

We can't tell you what we are,
 or where we live, it's too
 risky and
 we've got to be careful. Really
 careful.
 So we don't trust anyone, because if
 they find us... well, we just won't
 let them find us.
 The thing you should know is that everyone is in
 really big trouble. Yeah, even you.

Ax meets another Andalite who
 joins the Animorphs.
 There's a problem when Ithieran comes
 to take the Andalite home, with no
 room for Ax. When he finds the
 Time Matrix, he finds that the Yeerks
 have been tracking it.
 Finally, he has to decide on
 whether to stay with his family, or let
 the Yeerks find the time Matrix. And find
 the Animorphs...

ANIMORPHS

Touch, smell, sound, sight, Telepathy

ANIMORPHS
 The Time Matrix



...my best friend
forever
(and don't forget KA, Applegate,
who invented this in the first place)

concentrated on the Ocean,
tail grew several feet wider. It
... my head grew...
... white spots began to appear on
the sides of my head. My arms rounded
and grew outward. I had become an
... whale. The wolf of the sea.

Fan Fiction, written by an Animorphs fan at age 10.
Disregard page numbers.

prologue

6

<Lirem!> Ithileran - Halas - Corain, assistant to the head of planetary communications, burst into the room.

<Lirem! Sir! A message from Alloran. The host, Visser Three. The Yeerk.> I noticed the snarl on the last two sentences.

Personally, I thought he was crazy. We were on spacecraft, in orbit of a planet called Earth. We were heading down to Earth the next day, to save the Andalite Bandits, as everyone has taken to calling them.

<Sir, he is about to be in battle with the Andalite Bandits. You know as well as I do, what the 'Andalite Bandits' are. He is taunting us. He has extra defence pirimeters.

The 'Andalite Bandits' will be caught, and this trip will have been a waste. The Visser does not know we are in orbit. I advise that we move in now, instead of tomorrow. Sir.> My father nodded. <Launch all fighters.>

<What do you mean by 'what' they are?> I asked. My father laughed. <I see that Arista Liless has a suspicious mind. Perfect for the warrior she was ment to be.>

I beamed, and Ithileran smiled. <Sir. You are correct. Arista Liless will be a natural

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warrioress. You cannot forget that ~~she~~
is a female.>

My father nodded. <She will be a
Prince, and then a war-prince, perhaps ~~a~~ a
member of the council. Maybe in my position,
one day> he said, stubbornly.

<Very good, sir,> Ethiteran said quickly, and
left.

<Launch your fighter.> My father said.
<Father...?> I asked. He nodded. <Go.>
I nodded, and ran to the indicated fighter,
after heading down the dropshaft.

I have been trained in the launching of
fighters, and if I do say so myself, I
did well. <Beautifully done, Aris'th Liless,>
my father said. Our communications screens
turned on.

<Thank you, Prince Litem. I love you,
father,> I said.

<And you, Liless, my daughter.> our
screens turned off.

Five fighters were to be ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ the ground
battle, on earth. The rest were prepared to have
a space battle with the mothership. ~~My~~ father
and I were two of the five.

As we lowered, I saw Hork-Bajir and

Taxxons fighting several strange animals.
An interesting-looking Andalite male,
about my age, and five strange earth
animals.

A kafit bird, lacking wings. A four-
~~legged~~ legged gray animal, with a thick bush
a hair around its neck. An orange and black
stripped, four legged animal. A black, humanoid
one. And a huge gray animal, with giant
ears, and a long nose, and two spears under
the nose. I wondered if they shot out to
kill.

Then, a big fighter, followed by two
more, landed in front ~~of~~ of the battle.
The Andalite Bandits stopped, and glared
through assorted eyes, as the hatch opened.

(Visser Three!) The male said. I saw
him. The only Andalite Controller in the
Galaxy 5.

We began to open fire at the Yeerks.
The male lifted his stalk eyes, and began
yelling. (Andalites! We're saved!) He then
began speaking privately to the others. They
all seemed excited, until...

TSSSEWWW! BOOM! TSSSEWWW!
TSSSEWWW! BOOM! BOOM! Three of

Our five fighters were hit. <Noooo!>
I yelled.

One immediately sizzled, and disappeared.
Two hit a building, but did not fry. One of
those two was my father's.

TSSSEWWW! TSSSEWWW! My and the
other Andalite's ships were hit. His was vaporized.
mine was just skimmed, but it crashed. I hit a
wall, just around the corner from my father.

The Andalite Bandits somehow got a hold
of some Dragon beams, and forced the Yeerks
to retreat. Before they got out of sight, I
shot down three of the big fighters. (There had
been six). I knew that one of the three
had shot my father. But Visser Three escaped.
~~I~~ I tossed my shredder to the ground, and
ran toward my father's fighter. I checked one.
The warrior inside was not my father, and he
was dead.

I ran to the next. <father?! father!> He
was on the floor. Hurt. Badly. <Liless, my
child, I love you.> I knelt.

<Oh, father. Oh, I love you!> I mourned
deeply.

<Bring me the portable console, Warrior
Liless-Arreloth-Porte.> He said. Warrior?! I

felt happiness, and pride, until this reality crushed it.

He contacted the fighters in orbit.

To ~~our~~ surprise, there was only one! Ithileran.

<I am dying. The others are dead. The Andalite bandits are alive. My daughter, Warrior Liless, is well. Where are the others?> Ithileran sighed.

<Irem. The Yeerks... overpowered them. I managed to escape to zero-space. I am the only remaining one. Congratulations, Warrior Liless, on the promotion. And you, Warrior Aximili.>

I turned my stalk eyes, there was that fabulously attractive male.

<Ithileran?> He said. <Yes, Warrior Aximili, you are no longer an Arishth. I will-> The transmission broke.

<Avenge me>. My father said. <Oh, father! I did! I love you, father!> I cried.

<And ~~you~~ I, you, Liless.> My father then died.

CH. 8

AX

Liless and I stepped out of the

crashed fighter. The others were all demorphing.

(Earthers?) Liless asked, shocked.
(No, Andalites,) Marco said, sarcastically.
He was still halfway morphed, but mostly

gorilla.
(Andalites? That cannot-) She said, confused.

I cut her off.
(It is called 'sarcasim') then I explained to her what sarcasim was. (They are called humans.)

She looked at me, like I was boasting with my knowledge.

(I am Warrior Liless - Arrepoth - Pore).
I felt I had to reply. (I am ~~Warrior~~ Aximili-Esgarrorth - Isthill. This is my Prince. Prince Jake.) I stood beside him.

(your prince? Then he will be mine a swold.)
I walked by each of my friends, naming them as I stood by them. (This is Rachel. This is Cassie. This-) She cut me off. (Cassie? She is a natural estreen! How lovely.)

(Yes, this is Marco. And this is my nephew, and Storm, Tobias.) She looked ~~at~~ at him, shocked. (Nephew...? How...?)

I will explain as soon as we get to my

Snoop. >

"How do we get Li out of here?"
 (Mara asked.

Li less looked confused. (Who is 'Li'?) I explained, since Li less is pronounced 'Lie-less,' it seems a bit strange to say without the 'less'.

(Prince Jake, I have an idea. She can perform a falis maneuver like I did.)

Rachel spoke up, "If she did that, she would look exactly like you." We thought about it. It was Cassie who came up with the idea.

"I am so against this, but... have Li acquire samples from Jake, ~~Rachel~~ Rachel, and me. They look the most alike, and I can add a few differences. Kids cut through here on their way to and from the mall.

When the next kid, or kids come through, Tobias and I will dive bomb them with chunks of concrete. Li can acquire them." Cassie said.

Tobias took off. Twenty minutes later, Tobias called down, (Cassie? two girls, carrying shopping bags. ~~the~~ morph, and we'll get our rocks.)

Cassie began to morph. Her bird morph is called an osprey.

When the others morphed, they made it seem as disgusting as I do. When Cassie morphs, she makes ~~deliberate~~ deliberate beautiful shapes.

After she had finished, she called out, <Who are they, Tobias?> She began to fly.

