THE LAST STAR

Star I ~ Last of Her Kind ~ Part III

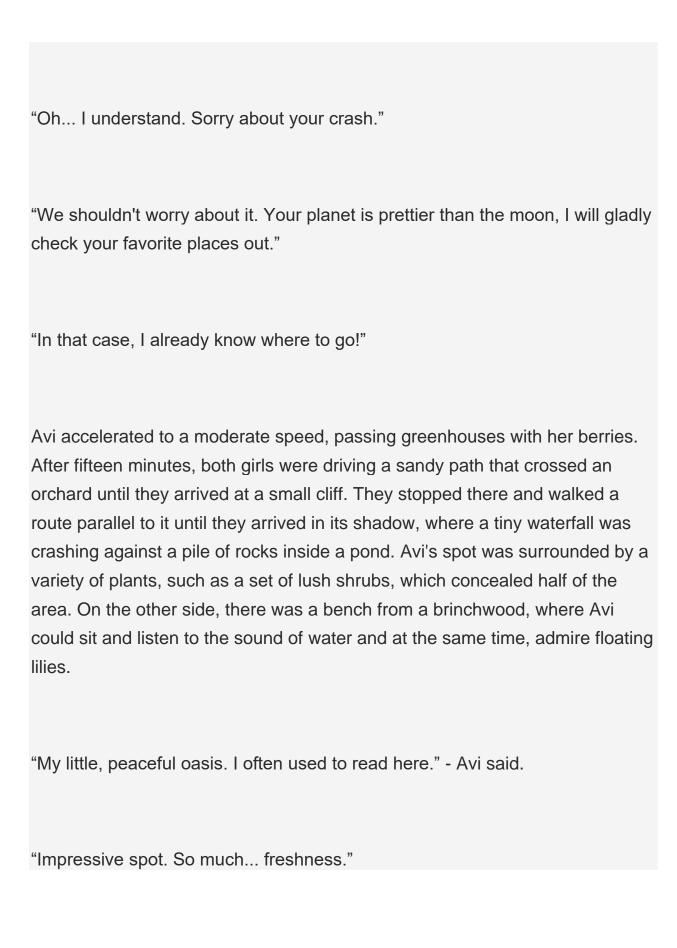
What used to be a little and lone place, gave birth to a new friendship. It was a passion for science mixed with the desire to commemorate lost ones. In sweat, stained in oil and lubricants, Avi moved from under the quad and climbed to the steering wheel. With great anticipation, she glanced at Luna, who answered in a flash of affirmative light. Avi turned the key and was all smiles after hearing the growling of the engine.

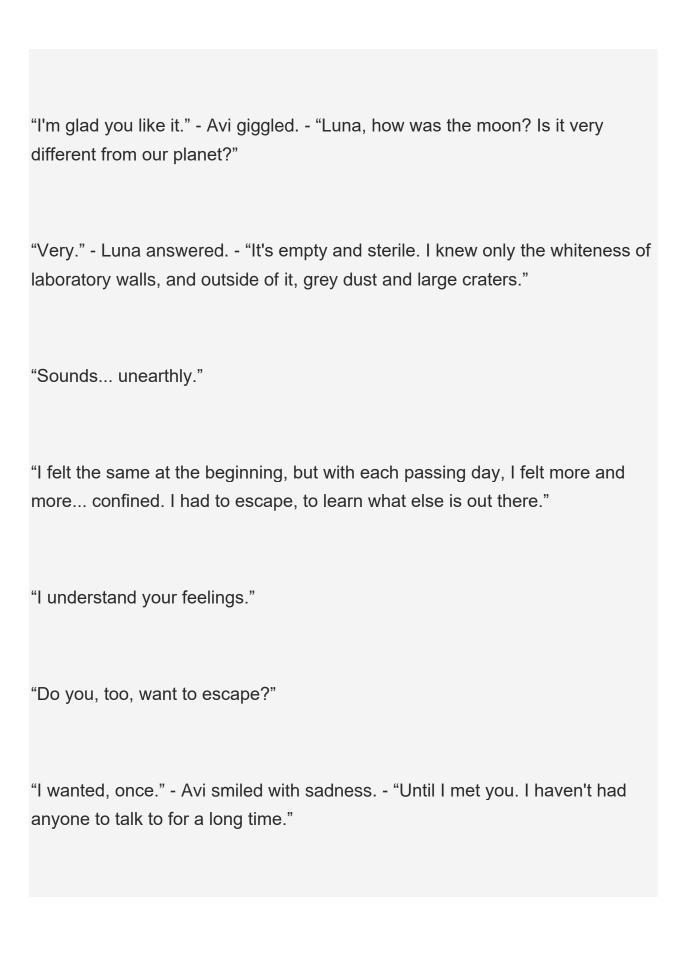
"It works! It really works!" - Avi turned and shouted to Luna.

