

*AI, the friendly alien*

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# AL, THE FRIENDLY ALIEN

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PS: I want to thank my family and especially my mother for supporting me and also my readers for taking the time to read it.

This book is dedicated to my daughter Delia who is the light of my life. She always puts a smile on my face no matter how tired or upset I may be. Just hope she will be proud of me someday. My books may not be the smartest ones but were written with a lot of love and pleasure whenever I could find a bit of time for them. Also not to forget my husband whom I have to bribe to listen to my stories.

Also I want to thank my friends from Celtic Heroes for reading my books and encouraging me to write. This is also for them. If it hadn't been for them and the game I would have never started writing anything. They inspired me with my first book which although has nothing to do with this one has been the starting point for me. So lots of love to: Miih, Bratty, Mr. Scar, Mongo, Harry, Neon, Mean, Adi, Alien, Zav, Tenbear, Demonizer, Sneakalistia, Hizzy, Scholar, Noah/Josh, Killer, Eto and the rest of the gang 😊. Would have mentioned Ulo too but he left the clan, he left us, his friends, to make a clan of his own. Not going to say anything more on the subject. Enjoy 😊

## Chapter 1: The forbidden planet

Somewhere far into our Galaxy a small alien ship is crashing towards Earth. The only passenger is freaked out as he knows he can't control the ship anymore. Nothing seems to work any longer and his small ship seems doomed in its fall towards the blue planet. The ship is already on fire as it hits the atmosphere of the blue primitive planet, a planet he had never visited before as he had learnt from the elders that it was primitive and torn between conflicts and wars. It was one of the forbidden planets in the Milky Way.

Al, the only passenger of his small cargo ship was wishing he had crashed on another planet but this one, any other would have been better, even the uninhabited ones...but first of all he had to survive the crash and then worry about the aliens inhabiting this forsaken planet. With that in mind, Al braced himself for impact hoping the small ship wouldn't be his grave. It was enough it had been his life, his home, as he had spent most of his adult life on this ship transporting goods from one planet to another so he hoped it wouldn't be his grave too.

The impact made a huge hole in the ground but he wasn't dead. The ship was almost entirely destroyed but he was pretty much alright. Besides a few bruises and a headache he was ok. Now that he was ok he checked the damage of the ship wondering if he could ever fix it to leave this planet. Good thing he had nobody home to worry about him, no family at all, just his employer who was expecting his cargo to arrive next week. Well, he will be in for a surprise as there was no way he could fix the ship in time if he could fix it at all. Besides other stuff

he was also transporting a few loads of the most precious cargo of all, clean, pure water. He was wondering if his cargo was precious enough for his employer to come looking for him. Then he would be saved. But even if Nick, his employer, would send someone after him it wouldn't be before next week when Nick would realize he doesn't have his water. So until then he would have to blend in with the beings inhabiting this planet. He knew that the most evolved beings were called humans and looked just like him, the only difference being that they lacked a lot of the abilities his race enjoyed. But he was going to find out for himself and he was going to try to avoid direct contact with any of them. Just blend in, get some food supplies and maybe some materials for his ship and that would be it.

Al took out a navigation system and set it from where his ship had crashed so he could find his way back after getting some supplies. He was lucky his ship had crashed in a remote area, no humans nearby for miles. He was surrounded by tall trees covered by a thick layer of snow. He was on top of a mountain. He took out a small device, pressed a tiny button and a hologram of the Solar System appeared before his eyes. He found the planet he was on, Terra, and then zoomed in to the place of the crash. He was somewhere in the Carpathians, in Romania.

His race, the Valentinians, was a peaceful race. The Valentinians were highly intelligent and lived in harmony with a lot of other races on their home planet, Valles. Valles was a medium sized planet and it was his home. It was where he would go at the end of each week's work to rest. It was a desert planet covered in red and yellow sands and it was often windy. Almost no vegetation. Just some types of cactus which lived for years without any water as it only rained once in five or more years. So water was scarce and priceless. They had to import it from nearby planets. He was a good merchant and diplomat and always got what he wanted for the lowest prices but still it wasn't good enough to make a living as his small cargo ship needed maintenance and it was expensive to replace broken parts. Then he met Nick during one of his business trips on another planet. He was wealthy and he offered him a job, mainly to do what he was already doing but to do it for him. To buy from a planet and sell to another. So he was transporting cargo from one planet to the other.

