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PART ONE

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The year was 4 000 AD, the date 20 July. Craig Carter, famous Space explorer and his wife Constance had just returned from a long and enjoyable honeymoon. They had been married for three months and were welcomed back by Commander Simms.

"Hello you two lovebirds," said Simms as he grasped Craig's hand firmly. "I can see the honeymoon has left you two still deeply in love – your eyes say it all."

"But of course!" giggled Constance happily, "Craig is wonderful and I love him dearly."

"I'm glad for both of you! Love is wonderful and I too had someone to love once," the Commander sighed. "If only my dear wife hadn't died three years ago. I have never found anyone else quite like her. Well anyway, welcome back."

"Thank you, Sir," replied Craig sincerely.

"Well I have a lot to do, so I'm going to carry on here. I realise both of you also have plenty to arrange. Get settled in at home and I'll drop by for a visit in two days."

"No problem Sir. Come for supper," invited Constance.

Simms shook his head emphatically. "Nonsense, I'll drop by afterwards."

"Please come and have dinner with us, Sir," pleaded Craig. "You know we appreciate everything you have done for us to now, and anyway, Constance is a very good cook."

Commander Simms grinned. "All right then, thank you. I accept your kind offer."

On arriving at their apartment, Craig slid the card into the door and punched in the relevant code. The door opened quietly and Craig scooped his bride into his arms. Once inside, he set her down in the lounge, then