

A meteoroid strikes the planet Ilios. Its strange vibration endangers all life there. The alien stones must be stilled.

Harmonics and Shaken Hope

By Renee W. Peek

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harmonics
and
Shaken
hope

BOOK 7

Renee W Peek

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Chapter 1

Maddison's frustration was painfully obvious, "I'm sorry Sophia but I'm just not as smart as you. I think maybe everyone got this wrong. I'm not meant to be a healer. You went to medical school. I could never do that. No I take that back, I could go, I could never graduate."

Sophia held up her hands, "Stop right there. You think I became a healer *after* I graduated medical school?"

"Well yeah."

Sophia laughed out loud. "That's not what happened at all. I went into school knowing more than most all of my teachers. And Maddy, not because I studied books or listened to lectures, but because Gaia taught me.

"She knows more than I will ever be able to learn. It's your job to let her teach you. It's not about rules and averages. For instance, what is the correct body temperature?"

Maddison answered easily, "98.6, everyone knows that, even me."

Sophia continued, "So you would say if I took your temp right now and it was 98.6 you would be well? Yes?" Maddy nodded.

Sophia smiled, "I know that's wrong, for you. Your healthy temp is 97.2. That's what I mean about rules and averages. As a healer it's your job to know what's right for that person.

“Here let me show you. Katie, could you come over and help your mom and me?”

The child always eager to be in on things rushed over. “Yes auntie Sophia what do you want me to do?”

Sophia set the girl in a chair, “I need you to sit quietly and think about swimming in your lake. I want you to imagine swimming as fast as you can out to the raft. Can you do that for me?”

Katie nodded. Sophia spoke softly, “Then close your eyes and start swimming.” Sophia placed Maddy’s hands on the child and held her hands over them. Both women let their heads falls back.

After several minutes Sophia spoke to Katie, “Now Katie, I need you to think of lying in the warm sand on the beach, closing your eyes and falling asleep.”

Maddy smiled as she held her position. “Katie, can you think about running in the field with Luna?”

Sophia pulled her hands from Maddison’s. Maddy let her hands fall away after several more minutes.

Katie looked at both women, “How did I do? Did I do good? I can think about other things too.”

Maddison hugged her daughter, “Thank you so much, you did perfectly. Thanks for helping auntie Sophia and me.” Katie ran off.

Maddison looked at her friend, “Okay okay, I get it now. Her vital signs all changed when she saw herself doing different activities, but all of them were healthy for her.”

Sophia enjoyed passing on her knowledge. Maddison was a very eager and receptive student. “Now I want you to evaluate me. Assess my health.”

Maddy was hesitant, “I don’t know why, but I’m nervous.”

Sophia sat back in the chair and tried to relax, “If it helps, so am I.”

Maddy laid one hand on Sophia’s head and one on her chest, and let her head fall back. Maddison held this for several minutes. When she let her hands fall away, she just stared at her friend. “Sophia why did you never tell me?”

The healer smiled at her friend, “How does one bring up a subject like that, really?”

Maddison’s voice was concerned, “When, how, what happened. How old were you?”

Sophia eased her friend’s concern. “I was just 22, in medical school actually. We were doing tests on each other, and they found something. My fellow students were excited, me not so much.

“They normally would have treated it differently but as you know I don’t handle medications well. So they took the breast, and got it all. There was a great reconstructive surgeon, he did an amazing job.”

Maddy hugged her dear friend, “I am awed by you more and more everyday Sophia Bentham. Thank you for sharing that with me, you are a brave woman.”

Sophia was a little teary, “I trust you with my life and now my story. Losing Tam and Jimmi has made me see things differently. You are a part of me, I am honored by that, sharing this with you makes me feel closer.”

Sophia shook off the moment, “You can’t get out of your lesson that easily though. Now back to work. I can tell you honestly, I might never have made it through medical school if it weren’t for Gaia.

“I don’t do good with memorizing at all, I was a mess with that, but I knocked it out of the park with all the practical stuff, that was Gaia.

“Maddison if you’re open and let her guide you, she’ll show you everything you need to know. Stop trying so hard. I know you’re new to her and Adelphi’s voice, the way they speak. You have to relax into it, let it fill you, become a part of you. Just be who you’re meant to be.”