<I dunno. I recognize one from somewhere...>

<Oh, man! It's Allison and Brittany!> I recognized the names. <Who?>

Cassie and Tobias swooped down, and picked up two heavy pieces of concrete in their talons.

<Remember? At the dance? The girl who liked you? The one who asked you to dance?>

I sighed. Oh, yes, I did remember. <Yes. But I did not like her.> I said quickly. I did not want Ciless to think I liked another.

<Wait a minute, I thought. <Why should I worry what Ciless thought about what I did?> I realized it in a flash. <It's because I like her.> I realized that it was true.

I watched Cassie and Tobias give. Released their bombs. Two direct hits.

Liless walked over to Rachel. She acquired
 some of her, and then Prince Jake.

Then Allison and Brittany,

We walked back to the fighters, and
 vaporized them. Liless spoke. <I will
 morph, now.> Then Cassie started yelling.

<No!> she demorphed. <We don't have
 extra clothing!> She crossed the
 speech line. "Don't morph yet, Li!" She
 hesitated. "Tobias? Can you get Li a bird of
 prey?"

<What?!

"Okay, okay! A seagull?"

<That's better.> He flew off, muttering
 about birds of prey.

When he returned, Liless acquired it. Then
 we all morphed, while Tobias flew cover.
 I kept all four of my eyes on Li
 as she morphed.

Her arms blended with her forelegs,
 and turned into wings. Her tail slunked
 back into her spine, and sprouted feathers. She
 shrank. Her eyes stalks sucked into her head.
 Her back legs disappeared, and moved into her
 middle, and became very thin. Her feet were
 webbed, her mouth pushed out into

beak. All this time, feathers grew.

She was a seagull.

After gaining control, All the Animorphs headed home, and we went with Cassie to her barn. ~~✶~~

After getting her a morphing outfit for her human morph, Cassie equipped her with lots of morphs.

A wolf, a Flea, a Fly, a cockroach, an owl, and a harrier, like mine. She obviously admired me, or maybe it was my morph.

Then it turned to night. We flew to the gardens. She acquired a dolphin, an orca, a Lion, a fish, and a Cheetah.

Then we headed for my scoop.

The next morning, she practiced and learned to control each morph, except for the aquatic morphs.

That night, the evening we met, we fed together. I told her everything about human culture, and I gave her the story of every battle.

It was so nice to feed with another Andalite. Especially Liless.

(But it is useless.) I thought. (Why would Liless like me?)

Lifeless CH. 4

While feeding with Aximili, and after he had gone over all the missions, he told me all about him. I told him all about me. I realized I cared very much for him.

That night, we watched TV in his scoop, along with Tobias. I read the World Almanac. I looked at his photo of the cinnamon bun.

Days like this passed. I enjoyed these days very much. It was so nice to feed with an Andalite my age. On the Dome ship in orbit, there were no people my age.

One evening, we morphed owls. I watched his morphing. It ~~started~~ began by covering him with feathers. Then, his hoofs became giant talons, after fusing together. His legs fused into two legs, and shrank, along with his talons.

His head shrank to owl size before it changed his features. Soon, his head became normal, and he just turned owl.

We flew. <Let's go!> I shouted. We headed for The Gardens. I had acquired the female Orca on my first day on earth.

Aximili was going to acquire the larger one that had a taller, straighter dorsal fin. The male.

After demorphing, he edged over to the tank, trying to stay in the shadows. I ~~wasn't morphed~~ didn't demorph. I was flying cover.

Why did I let you talk me into this? Aximili muttered. I assumed he was speaking to himself, therefore I did not attempt an answer.

He knelt over the tank on a large, flat area. It was a very large flat area. I wondered what it was for.

The Orcas swam over to the area where Aximili was kneeling. He jerked an arm up, pointing at the opposite side of the tank, trying to tell the female to get out of the way, I suppose.

But these Orcas were human attractions. I suppose they figured that his arm motions were signals to perform a trick.

The male went across the tank, and swam back, at a fast speed. He went under. Then, he surfaced, and pushed himself out of the water, onto the platform that

Aximili was on!

He screamed, and leapt back, just in time. He quickly aquired it, and pushed it back into the tank, morphed over, and flew up to me. We flew back to the scoop.

<Why do we just do that?! It was, in the name of Marco, INSANE!>
Aximili yelled. <Females!>

I said nothing. I was confused. I wanted Aximili to like me. How was I going to... <Rachel!> I thought,

I decided to go to Rachel and Cassie the next morning. They had experience with males. After all, Rachel was with Tobias, and Cassie was with Prince Jave.

The next morning, I ~~leapt~~ morphed, and flew to Rachel's home. I stood on the perch outside her window, and called, <Rachel?> The window opened. I hopped in.

"Hi, Lilessi" she said. I hopped on a post on a corner of a rectangle, covered in artificial skin. I demorphed, and remorphed.
To human.

My blue and tan fur disappeared. My arms became larger. My four legs melted into two. My stalk eyes disappeared. My nose split into a popped out nose, with only two holes, not slits, and into a horizontally split mouth.

I'd done it once before - It was when I entered clothing into my morph.

Soon, I finished. "Hello, Rachel," I said. She stared at me. "Why don't you repeat sounds like Ax does?"

I smiled. "I have taught myself so I will appear as a normal human, and not draw attention." Again, she gave me a strange look. Surprised, really.

"Rachel," I began. "I have a problem." She looked me up and down. "It's the morphing suit, isn't it. Dang, next time you want an outfit, check with me, not Cassie." Besides the outfit, your morph looks very pretty, by the way.

"Rachel, that is not exactly my problem. It

"I know, I know," she laughed. "So, what is it?" I began.

"You see, you have a lot of experience with males. What with you being with Tobias, and all." Her eyes grew. "You know—" I cut her off.

"You see, I care for Aximili. I care for him like you care for Tobias. But I do not know if he feels the same way. I am too afraid to ask. That is my problem."

Rachel's eyes grew, wistful, I think. I am not too keen on human emotions.

"Of course I'll help you! That is so cute! I'll think of something. YOU and AX! Hmmm. Tomorrow at 3:00, we're all going to the mall as a group. Come here to my house at 2:50. I'll fix you up. I'll buy you an outfit tonight. You wear the same size as me, I think. This will be great! But you've only been here a little over a week. How did you fall for him that fast?"

"Well, I do not know. He makes my three hearts beat very quickly."

He makes my four legs ~~weak~~
weak.

He makes my tail numb, and my
stark eyes numb.

That is, when I have three hearts
four legs, a tail, and stark eyes.

Rachel laughed. "Hey! You just made
a joke! Marco will love this! AX never
gets, or makes jokes!"

Wow! You don't play with sounds,
and you make and understand jokes.

Mabeey girls are more mature than
boys!" I laughed. Rachel smiled. "There
you go ~~with~~ again. If it were AX, he'd say
something like, 'Rachel, I do believe males
have stronger muzzles, thus they prove
to overpower females in maturity.'"

I laughed again, and began to demorph.
"Thank you, Rachel." As soon as I was
done, I morphed to harrier. (I will be
here at 2:30). I flew.

I flew to Cassie's barn. Luckily,
she was alone. I demorphed, and morphed
to human.

"Hello, Cassie." She looked up. "Oh, hi, Liles.
What's up?"

"Well, I..." I trailed off, because Cassie was staring at me in the same way Rachel had. "How come you don't repeat sounds like Ax does?"

"I try not to bring attention to myself. I try to appear as a normal human."

"Oh." I explained the problem with Aximili. She smiled. I thought it was a teasing smile (I told you I don't read human expressions very well, remember?) So I felt I had to say something in defense.

"I thought I should ask you, because being with Prince Jake would give you experience."

She turned a reddish color on her face. "Oh, um, why didn't you go to Rachel? she's with Tobias."

"I did. She is going to help. Will you help, too?" I explained what I knew about Rachel's plan.

"Of course I'll come! That is so sweet! you and Ax together!"

I demorphed. (bye, Cassie. Thank you) With that, I ran for Aximili's

Scorp.

AX CH. 4

Libess came back. She said she was visiting with Rachel and Cassie. I needed, very much wanting to speak ~~to her~~ The amount I cared for her. But I didn't. Instead, I said, (I must go speak with Prince Jake and Tobias. I will see you very soon). I left.

