

FIRST DATE

The Zephaniah Chronicles



THIS IS SO STUPID!
I STILL DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO WEAR!





THE DOORBELL SOUNDS AND SHAKYRA SPRINTS TO HER FATHER'S DEN.

DAD, I'LL
BE BACK IN A
COUPLE OF
HOURS.



BE SAFE,
DEAR.



I LOVE YOU,
DAD!



SHAKYA FIGHTS BACK A SIGH AS SHE LEAVES HIS OFFICE AND RACES TO THE FRONT DOOR. FOR AS FAR BACK AS SHE CAN REMEMBER, HER FATHER HAS HAD DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER EPISODES. LIKE HER MOTHER, SHAKYRA HAS LEARNED TO DISCERN SOME OF HER FATHERS DIFFERENT "PARTS."





ZEPHANIAH GENTLY ENSHROUDS SHAKYRA IN A TELEKINETIC FIELD.





WOW. NOT
AT WHAT YOU
SAID BUT AT THE
SKY...



...WAIT, I
MEAN WHAT YOU SAID
WAS REALLY COOL AND I
APPRECIATE THIS. IT IS
AMAZING...



ZEPHANIAH LAUGHS IN SPITE OF HIS NERVES.

I DON'T
REMEMBER
MUCH ABOUT MY
HOME PLANET,
EARTH...

YOUR
WORDS
HERE...



MY MOTHER TELLS ME THAT
PEOPLE WITH UNIQUE ABILITIES WEAR
DISGUISES SO THEY CAN USE THEIR POWERS IN
PUBLIC. I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW HARD THAT
WOULD BE TO LIVE. THIS...



...AND THE
REST OF MY
ABILITIES ARE
PART OF WHO
I AM.



DO YOU
REMEMBER YOUR
BIRTH MOTHER OR
FATHER AT ALL?



"...THERE WAS THIS WINGED WOMAN WHO PICKED ME UP AND WE FLEW."



"IT FELT LIKE I WAS DYING."





YEAH, I KNOW THATS
STRANGE BUT ITS WHAT I FELT
LIKE. SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO TAKE
ME TO MY NEW HOME AND WE STARTED
FLYING IN SPACE. I HEARD MUSIC BUT I
DONT REMEMBER SEEING ANY
INSTRUMENTS. I DO REMEMBER THAT SHE
HAD A BEAUTIFUL VOICE. I THINK THAT
WAS THE FIRST THING THAT
ATTRACTED ME TO YOU.

HUH...
BECAUSE SHE
HAD A BEAUTIFUL
VOICE?



NO,
BECAUSE YOU
ALSO HAVE A
BEAUTIFUL
VOICE.







I AM SORRY THAT
YOU HAD TO GO
THROUGH THAT. I CANT
IMAGINE---

THERE IS A LULL NOT AN AWKWARD ONE BUT
ONE THAT IS PRESENT NONETHELESS BEFORE
ZEPHANIAH BEGINS SPEAKING AGAIN.



I DID MY
BEST TO
PROTECT THE
OTHER
CHILDREN.

ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T GET ALL OF MY
POWERS UNTIL MY EARLY TEENS---



I WAS STRONGER THAN A NORMAL HUMAN OR ABISHWAN EVEN AS A CHILD.

"NOW DON'T GET ME WRONG, MOST OF THE ATTENDANTS WERE KIND AND CARING. I TRIED TO PROTECT THE OTHER CHILDREN FROM THE RARE BAD APPLE."

KAPOW!

ZEPHANIAH TIMIDLY PLACES AN ODD SHAPED BRACELET ON SHAKYRA'S LEFT WRIST.

WHAT'S THIS? IT'S BEAUTIFUL!

IT'S A PSIONIC DEVICE THAT PROVIDES LIFE SUPPORT FOR A SHORT TIME.

SO YOU MEAN THAT I CAN GO DIVING IN THE OCEAN...



THE PAIR ENTER THE ORBITING SPACE STATION, YEAGAROS A FAVORITE SPOT FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND SPACE JOCKEYS.



THIS TRULY IS GREAT AND WONDERFUL....



... BUT WHY HAVEN'T WE DONE THIS BEFORE NOW. I...DON'T KNOW. NO, THATS NOT QUITE RIGHT. ACTUALLY, ITS NOT RIGHT AT ALL. I DO KNOW.