Maddy shook her head, “You make it sound so easy. I’m still so intimidated by their voices, and in awe. I lose myself when they’re talking sometimes, it is so beautiful. I find myself crying. Not the powerful healer image, I know.”

Sophia tried to ease her fears, “This is all still very new to you. Maybe I’m pushing you too hard.”

Maddison stopped those thoughts, “Whoa, don’t stop pushing. I want to do this. I want to do this right. Please keep going, what’s next teach?”

Sophia started walking away, “Let’s go make your first house call.”



Alexis and Caleb were waiting outside for the healer. Alexis was happy to see Maddison too. “To what do I owe the honor of two healers, for this visit?” Caleb helped Alexis from her chair so she could greet her guests.

Sophia reached out a hand to assist the expectant mother, “Maddy is my healer in training today. We will both be checking on your progress. How have things been going?”

Alexis smiled, “My biggest issue is balance. Getting up and down is an event. I’m so used to just being able to bend down and pick things up. Now I just give up and wait for Caleb. Finn is getting better at helping with that though. Unless it’s food then he just swallows whatever it is whole.”

Sophia began her lesson, “So Maddison, assessing your patient begins the moment you see them. Look at body language, complexion, and eyes. Then ask yourself, are they happy to see you, or are they nervous and hiding something?”

Sophia was not looking at Alexis, both she and Maddy had Caleb in their sights.

Maddy nodded to Sophia, “Why don’t you take Alexis in and do your evaluation, I’ll stay out here with Caleb.”

Sophia was pleased, Maddy’s was becoming more in tune with her natural abilities. She took her patient inside and left Maddison to deal with Caleb.

As soon as they were gone Caleb started to get up, but Maddy reached out and sat him back down again. “Not so fast mister. Tell me, what’s going on?”

He was shocked by her question, “What do you mean? Nothing is going on.”

She laughed, “You have to remember who you’re talking to here young man. I have many more years refusing to ask for help and trying to cover up injury or illness. I’ve taken the phrase ‘I’m fine’ to new and remarkable heights. So come on, let me see. What have you done to yourself?”

Caleb hesitantly lifted his shirt up revealing a horribly bruised side and long gash across his back. The wound was red and angry. It was apparent he had attempted to treat it himself.

Maddy stayed composed and even, “I see you’ve done some cares yourself. But this is a serious injury. How did you do it?”

Caleb was embarrassed, “I’ve been working on the addition to the house. I probably was moving too fast and was really tired, I kind of fell off the roof.”

Maddy sympathized with the boy, “I know how much you love Alexis and those two little girls you’ve got on the way. I also

know how much you want to do all this yourself, but it's most definitely time to ask for help.

"I miss Jimmi in situations like this. I could have her scold the heck out of you, it really isn't in my wheelhouse. I will tell you that I am going to heal this and then get you some help up here. Now sit back and let me see if I can do this, I've never done anything like this before, it might really hurt."

Caleb pulled away, "Ma'am?"

Maddy smiled at the boy, "Just playing, that will teach you to try to hide things from me, now relax. When we're done here, we can go check on Alexis."

After the healing, Maddison and Caleb joined Sophia and Alexis. The very pregnant woman was curious, "What did you two have to talk about?"

Maddison grinned at the boy, "Caleb and I had a fine chat, we agreed it was time to call in reinforcements. He's going to get ahold of his brother Beau to help finish the addition. Then I'm calling Erin to come up and give you a hand.

"This last month is going to be very busy getting things ready for these two, a little help will make it that much easier."

Alexis's face beamed, "Oh Maddy you are a miracle worker. I have been asking my very stubborn husband to call Beau for weeks."

Sophia shared a knowing look with Maddy. “So Ms. Bear’s Heart, now that we have all that settled, please evaluate the patient. I’ve made my assessment let’s see how you do.”

Maddy knelt next to Alexis and laid her hands on the girl. She let her head fall back, holding this position for several minutes. When she finally pulled her hands away, she smiled at Alexis. “You’re doing great, a little dehydrated but very healthy.”

Sophia pushed her, “Anything else?”

Maddison was hesitant, “The babies are not identical, they must be fraternal twins?”

Sophia clapped her hands, “Exactly right, not easy to spot, well done.”

Alexis was impressed too, “Miracle worker and a healer.”

