

This is an EXO fanwork inspired by Lisa Henry's Dark Space.

PROLOGUE

Quantum 3-Day 989-Year 2034 The emptiness in his chest had never been more unbearable. The overwhelming feeling of devastation and the havoc of a heartache that consumed him were more than flesh and blood could stand. If he had kept the right count of the days and months, his sister was turning 6 today. But on the Quantum 3, you don't keep a tally of the dates. Just days. Days you spend on this wretched ship and days you have left to go home.

Approximately 14 years back, when the first wave of the NU19's colonization took place in a subtle, almost quiet way, Sehun was 9 and he was yet to know anything about the invasion. Aliens? He didn't even quite understand what they really were. But he had seen footages on the news that his father and brother had been so keen on day and night. The incomprehensible ships that landed on Earth out of nowhere. The Delphic blasting and bombing that even all the nations' armies combined couldn't prevent or fight. For once, the whole world had joined hands, forgetting about every feud and war to ward off the unspeakable evil that had been casted upon them. That was how some radical religious people called it. Those ships were sent by the god to clean this corrupted surface of the Earth. As ridiculous as it sounded, the scientists were even more ridiculous. But back then, no one believed them when they claimed that those ships were from outerspace, far away from this universe. As the years passed, their theory was proven to be more accurate than the other. In just a matter of months, recruiting and refugee programs were initiated all around the globe. The 'aliens' were never too obvious. They let their technologies and weapons do all the work and they never really exposed themselves. Their colonization was slow-paced but very effective. Even so, the human race was no match for them. We were only winning by quantity. Not quality.

However, none of it scared him. For some odd reason, Sehun was never intimidated by the 'world is coming to an end' crap. But that might have been because of his brother who had always reeked of valour and intrepidity. He was Sehun's saviour. Both on the playground when those kids from school used to bully him and at home when he tucked Sehun into bed, kissing him goodnight. Their father had always been an ill man. Which was why his brother had been the sole backbone of the family. At the age of 15, his brother had dropped out of school to work and earn for the family of four. Their mother had been trying everything that she could on her side but she was more focused on her husband's deteriorating health and her younger son's welfare. At the age of 18, his brother enlisted for the army, not only because it ensured a flourishing future for the family but he was always meant for something greater. Heroism ran his veins and Sehun admired him dearly for it. Kai argued that he might not play a huge role in saving the world but he'd be a helping hand. Within a couple of years after joining the navy, his brother was sent off to

Quantum 1 under the very first space program to bring down any NU19 ship. Even then, Sehun had hopes that he'd see his brother again.

How stupid was the younger him must have been. As the invasion widened, Sehun grew up with it. Only a handful of schools were opened and Sehun went to one of them until he was 15. By then, he realized that life was meaningless. Letters from his brother slowly ceased until they finally disappeared altogether. As did the money. By the time he turned 17, Sehun had forgotten the fact that he even had a brother. He was working at a factory, shedding blood and sweat to earn the measly money to bear the family. Often, he even thought about running away but what would the point be? Anywhere he went, this was how it was going to be.

Living in this deprived and impoverished area, that was now called Regent 1782, Sehun had never been more miserable. But this was home. He was a common boy who was meant to live and die here. But his life finally had a turning point when the love of his life was borne into the world. His sister, El, was what he lived for. From the moment he held her in his arms, Sehun had mustered up the immense strength to keep living and striving only for her. She was the cutest little baby who had taken after their mother as had Sehun. Every single day, he'd walk under the sweltering sun with beads of sweat trickling down his temples with the baby El in the harness that was strapped on Sehun's shoulders. Sehun didn't care. He'd walk a thousand miles in this scorching weather for her with her heart beating against his. She was perhaps the only good thing that had ever happened in his life. The way she watched everything that she passed with Sehun carrying her through the streets before looking up at Sehun, pointing her finger at something, whispering, "Thechu." was what Sehun loved. She was a curious little thing even at such a young age.

Then came the horrible day when Sehun received the enlistment letter. He wasn't even permitted a week to be with El and the goodbye had been harsh. What if he couldn't come back to her the same way Kai didn't? He saw El's tears rolling down her cheeks as she sucked her fist when he walked out the door.

Staring at his sister's trite photograph, Sehun clasped his fingers over his lips, resting his elbow on his lap as he sat on the edge of his bed on the bunk. The borders of the photo had been ruined, rumpled and creased. His eyes brimmed with hot tears as his chest tightened.

"Oi, faggot!" Kris' roaring voice forced Sehun to swallow back his sobs as he rose to his feet after hiding the photograph under the slim pillow. "Doc's lookin' for ya. Why do I have to play messenger all time.. Get your ass to the med sec." he spat before vamoosing out of the barrack.

Heaving a sigh, Sehun scrubbed his face with his sweaty palms and meandered his way to the corridor. It was apparently repast time which meant the canteen will be swarmed by soldiers, therefore Sehun must avoid the place at all cost. He wasn't here to make friends, so he never did. But almost half of the people didn't fit here. They were just as out of place as Sehun was. But at least, they got used to it. Sehun never did.

Ambling through the corridor, Sehun kept his eyes straight, not bothering to even look at the soldiers that passed by. Only when he stumbled upon the generals did he lift his hand to salute and then kept on walking after earning a dubious look from his superiors. They probably didn't recognize him. It was okay. Sehun was deliberately keeping a low profile anyway. If he could, he'd wipe off the **PVT SEHUN** from his army green uniform, too.

He came to a stop when he passed the screens. Even after all these years, these men's posters were displayed, honouring their bravery and sacrifice. Clenching his fists, Sehun glared at the particular poster which was designed to make the man seem like a hero. **LCDR KAI**, Sehun read the name displayed at the bottom of the screen. This man was once his brother. But now, he was one of the world's most reputable heroes. Everyone knew him. Everyone worshipped soldiers like him. Not many men were able to achieve the entitlement of a Lieutenant Commander in the matter of few years. But to Sehun, he was a loser who had abandoned his family.

Shaking his head, Sehun proceeded the medical sector with his jaw clenched tight. It didn't matter anymore. Kai was gone. Gone for good. Served him right. He wanted to save the world but he had forgotten about his own family. But if only Sehun had the chance to face his brother once, he would have spat on his face. Unfortunately, Kai was taken away just months before Sehun was brought to Quantum 3. Taken away? Abducted? Killed? No one knew. Sehun didn't even care. There was only one CCTV footage of Kai and his team being dragged away by blurry figures from Quantum 2. He had seen it himself but the one he watched after arriving here was much different than what they showed on the news back home. In those modified videos, Kai was still rendered to look quite heroic, only the parts where he fought was shown. But the unedited version showed how scared and terrified Kai was, screaming as he was dragged away after the rest of his team was killed. That was how the Quantum 2 was shut down.

His brother was the hero. Sehun was a normal boy who wanted nothing more than to go home. When he first joined, everyone had such high hopes for him, thinking that he'd be like his brother. But he wasn't. Not in any sense. He hadn't even bothered to do anything that would get him promoted because that will elongate his service time on the Quantum 3. He just wanted to remain as a private and eventually leave. But he had always had the heart of helping people in need. He wasn't a hero but at least, he was compassionate. Which was exactly why he somehow ended up becoming a medical practitioner.

As he approached the sector, he spotted Doc with an officer outside the room. "Ah, Sehun." Doc called when his eyes darted to Sehun. "We'll talk later, Lieutenant." he told the tall man standing there. Nodding, the Lieutenant turned around to walk away but stopped when Sehun saluted. A subtle scowl formed on the Lieutenant's face and Sehun read the name tag, '**Lieutenant Chanyeol**'. Without saying a word, the officer went away.

"You called for me, Doc?" Sehun asked, following Doc into the med room.

"Yes. Have I interrupted your meal?" the man looked at least 10 years older than yesterday. Fatigue washed Doc's lethargic face as he cleared the examination table. Sehun quickly washed and sanitized his hands to help Doc put away the tools.

"Not really, why?"

"Have you thought about taking the test, Sehun?"

Sehun kept mum as he dumped the used forceps and scalpels into the sink. Doc had constantly been bugging him about the try-out to become a proper medical officer instead of just helping Doc when he was free. Sehun would definitely ace it since he had read all of the companion and books that Doc had loaned him. But that wasn't what he wanted.

"Doc." he started, leaning against the sink counter. "I can't. You know it."

Doc gave a tired nod. "I understand, Sehun. It would be great if I just had a partner to work with, you know."

Sehun smiled. "You're doing a great job yourself."

"I'm getting old. I might be cut-off soon enough."

"I'm sure there'll be some other doctors who would be able to replace you."

"But not you because you don't want your service prolonged."

"Yeah." he sighed. He loved hanging out in the medical wing. It was the only place he felt comfortable in. And Doc could be his only friend. There was no one to bother him here.

"Can you help me to attend the soldier with the sprained waist?" Doc pointed his thumb over his shoulder at the ward's door.

Sehun quickly nodded and started for the ward.

"Sehun?"

"Yes?"

"I hope you'll at least consider the offer."

He didn't know if night had fallen back home. He didn't know if El was asleep. He wasn't sure if everything was okay. He hadn't received a single letter from his father or mother in months. And he was as helpless as ever. All that he could only pray for their lives.

Lying on the bed, Sehun held the photograph against his chest and clenched his eyes close. "Happy birthday, Elly." he exhaled with a tear trickling down the corner of his eye. Amidst the noise of the soldiers' loud snores, he tried to let sleep take him.

That was when the alarm went off.

Within seconds, all soldiers were out of their beds and in their boots before they burst out of the barracks. None of them were in uniforms and even Sehun was dressed half-assedly in his white t-shirt and training trousers. All lights were lit up in the corridors as everyone scurried around with the alarm wailing cacophonously.

"What happened?!" almost half of them that crowded the corridors screeched. A group of elite soldiers came in running, tightly armed with guns.

"Get to your units!" one of them ordered. "The south gate has been breached!"

Sehun stepped back, hiding behind the other soldiers as the elite team vamoosed by, heading for the south wing.

"What the fuck is goin on?!" Kris was the dog that was barking the loudest there.

"Is it those fucking aliens again?!" another cried. A chain of discussion started in the corridor as Sehun stood there, not wanting to be a part of the discussion. They hadn't been given a proper order. The alarm was turned out shortly after and the PA went on. *"T5 and U7 are required at the base. The rest are required to abdicate."*

Sehun let out a sigh of relief since it wasn't his unit and he was allowed to retire back to his barrack. And that was when the PA was on again, *"Private Sehun M3 is needed at the Medical Sector."*

For a moment, Sehun stood there, unable to believe what he had just heard. That was the first time his name was called out singularly. Every pair of eyes turned in his direction. "Move your ass, private!" someone yelled from the crowd and Sehun turned on his heel before breaking into a sprint towards the med sec.

A huge group of the elite soldiers swarmed the outsides of the medical wing and they forced Sehun to a stop before he could go any further. "You're not allowed in there!"

"Let him in!" a general demanded, stepping out of the room momentarily. When the path was cleared, Sehun hurried into the examination room only to see five men dressed in orange protective outfit, from head to toe. And the next thing he noticed was the huge... thing on the floor. It looked like a box but a disfigured box.

"Sehun, put this on." Doc's voice alerted Sehun at once.

Accepting the protective outfit, Sehun gaped at the black box. "What's happening, Doc?"

Doc remained silent as the room's door behind them slid close. "I'm gonna need your help." he blurted out suddenly and slowly pushed Sehun forward so that he could take a closer look at the black box. It was oily and shiny like a black beetle's pronotum. Shuddering, Sehun peeped over and saw the bright yellowish light emitting from the top of the box.

"It's a stasis pod." said a general with an annoyed tone. Sehun took a step forward and looked into the content of the box. His heart stopped beating for a second when he discerned the naked body in the box, drowned in the yellow liquid that filled all of the stasis pod.

"It's your brother, Sehun." Doc said, laying a hand on Sehun's shoulder.

Chapter One

Such a quiet night. Such a scary night. It was terrifying. Sehun was absolutely certain that the bogeyman was hiding under his bed. But his bladder could burst any second now. What should he do? If he got down from the bed, the bogeyman might catch him. But he didn't want to wet his bed. Mommy would scold him.

Sitting on the edge of the bed with his legs dangling over it, Sehun clasped his hands together over his chest, fretting with utter trepidation. The room was too dark and Kai wasn't in his bed, which was utterly disappointing. Sucking in a deep breath, Sehun whispered out, "Khai?"

There was no answer from his brother.

His fidgeting hands were sweating now. "Khai?" he called in a croak. Where was Kai? Panting hard with a heaving chest, Sehun closed his eyes and counted to three before jumping off the bed. Without even thinking for a second, he sprinted to the door and burst out of it. He didn't even bother to look back at his dark room and hurried down the stairs. His short baby legs made it difficult for him to climb down the steps, so he clung onto the railings for support.

When he reached the living room, he spotted Kai sprawled on the couch with a book splayed on his chest and his textbooks scattered all around him. He was sleeping. Sehun quickly ran to his brother and tapped on his brother's stomach to wake him up. Kai roused with a jolt and gasped at him. "Sehun, what is it?!"

Sehun clasped his hands over his crotch. "Aih nee nu wee wee." he whined.

"Oh." Kai sighed, rubbing his eyes with hilt of his palms.

"Khaaaaai!"

"Oh! Oh! Come on!" he snapped out of his drowsiness and lifted Sehun up before running towards the bathroom.

"Hey, homeless boy!"

Sehun tore his eyes away from his Superman action figure which he had gotten for his birthday last year and looked up at Tao, squinting a little at the blistering rays of the sun. Tao stood tall before the little Sehun who was squatting on the sand that covered every inch of the playground. Kids around him giggled and screamed as they chased one another,

climbing up and gliding down the slide. "Ah I.. I'm not homeless." Sehun said, mustering up a little courage as he rose to his full height, which wasn't ample. "Ah I.. have a home."

"Oh really? Where? Down the drain?!" Tao cried and all of his friends around him laughed along with him, pointing their fingers at Sehun.

With tears brimming in his eyes, Sehun tried to keep his voice steady as he spoke. "No. Ah.. I live in a house."

"He's lying! He lives with sewer rats!" Tao announced and everyone exploded into guffaws at Sehun again. Sehun will never get used to everyone taking jibes at him. It hurt.

Sehun bent down to pick up his toy and Tao placed a foot on his Superman. "Let go of my toy, Tao."

"Not until you admit that you live in the drain!"

Sehun blinked the tears away, grateful for the bangs that covered his eyes and harshly pulled the toy. If only he weren't so small, he would have punched Tao right in the face just like how his brother, Kai punched those ruffians who spoke ill of their mother that night. Gripping the toy, Sehun spun around to walk away but Tao grabbed his collar at the back and hauled him to a stop.

"Do you want me to tell everyone in school that you eat garbage for breakfast, lunch and dinner?!"

Sehun twisted back in an attempt to break free but the effort only made him stumble over his own feet until he crashed hard into the sand. He wasn't going to cry. Not in front of Tao and his friends! He can't cry! It wasn't a manly thing to do! Kai never cried!

"I'll take that." Tao bowed down to snatch Sehun's toy away.

"Oi!" as soon as Kai's roar boomed, everyone instantly retreated and immediately ran away from there. "Sehun." Kai's hoarse, pitchy voice, which was being reshaped and modified recently, was as soothing as ever. Sehun pushed himself up before Kai steadied him with his strong hands. His brother was already as tall as their father. His voice was kind of bothering but Sehun's mother told him that it was because Kai was getting older and thus, apparently, his voice was changing. "God." Kai sighed, brushing the sand off Sehun's calves and back. Sehun giggled a little when his 14-year-old brother patted his butt to get rid of the sand. "Are you okay?"

"Ah I am now." Sehun assured him and lifted his Superman figurine. "Tao tried to take it away."

"I'll have a word with his brother. Both a total menace." Kai grumbled with a scowl etched on his face. "Come on. Let's go home."

Sehun hung his head, probing the toy as Kai led him back home with an arm draped over his shoulders. He didn't know when he would get as tall and strong as Kai but right now, he had Kai looking out for him.

"Why do you have to go?" Sehun couldn't believe that his brother was going into the army. He had heard from school that none of the soldiers ever came back, so how could Kai be so psyched about leaving everyone? Sehun on the other hand, had never been this dejected. He picked a bean up and mechanically chewed on it with his eyebrows furrowed into a frown.

"You can see what's happening, Sehun." Kai said, stuffing more kidney beans into his mouth as mother filled their glasses with orange juice. "You'll have to enlist one day, too."

"I'm sure it's just the Japanese." their mother threw in her opinion.

Snickering, Kai pushed the hair out of Sehun's forehead. "Don't use your fingers." he told Sehun, handing him a fork. "You're a big boy now. You'll have to look after mom and dad while I'm gone, okay?"

Sehun nodded with his eyes glistening with tears, keeping them on his plate. He didn't want to show his brother that he was downheartened by the news but if Kai was happy, then he should be happy for him. But he couldn't. If Kai left, who will tuck him in at night? Who will bring him to school every morning? Who will play games with him? He really hoped that Kai would not leave. Who will tie his shoelaces for him?

"Kai? Can you cut my fillet?" Sehun asked, pushing the plate towards his brother.

"Sure. But you're gonna have to learn how to do it by yourself, okay?" Kai said, slicing the fish fillet into pieces. "Mom, I'm gonna need to go to town later."

"Oh good. I need some medicine for your father."

Kai flashed a grin at Sehun. "Anything you want?"

Sehun shook his head, pouting his lips. "Can you not leave, Kai? I don't want you to leave. My classmates say that their brothers joined the army and they don't come back." his voice was already cracking. "You can't leave us. What about your girlfriend? Wouldn't she miss you?"

Kai's face turned sour as he sunk his teeth into his lower lip. "We... broke up."

Their mother looked up at Kai with widened eyes. "You did, son?"

"Yeah." Kai sighed. "Here." he pushed the plate back to Sehun. "I have to get going. Anything else you need, mom?"

"No."

Sehun's frown deepened. He thought that his brother really loved his girlfriend like how their parents loved each other. Did they break up because Kai was going away? It didn't matter. If Kai was happy, then he should support him. So if Kai thought that joining the army would make him happy, then Sehun can only pray and hope that his brother will return safely to tuck him into bed again.

"It's your brother, Sehun."

Brother. Kai. The brother who used to be Sehun's hero, who was now everyone else's hero. The brother who just left. The brother who didn't care about his own family. The brother who abandoned home.

For a moment, Sehun felt like his pounding head had just been welted. It wasn't because he was emotional over seeing his brother after all these years. But because he didn't feel anything except that he was knocked for six by the sight before his eyes. The stasis pod was far more astonishing than Kai who was in it. It was as if the man was no one but a stranger. Sehun peered into the stasis pod. This certainly wasn't how he remembered his brother. In fact, he didn't think that he remembered anything about Kai.

"Brother." said a general. "So, he's Kai's brother?" he sounded skeptical. "How..."

"He's a private." said another officer.

Well, sorry to disappoint you, assholes. Sehun hid the scowl and turned to face Doc. "What do you need me here for, Doc?"

"Yeah, why?" the third officer asked. "I can't believe this is happening. After all these years, they decided to send him back now? Why?"

"Sehun, go and put the gear on. I need his assistance." Doc ushered Sehun to the changing room. By the time Sehun pulled the safety outfit on and returned to the examination room, the officers were discussing about how to get Kai out of the pod. "There isn't any sort of button. In fact, this whole thing looks biotic."

"Should we get the engineers and mechs?" asked the officer with the huge moustache.

"It wouldn't be helpful." replied the other. "The mechs already said that they have no idea of what this thing is when we brought it in."

Sehun could barely breathe under the safety helmet. He walked over to the stasis pod as the officers deliberated. His breath hitched when he saw Kai again, his limbs floating as his hair was spread outwards in the yellowish liquid. It was as if the stasis pod had yellow lights inside. There was no tube or anything. Sehun couldn't figure how Kai was breathing in there. No, he wasn't even breathing. He was not doing anything. Sehun scanned Kai's flawless body and then his face. His clenched eyes that were framed by swaying eyelashes and pursed lips made Sehun shudder. "How do you know he's alive?" he asked under his breath, keeping his gaze fixed on Kai's lidded eyes.

The officers immediately silenced down before one of them asked, "What did you say, soldier?"

Sehun turned to face them. "I mean he's not breathing. How do you know he's not dead?"

Doc frowned. "We don't."

"Would it be safe to take him out? What if the water's toxic?" the stashed man asked.

"Wouldn't it have affected Kai, too? His skin looks unblemished."

Sehun looked into the pod again, biting his lip. Kai's arms were lean but they were powerful. His hair was way longer than what Sehun had seen in the posters on the display. The top layer of the pod was shiny and burnished with gloss. Sehun raised a gloved hand and let it hover over the glass-like cover of the pod. He glanced back at the officers who were occupied with the engaging discussion of how to take Kai out of there. Licking his lips, Sehun pressed his palm onto the cover. He watched Kai's serene face for a moment before he completely taken aback when Kai's arm levitated, floating up. Utterly shocked by the captivating move, Sehun gaped at Kai's palm turning upwards. It was then pressed against Sehun's palm. Although Sehun didn't feel anything, the scene was impressively astounding. He retreated his hand and Kai's fell as well. Blinking in confusion, Sehun pressed a palm onto the top layer of the pod again and watched Kai's arm rising to touch Sehun's hand.

"Doc!" he yelped.

"What is it?!"

"Look at this." he drew his hand back as the officers gathered around the pod. "He just raised his arm." Sehun placed his palm on the pod once again and Kai reacted.

"Remarkable." Doc exhaled. "This is... breathtaking. What are you doing, Sehun?"

"Nothing." Sehun pulled his hand away. "He's alive."

"We need to get him out of there." Doc started to press his hands on the cover but Kai didn't turn a hair. "Astounding." he muttered. "He only reacts to your touch."

"What are we to do?" asked an officer.

"It feels malleable. I think we could cut this open."

Within seconds, Sehun got down to business with Doc, preparing the scalpels and oxygen tanks along with the defibrillator.

"Will this work?"

"I couldn't really think of another way." Doc told the general. "No matter how we look at it, this is how we'd have to take him out."

Sehun stood by the oxygen tank as Doc leaned over the pod. Taking in a deep breathe, Doc prodded the scalpel into the cover. The next second, it was as if Poseidon had let hell lose. "Fuck!" the general hissed as all of them ran for cover with the yellow liquid gushing out of the pod, flowing out with a brutal force like an overflowed bathtub. It was almost as runny as water as it puddled all over the floor. What kind of excitement was this? Sehun had

never encountered anything like this before in his life. Not even close. Even the day he had stepped onto Quantum 3 in the outerspace was not as invigorating.

And then came the yapping gasp along with the haggard coughs as Kai jolted upright, completely soaked and drenched. His eyes were bulging out as his chest heaved vigorously. "Shit." Doc yelled as he carefully hurried over the liquid and bent down to place a hand on Kai's shoulder. "Calm yourself. You're safe, Lieutenant."

Kai started panting as he scooted away from Doc's touch. Upon seeing his alarming horrified look, Sehun rushed over and dropped to his knees, pulling the helmet off. Kai freaked even more as he moved to the corner of the stasis pod. "Don't be afraid." Sehun assured him but Kai looked like he was suffocating. He reached a hand out and caught Kai's arm. Flinching hard, Kai frantically glanced around at the officers with panic and terror. But slowly, his breathing evened out as the officers helped to lift Kai out of the pod.

"Do you remember me, Kai?" an officer inquired as they settled Kai on the floor. Kai was blinking his unrestful eyes, turning his head in every angle.

"Don't stress him, sir." Sehun advised the dumbass officer with the most subtle tone he could manage.

"Yes." Doc added. "Give him some space."

Sehun rose to his feet to make some space but within seconds, Kai started panting again, gasping for air. "I think he's suffocating." he got down on his knees again and clasped a hand over Kai's shoulder. "Try to breathe in and out steadily. You don't need to worry. No one's gonna harm you." he said in a calm tone. Kai brought his head up to meet Sehun's eyes and they both held the gaze for a moment as Kai's breathing slowed down.

"Are you okay, Kai? Do you remember us?" inquired the general.

Kai looked up at him with his whole body shuddering. *Bastards, do they have to question him when he's in this state?!* Kai gave a jerky nod. Smiles stretched the officers' lips. "Good heavens." Doc let out. "Come on." he helped Sehun to pull Kai up to stand. Sehun pressed a hand onto Kai's stomach, draping one of Kai's arms over his shoulder to hold him steady. "Can you give him a wash, Sehun?"

"Yes, sir." he started to drag Kai with him to the bathing rooms.

Chapter Two

Sehun had no idea why he was panicking along with Kai. Kai was drenched in the sticky liquid, so he didn't know if he were sweating but his own forehead was laced with sweat beads by the time he had managed to pull Kai into the bathing room. His heart was beating almost with the same vigor as Kai's shudders. Kai frantically looked around the empty bathing room and it was as if Sehun could feel Kai's hysteria as his own chest heaved in consternation. "Calm down." he advised his long forgotten brother, gently pulling him into

a stall. "No one's going to hurt you here." he assured Kai who refused to make eye contact as he looked away with alarming eyes. Sehun sort of pitied Kai that instant. All these years he had been soreheaded, vexed by Kai's actions, enraged by him abandoning them but just about how much Kai must have gone through if he had been kept alive all this while. What sort of torture he must have endured. For a moment, Sehun subdued the fuming hatred for his brother and sympathized him.

He let Kai sit on the stall's floor as he turned the shower on. But before he could step out of there, Kai grabbed his hand, glancing up at him with dreading eyes. Sehun pursed his lips and let himself be doused by the hot water. Kai released his hand eventually and pulled his knees up before hugging them as he hung his head. Sighing, Sehun grabbed the scrub brush and crouched behind Kai. It was his brother after all. Kai must have bathed Sehun innumerable times despite having to manage between shifts of working and going to school. But it wasn't just that. Sehun, by birth, had this nature of helping the piteous, even if no one reciprocated his aids. In that sense, he was somewhat similar to Kai, only that Kai helped the people on a global scale. While he could only condole with the helpless ones, Kai got down to fix it. Again, Kai was a hero. He was no one.

Kai winced out of the sudden and Sehun snapped himself from the thoughts, realizing that he had stopped scrubbing Kai's delicate back. "Are you okay?" he asked and Kai nodded once. "Can't you talk?" Kai kept mum. Sehun took hold of the shower gel and applied it along Kai's arms, cringing a little. He might be his brother but right now, they were nothing but complete strangers. Again, he felt Kai wincing under his touch. Kai's hair was longer than army men were allowed to grow. Sehun's might be slightly longer than it looked if he pulled his bangs down but it was better to have his hair pushed up than have it chopped off.

Turning the shower off, Sehun helped Kai to stand before assisting him to the dressing room. Once he had managed to dry him, he slid a patient's shirt on but Kai took the pants away from him before pulling them on by himself.

"Ah." Doc showed up just when Sehun settled Kai on a bed. "No, he'll not be admitted here." he told Sehun but raised a hand when Sehun tried to help Kai back to his feet. "I need to test." he pulled the stethoscope to Kai's chest and smiled. He checked Kai's pupils, to which Kai heavily flinched to before grinning wider. "You seem perfectly alright. We'll just shift you to the private ward." he told Kai and when Kai had nodded, he helped Sehun to take him to the ward next door. Within minutes, Kai was settled in a cot and the monitor was turned on.

"Does he need an IV line, Doc?" asked Sehun.

"I don't think so."

Sehun watched Kai immediately closing his eyes after resting his head on the pillow. "What now?"

Doc ushered him out of there, saying, "We'll let him rest for a couple of days before he will be bombarded with millions of questions. He seems completely fine for someone that travelled in a stasis pod."

Sehun gnawed on his lower lip, shivering a little at the wet shirt that clung to his body like a second skin. "Where... did he come from?"

Doc heaved a sigh, leaning his back on the door. "None of us know except him. But he doesn't look like he's in the state to talk. But his vitals look fine. Which means there's no reason for him to not talk. You go and get changed. I'm gonna need you here round-the-clock."

Sehun quickly bowed his head at his officer before hurrying out the med sec using the exit that didn't require him to pass the examination room which must be in an utter mess right now. Most of the barracks were closed, lights out but Sehun's barrack was unfortunately still very much alive and he when he walked in, no one seemed to have realized his presence. "Why on earth would I be joking?!" the one called Suho screeched. "I saw the bloody thing!"

Kris laughed it off as he stretched his arms over his head. "You're telling me that the big shot is back."

"Yes! It was LT Commander Kai!"

"Please. LT Commander... The dude's a loser. You all saw how he screamed when he was dragged out."

And you're telling me you wouldn't have screamed your fucking balls off if some huge black alien dragged you all the way off a spaceship? Sehun mentally scoffed as he quietly snooped around the group of soldiers and grabbed fresh pants, a grey T-shirt and a dry pair of boots before vamoosing out of there.

After drying himself at the soldier's bathing room which was usually empty at this time, Sehun jumped into the new clothes and dumped his wasted ones in the 'washing basket' before hurrying back to the med sector. He didn't know what he should think about everything. Kai was back. His brother was back. Under any other circumstance, Sehun would have punched him in the face but now, he was more curious about what could have happened to him. He was more curious if Kai recognized him. Of course he wouldn't. Sehun was like 10 when Kai left. He didn't even know if Kai had seen the photographs he had sent him. But even so, there was no chance Kai could guess that Sehun was his brother just by looks. Sehun didn't think that anyone could guess that they were brothers.

When he walked back into the south wing of the med sec, his ears rang with the monitor wailing loud with its cacophonous noise. "Doc?!" Sehun yelped, sprinting towards the ward Kai was in.

"Sehun! Get the defib!" Doc shouted as he pumped Kai's chest. Sehun didn't waste a second by gaping and quickly ran to get the defibrillator. Doc snatched it from him as Sehun leaned over the cot to keep pumping Kai's chest, cruching his ribs.

"What happened?!" he left a hand on Kai's chest while the other examined Kai's closed eyes.

"I don't know! He just started to suffocate out of the sudden! I think he's having a panic attack. Move!" he rubbed the defibs together but then stopped when he noticed the heartbeat rate steadying on the monitor. Both Sehun and Doc froze, gaping at the monitor for a moment. Sehun pulled his hands away from Kai when Kai's eyes fluttered open. "Kai, are you okay?!" Doc yelped, frantically looking for his stethoscope and pressed it onto Kai's chest.

"I'm... fine, sir." Kai replied in a hoarse voice.

Sehun stared at him, completely mortified. It was so weird to even think that this man was his brother once.

"God. You just gave me a heart attack, Lieutenant." Doc exhaled, clapping a hand on Kai's shoulder. "You can talk."

Kai just leaned his back on the pillow. "I won't be able to breathe and my heart won't be able to beat on its own," it was obvious that he was struggling to bring the words out. "Without sharing someone else's, sir."

Come again? Sehun arched his brow but Kai wasn't even looking at him. "What... do you mean?" Doc asked.

"I was... altered." Kai sighed. "Did he touch me when I was in the pod?"

He? Why can't he just ask me since I'm standing just two centimeteres away from him?!

Doc's eyes darted to Sehun before he nodded. "He did."

Kai let out a long sigh, closing his eyes again. "I need him here. Please don't ask me anything more." he just laid a hand over Sehun's that was resting on the bed.

Good grief. I got a lunatic brother, packaged, signed, sealed and delivered by the fucking aliens.

Kai opened his eyes again and pulled his hand away from Sehun's before turning his back to Sehun. Doc blinked at Sehun with bafflement and led him out of the ward for a moment. "You're not seriously considering that to be true, right?" Sehun asked, discerning the look on Doc's face.

"We're dealing with powers beyond our understanding, Sehun. NU19 destroyed all of Australia within 2 hours. With nothing but two ships. How do we know what he's saying is not true?"

"So, what, Doc? You're gonna believe that I'm his... charger?! Besides, he could have just had a panic attack."

"No. The moment you touched him when he pulled him out of the pod, his breathing calmed down. I noticed." Doc started to rub the salt-and-pepper scruff on his jaw.

Sehun seriously felt like laughing. *First a stasis pod shows up. Then my brother is revived. Now he needs a heartbeat charger?! What's next? They find the white rabbit and follow it to Wonderland?!* "Doc, come on." he stomped back into the ward and found Kai sleeping but the heartbeat rate on the monitor was rising by the second, although it shouldn't be concerning. Stumped, Sehun hurried to Kai's side as Doc watched the scene with awe. Gulping, Sehun laid a hand on Kai's arm. Within two seconds, Kai's heartbeat dropped a steady pace.

"Unbelievable." Doc breathed out in amazement. "I'll have to inform the general of this." he said in a low voice. "Stay by him."

Approximately two days had passed. Sehun didn't exactly know how long because he was fucking locked up in this stupid ward all the while except when he needed to take a piss! Doc came in either to check on Kai or to send them food. After noticing Kai's long hours sleep, Doc finally decided to give up on trying to feed Kai and set up an IV line for him. Only once did a general pop in but when Kai didn't respond to any of his questions, he left with anger and disappointment washing his face.

And all that Sehun had to do was sit on the uncomfortable chair, watch Kai fucking sleep and touch his hand every fifteen minutes. Sehun might have done it without all this vexation if only Kai didn't wake up at random hours to gasp out something. Other than that, it really irritated Sehun. The more he looked at Kai's face, the more it annoyed him. It wasn't exactly annoyance he felt but frustration. The frustration always peaked whenever their hands were intact. Sometimes, it almost felt like he was feeling Kai's frustration while he slept.

Tearing his gaze from Kai, Sehun focused on the 'Nerve Regeneration' book that Doc had lent him. The dim light of the lamp that was embedded into the wall next to Kai's cot was all the light there was for Sehun since Kai was sleeping. He almost jumped off the chair when Kai jolted up, gasping "Chan!".

"Hey, hey." Sehun quickly took hold of his hand and pressed Kai's shoulder down to lay him down. "It's okay. I'm here."

Kai stared at him with terror in his eyes and Sehun felt a zap of disappointment surging through himself. No, it wasn't him. It was Kai. Kai was disappointed that it was Sehun who was holding his hand and not this... Chan.

Panting, Sehun pulled back, completely baffled. What had just happened... "How... did... that..." he couldn't even set the words right.

Kai kept his eyes on the ceiling as he calmed his breath. And when he spoke, Sehun was even more shocked. *He's talking to me. Yippie.* "I don't know." but that was all he said before he clenched his eyes shut again. I don't know? So it was really happening?! Was Kai feeling things that Sehun felt, too?!

Sehun retreated to a wall and clasped a hand over his gaping mouth. Should he tell Doc about this? Doc was already seeing him and Kai as freaks.

When Kai finally woke up fully the next day, Doc gathered the officers in the ward. The general eyed Sehun with utter repugnance when Doc called Sehun to come and stand by Kai. Well, that's right, douchebag. I get to stay. But if you want, I'd gladly give you my place.

Kai shuddered when Sehun placed a hand on his shoulder and looked up at him with surprise. *Oh god, don't tell me you heard that.*

Kai blinked once and turned his head back to the officers. *I did.*

Fuck.

Sehun drew his hand back. "Lieutenant Commander." said one of the officers. "Do you recognize us?"

Kai nodded. "I do, sir."

"Good heavens, he talks." sighed the general. "Kai, where were you?"

"What took you?"

"Did they tell you anything?!"

"Why send you back? What did they do to you?!"

Kai's head turned to every one of the moving lips and Sehun noticed him clenching his jaw as a vein protruded at his temple. "Doc." Sehun called.

"Officers." Doc interrupted. "Please. He's still resting."

"Well, he's rest enough! You are fine, Kai. Tell us." all the five of them just surrounded Kai and Kai literally started to pant. Sehun laid a hand on his shoulder but he wasn't panting because of his heart. It was because these idiots were smothering him with their questions.

"Stop it." Doc jumped in. "Give him a few more days. Even if he answers you anything, it would be half-assed. So give him some space."

The officers all groaned in unison. "Fine." said the general. "Move him to a room. Let him have his rest. We need you back healthy, Lieutenant Commander Kai."

By the next hour, Kai was escorted to a room just near the med sector. For a moment, Sehun thought that he will be brought to a shared room as the other officers but the room Kai had to stay was a single room, spacious enough to fit fifty people in. Sehun just stood at the doorstep with his jaw dropped on the floor.

"Does the private have to stay?" the general sounded skeptical when he asked Doc the question as if Sehun couldn't hear him.

"Yes. I told you about the situation, general."

Shaking his head, the general made an exit and Sehun raised his hand to salute him. "He's your superior nevertheless. Give your respects, private!"

"Yes, sir." Sehun stated firmly.

Once the general had strutted away, Doc patted on Sehun's shoulder. "I'll have your things moved in, son. I'm sure you'd have a lot to catch up with your brother but in case if he lets you in with important information, be sure to let me know."

"I will, Doc."

"Good. I think he's suffocating."

Sehun rolled his eyes and stepped into the room. As Doc closed the door, Sehun gawked at the huge bed, lockers, bathroom door and the long window where Kai was standing at. The star-filled blackness outside was something that Sehun won't get to see in the barracks. Kai turned around and advanced a few paces before holding a hand out without even looking up at Sehun. Gritting his teeth, Sehun rudely gripped the hand, staring at the space out the window. El would have freaked out if she had seen so many stars. She would have burst into tears, screaming for Sehun to bring her away from there.

Kai pulled his hand back with a jerk and wide eyes. "El? Who is she?"

Sehun blinked. "She is my sister."

Kai gulped as he took a seat on the edge of the bed. "El... Our sister..."

Sehun almost choked on his own spit. Of course Kai would have known that he was his brother! Sehun had been thinking about since day one! "So... you.. know that I'm..."

"Sehun." Kai nodded. "You're my brother."

This wasn't a tad amusing. "Thanks for the information. Now if you could go to sleep, I'll go and get something to eat."

"Wait, Sehun."

"Yeah, sure. I'll wait. After all, I only waited for so many fucking years for you to come back. Another five minutes won't hurt."

Kai's eyebrows were pulled into a frown but he didn't say anything.

Chapter Three

The reluctance expanded at every laggard step that he was taking. He didn't want to go back to the room and he certainly didn't want to face Kai again. If he had the chance, he'd rather just jumped into the desert of the monochromic space than spend another second with Kai. Peering at his wrist watch, his eyebrows furrowed into a frown. *Great. The bastard should need his dosage of my touch by now.*

It didn't make much sense of how and why his touch was able to stabilize Kai's heart rate. God knew what kind of shit those aliens did to Kai that his whole body was fucked up like this. If Sehun had given the chance, he wouldn't torture himself by having to face Kai. But right now, he didn't have much of a choice since he was nothing but a mere soldier who was forced to abide the orders of his officers. He was ordered to keep Kai alive, to respect him as a superior more than as a brother. Just about how long was this supposed to go on? It was easier when Kai was asleep but now that he had to confront Kai, it was kind of both annoying and infuriating. And this thing about being able to feel and read each other. God, what shit was this?!