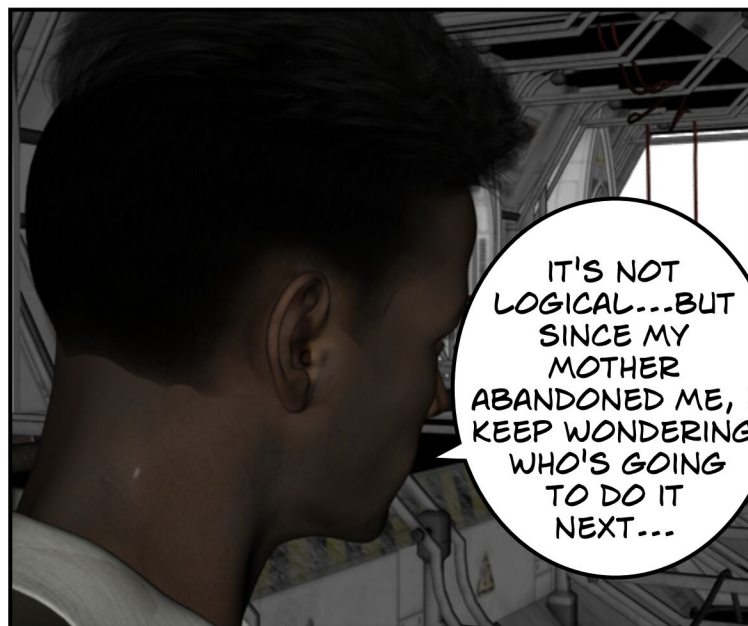
YOU'RE NOT ALONE. I AM RIGHT HERE.



YOU'VE BEEN DOING THAT SINCE WE'VE BEEN KIDS. I THOUGHT FOR THE LONGEST TIME THAT YOU WERE THE TELEPATH INSTEAD OF ME...



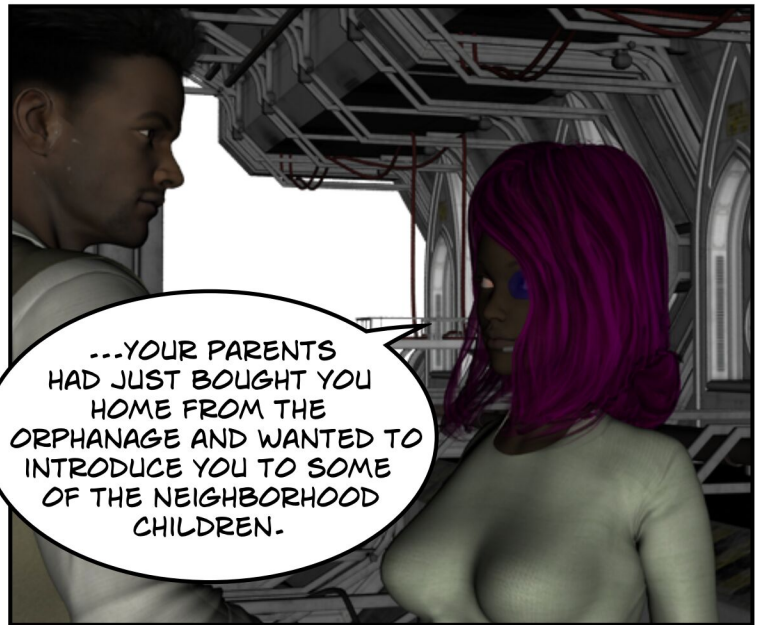
...THE FUNNY THING IS, EVEN IF I WASN'T ONE I WOULD KNOW THAT YOU CARE FOR ME.



IT'S NOT LOGICAL....BUT SINCE MY MOTHER ABANDONED ME, I KEEP WONDERING WHO'S GOING TO DO IT NEXT...



I...REMEMBER
WHEN WE FIRST
MET...



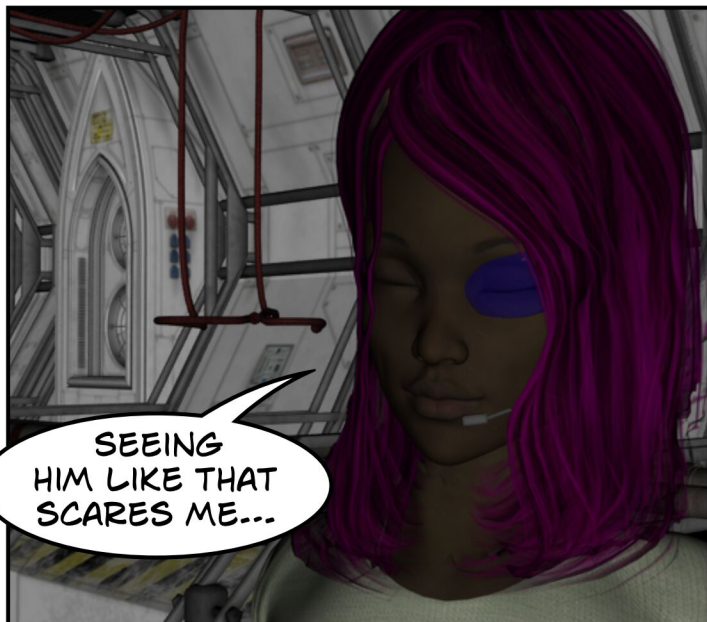
...YOUR PARENTS
HAD JUST BOUGHT YOU
HOME FROM THE
ORPHANAGE AND WANTED TO
INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME
OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD
CHILDREN.



