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Category: Science Fiction & Fantasy

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## **Tale of Tragedy**

### A Tale of Tragedy

"Tag! You're it!"

A young white child, around eight years old, with long wavy grey hair that went past her shoulders. and bangs that almost covered her eyes, wearing a light blue dress with navy trim, ran up to another child and lightly pushed him. A six year old boy with long enough white hair to have a small ponytail and wearing a navy blue dress shirt and pants with silver accents.

This is Venus Star and Constellation Star, sister and brother.

Venus runs away from Constellation, and he gives quick chase. Constellation begins closing the distance between him and her.

"Almost... There..." He thought.

Suddenly, Venus disappeared in small light flash. Constellation comes to a halt.

He looks around. "Huh?" He says.

A giggle is heard behind him. He turns and Venus is standing there.

"Not fair!" He exclaims. "I can't do that!"

"You didn't say you couldn't!" Venus counters.

"... It's still not fair."

"Constellation, Venus." A much older man walks over to them. Similar to Constellation's looks, white skin and short grey hair, he's wearing a grey button-up shirt and pants.

This is Jupiter, Constellation and Venus's grandfather.

"I think that's enough playing for now." He says.

"Aww..." Constellation says.

Venus gives Jupiter a pleading look. "Can we play a bit more? Please?"

"Not today, dinner is almost ready." Jupiter holds Venus's and Constellation's hands. "Aren't you two hungry?"

"Yeah..." They both said.

Jupiter smiles as he walks with the siblings inside their home. The children have been playing in an open area. The ground is made with a grey material. The sky is littered with stars.

This is the Space Kingdom.

Their home is a large white castle, located in the center of the kingdom. The first thing one sees in the castle is the main hallway, several grey columns lining the side. A navy carpet is at the center, starting from the entrance to three sets of stairs, one going up and then dividing into two opposite directions to other rooms.

The three walk into the main hallway and head into an opening one of the walls. This takes them to a circular table with five seats. An adult woman is already there, setting the table up. She has long, wavy hair, just like Venus, and piercing red eyes. She wears a lavender dress with black trim and a heart shaped locket around her neck.

This is Estelle, Queen of the Space Kingdom.

"Hi, mother!" Venus runs up and hugs Estelle.

She hugs back. "Hello, Venus. Did you and your brother have fun?"

Venus nods. "Yeah!"

The four sit in their chairs as a servant comes by and plates the food.

Jupiter notices that one person is absent. He looks over to Estelle.

Estelle didn't even need to know what Jupiter was wondering as she sighs. "I do not know where he is. He hasn't been answering his phone."

They're talking about Atlas, the King of Space.

"So... Is father not coming to dinner?" Venus asked.

"Maybe, not tonight, V." Kinomi gives her a small smile. "Now, eat your food."

"Okay!" The princess happily obeys, while Constellation has been staring at his plate.

"Constellation." Jupiter says. "Eat before your food gets cold."

"... I'm not hungry..." The prince says quietly.

"You have to eat."

Constellation picks at the food. Mentioning his father brought up certain memories... Eventually, he ate.

A couple of hours past, and Atlas walks into the castle. A white adult male, wearing a navy suit and grey pants.

Estelle sees him and puts her hands on her hips. "And where have you been?"

"... Out."

"Obviously. Where exactly?"

Atlas stays silent.

"This is the third time you skipped dinner this week."

"And? I've been busy."

"Busy with what?"

Atlas shrugs. "Stuff."

Estelle sighs. "Okay... Fine. But, you have to spend time with children tomorrow."

"What? Why?"

"Because, you're their father. Jupiter and I will be at the Past Kingdom."

Atlas groans. "Fine..."

Estelle smiles. "Good."

Long ago, a war erupted between two kingdoms, the Kingdom of Space and the Kingdom of Past. This confrontation lasted for years, seemingly without an end in sight, until a certain idea was proposed. A marriage of an inhabitant of Space and an inhabitant of Past. Call it a "making amends."

Ever since then, the two kingdoms have been in a period of peace. However, due to past connections with the King of Space and King of Past, peace is becoming unstable and a new war can erupt.

So, the Queen of Past, Azure, has been meeting up with Estelle and Jupiter to create a plan in hopes of sustaining the peace.

"A betrothal?" Estelle asks.

Azure nods. "Yes." She's a tan woman with sapphire eyes and wearing a white top with a green and white skirt.

"It could work." Jupiter says.

"It could, but between who?"

"Your son, and my daughter." Azure answers.

Azure's children are close friends with Constellation and Venus. They are the three sons, Emerald, Crimson, and Amber. And her only daughter, Jade.

"Naturally, they'll be married once they become of age." She adds.

Estelle and Jupiter think about it. They're in the Past castle, which is similar to the castle in Space. Instead, they are black walls and dark violet columns. The light the windows let in were blocked by dark violet curtains, giving the hallways an eerie feeling. It tends to give any newcomers a threatening vibe.

