scene 2

Looking

Alexandria's systems and operations were excellent, even after ten years. With Santos Rojas' improvements, *Alexandria* moved faster than expected and had moved back and forth, in total, nearly 18 light years from Earth. All could see the memory of Morgan Lee's overt death affected Aria in quiet moments. *Alexandria* said Aria was excelling at studies, but didn't want to talk about Morgan or Rowan.

Alexandria's sensors and antennae received messages from Earth, although considering the content, no one wanted to reply.

After Morgan's death freed up resources on the ship for the possibility, and following Morgan's willed intent, Dr. Berg and Justice Qazi used two compatible DNA samples from the library to create and gestate a baby - maintaining genetic diversity was better in the longer term, even in this small a community. The new child was healthy and happy.

No one objected when Aria took charge of the new child and named them Rowan. Everyone felt parental obligation and pride. And as the ship continued its travels, that feeling slowly mutated into a discussion on the desirability of creating a child with "more natural" relations to crew members.

There were worlds around Proxima Centauri, one in the "Goldilocks" just right zone. There was hope as the ship approached the first planet. But it was tidally locked, one side always searing hot, the other nearly as cold as space, completely uninhabitable. Then, a new star was chosen and more years passed in transit. The second world was a dead rock, cloaked in a toxic atmosphere. Unicellular life might arise there, perhaps in a few billion years. The third was a hot, gaseous ball, reminiscent of Venus. It might have been amenable to life millions of years ago. Still, all learned improved detection of possibilities. There were many more places to explore.

Dr. Kjella Berg and Sasha Mendel had grown close, sharing a cabin. So, it came as little surprise when the two announced their intention to procreate when the time was right and space on the ship became available.

This matter was academic until recently. Justice Qazi was dying. Yet, in opposition to Dr. Berg's and Sasha's plan, Justice counter-proposed Aria Lee and Santos Rojas have a child, as they were both younger and arguably healthier. This came as a surprise to both Aria and Santos.

With the departure of Justice in the foreseeable future, the question of how to replace Justice needed an answer.

TYPICAL MESSAGES FROM EARTH

UEC TRANSMISSION
UEC CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE to Traitor Morgan Lee - WE NOTE YOUR OFFENSES and existence on this, the annual Traitor's Day of the United Earth Concord. For we, the free peoples of the United Earth Concord, know the Lee family as what they are - the orchestrators of the suffering and torments of humanity. For how long have they plundered and exploited humanity's resources? Thieves all! Let us view the fate of these treasonous sympathizers, as we expunge these influences upon our clean, pure, and perfect allies.

PARTIAL UNDERGROUND TRANSMISSION 1
....the free Earth Army remembers and supports you, Captain Morgan Lee, for what you have attempted to do for us… you will be remembered and honored for your sacrifices…

PARTIAL UNDERGROUND TRANSMISSION 2
...by the flooding. So, twenty-five million lives have already been lost, and that before the likely failure of the secondary dikes...