

A BREACH OF PROTOCOL

Written by

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INT. MADELYN'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

In the center of a dark accent wall a mounted TV plays the latest emergency broadcast.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

All Legacy Chosen please report to  
your assigned Atet for boarding.  
This is not a drill.

JORDAN, 17, short, ruggedly, stands in front of TV. Bites his nails.

MADELYN, 36, composed, packs a few shirts in her luggage. She closes the top.

Alternating shades of red and blue pulse through the windows.

MADELYN

Jordan, turn that off. Time to go.

Madelyn stands beside Jordan. Raises his hand. Exposes his wrist band.

MADELYN (CONT'D)

You have to wear this at all times.

Jordan nods.

MADELYN (CONT'D)

Get your bag. Let's go.

Jordan turns off the television. Grabs his bag. Heads out the door.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Motorcade of black SUVs with tinted windows race down a clear section of highway. An asteroid, Wormwood, glows in the night sky.

INT./EXT. LEGACY SUV - NIGHT

Jordan looks out the window at the approaching asteroid. Turns to his mother.

JORDAN

Mom, did you mean what you said?

MADELYN

About?

JORDAN  
About...Never mind.

MADELYN  
Talk to me...

DRIVER, 25, Strong, more clone than individual focuses on the road ahead.

DRIVER  
...Madame Chancellor, we have to re-  
route. Atet Three and Atet Four  
are inoperable. We're heading to  
Atet Five.

Madelyn stares at her watch. She turns to Jordan.

MADELYN  
We'll be ok.

DRIVER  
The President has activated  
Protocol 827.

JORDAN  
Mom, what does that mean?

Madelyn looks out the window.

MADELYN  
Don't worry about it, Jordan.

EXT. LAUNCH SITE - ENTRY GATE - NIGHT

The SUV's pass the gate. A LARGE CROWD lines the perimeter fence.

INT./EXT. LEGACY SUV - NIGHT

The DRIVER shows his pass. The GUARD waves the SUV's into the site.

EXT. LAUNCH SITE - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

A column rises to the sky ending at the bottom of an airborne ship, megalithic in scale. This is Atet Five, the last remaining escape ship from Earth.

The Driver opens the doors for the Madelyn and Jordan. The duo rushes past the vast queue to a private one.

GUARD, 30s, Lanky and stiff, wears dark goggles. Gazes at BOARDING PASSENGER'S raised hand. Green light flashes.

Boarding passenger enters giant elevator doors.

GUARD

Next.

Guard gazes at NEXT BOARDING PASSENGER'S raised hand. Red light Flashes. Alarm sounds.

ROVING GUARD, 30s, Big and Strong, escorts man out of line.

Jordan stares.

JORDAN

Mom, what does that red light mean?

MADELYN

Protocol 827 prevents homosexuals from boarding.

Jordan snaps his head in Madelyn's direction.

JORDAN

What?

MADELYN

They can't reproduce. So they have no place in our future.

Jordan looks away.

MADELYN (CONT'D)

These Atet ships are for the survival of the human race.

JORDAN

But...

MADELYN

...You'll understand when your older.

The duo approaches the Guard.

GUARD

Next.

Madelyn steps in front of Jordan.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Raise your hand please.

Madelyn raises her hand. A green light shines. She passes through.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Next. Raise your hand please.

Jordan hesitates. Raises his hand. A red light flashes. Alarm sounds.

Madelyn turns to the light.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Sir, come with me.

MADELYN

Wait. Wait. There must be a mistake.

Guard stiff-arms Madelyn.

GUARD

Madame Chancellor.

MADELYN

Surely, this is a mistake. My son isn't...

Jordan lowers his head.

JORDAN

Gay? Yes, mom. I am.

MADELYN

But his seat is already reserved.

GUARD

Madame Chancellor, under Protocol 827, no genetically identified homosexual will be granted quarter within...

Madelyn stiffens.

MADELYN

I know what the damn Protocol says. I wrote it.

She snaps her head to Jordan. Returns her gaze to the guard.

MADELYN (CONT'D)

Get me Secretary Vingstrom, now!

GUARD  
Madame, the Secretary is already  
aboard...

MADELYN  
Now, damnit!

ONLOOKERS turn toward the screaming Chancellor.

The guard hesitates. He motions toward the approaching guard  
to replace him. He pushes the side of the helmet.

GUARD  
Atet Command this is Echo-Bravo-  
One, Over.

He shoots a defiant look at Madelyn.

GUARD (CONT'D)  
Atet Command we have a situation.  
High Value Passenger, plus one,  
requesting contact with Sierra-  
Victor-Actual, please advise.

The Guard nods.

GUARD (CONT'D)  
Roger, meet in five.

The guard knife hands a direction.

GUARD (CONT'D)  
Gather your bags. This way.