I ran to the edge of the woods. There, I morphed to Harrier, and flew to Prince Jake's house.

I flew into his open window. Quickly, I demorphed, and remorphed to human.

Jake's older brother, Tom, is a controller.

"Hey Ax. What's up?" Prince Jake asked.

He was seated at a primitive computer console, with Marco.

"Prince Jake. Jay-kuh. kuh." I said.

The mouth is a wonderfuls tool. But I have something more important to speak of.

"Prince Jake. Kuh. Jay-kuh. Hello. ello. Lo.

I have a problem. I figured since

You are with Cassie, and Tobias is with Rachel, you two would know a lot about females." Tobias flew in.

"Hey, Ax-man, Li said you were looking for Jake and me."

Marco laughed. "Lemme guess, she took over the TV, and decorated your sleep with little flowers."

"No, no, no-uh, That is not it, it-tuh-tuh. I care for Liless. Like you care for Cassie, and you care for Rachel. I am afraid to tell her so, because she might feel insulted."

Marco laughed again. "Sounds like a typical girl, you try to ask her out, and she thinks you've insulted her. I've been there."

I brightened. "Then Maybe you can help!"

Marco modestly pursed his lips. "Of course, All the chicks fall for me."

They- Prince Jake interrupted.

"Marco, you can help us here, He turned to me. "What should we do?"

"Well, Prince Jake, I would appreciate it if you made me look very attractive in

my human morph." Tobias spoke.
 (I have an idea. Ax. Tomorrow at
 3:00, we are all meeting at the mall.
 In the food court. We can fix up your
 human morph, if you come here at 2:30.)
 Prince Jake nodded. "Tom is going out
 of town with the shuriny tonight. Big
 camping thing. Ax. Meet here at 2:30.
 We'll fix you up, ok?" I nodded.
 Marco cocked an eyebrow. "I'm
 curious. Doesn't she hog your TV?" I
 shook my head. "No. I tell her she has
 control."
 Marco gasped. "Sake! Ax is going
 crazy! He's letting the female have
 control of the TV! Ax, you're a traitor
 to humankind, well, um, sentient kind,
 at least. I can't believe you're letting
 her! Do you at least fight her for—"
 Tobias cut him off. (shut up, Marco, you
 could at least help us.) They were in the
 closet, and Prince Jake's drawers, looking
 for artificial skin. (we're trying to find
 something cool.)
 Marco looked over. "Jake doesn't
 wear anything cool. ~~But~~ Tobias will

come with us to the mall tonight.
 He'll try on the outfits, your morphs
 are about the same size, we
 parted. I couldn't wait until tomorrow.

The next day, at 2:30, I
 flew to Prince Jake's, and demorphed,
 and remorphed to human.

"You'll be at the scoop to ~~demorph~~
 demorph at 4:00, you have ~~it~~ till 4:30.
 Two hour limit, remember," Prince
 Jake said. We began.

The others all brought ~~casual~~ yet
 'dressy' outfits, as Tobias put it.

They dressed me up in buggy blue
 'pants' that were rough in texture.

They got me a white 'T-shirt' with
 the words 'No Fear' on the front.

I could not read the back; it was
 behind me, and I had no stalk eyes.

They put a chain leading from a
 'beltloop' and a flap of skin,
 called a 'wallet,' which they put in
 my back pocket.

They gave me new white 'socks'
 that they had bought in a pack of

four, over those, they put some artificial hoofs of prince sake. They had been run through the washer and dryer. Prince Sake said, and Marco laughed, and said it was a good thing.

They put a semi-liquid product on my hair. They called it mousse. I have seen a moose before, and the only way ~~it~~ ^{it} would look like this hair product, is if someone ~~crushed~~ ^{crushed} it.

There we were finished. They taught me how not to play with sounds. And how to eat without making a mess. Then we 'hopped' onto a 'bus' to go downtown to the mall.

Liless CH. 6

The morning after Aximili had left to seek Prince Jake and Tobias, in other words, the next morning, I was anxious all day.

After Aximili had left, I morphed Harrier, and flew to Rachel's. It was 2:30.

After demorphing, I morphed ~~human~~ human. Rachel handed me some clothing. She and Cassie helped me dress.

I put on tight blue 'jeans' that widened near the bottom. Rachel called them 'flares.' I had put on ~~undergarments~~ undergarments. Of the three, I enjoyed the socks the most. Very comfortable. They had black checkmarks on the sides, and underneath, it said NIKE.

I put on a 'shirt.' It was short, white, and pretty tight.

They combed my long hair out, and sprayed it with something called 'hairspray.' Then, Rachel colored the inside of my eyelids with a black pen. She took a circular spiral brush, covered in black muck, and ran it over my eyelashes, leaving some black behind.

Rachel took out different shades of powder. A soft blue went on my eyelids. She put a different shade, a dark red, on my cheeks. She got a red stick, the color of the powder, and ran it over my lips.

I looked in the 'mirror' and gasped.

The changes were so... gorgeous, yet subtle, so effective, I looked real attractive. Rachel agreed.

She put red paint on my nails, then she dressed Cassie, then herself.

"Wow, Li! You look better than both of us!" Cassie said. Rachel and Cassie took me downstairs.

"Mom? ~~How~~ How does she look?" Rachel asked, motioning to me. The woman who I assumed must be her mother looked up, and said, "Wow! You look terrific! It's not overloaded, it's almost invisible, but it's so effective... What's your name?"

I froze. Looked at Rachel, she looked at Cassie. Cassie nervously blurted out: "Rachell!"

"Rachell? That's pretty close to Rachel." Rachel smiled.

"Cool, see you, mom, we're going to Cassie's, and maybe the mall."

"Have fun." we left. On our way out, Rachel picked up two black platforms. "Here. These shoes will look great." I put them on. They had ~~two~~ two inch soles.

The place where you put your foot
 h said ~~ESNY~~ ESNY. They were
 'open toed sandals', according to Rachel.

I put them on, and we caught the
 bus. It was uneventful, BUT many
 humans looked at me and showed
 their teeth.

"Rachel," I whispered, "Those
 people keep baring their teeth at me.

What did I do?" Rachel laughed.

"You're attractive. It's called
 smiling."

"Oh."

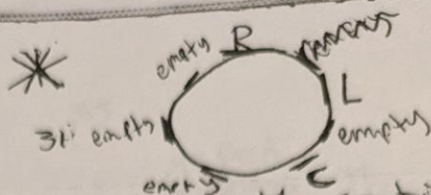
We arrived. We walked up a
 level of moving stairs. We stopped in
 a place called 'The Food Court'.

After a few minutes, I saw
 Prince Jake with Marco. I saw him
 motion to Tobias, who had just met
 up with an attractive male. I realized
 something.

It was Aximili. And he was
 headed this way!

AX CH

After being beckoned by Rachel, we



headed over. I looked at the seating.

Rachel sat in one seat of seven of the circular table, on her right was Liless. On Liless's right was an empty seat.

Next to that was Cassie. Between her and Rachel were three unoccupied seats. *

Prince Jake quickly sat on Cassie's right, next to two empty seats, that were quickly taken by Marco and Tobias. Tobias sat next to Rachel, on her left. Between Tobias and Jake was Marco, available - the

there was only one seat ~~for~~ ~~the~~ one next to ~~Rachel~~ ^{Cassie}. And Liless. We sat in a nice order (clockwise) Rachel,

⊙, Liless, ^{me} Cassie, Prince Jake, Marco, Tobias.

I noticed that Liless's human morph was very attractive. I said so. "Hello, Liless.

Your morph's decorations are unusually...

beautiful, yet... subtle." I turned a

shade of deep red - almost as red as her

shiny hair.

"Your morph is too, ... er, ~~Phillip~~."

Phillip. I watched her change color,

just as I had done.

Prince Jake, Marco, and Tobias and I all looked at each other surprised. Prince Jake muttered something that sounded like, "he doesn't play with sounds."