Clutching the wrapped sandwiches, Sehun fisted his free hand, slowing down the pace of his strides. Maybe Kai would just suffocate and die before he could manage to come out of the room to look for him. Sehun shook his head, utterly crestfallen by his attitude and truculent behaviour. Since when had he become so repulsive? How could he even think about letting someone die? Especially his brother.

God, he's not my brother.

He stopped before the door, lowering his head. He stared at the floor and his worn boots for a minute. It had been some while since he had been to training and honestly, he didn't know if he'd rather just attend and suffer at the training or suffer with Kai in that room. Clenching his jaw, he punched his fist into the screen to unlock the door but when it didn't, he realized that he had to use his thumb, not his fist. *Fuck this, fuck Kai, fuck everything.*

Sucking in a shaky breath to calm his temper, Sehun pressed his thumb on the scanner and the door swooshed open. As soon as he had stepped in, the door slid close behind him and he noticed Kai sitting on the bed, gripping the edge with his head hung. His shoulders were rising and dropping at full tilt. "What took you so long?" Kai asked monotonously as Sehun hurled the sandwiches onto the bed.

"It's been like 17 minutes." he noticed Kai's jaw tightening but then he quickly relaxed, letting out a sigh.

"Can I... Can you..." he raised a hand and Sehun rolled his eyes.

"Do I have a choice to do otherwise?" he rudely clasped hands with Kai, dropping onto the bed. Kai's breath steadied but his face was pulling longer as their shoulder's brushed. *Motherfucker. Why do I have to get him his damned sandwich?!*

Kai pulled his hand back and buried his face in his palms. "I'll have Doc bring me food after this."

Sehun closed his eyes, grinding his teeth. *Good riddance, huh.* Kai snickered. Shit. Sehun quickly tried to block his mind and jolted up to his feet. "Stop doing that!"

He couldn't believe Kai was smirking. It was so weird. Sehun didn't know Kai could smile. He always looked so serious in the posters and he definitely couldn't remember Kai smiling in his memories. "I'm not doing anything." Kai sighed with a fraction of a smile still playing on his lips.

"What is that?! How is that even possible?!" It was really weird that Sehun only hear Kai's thoughts and feel his emotions once in a while but Kai could constantly read his mind?! It

was as if Kai blocked his mind with a wall. If he knew how to do that, then he must have known something.

Kai shrugged before sprawling himself across the bed. "I don't know."

Something told Sehun that he was lying. Narrowing his eyes, Sehun stared at Kai. "It doesn't look like you don't know."

"What makes you think that?"

"The fact that you returned from a three-year-vacation on planet Oozaza?"

Kai scoffed, which again, was weird. "Wow. Quite a temper you have." he pushed himself upright to a sitting position again. He looked somewhat fresh and brisk, especially with that cheeky smile etched on his face. "What happened to you? You used to be so cute and chubby."

That was it. Kai had just stepped over the limit. Sehun was so close to exploding but he somehow oppressed the rage within him, keeping in mind that Kai was his superior. "I was cute and chubby before you fucking abandoned me. And the temper? I developed it after having to leave El behind, crying. She didn't even know how to say goodbye properly back then. But she understood that I was leaving her." even at the mere thought of El kissing his cheek as she cried before Sehun left her.

Kai's face instantly died. He glanced away as the smile faded. "I guess a sorry wouldn't change anything."

Sehun couldn't believe how fucking nonchalant Kai was being even after the mention of El. Of course, what would he know? He wasn't the one who had carried El all over the region to get her to the doctor when she fell ill. He wasn't the one who toiled day and night to buy El her favourite dolls and candies. "Sure as hell it won't." he spat.

Kai kept mum which only enraged Sehun further.

"You know what, I'd really appreciate if you don't bring up the fact that we used to be related once. Because I don't even feel like you're related to me anymore. You're no one but a Lieutenant Commander, who can feel free to order me around."

Kai's gaze was on the ground now as he spoke, "You don't look like the type who would follow orders."

"Yeah, that's why I'm here, suffering on the Quantum while you visited paradise in Jotunheim. Because I don't follow orders." Sehun scoffed.

Kai drew in a sharp breath. "I never knew you would be this difficult."

Sehun's mouth fell agape. *Difficult?! Difficult?! This fucking motherfucking goose shit bastard!* "I'm difficult?! You're the one who's made and is making my life difficult!"

Kai started to shake his head as he took hold of the one of the sandwiches before taking a bite of it. "God. It still tastes the same."

Sehun flashed a mocking smirk. "Wow. You remembered the taste of a really shitty canteen sandwich but not your family."

Kai mechanically chewed on the sandwich before wrapping the rest back up and dumped in into the trash bin next to the bed. He then lied down on the bed, draping an arm over his eyes. "Just come and sleep."

Sehun just froze as his body stiffened. "Sleep?... On the same bed?"

"Yes."

"Hey, LT, you're kidding me, right?" First of all, he didn't feel like he could sleep. Secondly, he didn't want to get arrested for smothering a Lieutenant Commander in his sleep. "That's not gonna happen."

"Suit yourself. If I die, you'll get blamed for it. Aren't I your responsibility now?" the way Kai said it rendered Sehun all goosefleshed.

Sehun licked his lips and looked around the room, rubbing the back of his neck. "I have to change my clothes."

"You can change them tomorrow when Doc brings our stuffs over."

"I think I need to take a shower."

"I've slept with a whole barrack filled with pig-stenched men. So don't worry."

Sehun scowled, wanting to bang Kai's head with something. Luckily, the room lacked of decorations that could crack Kai's skull open. There was no way to escape it. Actually, Kai was being quite lenient about Sehun's sass. Had it been any other officer, Sehun surely would have been reprimanded. This was exactly why Sehun kept the conversations as minimal as he could with the others. But how was he supposed to avoid Kai?

Gulping the lump in his throat, Sehun sat down on the edge of the bed after walking over to the other side, the side that faced the window. Kai turned the lights down which only favoured the cold harrowing ambience. "I should just get a chair." Sehun said.

"Lie down. That's an order, private."

Clenching his teeth, Sehun lied recumbent on the bed before turning his back in Kai's way. This closeness was probably enough to keep Kai alive through the night. But then Kai was persistent when he slid a palm along Sehun's. Sehun didn't pull his hand away for minutes until their palms became sweaty, mostly because he liked the feeling of calmness and tranquility that was surging through his body. No, it wasn't him. It was Kai. *C..Can you.. hear me?*

There was nothing in return at first. And then Sehun heard Kai's voice ring in his mind, *Yes*.

Kai withdrew his hand and not another word was exchanged between them before Sehun started to hear the soft snores of Kai's.

Doc will fix him. Doc will figure a way. He wouldn't need to be stuck with Kai for long. Maybe another day or two but that's it. Then he could just go back to his life instead of being a walking life support machine for Kai. Sehun tucked his hand between his cheek and pillow, staring out the window. He was only here because of orders. Nothing else. He would never look at Kai as his brother, as his family again. The man deserved to be dragged away by those aliens but not returned safe and sound, with the exception of unearthly defects. Although Sehun was suffering from sleep deprivation, he still couldn't get himself to close his eyes. Kai was a complete stranger who only held the title of his brother. God, Sehun would just do anything to get out of this sticky supernatural situation.

"Fuck yeah... ahh... ah... uhh God... fuck.." the feeling being filled with merciless pain was completed by the fervent burning pleasure and the fiery passion that surged through his body. How could something so painful be so deliciously pleasuring? The thick cock that was buried inside him aroused him with a fierce lust. He gripped harder on the ribs as he rocked his hips faster, riding the hard cock until his body was crying in oozing pleasure. *"Ah... Chan..yeol... Fuck me..."* he moaned, throwing his head back when he felt the tongue that licked the slit of his leaking cock.

Sehun roused, jolting up like a lightning bolt, drenched in sweat as his lungs sobbed for air. What the fuck... In a panic, Sehun looked around the room with fraught, panting heavily. Kai was sleeping next to him and fuck, he could still see himself riding... Chanyeol. Then he discerned their brushing feet and stumbled off the bed, hurling himself to the floor. What was that...

Wiping his sweat covered face, Sehun gaped at Kai. Chanyeol. Why did that name and the man ring a bell? It didn't matter. Sehun looked down at his knob, bulging through his pants. It wasn't exactly every day that Sehun had woken up with an erection due to some creepy kinky dreams of some other guy. But here he was, totally still thinking about Chanyeol as his erection grew painful. Shit, what was this fuckery?! Why was Kai dreaming about riding a guy? And why on earth was Sehun so fucking turned on by this Chanyeol and the way it felt with Chanyeol's cock inside him?! Whatever. Right now, he had other things to worry about. He hastily got up onto his feet and dashed into the bathroom to jerk himself off.

Chapter Four

How could he even explain the sort of embarrassment he had gone through? It was impossible to get back into bed with Kai after that and neither had it been any easy to catch another wink. So, Sehun had no other option but to sit on the floor by the bed and touch

Kai's arm every now and then with so much trepidation. He was scared of what he might see this time but he figured that he couldn't really catch anything if the contact was kept short. Nevertheless, it was weird. What was even weirder was the fact that he had been so turned on by a dream. It was lucid enough to be a memory. And this Chanyeol... Sehun couldn't figure out why his body was still reacting when he thought about Chanyeol. The way Chanyeol's lips travelled up his chest was toxicating his mind. It felt so real. He hadn't been able to see Chanyeol clearly but it felt like Sehun was the one who was touching him.

Sehun hugged his knees closer, leaning back on the metal bedframe. On one hand, he wanted to touch Kai again, to see if he were still dreaming about Chanyeol. To see Chanyeol by himself. To feel how it felt to have his cock inside him. *Fuck, what is wrong with me?!* Sehun clenched his eyes shut, grinding his teeth. He never even knew that he could be attracted to guys before this. He had never looked at a man with such notion before. His eyes flashed open again when the wake up alarm went on. All military units were summoned for first-call training and it had been some while since Sehun had left the med sec and Kai.

When he turned his head around, he was startled to see Kai sitting up. *Kinky bastard.* Sehun faced away with a scowl. He wanted to ask about Chanyeol but he didn't know if he wanted Kai to know that he had just shared dirty dreams with his brother. The funny part was Kai wasn't the one who woke up with a painful erection. Sehun had practically spent minutes in the bathroom, jerking off to the vivid images of Chanyeol under him. "Did you have a *good* night sleep, LT?" he asked in a growl, rising to his feet.

Kai looked up at him with a soft expression and rubbed his eyes with the heels of his palms. He didn't say anything as he slid off the bed. He simply caressed Sehun's arm once before stepping into the bathroom. *Oh God, do you have to torture me to this extent?* Sehun flumped on the bed and buried his face into his palms. Then the bell went off. Sehun frowned at the beeping sound for a second before pressing the button by the bed to unlock the door. When Doc and Colonel Zhang walked in, Sehun instantly jolted up and saluted them. "Colonel." he greeted.

"At ease, private." the colonel waved him off. Sehun dropped his hand before pulling his arms back. If Sehun were to stay, he'd love to join the air force unit of the Quantum just to be under Colonel Zhang. The man was celebrated for his leniency and temperance. Sehun had heard that his son was also private since he had just joined but he was in the elite unit and since their barracks were on the other side of the ship, Sehun had never met the colonel's son. "Where's-"

Just right then, Kai stepped out of the bathroom with a semi-wet hair and a drenched face. He quickly dried them off with the towel on his shoulder and straightened up before addressing the colonel with a salute. Wow. Sehun blinked at his brother. Even the way Kai saluted had a style, had a class. Even after being AWOL for 3 years, Kai still had the stamina and standing of a soldier. "Sir." he kept his expression neutral as he greeted. The colonel ambled his way to Kai before throwing his arms around Kai and pulled him into an embrace.

"Son." he patted on Kai's back. Sehun stood there, gaping at the scene. If even the colonel was accosting Kai as "son" Kai must be someone important. "I'm glad you're back." he was the first person to say that to Kai, though.

"It's good to be back, colonel." Kai said without any expression. *The stoic bastard.*

The colonel turned to Doc with a wide grin. "He looks healthy, Han. Isn't he?"

"He is, surprisingly." Doc answered. "How are you feeling today, Kai?"

"Good, Doc." Kai answered with a manly nod which Sehun could never pull through. *Classy bastard.*

"I've brought you fresh clothes. Your uniforms will be sent over soon." he motioned his hand towards the luggage. "Sehun, I've brought things you'll be needing as well."

Great. Moving in forever until the fucker dies.

"Yes, Doc." Sehun sighed.

"The board will want to question you soon, Kai." said the colonel, clapping a hand on Kai's shoulder. "But first, I think we to ship-shape you. Are you thinking about training again?"

"I have, sir." Kai replied monotonously. "But I am exhausted all the time."

The colonel raised a brow at Doc who rushed to Kai with narrowed eyes. "Your vitals are fine. Why are you exhausted, then?" he asked Kai who threw Sehun a black look.

"I don't know, sir. Breathing itself is difficult."

"Is Sehun not cooperating?"

"No, no. It's not that. He's being very kind."

"Of course, he'd be." the colonel chimed. "He is your brother, I've heard."

Kai nodded curtly. "He is, sir."

"So it shouldn't be too difficult then. You have to touch him to keep your heart beating. I think that is what everyone would want to about right now. As soon as you're willing to speak, you better prepare yourself."

A frown crossed Kai's face but he inclined his head forward.

"We'll give him another two days to rest." said Doc as he ushered the colonel to the door. Doc spared Sehun a smile before walking out of the room. As the door slid close, Sehun relaxed his stiffened body and he suddenly felt a set of warm digits sliding down his palm. He scowled at Kai before pulling his hand away. Kai's frown deepened but without bothering, Sehun dragged his luggage and started to fill one of the lockers with his clothes.

"Are you going to be mad at me forever?" Kai asked.

"You're exhausted." Sehun snapped, slamming the locker shut and faced Kai.

"You're *mentally* exhausted. Because you're trying so fucking hard to block me out of your mind whenever we touch. What *are* you actually hiding?!"

Kai's face wilted further. He shook his head and opened his luggage before pulling out a t-shirt. "When we were sleeping..." he muttered after pulling the shirt on. "Did I... dream about... something?"

Sehun was biting his tongue now. He didn't know if he should tell Kai. He ripped the locker open again and grabbed a green uniform shirt. "You did."

"What... did I dream about?"

Gripping the shirt, Sehun stomped towards the bathroom. "You were fucking dreaming about riding some guy's dick."

Kai's eyes widened and Sehun noticed him fisting his hands. "I'm... really... sorry."

"You're gay, LT. Got it. It happens all the time in the military, right? No big deal." Sehun was mentally scoffing at himself. Look at him trying to act all cool after making a huge fuss about earlier. "Let's just not sleep at the same time again. We'll take shifts. I don't wanna see you fucking some guy."

"He's not *some* guy."

Sehun gulped but tried to remain cool. "Chanyeol. That's the guy."

"Yes. He was my boyfriend. You're implying that I fuck around with all the guys." Kai said with a hard scowl.

Boyfriend. Sehun had no idea why a pang was sent straight to his heart. Chanyeol was Kai's boyfriend. Fuck. Why on earth did it upset him?! He had never even met Chanyeol before for God's sake! "Kay." he muttered and turned his back to Kai to walk into the bathroom.

"I'm sorry."

Sehun didn't reply anything more. Chanyeol was his boyfriend. Okay.

If he had to stay trapped in here even for another hour, he would go mad. It was torturous to stay in the same room with the man that he despised so much. And to make things worse, he had to touch him! What cruelty was this?!

Sehun sat on the same spot on the floor, trying so hard to read the book Doc had loaned him as Kai sat on the bed, leaning against the headboard. Kai's breathing itself was an utter distraction. Sehun gritted his teeth and flipped to the last page of the book. He stared at El's photo for a minute, smiling at her baby grin. "Is that... El?" Kai asked and Sehun turned to face him.

"Yeah."

Kai straightened up and licked his lips before holding a hand out. "Can I... see?"

Sehun thought about slapping Kai's face with the book but then sighed and handed the photo over. "Careful. It's all that I have left."

Kai nodded and took a good look of the picture. He didn't say a word as he stared at El for minutes. He then returned the photo to Sehun and closed his eyes. "How's... mom? And dad?"

"They're fine." Sehun sighed, not wanting to pick a fight. He was too tired and so was Kai.

"El... doesn't know that I even exist, does she?"

What kind of questions is that? Sehun shook his head, lowering it. "She probably misses her daily walks, though." he smiled to himself. "Well, most of the time it was me who carried her around."

"Just like how I used to carry you around?"

Sehun brought his head up to stare at Kai with shock. "Wow. You actually remember that?"

Kai's hands were shaking when he looked down at them. "I actually think about you guys all the time, Sehun." he said under his breath.

"Didn't look like you did, though. But that was probably because you were having so much fun screwing your boyfriend here, no?" Sehun stopped right there when it struck him. Chanyeol should be here, shouldn't he? Sehun's eyes bulged out in excitement but it quickly died when he realized that all the men on Quantum 2 were killed except Kai. "Wait. Is Chanyeol... dead? Was he on Quantum 2?" was that why Kai was dreaming about him? For a second, Sehun sympathized him.

But then Kai shook his head, biting his lip. "He's not dead. He was sent off the Quantum 3 before I was supposed to be transferred, which was a week later."

Sehun lit up like Christmas. "So he's *here*?! On Quantum 3?!"

Kai looked away with an expression filled with morose. "I guess so."

"But... why hasn't he come to see you, then?"

"We're grown-ups, Sehun. We're soldiers."

"So?"

Kai snickered a little. "Maybe we need more people like you on the Quantum. How many Quantums are there now?"

"Just one. Another will be launched next year."

"And... earth?"

Sehun gulped when he suddenly thought about home. "People are estimating that another wave of invasion would wipe out the whole planet. But that's what the Quantum is for, right? Our first line of defence."

"And look at you." Kai smiled. "Fighting for our world. Our home."

Sehun scoffed, turning his face away from Kai and dropped his gaze to the book. "I'd rather die with my family back at home than die over here for nothing."

"You're not gonna die, Sehun."

"Yeah, whatever you say, LT."

A silent moment stretched between them as Sehun stared at the letters in bold on the cover of the book. And then he suddenly felt Kai stroking his hair at the back of his head. For a second, Sehun closed his eyes as his breath calmed with Kai's slender fingers running through the strands of his hair. *You're not gonna die.*

Sehun pulled away from Kai's touch. "I'm not your brother anymore. So you can stop pretending to care about me. You didn't care about me for years."

Kai didn't bother to reply as he leaned his head back on the headboard, clenching his eyes.

"Permission to leave." Sehun demanded.

"Permission not granted." Kai muttered.

Fucking cocky bastard.

Sehun hurled the book aside and wrapped his arms around his legs, pulling his knees up to his chest. "You're gonna have to face them one day. How long do you think you can hide in this room?"

"I didn't want to come back, Sehun." Kai sighed. "I was forced to come back."

"What... happened to you there?"

"Do you want to know?"

"No. Not really." he got onto his feet and started to pace the room to stretch his legs. "But I am curious about why you stopped talking to us."

Kai didn't answer.

Sehun stopped to gawk out the window. "I waited, you know. Every night. Just like how El is waiting for me to come back to her. Only that I'm going to die here."

"You'll go back to her, Sehun. I'll make sure of that."

Sehun threw Kai a baffled look before hanging his head. "Mom and dad... they were devastated when they heard the news of your..." he trailed off, sucking in a shaky breath. "God, I need to get out of here." he paced the room's floor again, scratching the back of his

neck and untucked his shirt from his pants. "Now I see why you broke up with your girlfriend. She got married, you know. She has a son now."

"Good for her. I'm glad she's happy."

Sehun snorted. "No one's happy down there."

"What about you?"

"What? Was I happy down there?"

"No, do you have a girlfriend?"

"I did. We broke up. Alis, the neighbour's daughter?"

"Oh. I remember. She was small, too when I last saw her." he sighed. Sehun honestly can't believe that they were actually talking, having a conversation. "Did you love her?"

"We went out for like 4 months. That's all."

"I see." he watched Sehun walk here and there. "You can go out if you want."

"We need to think of a way. I can't keep touching you like every ten minutes. It's annoying."

"I understand. But... I actually had an idea but I wasn't... sure that you'll be excited about it."

"What idea?"

Kai got off the bed. "Just holding hands for like a minute is enough for me to breathe for 15 minutes. When you touch me longer, I can actually control my heartbeat longer."

"What? Is that so?"

"Yeah." Kai licked his lips. "I also noticed the it varied on how... much we touch. If we have more skin contact, I think it will last longer."

"Just like a charger."

"I guess so."

Sehun dropped his gaze to the ground, contemplating the idea. He would do anything to get some free time for himself. "What do you suggest?"

"A hug, maybe?"

Sehun shrugged. "Fine. If it'll promise me some time away from you, I'm in."

"Shall we... try?"

As soon as Sehun had nodded, Kai stepped closer. He kept his eyes on Sehun's face for a moment and that was when Sehun felt his stomach churning. He had never noticed Kai's

long eyelashes or his plush lips before. Not as prominently at least. Kai slowly curled an arm around Sehun's shoulder while his hand glided along the side of Sehun's waist. As his breath froze, Sehun's heart started racing. *What is he doing?!*

I'm hugging you, Sehun. Kai answered, drawing closer before their chests were pressed together. Sehun robotically wrapped his arms around Kai, still unable to breathe properly. Kai was feeling something weird, too, Sehun could feel it. *Our hearts... beating together.* Kai thought with their chest smashed together.

A brutal adrenaline rushed through Sehun's body. He pressed his face onto Kai's shoulder, trying to control the overwhelming feelings but was failing miserably. He was nervous. He was trembling. He was only hugging his brother. What was happening? Were these Kai's emotions, too, mixed with his own?

Kai slowly crept a hand up the side of Sehun's body, stroking his waist and Sehun inhaled a sharp breath, clutching his eyes close. *Dammit. Stop.* But he couldn't stop the flowing feelings himself.

Kai's nose was skimming the side of his neck before he felt Kai's lips brushing it. And that was when he shoved Kai back, panting with a heaving chest but Kai looked calm. "I need to.. go." Sehun muttered quickly and broke into a jog to storm out of the room.

Chapter Five

"What did they do with the stasis pod?"

"We've sent it for further experimenting." Doc mumbled, rummaging through the drawers. "How long has it been since you've left Kai?"

"It's okay. It's not that long." it had been almost 45 minutes since he had left his room. It was nice to just walk around the sector, grabbing some chocolates from the vending machine but it was awkward as always. He was forever a fish out of water. Kai's room was somewhat a better option than to face the other soldiers if only Kai weren't there to ruin Sehun's whole life with nothing but just one look.

"Have you... thought about what to do with Kai?"

"I'm cracking my head, Sehun. But just as how we couldn't figure the ships that mysteriously landed on our planet, I couldn't figure out how it is possible for someone to share a pulse through touch."

"So, you're saying that you have no way to deal with this, Doc? Can't you just cut his brain or heart open and do something?"

Doc raised a brow at him and through his glasses, Sehun noticed the narrowed pair of eyes which were full of queries. "I don't see why it should unnerve you so much, Sehun. Is privacy your problem? That can't be the case since you share almost everything with your unit, room, bunk, lockers. Or is supplementing Kai's heart wearing you out?"

"That's not what's wearing me out." Sehun muttered, rubbing the back of his neck. If only he could tell Doc about the things that happened between him and Kai. But no matter how he thought about it, he wouldn't succeed in narrating their situation without raising disgust and unwanted attention, not only from Doc but everyone else as well. Seriously, how could he tell Doc that he got horny because of Kai's wet dreams? How could he tell Doc that it felt amazing to have a guy fucking him? How could he tell that it wasn't his feelings entirely, and that it was Kai's pleasure that he was enjoying? How could he tell Doc what had just happened? The fact that he was overwhelmed with emotions all because of a hug was appalling. And it wasn't like Doc could solve this problem anyway.

He jumped off the examination table and accepted the aspirin from Doc before pocketing it.

"Then what is it? I didn't know that this could be bothersome for you. Besides, Kai is your brother, no? I thought you guys would use the opportunity to catch up."

Sehun shook his head, staring at his boots. "It's been too long, Doc. It's way too damaged to repair."

Doc cupped Sehun's shoulders as his eyebrows furrowed. "You told me that Kai left you and your family. But isn't it about time for you two patch up? Now that you two share the same heart-"

"Doc, we're not sharing the same heart. He's merely a parasite, living on my heartbeat."

Doc pulled away with a shocked mien. "Do you really hate him to that extent, Sehun?"

"I don't hate him, Doc. You need to care about someone to hate that person." he spat through his grinding teeth. "He's a superior. If I'm ordered to stay for him, I'd have to. And I don't want to, Doc! I'm so done with my life following behind him! Do you how he's treating me? Brother, you say? He doesn't think that way, either. He's ordering me around like I'm a dog. Like I'm one of those soldiers. I don't blame him, though. Being a soldier has always been more important to him than being a brother, a son."

"Calm down, Sehun. You don't have an option right now."

"Darn straight, Doc." Sehun knew he was being rude by scowling in front of a superior but Doc was willing to listen to him and he seriously needed to vent his infuriation. "I never had an option."

"Sehun, none of us are here with a choice. If we want a home to return to, we're gonna need to struggle. To defend our home."

"That's the thing, Doc. I'm no defender. I'm just a normal boy from a normal town. If anything, you and I both know that I'd be the *first* to die out here. I'm no hero. That's my brother."

"Is that what you think? Would you like to take a wager?"

Sehun blinked. "What for?"

"Sehun." Doc sighed, leaning against the counter. "You have this fire within you that drives you, Sehun. You keep saying that you don't want to save the world but you're forgetting that it is in your blood to save people. If you fight here, your family will prosper down there."

"Yeah, but I'm not gonna make much of a difference, am I?"

"You don't have to be your brother to make a difference. Kai is a great man. Everyone looks up to him." Doc's words had Sehun stumped for a second. It was true that Kai was everyone's "great man" but not Sehun's. He honestly didn't see what was so great about Kai. Maybe those three years had changed Kai because all that Sehun saw was a man who had given up. A man who didn't look like he had the drive to live on. "But you, Sehun." Doc continued. "You're special in your own way. I wouldn't be surprised if you achieve something greater than most of us did in the future. You just need to try."

"I don't want to." he saluted once before turning for the exit. He was tired, sleepy. The somnolence was probably obvious in the way he dragged his feet. And if Kai were asleep now, he'd have to wait until Kai wakes up again to get some sleep. *To hell, I ain't gonna wait for that bastard.*

"Sehun, don't be too hard on him."

He came to a halt but kept his back facing Doc. "I know, Doc. But it doesn't matter anyway. I gotta follow orders, don't I?" he wiped his face with his bare palms, letting out a loud sigh. "Permission to leave, Doc."

"Permission granted, son."

As he wove his way back to Kai's room which was situated right next to the examination room in the med sec, he wondered if he should ask Doc about Chanyeol. But if he did, Doc was going to ask him why he wishes to know and Sehun didn't think that it was his business to spill about Kai's personal life. When he entered the room, it was dark and Kai was fast asleep on the bed. God. How could he actually fall asleep after what had happened? Did he really not feel all those irrepressible and forceful emotions that had surged through him? Was it just Sehun?

He looked up at the window and his whole body went limp for a second as if he were floating outside. Fatigue hit him hard finally. It was then when he realized that he wasn't controlling any of his thoughts whenever they touched. Which meant Kai must have known about how home-sick Sehun was all the time. How badly he missed El. How scared he was of never being able to see her again. Sehun had only been happy twice in his life. When Kai was there for him and when El was there for him. That was it. He was home-sick because he felt so lonely. The seclusion was not something he could escape.

With his eyes falling droopy, he pulled himself to the window side of the bed and gently sat down, careful not to bestir Kai. He wondered what El might be doing right now. God, all the years he was missing. How big El must have grown by now. Did she miss the piggy-back rides? Was she thinking about where her brothers, or at least Sehun, must have gone? Sehun lied supine on the bed, resting his head on the soft pillow before turning his head to see Kai who had his back facing in Sehun's direction. Kai was able to block his thoughts and mind when he was awake but would he be able to do the same when he's asleep? Sehun's

hands itched to touch Kai's hand and find out what his dreams were about this time. But then let that thought slip. *But hey, touching longer worked.* Kai wasn't suffocating even now. But Sehun would rather just touch him every ten minutes than to go through that wave of alien emotions again.

Just when he was about to close his eyes, Kai jolted up, gasping. "Sehun!" he yelped and Sehun immediately took hold of his arm.

"I'm here." he said quickly, rubbing Kai's arm, freaked out along with Kai. *God, what is wrong with me?! I despise him but then why am I calm when he's calmed and all right?!*

Kai's breathing was pacified as Sehun stroked his arm. Their eyes were locked and Sehun's breathing quickened. Kai's eyes were darker than the outer space. His plush lips were glistening, laced with saliva and Sehun even noticed the perfect jawline. *We're brothers, that's why.* Kai answered, causing Sehun to cringe a little before he withdrew his hand, clearing his throat. "Sehun... I-"

"Please don't say anything. Go back to sleep. I'll be up."

"No, it's okay. You sleep. I'll stay up."

"You sure, LT?"

"Yes." he brought a hand to Sehun's shoulder but dropped it when Sehun flinched away.

"Alright." he lied back down, draping an arm over his eyes. He felt the mattress shift as Kai reclined on the bed again. Seriously, just because of Kai, he had to sleep on the same bed as him. He clenched his jaw but he was too exhausted to be too mad right now. Emptying his lungs with a great sigh, he hoped for sleep to drag his consciousness away.

The darkness was favouring the drowsiness. Everything seemed like a cloud of blur before him. His pounding heart was hammering against his chest but even then, every inch of his body was immobile. His head was spinning like a brutal whirlpool and his knees were aching in the extreme. His hips were screaming in agony. But despite the pain, the startling excitement that filled his chest was phenomenal.

Sehun looked into the darkness with his body bathed in sweat. He could barely keep his eyes open and then he saw the languid movement in the dark. *"Please..."* the voice came out a whisper. It wasn't his voice. It was Kai's.

"Kay-ren." another voice echoed around him as the shadow moved. He then felt the light caress on his arm and that was when he realized that his hands were put on a leash, spread wide over his head. They were chained to something and he was kneeling on the floor, with his knees spread apart as well. He was completely unclothed.

"Kay-ren." he heard the cooing deep voice again and then a stroke on the back of his head before the merciless penetration through his opening. With a scream, he lurched his body forward and then came the pleasure.

The sudden jerks and the jarring movements struck Sehun to instant alertness. He woke up with a bolt when he felt the incongruous shifting of the bed. "Hey, LT!" he cried when he saw Kai jerking on the bed as if he were having a seizure. Sehun unwillingly pressed his palms onto Kai's chest and the scene of Kai moaning in utter pleasure flashed before his eyes again.

"Urgh!" Kai woke up growling and grabbed Sehun's wrists before flopping him over, slamming him on the bed and clasped a hand around Sehun's neck, instantly choking the air out of him.

"Kai!" Sehun croaked out, reaching a hand out to the bedside to hit the alarm but then Kai snapped out of it. He immediately got off Sehun before scurrying off the bed.

"Fuck, I'm so sorry." he blurted out, raising a hand to cover his mouth and retreated to the end of the room until his back was smashed against the window.

Sobbing for air, Sehun scooted to the furthest corner of the bed, curling his hand around the neck and stared at Kai with horror. They just stayed mum for minutes, regaining their composure, catching their breaths. Kai slowly sank to the floor and buried his face into his knees as Sehun closed his eyes, replaying the scene of Kai... himself being tortured. When he opened his eyes again, Kai was grabbing his hair. Now, Sehun was aware of how powerful Kai was. Within the split of a second, Kai was about to knock all of Sehun's senses out.

"Was...wa.." Sehun stuttered after a long while of silence but his throat was too dry to even get a word out. Swallowing, he continued. "Was that what happened to you?" his voice barely made it out as a sparse whisper.

Kai looked up at him with eyes full of sorrow.

"I'm... I'm really..." Sehun breathed out. "Sorry. I honestly... didn't think that you would have gone through a torture like that."

"It... wasn't exactly a torture." he sighed and Sehun couldn't help but gape at him. "He wasn't torturing me."

"He? Who's *he*?"

Kai glanced away for a moment before shaking his head. "It doesn't matter. Those were just the memories I had in the beginning. It was... different later on."

Sehun was so close to covering his ears because he didn't want to hear this nonsense any further. But he ended up asking, "You... liked it?", with a grimace. "You... allowed.. it to do it?"

Kai remained silent.

"Fuck me." Sehun gasped and climbed off the bed. "You're seriously screwed in the head!"

"It's how he communicates. It wasn't his fault." he said quickly, rising to his full height.

"Stop. I don't want hear any more of this bullshit. Wow, LT. I wonder what everyone would say about their favourite hero if they knew about this."

"Please, Sehun." Kai pleaded with a bulbous frown. "I didn't mean for you to see that."

Sehun shook his head and staggered back when Kai advanced a few paces forward. "That's how he.. it communicates. Through... Fucking God. That's why we're... sharing thoughts and feelings! You're..."

"Damaged." Kai muttered and blinked his eyes ferociously to hide the tears in his eyes.

"I need some air." Sehun panted and scrubbed his face before hurrying into the bathroom. What was he supposed to think of this? His heart was thundering loud. No matter how hard he tried, he could not wipe the disturbing scene off his mind. Worst of all, Kai just admitted that he had done it willingly! *Fuck fuck fuck.*

He unbuttoned his uniform shirt to dry off the sweaty skin and turned the faucet on before leaning over the sink. Gripping his fists, Sehun vacantly stared at the small mirror. Of course these delusional motherfuckers would have mirrors in their rooms when there wasn't even proper air ventilation in the soldiers' barracks. Was it even necessary for one man to occupy such a spacious room? Worst of all, Sehun had to be stuck in this room for god knew how long. All for one man. The lives of the lowest rank soldiers had never been valued but this was atrocity. He wanted Kai to live but since they were all going to die anyway, why should Kai's life worth more than the others? Just because he was a high ranking officer?!

"Sehun." he was forced to snap out of it when he heard Kai calling his name on the other side of the bathroom's door. "Sehun... I can't..."

Shaking his head, Sehun rolled his eyes and shut the faucet before turning to face the door. "I'll be out in a minute."

Kai was silent for a stretch before he muttered an okay. But it was obvious that he was starting to suffocate. Scrubbing his face, Sehun buttoned his shirt up. And that was when Kai knocked on the door. "I can't breathe, Sehun."

Groaning, Sehun pulled the door open and stepped out before grabbing Kai's arm. Blood started to fill Kai's pale face again. "You're just ordering me around like I'm your *dog*." he spat and withdrew his hand.

Frowning, Kai murmured, "I'm not, Sehun."

"Yeah, whatever you say, LT."

"You're mad."

"You don't need to know that by reading my mind. I'm being quite obvious about it right now."

"I didn't wish for this to happen, Sehun. Do you *think* I like you constantly in my mind? Seeing every shit that I think about?"

"You're not losing anything, LT. I am. Your fucking nightmares are scaring the shit out of me! And the thing is, you enjoy being fucked by some alien. I don't! I don't want to feel those crap!"

"I can't help what I dream about, Sehun!"

"You can do us all a favour and kill yourself, then."

"Sehun, don't... walk away."

The fact that he was not even allowed to sleep on a separate bed was what maddened him the most. Kai's face was starting to drain of blood again when Sehun turned to face him.

"Just tell me one thing. When you said that you didn't want to come back, why?"

Kai sucked in a deep breath. "Because I had no reason to come back, Sehun. And I know that if I did, I'll be a freak. These people will rip me apart in the name of experiments."

Sehun stared at him for a stretch before exhaling exasperatedly. "Why... were you sent back?"

Kai came closer and Sehun didn't bother to flinch away when Kai touched his hand. "You'll know tomorrow. But please.... I apologize for putting you through this."

When Sehun exited the room, a group of officials swarmed the corridor and quite flabbergasted, Sehun saluted them before Doc nodded his head. "Is Kai ready?"

"He's on his way, sir." he stated and eyed all of the seven officers. "Are they *all* here to escort him?" he asked Doc in a low voice.

"Yes."

Sehun scanned the group. Each of them were busy with their conversation with one another. Colonel Zhang was there. So was General Aiden. A couple of sergeants were present and one of them was in charge of Sehun's unit. Then Sehun's eyes darted to lean, tall man who stuck out like a sore thumb amidst the aged men. That moment, Sehun's heart stopped beating altogether. He quickly recognized Chanyeol. How could he not recognize the man that had been haunting him? Chanyeol stood there with his arms pulled back and a scowl playing on his forehead. An automatic smile stretched Sehun's lips with

this overwhelming joy rising in his chest and he almost lurched forward to Chanyeol but was forced to stop when the room's door opened.

He had to suppress the excitement within him but he couldn't. His heart jumping with extreme happiness as he noticed the name tag. "**Lieutenant Chanyeol**".

When Kai stepped out of the room, all eyes turned to him, including Sehun's. Only that Sehun was the only one who was gaping at Kai. Fuck, who is this motherfucker? He practically gawked at Kai who was dressed in full black uniform with the badges and everything, his hair was swept up neatly since it was longer than it should be and he stood there like a fucking stag, ready for battle. Just like in those posters, only less angrier. Sehun even noticed the wristwatch. *Fuck*. When the uniform was sent in earlier, Sehun wondered how Kai could pull it through with that lean body but damn, it fit him like a glove.

"Lieutenant commander." the sergeants saluted immediately and Kai nodded once before approaching the general. When he saluted the general and colonel, the general flashed a tight smile before returning the salute.

"Are you ready, Kai?" asked Doc.

"I am." Kai muttered and eyed Sehun. He extended a hand and when he gripped Sehun's arm once in the manliest way possible, Sehun felt a shudder through his body. *Don't say a word.*

Kai proceeded forward as the sergeants followed behind. He stopped before Chanyeol who immediately pulled his hand up and saluted him before the Chief Warrant officers saluted. Sehun noticed Kai clench his jaw as he walked away without sparing Chanyeol even a look.

Sehun was forced to walk side by side with Kai and as they made their way to the board meeting room, every soldier stood by to gape at Kai as whispers bounced among them. When they entered the room, Kai was seated on a chair around the huge table and Sehun took his place behind Kai. The whole time, Sehun's eyes remained on Chanyeol who looked impassive. God. This was the man that Sehun had rode to an ecstatic pleasure. This was the man who had made passionate love to him.

"Lieutenant commander Kai." said the commander and Sehun could see a lustre of bafflement in his eyes even if he addressed Kai in a calm tone.

