

VOYAGE – Reading Sample #1

“What’s wrong?” Daria and Carla asked in unison, when they saw him still lying in the middle of the crossroad.

Passio grumbled and cursed. “I think I broke my leg.”

“How did that happen?”

“The car hit me the moment I grabbed you. I didn’t realize it then, I was trying to get you out of that situation.”

“Let me see”, Carla said trying to bend over him.

Passio immediately put his hand under his coat, hoping she didn’t notice his claws in the dark. Carla carefully moved her hand over his leg and tried to move it. His painful groan said it all. “He’s right, his leg is broken.” She pulled a cell phone out of her handbag. “I’ll call an ambulance.”

“NO!” both Daria and Passio screamed.

“What?”

“No ambulance, no hospital.”

Carla stared at them. “I think you hit your bloody head as well, you don’t know what you are saying.”

Daria pulled the cell phone out of Carla’s hand. “NO HOSPITAL! He can’t go to a hospital here. Do you understand? We HAVE to go home. NOW!”

“He wouldn’t get ten yards with a broken leg! He can’t just go home! What is wrong with you? Are you completely wasted?”

“I am completely sober and so is he. No hospital! We HAVE to go home.”

“Stop fighting, the two of you”, he grumbled. “I have to get off this junction, before someone notices the whole damn thing.”

Daria noticed the fangs and his steel blue predator eyes through his hair, that was lying like a curtain over his face. He was in his alien form and hadn’t changed back.

“What’s going on?” she whispered. “Can you not...uhm...”

“I can’t”, he gasped. “Too much distraction, too much pain. I need peace. Can we trust her?”

Daria looked at Carla. A minute that seemed to never end passed by. Then she closed her eyes and sighed: “I think so.”

Carla looked at Passio, then to Daria, then back at him. “What are you doing? What you mean by ‘can we trust her’? What is going on?”

“Do you remember what I told you this morning? I told you that Passio is special. And I meant he is REALLY special – and that I couldn’t tell you the whole truth behind it?”

“Yes, I remember, but what does that have to do with it?”

“You will discover the whole truth now, just... please don’t be frightened. I’m not frightened either.”

“Huh?” Carla was dumbfounded.

Daria took her hands and held her firm. “Please help us. We need you. Look into his face and you will know why we can’t go to a hospital. His real face.”

But Carla didn’t hear the last words she said to her. Right at that moment Passio turned towards her, taking the streaks of hair out of his face with his furry hand armed with claws. If Daria had not been holding her, she would have taken off as if the devil himself was after her. A silent scream came over her lips and, the next moment, she tumbled and fell on her backside. Two glowing blue predator eyes were staring at her, his pupils dilated, and long

fangs appearing from his slightly pulled back lips. His facial features looked strange to her and his body was covered in yellowish fur.

“What – Is – That?” Carla finally asked.

“Passio is from a different world, a different planet, from another galaxy far away from here. He is another species. An alien.”

“Are you fucking kidding me?” Carla stared at Passio with wide open eyes.

“No she’s not”, he answered for her. “I am not human. I am different. I am a Katee’Lhi.”

Carla was still staring at him. “But you looked like a human. The whole day, the whole evening. What... what... I don’t believe this.” She shook her head.

“He can change his visual appearance”, Daria explained. “He can alter the surface of his skin at will, but if he is distracted he loses control over it and turns back into his real body, like now after the accident.”

“She’s right. I can’t be seen in public like this, but I am not able to change back at the moment. That’s why I asked if we could trust you and if you can help us. You are a doctor.”