

Last Star 162

Star XLIV ~ False God

After three days, Luna's spaceship stopped at a dwarf star, which was the Omniscient Eye system. Although Avi and Luna were both recovering for the last few days, they had to figure out how they would handle the situation here.

Stopping the parasites was necessary, and with Luna's new abilities, it was also possible.

Once Luna scanned the system, she covered all the objects in it with a stasis field, freezing every single being, regardless of whether they were on the capital planet or in the colonies, spaceships, or asteroid mines.

She then teleported every being at risk of death safely to the main planet's surface and then landed to assess the situation.

The prison-breederries were present everywhere, and crowds of parasites freely traded slaves at the markets. Luna knew that no negotiations would be possible, but it didn't stop her from executing her plan.

She figured out who rules the seventy-four countries of this planet and gathered the most influential people in the conference hall, which she built high in the mountains along with a golden spire.

Once Luna removed the stasis from her guests, she informed everyone what was going on.

“You lived by enslaving others, so now, you'll be the servants.” - Luna declared.

A partial uproar broke out in the hall. Even if the situation was hopeless for parasites, some of them couldn't accept that their planet had been conquered.

“Silence.” - Luna demanded, and with a wave of her hand, caused everyone to become temporarily mute, then continued. - “Your generation will be the last one, and your species will be gone by the end of the next century, but I'm still willing to give you a chance to atone. I will not deprive you of your choice, but from now on, your every action will be judged. Make one mistake, and you will be put in stasis until the universe itself dies.”

She made the parasites able to speak again, but not many of them did. Some were whispering to each other, but Luna paid no attention to them. She turned on the screen behind her, playing her plan for the planet's restoration. It was a plan that assumed that every parasite, no matter if they hijacked a body consciously or not, was going to contribute to the development of their former slaves' civilization or simply serve them. It wasn't any prestige jobs, an average parasite could at most hope for running the food stall, but there were some exceptions due to necessity.

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There were numerous questions, and Luna answered each with patience, but she ignored any demands or attempts to negotiate.

“Those people are going to kill us as soon as they are free!” - Someone shouted.

"I won't let it happen..." - Luna informed. - "...anyone who raises a hand on you will be put in a week-long stasis. Of course, that doesn't mean you'll avoid all persecution."

"Why just a week!?" - Another parasite yelled. - "You are not giving our kind any second chances!"

"It's so you know your place." - Luna uttered threateningly.

"I won't accept this!" - The same parasite shouted, slamming the table. - "I prefer death over enslavement!"

Luna snapped her fingers, and the parasite was put in stasis. - "Anyone else?"

The parasites were mostly unwilling to say anything.

"We didn't choose this life. Not all of us!" - A younger parasite said. - "Why are you punishing everyone equally?"

"Perhaps I didn't make it clear enough, but I'm here to conquer, not debate." - Luna declared. - "Those of you who fought against the status quo are merely a handful, and none of the people present here is one of them. I'm sure those people understand better than you that the gift of life they took unknowingly is not something that can be repaid, and that they will accept their new roles in society."

"It's a genocide!" - Luna heard from the back of the room. - "Our species deserves to exist in this universe, too!"

Luna, irritated, replied. - "The universe is dying! Shut up and do something good before our time runs out."

An older parasite raised his hand, asking for permission to speak. Luna nodded at him, forcing everyone else to be silent.

"The people of Neverwish will surrender. We accept your conditions and thank you for giving us a chance to live." - He declared calmly.

"See? It can be done the easy way." - Luna pointed out, then let others speak.

"Traitor!" - A familiar voice shouted from the back of the hall, and some others joined him.

"Let's not make it any longer than necessary." - Luna spoke. - "Anybody else who also agrees, please raise your hand."

She waited and counted, then announced. - "Time's up. You twelve will stay in rule until you're replaced by those whose shackles were removed... but don't expect an easy life, because it will still be a life of service."

One last time, Luna watched the hall erupt with outrage. The swearing, followed by putting a few members of the opposition in stasis, soon ended. After Luna had everything under control, she raised her hand and created a telepathic link between the twelve chosen people and the spire.

“You'll decide who and when will be brought out of stasis, who will support you in your difficult quest for redemption, and when to inform society. There is just a single condition. In ten years, every member of your species and every liberated person has to be free. That's it, the session is over.”

She snapped her fingers again, teleporting everyone to their homes, and then returned to the spaceship, to Avi.