

## The Man

## Alien Land

Colour Backdrop: Vivid bright coloured skies, spiralling fantasy towers, flying cars, red grasses, yellow waters.

Alien Land was the stuff romantic poets wrote about and story tellers still told of swash buckling pirates and frontier heroes, of strange looking hostile creatures with antennae with green wobbly flesh that kidnapped beautiful women.

AND THE KIDS LAPPED IT UP AND BOUGHT MORE HOLOGRAPHIC  
cds.

Because the writers weren't allowed to write anything critical of their imperial government so wrote their complaints into science fiction instead.

*Even The Man restricted what the pen could write. "Too much freedom defeats democracy," he would explain and his critics replied, "But you are a dictatorship?"*

*"I know and the nearest dam thing you will ever get to a democracy for I listen to the groans of my people,"* from Tintagel the Clone.

Now Alien Land was where planets existed ten times the size of Old Saturn 12 that had smaller planets as satellites.

"We have sixteen alien races under imperial rule, I want the other thousands in Alien Land," the Emperor Augustus Sutherland.

*“When the day comes if ever that fool sends his imperial armies into Alien Land it shall be humankind that will be conquered in return, for we will be like annoying ticks on a giants back,” Tintagel the Clone, also “And there existed giant empires in Alien Land and The Man knew of many and was their friend and this his greatest secret he kept from Augustus..”*

Now Posidonus with Nesta had approached the boarders of the Rhegid Empire and saw a cluster of planets that were so close that their suns lit up surrounding space as daylight.

Some had hundreds of moons.

And Posidonus was blinded so looked away from this glorious beauty for he disliked light.

“We go there,” he told Nesta at the controls seeing a dark side on a planet for it was night there and she wondered how long he did keep her alive for he continually ranted on about playing doctors;

FOR HE WAS POSIDONUS

DELIBERATELY BREAKING DOWN HER MENTAL DEFENCES:

she needed a weapon and a plan of escape.

Of those who had escaped the loading bay Posidonus armed as he was with a laser had used them all up and what was left flushed into space; and this was Posidonus’s

big mistake for Aelfric saw the litter and realised who was in front of him,

POSIDONUS.

And Madam Chou saw and planned revenge for Aelfric took her everywhere for she was his robot soul mate.

An extract from her confession 50221 A.D.

“I am no longer totally consumed by burning VENGEANCE but feel like the great detectives of old, Judge Dee or Sherlock Holmes. I did render justice swiftly like Dirty Harry out of an old classic movie for I was on the trail of a madman worse than Jack the Ripper; and was always reminded I was in the presence of another insane creation that listened to classical music and talked of ridding space of TRASH, but the music was trash made?

**And his favourite music was from a yellow canary in a cage in his room.**

\*

And Posidonius picked up his scalpel, the ship would land automatically, Nesta he had drooled over this long voyage and couldn't wait till he landed, she might escape, she was a very resourceful girl.

Now Nesta tried to break free of the strong metallic masking tape binding her hands behind her back in her chair.

She was going to die, she would never see The Man again or the children she had planned to have, the garden and pets; she was truly going to die.

But?

A Rhegid patrol ship was scanning their craft and the captain on that ship did not like what his scanners showed; he was a true male whether an alien or human or cyborg, a man with true grit so sent a boarding party to investigate, in fact do more than investigate.

And since Posidonus was master of his world had got into the habit of not locking doors, he was opening it to throw the remains of TRASH out anyway.

“What the ?” The Rhegid officer leading the boarding party.

Nesta jerked her up not believing what had been said.

So Posidonus faced the strange bird like chirps.

“What the ?” He replied.

