

Guided by the Stars.

IS ALICE

Sci-Fi

by

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CHAPTER 1:

Was this their first meeting ?...

A saucer shaped spacecraft thirty meters above, it casts a shadow across the ground giving shade to a small group of mourners from the hot sun in a blue sky. The spacecraft, 40 meters across is dead still like it is attached to a sturdy pole fixed firmly in the ground beneath it. There is no sound from the craft. Warm pulsating rectangular neon-coloured lights from its silvered and heavily scorched base slowly flicker on and off.

Three human mourners, two androids and two plain, scratched, dented dull yellow basic maintenance robots stand around a shallow rocky grave near a crystal-clear stream of water on a rocky vegetation less and virgin sterile planet.

A moon with an angled rocky ring halo around its fat waist hangs low in the blue sky. The moon seems like it is looking down with a rocky frown on the mourners. Almost overhead is the planets fiery hot sun. John looks tired, worn down, his cloths are grubby and torn, he has blood on his plain white long-sleeved shirt, his space over-suit is tied by its arms around his waist.

On John's left and right stand Ghost and Tombs, they are two well-built war worn and heavily armed marines picked up from earths future. On the other side of the grave stands two human like Androids, Dizzy and Porter.

John is holding Luna's body carefully like a new-born baby, her slim body is wrapped like an Egyptian mummy in bandages head to toe. He gently lowers the lifeless Luna into the shallow rocky grave, tears appear at the corners of his blue eyes, he rubs his eye with his palm and then across his face around to his ear.

He looks at his hand, he has blood on his palm from a cut on his ear, he gently touches his white hair above his ear checking for more blood.

Looking down at the body John says the Lords pray,

JOHN: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we also have forgiven our sins. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen".

The mourners say "Amen".

The yellow droids robots heads are the same size as a human, but completely oval all around very much like an egg shape. Normally a kaleidoscope of colours are projected onto the inside of their clear but frosted textured heads that scan the entire electronic and light spectrum of heat, colour, radar etc.

If they need to communicate with a human or other being they project a monochrome face onto the inside of their head. Although the face looks rather flat without protruding nose or ears.

John looks around at the two yellow metal clad dented and scruffy looking maintenance robots that resemble Artist Manikin models that are standing back from the mourners, he nods at them, they "Buzz" like they are saying "Ok". The robots walk over to the grave and pickup rocks to cover the body.

John and the mourners walk towards a square doorway that looks like someone has hung a picture in the air of a high-resolution TV screen of the inside of a spacecraft with a narrow surrounding frame just a few centimetres off the ground. The mourners walk through the 2D doorway and onto the spacecraft hovering above.

The 2D doorway is called a "Trans migration gateway" (T-M-G). John waits by the T-M-G doorway for the robots to finish their task, the robots

finish and walk through the T-M-G and onto the ship. John goes to step through the doorway, but he pauses for a few seconds and looks back at the grave, John visually sighs and looks down as he turns and walks through the doorway and onto the spacecraft.

John is now on the spacecraft hovering above Lunas grave, he walks across a big flat dimly lit cargo deck towards a very modern looking transparent elevator. The cargo deck has various crates and machinery against its interior walls and bulkheads, it is obvious that the inside of this spacecraft is dimensionally larger on the inside than the outside.

John steps out of the elevator and onto the largely white flight deck of the spaceship. The crew work in pairs and are sitting or standing at their designated positions on the spacecraft. Porter is an android, he worked originally as a Porter for a well-off owner once. He looks and acts just like a male human; he speaks poshly and was an expensive high end Artificial Intelligence model when new.

He is shuffling around and making noises like he is moaning about something; he makes himself comfy at his navigation seat just like a human would.

Dizzy, or Elizabeth, (but the crew call her Dizzy or Diz) is an attractive female android with unmissable left electric blue and right yellow eyes, she looks and acts just like a female human. She talks commonly, and was a medium end Artificial Intelligence android originally, she had worked in a restaurant, and later in a brothel. Dizzy got damaged when her brothel owners tried to re-program her and damaged a processor in her memory, this caused her to act seeming oddly on occasions, hence Liz became Dizzy.

Both Dizzy and Porter had been re-programmed to be part of the crew of the Alice, but still have memories of their pasts. Both Porter and Dizzy have odd but charmingly amusing and often funny quirks in their personalities.

Dizzy is upset and sobbing, she is standing next to the helm seat, this is where the ship would had been piloted from by Luna who had just been buried on the rocky planet.

