

Excerpt

Tink's Neverland

Cosmos' Gateway book 1

By S. E. Smith

Tink hadn't known what to expect when the doors of the elevator opened, but it sure never entered her mind she would find herself in outer space! As she stepped out of the elevator, the men in the corridor rushed forward. At first, Tink thought she was going to be roadkill from the looks on their faces, but the boy said something that changed their expression from murder to curiosity.

The two men instead came forward to help him, casting wondering looks at Tink. Tink was glad. Her shoulder was killing her from helping take as much weight as she could, and the boy was fading fast. She didn't think she would have been able to go much farther!

The two men took the boy, wrapping their arms under his. They carefully lifted him off the floor and moved in quick, sure steps toward the room at the end of the corridor. This left Tink with no option but to follow.

Besides, she shrugged, she wanted a closer look at what the window up front contained because she decided she was either in some weird sci-fi adventure, dead, unconscious, on a movie set, or totally out of her frigging mind! Whatever the answer was, she wanted to enjoy it as long as she could, so

when she either returned home, met her family in the afterlife, woke up, or saw it on the big screen, she could tell everyone back home about it. Life was full of adventures, according to her parents, and she was never one to turn away from the wild rides it sometimes offered.

Tink followed the men into the room. She stopped and gazed in total amazement as she entered, her eyes widening as she took in everything. The room was circular and was maybe thirty feet in diameter. Each side of the circular room had computer panels with all types of lights and monitors on them before stopping about five feet away from the huge front view-screen showing the darkness of space. On the left side, about halfway down the curved wall, there was a door that led to another room, from the looks of it. Two steps in the front led down to a center console area with a chair positioned in the center of the room by itself.

“Well, wake me up, Captain Kirk! I think Scotty’s transported me to the Enterprise!” Tink whispered under her breath as a huge smile started to curve her lips.

“Hot damn!” Tink said loud enough to be heard by everyone in the room. Grinning, she moved down the steps and toward the front view-screen. Before she got halfway to the front, another tall, dark-haired man stepped in front of her.

What on earth did they do, clone the guys and give them steroids? Tink thought to herself before ducking under his outstretched arm and doing a graceful twist

around the center chair, leaving the man grabbing empty space.

Tink was an expert at flag football and learned quickly how to avoid getting caught. That was a necessity of life when you were as tiny as she was and played with a bunch of Neanderthals, better known as mechanics. Tink was determined to look out the window, to see if it was real or not. *No clone-man is going to stop me either*, she thought with determination as she headed for the huge front panel.

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J'kar caught his breath when he saw the vision following his younger brother onto the bridge. He hadn't seen the female at first. She was hidden behind his brother and the two men helping him. When the men moved aside to seat his brother in a nearby chair, she stood there, a vision of pure beauty. Speechless, all he could do was grunt into the communicator in response to the reply from medical saying the healer was on his way.

J'kar was barely aware of his brother Borj's response to her. He vaguely heard his breath catch and noticed him stiffen beside him. Others in the room began to notice as well.

Each of the men in the room, six not counting him and his brother, turned to watch as the vision in white and blue stood looking around at all of them. He watched as her eyes widened and a beautiful smile lit up her face. J'kar could have sworn his heart stuttered before beating out a fast *thump thump*.

He ran his eyes over her. She was so tiny compared to the women of his world! He watched as she turned her head from side to side, taking in everything in the room, then returning to the front to look out the front view-screen. He turned to see what she was looking at, but all he saw was the darkness of space that was always there.

“What... who...?” stuttered the normally calm Borj.

Borj cleared his throat and tried again. “J’kar, who is that? Where did she come from?” He followed her with his eyes as she slowly moved down the steps leading to the center of the room.

“I don’t know, but I intend to find out,” J’kar said roughly.

He couldn’t have taken his eyes off the vision if he’d wanted to. He watched her as she slowly moved down the steps. There was a soft sway to her hips as she moved almost like water flowing.

As she moved, he noticed the highlights in her hair as the lights captured the hints of gold and amber. When she tilted her head slightly to the right, then to the left, he sucked in a breath, noticing the curve of her jawline and how her hair seemed to dance around her face. The smile on her face seemed to keep growing, showing off small white teeth and pouty full lips.

She was different in her build and coloring than Prime females, who were much taller and darker. While she was small in stature, she moved with a natural grace that caused him to suddenly become

very aroused. Her color was much lighter than Primes. Her skin had a soft, pale peach color compared to their darker tan. Her eyes were so dark he felt like he could drown in them. He had seen dark eyes on other species they encountered before, but nothing that was so warm and seemed to glow with an internal light.