

Fanatical Publishing's

Weekly Review

Issue #74

September 23, 2013

AND NOW, a word from the publisher:

Hello folks, Jochannon here; first let me say thank you for reading, and I hope you enjoy, and please feel free to share it with your friends, re-post it to your profile, spread it around; the more people who get to read it, the better!

If you are not subscribed, but you want to be, there's nothing easier: Just e-mail me at fanaticalweekly@gmail.com with 'subscribing' in the subject line.

I've got a website now, where you can download old issues:
<http://fanaticalpublishing.weebly.com/wr-archive.html>

If you want to contribute, I'd love to see your work, send it to me at the aforementioned e-mail address with: 'category(prose, fanfic, poetry), STORY TITLE, Author's Name' in the subject line: please include the text of your story in the body of the email, and please include a cover letter about you, your work, or whatever; include any links you want, and cover art if you have any.

Do you have any questions or comments? If you do, I'd to hear them; write to me at the aforementioned e-mail address.

I'm bad at stopping these things, so I'll just say again: thank you for reading, and I hope you enjoy!

Table of Contents

Original Prose

DOMINANCE, Solilska
Page 5

LET'S PLAY DETECTIVE?,
FaerieBox
Page 6

WEEKLY RANT, Angel-Rants
Page 8

Fan fiction

ME2 HELLDIVER SAGA
CHAPTER 41: MATCHES
MADE IN HEAVEN,
Veyron722skyhook
Page 10

Poetry

FEEL IT ALL,
ThatGirlNamedShadow
Page 36

QUIET STORMS OF THE
MIND, William L. Wright, Jr.
Page 37

NO SAFE WORDS, by
Gabhriel Londe
(StrikeTheMadness)
Page 39

ONE MONTH, Valkyrie
Page 41

BONVIN, LEON, Arden-t
Page 43

THE ETERNAL SCRIBE OF
VERSE, CP5678
Page 44

WHERE NIGHTS ARE TO
BE SPENT, Loftydreams101
Page 45

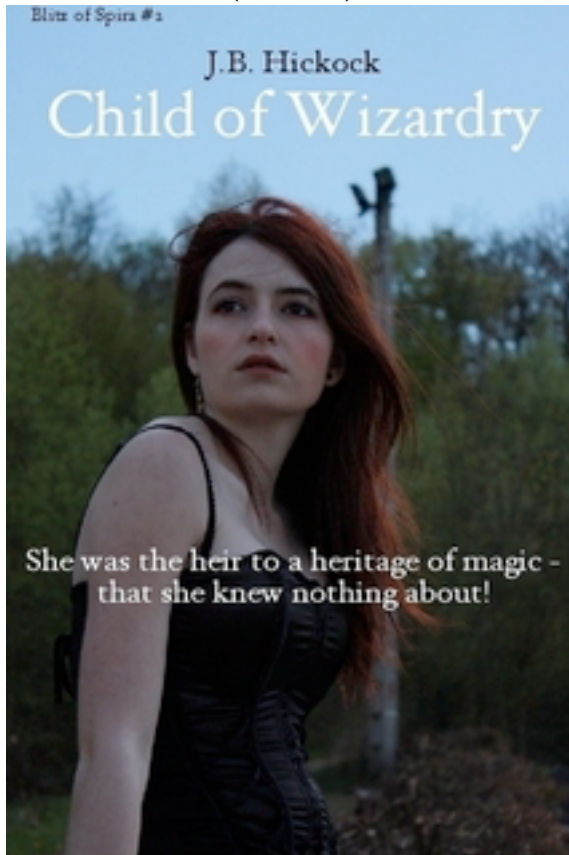
TIRED, TheMeTheyDontSee
Page 46

ORIGINAL LITERATURE

If you like what I publish here, you should check out some other things I publish, like

CHILD OF WIZARDRY

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/john-mahler/blitz-of-spira-2-child-of-wizardry/ebook/product-21198654.html>
(it's free!)



To the village of Garoo in the dead of winter came a stranger bearing a baby girl - Amaldea was her name. He left her there, and she grew up in the village, but none welcomed her or treated her as one of their own.

Then came her teacher: immortal, inhuman, to teach her to use her powers and gifts. But Garoo is dangerous for those who stand out.

DOMINANCE

Solilska

of <http://solilska.deviantart.com>

As my fifteenth piece i attempted to talk about Dominance:

I understand the strong stand point of, you're strong or you die, you're intelligent or you fail, you dominate or be dominated, true or not, it Is something we should try to overcome, we are no longer roaming animals fighting viciously for our own survival, nor am I suggesting a hippie state, because personally I think that would be a terrible Idea.

Love and hate has its places, when a man dominates another it makes him correct, whether or not he actually is, what he says and does is seen and judged as correct and that is harmful.

Power and dominance given to or obtained by someone who doesn't also possess the ability to fairly judge or appropriately use compassion leads to abuse of that power and abuse of everyone under that person, and with abuse comes rebellion and misery, hate and war.

A powerful man or woman should see his responsibility as a powerful and Intelligent human and use it wisely, when we start thinking as a we instead of an I we have made some progress in leadership and how to lead the way, compassion and power should be our driving force as a race, dominance can stay with the animal world, for as long as we keep growing, we will become separated further and further from them and I personally don't see any lose in becoming great Intelligent and powerful beings, fit to be gods and goddess' to help humanity, rather than ineptly create them for us to serve.

There is no denial of our existence, gods and goddess' are debatable, Lets rely on ourselves and not follow in the footsteps of past and failed gods.

LET'S PLAY DETECTIVE?

CHAPTER 1

FaerieBox
of <http://FaerieBox.deviantart.com>

Tic. Toc... Tic. Toc...

I looked to the old clock that hung on the dark-wallpapered wall in front of me. The decorated pointers showed nine and a half. Of the night. My belly was already empty and claiming for dinner, but I was so nervous that I could hardly think of eating anything. Sister felt the same way, I knew.

It was something about the atmosphere of the room. The heavy silence. The anxious glances, or then the eyes staring at some invisible stain on the wooden floor. The five of us women were just sitting on the two large sofas, with uncle Jack and cousin Maxwell, but Daddy was standing by Mom's side, holding tightly her hand, and uncle Henry was walking back and forth, from one wall to the other. He was the perfect image of a businessman preoccupied.

No one was at ease. He walked. Aunt Daisy could manage to sit upright as a lady and without even blinking, like she usually does, nevertheless her body was tense, and her face of marble statue now had a slight frown. Mom also appeared very worried, but her expression was different, more childish. Dad was pale. On the other sofa, Anne wept quietly, with her head low. Young uncle Jack was apart from everybody, and rested an arm on the back of the sofa, a leg crossed on his knee. He had an annoyed light in his green eyes, but was silent. Maxwell was the only who had tried to start a conversation, but no one wanted to talk, and now he was embarrassed.

I myself was almost shaking from anxiety, with all this waiting. And, very close to me, by my left, sister... Well, I did not need to glance at her to know.

Then, the door opened. All heads turned. Doctor Colins appeared there, under the door-frame. His face was grave.

His verdict? All of us inside this room already knew. He was dead.

Grandfather was dead. On the very evening of his birthday.