John walks over to Dizzy and hugs her,

DIZZY: “What are we going to do now Luna is gone”

JOHN: “We’re going to carry on, it’s what she would had wanted us to do”.

John pauses for a moment.

JOHN: “Dizzy, why don’t you help Porter with Navigation”

PORTER: “But, Captain, I don’t need any help”

John smiles at Porter, and nods, then winks at him,

JOHN: “Just let her help you Porter”.

PORTER: “Oh! Ok captain”.

John sits down at a control station next to where Luna would had sat down normally, he picks up her mascot from the helm control console that has a magnetic base.

Lunas mascot is a plastic wobbly toy of a 1960’s Nasa spaceman on a spring, it has “To Luna my alien space goddess”, I Love you, John” written around the waist of its base. John can feel the eyes of his crew on him.

John looks up and turns, he looks around at his crew, they are all silently looking at him, he puts the toy spaceman back in its place.

JOHN: “Dizzy, authenticate and shut down the T-M-G. Porter, authenticate and undock Alice”

Dizzy looks into an eye scanner mounted at her console. The scanner dimly illuminates her eyes in a rainbow of surveying lights,

DIZZY: “Ioa. Allow unlock console for T-M-G. Command, Trans migration gateway shutdown”.

Ioa is the ships onboard soft female voice interactive Artificial Intelligence computer, (IOA: Pronounced; “I-O-Wah” Input-Output-Answer) Ioa can also appear around the ship as an attractive ghostly holographic female, often wearing different modern cloths and hairstyles, sometimes with wild makeup.

IOA: “Identity, Elizabeth, crew, android, officer star ship Alice, secure access allowed to T-M-G. No organic or solid moving objects traveling though the gateway at time, now. No organic or solid moving objects traveling though the inductive trans-motive pathway at time, now. Closing both internal and external portals, allowing shutdown via console control, ID Dizzy”

A screen flashes and outputs commands on Dizzy’s console that tells her the (T-M-G) gateway and pathway are empty and can be shutdown, Dizzy pulls a lever on her console marked “TRANS MIGRATION GATEWAY” and the remote doorway to the spaceship on the planet shrinks to a dot and vanishes.

The doorway the crew all entered the spacecraft though on to the ships lower cargo deck also vanishes, but a heavy metal door frame next to an unmanned floor mounted TMG console remains.

Porter looks into an eye scanner on his console,

PORTER: “Ioa. Allow unlock console for stationary docking and manoeuvring. Command: hover undock”.

IOA: “Identity, Porter, android, crew, officer star ship Alice, secure access allowed to docking and manoeuvring console,

Porter adjusts controls at his console,

PORTER: “Undocking explicit stationary hover mode, now under manual control”

The spaceship hums loudly and wobbles, as it is undocked from stationary hover mode.

The pulsating rectangular neon-coloured lights under the ship speed up and glow a little brighter as the ship settles down from its wobbling motion after being taken off auto hover mode to manual control.

JOHN: “IOA, scan my body implants for secure ID and authenticate”

IOA: “Scanning...”

IOA: “Identity, John, crew, Captain star ship Alice, secure access to all ships systems,

JOHN: “IOA, Move helm control to my console”

IOA: “Helm systems moved to; John’s console”

Johns flat see though console illuminates with an array of coloured and brightly lit helm controls. He touches and slides his fingers and hands across the flat table console and hovers his hands in other places,

JOHN: “Ioa, Forward viewing screen on. Engaging atmospheric engines”

A large curved outside forward view is projected two meters in front of John. Large venetian blind vents open at the sides of the saucer shaped spaceship, the vents point backwards, black smoke vents out briefly as an exotic fuel mixes with the air and is then sucked back into the engines. A mirage heat haze of clear gas encircles the engine vents as a vortex. The spacecraft slowly moves away,

JOHN: “Engines at one percent. Alice is in motion”

Ghost, who is a well-built mixed race female space marine and John’s drinking buddy, is sitting at a console at the side of the main deck, she is alerted by a flashing screen, she checks it over. She has a scar on her left cheek from an old combat mission, she feels it gently with her fingers which is the way she subconsciously shows concern,

GHOST: “One of our orbital tracking satellites is picking up a ship entering this system, its approaching from the other side of the sun, it’s coming our way John, it’s approaching very fast”

John looks around at his crew,

JOHN: “OK, I’m gonna have to spin up the main power core from cold, it’ll take a few minutes before it’s fully online and we can enter space, sorry guys, the ride could get bumpy running on the atmospheric engines, get strapped in”

The crew all activate their over shoulder seat belt mechanisms. Each crew members seat has a pair of arms that extend out and over each left and right shoulder that offers a seat belt to the crew member to attach to a waist belt that has automatically been extended around them.