"Married?" A deep voice came from outside the room. A pale tan man with green eyes, wearing a black suit with a purple shirt and black pants walks in.

This is Obsidian, King of Past.

As he walked in a cold wind goes throughout the room. Jupiter kept his eyes on him. Obsidian's father was the main reason the war started so long ago. He despised the Star Family, and would do anything to end them. Unfortunately, that passed down to Obsidian as well.

"What is this talk of a marriage I'm hearing?" He sat down next to Azure.

She glares at him. "Nothing you should worry about."

"I feel like I should." Obsidian counters. "But, I am not going to push." He looks at Estelle and Jupiter. "Where is my dear friend, Atlas? It's been some time since I last saw him."

"Home." Estelle states.

Obsidian chuckled. "Well, give him my best regards. I look forward to our next meeting."

Estelle gained an unsteady feeling. It was as if Obsidian knew something major concerning Atlas, but wasn't saying anything out of his own entertainment.

"... We should be going now." Jupiter stands.

"Right." Azure says. "Thank you for coming over."

Jupiter looks at Obsidian one last time. "... Our pleasure."

Jupiter and Estelle teleport home.

During that meeting, Atlas was spending time with his children, well one of them.

"Again! Again!" Venus jumps around her father.

"Can't we find something else to do?" Atlas says, exhausted from playing several games of Tag.

"Like what?"

"Um..." Atlas thinks. "Why not drawing?"

"Yeah!" The princess grabs her father's hand and rushes to the drawing room. A room with discarded crayons and sketch paper all over the place.

Constellation is lying on the floor, drawing. Venus grabs some paper and crayons and lies down next to him. Atlas leaves the two to make their creations... And to get a drink from the nearest bars.

Some time passes, and Atlas returns to the drawing room.

Venus's head shot up. "Father! Father! Look what I made." She holds her paper.

It's the Star Family, together, Atlas, Estelle, Jupiter, with a small Venus and Constellation

Atlas smiles. "I love it."

"Yay!" Venus exclaims. She flips the paper over and begins drawing something else. Atlas glances over to Constellation. He's making drawings of his own, and one catches the king's eyes.

He walks over.

Constellation gets terrified. His father rarely pays any attention to him. And when he does, it always ends in...

Atlas grabs Constellation's ear and points at his drawing. "What is that?" He commanded.

The drawing was of two people. A woman wearing a red dress and a little girl wearing a purple shirt and skirt.

Constellation yelped from the sudden pain. "I... I saw you with them..."

"... Venus. Go to another room."

Venus gets a confused look. "But--"

Atlas raises his voice. "Go!"

Venus picks up her paper and crayons and teleports out the room.

Atlas lets go of Constellation's ear and slaps him.

Tears form in the boy's eyes. "I'm sorry..."

"Apologizing changes nothing."

Atlas slaps him again and kicks him back. Constellation falls to the floor. For him, this abuse was routine. Whatever he did, his father would find a reason to hurt him. It was either this, or neglect. All Constellation wants is to make his father proud. But, he never succeeds. Atlas has chosen his favorite. The one he cares about. The one who makes him happy.

He never even told Constellation that he loves him.

The tears begin flooding out of Constellation's eyes.

"Get up." He commands. Constellation manages to pick himself up from the ground.

"Never tell anyone about this. You will keep your mouth shut. And if I find out that you disobeyed me, I will personally make sure you will spend the rest of your days on the streets." Atlas walks over and grabs Constellation's ear again. "Do you understand?"

The boy holds back a sob. "Y-yes... Sir..."

"Good." Atlas lets go of Constellation's ear and walks out of the room. The heartbroken prince grabs his drawings, runs to his room, and locks his door as he starts crying...

A few hours later, Jupiter and Estelle have returned from their visit. Constellation still has not come out of his room.

With dinner nearly ready, Jupiter heads over to talk to the boy.

He knocks on the door. "Constellation?"

Silence.

Jupiter knocks again and tries to open the door, but to no avail. "Constellation, I know you are in there."

A quiet voice responds, "... go away."

Jupiter sighs as he teleports to inside the room. Soft crying can be heard from a blanket on the bed. Jupiter walks over and sits down on the bed.

"What happened?" He asks.

The prince pokes his head out from the blanket. "... N-nothing..."

"It's clearly something." Jupiter reaches over and wipes away the remaining tears on his grandson's face. "You can tell me, Constellation."

He shakes his head. "No... I can't..."

"... why not?"

Atlas' threat echo in his the boy's head. "... I just can't..."

Jupiter sighs once again as he looks around the room. At one of the corners is a table with a crumpled piece of sketch paper on it. Jupiter uses his teleportation powers to bring the paper to himself.

It's the drawing of the woman and the young girl.