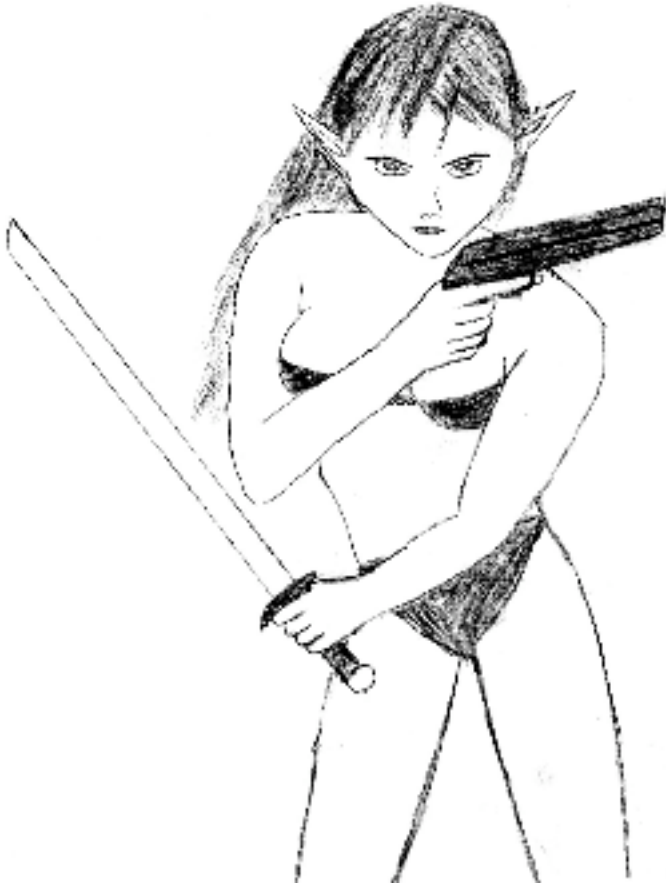
WEEKLY RANT

Angel-Rants
of <http://Angel-Rants.deviantart.com>

Rant #2

You know what I hate? When 2P! Italy is portrayed as a maniac. Yeah, he has knives. Point? And, another thing. When people say 'OMG, HE HAS KNIVES!!!!!!r HE PUTS BLOOD IN HIS PASTA.' No. He doesn't. Since he's Italy's 2P, he shouldn't even LIKE pasta. Another thing. All 2Ps being portrayed as brutal murders. No, that's not all 2Ps are. Here, have a headcanon: The reason Al (2p America) has all those nails in his baseball bat is not originally because he wanted it to be a weapon, but because he was so tired of being ignored and dismissed that he wanted to break something, not only that, something important, so he just started banging nails into it until he felt better. Then whenever it happened, he'd do it again, only he had to keep removing them because he only had so many nails, so they're bent. If you look close you can see the holes, and how much people really hurt him without really realizing. He may act like he's an arrogant and sex crazed jerk, but it's just that, an act. Yup. :I So, instead of saying 'OH NO, A 2P, HE/SHE'S GUNNA KILL ME!!!!r' Be thoughtful.

FAN FICTION



or: Leanna's Return

Your Fan Fiction is published here for free, but if you want to help keep it free, check out some other things I publish, like

ME2 HELLDIVER SAGA CHAPTER 4I: MATCHES MADE IN HEAVEN

Veyron722skyhook
of veyronmaster722@gmail.com

Nearly 3 months had passed, and now the big day had finally arrived.

Both Austin and Liara had decided it would be nice if they could share their wedding with Ventra and Leena's, which the Turian and Quarian had been happy to agree with.

Making the arrangements and all that had most certainly not been easy. Fortunately, he'd had the combined support of his future wife, and Ventra and Leena.

They'd agreed to have the wedding on Arkadia seeing as all the Helldivers came from there and they'd avoid any unfairness of the wedding being on one homeworld and not the other.

While it was the big day, the wedding wouldn't take place until a bit later. This left Austin a bit of time to check on anything and for him to also await the arrival of Kelly's replacement, which he had been told would be arriving today.

At the moment, he was waiting outside the Normandy docks. With the Collectors defeated, things had got a lot quieter for the Helldivers. Therefore the docks weren't that busy. It would make the recruit's shuttle easy to spot.

Sure enough, just a few minutes later, he saw a shuttle docking quite close to the Normandy. Out of it, stepped a woman. She was wearing the traditional Helldiver uniform and had a large backup slung over her back.

She had jet black hair which just reached down to her neck, brown eyes, and richly tanned coloured skin.

Austin was actually a bit surprised since the profiles hadn't had pictures with them. So he hadn't known what to expect.

The woman approached Austin and looked at the Normandy behind him

"Excuse me. Is that the Normandy?" she asked. To Austin surprise, the woman even had a British accent just like him. He imagined that she and Sarah would get along very well.

"That is correct, miss. That's my ship." He nodded.

The woman's eyes widened in surprise.

"You're ship? Then you're..."

"Sir Major Austin Shepard at your service." Austin smiled, doing his best not laugh at the look on the woman's face. He extended his hand out and she shook it. "You must be the new recruit

I picked?"

The woman dropped her bag and saluted.

"Comm Specialist Samantha Traynor reporting for duty, sir!" she said.

"Nice to finally meet you in person, Samantha." Said Austin warmly as he extended his hand out, which Samantha seemed at first seemed surprised at and reluctant to return. Eventually though, she slowly shook Austin's hand.

"So, why don't I give you a quick tour so you can familiarize yourself?" Austin offered.

"I, err, yes. Thank you, I'd... like that." Samantha stuttered. She'd already been a bit nervous when she came here, but having met THE Major Shepard right here, right now, just made her even more nervous. He seemed friendly enough, but still...

Traynor did her best to look normal and hide her excitement and awe as she took her first steps onto her new post.

First of course was the bridge, during which Austin introduced Joker. Next Austin introduced Traynor to the CIC and to the point where she would be working primarily. Samantha couldn't help but notice a few people looking curiously at the new girl. Traynor was particularly interested in the crew deck's many activates, most particularly the space chess board. Apparently, the new comm specialist had a bit of a thing for chess in many forms. Her service record had after all said it was a hobby, although it had made references to her winning a few tournaments. She gazed in awe at the many things that some of Alpha Squad were doing. Since they were currently off duty and waiting for the wedding later today, they were just passing the time.

As they passed through the gym, Samantha was almost breathless to actually see Alpha Squad in person. All the stories about them hardly did them justice. Even watching them spar with each other still felt like an honor. Some of the Helldivers stopped what they were doing as they saw the new crew member. Two that didn't stop however were Dash and Griffin who were boxing with each other.

As the demolition expert made another swing, Dash was able to block it and then slammed his elbow into Griffin's forehead.

"Ow!"

"Sorry." Dash panted, still springing on his feet slightly, full of energy.

"What the hell was that?!" Said Griffin.

"It's called mixed martial arts. It's been around for... I don't know." Dash replied.

"It's called dirty boxing, Dash." Said Griffin.

After that, Austin seemed to get their attention.

"Ah, this must be Kelly's replacement." Said Sandra.
"Very pretty one as well." Alaara whispered, nudging Sandra slightly.
"Darling!" Sandra hissed.
"Comm specialist, Samantha Traynor." said Samantha as she saluted.
"Put your hand down. There's no need to be so formal." said Austin.
"Comm specialist, huh? Usually that's my job." said Sandra.
"With all due respect, Miss Wright, you are more qualified as a comm specialist in the field Specialist Traynor is better suited for being on a ship consonantly." said EDI.
Samantha ears seemed to prick up at the sound of EDI's voice.
"That was a beautiful voice. Who was that?" she asked.
"That was EDI, the Normandy's AI." said Austin, slightly surprised that Traynor hadn't realised that earlier.
"Oh. I thought... oh dear." Traynor sighed.
"Don't worry. You're not the first person to say that. Joker can't keep his eyes of her hologram." said Sandra.
"Hopefully not the last." Sandra whispered naughtily, but a light elbow in the ribs silenced her.
"Aren't there a few more of you?" Traynor asked. "I thought there was also a Turian, a Quarian, and another Asari on this squad."
"Yes. But they're currently preparing for the wedding later today. We'd like to stick to the tradition of the groom not seeing the bride before the wedding." Austin explained.
"Oh yes. Thank you for inviting me to that by the way. It's a huge honor." said Traynor gratefully.
"I saw no harm in it. Plus, it'll give you a chance to get familiar with more of the crew." said Austin.

Although the Arkanes had no religion since they were a very factual race and believed in the science of the big bang theory and in evolution, they did still have a place where their people or members of other races could be married.

Currently, a lot of the men were changing into their formal wear. Garrus was currently trying to help Ventra out with his uniform, while Austin was sorting out his uniform. He wasn't even trying to hide the grin on his face.

"Do you, Austin Shepard? Yes I do! Most certainly do." He said as he smiled at his reflection.

Among the male members of course was Matt. Unlike his son however, he was finding it a bit more difficult to fit into his uniform. He hadn't worn it for many years so it was not a bit tight for him and his cybernetic arm was also making it even trickier.

"I don't believe this once fit me." He said, still trying to squeeze himself into the jacket.

"When was the last time you wore this?" Austin asked curiously as he gave his father some assistance.

"To my own wedding, I think." Matt replied.

"Must have been quite the occasion." Said Austin, finally managing to finish helping Matt into his jacket.

"I have a feeling yours will be even more memorable." Matt smiled proudly.

"There. That should do it." Said Garrus as he finished helping Ventra with his uniform.

"Errr, are you sure this right?" Ventra asked, noticing that Garrus had got it slightly wrong.

"Nervous, Ventra?" Austin asked.

"Nervous? You and I have practically fought through every single kind of combat. You think I'd get nervous just cause today I'm getting ma..." said Ventra confidently, but then he seemed to faint. Garrus of course was there to catch him.

