

The Man

Papa here?

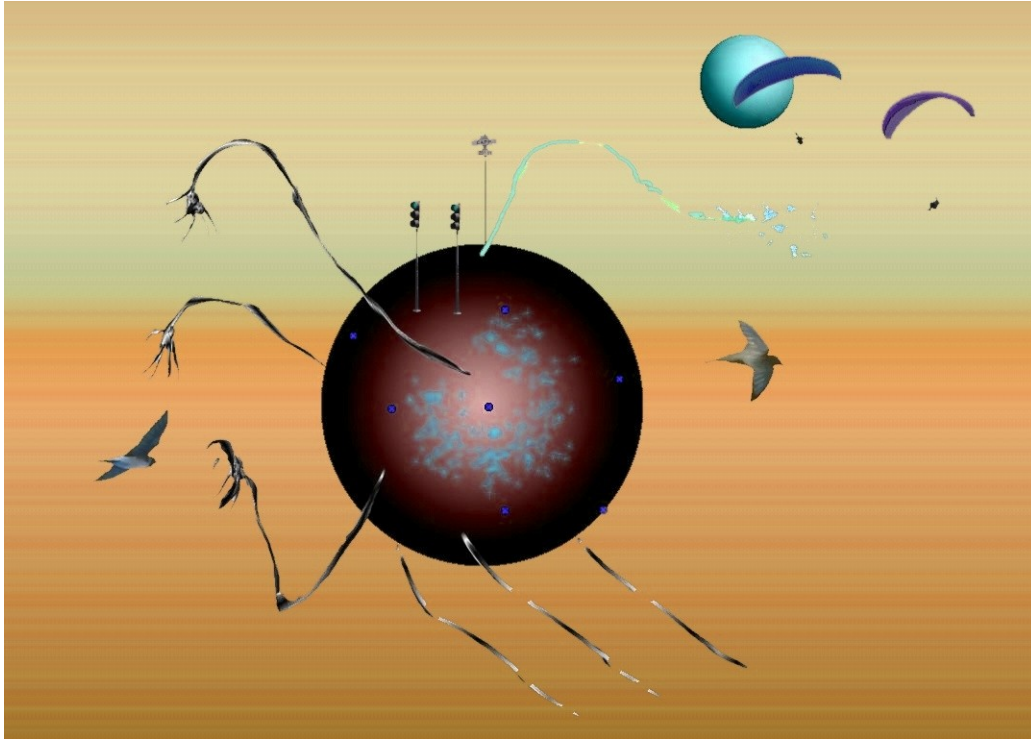


Illustration 35: A droid sort of buzzed about fly like so got swatted good.

From Nesta's diary

"I was about to meet Slow Horse again and it produced FEAR in me because he had come so close to keeping me as one of his wives. I was not some mare in his stables but an individual human being with feelings and aspirations of my own; a destiny laid out before I was born to follow.

And there he was on an emerald throne that floated on a very large disc supported as usual by pole bearers that were symbolic only.

He seemed longer and skinnier and there was no sign of Wilhelmina and what a poor actor he was; he had the easiest part to look stern like a regal emperor which he was anyway!

“Son,” The Man and waved and strode from the disembarkation pad towards him.

I followed with Tintagel and I against the latter’s advice, “Don’t wear such flimsy apparel, you know what he is like?”

“And that is why I AM wearing the latest summer body armour to emphasis I am not his too touch, to produce strong desires in him for me and away from Wilhelmina. My apparel shows I am papa’s not a naughty boy’s.

“Who am I too fathom the ways of a woman?” Tintagel answered.

And I knew Slow Horse noticed me and behind him on a smaller throne Princess Veig who I hoped was holding the reins to her son tightly.

And after small chat “Where is she, you cannot go around space kidnapping girls you fancy? It just isn’t what emperors do, gives us all a bad name son, so what do you want for her, and don’t give her back to Augustus,” The Man.

“What’s he done this time?” Princess Veig asked alarmed, horrified.

Of course Slow Horse denied it and wondered how we knew for few knew and for effect said “That’s what happens when you play with rogues,” The Man rubbing it in about the company he was keeping these days.

