

December 1

I've been settling in the last couple of days, trying to get my bearings on this big transport. It's huge, about the size of one of our old Earth battlecruisers, though it's not armed to the teeth.

There's not much to tell since we boarded the transport, which belongs to the Kalquorian fleet. Life has consisted of me unpacking the few things I have, crying from missing my friends back at the Academy, and sitting with Candy as we alternate between laughing and bawling over any little thing. We're a mess.

I'll explain a little about this transport, which is kind of like a space-going city. Okay, so maybe it's not quite as big as a city, but it ain't small.

First of all, there is the Earther Matara quarters. This part of the ship is where all us girls looking for clan love will live for the next nine months as we make our way to Kalquor. We've got our own dining room in this section where they serve everything from my ronka and pilchok obsession to surf and turf. I wonder if they've laid in a supply of butchered beef or actually put live cattle on this ship. I also have to wonder about the seafood. Did they install aquariums in order to transport our aquatic life?

There is also an 'amusement room'. It looks like a seriously upgraded rec room. The Kalquorians filled it with activities, vid entertainments like concerts and performances (some are even old Earth recordings), hobbies, and games. I've already loaded some book collections onto my dear old handheld here. Nine months is a long time to fill, don't you know?

There is even a little shopping area in our section. Apparently, the Kalquorians were busy thinking about us back on Earth. They gathered goods that weren't looted after Armageddon. There are clothes, little decorative things to personalize our quarters with, computers, handhelds, even jewelry and makeup. The craziest part is that none of it costs anything. No one is spending her Kalquorian government-issued allowance on any of this stuff. It is rationed out so that everyone gets a chance to pick nice things out for themselves, however. Once the goodies run out, we will have to pay for similar items picked up on other planets, space stations, and colonies. It sounds as if by the time we make our first stop, we'll all have accumulated some pretty decent funds to buy some of the more exotic stuff. Candy and I are already discussing our splurges. She wants to get what passes for a dress on Plasius (a couple of scraps of fabric do not constitute clothing, in my humble opinion) and some jewelry on Joshada. I'm up for the Joshadan jewelry, which is supposed to be the nicest on all known planets. I'm also going to get a bottle of leshella, which they say makes our finest champagne taste like toilet water. Maybe I'll get Mom something too, a kind of 'getting out of stasis' present. What the heck, it's not like I have to pay for room and board anytime soon.

I understand there is a common area that Earthers and Kalquorians can both visit, somewhere near the center of the ship. I haven't ventured out that way yet. Curiosity has not overcome the sense of depressed apathy that I'm currently experiencing. I guess once I finally accept that I have really, really left Earth and am not returning, I'll start getting my act back together.

Anyway, here's what I know about the common area. Apparently, that's where there are more dining options, goods for sale, a hall for performances, and even a couple of clubs for entertainment. I have no idea what constitutes a Kalquorian club, though I suspect lemathev music is probably involved. Of course, that makes me think of Dusa, Esak, and Weln.

Speaking of them, I have commed them and Dad twice since I left Earth. It makes me incredibly sad to see them now, so much so that I wonder if I should stop contacting them so much. Yeah, right. Like that is going to happen. I'm still clinging like a vine even though we left Earth's orbit yesterday. There is no big news to report from their end yet. Weln still hasn't left the Academy to join Dusa and Esak. He's waiting for a shuttle to come from Atlanta. Meanwhile, there is still talk of shutting down the Academy site. I wonder where Nang would end up in that case. The bottom of the ocean is my vote.

Anyway, I was talking about this transport. Past the common area is Kalquorian crew quarters, and then the ship's engineering and bridge sections. We're not really encouraged to visit the crew's living space. The operating areas of the transport, like engineering and the bridge, are off limits entirely.

We're supposed to get more information on the whys and wherefores of our long ride in this tub at an orientation tomorrow. Pretty much the only other thing I know about it is that we have two destroyers escorting the transport to Kalquor. The fact we need them is a little concerning, but there really isn't much of a protected route that extends from Earth to Kalquor. The Empire is working on setting it up, but that's taking time and resources. I'm hoping the Tragooms leave us alone, along with the sometimes opportunistic Dantovonians and Bi'isils. Sure, the Galactic Council insisted Earthers couldn't be taken as outright slaves, only indentured servants. Bi'is swears up and down it doesn't do that, nor do they perform experiments on other sentients. I don't believe it for a second. There have been waaaay too many stories of such things, even long before the war.

I suppose that's all for now. It will be interesting to see what tomorrow's orientation brings up. Candy is hoping for cute Kalquorians, of course. Personally, I've had my fill of men for now. I already left three sweethearts, an asshole, and a dad behind. I don't want to be bothered with any other guys for any reason. I'll need my strength for the lottery on Kalquor in nine months.