

# THE CADETS

## CHAPTER 1

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### TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. OUTER SPACE

A bright flash...a ship appears, emerging from the stormy SUBSPACE event horizon...THE WARSHIP VIGILANT...listing powerless, with electrical currents running over its hull.

INT. BRIDGE

C.U. FRANCES MESSINA, 18, his pale skin making him look younger, is lying on the floor, slowly regaining consciousness. The pulsating red alert lighting and klaxon echoes around him. He slowly sits up, steadying himself. He turns and finds SEBASTIAN LOWE, 18, tall, strong and measured, lying unconscious next to him...dried blood from a forehead cut lining his cheek.

MESSINA  
Commander Lowe?

Messina lightly shakes him

MESSINA (CONT'D)  
Sebastian?

Lowe remains unconscious. He nervously looks around...a smokey haze fills the air as bridge CREW MEMBERS slowly regain consciousness. His eyes catch...AKIRA AKIRA, 18, who on any other day graces those around him with movie star looks and charm, looking disheveled as he struggles to pull himself up into the helmsman's chair. Messina stumbles over to him...

MESSINA (CONT'D)  
Akira? Are you alright?

AKIRA  
I think so. Sit-rep?

MESSINA

I don't know. I just came to. I think everything's offline.

Akira tries to work the helm...

AKIRA

Helm is dead.

MESSINA

Akira...Sebastian's hurt.

Akira forces himself over to Lowe, falling down next to him...

AKIRA

Sebastian? Sebastian!

Lowe starts to regain consciousness.

LOWE

(in pain)

What happened?

Akira rips his uniform sleeve, placing it over the cut on Lowe's forehead, as Lowe struggles to sit up.

AKIRA

Don't get up.

(to the intercom)

Lieutenant Cho to Sickbay.

No response. Akira pulls out his hand held.

AKIRA (CONT'D)

(into his hand held)

Dr. Adler, medical emergency, report to the bridge.

Silence.

MESSINA

Comms must be down.

Lowe...holding the makeshift bandage to his head...

LOWE

I don't need the doctor. I just need a minute. And someone needs to turn off that klaxon.

MESSINA

I can do that!

Messina turns towards a bridge station and pops the control board. Messina is obviously in his element as he strategically and easily makes changes to the circuitry. The klaxon ends as the red alert lighting is replaced by dim emergency lights.

MESSINA (CONT'D)  
(proudly)  
How's that?

LOWE  
Much better.

Messina and Akira help Lowe stand. Lowe leans on the command table for balance.

LOWE (CONT'D)  
Anyone know what happened?

MESSINA  
The last I remember is the aliens firing on us just as we were about to jump to subspace, after the fleet ordered us to fall back.

AKIRA  
And now it looks like all of our systems are down. We don't know where we are, what condition the ship or the crew is in. We're running blind.

LOWE  
(sighs)  
Okay. So then, what are your orders...  
(turning to Messina,  
bracing himself)  
...Captain?

Messina looks frozen with fear...

FADE OUT:

**END OF TEASER**