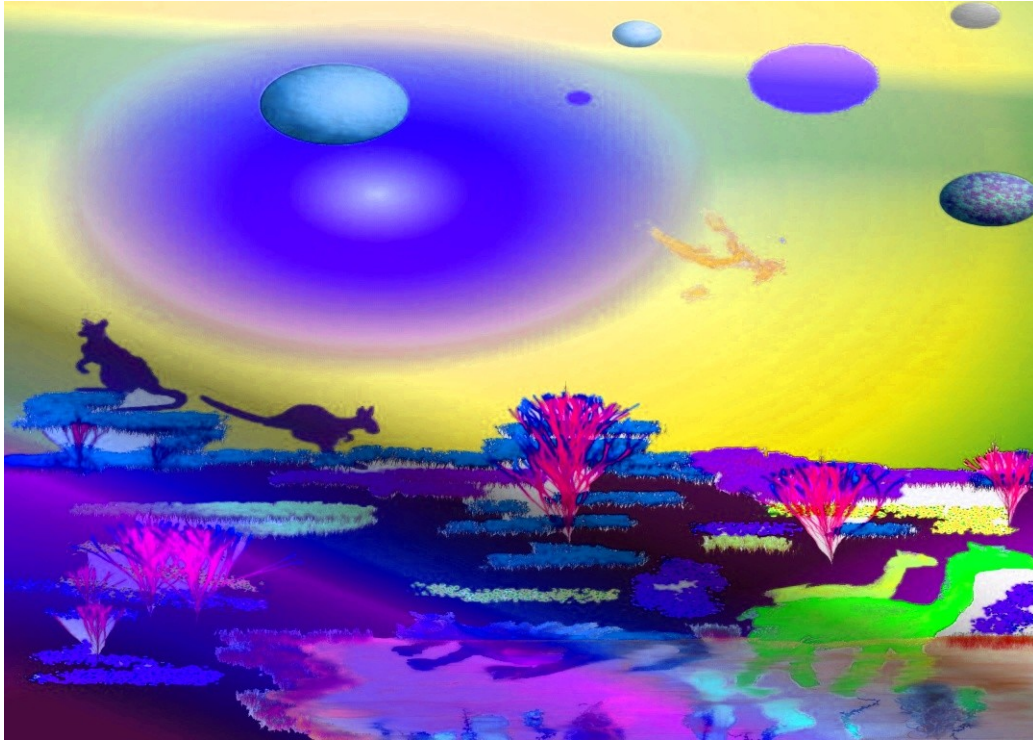
“What the ?” The officer again.

Nesta beamed, The Man must know these people as their language was in the language implant he had given her.

Hope rushed into her, FEAR subsided, she began to strain and leap against her masking tape making it obvious she was a prisoner. She didn’t need to be a human female to see the disgust in the sailor’s faces, men used to a bar and floozy women.

Now unfortunately for Posidonus he was waving his scalpel in protest at this strange intrusion into his fantasy world and was wondering if he was dreaming and the best way to find that out is to pinch oneself.

That is why he was shot where he was holding the scalpel. Well his hand plopped to the floor as well and goes to show “*Don’t go playing with knives?*”



*Illustration 26: Planet Rhegid*

He also fell to his knees holding a cauterised stump, just as well laser weapons where the fashion and since no one in the boarding party had any sympathy for him, he was dragged to his feet and try as he might to retrieve his hand, saw it stood upon and kicked aside as if it was human **trash**, which it was as it was his!

*Aelfric Europe, master of robots would have been happy.*

As for Nesta she didn't even need asking for help, she was freed and covered up so she had her dignity back and had no need to cover her body with her hands; she was in the company of men with true grit.

Her FEAR of dying also went and she began to shake from shock.

And to Posidonus's horror, "Human girl welcome to the Rhegid Empire, we are friends of The Man," and Nesta fainted with relief and shock and next woke lying in a warm bed tucked up under a sheet cosy but even more so, SAFE from FEAR.

And all the evidence of what Posidonus had done to the other survivors of Vegas Hotel that had boarded this craft was recorded, all the tissue samples taken; Posidonus was going on trial as a deterrent to others for

NOT ALL ALIENS BEHAVED AS HUMANS

OR CYBORGS.

But he was still thrown in a cell in chains as he was recognised to be a dangerous mind and the jet was put in a Technological Museum for kids to go and see on school outings.

But Posidonus had got his wish; he had made it to Alien Land.

Now by the time Nesta had recovered and been taken to visit the Rhegid Emperor she was dressed fitting a human female which meant she looked like a Manga drawing and if you have never seen a Manga drawing, everything is exaggerated and in the fashion of Buck Rogers and bodices made of tough ceramics to stop a laser.

*She was a handsome girl and all understood why she was a friend of The Man.*

This she found embarrassing which meant she flushed often

And the bodice was embedded with diamonds so it sparkled and her arm and leg plates with rubies and emeralds and a gold skull cap given her.

Her cloak of Rhegid red wool softer than human silk hung from her shoulders.

FREE GIFTS for the Rhegids were doing their best to separate themselves from the bestiality of Posidonius who was human; she was also a friend of The Man *so she claimed.*

And to banish FEAR weapons had been given and accepted and Nesta had enough intelligence to know if she used them, well? She was one and they millions, *she was a bright girl.*

And Nesta looked for a woman, the rumoured Rhegid princess who was one of The Man's ex's; ex's already and Nesta hadn't even been on a date with The Man, she was all human female?

Imagine: Mosaic walls depicting Rhegid life.

Smell: Polish and varnish.

