

BELICA'S TRADITION

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. EMPTY SPACE - UNIT UNITY SPACE STATION - OFFICE - NIGHT

LT. BELICA (30's), blonde female, jovial, wearing white space marine amour. CAP. STEPHENS (50's), female, stern, wearing blue amour sits at her desk. Unit Unity is more a lax police force with a large budget than a military.

BELICA

Captain. You wanted to see me.

CAP. STEPHENS

I got your request. Sorry to hear about your mother.

EXT. EMPTY SPACE - UNIT UNITY SPACE STATION

A personal military space craft piloted by Belica disengages from the Unit Unity space station and then flies away.

BELICA (V.O.)

Thanks cap. It's just too bad she has to spend eternity with my dad.

CP. STEPHENS (V.O.)

(laughs)

Before I can approve your time off though we need to fix an error.

BELICA (V.O.)

Sorry? What error?

INT. EMPTY SPACE - BELICA'S SPACE SHIP - NIGHT

Belica pushes a button and the ship goes into hyper space.

CP. STEPHENS (V.O.)

You wrote that you needed three months off.

BELICA (V.O.)

That's not an error.

CP. STEPHENS (V.O.)

Again, my condolences, but you're in the middle of negotiations.

BELICA (V.O.)

It's for a ceremony. A journey my people take when they die.

CP. STEPHENS

We keep the peace. More people die  
if our leaders take extra time off.  
Do your journey thing in month.

INT. SPACE IN ORBIT OF A PLANET - BELICA'S SPACE SHIP - NIGHT

Belica's ship comes out of hyper space. A planet is visible through the ship's window. Belica pilots towards the planet.

BELICA (V.O.)

I'm not one for tradition, believe me, that's why I left. But I need to do this right.

CP. STEPHENS (V.O.)

Do what you need to. I can't deny request for religious shit.

BELICA (V.O.)

Thank you. I guess.

CP. STEPHENS (V.O.)

I see you sitting in this chair someday. But it's stuff like this, or getting pregnant, whatever, that makes you less viable.

INT. PLANETS ATMOSPHERE - BELICA'S SPACE SHIP - NIGHT

Belica pilots the ship through the atmosphere toward a lush green continent. There are cities but no modern technology. The only light comes from lanterns and glowing blue rocks.

BELICA (V.O.)

I'll try to do it sooner, but that seems a bit unfair.

CP. STEPHENS (V.O.)

Well, having lax rules has benefits and downsides. You can do as you please in the field, I can pick replacements as I see fit.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

A dark old growth forest lit by moonlight. CREATURES CALL AND HOWL. Stars fill the sky. Belica's space ship lands.

A door in the spacecraft opens and out walks Belica. She walks into the dense forest gun in hand.

EXT. FOREST - OUTSIDE WILLA PERIMETER - GLOWING ROCK - NIGHT

Belica nervously talks. It appears she's talking to someone, but we put back to see she's talking to a glowing rock.

BELICA

Hey Sparrow, sorry to hear about...  
I missed you, and I really miss  
mom. Wish I could have... Can we  
forget about... you having the same  
emotional range as this rock.

Belica turns and stares at the houses on Willa's perimeter for a long beat. She SNIFFLES and wipes away tears.

BELICA (CONT'D)

Fuck. This is going to suck.

Belica looks up at the starry sky and EXHALES DEEPLY.

BELICA (CONT'D)

Doing this for you.

SPARROW (O.S.)

Belica? What are you... I, I didn't  
know you were coming.

SPARROW (30's), brunette, female, stoic, traditional, and wearing leather amour walks from the town toward Belica.

BELICA

Sorry to hear about mom.  
(a long beat of silence)  
It's nice to see you.

Belica goes for a hug. Sparrow extends her arm for hand shake. Belica pauses, shrugs and then shakes Sparrows hand.

SPARROW

Unannounced and late.

BELICA

Couldn't decide what to wear.

They walk slowly toward a house. Sparrow doesn't respond.

BELICA (CONT'D)

See that's a joke because I only  
have one suit so it's funny becau--

SPARROW

Why are you here? Really?

BELICA

I promised mom I'd be her carrier.

EXT. - WILLA - PATHWAYS BETWEEN HOUSES - NIGHT

Sparrow LAUGHS. A beat, Sparrow realizes Belica serious.

SPARROW

THIS, THIS is a joke. Being the  
carrier takes years of training.

BELICA

Or one gun.

SPARROW

Go home. Haven't you embarrassed us  
enough? All mom's friends must join  
in the journey see her off. You  
barley know them or the rituals.

BELICA

I will by the end of the journey.

A long beat of silence. Belica finally breaks the silence.

BELICA (CONT'D)

You can be my carrier for my ashes.

SPARROW

And which of your MANY friends  
would join me?

A long beat of silence. Belica, hurt, looks at the ground.

BELICA

You're right. I don't wanna be here  
and everyone hates me. Everyone  
except mom. I'm here for her.

SPARROW

Do not pretend like you care about  
mom or her wishes. You left.

BELICA

I'm here now. Some of us express  
how we feel with actions. Like  
crying, talking, or human emotion.

SPARROW

Crying is a luxury. Fine. Go  
embarrass us and get killed. Just  
try to die on the way back AFTER  
you have delivered mom's ashes.

Belica SNIFFLES and fights back tears. That really hurt.

BELICA  
Do I really deserve this?

SPARROW  
You know what you did... I think  
we're done here.

Belica watches Sparrow walk away between the houses.

**GAMEPLAY START:**

Player must go into Willa and find the funeral. They can either sneak in and avoid confrontation and clues, or stop to talk to Willats.

If the players talk to Wallats, they'll get a mix of passive aggressive insults, hints about the journey, or questions about a speech the carrier must give, which Belica hasn't prepared.

FADE OUT: