

Chapter One

The First Encounter

"Allura! We have three ships of an unknown origin making their way to the same planet the Paladins are currently on."

"Open the com links now! We must warn them." The white haired princess said. Corran nodded and quickly opened the comlink between their castle ship and the Lions. "Everyone! You have three unknown ships coming into the planet's atmosphere, stay on guard. We cannot determine if they are Galra or not."

"We read you loud and clear Princess. We'll keep our eyes open for any activity and jump in if they start to attack the natives." Shiro responded.

The three ships dropped down close to the surface of the planet, but did not touch. Rather, three figures materialized and touched down on the ground. The female wore thin armor that covered her whole body with gloves, boots and a cloak with the hood covering her helmet. One of the males wore a long trench coat and leather like armor, and the other was in thick block like armor. The female held out her hand where a small robot formed out light. It did a quick scan of the land. "There." Was all she said, pointing to the woods. "She wants us to meet her over in that area." The team summoned an odd floating vehicle and shot into the woods. A large green lion slipped from the woods. "Shiro, I've found them. They just disappeared into the woods."

"Can you keep up with them?" Shiro asked.

The line was silent for a moment, then a cackles as the line came back. "No, not without giving myself away. They're moving too fast."

"Then don't, we can just follow them from the sky."

The green lion retreated to the skies and joined with its counterparts. There were five lions in the sky: Green, Blue, Red, Yellow, and Black. "Aw! Did we really loose them that easily?" The pilot of the blue lion complained.

"Shut it Lance, They'll come out of the forest eventually." The Red Paladin, Keith, growled.

Shiro sighed. "Look, just keep your eyes open. We don't know who they are or what they want to do."

The five lions broke apart and spread out. It was not long until Pidge spotted the three armored figures as they burst through the forest on their odd vehicles. The green paladin followed them and listened to their conversation, broadcasting it to her fellow paladins, as she hid. They came to a stop near the broken remains of what looked to be a skyscraper of some sort. The figures slipped off their vehicles and leaned against them. "We'll wait here for her to show up." the woman said.

"What does she even have for us? We could have found the Black Garden at this point because of how far out she wanted us to come!" The male in the thick armor said.

The woman turned to him. "She can tell us where it is and how to get to it. Unless you would rather talk to the Queen of the Reef?" she said.

The man froze, but shook his head and turned away. They did not have to wait long before a different woman shot from out of the woods on her own odd vehicle and stopped in front of them. "Stranger. Can you tell us where the Garden is?"

The newcomer shook her head. "Sorry Hunter, I'm afraid only the Queen knows that. But I can tell you what you will need to get into the Garden."

The three nodded. "Looks like we need to go to the Queen anyway..." The other male said with a chuckle. "Hush Warlock, if there was more time I would explain you. But getting into the Reef without a stealth drive is harder than it looks. And the Queen didn't want to tell me anything, so I had to figure it out myself." Stranger said looking at the man with a trench coat.

"Whatever, just tell me what I have to kill," said the man in thick armor. "Well dear Titan, since you're so trigger happy today, you'll need to go to Venus and kill one of the Vex Gate Lords. Its eye will allow you to open the gate into the Black Garden. Bring it to the Queen, and she can program it and tell you where to charge it. After that, take it to one of the gates. I'm sorry I don't have more, but it's the best I could do."

Shiro's eyes narrowed as she said this. "Venus is right next to Earth. Allura, that's too close to home for comfort."

Allura nodded. "You're right, if they are going to Venus, it may be best to follow them. I've never heard of these people, and there's nothing in the castles database that can give me a hint as to who they are."

"Thank you Princess." Shiro said with a sigh. *This*, he thought to himself. *This could be trouble if we aren't careful...*

Huntress nodded. "Thank you Stranger. You've helped us avoid the Queen for at least a little."

The stranger nodded before hopping onto her vehicle. "New Sparrow? I thought you were fine with your old one?"