After the two healers verified Caleb called his brother, Sophia contacted Erin on her comm. “Sophia how wonderful, I was just thinking about you. I haven’t seen your new house yet. Is it beautiful, of course it’s beautiful Daniel is such a good builder. Is it finished yet? Have you moved in? Do you need help? I would love to help.”

Sophia had to interrupt, “Erin it is so good to talk to you. The house is nearly done, and we are starting to move things. But that’s not why I’m calling. I do need your help though, just not with moving. I need your help with Alexis.”

Erin started again, “Oh no is something wrong? Did she fall? Are the babies alright? Should I come right now? What can I bring?”

Sophia’s smile was audible, “Slow down girl. Alexis is fine but she’s getting very big and very tired. I was just hoping you could help out a bit with chores and making sure she doesn’t over do.”

Erin’s joy exploded, “Yes yes yes, I’ve been dying to see her, and I would love to help out. Collin can take care of Mahto. I’ll be there in a few hours. Oh thank you so much for asking me, you’re so kind.”

Sophia was as always impressed with the tenderness and selflessness of Erin, “You are a good woman Erin, we are all lucky to know you.”

Chapter 2

Sophia and Maddy headed back. The ride was suspiciously quiet, Sophia wanted to know why. “Maddison, the work you did there was brilliant, I thought you might, I don’t know, be happy about that. You read Caleb, knew he needed you, and I have to say not many could have seen the difference in the twins. So why aren’t you celebrating?”

Maddison was hesitant to respond, “Sorry, I am happy it’s just, well I keep thinking I want to share this with Jimmi and Tam. I still miss them so much. I want them to know how I’m doing.”

Sophia had a sly grin, “They know, I guarantee they know.”

Maddison was shocked, “What the hell Sophia. What are you saying?”

Sophia came clean, “I have spoken with both Isabella and Welania. I’ve been seriously struggling with this being a shaman thing. Isabella came to me one particularly weepy, sleepless night.”

Maddy’s concern for her friend came to the fore, “Sophia why didn’t you say something? You know I’m here for you.”

The healer tried to diminish the issue, “I know, I know, but you’re going through your own stuff. Like you, I’m out of my comfort zone, so I tried to handle it on my own, and I was failing remarkably. Then when I was at the end of my rope, I heard Isabella’s voice in my head.”

Maddison challenged that, “I thought those four were on a mission of discovery, far away.”

Sophia tried to explain, “I really don’t understand it myself, but it seems they can be away and here at the same time. And you tell me Maddison Bear’s Heart if Ke’ala Kekoa and Tamara Akana have the ability to watch over what they see as their children and grandchildren do you think they wouldn’t?”

Maddy was teary, “So you think they’re with us, you think they know?”

Sophia grinned, “I know they know.”

Maddison’s demeanor changed, a satisfied smile spread across her face, “Thank you for telling me, you have no idea how much I needed to know that.”

Sophia corrected her, “Oh yes I do. Welania and Isabella were able to lift me out of a huge hole. I was beside myself trying to figure things out. I’ve always been able to deal with the health of the body and mind but I was in new territory with health of the soul.”

Maddy never thought of that, “The spiritual guidance of shamans is vital. So they helped you?”

Sophia was reflective, “They gave me the shove I needed.”

Maddy wanted clarification, “A shove?”

Sophia looked at her friend, “More like a gentle nudge. They took me down by the waterfall near the new house and told me to get into the pool at the bottom. They inspired me to

experience the water, touch, look, sound, smell and taste, understand the body of water.

“Next, they encouraged me to just float, let go, and connect with the mind of the water. I don’t know how long I spent just drifting along when I felt myself pulled under.”

Maddison gasped. Sophia continued, “I know right? At first, I was frightened and I struggled, but I heard their voices in my head. Isabella said to relax and let the spirit of the water fill me. It was the same as the energy I feel when I connect to the planets.

“Welania’s voice told me to let go and join with the water. She said it has been beckoning to you since you were a child, it’s time to answer the call.”

Sophia’s voice was trembling, “Maddy I’m really not sure what happened next, but I think I *was* water. I know it might sound crazy but I think I actually became water. I can’t explain it any other way.”

Her voice was breathless, “I am starting to understand things in a way I never thought possible.”

Sophia looked at Maddy thinking she might be afraid of her insane friend. She was met with a teary knowing smile, “I can feel your joy and connection. I didn’t know what it was. A couple days ago when you came to the house, I was filled with this sense of peace. That was you. Sophia I’m so happy for you.