Sehun lightly brushed Kai's shoulder at the back. *Brace yourself for shitload of questions.*

He mentally heard Kai sigh.

After a long debriefing, the general finally asked, "Where have you been? Where were you taken?"

"Was it NU19?!"

"Did you discover anything?!"

"Those things that dragged you out, why you?! Why kill all but choose you and then return you?!"

All sorts of questions were bombarded on Kai.

Kai took a moment to answer but when he did, everyone just fell dead silent. He shot up and slammed his fists onto the table to stop the questions. "I don't know where I was taken. It was a ship, just like this. I was locked in a room and that is all that I know. I met one of the NU19 but I wasn't allowed to see their face. They wore a suit, not one that our weapons could obliterate. I was kept unconscious all the while. That's all I know. But he, their leader, En-ren, sent you a message."

They sat there frozen in each other's seats before the commander asked in stutters, "Wh-what... was the message?"

"He's coming for you. For us. So if I were you, I wouldn't ask *questions*. I would fucking get down there and train our soldiers to fucking fight this instant."

It wasn't until Kai pulled the covers over him did Sehun realize that he was shivering. He didn't dare face Kai. Today, he had seen the kind of man Kai had been before he was taken away. All those officers in there, including Chanyeol had been somewhat terrified. It could have been because of the news that Kai had divulged but the way Kai had burst out in front of all those superiors sent jolting shudders down Sehun's spine. He was asked to leave for some minutes and was only allowed into the meeting room every fifteen minutes to reinvigorate Kai, so he didn't know what was discussed in there. But every time he touched Kai, he felt this strong gush of intensity. But as soon as they were allowed back into their room, Kai went back to the same stoic bastard he was.

"Were you... being *serious*?" Sehun asked, facing the window, burying a side of his face into the pillow.

"About what?"

"A-about... h-him... coming for us..."

"I was."

Sehun frowned as his eyes welled up with tears. He wasn't scared but the fact that he will never get to go home horrified him. And then he felt Kai's hand brushing his wrist. *You will go home. I'll make sure of that, Sehun.*

Sehun pulled his wrist away and curled into a ball under the covers.

It was Kai's turn to sleep and Sehun's to stay awake but with all the thoughts flocking his mind, Sehun wondered if Kai would be willing to change shifts right now. But before he managed to muster up the courage to ask, Kai had conked out. Sehun sat up and stared into the space. For more than twenty minutes, he kept his gaze on the outside, replaying the memories he had with El. When he finally decided to call it a day, he glanced over to Kai who was scowling in his sleep. Gulping, Sehun extended a hand and laid it on Kai's chest. He closed his eyes and knew instantly that Kai was not asleep. But still, he didn't pull

his hand back. The thoughts that swarmed his head made him breathless. He was trapped under Chanyeol. His wrists were pinned on the floor. It was a training room they were in. Sehun's breath hitched when Chanyeol dragged his lips down his naked body. His lips then brushed the tip of his cockhead, forcing an immense lust through his body.

He pulled his hand back and let his mouth fall agape to exhale heavily. When he looked down, the front of his pants was bulging as blood stirred in his loins. Kai was staring directly at him with half-lidded eyes and Sehun gulped.

"I have to.." Sehun murmured and started to get off the bed but Kai's grip on his wrist stopped him.

"How long... has it been since you..." Kai asked but Sehun could only hang his head.

"I have never."

"What?"

"Well..." it was so difficult to speak with his cock aching to release. "My girlfriend gave me a handjob before I left. That's all."

Kai licked his lips as he loosened his grip on Sehun's wrist. He pushed himself up and Sehun watched him with curiosity as he shifted closer and pulled Sehun to lie down. "Stay." Kai whispered, sliding a hand along Sehun's neck and clutched a handful of Sehun's hair at the back of his head. Sehun froze completely when Kai edged closer until their foreheads were almost brushing. The way his heart walloped against his ribs was scary. Sehun tried so hard to calm his racing heart but he couldn't. Kai was too close.

Kai threw a leg over Sehun's hip and pushed his own hips closer. "Fuck." Sehun hissed when he felt the jolt as their groins brushed. Even through the fabric of their pants, Sehun could feel Kai's cock throbbing against his. *Stop... You need to stop...*

Kai started to thrust his hips forward and as his crotch smashed Sehun's, Sehun gasped out a loud moan and bit his tongue. His body was burning in a fierce fire. The brutal and torrid heat made every inch of his skin sweat but it wasn't just that. Kai's yearning mixed with his own ignited flaming passion within him. Kai yanked both of their shirts up to chest level and pulled Sehun closer until their abdomens were pressed together. Then he humped Sehun's crotch once. Sehun could feel Kai's body set ablaze as well.

Within seconds after Sehun moaned, panting heavily against Kai's mouth, Kai began to hump him hard and fast. The way Kai's cock slammed his own made Sehun see stars behind his eyes. The room was soon filled with both of their moans and groans as Kai picked up the pace of his thrusts. Before he knew it, Sehun was clinging onto Kai's hair as he started to hump Kai back. With their cocks ramming against one another and sweaty abs rubbing, Sehun felt the pleasure of them both. He had never experienced such an overwhelming feeling before. Both his and Kai's pleasures were combined and he was sure that Kai was feeling exactly the same because he was crying with moans as well. "Fuck, Sehun... Ugh.." *So hot, Sehun..*

They could clearly read each other when they were close. The moment this amazing, inexplicable fluid of passion surged through his body, Kai humped him harder. Any harder, he might crush Sehun's hipbones. Sehun cried into Kai's shoulder as they burst into their climax. Kai pulled back a little and wiped Sehun's cheek before sweeping the sweaty bangs

off Sehun's forehead. With heaving chests and pounding hearts, they stared into each other's eyes, completely worn out and spent. *What the fuck have we done?*



Chapter Six



"All units are to report- CB sec. All units are to report- CB sec. All units are to report- CB sec. All units are to report- CB sec."

With a tremendous amount of weak determined attempt, Sehun forced his eyes open the closed door of the room. An unassailable exertion on his spent body made him immobile for minutes. Every part of his body was exhausted and even the four-hour sleep was not enough to revive his energy. It was almost impossible to pull himself to a sitting position and when he had somewhat managed push himself upright, the empty mattress next to him made his throat drier. Rubbing his forehead with his feeble fingers, his breath quickened.

It was beyond revolting to even think about the intimacy he had shared with his own brother. The worst of all was the fact that he had amassed flaming pleasure beyond all reason by that one man he used to call brother. Were they just desperate? Was Sehun so desperate that he didn't want to stop Kai. It had been so long since he had had someone's skin against his own, especially with the drive for intimacy but could it be that he wanted the feeling of someone's touch rather than Kai's? He might have given in to anyone's touch in that situation. He could have stopped Kai but what was the point?

What was the point?!

Sehun gripped his hair before burying his face in his palms. God... The way Kai humped him... The way their breaths grazed upon their lips... The heat that their bare abdomens radiated in sweats and friction... The ramming cocks... The angry clutches on each other's hair... The bestial moans... The languid looks... The hungry eyes...

This was his brother he was talking about. His brother! How could he possibly do such an unseemly and immoral act with his brother who had raised him?! On what basis and appellation could this be justified? It was nothing but jerking off and dry-humping. But still, it was illicit. It was wrong. They hadn't done anything unlawful yet. But if Kai had pushed, Sehun was certain that he would given in. The thing was... he could never experience such pleasure with anyone else. With Kai, the pleasure and the lust were doubled. He was feeling Kai's pleasure, too. And all that Kai thought about at that moment was how hot Sehun was making him. His mind was filled with Sehun and only Sehun. It was obvious that Kai no longer reckoned Sehun as the little brother he used to cherish. What happened between them proved that Kai had forgotten the fact that they were brothers.

Sehun hadn't. He no longer accepted Kai as a brother but it didn't change the fact that Kai was.

He pulled his knees up and hugged them, recalling the scene of them staring into each other's eyes after having reached their pleasure pinnacles. He didn't even know when he had fallen asleep but Kai surprisingly did not have any weird dreams because as far as Sehun recollected, it had been a calm sleep. Only then that the fatigue of the body and mind didn't leave.

He wondered where Kai might have gone and how long had it been since he left. They had spent a whole night together. Did that mean that maybe Kai could function longer than usual?

"All units are to report- CB sec. All units are to report- CB sec. All units are to report- CB sec. All units are to report- CB sec."

Sehun snapped out of his thoughts and realized what had woken him up in the first place. And then the bathroom's door opened. Kai stepped out, fully uniformed but in a training suit rather than his official uniforms. As he froze in place when he found Sehun up, Sehun

held his breath, staring at Kai with an exceptional terror. They held each other's gazes for a minute before Kai glanced away. He looked fresher than ever. Unlike Sehun who felt like he might collapse.

When he forced himself to get out of bed, Kai moved to the other side of the room and picked his wrist watch up from the bedside table. "How did you sleep?" he inquired in a subtle tone, keeping his focus on fastening the watch around his left wrist.

With a grave effort, Sehun yanked the words out of his stomach. "Not.. well."

Kai didn't reply for a moment as he fetched his boots from under the bed. As he pulled them on, he asked, "Why?"

Why? Why do you think, you motherfucker? "We..."

"Let's not talk about it." Kai said quickly, flumping down on the edge of the bed, facing his back to Sehun and started to pull his boots on.

"Let's not talk about it?" Sehun asked in disbelief. "Let's not talk about what? You humping me or you not stopping when I told you to?"

Kai jolted up and turned to face Sehun although his expression held no infuriation whatsoever. He looked stoic as always. "You're gonna need to do a lot more than mentally telling me to stop if you actually wanted me to stop. Last time I checked, you weren't being very quiet about how amazing it felt for you." Sehun had no idea how Kai could possibly say such a thing without giving any sort of emotion away. "Forgive me if I'm mistaken but it seemed very much mutual to me."

Sehun raised his hand to stop Kai. "Enough. I can't... I don't want to talk about it anymore." because either way, Kai was going to point out that he was enjoying it just as much as he did. "I'm too.. exhausted." he plodded over to his locker and hauled out his uniform.

"Are you okay?"

"What do you think, LT?" he grumbled, slamming the locker's button to close it before making his way to the bathroom.

"Sehun, wait."

"What?"

Kai was gawking at him with a baffled look. "How can I feel... healthy and you're exhausted?"

"I'm not really in the mood to answer riddles, LT."

"Does... boosting me up wears you down?"

"I don't know."

"You look so pale... It might be... possible that if you keep sharing your energy and heartbeat, you might be worn out."

Sehun blinked at the newborn interpretation. "What?"

"I don't know." he bit his lip, scanning Sehun from top to toe. "What even..."

"So what? You're saying that we have to balance it out?"

"That might be my best guess. That could also mean that we can't... touch each other for too long or... with extensive force if it's tiring you down."

"Wow." he wiped his jaw. "Do you even realize how fucked up this situation is? Why should I even bother to keep your heart beating? Why should give a damn about your heart?! A lot of people die in battle. So what if you die?"

"I can't die right now, can I? Only I know how to keep you alive now." he said as much before exiting the room in long strides.

Fuck. Sehun almost kicked something but he doubted that he'd have the strength to break anything right now.

In his three years of service on the Quantum, he had only seen the CB sec this packed twice. And if all the soldiers were called for an urgent assembly with all the officers from every sector present, this meant serious stuff. Only that Sehun was unable to focus on shit with his eyes bored into Chanyeol and Kai. They were standing far apart but still, he couldn't resist staring at them both as his gaze bounced from Kai to Chanyeol and vice versa.

"We are at war." the Captain announced with a stunning dejection in his eyes. "It's inevitable. As you all should have known by now, Former Lieutenant Commander Kai has returned. Saying that, we have promoted Lieutenant Commander Finn as our Commander to reinstate Kai to his original rank." instantly, all eyes turned to Sehun. Hanging his head, Sehun sucked on his lip, totally not liking the attention he was getting these days by being the brother of the 'living legend'.

"Hey, faggot." Kris hissed under his breath from behind. "Is it true that Kai's your brother?"

Sehun kept mum as the Captain went on. "We can't stop it. We can't stop the war. But we can fight it."

Kai was looking directly at Sehun and for a moment, the latter felt unbelievably weak on the knees. Kai looked powerful in that training shirt and pants and boots. He looked like he could take on an army on his own. But on the bed with Sehun last time, he had been so lethargic, if not feverishly passionate. He was the man of the hour now. Probably that was why he was acting all tough in front of all these people. He was the guy who returned from the NU19s in one piece. He was the first person who might have ever met an NU19. None of these people here knew that Kai had done more than just meet an alien.

Kai's stare still pinned Sehun down. Sehun glanced over at Chanyeol next and he was wearing his trademark scowl.

"So, some of you will be assigned to a number of new special units and you will be trained under hard supervision. Kind of a elite boot camp. So you're current units does not matter. You will not be under sergeants but new superiors. The rest will be training just as much as the special units except under sergeants. Firstly, the Air Force unit, under Lieutenant Colonel Dennis." as the Captain gestured his hand, Lieutenant Colonel Dennis stepped upfront and accepted the tablet from the Captain. "Secondly, the Navy unit, under Lieutenant Commander Kai." when Kai stepped forward, everyone, including Sehun, went dead still. Sehun didn't even breathe until Kai retreated after accepting his tablet. "The Marine unit, under Major Jaejoong. And lastly, the Army unit, under Major General Wallace."

Fuck. No. Sehun was already keeping his fingers crossed at his back, praying to not to be in the special unit because he sure as hell didn't want to be under Major General Wallace. The man was a killing machine. Once the Captain was done, each of the leading officers of the special units started calling out names of their team players. Sehun hoped that he could somehow get into the Air Force but then his name wasn't called out. And then it was Kai's turn. He was quite surprised to see Kai still breathing well after 2 hours although his face had started to turn pale. He stared at the tablet's screen as he called out the names.

"Private Sehun." was the first name he called. *Of course they'd put me on his team because Kai would need his charger.* Grinding his teeth, Sehun nodded his head. "Seaman Baekhyun. Private Lay. Private Kris. Airman Bobby." great, so this boot camp is for the weak ones. And then... "Lieutenant Chanyeol."

Fucking shit.

All the members were quickly recruited to a side of the room for debriefing about the training schedule but two of them were missing. Sehun half-expected Kai to touch him but he didn't. *Who cares.* Sehun kept his eyes on Chanyeol who seemed more interested in bossing the rest of the unit around. "Where the fuck's the rest?"

"Two more." Kris supplied while Bobby just looked around him as if he were trying to avoid Chanyeol.

"Get your asses over here!" Chanyeol yelled at those two who were approaching them, who must be Lay and Baekhyun.

"Sorry, sir." the tiniest one of them yelped and Chanyeol shot him a scowl. Sehun read the guy's name tag. **'PVT Baekhyun'**.

"Sorry's ain't gonna cut it. If you can't even walk fast enough and report yourself when you're asked to, how are you gonna fight a fucking war?!"

Sehun blinked blankly at Chanyeol. Was this the man from his dreams? Kai's dreams? He looked over to Kai who was crossing his arms over his chest with a slightly tilted head, watching Chanyeol with an impassive expression.

"I'm sorry, sir." Baekhyun mumbled again.

"What did I do to get *this* kind of team?" Chanyeol sighed, shaking his head.

"Isn't that why got us?" Sehun asked in a slight irritation. "You're supposed to train us?" and he immediately regretted opening his mouth when he saw Chanyeol's eyebrows furrowing into a hard glare. *God, I should really get my temper under control.*

"Listen up, worm." Chanyeol spat, advancing a few paces forward. "If you're gonna-

"Calm your shit down." Kai snapped, rather coolly as he put himself between Chanyeol and Sehun. "This is *my* unit. You're here to assist *me*. You will still listen to my orders and follow them as persisted. Kris, Lay, Bobby, Baekhyun and Sehun are under my commands, and so are you. You will not harass them under the prerogative of authority, is that clear, Lieutenant Chanyeol?"

Chanyeol's mouth fell agape for a moment as he stared at Kai but he slowly nodded, clenching his jaw. "Crystal."

"Good. Now. Most of your training will be with me. It will be more radical than what you do on a daily basis. But it won't be cruel if you start thinking that it's because of you that your family back home is sleeping in peace, even if not in confidence. We'll meet in here hour 1000 and until 1300 daily. Any questions?"

The one, Sehun suspected to be Lay raised his hand. *Well, obviously, he's freshman.* "Is it true that you came here with a stasis pod?" he asked Kai.

Kai arched a brow. "Quite the contrary, the stasis pod came here with me. Dismissed." he said quickly before they could ask him weirder questions. As Chanyeol walked away with fisted hands, Sehun recalled how fucking amazing it was when Chanyeol fucked him. But then... what he and Kai did trounced it all.

He flinched hard when he suddenly felt Kai's hand on the small of his back. *Come with me, Sehun.*

Sehun stared at him for a moment. *Where? Why?*

I need you. He ushered Sehun out of the assembly hall and started for his room.

As soon as they reached their room, Kai locked the door and turned to Sehun with heaving chest and panting mouth. "Are you... suffocating?" Sehun asked but without answering his query, Kai took a step forward and gently yanked Sehun's shirt up on both sides just to untuck them. Freezing, Sehun felt his stomach churning as Kai slid his hands into his shirt and latched them on the sides of his waist. Fuck... the way Kai was breathing with his hands so hot against his waist made Sehun dizzy. And then Kai leaned forward, pressing their chests together. *Just a minute. Please. I need you.* Kai mentally panted but Sehun could even see his desperation in those eyes that were raking his own. His gaze dropped to Kai's pale lips. Kai pulled a hand away from Sehun's waist to unbutton the top two buttons of both of their shirts and pressed their bare chests together again. This time, Sehun was the one who was suffocating. He couldn't possibly stand another second of Kai's heat or the wonderful musky smell of his skin. He wanted to lean in and graze his cheek against the light stubble that lined Kai's jaw and to kiss his powerful neck.

But then Kai drew back, regaining his composure. "God." he sighed and buttoned his shirt up as Sehun stood there, unable to believe that he had thought all those shit when Kai

could hear him! "Kiss my neck, huh?" he scoffed before laughing a little. All that Sehun could do was blush to death, hoping that he would really die that instant.

"I.. I... I wa.. wasn't... I..."

Kai smirked. "Come on. Let's go get something to eat."



Chapter Seven



Quantum 3-Day 1007-Year 2034 All that Sehun could do was try and miserably fail at keeping his heart calm. The thunders on his joints were making his knees feeble, so weak that he might crash the ground. At any moment, his heart could jump out of him and his clogged ears could hear nothing but that cord of raspy breaths. Although he managed to keep his excitement from reaching his loins, the churning of his stomach was almost unbearable. He had never been this nervous before. And this was all because of Chanyeol.

It was hard enough to keep his focus on the target during practice in the shooting range with Chanyeol blasting the guns next to him. He was the only man over there who had managed to shoot with perfect accuracy but Sehun couldn't judge entirely since he hadn't seen Kai in action yet. Even so, Chanyeol and gun? Definitely not good for Sehun's health.

After a whole hour of ogling Chanyeol's bare biceps, Sehun was tortured further during the combat training. Kai was in charge of supervising Lay, Bobby and Kris while Chanyeol was at the helm of Sehun and Baekhyun. Although neither Kai nor Chanyeol really got down to exemplify or anything, their piercing gazes were more than enough to order them around. Even if Sehun were glad that he had an opportunity to get closer to Chanyeol, nothing much happened. In fact, Chanyeol didn't say more than two words to him and they were, "*That's it?*" when Sehun dropped to the floor after 57 push-ups. He was more into torturing Baekhyun who looked like he might pass out from the way Chanyeol was yelling at him. On the other hand, he couldn't deny that he wasn't happy that Chanyeol and Kai were on bad terms. He didn't know what might have caused this friction between them but good, let them be on bad terms. This would play out well for Sehun.

"Alright!" Kai announced, rallying his worn-out, sweat-drenched team again. He hadn't really had any heavy contact with Sehun today except for a few brushes of hands now and then which was a huge relief after that embarrassing incident. Sehun had even asked Kai for advice on how to block his thoughts and all that Kai had to say in return was, 'Why would I tell you that?'. Cocky asshole. "I can see that you are all lacking in combat skills. You can shoot well. But that's not what you'll need. If NU19 can take on the whole of Russia in a day, you don't stand a chance. You'll need to know how to run, how to stand as a defence mechanism. Stamina is everything. *None* of you have it."

Chanyeol's scoff interrupted Kai's speech. When Kai shot him a look, the taller flashed a lewd smirk. "Are you talking to yourself?"

Kai's eyebrows furrowed into a scowl. "You have something to say, Chanyeol?"

"Well, yes, I have. You're ordering us around but you ain't fooling anyone here. You're gonna have to work twice as hard as them. Look at you. You're even panting right now."

Sehun cringed a little as he peered at Kai again who glared hard at Chanyeol. God, what would Chanyeol do if he knew about Kai's dreams about him? Without replying Chanyeol's remarks, Kai turned back to the team. "I just hope the rest of you understand the importance of you upping your skills and spirits rather than my state of affliction. We're done for today." it was palpable that Kai was exhausted as well as his face grew paler by the second. He didn't spare Sehun a look as he strutted out of the combat room. For once he had a good night sleep last 'night' and so did Sehun without having to go through any creepy dreams. But when they woke up, Sehun was the one who was fatigued and Kai looked briskly fresh.

Sehun didn't really understand what Kai was doing. Or the officers for that matter. They were talking about a battle with preternatural aliens that apparently possessed unfathomable weaponry and technology. No amount of training was going to wrangle the fact that they were as good as dead. The chances of winning was at variance. So what was the point of all this? All these people looked hyped for some odd reason as if this special training promised them hope and victory. Stupid fools. This was all futile. They were all just going to die. The thing was, although Kai was the one who strongly stated that they had to train this instant, he didn't look like he was anticipating any war. All this training sessions for each special unit was not going to win them this battle. But it was human's nature to create some sort of hope even if it were pointless.

"*He's the legend?*" Kris asked as he picked up his uniform shirt.

"He's not *that* bad, come on." Bobby replied as Sehun watched Chanyeol walk up to Lay.

"You're the Colonel's son, right?" he asked Lay who blinked in a daze.

"Yes, sir."

Chanyeol nodded and eyed Baekhyun who was standing beside Lay, with a beam plastered on his lips. "This team is going to be worst kind of failure." he muttered, shaking his head.

"Are you always this uptight, man?" Sehun just blurted the question out and Chanyeol spun around to face him with a tightened jaw. "Sorry." he murmured, hanging his head. Fuck. Chanyeol was looking directly at him. Oh shit. What should I do now?

"Are you always this stupid?" Bobby hissed next to him and pulled his arm to walk. "Do you have a death wish?"

"Do you?" Kris asked, jogging up to Sehun and Bobby as they made their way out of the combat room. "Cause I'd like to do the honours." he raised a hand to slap Sehun on the back of his head but Sehun easily dodged it before throwing him a glower.

"Go be a jerk somewhere else, Kris." Sehun spat and came to a stop before turning around.

"Where are you going?"

"I forgot my shirt." he muttered and hurried back into the combat room.

"Sorry." Baekhyun yelped as he and Lay almost bumped into Sehun.

"It's alright." he noticed the sullen look on Baekhyun's face as he walked by.

Holy fuck. Sehun came to an abrupt stop when he saw Chanyeol pulling his training t-shirt off once the combat was empty except for them both. With his back facing Sehun, Chanyeol grabbed the tonfas from the weapon rack and looked up at the ceiling before twisting his neck a little. Sehun had to swallow several times to drench his dry throat as he gawked at Chanyeol's flexing back muscles.

Without turning around, Chanyeol plodded over to the pole and within seconds, the pole became the ultimate victim of the tonfas in Chanyeol's hands. The blows were brutal and Sehun was the one who was flinching at every strike the pole received. But hell, how can someone move that fast? So this was how Kai wanted the soldiers to be trained? *Yeah, like that's going to happen.*

Chanyeol's groans filled the atmosphere in room as his ragged breaths ricocheted off the walls and when he shifted his weight, his eyes fell on Sehun and his actions immediately ceased. "What do you want?" he asked, panting.

"I.. I uh.." Sehun licked his lips and side-eyed his uniform shirt on one of the side tables. "Nothing." he mumbled.

"Wait." Chanyeol's voice was like sex. There. Sehun was no expert in sex but the voice alone was enough to get him wet. "Pick up the tonfas and come here."

"Eh.. excuse me?"

Chanyeol was crossed within a fraction of a second and Sehun quickly hurried to fetch himself a pair of tonfas. *Oh freaking hell, how could he look so sexy even by scowling?* Sehun already knew how wrecked and hot Chanyeol was when he was riding him. But before he could even step into the ring, a hand caught his wrist as Chanyeol's eyes narrowed into a lour. Kai's grip on his wrist was merciless but his face remained neutral. His hand slowly slid down to Sehun's hand and Sehun almost shivered at his touch. There was a lustre of disappointment and irritation that laced Kai's emotions. *He was mine, Sehun. I was riding him. Not you.*

Sehun snapped out of it. *Fuck*, he was thinking loud again.

Kai took hold of the tonfa and held his other hand out. Once Sehun had handed him the tonfa, he strutted into the ring and Chanyeol let out a mocking laugh, advancing forward. Kai peeled his t-shirt off before twirling the tonfa in his right hand. "Ready, Lieutenant Commander?" Chanyeol asked.

"Always and forever, Chan." Kai replied in a low voice which wiped the mocking smirk off Chanyeol's face. The moment Chanyeol lurched forward and lunged his tonfa at Kai, Sehun's heart skipped a beat as he staggered back. But Kai blocked the blow with his tonfa and twirled around before landing a pirouette kick on a side of Chanyeol's head which sent the latter stumbling. That was the moment when Sehun fully saw Kai as the hero everyone acclaimed him. The stamina he was talking about was clearly portrayed by the way he stood his ground and the way he defended himself from the subsequent blows that Chanyeol failed to apply. The smash of their tonfas and their grunts echoed all over the room and all that Sehun could do was watch them fight like angry stags with a gaping mouth. Every part of Kai's body protruded out like blades. When Chanyeol aimed for Kai's neck, Kai obstructed it with a tonfa and hurled the other down before planting a ruthless fist into Chanyeol's abdomen which forced the taller man to bend forward which provided Kai a chance to strike the tonfa on the side of Chanyeol's face.

Kai's victory was not open to discussion or argument when Chanyeol hit the ground, moaning in disagreement. Both of them were panting but Kai's chest was expanding and contracting faster. As Chanyeol looked up at him with a baffled expression, Kai held a hand out. What was Sehun thinking? Chanyeol was Kai's. Chanyeol was in love with Kai. They held a special relationship. Sehun shouldn't even be in this equation. A new type of disappointment surged through Sehun's body. They belonged to one another.

Chanyeol took Kai's hand and rose to his feet but he didn't stay another second to let Kai gloat his victory as he stomped out of the combat room, rubbing his jaw. Sehun only stood there, frowning at his back before he turned to face Kai who was draining of blood.

"You still love him, don't you?" he asked Kai who was blazing with scowls now. "What?"

"I thought you weren't gay and you like him?"

"Can you please stop reading my mind?"

"I'm not trying to! You're just being fucking loud about it." he peered over the huge digital clock and faced Sehun again. "It's not my fault that every time I touch you, you're thinking about some crazy stuff."

"I'm thinking about crazy stuff?!" Sehun scoffed. "Look who's talking."

Kai chucked his other tonfa down and took few long strides to Sehun. "I want you to work hard. To train yourself for the best. And you're just thinking about Chanyeol?!"

"Why does that annoy you? You were the one who dreamed weird ass shit about him, remember?" no matter how he tried, Sehun couldn't stop his eyes from wondering down Kai's sweat-covered shirtless body. He was like a fucking sculpture. His bronzed skin complimented his lean, yet powerful figure. The sweat beads that were trickling down Kai's abs were extremely distracting. The silver dog-tags were sticking to his sweaty chest.

"Are you even listening?!" Kai snapped and only then did Sehun realize that he had been talking.

"Uh? What?"

Clenching his jaw, Kai grabbed Sehun's belt's buckle and hauled him close. When Sehun bumped onto him with a jerk, Kai harshly ripped his belt off and hurled it to the ground. *Block my mind, block my mind, block my mind*, Sehun mentally chanted.

"Too late." Kai spat and shoved Sehun back after pulling his belt off. "Loosen your waist." he ordered.

"How do I do that?"

Rolling his eyes, Kai kicked Sehun's ankles apart. "When fighting, you're gonna need to hold your ground."

"I that only works when you're fighting street-gang Morgan Freeman."

"Morgan Freeman was an actor."

"Oh."

"Take off your shirt."

"What? Why?"

Kai stood there, staring at him with an impassive look. Internally groaning, Sehun shed his shirt before lowering his head. "Get down."

"Excuse me?"

Kai shook his head. "Let me see you do some sit-ups."

"Oh." Sehun let out an exasperated breath before lying recumbent on the ground. The floor was cold on his back as he tucked his hands under his head. Kai kicked his ankles apart again. "Stop doing that, LT."

"Then *spread* your legs wider."

Grinding his teeth, Sehun pulled his legs apart. Kai was treating him as if he didn't know how to sit up. "Are you punishing me or something?"

"You wouldn't survive if I were to punish you."

Sehun gulped and pushed himself up once before lying back down. It was extremely awkward to have Kai staring at him like this. "How's your heart?" he asked just to distract Kai but Kai's didn't answer. He pushed himself upright almost thirty times before it finally unnerved him. "Fuck, can you stop staring, LT?"

Kai dropped to his knees between Sehun's legs and pinned Sehun's feet down. Completely freezing, Sehun gaped at him. "Push yourself up now."

"You're doing this on purpose."

He saw the slightest smirk on Kai's lips before Kai touched his stomach. "Don't put too much pressure here."

Seriously? You're trying to teach me how to sit-up?

Kai's smile broadened but Sehun's face wilted. Kai's palm and fingers slowly caressed their way up Sehun's sweaty abdomen as Sehun's cock started twitching. Sehun quickly swatted Kai's hand off and rose to his feet. "We should go. The Marine unit will be here shortly." he muttered, wiping his forehead.

Frowning, Kai stood up. "Sehun."

"I think I need to see Doc, too." he rambled on, grabbing his shirt from the floor.

"*Kai-ren.*" the voice reverberated in a blur of distortion. When he looked up through his hazy vision, En-ren stood tall before him, so tall that his figure towered Sehun. The waves of white hair that floated around En-ren was so long that it looked as if they were branches of a tree. Except for the hair, everything was pitch black. En-ren extended a limb and then Sehun felt a soft caress on his cheek.

That was when he woke up, jolting as if he were electrified. Beside him, Kai was up, mirroring Sehun's shocked mien, both with wide, terrified eyes and Sehun didn't know if it were his terror or Kai's. "Are you alright?" Kai asked him in a shaky voice.

After managing a nod, Sehun got off the bed and scrubbed his face. "I can't... do this."

"I'm really sorry." Kai sighed, running his fingers through his hair.

"No, LT, you don't understand. I can't do this! This, both of us. It's..." he trailed off, unable to find the right word.

They remained in their positions, pining on silence. And then Kai said, "Do you know where Doc keeps his meds?"

Sehun cocked his brows. "What?"

Kai pushed the covers aside and sat up on the edge of the bed before pulling his boots on. "Come on."

"Where?"

"We're gonna steal some drugs."

"Have you gone nuts, LT?" Sehun questioned with a pair of wide eyes.

"Come on, Sehun. I need a break, too." he started for the door and Sehun quickly followed after him, barefooted.

When they were out and about to the examination room next door, Kai looked around to make sure that no one was roaming about except the both of them. He pressed a finger to his lips, gesturing for Sehun to be quiet as he scanned his thumb and the door slid open. Sehun reached a hand out and grabbed Kai's shoulder. *Are you crazy?! We can't steal medicines!*

I do that all the time, don't worry.

Sehun flinched back as if he had a whiplash when the scene of Kai and Chanyeol breaking into some medical sector, probably on Quantum 2, and stealing some bottles, giggling and kissing. Sehun retrieved his hand and stopped at the doorstep.

Kai faced him with a glum countenance. He pulled Sehun into the room and closed the door. "It's nothing." he muttered, making his way to the lockers.

"*Nothing?*" Sehun hissed. "What actually happened between you two? You seem... to be so... in love.. with him."

Kai coughed out chuckles which surprised Sehun. "Where do you keep those medicines that make you high?"

Sehun yanked a drawer and rummaged through it, looking for everything that contained Dextromethorphan. "Shouldn't Chanyeol be glad that you're back?" he asked in a low voice, just in case if there were any soldier admitted in the emergency wards. The training sessions were bound to result in injuries.

"Sehun, he and I fucked each other like for three months. Sure, we were cheesy and crap as any other couple would have been. But we broke up before he left for Quantum 3."

Sehun blinked. "But... but you... dream about him..."

"He's the only one I had in years. Of course I'd dream about him. And it's not only about riding him, okay?"

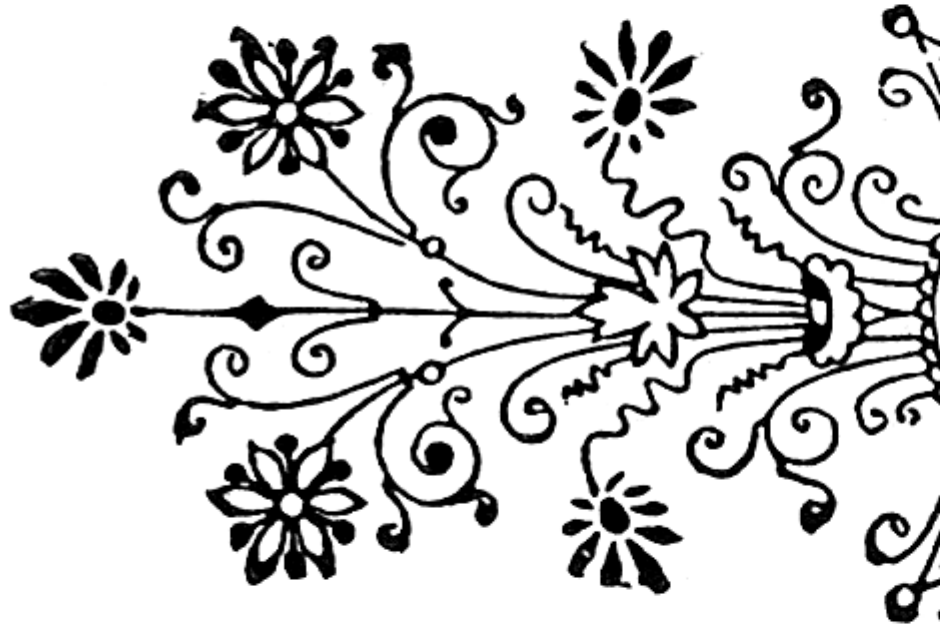
Another blink. "He rode you, too?"

Kai outright laughed. "God, I meant that we both had fun. But yeah, he rides me, too. Can you get them quick?"

Sehun got hold of some bottles of the Dextromethorphan and they quickly made their way out of there before vamoosing back into their room.



Chapter Eight



This was not what Sehun had in prospect of how the rest of the day would be occupied. Everything kept aside, getting wasted over cold medicine was absolutely not what he had bargained for.

"Do you remember when you fell down the stairs and broke your front tooth?" Sehun could hardly make sense of the words that were rolling off Kai's tongue with his head gyrating like a whirlpool. Staring at Kai's flushed, grinning face, his own lips stretched into a ridiculous grin. The Dextromethorphan was proving to be much stronger than what he was expecting.

"I broke my *tooth*?" Sehun mumbled, sprawled on the floor with his back leaned on the door next to Kai as the emptied bottles laid scattered them between them. "When?" he giggled out.

"When you were three, I think." Kai's eyes could lid themselves any moment now but Sehun had never felt more alive, in a very weird way.

Laughing, Sehun extended a hand to hit Kai on his arm. "How would I remember it, then?! I was *three*!"

"Oh yeah..." Kai murmured. "Anyway, when I came back from school that day, you just ran to me and cried that the stairs tripped you." he chuckled and for some odd reason, it felt amazing to hear him laugh. "You asked me to beat the stairs up."

"I did? You're lying."

"No, I'm not. You specifically pointed out which step tripped you."

Sehun burst out laughing. "No, I did not!"

"You used to ask me to beat everyone up."

"Can't imagine why." he scoffed and saw Kai's lips quirking up into a crooked smile. "You were a rowdy, weren't you?"

"I was." Kai sighed as he lowered his gaze.

"I guess that's why you're thriving here. Everyone respects you.... Everyone except Chanyeol, maybe."

A string of silence stretched between them for a couple of minutes before Kai said, "When we broke up..." he started. "It was... harsh. He thought I was being an asshole. I was. But it really did hurt to do that to him."

Licking his lips, Sehun pulled his knees up. "Why... did you break up with him?"

"I was starting to get too attached."

"So? Isn't that a good thing?"

"In the military when you're the front line defence of a mass alien invasion? I don't think so."

Sehun understood what Kai was meaning. Any of them could die at any moment now. One of them could survive by chance. Kai was either being selfish, saving himself the pain of losing Chanyeol or he was being selfless, making it easy for Chanyeol to move on in case something happened to himself. "So... you did... love him."

"No." Kai shook his head. "No. I couldn't afford to be in love with anyone. I couldn't afford to have a weakness."

Burrowing his chin between his knees, Sehun stared at Kai who was fidgeting with a bottle's cap. "Was... your *family* a weakness, then?"

Kai remained silent for a moment. "Yes." he whispered when the moment had passed.

"Do you ever... think about us? I mean, mom, dad... me..."

Kai's tired eyes met his and for a second there, Sehun's heart skipped a beat and he brought his head up. "All the time, Sehun."

"You were being an ass to Chanyeol... Why? Did you think that abandoning us would make us hate you? So that it would make it easier for *us*?"

Kai leaned his head back on the door and gazed up at the ceiling. He ended up not answering the question.

Sehun dropped his knees and folded his legs, chewing his lower lip. "I know you don't want to talk about it... but what happened to you when you were with the NU19s?"

Kai straightened up again and scrubbed his face. "You wouldn't want to know, Sehun."

"I'm not asking you to... *show* me. *Tell* me, then." he had to gulp a little when Kai shot him a look.

"Are you willing to listen? I thought you didn't want anything to do with me."

"Well." Sehun picked up a bottle and smirked. "I'll use this as an excuse today... Besides... Whether we like it or not... we are brothers." he had to stress the word '*brothers*' to emphasize the fact that they were blood-related. When he noticed Kai's frown, it was proved that it had somewhat offended him. Sehun pushed it further. He needed to stop what he was suspecting to be happening between him and Kai. "I used to care about you. A lot. You were family. I looked up to you. You were.. are my... older brother."