As each seatbelt is put on it is automatically tensioned and secured with a magnetic clunk from the floor. Each flight seat is put into ejection mode and a warning on an overhead console at each crew station flashes in red **“WARNING SEAT EVAC ARMED”** Ioa appears as a small holographic person standing at each crew members console.

IOA: “Flight deck seat one is now engaged to eject in an emergency evacuation situation, flight deck seat three is... flight deck seat four and six and three are now engaged to eject in an emergency evacuation situation”

John slides his left fingers across his console and taps with his right. He throttles up the atmospheric drive engines and black diesel like smoke flows across the skin of the spaceship and fades as the engines behind the venetian blind intakes start to glow orange as they get hot.

Star ship Alice stays at a steady 30 meters above the ground as it follows the undulating contours of the planet, then changes angle by a few degrees and quickly accelerates into the sky. Dizzy is monitoring a downward facing view screen as she witnesses the ground moving away. Dizzy smiles to herself.

GHOST: “Detecting incoming radar John”

JOHN: “OK”

Alice is now traveling very fast. John dive’s the ship back down close to the planets naked mountainous and rocky surface of the lifeless planet almost hitting the ground trying to avoid any radar contact with the alien spaceship approaching them.

John is piloting and controlling Alice through valleys and hills as they appear on the curved projected viewing screen in front of him. They emerge from a valley at the edge of the continent by the side of a huge ocean with big curling waves and menacing looking grey clouds on the horizon.

Dizzy’s blue eye turns yellow just like her other eye as she concentrates while she scans her console. Her right eye iris slowly turns as she looks at a smaller main view screen in her console.

Dizzy then looks up at the large holographic forward viewing screen. The star ship emerges from the valley. She then looks back at Alice’s main

core engine generator on her console showing the percentage that the spaceship has to go before her main engine is ready to go to full power.

DIZZY: “Core is at 86% John”,

With the spacecraft flying very low and almost touching the vast sea they approach a huge black and menacing thunderstorm and plunge right into it without hesitation.

The skin alongside the star ships atmospheric engines is now glowing red hot, it gets quenched by the heavy rain, the steam turns to a glowing purple and pink plasma with galvanic lighting as it mixes with the exotic gas from the engine’s hyper sonic jet exhausts just behind the slotted vents.

The ship vibrates and shakes and bumps the crew around as John wrestles with the controls. The instruments on his console flash warnings wildly. Ioa’s computer warnings are heard, but the crew remain calm scanning their consoles.

An unamused small slow swaying Ioa is standing on John’s console. She is looking down at the console’s graphics and data with her hands behind her back. Ioa starts to walk across John’s console like she is on a swaying ship trying to keep balance and is now pointing down at the flat transparent screen and waving her arms around.

IOA: “Outer hull lightning strikes exceeding one thousand kilo watts. Rear sensor array has sustained damage, moving to the secondary backup system sensor array. Secondary sensor array system now online, at 100% and stable”.

JOHN: “Thank you Ioa”,

Ioa smiles at John and fades away.

On Dizzy console the engine core power display is moving slowly, but then suddenly the readout jumps from 98% to an orange-coloured region showing 108%, Dizzy is smiling, she looks around at John,

DIZZY: Core is at 108% John,

John taps away at his console,

JOHN: “Engaging main drive engines, integral gravity on, localised damping field starting up”

What sounds like powerful electric motors humming, huge high voltage transformers and capacitors whistling and starting up are heard coming from the star ships engine rooms a few decks below. The star ships shaking, and vibrating slows down for a moment,

PORTER: “Captain, the navigation computers have plotted a plan “A” and plan “B” out of this system, sending the data to helm console”

JOHN: “Thanks Porter. GHOST!”

GHOST: “John!”

JOHN: “Destroy our orbital tracking satellites, we won’t be coming back for them”

GHOST: “Roger that Captain”

Ghost opens a small panel door on her console marked “**SATELLITE SELF DESTRUCT**” she turns and pushes a control switch inside the panel.

As Ghost flips the switch she sees an indicator on her console that alerts her to look at a radar screen, she sees a blip on the radar screen very briefly suggesting that there is a second alien ship on the planet where Luna was buried.