"Are we going to order Cinnamon buns?" I asked. "Or will the rest of you prefer something else?" Rachel, Cassie, and Lileas looked at me in surprise. I could see Prince Jake, Marco, and Tobias hiding smiles.

Rachel muttered something like "whoa! AX has improved with his sounds!" I was pleased. So far, so good.

Then, the orders came, four Cinnabons. Rachel and Tobias split one, Cassie and Prince Jake did. Marco got a whole, and Lileas and I split ones.

I had to contain myself from gulping the whole thing down. I began to eat my half. I could see Rachel and Cassie cringing, like preparing themselves for the worst.

I cut off a tiny bite sized portion. I calmly placed it in my mouth, using a fork. "This is quite tasty," I said.

Rachel and Cassie ~~gaped~~ ^{gaped}. Then, when Liless ate her portion, Prince Jake, Tobias, and Marco ~~gaped~~ ^{gaped} at her, and muttered: "Whoa! She's not freaking out like Ax does!" Their eyes had grown large at the beginning of the meal, and they kept getting bigger.

The only ones with normal sized eyes at our table were Liless and me.

Then, Rachel and Tobias stood up, and began to walk hand in hand down a hallway. Cassie and Prince Jake followed them, with the same hand motions.

It is a gesture of love, I suppose.

I looked over at Liless. We stood up. I glanced down at our hands, and Marco caught my eye.

He made a motion of two hands joining, and motioned for me and Liless to do so.

Nervousness overtook me, as I reached for her hand. To my surprise, she took it. She smiled at me. We began to walk. CRUMMIT. "Owwwwww! Phillip!"
oops, I had accidentally stepped on her foot.

"Phillip, you did that deliberately!" I tried to get off her foot, but I tripped, and crunched even harder. She kicked me.

"~~Phillip~~ you did that deliberately!" we began yelling. It had been an accident, but she had no ~~the~~ reason to think it was deliberate. And she had no reason to kick me.

As our groups parted, Marco said, "see? Typical female. You try to ask her out and what do you get?"

"A bruise on my human shin," I replied.

Li CH. 8

I felt awful for accidentally kicking him. It was a reflex. But he had no reason to step on my foot.

When our groups had ~~broken~~ parted, it was only 3:30.

Back at Rachel's, I demorphed, after removing my excess clothing. Cassie had her bike, so she took it to her barn for me. I rested while we waited.

Morphing is exhausting.

I felt I had to say something. (Thank you for your effort. But he does not like me that way, but I really do appreciate the effort.) we waited for Cassie to return.

for some reason, I didn't leave. I suppose I was dreading my return to the Scoop.

Finally, Cassie returned. She looked very excited, so excited that she had morphed for her trip back.

She demorphed, I watched the pleasant shapes, (Cassie, Oh that is so -> she cut me off in speech.

"Guess what?!" When I got to the barn, Jake was there! he says he was waiting and needed to talk to me about Likess and Ax. I said that exactly what I needed to speak to him about.

So he starts out by telling me the story of how Ax has a huge crush on you. And I -

(yeah. A huge crush on my feet). I said.

"It means he likes you, Likess," she continued. "And I tell him my story,

and we finally realized it, and he flew off to talk to Ax, and I came here! Morph! Go! find Ax! Tell him it's true!

I had already ~~started~~ started morphing, I turned to my friends, <Thank you! I will be truly happy on Earth!>

Soon after I morphed I flew. I demorphed at Aximili's scoop.

<Aximili!> I yelled. He turned, and ran to me. I ran to him. <Aximili! Cassie told me what Prince Jake said!>

<Prince Jake told me what Cassie said!> He said,

We laughed, then I ran, and he followed. We were laughing, beeping, and just being crazy.

We ran through meadows, under trees, and in Cassie's field.

We stopped abruptly, I reached out, and stroked his face with my palm. An Andalite kiss. Then, he kissed me back! We ran one more.

Then we heard, <Having fun?> It was Tobias. We looked at him with our

stalks eyes. We saw the others, all morphed into birds of prey, behind him. <you guys had better stay in the trees in daylight> Prince Jake advised. We ran to the scoop. We kissed again.

"Why do you two keep touching each other's faces?" Rachel asked. We laughed.

<It is an Andalite kiss>, Tobias said. Aximili and I looked at him in surprise.

<Oh, sorry. I heard the story of Aldrea>. Everyone else stared. Marco spoke.

"Great. Liless is a typical female. Like just about every other girl I've dated, or attempted to. Always socking me in the face, saying 'Yeah, well kiss this!'"

AX CH. 9

The next morning, Liless and I stepped out of our scoop. We had had a discussion last night. We ran to find Cassie.

As all the Animorphs know, Cassie has a diplomatic skill. And we needed this skill, in case Prince Jake got mad at us.

<Aximili! There she is!> Liless said. We ran toward her. <Cassie! Cassie, we need to tell you

something, and you'll have to tell the others.)
Liless said, I nodded. <That is correct>
"What? What? What is it?" we explained,
~~and~~ and Cassie just stared. "Whoa, whoa,
whoa! Lemme get this straight. You
two want to perform a ritual, the ritual
of marriage? Marriage. You two want
to get married?"

Liless and I smiled, <we will do
the ritual after the battle, we will have
a ceremony. In the Hork Bajer valley.
we will explain the details later on>
I said, <Please inform the others>

I was really worried about Prince
Jake's reaction. He might become angry
at me.

As soon as Cassie returned, we
surrounded her. <Well? Well?!>

"Well... they were all surprised, very
surprised. Tobias is coming by to
congratulate you, but there is a problem,
visser Three. Jake says that the
Chee say that he's back to looking for
the Time Matrix again. Visser Three is
suspicious, because Ax is the only one
who doesn't morph.

- They are making a search through the schools.
 So we've come up with this plan, ^{well,}
 we'll attack like normal. Liless, as a ~~leader~~
 will demorph, due to 'injury', like she's
 trying to save herself.
 Tobias will do a feints maneuver
 between you two, and make it look as
 though he is demorphing to save himself,
 although, in reality, he will be morphing.
 Then, the rest of us will do something of
 distractions while Aximili turns into a
 lion, and I turn into Aximil. We steer
 clear from each other, and the real Ax
 demorphs.
 In amidst all the confusion, no one
 will notice, hopefully. Do you two vote
 yes? Everyone else has.
 we nodded.
 "Alright, Everyone else will be here soon, so
 everyone can acquire the necessary DNA."
 They did.
 After everyone left, Tobias decided to
 stay. We were going to meet up at Casste's
 Barn in three hours.
 "So, you two are getting hitched?" I
 looked up. "Hitched? what is the meaning of
 that word?"

(Married, Ax. 7 I nodded. <Yes>
Liless and I smiled.

(Well, lets go watch a movie, or something, or, do you want me to morph and feed with you guys?)

(That would be a wonderful idea!)

Liless said.

Tobias fluttered down to the ground, and began to morph. He looked very similar to me as I demorph from Harrier shape.

His beak flattened into an Andelite nose. His eyes grew outward, then larger. I watched, fascinated, as two ears were pulled from the inside of his head, and grew.

I realized this was because Hawks have no external ears. As his head changed, so did the rest of him. His ~~two legs~~ suddenly broke into four. Then the talons hardened into hoofs. His back extended longer, and his tailfeathers melted outward, into a tail.

As we watched, his backbone surged through his tail, and ~~stuck~~ stuck out of the end. It took form ~~and~~ into an

interesting blades

All his feathers suddenly sucked into his body.

<Oh, this looks attractive. I look like a plucked chicken!> Tobias said. But in their place, fur grew. And so did the rest of him. He had been a dog sized - 3 quarters finished - hairless and featherless Andalite. I was relieved when he was done. I could tell that Lileswas, too.

Then, he looked around with his eyestalks. <Wow! This vision is so much better than human vision! But it's not quite as good as my own. And I feel so grateful! And this brain! Way complex, compared to anything I have ever been!> That last line pleased me. I was about to agree with him, but he spoke. <Wow! Oh, and do I look different? I mean, between you two?>

I nodded. <Although you look as a herd member of our ~~herd~~ herd, yes. You do look different.>

<Good. Wow! This tail! It's so cool!> He cried, testing it out. <Let's run. I'm hungry. And I'm getting this urge to run.>

This barn is making me feel... trapped.
~~Let's~~ let's leave and run.