"Nice going, best man." Said Austin.

The female crew members meanwhile, along with the two brides and the bridesmaids were gathered in another room.

"Okay, Liara. You're veil's ready." Said Sill as she finished ironing Liara's white veil.

"Thanks, Sill. I couldn't ask for a better bridesmaid." Said Liara from behind her

"You have more than one, you know." Said Sarah, who was finishing putting on her red dress. So that it was appropriate, it was an extremely dark red.

"I meant you and the others as well, Sarah." Said Liara.

The Asari then finally emerged from behind the "So, how do I look?" she asked.

Everyone gazed in awe at Liara. Naturally, she'd selected a white dress. It looked absolutely beautiful. In fact, it was hard to describe such a sight with mere words.

"You look, beautiful." Said Sill, her jaw hanging open slightly. "White really does go with your Azure skin."

Liara and everyone else cast the young Arkane a look.

"What? What did I say?" Sill asked.

"For the Asari, Azure means..." said Xun, whispering the last part in Sill's ear.

"Oh. Sorry, Liara." She apologised.

Xun naturally had been Liara's second choice as a bridesmaid after Sill. Xun was dressed in a red Chinese dress and also wore a headset that Chinese women would wear at weddings. Although the

dress was much lighter than Sarah's, she had been assured by Austin that it would be appropriate, especially since he was completely respectful towards Xun's culture.

"Sarah?" Liara asked.

"You look gorgeous, Liara." Sarah smiled proudly. "Can't believe that in a few hours I'll be able to start calling you sister."

"I feel the same." Liara smiled as she and Sarah hugged one another.

Tali was also present since she was Leena's bridesmaid. Even though she was the Quarian's only bridesmaid, combined with Liara's bridesmaids made it a good number.

"Leena, you ready yet?" she asked as she finished attaching the last dress attachment to her suit.

"Just about." Leena replied as she stepped out wearing a wedding dress attachment. "Well?"

"Keehlah, you look fabulous. You both do." Said Tali happily.

"Hope the best men will be able to catch your grooms when they swoon." Sarah joked, causing all the other girls to laugh or giggle along with her.

With everyone pretty much finished dressing, the guests were now starting to arrive. Austin of course felt it best that he greet them all, especially seeing as how he had sent the invitations to them. He was currently just making sure his suit was absolutely perfect when Sarah came in. Since she was his sister, she was allowed.

"Nervous, brother?" she asked.

"Have you ever known me to be nervous?" Austin chuckled.

"Well, there was that time on the Collector Base..." Sarah teased.

"That was not nerves, Sarah. That was the rage of battle." Said Austin.

Both siblings laughed as Austin then picked up Excalibur and started fastening it to his belt, much to Sarah's surprise.

"You're wearing your sword?" she asked.

"Why not? Nothing saying Excalibur can't be used at ceremonies as well." Said Austin.

"True. Looks quite nice with your outfit actually." Said Sarah.

"You don't really want to start this again, do you?"

"I was being sincere."

"You are incapable of sincerity, Sarah."

"Am I?"

"Yes."

"I've looked forward to this day as long as you have." Said Sarah. "You're my brother, and I love you dearly. Sometimes I'm envious, but never doubtful of you."

Austin smiled and he and Sarah hugged each other tightly.
"Thank you." He said.
"Now give us a kiss." Sarah joked.
"Stop it." Austin laughed as they separated.
"Really though, how do I look?" he asked seriously.
"Like a man who's about to have the happiest day of his life and be married to the most beautiful Asari in the galaxy." Sarah smiled.
"I'll tell her you said that."
"I mean it. You're lucky to have someone like her." Said Sarah. There was a slight hint of regret in her voice.
"You'll find someone, Sarah. I'm sure of it." Said Austin as he put his hand on his sister's shoulder.
"You always know how to cheer a girl up."
"You'd be surprised."
There was a brief silence before Sarah finally spoke again.
"It's time."
"You go ahead." Said Austin. "Go on. I just need a moment."

The hall was already starting to fill with so many faces.
"STATEMENT: Right this way, ladies and gentlemen." Said X-5 as he directed everyone.
"See? This is why I love weddings." Said Dash, admiring the sight of so many people they'd met before.
"That I can agree with. Nothing better than being surrounded by friends and family." Said Griffin.
At that moment, both he and Austin suddenly heard a voice calling his name.
Out of the crowd ran a woman with shoulder length black hair and tanned skin. She appeared to be wearing an Alliance uniform. To their surprise, she flung herself into Griffin's arms.
"So good to see you!" she said.
"Errr, have we met?" Griffin asked nervously.
"You're joking." The woman replied surprisingly. "It's me, Ashley."

Both Austin and Griffin were taken aback by this. Now they definitely saw Ash's face in there. Her new grown hairstyle had made it difficult for them to recognize her. Before, Ashley had always had it tied in a bun, plus, even like that it hadn't been anywhere near this long.

"Ash? Wow! You look great. Almost didn't recognize you." Austin smiled as he and Ashley hugged each other. "Love what you've done with your hair."

"Had a feeling you might." Ashley smiled. She then noticed that Griffin still had his mouth open and was speechless with Ashley's new look. "Griff, put your tongue back in your mouth before you trip

on it."

Three more women then suddenly made their way through the crowd and joined Ashley. No doubting that these were her sisters.

"So, which one's your boyfriend, sis?" asked one of them.

"Sarah, Abby, Lynn, this is Alex Wilson." Said Ash, introducing her boyfriend to them.

"Call me Griffin." He said, finally managing to find his voice at last.

"And of course you remember Austin." Said Austin.

"Nice to see you all again." Said Austin modestly, bowing his head.

"Quite the gentlemen, sis. Shame he's not getting married to you." Sarah teased.

"Sarah, stop it, please. You're embarrassing me." Ashley sighed.

There was an awkward silence for a moment, before Austin finally broke it.

"Griffin, why don't you help the Williams' find their seats? I need to continue greeting the other guests." He suggested.

"Good idea." Griffin quickly agreed. "Ladies, if you'll follow me."

With Griffin taking care of Ashley and her sisters, Austin could not return to the rest of the guests.

He was quick to spot the rest of the former team as they entered.

"Shepard. A pleasure to see you again." Samara smiled.

Surprisingly, Samara wasn't wearing her usual Justicar armour. Instead she was wearing a red Asari dress that did in a way resemble her original outfit.

"You too, Samara. I'm glad you could make it." Said Austin as he and the Justicar shook hands.

"As am I, my friend." Said Samara.

The two friends nodded to one another and Samara went to find her seat.

Next to turn up was Grunt who had managed to be convinced to wear something suitable for the occasion.

"Shepard."

"Grunt." Austin acknowledged. "Where's Wrex?"

"He sends his apologies. Being clan leader and all that, he couldn't really leave Tuchanka. He wanted me to tell you he's very sorry about that." said Grunt.

"It's no problem. We might be able to get a holo link set up for him." Said Austin.

Grunt simply nodded and went off to find Kraan.

Next to turn up were Jack and Kelly who had managed to take

time off from their duties at Grissom Academy to attend. To Austin's surprise, Jack was actually in a dress. Kelly of course was in a very elegant gown.

To Austin's surprise, Kelly practically threw herself into his arms.

"Easy now, Kelly. Don't choke him to death." Said Jack.

"Nice to see you both too." Austin panted as Kelly finally let him go. "How've you two been?"

"You'd be surprised how good of a teacher Jack is." Kelly replied.

"Really?" Austin asked curiously. "Would've thought she might struggle a bit with children. No offense, Jack."

"None taken, Shepard. Kelly thought the same way. You should've seen the look on her face at the end of the first day. Those kids are great to teach biotics to." Said Jack.

The rest of the original team was quick to arrive as well. Thane, accompanied by Kolyat (who it seemed was doing much better with his father) Mordin, Legion (who had eventually been allowed past security thanks to Austin X-5, and Tali all vouching for him) and also Zaeed.

In addition to that, there were also some friendly faces that either Alpha or Austin had become well acquainted with during their travels. Arnold and Kat were among some of the other Helldiver guests to join, Uthenra of course had also come having been invited by Austin and the fact that she was the wife and mother of his two Arkane engineer friends, Oriana Lawson and her family after Miranda had very kindly asked him if she could bring her twin sister along so as to get to know her and her family better, and even Lizbeth Baynham and Shiala had come along with Lizbeth's mother, Juliana.

"Shepard. A pleasure to see you again." Shiala smiled.

"And you, Shiala. You bought Lizbeth and her mother as well I see." said Austin.

