

# The Awakening Call

## The Star Flight Series

### Chapter 1

A voice cracked over a loud speaker in the hallways.

Bleep, “Will Officer and Luteniut Tehl report to commander Shea’s office. Will Officer Artemis and Officer Lana report to Commander Shea’s office please, thank you.” Bleep.

Officer Tehl, also known as Artemis pushed a small button on his telicast and replied. “On our way!”

Artemis is a tall, handsome, silver haired man with piercing blue eyes in his late 40’s. His wife, Officer Tehl, or Lana, was a tall slim black haired beauty in her mid 40’s.

“Artemis.”

“Yes Lana?” Artemis asked turning around nearly colliding with his wife.

Lana narrowed her green cat eyes, tossed her head and ordered. “We should go this way, it’s faster.” She said pointing to a long hallway on the left.

Together they walked down the long colorless hallway, their footsteps echoing on the empty walls. Hundreds of doors cluttered the walls but Lana and Artemis walked on, ignoring them. At last they reached the end of the hallway.

“Open.” Lana commanded the door. It beeped, a few lights flashed, and then it opened. Lana and Artemis walked into a white room with a big metal desk in the center of the room. Behind the desk was a small mousy-looking woman with big, round, bottle cap glasses that magnified her eyes. They perched on her nose, as she peered down at them.

“Commander Shea will see you now!” She squeaked.

Artemis smiled, his white teeth glinting, and said. “Thank you!”

“Your welcome” She squeaked falling off her stool in surprise.

Lana and Artemis made their way toward a tall gray door in the back of the room. They straightened their gray Galaxy Command Uniforms that had a small 4 pointed star in the left shoulder, pushed their hands into the gel pad, waited while it read their fingerprints, than entered the room once the door swung open.

The office was large and spacious. The floor was covered in thick navy blue carpeting. The walls were white with a few oil paintings scattered around. There was a huge window in the back of the room that allowed the Commander to see out into space. An oak desk was placed in the center of the room with two large comfortable blue leather chairs in front of it. The commander was sitting in a large silk covered chair behind the desk. She was paging through a file, unaware of her company. She had short dirt brown hair with sharp brown eyes. Her smile lines were barely visible even though she had just turned 45. She had a kind, warm face with a tall muscular build. This was Commander Shea, one of the nine commanders of the Galaxy Command Force, and Captain of The USS America, the huge space ship that Lana and Artemis were standing in now.

The USS America needed to have 1,000 crewmen minimum to keep her going. She is as big as the city of New York was, and had over 2,000 power cannons, laser guns, sniper holes, and battle stations. The USS America’s shield could be put up to keep her safe from enemy fire.

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It is strong enough to repel nuclear war missiles, and the only downfall was that they couldn't use it a lot because it used so much power.

*"All this power, in the hands of this one person!"* Lana thought to herself while studying the commander. *"And yet, I can't think of another person who is more qualified and worthy of it."* She thought smiling.

The commander had finally looked up, smiled, and said. "Lana! Artemis! Come sit down!" She said beckoning to the leather chairs.

"Thank you Commander" Lana said saluting then gracefully lowered herself into a chair while pushing some of her dark curls out of her face.

"What is this about Commander?" Artemis said mimicking his wife.

The Commander didn't reply and instead pressed a few buttons on her desk. After a few long moments she spoke. "Lana and Artemis for today, at least for this hour let's skip the formalities. Please call me Shea. We can speak freely in here, I have just locked us in, and I have activated the sound proof walls.

Lana narrowed her eyes. "Why?" She demanded.

Shea studied Lana and Artemis. "I've received a new assignment from the GCF (Galaxy Command Force headquarters. It is extremely complicated and this mission holds the future of the GCF." Lana and Artemis mutely watched her. She bit her lip and went on. "As you know the GCF is falling apart. Any day we might be forced to give into the Galactic International Space Pact. (GISP) No one in this solar system is happy about that but with Natus attacking us I don't think we have a choice. When Natus corrupted and destroyed Earth I think we found out that he was the real enemy."

"Shea" Artemis said butting in. "Would you please explain the whole war and Natus? Every one knows that we don't like Natus, nor the GISP but I don't think anyone but you commanders really know why."