“What did Welania mean you’ve been drawn to water since you were a child?”

Sophia was hesitant, "I'm not sure if I should tell you that."

Maddison was confused, "That sounds worrying."

Sophia was apologetic, "Sorry, the answer to that question kind of involves you. But I guess it's better you know now."

Maddy was getting anxious, "You can't hold back, tell me what's going on."

Sophia took a deep breath, "When I was a kid I was inextricably drawn to water, rivers, lakes streams, any body of water pulled me in. Not unlike your Katie only likely not as intense."

Maddison pulled her horse to a stop and looked Sophia in the eye, "What are you saying?"

Sophia smiled at her friend, "I'm saying we, you and I, came to all these revelations late in life, Katie was born into it. Her life is going to be amazing. The things she will be able to do and see are beyond my ken. You have your hands more than full with that one."

Maddison tried to wrap her head around what she just heard, "I guess it's what we all hope for our children, that they will surpass us, at the same time, being terrified they'll surpass their need for us. Funny, now I think I'll be better able to sympathize with Anna and her worry about Alexis growing beyond her."

Maddy and Sophia rode in silence for more than a kilometer, processing it all. Maddison broke the quiet, "Damn you Sophia Bentham, things were just getting back to normal. I thought

life was going to be smooth sailing for a while. And now you've stirred everything up again. I'm tired woman, so tired. Maybe I'm just getting old."

Sophia laughed, "That's it, just a couple of boring old ladies us. Maybe we just need a new adventure."

Maddison's comm came on. It was Seka, "Maddy I need you, there is trouble on Ilios. You must find Nadia and come now."

Maddison's voice reflected Seka's intensity, "What happened? Is anyone hurt? Sophia is with me. Do we need to go there now? Is the council aware?" Maddison could hear Bailey shouting at Seka to hand over her comm.

After a bit of a kerfuffle, the next voice that came over the comm was Bailey, "Calm down Maddy, there's no emergency or tragedy. Seka is just very excited to visit the site. It seems a large meteoroid hit the planet. The leader of Ilios contacted Seka to investigate, she is beside herself with excitement. That is the urgency you heard, not an emergency at all."

Maddison relaxed, "Thank you for explaining, as well as caring for that overly enthusiastic woman. I will contact Nadia, please don't let Seka do it. Taking a trip to Ilios might be a good diversion for the both of us.

"I'll let you know when we can accompany you. Can you contact Oriana and see if she is willing to get us there and back?"

Sophia smiled at Maddy, "Not an adventure but it might be fun. Anything with Seka tends to be a bit stressful, but it might

be a chance to get away from me and your lessons. Nadia may feel the same. I know she's been spending a great deal of time with Quinn working on her empathic skills. You two deserve some time off just for fun. Have you been to Ilios before?"

Maddison was remembering, "I have, it's not easy. I admire the people that live there, the suns are close, very hot and bright. They have developed sunglasses that work well for newcomers. But it is beautiful. All the plant life is very different and the animals as well. You've never been?"

Sophia was hesitant, "No, Daniel and I have been kind of keeping ourselves to ourselves of late. We spent too much time not being truly open and honest with each other, we're catching up on lost time."

Maddison didn't respond, Sophia looked up and caught her friend's expression, "Maddison Bear's Heart that is one mischievous grin, though I must admit it is more than appropriate. Daniel and I have been uninhibited and amazingly passionate.

"It is the most wonderful time we have ever had together. There is not much that could take us away from that. Visiting planets pales in comparison."

Maddy congratulated her friend, "I couldn't be more happy for you. My little fun day away may give you and your husband a very different kind of fun day too."

Sophia rode on, "Indeed, healer Bear's Heart, indeed."

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When Maddy arrived back home, she asked Zon if he minded her going with Seka to investigate the meteoroid. He was wildly supportive, “Yes go, please go.”

Maddy was a bit hurt, “May I ask why you want to get rid of me?”

Zon whispered in her ear, “Think woman, we have an anniversary coming up. I need some time to work on the gift that Katie and I have planned for you. It is mostly your daughter’s idea. I am merely labor. But it would really help if we could get some work done on it before she drives me insane.”

Maddy hugged her husband, “Then as a gift to you I will go on a mini adventure, but remember you owe me mister.”