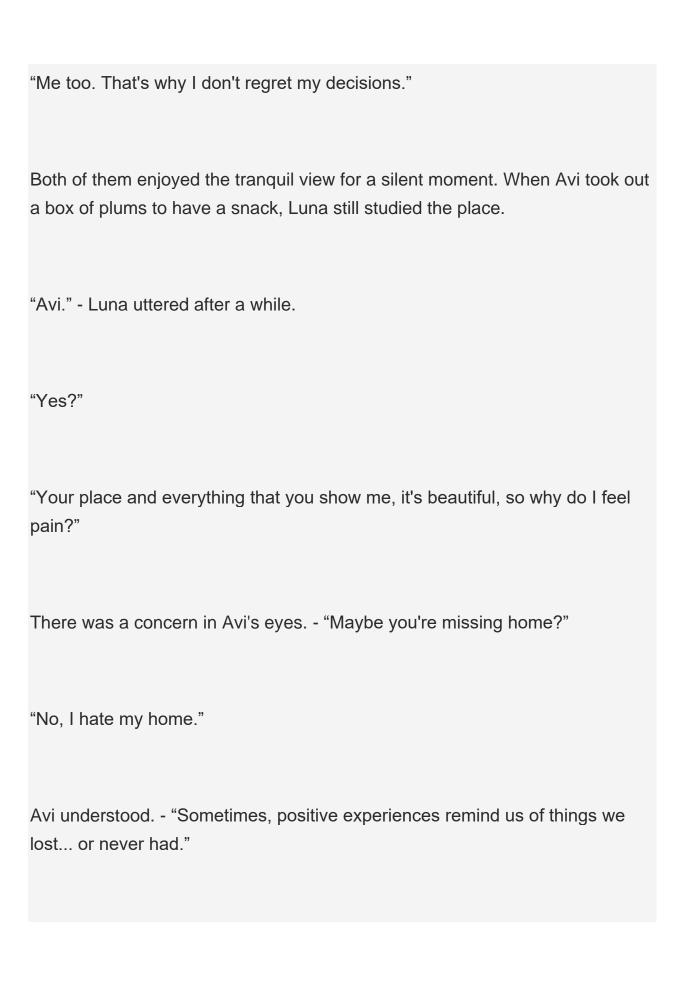
"I hope that you can drive. If I were you, I would start slow and cautious."

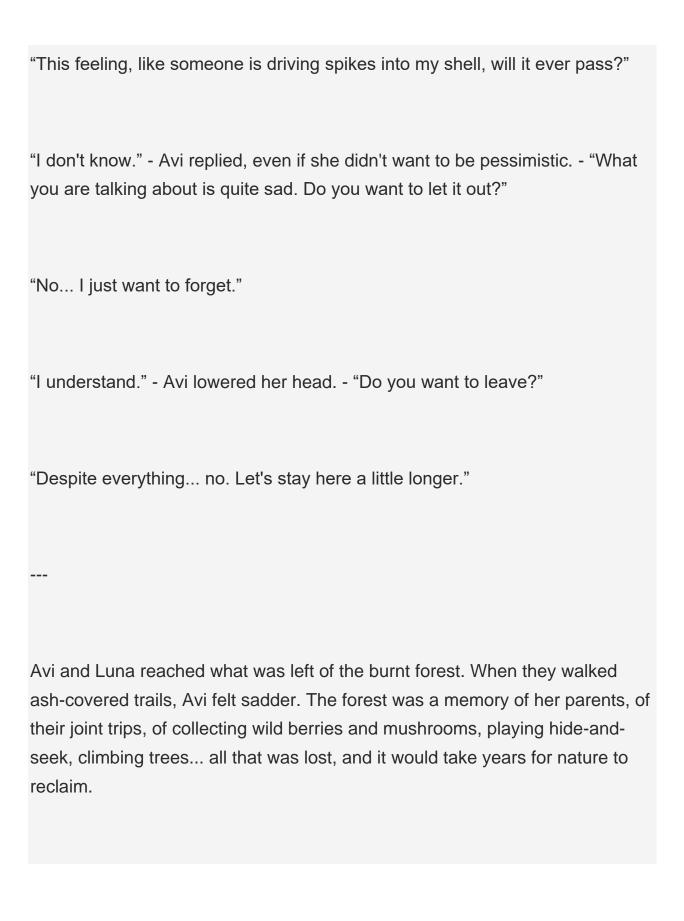
Not being very confident, Avi pressed the gas pedal and steered straight out of the garage. - "Where do you want to go?" - She asked Luna.

"Wherever you want. I only hoped to see what's left of my spaceship, but it can wait."









Despite this, Avi turned to look at Luna. A loss of one thing could be a new beginning. The memory of the night when Avi walked through the fires was still fresh. Despite fear, Avi saved some kind of life, even if she didn't understand what that life was yet.

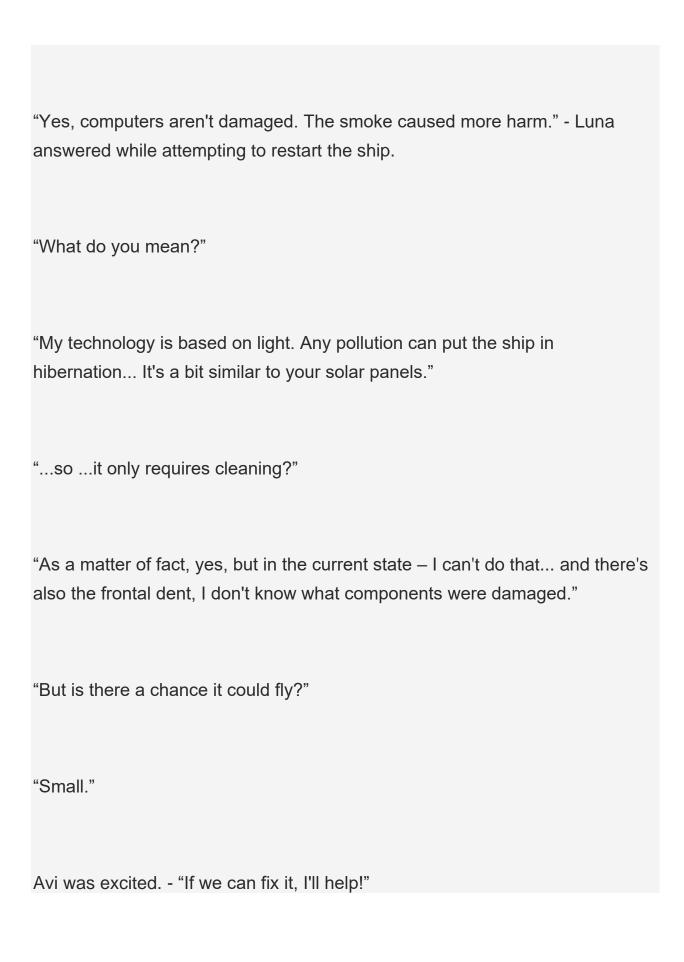
Overturned logs blocked the path, but that was no longer an issue with the Scout. It flew high above the charred woods and found a new road with its keen eyes. Luna's spaceship was nearby.