The commander nodded. "Of course. A war had lasted for a long time between our solar system, and other galaxies. They had joined to become one system, the GISP. They wanted us to join but being stubborn and rebellious we refused, we had ten commanders at that time, one for each planet, and the Earth's moon. The GISP tried to take us by force but for some reason they were never able to. At that time an evil leader arose. His name was Natus. We were so busy fighting the GISP that we never noticed when he gained control over Earth. By this time people had moved to the moon, Mercury, Mars, and Venus. Some people were even settling on the moons of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. There was also a small colony on Pluto, so no one really took notice of Earth. Then one day the GCF turned around, saw Natus in control of Earth, and tried to regain Earth. He then gave a "Demonstration" of what would happen if some one tried to oppose him. He destroyed Earth with his technology, and the Commander of Earth died along with millions of other people. The only proof we even have of the Earth is the moon, which is some how still rotating around the spot that was earth. Billions of people were killed when Earth was destroyed. The GCF declared a solar crisis and we tried to rebuild our ruined dreams. The GISP left us alone for a while, then after about three years they came back still demanding that we join. The nations of our solar system had a thirst for vengeance, so we became convinced that the GISP had sent Natus. We ran them out of our systems and that is when something happened that neither Natus, the GISP, nor the GCF expected. Natus was killed in an accident. A famous captain and his family were flying toward Jupiter's moons to take a

vacation. Natus found them, and captured them. Somehow the Captain's ship exploded which brought down all of Natus's home base. There were only three survivors. The brave Captain's daughter, her horse, and one of Natus's soldiers. They survived because for some reason Natus had taken a liking to the girl. He had allowed the guards to take the little girl out of her cell to play. She and her baby horse wandered into an escape pod along with her guard. When the ship exploded they ejected. It's a miracle they made it out. Anyway the GCF rejoiced, our nation was freed from one threat. The GISP then made a treaty with us saying they wouldn't force us to join, but that we would not fight them and they would not fight us, we also found out that they had nothing to do with Natus, and instead they too were having problems with him. We agreed and ever since then we have kept to ourselves. That was until now. Rumor is that Natus had risen, again. So far three planets of the GISP have been destroyed in his name. We are afraid that, that will happen to us, so we have decided to send ambassadors to the GISP. The Commanders have reached an agreement. We will join the GISP."

Artemis stared wide-eyed at Shea. "Are you serious?" He questioned, and Shea nodded.

"And why haven't we heard of these survivors before?" Lana asked rubbing her chin thoughtfully.

"The soldier asked for us not to tell. Every one knows about the Captain but no one but the Commanders and the soldier know who he is, we are doing this to protect his daughter. The daughter believes that her family was on a trip when there was an accident and the ship crashed leaving her and her horse as the only survivor. The soldier took care of the girl for two weeks while he waited for help. He is now a 1<sup>st</sup> mate on a ship, and an excellent one at that! He asked that the child was never to see or know about him and that is why we did this. The soldier was really a good man he was just forced to join the wrong side. The little girl's name is Destiny."

"And what does this have to do with our assignment?" Artemis prodded.

"Directly after the destruction of Earth the nine remaining commanders gave an order that all newborn babies needed to be tested for the "gift or talent" that some of the GISP members have."

"Gift?" Artemis questioned.

"Having the gift just means that they have special abilities. Special abilities like telekinetic, telepath, empath, telepathic, physic, and so on." Shea said. "The commanders were jealous that quite a few planets in the GISP had some people with very, very minor gifts. None of them were very strong, or useful, but still the GCF wanted to show that they had some gifted people also. They tested for five years, and in that time period they only found eight."

"Only eight?" Lana asked. "In five years? That must have wasted a lot of money!" She said.

"Yes it did, that's how come they stopped, plus the last two years of those five years they found nothing. But the eight children they did find were amazing. Their brainwaves were off the charts. No one in the GISP could match the amount of gift/talent they had. These kids appeared to use parts of their brain, which normal people couldn't use. So we placed trackers on the kids and kept in touch with their parents. Sure enough, a few years later the parents reported that their children had strange abilities. One family reported that when their little boy cried, it rained, and when he was happy, the sun shone. Another family reported that their daughter could communicate with animals. Not all the parents reported something, but then again tragedy seemed to strike these poor kids. At least half of the kids, who are now teens, are either orphans, or they have only one parent. Time passed and the commanders forgot the kids, and concentrated on the GISP, until now. We had to find eight fully capable, smart ambassadors to go to the GISP

and tell them we will join. Needless to say, no one wanted to go. Not only would it be like eating humble pie, but, it is extremely dangerous because Natus is sure to try and kill the ambassadors. We wanted to send military persona, because they could defend themselves, but everyone refused. Then my secretary dug up the files on the kids. We found more information on them and found that they are all practically geniuses and figured, even though they hadn't been trained as ambassadors, why not send them? After all we could just feed them lines, and they'll be able to survive much easier than any normal human.

"Who are these teens?" Lana said unimpressed while Artemis's eyes continued to grow until they were roughly the size of dinner plates.