Al loved the fact that he got to meet so many different races due to his job. He loved to learn as much as he could about all the races he met. Al knew that knowledge was power. Al was a skilled observer and diplomat which helped him get out unharmed from possible dangerous situations and also helped him obtain what he wanted. But it all seemed so far away now... He was on Terra now, one of the forbidden planets due to the fact that it was considered still primitive and dangerous. Humans were a danger to themselves too, least to say to others. Most of the human race lived in darkness so to say, believing that they were the center of the Universe and that it all revolved around them. They had no clue that there were other races out there in the vastness of space. They were far from being the only living or intelligent creatures in the Universe.

- I wonder how humans can be so naïve to think that they inhabit the only life supporting planet in the whole universe. At least they live in a blissful ignorance as there are a lot of hostile races out there too. Good thing they don't represent a point of interest to any of them...or a threat, Al was thinking to himself while descending from where he had crashed.

He had to get to a town for shelter and supplies. He had his small laser gun by his side in case he needed to defend himself. He didn't have too much information about Terra, just basic stuff which should be enough to get him out of trouble. Gravity on Terra was different from the one on Valles and it made him move a lot faster than on his own planet and with more ease.

The concentration of compounds in the atmosphere on Terra was almost identical to the one on Valles so he didn't have to use any breathing mask. This made things a lot easier. But it was so cold up here, he had to reach lower level ground soon or he would freeze to death. He wasn't properly dressed for such low degrees. But the snow was magnificent. It was something which didn't exist on Valles but he saw it on a few other planets. He loved how it felt on his skin, the shivers it sent through his body in comparison to the constant heat on Valles. He liked to see it melt against his skin.

Suddenly Al heard something behind the tall pine trees. He felt for his gun to make sure it was in its place. Then he waited quietly to see what was creeping behind the trees. He didn't have to wait long. A huge brown bear appeared before him. It roared so loudly that all the trees nearby shook from his roar. But Al wasn't afraid. He didn't know what the large creature was but it looked wild and dangerous. Being afraid would solve nothing. He had to act quickly but as he didn't want to be responsible for the death of any living being on this planet he decided to just use his hypnotic power to make it stop on his tracks. Back on his home planet he could use it on creatures with lower intelligence. He figured it should work on this being too as it just seemed dangerous but not an intelligent being. If hypnotizing it won't work, he will have to make use of the gun. But not before trying. Al waited until the bear came close enough and then he looked straight in its eyes, focusing on the bear's eyes, trying to reach its mind. Al locked the bear's gaze and he did it, the bear stopped as if paralyzed on the spot. It was as if he had used a tranquilizer. Then Al got close to it and watched it. It was a huge, a majestic creature. He was glad he didn't have to use his gun. Then Al left in a hurry as he knew the bear would come back to his senses shortly but with no memory of what happened. It was better if he was gone as far as possible by then.

## Chapter 2: Delia

After walking at a fast speed for hours Al finally saw a small town up ahead. The buildings looked old but cozy. Smoke could be seen from every

chimney as it was a cold winter. Some dogs started barking as they must have felt his presence but they were all chained up and couldn't reach him. He wished he could silence them. He realized they were only doing their jobs, protecting their homes, their families. Al could enter their minds and read their thoughts. They were anxious because they felt a stranger's presence and they were trying to alert their masters. Al sat on an old log and started to visualize what he wanted to happen: all the dogs calming down and going back to sleep. He focused on this image until quietness and serenity enveloped the small mountain town once more. All the dogs had calmed down and were fast asleep dreaming happy dreams, chasing cats and gnawing on old bones.

The Valentinians were extremely smart and could learn a language in a matter of minutes. They were good listeners and could reproduce the language with accuracy which helped them blend in with the rest of the races on the nearby planets. It was an inherited skill from their ancestors and it proved very useful more than once.

