

Left Behind



By Aylin Sajark

It all started with another fight with her siblings. They hated her for being too different from them. She enjoyed slicing stuff and tinkering with droids and other mechanical parts while her brothers were more the brawling kind of people. They didn't like her approach to things either, it was too different from their line of thought. Her parents had tried several times to stop the fights between them, but it usually lasted only a few days before it started again. She liked her brothers and her parents, but also saw that this wouldn't be the best way to continue on together and she started searching for a different place to live. Much to her surprise it didn't go as she imagined.

Aylin woke up when her whole world was shaking around her and a blast of rockets could be heard. In panic she looked around, she was locked up in an escape pod, stuffed with a load of her items and some food packages. Grabbing her comm she tried to hail her parents ship, but when she finally got a connection she heard a lot of laughing before she saw the ship disappear.

Dejected, she slumped back against the side of the pod. She couldn't believe her brothers just did this to her. They knew she was looking for a different location to live in, but not like this, being shot into space in an escape pod. Sighing she looked out of the small portholes and saw a big blue and purple planet getting close. 'At least they didn't shoot me out to starve in space,' she thought somberly.

As the pod hit the atmosphere it started to shake violently. Aylin and her items got thrown all through the pod. Once through, the pod started it's landing procedure and it slowed down its plummet towards the surface. Aylin got smacked against the hull of the pod and her items piled on top of her at the sudden change of speed when the pod crashed onto the blue earth.

There was a groan from the pile of items as Aylin crawled from underneath it and opened the hatch.

"Urgh... now I know how clothes feel in a washing machine..." she managed to say before her stomach also decided it was enough and emptied itself.

After a few moments of coughing and wiping away tears she sat up and looked around. Her surroundings were oddly coloured, the earth was blue and spongy to her touch, trees and other plants were green but had purple veins running over them. The water was purple which shimmered in the sunlight, it almost sparkled at times.

Sighing deeply she got up and started to walk around the crash site. She hoped to see some traces of other people living here, but only found some dragmarks on the edge of the water. There was a little other fauna, but no people around at all, as far as she could see now.

“Great... I’m alone here. What am I going to do here?!” she said frustrated as she walked back to her pod. “Ok, first things first. I need a place to stay... The pod can serve for now, but I need something else eventually.”

Aylin set off to gather items she would need to get some safe place for the first few days. It took her longer than expected because the air was lower in oxygen than most planets she has been too. But eventually she had a somewhat cosy place to stay and sorted out the items that her brothers had stuffed into her escape pod. The rations she had found would suffice for a week, so she had some time to find out what she could eat around here. She also dared to take a few steps into the purple water, so far it had been safe and after a bit of filtering the water was also drinkable.

It has been five days now that she was alone here on the planet. So far she didn’t see any civilized beings on the surface of the planet. She did see glimpses of aquatic people underwater, but they seem to be very shy and living really deep into the waters around her. She also encountered various wildlife around her pod. Some big water creatures, which she called Mospleu, seem to be curious about her, but have made no move yet to attack her. Other than that she saw bird like creatures and cat and cattle like creatures. Most of them just moved around, the cats had tried a few times to attack her, but she had successfully scared them off.

Sitting on the edge of the water she tossed stones into it, “I can’t believe they still haven’t come back to pick me up... Surely mom and dad must miss me by now.”

One of the Mospleu stuck his head out of the water and let out a low hum as it looked at her.

“Did I wake you?” Aylin said with a chuckle.

It answered with another humm and dived underwater, splashing water in her direction.

“Hey! What are you doing?!”

The Mospleu only stuck a part of its head out of the water before disappearing again, splashing water at her again.

Aylin tilted her head, “Do you want me to follow you?”

She got up and stepped into the cool water after the Mospleu. She felt more than heard the hum of the Mospleu and dived after it. She saw it floating a few meters below her and swam towards it, the water still stinging her eyes a little, but at least her vision had become clearer after a few times testing out the water. The Mospleu rolled over lazily and dived deeper. Aylin did her best to follow it, but its camouflaged skin made it difficult to track in the dimming light.

After a moment she lost track of it at all and floated in the deep cold waters, trying to make out anything around her. Silently she began to wonder why she followed it at all. Slowly she started to swim back up as she felt a gentle bump against her feet. The Mospleu had returned to her and floated before her and called to her in a low humm before bumping its nose against her and gently pushing her further down. Aylin startled at its action, a whole range of doom scenarios running through her mind as she held onto it. She felt the pressure increase around her as they traveled deeper and hoped she would survive it. After a few moments they leveled out and the Mospleu swam with her towards some rock formations. She could make out some dim outlines. It looked like it was bringing her towards a cave deep under water. When they entered there was a soft glow further down the tunnel. It gently swam with her and eventually pushed her upwards until they surfaced a few moments later.