Constellation sees his grandfather looking at it. "No!" He sits up and takes the paper away from him.

"What was that?" Jupiter asks.

"N-nothing!" Constellation says nervously.

"Constellation..." Jupiter wraps his arms around him. "You know you can talk to me."

The boy puts his head on Jupiter's chest, still holding the drawing. "I know..."

"Then, tell me what's wrong."

Constellation looks down at the drawing. "... Father was mad at me... for making this..."

"Why?"

"I don't know... I saw him with them once..."

"When?"

"When we went shopping at the market..."

A sudden realization comes to Jupiter as he looks at the drawing. "... Can I borrow this for a moment?"

He nods and Jupiter takes it.

"Why don't you go to the dinner table? I'll be there in a moment."

"... Okay." Jupiter lets go of Constellation and he gets down from his bed and walks out of the room.

Atlas is attempting to leave the castle, but is stopped by a certain angry wife teleporting in front of him.

"... Is something wrong?" Atlas asks.

Estelle crosses her arms. "Something you want to tell me, Atlas?"

"No."

"Oh, really? Then, where are you going now? Meeting your new friend?"

Atlas steps back. "... I-I have no idea what you're talking about."

"Yes. You do." A lavender aura covers Atlas. "Is that what you've been doing all this time?! Sleeping with another woman?!"

Atlas remains silent. He then is held up in the air by Estelle's telekinesis.

"Well?!" She demands.

"... Yes."

Rage fills Estelle. Her own husband, the man she fell in love with, betrayed her. She uses her telekinesis to throw Atlas at the wall. The impact alone leaving a crack on the wall.

Atlas falls to the ground and lands on his knees.

Estelle chokes back a sob. "... Why?"

Atlas stands. "You said I shouldn't be drinking to deal with stress."

"So, you sleep with another woman?!"

"Yeah."

Estelle walks up and slaps Atlas. "How could you?! I am your wife! We had children!"

Atlas looks at the ground. "... I'm aware."

Tears fall from Estelle's eyes. She couldn't look at him anymore. So, she walks away into another room. Atlas watches her leave before teleporting away...

The next morning, breakfast was... tense. The adults were quiet and just silently ate their food. Venus was blissfully unaware, but Constellation could tell something happen... and he felt it was his fault.

He looks up. "May I be excused?"

"Yes..." Jupiter says. "You may."

Constellation gets up and leaves the table. And as he walked into the main hallway... Several corpses of the royal guard were in front of him. Each body had what appears to be a stab wound.

The prince is in shock. Who would do this? He runs back to the breakfast table and starts pulling on Jupiter's arm.

"What's wrong, Constellation?" Jupiter asks, confused.

He could barely get his words out. "T-the guards... Hallway..." Constellation couldn't get the last part out. He knows the concept of death. But, for him to say it, to accept it, was difficult.

"Your father and I will go. You stay here with your mother and sister."

"... Okay."

Jupiter and Atlas walk out. Constellation goes to Estelle and holds her hand.

"Mother... I'm scared..."

Estelle comforts him. "It's okay, Constellation."

"What's going on?" Venus asks.

"Nothing to worry about..."

Moments later, screams of pain can be heard. Obsidian then walks in, holding a dead Atlas and heavily injured

Jupiter.

Venus freezes. "Father...?"

Obsidian laughs. "Your dear father is dead, sweet princess." He throws Atlas' body to their feet.

Estelle keeps the children behind her. "... what do you want?"

"This kingdom." Obsidian holds a knife to Jupiter. "Surrender now, and I'll consider leaving the rest of you alive."

"Don't do it..." Jupiter weakly says.

Estelle sighs. "... Fine, take it."

"Thank you." Obsidian stabs Jupiter. He then lets go of him. Jupiter falls to the ground, motionless.

"NO!!!"

"GRANDFATHER!!!" The children yell.

Obsidian runs up and stabs Estelle, who was too shocked to stop him. Her body falls and hits the ground.

The murderer looks at Constellation and Venus. "This part of the job always felt gratuitous."

Constellation can't move. He wants to run away but he can't. Fear has him frozen. And fear is what will lead to his death.

However...

Obsidian reaches down to grab Constellation but a lavender aura covers him. Estelle's telekinesis is holding him in place.

"Venus..." Estelle says weakly. "Take your brother... and run..."

Venus is on the verge of tears. "But, mother... You're..."

"Don't worry about me... Just go... Protect each other...."

Venus teleports over to Constellation and grabs him.

Constellation tries to break free of her hold. "N-no! We can't leave them!"

She teleports away with her brother.

The two teleport into a city. Tall buildings, bustling streets, and the endless black sky with the moon.

Constellation begins crying and Venus hugs him.

"They're gone..." He says.

"I know..."

"... what do we do now?"

"... I don't know."

And that's the story of the Star Family. A tale of sadness, betrayal, heartbreak, and loss.

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