Stranger chuckled and shook her head. "My old one got destroyed a few days ago while I was checking on Crota's grave. The Hive were a little too fast, so I got an upgrade to stop that from happening again."

"Fine, just stay safe, we can't be losing another Guardian during times like these."

"Will do, Hunter. Watch yourself out there. The Hive and Vex are getting craftier, and larger in numbers." Stranger said before shooting off, disappearing back into the woods.

"Pidge, can you follow her? She may cause problems with the local populace."

"Sorry Allura, i just lost her into the forest. Green can't get a read on her signature either."

"Pidge, I'm going to land in the forest and see if I can talk to them."

Pidge's eyes went wide. "I would advise against that Shiro. They have weapons, guns at that. They have you beat in range. It's too dangerous!"

Shiro ignored Pidge as he landed in the forest. "Pidge, if they're going to Venus, they may attack Earth too, and that *can't* happen."

He slipped from his lion and made his way toward the edge of the woods. He careful slipped through the trees and stuck to the shade. His instincts screamed at him to stop, right as a bullet hit the tree to his left. He froze and looked at the direction it came from. The one called Hunter had her weapon out and aimed at him. The two males stood at her side, Warlock

motioning him to come closer. Shiro raised his arms slowly so they were above his head. "Shiro! What the *quiznak* do you think you're doing!? They just shot at you!" He could hear Pidge yelling into the comlink, with Allura and several others saying similar things. He continued to walk to them with his hands up until Warlock said stop, leaving about 15 feet between them. "My name is Shiro. I'm a Paladin of Voltron." He said.

Hunter lowered her sniper and slung it across her back, pulling out a different dun.. "Never heard of you. Now," She said, pointing her other gun at him. "Give me a reason as to why I shouldn't knock you out and bring you in for interrogation."

"We have a common enemy." Shiro replied.

"You fight the Vex?" The large man said. Titan shook his head. "If that was the case, then why didn't you say so in the first place?"

"Vex? No, I mean the Galra." He said with a confused look on his face.

Shiro could feel the cold look coming from Hunter as her grip tightened on her weapon. Warlock placed his hand on her shoulder to calm her. She relaxed slightly and allowed him to continue. "We do not know of anyone or anything called the Galra. They have never caused us any problems."

"The Galra is an empire that has been conquering galaxies for over 10,000 years! If you're from Earth, you need to warn them of what's coming!"

Titian growled at him. "Earth has enough problems as it is. Whoever this Galra is isn't that important if they haven't showed up on our radar!"

"Calm yourself, Titian. The Galra may not have made it to our solar system yet." Hunter said quietly. "However," She continued, turning to the Black Paladin. "He is right. If even the Queen has not heard of them, then they have not made it anywhere near Earth. If they had, then she must have had no problem in getting rid of them."

Shiro looked at her confused. "I don't understand, who is the Queen? Earth has none, at least not one that rules over the whole world."

Her head tilted to the side. "What year was it when you left Earth?"

Shiro sighed. "I was captured by the Galra after they ambushed my ship and team. Pidge and the other Paladins would have a better answer. She left Earth after I did with them; I could call them over, if that's alright with you?"

Titian was against the idea immediately. "Hunter, he's just using us to call in reinforcements! We'll be ambushed!"

Warlock threw him a look. "Or he's telling the truth. What ever happened to 'trusting a fellow human'? If he's telling the truth, then it would be good to know when and where he came from."

Hunter nodded. "He's right. You also forget the possibility that he is from the lost colony known as Terra. They could have survived the Darkness and thrived, forgetting their roots. You may call your friends, we will not harm them so long as they do not harm us. Does this seem fair to you?" She asked, turning to Shiro.

He gave a sigh of relief and nodded. Turning his comlink back on, he was bombarded by his team yelling at him about how stupid it was to engage an unknown being. "Guys, I'm fine! Besides, I just got the okay for you all to come to me. As long as we don't attack them, they won't attack us."

“Then I am coming down as well.” Allura said, her tone leaving no room for argument.
“The rest of you can go to Shiro now.”