I laughed. <Tobias, Andalite instincts
 are getting to you. But I agree. Let's run.>
 We ran.

Hooves pounding on sweet tasting grass,
 we ran. Three Andalites. To the forest. I
 felt closer to home than I had ~~felt~~
~~since I had~~ arrived on earth.

<I almost want to get stuck in this
 morph, I like it so much>, Tobias panted
 dreamily.

<Do not follow through with that
 procedure, Tobias>, I said. <For one, it
 would be a loss to us all in battles. Not
 that an Andalite isn't a good fighter.> I
 added hastily, <But on stealth missions
 you wouldn't be much help. For two, Rachel
 would be very upset, I believe. She would
 prefer for you to resume human form,
 and-> Tobias cut me off.

<Axman, don't worry. I was just
 stating a fact. Anyways, we have to be
 thinking about our next mission right now.>
 Of course. The mission. I asked
 myself the question I ask ~~before~~

myself before each battle: Would this be the battle that in which I destroyed Visser Three?
Ch. 140

Li

We ran to the scoop, and watched some of these messages with just us three. I enjoyed being with more than one Andalite. I felt closer to home than I had been since I arrived on earth.

But that evening, we all met up at the construction site, where Elfanger had died. Where my father had died. Where the Animorphs had received their morphing powers. Where the Time Matrix was buried.

The human controllers were digging for it.

We landed behind some unfinished walls, and demorphed. Silently we morphed. Rachel went elephant. Her nose launched out several feet, and made me feel ~~so~~ sick that I ~~change~~ shifted my gaze to Prince Jake.

He was turning into a rhinoceros. His nose grew and hardened into a sharp point. I quickly looked to Cassie.

Her nose flattened into an interesting

shape. It was similar to an upsidedown human shape, called a heart. She made it seem so natural, turning into a lion. I looked at Marco.

His nose wasn't as beautiful. It flattened unnaturally, and grew. He was a gorilla. I glanced at Tobias. Marco noticed.

<Why not look at me, Lileso?> He asked. <Well, Marco, you... your... the sight of you like that makes me feel ~~like that~~

many waves of nausea roll around my stomach.> I replied truthfully.

Rachel laughed. <He makes us all feel like that even when he's not morphed!>

<Oh, very funny Rachel. Go play tag with a dragon bear-> Tobias interrupted them. <Marco! Rachel! Stop! Let's get ready!>

Tobias was himself. His nose was what was called a beak.

At last, I looked at Aximili. He was himself, too. His nose was ~~perfect~~ perfect. I looked at myself.

I was a wolf. My nose was called a nozzle.

All in all, we had a trunk, a horn, a nose, another nose, another, perfect, nose, and

bears, and a muzzle. Humans make many interesting names for noses.

The plan was for us to make Tobias and I look weaker than the rest. We were to look as if we were in the way. So we did.

<let's do it!> Rachel yelled. We charged, Tobias and I subtly separated from them.

Every time they started to shoot one of the others, I would bite their arm, or Tobias would rake their eyes. We let them get easy shots, and ruined them at the last second.

"Kill them!" A human controller yelled. "Kill the easier ones! Kill the wolf and the bird! Get them out of the way!" He screamed.

They obeyed.

My back left leg was vaporized by a dragon beam. The pain! I yowled, and began to demorph, after hobbling to the edge of an unfinished structure.

I made sure they saw me as myself. Then I ran behind the building, out of sight, and morphed into a new morph that Cassie set me up with, ~~Rhinoceros~~ Rhinoceros.

My nose hardened, and, well, let me tell you this: morphing is illogical. My tail blade turned into my ~~horn~~ front horn, and pushed through my body, and came out of my nose. Not a very beautiful thing.

The horn split in two and traveled to their proper places. My ears sucked into my skull and sprouted again on the top. My nose appeared again under my horns. It grew ridiculously large. And I was still blue.

My back legs thickened, and I rose upward. (My head looks like a female hork-Baijirs), I mumbled. It was true. My head had two horns that weren't in their proper positions yet.

Finally, I turned gray. The other changes happened very quickly. I ran out ~~to~~ to the battle again.

A human controller aimed at me. Tobias swooped down and raked his forehead with his talons. Every human controller had been delayed by either me or Tobias. "Shoot the bird!" His most recent victim shouted.

<Get ready, Tobias,> I said in private thought-speech.

Thought speech is like a primitive human place on a computer, called a Chat room. You can talk to everyone, or put them on Private speech, or ignore. Someone fired at Tobias. It hit him! His wing burnt off. He fell.

<Demorph!> Aximili yelled in ~~open~~ open speech. <Demorph, Aximili!> Aximili yelled. Of course he was lying.

Tobias began to morph to Andalite, but to everyone else, it looked as if he was demorphing to save himself. He made sure to show himself. They noticed. He began to fight as an Andalite.

"Shoot the Andalites!" Someone yelled. They fired at Aximili. Cassie got in the way, as planned. Her paws dissolved. So did one of Aximili's arms!

They ran behind a building. ~~Then~~ I knew what was going on. They were morphing. Aximili was turning into a Lion. Cassie was turning to Aximili. They returned. "Look! They've fixed their wounds by

morphing! Shoot the lion again! Try to get more than paws this time! A human controller yelled.

Then Cassie, the lions, or ~~so~~ they thought, ran ~~toward~~ ^{toward} them. They shot him. ~~It~~ was really Aximili.)

He staggered to the edge of a building, and demorphed. In the confusion of battle, no one noticed that two Aximili's were running around, fighting. The real Aximili quickly morphed back into Lion, after making sure they saw him.

<That's enough!> Prince Sake cried in private speech to us. We've delayed them, and proved that at least Tobias, Cassie, Ax, and Li are Andalites. Or so they think. We'll do Rachel, Marco, and me some other time!> We retreated, demorphed, and morphed into our birds of prey morphs. We flew.

Ax ~~at~~ C.H. ~~||~~

The following afternoon, Cassie, Rachel, and Tobias came to my scoop. Rachel acquired Liless. They all morphed Andalite.

~~49~~

We ran. It was fun having four Andalites to run with, although Cassie looked exactly like me, and Rachel looked exactly like Liless. Still, it was fun. We ran to the Horr-Bajir Valley.

We'd coached Marco on his duty that morning. When we'd told him, he said, "Lemme get this straight. I'm a priest?" We explained. "Okay, I'll do it, but it seems, I dunno, strange."

We arrived. The others demorphed. Rachel made a circlet of flowers, and adorned them upon Liless's head.

Prince Jake and Marco were already there, waiting. We explained that it would be more traditional if all the main people were Andalites. So Prince Jake and Marco performed *Falis Manevours* between Liless and me. Everyone morphed. Liless selected a spot to hold it.

It was right beside a small waterfall. A beautiful stream trickled from it. On the stream's bank, a lone tree stood. The tree and the bank were surrounded by flowers called violets.

There was a two-hoof-sized tuft

of grass below the tree. The sky was a beautiful bright blue. The sun shone warm rays ~~across~~ across our backs. The clouds were puffy and white, looking very much like a food the humans call whipped cream, very tasty.

Two huge boulders were stacked up against each other beside the tree. It was perfect.

After everyone had morphed, Marco climbed to the top of the boulders. Prince Sake and Cassie stood beside the boulders, with Prince Sake nearest to Marco.

Tobias and Rachel stood on the other side, with Tobias next to Marco. They were all in Andalite morph.

Liless and I stepped forward, ~~with~~ Liless beside Rachel, me beside Cassie, with Marco in front of us. Six or seven feet behind us, the Hork-Bajir stood, in neat, orderly rows.

Marco began, <Dearly Beloved-> He said, but was cut off by Prince Sake. <Marco!>

~~Okay~~ Okay, warrior Aximili-Esgarrouth-Isthill. Do you think that

~~Aximili~~
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the People would approve of this marriage?>

<I do>, I said.