The switch Ghost initialised flashes red then transforms into steady blue. The orbital tracking satellites that had been left in orbit to track and expose any approaching space craft whilst the crew held Luna’s funeral explode far out in space.

GHOST: “JOHN! Oh, it’s gone, ok. Must had been an echo on the radar. Satellites destroyed captain”.

JOHN: “Roger that Ghost, Satellites destroyed”

GHOST: “That alien ship has entered the planets outer atmosphere”

Tombs is a six-foot four well-built male space marine; he is nearly always unshaven. His hair is long on top with a short ponytail on the top of his

head. Both sides of his head are shaved to reveal Celtic design tattoos. He is also Ghost's lover. He controls the ship's armaments systems, and is John's trusted protective buddy, he is sitting at the weapons console at the side of the main deck next to Ghost,

TOMBS: "I'm bringing weapons online John"

Laser gun turrets elevate from the ship's exterior panel doors in mechanical anger and turn to face backwards.

The ship enters a part of the storm that is particularly violent. Porter and Dizzy are watching the big view screen in front of John, they look at each other worryingly.

Dizzy grips the sides of her seat as the ship starts to shake again. Alice shudders and vibrates violently in the storm. Porter leans over to Dizzy and holds her hand, Porter and Dizzy smile at each other. The ship's weapons can be heard clunking inside the ship, and the laser gun armaments cyclotrons are heard whistling as they are charging up.

Meanwhile, back on the planet where Luna was laid to rest an alien "Craven" species shuttle craft that had been following the Endellion ship from a safe distance is now stationarily positioned over Luna's grave site. It is using a wide scanning light beam to examine her place of rest.

The Alien race of Craven's are like inventions of Frankenstein. Physically they are a mix of alien body parts refashioned if necessary to suit themselves. Some of their body parts are crudely mechanical, like semi-permeant appendages of bent metal and bags of organs lubricated with semi-fluids. They are essentially like vultures; they are dead body scavengers.

The Cravens collect body parts of the dead to repair their own, or to trade on or sell to other alien species as reconditioned or modified appendages. The Cravens follow the Endellions around knowing that they leave death and destruction almost everywhere they go. The Cravens main ship is hidden away in deep space.

Back on the Alice the star ship is vibrating and shaking. John coolly makes some adjustments at his helm console. The ship turns in the violent thunderstorm with a graceful arc through ninety degrees until the ship is going vertical.

JOHN: “Here we go. Engaging displacement drive”

John taps away at his console. He briefly checks the rising power levels and engages the main space drive engine. DIZZY, who is being thrown about in her seat quietly says to Porter with a shivering voice because of the star ships vibrating ...

DIZZY: “Oh! good, we’re going to light speed. Thank you John”.

The star ship bursts through the clouds at the edge of space, rainwater pouring back to the planet and away from its hull, lightning explodes from the black and grey thunder clouds below trying to grasp the ship like an electric hand with fingers extended.

Now in the very high and thin atmosphere the star ship stops shaking, the main drive engines that work in the vacuum of space start to engage, the pulsating lights around the ship stop, and as the atmospheric engines shut down and their vents close, wide narrow doors above and below the ship open to reveal the main engine drive, a bright blue solid light illuminates the spaceship's rear and then turns orange. A misty orange glow surrounds the ship, and with a sudden lurch the spaceship seamlessly accelerates to 350 times the speed of light.

DIZZY: “Accelerating to L1, L2, L2.5, L3, L3 point five four, main drive engines at 108%”

JOHN: “Pulling engine core back to 99%”

DIZZY: ”L three point six six”

As the star ship leaves the planet the alien ship pursuing breaks out from the dark thunderstorm below and accelerates and pursues the Alice.

GHOST: “They’re closing in on us John. You not going to L4? aren’t you going to outrun them?”

TOMBS: “Were locked and loaded boss”

John turns and looks poker faced around at his crew.

JOHN: “Navigation. Porter! anywhere to hide”.

Tombs looks around at Ghost and is shaking his head,

Tombs looks around at Ghost and screws up his face,

TOMBS: “Did he say, Hide?”

PORTER: There is a system with a class “L” planet not too far away”

JOHN: “Send me the coordinates Porter”

John sweeps his hands and taps and slides his fingers across his flat console and makes course and speed adjustments, the stars on the forward screen twist sideways as the ship sharply tilts and then the stars blur as the engines loudly hum and whistle after a burst of acceleration, then the screen full of stars come back into focus and tilt back as the ship comes out of its turn.

