

A Rude Awakening In Space

By Cameron Miller

SETTING

ESS Yandoma. Science vessel repurposed into a warship to fight the Etnico Empire.

CHARACTERS

- CAPTAIN SUTORA (*sue-toe-rah*): Grumpy, tough, by the book starship captain. A real hard-ass. Pronounces 'Etnico' in a different way every time it's stated.
 - Wearing a cut uniform and a captain's hat.
- KES LIODI (*keh-ss lee-oh-dee*): Doctor. Nervous, but has a lot to prove - both her parents served in the military previously. In a relationship with Orion. Consistently tries to turn the play into a musical.
 - Wearing a lab coat, later has a stethoscope around her neck, and a surgical mask too, just in case it wasn't clear she was a doctor before (these new costume parts are in Scene 2)
- ORION STRAUSS (*oh-ra-ee-en st-ra-oo-s*): Fairly unmotivated. Signed up as a custodial staff for the Yandoma. Mostly here for pay and for Kes.
 - Wearing custodian type stuff. Some sort of jumpsuit would be nice. Something spacey. Later puts on one of those lumberjack hat (again, Scene 2).

CAST

Captain Sutora	Maggie Morgan
Kes Liodi	Victoria Lanser
Orion Strauss	Aidan Ward-richter

PLOT OUTLINE

- Beginning: Sutora wakes up Kes and Orion from cryogenic sleep. They're the only remaining crew members due to a malfunction or something.
- Conflict: Sutora wants the two remaining crewmembers to act as soldiers even though they have absolutely no training or interest in combat.
- Climax: Kes and Orion totally get screwed over. The ship arrives at the target destination and the two are forced to fight, while Sutora sits comfortably on the Yandoma.
- End: Orion and Kes lie dead/dying on the battlefield. Kes finally gets to do her musical before dying.

SCRIPT

SCENE 1

KES and ORION are asleep in their cryo-chambers. CAPTAIN SUTORA walks on stage. She approaches the cryo chambers and opens/deactivates them or something.

SUTORA: "Rise and shine, lunies. We've got a war to win."

KES and ORION slowly wake up. They look at CAPTAIN SUTORA, and stand up quickly to salute. SUTORA nods.

SUTORA: "Liodi! Strauss! At ease!"

ORION: "I'm still getting used to this cryosleep thing...Has it been 4 months already?"

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SUTORA: "Yep. And I've got great news. You two lovebirds are the last two survivors on this ship, besides myself."

ORION AND KES IN UNISION: "What?!?"

SUTORA: "Yep. A big blast of gamma radiation came out of no where and fried the rest of the crew. Somehow the three of us survived."

KES: "With that much radiation, we'll probably have severe cases of cancer all across our body...How is any of this good news?"

SUTORA: "Well with everyone else dead, the two of you are getting a promotion. Orion, as of now you're the leading captain of our ground forces against the Etnicos. Kes, you will be his second in command."

ORION: "What? I didn't sign up for a minimum wage custodial job to get shot up by aliens."

KES: "Yeah! Dammit, Captain, I'm a doctor, not a soldier. And second in command? Really? Beneath the custodian?"

ORION looks offended.

beat

KES: "Love you, babe."

SUTORA: "Are you questioning my orders?"

KES and ORION look at each other nervously. SUTORA pulls out a pistol and waves it around angrily. She accusingly points it at the two crewmen.

SUTORA: "In case you haven't noticed, there aren't a lot of soldiers around here. It's up to you two, and you two alone."

KES: "Can't we just go home?"

SUTORA: "No! We came here to blow up some Etnicos, and *we're going* to blow up some Etnicos, damn it! We're getting close to our target, in fact. Which means we have to stay on high alert. I'll be on the bridge."

SUTORA walks off stage, putting her pistol back in its holster.

ORION: "Damn, looks like my mom was right."

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KES: "What, did she warn you against enlisting during wartime?"

ORION: "No, she told me not to wear cotton underwear when going into cryosleep. It's chaffed like hell down there."

ORION scratches his thigh/crotch region.

KES: "Orion, this is serious. This used to be a science vessel! Now look at us. This just...this just...."

KES looks off above the audience. All goes dark, with a single spotlight on her. Kes begins to sing:

KES: "This just, isn't right! This - "

ORION gets in front of the spotlight and Kes and waves his hands.

ORION: "Whoa whoa whoa! Kes, what are you doing?"

KES: "I'm trying to turn this into a musical, Orion."

ORION: "Kes, you can't just do that. This wasn't written to be a musical."

KES: "That doesn't mean it can't be one..."

ORION: "Kes, we've got bigger problems. Like my underwear. And more importantly, our new ranks! I'm a custodian for Sol's sake! I don't know a damn thing about fighting."

KES: "We've got to talk to Captain Sutora. We have to convince her to take us home."

SCENE 2

SUTORA stands at the helm. KES and ORION enter the stage together.

KES: "Ahem, Captain...See anything?"

SUTORA: "Nothing on scanners..."

ORION: "Hmm."