<Ax, you aren't supposed to say 'I do' yet, you->

<Marco!> Prince Jake yelled again.

<Sorry, sorry, Warrior Liless-Arrepoth-Porce. Do you think that the People would approve of this marriage?>

<I do>.

<Do the People approve?> The People weren't there, but the Hork-Bajir were.

"yes," They all said in unison.

<Warrior Aximili-Esgarrouth-Isthill.

Do you think that your Prince would approve?>

<yes.>

<Warrior Liless-Arrepoth-Porce. Do you think that your Prince would approve?>

<yes>.

<Does the Prince approve?>

<yes>, Prince Jake nodded.

<Warrior Aximili-Esgarrouth-Isthill. Do you think that your present family would approve?>

<Of course>

<Warrior Liless-Arrepoth-Porce. Do you think

that your present family would approve?>

<I have no present family> she said.

<Would they if they were present?>
<Of course>.

<Does Aximili's present family approve?>

<Yes> Tobias said.

<Do you make a vow to the People, your Prince, and to your family?>

We both replied, <Yes.>

<Do you make a vow to the destruction of your enemies?>

<Yes>.

<To honor?>

<Yes>.

<To your wedding vows?>

<What?>

<Marco!!> Prince Sake yelled.

<Okay, okay. And do you make a vow to freedom?>

<Yes.>

~~And to each other?~~
<And to each other?>

<Yes.>

<I now pronounce you husband and wife, you may ->
<Marco!!>

<Alright! Alright!> Marco protested.
 <we all wish you hope in future
 years, that you will serve the People, and
 your Prince.>
 <And serve honor>, Liless and
 I said.

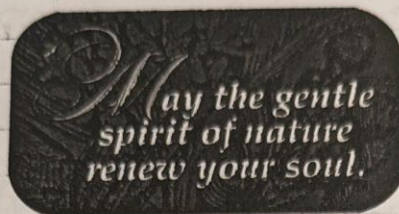
IT was complete. A Hork-Bajir
 spoke, "BARK! We have bark after ceremonies".
 The rest agreed. "Yes! Very good bark!"
 <we will have our grass. You must have
 your bark.> Liless said.

We ran, having fun. With six other
 Andalites, it seemed as if we were in a
 large herd. <My Family>, I thought sadly.
 <I wish my family were here>.

It got late. The Animorphs demorphed, and
 remorphed, back into Andalites, so they wouldn't
 go over the two hour limit. We ran back
 to our scoop.

Everyone gave us gifts. From Prince
 Jake, a certificate for The Cinnabon food
 place. From Marco, a book called a
 comic book, "It's Batman," he said, helpfully.
 Cassie gave us a sign to hang up
 in our scoop. It was decorated with
 scribbles, that we assumed was writing. It

looked like this:



except it was much larger. Rachel gave us two certificates to a clothing store. And Tobias gave us a toy he had constructed. It was a large plastic horse, missing a head. In the head's place was a toy called a barbie. Her hair had been gelled up against her head. Eye stalks had been added. And a scorpion tail. It was a miniature Andalite.

After everyone had left, we morphed into Harriers. As I watched her morph, I realized that she may not be an estreen, but her morphing was still so beautiful.

CH. 12

Li
a We demorphed by the shore of Earth's Oceans. We remorphed to

dolphin, in the icy sea. Soon, I knew, the coldness would disappear. Aximili had told me.

After my arms had turned to pectoral fins, and my tail into flukes, and my body had grown sleeker, and I had finally finished, I realized that it was true. The coldness ceased to bother me. I was completely happy, although the instinct of fear of predators bothered me.

We swam far out to sea. Once out there, we demorphed. And began to morph a different morph. Called a Killer Whale.

I concentrated on the Orca. My tail grew several feet wider. It grew in length, too. My tail blade split into the flukes, and flesh began to cover them.

My legs sucked into my ~~lower~~ lower abdomen. They added to the large backbone that was growing. My upper half fell into my new neck.

My head grew and grew and grew. Two white spots began to appear on the sides of my head. White also began to appear on my underside.

My arms rounded and grew outward. They became beautiful pectoral fins. I had become an Orca Whale. The Wolf of the Sea.

The intelligence was so much more than any creature I knew of. Except for Andalites, of course. It even made the dolphin look like ~~it~~ a phlegm.

It had wonderful eyesight, much better than a Harrier. And it had echolocation. And it was so happy! It made the dolphin look like a big depressed, mourning ~~phlegm~~ widow.

It was so happy, and it knew nothing could kill it. It had so much confidence, it was scary. Of course, if a human or a large pack of sharks tried to kill it, it would die. But with her pod nearby, it wasn't going to happen.

Her pod. I looked around. There! A male. Far off in the distance, another female. I was satisfied. With three members, we could handle any amount of sharks. We began to swim. ~~I~~ spyhopped, ~~and~~

● Searching the horizon for possible,
 ● unseen prey. I saw none.
 ● I realized that I had never
 ● known this true happiness. I knew
 ● now the meaning of the phrase on
 ● Cassie's gift. It did.
 ● ~~Later~~ Later, I read that the
 ● ~~scientific~~ scientific name for the orca whale
 ● was *Orcinus Orca*. It meant: 'of or
 ● belonging to the realms of the dead,' and orca
 ● meant 'a type of whale.' What it really
 ● should mean is 'vast, graceful, delicate
 ● yet strong' and 'joyous'.
 ● We breached, swam, fluked and lobtailed,
 ● ~~and~~ I had never felt such happiness. But it
 ● was time to go. The two hours had
 ● flown by.

● *
 ● A month later, between battles, Aximili
 ● and I learned wonderful ~~news~~ news.
 ● <Lilless is going to have a baby!>
 ● Aximili said. Everyone just stared, each
 ● with only two eyes.
 ● "You can't be serious," Marco said. We
 ● just kind of stayed silent. Marco groaned.
 ● "Oh man. He's serious!"

Aximili became concerned. (Is anything amiss?)

Marco rolled his eyes. "No, Ax. Liless will always be watching the kid. She'll have no time for battles. We need her. There's no problem. Nope."

(That was sarcasm, correct?) No one bothered to answer him. (Alright, perhaps I can enlighten the news. When it is born, it will only take a few hours for the child to fully grasp concepts, and it will be totally independent of its mother within four hours.)

We left them all sitting there, with their mouths in the ~~shape~~ shape of an O.

~~Months~~ Months * later, I had my child. A female. I had had a child, like Aldrea had, but mine was an Andalite, and it was female.

(Hello, child.) I said. (I am your mother, Liless-Arceph-Porce. This is your father, Aximili-Esgarrouth-tshill.) She starred. (Hello mother. Hello father.)
(What do we name her?) Aximili

- asked. He and I were smiling.
- <Aldrea-Esgarrouth-Dalena.>
- Aximili smiled. <It's the perfect name.>
- Tobias arrived. <Whoa! It's an Andalite!>
- <NO,> I said with sarcasm, <It's a human.>
- He laughed. <What's its name?>
- <Aldrea-Esgarrouth-Dalena.> Aximili answered, bursting with pride.
- <Aldrea-Esgarrouth-Dalena?> Aldrea yelled. She was learning words. Andalites can only speak words they've heard before.
- <The perfect name. No, I am no human.> She said. She had heard those words before, and she had learned the meanings immediately.
- <Wow. That's an honor to have that name!>
- Tobias said,
- I nodded, <yes.> I realized that she wasn't as much a fool ~~as~~ I had claimed.
- We gave her morphs to practice, after using the Escafil device. She performed a Frolis manevaur between Rachel, Marco, and Cassie. She learned how to control herself around food. Her speaking ability became very high.
- I explained to the Animorphs how baby

Andalites learned to speak, and Marco spoke. "Let's show her a South Park episode. Or even the new movie. Let's see if she can learn to repeat -"

"Marco!" Prince Jake interrupted, then they all began laughing. They had all become very attached to Aldrea.

Days, weeks, and more weeks passed. Aximili was happy. Even the Animorphs agreed that this was the happiest he had ever been since they'd met him.

One evening, when we were playing in Tobias's meadow, Aldrea pointed at the sky. <Father? Mother? What is that?> Everyone looked at the sky.