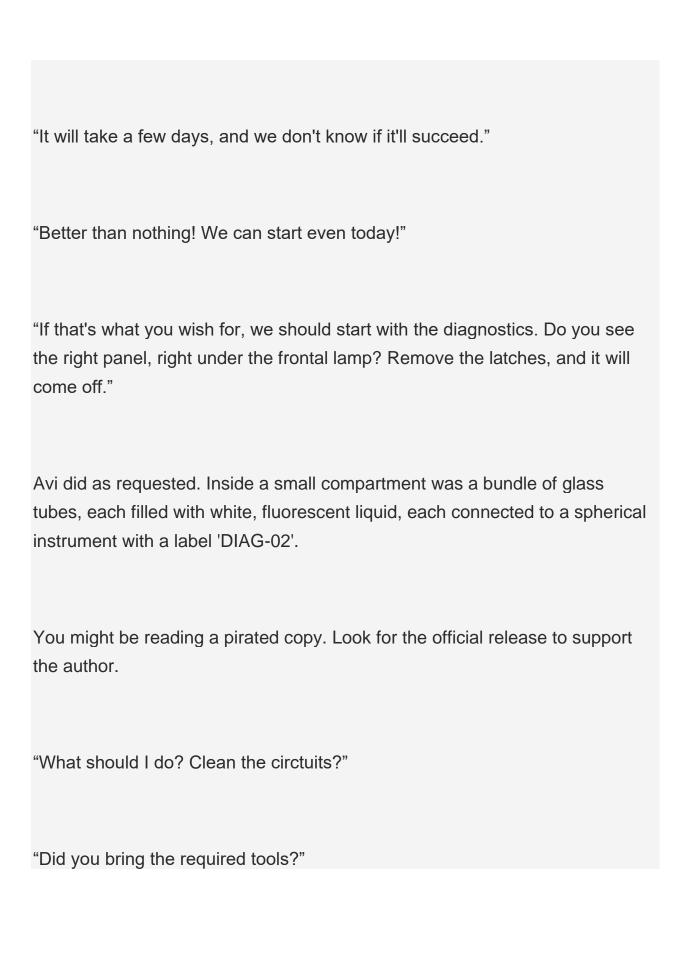
The steel goliath rested in the middle of the wasteland, covered with trunks of dead trees. Although blackened, the surface of the ship wasn't damaged, with the exception of a slightly dented front that absorbed most of the impact.

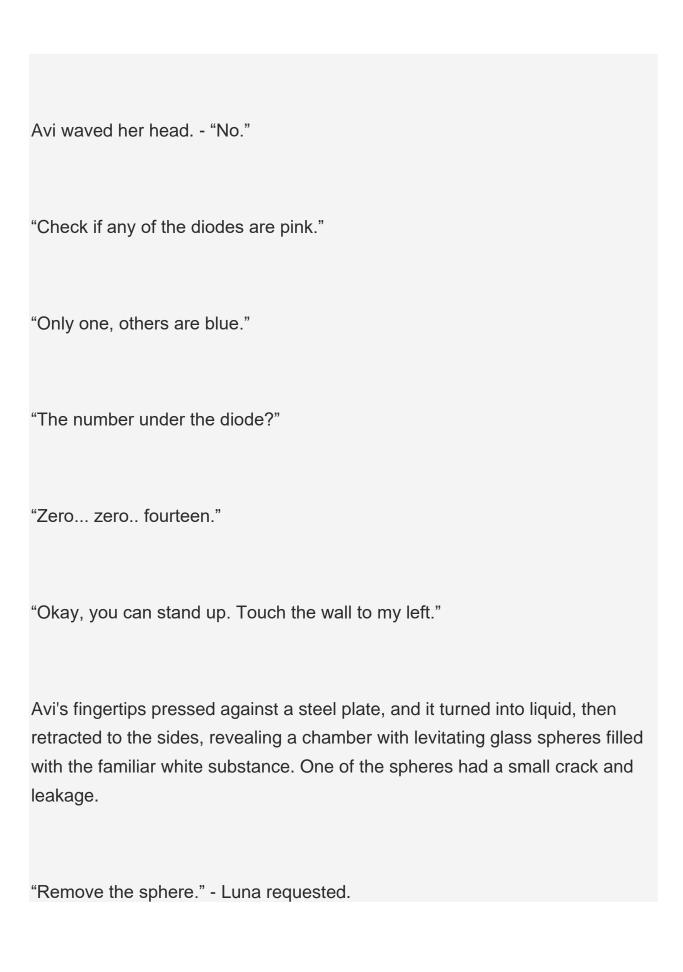
Without a word, Luna came closer to the buried machine, and the metal opened, just like it did when Avi came to the rescue.