"Shiala told us both of how you got the medical contracts revised. Thank you again, Shepard. The colony owes you all a great debt." said Juliana.

"Why is Shiala still green though?" Austin asked, now noticing that the Asari's skin was still green. He would've thought that had been cured by now.

"While we were able to get the sicknesses treated, my skin pigment has failed to change back. I'm starting to think that it never will." said Shiala. "However, I can live with that. What has changed at least is that my biotics have returned to normal and I am no longer having nightmares about my enslavement with the Thorian."

"I'm glad you're all doing well." said Austin. "Also nice to see some love blossom after what the colony endured."

"How did you..."

"Please. I'm about to get married. I can easily tell bondmates when I see them." said Austin, indicating to Shiala and Lizbeth holding hands. "For what it's worth, I'm very happy for you."

"Thank you, Shepard." said Lizbeth. It's all thanks to you of course. If you hadn't helped the colony, well... we're all glad you did.

The last of the guests were now arriving. Rather surprisingly, even Councillor Spartan and Tarnack had been invited. Anderson had also been able to take some time off from the Citadel Council in order to attend the event. Udina and the rest of the Council of course had not been invited. Both Austin and the Helldivers were still on bad terms with the Citadel Council, so naturally they hadn't been invited, and when asked about Udina's invitation Austin had simply shrugged and joked that it must've got lost in the mail. Even Gianna Parasini and Dr Michel had been invited as well.

One more friendly face that had just arrived was Emily Wong, who would be doing the network coverage of the wedding. Ever since the wedding had been announced, Austin's return was now full public knowledge. Naturally of course, the press had been abuzz with stories about the Helldiver still being alive.

Of course, there had been no escaping them here. The Arkane's had told Austin that there was nothing they could do to keep the press out completely, but that he could at least pick who would be at the wedding.

Khalisah Al Jilani had originally been selected by the press, but there was no way Austin was letting her anywhere near here to spoil this perfect day. Instead, Austin had picked Emily Wong due to his trust for her and the fact that he had done a few jobs for her after she had sought his help.

The journalist of course had been more than happy to attend.

"Miss Wong. Pleasure to see you again." said Austin modestly as he and Emily shook hands.

"Major Shepard, I think we're friendly enough with each other to not be so formal." she said.

"Okay... Emily." Austin smiled.

"Thank you for inviting me, Shepard. It's a real honour." said Emily gratefully.

"I have no problem with the press getting coverage of this event and I trust you more than I trust any other reporter." said Austin.

With pretty much all the guests arrived, everyone was now taking their seats. It was surprising that so many people could fit in the hall. It was by no means the biggest building on Arkadia.

"You'll be glad to know that there is no sushi bar at the reception, darling." said Uthenra as she sat down next to Dell.

"Good. We wouldn't want a repeat of what happened last time.

I still smell like soy sauce." said Dell.

"I hope this goes quickly. I'm favished." said Kraan.

"No." Dash chuckled.

"Are you attached to that pretty face of yours? Because one more word and you won't be." Grunt laughed.

"My, we are hungry, aren't we?" said Dash. "Oh go on, Zaeed, smile. You can do it. Even you, Zaeed Massani. Just once, smile."

Despite Dash's enthusiasm though, Zaeed's mouth didn't change.

"Alright, half a smile." said Dash. "Look, forget the smile, just show some teeth. Remember, it's a happy occasion!"

"Dash, he's not going to do it." said Sandra. "But, if you'd like a challenge, I know of an even greater one for you."

"Name it, Sandra."

"Keeping your mouth shut."

Two holograms were also being projected. One of Feron, and one of Wrex. There had been some debate among Xun and Feron on who would go to the wedding. They couldn't both go since they couldn't leave the ship unattended. Sure there was the Helldiver crew, but none of them were trained or qualified to handle the Broker network.

In the end, Feron had decided that he would stay so that Xun could go with Oranna, who had also been invited. He could tell the two had a thing for each other, and he knew that Oranna would definitely enjoy Xun's company at the wedding more than she would his.

Ventra and Austin meanwhile, along with the best men were gathered at the altar. There had been a lot of talk among the male crew members about who Austin would pick to be his best man. Up till now, they been completely stumped since he hadn't asked any of them. To their surprise, it was actually Zartrack who was the best man. When they thought about it however, it wasn't completely a surprise. Zartrack had known Shepard ever since he finished his basic training, he'd made Austin into the soldier he was today, and Austin had been his favourite student.

It was strange seeing the Arkane General in something other than his armour. Perched on his shoulder was Zartrack's pet falcon, Leliana.

"You guys seen Leena? She's not having second thoughts, is she?!" Ventra asked nervously.

"Calm yourself, Prarken. It's tradition for the groom, or grooms in your case, not to see their brides before the ceremony. I'm sure they'll be along shortly." said Zartrack reassuringly.

Sure enough, just a few minutes later, the organ started playing and both Aethyta and Shala start red walking their daughters down the

aisle.

Both Austin and Ventra were amazed by how beautiful their brides were.

"STATEMENT: It's all so magical." said X-5 emotionally. "Oh, I promised myself I wasn't gonna cry!"

X-5's head started to squirt little bits of water front he eye are.

"X-5, stop that!" said Dell as he bugged the robot hard.

"Well, at least his sensitivity is still intact." said Uthenra.

"Are you okay, Dad?" Liara asked, notching that her father's eyes were tearing up a bit.

"Yeah. Just have something in my eye." said the Matriarch, doing her best to hide her tears.

"Dad, there's no harm in letting your sensitive side show at a time like this." said Liara.

"You sound just like your mother saying that." Aethyta smiled. "You look beautiful, kid. If Nezzy could see this, she'd practically be in tears."

"You are. I suppose that counts." said Liara.

"I'm very proud of you, Leena." said Shala. "I only wish you father could see this."

"I'm sure father would've been very proud too, mother." said Leena.

The two brides finally reached the altar. Aethyta gave Liara to Austin and Shala gave Leena to Ventra.

All four of them had come to the agreement that the Consort Sha'ira would be the one to preside over the wedding. The Asari stepped up and then cleared her throat.

"Just before we begin, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to quickly state that both brides and grooms have agreed for this ceremony to be done in the human tradition." she said.

There was a small murmur as the crowd agreed before going quiet again.

"Anyway, now that you are sitting comfortably, I shall begin." said Sha'ira. The Consort opened the book, and she began reading.

"We are gathered here today to witness the marriage of these four souls in the bonds of holy matrimony." first she turned to her left where Austin and Liara were. "Sir Major Austin Shepard, do you take Liara T'soni to be your lawful wedded wife? To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, and forsaking all others, till death do you part?"

"I do." Austin replied, smiling at Liara as she smiled back.

"Liara T'soni, do you take Sir Major Austin Shepard to be your lawful wedded husband? To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, and forsaking all others, till death do you part?" said Sha'ira.

"I do." Liara replied.

Next, Sha'ira turned to Leena and Ventra.

"Will you, Ventra Prarken, have Leena Raan vas Penthra to be your lawful wedded wife? To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, and forsaking all others, till death do you part?" she said.

"I will." Ventra replied.

"And will you, Leena Raan vas Penthra, have Ventra Prarken to be your lawful wedded husband? To have and to hold, in sickness and in health, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, and forsaking all others, till death do you part?" Sha'ira repeated for the last time.

"I will." Leena replied.

"Then by the power vested in me by the Goddess Athame, and as the Citadel Consort, I know pronounce you husbands, and wives." Sha'ira smiled.

"Amen." said Griffin quietly.

"Bravo!" Dash cheered.

"Congratulations. You may kiss your brides." Sha'ira smiled.

Austin lifted Liara's veil and the two drew each other into a kiss.

Ventra went to do the same, but found Leena's helmet blocking him.

"Oh. Errr..." he stuttered for a moment, before then then planted a kiss on Leena's mouthpiece.

"Yeah. That will do." the Quarian laughed.

The crowd erupted into thunderous applause as they observed the two now married couples.

Both the brides now knew what came next. The throwing of the flowers. All the women were instantly ready.

Liara went first. She turned her back and then threw the flowers up into the air. The women reached out in hopes of catching them. Then someone caught them. Sarah looked at the flowers in her hand with surprise. It was surprising. She still didn't even have anyone yet.

Nevertheless, this did bring her a bit of happiness. Perhaps it was a sign that there was still hope for her. Maybe this was even fate telling her that tonight would be the night she found piece, where she finally found someone to love. Using this to fuel her happiness, she smiled and simply bowed modestly. She didn't want to make the other girls feel bad.