Shiro gave a sigh and shook his head. Looking to the team, he gave a smile. “They’re coming down from orbit now.”

Hunter nodded. “Let us move closer to the trees, so that they may land without a problem.” She said, motioning for everyone to follow her into the tree line.

Chapter Two

Introducing the Guardians

Shiro did not have to wait long before 4 lions and a smaller ship landed in the clearing they had previously occupied. Shiro stepped from the treeline as the other came running from their ships, weaponry in hand. "Hey." He said with a wave and a smile.

"Hey? Hey?! That's all you have to say after you go and meet the people we were supposed to watch and not interact with at all?!" Lance shouted with his arms flailing.

"For once, Lance and I agree on something! What you did was reckless, they could have killed you!" Keith growled while glaring at him.

Allura shook her head with a sigh. "I think what they're both trying to say, is that they are glad you are safe." She told Shiro with a soft smile.

"Thank you Princess. Follow me, they made a small area for us to stay at while we talk. And put your bayards away, they won't be needed." Shiro said while making his way back into the woods. Lance looked at him with a look of rage and disbelief, before complying and putting his weapon away, complaining the entire time about how they shouldn't trust them if they can have their weapons out. It did not take long for the group to make it to the area that Hunter, Warlock and Titan had set up. Shiro gave a nod to Hunter. "This is my team. This is Pidge, Hunk, Keith and Lance." He said pointing at the respective paladins. "And this is Princess Allura." He finished with a smile.

Hunter nodded. "Thank you for meeting with us." she held her hand out for a moment before an odd small robot materialized into her hand. "Ghost, can you do a scan on the current atmosphere to ensure that it is safe for us to breathe?"

The robot floated above her hand before responding. "The air is currently breathable. However, why are you removing your helmet? It may not be wise in case of an attack, since your regeneration does not work this far out. You're in the Darkness Zone."

"You don't need to worry, everything is going to be fine. We may have some new allies, and I find it only fair that we remove our helmets like they have."

The robot sighed as its body twisted and shifted, like it was nervous. "Fine, but keep in mind that we cannot stay out this far from long. It puts you at a disadvantage."

"Thank you Ghost." Hunter said, before the robot disappeared into a mist and was gone.

"That was so awesome!" Pidge squealed. "How do they even do that. Do you all have one?"

"The Ghosts were given to us by the Traveler. They act as our shield generators and info gatherers when it comes to anything electronic. They also act as a pilot to our ships." Warlock said. "But that can be talked about in a safer location at a different time. For now, let us introduce ourselves. Titan can start, seeing as you would be most familiar with him."

Titan pulled off his helmet and threw a glare at Warlock. "I hate you so much right now." He turned back to the Paladins. "My name is Darren Baines, I'm a Titan class Guardian." The large man had short, curly black hair. His green eyes gave an odd yet pleasant contrast to his

mocha skin. "As you can see, I'm human. Much like you. Humans are one of the three types of beings currently on Earth." He turned and gave a pointed look to Warlock. "Your turn."

Warlock sighed and shook his head. Pulling off his helmet, the paladins looked at the strange robotic being. Their eyes went wide as they studied the being. "My name is Erix-23, but you can just call me Erix." He was mostly white, with dark grey areas. His eye glowed a bright shade of blue, and although definitely male, his form seemed to be slightly more feminine than what they would have thought. "I am a Warlock class Guardian. My kind are called Exos. We were created during the Golden Age to help in a war that has long since been forgotten. However when we were brought back online during the Collapse, none of us could remember anything that had happen."

"What do the numbers mean at the end of your name? Or are they just there to be there?" Pidge asked.

"Ah. We believe that the numbers at the end of an Exos name is the number of times they have been reset, though we have no definite proof of it. Banshee-44 has the most out of all of us, with myself having the next highest number." He turned to Hunter. "That just leaves you."