- Good, now to find some food, Al thought and he approached one house in particular as a smell of fresh baked food was coming through an open window. He had never felt such an inviting smell before. He wasn't a food lover but this smell was really something else or maybe it was because he was starving. He wasn't sure.

Al went carefully near the open window and peeked inside. An old couple was sitting at a table full of foods smiling to one another and laughing loudly. But there was one more chair drawn from the table which he quickly realized meant someone else was also coming. Then he saw her, the most beautiful woman he had seen in his entire life. He had never seen anyone half as beautiful as her and he had seen quite a lot of women till now as he had traveled on all the planets near Valles. Who could have thought that such a beauty could be living on one of the forbidden planets, a primitive planet?

She was slender, had long chestnut hair and a pair of large blue eyes in which you could get lost without even realizing it. He knew his fate was sealed. The moment he laid his eyes on her he felt the rapid beat of his

heart as if his tiny little heart was trying to get out of his chest and run to her.

What was wrong with him? It was as if his entire body was malfunctioning, like a broken toy. He couldn't control his feelings. He wasn't even sure what he was feeling...so many emotions were running through him flooding his mind and all of his senses. For a split second he forgot who he was and what he was doing there. Then when he remembered he had come to get some food he heard her speak as if on purpose to hypnotize him once again. Her voice was as sweet as music to his ears. He knew he was trapped forever. He didn't care about Nick's cargo anymore or about his home planet or his job. All he cared about was standing right there in front of him. Somehow she was all that mattered to him from the moment he saw her.

She sat down at the table next to the elder woman. Al realized that the elder couple were her parents. They started eating and his mouth was watering at seeing all that food and seeing them eat. He was really hungry. Then he saw something which gave him even more pleasure: they were drinking water from bottles and they had lots of them. There was water running from a sort of hose and the woman was wasting it to clean the dishes. He couldn't believe it. Back on Valles water was too scarce and precious to waste it like that. All the food was canned and they just threw away the cans after they ate. Not wasting water to clean. Even their clothes were being chemically cleaned, no water involved. It was all new and strange to him.

He focused and blurred all other sounds so he could hear only the three people. He had an acute sense of hearing which proved useful many times as he had heard lots of things and many weren't destined for his ears.

- How was your day, Delia? Asked the woman.
- Fine mom, just another boring day at the job. And Delia went on eating and avoiding her mother's gaze as she knew that her mother wanted to know something entirely different but didn't know how to ask without upsetting her again.
- Let her eat, said the husband. She will tell us when she finds her prince charming! And he gobbled down another piece of pork meat. He was

always like that, he liked to say what was on his mind without thinking of the consequences.

- Marcel! What in God's name were you thinking? Replied the woman in a hurry, her cheeks all red with shame that even her husband had seen through her and knew what she wanted to ask their daughter. She was also mad at him because he had just said what she wanted but lacked the courage to ask. The mother wished for her daughter to find a good husband and get married as she was 20 years old already and had no boyfriend. She just did the same thing day after day: went to work and then back home with them, helping them with the household and reading or playing video games. While she wanted a grandson or a granddaughter.

Delia swallowed her piece of food but when she heard her father it got stuck in her throat. She had to cough it out. And she blushed. She was so mad at both of them for not minding their own business.

Al was watching them wondering if she would like him and feeling happy beyond words at hearing her that she was single. He would be her prince charming... just not what her parents were expecting. Then his stomach started growling wildly asking him for food. He looked at the three in the room and decided to knock on their door and pretend to be a tourist from another town who got lost and he would see how the conversation would go from there. So he approached the door and knocked softly. Then he heard the Mom ask:

- Who can be at our door this late in the evening?
- I am not expecting anyone but I will go check, answered the father. He went towards the front door and looked through the small window in the hall to see who was standing at their door before answering. When he saw a good looking young man his heart jumped a beat. He was dressed rather odd but if his daughter liked him he didn't care about his fashion sense.
- Delia darling, the father said, I think it is for you. Why didn't you say you had a boyfriend? You could have saved your mother the trouble of asking.
- What did you say pa? Asked the poor girl almost swooning with embarrassment as she had no boyfriend and had no idea what her father was talking about. She was a shy girl who avoided men company. If she thought about it she didn't have girl friends either. Of course she talked to her colleagues at work but she couldn't say that any of them was a friend.