<Andalite ship!> Aximili yelled. The Animorphs were surprised. It landed, and Ithiteran-Halas-Corain stepped out.

<Liless! I am the only remaining Andalite from the battle, I have been searching for you for many weeks. Hello, Aximili. Hello, humans. Who is this?> He asked, motioning to Aldrea.

<This is Aldrea-Esgarrouthra Dalerna, Aximili's and my daughter.> I said.

<What exactly do you need sir? Have

You come to help ~~me~~ us defeat the
 Jeerks? Aximili asked.
 <No. It is hopeless. Eight of us against
 millions? Not a chance. I have come with
 orders to return Liless to the home
 world, there is no room for anyone
 else, but I suppose Aldrea may fit.
 Let's leave.>
 We absorbed the ~~shock~~ shock. (Say
 farewell!) we must leave now.> Ithileran
 snapped.
 <wait!> Aximili yelled. He ran, hoofs
 pounding, and returned several minutes
 later, and handed me his photo of ~~a~~ a
 cinnamon bun. <For you. To remember
 me by.> I hugged him. <I never
 could forget you.> We separated.
 Every Animorph was crying, even Tobias,
 who had morphed to human earlier when
 Aximili had left to get the photo.
 I pulled a tuft of my fur off and
 handed it to Aximili. We stroked each other's
 faces one last time. He hugged Aldrea.
 Aldrea and I said farewell to the humans,
 and one last time, to Aximili. We left.
 I watched Aximili until we were almost

out of sight. Then, he flung his tail up ward as high as he could. The sun glistened across his blade. I flung my tail up, too, until I we saw him no more.

Ch. 13

AX

After they were out of sight, I ran. Away from the cries of my friends. Back to my scoop.

I turned on the television. But the memory was painful. I shut my scoop down, but not before picking up an item Tobias had brought to me.

It was silver, and it had tiny little chain links. It was a necklace, with a little bendable hoop hanging off. I looked at what Liless had clasped in my hand. Her fur. I wore it through the tiny hoop, and clamped it shut. I put it around my neck. Then I left.

I ran. I ran to the Hork-Bajir Valley. When I arrived, I collapsed under ~~at~~ the tree, next to the boulders. And I wept.

Toby, the Hork-Bajir Seer, walked toward me. I told her every thing. She was

Very ~~sympathetic~~ sympathetic, and said I could stay as long as I ~~wish~~ wished.

She left.

There I stayed for many days. I barely ate or drank a thing. I had to remind myself to drop a hoof in the stream, or put the bottom of a hoof on the grass. Otherwise, I just layed there on my side.

It rained, but I didn't move. My health wasn't too bad, but it wasn't as good anymore.

Tobias finally found me. (Ax-man! Boy, do you look blue. No, wait - you're always blue!) He paused. (Okay, you didn't get it, comon! There's TV to watch! People to save! Yeerks to kill! Let's go!)

I sat up. (Go away, Tobias, I am out, I quit, I'm staying here. Forever. I quit. Go away, or I'll kill you. Go Away! Go! Leave!) He starred for a while, then he flew. Away.

I settled down to sleep, when I heard: AXIMELI. YOU BELONG WITH THE ANIMORPHS. THEY NEED YOU.

I looked around. (Elimist.)

YES, YOU MUST DECIDE, I CAN TAKE YOU TO SEE YOUR FAMILY, FOR TWO HOURS. IN EXCHANGE, YOU MUST REJOIN THE ANIMORPHS. AGREED?

I hesitated.

ELFANGOR WILL BE ALIVE FOR TWO HOURS. SO WILL LILESS'S FATHER. YOU WILL BE WITH HERS AND YOUR FAMILY.

I nodded, eagerly. <Agreed!>

Tobias turned, and flew back.

<Ax, I think you should reconsider.>

<Not now, Tobias, I'm going home, I said, I disappeared, Tobias probably thought I had been beamed up by Andalites, or something. I laughed at the idea.

I arrived, <Aximili!> My mother yelled. We galloped into each other's arms. <Aximili! Oh, the Ellimist explained! He said he was going to tell each person who is involved in this what's going on!>

I turned a stalk eye, and saw my father. <father!> I cried, we embraced.

<The Ellimist informed me.> He said. Then we heard, <Mother! father! Aximili!> It

• Was Elfangor! Our whole family reunited. It was a happy moment. After conversation, Elfangor said, (It seems strange. Strange that in two hours I will be dead again. I want all of you to know that I love you, even you, Tobias.)
 • I turned, and saw Tobias. (Father!) He morphed as he ran. (The Elimist told me everything! I got your message!) As soon as he had fully demorphed, they embraced. (Oh, my son, Tobias, you look like ~~your~~ your mother.) They began talking. I didn't hear it, I noticed that Lirem had appeared. Then Lirem. (Father! father!) She cried. They embraced. Then Lirem's wife appeared, and they began hugging. Aldrea appeared, and spoke. (There's ~~our~~ father!)
 • Lirem's eyes all shot in my direction. (Lirem!) I cried. (Aximili!) she screamed. We ran and collided in such a tight embrace, that it knocked us over. We were laughing and crying as we hopped up.
 • I scooped Aldrea into my arms. I looked over at Tobias. He was crying, but they were tears of happiness, like ~~my~~ mine. I saw an expression on his face that I had never

seen before. It was a smile. A real smile, of real happiness. I smiled.

I looked over at Liless's family. A young female, which I assumed was Dakem, was hugging her father. They walked over.

Soon, our whole group was talking, ~~explaining~~ explaining, laughing, and enjoying every minute of it.

We never wanted the two hours to end, but, naturally, they did.

YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES. SAY YOUR GOOD-BYES.

We all said good-bye. It was hard. Tobias demorphed. Everyone said ~~last~~ their final farewells. Elfangor and I arched our tails overhead, and hit them together, sparks were drawn.

Liless's sister disa faded, followed by her mother. Then Aldrea. Elfangor and Lircm faded. Then Tobias. My parents began to fade as I began to disafeer. I was holding Liless. She slowly faded from my vision, and I was suddenly back home, at my scoop. On Barth.

I felt a stab of pain in ~~my~~ my

hearts, knowing that Elfongor and
Lisem were dead, and that I might never see
my family again, but I knew it had been
nice. To see us all together again. Nice.

Ch. 04

Ax

The minute I was home, I ran to
Tobias, who was in a tree.

<Tobias!> I called.

<Ax! That was so ~~cool~~ cool getting
to know my... family. My grandparents, the
in-laws, my, my father.>

<I, well Tobias, I'm staying with the
group. You ~~are~~ were correct, I must rest
now. Tell Prince Sake what has
occurred, and tell the others>. He
agreed, and left.

Although I felt sad, the important thing
was that I got to see my family. I felt
strange, because I wanted to live up to my
agreement with The Elimist, but I also wanted
to go home, I fell asleep with mixed emotions
in my hearts.

*

The following morning, Prince Saxe called a meeting in the barn. He and Tobias had come up with a rather amusing way to ~~frighten~~ frighten, confuse, and humiliate Visser Three.

When I arrived at the barn, the others were all there, smiling, especially Rachel.

"Ax?" Cassie said. I realized that for some reason, they'd chosen Cassie to tell me this. "Now, we realize that this might be strange to you, but we need your permission to do this."

"What is it?" I asked, puzzled. Prince Saxe nodded to Cassie, who spoke. "Tobias... well, when he was with Elfangor, he acquired him. Tobias has Elfangor's DNA. We want to use it to scare Visser Three, and make it look as if his defeat on ~~the~~ Elfangor didn't work."

It will make him look foolish, and make his fellow yearks doubt him a little more. They might see him as a failure. Will you give your permission for Tobias to carry out his plan?"

I just starred. I do not know. It

is a brilliant plan, but... well, I am not Elfangor. It would all matter if Elfangor ~~gave~~ consented, didn't he?

Everyone looked at Tobias.

Cyes. It was his idea. He said, 'Tobias, my son, to hurt the Yeerks, the ~~best~~ least I can do is give you my DNA. Demorph, and you might just find a way. So I demorphed after the Elimist warned us.'