Kai clenched his jaw as he stared at Sehun with a black look. "I don't remember much." he changed the topic. "I was in stasis. When I woke up, I was in a dark room."

"Is it the same room as in your dreams?"

"Yes. I was first in this creepy... box. You would expect 'them' to be all techno but no. They were like... I don't even know how to explain. Everything was black."

"Like their suits? And the ships that destroyed earth?"

"Yeah. And then I met... En-ren. He is their leader."

"How do you know that?"

Kai's face grew red. "He.. told me."

"*Told*..." Sehun snorted.

"Sehun."

"No, no. I'm sorry. Go on."

With a pair of knitted brows, Kai continued. "He... tried to talk. He tried to make me understand. But then... when I couldn't... he went with the alternative."

Cringing, Sehun ground his teeth. If anything, he didn't want to hear Kai say that he enjoyed that alien fucking him.

"That's another way of how they communicate."

"How many times?" Sehun asked.

"What?"

"How many times did he.. it do that?"

Kai sank his teeth into his lower lip. "More than a hundred times."

Holy fuck. Sehun clasped a hand over his gaping mouth, staring at Kai with bulged out eyes.

"Don't look at me like that, Sehun."

"Sorry." he muttered, lowering his hand. "Well, I'd be sorry but then again you said that you let him."

"I had to... But after some while... I realized that he's not evil. He didn't want to hurt me. Every time he did, I could feel it. He didn't want to hurt me."

Sehun stood up and for moment, the ground quaked beneath his feet. Gathering himself, he shook his head to clear his head and made his way to the bed. "You're so weird, LT. One moment, you're this ruffian officer and the next, you're so pathetic."

Kai snickered. "Thanks for being so honest."

"Honesty is the best policy." he blabbered in a sigh. They sat in silence until Kai started to tapping the bottle to the floor.

"Ever been to those underground regions?"

Sehun arched a brow. "Have *you*?"

"Yeah."

"Whatever were you doing underground?"

"Searching for Easter Bunny. What do you think? Those illegal clubs of course."

"Of course." he flashed a mocking smirk. "Unlike you, I had better things to do during an alien invasion."

"Do those clubs still exist?"

"I don't think so."

"So you never went dancing?"

Sehun had no idea why Kai would think he would go dancing in clubs when the world was being destroyed. "No."

"Well... do you want to dance now?"

"I don't dance." he quickly said.

"Our world is coming to an end, Sehun. We don't know what will happen tomorrow. So, do everything that you want to do while you still can."

"Dancing is not on my to-do list, fortunately for me."

"Oh come on." Kai pushed himself up and advanced forward.

"Are you fucking high, LT?! I said no!" he couldn't help but screech when Kai grabbed his hand and hauled him to his feet.

"As a matter of fact, I think we both are." *God, how I wish I could wipe that lewd smirk off this bastard's face.*

Kai twisted Sehun around and grappled his arms around Sehun's waist from behind when Sehun tried to break free. "Do I need to kick you in the nuts for you to let me go?!"

His breath hitched when he felt Kai's happiness. He completely went still with Kai's unearthly joy surging through his own body. He had Sehun in his arms now. Nothing could separate them in this room. He was not only happy...

Sehun lunged back, struggling to get out of Kai's grip but he ceased all movements when his hip crashed into Kai's hardened knob. The joyous feeling abruptly died and Kai released him, staggering a few steps back. For a moment, Sehun could form any coherent sentence to describe how ludicrous this situation was.

Hanging his head, Kai took his seat on the bed before Sehun took his beside Kai. *God, this is bad.* He needed to divert the attention this instant. "You know, LT, compared to your adventurous life, mine sucks cock."

"Oh the irony." Kai guffawed and Sehun joined him in his laughter.

"I wasn't being sarcastic!"

"What about you? I'm sure there must have been some sort of adventure here and there."

"I don't have my love story with a super hot lieutenant or a creepy ass alien. All that I know is that I love El and I literally just live for her."

"You know, Sehun. The more you talk about her, the more I want to see her."

Sehun stiffened in his position and gripped the edge of the mattress as his smile faltered. "I think... she will love you." his voice came out as a bare whisper. "I loved you."

"Sehun..." it was plain to see that Kai was dumbstruck from the way his face wilted.

"Forget that I said it." he murmured, lowering his head. He could hear his own breath quicken as Kai's came out in huffs and puffs. He should get up and walk away right this instant. He should move away from Kai as quick as possible. He had to lock himself in the bathroom right now. But he ended up holding his place as his throat went dry. Kai was panting now but Sehun didn't dare glance over at him. He could feel Kai's gaze piercing through his soul and Kai's body heat was radiating all over him. Within seconds, blood was stirring in his loins. His heart was jumping, knowing that he was getting this attention from Kai which he yearned for so much.

"Sehun." Kai breathed out and Sehun practically gasped when he felt Kai's hand gliding along his thigh. Even with this small contact, he could feel Kai's longing. Although he wasn't able to fully understand Kai's current mood, he was definitely able to feel Kai's heat. Shit, Kai was in heat.

Sehun slowly turned his head to face Kai and his whole body melted like an ice-cube on fire when he met Kai's passionate gaze. All sorts of things were going on Kai's mind, Sehun could see that. But mostly, Kai was wanting Sehun to be happy this instant he was with him. He wanted him to be pleased. He wanted to... taste Sehun.

Sucking in a shaky breath, Sehun closed his eyes as Kai's hand slid deeper to his crotch. "Y-you.. you.. can't.." Sehun panted out, bringing a hand to Kai's shoulder to push him away.

I want to, Sehun. Kai palmed his crotch before cupping it and gave it a slow squeeze which had Sehun whimpering. *Fuck, you're so hot.* The brutal passion that washed through Sehun's whole body was unbearable. He was feeling both his, receiving, pleasure and Kai's, giving, pleasure.

Damn it. Sehun bit his lip hard with Kai's hand massaging his cock over his pants and when he opened his eyes, Kai leaned in to kiss his shoulder before kissing a side of his neck which had Sehun exhilarated and fired up.

Do you want me to stop, Sehun? He forcefully grabbed Sehun's dick before kneading it gently.

No.. No.. Don't.

Kai rose to his feet and pulled his shirt off. It took Sehun a moment to recover himself from having another man's hand on him and scanned Kai's shirtless body. *Fuck.* Gasping for air, Sehun licked his lips, wanting to fill Kai's toned chest and abs with wet kisses. But then Kai dropped to his knees between Sehun's legs. "Wh-what.. are you doing, LT?" he wheezed out.

Curling his arms under and about Sehun's thighs, he started kissing the inner thigh over the fabric of the trousers. Sehun dropped back on his elbows and leaned back, throwing his head behind, spreading his legs wider. His stomach expanded and contracted in a rapid pace with Kai's mouth wetting his pants by the thighs.

Keep your eyes on me, Sehun.

"Fuck." Sehun hissed out when Kai's mouth was smashed against his crotch. Kai harshly yanked his legs and started to suck the pants between Sehun's thighs, at the crotch. He didn't know if it were the images on Kai's mind or his own that were making him hard but he was sure that it was because of Kai that he was getting erected now. Not Chanyeol.

Want to fuck my mouth, Sehun?

Sehun looked down at Kai in a wreck. This was too much to take. Nothing had even happened and he was already demolished. That was the effect both of their lust had on him.

As Kai hastily undid Sehun's pants, the younger straightened up with a wide pair of eyes. Kai hauled Sehun's pants until it sagged at the hips and pulled his pulsating cock out of Sehun's boxers. At the touch of his hand, Sehun shuddered in elevating excitement. Kai's eyes met his for a quick second as he bowed his head. He gave Sehun's arching flesh a stroke before he dragged his tongue along the underside. Sehun had never experienced anything like this before but he was more focused on the pleasure that they were feeling rather the wonder of the act. He threw his head back as if he had a whiplash when Kai tongued the tip of the cockhead.

Do you like that, Sehun? He wrapped his hand tighter around the cock as the tip of his tongue licked the slit.

"Y-y-yes... Uhh.."

Kai licked along the length again before Sehun felt the warm mouth that enveloped the cockhead. Kai grappled his arms around Sehun's thighs again with the undersides resting on his shoulders and began to sink in. The moans that filled the room were extremely cacophonous with Kai's mouth filled with Sehun's member and a monstrous noise escaped from both of their mouths when the cock hit the back of Kai's throat.

"Fuck... ahh..." he inclined his head to look at Kai who looked... gorgeous with his mouth and tongue all over Sehun's cock. Sliding his hands into Kai's hair, Sehun gripped it as Kai's head vigorously moved back and fro. Kai pulled back to flick his tongue along the slit before sucking the cockhead and took Sehun's tight balls into his mouth. Sucking hard on them, each at a time, he swirled his tongue around them, nipping at the foreskin.

So delicious, Sehun...

That was when Sehun wondered how would Kai taste. How would it feel to suck Kai's dick?

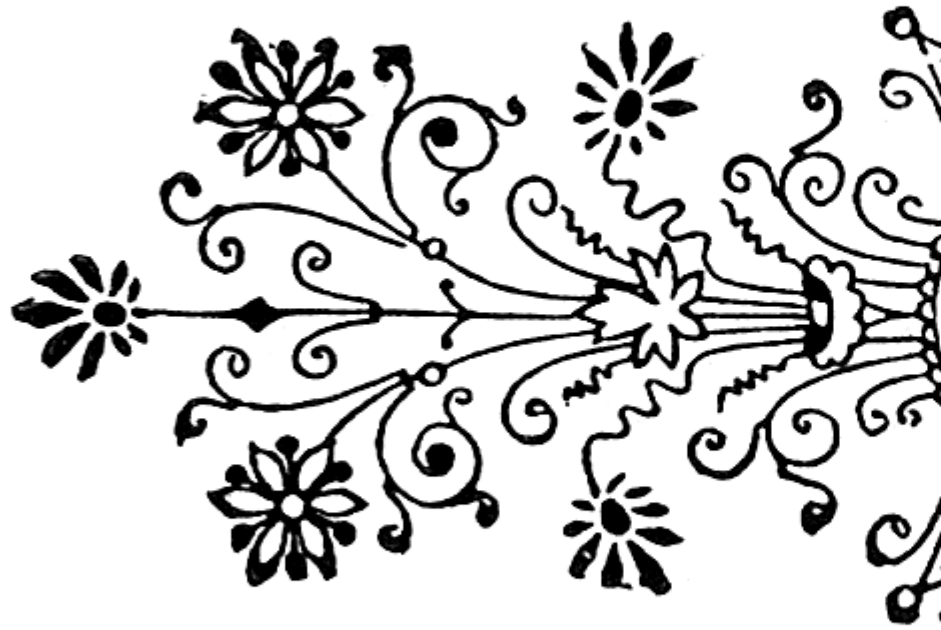
Kai jolted up and knelt on the bed, on Sehun's sides before crooking his hands under the hem of Sehun's t-shirt. When he had peeled it off, Sehun pressed his palms on Kai's abs, glancing up at Kai who was arching over him. He wanted Kai to kiss him. He wanted to taste Kai.

But then Kai shoved him to lie down and hovered over him, replacing himself between Sehun's knees and undid his own pants. Sobbing for air, Sehun desperately reached out to touch Kai at the crotch but Kai grabbed his wrist and pinned it to the mattress. Heavily panting, Sehun stared at Kai pull his erection out and lowered his hips until they came intact with Sehun's.

"Ugh.." Sehun gasped out, arching his back off the bed and into Kai's body when their bare cocks were smashed together. Kai slowly started to thrust as Sehun held onto his back, digging his nails into Kai's skin. He was probably moaning louder than he should with Kai humping him hard and their cocks rubbing, ramming against one another. Kai clasped a hand over Sehun's mouth to muffle the noise as Sehun slid his hands into Kai's pants and gripped his ass. All that Kai was thinking right now was how he wanted to thrust this way inside Sehun and this minute, Sehun was curious enough to experiment. But Kai didn't give into it. *F-faster... harder...*

Kai knelt up and wrapped his hands around both Sehun's and his erections. Sehun's mind went completely blank when he started to pump the cocks hard and wild. Kai's feverish passion and lust were approaching their climax and so were Sehun's.

The comedown was exceptionally stunning. Sehun shot out his seed all over his own abdomen, letting out jerky moans before Kai stroked himself, aiming at Sehun's stomach. When he came, all over Sehun's body, his moans were probably loud enough for the patients next door to hear him. Completely spent and exhausted, Kai knelt between Sehun's legs while Sehun stared at him with his mouth agape to gasp for oxygen, lying recumbent before Kai. He half-expected, half-hoped for Kai to kiss him but Kai just got off the bed and strutted into the bathroom.



Chapter Nine

The lightness of his head, the heaviness of his heart and the listlessness of his melancholy dynamism contributed greatly to the devastated mood. He shouldn't blame himself for what had happened but without any reasonably doubt, he did succumb to Kai's touch. His brother's touch. He laid still on the bed, waiting for the second alarm to go off. Lying in the empty, cold bed, Sehun eyeballed the flowing stars outside the window with a side of his face buried into the pillow and his spent, exhausted body hid under the white covers. He didn't know if he even had the strength to stand on his feet. His eyes were stinging, struggling to hold the tears back. When he was holding Kai, hanging onto him with their body perfectly amalgamated, it had felt amazing. No, amazing wasn't even the description. It was wondrous beyond anything Sehun had experienced. The doubled amount of pleasure that had surged through his body killed a part of him. How could he even experience such lust from the touch of his own blood relative? His brother! The passion he had garnered from Kai's cock ramming against his was just ineffable. Kai hadn't said a word to him after he had ran into the bathroom before he left, fully uniformed when the first alarm had rung in the next hour. And Sehun hadn't left the bed with his body still sticky and stained by Kai's come along with his own.

When the announcement was finally made for the soldiers to gather at their stations, Sehun forced himself to get out of the bed and stepped into the bathroom to take a quick shower. The beads of warm water were like bullets on his skin as the trickled down his fatigued body. Panting a little, Sehun braced his palms on the wall, hanging his head as the water from the shower head rained on the back of his neck. The mental lassitude was far greater than the physical. He didn't know which was worse. Recalling that he had enjoyed himself so much in that momentary ecstasy of Kai's body against his or the fact that he wanted it to happen again.

Waving his hand at the scanner to turn the faucet off, he stepped out of the shower cubicle and stood before the mirror, examining his greyish face. It was as if every drop of blood had been drained out. His eyes were bulging due to the sleeplessness and his lips were quivering, in tension and guilt. Guilt. How guilt-stricken should he be for engaging himself into such sinful debauchery with his biological brother? He should have kept his distance with Kai after the first time of their spontaneous intimacy. But instead, the tension had expanded so vast that he had been able to hold himself back this time. He wasn't sure if he should blame it all on the Dextromethorphan. Sure, they were high but it didn't contradict the fact that he wanted Kai to do way, way more than just humping the moment Kai's mouth touched his cock.

Gripping the edge of the sink, Sehun glared at his drowned reflection in the mirror and pushed his damp hair out of his face before reaching out to grab the towel. Things will

never be the same between him and Kai ever again. Every time Sehun would have to encounter Kai, it was surely going to be difficult to form a cogent sentence without thinking about how Kai was internally screaming Sehun's name when he reached his climax. Sehun was only able to take a peek on Kai's emotions and feelings this time. If anything, Kai was very good at masking his feelings unlike Sehun who must have been embarrassingly oozing with emotions when their bodies touched. Sure, he was able to feel all of Kai's lust and pleasure but the motives and ardour remained cloaked.

The corridor was empty as usual. No one ever came by the med sec anyway. As Sehun tiredly dragged his feet towards the elevator, he saw Baekhyun approaching him in a sprint. "Hey, Sehun!" he clapped a hand on Sehun's shoulder, grinning from ear to ear.

Managing a small stretch of smile, Sehun entered the elevator and Baekhyun followed behind.

"Good morning." Baekhyun insisted.

"We don't have mornings here." Sehun muttered, plunging his hands into his training pants' pockets and casted his eyes to his worn-out boots.

"Well, you don't have to think it like that. People keep saying that there's no morning, no night, this is not home. I'd say that it's the *people* you're with that makes a place home." the subtle smile on Baekhyun's face had Sehun flabbergasted for a moment. Is he seriously being this optimistic when he was trapped on a spaceship for the rest of his life?

As the elevator opened, Sehun strutted out of it, saying, "What if I don't like any of the people here?"

The corners of Baekhyun's were twitched down when he caught up with Sehun. The way to the training room was congested with soldiers and officers and their gazes followed Sehun. Did these people know that Sehun was Kai's personal heart charger or were they all thinking about how odd it was with Sehun and Kai touching each other at random moments? Either way, Sehun had become the person of everyone's interest. None of them approached Sehun but all of them gave him the stink eye. 'How is this loser Lieutenant Commander Kai's brother?'

Keeping his head low, Sehun wove his way towards the shooting range with Baekhyun tagging along. "Your brother is here." said Baekhyun.

"Yeah." Sehun murmured, cringing all over again. *Brother...*

"Isn't that a good thing?" his brow rose.

"In case you haven't noticed, Seaman Baekhyun, my brother and I aren't *exactly* on the best terms."

"Whoa. No need to get all pissy, man." he grinned again. "Some of them are dying down there, trying to protect our world as a second line of defence. We should be glad that we're up here."

Sehun grimaced at him. "You do realize that we'll be the first to die when the next wave comes, right?"

"Wow, dude." he patted on Sehun's arm. "Take a chill pill. You live today, you die tomorrow." he shrugged. "Life."

Shaking his head, Sehun marched into the shooting range. "I don't even understand the point of all this. Training... shit.."

"Hope." Baekhyun smiled. "It gives us hope."

"I'll give you some hope in the ass." Kris' deep voice from behind startled the both of them. Spinning around, Sehun flashed the taller man a look and Kris arched a brow at him. "What are you looking at, faggot?"

"What did you have for breakfast, Kris?" Baekhyun blurted out, stepping in between Sehun and Kris.

Sehun turned on his heel, clenching his jaw and burst into the shooting range where he found Lay and Bobby preparing, loading the guns, before they looked up at Sehun. "Where's Kai?" his question sounded harsher than intended.

"Uh..." Lay pointed over his own shoulder at the gun stock room. Gripping his fists, Sehun grabbed himself a gun. "Are you okay? You look..."

"Shitty." Bobby finished the sentence for him.

Turning a blind eye to them, Sehun stepped into a booth and waited. When Kris, Baekhyun had joined them, everyone got into their respective booths.

"Alright, team!" as soon as Kai's voice boomed into the shooting range, Sehun's heart skipped a beat as his breath hitched. He instantly drew his eyes to Kai who took his standing by the side with his hands at the back. His hair was neatly swept, his fit body was complimented by his grey training t-shirt. Kai's eyes were killers. Sehun had never noticed those sinful eyes prior to what happened between them last "night". His tight jaw, plush lips, sharp nose.... All rendered Sehun panting for a minute. Oh, how he had wanted to taste those lips...

But the excitement quickly died when Chanyeol showed up after Kai from the stock room with a ridiculous grin etched on his face. Sehun blankly blinked at him. He was... smiling. Chanyeol had never smiled. "Take your positions." Kai started to give orders as Chanyeol took his spot next to him. For a moment, Sehun stood there, frozen while his stomach burned. It was such an odd feeling. Why was Chanyeol standing close to him? Kai looked so fresh and it wasn't because he was with Sehun for hours. He looked... happy, satisfied. As if he had accomplished something.

The bang of the guns snapped Sehun out of it. Gasping for air, he stared at Chanyeol smirking at Kai who was looking directly at his brother. Sehun averted his gaze as his head spun. After closing his eyes momentarily, he aimed at the screen and pulled his trigger. The digital screen went red, signalling his failure. The guns had virtual bullets and the round screens were the targets with aims positioned in a circle.

He turned his head to side-eye Kai who was now conversing with Chanyeol with a slight smile playing on his lips. *What had happened between them? Why are they talking to each other?* And why the fuck was Sehun internally shouting?! Kai nodded his head and extended his arm before touching Chanyeol's arm. *Fuck.*

Grinding his teeth, Sehun sharply turned his attention back to the screen when Kai started walking towards him as Chanyeol attended Bobby. "Your aiming is really poor." Kai's remark made Sehun jump a little but he didn't dare to face Kai.

"You think I don't know that?" Sehun hissed under his breath and pulled the trigger. The screen went red again. Only his and Baekhyun's screens were going red every single time. Sehun couldn't even explain the infuriation he was experiencing as he repeatedly pulled the trigger without a break until Kai's hand on his shoulder stopped him. He quickly flinched away before Kai could read his mind. Frowning, Kai placed the hand on the small of Sehun's back. *You're tensed. Ease up.* "I don't need your advice." Sehun pushed his hand away.

"Fine." Kai spat. "Private Sehun! Stand straight!" his palm slapped Sehun's back, sending him stumbling forward. For a second, Sehun gaped at Kai and Kai's scowl. "Take your position like you are on the battlefield, not in your playroom!" he shouted. When he angrily kicked Sehun's ankles apart, the others paused to watch with wide eyes. "When you're aiming, aim like your life depends on it! Keep your chin on the right angle, aim with your mouth, not eyes, soldier!" he tipped Sehun's chin up and yanked Sehun's arms up to point the gun at the target screen. "I don't care if you don't want to live. Your team depends on you!"

So speaks the guy who doesn't give a shit about anyone but himself.

"Pull the trigger, soldier!"

Fucker. Just because you're a fucking officer. Sehun did as he was told with so much anger surging through his veins and the screen flashed in red again. "See." he shrugged at Kai with a cocky attitude written on his expression.

With furrowed brows, Kai scowled at him before shaking his head and eyed the rest. Instantly, everyone resumed their training. Without saying another word, he pulled away from Sehun and attended Lay. Biting his tongue, Sehun blasted his gun without rest. When the bell buzzed after an hour, Kris, Bobby, Lay, even Baekhyun had improved to a significant extent but Sehun only dwelled on his irritation the whole time with Chanyeol and Kai exchanging glances every now and then while Kai ignored Sehun all the while.

"Gather in the obstacle room." Kai directed and when Sehun advanced to return the gun to its rack, Kai pointed a finger at him. "Not you."

"What?"

"Chan." he turned to Chanyeol. Chan? What the fuck. "Could you handle the others for a moment?" oh, so he's not ordering Chanyeol anymore?

"Sure." Chanyeol smirked again and hurried after the rest of the team.

"What's going on, huh?" asked Sehun when they were left alone. "What, you guys are friends now?"

"You're not leaving this range until you learn how to aim." Kai said monotonously, completely neglecting Sehun's question. "Take your position."

"No."

"No? What are you? Six? I'm your senior officer!"

"Okay, Mr Senior Officer. Care to tell me what you had in your mind when you were *sucking my dick*?"

Kai's face literally died as he stood there, paralyzed. "You're... blaming it all on *me*? So, what? You had no part whatsoever to play in this?"

Sehun swallowed the lump that had started to rise in his throat. No, he needed to stand strong now. Without replying, Sehun stomped back to the booth and held his gun up. He slowly dragged in a long breath, trying to calm his vexation.

And then he felt an arm snaking around his waist as he felt a gush of warm breath against his ear. *Look straight. But slightly over your target.* Sehun sucked in a shaky breath when Kai's hand glided along his arm until it clasped over Sehun's around the gun while his chest was pressed against Sehun's back.

What are you doing, LT...

Kai held Sehun's hand over the gun and hooked a finger into the loop along with Sehun's finger. "Shoot." he whispered against Sehun's ear and pulled the trigger. The screen lit up green but Sehun was seeing red flashes all around him with Kai's body pressed onto his.

"This is wrong." he muttered, hanging his head and pulled himself away from Kai. "This is *wrong*... You're my... brother."

"And?"

"This is... this is... *incestuous*." Sehun almost choked on the word.

Kai outright laughed and Sehun loured at him. "Sehun, relax. We were high. And we were both extremely desperate. So, it's nothing serious. We had a little fun after a long time. I think we both needed it."

"Nothing.... serious?" *What? What does he mean by nothing serious?*

"If anything, you'd understand the situation we were in. Let's not think any further about this."

"You're... kidding me, right?"

"Listen, Sehun. It's nothing illicit, okay? We didn't do anything. We didn't even kiss."

Sehun dropped the gun to the floor and lurched forward to shove Kai back. "So I was the one you chose to fucking play with?!"

"Sehun-"

"What? Now you're cuddling up with your boyfriend again after you practically ground your fucking dick up mine?!"

As soon as Kai opened his mouth again, the emergency alarm went off. Freezing, they gawked at each other. "What's going on?" Kai asked and spun around before breaking into a sprint towards the obstacle room.

"Gate E-breached. Gate E-breached." the alarm started to wail as Sehun ran after Kai.

"Chanyeol!" Kai yelled but before he even entered the room, Chanyeol exploded out of it.

"What's happening?!" Chanyeol asked in a daze, holding Kai's arm.

"I don't know. Gate-E's breached?" Kai's trepidation was obvious in his quavering voice.

"It's okay, Kai. I'm sure it's a false alarm." Chanyeol, on the other hand, was obviously consoling Kai in the worst way possible, with his hands rubbing Kai's arms up and down.

"What should we do?!" Bobby howled, gushing out of the room.

"Lieutenant Commander Kai and Private Sehun required at Gate E. Lieutenant Commander Kai and Private Sehun required at Gate E." the announcement had Kai immobilized for a minute. Wiping his jaw, he drew himself away from Chanyeol and grabbed Sehun's wrist before hauling him out of there.

"What's going on?!" Sehun screeched as they ran to Gate E.

"How would I know?! I just really hope..." he trailed off with his face becoming paler by the second. Soldiers started to swarm the corridors when they were told to gather at the assembly hall. "Fucking move!" Kai screamed once at the soldiers when his path was blocked.

"LT!" Sehun called out, trying to catch up with Kai. What has happened?! The previous time an exit was breached was when Kai was sent in. *It can't be... NU19, can it?*

As soon as they reached mouth of the corridor of Gate E which was crowded by mechs and Marine soldiers, they made way for Kai to come through. "Kai!" Doc gasped when they walked into the corridor of the gate. "Something has happened." he looked like he had seen a ghost that had slapped him hard on both sides of his face and the moment his eyes darted to Sehun, they were filled with horror. "Sehun..." he exhaled and it showed how terrified Doc was.

"What the fuck is this?" the general snapped when he shoved the Marines aside. "Come and take a fucking look at this."

Kai was panting when Sehun glanced over at him. Just like Doc's, his eyes were glistening with terror. The corridor was more like a bridge that connected the Quantum to the gate and was fully enclosed with see-through walls.

Sehun slowly moved behind Kai, treading on his footsteps. As the mechs cleared out, a large black, irregularly-shaped box was in amidst them, lying on the middle of the corridor. It was a stasis pod, Sehun recognized instantly but it wasn't shaped as the one Kai came in. Kai came to a halt and Sehun stopped behind him. "What's the meaning of this?" asked an officer as Kai raised a hand to rub his temples. Only then did Sehun realize that the officer was asking him. In fact, every single person over there had their confused eyes on Sehun.

Kai turned to face Sehun with an exhausted expression but he was no longer afraid or shocked as he shook his head before stepping aside.

"Sehun." Doc called.

Gulping, Sehun dragged his feet closer to the stasis pod. His heart dropped to his stomach the instant he discerned the body in the pod. A pale naked body was floating in the yellowish liquid, just as Kai was. Long limbs, long hair, everything like how Kai had been when he was in that stasis pod. Only that... this body was Sehun. It took Sehun a moment to even believe what he was seeing before him. The boy in the pod was a reflection of him. The drowned reflection...

Gasping, Sehun staggered back, clasping a hand over his mouth with his eyes popping out. "Sehun. Calm down." Kai grabbed him with an arm grappling Sehun's waist and pulled him to his side. Calm down.

What is that?.... Sehun's chest heaved greatly while his head pounded as he stared at the stasis pod, clinging onto Kai's shoulder. *What is the heck that?!*

It's you, Sehun. It's you. Calm yourself. They shouldn't know.

Ceasing all movement, Sehun grimaced at Kai and shoved him back, hard. "Bullshit!" he yelled with tears of fear trickling in his eyes but Kai could only reply with an empathizing look and a frown.

"Let's move to the med sec, first." said Doc. "We'll have to cut this open."

"No." Kai contradicted. "You shouldn't do that. That is not how you do it."

Chapter Ten

He didn't understand, as if his brain had short-circuited and needed to be rebooted. Around him, everything was in fast-forward while he was motionless in the middle of it all. How could this happen? He pressed the heels of his hands into his eyes until he saw nothing but sparkles. He tried to sit down, but it was more like a stumble and fall that left him in a trembling heap on the side of the corridor. Every inch of his bone absorbed the shock of the scene before his eyes as the stasis pod was dragged across the floor. A gush of blood rushed to his head and the veins by his temples pounded as he stared at the oily-black frame of the stasis pod before it was drawn into the examination room by the mechs after a long debate among the board of officers whether to break the pod open or not. They only decided to go with the former when Kai had promised them that it can't be an NU19.

"Sehun." Kai's voice reached his ears in a daze and he brought his head up to meet Kai's frowning gaze as he crouched down. Laying a hand on Sehun's knee, he said in a low voice, "You don't have to come in."

Sehun instantly shot up. If anything, he wanted answers to this perplexing and aberrant situation. "Who... *what* is that? What did you mean when you said that's me?!" he questioned through his clenched teeth. In reply, Kai only gave a shake of his head and started for the examination room. Balling his hands into fists in order to stop them from trembling like leaves in autumn, Sehun trod on the heels of Kai. By the second, his heart was palpitating even harder.

The room was pervaded than it had been when Kai arrived in a stasis pod. Every set of eyes was laid on Sehun before it bounced to the stasis pod and the rounds of staring kept on going. "Lieutenant Commander, I hope you have a good explanation to this shenanigan."

Sehun crossed his arms over his chest to keep his body from shivering. *Yeah, LT. You better.*

"Doc." Kai called with glumness filling his face. "We can't have so many people in here."

"Of course, not." Doc immediately turned to the officers. "Please, it wouldn't bode well for any of us if you stay. He... It's going to be in a rough shape when we take him out."

Within seconds, the examination room was evacuated until only Kai, Sehun, Doc and the general remained. When Doc offered the protection suit, Kai waved him off.

"Do you know how to operate this pod?" asked the general.

Nodding, Kai stepped advanced for the stasis pod while Sehun kept his distance. This was all far too overwhelming to comprehend.

"Why does he look like your brother? As far as both of your records go, you do not have any other brother."

"I don't know." Kai murmured. Gritting his teeth, Sehun wondered what Kai was trying to hide so badly. "You cut this open to take me out, didn't you?" he asked Doc, keeping his eyes on the pod, on the creature inside.

"Yes, we did." the general answered before Doc even had the chance.

With his stomach churning, Sehun casted a look at Kai who was intently watching the... *thing* inside the pod. The moment Kai raised a hand to touch the soft cover of the pod, Sehun's heart sank to his stomach. Drawing his palm along the cover, Kai heaving a loud sigh. Out of curiosity, Sehun took a step forward and perked his head only to see Kai's palm connected with the thing's palm.

Completely shattered for some odd reason, Sehun shrivelled back to the corner and hugged himself to stop the shuddering. It was not everyday when you got to meet someone who looked exactly the same as you. Let alone, delivered in some alien pod.

"Do you know what this is?" Doc inquired and Kai shook his head.

"I've gathered the knowledge over the years on how to operate this stasis pod, though."

"You've been keeping things from us, Kai." the general spat sourly.

"Only the things I didn't find necessary to be said, general." the answer obviously didn't please the general for that his eyes narrowed. "The outer layer will soak the liquid." Kai muttered, prodding a finger into the elastic cover. The prodded spot went bright gold out of the sudden and the splotch remained for a moment before Kai dragged the tips of his fingers vertically, from top to bottom on the cover. The whole pod except for the black frame on the outsides lit up bright.

"Wow." Doc let out, gaping at the scene with eyes full of wonder. "Such technology."

"No, Doc. They don't consider this to be technology. This is their raw source. Lives on other universes are not something we have yet to understand. Not even close." he pressed his palm into the middle of the cover. As his hand sunk into the pod, pushing the cover, Sehun came forward to watch the liquid inside the pod to dry out, little by little. "My heart couldn't recover after being turned off for so long. And you took me out without proper procedures."

"Sorry." Sehun scoffed. "But you didn't exactly come with a manual or an alien stasis pod rule book."

Kai tossed him a black look before dropping his gaze back to the pod. When the liquid level had gone low, Kai pushed his hand further into the gooey cover and pressed his palm against the thing's chest before immediately pulling his hand out. The cover simply melted into the very liquid that had previously filled the pod and Sehun couldn't help but take a few steps closer.

But the moment he had edged closer, an ear-penetrating gasp sent him staggering back in shock before the *thing* jolted upright to a sitting position, fully drenched. Kai instantly bent over and wrapped his arms around it as it broke into a silent cry. "It's okay. It's okay. You're safe."

Both the general and Sehun were probably wearing mirroring expressions with their jaws dropped to the floor. At least Doc was composed enough to run and grab some towels while Sehun was pressed against the wall, gawking at Kai hugging.... *that*. He couldn't discern *its* face since *it* had it buried in Kai's shoulder, weeping silently.

"Is he okay?!" Doc yelled before turning to Sehun. "Sehun! Be a little productive!"

"He's fine." Kai assured Doc. "Lower your voice." he bent even lower and lifted the *thing* out of the pod, bridal style. Well, it was probably the craziest thing Sehun could have done in his life but instead of being astonished by the alien-being which resembled him, like another pea in the same pod, he was drowning in rage. It fucking didn't look like Kai didn't know that thing personally!

Kai effortlessly carried *it* to a stretcher before laying *it* down. When *it* sat up ferociously, glancing around the bright room in a panic, Kai brushed the damp hair out of *its* forehead and pulled *it* close to him until *its* head was rested against his chest. "You're okay. Nobody's going to hurt you here."

With a thundering heart, Sehun advanced a few paces and the *thing's* widened eyes landed on him. *It* looked surprised beyond description to meet Sehun. And then *it* slowly stopped *its* wails when Kai wiped the tears off his cheeks. "Well, ask who he is!" the general remarked.

"Shh!" Kai hissed, turning his head back at the general with a harsh scowl etched on his face. "Sehun, come here."

Quickly retreating back, Sehun glared at Kai before lowering the glower to the alien. The *thing* acknowledged his glare and turned *its* face to bury *it* into Kai's chest again. "I fucking said come here." Kai ordered quietly and when Sehun didn't budge, he lifted the *thing* into his arms again. "Doc, I'll need some help to wash him."

"Sehun, go." Doc's voice came out a raspy whisper.

When Kai walked past Sehun with the *thing* in his arms, *it* gave Sehun a scared look, clinging onto Kai's neck. It was then when Sehun realized that it had yellow eyes. It was like looking into a mirror but it was nothing like him. Clenching his fists and swallowing the lump in his throat, Sehun marched behind Kai. Those eyes... Those fear-seeped yellow eyes peered over Kai's shoulder to stare at Sehun.

As they entered a stall, Kai lowered the *thing* to the floor only to have *it* hastily hug Kai's legs as *it* watched Sehun with great panic. Kai dropped to his knees and pulled *it* into an embrace.

"God." Sehun moaned, wanting to rip his hair out. "What's going on, LT?!"

"I'll explain everything, Sehun. I promise. But right now, please cooperate."

Tightening his jaw, Sehun sneered at the creature but even his temper couldn't stand too strong after seeing the helplessness in those yellow eyes. "It communicates by mind, doesn't it?"

Kai nodded. "He can't speak."

"Not ever?"

"No." he reached a hand up and turned the shower on.

Chapter Eleven

An alien-being, which had just showed up out of nowhere, was receiving far more affection than Sehun had ever gotten from his own brother in his lifetime. It was only fair for Sehun to despise the creature that was clinging onto his brother like a kitten drenched in the rain. Squatting, Sehun grimaced at the *thing*, internally cringing at the fact that *it* looked everything like him except for those piercing lode-gold eyes which screamed foregin fear and consternation.

Kai's face had gone scarlet trying to handle the pesky *thing* which was heavily clinging onto his neck. In attempt to shower the thing, Kai was completely soaked instead since he was practically smothered by *it*. Struggle reflected on Kai's eyes as he scrubbed the *thing's* back with his palms as *it* tightly hugged him, keeping *its* eyes on Sehun as if Sehun were on the ready to attack *it*. It was like Sehun seeing himself frightened in the mirror. Even through

the black curtain of wet hair that draped over the *thing's* face, Sehun could see those penetrating eyes. It was as if *it* were making sure that Sehun wouldn't come any closer and by hugging Kai, *it'd* be safe.

Completely bathed along with the *thing*, Kai eyed Sehun, asking for help to raise the thing to *its* feet. Sucking in a deep breath, Sehun stepped closer and when he bent down, the *thing* frantically pulled Kai's neck and hugged his neck, hiding *its* face in Kai's chest. Scowling, Sehun straightened up and turned on his heel to walk away.

"Sehun." Kai's calling stopped him again.

"It doesn't look like it wants my help." he spat, motioning his hand at the *thing*, only to have the latter wince and flinch as if Sehun had hit *it*.

Kai's jaw tightened as he glared at Sehun, stroking the *thing's* water-soaked hair. "Fine." he murmured and lifted the *thing* into his arms.

"Can it walk or something?"

Without answering, Kai stomped past Sehun and again, the *thing* stared at Sehun with a fearful gaze. *Who is the actual monster here, huh?!*

Fisting his hands, Sehun marched back into the examination room and found Doc assisting Kai to sit the *thing* on the stretcher. The general stood in the corner with his arms crossed over his chest as he watched Kai with something like despise. When Doc tried to dry the *thing* with a towel, *it* reacted in a frenzy and hugged Kai's stomach, turning *its* face away from Doc. Was *it* afraid of Doc or towels? *It* somewhat reminded Sehun of El and it infuriated him to a great extent.

"You don't happen to know what's going on, do you, private?" the general abrupt question started Sehun before he faced the man with a cocked brow.

"No, sir. I'm afraid I don't." he replied in a low voice.

The general robotically nodded. "I knew you'd say that. I hope your brother knows what he's doing because in the military, you need to follow the rules and codes. If he doesn't, I'm sure you know of the consequences. He's hiding things."

Sehun's eyes narrowed as he clenched his fists at the back. "He's following your rules. Don't worry, sir." he spat through his gritting teeth.

The general turned for the door without a reply and stormed out of the room after throwing Kai a dubious look. When the door swooshed open, the *thing* perked his head high with a terrified pair of eyes before ferociously yanking Kai's shirt and laid *its* head on Kai's chest for protection. The general was right, though. Kai was hiding things. Hell, he was keeping heck a lot of secrets, all right. The way he tried so hard to always block Sehun out of his mind proved that he held more secrets than he was letting on.