The stars move up the screen as Johns changes direction again to align with a small planetary system. John brings up a holographic side screen showing the various planetary layouts of the system they have just entered mapped out hanging there in the space beside him.

The ship shudders and shakes as John slows the engines to adjust the speed yet again for the ship to change direction once more, the crew all sway together as the isolated internal gravity system catches up with the engines as they give a kick as the star ship accelerates again. The ship does another tight sweeping turn in space, passes close by to the planetary systems star and then quickly sling shots back and enters the planet system that John had been tracking on the side screen.

Porter looks across at John, and can see John has brought up a holographic screen hanging in the air with the systems planets laid out,

PORTER: “The blue planet sir”

JOHN: “Ok Porter”

John makes some small course adjustments and heads for the blue planet,

PORTER: “We’re making a really fast approach, Captain!”

JOHN: “I know porter, I want to get out of empty space, so we can’t be tracked. All hold tight for some rapid atmospheric braking”

The ship dives into the planet's tropical atmosphere and tilts back causing a fireball to erupt at the base and around the ship as the extreme pressure of the air against the ship's lower hull heats it up. Mountains and thick primitive forests below witness the fireball and sonic boom.

A small red haired Ioa in a short red dress and red heels appears on John's console with one hand on her hip and the other hands fingers wiggling and pointing at a flashing readout showing the hull temperature.

IOA: "Extreme heat build-up on outer hull, there is a danger to biological entities on the ship John"

JOHN: "That's Ok Ioa, I know, I am aware of the danger, just needed to slow the ship down quick without using the integral damping system. I'm gliding in. Going manual. Mechanical flight controls Ioa"

IOA: "Ok John"

John taps away at his console and an alien looking joystick control emerges from the floor next to his seat on his right-hand side. He grips it and steers the star ship away from the forest towards the coast not far away.

As the ship glides low across a sandy beach and over the sea, he tilts the ship up into the sky and then in a controlled stall turns the ship up and over and dives Alice into the clear blue ocean.

The ship vertically re-appears from the sea, steam and water rush away from the hull and have cleaned her silvery surface. Alice runs out of speed in a shallow climb and is about to stall in mid-air and fall back into the sea.

Then the rear engine vents open and the atmospheric engines roar into life, the Alice slightly dives but gains pace with the engines pushing the star ship along they start to give her some altitude. The ships name "IS Alice" and a picture of Lewis Carrols Alice looking into a sky of stars appears on the sea cleaned bottom of the star ship as she does a slow low tight swooping turn back towards the sandy beach.

"IS Alice" (Inter-Stella - Alice) is written in big letters alongside a graphic of Lewis Carrols "Alice, though the looking glass". The illustration is of Alice with her arms behind her back gazing up at some stars.



Flying at a low-level, John pilot's Alice along the sandy coastline next to the forest which is just out of reach of the seas high tide. Vapour trails are curling away from the star-ships outer edges from the remains of the heated-up seawater on the hull.

He steers the star ship inland flying low and on towards a thick jungle and mountains. Turbulence from Alice makes the tops of tall prehistoric trees curl over, and as they swing back their leaves lose their grip with their branches and get sucked up into the air and fall away to the ground.

IOA: "Outer hull temperature is reducing, risk to biological entities negligible"

A happy looking Ioa's cloths, hair and shoes turn a light blue, she smiles and waves at John then fades away, John smiles,

JOHN: "Dizzy, can you scan for a natural cave or opening, big enough to fit "Alice" in"

DIZZY: "Aye Aye, captain"

Dizzy grins and raises her eyebrows at John,

John mouths to himself quietly "Aye Aye captain", he then looks around at Dizzy, and crosses his head in dis-approval at her "Aye, captain" remark, but he smiles at her anyway,

Dizzy glances over at John, Dizzy is very fond of John to the extent of a having a crush on him. She is smiling broadly as she scans and examines her control panel that is surveying the planets surface,

DIZZY: “Found something John, its bit of a squeeze, but here yah go, data coming over to you right now”

John overlays the data sent to him by Dizzy with the main viewing screen and aligns the cave up with the planets topology map,

JOHN: “Ok, let’s park Alice then”

The warm pulsating and glowing rectangular neon-coloured anti-gravity emitters start-up at the base of Alice. John brings Alice almost to a halt at the foot of a huge mountain thick with tropical foliage and trees. He then slowly guides the ship like it’s going up the slope of a funicular train track into a wide and high cave over hung by vines halfway up the slope of this steeply sided mountain. The ship scrapes the sides of the cave as it goes in.