Maddison contacted Nadia to see if she was able to attend. “Nadia, are you up for a short, subdued adventure with Seka and Bailey?”

A relieved voice came back, “Anything to keep me from having to uncover my apparently very deeply hidden talent as an empath. I watched Tam do this for years I had no idea how much energy and pain was involved.”

Maddy was shocked, “Pain?”

Nadia continued, “Yes, seriously, actual pain. Quinn says that will diminish when I get better but now it is kind of annoying. The focus necessary creates a kind of ache that just makes my head pound and pound. I would love to have a day off from

that, even if it means spending a day with the overly zealous Seka. When do we leave?"

Maddison wondered about how Noah would feel, "Will your husband be okay with you going?"

Nadia didn't hesitate, "He will be thrilled, I've been trying to read him for the last several days. He's doing his best to not think mean thoughts about his rather insane wife. Yes, he'll be okay.

"The house will likely be much more calm with me gone. My bizarre energies translate to Lissy so she escalates, getting Noah upset followed by Sasha and Dax who kind of freak. Suffice it to say I have little control over my thoughts and energies these days. Getting away will help, I hope."

Maddison laughed, "You're making this sound less than fun spending a day or two with you."

Nadia started whining, "Oh please, you are the most calm person I know, being around you is so easy. I think we're good for each other, we can just be, and not try to be anything special. I admit I feel less like an empath and more like a disappointment to everyone. Do you know what I mean?"

Maddy just grinned, "I do indeed, Nadia, like you wouldn't believe."

Chapter 3

Oriana appeared at the Navarro Bear's Heart home with Nadia. "Maddison Bear's Heart are you ready?"

Katie ran to Oriana for a hug, "Why don't you ever come visit us auntie Oriana?" Both Maddison and Nadia couldn't wait to hear her answer.

Oriana got down on one knee and looked the child in the eye, "I don't remember hearing you invite me, did you maybe forget?"

Katie was flustered, "Oh no, I'm sorry. I thought you knew you were invited. Okay, auntie Oriana will you come visit us?"

She smiled at the child, "Why thank you for the kind invitation, I promise I will come visit after I bring your momma back from her trip."

Katie ran off, "Yipee, see you then."

Nadia smiled, "The gift of diplomacy, that must be why you're the head of the council, and we are merely an inept empath and healer."

Oriana's exhaustion was showing, "You are not the only ones struggling with your new circumstances. This leadership role is making me feel woefully inadequate as well. Welania left an enormous hole when she disappeared.

“I have not nearly the patience or knowledge she had. Plus, I have the ever-present Grey Bird to point out all my shortcomings. So this little excursion is a bit of a break for me as well.”

Maddy reached out a hand to Oriana, “Welcome to the club. Let’s get this adventure started.” Oriana waved her hands, and they were gone.

Seka and Bailey had several rather large packs ready and waiting for the other’s arrival. When Oriana appeared Seka didn’t waste a second, “I have a pack for each of you. There are several sensors and recording devices for you to carry. Bailey and I will have the more delicate equipment.

“Now we are still waiting for one more person. I invited Dr. Raveloson, he is an astrophysicist. This will be as exciting for him as it is for all of us.”

Nadia lifted one of the packs, “I’m not sure this is really exciting for me, your obedient beast of burden.”

Maddy groaned as she pulled the pack on to her back, “He has a wife and a son, right?”

Seka was too busy fussing over adjusting the packs. Bailey answered, “Yes, and his wife is pregnant. She was happy for him to come with us. He is a very nervous father to be. She is hoping he will wear off some of that energy looking at the meteoroid.”

A horse was riding up the trail. Dr. Gael Raveloson was a short man, and wiry, a ball of energy. He and Seka together would be hard to manage.

Maddison walked over to greet him, “Dr. Raveloson it is so good to see you again, how are Rose and Haja?”

He looked surprised, “Thank you for remembering, they are well. Rose is pregnant, six months along now.”

Maddy was pleased with the sparkle in his eye when he spoke of his family, “I am so happy for you. This little excursion has to be kind of exciting too?”

Gael was near to bursting, “Oh my, you have no idea. I love this world, I couldn’t be happier here, but to get to examine a large meteoroid is beyond exciting.”

Nadia was just shaking her head, “There’s two of them.” Oriana gathered them all together, waved her hands and they were gone.



