

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Preslynn, the GNA intelligence person who keeps me sane, came and met with me in person today. Told me how they noticed I wasn't doing so great with the whole gate operations thing. Had already talked to my therapist, no need to explain myself, but they wanted to move me somewhere else. Somewhere else I could do a lot more good.

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They want me to go on the mission.

Said I was the heart and soul of Hypatia, I WAS the system, all of the people saw themselves in me, for the good of their new government, for the spirit of the people, something like that. I don't remember. Preslynn said that she didn't want me to have to go but the director gave the order and that the people need to see me go and be a part of things. To send off the old Hypatia, to bring in the new dawn, to represent their confidence... something like that. I don't remember.

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I just sat there and tried to think and she told me that Zayne offered me more of a pension when I came back and tried to talk me into it some more and I said okay. Sure. I've done this before. No problem.

Beat. It's definitely a problem.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I've been assigned to a ship called *Solstice* for the expedition. It's a corvette, the littlest one going, one of the most capable in the system they say. The command team is excellent, the Hero of Hypatia will be looking out for me. They have the utmost confidence in it. I can have the utmost confidence.

It means we will be the first to go through.

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