Yes that made him go very pale as if he had caught something nasty and part of me hoped he had some place then remembered Wilhelmina and felt ashamed.

“Bring her out lad?” The Man again and we all looked hopefully at Slow Horse.

But time never stops for anyone especially where the wicked are involved?

“She is not here?” Slow Horse postulated when told by an aid. All could see he was genuinely perplexed but was not believed till all the players received a message from the auctioneer.

“I already paid them to give me her?” Slow Horse vivid and by not controlling his anger gave away his involvement in Wilhelmina's original abduction.

“I think we better talk,” his papa and Slow Horse:

“This is my galaxy, here I am emperor, get off Rhegid,” for the boy was scared of daddy for The Man was the dictator.

And just as guards appeared his mother slapped the back of his head so he tottered forward; the guards stopped, they didn't know what to make of things.

“Arrest her,” Slow Horse shouted.

But the Famous 5 suddenly stood between the guards and Princess Veig.

“I am Empress Consort, it is you who shall be arrested, guards confine my son to his apartments,” his mother very angry.

“He is our emperor?” One of the guards protested ready to fight.

“Well son, either go to your rooms or everyone on Rhegid will know what you have been up to, and this time I won't help you out,” The Man.

Then the guards attacked and the 5 fought well.

“Stop,” Slow Horse shouted not wanting his people too know he had obtained another human woman for a wife; he remembered the civil war and Nesta. “Mother

do not ever humiliate me in public again or I will?" But she cut him off with a hard slap to his face.

"You humiliate yourself by the lust between your legs," and his mother kept slapping him.

The guards did not move, they were bloody and torn and faced the Famous 5. Nesta's diary.

"I did not feel sorry for the boy emperor and wondered how we had managed to pull off humiliating such an absolute ruler and still lived? It was his mother's intervention that carried the day in our favour. I don't think The Man would have assaulted the boy although his physical strength and body build was threatening; it was the Empress Consort who now ruled the Rhegid Empire.

And surprisingly Slow Horse was quite happy to retire to his sixty odd wives and zoo and collect beautiful things, also oddities.

He seemed to know he was not ready to be an emperor even if he was still called Emperor An teach Mall, the Slow Horse.

He had brought disgrace upon himself for he was the incarnation of Tupt. And powerful courtiers of all parties were glad he had gone into retirement, till he was older of course and hoped when he reappeared he was an adult?

Two months later

"What do you mean Augustus has put in the lowest bid?" Mcer annoyed.

"It is true, look for yourself," Aelfric replied and in the shadow Posidonus hoped his high bid would win; but the damage done to Mcer was unreparable. His intention

of biding his time till he overpowered Aelfric crumbled. Why was Augustus abandoning Wilhelmina his greatest asset?

“Because she is more popular than he is!” Aelfric responded as if able to read thoughts.

Mcer winced.

Posidonius went off and took a white rabbit from a cage and went to a world where the creature became Wilhelmina and he disappeared. Rabbits don’t scream so none bothered to check what he was doing.

“How can you put something up for auction that you don’t own?” Mcer asked.

“But I do own her, do you think I will give her with to BOY?” Aelfric asked, “Wilhelmina is a woman.”

And after pressing a button Wilhelmina was escorted in by armed droids.

Mcer stood and bowed in respect to the general.

And Aelfric saw the glint of light in Wilhelmina's eyes and knew not to trust Mcer, not that he did?

“What do you bid for her Mcer? Bid for her for yourself, your emperor has abandoned her,” Aelfric and looked at a screen, “Anonymous has won, she will be sent to Anonymous; your fate is sealed dear,” and Aelfric had the droid leave Wilhelmina with him and escort Mcer away.

He did not want to leave Wilhelmina and was in shock that Augustus was not worthy to be anyone’s emperor.

“My dear,” and Aelfric undid the clasp of her cape so it dropped to the carpet.

At that moment Posidonus entered holding a pair of rabbit ears and seeing Wilhelmina dropped them.

“Get out get out,” Aelfric screamed and started to beat the evil man.