Now it was Leena's turn, and she seemed even more enthusiastic than Liara did.

"Ready, girls?!" she called excitedly.

The Quarian then threw the flowers. They went high up before starting to fall. Surprisingly, all the girls had to back up slightly since

they were heading at more of an angle. Some of the girls were even bagging into the chairs. Finally the flowers landed, and in the hands of someone very unexpected.

Acting purely on instinct, Griffin had reached out and caught the flowers in his hands. Only now did he realise what he'd done. This sort of thing only tended to happen in movies. He'd never known a man to catch the flowers in real life.

Despite the surprise though, the crowd once again cheered.

"Hmm, didn't see that one coming." Ashley smiled

"Oh come 'ere!" said Griffin.

To Ashley's surprise, Griffin pulled her into a deep kiss. The cheering and clapping only increased with this. Even the two married couples clapped.

"Guess we know which wedding will be next." said Sha'ira.

"Hope we don't have to stand here for the whole day." said Liara telepathically.

"Why's that... my wife." Austin thought back.

"Because if we do, we'll waste good celebration time." Liara replied.

Both the two chuckled and simply kissed again.

Everyone had now moved into the dining part of the building for the wedding reception.

Both Zartrack and Garrus had their speeches prepared. They were expecting that voice to say the words anytime now. They didn't need to wait long.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, pray silence for the first Best Man, General Alkatraan Zartrack."

Zartrack slowly stood up and cleared his throat as the crowd clapped for him. After the cheering died down, he spoke.

"Here, today, ladies and gentlemen, is the wedding of my best student. Sir Major Austin Shepard. I have known Austin ever since I took him in as a student and he rose out to be THE best student out of all of my classes. Now, he has a wonderful wife that will stand by his side to the end. I'm proud to say that I know the both of them. I can think of no reason why they should not enjoy their lives, and I hope their marriage is blessed with nothing but happiness. They deserve nothing less. A toast to one of the best of the Helldivers and to his lovely wife!"

The crowd raised their glasses.

"And now for the second Best Man, Garrus Vakarian."

Garrus stood up and cleared his throat. Unlike Zartrack, he was a tiny bit more nervous.

"Uh, folks, here we have witnessed the wedding of my Turian friend, Ventra. I have only met him a few months ago but we became

best buddies and one thing I would like to say." Said Garrus.

The Turian turned to Ventra.

"I still got more headshots than you!"

Ventra and some of the crowd laughed.

"A Toast to Ventra and his wife!"

Once again, everyone raised their glasses.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the father of the first bride."

"Here we go." Aethyta sighed as she stood up.

"Hello, Ladies and Gentlemen, those who do not know me, Aethyta T'soni. I have to congratulate my daughter on marrying such a fine man. I will admit, that when I first found out that my daughter was dating a human, I had doubts. I apologise if this may not seem like the best speech, but it is best to tell the truth. I didn't think that a human would be the best person for Liara. But then I finally got to see my daughter for the first time, and I could see the love she and Austin had for one another. That love reminded me of the time I spent with Benezia. I don't care if many remember her as what she eventually became under Saren's control. Both I and Liara will remember her as we used to, as the person we both loved dearly. Seeing some of the things that Austin can do, what he fights for, and how much he loves my girl, I know he is the perfect match for Liara and I support them both. May the Goddess watch over them both and bring them eternal happiness. Thank you." She said.

The crowd once again clapped.

"That was well said, Dad. Mother would be proud." Said Liara as her father sat down.

"She'd be proud of us both, kid." Said Aethyta.

Finally, it was Shala's turn to speak. Being an Admiral, Austin had a feeling that the Admiral wouldn't have any problem with this.

"This is a special occasion for my daughter, Leena vas Penthra. She is very special to me and I am honoured to be here at her wedding. She is marrying a Turian that she has known for more than ten years. She loves him deeply and I support her. I wish the best for both of them. Keelah Se'lai." She said.

The party was already in full swing. So many of the guests were either dancing, getting drinks, or just talking. Everyone was doing something. The Drell band that had been hired to play at the wedding was also playing many of their best songs. Surprisingly, they even had Sill doing some of the singing with them. Not a big surprise considering how the teenage Arkane listened, and sung along, to so much music.

"Didn't think you knew how to dance this well." Said Liara.

"Life is full of surprises. Besides, I could say the same of you." Said Austin.

"Xun taught me more than just being a Helldiver." Liara winked.

"Try to save it for tonight." Said Alaara, who naturally was dancing with her wife, Sandra.

The sudden thought of what she and Austin were going to do tonight started to make Liara feel a bit different than usual.

Her body knew she was now fully committed to a mate now. She started to feel herself yearning for Austin a lot more than she used to, both in intensity and frequency. Due to how rarely an Asari chooses a more permanent mate, she found herself a lot more relaxed, an incredible sense of freedom as it settled down in the presence of its chosen mate. It was just so fulfilling to her (with emphasis on the "filling"). Liara was starting to think she would be seeking a lot of release and satisfaction from now on.

As the music started to now settle into a more slow and romantic tone, so too did the dancing. Liara got the message and rested her head on her husband's chest. Some of the other dancing couples, like Ashley and Griffin, did the same thing. Sandra of course had to keep readjusting her wife's arm which kept moving down to her behind every second or so.

Sometime later, after much hard partying and merry making, Austin and Liara felt they just needed a small break and they retreated back into the now empty hall where'd just been married a few hours ago.

"Oh Goddess, we did it!" Liara smiled as they finished kissing.

"We just got married." Said Austin, almost in a bit of disbelief.

"I still keep thinking that any second I'm gonna wake up."

"This is very real, my love. Trust me."

Liara was finding herself starting to squirm slightly. Her body was really start to act up now, as certain areas were 'hardening' while other areas started to grow more sensitive, and her azure suddenly felt very empty, begging to be filled. After having tried to ignore it for the last hour or so (unsuccessfully) she eventually felt she should at least make this known to Austin. She sent a few 'enticing' images to Austin's mind.

"Easy there, tigress." Austin finally said, blinking a few times after having overcome Liara projecting practically pornography of herself into his head. "Later. The ceremony and the party are still ongoing."

A few seconds later, the rest of Alpha Squad suddenly joined them as well, accompanied by Ventra and Leena as well.

"Hey guys." Said Austin as he and Liara hugged Ventra and Leena, as well as everyone else as well.

"Gotta say, that ceremony was so beautiful." Said Sarah.

"Was it perfect? Is it too soon to see the video?" Leena asked.

"Guys, can we just take a moment?" said Griffin. "Three of our best friends, and our squad leader just got married. We are so blessed to be able to share in this incredible joy."

"Amen to that." Said Ashley.

"I'm so happy for you guys." Said Sarah. "You're both so lucky."

"You'll be lucky too. You caught my flowers after all." Said

Liara.

"Thanks... sister." Sarah smiled as she hugged Liara.

"I thought that was my line." Austin chuckled.

The party continued long into the night. Austin was struggling even more to keep his wife under control. Liara could barely wait until the moment when they finally got to retire to their room. Hoping to speed things up, she had started constantly transmitting sensations to him.

It had started with a few phantom kisses at first, but now they were traveling down his neck to the rest of his body. Liara had also now started sending more 'interesting' sensations as well. Even though she was standing and dancing with him, and while they were both still fully clothed, he could still feel her lips around his shaft at times, and other sensations at other times. He could now imagine perfectly the sensation of his Asari wife rubbing her nude body against him.

Austin was beginning to understand why Alaara had sex with Sandra practically every night, which had started after their marriage, as well as a few in the mornings as well. In fact, the couple themselves could easily notice the newly wed couple's 'discomfort', Liara's especially. The two discussed it between themselves, knowing very well about Liara's needs. Doing so made them reminisce of their own wedding, how Alaara herself had started to react, her own teasing, and the nights they shared ever since.

Eventually, as the party was finally reaching it's very near end, the teasing and discomfort finally became unbearable.

As the two were dancing very slowly, most of their energy having been exhausted by all the dancing and many other crazy things that had happened today, Austin moved his head down slightly until it rested against Liara's who was once again resting against his chest.

"You wanna get out of here? Think my patience has finally reached a breaking point." He whispered.

He noticed that Leena and Ventra were having the same idea nearby and he simply nodded to them and winked at Ventra who simply smiled and nodded back.

"Good things come to those that wait." Liara smiled. "The apartment's nearby, and I want you all to myself."