Alexis watched while Erin brought her gear in to stay for a few days. Caleb was working on the addition to the house. She asked Alexis how things were progressing, “I thought Caleb was going to get his brother Beau to help?”

The relief was obvious in her voice, “He is, Beau should be here soon. He wouldn’t dare go back on his word to Maddison.”

Erin put a pot on for tea as she started looking through the kitchen, “I am going to work on lunch while you take a nap. I will set out some tea and snacks for Caleb, Beau, and Eyota.”

Alexis was surprised, “Who is Eyota?”

Erin had a mischievous smile, “She is a good friend from Didymo, we met a while ago. She is an amazing builder and so kind. I told her I was coming to help out and she said it might be fun to see how our homes are built.”

Alexis struggled to get up, “I am going to take my nap. I know you are up to something here, but I am too tired to figure it out.”



On Ilios, the leader of her people, Sparrow Basque, was pacing absent mindedly. She was trying to put the bits and pieces of information she had into some sort of cogent explanation of what was happening to their world since the meteoroid hit.

Moosa Cabot, one of her people, was assembling the items the team would need for their journey, glasses to protect their eyes, maps, as well as some food and water. The settlement on Ilios was very small and there were no scientists among them. But the planet seemed to be feeling pain from this collision that no one could explain.

Sparrow had heard of the people on Adelphi and knew not only were there scientists among them, but they also possessed some technology. She made a request through her people on Ichos to see if they would allow such an intervention.

Haylo the leader of the people on that world contacted a woman named Seka and invited her to visit the site and see what she could discover about the event. Sparrow was awaiting their arrival.

Oriana appeared with her team, she knew Sparrow and approached, "I understand you have some concerns about this meteoroid strike. You wish these people to investigate?"

Sparrow held out her hand, "Yes, yes I was hoping they could ascertain why this strike has caused the planet distress. We have had such events before with no issues, this one is different."

Seka was unable to hold in her excitement. "I can't wait to get out to the site. Do you have any more information for me? Maps would be helpful. Has anyone been out there yet? Did they disturb anything, bring back samples? I would need to have those."

Sparrow was a bit taken aback by Seka's aggressive approach. Maddison attempted to intervene and ameliorate the offense, "Please, let me apologize for my very excited friend. I'm Maddison Bear's Heart. We are honored to be asked to assist with this matter. Our enthusiasm has made us forget ourselves. What can you tell us about this meteoroid?"

Sparrow thought it best to deal with Maddison, "First, allow me to introduce myself, I am Sparrow Basque, I speak for the people of this world. We are few in number, life here is a challenge, not many find it suitable. But those who do, have a powerful bond to the planet. We feel the need to protect her

deeply. We have gathered some things that will make your time here safer.

“As far as maps are concerned, we have provided them as well. Also, one of my people traveled to a location allowing him to view the path of the strike. He’s here and willing to speak with you.”

Maddy thanked Sparrow while Nadia pulled Seka aside and told her to stand down and let Maddy deal with the niceties.

Sparrow called over one of her people, “This is Tazz Gehue, he traveled to the site.”

Maddy reach out a hand to Tazz, “I’m Maddison Bear’s Heart, thank you for speaking with us, what can you tell us about what you saw?”

Tazz was shy but obviously eager to help, “The pieces were much smaller than I thought they would be, I mean for how loud it was, and how much the ground shook.”

Seka could not contain herself, “You felt it? Where were you, how close? Did you see it hit? What do you remember? Was there a sound, a smell even? How long was the tail? What time did it strike?”

Again Seka’s forcefulness rocked everyone back on their heels. Tazz didn’t know what to say.

Maddison physically placed herself between Seka and the young man, “It’s okay Tazz, my companion is just overly excited to see the meteoroid. She is trying to learn everything there is,

so she can determine why Ilios is suffering. Just relax and tell us what you remember.”

Tazz took a deep breath and spoke directly to Maddy, “I’ll do my best. It happened a few hours before sunrise. On Ilios that is the best time to get any heavy labor out of the way before it is too hot. I am building a house for my wife and son.

“I heard it before I saw it. I’m not good at describing sound, but it was kind of like powerful rushing water. It lit up the sky, I never thought about the smell, but it was like heating metal.

“What I will never forget is how the ground shook. You could almost feel the pain, like I was hit with a heavy object.”

Maddison encouraged him to continue, “This is all very helpful. Can you tell us what the site looked like?”