"I need to lay him down." said Kai once he and Doc had somewhat managed to pull a patient robe on the thing.

"Sure." Doc hurried to the patients' ward and opened the door as Kai raised the thing into his arms and carried it into the ward. Exhaling exasperatedly, Sehun rubbed his hurting

temples and wondered about the consequences of this. The board certainly was not going to leave Kai or him be after this. All this while, Sehun had stayed out of Kai's complicated circle, well somewhat, but not he was going to be directly involved. If anything, this will only prolong his service.

Leaning back on the wall, he began to think of ways to answer this confusion. What was that thing? It was obviously an alien. But why did look like a human, then? Worse, like himself! What did Kai mean that it was him? Why was this thing so attached to Kai? What happened between them? For how long had Kai known the *thing*? The *thing*. God, Sehun had to know its name.

Doc exited the ward after some minutes and strode straight to Sehun before clasping a hand on his arm. "How does he look like you?!"

"I don't know, Doc. I'd tell you if I did." Sehun sighed.

"Kai claims that he doesn't know anything about that..." he glanced back at the ward. "*Person*. But I don't think the general buys it. *I* don't buy it. Kai's gonna get himself into boiling water."

"The thing is, I don't understand why it looks like me!"

"It must have something to do with Kai, of course. Which is why no one's going to believe him if he says that he doesn't know anything about this. And obviously, you'll be dragged into this."

"Shit." Sehun hissed, flipping his hair back, fighting the urge to punch a wall. "This is not my fight!"

"Listen, Sehun. I need you to tell me if you know something. Or else, I can't help you."

Sehun instantly considered telling Doc everything. But his conscience halted him. What if Kai were the right to stand on now? He quieted down when he saw Kai walking into the room.

"He's asleep, Doc." he said with stiff shoulders. "I'll go change and be back as soon as I could." it was obvious that he was beginning to suffocate.

"I'll keep an eye on him." Doc assured him. "He's probably going to be asleep for a long while, right?"

"Yes."

"And he won't have heart problems?"

"No." Kai shook his head. "He was taken out of the pod in the right way. His heart vitals should be fine. If you'll excuse me."

"Yes, officer."

Kai's eyes darted to Sehun, ordering him to follow him before he wove his way out of the examination room. "Hey, LT!" Sehun yapped, jogging after him. "Are you going to fucking-"

he stopped himself when he noticed the soldiers that seethed the corridor to their room. Kai kept his face straight and his strides controlled as he ambled past the soldiers while Sehun helplessly lowered his head to avoid the piercing gazes.

"The freak brothers." a whisper reverberated through the crowd.

"First him and now the fag."

"It looked exactly like him."

Sehun picked up the pace along with Kai and as soon as they were in the safety of their room, Kai locked the door and peeled his wet shirt off. The recollection of last night surged through Sehun the moment his eyes fell on Kai's shirtless damp body. And then followed by the fact that Kai simply shrugged everything off, linking hands with Chanyeol again. "You're a real fucker, alright."

"I'm tired, Sehun." Kai's voice was a mere whisper as he walked over to his locker.

"Tired?! You think I'm not tired?! I'm fucking tired of your fucking shenanigans! If you don't fucking explain yourself this instant, I will go to whichever bastard and spill everything that you've told me to not to!"

Kai's slam on the wall by the locker flabbergasted Sehun. He faced Sehun with a monstrous scowl and bestially barked at the locker. "Go! Go fucking ahead! You think I planned this?! What right do you have to fucking bark at me like a *fucking* bitch?!"

Startled by Kai's outburst, Sehun took a step back in retreat. "First you. And now this. No matter what you say, every problem in my life has been caused by you in some kind of way!"

Kai stepped forward and grabbed Sehun's collar before hauling him forward. "Yeah! I'm the one who asked the fucking aliens to invade our world, right?! I'm the one asked to be abducted and tortured! And I'm definitely the one who wanted to share a fucking heart with you, right?!"

"Well, you're the one who abandoned your family in the first place. You're the one who sucked your own brother's dick. You're the one who doesn't care about my feelings. And you're definitely the one the aliens cling onto for some odd reason."

Kai hauled Sehun forward before hurling back until Sehun's back crashed the platinum hard wall. For a second, it felt his spine had broken into half as he groaned in pain. Kai fisted a hand around Sehun's shirt by the chest and clasped the other hand over Sehun's sweaty palm before raising it above Sehun's head. He instantly forgot about the pain as he felt the gush of Kai's emotions. He was... sad. Disappointed in himself. Helpless. And lost.

As his burning bare chest was pressed against Sehun's, Sehun unconsciously raised his free hand to Kai's back and lightly bore it down into the damp skin of his back. Their eyes were locked for a very short moment before they dropped to each other's lips. Sehun drew in a shaky breath, staring at Kai's plush lips. And then Kai released his hand and withdrew himself, panting. He briefly buried his face into his palms before flumping on the bed. "Sorry," he muttered.

With quivering lips and trembling, Sehun realized what he had almost done. How could he even think of such a thing with his brother?! Again!

Kai looked recharged but the fatigue still lingered on his face. "When I was... with En-ren." Kai started out of the blue. "Back when I couldn't control my mind, I used to think about you a lot."

Sehun blinked and Kai noticed the bafflement.

"The things we used to do. As brothers." he added. "The NU19, they're not familiar with family affection. Any kind of love they knew was considered as carnal and sexual. Believe me if you want to, Sehun, I always looked you up. I always searched for you in the news we barely received. And only a week before I was taken, I saw your file on the newly recruited list. I was... I don't know. Happy? Embarrassed? Ashamed? But I was excited. I was going to see you again. But then, things didn't pan out as I wanted. So, the only memory that my mind was congested with was the final excitement I had over you. Chanyeol and I had just broken up. But he didn't mean much to me anyway. Not like you. Trust me, I wasn't expecting you to turn out to be like this." he smirked a little but it quickly faltered. "En-ren was... envious. I don't know. I think that's what he was since my mind was filled with family, that I regretted leaving behind. And that was when I found out that the kind of technology NU19 has is not something we can fight."

"What do you mean?"

"En-ren... created.. you."

"Me?"

"That's what I called him. U."

Sehun arched a brow. "You're kidding me, right?"

Kai shook his head. "U. U, come here. U, sleep." he smiled as if it were amusing. "It wasn't something like cloning. He was basically synthesized. With organic matters and chemical compounds. En-ren was able to do that just through the memories he extracted and my DNA. His heart beats. But he's nothing but plastic."

Sehun used the wall behind as a leverage to support himself because it was all far too much to digest. "It.. he doesn't.. look plastic."

"He functions like humans. I don't really know much actually. En-ren just came in one day with U and told me to.... to... teach him how to communicate. I don't want to..." he trailed off but Sehun could tell how difficult it must have been for Kai. "U doesn't know anything. All the while I was with him, I was gentle to him. I showed him the same love I showed you. Only in... other ways. He was trapped in the same room as me for so long. I don't even know the time frame. Maybe a year. He only knows me. I doubt that he even knows how he looks like. En-ren might have sent him over since there was no use for him over there."

"Wait, wait. Hold on. Synthesized? But he has a heartbeat?"

"I told you. He functions like humans. But he's not real. He could expire, if my calculations are right."

"He's capable of feelings."

"Yeah. He was infused with some of NU19's traits, such as the learning to communicate through..." he wandered off again.

"Penetration."

"Yeah."

"But we... didn't."

"That's because you're the one I was in contact with before you guys fucking cut me open." he ran his fingers through his wet hair and leaned back with his hands plunged into the mattress. "That's my theory, at least. I'm fucked, Sehun. I'm damaged."

Sehun forced his feet to move and stopped before Kai. "This U... He's not real."

"No."

"And I can't read his mind? Or talk to him?"

"No. I don't think so. But you're welcomed to try." he rose to his feet and started past Sehun before Sehun caught his arm.

"LT. I'm sorry."

"I... Remind me to do something before we go to sleep later."

With a suppressed smile, Kai brushed his hand off and made his way into the bathroom. Dropping onto the bed, Sehun held a hand over his thumping heart. It didn't matter whether U was a synthesized being or not, he looked Sehun. To Kai, it must seem as though he had fucked Sehun himself. Was that why Kai was always so laid back even after seeing Sehun when he returned? Was it why he always seemed horny when Sehun was around? It was because of U. Not Sehun.

"Are you going to the ward?" Sehun asked once Kai had pulled his uniform shirt on.

"Yes. I have to settle him before... we're questioned."

"Questioned?"

"We're playing with fire, Sehun. And I'm really sorry, you're dragged into this. I promise. I'll do everything to get you out of this."

"That's not going to happen unless you tell them the truth."

Kai's eyebrows furrowed. "No. The moment they find out that I have so much information on NU19, they'll go to every extent."

"Why is that such a bad-" he was cut off when the doorbell rang. Both Sehun and Kai exchanged looks of frets before Sehun hesitantly went to get the door.

"Where's Kai?!" Chanyeol burst in a frantic.

"Chan?" Kai curled an arm around Sehun's waist to pull him back and even then, Sehun had to jump at the contact.

"What's going on, Kai?!"

Sehun found himself staring at Chanyeol's face. He knew exactly how the face was when Chanyeol was moaning in pleasure. "Haven't you heard?"

"I heard that the alien in the pod looked like your brother. I don't know whether it was a compliment or an insult, though."

Sehun cringed at Chanyeol's remark. Snickering a little, Kai stepped out of the room and threw Sehun a gentle. As Sehun followed behind, Chanyeol grabbed Kai's elbow as they made their way to the examination room. "The board is going crazy, Kai. You're gonna be interrogated." Chanyeol said but Kai pretended as though he wasn't worried much about the board.

Why is Kai bringing Chanyeol to see U?!

When they entered the examination, Doc was nowhere to be found but the stasis pod still lied bare in the middle of the room. Chanyeol's jaw dropped to the ground as he gaped at the pod. "Is that the... thing?"

"Come." Kai took his hand and guided him to the ward as Sehun glared at their clasped hands. As soon as they walked into the ward, even Sehun's heart sank to his stomach. The way U slept looked unbelievably serene as a baby would be. It was wrong for him to despise this witless creature but still...

Sehun wondered if himself looked this peaceful and tranquil when asleep.

"What the... fuck." Chanyeol breathed, dragging his feet to the cot that U laid in. He sharply turned his head and gawked at Sehun before dropping his gaze back to U. "Are you two twins?"

"You would have known if I had twin brothers, Chanyeol." Kai whispered, slumping his back on a wall and crossed his arms over his chest. Chanyeol kept his eyes boring into the sleeping U as if he were something astonishing. *Hello, I'm standing right here.* Sehun moved closer to the cot for Chanyeol to notice him.

"He looks so... beautiful." Chanyeol let out, blinking at U.

Well, fuck logic. Sehun stomped over to the other wall and angrily leaned against it. He first needed to figure out why Chanyeol was stuck on Kai again. Then, he needed Kai to spill the beans out about the rest of the things he was hiding.

"What's his name?"

Kai kept mum and Sehun decided to say something. "How about we call him U?"

Chanyeol looked up at him with a disgusted look. "*U*? Is that where your creativity stops? At a single syllabled alphabet?"

Kai raised a hand to his mouth to stifle a laugh and Sehun threw Kai a black look.

All of them jumped when U jolted upright out of the sudden and instantly broke into a cry after spotting Chanyeol near him. "Hey, hey, hey." Kai hurried to him and upon seeing Kai approaching him, U held his arms open and hugged Kai before the latter even touched him.

Chanyeol blankly stared at U before arching a brow at Sehun who simply shrugged in return. "He doesn't speak." Kai told Chanyeol.

"Oh."

Sehun's brows pulled into a frown. Was U going to be between him and Kai now? Especially since Kai seemed to be affectionate to this synthetic creature.

Chapter Twelve

"This is insane." Chanyeol's raspy whisper drew Sehun's attention from Kai who was trying to calm U down about the IV line on his arm. Even so, U's snifles and coughs of anxiety proved that he was scared of the tube that ran through the inside of his elbow. He kept pointing at with glassy eyes before resting his head on Kai's shoulder as if Kai could save him from the IV line.

"I know." Sehun sighed, slumping harder against the wall before meeting Chanyeol's penetrating eyes. "W.. what is it?"

"Why does he look like you?"

Sehun averted his gaze. "I don't know."

"Really? Your brother was the one who was taken and now the NU19 sends back an alien that looks like you?" he abruptly pulled himself away from the wall and advanced for Kai. "Why is he clinging onto you?"

Kai brought his head up and raised his brows at Chanyeol. "What?"

U turned his attention to Chanyeol as well and his lips instantly started quivering. "You two know each other, don't you?"

"What are you talking about, Chanyeol." Kai rose to his feet from U's cot. "I was the one who liberated him from the stasis pod. That's why he's clinging onto me. You can try and talk nice to him, I'm sure he'll cling onto you, too."

Chanyeol casted U a look and even managed a smile, but U only responded by burying his face in the pillow. "You're going to get yourself into trouble, Kai."

"I know. But I can't just ignore him, can I?"

A loud sigh gushed out of Chanyeol. "I guess not." his eyes were relentlessly staring at U who refused to even look up at him anymore. "His hair is still wet." he muttered under his breath. "He might catch cold."

He might catch cold?! Sehun clenched his fists and tore himself from the wall. "Permission to leave, LT." he asked Kai.

With a black look, Kai questioned, "Why?"

"I've been standing here for hours and I can't stand another minute of hearing him whine." he blurted out with his hands clasped together at the back.

"Does he always talk like this?" Chanyeol snorted. "He might be your brother, Kai. But he is your subordinate in a lower rank."

What a complete dick. Sehun's rage only overshot when he noticed the cocky smirk on Kai's face. "Sass runs in the family, I suppose." Kai muttered and sank back into U's cot. He grabbed the cloth that was hanging over the cot's frame and started to ruffle U's hair with it.

U swatted Kai's hand off with his lower lip jutted out. When Kai brought the cloth to his head again, U slapped his hand twice, scowling. And when Sehun groaned, it was proven to be the worst mistake of the day because he had earned the stink eye from Chanyeol.

"You should really put him in his place."

Kai threw Sehun a lewd look. "Maybe I should." his soft tone instantly sent shivers down Sehun's spine. "You're allowed to leave." he said at last and returned his focus back to U. "You can go, too, Chanyeol."

"No. It's okay. I'll stay." he took his seat on the edge of monitor table and U perked his head up to blink at Chanyeol. He faced Kai again and pointed a finger at Chanyeol. Kai shook his head, laying a hand on U's thigh. This was a major drawback for Sehun. He couldn't understand what Kai and U were talking about and it irritated him.

After a minute of tacit debate of whether to leave Kai with Chanyeol and U, Sehun decided to excuse himself and tiredly dragged his feet back to the room. Pulling his shirt off, he dropped onto the bed and draped an arm over his eyes. Kai would have to come to him soon enough to recharge, right? They hadn't had much contact in the last few hours except for some brushes of their hands and shoulders.

Things were bound to get strained tomorrow. The board was probably discussing about the situation at hand right this instant. It scared Sehun. He had never been much of an interest of anyone over here and now, he was the centre of attention. It was terrifying to even think of the questions he will be asked soon enough. But he was not only scared for himself. He knew that Kai would have the hardest blow. There were so many people in the board who would want to see Kai taken down. His return had not been much appreciated by many and it was obvious to see that the other officers were not really fond of Kai's lacklustre and unenthusiastic behaviour. Kai was the one who stated that he would get down and train the soldiers this instant to prepare them for war. But Kai himself seemed rather phlegmatic about it. Something told Sehun that Kai knew that they would never win the war just as he did.

But Kai's promise to him contradicted everything. He had sworn that he will make sure that Sehun will be sent back home. Pulling his arm off his face, Sehun scrubbed his jaw and dragged his knees up, running his fingers through his hair. Kai promised that he will make sure that he will go home. But he never said anything about returning home himself.

God, why am I even thinking about that? I shouldn't be concerned with him. Besides, he was better off with someone like Chanyeol anyway. *Urgh!* He shifted on the bed and just when he reached down to grab his forgotten shirt on the floor, the door slid open. Freezing, he stared at Kai who entered the room with his face falling pale. Sehun squinted a little when Kai turned the lights on after locking the door. "Chanyeol just said that they would incinerate you."

"What?!" Sehun jolted upright to a sitting position."

"No, not *you*. U. Him."

"Oh. What... why would they?"

"That's how it works. If he is of no use to the Quantum..." Kai said in low spirits, plodding his way to the bed.

"You wouldn't allow that, would you?"

"I can't do anything about it, Sehun. I'm not sure that even *I'm* safe." he climbed onto the bed as Sehun scooted over to the window side.

"But..." Sehun recalled Kai saying that U was just plastic, that he was not real. However, it didn't exactly feel like he should be labelled like that. He could feel. He had emotions. Even if he did have an expiration date, it would not be humane in any sense to incinerate him like he was a waste. As Kai lied down, Sehun reclined himself, facing Kai. For a long minute, they stared into each other's eyes without any contact of their skin. Kai's dark eyes literally took Sehun's breath away. With a very short distance laying between them, he could feel Kai's heat radiating all over his body. Kai tucked a hand under his head and kept his eyes fixated on Sehun's. His chest was heaving for air, but he didn't bother to reach out and touch Sehun. "Why?" Sehun whispered after a while had passed between them.

"Why what?" Kai asked in a low voice and Sehun was the first to break eye-contact when his gaze was lowered to Kai's moving lips. He wished Kai had left the lights off. At least then, he would not have to look at Kai's face.

"Why wouldn't you fight for him? For U?"

"I don't think I can win the fight. That's why."

"Don't you.... I mean... Aren't you fond of him?"

"Yes. I am. But even since the beginning, I repeatedly told myself that he's not the real deal. He's not you. He's not my brother. I guess that's why I couldn't feel any love for him, now."

Sehun had no idea why it hurt him instead of exciting him. If Kai didn't feel any love for U, then U's existence was pretty much useless and unwanted. It was something Sehun could relate to on the Quantum. "What if it were... really me in his spot?" he mumbled, lowering his eyes to Kai's panting chest.

The next thing he knew was Kai's hand cupping his cheek. *If you think that I will ever let anyone hurt you in front of my eyes, you're wrong, Sehun.*

Sehun sucked in a shaky and sharp breath, wilting a little at the warmth of Kai's palm against his cheek. He automatically clenched his eyes, leaning into the touch. He could feel Kai's pulse racing. An unexplainable hunger rose within Kai as he swiped his thumb gently over Sehun's cheekbone. His mind was filled with Sehun. He wanted to touch Sehun. Everywhere.

Why would he pay Sehun this sort of attention when he was back with Chanyeol? How could he still be desperate?

Kai withdrew his hand out of the sudden and Sehun realized that he had let his thoughts flow again. When he flashed his eyes open, Kai's eyebrows were knitted into a frown. "Why would you think that I'm back with Chanyeol?"

"Because you're holding hands and hanging out like buddies again?"

The frown faltered as the corners of Kai's lips quirked up. He let out a soft chuckle, shaking his head. "I'm practically what everyone wants, huh?"

Sehun scoffed. "Don't be so full of yourself, LT. You're not *that* great."

Kai sat up. "Not that great? What does that supposed to mean?" he snickered.

"Well, you're not even a good leader. Sometimes, it makes me wonder how you even became the Lieutenant Commander." he had no clue why he was provoking Kai, but Kai's arrogant laugh both annoyed and amused him.

"Sehun." he chortled. "You wouldn't last 10 minutes under my command."

Sehun cocked a brow and braced himself on his elbows. "You're all mouth, LT. No trousers."

"Oh really? Shall we see, then?"

"We're not kids to fool around." he lied back down.

"Oh, so now the all-trousers Sehun is scared, huh?"

Sehun shot up and got off the bed instantly. "Go on, LT. Let's see what you've got. 10 minutes. If you don't bring me on my knees to beg you to stop, you lose."

Kai's smug smile shook Sehun a little. "Deal, Sehun." he said coolly and peered at his watch. "Starting from now?"

"Yeah."

"Alright. Take your pants off, Private."

Sehun's eyes almost popped out. "What?"

Kai got onto his feet and crossed his arms over his chest. "A Private should abide by the orders of a Lieutenant Commander. Don't you know that?"

Gnawing on his lower lip, Sehun hesitantly undid his pants before stepping out of them. He could not possibly explain how embarrassing it was to be standing before Kai in his boxers like this. And to make things worse, Kai was staring right at his thighs. But other than that, Kai's face showed no sign of any expression other than his stoic impassiveness. His eyes slowly climbed up Sehun's body, raking his rapidly expanding and deflating stomach.

"Hold your hands at the back and don't move."

Sehun knew better than to question the man, so he pulled his hands back and clasped them. Kai advanced forward after grabbing Sehun's shirt from the bed and stopped before Sehun, expressionlessly. "What are you-" Sehun started to object when Kai tied the t-shirt around his eyes.

"Silence, Private." he hissed, knotting the shirt at the back of Sehun's head. Gone completely blind, Sehun stood there in utter discomfort. "7 minutes." Kai whispered near his ear which rendered him shuddering. This was not the kind of commanding Sehun was expecting. He quavered a little when he felt Kai's fingers hovering over his arm. "Don't move." he ordered in a silent voice again.

With a vague idea of Kai behind him, Sehun's knees started shaking. His breath quickened when Kai didn't make any other move. He tightly gripped his fists together, biting hard on his lower lip. It was just his brother. What was there to be so ashamed about? After all, Kai had already given him a blowjob. This was no huge deal.

"5 minutes." Kai informed in a breath. Sehun held himself firm. He could do this. But then he felt Kai's fingers brushing along his spine and he automatically arched forward, throwing his head back. Kai's dirty thoughts surging through Sehun's mind struck him painfully. His cock began to react to Kai's wild thoughts. The tips of Kai's fingers on the small of his back made him pant. Kai's hunger was like a predator preying for a victim. His mind was congested with the images of his mouth wrapped around Sehun's cock and Sehun's mouth sucking him off.

"Urggh..." Sehun intentionally squirmed as his body felt limp and weak with his dick gripping the front of his boxers.

"3 minutes." Kai breathed against a side of Sehun's neck which sent a sharp sting to his excited loins. And when Kai lightly pressed his plush lips on his neck, Sehun tilted his head back onto Kai's shoulder, panting open-mouthedly. He needed Kai to touch him. To grip him. To hold him as harshly as he could. But Kai only skimmed the tips of his fingers along the V-lines of Sehun's sylphlike waist and dragged them from Sehun's navel up to his sternum. His touch was like the touch of a feather which left Sehun whimpering. "1 more minute." he exhaled into Sehun's ear as his hand glided along Sehun's ass. He hooked his thumb into the waistband of Sehun's boxers at the side and tugged it down a little.

"Ah..." he couldn't help but moan when Kai slid a hand into his boxers, caressing his thigh.

I just want to eat you out, Sehun. Bury my tongue inside you. Make you come just by sucking your hole. He cupped Sehun's ass before pulling his hand up to Sehun's tailbone and slid a finger along it and the cleft of his ass.

Gasping for air, Sehun felt his knees buckle and he deliberately dropped to the ground. He felt unbelievably weak with all of his energy drained out. He pulled the blindfold off and wiped his sweaty chest with the shirt before looking up at Kai who was smirking at him.

"I told you to remind me to do something before going to sleep." he said, getting down on one of his knees. Still unable to calm himself, Sehun gaped at him. "Sehun." he started.

Kneeling up, Sehun hastily grabbed Kai's shirt's collars and hauled him close. "This is your fault." he wheezed angrily.

"Yes, it is." Kai replied calmly.

"Why are you confusing me so much? Do you even have any idea how fucked up I am right now?! One minute, you're pushing me away. You're with Chanyeol. And the next, you fucking make me so hot! What *exactly* do you want me to do?!"

Kai curled his hands around Sehun's wrists and gently pushed Sehun to lie down on the floor. Hovering above him, Kai planted his hands on the floor, on either sides of Sehun's head. "I want you to fuck me, Sehun."

His ears rang. His breath stopped for a moment. His insides felt like they had exploded. "Wh-wh.. what?"

"I want to show you how amazing it would feel." his whisper drugged Sehun and the moment Kai lowered his hips to bring their cocks into contact, he felt the animalistic urge Kai's body was drowned in. "Fuck me tonight, Sehun."

Chapter Thirteen

The stars and streaks of colours out the window were suddenly too bright, if not protuberant. Kai straightened up and reached his hands back before pulling his shirt over his head. With every drop of breath snatched away, Sehun gaped at his brother, open-mouth, as his chest struggled to fill with air. Shifting a little, Kai knelt on the sides of Sehun's torso before lowering himself to sit on Sehun's stomach, palms pressed on Sehun's burning chest. The cold floor was starting to warm up against his back and Kai's ass grazing his cock was almost unbearable. "Sehun..." Kai breathed, dragging his palms up and down Sehun's thin chest before Sehun raised his hands to skim Kai's abs.

God, so hot... Sehun honestly could not figure whether it had been his thought or Kai's, but he certainly wasn't in the state to deliberate. His stomach deflated greatly due to extensive panting. His fingers shivered against Kai's abs. His hardening cock twitched upon Kai's ass.

As this is your first time, you should experience this. This time, it was surely Kai but Sehun's mind was too clouded to even process the words right. No matter how many times he tried to swallow, the lump remained in his throat. He had not spoken a word but it had been sort of a tacit agreement when Kai pinned him to the floor and asked him to fuck him. He had already agreed if he hadn't pushed Kai away, right? Even now, he was not even considering of putting a stop to any of this. He wanted this. He wanted this confusion to clear out. He was done trying to push away this sexual attraction he had garnered for his own brother.

The world was coming to an end. Fucking his brother should not make much difference anyway. They were all going to hell either way.

A smirk formed on Kai's lips. "Not talk about hell right now." he whispered and bowed down to press their foreheads together. "You're gonna be so hot inside me, Sehun." his warm breath against Sehun's trembling lips stirred even more blood in Sehun's nether regions. He could feel Kai's lust, his lech after the taste of Sehun's cock inside him, mixed with the hunger of pleasuring Sehun. For a moment, Sehun wondered what could be so amazing to penetrate and fill someone at the cost of great pain. But that was when Kai moved his lips to his cheeks and exhaled, "I want to come while you come inside me, filling me." Sehun silently gasped as his back arched off the floor a little and he dug his fingernails into Kai's abs. "And just as that, it will feel amazing to come inside you while you hold onto me." he pulled his lips to Sehun's neck and pressed a single kiss on the side of it. *Fuck me, Sehun.*

Pushing himself straight, he kept his palms rubbing Sehun's chest and nipples as he slowly started to rock his hips, grinding his ass against Sehun's cock. "Fuck..." Sehun wheezed, holding onto the sides of Kai's waist as Kai rubbed his ass up and down his crotch, tilting his head back a little. Kai's mind was only filled with images of Sehun fucking him hard, and often flashes of them in reversed positions. But the passion and drive within him erupted inside Sehun. Both of their lust and perfervid raging passion combined, provided Sehun enough desire to fuck Kai.

A part of him worried that this would also be another casual, meaningless act. But on the other hand, this was exactly what he wanted. A casual fuck. This should not convey any meaning. Kai wants to be fucked and I just happen to be available. That's it.

Sehun jolted upright immediately, grabbing the back of Kai's head and smashed his lips onto Kai's neck. "Uhh.." a subtle moan escaped Kai's lips when Sehun nipped on the sensitive skin of his neck before lowering the kiss to his protruding collarbones. As he gently grazed his teeth along the skin, sucking the spot a little, Kai swayed his hips forward in a faster pace, wrapping his arms around Sehun's neck before gripping a handful of Sehun's hair.

The bed would be too sentimental. If anything, Sehun would gladly fuck Kai on the cold hard floor because this was supposed to be meaningless. By the time Kai began to dry-ride him, Sehun's cock was painfully hard. A loud utterance of moans and groans from the both of them filled the room and when Sehun unconsciously drew his wet lips and tongue along Kai's jawline before kissing his chin and almost kissed the corner of Kai's lips, Kai turned his face away. With a strike of disappointment, Sehun realized what he had almost done. So fucking is alright, kissing isn't? Was it considered as sentimental?

Kai slipped off Sehun's lap and splayed his legs apart, sitting on the floor. Sehun's throat went completely dry from gasping too hard for air and he surely had no air left in him when Kai sensuously stroked his crotch between his legs over his pants, bracing himself with one elbow on the floor, leaning back. His eyes were piercing through Sehun just as much as Sehun's was lancing through him. Not until Kai pulled his pants off did Sehun kicked his own boxers away and knelt between Kai's knees. Lying so beautifully stark naked before Sehun, Kai spread his legs even wider while Sehun burned with shame. Kai was probably more used to this kind of stuff than Sehun was but right now, the younger surely didn't want to look like a clueless person. Kai was offering himself. And Sehun wanted to take all of him.

With a hand wrapped around his cock, Kai stroked it slowly, fixing his droopy eyes on Sehun as if he were coaxing his brother. Licking his lips, Sehun took hold of his own shaft and began to pump it, watching Kai's devilishly bronzed pink length. He wanted to taste Kai with his mouth. "Go on, Sehun." Kai encouraged in a gasp. The lack of touch was killing Sehun. He needed Kai to grab him, to hug him, to kiss him. If he were doing this for the sake of penetration... Sehun was overthinking. He wanted to this to be a casual fuck. And that was how he intended to keep it.

"I.. I.. don't know how to." he muttered with blood filling his cheeks again.

Smiling smugly, Kai came forward and brushed Sehun's lips with the back of his forefinger. "Suck." he sighed and Sehun automatically parted his lips before swirling his tongue around Kai's finger. When it was smeared with enough saliva, Kai brought it to his opening and upon pushing his finger in, he let out a moan of pleasure which excited Sehun at once. Stroking his own cock, his body felt limp with feverish lust to taste that wasted finger of Kai's as he stared at Kai fingering himself. "Ahh..." he threw his head back, moaning as he wished. Even watching him like this set Sehun ablaze. The yearn for feeling the same kind of pleasure stirred within him.

Unable to stand the heat of his body, Sehun leaned down and kissed the insides of Kai's thigh before sucking his middle finger. "You..." he huffed breathlessly. "You... want me... inside you?"

"So... badly.. Sehun."

As Sehun pushed his saliva-slicked finger into Kai, the latter collapsed completely on the floor, gripping his cock hard. Kai was warm on the inside. His opening was somewhat loosened as their fingers moved in and out of him in sync.

"Fuck, Sehun.. So hot." Kai panted and pulled his finger out to let Sehun to the job. "Uhh... ahh.. deeper. Finger.. me.. deeper."

The throbbing in his chest was not something Sehun could explain. It was both painful and wonderful. The pleasure Kai was feeling was radiated all over Sehun. "Do you.. feel... good?" it was a question Sehun did not need to ask. Kai was elevating into heaven of lechery and burning passion.

So good, Sehun... So good.

Pulling his finger out, Sehun sucked on his forefinger, brushing his spent finger along his lower lip and thrust them back into Kai before scissoring him open. Cacophonous groans and grumbles broke out of Kai but his powerful strokes on his cock suggested how pleasuring it was. Sehun licked his lips again, eyeing the leaking precome of Kai's cockhead. "Ughhh! Right there, Sehun... Right.. uh.. Fuck."

Sehun pulled his fingers out and placed a kiss on Kai's thigh again before positioning himself between Kai's legs. Kai already looked half wrecked on the floor but more than him, Sehun was overwhelmed with tiredness. Even so, the loss of strength only added to the zest of sex.

Spitting on his palm, Sehun slid it down his erected member, keeping his eyes on Kai who was staring at him excitedly. He pushed himself up and held onto the sides of Sehun's body before pressing a kiss onto Sehun's sternum.

Don't think. I want you tonight. As he laid back recumbent, Sehun leaned forward, propping himself with one hand on the floor by Kai's side and slowly pushed his erection into his older brother. "Uh." he let out, closing his eyes briefly to feel Kai clenching around his cock. It felt atrociously amazing. The way Kai throbbed, the hotness that engulfed his cock, the softness and the tightness along with the feeling of being penetrated, although not directly and prominently, but still very alarmingly hot. They all hit Sehun at once. When he flashed his eyes open, Kai was groaning under him. He gripped hard on a corner of Sehun's waist which would surely leave a bruise.

"Fuck me." he breathed out and Sehun slowly began to thrust. He had no real idea of what was right and what was wrong. It was probably twice as hard when doing with a guy but so far, Kai was reacting positively. Of all the people, his own brother was his first.

Kai had been his many firsts.

"Ah. Fuck." Sehun hissed, straightening up and held Kai's legs apart before supporting his lower body when Kai pushed it up.

"Harder, Sehun!" Kai screamed, pumping his own cock hard. The amount of pleasure that surged through Sehun's body was almost killing him. More than his own pleasure, Kai's pleasure outshone it all. He was right. The feeling of being filled had a ecstatic advantage. But most of all, seeing Kai like this, destructable and very much vulnerable caused a turmoil in Sehun's heart. Such a beautiful man. And for a second, Sehun wanted to keep this man all to himself. It was nothing much but just fucking. But for Sehun, this was sparking whole lot of other things.

As he picked up the pace of his thrusts, the room reverberated of their moans and cries. "I.. I'm... gonna... come.." he warned Kai in gasps.

Kai instantly stroked his brutally swollen cock harder. Sehun could not help but get thirsty over Kai's thick, big cock. There was a beautiful pleasure in pain.

And that was when flashes of En-ren piercing through him popped up before Sehun's eyes. Followed by Chanyeol fucking him and he, fucking himself. No... U. It wasn't him. It was Kai.

No... He can't do this. He pulled out of Kai before he could stain him with his come. "Sehun." Kai wheezed, but he was too close to reaching his own climax. Sehun quickly pumped his own cock which was damp from Kai's heat and shot out strings of hot load only a second before Kai. With their bodies covered in each other's come, they froze to catch their breaths, staring intently into one another's eyes before Sehun dropped to sit on the floor, leaning against a wall. For minutes, no words were shared between them until Kai got onto his feet. "Sehun."

"Don't." he closed his eyes. "I don't want to..."

Kai didn't bother to say anything more and the next thing Sehun knew was the bathroom's door closing. By the time Kai came out, Sehun was fully dressed, but completely worn out that his body was close to shutting off. "Sehun."

Without acknowledging him, Sehun dropped the bed and instantly conked out, unable to stand the fatigue any longer.

He had fucked his own brother. He had given up. He had given in. How was he supposed to live with himself after this? The guilt phase should hit him now. But it didn't. He only realized the effect Kai had on him. What was the point in fighting any further? Sehun stared into the outerspace, sitting on the edge of the bed. When he woke up for the first calling, Kai was nowhere to be seen in the room. He didn't even know if Kai had slept on the bed at all. He was completely attracted to his own brother and it wasn't something he could avoid any longer. He needed to see Kai. He needed to make sure that Kai felt the same way about him and last night was not just about him getting screwed.

His body was a wreck. His knees were sore. His chest was tight. His head spun. But that was definitely no excuse for calling the day off in the army, right?

Somehow managing to stand up, Sehun freshened up and dragged his tired feet out of the room before weaving his way to the med sec, hoping to find Kai there. It was awkward. He wasn't sure if he wanted to confront Kai. But he surely did want to see him. Despite the last part, what happened between them, although no emotions or sentiments were involved, was authentic and marvellous beyond words.

Upon entering the ward with a heavy heart, wondering the kind of scene he might have to put up with, he saw Doc by the side of U's cot, checking the monitor and much to Sehun's surprise, Chanyeol was there. But Kai was not around here either.

Sehun's heart jumped a little when he threw U a look. God, I'm never getting used to this. He mentally sighed at how weird it was seeing himself who was completely different. U was watching Chanyeol with a child-like look on his face and furrowed eyebrows. He was confused, curious, perplexed. But how was he not crying? Kai wasn't here and he was actually letting Chanyeol sit on his bed. Chanyeol held a syringe in his hand, laughing by himself. U kept his eyes fixated on Chanyeol, as if trying to learn and immitate his actions. "Here." Chanyeol handed the syringe over to him, but U quickly shook his head with a shocked expression and pulled back. "No, it won't hurt you. See." he pulled and released the piston. "Here."

Carefully giving the syringe a once-over, U timidly extended a hand and almost touched the syringe but as soon as his fingers brushed Chanyeol's, he retreated them and pulled his cover over his face to hide behind it. It was utterly surprising to find Chanyeol in here first thing at the start of the day.

"Ah, Sehun." Doc greeted him with a warm smile and U immediately shot Sehun a look. Chanyeol rose to his feet and Sehun saluted him tiredly.

"Whatever happened to you?" Chanyeol asked but there was not even a hint of concern in his tone.

"Yesterday had been a very exciting day for all of us, I'm sure." Sehun muttered, rubbing the back of his neck. "Doc, have you seen LT?"

"No." Doc shrugged.

"He's on duty today. First call." Chanyeol supplied. "You and him are probably going to have a board session in another couple of hours." his face wilted out of the sudden and he shot U a look before facing Sehun again. "Can I have a word with you?"

Sehun arched a brow. "Me?"

"Am I talking to a warthog, then?" he rolled his eyes and stomped over to him before grabbing his arm and hauled him out of the ward. "Listen." he said in a low voice, eyeing the ward again. "Whatever they ask you, don't bail out to save your own ass, do you understand?"

For a moment, Sehun felt like he had been slapped in the face. An instant rage rushed through him as anger filled his chest. "Excuse me, sir?"

"I know that you're not on the best terms with Kai but if anything happens to him, I'll kill you. Do you understand?"

"I'm his brother, in case you're not informed."

"Oh, I'm informed. I just don't give a damn."

Well, here's the damn I give; Fuck off, asshole.

Sehun clenched his jaw and remained silent. "I seriously don't know the extent of the interrogation but... I hope nothing happens. To Kai or..." he gazed at the ward again and a tiny speck of smile formed on his lips. "Ulex."

"Ulex?"

"Yep. That's why I decided to call him." he smirked and patted on Sehun's shoulder. The second alarm wailed out of nowhere and Chanyeol groaned, running his hand through his hair. "Duty calls. Are you coming, worm?"

"In a while, sir." Sehun entered the ward again and saw U... Ulex looking up at Doc who was checking his pulse like a child lost in a crowd. "Did he eat, Doc?"

"I'm afraid not." Doc sighed and Ulex blinked his eyes at Sehun. For a moment, Sehun had to swallow. Such piercing yellow eyes. But innocent eyes. Kai may not care about Ulex but apparently Chanyeol had started to and so did Sehun. It was a weird feeling. "I can't convince him to put a thing in his mouth."

"I have to report now. I'll help you out later, Doc?"

"Sure, son."