Aylin let go of the Mospleu and swam towards the shore in the underwater cave. The Mospleu rose up a bit further from the water and watched Aylin step out of the water.

“Why did you bring me here?” Aylin asked as she looked around.

The cave seemed to go on for a bit and at various locations it had glowing mushroom like plants. The Mospleu hummed and looked towards a pile of rubble. Arching a brow Aylin walked over towards it and noticed it were some items she thought she had lost in the last few days.

“Hey... These are mine,” she looked back to the Mospleu who tilted its head, “Why did you bring those here?”

The Mospleu sank beneath the water and quickly swam away, leaving Aylin behind.

“Hey!” Aylin ran towards the water, but didn’t see it anymore. “Great... Now I’m stranded in a cave. Nice work Aylin.”

She sighed and walked back to her items, picking them up and stuffing them in her pockets as much as possible. Afterwards she walked a bit further into the cave, perhaps hoping to see other signs of life. She found none, only more glowing mushroom plants.

“Bah, there is nothing here,” muttered as she plopped down on the ground. Grabbing a rock she tossed it, suddenly feeling more alone than when she was at the surface. At least there she could still hear some birds.

Taking a datapad from her pocket she called up a photo of her family and ran her fingers over the faces of her parents, “I miss you...” Curling herself up she cried, she didn’t want to be alone anymore even if that meant having to put up with her brothers, she just wanted to get back to her family.

She woke up to a nudge against her body and sat up. Rubbing her eyes she saw that more items had been brought down here.

“What are you doing? Why are you bringing my stuff down here?”

The Mospleu tilted its head and looked at her items before humming softly. It slowly moved back to the water, dragging its big body over the floor. Before sliding back into the water it looked back at her and hummed again, its tone different this time.

Quickly Aylin got up and ran after it, jumping into the water, “You are not leaving me here alone again.”

The Mospleu swam slowly further and Aylin quickly caught up with it, holding tightly onto its long neck. She felt a humm go through its body and hers before it picked up speed and swam out of the cave. After some time it surfaced again on the planet’s surface, but it seemed like the weather had made an 180 degree turn. The weather was now quite cold and a strong wind was blowing. Aylin made it back to the shore and looked around, it looked like autumn was skipped and winter dropped onto them.

She quickly ran towards her pod, realizing she couldn’t stay here much longer and that the Mospleu was trying to tell her that. Glancing back towards it from the pod she realized that they might have been more intelligent than she thought when she first saw them. She sighed softly and set to work, gathering everything she needed in a few containers and bags. Placing them outside next to the water she tied them together before pulling them into the water.

“I need your help getting these to the cave you showed me. Will you help?”

The Mospleu hummed and grabbed one of the containers as Aylin swam towards it and held on. Before they dived down, she was sure she saw already ice forming on the surface of the water.

“Extreme climates here...”

The Mospleu swam back towards the cave and dropped her containers and bags on the shore before looking at Aylin who pulled them further into the cave.

“Guess I will have to stay down here for some time. I just hope it doesn’t take months for it to pass.”

Aylin poked her dozenth failed attempt at creating a droid companion from the few items that they had given her. It just didn’t work. She sighed deeply and layed back on the floor of the cave. She couldn’t remember how long she had been in here, but she was slowly going crazy.

Every day was the same and she found it harder and harder to keep her usual sunny outlook. The Mospleu who brought her here visited her from time to time and made sure she had something to eat. She even went outside with him back towards the surface, only to find the water getting freezing cold and the surface of the water frozen over. She was trapped underwater and could only imagine what the world on the surface looked like.

She rolled onto her side and sighed again, "I want to see sunlight again..."

A pained humm could be heard behind her, the Mospleu had returned, but this time there was something else.

Aylin got up and walked towards it, "What's wrong? Did something happen?"

It hummed again and motioned her to follow. She nodded and followed it back out the cave, she heard more Mospleu underwater and held onto the one near her. It brought her up towards the group where she saw one of them racing through the water with someone in its mouth.

It took her a moment to calm down the other Mospleu, but they eventually let the person go. As it slowly sank she could see the person was a girl, one of those Togruta. Quickly she followed after her and caught her. With some help she brought her towards her cave and pulled her onto the shore.

"Please be still alive...", she whispered to herself and started checking for a pulse. It was slow, but seemed to be steady. She let out a sigh of relief and checked the rest of her body. Her leg was a mess, being pulled through the water with it by the other Mospleu.

"We will need to fix that."

Aylin hurried off and gathered some materials from her little house. When she returned she started tending the poor girl's leg.

"I wonder what she was doing here... and what she did to the Mospleu to react like that."

After she was done, she made sure the girl was comfortable before walking off and making something to eat, hoping she would come too soon.