I nodded. (Alright, then we use his DNA. Now explain your plan, Prince Jake.)

"Whoa, whoa, whoa," Marco said, after they were done with ~~the~~ explanation.

"This is insane! What if they think that the Elimist has something to do with this, and they find the Time Matrix?"

Prince Jake grinned. "We'll have to get to the Time Matrix first, and use it."

"Let's do it!" Rachel laughed.

*

The next day, we all morphed into our birds-of-prey morphs, and flew to the construction site.

When we arrived, we saw that they were still attempting the discovery of the Time Matrix.

<Okay, everyone. Land in your appointed places, and demorph. Remorph in your instructed morph> We separated. I landed behind a building and demorphed. I waited with Tobias for everyone to finish remorphing.

Tobias and I were ourselves. Rachel was a bear. Prince Saker, a tiger. Cassie, a wolf. Marco, a gorilla. Our Standard battle morphs.

Suddenly, there was a cry, "The Andalite bandits," followed by, "The Time Matrix!" Marco made his move. I won the time Matrix.

We realized that we were surrounded. They knew we were going to come again. They were prepared. We were trapped, and as good as dead. We were going to die. It was perfect.

<Well, well, well, we serked back. <Disser three!> I cried with hatred. The others remained silent, like in past battles. <Serx fifth!>

<Ha, Haha! I have the Andalite
bandits! And this time, none of you
or your allies are going to mess it up.

I will enter each of your heads
personally, and learn all your ~~secrets~~
secrets. What happened with Atram.
How many of you I've killed. What
happened with the human David.

I'll discover why you all hide in
morph, and only the little one speaks.
I know that at least four of you
are Andalites. What about the other two?
You → I cut him off.

Cyberk sith! I → Tobias privately
cut me off.

Good job, Ax. It's my turn for
the spotlight. Lights, camera, action! He
said. ~~He~~ To ~~the~~ the Yeerks, it
looked like he was siventing me. In open
speech, he said, sounding like an Andalite.

<Very well, Yeerk, you want to know
if I am an Andalite or a human?>

He began to morph to Elfangor. But to
them, it appeared as if he was demorphing.

After he had finished, Visser Three began
to tremble.

<Elfanogor!>

<That is correct, Yeerk. You will leave Alloran-semi-tur-Corass, then you will let us go.>

They were so stunned, that when we began ~~to~~ to attack, they weren't prepared. Marco lunged from the Time Matrix, and scooped it up, out of the dirt. He ran to us. Rachel touched it. Jarce did. Cassie. Tobias. I ran toward it, Marco began to activate it. I barely made it. The Yeerks faded.

Suddenly, we were in ~~the~~ Cassie's barbi. My inner clock said it was the same time, so it had happened, but Marco spoke to me, privately. And to Tobias. We agreed.

<I'll go check things out, you guys demorph, Tobias said, after demorphing. He flew off.

The others demorphed. "Marco? What time and what year is it?" Rachel asked.

Marco looked at the Time Matrix, and said "oops."

Rachel jerked over and snagged his collar. "What?!"

"Well, I meant for it to be the same exact time, in 1999, but I was accidentally thinking of 1890. And I accidentally broke this little gadget. I tested it, and it won't work. That 'oops.'"

Rachel glared at him, and released his collar. "Yeah, right."

We heard footsteps in the doorway. Before anyone could do anything, the unseen figure spoke, with a strange accent.

"Come on, Bessie. Let's hitch up the wagon, and git goin' to church. It's 15 miles, you know. While we're in town, we might as well buy some shoes for the children. Them shoes are at a mighty steep price! Some is even 75¢ now! Times is hard, here in ~~the~~ the 1890's."

Then, THUD. Rachel fainted.

4x

Ch. 15

Marco burst out laughing, and so did Tobias, as ~~he~~ he walked in.

"Times is hard," he said in that funny

voice, "but so is that there floor."

Everyone realizing that it was Marco and Tobias playing a joke, burst out laughing. Rachel revived, while Marco explained.

She slapped him across the face. It must of hurt, but he said "Oh, she likes me! It's an Andalite kiss!"

Everyone, even me, laughed. Except Rachel. She stormed out of the barn.

Suddenly, I had an idea. What if I used the Time Matrix, and went home? I could see my parents, I could see Liless and Aldrea. I could bring Elfongor to life! for good.

<Ax-man, I know what you are thinking> Tobias said, privately, <No. We need you!>

<And I need my family!> I yelled.

<We are your family!> Tobias said. I didn't answer.

*
That night, Prince Jake suddenly appeared at my Scoop. He had used the Time Matrix.

◦ <AHHH! Prince Jake! Do not startle me!>

◦ He laughed. Sorry, Ax-man, I need to hide this. I thought we could leave it in your scoop.

◦ Then, Tobias suddenly spoke up. <Jake, No!> And I could tell Tobias was privately speaking to him. He stepped over to the tree ~~where~~ where Tobias was.

◦ <Prince Jake, Tobias, I am not stupid. I know what you are saying.> I said.

◦ <Well we're not stupid either!> Tobias said. <We don't want you to →

◦ ~~shut up!~~ <shut up!> I yelled. <I'm so sick of you two! I want to see my family! Leave me alone!> I left for the time matrix. And I used it.

◦ As my home started to appear, I could hear the crys getting fainter and fainter.

◦ <No!>

◦ "No!"

◦ Then, it stopped. Time stopped.

◦ AXIMILI, THIS IS A VERY ~~IMPORTANT~~ DETHONERABLE IDEA. YOU PROMISED TO STAY WHERE YOU ARE NEEDED.

<I am needed by my family! I can
 fight in the great art home!> I cried.
 <Please! Let me live my life there!>
 There was a silence.

ALRIGHT AXIMILI. BUT YOU WILL
 DISCOVER WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU
 FACE A HUGE DECISION.

I was suddenly home. After
 being united with everyone, I explained
 what had happened. Everyone looked at
 the Time Matrix.

suddenly, <Sir!> Ithileran was running
 towards us. <The Yeeks have a device that
 tracks the Time Matrix! That is how they
 discovered it on earth. The Elimist has
 informed me of everything. They will
 locate it in a short time.>

<How do we destroy it?> I asked.
 We tried shredders, explosives, nothing
 worked. It was indestructible.

<Warrior Aximili, you must sacrifice
 something> Elfanger said.

<What?> I asked, knowing very
 well what.

<Aximili...> He said, warningly.
 <Alright, Alright,> I said.

AND WILL YOU DO IT, AXIMILI?

(Yes, I must.)

Elfanger would be dead again. So would Litem. Liless would be back with her mother and sister. My parents alone. I might never see any of them again. All in exchange for the destruction of the Time Matrix.

(Do it. Now. It can never fall into the hands of the Yeerks.)

YOU ARE TRULY A WARRIOR. YOU WILL SACRIFICE THE SIGHT OF YOUR FAMILY TO SAVE EVERYONE?

YOU ARE NOT SELFISH. BY DOING THIS, YOU MUST GO BACK TO EARTH. AND YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO RETURN WITHOUT IT.

(Do it.)

LIREM?

(Prince Aximili. You are much honored.) Lirem said.

I gasped. I was a Prince!

Everyone began to fade. (I love you, Liless and Albrecht) I said. They heard me.

(H. O. B)

AX

suddenly, I was back by the scoop. On

Earth,

I could hear, "Let's just wait here," Prince

Sake

"Wait here?! What if he never comes back?! He-Ax! Ax-man! you're home!"

"Yes, I am here." I told them the story. "I have been promoted, I am a Prince, Prince Aximili. Prince Sake, you are now a war-prince, Tobias, you as my nephew, must have a Prince.

Mess

They Starred.

"You'll be my Prince, um, Prince Ax?" Tobias asked.

"Yes, Aristh Tobias. War-Prince Sake?"

"Um, yeah?"

"I apologize for leaving. Maybe one day I'll see my family again. You are my war-prince. You are my people. War-prince Sake? I will stay if you want me to. Agreed?"

"Agreed."

"Agreed."

AGREED, PRINCE AXIMILI.