Luna's light illuminated the path to the bridge, and when she arrived there, she moved over the navigational platform, the one where she was stuck earlier.

Avi was a little surprised by the condition of the interior. - "Everything looks... untouched by fire."







Avi did as instructed, and the spaceship was instantly lit by faint, turquoise lights. For a longer moment, Luna was silent. A few minutes passed, then a couple more.

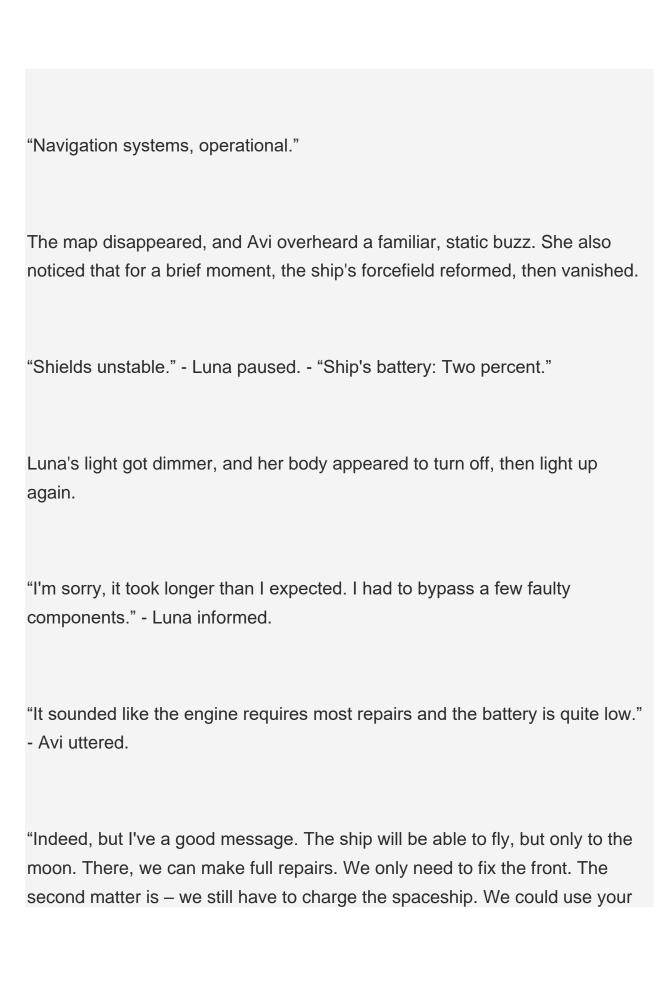
"Luna?" - Avi asked with concern, but there was no answer.

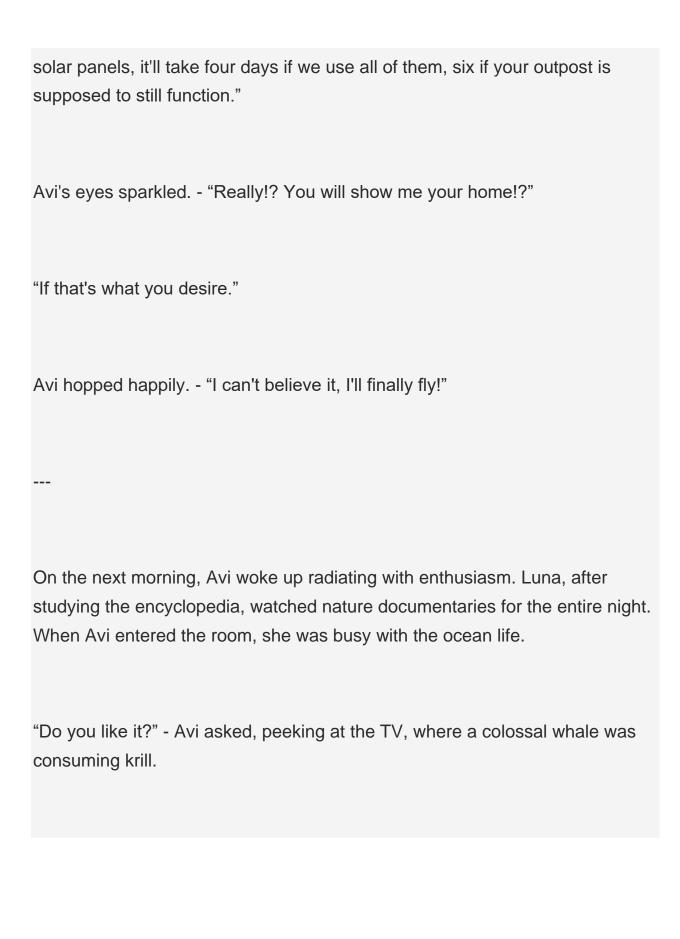
Soon, it was already an hour. Avi idly sat on the floor, holding the sphere and waiting for an answer. For a brief moment, the row of lights under the ceiling turned blue.

