In what way? Killing him?" Neo gripped his coat around him.

"No, helping him. You hit your head pretty hard on some ice." She approached Neo, reaching out a hand to brush his forehead. He flinched away.

"I want to go back to Aron. He was sick when I last talked to him." He got up, his headache starting to fade already. "I need to make sure nobody kills him. I know they're out for him."

"Um.. only if I can escort you back. It's 20 below freezing today." She headed for her coat on the coat hangers.

"Fine. Let's just go."

"What about your friend?"

"Fuck him. He's not my friend. He got me into this shit." Neo stormed to the door.

"Oh.. well.. let's go I guess. Are you sure you're feeling better already?"

"I'm sure I'm better, lets just go."

As they descended down the rock wall, Neo was getting more and more worried about Aron. He was getting anxious to see him.

"There you are. Hurry, get inside before you catch cold." The purple impostor climbed quickly back up the wall, and Neo ran to the bunks where he thought Aron would be. He burst into the room, seeing the white crewmate lying in his bed.

"Aron..! Aron, are you alright?" Neo rushed to him, putting a hand on his side. Aron groaned. He felt a bit warm, now that he thought about it, and it wasn't just from being out in the cold. "Aron?"

"HmnnNeo..."

“Um.. are you..?” Neo took his hand away. Aron rolled to face Neo with his hand on his... “O-oh. Do you want some help with that?” Neo put his hand on Aron’s.

“Mmhh-! Please...” Aron bucked his hips into Neo’s hand. Neo climbed up onto the bed and on top of Aron.

“Alright. How’s your stomach feeling?” Neo lowered his voice and started stripping down his lower half to expose his growing hardon.

“Mhh-much better...” Aron grabbed Neo’s jacket collar desperately. Neo started grinding on Aron, pressing his dick to Aron’s. Aron groaned a bit louder.

“Shhh, honey, you’re gonna get us caught...” Neo whispered to him, making him squirm. Aron pressed his lower half against Neo’s for a moment before curling his legs up and putting his hands above his head.

“I-I don’t think I can handle you inside me today though. It’s b-better to be safe than s-sorry...” Aron huffed, his legs trembling.

“Ah, alright,” he looked down at he and Aron’s cocks pressed together. “You feel pretty hard. Were you nearly there when I walked in?” Neo looked back up at Aron, moving his hips again.

“Y-yes, mmh..! N-Neo..!” Aron grabbed Neo’s bottom half and pressed down onto his own, causing him to let out a moan. It made Neo feel good as well, and that combined with Aron’s noise fuelled his own groan.

“Nnggh.. Aron, be quieter...” Neo leaned down, embracing the white crewmate in a passionate kiss. At this, Aron jerked his hips up, moving his hands up to the back of Neo’s head. Neo started moving his hips more aggressively. “Fuck- mmAron, I missed you- so fucking much...” Neo said between kisses.

“I missed you- ah- too...” Aron’s grip shook horribly as he was dragged closer and closer to release. “N-Neo.. I-“

“Shhh- don’t be so loud.” Neo pulled back to breathe a bit. A slam sounded from the hallway outside the bunks. Neo whipped his head in the direction of the noise and Aron followed suit once he caught his breath.

“Redd quit squirming! God, you’re so antsy sometimes. Nobody’s even watching.” That guy.

“Ly I don’t want to be vulnerable if Neo decided to track us down and kill us.”

"He ain't gonna track us down and kill us because I'll kill him first before he even thinks about killing you. Now stop squirming, I know you want this."

"I mean you're right but I can't help but worry, dammit..." the sound of belt buckles coming undone echoed through the hall.

Neo and Aron looked back at each other.

"Neo let's finish up here, we can't risk getting caught by them." Aron started grinding his hips against Neo's.

"They don't want to get caught by us either." Neo took a quick glance at the hall again before picking up the slack and rutting himself against Aron. "Hhurry up and cum for me."

"I- o-okay..." Aron's breath hitched and his body curled up. Neo pulled back, starting to use his hand to jack Aron off. Within a minute of doing so, Aron came with a soft groan. Neo needed to cum as well, but they didn't have time for that now.

"Mm.. attaboy." Neo continued to stroke Aron softly as the white crewmate came.

"Hhah- thank you..." Aron relaxed once his body stopped convulsing with pleasure. "What about you?"

"I'll jack off in the showers or something. Nobody's gonna care if I do that. I did this to help you." Neo cleaned Aron off with some tissues they had stashed under the bed. Pretty much everyone had a travel pack or a box of them for various reasons. Although mostly they were used for cleaning up or catching certain bodily fluids. Who was he to judge? It got lonely here. "We gotta hide. Get your pants on." The two quickly got dressed and stayed hidden under the covers. Redd and Lykun slowly moved their tryst to their bunks which were at the end of the row. Aron had begun to fall asleep, and Neo was feeling drowsy, but he knew one of them needed to be awake. "You can go to sleep. I'll keep watch."

"Mm..alright..." Aron proceeded to fall asleep. Neo took the opportunity to relieve himself of the stiff member between his legs. As much as he hated Redd and Lykun, he needed to get this out of his system.