

Asia opened her eyes slowly, and was immediately overwhelmed by disorientation. While she felt as though she'd just woken up, she didn't recall going to sleep and she had no idea where she was.

In every direction for as far as she could see, there was nothing but white. There just seemed to be a glow. Even attempting to getting a better look at things with the ocular implant in her left eye, but even with the highest magnification, there was nothing to be seen.

She tried recalling events prior to this, but found she couldn't think of a thing. She had no idea how she'd arrived there.

"Hello?" she called out, not really sure what she was expecting.

There was no response.

*She is trapped. She is not ready.*

Asia looked around in confusion. With no sense of direction she had no idea from which direction the voice was coming from, but she recognized it.

"Commander Tate?" she called out.

*She is trapped. She is a prisoner. She is not ready.*

This time, the voice belonged to someone else, but it was familiar.

"EI?" she inquired.

*She mistakes privilege for obligation. She is not ready.*

The voices were beginning to weigh heavy on Asia. If nothing else, the voices were right. She did feel trapped, but it had nothing to do with her current location.

"What do you mean?"

*She attempts to deceive even herself. She is not ready.*

This time, it was the voice of Lt. Commander Nik Martin. Of all the voices thus far, hearing disparities coming from him seemed to carry more weight with her.

"Alright, I know what you mean. I am trapped; I feel pressured to have a child, to preserve the future," she admitted.

*Future?* the voice scoffed. *There is no future. No past. Nothing is linear.*

"I don't understand," she said.

"Yes, you do," she heard a voice say.

She turned around only to see herself standing across from her, but instead of a yellow uniform, she wore a brown one. Asia also noted unlike her, her doppelgangers hair was much shorter and curlier.

"Oh my..."

"You're talking about parallel realities," she brought up.

"No, you are."

*Her mind remains cluttered. She is not ready.*

"I don't know what you want from me," she said.

She was then confronted by another version of herself, this one wearing civilian clothes.

"We want you to let go," she said.

"Of what?"

"Everything," they said in unison.

"You are not defined by your future," one said.

"You are not defined by your past," the other said.

"Actions do not define you, you define your actions," the last one said.

"I... I understand," she paused. "I've been trapped by my own fears; the accident has haunted me, but I can't let it define me. I worry about having Serenity and doing what the future requires, but my actions do not define me..." she stopped.

"... you define your actions," they all said in unison.

"I understand," Asia said.

In that moment, the other versions of her faded away. Suddenly, she was also again.

“Congratulations, Lt. James,” a voice said.

It amazed Asia that she didn't have to turn her head, Gabbi just seemed to appear in front of her. It wasn't as if she, at one moment was not there, and then she was. It was as if Gabbi had been there the entire time, but she simply didn't notice.

“Gabbi, what is...”

“We have been testing you. We needed to know you were ready,” she said.

“Ready? For what?”

“For Time Force,” Gabbi said proudly.

“Time Force?” she paused. “I remember something about team of rangers in 2001. What does that have to do with SPD?”

“Time Force is an inter galactic, multi dimensional peace keeping organization, we deal with the preservation of the timeline,” she explained.

“And you're from the future?”

“We tend not to subscribe to antiquated labels like past, present or future. But yes, from your perspective, our organization was founded many years from what you perceive as your present. You and your team have been recruited to work within Time Force to bring a threat to justice,” she told her.

“A team?”

“I team has been assembled, and you will ensure the preservation of the timeline of not just this world, but an infinite amount of others.”

“Why?”

“Because if one person is allowed to shape realities as they see fit, with little to no regard for the lives they will affect, the species that will blink in and out of existence... no one person should have that power. Time Force only exists to ensure the future flow of time. Only those who can pass the test, to let go of their own insecurities and preconceived notions of time. Are you up for task?” Gabbi asked.

“What about my duties? I'm still the chief medical officer for my team and I have taken an oath to SPD. I can't abandon my responsibilities,” she said.

“I respect that. Just know that when you return to your original temporal coordinates, it will be as if you never left. You will find your life is exactly the way you left it... more or less.”

“I'm ready,” Asia said proudly. “Where do we begin?”

Gabbi smiled. “At the beginning...”