EVEN THEN
YOU HAD THAT
SPIT CURL. IT WAS
SO CUTE BUT YOUR
EYES LOOKED SO
SAD. I HAD NEVER
SAW ANYONE WITH
HURT LIKE
THAT...



...UNTIL YOU
GOT OLDER AND
YOUR FATHER STARTED
HAVING THOSE
FLASHBACKS.



SEEING
HIM LIKE THAT
SCARES ME...



MAYBE
THATS WHY
WERE TRYING
THIS...



GO AHEAD.



I FEEL I CAN EXPLORE THE
UNIVERSE WITH YOU BUT...

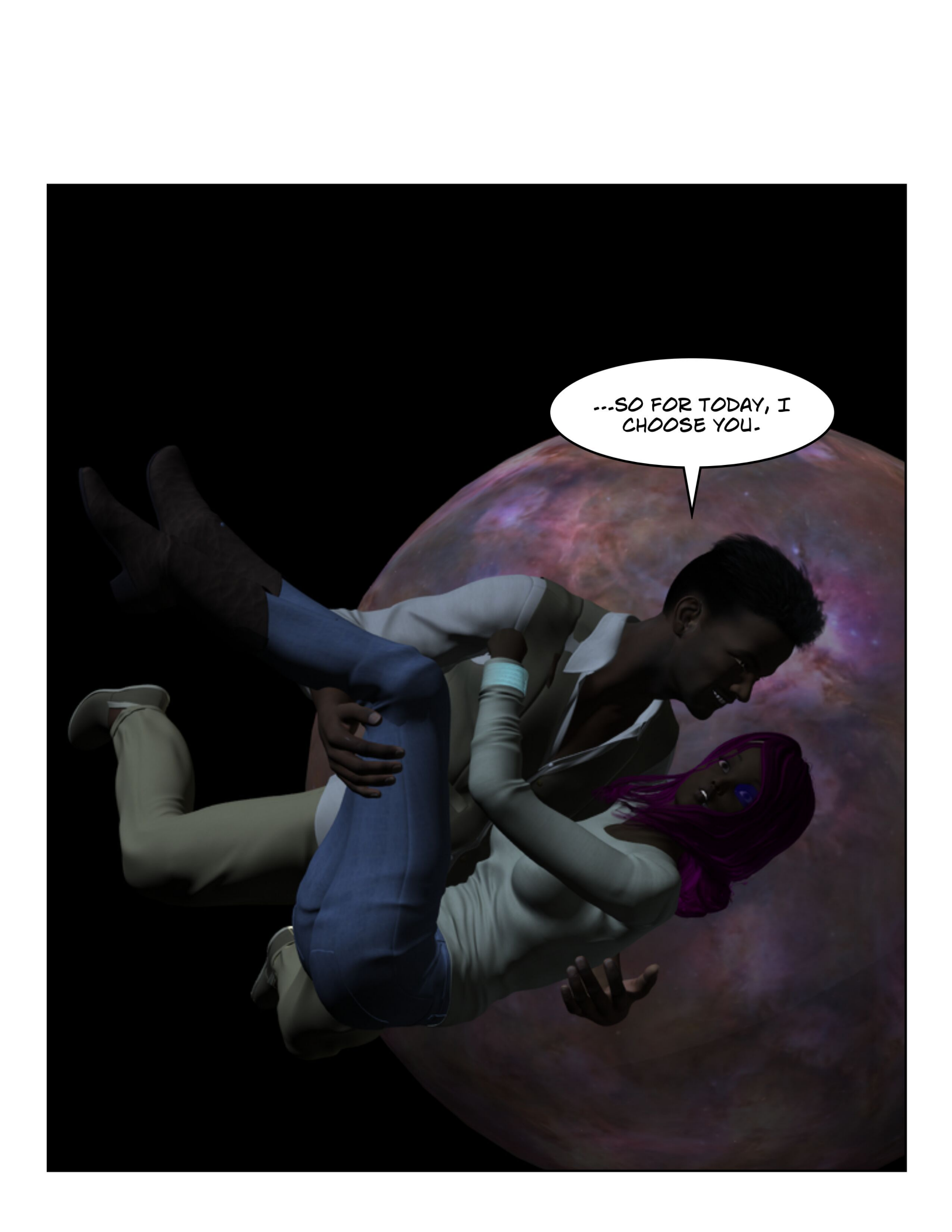


...EACH DAY WE SPEND
TOGETHER IS A NEW DISCOVERY.







A 3D-rendered scene depicting a man and a woman floating in space. The man, on the left, has dark skin and short dark hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans. He is holding the woman. The woman, on the right, has long, vibrant pink hair and blue eyes, wearing a white long-sleeved top and light-colored pants. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background is a vast, colorful nebula with shades of purple, pink, and blue, set against a black sky. A speech bubble from the man contains the text: "...SO FOR TODAY, I CHOOSE YOU."

...SO FOR TODAY, I
CHOOSE YOU.