

"Sabers, if you jump ship, the captain will send a bounty hunter to bring you back," she answered. "And if a bounty hunter brings you back, you will have to work twice as long without any pay."

"Well, I guess we can give up on that plan," Karl whispered under his breath, turning his head to peer up at an air vent. "What do you think, Lightening?"

"It will work, so long as you don't get caught," Lightening answered.

An object, the size and shape of a baseball, dropped from the ceiling.

"Attention all crew, this is the captain speaking." The captain's voice came from the sphere. "All crew will report to the cargo deck and begin transport of freight."

As ordered, Karl made his way to the cargo hold and took part in the transport of the coffin-like boxes. Each was placed on a trolley and moved out of the cargo hold through the narrow corridors of the ship. Once the majority of containers were removed from the cargo hold, Karl saw only one remaining. This one was covered with a thin layer of dust. Karl tentatively examined the crate.

It looked almost undisturbed as if it had been left in a tomb.

"Hey, what about this one?" Karl asked, looking to see if there were still room on the trolley for the last container, but there was no one there.

As Karl turned to leave, his foot tapped a green panel on the side of the container. The panel turned red. With a loud clank, the container's lid lifted up an inch. White cold air spilled out of the gap. The cover split down the middle and slid down each side.

Karl had never known what the cargo actually was, but he had entertained a suspicion, which he had tried to push to the back of his mind.

This confirmed it.

Inside the container was a girl.

The *Starlight* was a slave ship.

And they had just transported a cargo consisting of slaves, most likely destined to be auctioned.

The beautiful young woman in her late teens had long metallic gold hair. She was dressed in a silver halter top and short silver skirt. She looked like she was sleeping peacefully, with her hands coming together over her stomach.

Embedded in her right wrist was a gold bracelet.

On the upper part of her left arm was a silver band with long thin triangular spikes coming from both sides, flat along her arm.

On her feet glittered a pair of high heels that looked like they were made of frosted glass.

The girl's hands began to move apart and she slowly rose up. She turned her head towards Karl and raised her eyelids revealing her ruby red irises. She placed her left hand on the side of the container.

"Well, Mr. Sabers."

Karl turned to see the figure of the captain standing behind him.

"I hope you're planning on paying for that. This one will be coming out of your paycheck."

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