Sehun nodded and shot Ulex another look. Blinking again, the yellow-eyed creature slowly reached a hand out to Sehun's arm but quickly withdrew it as soon as the tips of his fingers touched Sehun's uniform's sleeve. He was going to be incinerated. Like a waste. It sent a shudder down Sehun's spine. That could pretty much be Kai's fate if they figure the secrets Kai was hiding. "Hey." Sehun smiled at Ulex and the latter's cheeks coloured dark pink. He

looked away, shivering before looking up at Sehun again. "I know that you can't understand but my name's Sehun. And you're... apparently Ulex."

Ulex bit his lower lip and shook his head. It almost made Sehun chuckle.

"I have a sister like you." he sighed. "Almost." the thought of El only agonized him. Pushing the thoughts away, he tossed Ulex one final grin before making his way out of the ward. Poor thing. Sure he did annoy Sehun at first. But now that he knew that Kai did not care much for him, Sehun felt somewhat... better. Why should he feel better? Why should it feel great to even think that Kai would choose him over Chanyeol or anyone else for that matter?

Despite being on bad terms with Chanyeol, Sehun hoped he wouldn't become too attached to Ulex who had an expiry date. It was scary on a whole different level to even think about having expiry dates.

As he made his way to the elevator, he saw Kris bullying a small-sized private in the corner. Completely ignoring the situation, he stepped into the elevator. The whole point of training was futile. He didn't even know why this still kept going. NU19 is just sending in stasis pods and the army couldn't even do anything about it. How were they going to stop an invasion? Kai knew this. He knew it very well, too. In fact, it seemed like he had given up just as much as Sehun had. And what happened between them last night was an example of it. So what was this shenanigan for? Kai had suggested this whole bootcamp apparently. What was the reason?

When the elevator opened, Sehun slowly plodded out into the crowd of soldiers who were making their way to the assembly hall. Kai promised that Sehun would return home. But he didn't say anything about himself. If Sehun could go home, why couldn't he? The thought of leaving Kai behind suddenly terrified Sehun. It was as if Kai were sure that he would not make it. Just as he was sure that Ulex wouldn't make for long.

.....

He came to a sudden halt when it hit him hard. That moment, everything darkened around him as his body felt like it had been crushed by a truck. Ulex was an NU19 experiment. Kai was the first experiment. What if... What if...How would Kai even know about the expiry dates and shit if he weren't involved in it?

(A/N) This is not the BIG smut ;)

Chapter Fourteen

No, I'm probably so fucked that I'm imagining things. Heaving a loud sigh, Sehun stood still in the ward with his knees wavering and head falling heavy. He had not seen Kai the whole day, neither had he seen him in the shooting range nor the combat training. Just about how long can Kai last without touching Sehun after their explicit contact last night? For some odd reason, Sehun hoped that it wouldn't be too long. Last night had been both wonderful and horrifying. For the first time, Sehun experienced the pleasure by pleasuring another. But of all the people, why Kai? Why did he have to be his brother? The confusion only deepened. Was it just attraction that he felt towards Kai? Was he just lusting over his brother? The very fact that Sehun had never engaged in an intimate course with anyone could have contributed greatly to his attraction to Kai. They shared far too many hours together, touching, sleeping on the same bed. It was only naturally for any human being to be pulled into that unspeakable sinful side. But even so, the brother Sehun thought of Kai to be was no longer there. This man... This man was something else. Not for the first time, Sehun saw Kai as a man he was unfamiliar with. But still, he saw Kai as a man. Not his brother.

On the other hand, he dreaded Kai's response due to last night. Why should he be anxious at all? Didn't he agree that it would be a meaningless fuck between brothers? They didn't even kiss. No, Kai refused to kiss him. Even though Sehun pretended to be impassive about it, his heart bounced, recalling how wrecked Kai was under him. A part of him longed to see how he'd be under Kai. He needed to see Kai. Even at the thought of it, his chest heaved.

A silent whimper snapped him back to reality. Ulex stirred in his sleep and made subtle groaning noises before he shifted on the mattress. "Uff. Uh.." he mewled with his eyes clenched tight and eyebrows furrowed.

"Hey." Sehun whispered, seating himself on the bed and took Ulex's shivering hand. "Hey?"

"Nh. Uff." he panted and wriggled, vigorously turning his head on the pillow.

"U... Ulex?"

His eyes suddenly flashed open and all the movements ceased. It would be so much easier if Ulex didn't look exactly like him. Ulex's hair was much longer than his, though. Fluttering

his droopy eyes a few times, Ulex stared at Sehun sleepily, curling his fingers around Sehun's hand. How difficult it must have been for Kai to ruin this clueless creature... Even Sehun could not stand to picture the horror Ulex must have been through. Thinking about, Sehun would so much like to drive his fist up En-Fucking-ren ass. But no, he doubted that En-ren would spare him even a second to receive some spit from Sehun.

"I brought you something." Chanyeol's voice which gushed into the ward out of the blue drew Sehun's attention instantly.

"Huh?" he vacantly blinked and then realized Chanyeol was talking to Ulex who had roused from his sleep.

"Have you seen Kai?" Chanyeol questioned with his eyes and smile on Ulex.

"No. I was actually hoping you would have seen him."

Shrugging, Chanyeol took his seat on the furthest edge of the other side of Ulex's bed as the yellow-eyed boy yawned, pushing himself upright to a sitting position. "Where's Doc?"

"He went to get dinner."

"When's your board meeting?"

"I wasn't informed." Sehun replied tiredly and Chanyeol finally looked up at him.

"That's odd. I thought they'd interrogate you today. I only saw Kai in the morning with the colonel. He looked... jumpy. He even smiled at me." he rolled his eyes and pulled the packeted dried apple out of his pocket. "Hey, Ulex." his grin made Sehun shudder with goosebumps. What was it that Chanyeol saw in Ulex that he didn't see in Sehun? Innocence? Cluelessness? Purity? "Doc said I could get you something to eat." he told Ulex and held the packet out.

"Hngg." Ulex whined and only when he squeezed Sehun's hand did Sehun realize their hands were still clasped together.

"It's just apple." Sehun told him in a sigh as if he'd be able to understand. "I don't think he wants to eat it."

"Of course he doesn't." with a frown, Chanyeol dropped his eyes to the dried apples.

Closing his eyes briefly, Sehun drew in a sharp breath and held a hand out. "Give me that."

With an arched brow, Chanyeol handed him the packet. Ulex kept his eyes wide open as he intently watched Sehun tear open the packet. It must have looked like a miracle for him.

"Look." he pulled a dried apple slice out and tossed it into his mouth before chewing on it.

"I didn't buy it for you." Chanyeol hissed with a grimace.

"I know. You need to set an example. Or else he wouldn't understand." he mumbled while munching on the candied fruit. "So... Ulex." the name rolled off his tongue like a boulder. It was almost impossible to call him with the name Chanyeol decided. "Here. Try."

Ulex's gaze was fixated on Sehun's moving mouth. He blinked several times while Sehun masticated the apple. And after a moment, he opened his mouth wide. "Ah." he puffed out and Sehun froze for a second.

"O.. kay.." he brought an apple bit to his mouth only to have it rejected. Ulex sharply turned his head from the apple slice and timidly pointed at Sehun's mouth before opening his mouth again.

"Oh!" Chanyeol yelped and snatched the slice from Sehun's hand. "You can leave, Private."

"What?"

"I said you can leave."

"I have to look after him until Doc-"

"I'm here, aren't I?" he began to scowl. "Get out."

Clenching his jaw, Sehun rose to his feet. It had been a torment to train under Chanyeol today and without Kai around, he was on full-throttle on making it a hell for the unit. "Close the door on your way." he heard Chanyeol order as he wove his way out of the ward.

Oppressing the raging fury within him, Sehun pulled the door to close but stopped before it could lock. Peering through the narrow gap of the door, his heart began to pump fast when he saw Chanyeol taking a bite of the apple slice before leaning in to Ulex. After licking his lips, Ulex reached up with his mouth held open and accepted the fruit straight from Chanyeol's mouth. A soft chuckle escaped Chanyeol's lips when Ulex started to chew.

With his heart slowly sinking to his stomach, Sehun pulled the door to lock and leaned his back on it for a moment, trying to catch his breath. He was envious of neither Ulex nor Chanyeol. It was the thought of him in Ulex's place and Kai in Chanyeol's spot which drove him over the edge. Even Chanyeol and an alien had a chance. But not Sehun and his brother. He was past brooding over Chanyeol. It had been nothing but wet dreams with Chanyeol. Chanyeol was Kai's. He was with Kai.

But Kai... from the moment they had met until now, he had been Sehun's. No matter how much Sehun tried to convince himself that such love with his blood-related brother was not conceivable, he still wondered what it might be like to let himself fall for his own brother. Had it only been just attraction all this while? Then how could he feel all these emotions out of the sudden? Especially after piercing through Kai last night. What was this sudden drive? And why was it so strong? Seeing Chanyeol with Ulex was heart-rending. Why couldn't he receive such love? From Kai...

"Sehun?"

"Doc." he gasped, pulling himself away from the door.

"What are you doing outside?"

"Uh... Chanyeol's in there." he muttered, attempting to calm his racing heart. "Doc. You wouldn't happen to know about... uhm..."

"What is it, son?" his eyes narrowed behind the glasses.

"Uh... nothing. I just... I don't you'd wanna go in there just yet." he jerked his thumb over his own shoulder before plunging his hands into his pockets.

"Why not?"

"Chanyeol's... trying to teach Ulex how to eat."

"Well, that'd be a wonder if he manages to do so." Doc chuckled, leaning his rear on the wall behind him and crossed his arms over his chest. "I have actually come up with a theory about U... lex?"

"Ulex. And.. what theory?"

"He looks everything like you. You're Kai's brother. Kai was trapped with NU19 for years. And they have unparalleled science beyond human understanding. It's paranormal. Even us humans are close to a cloning era. Whom to say that the NU19s are not masters in it?"

Sehun gulped the lump that had started to rise in his throat. "Doc, I need to go."

"Wait." his gaze was penetrating. "I don't know how much you and Kai are hiding, but I'm not that stupid, Sehun."

"We're not hiding anything, Doc. And I never said that. You're the wisest man I've ever come across in my life."

"Hm." he nodded curtly. "He doesn't speak. Does he?"

"No, I don't think so. You know that as well."

"Speaking is a form of sense that only humans have. It is something that it non-forgeable. If he's not speaking, I guess we can all admit that he's not really human being."

This was beyond appalling. Why should Ulex be categorized as non human being just because he didn't have human traits?! Sometimes, even animals were more humane than these brutal humans. "If you're saying it, then you're probably right, Doc."

"I hope I'm not." the man sighed. "I would hate to see that poor thing executed for no reason."

"So... you're not gonna tell anyone about your theory?"

With a shake of his head, Doc pulled the glasses off. "Would I be such a cruel man to indirectly kill a child?"

A child. There could have been no other word to describe Ulex more perfectly. "Doc, Kai isn't hiding anything. I promise you. And... thank you. For everything." he saluted the officer before starting past him.

"Sehun, wait. What did you want to ask me before?"

"Ah, sir. It was nothing."

"Come on, son. If there's anyone I'd like to help on the Quantum, it's you."

Smiling subtly, Sehun rubbed the back of his neck, hoping that he could keep face neutral.
"I was w-wondering about... about..."

"Is it something personal?"

"I just need some advice, Doc. And I don't know whom I should ask."

"Then go on. Ask."

"Men in the army... the quite frequently engage in... in..."

A hoarse laugh broke out of Doc's mouth before he raised a hand. "I understand." he snickered and wove his way to one of the cabinets in the examination room, droning a little. "Here." he tossed Sehun a box.

"What is this?" with a pair of knitted eyebrows, Sehun probed the box before unlidding it and found packets of condoms in it. Completely baffled and set ablaze, Sehun stood there, paralyzed as his cheeks burned.

"I have no idea who could finally caught your eyes, but here." he hurled a bottle. Upon catching it, Sehun gave the colourless liquid a cursory once-over, wanting to bury himself right there and then. "Safe sex is always recommended."

"D-Doc... I... wasn't... Oh god." he settled the condoms and lube on the examination table.
"I'm not... I.."

"It's okay, Sehun. We all tend to wander sometimes." Doc smirked.

"I was just going to ask if it's okay. I didn't want these. I'm sorry, I have to leave."

"Sehun." Doc chuckled behind him as he practically dashed out of the room. Instead of going back to his room, Sehun plodded his way to the vending machine near the barracks on the second level. Condoms. God. It wasn't like he was going to do it with Kai again or anything. It was just a one-time thing. And yet, why couldn't he stop thinking about it.

Slumping his back on the vending machine, Sehun rubbed his eyes with the hilt of his palms. The corridors were abandoned, which meant all the soldiers were down in the canteen, devouring the place up. But then he heard the fade voices inching nearer and nearer before he saw Kris and his usual group of mental inmates sauntering into the corridor. Besides Chanyeol, Kris was the prick who had been giving the whole unit a hard time with his constant bullying and cussing.

Sehun immediately turned to face the vending machine when Kris' eyes landed on him.
"Hey, faggot's here, guys!" he announced and crude bellowing and howling surged through the corridor.

"How would you know if I'm a faggot, Kris? It's not like I fucked your sorry ass." Sehun threw back, balling his hands into fists.

For a moment, Kris seemed genuinely taken aback before grit his teeth and stomped forward. Clutching at Sehun's uniform shirt, he hauled him close with a brutal force. "You fuckin' me, faggot?"

"No, thank you, Kris."

A round of scoffs and chortles wove through Kris' company, which only heightened Kris' vexation. He gave Sehun a hard shove, sending him stumbling. "If there's anyone fucking over here, it won't be you, asshole."

"Fucking step away, Kris. I don't have the mood for your antics." he started to brush past Kris before the taller brought a palm to his chest and shoved him back again.

"Where are you going, fag? To whine to your faggot brother? What a faggot family. Tell me, is your father at least normal since he... you know, gave birth to two whining sluts?"

The smart thing to do right now was to remain quiet. But with his blood curdling and veins protruding, Sehun was not sure that he could keep his fist to himself. "I don't want any problem, Kris." he spat through his grinding teeth and strutted away from Kris.

"Well, of course you don't!" Kris cried. "You should go and bitch to your cocksucker of a brother! Let's see just about how 'manly' he is!"

"Everyone knows your brother is a cockfucker, Sehun!" another yelled before the corridor erupted with laughter.

"Not just that. He's delusional asshole who does nothing but boss people around. I wouldn't be surprised if he fucks his own brother."

There was no word in existence to describe the anger Sehun was drowned in. His body was bathed with sweat. His chest heaved as his stomach churned with outraging indignation. But he kept his strides steady. All these people like Kris should not be the ones to judge Kai or him. Hell, they didn't even deserve to breathe!

This had been such a terrible day and the last thing he needed to rile him completely up was Kai to say that last night had meant nothing to him. For some odd reason, Sehun looked forward to it. He needed the pain to overcome his rage. He did not want to cry. He was not going to cry.

But as soon as he burst into the room, his eyes gave in as ferocious tears welled up in them. "Sehun." Kai gasped, jolting up from the bed. "Where have you been... Sehun? Hey, what happened?" he lurched forward with a hand aiming for Sehun's face.

Swatting the hand off, Sehun plunged the side of his fist on the button to close the door before grabbing Kai's collars and shoved him to lie on the bed.

"Sehun, what are you doing?" he stopped himself when Sehun mounted him.

With hot rivulets of tears trickling down his cheeks, Sehun gripped Kai's shirt by the chest and yapped, "Fuck me."

Kai froze fleetingly, gaping at Sehun with bulging eyes. "Sehun..." he sighed when the moment had passed.

"Fuck me, Kai!"

Grabbing hold of Sehun's wrists, Kai yanked him to the bed before pinning Sehun under him, pressing his fighting hands on the mattress. "Calm down, Sehun."

"No! Let go of me!" with his eyes stinging and heart pounding, Sehun wriggled, wanting to free himself. "Fuck me, Kai!"

"No." he said quietly. "Sehun, you're angry. I'm not going to do that to you when you're like this."

The instant Sehun felt Kai's gentleness, he went soft under him. He could feel that Kai wanted to make a mess of him. He was yearning to push through him. Kai's longing to make love to Sehun was suddenly all too prominent. And then Sehun realized that Kai was deliberately letting him know of all this.

"See." Kai's whisper was like a butterfly's wings fluttering by his ear. "I do want to, Sehun." he bowed down and brushed his burning lips against Sehun's cheek as his grip on Sehun's wrists loosened before his hands slid up to clasp Sehun's, intertwining their fingers. "But I want you to ask me whole-heartedly. Not like *this*."

His intoxicating scent, his powerful grip, his pinning weight, his hard and soft chest, all made Sehun dizzy. The way Kai's heart beat against his own was more than enough to say to he was smitten. They both were.

Kai got off him once Sehun had been rendered weak and slid to drop on the bed by Sehun's side. Staring at the ceiling, Sehun focused on stabilizing his breaths but Kai's heat only made everything worse. Even the sound of Kai's rough breathing was tantalizing. "Sehun." he exhaled, but when Sehun didn't turn to face him, he slid a warm palm along his cheek and turned his face until their eyes met. He was smiling. "That was the first time you called me by my name."

"What?" he curled his hand around Kai's watch on the wrist, shifting to front on to Kai.

Kai edged close enough for their bodies to touch and noses to brush before whispering, "You said my name." he skimmed Sehun's cheekbone with his thumb while the rest of his fingers stroked Sehun's hair. *Will you say it again?*

Kai...

His lips stretched into a full-blown smile. "You... you used to adore me, before you hated me as your brother. Will you... see me as a man now?"

"I already do." it was almost difficult to admit it. "I... I wanted to ask you something."

"What is it?"

"How do you know that Ulex has an expiry date?"

"Ulex?"

"That's what Chanyeol decided to call him."

Kai cocked a brow. "Chanyeol? Why is he hanging out with him?"

"I don't know." he lied. "My question is... I... do you... perhaps... have an expiry date or something?"

Kai outright laughed. "Where would you get such an idea from?" he pushed Sehun's bangs out of his forehead and dragged his fingers down Sehun's temple.

"So... you don't?"

"Not that I know of."

Letting out a sigh of relief, Sehun fixed his eyes on Kai's lips as they remained in silence for a long minute. "LT... Kai.. about last night..."

"Shh. It's was beautiful. So beautiful, Sehun. And... I'm glad you pulled out before you..." he trailed off.

"Why?"

"This way, I can claim you in a much different way." he smiled. "I just want you to know that last night was amazing. I've never felt something like that before, Sehun."

Swallowing, Sehun bit his lip for a second. "Will you... kiss me?"

"No. Not yet." he breathed and pulled Sehun into a gentle embrace. "I wanted to thank you, Sehun." he said against the crook of Sehun's neck. "For giving me this chance."

Sehun was brought around to the sound of something very dissimilar than the usual alarm and when his eyes flew open, Kai's did as well. For a split second, they stared blankly at each other before Sehun heard the doorbell screeching again. "I'll get it." he blurted out and cleared his throat before staggering out of the bed. Hastily running his fingers through his tousled hair, Sehun straightened his shirt as well and glanced back at Kai who had gotten out of bed.

Upon opening the door, Sehun went blank to see Chanyeol, the General, the Commander along with two sergeants. He quickly raised his hand to salute but one of the sergeant shoved him aside before barging in.

"What's going on?" he stuttered out at Chanyeol who threw him an apologizing look.

"You have the right to keep your mouth shut, Private!" the General barked as he stomped into the room. With his stomach clenching, Sehun peered over at Kai who remained calm as usual. "Lieutenant Commander Kai."

"General." Kai saluted.

"This is an unofficial inquisition and I hope you'll cooperate." said Chanyeol with a morose tone.

Nodding, Kai pulled his hands back and stood at ease. "What is this about?"

The Commander cleared his throat before speaking. "The board might believe what you're saying, but we're no fools, Lieutenant Commander. If you have something to say about the arrival of this unlikely being which resembles your brother, you should speak now."

"I've already told you that I don't know anything."

"Bullshit!" the General yapped. "We all saw how that boy or alien clung onto you! Your lies do not withstand your actions!"

Kai held onto his stoic expression. "If you're claiming that I've lied, I assume that interrogation is past necessary, General."

That earned him a hard blow of the sergeant's fist right on the face which sent him staggering. "Kai! Stop!" as soon as Sehun had screamed and lurched forward, the other sergeant grabbed his arm and hauled him back before dragging him out of the room. "Stop! Don't hurt him, you bastards!"

"Know your place, soldier!" the sergeant's knee dived into Sehun's guts before his palm struck a side of Sehun's face.

Groaning and coughing, his head spun with the pain agonizing his body. Kai slightly shook his head, signalling Sehun to be quiet. The sergeant threw him out of the room before locking the door. For a moment, Sehun thought about slamming his fists on the door but then he reckoned that it wouldn't help anyone. With his throat choked with air, he covered his face with his sweating palms. How could Chanyeol just stand and watch?!

He wanted to barge back into the room, but again, it wouldn't bode well for either of them. So all that he could do was anxiously pace the corridor until the door was finally opened after an hour or so. The officers strutted out of there with exhausted faces, but Sehun didn't bother to even acknowledge them as he sprinted into the room, and found Kai sitting on the bed with a bruised cheek.

"Kai, I'm really sorry." Chanyeol muttered, raising a hand to Kai's cheek.

"Get out, Chanyeol." surprisingly, Kai beat Sehun to it.

Frowning, Chanyeol dragged his feet out of the room as Sehun dropped to his knees before Kai. "I can't believe they would do something like this." he panted through the sob in his throat and caressed Kai's cheek. "Kai..."

"They're going to execute me, Sehun."

"What are you talking about?" his voice came out as a bare whisper.

Kai held a hand out to touch Sehun's face but dropped it instead. "They think I'm a threat."

"Are you insane, Kai?! Why couldn't you just tell him everything you know about NU19?!"

"They would still kill me for hiding the truth all this while."

"Kai... No. No... This can't be!" he shot up to his feet and scrubbed his face, forcing the fresh tears away. "When?"

Kai smiled. "In another two hours."

Chapter Fifteen

"T-two..." Sehun heaved in as his breath quickened with his windpipe choking.

"Hours... *Two* hours?"

It was as if he had suffered a cold-blooded whiplash. His whole body shivered in barbaric and sadistic waves. The oxygen supply was suddenly all too sparse that he could barely breathe any longer. What could they possibly do to escape this callous fate in two hours?!

"No. No, that can't be." he exhaled, eyes stinging with hot tears. "No, no, Kai." it was almost impossible to even bring the words out through his tugging chest.

"You know how things work on the Quantum, Sehun. You do something wrong, and the next minute, you're nothing but trash, ready to be incinerated. Two hours is more than

enough for them to clear out the paper works. I doubt that this interrogation was unplanned by the board itself." Kai's impassive tone struck Sehun dumb for a moment.

"What will happen after that?!"

"I'm guessing that they'll play with you and Ulex for a while. They can't harm you without reason, Sehun. And they won't have one. They already know that you're clueless. I, on the other hand, don't seem so innocent, do I? They know about me sharing a heartbeat with you, which makes me somewhat alien to them. Moreover, Ulex's pod arrived after me. No matter how you think about it, I pose a threat to the Quantum, and thus your first line of defence."

"Kai... you're going to be incinerated and you're... so calm?"

Bringing his hands to his face, he wiped it before letting out a heavy sigh and stuck his hands into his pockets. "What do you want me to do, Sehun?"

"Tell them! Tell them that you're not the one who's to be blamed for all of this!"

A speck of a smile formed on Kai's lips, but it was almost as depressing as the way Sehun's heart struggled to pump. "As long as I keep my mouth shut, you and Ulex will be safe." said Kai with his face wilting by the second.

"Kai..."

"At least for some time. The moment they figure Ulex out, he's gonna be-"

"Executed as well?" the idea struck Sehun as a dagger straight to his heart.

"Worse. He'll become a tool for experiments, Sehun."

"What do we do? Surely there's a way."

"There isn't any." his smile faltered as he turned his back to Sehun.

"So you're just going to give up and let those bastards murder you without even a trial?!"

"There's no trial in the military. Not on the Quantum at least, Sehun. You know that." his voice was hoarse and deep as if he himself were choking back sobs. "They know that I'm going to say the same thing to the board later. That interrogation was nothing but for formalities."

"They said that they will have us interrogated by the board!"

"You don't understand, do you?" he spun around to face Sehun again. "They're going to bring me to the board to seal my fate. That's it."

"They didn't ask me a thing! I could have attested to your innocence!"

"This is no democracy, Sehun. And sympathetic judiciary does not exist here, does it?"

"I can't just let you die." he finally gave in as his voice broke and a bead of tear rolled down his cheek. For a long minute, they gazed upon one another with dejection rising in their eyes. And then Kai stepped forward before taking Sehun's face into his hands.

"Oh.. Sehun.. I thought you hated me." Kai's breath against his lips was both enthralling and bewitching. His dark eyes made Sehun's drop low. The smell of his skin made Sehun weak at the knees. His warm palms against his cheeks were inviting and intruding. *Why, Sehun? Why now? Why me?*

I don't know... He closed his eyes, wanting to breathe all of Kai in. Oh, how much he had loathed Kai... How badly he had wished for Kai to disappear from his life again... And now, how desperate he was, wanting to spend just a little more time with his brother. *Please... Please don't leave me like this. Not again...*

He opened his eyes when he felt Kai's hands dropping from his face but before he even knew it, Kai hauled him into an embrace. Burrowing his nose in the crook of Kai's neck, Sehun curled his arms under Kai's to hug him, clinging onto the back of the older's shoulders.

A sharp gasp escaped Sehun's lips as he felt Kai's unfamiliar sorrow surge through his own body. He was not worried for his death. He was not worried about leaving Sehun. He was surely worried about Sehun leaving him. Baffled, Sehun hugged him tighter, wrapping Kai with his arms, forcing his body against Kai's. All the energy that was drained from him enhanced Kai's powerful emotions. He slowly began to pant, breathing heavy against the side of Sehun's neck before his lips brushed it. With their chests pressed so close together, Sehun could feel Kai's heart beating against his own. In sync. It was almost artificial. How could two men's heart beat in complete synchronization like this? It was surreal. It was as if they were made to share the same heart.

You're my heartbeat, Sehun...

Kai...

Wrapping his arms tighter around Sehun's neck, Kai planted numerous kisses alongside Sehun's face, until the temple before drawing back and took hold of Sehun's head again. "I have changed. A lot. I'm not your brother anymore. But... do you like me for who I am *now*?"

"Why are you asking this?" it was a problem to even get the words out through his blocked throat and misty eyes.

"I need to know."

How painful it was for them to end things before they even started... Sehun was an idiot. He should not have pushed Kai away for far too long. When they had sex, Kai's intentions had been obvious enough and yet, Sehun had been so stubborn on pining on it being just a casual sex between brothers. They lived in the days where nothing was guaranteed.

Yes.

Clenching his eyes momentarily, Kai grinned to himself. "Then I should tell you that I've fallen for you from the day I've.. seen you."

With his ears clogged, Sehun barely made out a word that Kai was saying anymore. "We can't escape... Can we?"

"I'm afraid not." he ran his fingers through Sehun's hair while his thumb stroked Sehun's lips once. It was probably too late to admit, but Sehun could have never seen another gentler human being. He regretted every foul thought he had had of Kai. "Do you... trust *me*, Sehun?"

"What? Why are you asking me this now?"

A smirk pulled a corner of Kai's lips up. "I wanted to if you'd trust me. That's all."

"I-" Sehun abruptly cut off as the siren went off. The wailing alarm stopped after a few seconds and Kai pulled away from Sehun.

"I guess that's my death call."

"Kai, please... Sure I wanted to get rid of you in the beginning. But... I never wanted to see you dead! Please..."

"Sehun." a frown finally swept across his forehead. There was a sudden bang by the entrance of the door and Sehun found the four elite soldiers, armed and ready, at the door.

"No..." he breathed out, gaping helplessly at the soldiers.

"Sehun." Kai whispered from the back. "Could you get Ulex to come see me before I..."

Without even thinking for another second, Sehun frantically broke into sprint, shoving past the elite soldiers and dashed straight to the med sec. Doc was nowhere to be seen. Praying like a complete fool, Sehun hoped that at least Doc would be able to help Kai. When he burst into the ward, he froze to see Chanyeol covering in sweat and tears as he wept hard, seated on the edge of Ulex's bed. Blinking, Ulex only stared at him crying, wearing a confused expression. "I want you safe. I want Kai safe." Chanyeol sobbed before wiping his soaked cheeks with his shirt's sleeves. "Fuck, there's nothing that I could fucking do!"

Ulex jumped a little at the outburst. Chewing on his lower lip, he held a hand up and caressed Chanyeol's cheek with his fingertips. Baffled, Chanyeol faced him with a snivel. "Ooh." Ulex puffed out and prodded a finger into Chanyeol's lips before opening his mouth. "Ah." as if asking for food.

Snickering and scoffing through the tears, managing a smile, Chanyeol shook his head. "I don't carry food in my mouth all the time." he muttered and turned his head around before spotting Sehun in the room. "Sehun." he shot up, glaring at him with painful red eyes. "Sehun, listen to me-"

"No. It's not your fault." he quickly cut him off. "It's not any of *our* fault." he gulped to wet his shrivelled throat. "But if there's any way at all to save him, Chanyeol... please, please. He doesn't even have two hours!"

"You think I'd stand and watch if I knew a way?! There's no way out of this, Sehun!"

Sniffing his nose, Sehun scrubbed his face, not wanting to break into further sobs. There was just no way out. No way to save him. All of Sehun wished that Kai had never come

back. A part of him wished that En-ren or whatever the NU19's name was, would just attack this ship and stop the execution even at the cost of destructing the first line of defence. Why was Kai's life inferior to any of their lives?!

"Kai wants Ulex to see him." he blurted out, pacing the ward's floor.

"Ulex?" Chanyeol murmured. "Why?"

"Like hell I know why!"

"He can't walk."

"I don't care, Chanyeol. Please."

Fortunately, Chanyeol didn't waste any more time as he hurried to Ulex's side while Sehun raced back, out of the ward, but was brought to a sudden halt when he heard the alarm's cry. **"Gate C-breached! Gate F-breached! Gate D-breached! Alert! Alert! All units to stations! Gate C-breached! Gate F-breached! Gate D-breached! Alert! Alert! All units to stations!"**

He stood there paralyzed for a minute. "What the fuck happened?!" Chanyeol roared, catching up to him. "How can so many gates be breached at the same time?"

"No." with his heart hammering to his chest, Sehun charged out of the med sec with Chanyeol tagging behind him. As soon as he stepped out of the examination room, the whole corridor was congested with scurrying and scampering as the alarm wailed louder.

"Gate C-breached! Gate F-breached! Gate D-breached! Gate-E breached! Alert! Alert! All units to stations! Elite Unit secure the gates!"

"Move!" Sehun shoved the sprinting soldiers out of his path as he dashed through them to get to his room.

"Sehun!" he heard Chanyeol's cry through all the cacophonous noises, but without bothering to even stall another minute, Sehun kept pushing and shoving with his heart ramming upon his ribs. *No, no, Kai...*

"Sehun, where are you going?!" Lay gasped when Sehun bumped straight into him. "The gates have been breached!"

"Let go of me!" he was about to thrust Lay aside when the ground beneath him shook, before it quaked as if it were to cave in.

The alarm became an ill-defined nebulous blur as it turned into a shrill caterwaul. As the soldiers dropped to the floor, Sehun forced himself to stand up and burst into a run again, towards the room.

But as soon as he found the room empty, his heart sank to his stomach. He never knew he could care and worry so much for someone. Right this instant, he was at the brink of death himself.

"Sehun!" Chanyeol grabbed his arm and spun him around. "We need to help Ulex!"

"What's going on, Chanyeol?!"

"I don't-" he was interrupted by the sudden buzz that went off. It wasn't the alarm. For a moment, every sound ceased as the whispering buzz heightened, like a soft murmur. And then... **"NU19 intrude! D-vision NU19!"**

Right away, all the soldiers got on their feet, sprinting towards their stations except Sehun and Chanyeol. When the moment had passed, Sehun slowly began to plod lifelessly. Every soldier was on act, scurrying here and there as if they had a chance to fight.

"Sehun!"

The instant he heard Kai's voice breaking through the crowd, Sehun spun around only to see Kai running towards him. "Kai!" he gasped and lunged himself forward, running straight into Kai's arms. "What's happening, Kai?! The ship is invaded?! How could all the gates be breached at the same time?! There was no warning! There was nothing?!"

"Sehun." Kai called, as the only being calm amid this catastrophe. Someone bumped Sehun hard on the back as he rushed through, forcing Sehun to fall against Kai.

"Is it En-ren?!" he panted with teary eyes and a burning chest. "Is it En-ren, Kai?!"

Clenching his jaw, Kai harshly grabbed the back of Sehun's head and smashed their lips together. That second, Sehun's whole body turned into an entirely uneven gait with Kai's lips against his own. He was kissing him... But the moment he felt Kai's tongue pushing between his lips, millions of images sailed through him. And when their tongues touched, the vivid scenes of Kai piercing through... Kai... Ulex... with nothing but the thought of Sehun, steamed all over Sehun's mind. The darkness that surrounded Kai was so clear. The sudden flashes of blue neon-like lights, stasis pods, a mixture of black and yellow, all was poured into Sehun's mind.

And then Kai pulled back, breaking the kiss ferociously. Breathlessly, Sehun stared at him with popped out eyes. Another quake almost sent him tumbling to the ground but he held firm before gasping, "Was that... En-ren?"

"I..." Kai panted. "*I am* En-ren." the wall behind Kai disappeared out of the blue, just like that before a huge number of completely black-suited, top-to-toe, large, tall creatures, aliens with arms extended to the floor barged in, flocking and grouping behind Kai as Kai retreated step by step, keeping his frowning eyes at Sehun. "Capture them all."

Chapter Sixteen

His eyes moved rapidly back and forth behind his eyelids. There was something there, but he couldn't see it. He couldn't move fast enough. It was like dragging a ship's anchor behind him. The door was close, yet it seemed so far away with each step he took. As he reached for the doorknob, the hot breath of his tormentor seemed to burn the back of his neck. There was pain, and a splattering of red. His head turned back and forth, up and down. In the dark, obstacles and shadows were altered for some reason. As the fear gripped his body, his breath became labored, panting like a dog starving for water. When the door opened, he screamed.

Gasping, Sehun flashed his eyes open and jolted himself upright. Before he could adjust his blurred vision, a loud piercing stream of light exploded in his face, blinded by its brightness. Feeling disgruntled with his unconsciousness, Sehun moaned in dismay, but the devilish light of the blue beam begged for justice to win over him. Gasping again, he tried to pull his hands to his face to cover his eyes, but something stopped his hands from even moving. Clenching his eyes shut, he tugged at his hands again but to no avail. Panting hard, he tried to calm his racing and the tight congestion that had built up in his chest which made it extremely difficult to even breathe.

It was no adrenaline that caused him this panic. It was the mere image of Kai that constantly replayed in his mind, dancing behind his eyelids the moment he woke up. It felt like someone knocked the breath out of him. Blood pounded in his ears and it was almost impossible for his body to pull into consciousness after conking out the minute he heard... he heard... Kai... say...

Moaning, he felt a sea of anxiety deep down. His stomach churned. His knees hurt.

He heard a drone reverberating and he was not sure how much of it originated from his beat mind. The fear curled into his stomach, hands clawing up his throat and choking him.

"I am En-ren..."

The words dissolved in the acid of his stomach. It hurt. It hurt so much that he was close to throwing up. The lump in his throat made him sick. Sehun's pulse skyrocketed as he pants even harder. No... No, it can't be true. Kai must be lying...

He finally opened his eyes again when a loud thud boomed around him and the bright blue light stung his eyes, blinding him once again. Sucking in a shaky breath, his heart thumped mercilessly. He couldn't even remember anything but those words that spilled out of Kai's lips... The very lips that had kissed him... The thought of that corrupted and destructive kiss made his head spin. He saw too many images at once. Some he recognized from Kai's memories, however a huge fraction of it was baffling for that he saw things that he had never seen before.

It was quiet. Too quiet except for his ragged breathing and thundering heartbeat. Every part of him prayed that it was nothing but a nightmare. Those aliens he saw before he passed out... How could the same God that created humans could have created something so vile and disgusting? The picture was clear before his eyes. The thick oily black suit was like skin that covered them from top to bottom. They were faceless. The skin resembled the same material that covered the stasis pods. They had legs and arms just like humans, but only in an unearthly length. They were tall. And terrifying. He had only seen portions of images of En-ren when Kai dreamed about him. He had long white hair but the body was still suited in that black skin.

His eyes slowly adjusted to the blue light, but that was all that he could see ahead and around him. He was kneeling on the floor and his arms were aching from hanging over his head. Forcing his mind to cooperate, he looked up at his tied wrists. There was nothing that had them on leash but they were still tied. As if by an invisible chain. Unable to move or lower his hands, he tiredly panted.

The drone and humming suddenly died out as the lights faded with them. And then Sehun saw the faceless NU19 that stood before him with its six-fingered hand held up. The blue light dimmed out in its palm as Sehun's heart stopped beating for a second. He would have screamed if he had any strength at all. The blank black face was staring directly at him without making any movement. Flabbergasted, Sehun's head spun again as the burning lump rose in his throat. He was sick. He could throw up any second now.

And then a sudden noise of the door caught his attention at once and only then did he discern the room. His room. He was kneeling by the window. The remaining blue light went out at once and the NU19 retreated out of the room. Blinking his eyes with utter fatigue, Sehun tried to look up again but his spinning head did not give in.

"Sehun." that voice... The voice that Sehun had begun to yearn to hear. Kai's voice. No... It wasn't Kai.

He forced himself to bring his head up and the moment he saw Kai standing before him, his windpipe choked. "Y.. y.. you.."

Kai didn't reply at once as he watched Sehun with a deep frown and a pair of sorrowful eyes. They were the same eyes that had looked at Sehun with such affection. The same eyes that Sehun had started to fall in love with. "Sehun." he called again in a low voice which sent a shiver down Sehun's spine.

"W-what have y-you.. done?"

"I have not harmed anyone, I promise. And I will not harm you either, Sehun. Not *ever*."

Sehun snapped out of it as he blinked his eyes vigorously to focus on Kai. "You're... you're lying... right? What's happening, Kai?"

Kai inched closer before falling to his knees before Sehun. "I'm not Kai. I'm not your brother." he whispered.

"That's... not p-possible. You.. *are* my brother. I've been with you all this while! I've.. I..."

"Sehun..." his eyes reddened by the second. This man had to be his brother. Kai held his hand up out of the sudden and caressed Sehun's wrists before they dropped from above. Even if his hands were free, Sehun couldn't bring himself to move them as he dropped to sit on the floor. "Listen to me."

"What happened to everyone?!"

"They're locked up. They're safe, I won't harm them." he extended an arm to Sehun. "Please... don't be scared."