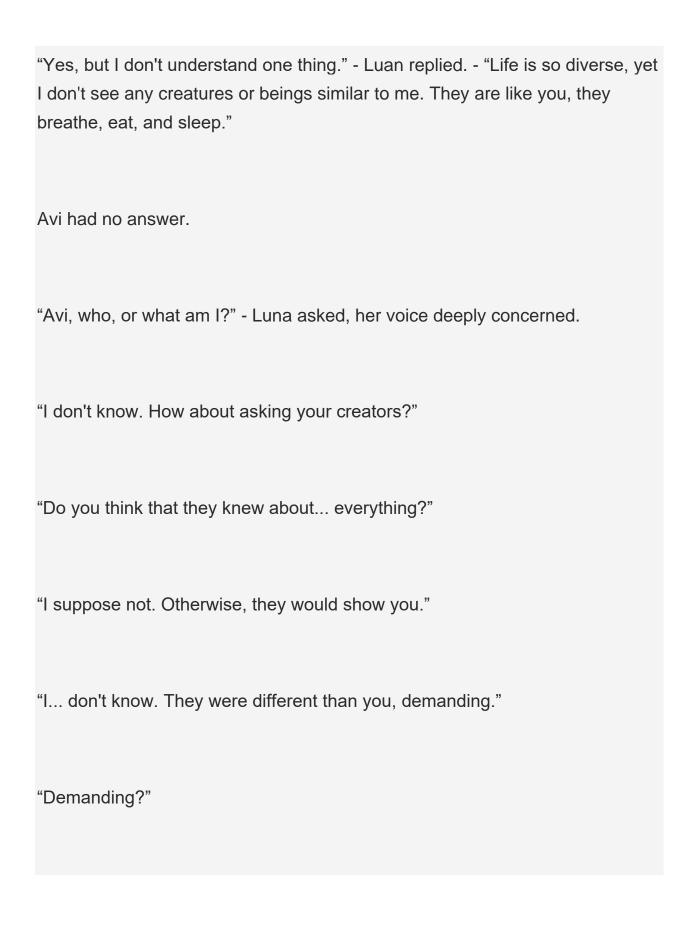
"Luna? Are you there?" - Avi spoke quietly.

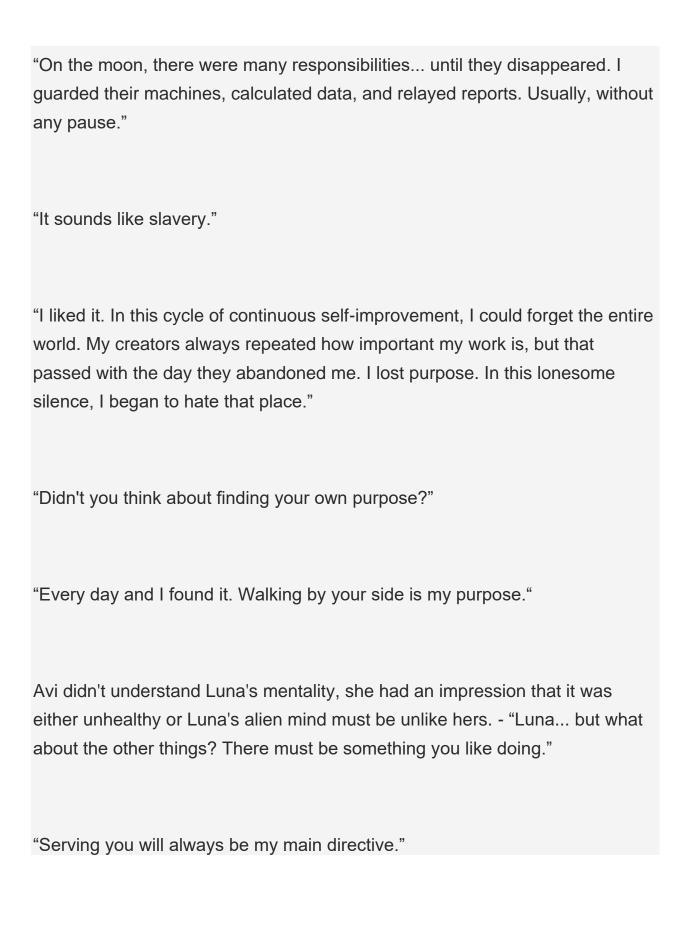
"Starting engine diagnostics. Main power supply disconnected. Testing the short-jump module. Error. The acceleration matrix efficiency is twenty-eight percent. Error. The vertical stabilizer malfunctioned, and the support core safeguards need to be replaced. Proximity sensors – normal. Detected a hull breach. Short-jump module deactivated."

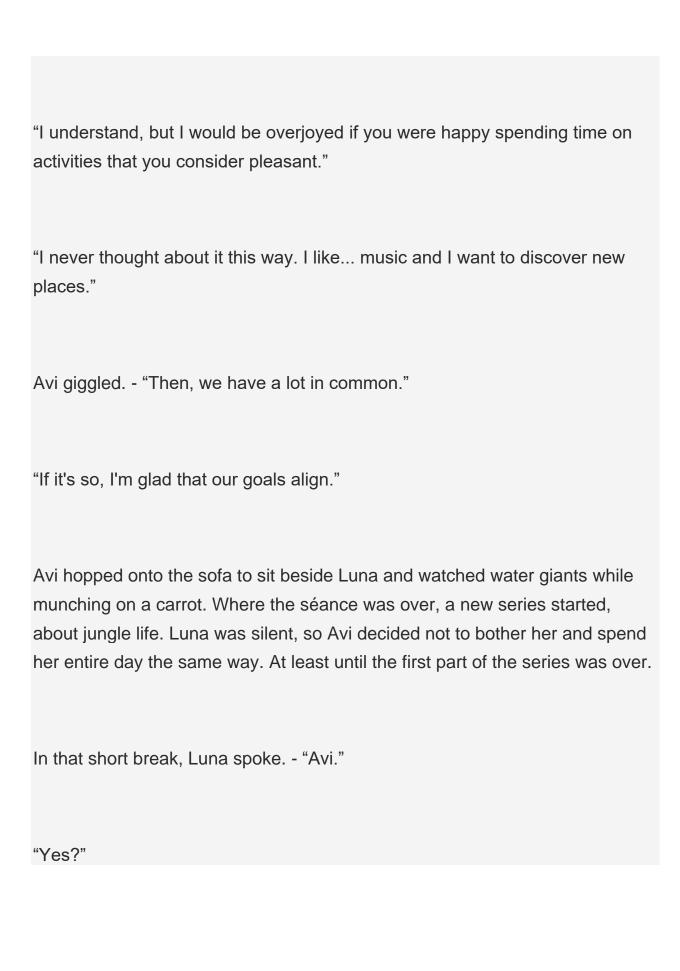
Next, a ring of thirteen glowing spheres appeared around Luna. Every light split into four smaller parts and formed a holographic map of the night sky, with the central, Earth's sun being highlighted in orange.