She pulled off her helmet. Her black hair had a glossy finish and was short. Part of it swept in front of her left eye, while the rest was slightly spiky and off to the right side. The most shocking part of her was her blue skin and bright yellow eyes. Her lips were black and she had odd markings along the center of her nose and at the inner corners of her eyes. "I am known as Selna Tharosh, a Hunter class Guardian. My kind are known as Awoken. We are humans tha-

"Then why do you look so different from Darren?" Lance asked with a pointed look.

"You didn't let her finish. If you did then you might know. Idiot." Keith said with a smirk.

Selna shook her head with a sigh. "My people are humans that fled Earth in hopes to escape the Darkness before it got to Earth. The Darkness did not let that happen. Their ships were destroyed at the Asteroid Belt, and something happened during the destruction to cause a change. We are physically more capable and have significantly longer lifespans than humans."

"How much is longer?" Hunk asked.

"We have two to three times that of a human's' lifespan."

"Then that means you live to 400 or so." Pidge said while tapping a finger to her chin in thought.

"No. We live between 500 and 600 years, with our oldest being 653. The reason being is because of the Traveler. It made human's lifespan 3 times that of its average."

"That's quite impressive. That's even longer than my people." Allura said. "But, who is the Traveler?"

"I was wondering who was going to ask first." Warlock said in a joking tone.

Selna threw him a look, before turning back to the paladins. "The Traveler was found on Mars long ago. It's what brought on the Golden Age of humanity. Humans colonized their solar system and one planet outside of it. That one planet was as far as they got. We believe it was destroyed when the Darkness made its way to us. We are not sure what the Traveler is, but it was both a blessing and a curse to humanity."

"So you trusted something that you have no idea as to what it is? Why? That seems too risky to even try."

"And perhaps it was. But there was more good than bad at the time, and no one knew what it was bringing with it. The Darkness is the natural enemy of the Traveler." Titan said.

"I don't understand. If the Darkness is such a problem, then why doesn't the Traveler do something?" Allura asked while looking at Selna.

"The Traveler is dieing. We, as Guardians, are the only thing that stand between the Darkness and the Traveler."

"Why not let the Darkness just have the Traveler in the first place? Surely it would save you time and keep you safe."

"The Darkness would kill the Traveler and the convert us into one of its own creations. The Traveler is the only thing protecting our home. The Last City is built right under it, using its shield as a natural defence." Erix said softly.

"Wait, the Last City... Like there are no more cities or countries or anything like that?" Lance asked, eyes going wide in disbelief.

"The Collapse was that bad. Humanity lost almost everything." Darren said with a sigh, running a hand over his short hair.

"What was left of the world gathered together under the Traveler and started to use its shield to protect themselves from what was out there. But they needed to protect themselves from what was inside too." Erix continues, his whitish eyes dancing over their forms.

"The city had many major fight for power that happened on the inside. It became such a problem, that the Guardians were created. At first, acting as mediators, they started small, but they eventually grew into those who protect the city inside and out." Selna finished.

Selna glanced over to her teammates, giving a slight incline to get on the go. Erix nodded. She turned back to the paladins and princess, her yellow eyes taking a slightly dimmer look than before. "While you went to pick up your fellow paladins, I called in to one of our commanders. We have permission to take you back to Earth, so you can see for yourself what has happened in the last 700 years."

"Wait wait wait wait! 700 years?! That's how long it's been since the attack from the Darkness?"

"Yes, after many hundred years of living in the Golden Age brought by the Traveler."

She turned to the princess. "Is it safe to assume it is you who commands the paladins?"

Allura nodded her head with a small smile. "Yes I do." "Then it is you that I must ask. May you and the paladins accompany us back to our Earth so that you may understand what has happened? We may be able to help you with these Galra as well."

"I see. Well, I see no problem with going with you."

Selna nodded. "Good. We will take you to our commanders and show you around the Tower, where Guardians stay."

"Then we'll take you to the Cosmodrome. Don't worry about any of the Fallen down there, we'll keep you safe." Erix said excitedly.