Just colleagues. She was a rather lonely girl who liked the company of books and video games more than the company of real people. She didn't trust them. In the two years she had been working at the local restaurant she had seen her share of bad behavior and back stabbing from her colleagues to be anything more than just that, colleagues at work.

- What? Mom also asked not believing her ears. Delia darling, don't let the man waiting, it is not polite.
- I am not expecting anyone, said Delia in such a low tone that she could barely hear her own voice.

Al was standing behind the door and chuckling to himself. He didn't know that humans were so funny. Who knows, he might even like Terra. As for Delia, he was head over heels in love with her. She was so simple and kind. And her parents were good people too. So he thought he ought to do something to get the poor girl out of the situation he had created. He focused on Marcel's mind and as much as he hated to intervene in other creature's free will, he made him open the door. Al usually just read others' minds but he rarely made them do anything, just read their minds to know what to expect from them. He didn't like to abuse his powers. But now he felt Delia's distress and wanted to help her.

- Come in, said Marcel. We were just having dinner, won't you join us?
- I'd love to, answered Al and took a seat next to Delia who was looking at him and at her parents stupefied. It was as if her parents were in a trance. They were acting as if they knew the young man but she was sure she had never seen him before in their house. Finally she broke the silence:
  - Uh, excuse me but who are you?
  - I am Al, he answered with a false calmness while drinking a full glass of water. He had eaten and then he was thirsty and he was glad and astounded at seeing all the bottled water. He poured himself a glass and was enjoying it. Meanwhile he was pondering what was to be done now. It was too late to coward out and he couldn't have said he was a lost tourist now that her parents let him in so easily so he decided to plant a false memory of him being an old acquaintance in both of Delia's parents' minds fast. That way they would trust him and let him stay overnight. It was a tricky thing to do and usually required lots of focus and a calm environment. And the environment was anything but calm as he was on a

foreign planet in some strangers' home and in love with their daughter. He was trying his best to keep calm. Anyway he wasn't hungry or thirsty anymore at least. He managed to easily fool the parents who were old and naïve. But he didn't want to deceive Delia. He didn't even try. If she would someday love him it would be her choice. He wouldn't mess with her mind. But reading her mind was something different and couldn't hurt, right? So he decided he should read her mind and find out what she thought of him. But what he discovered shocked him. It was not something he had been expecting....He couldn't read her mind!!!

- Something wrong with me? He asked out loud when he finally gave up trying to read her mind after a third unsuccessful attempt.
- No, she answered. I mean I don't remember you but my parents seem to know you.
- Yes, we are old acquaintances, he said not sure what to say next. They said to come by if I was ever in the neighborhood and needed shelter. So here I am. I was on holiday when my transportation vehicle broke and I was wondering if I could stay until I fix it?
- Of course Al, answered both her parents. You are welcome to stay as long as you need, her Mom went on.
- Thank you kindly, Al answered. He felt guilty but he needed food and shelter and they seemed nice people. And of course there was Delia, a gorgeous and mysterious young girl who stole his heart and his desire to go back to what he once called his home. He felt more at home here than he had ever felt on his own planet.
- Uh, I guess you can have the small room on the right then, said Delia wondering who he really was and why her parents had never mentioned his name.
- Thank you, answered Al still wondering why he couldn't read her mind. I will get some rest now, see you tomorrow. And he left the dining room and headed towards the small room Delia had pointed to him. He was too tired from all the walking and he needed rest. On his way to sleep she was all he could think about. Her large blue eyes...

Delia followed her Mom in the kitchen. She was curious about the stranger in their home.

