

Empire

By Oscar

As the magma burst from the rock Prometheus ran to his spaceship *The Stargazer*. He tried to remember why he was here, now, at the edge of the galaxy on the planet Grade 06. He scrambled into the cockpit all the while thoughts flashed through his head about how his life could have gone differently, though there wasn't much to consider. As he reached the edge of his memory, a loud explosion went off, bringing him back to the present moment. He sat down in the pilot's seat, but couldn't remember how to fly. Suddenly his cyborg arm attached to the ship, and *The Stargazer* powered on, appearing to be on autopilot. As it began to take off, the explosions grew nearer and nearer. The planet was exploding!

"Come on, come on!" Prometheus whispered under his breath. It had been years since the ship had taken off, and now it appeared that it would be years until someone finds the ship and gets it to work again. Finally right as the ground beneath *The Stargazer* gave way, there was a surge of power in the engine, and the ship blasted off through the atmosphere and into space. As he was flying away Prometheus saw what had happened to Grade 06. It appeared that the planet had collapsed in on itself for reasons unknown.

"Good riddance!" Prometheus yelled out to the planet. His time on Grade 06 had been terrible, as it was mostly filled with dry land and little to no water. Still, he had felt no incentive to leave. It was habitable, and there was no other place to go.

"How can you say that!? Grade 06 was my home!" shouted a voice from the back of the ship. Surprised but unfazed, Prometheus walked to the back of the ship on his way picking up his magnetic paralyzer, a device that uses a super-powered magnet that only connects with the iron in creatures' bloodstreams to paralyze them. It was one of the few things Prometheus

remembered how to use.

“Where are you?” Prometheus called out to the darkness that was the ship’s hold. Suddenly something moved. Prometheus threw the magnetic paralyzer which activated in midair and pulled the stowaway toward it.

“Now then, I’m going to ask a few questions, and you will answer them,” Prometheus calmly stated “The magnetic paralyzer won’t work on your mouth so don’t pretend you can’t speak. Also, if you refuse to answer me I can turn up the magnetic power of this device,” Prometheus paused and tapped on the paralyzer “and stop your blood from moving. Let’s get started.”

“You destroyed my home!” the girl shouted, her voice filled with anger.

“No, I simply escaped from your home. Grade 06 collapsed on itself, probably because of the core melting through the other layers and destroying the crust.”

“I am Prometheus. Who are you?” Prometheus questioned. He could already tell that whoever this was would be hard to get answers from.

“My name is Luna. My family has lived on Grade 06 for generations, and now it’s been destroyed. I am the only person from that planet alive.” the girl replied.

“Thank you,” said Prometheus. If he was still able to feel the emotion he might have felt sorry for Luna, but with the loss of nearly all his memories, he also lost the ability to feel emotions.

“Now I have a question for you,” Luna interrupted, “What are you trying to do?”

“That’s the same question I’ve been asking myself during the five years I spent on Grade 06” Prometheus shot back “My memories barely function. I’m a broken man.” This was true, but there was also something Prometheus was hiding. One of the small memories he still had was of

an evil emperor. After five years Prometheus had uncovered enough memories to figure out that the evil emperor he had seen was the emperor of the galaxy. Thus, Prometheus had decided to kill the emperor.

“Where are we going?” Luna asked, interrupting Prometheus’ thoughts.

“We’re going to stop on a small moon north of here. It was the last programmed location on this ship. We’ll stop there, get some gas, and then leave for the capital of this galaxy. I’m sure I can get information from someone about where the capital planet is.”

“Fine,” Luna replied, “but after you do whatever you’re going to do, drop me off on Norven 3. I think I have some family there.”

“Of course,” Prometheus said, smiling. Suddenly a voice came blaring in through the speakers of the ship:

“Unidentified spaceship. Please state your name and business.”

“Our ship is called *The Stargazer*.” Prometheus responded, “We are here to get fuel for our ship and directions to the capital of the galaxy.”

“Your ship has been registered and cleared for landing.” the speaker stated without any expression of emotion.

There was a sudden jerk, and then the ship was pulled from the atmosphere of the moon down to the landing area on the moon’s surface. The ship landed with a loud thud, and Prometheus and Luna got out.

“You look for a fuel area. I’ll get directions to the capital.” Prometheus told Luna. He couldn’t risk getting incorrect information. He then proceeded to walk toward the main city, leaving Luna alone with the ship.

Prometheus arrived in town ten minutes later. While on the short walk he had come up with a plan to get the information. He went into the most crowded tavern, asking for directions. Most shrugged him off, but a few told him where to go. As he was leaving two aliens who appeared to be natives of the moon walked up to him.

“Well, well, well if it isn’t Mr. Exiled,” one of them said, taking a menacing step toward Prometheus.

“I don’t know who you are. Please, leave me alone. I’m just trying to get back to my ship.” Prometheus started.

“Still think you’re better than us?” the second one said with a cruel laugh. Then the first one pressed a button and a ringing noise emanated from the device. Suddenly four more people appeared, coming out of the alleyways. “How do you feel now?”.

Then all six charged at Prometheus. Prometheus began to run, but with every alleyway, he passed more people came out until it felt like the whole town was after him. Prometheus ducked and dodged as aliens jumped out swinging and trying to attack him. He finally managed to get to a stall that appeared to be giving speeder drives. He jumped onto one of the speeders, and seeing the key nearby, grabbed the key and turned the speeder on. The engine roared to life, and with a blast, Prometheus was racing away.