Madelyn grabs her bags. She snatches Jordan's arm. Jordan  
stares at the floor.

INT. LAUNCH SITE - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Guard opens the door. Madelyn and Jordan enter room.

GUARD  
Wait here please.

Guard exits the room.

Madelyn releases handle of her bag. Looks at Jordan.

MADELYN  
You never told me you were...

JORDAN

I wanted to mom. I did. Then, when I finally got the courage to tell you, there you were on TV...

Madelyn lowers her head.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

...The homosexual has no place in the future.

Jordan raises his head, his cheeks wet and red.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Do you know how it feels to have your mom say that you have no place in the future. How could I tell you?

Jordan looks at Madelyn.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Do you know how it feels to be so close to someone and feel a million miles away?

Madelyn folds her arms across her stomach.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

My mom hates me...and there's nothing I can do about it.

Madelyn darts past her bags. Hugs Jordan for dear life.

MADELYN

I could never hate you.

The door swings open. SECRETARY VINGSTROM, 56, a stern man with a skeletal frame that screams starvation more than politician, enters the room.

SECRETARY VINGSTROM

Chancellor, Chancellor, what a predicament...and so close to launch. Is this the...

Secretary Vingstrom circles Jordan and Madelyn.

SECRETARY VINGSTROM (CONT'D)

...young man?

MADELYN

Vulture. This is my son.

Secretary Vingstrom signals the guard away. Guard exits the room.

SECRETARY VINGSTROM  
And you're son is...

MADELYN  
Yes.

SECRETARY VINGSTROM  
And, you've called me because...

MADELYN  
...because you owe me.

Secretary Vingstrom laughs.

SECRETARY VINGSTROM  
Owe you?

MADELYN  
Or, should I have the guard come back in here and perform the same test on you?

Secretary Vingstrom's smile fades. His body stiffens.

SECRETARY VINGSTROM  
I'm listening.

MADELYN  
My son retains his seat on this ship.

Secretary Vingstrom shakes his head. Walks toward the opposite side of the room. Faces away.

SECRETARY VINGSTROM  
It's too late for that Madelyn.

He turns to Madelyn and Jordan.

SECRETARY VINGSTROM (CONT'D)  
His identity is already registered as an undesirable.

MADELYN  
Change it!

Jordan stares at Secretary Vingstrom.

SECRETARY VINGSTROM  
You know I can't.  
(MORE)



SECRETARY VINGSTROM (CONT'D)  
Besides, your son wouldn't be in  
this mess if you hadn't pushed that  
damned Protocol through.

Jordan looks at Madelyn.

MADELYN  
I know but...You have to...there  
has to be a way.

SECRETARY VINGSTROM  
I'm sorry, Madelyn.

Jordan breathes deep. Looks at the conference room table.  
Looks at Madelyn.

JORDAN  
Mom, its alright.

MADELYN  
No, its not alright...

JORDAN  
...Mom. Stop, please.

Secretary Vingstrom stares at Jordan's wristband.

SECRETARY VINGSTROM  
Madelyn, may I speak to you in  
private?

Secretary Vingstrom and Madelyn exit the room.

Jordan shakes his head. Paces the conference room.

The door swings open. Madelyn enters.

MADELYN  
Jordan, honey, grab your bag.

GUARD  
This way.

Jordan grabs his bag.

JORDAN  
What about yours?

MADELYN  
I'll come back for it.

INT./EXT. LAUNCH SITE - ELEVATOR DOOR - NIGHT

The Elevator Door opens to a gray wall lined with several seats that are occupied. Two seats are empty.

MADELYN

Sit down and buckle up.

Jordan sits in one empty seat and fastens the safety belt. The guard sits in the other. Jordan stares at the guard

JORDAN

Mom?

MADELYN

I'm sorry that I ever made you think, for a single second, that I didn't love you.

Jordan struggles to get up. The Guard restrains him.

JORDAN

Mom? No. No. Mom.

Madelyn removes Jordan's wristband. She removes her wristband. Places her wristband on Jordan's wrist.

MADELYN

Goodbye, love. Be strong.

Madelyn backs away from the elevator doors.

JORDAN

Mom, please! No. Please, no.

The elevator doors close shut.

MADELYN

Live.

A loud HISSING pierces the air. Gaseous smoke billows. The elevator ascends.

EXT. LAUNCH SITE - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Madelyn stares at the ascending elevator. She watches it disappear into the hull of the Atet. She turns her gaze to the glowing white asteroid.

MADELYN

(Whispers)

I'm sorry, Jordan.

She looks down at Jordan's wristband.

MADELYN (CONT'D)

(Whispers)

I love you.

A loud HORN-LIKE NOISE sounds. The surrounding CROWD covers their ears. The Atet rises at great speed out of view.