JOHN: “Dizzy?”

DIZZY: “You can check the data John!, it says Alice can fit in!”

John backs Alice up slightly, moving her away from the cave walls.

As Alice hovers in the cave three legs with grabbing opening metal claws at the ends like excavator jaws flatten out and come down from the fuselage, they then oscillate to carefully feel the ground to see if it is firm enough to land, the ship settles down and the legs push the ship up ever so slightly to level it out. John shuts various systems down, Alice’s engines noise dies away to silence and the neon-coloured anti-gravity emitters beneath Alice fade .

JOHN: “Ok, analysis says that the air is really good to breath, I’m going to go outside and fill my lungs with some of it”

John stretches, and then unbuckles his seatbelt. The seat belt mechanism retracts back into his seat. The seat EVAC warnings display goes out. John gets up and gets into the elevator which takes him to the cargo deck where lights seamlessly flicker on randomly as he walks across the wide floor.

JOHN: “Ioa, put number two ramp down”

IOA: “Unlocking ramp two. Number two ramp going down. levelling ramp, compensating for an unlevel surface”

Alice’s cargo ramp creaks, hisses, and makes metallic buckling sounds as it lowers and stretches out and down to the caves sandy and rocky landing place.

John stands back a little on the cargo deck watching the cargo ramp go down, then he walks onto the ramp, he hops off the end before it reaches the ground.

He looks around the big cave, and in the rocky soil he sees a pretty flower not far from the edge of the ramp. There is no wind or breeze, but it looks like the flower is softly swaying to unheard beautiful music.

He smiles at it, then reaches down to the red, yellow, and blue flower that looks like it has a liquid pumping through its pink stalk veins.

Just as he goes to touch it, sharp white curved claws appear from the ends of its petals, the flower goes to grab John’s hand, John jumps back, then he observes a coloured liquid dripping from the end of the flowers claws that falls onto the sandy and gravelly ground, the surface sizzles. The liquid from the flower seems to be acidic and burn and discolour the sand.

John reaches for his space gun and shakes it in front of the flower like the flower can see it,

JOHN: “And fuck you, flower!”

Ghost and Tombs walk down the ramp bearing heavy weapons and are dressed in camouflaged commando outfits, they are followed by Porter and Dizzy who has who has dressed like a street corner prostitute.

Porter is looking Dizzy up and down. John is also looking at Dizzy. John is looking confused.

DIZZY: “What? I wanted to dress for the occasion”.

PORTER: “And what occasion would that be?”

DIZZY: “You never know, and you never mind”

Porter quietly talks to himself,

PORTER: “I think that John needs to sort your programming out girl”

As John sits down on a rock Ghost joins him she pushes up her marine corps helmet, the rest of the crew walk towards the caves entrance.

GHOST: “John, you need to talk about Luna, it’ll help you know”

JOHN: “From the beginning?”

GHOST: “Yeah, tell me about her John, from the beginning, that day you met. She loved you deeply, and I know you loved her”.

John sighs,

JOHN: “Well, I lived in a small leafy country town on the edge of a desert. Just a few miles away is a small industrial complex where I used to run my own small company building Robots that run with Artificial Intelligence, you know, Androids, A-I. I’m a mechanical engineer and a computer programmer really, not a space pilot. That day, a couple of androids I had built a few years back came into the workshop for some upgrades, that was Dizzy and Porter,

GHOST: “Our Dizzy and Porter?”

JOHN: “Yeah, that’s right, our Dizzy and Porter. I was fitting a right arm assembly to Dizzy, I had her sitting on top of a workbench, she was smiling at me and Porter. I remember her gently swinging her legs.

Porter is helping me with one of Dizzy’s new arms. Both Dizzy and Porter are my second-generation Artificial Intelligence androids. At the time they looked very human from a distance, but if you got close you could see their skin was not human like, as the latex does not seem to wrinkle around their mouths or eyes when they talk or blink as it would in a regular human being. Some of their mannerisms were not quite human like either, but my new software upgrades would help.

GHOST: “Is this all relevant?”

JOHN: “Your gonna want to know how Porter and Dizzy ended up on Alice with me and Luna, and it’s important, it’s how we all ended up together, because on that day, I didn’t think I would ever see Dizzy or

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