When they finally arrived, Austin didn't even hesitate in scooping Liara up in his arms and carrying her all the way up their room. Their real home of course was on Thessia after Benezia had left that home to her daughter, but they weren't willing to wait a whole shuttle trip for this. They'd planned ahead with this.

When Austin finally managed to close the door with his foot since he didn't want to put Liara down, they both wasted no time in starting to undress each other. Liara had a slightly harder time due to her dress, but that didn't stop them.

"There's nowhere in the whole galaxy I'd rather be." Liara sighed as Austin's lowly eased her out of her dress, exposing "his favourite pillows" is he sometimes called them.

"There's no one I'd rather be with." he smiled.

As Liara worked on getting his belt undone, she felt something hard, and it wasn't his erection.

"Oooh, why do you have a gun concealed in your trousers?" she asked, as she pulled a pistol out.

"Old habits." said Austin.

Within just a few seconds, they were both naked before they reached the bed. Austin almost instantly eased himself into his wife as he held her up. His flaccid member began to harden even more as it filled with blood while inside Liara's moist Azure.

"I've been so looking forward to this." Liara moaned as she bounced on Austin's hard cock.

The two finally reached the bed and Austin allowed himself to fall onto it while Liara was in his arms, his member sliding out of her in the process. Liara wasted no time in setting to work and she took her husband's cock in her hand and started stroking it slightly.

"Before we begin, I want you to simply listen to me for a moment." said Liara erotically as she continued stroking.

"With you holding my dick like that, I'm all ears." Austin panted slightly.

"First off, we're gonna start with me taking this big guy into my mouth, then we'll join mind and I'm gonna use my enlargement technique to make it grow even bigger!" said the Asari as she upped the pace of her strokes.

"You sure you want to do that tonight?" Austin grunted.

"Of course. This is our wedding night after all. For Goddess' sake, we're gonna go all the way tonight!" said Liara.

"Okay. Keep talking." said Austin.

Liara continued stroking even more, using her biotics to speed her hand up a bit more. Austin could feel each throb of his raging erection as his wife sexually tortured him.

"Then I think I might do a little dance for you, during which

I'll make my tits even larger while you touch yourself to the sight. Then I'm gonna ride you hard, my Matriarch breasts bouncing up and down! We'll 69, you'll take me in all my holes, you'll..."

"If you keep talking dirty like that, you're gonna get my cum all over your face!" Austin groaned, trying his best to delay his orgasm, but all this was proving a bit much.

"Good! Don't hold back, my love! I want your first load to truly mark me as your new wife!" said Liara encouragingly, her strokes now so fast they were practically a blur.

"Oh shit!" Austin moaned as he felt the cum shoot out and right onto Liara's face and slightly into her open mouth and even a few tiny spurts land on her breasts.

"Damn. That was a hell of a good start." Austin panted.

"Mmmmm, you taste so good, and it feels so good and warm on my body. Said Liara.

"You're practically an animal, Liara." Austin smiled. "I don't know if I have that many in the chamber if you know what I mean."

Liara chuckled slightly at this. "I love you so much, Austin Shepard."

"And I love you too, Mrs Shepard." Austin smiled.

"Lie down on the bed, now!"

Austin obeyed and lay on his back. Liara swung her leg over until she was on top. The two loves simply kissed for a while before they looked lovingly into each other's eyes and prepared to initiate the meld.

"Ready for this, husband?" Liara asked, tenderly stroking his face.

"All I am is ready, my wife. Do it!"

"Embrace Eternity!"

Liara's eyes once again went black and they felt their minds become one. This time, it truly did feel as though they were whole again. Liara found it so easy to forget about everything else as she felt Austin's mind weave into hers as though it was meant for her. Memories were shared, emotions and images exchanged, two really did become one. For the first time, Liara felt more happier than she'd ever been in her life. She felt as though she and Austin would be together for eternity. Nothing could separate them, not even death. The whole experience of this made Liara orgasm early a tiny bit by accident. At least now it was one all for them, not that it was a competition.

Liara's kisses trailed lower and lower until she finally reached her husband's erection, which was throbbing so much it looked barely able to hold all that blood in. That would soon change.

"All yours, darling." Austin smiled.

Liara wrapped both her hands around him, activated her biotics

and simply watched in awe as the organ grew once again. Since this was a special night, she went another step further again. Rather than increasing the length however as she'd previously done, as 17 inches was way more than enough, she made the width much large. Austin gritted his teeth at the sheer pleasure he felt as even more blood flooded into his engorged member and he felt Liara's grip loosen a lot, almost as though her hand got smaller rather than him getting bigger.

Liara nearly drooled as she gazed at the massive cock in front of her. It was so thick now that her hand could now only rap around half of it. She hoped all her holes could handle something this large. Previous times alone had been a challenge that she'd only just been able to accomplish.

"Sometimes I amaze even myself." she said.

"Hurts... needs a hand... touching it. Needs release." Austin groaned, the veins in his cock throbbing so much they looked as though they'd burst.

"I'd better start then." Liara smiled.

As the Asari gently slid off the bed, she moved one of Austin's hand to his cock so that he knew to start masturbating while she danced naked in front of him.

Using her omni tool, Liara put on the most erotic Asari music she knew of and started dancing. Some moans could be heard in the music's background. Even she got wet hearing those. She could only imagine how desperate her husband must be for release.

Already wet from briefly being inside both Liara's pussy and mouth earlier, Austin's member was already nice and wet, so masturbating it was not hard. Austin's strokes were hard and fast, almost as though he was trying to squeeze the cum out. At the same time though, he didn't want to rush. He wanted watch Liara dance as long as possible. After all, the Asari had said that Alaara had given her some sex advice and taught her a few moves.

Liara started off very slow as the music began. She moved her hips and chest so gently, but at the same time they looked so fluid, like she was water flowing naturally.

As the music's pace then started to increase, and the background moans intensified, Liara began to swing her chest from side to side which made her boobs shake. That alone was torture for Austin as he continued touching himself. Liara couldn't help but smile evilly at the sexual torture she was giving her bond mate. She felt her Azure get even wetter as she imagined the other things they were going to do tonight.

Feeling that Austin had waited long enough, Liara took both her breasts in her hands and started enlarging them too. The throbbing in Austin's cock only grew worse as Liara's tits once again became as large as a Matriarchs. He briefly wondered if Aethyta were

that big, but he quickly banished the thought. He'd only let his mind think of his wife tonight. Only Liara!

Liara's massive tits swayed beautifully as Liara continued dancing and massaging them slightly with her hands. Even her erect nipples received attention from her fingers.

Austin could feel the cum once again creeping up his shaft. He only hoped it wouldn't make a mess of the bed. Sensing her husband was about to cum again, Liara quickly got back onto the bed and wrapped both her tits around his organ, using her free hand to stroke the remainder of it.

"Fuck my tits, Austin! Fuck them!"

Austin's hips thrust as best he could. It was a tiny bit painful because of his raging erection begging for release.

"Oh god! I don't know if I can cum! The pain keeps delaying it." Austin moaned through gritted teeth.

"Look at me, Austin! Use my naked body to make you cum."

Austin opened his eyes and gazed at Liara, her massive tits wrapped around his throbbing cock, and the rest of her nude from glistening with sweat. Liara then only made it even better by moving up and down. Finally, the pain subsided, and he felt the cum finally break free.

"FUCK!"

Having already got most of his previous cumshot on her face, Liara this time took as much of the huge penis as she could into her mouth. Austin came so hard that Liara was only just able to not gag on the huge amount he was shooting. Her tongue almost worked overtime as she lapped up her husband's seed. The taste was so strong her mind was drawing blank.

After completely milking her husband's cock entirely, Liara let it slowly slide out of her mouth with a wet pop.

"Feeling better now?" she asked.

"Yeah. Blimey, I'm surprised this is scientifically possible." Said Austin as he finally noticed his massive cock. He'd known it was large, but he'd had no idea Liara had made it so wide compared to before. He was almost concerned that it wouldn't fit in his wife at all.

"Ready to keep going?" Liara asked.

"I think so. I still feel quite full. Wait, did you..."

Liara simply winked. She had! She'd very slightly enlarged his balls as well.

Before Austin could say anything, Liara got on top of him in the 69 position, her dripping Azure hovering mere millimetres from his face. As he felt the Asari start to take his shaft into her mouth, he started doing the same and began licking at her wet folds, enjoying her sweet honeyed taste.

Liara moaned pleasurably onto Austin's cock as his tongue

lapped at her Azure. The vibrations and humming she was making only added to Austin pleasure and he stuck his tongue even deeper. It wasn't long before he was able to bring Liara to her own orgasm.