At once Wilhelmina seeing the droid shift to protect its master grabbed the laser arm and pushed the droid into Aelfric.

He screamed as the droid fired.

Posidonus also as laser light passed through Aelfric into him.

Unfortunately Posidonus was all tissue so the damage was colossal.

Aelfric turned and Wilhelmina pushed again so the droid made Aelfric tumble over a prostrate Posidonus so all fell droid also.

Wilhelmina ran to escape.

In the corridor she met Mcer attracted by the screaming.

“Come with me,” and he took her hand and started to run.

She followed no options otherwise.

“Where has she gone, I will tear this place to shreds to find the human,” Aelfric shouted behind.

“In here,” and Mcer pushed Wilhelmina into a tube and got in himself and exited.

Where has this situation happened before?

Was it Nesta and Posidonus?

Was Wilhelmina to be subjected to a man at close quarters?

Was the character of Mcer good or bad?

Was Mcer aroused at being squished against a woman?

Was he like other men, what were his hands doing?

“I am not sure where we are going?” He said trying to look at the viewing screen.

In fact they went into the street landing atop a hover fruit wagon coming in from an agricultural dome full of water melons now squashed.

The screaming driver demanding recompense drew a crowd; it also drew Aelfric?

But this was New Saturn 12, The Man’s world and Aelfric had presumed all the players in the game were still on Planet Rhegid? Foolish robot, silly robot, moronic robot, The Man was here.

“Kill him,” Aelfric ordered his droids for he had like Po Wei had got used to absolute power.

The first droid opened up and Mcer pulled Wilhelmina down under the floating lorry.

A scream as the lorry driver was hit in the abdomen.

No one knew his name, he was an extra, a no body, but he had a woman who lived with him and two kids.

A policeman in the crowd fired at the droid; the droid exploded covering Aelfric in sparks.

“Kill him,” Aelfric meaning the policeman and the droids turned their attention on him.

“Come with me,” Mcer said but he said it to empty space.

Wilhelmina was leaping through the air side kicking Aelfric in the side of the head so the robot king spiralled away into a gutter.

Don't be too disgusted, this is New Saturn 12 where gutters are slow moving so lilies will flourish and frogs and newts and eels and carp will flourish and the scent of the lilies and water roses nice.

Mcer shut his eyes to use his ESP powers and built it up in his third eye in the middle of his forehead.

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"I think we are needed," The Man being notified Aelfric was in his capital and the famous 5 grinned for they were bored of practising in the gym and wanted some real action.

"Coming dear?" Tintagel asked Nesta.

"Of course," she wasn't going to miss this?

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Now Aelfric Europe ran back to his hideout leaving his droids to battle it out with Wilhelmina.

But Wilhelmina had other ideas, she was after him.

Mcer pushed the remaining droids together and made them float into the air and ran after the general; by doing so he broke his concentration so the droids fell noisily to the ground.

Above a large hover transport was approaching; in it The Man and his friends.

Below the city watch were gathering to subdue the droids and find from the crowd where had those responsible for this outrage fled?

"That way," they knew by this time The Man arrived.

“I won I won,” Posidonus gloated holding his cauterised belly wound unaware of the turmoil heading into his life.

And he went to fill a bath for he was very upset Aelfric had not told him and was not going to give him his prize.

“Who does he think he is, I know how to deal with the likes of him, he is only a robot,” and soon Aelfric’s private wash room was filled with the strong smell of acid.

“I will make my Wilhelmina happy as I have made others smile on the table, I will give her pleasure as she pleases me,” Posidonus was ill and a lost soul.

“What was that?” He queried hearing the commotion of Aelfric entering and Wilhelmina kicking the door open he was trying to close.

He had tremendous strength and could not understand why he could not close it?

Behind Wilhelmina stood Mcer with closed eyes sending his mind at the door.

Behind Mcer the 5 were approaching.

Behind them The Man.

Behind him Nesta and Tintagel.

Behind them a cohort of his dictatorial guard.

Behind them police.

Behind them the crowd were it was safe.

Because of Mcer the door flew open into Aelfric who shouted an oath as his human nose burst and he fell back.