- Mom, I don't remember you or pa ever mentioning Al before. And she started washing the dishes while her mother was cleaning the table.
- Uh... Al... said her Mom as she wasn't sure what to say about him. There was something strange about him. Her memories of him were old and blurry and she really couldn't remember much about Al .The more she tried to remember the more she seemed to forget.
- Uh, Mom went on after a considerable pause, Al is an old friend. He is my friend Ana's distant cousin. I can't tell you much about him, she finally said, as I don't know much myself. Only remember having seen him once long time ago while visiting Ana. But I have a weird feeling of calmness when he is close by. And you know I am good judge of character.

Al had chosen to plant a memory of him being Ana's distant cousin as Ana had been Mom's best friend until she died last year in a car accident. He had read her mind and chose this option as Mom couldn't ask Ana anything about him now. So she just accepted the memory Al planted as being her own memory.

- OK Mom. Love you. Going to sleep too, you know I work tomorrow. Oh, there is one more pot on the oven which needs to be cleaned... and Delia was going to take it when her Mom stopped her and kissed her cheek.
- You get some rest, I will clean that.
- Thank you Mom, you are the best! And Delia kissed her mother's cheeks and then went to sleep.

### Chapter 3: Soul mate

Al woke up early. He had slept well on a comfy bed and was feeling full of energy. He couldn't remember when was the last time he had felt so

good about his life which was pretty weird as he was stranded on this planet. His life had been pretty boring so far... buying and selling and doing pretty much the same thing day after day. Maybe having crashed on Terra was the best thing that happened to him. As much as he had wished for Nick to track his ship and find him when he crashed he was now wishing he wouldn't ever find him.

Why was Terra forbidden? These people were so kind. He could read their minds and see that they were good honest people. But maybe not all humans were like them. But then again it didn't really matter what the other humans were like. He was glad that these ones were nice. He was 29 years old and had never been in love before but he was sure he was in love now. He had finally found his other half no matter how strange that sounded.

The Valentinians only fell in love once in their lives and they stayed with their other half for the rest of their existence. Their race was one of a kind in this aspect. They were destined to find their half, their mate, from the moment they were born. Even if it took them most of their life to find that special person. It was something both the male and the female felt when they first met. And it was to last till their last breath. If one of them died, his or her mate would live out the rest of his existence without ever looking for another mate. It was a union for life. It was special and wonderful. And no Valentinian had ever been wrong in choosing his mate for life. This is what made him wonder how he could fall in love with a human. How was she destined for him? It made no sense. But maybe true love didn't have to make sense.

Al heard Delia leave for work. He heard her say that she worked at the local restaurant and as it was a small town that wouldn't be too difficult to find. He would go later and have lunch there. But how would he pay? He forgot about that. He didn't even know what the local currency was. He had to figure something out. So he decided to talk to Delia's mother, tell her that he had been away for a long time and ask her a few things. She was a really nice lady and a good source of information. He found out all he needed to know about how things worked on this planet. What she didn't tell him he could just read her mind and find out. So he mainly needed a job

to make money. Just like where he came from. He decided to tell her that he was going to move to their town as he really liked life here. There was a nice house down the street which he could rent after he got a job. It had a garden and beautiful flowers just as their house had. Until then he would stay with them.

- So you went touring the country and decided to stay here for good? Mom asked him.
- Yes, was wondering if I could stay with you until I can rent the house down the street. And Al put on his best smile while waiting for her to answer.
- You are welcome to stay. I can also give you a tip. I heard that one of the two stores that sells computers downtown needs to hire someone for computer maintenance. I also heard they pay well if you know about programs and stuff. As you are young I bet you know about computers like most of the teenagers nowadays. You would think that they were born with a laptop in their hands, Mom said and giggled.
- Thank you so much for everything, said Al and bowed his head with gratitude. I will go and see if I get the job.
- Good luck! But Al was already out the door.

An hour later Al was signing the contract with his employer. Getting the job had been a piece of cake. He knew everything about computers. He used to fix his own systems on his ship. Besides being a good merchant he really knew about computers and programs. It was cheaper if he did his own maintenance instead of paying someone. But when a piece would break he would have to pay for a new one of course. So at least save money by doing the maintenance himself. Maybe he used a bit of his ability to persuade his employer to choose him over other candidates but he deserved the job. He really knew what it was all about so no harm done, right? Best man, or in his case alien, got the job.