The commander looked at the file in her hand. "One is Destiny, the other human survivor of the explosion that killed Natus. She is on the moon along with Darien Denver. Destiny also knows another girl teen, Micah Trinity." She said handing Darien's folder to Artemis and Destiny's folder to Lana. She kept Micah's folder and looked at it. "According to our sources Destiny knows both Darien and Micah, who is now missing, so all you need to do is find Destiny."

Artemis blankly stared at her and said. "If I may be so bold to ask, why are you sending them, they might screw up and the GISP will think that we are really behind times if we send them eight teenagers."

"We have no choice. They are our last chance." Shea said.

"I guess you have a point there." Lana said thoughtfully. "So, what's our mission?"

"Your mission has several points." Shea said handing over the rest of the files. "The first part is to find all the gifted teenagers and ask them to become ambassadors. We as in the commanders will tell the parents, that way they know what to expect. The second part is to train the kids in self-defense and in political issues. I want them to be training always, even when we send you on other quests."

"Quests?" Lana asked.

"Over half the GISP thinks that we're snobby nitwits, and that we can't take care of ourselves. We need you to change that thought by going on quests. The GISP is currently under heavy attack by Natus, or some one who claims to be Natus."

Suddenly a dawning look bloomed on Artemis's face. "That's why you wanted the gifted teens to be the ambassadors, because they can help out those planets!"

Shea nodded. "The last part, you travel to the GISP assembly and plead with them to allow us in. That's it."

Lana and Artemis nodded. "So." Artemis said. "What kind of a ship do we get and when do we leave?"

Shea smiled. "Your ship is called the Star explorer. She's not small, but she isn't big, mind you. You need about 45-55 people to manage her. She is on docking bay 27 garage number five. You leave tomorrow at 8:00 am. Captain Lain and the Crew will-

"You actually trusted our son with a SHIP?" Artemis hooted.

The commander glared. "He was the top of his class and don't interrupt me!"

"You must be pretty desperate." Lana mused.

Shea stared at them for a moment before continuing. "Lain and the crew will be ready for you. Good luck!"

"Thank you commander." Lana and Artemis said standing up. They shook hands and departed. At the door Artemis stopped, turned around, and crept back to Shea's desk.

“Commander?” He asked in a big innocent voice. “Would you Please stock the ship with good stuff and NOT that icky gruel and vitamins all the other ships- YOW!” He yelled as Lana grabbed him by the ear and dragged him out the door.

“We are going, NOW!” She frostily said. The commander hide a smile behind her hand and watched Lana drag a whining Artemis out of the door.

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“This is it! Docking bay one, garage number 27!” Lana said glancing at the numbers on the side of the gray metal door before her.

“Open!” Artemis commanded. The tiny computer on the left side of the door chirped.

“Voice lock activated, scanning voice, voice accepted.” The door opened and steam poured into the hallway. Artemis and Lana slowly walked into the huge garaged. The garage had a metal floor and plastic walls. The garage was a place where the GCF kept the ships that docked for a day or a week so they could gather supplies and debrief the Commander.

Artemis whistled when he saw the Star Explorer. “COY! The commander wasn’t lying when she said that the Star Explorer was a beauty!”

Lana stopped walking and looked at the ship for a moment. “It isn’t that bad, is it? Come on!” She said briskly walking on.

“THAT BAD?” Artemis yelled from behind her. “She is a brand new model! The SC 900!” He howled.

The ship was built for speed. She had an arrow shaped body with a circular nose. A small section connected the body and the cockpit this was called the bridge. The cockpit was large and spacious, and in the cockpit was the pilot’s station. Here the pilot would move the ship, and drive it. Next to the pilot was the second navigator. This navigator would use the info that the main navigator printed out from the computers. He/She would then tell the pilot where to go. On the other side of the pilot was the captain. He would give out orders and use the computers and press the buttons along with the navigator and pilot. Around the cockpit were three bedchambers for the pilot, second navigator, and the captain. The rooms were the largest bedchambers and were built for comfort. The bridge was where the first mate’s look out post was. He had a small room on one side of the bridge, which was where he got print out from each station. He had to make sure that everything was running smoothly. The bridge’s walls were made up of windows, so it was also a great place to go to be alone and to look out into space. The body contained everything else. The computers were located in the center of the body. The computers were used to scan the area, get read outs of planets, tell distances, use radar, and tell many, many other things. The navigator’s base was here along with the head engineer, and several other people would watch the radar and readouts. Battle stations could be found in the front and back of the body as well as in the cockpit. The main base for weapons however was in the front of the body where a training room was also. The engine rooms where in the very back of the body. The rest of the body was made up of a conference room, more bedchambers, the mess hall, the rec room, and storage room.