"On to the main event then?" Liara asked.

"On all fours then, like a good girl." Austin smiled slyly.

"You practically read my mind." Liara smiled.

The Asari slid off of her bond mate and got on all fours. Austin positioned himself behind Liara and gently pushed in. Since his cock was already well lubed up from Liara's Azure, he slid in with relative ease. He took special care not to hurt Liara due to how big he was now. It was often a bit of a struggle when she enlarged him this big and they tried anal.

Liara gritted her teeth as her bond mate continued to pound into her, his balls slapping against her wet pussy and his hands squeezing her large breasts firmly.

There was no denying she was close to her climax, and she could tell Austin was feeling the same way.

"I'm close, Austin!" she moaned.

"Get on top then." said Austin.

The Helldiver gently slid out and once again lay down on the bed. Liara swung her leg over him and straddled him, his throbbing shaft poking between her ass cheeks. Reaching back, Liara gave Austin several hard strokes before slowly inserting him into her Azure, which put up no resistance whatsoever since they both had now grown accustomed to each other. Austin slid in easily.

"Oh Goddess! You're always so big!" Liara moaned.

"And you're always so tight!" Austin groaned.

They started off slow with Austin gently moving in and out of Liara while she gently moved her hips in time with his gentle thrusts. Eventually, they began to pick up the pace and started going faster and faster.

Austin gazed in awe at Liara's large tits bouncing up and down in front of him. That sight would never get old for him. He reached up with both his hands and took a breast in each hand, tweaking her dark blue nipples slightly with his fingers.

"YES! YES!" Liara cried as Austin brought her even more pleasure.

The two then switched so that Liara was no longer lying down and Austin was now on top. Austin used both his hands to bring Liara's legs up higher so that he could thrust even deeper into her.

Naturally of course, it did the trick and Liara practically screamed as her husband's massive cock reached deeper than it ever had been. The wet slapping coming from their hips as they connected only added to how horny they both were. Pretty soon, they were beyond stopping now.

"Oh Goddess! Let's cum together!"

The two held tightly together and moaned out loud as they finally released. Liara panted in pleasure at the feeling of her bond mates warm cum reach deep enough into her woman that it would've made a human women pregnant.

Their final climax left the Asari practically twitching in the afterglow of what was possibly not only the most fulfilling but the most powerful orgasm since their first Union. Austin simply smiled proudly, his softening shaft hardening again just a tiny bit. The image of his wife squirming in such an afterglow was quite appealing.

Any cum that overflowed out of Liara's pussy was gather up by her fingers and put into her mouth. She seemed surprised. The taste seemed even sweeter than before, and somewhat more addictive. She could only guess this was a result of using the enlargement on his balls. She could only imagine what next time would be like.

"That was incredible, Austin." Liara panted as Austin used one hand to stroke her crest, and the other to caress some of her smooth skin.

"You were just as incredible, darling." he sighed happily.

"So... here we finally are. Married." Liara smiled.

"Best thing that's ever happened to me."

"You're so sweet."

"All that's left now is to defeat the Reapers, and then we can move to final stage of those little blue children."

"You really are serious about that, aren't you?"

"Only if you want it too, Liara. I wouldn't dream of forcing you into anything if you feel you aren't ready."

"Well, we still have time. Maybe when the war is over, and with a bit of time... maybe I will gain the confidence for being a mother."

Austin smiled naughtily and he caressed Liara's tummy slightly, eliciting several giggles from his wife.

"Stop it! That tickles!"

When Austin finally stopped, the two simply looked into each other's eyes.

"I love you." said Austin.

"I love you too." said Liara.

"Ready to rest, my wife?"

"Definitely... husband."

The two sealed their lips with a tender kiss as they slowly drifted off, Austin's member still inside Liara's Azure. During their sleep, they hoped they could perhaps make a plan for their honeymoon. Austin especially had a few things in mind.

Sarah walked to her cabin, her mind refusing to stop thinking about the flowers, and that she didn't really have anyone. It now

occurred to the N7 marine that she was now the same age that Austin had been when he first met Liara, and now the two were, married and happier than ever in just 3 years, possibly 4 even. Yet she was still without anyone. None of the relationships she'd had, had lasted that long. There had been one girl she really liked a few years ago, but she'd never really got a chance to develop that further.

Despite that she'd caught the flowers; Sarah couldn't help but feel the small bit of lonely depression eating at her. She was wondering whether she'd find someone, like a nice handsome and strong man or... or maybe even a sweet and attractive young wo—

Sarah felt herself walk right into someone, sending quite a few datapads tumbling onto the floor.

"Oh crap! Sorry. I'm so clumsy." She apologised as she helped the women gather up the datapads. As she reached for the last one, the woman's hand touched hers. She looked up into the woman's face. She almost felt her heart stop for a moment.

She found herself looking into the face of one of the most beautiful women she'd seen in her life. Richly tanned skin, black hair, and even an accent much like her own.

"Oh! Oh my god, I-I-I'm so sorry! I, uh... I wasn't watching where I was... I'll just, uh..." Traynor stuttered embarrassingly. Just as the comm specialist turned to leave however, Sarah called out.

"Wait!" she said, suddenly clamping her hand over her mouth, shocked that she had called out; it was unlike her to be so forward.

Yet when the girl turned back to face her, the expression on her face was so sincere she knew she couldn't just let her walk away. She took a few tentative steps forward.

"There's no reason to be nervous. I don't even know your name."

Mentally, she made a decision, never once questioning whether it was the wrong thing to do. She stepped toward the young woman boldly, and held out her hand.

"Hi. I'm Sarah. Are you new here? I don't remember seeing you before."

Sarah hadn't prepared for the sudden rush of warmth that spread through her chest at the girl's pearly smile. She was even less prepared for the physical jolt she felt when their palms brushed together and warm fingers closed around her hand.

"Traynor! Um... Comm Specialist Samantha Traynor! But you can call me Samantha... uh, if that's alright with you." said Traynor, practically rambling now. She was nervous and frightened. So much so that she hadn't even realised she still had yet to raise her hand in salute.

"Yes! Now I remember. You're Kelly's replacement, aren't you?" said Sarah. "Nice to finally meet you. I read your record after my

brother picked you. Very impressive."

"Your brother?" Traynor asked, slightly confused. Then it suddenly hit her. Now she suddenly realised who she was talking to.

"Commander Sarah Jane Shepard. A pleasure, Samantha." said Sarah, trying her best not to laugh at Traynor's reaction.

Traynor immediately dropped all her datapads again and practically flung her arm up in salute.

"I'm so sorry, ma'am! I didn't know it was you!" she said quickly, fearful that Sarah might scold her any minute for ignoring protocol. To her surprise though, Sarah did completely the opposite.

"Oh put your hand down! There's no need for that." she said.

Traynor very slowly lowered her hand, still a bit surprised at Sarah being nice, not to mention that she still couldn't believe she was speaking to the sister of THE Major Shepard. She was very different than what Traynor had expected. Most especially, Sarah's scarlet red hair was a surprise for her.

"So... er, how's your first day been?" Sarah asked.

Although she wasn't showing it, something about this woman that made her feel strange. This was a curious thing for her since she'd been with many women before. Why did this one feel different? Why did she make her feel more... happy?

"Great, actually. Everybody's been very nice. Plus, your brother's wedding was great to attend. Must be nice to have an Asari as a sister in law." said Samantha.

"Yes. It is." said Sarah.

As if drawn in by nature, Sarah's hand moved towards that of Samantha's without her being aware, holding it tenderly. Samantha did not notice either as her own smooth and dainty fingers automatically interlaced with Sarah's.

For the next few hours, the two new friends spent the last remaining hours of the day talking about everything that came to mind, perfectly at ease in each other's company.

"So you still haven't made up your mind yet?" Traynor asked.

"No. It's a hard decision. I like the idea of fighting alongside Helldivers, especially my own brother and my sister in law. But at the same time, I miss hanging out with the other N7 soldiers." said Sarah.

"I heard you were often part of the Special Forces. That's amazing!" Said Traynor.

Sarah did her best not to blush at this. A trait she shared with her brother was being surprisingly good at acting. That also meant they could hide their emotions well if need be. In this case, Sarah was managing to hide the hundreds of thoughts and emotions that were going through her head. She felt somehow more alive around Traynor. But that made her nervous. She was bisexual, but she no idea whether this woman went the same way, or was at least a lesbian. There was no

way she was going to ask. Not only was it an extremely awkward thing to bring up in a conversation, but it could easily make Samantha think the wrong thing about her, plus it might even disgust her that the N7 marine was interested in her.