"What the fuck are you?!" he spat with his chest tightening. The wall behind him blocked him from scooting further away from Kai.

"I am En-ren. But I go by the name Kai-ren, now."

"No! No! You're lying!"

"No, I'm not, Sehun."

It took him a moment to even let those words process but it was impossible to digest them. The frantic panic died, replaced by nothing. Nothing was what Sehun felt. His heart wilted as his body turned immobile again

Kai dropped his gaze as his lips quivered, almost as badly as Sehun's. "I'm... sorry." he breathed out.

Right now, the only thing Sehun's mind was flocked with was, "Where's... my brother?"

Kai... Kai-ren looked up at him with shocked eyes as if he weren't expecting the question. "This... this is... his body."

The information came as another blow. "And.. *him*?"

Kai remained silent for minutes and Sehun was incapable of asking anymore questions as he panted wildly. Kai raised a hand to Sehun's face, but immediately dropped it when Sehun sharply turned his face away. And then Kai muttered, "Will you give me a chance to explain?"

Unable to speak, Sehun stayed mum.

"I'm not... I'm.. I'm an alien according to you. But.. all this while, I was the one who.. felt you. Who... longed for you..." his voice was so low that Sehun barely heard it. "*Me*. Not your brother. This body is not mine, but..." his eyes began to brim tears but he couldn't even look at Sehun in the eyes. "My soul..." he trailed off.

What was even happening?

Kai took hold of Sehun's hand and suddenly, it felt like needles punching through his skin. But instantly, Sehun felt Kai's sorrow and sadness. The disappointment...

Kai slowly brought Sehun's frozen hand to his chest and pressed Sehun's palm against it. His heart beat slow but steadily upon Sehun's palm. "I don't have a heartbeat, Sehun.... I can't make this body's heart beat for me. But you can. *You...* are my heartbeat."

Sehun finally was able to pull his hand and when he did, it was harsh. "Get away from me!" he screamed with terror rising in his throat.

Taken aback, Kai rose to his feet and stepped back.

"No, no." Sehun chanted, pulling his knees up to hug them. "This can't be true! Where's my brother, you fucking bastard?!" he was right. His life was bound to end on the Quantum.

Kai's face completely went pale as a sheet as he stumbled back a few more steps. "Why? Why are you still asking for him?"

"I will fucking kill you the first chance I get, En-ren." the name was like venom on his tongue. The fierce tears hazed his vision but his growl remained hostile. "So if you're planning to take the Quantum down, I suggest you do it this instant."

With his eyes filled with shock and disappointment, Kai retreated and turned his back to Sehun before walking out of the door, wiping his eye with the sleeve of his shirt. Sehun tried to stagger to his feet but before he could even succeed in standing up, the door slid close.

Chapter Seventeen

The room remained immersed in darkness. Agony settled in him as he blankly stared at the black wall of the room where Kai once had him pinned on, panting in a rage of lust. Sehun had returned the lust, along with the brink of love, believing that it was the brother he had once loved and cherished. Kai. All the thrill he had gone through was for being with his blood-related brother. And now, the thought of Kai's disappearance or worse, death, whirled his mind. He had lost Kai once and did not suffer the torture of losing his brother. But now, it was different. He had fallen far too deep into the neverending abyss of intimacy and warmth of his brother that even thinking about Kai not existing anymore pained him. Numbness shot through him. The first phase of pain.

And the EI flashed before his eyes. He was never going back to her. Right now, he wasn't sure if he wanted to at all. The way his heart slowly died at the thought of the love he had received was not from the man he had fallen for, but from a treacherous enemy alien.

He dropped his eyes to his palms before a drop of fresh tear dived onto one of them. If only he had the chance and strength, he might show Kai-ren a piece of his mind. But unfortunately for Sehun, his defeat and collapse were fated. Hell, everyone was going to die. Not just on the Quantum, but back home as well. He always knew that all these defence lines humans relied on were nothing but false hopes.

"You used to adore me, before you hated me as your brother. Will you see me as a man now?"

Fuck...

With his chest softening, Sehun sat on the edge of the bed, head hung and breath dying. He had heard the name "Kai-ren" a number of times from Kai's nightmares. Was that Kai-ren's voice, then? Or Kai's?

Heaving in a deep breath, Sehun glanced around him. He didn't exactly know how many hours had passed since all the lights went off, but his feet were beginning to prickle. The extreme silence sent shivers down his body. Forcing the lump back down his throat, he looked up at the closed door. He had not dared to even near it, worried of what he might encounter out there in this darkness. The main powers had been turned off. Certainly for some sort of reason. Probably so that the Quantum's signal will be blocked.

Sehun shot up to his feet and stopped for a moment to catch his breath when his head spun. Shaking it, he unwillingly dragged his feet to the door. With his parted lips trembling in tremor, he lifted a hand to the lock scanner. He closed his eyes briefly.

How was the NU19 intrusion undetected? That was impossible. If such a large number of invaders were oncoming, it should have been detected light years ahead. Kai... No, Kai-ren must have known that they were coming. Or he must have been the one to allow this intrusion. He was.. gone for a whole day after the night when Sehun had... fucked him. Fucked him. God. Sehun's eyes flashed open as he sucked in a shaky breath. An alien. He had fucked an alien even if the body were his brother. Even if Kai's blood still ran in that body, it was... wrong. Beyond wrong. Biologically speaking, he did have an incestuous sexual relationship with his brother. There was no denying it. But, to even think that it was not really Kai was heart-clenching. But, back to the question. Kai had the energy all day long yesterday. Or two days back. Sehun really didn't know how long it had been since he was locked up here. So was the fucking just a way to get his work done without Sehun?

"Damn it." he spat through his grit teeth and slammed his palm on the scanner, but the door did not unlock.

Pacing the floor back to the bed, he rubbed his temples, wondering what could have happened to Doc or Ulex. They were the only ones on the Quantum Sehun had began to care for, other than Kai.

Just when he dropped to sit on the bed, he jolted back up as the door opened with a flash of the same blue light. Kai-ren stepped in before the door slid back to close. "Stay away from me!" yelled Sehun without hesitation as he staggered back to the corner of the room.

Without a reply, Kai-ren inched closer and from the light of the space through the window, he could see Kai's tired eyes.

"If you're gonna destroy the Quantum, just do it already!"

"I am not going to destroy the Quantum while you're on it, Sehun." Kai-ren's response had Sehun dumbstruck for a moment. "I have put the soldiers into stasis for the time being. I have not decided what to do with the Quantum, yet. It will depend on what you choose, Sehun."

"Why? Why the fuck are you so fucking keen on me?!"

"Because I love you, dammit!"

With the air knocked out of his lungs, Sehun gaped at him. Unable to form a coherent reply, he could only vacantly stare at Kai-ren's fatigued face as he advanced closer.

"I know how you feel, Sehun." Kai-ren muttered quietly. "I felt it before. You can keep on denying, but I know how you feel and what you feel for me."

"For *you*?" the words burst out like poison. "Fuck *you*. Whatever I felt was for *Kai*. Not you!"

Kai's face once again withered as he stopped in his pace. His eyes fell droopy as his Adam's apple bobbed, suggesting how hard he was swallowing. "Kai... was not.. here."

"You fucking killed him. So of course, he isn't here!"

"I didn't kill him!" his shout echoed throughout the room. "If you think I had known any better, I surely would not have tortured him! Only after merging through this body did I

know that you humans feel pain! Emotions, I can pick up. Pain? No! I had to communicate with him. That was the only reason I..." he trailed off and tried to catch his breath.

"You... you.. didn't kill him?"

Kai-ren's eyes widened again. "No... I did not. He is merely suppressed."

"I don't understand."

"Our Science is beyond human understanding. I'm not sure you would comprehend even if I do explain." he stepped forward again. "But... No, Sehun. I didn't kill him. I know how much you loved him. I know how much you adored him." he stopped himself to swallow. "I'm willing to explain if you're willing to listen."

"Do I have a choice? Spit it out. What's your justification? That you're an alien so you didn't know any better? Fine. But what about now? You're a fucking asshole."

"Sehun, please don't do this." his voice trembled as he extended a hand to touch Sehun's face. "I.. I can't... bear this. I'm sorry. But I swear, everything that happened between us... everything that I did was... was..."

Sehun slapped his hand off and fought the urge to shove him away. "In love? Don't bullshit. Aliens can't fall in love with humans. What fucking logic is that?"

"I did..." he whispered, placing his palms on the wall by Sehun's head, blocking Sehun. "The... love I felt... The innocence I saw in your eyes. The affection Kai felt for you... Everything overwhelmed me. It was nothing like I've ever felt before. Yes. I did abduct your brother for an experiment out of my sudden curiosity to explore your species. I penetrated through him. For communication purposes at first. And then I saw these... images. I was confused, and then I understood that they were experiences. Memories. That's how I... saw you. A child. And then just a picture of you from your file. Those were all from Kai's memories. U is what I synthesized from those memories, but he's a failed experiment. He's... he's nothing like you. When I took Kai's body, I penetrated him to share the feelings Kai had shared with me, but it didn't work. He had emotions. But not feelings. Sehun, I came here for you. I did everything I did for you."

"Stop."

"No. You need to listen."

"I said stop!" he shoved Kai-ren back which had the latter flabbergasted. "I don't want to hear your lies!"

"I'm not lying, Sehun. I... You're the only reason I'm here. Kai and I shared... something when I penetrated him. When I gave him some of my features, he passed on some of his. These... feelings. I love you, Sehun. I love you."

Sehun shook his head, clenching his jaw. "Stop repeating your nonsense! You're.. you're an alien!"

"Stop saying that, Sehun. Please." he came forth again and took hold of Sehun's wrist. "I love you." he pressed his lips on Sehun's cheekbone, kissing it gently before kissing his chin.

All that Sehun could feel was how miserable Kai-ren was. His mind was a turmoil. His body was shuddering for Sehun. Grinding his teeth, Sehun gave Kai-ren a hard blow on his cheek with a merciless slap. "Give my brother back, you fucktard." he panted.

Taken aback, Kai-ren blinked at him. "You... want *him* back?"

"If you're not planning to blow this ship up, then yes. What makes you think I would give a single thought of forgiving or sympathizing you?"

"What... wrong have I done?" a tear trickled down Kai-ren's cheek as his chest heaved.

"What wrong you've done? Are you even listening to yourself?"

"You humans are far worse than what I've done."

"You're destroying a whole planet. How is anything worse than that?"

"That's part of my existence! We colonize other planets. With lives or without. But not once have I ever been so... affected by a race. Sehun, I'm not asking for your forgiveness. But please, please don't look at me like that." he lurched forward and cupped both sides of Sehun's head. "I am an alien. I did bad things on your terms. But my soul, my non-existent heart are all for you. I am the one who made you fall in love. I am the one who kissed you. Not Kai. Not ever him. I love you."

"Let go." Sehun's was losing his breath as his whole body turned weak with Kai-ren's emotions flowing through him. "I have never loved you and I never will. You're an alien and just because you snatched a body, it doesn't make you human. Or Kai."

"So... you will never love me."

"*Never.*"

They kept their eyes locked for a long while, both panting and gasping for air. All that Sehun could feel was Kai-ren's racing emotions. "I.. want.. to kiss.. you. I want to... be with you. I want to... make love to you... But I will not force you." he dropped his head onto Sehun's shoulder as his lips brushed the side of Sehun's neck. "So please... Let me in, Sehun. Kai does not... love you like I do. He's your brother..."

"And I love my brother." his voice came out as a whisper. "Not you."

Kai-ren pulled back and stared at Sehun for a long while. "You want me gone."

"Yes. At least... I'd like to die with Kai by my side."

Kai-ren shook his head as he wiped his face. "I need you, Sehun. And it's impossible for me to change into another body. I can't do that."

"I don't even want you. Not in any body. Fuck off."

He took a step back. "I came here hoping to see the love you had shown through your brother's memories. But..." he spun around and strutted towards the door. When it opened, he jerked his head at Sehun and an NU19 stepped in. Its faceless body startled

Sehun at once. "I want to show you something. Tell me when you're ready." he said without looking at Sehun.

Balling his hands into fists, Sehun sprinted forward, passed the NU19 and threw himself onto Kai-ren, forcing him to the ground. Mounting him, Sehun hurled his fists at Kai-ren's face repeatedly and the latter stayed still, letting him punch the living daylights out of him. Just when his fists were stained with Kai-ren's blood, Sehun stopped himself and panted heavily. No, this was Kai's body he was hurting.

Straightening his body, he sat on Kai-ren's lower abdomen, pressing his palms onto his chest as he sobbed for air. Kai-ren remained still under him even if his throat made sounds of pain. "Is that... enough?" Kai-ren wheezed out, dragging a hand up Sehun's body and chest before curling it around Sehun's neck. "This doesn't hurt as much as you've hurt me by your words, Sehun."

Sehun got off him and gave him a hard stomp on his face which had Kai-ren moaning his lungs out. He spat on Kai-ren before breaking into a run to the pitch black and empty corridor.

His heart might burst out of his chest. What was that throbbing feeling that he felt?

He kept on running, taking diversions through each corridor. Was there any way to escape from this? He could take the escape pod, but he wondered if Kai-ren had spared them in the first place. Where were all the soldiers kept at? Like fuck Sehun cared about those assholes. But... there were good ones like Lay and Baekhyun. He stopped to look back. Why wasn't Kai-ren sending anyone to chase him? Did he think that Sehun could not outrun or hide?

"Hnng ngh." the drone echoed out of nowhere and Sehun jumped a little before frantically looking around him. "Nn."

Squinting his eyes in the darkness, he noticed the silhouette near the window by the closed down elevator. "U.. Ulex?" he hurried to the corner and found Ulex sitting against the wall with a tear-stained face, hugging his knees. He held his arms out at Sehun, breaking into a loud sob. "Shh shh." he crouched down immediately and grappled an arm around Ulex's body. "Shh. Don't make noise. We're getting out of here." he pulled Ulex to stand up. What was Kai-ren doing? Did he really think that Ulex was that useless that he just let him roam the Quantum? "Do you know where Chanyeol is?" he asked, but Ulex did not answer as he wept into Sehun's shoulder while Sehun dragged him to walk.

Chapter Eighteen

It was obvious to see that Ulex had not practised walking frequently, but only now did Sehun realize that Ulex was somewhat shorter him. Of course, Kai-ren would not have been able to create an exact replica of him just using the information Kai had seen from Sehun's recruitment file. He must not have been able to replicate the eyes as well. Or simply, the soul since people often say that the eyes resembled the soul.

Struggling to haul Ulex towards the elevator to get to the third level on which the escape pods were, Sehun panted with his heart clenching painfully. "Hold on." he grunted out and pressed his palm on the scanner of the elevator. His stomach dropped to its pit when the elevator did not open. Lowering Ulex to the floor, he slammed his fist on the scanner with rage and fury engulfing him and when the elevator didn't budge, it was obvious that Kai-ren had turned off the entire power system on the level. "Fuck!" he unconsciously gave the elevator doors a brutal kick which startled Ulex.

"Nnnnhhh." Ulex whined, scooting away from Sehun.

"No, no. I'm sorry." crouching, he took hold of Ulex's hand. "We're stuck here, I guess." he muttered, hanging his head. This was it. He had always embraced the truth that death was inevitable. But he was not expecting for it come this soon. When he brought his head up, he noticed Ulex's snake-like eyes staring at him. "What is it?"

Ulex hesitantly brought a finger to Sehun's lower lip and prodded it before opening his mouth. "Ah."

Sehun blinked and shook his head. "I don't have food." he glanced around and rose to his full height upon discerning the vending machine on the corner of the level. "Wait right here."

As he wove his way to the vending machine, he kept his fists clenched by his sides. Was it necessary that he escaped? Would it make any difference whether he died here or on Earth? The real question was, was he going to go down alone when he could drag a fraction of NU19 and its leader along with him? He came to a halt when the idea hit him. The Quantum's were all programmed for self-destruct in case of an emergency. Biting his lip, Sehun glanced back at Ulex who was staring at him.

"Th.. thu." Ulex puffed out, tugging at his shirt restlessly. He always looked uncomfortable in clothes.

Blasting the whole ship would mean that Sehun would have to kill Ulex, Doc, Lay, Baekhyun and everyone that had not exactly been an ass to him. He wasn't sure that he wanted to see Chanyeol dead either. But then again, the lives of a handful of soldiers or a planet with billions of inhabitants? Saving a billions of lives won by a landslide.

Both Sehun and Ulex jumped with a start when a loud bang resounded through the corridor. Gulping, Sehun tried to calm his pounding heart when he saw the bright blue light emitting into the corridor. "Hng. Hng. Eh." Ulex grunted, keeping his eyes fixed on the blue light before a small smile stretched his lips.

The light dimmed out when Kai showed up. Kai or Kai-ren, whatever. A side of his face was bruised as he pinned Sehun with a pair of painful eyes and next to him stood an NU19. Sehun could not help but gape at Kai with his stomach knotting. Kai shot Ulex who was already trying to move towards him. Plodding over to Ulex, Kai pulled him up to stand before Ulex desperately clung onto Kai's neck, burying his face into Kai's shoulder.

"Let him go." Sehun forced himself to speak when Kai handed Ulex to the NU19 which began to yank Ulex away. "Let him go! Don't hurt him!" he lurched forward, trying to sprint past Kai, but was unable to get his hands on Ulex when Kai grabbed his shoulders before shoving him back with a ferocious force until he was slammed against the outer wall of the elevator.

"I'd be the last person to hurt him." Kai growled and when Sehun pulled himself away from the wall to fight back, Kai shoved him back again, causing Sehun to wince at the impact of his back upon the wall. "Why can't you admit that it's me whom you love?"

Sehun spat on Kai's face with his chest lugging hard. "In case you haven't realized, you're a fucking alien that has destroyed my world, my life, my everything!"

Wiping his cheek, Kai closed his eyes briefly. "All I'm asking is for you to give me a chance to show you something. Please."

"I've seen enough. Unless you're gonna kill me, then step aside so that I can finish you for good!"

"You kill me and you'll never get your brother back."

"Let me see. Kill the mastermind behind an alien invasion or have my brother, whom I love, back? I know how to pick the basket with the most apples, you fucking retard!"

Kai's jaw dropped as he staggered back. "Do you... really hate me that much?"

"Hate would be an understatement, you asshole."

Kai leaned against the opposite wall and wiped his face with his palms before crossing his arms over his chest. "All that I ever did was accept human emotions. And fall in love with you. Do you know why? Because amidst all of your brother's repulsiveness, I saw the pure you. I saw the only innocence in your brother's life."

Sehun gasped for air as he blinked vacantly. "What... are you talking about?"

"Your brother. I have tried so hard to give you the best memories you've had of your brothers. I have made him look as decent as you could see him. But do you know what he really is? A selfish prick who doesn't care shit for you!"

"No! You're lying!"

"Am I? Then let me show you. You know that I can't hide anything if we kiss."

"Nice try. But no, thank you."

Kai scoffed, smirking before his face turned grave again. "He abandoned you, Sehun."

"No... You said that... he didn't..."

"Well, that was all *me*. I said it. But it wasn't the truth. He *did* abandon you. He found a better life here. He had no reason to keep any ties with his family who would only hold him back."

Sehun swallowed back the tears, shaking his head. "I don't believe you."

"He didn't give a fuck about you or your family, Sehun! His happiness was the only thing that was important to him! Do you know why Chanyeol hated him? Do you know why Chanyeol broke up with him?! Because your brother practically slept with half of the Quantum and Chanyeol caught him fucking the Colonel. And you wonder why the Colonel was fond of him.. me when I came here?"

"You're... you're lying..." his voice came out as a whisper.

"He doesn't love you, Sehun. I saw through him. Not even as a brother! Why do you think so many people loathed him? He was good at what he did. That was fuck around to get to the top. Do you know how many officers he had fucked to get promoted?"

"Stop!"

"And he loved it. While you suffered down there without money, working day and night for the welfare of your sister and family, he was having fun with life in the name of being a defense for the world! The only thing he was real about was being a hero. But for what price? He was vile being. And when he knew about you joining the Quantum, he wanted you arrested."

"I said stop!" he dashed ahead with a fist plunging for Kai's face, but he failed to plant the punch when Kai grabbed his wrist and grappled an arm around his waist. Pinning him against the wall, Kai slammed Sehun's fist on it before smashing their lips together. Every ounce of breath was knocked out of Sehun when he felt Kai's lips brutally crashing his.

It blacked out for a second.

* * *

When the light came, he was staring at the screen of a tablet. His recruitment file. He could feel the frown on his face. "Fuckin' shit." he heard himself sigh.

"What's wrong?" an unfamiliar soldier asked and Sehun looked up at him with a shake of his head.

"My fucking brother is enlisted. God, he's gonna be on the Quantum." he groaned, slamming the tablet on the table. "Can you imagine how awkward it would be for us to meet again?"

"Oh come on, dude. He'll be famous. Riding on his brother's coattail."

"Like hell. I don't need him or any of my family to annoy me again. I'm done wasting my life for them."

"Well, he can't be a soldier if he's corrupted."

"I've already thought about it. But like what?"

"Dude, the Commander screws you. Just get your brother scratched off the list for some sort of corruption. I'm sure the Commander will help you."

"True. But that might get him arrested."

"Do you care?"

"Not really. I don't even remember how he looked the last time I saw him." he laughed.

* * *

A flash blinded Sehun for a moment. Then surged images of himself riding and fucking men. Some he was familiar with, while others were people he had never seen before. The images stopped at one.

"What do you need, Kai?" Doc snickered, leaning against the counter.

"Just some Dextromethorphan." he whined, inching closer to Doc. He bit his lower lip, dragging his fingers down Doc's chest. "I'll pay you soon."

"Alright, alright. Why do you need it for, though?"

"Chanyeol and I need to get high. And then maybe... you and I could..."

* * *

Sehun snapped with a gasp and forced his eyes open before shoving Kai-ren back. Sobbing for air, he gaped at Kai with tears unconsciously trickling down his cheeks. "It shames me to have taken this body, Sehun. But... this is the body you love." Kai whispered with his own eyes brewing tears. They caught each other's breath for a moment before Kai inched closer again. He slid a hand across a side of Sehun's face and cupped it, gripping the hair and leaned in. Sehun could only pant and breathe hard against Kai's lips that were brushing against his own. Kai slowly pressed their lips together and it went black again.

* * *

"Kai, what are you doing?! Stop!" the unfamiliar soldier from earlier screeched, yanking Sehun's arm.

With fury raging through him, Sehun gave the soldier a blow with the back of his fist. "If you're not gonna be of help, fuck off."

"You will only madden them! They're signalling for a surrender, Kai!"

"You think?!" he tapped on the screen, opening every gate of Quantum 2 to let the NU19's ship in.

"We're the last ones here, Kai! Stop! You don't have the authority to let them on the ship!"

He pulled his gun out and plunged a bullet into the soldier's forehead before muttering, "Well, now I do."

The alarm went off and he gripped his gun before sprinting out of the control room.

* * *

Kai pulled back a little, but his lips still ghosted over Sehun's. "I took him because he was trying to destroy the peace squad, Sehun. Even then, I didn't kill him. Yes, I did torment him. But only because I wanted to know how humans functioned. And I thought that all humans were as brutal as him until I saw you in his memories. You're the first human who affected me like that."

Sehun felt like his knees might buckle as he slumped hard against the wall. Kai's arm around his waist braced him, but he didn't dare to look into Kai's eyes. "I can't... believe.. th-this." he wept silently, clinging onto Kai's shirt by the chest.

"Can I... kiss you?"

What do you mean? You have.

"No." Kai breathed out. "Not yet." he tipped Sehun's chin up and gently brushed his lips over Sehun's before kissing him full on mouth. This time, there were no memories. All that Sehun could feel was how torn Kai was. Kai-ren... Every part of him was yearning for Sehun to love him back. No human could love a person like this. He pressed his hips against Sehun's and Sehun could feel his cock throbbing on his own. Kai desperately wanted to hold him down. He wanted Sehun to hang onto him. Sehun gasped into the kiss, allowing Kai to slide his tongue in. He couldn't kiss Kai back with all these heavy emotions running through him. He softly swiped his tongue along Sehun's lower lip before sinking his teeth into it and sucked it. Releasing the tender lip, Kai kissed the skin below Sehun's bottom lip and traced his jawline with his pleasant kisses.

He pulled back and stared into Sehun's eyes. "Tell me now." his voice was dying by the second as well. "Do you love your brother?"

"I want him back." Sehun struggled to bring the words out of his stomach. "I... don't care what he had done. You are.. trying to destroy a planet."

Kai retreated completely. "Is that... your final answer?"

"Y-yes."

He clasped a hand over his mouth and turned his back to Sehun.

"Kai... If you want to prove the good in you, then stop all of this."

Kai faced him again with red eyes. He took Sehun's face into his hands and pressed their chests together. "I will... give you your brother back. And... I will leave your world unharmed."

"What?"

"And in return." he tried to blink the tears away but was betrayed by one when it spilled on his cheek. Sehun honestly didn't know what he should make of this. Kai-ren was not exactly innocent. But Sehun had started to see the good in him. "You complete the bond with me."

"Huh? What do you mean?"

"You've... penetrated me. And I want to... make love to you now. That way, we will have bonded. It would not mean much to you, but it will make sure that I know how you are and where you are. I will not bother you after that. I promise. I will be able to know the day you die. That way... I will be able to end my life as well."

"What are you talking about?"

"I feel that my whole existence had been meant for you, Sehun." he smiled with tears glistening in his eyes. "This is all that I will ask of you. You want to save your world and have your brother back? Then do this for me. Wholeheartedly."

Chapter Nineteen

There were not much options to weigh through. Kai had laid out his conditions. Simple conditions. And they could save a whole planet, including bring his brother back. Why in hell would Sehun deny this opportunity posed before him? All that he had do was let the man he had fallen for to make love to him. Not exactly a man in the science of reasoning, but in the sense of soul, Kai-ren was every bit of a sheer man. Only with better qualities and archetypal characteristics than a human. He wasn't faultless, but his soul was flawless.

And Sehun was not going to let him know of that.

It was Kai-ren's heart that was beating because of Sehun. Not Kai's. They shared a heartbeat. Not Sehun and his brother. The body might be Kai's. But Kai-ren's soul was what that needed Sehun's heart. He understood that now. He had fallen for Kai-ren. Not his spiteful brother. But still, it was wrong to let go of his brother when he had the chance to save him. It will never be right for Kai-ren to take over Kai's body.

"Okay." he breathed out, casting his eyes low.

"You... would?" Kai's hands warmed up Sehun's already burning cheeks. Gritting his teeth, Sehun tried to block away all the thoughts and feelings. He could not let Kai know of his feelings towards him. But he surely knew that he will not be able to hold the feelings back for too long. When there was no way for them to be together, it was better this way.

"I would." he spat, swallowing back a sob before looking directly into Kai's eyes. "For my brother."

But it was not entirely for his brother. It was for Kai-ren. There was nothing else that Sehun could do for him.

Kai dropped his hands from Sehun's face and pulled away. "Don't hate me like this, Sehun. Why am I worse than your acid brother?! Why?! Because I'm alien? After seeing what your brother had done and what your people have been doing, I'm glad that I'm not one of you! Yes, we colonize planets. We kill your kind. Did you think that we knew you humans were capable of such emotions and love? Something that we've... I've never experienced? It's just like how you kill animals."

"We're not animals. Now you know that. Why won't you stop, then?"

"Have we..." he stopped himself and clenched his jaw. "Have I sent any of my attacker ships down there from the moment your brother was abducted and the Quantum 2 was intruded?!"

Sehun panted as he gaped at Kai relentlessly. "But..."

"Your politicians were making up things about the further attacks! I did not send any ship to your planet from the minute I knew that you humans were capable of great things. Do you know why?!" he gave Sehun a hard shove at the chest, forcing Sehun to plunge back against the wall. "Because I fell in love with you. The first affectionate emotion I ever felt was for you. I came here for you. I knew that there was no way for me to live without seeing you for myself. Without... knowing you. Your brother might have thought that his life ended the moment you were born, but I was only born when I saw you! I don't care if you choose your brother over me. I want to show you that I'm competent of love. So much more love than your brother could ever give you in a hundred lifetimes. So please, don't hate me."

"I d-don't... hate you, Kai... You're a good... person. So, please. I don't want to see you become the bad one by taking away the choice from my brother. Yes, he's not apparently everyone's average gentleman. But it's his body. His choice to live. You can't take it away from him, Kai. Don't be that guy."

Kai clenched his eyes for a moment as his lips stretched into a painful smile. "I won't. I will keep my promise at my end of the bargain. But please, don't make this a business between you and me. I want to..." he stopped as his breath quickened before he continued, "... have you. As... my own. For.. just once."

No matter how hard he tried, he could not look straight into Kai's eyes. He was afraid that he might fall apart. "I... I have something else to ask of you."

"You want me let Ulex go as well. I will."

Sehun blinked and licked his lips before nodding. "I want him to live."

Kai subtly smiled, rubbing his jaw and started to walk away. "Come to the room if you really choose to do this." as he strutted away and disappeared into the pitch black corridor.

Slumping heavily against the wall, Sehun buried his face in his palms as his breath died, little by little, with the flashbacks of his brother's inappropriate demeanors blinding his eyes again. The words kept ringing in his ears. Kai hated him. The benevolent brother that Sehun had adored all those years despised him. Why? Sehun knew why. Because he had destroyed Kai's life. The day he was born, Kai's life ended. Just as how Sehun had struggled for El, Kai had once struggled for him. The only difference was that Sehun did it out of love for his sister. Kai must have taken care of him for the sake of his responsibility as a brother. That was it. He must have been searching for a way to escape and free himself from all these family duties. Which was why he had volunteered to join the army the moment men were recruited. Kai had always been a selfish man. Maybe Sehun did not see it all those years because he chose to see the best side of his brother. He would never have fallen in love with that man. The man he had ever felt love and lust for was Kai-ren. Kai-ren who cared for him like no one else ever had.

Even so, his brother was the reason Sehun grew up well during the years of his childhood. If not for Kai, he might have been begging in the streets. Thus, he will do his brother the first and last favour to pay off his debt.

Pulling his palms off his face, he sniffled and pushed his hair out of his forehead before drawing away from the wall. Staring into the darkness, he swallowed the choking lump in his throat and proceeded for the room. He wondered how Kai-ren was planning to release all the soldiers. Was he intending to send the whole Quantum 3 station down to Earth? There was not enough escape pods. So that had to be his plan.

He came to an abrupt halt at the hallway before the room. He needed conceal his emotions. He can't stir Kai-ren in the wrong direction when he was willing to let go of everyone. Their lives depended on Sehun. Not once in all his years had Sehun ever imagined being the critical point of a war between mankind and unspeakable aliens. He could stop it. He could end all of this. At the cost of Kai-ren's heartbreak.

Did he love Kai's body or Kai-ren's soul? That was the question.

He wove his way to the opened door and stood at the mouth of the room for a moment as his eyes fell on Kai who was staring out the window with his hands plunged into his pants' pockets, back turned in Sehun's way. "Shut the door." he heard Kai's order as a faint whisper that rolled across the room which sent immediate shivers down his spine. Stepping in, Sehun eyed the blue light by the scanner and pressed a palm on the scanner before the door slid close. He scrutinized the coin-sized ball that emitted the blue light as he comprehended that it was a mobile power source.

"Kai... I..." he trailed off as Kai turned to face him. The moment struck Sehun down at once. *No, I can't look weak now. Man up, Sehun. Block your feelings, your thoughts, your emotions.* It was better for Kai-ren to think that Sehun didn't love him. Pulling his hands out of his pockets, Kai edged closer in heavy steps. "You want to prove yourself. Prove that you can be loved?"

"No. I'm passed that, Sehun. I just want you for tonight. That's all. I want you to know that I love you." as he got closer, Sehun's heart raced and finally their bodies were close to meeting Kai placed his hand on the back of Sehun's neck while curling another around his waist. Sehun's whole body shivered as he stared deep into Kai's eyes. He reached for Sehun, his hand brushing the strand of hair off Sehun's forehead before he slid his palm down the cheek and it glided ever so lightly past his ear. Kai's thumb rubbed softly, caressing Sehun's earlobe. Kai's fingers curled to support the back of Sehun's head as he lean in and firmly yet seductively placed their lips together. Sehun could feel Kai inhale, pulling the air from his own lungs. With their lips moist with desire, Kai pull Sehun's body closer and embraced him before Sehun held him tight, sliding his trembling arms around Kai's steady body and pressed their chests together. Their hearts were once again beating as one.

It was gentle, but captivating, a mixture of sweet that glossed Kai's lips and salt from the tears that had dried on Sehun's lips. Mesmerized lips press together time after time, transporting to another world. Kai slid his hand at the side of Sehun's waist, raising the shirt to massage the sensitive flesh as blood rushed to Sehun's loins. Kai disconnected their lips to let Sehun gasp for air before he tilted his head to kiss the side of Sehun's neck as Sehun fisting his hand around Kai's shirt at the back, clenching his eyes tightly. Kai's lips kissed his neck, traced the exposed parts of his collarbones with the tip of his wet tongue. Sehun could feel his knees wavering. When Kai smashed their lips together again, he didn't

hesitate for a second as he dragged his tongue along Sehun's lower lip before breaching into his mouth, pushing past the wetness of Sehun's lips.

"Uh." Sehun helplessly moaned into Kai's mouth when their tongues met. He arched back out of instability and almost dropped back if it weren't for Kai's arm around his waist that pulled him closer, gripping him harder. Ragged breathing and dancing tongues brought a fiery heat to the cold air in the room. With just the two of them there, the rest of the world disappears. It always had in this room. This room was just Sehun and Kai's. Desire ignites the world around them as they became lost in a sea of lust and love. It was a spicy, powerful and a painfully sorrowful combination that sent waves of passion crashing over them. The rest of the world was engulfed in their lustful burning flames as their kisses grew more urgent. *I love you...* As their lips pull apart, a gentle wave of air fluttered over the flame extinguishing the desperate heat. Their breathing came out in short, desperate gasps. Kai's eyes remained in agony as their brewed fresh tears. Whereas Sehun had completely surrendered to Kai's kiss. He had failed to hold his feelings back. But... what was Kai feeling?

Sehun snapped out it as he tried to concentrate on Kai's face. He was not letting on anything. He was blocking his thoughts! Kai was hiding something!

"You love me, Sehun. That's enough for me." he smiled and brushed his lips against Sehun's forehead before retreating completely. "There are only three escape pods. I can't let the soldiers go yet. If you stay any longer, the other NU19s will not let you be. I might be their leader, but they can't find out that I hold you dear to my heart. This is enough for me. To know that you do love me. Time for you to go home. I will give you your brother back as promised. If my soul leaves his body, his will revive him. I don't wish to live without you. So when I get you to the escape pod, I will kill myself to end my soul's habitation of this body. Your brother's soul will no longer be suppressed by mine."

"What are you talking about?! Kai-" he gasped out and that was when a sudden jolt on his chest by the blue power source struck him. Every drop of air was knocked out of him and he lost his mind. His vision blurred as he head spun. Kai stood before him with reddened eyes. "Kai..." Sehun breathed out as the world caved in around him.

"I'm sorry I have to do this. I know that you might fight me to stay back for those hateful soldiers you call your people. I'm sorry."

"Kai... No... No... Don't..." he extended a hand to grab onto Kai's shirt but before he even knew it, he about to crash the floor. Kai's arms came around him and caught him before everything blackened around Sehun. "K-Kai...ren..." that was the last thing he exhaled as he fell unconscious.

Chapter Twenty

His breathing was slow. His eyes were glued shut. His heart beat in a lazy pace. He had never felt this calm in a long time. He slowly unlidded his eyes and fluttered them for a moment before squinting at the bright patches of sunlight on the floorboard. Everything around him was a blur, but still lucid. Something stirred in his arms. Flinching a little, Sehun dropped his eyes to the baby that mewled, swathed in a cocoon of blankets. The puffy cheeks complimented the long eyelashes and full round, curious eyes. For a brief moment, his breath was snatched away when he realized that it was El. Her lips slowly stretched into a smile as a quiet sound of giggle escaped her. Every bit of Sehun was fluxed by her warmth.

No. This was not real.

The sudden silence alarmed him. His arms felt empty. El was gone. The sunlight slowly began to fade away. Everything was blackened out again. He was not immobile. His body was moving in jerks. Up and down. Forcing his eyes open, he met the blue shadow of light before he discerned Kai's face in a haze. He was in Kai's arms, being carried someplace. The corridor would have been pitch black if it weren't for the blue luminescence. Sehun gently tried to raise an arm and latch his grip on Kai's shirt by the chest. "Kai." he croaked out as reality washed through him.

"Sehun." Kai silently gasped when Sehun shoved him back before dropping hard on the ground, tumbling off Kai's arms. Groaning bestially, Sehun clenched his jaw to stop his head

from spinning and pushed himself to his fours before he felt Kai's hands on the side of his waist.

"Let go." he swatted Kai's hands off as he staggered to his feet and retreated few steps back, balling his hands into fists. "What the fuck is wrong with you?!"

Kai raised a palm and Sehun glanced around him. He didn't even know where the fucking blue light was coming from. "Shh, Sehun."

"What are you trying to do?! You promised that you won't harm anyone!" he frantically looked around him again, unable to recognize the corridor.

"I know what I said, Sehun." his face turned grave as he took a step forward. "But right now, you have to get out of here. You need to go back."

"Why?! Why are you so fucking hooked on saving me like I'm some damsel in distress?!"

"Because I know what you want, Sehun! Tell me that you did not just dream about your sister! Tell me that you don't want your brother back!"

Swallowing hard, Sehun rubbed his jaw. "Then let go of the others as well."

"I can't do that." his eyebrows furrowed deeper as he lowered his head. "Not right now. I've given them orders to release the soldiers, but I don't trust them. The Quantum is not capable of safe touch down." he grabbed hold of Sehun's arm and hauled him to walk forward.

"What do you mean? How do you know that?" he stopped himself when Kai didn't answer. "That was what you were doing that day. After I fucked you. You went AWOL."

"Yes. I also radioed my station because I knew that Ulex's arrival would cause all that tribulation."

"So... you didn't want Ulex to be sent here?"

"No. That turned everything around. That wasn't my plan. I was taking longer than I should have. So I'm guessing that... my second in command, as you people call it, thought that it would be a wonderful idea to send Ulex over to send a message. When I touched Ulex's palm, remember? When he was in the stasis pod. They wanted me to get things done. Everything caved in then, Sehun. If it weren't the NU19s, then your commander would have ended everything."

"Stop." Sehun pulled his arm free. "What excuse did you give them for coming here?"

Kai licked his lips, averting his eyes for a moment. "I promised them more... humans to experiment with like what I've done to your brother. I convinced them that it will be impossible to infiltrate the Quantum with all the weapons and shields from what I've seen from your brother's memories. So, I'd have to do something from the inside. It was a lie, but they bought it."