He was becoming comfortable speaking to Maddy, “I was on a hill overlooking the trail. It goes on for nearly a kilometer. At the end there is a crater and three pieces. I would estimate one at a meter in diameter and the other two less than half that size.”

Seka and Gael both gasped. Gael spoke up, “Maddison may I ask the young man a question?”

Maddy smiled at the eager but far more respectful scientist, “Please go ahead.”

Gael stepped closer to Tazz, “First, are you sure the pieces were that large? Second, can you be more clear on the smell of heating metal? How are you familiar with that odor?”

Tazz still spoke to Maddison, “I am positive of the size, and I worked for one of the metal masters on Ichos. I was responsible for heating the iron while he worked. It is a smell I know well.” Gael and Seka went off to discuss all this information.

Maddison congratulated Tazz for his patience with the others, “You have been very helpful. Is there someone that will be taking us to the site?”

Sparrow answered that, “Tazz said he is willing to get you to the hill from which he viewed the impact location if that is acceptable.” Maddison smiled and thanked both Sparrow and Tazz.



Alexis was up from her nap. Erin had tea and sweets ready for her. Beau, Caleb and Eyota were working away on the new addition. Alexis was amazed at how much they had completed. “How long was I asleep? I never imagined they would get that far so quickly.”

Erin smiled, “I have been keeping them fed and watered. That makes things go faster.”

Caleb came over to check on his wife, “Kind of impressive, isn’t it? It’s actually starting to take shape. I am thinking of asking them to help with a couple more projects we’ve been putting off. I want to build a storage shed and woodshed and extend the porch. What do you think?”

Alexis was worried, “That’s asking a lot from your crew.”

Caleb smiled, "Beau told me he's happy I asked, he has wanted to come over and help for months. And this friend of Erin's is amazing."

Caleb looked directly at Erin, "I hope you don't think you are going to be a match maker for my brother, I guarantee you he's not interested."

Erin shook her head, "Where did you get an idea like that. I would never match make for Beau, I know better than that." Caleb grabbed some sweets and headed back to work.

Erin turned to Alexis, "On the other hand, match making for Eyota is just part of being a good friend."



Oriana was preparing to travel with the others, "This will be the first time I have ever traveled with someone not of the council in this manner. Once we are there, I will be able to come back and retrieve you. I just need to see the location.

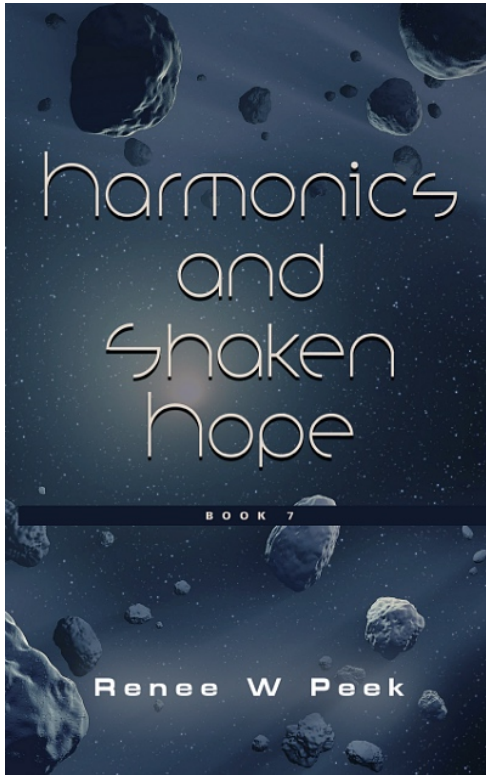
"Naida I'll hear if you call for me. I would say be careful, but with a healer an empath and three brilliant scientists how much safer could you be?"

Nadia laughed, "You forgot to mention, crazy mad scientist woman. Maddison have you been able to master Sophia's sleep touch? That may be helpful, if not for Seka, then for me so I don't throttle the woman."

Maddy smiled, "She is displaying her most challenging self today, isn't she? Bailey is a wildly patient and tolerant woman.

When we get back, we have to remember to get her out on her own more so she can see what normal behavior looks like.”

Nadia and Oriana agreed, “Indeed.” Tazz gathered everyone together waved his hands, and they were gone.



A meteoroid strikes the planet Ilios. Its strange vibration endangers all life there. The alien stones must be stilled.

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