"Hell yeah, Cosmodrome will be no sweat. The only place you have to worry about is the Moon! Can we take them to the under section too? Oh! Or maybe the Mothyards? That's always fun!" Darren piped in, a grin growing on his face.

"I apologise for my team, we've all been dying for some action." Selna said with a sigh.

Darren let out a whistle as he looked at his other male teammate. "Man, you know it's bad if even Selna wants to kill something."

Erix only nodded. "Well then what are we still doing here? The Darkness is eating away at our shields anyway, so let's just head back into the Traveler's range and charge up a little."

"Then we go to the Tower and show our guests around." Selna said. "If it's alright with you, it would be best if we go now. With the Darkness eating away at our shields like Erix said, we won't have much longer before we are completely vulnerable."

Allura nodded. "I understand." She turned to the paladins, who were mumbling to themselves. "Paladins. Go to your lions. We will wait for the Guardians to come into this planet's orbit before following them back to their Earth."

They nodded to the white haired princess before running back to their lions. Shiro stayed with the princess. "Oh, and Shiro." Darren said. "I don't know much about what your Earth may have been, but it will be very different compare to what you may expect."

Shiro's eyes narrowed slightly before nodding, following after the princess as she left for the clearing.

Darren looked after them until he was sure they were gone. "Can they be trusted?" Erix's lights dimmed slightly. "I'm still not sure myself. They seem truthful, but you can never be sure." He looked at Selna. "What do you think?"

Selna's eyes narrowed. "Zavala believes this could be a good chance to learn something. I'll trust him on that, but be on guard. We don't know if they can be trusted." She spoke before summoning her Sparrow.

The others followed in suit, before the three of them zoomed off into the forest to find an area to be picked up in.

Chapter Three

The Last City and Its Protectors

It did not take long before three ships appeared on the castle's radar. "Princess, we have incoming transmissions." Corran said looking back at her.

"Put them through." She said while looking at the screen in front of her. By this point, the paladins of Voltron have joined the rest of their team up in the castle's main control room. They each sat in their respective seats to look at the transmission coming through. Three familiar helmets came into their view. "Hello again. If you would follow us, we can take you to Earth." Selna spoke, her Ghost floating next to her. "Just stay close and you'll do fine. We will be jumping into hyperspace for a few before reopening back near Earth."

The ships shot off, but not too far away from the castle. "Princess, we still have them on our radars, they've just moved closer to the star. It looks like they are waiting for us."

"Let's not keep them waiting then." The princess spoke as they shot forward, easily pushing past the Asteroid Belt and into the inner portion of the solar system. Lance looked out the window with wide eyes, pointing at one of the planets as they passed but. "T-that was Mars!"

Keith and Hunk all shot up and rushed over to the side window to look. "Uh guys? Look out the front window." Pidge said.

In front of them was Earth, as blue and green as ever. As they watched, ships about the size of the Guardian's own ones left and entered the Earth's atmosphere. Some were jumping to who knows where, while others were just hanging out in orbit waiting for more of their team. Three ships moved in front of them, a radio signal coming on. "I would suggest taking a smaller vessel, due to space and its own safety." The voice of Erix came through. "Do you wish for us to land with you or go ahead and clear a space?"

"Coming with us would be safer for all, I believe." Allura spoke. "We can also take the same craft down, to make it easier."

"Fine by us Princess. Just stick with us, and you'll be fine." Darren's voice cut through, deep and calm.

The paladins made their way down to a smaller ship. As Allura started to walk out as well, she turned to Corran. "Corran, please, watch over the ship. I still do not fully trust these 'Guardians'. If anything goes wrong, call us back immediately."

Corran nodded, and Allura left the control room to join the paladins. The ship that they occupied shot off the main ship and flew over to the other three waiting for it. Once they met up, they started to move into the planet's atmosphere. Their vision was blocked for a moment as they passed through the clouds, but as the clouds cleared they were able to see what was left to the Guardian's Earth. "We're coming up on the Cosmodrome. I would suggest not flying too low, or the Dregs may shoot at you."