Sehun's ears rang. "Are you fucking kidding me?!"

"Sehun, had I not radioed them, I will be dead now. And they still would have invaded the Quantum and you would have been brought back for experiments."

Sehun could not believe that even now Kai was putting his importance before his own. "You can't let this happen, Kai."

"I won't. I was willing to do anything to just see you for myself. I didn't care about the consequences then. I thought that I wouldn't care about anyone because your brother never did. But I do. I have seen you. More than seen you. And I now know that you love me." the soft smile on Kai clenched Sehun's heart. "I am the only one has the means to access the procedures of the experiment. Without me, it will take them aeons to conduct anything like it." he started to walk away and it took Sehun a moment to snap out of the confusion. What did he mean by that?

He jogged after Kai, calling after him. "What if I refuse to go?"

"I'll zap you again and throw you into the escape pod. And don't bother to try and run away. I've locked every single entrance of this level."

"Wait, this is not the escape pod level."

"No. But that day, I also discovered another way to the level through the maintenance bay."

"Why are we using the maintenance bay's route?"

"Because the backup control room is on the way to the maintenance bay."

"Why are we going to the backup control room? Wait, no. I'm not going anywhere until you release everyone!"

"Release who? Kris, who made your life a hell all these years? Doc, who loved it when your brother fucked him and could still keep a straight face before you, only hoping so that you will fuck him, too?"

"Th.. that's not true."

"It is. Who else? Chanyeol, who despised you but was okay with a synthesized being? Or the officers who treated you like trash?!"

Sehun heaved in a breath as he tried to keep up with Kai's long strides. "You can't punish them for something so trivial. You don't have that right."

Kai kept mum as he came to an abrupt halt before a door. He slammed his palm on the scanner and the door slid open. Sehun stood by the entrance, staring at Kai who was finding his way around the huge control computers and bent down before ramming the blue light into the power source. Within a fraction of a second, lights blinked and flickered before the whole room was lit up. The screens and computers came alive the next second.

"What are you doing?" asked Sehun, stepping into the room as Kai began to fiddle with the keyboard screen that popped up in holograms. "Kai-ren."

A corner of Kai's lips quirked up but he kept his eyes down on the keyboard. "I like it when you say my name like that."

"What are you doing?"

"Sending a message to the circle."

"Circle?"

"Uh.. it's like the board of jurisdiction. I've already told them that we'll stop the invasion on Earth. Now, I'm telling them to stop any advances on the human race. This will be my final command."

"What about the soldiers on the Quantum then?"

"Tell me, Sehun. Warriors can sympathize with the innocents. They can't pity the warriors who want to destroy them, right? My priority is you. You, Ulex and your brother are getting out of here. Don't argue any further. You can either stay here and suffer with the other soldiers or you can get out of here."

"Why?! Why me and not the others?!"

"Because I don't happen to be in love with them."

Sehun rubbed his temples, unsure of how to convince Kai-ren. "There is nothing that you could do? What if they decide to not to listen to you and invade Earth again?"

"They won't. They want the soldiers. For the experiment. I told you."

"You can't let them take the soldiers for your fucking experiment!"

Kai slammed his palms on the keyboard and turned to face Sehun, biting his lower lip inhumanely with a scowl etched on his face. "Sehun, there are fucking ships out there which could blow this station up within seconds. If none of the ships return to my planet, they would have lost every contact from the Quantum. Unless someone radios them from here, the Quantum would be not detectable on the radar. But we could also radio them from the NU19 ships and in case you haven't realized, the Quantum is surrounded by them." he spat and returned to tapping on the keyboard. Sehun breathlessly stared at the screen. Kai was accessing the missiles and projectiles.

Then it hit Sehun. "You're... not sending the circle any message, are you?"

Kai remained silent as he worked his way through the keyboard and screens.

"Preset self-destruct? Kai!" Sehun shoved him back from the computers the moment he realized what was going on. "You're gonna blow the Quantum up, aren't you?!"

"Yes. Along with it, the NU19 ships as well. No one would be able to get in touch with the NU19 who died here. And none of your soldiers will be brought back for experiments. Blowing the Quantum up will ensure that."

Sehun shook his head, raising a hand to his mouth. He certainly didn't know what to make of this. Kai-ren seemed helpless. "You're willing to kill your people as well?"

"To save yours the agony? Yes. We don't want your planet anymore, Sehun. I told you that we've stopped the invasion. What I did was wrong. I never should have found a way to soul jump into humans. If it starts with these soldiers, it will spread to your world. The only solution we have right now is to blow both my people and yours here. The circle will no longer be able to detect where I am and without me or any reply from the NU19 ships, they will have no option but to give up."

"Stop. Okay? Stop. You're lying. You want to give me my brother back. In order for you to do so, you'd have to die, right? And if you die, you're worried that the NU19 here would not leave."

Kai licked his lips. "Sehun."

"Then why don't you just fucking bring them back?!"

"And leave with them?! Sehun, unless I die, I can't give you your brother back! I can only soul jump once. It's either I live in this body or I die."

"You seriously think that I want my brother back if it costs me the lives of hundreds of soldiers and peace with your people?"

Kai truly seemed surprised as his eyes widened. "Sehun... you want Kai back."

"Not as much as I want to stop this madness. Would it hurt you to listen to me for once? I can get us all out of this shit. If that means I have to lose a brother, then so be it. You can't die. You need to lead the NU19s."

Letting out a heavy breath, Kai leaned back on the computer desk and wiped his face. "I could lead them out of here, Sehun. But for that, I have to be alive. I have to go with them. That means I can't give you your brother back."

"Then so be it." he spun around to get out of the control room. Kai-ren was taking all this wrong decisions for the sake of Sehun.

"That also means that we will never meet again, Sehun. Not to mention that I can't live without your touch."

Sehun came to a stop at the entrance. Heaving in a long breath, he closed his eyes and muttered, "You can take me with you."

When he turned around to meet Kai-ren, the latter was gaping at him. "Do.. do you mean it?"

"Yes. But now, release the soldiers. And we can talk. I'll talk to the commander. And you talk to your people." his stomach clenched. He did not know if this would even work, but he had to try. "And, Kai-ren. We're not warriors. We're civilized soldiers. You're a leader? Then show your soldiers that you're in charge. And then, come and claim me."

Kai lit up like Christmas as he nodded and advanced forward before stopping before Sehun. "What about your sister?"

Sehun refused to answer that question and spun around. "You stole everything away from me, Kai-ren. My brother, my sister, my life, my world."

"Sehun..." he could almost hear the instant morose tone in Kai's voice.

"Including my heart." Sehun breathed out and proceeded out of the control room.

Chapter Twenty-One : Second Last Chapter

All the while the commander had his bloodshot, confused eyes scanning Sehun from the other side of the board table with utter scrutiny and disappointment. Kai kept pacing the floor of the meeting room with his arms crossed over his chest and all that Sehun could do was sink in his seat while he waited for the commander to snap out of the stasis gas.

"Is the hands restraint important?" Sehun asked Kai who simply shrugged. The commander reflexively shifted his cuffed wrists onto the table and clenched his eyes for a moment.

"He should be sober now." Kai's mutter echoed in the almost empty meeting room. "Talk to him."

Sehun swallowed before opening his mouth again. "Commander?"

The commander's eyes flashed open and his eyebrows knitted into a scowl. "Don't you dare. You side with those faceless assholes!"

Sucking in a shaky breath, Sehun leaned forward. "I'm not siding with anyone, but the lives of hundreds of soldiers here. Commander."

"Who made you the spokesperson, huh?" he spat through his grit teeth and slammed his tied fists on the table before Kai grabbed him by the shoulder and forced him to lean back on the chair.

"I did. He's trying to do us all a favour." Kai hissed at him. "It's because of your ego that my people still want to fight back."

The commander shot Kai a scornful look. "Take your filthy hands off me, parasite. God knows what sort of being you are."

"Listen, commander." Sehun sighed. "Kai can bring the NU19 away from here."

"Why would he when he was the one who brought them here in the first place?!"

"We have no time to explain everything. You can either trust me and save the lives of the soldiers, and yourself or you could disapprove this peace agreement and kill us all."

"Like hell I care about dying! It is not your rightful place to command me, Private! You side with this alien. You betray your own kind!"

"If you keep threatening to fight back, commander, I can assure you that this war will not be the only thing that we will lose. And you're right. I don't have the power to order or rule the soldiers. But you do. So do the right thing." he pleaded. "Don't you see that you could end this once and for all? The NU19 will only listen to their leader if the latter could promise them that he had done something."

The commander eyed him dubiously, but no longer held that sickening stare. "What do you mean? Do you trust this traitor?!" he jerked his head at Kai.

"This traitor is their leader. And believe me, he has the power to bring them away from here and restore peace if only we're willing to put our faith in him."

"In him." he echoed.

"You don't see it, do you?" Kai spat. "Promise us peace and you don't even have to be up here anymore. You can all go back home. You can all stop your pretence that you're under attack. Even now, we're not the ones who are armed and ready to attack your planet. But you couldn't say the same for mine, can you?"

With a gaping mouth, the commander looked up at Kai. "You're telling me to take that big of a leap on what? Your words? You're not my kind."

Sehun cringed at that. You're not my kind... Did that place the commander at the right side of the war? What did that make Sehun? He was in love with the wrong kind. His lover was an alien. "Sir," he called, keeping his eyes low, unwilling to look up at Kai or the commander. "This is not a matter of what species we are. You need to convince our people that we're done with this war. There is nothing to fight for. We can all go home."

The commander seemed to be contemplating it for a moment as he remained silent before speaking up. "You think it's that simple? Even if I choose to trust you and him, the president board won't. The chancellors won't. The people won't! We'll have to go through various stages of processes."

"We don't have that much time." Kai interrupted. "If you want us gone, we'll have to vacate the ship as soon as possible. We can't keep your soldiers under stasis for that long and I certainly don't happen to trust your authority enough to let them awake yet. For all that I know, you could just turn on us."

"Kai," Sehun cut in. "We're gonna need to trust each other."

"I trust you. I don't trust him," he eyed the commander. "So unless if you're gonna speak for your people, I won't let the soldiers up. The last thing we need right now is a battle on Quantum, in which your soldiers will lose."

Sehun closed his eyes briefly as his breath quickened. Even Kai kept repeating the same thing. 'Your people. Your soldiers. Your world.'

"So you want me to convince the president board with nothing but a verbal oath from you?" the commander hissed. "I don't know how your presidency works, but we have rules. Procedures to follow."

"Yeah," Kai scoffed. "I know everything about how you function. And I can tell you that I'm glad for not being part of you."

"That's enough," Sehun snapped as he jolted up to his feet. "I've had enough of your fucking shit!" he hollered at the commander. "If you care more about rules and fuck, you might as well kill us all. Or you could give a damn about our survival and a chance for him to prove himself."

That was exactly what Sehun had done. He had given Kai-ren a chance.

The commander winced as he gawked at Sehun and his outburst. "How do you suggest he proves his sincerity?"

"I will take my people and leave," Kai said. "Without any further disturbance."

It took the commander a moment before he nodded his head. "I need to contact the president."

"No," Kai replied. "I can't let you contact with anyone out of the Quantum. I don't trust you."

"Aren't we supposed to be trusting each other now?"

Sehun shot Kai a pleading look and heard Kai sighing. "You can have a testimony from me." Kai said at last. "A recorded one. And once I've left, you can send it to your president board."

The commander remained conflicted. "Spare all of the soldiers and get the hell out of my ship first."

Kai rubbed his temples as he agreed with a nod. "I will make sure that they're awake before I jump ship."

Sehun felt a sudden tug at his chest and he immediately excused himself as he hurried out of the meeting room to let Kai and the commander handle the rest of the technicalities. Halting on the pitch black corridor, he spotted the NU19 by the door but did not pay any heed to him. He could not believe where he was standing this instant. He slowly started for his room with his heart racing. He had just agreed to leave everything behind for Kai. For his world. No one would even remember his name, let alone know that it was he who saved human kind. He had yet to know what awaited him. He could not say for certain that he will be safe.

But one thing was for sure. He was never going to see El again.

As he entered the room, he paced straight to the window and stood before it, gazing at the streaks of stars. He had no choice. He did not want a choice. He did not want an option which would allow him to choose a life without Kai-ren. He had never imagined to fall in love with his brother, let alone with an unearthly being. Sehun had always thought that he will simply die on this ship or at least waste most of his life on it before he would go back down and struggle and struggle until he will eventually die a death of a common man. He was still a common man. Only one that had lived an adventure, fallen in love in the most forbidden manner and was yet to be the first man in history to be invited to live on another planet.

Sehun raised a palm to the window and pressed it against the glass. Lidding his eyes, he brought his forehead to the glass and exhaled a breath of fatigue. When he looked back at his life, he saw nothing but Kai. It was as if his life only began when Kai had strutted into it. Prior to that, Sehun was nothing but a puppet. Kai had made him feel like a person. Like a man who could be cherished. Who could be taken care for. Was he a bad person for wanting Kai? Was he selfish for choosing Kai-ren over his brother? Sehun always cared too much about the piteous. But no one actually pitied him.

"Sehun."

Not until he heard Kai's voice whispering its way into the room like a caress did he realize that he had been sticking to the window for quite a long while. Turning around, he met Kai's supple gaze and automatically, his breath betrayed him by accelerating.

Kai slowly plodded his way towards the bed and stopped by the side before smiling at Sehun. "I've told the NU19s to start restoring the Quantum."

Sehun licked his lips, bowing his head once. "Are they ready to follow you out of here?"

"They were confused of all this shenanigans, but you were right. They still respect me as a leader and... your commander has agreed. That's all because of you."

"It's not." he shook his head, lowering it.

"It is. I don't think that I will have succumbed to anyone other than you." his tone sent chills down Sehun's spine. He clutched and released his fists, trying to distract himself. "Are you... ready?"

"To leave?" he turned his eyes back to the window. "What of Ulex?"

"I think... I think he will be safer with us. Your people are renowned for experiments as well. I don't want him to suffer a fate like that."

Sehun bit his lip as he faced Kai. "Will it always be 'your' people and 'my' people?"

Kai blinked blankly. "What... do you mean?"

Advancing a few steps forward, he said, "Tell me you love me regardless of my brother's memories. Would you have liked me if you only came to know me for who I am now?"

Kai's lips parted to say something, but nothing came out as he recommenced to staring at Sehun with his doleful eyes. There was nothing special about Sehun. He had done nothing, absolutely nothing remarkable for the leader of an alien race to fall in love with him. He was useless, if not completely incapable. Sure, he and Kai shared a heartbeat but that was no reason at all for Kai-ren to be mesmerized by him. He needed to know. He had to know if Kai would love him all the same had he not seen the innocent child from his brother's memories. Sehun's breath came out in pants as he dropped his head entirely. He was the first kind soul Kai-ren had acknowledged. Probably that was why Kai-ren had been interested in him in the first place. He had nothing to give back. He was a normal person who did not deserve great things.

A sudden brush of Kai's hands on his wrist snapped him out of his thoughts and he brought his head up to meet Kai's frown. "Sehun..." he breathed out, probably after feeling whatever Sehun was brooding about.

"No. I need to know." Sehun rasped, staggering back a step.

Kai kept his eyes solemnly on Sehun for a long while before he retreated back to the bed. Sehun watched Kai without blinking as Kai peeled his shirt off and climbed onto the bed. "Then let me show you." he muttered, taking his seat in the middle of the bed where he and Sehun had shared more than one intimate experience. Sehun's eyes travelled down Kai's shirtless, toned body for a moment before his feet automatically moved and hands began to pull off his own shirt. This will be the last Sehun would spend his time in this very room that had brought him so close to this man.

As he slipped into the bed, he climbed onto Kai, knelt on his sides and slid his hands into Kai's hair at the back of his head while Kai's hands snaked around his hips and lightly gripped onto Sehun's ass. That moment, he felt Kai's fiery urge to hold him. Kai's lust and love were transferred into Sehun's veins and loins which derived an immediate reaction from him. He knelt up, aligning his chest to Kai's face and when he felt Kai's lips pressing against his sternum, he gripped hard on Kai's hair, tilting his own head back a little. Kai slowly kissed his way down the chest and abdomen, pulling soft moans out of Sehun's dry throat. "Sehun..." Kai breathed out, kissing and sucking the side of Sehun's waist. Whimpering, Sehun pulled one of Kai's hands to his crotch and let Kai cup it before he slowly started to rock his hips, rubbing his crotch against Kai's palm. Kai latched his lips on

Sehun's collarbone and gave the skin a hard suck which rendered Sehun groaning as Kai's hand massaged his crotch between his legs.

"Kai..." Sehun panted out, sliding a palm down Kai's back as he lowered to sit on Kai's lap with Kai's lips abusively kissing his neck. He paused for a moment, breathing hard against Sehun's mouth as he brought their foreheads together, their eyes locked.

"Will you let me... inside you?"

Sehun could only tighten his arms around Kai's neck and let their lips meet in approval. He could feel the heat of Kai's body warm against his, could hear the soft whisper of his breath as he exhaled, could feel the ravaging heartbeat upon his own. Kai's hand drove up and down the side of Sehun's torso and Sehun entirely nestled into his touch, feeling Kai's warmth seep into his. Kai leaned in, lips parting slightly, his eyes flitting down to rest on Sehun's. His kiss was soft, but urgent. Sehun could feel Kai's pure struggle to hold his thoughts back, but failed miserably the moment their tongues met. A wave of images flowed through Sehun, but none that he recognized. They were all very... alien.

Kai broke the kiss with a gasp and stared into Sehun's eyes. "I'm sorry."

"No." with a powerful tug, Sehun pulled Kai into another kiss, only much stronger and hungrier. He did not care. He could not care. He believed that the warmth of their bare chests was even stronger than the memories Kai-ren held. Slowly, the images faded as Kai melted into the kiss. He pecked on Sehun's lower lip before giving it a gentle suck and lowered his lips to Sehun's chin. "Ah..." Sehun shamelessly moaned out when Kai hauled his thighs forward to grind their groins together, covering Sehun's mouth with his own at the same time.

Kai eventually knelt up, hoisting Sehun with him before dropping Sehun to lie on the mattress without disconnecting their lips and tongues. Kai's hand was no novice as it quickly undid Sehun's belt and slipped into the pants. "I want you..." he panted into Sehun's mouth, clutching Sehun's pulsating cock. Etched all over me.

Sehun went limp and let Kai push him to lie on his stomach before Kai took his place on top of him. "Uhh... Ahh..." Sehun wheezed as Kai dry humped his ass while kissing the back of his neck and gradually pulled his wet kisses down to the shoulder blades. His mouth covered almost every inch of Sehun's back before he felt Kai yanking the pants and shoes off him. As Sehun fisted his hardening cock to pump it, Kai pulled Sehun's hips up to kneel him and kissed the tailbone while his hands were kneading the succulent flesh of Sehun's ass. Sehun couldn't care less who heard them now. He wanted to scream Kai's name. He wanted Kai to cry out his name.

His face was pressed into the pillow as he felt Kai kissing the cleft of his ass, spreading the cheeks apart. It was nothing like before when he fucked Kai. This pleasure he felt was on a whole new level. He had nothing to compare it to. The urge and thirst to be filled by Kai's cock were both sharp and exquisite. On the other hand, he could also feel Kai's longing to give Sehun all the he could. Sehun wondered what would happen if Kai penetrated him. Not in his life had ever thought of laying with an alien, but he was surely not going to regret it one bit.

"Ngghhh." he whimpered into the pillow with Kai tonguing his desperately begging opening. Kai kept his grip tight on Sehun's thighs as he sucked and licked his hole, caressing it with his tongue. "Ahn... K-Kai..." he reached an arm back and held onto Kai's hair when

Kai slightly thrust the tip of his tongue into his hole. It felt both uncomfortable and stunning.

The moment Kai's mouth was absent from his opening to kick his own pants off, Sehun instantly missed the wetness and warmth of his tongue. He knelt his ass jutting out, kneeling as Kai hovered over his back and pressed his erection between Sehun's butt cheeks, holding onto one of Sehun's hips. "Sehun..." Kai groaned out, kissing the back of Sehun's shoulder before drawing his lips up the side of Sehun's neck and when Sehun brought his head up, Kai inclined his down and forcefully smashed their lips together as their tongues swirled around one another sloppily. I love you... That was all that went on Kai's head for all that Sehun could feel at the joint of their lips. Kai drove his hips up and down, rubbing and grinding his thick, hard cock against Sehun's hole.

They will complete the bond if Sehun allowed Kai now. Which meant, he would be able to access every memory of Kai-ren's. He was not sure if he wanted that but he could not care less. Right now, all that he wanted was to never let go of Kai.

Kai swallowed every bit of Sehun's moan as he rubbed his swollen length up Sehun's ass with their tongues and teeth everywhere. "Kai... ren.. I want you... inside me." Sehun mumbled into the kiss, pushing his ass out further to grind it against Kai. They broke the kiss with a thin string of saliva connecting their lower lips and Kai straightened his back, kneeling between Sehun's legs. Their heartbeats thrummed in Sehun's ears. Both he and Kai were yearning to be joined in a way that nothing could separate them.

Sehun calmed down a little, withering into the bed when he felt Kai's cockhead rubbing his hole, slow and tenderly. The feeling was not something that he could describe. And then the uncomfortable part came when Kai slid a saliva slicked finger into him. A quiet whimper betrayed his throat, but it was nothing aggressive. It was a little uncomfortable, that's all. Kai leaned forward on Sehun's back and kissed him, full on mouth as his finger glided in and out of him.

I am making love to you. Even if it is by the means of your brother's body. My soul is bonding with yours, Sehun. Not your brother. Remember that. Remember this.

With a gasp, Sehun forced his mouth against Kai's when Kai pushed another finger in. This time, it was slightly unbearable. Had he not been feeling Kai's pleasure as well, he might have squirmed at the pain of Kai's fingers stretching him.

Not just in this body. I will love you in any form, Kai-ren.

Sehun uncontrollably thought it out loud as Kai fingered him mercifully. The utterance of Kai-ren's name sparked something within him which Sehun palpably felt. Kai's tongue ventured almost every part of Sehun's mouth as he scissored through Sehun's tight hole. Kai wanted Sehun to say it out loud. To confess his love for him. And Sehun always felt like his tongue was tied whenever he wanted to pledge his love.

Pulling his fingers out, Kai smeared the dampness over Sehun's tender lips, brushing them with his wet fingers and ferociously kissed him, licking his already abused lips. "You will feel... a great deal, Sehun." Kai warned him beforehand. "But try to focus on the pain and pleasure instead. Try to concentrate on me... throbbing in inside you." he whispered breathlessly and Sehun submitted, dropping his head into the pillow. He felt Kai's cockhead circling his stretched hole, brushing it timidly before Kai pushed it in.

"Ah!" he helplessly cried out with the head of Kai's erection mercilessly stretching his opening further.

"Shh... I promise you... It will feel amazing." Kai muttered and connected their mouths again as he slowly thrust his full length in. It was more painful than hell itself. Kai froze altogether with his deep inside Sehun and broke the kiss to let Sehun breathe. Gasping for air, Sehun cringed with tears brewing in his eyes. Then it came... Kai-ren's memories. In fractions at first and then he saw some of his own life flashing before his eyes. Kai-ren was sucking Sehun's memories as well. It was a two-way process. Only when Kai pulled out a little did Sehun open his eyes and gasped sharply before searching frantically for Kai's lips and when he found them, he ruthlessly kissed him, wanting Kai to fuck him hard and fast. He pushed himself up and stood on all fours as Kai began to thrust. His hipbones were like knives, slicing through Sehun's ass while his cock drilled through him.

Kai's hot hand wrapped itself around Sehun's aching cock and stroked it, in sync with his thrusts. Sehun wished that Kai's cock would just lock inside him. "Harder, Kai..." Sehun rasped against Kai's lips, hands fisting the covers and Kai did not hesitate even once as he picked up the pace of his hips. He slammed into Sehun's prostate more than once, knocking the bundle of nerves out of their places in the process and Sehun loved every bit of the painful pleasure. Kai-ren's memories were not something that Sehun could comprehend. His mind could not perceive the things that was too unfamiliar to understand. But he wanted Kai to see every bit of his memory and experiences. He wanted Kai to know him inside and out.

Pleasure exploded between them both. They shared the ecstasy of the sexual gratification. It was doubled. Kai's thick cock fucked Sehun senseless and Sehun clutched Kai's cock, throbbing hard around it. And more than everything, he felt the connection between them. No one can destruct it now. It was done.

Kai pulled Sehun up to kneel and pressed a palm to Sehun's chest, splaying his fingers on it to hold him against his front as his other hand slid down Sehun's hip before curling around his erection. "Come for me, Sehun." Kai gasped into Sehun's ear, slowing the pace of his thrusts. Out of his senses, Sehun leaned his head back on Kai's shoulder with Kai's lips ghosting over the side of his neck. He kept his droopy eyes on Kai as his mouth let out vicious moans. He could die right now and he wouldn't give a damn about it.

"I love you, Kai-ren..." he said in a breath and Kai paused for a moment to gaze into Sehun's half lidded eyes. Their lips met in a tired, yet lively kiss as Kai's hipbones began to slam against Sehun's ass again. And when Sehun fell forward, Kai grip was harder than ever on Sehun's hips as he fucked him faster, more brutally. Sehun pumped his own cock as fast as he could, wanting to reach his climax simulatenously with Kai, but he melted into his own hand few second before Kai burst inside him.

It was sensational when Kai came hard, crying out moans of profanities, staining Sehun's insides with his semen. As he collapsed onto Sehun's sweat covered back, they laid motionelessly, trying to gasp in all the air their lungs could manage.

Final Chapter

Had they been on Earth, Sehun would have never bothered to retrieve himself from Kai's embrace. He would have sworn his body and soul to this man. They would have gone on mundane dates and would have made love for the remaining night. But fate was ever so cruel to Sehun. On the Quantum, he had no choice but to fall in love in the most unfortunate way.

Resting in Kai's arms, on his calmly heaving chest, Sehun pondered how his life would have turned out to be had he not crossed paths with Kai-ren. He probably would have gone home in another year or two. He would go home to El again. And then what? Toil and shed sweat for the rest of his life to feed his family? God, why was he even thinking about such a thing? He was not his brother. He was not his brother. He's better. He will not be selfish. Even now, if Sehun had a chance, he would go home.

Kai flinched under him and Sehun quickly snapped the rope to his thoughts before biting his tongue. Kai's heartbeat began to pound against the side of Sehun's face. "I'm sorry. I didn't mean it." Sehun murmured, not wanting to raise his head and meet Kai's gaze. Kai was blocking his own thoughts as they laid there, tangled around one another, both spent and bathed in the sweet scent of sex. Sehun would never forget how the pain turned into pure pleasure within seconds when Kai's cock penetrated him. The pain still lingered and so did the pleasure. His brain still tried to adjust to the memories Kai-ren had shared, but refused to process that much of alien and unfamiliar information at once. He only conceived a fragment of the memories, mostly of his brother being tied and penetrated, which he had seen more than enough.

His body, however was wrecked. He could barely move a limb since Kai had basically drained him of his energy. His head kept spinning endlessly, drowning in fatigue. Even the lethargic movements of his fingers took a great deal of effort.

When another moment of silence had passed between them, Kai muttered, "You did mean it."

Sehun brought his head up at last and blinked at Kai who kept his eyes on the ceiling. "I want to be with you. That is my choice."

He did not make a comment as he pushed himself to a sitting position, gently pushing Sehun aside. "We need get going." he mumbled, pulling his pants on as he sat on the edge of the bed.

"Kai..."

"You asked me if I loved you for who you are now." he spat, rising to his feet and turned to face Sehun with a morose look. "After that. After we've... After we made love, tell me. Is it Kai's body that you love or this heartless alien?"

Sehun's lips parted to gape at Kai. "What do you mean? I.. I did not let you... because..." he slowly began to pant as his breath quickened. "It's not my brother's body that I love." the voice faded as he spoke. "It's you. If you don't believe me, you should have at least felt me when you came inside me. Who was I reacting for? You or my brother? You know the answer yourself, Kai-ren."

"I do..." he uttered under his breath and clenched his eyes for a moment before proceeding to clothe himself up. "Get ready."

Sehun got off the bed at once and grabbed Kai-ren by his arm, yanked him to turn. "I love you. And I'm going with you not because I'm forced to. I want you to live. I want to be your... heartbeat." he pressed his palms on Kai's chest and closed his eyes, loving the way Kai's heart thumped against his hands. He knew Kai-ren was aware of the fact that he was completely ruined for him. And that he would not mind being ruined again and again for Kai. The hands gradually climbed up Kai's sternum and wrapped themselves around Kai's neck. "Because... this heartless alien... deserves to be loved. Deserves to hold another's heart."

Kai curled his arms around Sehun's naked waist and pulled him close until their bodies were pressed together. "I saw all of your memories, Sehun. The only people you truly ever loved were your brother sister. Before I came into your life. Your brother betrayed and abandoned you. You were forced to leave your sister."

"And I love you now. I love my sister. But I can't let you die."

A smile tugged at the corners of Kai's lips. "I am... hopelessly in love with you, Sehun." he ran his fingers through Sehun's hair and pulled him even closer to let their lips brush.

Taking their time with the slow, lazy kiss, both Sehun and Kai tacitly made a promise with their bodies and hearts. That they would never forget each other. Parting from the kiss, Sehun paused to catch his breath for that his body was lamer than ever. He might have crashed the floor if Kai-ren's arms weren't gripping, thus supporting him.

When they had donned their crumpled clothes on again, Sehun gave the room a final cursory glance after pocketing El's photo. That was the only thing he came to the Quantum with and it will be the only thing he will leave the Quantum with. He jumped a little when Kai slid his palm along his own and intertwined their fingers. "Are you ready to leave the Quantum forever, Sehun?"

Sehun gave a short nod. "Anywhere is better than here. Anywhere with you has to be better." he sighed, lowering his gaze. He was taking a big leap. His stomach clenched in both excitement and fear for what awaited him.

As they walked out of the room, Sehun felt Kai-ren's palm sweating against his and he glanced over at the man only to see an expressionless face. He was blocking his thoughts and feelings. Sehun blinked, wondering what he was trying to hide. They walked in silence, with nothing but memories of the Quantum shared between them. But as they edged closer to the gate bay, Sehun's heart skipped a beat when he discerned the blue light which illuminated the tall figures that stood behind it. The faceless NU19s waited by the locked gate along with Ulex, who looked quite comfortable standing among them.

"Ulex!" Sehun gasped and withdrew his hand from Kai's before lurching forward to pull Ulex into an aggressive embrace.

"Nnh... Uh..." Ulex whimpered, burrowing his nose in the crook of Sehun's neck, hands fisting around Sehun's shirt at the abdomen. "Ooh." he exhaled.

Sehun pulled back and grinned. "It's okay. We're gonna meet each other quite often hereafter." he assured Ulex and brushed the bangs out of his forehead.

"No..." he heard Kai's soft protest and turned to meet his bloodshot eyes. "You won't."

Sehun let out a short chuckle. "What do you mean? Ulex is coming with us, right?"

"He's going with me. Yes. But..." Kai licked his lips as his eyes brewed tears. Sehun's stomach churned, trying to perceive that guilt-stricken look. "You're not."

"I... don't understand."

Kai advanced forward and Sehun reflexively took a step back. "You've given me enough energy for me to bring them back. I might survive for more than 48 hours. That's more than enough for me to go back and settle everything."

"Stop." Sehun's chest tightened as it heaved. "Don't-"

"You're going home." Kai's saddening smile almost killed Sehun that instant.

"No.." his eyes began to sting with tears which blurred his vision.

Kai hooked an arm around Sehun's waist and hauled him close out of the sudden with an aggressive strength. He cupped a side of Sehun's face and pressed his thumb on Sehun's cheek. "I love you, Sehun." he panted breathlessly with a tear rolling down his cheek.

"I'm not going!"

"Yes... you are." a sob was choking Kai's throat as he spoke and leaned in. "You're my heartbeat, Sehun." he breathed against Sehun's lips and gently kissed him. Sehun instantly broke into a mewling cry, throwing his arms around Kai's neck and let Kai kiss him as hard as he wished. He could taste the salt of the tears on Kai's lips. He was not leaving Kai. He will not let Kai die.

You will... You're going home. To your sister. Perhaps in another life, our love will not be so forbidden.

The next thing Sehun knew was Kai breaking the kiss with a rush and a strike of the blue light on his chest. His breath seized as the world stopped for a moment. *No, no... Please!* His grip loosened around Kai's sleeve as the ground caved under him.

Goodbye, Sehun.

He was conscious for a moment as he was carried out the gate. Not a single part of his body could be moved for that he immobilized, paralyzed. But he discerned the ship which looked very similar to the stasis pod, only three times bigger and brighter, without the yellow liquid. That was the last thing he managed to see before he blacked out completely.

He was going home. He was leaving Kai to die.

He was going home.

(A/N) Wait for the epilogue!!

EPILOGUE

Silence laid like a down-filled duvet over the area, muffling the slightest sound and creating an atmosphere of total tranquillity. The quietness was almost tangible, no rustle of clothing, breathing slow and barely audible, even the once creaking of the house settling was stilled as though to order. The hushed field of warm sand and the quiescent area were in a constant stage of dormancy. In the absence of landscape, flora and fauna, the sand covered place was of nothing but solitude. There was calmness. But not peace. It was a tad hotter than the residence Sehun had lived in before, but it was also much calmer.

He kept his eyes out the window. There was not a soul in sight for as far as his vision would stretch. It had been some while since he had spoken to another person other than El. He did not want to even. It had taken him almost two months to be cleared off the army. A part of him could not believe that he had been allowed to leave even now.

The world was at its post-war state. Hope was reignited in every heart. Rapid amelioration was being carried out to reinstate peace. For once, everyone was cooperating as one.

It had been over seventeen months since Sehun had woken up in the middle of the street he used to live at. He didn't exactly know how many weeks he had been in stasis before he reached Earth, but when he woke up, the news of the NU19's surrender had long reached home and people were already celebrating. The Quantum was dismantled and soldiers returned home shortly after. By then, Sehun had settled down. His mother had died eleven months ago before his father passed away due to pneumonia. It was just him and El now. Sehun moved from the region he used to live, to this isolated, desert-like barren area where he had found a small house enough to fit himself and El. He had cut every tie he had had with the soldiers on the Quantum. He had only met Chanyeol and Doc once since. That too only when they had voluntarily visited to make inquiries on why Kai-ren had released him first.

Nothing was the same anymore. Earth wasn't the same. The Quantum had changed everything. Kai-ren had changed everything for Sehun. If only there was a way to erase every bit of Sehun's memories. He had El. He was happy for her. But there was no denying that he was lonely. He might move on one day. But for the time being, he was in pain. An agonizing pain. Kai-ren had died. He was still alive. For El. Had Kai not sent Sehun home in time, El would have been orphaned and Sehun could not possibly imagine to find El in the streets with the world in complete commotion. He had to live for someone else. Kai had died for a child he had never met before. Sehun had long forgotten that Kai was his brother once. The face and that gentle smile were only Kai-ren's now. Kai-ren was the only one who was etched in his heart and memories.

"Chehun?" El squeaked, yanking a leg of his pants and Sehun snapped out of it before pulling himself away from the sink counter.

"What is it, El?"

She sucked her lower lip into her mouth. She had lost two of her front teeth in the previous month and her hair had grown past her shoulders now. Her hair was just as unhealthy as Sehun's. But she... She was gorgeous. She was Sehun's angel. All that she ever did all day long, whenever Sehun was home, not working in the factory, was run around Sehun, jumping on him or she would simply just play with the sand and sticks outside. Sehun had always only lived for her. He could live another 40 years for her surely. Every day when Sehun picked her up from the daycare which was miles away from here, she would be waiting by the door, the last person to be picked up. But she always held this wide grin every time she saw Sehun.

She pointed at the door. "Shomebodhy. Here. Elly thold... him to sthay." she laughed when she had successfully spoken.

"Good girl." Sehun crouched down to give her quick kiss on her cheek. "Now let's go see who that is." he grunted and rose to his feet. It was Saturday. Who could possibly be here today? Probably some passerby. He plodded to the door and found no one on the

doorstep. A gush of warm wind blew on his face and Sehun blinked the sand away. El squeezed past him and ran outside, giggling. "El. Come back in, please."

She ran over to the other side of the shed and Sehun groaned a little before going after her. Just when he crossed the shed, he came to an abrupt halt. Without a warning, his body just shut down. He stood still, silent and frozen. His face went slack, mouth slightly open, body unmoving, colour and blood draining from his face as he stared wide-eyed. He had been paralyzed up to a point where he hardly breathe. The short raspy gasps were pounding in his ears.

El's soft laugh felt like a scream as she wrapped her arms around Kai-ren's neck. Kai curled an arm around El, kneeling on one knee. He looked up at Sehun and smiled.

"Hey, Sehun." he sighed, still grinning.

"Chehun!" El repeated after him and ran to Sehun to hug his leg. "Who is thish? He smellsh nice like Elly."

It felt like an attack. Sehun felt like his heart was arresting. He did not know if his eyes popped out of their sockets but he knew that his throat had went completely dry and tears were trickling down his cheeks without even realizing it.

Kai-ren rose to his feet and stood there, smiling, looking like a breath of fresh air. "I'm sorry it took me so long to return to you."

"K-K...." Sehun panted out, unable to find his voice or the words. He closed his eyes to see if this were just one of the many dreams he had. But when he flashed his eyes open, Kai was still there. "Y-you're... alive..." he exhaled.

"Barely." Kai smirked. "Without you." he took a step forward.

"H-h-how..."

"They fixed me. I was under stasis for months for them to fix me. It took them many trials but one of them succeeded. I don't need your heartbeat anymore." he held the smile. "But I will always need your heart, Sehun."

Sehun gasped in a sharp breath and looked up before burying his face in his palms. "You're not real. You're not real."

"I am." Kai laughed. "They let me go. They saw how miserable I was. They... felt my love for you, Sehun. They wholeheartedly freed me out of pity."

"You're... what..." he panted, unable to fill his chest with air.

"Even they understood that my love for you can never die." his eyes reddened. "They released me, so that I can be with you. So that I can... return to you."

Sehun clasped his hand over his mouth with tears staining his cheeks. "Kai!" he cried out and lurched forward just as Kai advanced to him. Their arms came around one another before Kai's lips crashed Sehun's. Sehun gasped into the kiss and forced his mouth harder onto Kai's. For once, they were kissing without any extra baggage of feelings and thoughts.

"Chehun! Chehun!" El giggled, clapping her hands and Kai pulled back from the kiss before lifting her up.

"She's even more beautiful than how I saw her in your memories." he laughed out, grappling an arm around Sehun's waist.

He's here. He really is here.