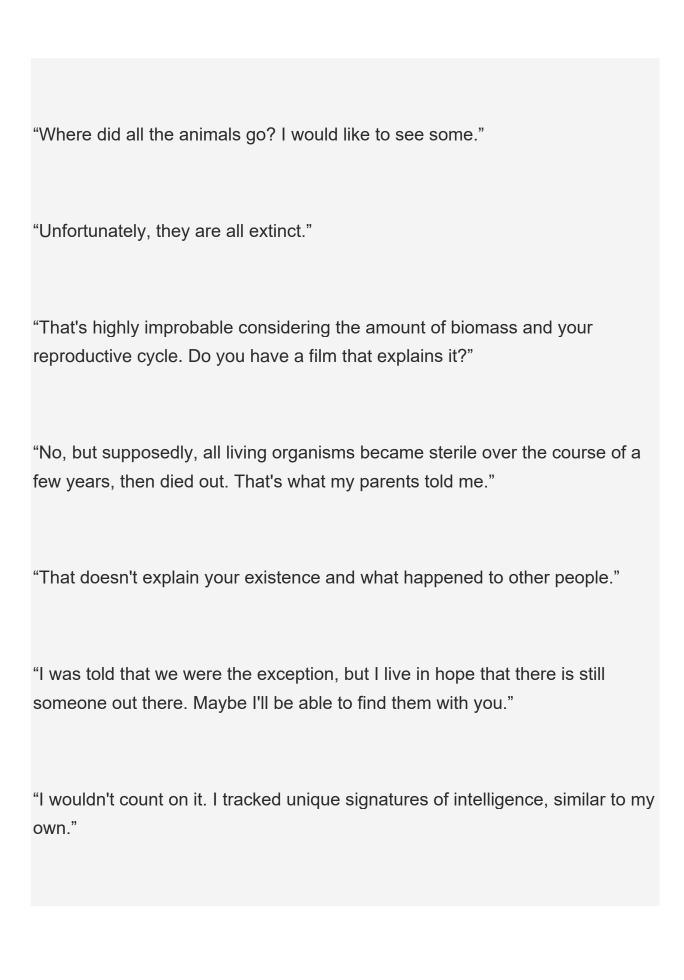


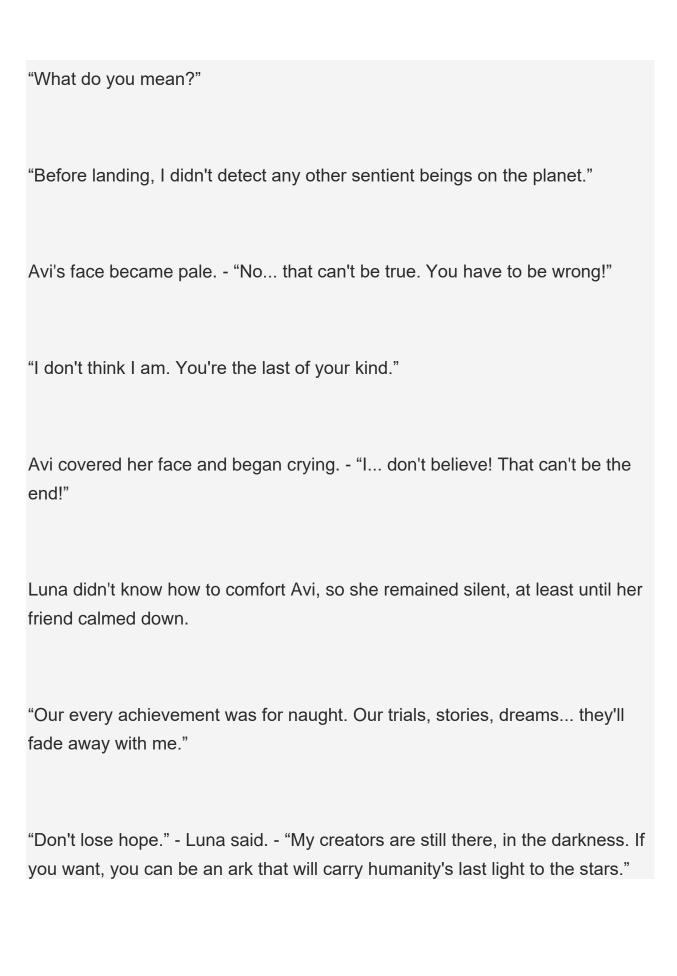


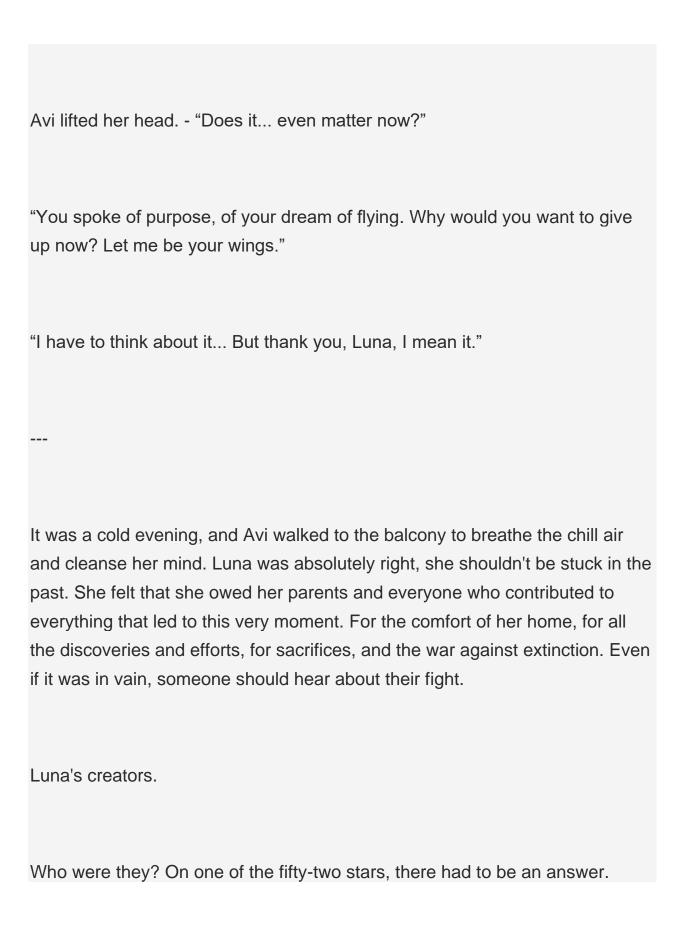


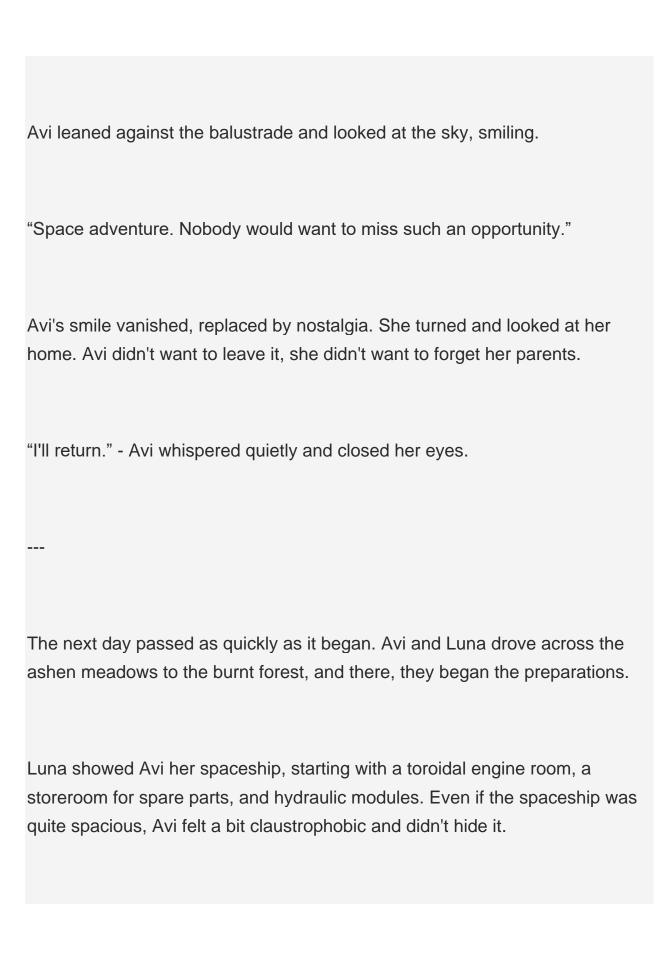