He couldn't believe he was doing this. Mainly he was giving up his former life for a whole new one on Terra among humans. Was he really giving up that much? He had a job as a pilot on a cargo ship and as a merchant as he did the bargaining too but he had no way of repairing his ship any time soon if he could ever fix it at all and he had a job here now.

And he met the love of his life... he just wondered whether she had felt anything when she looked at him for the first time. If she had been a Valentinian then she would have felt for him what he felt for her but she was a human and Al couldn't remember any other Valentinian having chosen a soul mate from another race before so he practically had no idea if Delia felt the same way.

He would start work on the following day but he needed money now as he wanted to have lunch at the restaurant where Delia was working. Hmm, maybe a bit of more persuasion wouldn't harm... convince Bobby, his new employer, to pay him a whole salary in advance. It wasn't stealing, just taking the money a bit before...

It was so easy to read people's minds and to convince them to do anything. It didn't require too much focus for minor stuff such as getting the job or a salary in advance. Terra was almost too good to be true. He went straight to the restaurant. He entered and saw that everyone turned their heads to examine him. A little bit of mind reading and he found the reason: he was the new guy in town and they were all just curious as it was a small town where everybody knew everybody else so when someone new came it was like an event or something. And there were a few women at a table in the corner drinking orange juice and eating pancakes who found him quite attractive. He chuckled to himself content especially as it meant that he had managed to blend in among the humans without anyone suspecting that he was from another planet. But he didn't care about the young ladies in the corner, all he cared about was seeing Delia.

Al sat at a table waiting to see her. Then he saw her enter with a tray of drinks and heading towards the young ladies in the corner of the small restaurant. They were envious of her because she was simple yet she was a real beauty. Delia didn't need to wear make up to underline her beautiful eyes or her full lips. She was a natural born beauty and it was the main reason she didn't have friends. As for the guys, there were a lot who had showed interest in her but she never found anyone interesting enough. She kept telling herself that one day she would leave this God forsaken town and move to a bigger city or even a different country and then she would probably meet someone with whom she could have a relationship. Some

smart, interesting guy to be able to have a conversation with him and if he would be good looking too, then that would be a bonus. Not like the guys from her town who couldn't say more than a few simple sentences without trying to kiss her or worse. She hated her own town. It was too quiet, too boring, nothing interesting ever happened. Until now when this handsome guy entered their home. Then she saw him a table in the restaurant and she almost tripped with the tray of drinks.

- Hey Emma, said Nicole, one of the three girls at the table in the corner. Did you see the new guy?
- Of course! Geez, you'd have to be blind not to! And all three laughed.
- Look at how he is gazing at Delia, Nicole went on once she got the others' attention. You'd think he likes her.
- What? She is the most boring girl in town. She never even had a boyfriend. She is a geek.
- She may be a geek, intervened Natalia, a beautiful dark haired young girl who was the most decent and kind of the three friends, but Nicole is right. He does seem to like her.
- Really? Said Emma with an evil grin. Let's see if he likes her now! And she tried to make her trip over but Al was one step ahead of her and he moved as fast as lightning and got the tray of drinks in mid air, put it on the table with one hand and grabbed Delia's arm with the other preventing her from falling. It all happened very fast. Emma's cheeks were red with anger.
- Are you OK, Delia? Al asked in the sweetest voice on purpose to spite the three girls.
- Yeah, thank you... I am usually not this clumsy, Delia tried to explain. I almost spilled your drinks. Let me know if you need anything else, she said addressing the girls. Then she left in a hurry, her cheeks red as she almost tripped in front of the girls.
- It was not your fault, said Al and he eyed Emma in such a way that she was sure he knew she had been to blame. Emma's cheeks turned red again with embarrassment.
- Won't you sit at our table? Asked Nicole, a skinny red-haired in her mid twenties who wasn't used to getting no for an answer.

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