*Now she was escorted to the emperor by a platoon of warriors dressed in a variety of coloured woollen cloaks and all carried weapons.*

*Now when they entered a large courtyard fresh air and animal sounds, birds and pets she heard and clapping for the Rhegids were showing their appreciation of how good she looked, and she now felt good and walked with pride.*

*Now because all these well dressed people formed a processional line at the end of which she could see a man suiting, she knew she was about to meet the Rhegid emperor, a friend of her man The Man; indeed Nesta had a lot of confidence in her abilities and unlike Po Wei did not have to resort to devious ways to become a ruler*

*of millions, unless the ways of a woman can be classified as DEVIOUS?* Tintagel the Clone.

And a hundred feet further on Nesta saw him.

ONLY A YOUNG BOY.

And the closer she got she noticed his eyes were lit up with eagerness, **and where had she seen that look before?** What could he do to her, he was only a boy even not as tall as his courtiers; and they Nesta saw apart from their red skin and lankiness and hair colour that ranged right through the colour palette looked no different from any human.

And their eyes, the eyes of cats.

“I am the Emperor An t-each Mall which meant The Slow Horse, for a wise horse moves slowly through space and is also quick to gallop when his warriors are needed,” his voice had not broken.

“I am Nesta, personal pilot to The Man, Dictator New Saturn 12.”

“As you have told us.”

PAUSE as the eyes of the boy emperor roamed her; *‘he is only a naughty boy,’* she told herself.

“The Man is our friend so you are welcome here till he collects you. In the meantime travel with me,” and An t-each Mall rose on a metal disc and his court dropped to their knees as a hundred wind instruments gave the signal to do so.



As for Nesta she found the disc floated in the air and An t-each Mall took her through his garden, where she saw strange plants and animals, many seemed ferocious for they were chained snarling.

“I have many wives and appreciate beauty, The Man is lucky to have you as his pilot and so close too him,” the emperor went on and Nesta, *‘He’s only a boy whose voice hasn’t broken.’* Just how young did Rhegid boys have to be to get interested in girls? And this was an absolute ruler who seemed to get what he wanted.

Then the emperor stopped and clapped his hands and a scribe naked apart from a lion clothe appeared from the foliage.

“Look into the machine he carries,” and Nesta looked into what seemed a portable screen and saw Posidonus shivering in a cold cell.

“He is on the Coin Nu Ko-yn, The Dog Planet awaiting judgement and sentence will be delivered and his execution will be his game he inflicted on others; he will not escape.” An t-each Mall

And Nesta saw wild beasts approach Posidonus ready to tear him apart; nature’s natural doctors and at first felt no pity for this evil man until he began to whimper.

Posidonus had no dignity in the face of approaching sentence.

“The Man my friend will be pleased,” An t-each Mall and neglected to tell Nesta The Man was nearing his Rhegid borders coming to get Nesta.

The absolute emperor was being a naughty boy indeed.

He also didn’t tell Aelfric Europe had arrived at the border with a fleet of ships demanding an audience with *‘these unknown aliens?’*

Nor that the Master Priest had landed and was confined to quarters which meant he was being subjected to truth serums. So knew all about the virus and The Master Priest was making an antidote for he too had seen the sentence of Posidonius approaching.

And The Master Priest wasn't pleased doing something for free but then he had seen those claws on that were like creature and fangs and fur.

SHAME.

And The Slow Horse Emperor would feed the antidote to Nesta in a special dish for he was a collector of fine China ware and at the moment Nesta had a flaw, the virus needing fixed.

As he boasted to her, "I collect beautiful things.

I have sixty six wives already.

I am very good in bed."

*'Listen girl he is only a boy whose voice isn't cracked yet?'* Nesta told herself for the hundredth time.

And all about her evidence the boy emperor collected things for the plants, animals, strange alien slaves, vases, statues, different architectural styles in the columns and roof supports was evidence.

And a group of small children burst out behind ferns, 'daddy daddy papa papa,' they shouted and gathered about An t-each Mall whose disc floated down so he could hug them; and Nesta said to herself 'So boys here are sexually active, well done Nesta, you certainly pick them?'

He was truly the ABSOLUTE dream of Aelfric Europe and his empire was ten times the size of Augustus Sutherland's.

And he had read The Man and being absolute believed he was ENTITY, the law and justice that all could come to for help. But he had a problem; he fancied Nesta as wife 67 and wondered what his friend The Man would do?

You see Rhegid society was bound up in a warrior code of protocol, honour and valour, perhaps he wasn't as absolute as he cared to be? But there were sneaky ways to get what you wanted as young boys knew only too well?

AND HE WANTED NESTA.

And that night Nesta ate a special dish and something very small in her died, the virus was not mourned and glad it had died for it had begun to be more human with the passing of time and no longer wanted to eat Nesta all up and billions of other citizens in the bargain. It was after all a distant speck of protein on the humanoid evolutionary chain; it was more human than it knew, it was human after all?

**It also wasn't into cannibalism.**