Lana and Artemis walked up the ramp that led to the inside the bridge.

“Welcome aboard Officers.” A tall muscular man said from in the shadows. He stepped into the light and his forest green eyes glittered. He was about six feet tall and was strong and muscular and had blonde hair.

“Thank you Captain.” Lana said.

“Your lucky!” Artemis said. “When I was 23 I would of NEVER had a ship this nice! And I wouldn’t have been a captain when I was 23 either!” He said in a lecturing tone.

“Would you like a tour of the ship, or do you want to meet the crew?” Lain asked ignoring his father’s comment.

“Lets see the ship!” Artemis said enthusiastically.

“Okay!” Lain said immediately starting down the bridge with Artemis right behind him.

“YOU GET BACK HERE RIGHT NOW!” Lana yelled at the men, but they were already too far away to hear.

She heard a faint snicker behind her. She turned around and glared at a fair skinned, light brown haired blue-eyed man. Her eyes filled with sparks and she barked at the crew in front of her. “You! Tell you name and job.”

The man who laughed looked about in his early 20’s, he snapped to it and said. “I am Rist Tjay, the weapons officer.”

“And what did you find so funny?” She asked.

“Nothing!” He said as his big innocent blue eyes widened.

She nodded and turned toward the rest of the crew and said expectantly. “Well, who is next?”

“I am Jonathan Smith, the second mate and book keeper.” A tall, quiet man said. He had dark brown hair and teal colored eyes. Lana supposed that the younger women thought that he was handsome, but Lana preferred her Artemis.

A tall man said with stony hazel eyes crept out of the crowd of officers. He had dark brown hair and his stare pierced Lana’s soul.

“You are officer...?” Lana said.

“I am Dr. Tristian Lavix, the ships surgeon and doctor.” He said coldly.

An awkward silence followed until a pale figure in the back slipped out into the light. He had brilliant sky blue eyes, pale skin, and white hair. “I am Zane, the First mate.” He said. “I’m sorry but our ships navigator is onboard preparing for take off. His name is Andrey Drove, I’m sure you’ll hear from his sometime.”

Rist snickered. “That’s for sure!”

Two figures slipped out of the crowd. A slim woman with bronze colored hair and stormy gray eyes smiled and said. “Hi, I am Patricia Yang. I am the ships head computer programmer, and head engineer.”

“And I am Elaine Trinity, the head linguist.” A taller woman with fading black hair and friendly dark brown eyes spoke out in a husky voice. She was fair skinned and had almond shaped eyes.

Lana nodded. “I’m Officer Lana, my husband Officer Artemis, was the man who ran away with my son. We are your commanding officers for this mission.” The crowd nodded, saluted, and walked away.

“If you’ll excuse us Officer, we’re about to take off.” Zane explained walking up to her. “I’ll show you to your room if you want.”

“Thank you, that would be nice.” Lana agreed.

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About an hour Lana and Artemis sat in the conference room, facing Lain, and Zane.

“Did the commander tell you what our mission was?” Lana asked. Lain and Zane nodded.

“The crew knows, they also know of the abilities these teens will have.” Zane said.

Artemis nodded as he opened Destiny’s folder. “Our main target right now is a girl, she knows all the other teens. You might have heard of her, Destiny LaCelest.”

Both Zane and Lain gasped. “The 15 old Miracle pilot? The one who finished the Death canyon race in 13.35 seconds?” Lain asked.

Artemis nodded and Zane put on a guarded expression. “Why her?” Zane asked

“She was one of the children with the abilities. Apparently she knows all of the other gifted teenagers. Lana explained. Zane nodded and his face relaxed.

“According to our sources she has the day off tomorrow, we’ll have to track her down.” Artemis said.

*Bleep* “Excuse me captain, we’ll be landing on the west side of Jasper City in a few minutes.” The stormy voice of Patricia said over the loudspeaker.

The captain nodded. “Alright, thanks Patricia.” He said pushing a button on the table.

“Welcome.” *Bleep*. She said turning the loudspeaker off.

“You can leave when ever you want mom and dad, just tell Zane or I.”

Lana and Artemis nodded and stood.

“I have one finial question though.” Lain said as Lana and Artemis paused at the door. “Will Destiny be the pilot for this trip?”

“Yes, all of the teens are going to have a job. For example, Destiny will be the pilot, Darien the second navigator, and Micah a computer programmer.”

“Alright.” The captain said. “They all had better be good at their jobs.”

“They’re the top of their classes.” Artemis said as he and Lana exited.

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