

ONCE WE HAD
A FAMILY, A
REAL ONE.

NOT JUST PEOPLE WHO SHARED
BLOOD AND SPACE, BUT WHO
INTIMATELY UNDERSTOOD ONE
ANOTHER, GAVE LIFE PURPOSE
AND INSPIRATION.

BUT THAT
WENT AWAY.

AND SOMEHOW, I WAS
EXPECTED TO STAY.

TO JUST LIVE
WITHOUT THEM.

"LITTLE LUNA CLOSES HER EYES TO AVOID LIGHT. FOREVER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD, HIDDEN IN THE SHADOWS OF SOL'S RADIANCE."

DELLA ALWAYS SMILED AT ME WHEN DAD READ THAT PART OF THE STORY.

LETTING ME KNOW MY PLACE.

ALWAYS IN HER SHADOW.

DELLA, WHOSE LIFE I SAVED IN VOLDIN.

DELLA, WHOM I SO DESPERATELY WANTED TO SHOW HOW STRONG I'D BECOME.



PELLA, WHO LEFT ME TO DIE.

DROWNING, AND ALL I
COULD THINK WAS HOW
MUCH EASIER IT WAS.

NO MORE
NIGHTMARES.

NO MORE
UNCERTAINTY.

NO MORE GUILT.

HELLO?

AND NOW I'M
HOME AGAIN.

A REMINDER OF
WHAT I'M MISSING.

EVERYTHING
IS MISSING.


USHN!

EVERYTHING
HURTS...

THAT BITCH
LENA CUT ME.

WHY BRING
ME HERE?


HER 7



MOM'S DEAD GARDEN.
STOMACH LOCKS UP
WITH MEMORIES.


FAMILY
PHOTOS
STILL UP.

AS A GIRL, I'D
STARE AT THEM
AND GET SO
SAD.




HOLDING ONTO MOM
AND CRYING, TELLING
HER I WISH I WERE
STILL A BABY.

DESPERATE FOR
THE WAY THINGS
HAD BEEN.



THE WORLD
HIJACKS US
WITH THE
TRUTH.



ALL THE PROTECTIVE
ILLUSIONS OUR PARENTS
PERPETUATE VANISH.



REALITY ENCIRCLES
US LIKE BELLS...

...AND KILLS THE CHILD.

YERASH!

WHOA.

NOT A MORNING PERSON, HUM?

HELMSMAN OF THE DEEP GENERATIONS



YOU--? WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!

I ASSUMED IT'D BE NICE FOR YOU TO WAKE UP IN YOUR OWN ROOM.



I MEAN, TO BE HONEST, I JUST ASSUMED IT WOULD BE NICE FOR YOU TO WAKE UP.

I'VE MADE TEA IF YOU WANT SOME. IT'S STILL HOT--

HOW DID I GET HERE?

WHERE'S MY MOTHER? THE LAST I SAW OF YOU--

ALL RIGHT, LOOK, JUST SET DOWN THE LIGHTING FIXTURE.

EASY.





SIT DOWN, TAJO. BREATHE.

QUIT HANDLING ME AND TALK.

YOUR MOTHER AND I HAD REACHED THE SURFACE. SHE AND ZEM SET OFF TO GO RETRIEVE THE PROBE.

AND?

AND... AFTER A FEW DAYS OF WAITING...



SHE PAUSES FOR TOO LONG.

NERVOUS...

I RECEIVED A DISTRESS BEACON FROM A CAINE SUB-X. ASSUMING IT MUST BE ONE OF HER DAUGHTERS, I ANSWERED THE SOS...

AND FOUND YOU.



WHAT-- YOU LEFT HER?

YOU JUST LEFT HER UP THERE?!



GET YOUR SHIT, YOU'RE TAKING ME BACK UP, WE'RE GOING TO GET MY MOM, YOU SPINELESS--

TAJO, PLEASE.



I DIDN'T LEAVE HER.

SHE...



SHE'S DEAD.