ORION looks directly at the audience.

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ORION: "I can't help but feel we're being watched."

SUTORA: "See? That's your soldier instincts kicking in. You'll be battle-ready in no time."

KES: "Captain..."

SUTORA: "Yep. Pretty soon you'll either be stomping on the skulls of the Etnico victoriously, or dying proudly on a heap of their bodies. What a glorious way to go. I'm almost jealous."

SUTORA snorts.

SUTORA: "Almost."

ORION: "Captain, we've got to turn this ship around. I'm too young to die! I haven't even paid off my student loans yet! I was building up my credit so Kes and I could maybe buy a house someday!"

SUTORA: "Oh, that's so sweet. But *insubordination* isn't going to get you a nice house *or* a glorious death."

KES looks off past the audience.

KES: "What are we even doing out here?"

The lights go out. The spotlight goes onto KES. ORION facepalms as his partner begins to sing.

KES: "What are we fighting for? What are we - "

ORION: "No, no, no! Just ask her normally, Kes!"

KES sighs.

KES: "Fine. Captain, what are we even fighting for out here?"

SUTORA is still looking straight ahead, navigating.

SUTORA: "They don't put me in command of a starship to ask questions like that."

KES: "Don't we deserve an answer? Also, how come we can't just bomb the planet with the ship up here? Why do we have to go down there? How invaluable are our lives to you?"

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SUTORA: "How much do the two of you make a year?"

ORION: "Around 60 thousand credits, after space-taxes."

SUTORA: "There's your answer. It costs a lot more than 60k to run a starship, especially one that's filled to the brim with expensive explosive ordinance."

KES: "But..."

SUTORA: "As I see it, there are two options. You either fight the Etnico, or I feed you to them for going against my orders."

beat

ORION: "*Or* we could take option three."

ORION tries to bolt, but SUTORA grabs him by the collar and brings him back.

SUTORA: "Oh no you don't!"

ORION: "Damn, I was hoping for a fun chase scene."

SUTORA: "Orion, you -"

An alarm goes off. SUTORA gets a sort of mock-surprised grin.

SUTORA: "Oh, would you look at that? We're here. So you two can either suit up, or throw yourselves out the airlock. Either way I want you off this ship and out of my face. I've got some reading to catch up on. So...what's it going to be?"

ORION and KES look at each other. Lights go down.

SCENE 3

ORION and KES are wearing more battle-ready clothing. They look at a table of weapons.

KES: "Well...what exactly do they use to kill Etnicos these days?"

ORION: "Apparently not bombs."

KES picks up a lightsaber.

ORION: "Hey, isn't that a lightsab..."

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KES puts her hand up frantically.

KES: "No, no, no, no. We can't call them that...These are LIKE sabers. Yeah."

KES looks around nervously, as if a Disney Lawyer is hiding in the shadows.

KES: "Yeah, that's it. Anyway, I think we're better going with the ranged weapons."

ORION: "Yeah."

beat

ORION: "Uhm, does a mop count as a ranged weapon?"

Lights go down.

SCENE 4

ORION and KES are completely suited up and battle ready. They're both holding two long rifles. The two each head off stage, down the stairs, and into the audience on opposite ends of the auditorium. The two sneak through the crowd, rapidly pointing their guns in different directions every so often.

ORION jumps and gets ready to shoot.

ORION: "Whoa!" *to a member of the audience* "I thought you were one of the aliens. You should really get that checked out."

ORION and KES circle around, eventually heading back onto the stage on the stairs that the other person went down.

ORION: "Well, Kes, I guess that's really all we need to do..."

SUTORA's voice booms from offstage.

SUTORA: "Not so fast! There's still Etnicos about." **sip**

ORION: "Uuh, are you drinking tea?"

SUTORA: "Yes, yes I am. It helps calm me down. I can't give you military strategy if I'm not calm."

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KES: "Military strategy? You haven't said one word since we got here!"

SUTORA: "Well here's a few words. About 50 Etnicos closing in. And they're angry!"

ORION and KES look at each other, and run off stage together.

Lights go down.

Lights come back up, as KES and ORION stumble back on to stage. ORION looks to be in worse shape than KES, and he's also holding a head.

ORION collapses, dead. The head rolls across the stage.

Lights go down, with a single spotlight on KES. She begins to sing.

KES:

"Finally, I get my song,
Before this play gets too long,
It's was a tragic tale,
Far from reality,"
KES winks obviously at the audience.
"Depressing in it's totality.
Here, the Doctor dies,
With her custodial companion she will forever lie,
(until consumed by Etnicos and the space-flies)."

KES collapses, dead.

SUTORA's voice echoes from offstage.

SUTORA: "Captain's Log. After a very long battle, our forces have been victorious, but at great cost. Orion Strauss and Kes Liodi bravely led our troops into battle before perishing. I'm now preparing for the return journey - I've already made room on my uniform for my medal, and have begun writing my speech for the Earth News Network. I'm sure this will get me a great crew for my next mission - that is - if the cancer doesn't take me first. End Log."

END