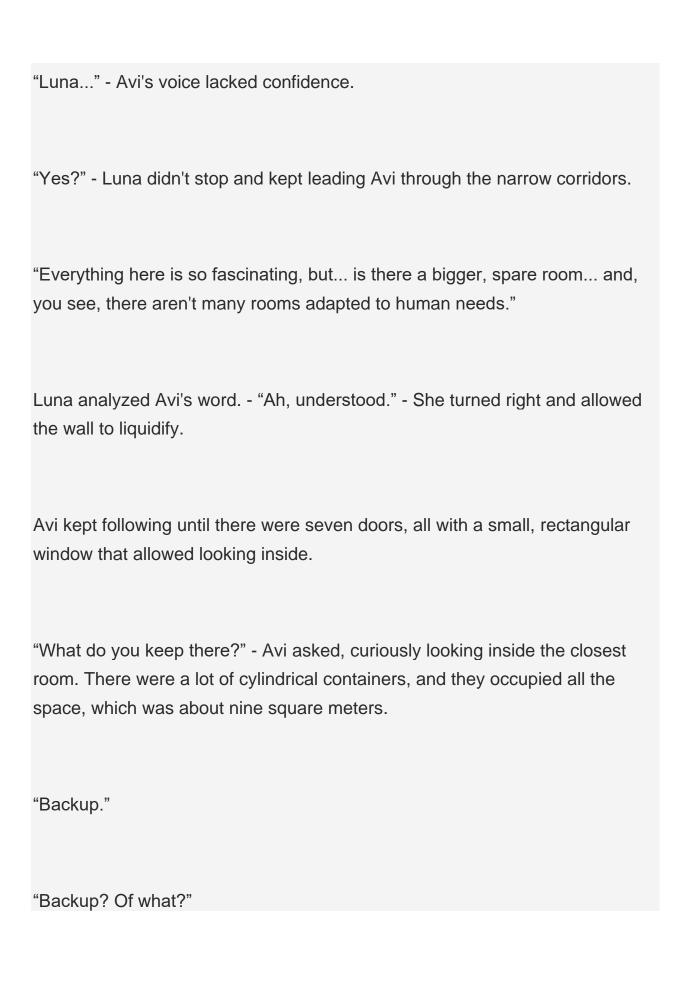


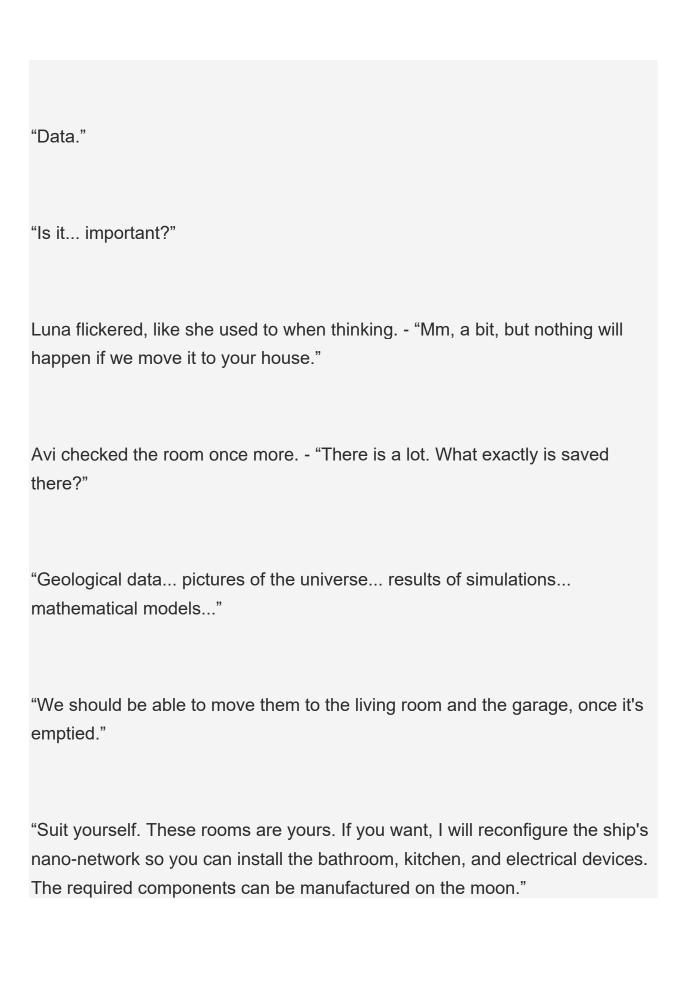


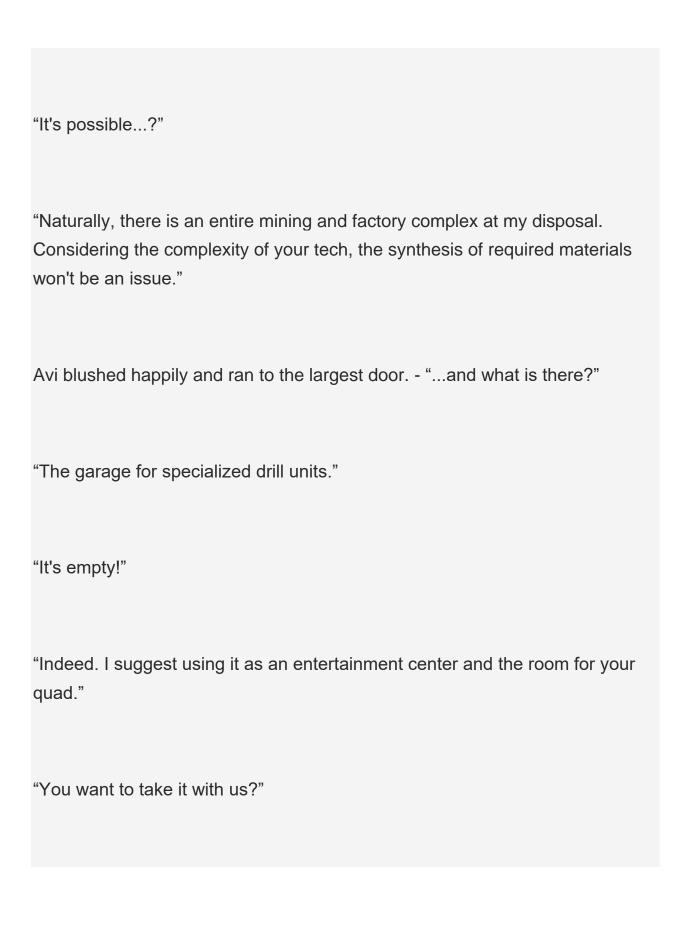












"It'll be useful during the tour of the facility. At least, until I manufacture an alternative vehicle."

Avi grinned, her doubts were gone. Luna's vision of the journey was like a dream to her.