A few minutes later Prometheus arrived at the ship and ditching the speeder ran up to Luna.

“We need to get out of here *now!*” Prometheus blurted out. Seeing that the fuel nozzle wasn’t in the ship, he grabbed and stuffed it into *The Stargazer*’s hull. Fuel began being pumped through the tube, and Prometheus began to explain when twelve speeders arrived, carrying the aliens that had attacked him.

“What is going on!?” Luna called to Prometheus. Prometheus, however, ignored her, simply yelling:

“Get in the ship!”

Luna stumbled into the ship, followed by Prometheus. As the door began to close the leader of the aliens charged forward and grabbed the hatch, stopping it from completely closing. The door began to overpower the leader, who only smiled.

“See you on the other side-” the alien leader cackled as the door completely shut, blocking the aliens out. Prometheus immediately ran to the ship controls and put a disc he had gotten from one of the tavern occupants which had the coordinates of the capital planet on it. The ship took off, pulling out the fuel nozzle and leaving the aliens in its dust. Prometheus could see through a window that the alien leader was still there, cackling.

“What was that?” Luna asked, with a slight tone of fear in her voice.

“I honestly have no idea,” Prometheus responded, holding his head in his hands, “I believe those people think I have done something to harm them in some way.”

“And have you?”

“Not that I know of.” Prometheus sighed.

“Well clearly, there’s something you’re hiding,” Luna began.

“You’re correct,” Prometheus stated calmly. There was no use trying to hide his intentions anymore. “I’m trying to kill the emperor.”

There was a moment of shocked silence before Luna said quietly “I’ll help.”

Prometheus frowned. He was intrigued by this answer but surprised. He didn’t think anyone would have wanted to help him kill the emperor of the galaxy.

“The emperor has never helped my planet. Even when our planet was being destroyed he didn’t send help. So I’ll help you. What good has the emperor ever done for me? What good has he done for anybody but those that give him riches and who wait on his every word,” Luna continued, growing anger in her voice “The emperor has never done anything to benefit those who are too poor or too far away to do anything for him. So yes I’ll kill the emperor. What do I have to do?”

Prometheus sat there in stunned silence. He could see the determination in her eyes. “Let’s get started then.”

Three days later *The Stargazer* landed on the capital planet of the galaxy.

“Hello, and welcome to Tauria,” a guard said to Prometheus and Luna. Ignoring him, the two walked past to a speeder stand.

“One ride to the palace, please. We’ll pay once we get back.” Prometheus said to the speeder vendor with a nod. The vendor tossed him a key, and Prometheus climbed onto the speeder followed by Luna. Putting the key into its slot Prometheus activated the speeder bike and they zoomed away.

Once they were a safe distance away Prometheus began briefing Luna one last time on the plan.

“Remember, you use the darts to knock out the guards and then I’ll sneak in. And if anything goes wrong, you go back to the ship.”

“There’s no possible way I can forget the plan. You’ve only told it to me a thousand times.”

Prometheus smiled. He was closer than ever to finding out who he was. There was no turning back now.

A few minutes later the pair arrived at the palace. It was a magnificent and gleaming building, filled with marble statues of previous emperors. It was a shame that Prometheus was about to burn it to the ground.

As Prometheus and Luna walked up to the palace Luna snuck away, beginning the plan. Prometheus walked toward the two guards with a smile.

“I would like to speak with the emperor,” he asked. Now, hopefully, Luna will complete her part of the plan.

“You need to have an appointment- ” one of the guards began before they were silenced by two darts. The two guards fell to the ground, unconscious. The poison on the darts lasted for an hour, so Prometheus had some time.

“Thank you, friend!” Prometheus said to the two guards as he picked up a door verification card from the first one’s pocket. After studying the blueprints of the palace he had found that there was a direct pathway to the king’s throne room, and all he needed to get there were the verification cards.

Prometheus opened the front door with the card, and proceeded to walk through the hallway, using the cards to open any locked doors. Finally, he arrived at the last door. Once he walked through the door his life would be changed forever, for better or worse. Prometheus swiped the card and the door began to open. Prometheus took a step forward, taking the magnetic paralyzer out of his pocket.

“You!?! I banished you to the farthest corner in the galaxy! How are you here!” the emperor shouted, half out of fear, half out of anger. This confused Prometheus, if only a little bit. He had been banished? That would explain why he had woken up one day on Grade 06, but why

would he be sent there. Before thinking anymore about the subject, Prometheus threw his magnetic paralyzer forward, activating it and capturing the emperor.

“Now, if anyone in this galaxy knows who I am, it’s gonna be you,” Prometheus told the emperor with an unnatural edge “so tell me, who was I before I woke up on Grade 06.”

“Isn’t it obvious?” the emperor laughed “You were the previous emperor!”

Prometheus suddenly felt hollow. “Deactivate,” was all he could manage to say. The magnetic paralyzer fell down, and the emperor ran to his throne pressing a button that activated an alarm. As the guards arrived Prometheus didn’t even try to fight back. A flood of emotions, a lifetime of feelings and thoughts blasted through him. Luna had most likely gotten back to the ship, which left Prometheus alone. After finding out who he was, all of Prometheus’ life lost meaning. Prometheus was completely alone. His question had been answered, and yet now the question was back again, and Prometheus knew that even if he found the answer once more it would not do anything. And so the question remained unanswered. And all Prometheus could do was ask himself one thing.

“Who am I?”

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