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CHAPTER 1

Craig Carter was once again in space for his commander. This time it was only a routine flight, as he had to pick up a group of people from Solar Star 1, a recently discovered planet. The inhabitants were very friendly to the Earthlings and had requested they be allowed to visit Earth and meet the humans. As Craig had no other mission, he had been instructed to pilot the space shuttle.

The handsome young man had the ability to make friends wherever he went, and had achieved this on many alien planets, but of course he had also made some enemies. Craig steered the huge craft towards Solar Star 1, where another craft flew out to meet him. Their computers interfaced, bringing the two vehicles alongside one another, and then both airlocks opened simultaneously, allowing the passengers to simply step from one craft directly into the other. Once everyone had been transferred, Craig had a few words with the pilot of the other shuttle, before they disengaged and went their separate ways.

Back on Earth, a huge banquet had been prepared for the inhabitants of Solar Star 1, during which they were welcomed enthusiastically by the President of the United States of America. Craig was given the afternoon off and he took Constance to their favourite restaurant where they sat hand in hand, looking into one another's eyes, for they were very much in love.

"Craig, when you go on your next assignment, I'm going to ask Commander Simms if I can come with you, because I'm tired of waiting and worrying when you go off on your own."

Carter smiled lovingly at his girlfriend. "If you can persuade the good Commander to let you come with me, I'd welcome it very much indeed! I miss you when we're separated for long periods of time!"

Craig had the following day off as well. The visitors completed their tour and were returned to their planet by another space