Secretly, Traynor was also having the exact same thoughts. Hers however were slightly more nervous. This was the sister of The Major Shepard. He could easily kick her off the ship if she tried to fraternize with Sarah. Not to mention that the Commander was way out of her league. Plus, what if Sarah was disgusted by her? What if she found the idea of a lesbian being attracted to her horrible? The thought of rejection made her so frightened, even more so was the fact that Sarah might leave. What if she did? What if they never saw each other again?!

Their friendly conversation continued long into the night until they finally noticed the time. If they didn't get some sleep soon, they'd both be wrecks in the morning.

When they did finally leave each other at the end of the day... they let go of each other's hand.

"It was great to meet you, Samantha." Sarah smiled, just hiding the fact that she wanted Samantha to stay. She'd practically got a new best friend in just a few hours.

"You as well, Commander." Samantha smiled.

"Sam, please... call me Sarah. We're friends, aren't we?" said Sarah.

"Of course, Co... er, Sarah." said Traynor, smiling slightly.

A sudden inexplicable ache caused them both to stumble a bit. After they left each other's sight, both couldn't help but replay every wonderful moment in their head. Then they each noticed that their hand feels as cold as ice, as if the very blood had been chilled. An image of their hand seeking warmth again with the other's hand passed through their minds, and in that thunderbolt of realization...

"Was I... oh god, was I holding her hand?!"

POETRY

is published here thanks to
John Mahler's Quotes of the Day

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/john-mahler/john-mahlers-quotes-of-the-day/ebook/product-20105057.html>

Some people, at least, have enjoyed my Quotes of the Day, so here they are, for your amusement and bemusement: one entire year's worth of quotes. My quotes by the way; nobody else's. These are my thoughts and observations on the world around us: funny, sad, uplifting, evocative, inspiring, silly, and occasionally just plain stupid, they are all here for your perusal: enjoy!

FEEL IT ALL

ThatGirlNamedShadow
of <http://ThatGirlNamedShadow.deviantart.com>

i dont fear you
i dont hate you
you are all i think about
you are all that i want
dont say that you are a coward
dont say you are a beast
you have always been strong
you have always been my prince
its true that life is unfair
its true that love hurts
i will show you joy again
i will show you a caring heart
dont hide from your fears
dont hide from the pain
i understand how you feel
i understand why you ache
please stay with me and never cry again
please stay another day and let me heal your pain
i wont leave you behind
i wont let you hurt
just trust in me like i trust in you
just believe in me like i believe in you
you are not a beast and you never were or will be
you are a prince - my prince
and i will never let you feel alone

QUIET STORMS OF THE MIND

William L. Wright, Jr.

ello, my name is William Lorenzo. Wright, Jr. I go by the username loftydreams101 on most blogging and social networking websites. I am a 22 year old poet from Southern California with an undying passion for writing. I have a pretty reserved personality. I tend to keep my emotions bottled up inside, and it is very difficult for me to open up around certain people. A lot of my family members have urged me to express myself more, so i found my own unique way through prose. For most people i know, this isn't enough. It causes them to wonder why i am not as flamboyant and outgoing as they are and why don't i assert myself more. Because of this i was inspired to write the poem below. For too long people have made baseless assumptions about introverts like myself and i felt the need to say my piece. I really hope you consider using my submission. Warm regards- William
<http://www.lulu.com/shop/william-l-wright-jr/from-turmoil-and-tribulation/ebook/product-21167515.html>

Kin who bear the ill-tempered winds
Are promised only
Shrill words and regret

Cut away your virtues!
Do away with meek discretion!
Bellow out into the dark
Among your heated kin

Bellow into the unknown
Without a shred of remorse
Without an ounce of thought
Intolerable, yet free

And quiet storms swell
At the sweltering demand outside
As dormancy
Surrenders the reins of peace
Called to arms
By the scowling shadows of the world

Pry in
And command

For their own sake
To quell the misunderstood
Silently stewing within

To expunge the humble mind
That slaves away at marble
Immersed in the soul of their words
Notes, equations and infernal theories

“Expunge them all
So that I may peacefully rave
Thoughtless musings
Lofty and
obscene”

Kin who brave the ill-tempered whim
Receive only
The glares of hungering insight

NO SAFE WORDS

by Gabhriel Londe (StrikeTheMadness)

My goal in life is to connect with people through self-expression. My passion is writing poetry that will make you think twice and slap you in the face with some reality, waking you up and opening your eyes. My hobby is creating art that will make you tilt your head to the side and either stare, laugh, or wonder what is wrong with me. You can check out all of my work at my website at <http://strikethemadness.weebly.com/> or on DeviantART at <http://strikethemadness.deviantart.com/>

I used to write much more.
At least 15 poems a week,
Constant pouring of raw thought
To page.
Vomiting emotion
Indiscriminately.

Now it all stays down,
Deep in my mind
Where it's safe.

It's not like I don't try
To coax it out
With pretty words,
Pencil in hand,
But something refuses
To let it go
And let it free.

It's almost like a fear,
Like a worry,
But not exactly.
More like a question,
A doubt.
Something telling me
To watch my mouth
And mind my own.

My life is delicate
As it is.

My words can shake ground,
My mind could break ground,
And the last thing I need
Is for my house to fall down.

ONE MONTH

Valkyrie

of h75valkyrie@gmail.com and <http://UniversalCombat.deviantart.com>

Hello people. Just a little poem I made up for the one month anniversary of me and someone very special! Enjoy :D

Emily, Emily, listen to me,
I have things to tell you, things you must see.

There are things about me, I never told you,
I was afraid, that you'd be in pain if you knew

When we first met, I was lost and cold,
Damaged, still in pain, from wounds that were old.

That's right. I was depressed, just like you.
You never knew, but Em, you helped see me through.

I was honestly afraid, afraid of love,
But you showed me there's nothing to be afraid of.

I'm grateful for that, really, I will never forget it.
Texting you that first night, I'll never regret it.

All my depression, my pain, and my fear went away,
when I first met you, on that wonderful day.

It's a beautiful thing, what you and I have,
Two hearts came together, a whole from two halves.

We both had our problems, that had caused us to fall,
but now, with each other, we're fixing them all.

And our relationship, it brings hope and happiness to me,
things that only months ago, I never thought I would see.

You're the light in my life, and the stars in my sky,
Meeting you saved me, it helped me get by.

Em, you're amazing. You're beautiful, you're sweet,
and you're the most spectacular girl, a guy could ever hope to meet.

I just want you to know, for you to understand, and see
That you are the very best thing, that has ever happened to me.

I really do mean that, with every last inch of my heart.
I love you so much, I don't ever wanna see us apart.

So this is my poem, for one month together.
Emily my princess, I hope it lasts forever.

BONVIN, LEON

Arden-t
of <http://arden-t.deviantart.com>

I have Pastels for veins
and Canvas for skin,
Ink thoughts and a chalk tongue
My eyelashes are the bristles of a thin, dusted brush
My eyes are charcoal,
but I refuse to be called a
Masterpiece

THE ETERNAL SCRIBE OF VERSE

CP5678
of <http://CP5678.deviantart.com>

Hands slathered in blackness
The ink of a thousand pens
Scratching,
Scribbling the visions of blind eyes

Carving lines of boundless truth
Into the skin of the world
Dipping the defunct nib into the liquor of his own soul
Tasting the metallic blood of his bruised mind

WHERE NIGHTS ARE TO BE SPENT

Loftydreams101
of <http://Loftydreams101.deviantart.com>

Peer into the blackboard sky
And reap her tributes of fleeting wonder
High above
She straddles all things
Hovering atop our most fragile mortality

Unwaveringly
She glints streaks of gold
Carving rouge paths of flaming ember
Where frozen nights
Despair beneath
Driven away from the skin of pondering lovers

Distant pearls
Are my abode
Grazed only in tender dreams

Gems afar
Are where I must defer
Kept in mute splendor
Deprived from all

To be selfishly marooned
Is my earnest wish
Gratefully withheld by eternal seclusion
If only

TIRED

TheMeTheyDontSee
of <http://TheMeTheyDontSee.deviantart.com>

Trying to get myself up.
Surrounded by dirty cups.
Really need some motivation.
Tired of this bored sensation.
Want to get up and clean.
Or go out and be seen.
Want to go out for a walk.
Or call a friend and talk.
Turn up the music and sing.
Just want to do something.
Hope that I don't get fired.
So tired of just being tired.