Straight away Wilhelmina kicked him in the hilly and each time he stood up was kicked again and again.

But she like Mcer before her was to find she could inflict a fatal blow to A
BIONIC ROBOT.

And she was sweating now, New Saturn was a hot planet even if Aelfric liked air conditioning, he was a robot and could survive without 95% of his human flesh; he was a cyborg wasn't he?

And Wilhelmina kicked one last time with all her strength and the robot king burst through a door into a corridor that sloped down to his private quarters where Posidonius should not be?

And because he fell down a slope he was away from her savage kicks and doggy fashion panted to cool his circuits under his bruised living flesh.

And by the time Wilhelmina reached him he reached out and grabbed her leg up ending her, shaking her in a rage that she had the arrogance to try and destroy him, Aelfric Europe.

But Mcer was at the top of the slope and he shut his eyes.

"Argh," Aelfric grunted feeling thought energy slam into him.

But he still held Wilhelmina.

But he didn't know the FAMOUS 5 had rushed past Mcer.

But Mcer distracted opened his eyes and saw the shadow of The Man fall upon him.

But The Man wanted Aelfric and could see Mcer was attacking his enemy so therefore must be friend?

Free of ESP energy Aelfric still holding Wilhelmina fled further down the slope.

Actually the slope could be activated like an escalator but Aelfric was in too much of a hurry to remember that.

But Posidonus wasn't, he was about to come up from the bottom and activated the slope.

The sudden jerk threw everyone off their feet.

It gave Wilhelmina a chance to stick her fingers in Aelfric's eyes, she was a soldier, she was trained to kill, and he was her enemy who was going to kill her.

It gave Posidonus on the now moving slope time to see what all the noise was about.

It gave Nesta and Tintagel time to stand next to Mcer.

It gave time for the following dictatorial cohort to enter also.

It gave the police time to try and tape off the door into Aelfric's secret hideout.

It gave the crowd time to push past the police tape.

It gave time for the news men to work their cameras.

It gave Mcer time to know when the goose was up.

It gave time for The Man to slide down to Aelfric.

It gave time for droids to arrive who were programmed to protect this dwelling.

Wilhelmina screeched, in front of her where eyes should have been were camera lenses.

"Bitch," Aelfric hissed and reached his other hand to gorge out her throat.

Bad move, The Man taking that hand twisting it.

Wilhelmina screeched again as Aelfric refusing to let go flopped her upright savagely.

“I am off,” Posidonus behind trying to run down the moving escalator.

“Allow us,” it was the famous 5.

Aelfric fled not wanting too really, believing alone he could defeat The Man, bionic against bionic.

“Out of the way fool,” Aelfric pushing into Posidonus.

“My prize,” a reply.

Aelfric stopped, in the heat of battle he was amused, Posidonus was Anonymous.

“Defend your prize, want her, fight them for her,” Aelfric and hurried away.

“Argh,” Posidonus gasped as Zagor Blue Skin pulled his hair knot and swung him and let go so he flew after Aelfric.

But the robot was fast and Posidonus landed heavily on the moving escalator that was taking him back to the FAMOUS 5 for more harsh treatment?

Poor Posidonus he was full of FEAR?

“Well let’s get a move on, I take it you need to see Aelfric?” Tintagel asked.

“No, but it is better if I do, more accurate.” Mcer replied and began to move down the escalator. Now ever try to go against an escalator?

Tintagel switched it off, that was the sensible thing to do.

The sudden stop gave Aelfric his freedom.

The sudden stop made all fall down.

It allowed Aelfric to escape because he was no longer on the escalator.

It allowed the droids time to counter attack.

“Oh bloody hell,” Nesta seeing the droids appearing out of walls.

“Oh bloody hell,” the dictatorial guard and fired at the droids.

“Crap,” the spectators at the door.

“Crap,” the newsmen also at the door.

“I want my prize,” Posidonus and stood up and ran after Aelfric before the robot shut down this part of his house and filled it with nerve gas?

Could he do that?

Would he not kill himself?

Never mind, his robot side did survive but The Man would be dead or would he?