

THE RETURN

A Novel by Inelia Benz

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Author contact details:
www.inelia.com

Cover by: Laura Uribe
<http://laurauribeart.com>

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CHAPTER ONE

Anin took his three personal use hours per light cycle very seriously. These hours were, by all accounts, precious.

He moved quickly and with purpose through the stone alloy corridors on his way to the observation bay.

At times Anin would be overcome by a compulsion to be at a certain time and location, this was one of those times. Not knowing exactly why until after the fact and often when the compulsion came in this strongly, whatever was about to happen would be life changing not just for himself but for many others. This was not a usual characteristic of his genetic lineage, but a side effect of some combinations involving a highly developed sense of what might be called, “connecting the dots”. At least that’s how his family explained this strange phenomenon. Other lineages such as those involved mostly in spiritual matters, would say that the person had Divine Guidance or channeled Source Wisdom.

His robes rustled and clicked as he walked. They were covered in gems and symbols which spoke of Anin’s lineage, his job, his social status, marriage status, personal achievements, age and rank, among other important facts. It made his progress through the long corridor slower than he would have liked.

His headdress lay firmly under his left arm, a sign that at the moment he represented “himself” and not his job, position, family, race or species.

By Anunnaki standards, Anin was barely an adult and still very fit, yet his heart was beating hard from the effort of carrying such heavy garments. He made a mental note to start using the artificial satellite’s gyms to build some needed gravity muscles.

This particular observation bay was rarely occupied, which made it one of his favorite places in the entire complex. Anin did not enjoy idle chatter and the thought of having casual conversations with inferior species or staff members repulsed him. His job was socially interactive in nature but Anin had managed to minimize all interactions and made sure that his personal hours were allocated to the times of the light cycle which were least populated on the Anunnaki section of the artificial moon. The observation bay lay in his line of sight now, although distant still. He hoped it would be empty as usual but as he got closer, the distinct shape and form of a person became apparent. The bay was not empty. His heart sank. He couldn’t change his mind however, the impulse had guided him to the bay and it was now too late to turn back.

He entered the waiting area and stood still while the room scanned his genes and placed him firmly next in line for the bay's control panel. Anin actually didn't know if he was supposed to use the bay controls or simply sit and wait. He did know for certain the location he had to be at, at that precise moment in time and space was the observation bay.

It took him a few minutes to become interested in the person at the bay controls. It was a female Rumni, a reptilian humanoid. Like all Anunnaki, Anin found the reptilian species to be repulsive. They had a strong odor and a disregard for cross cultural social etiquette.

Her attire revealed her to be a high ranking, and highly regarded, scientist to her species as well as to many alliances. Her brilliant white scaled skin, and almost luminescent blue eyes, indicated a royal bloodline.

It didn't make much sense to Anin that his own government would be so accommodating of this particular species sharing and observing the same planet. Their intentions and actions on the planet's inhabitants were at best considered hostile and genocidal at worst.

He looked at the timekeeping device in the bay area and wondered if the Rumni female would ever leave but she seemed deeply engrossed in her observation of the planet below.

His attention moved to the image on the large bay screen and saw that the Rumni had carried out a methodical multi-frequency scan of the planet.

The result was quite beautiful. It had been two years since starting his commission here, it occurred to him that the thought of doing such a thing had never crossed his mind.

Anin's heart slowed down and the telltale energy and feelings around his head and body that told him the moment in time space he had been compelled to be at was about to come to pass. His body tensed to keep him aware and awake. Whatever was about to happen was very important and he must not miss any details.

The image of the planet they were observing went progressively dark, the colors turning from a very dark purple, to a very dark blue. It was beautiful.

And suddenly it happened, and he gasped. Between the darkest of shades, a tiny bright, pure white light, surrounded by slightly grey lights. And then it was gone.

His gasp made the Rumni aware of his presence. She cocked her head very slightly in his direction communicating her awareness of him.

She moved her hands on the holographic control panel, and Anin could almost sense her mind guiding the observation bay lens. She found the light again, this time she kept the frequency and location stable, and zoomed in.

The infinitely small light occupied most of the screen now. She moved the dials and the image moved back to a spectrum visible to the naked eye.

In front of them the bright light turned into a very young human female. She sat in what looked like a garden. She wore human attire and there were a few toys laying around her. His mind scanned his intimate knowledge of the human attire communication system, the information indicated her to be around 3 years old. Her greenish hair tied in plaits on each side of her head. A frilly white dress, socks to match, shiny red shoes, big silk ribbons in her hair, the nature and appearance of the toys around her told of a wealthy or middle class, Western family.

And then it happened. The girl paused, suddenly looked up, her big brown eyes filling the screen, and looked right into him.

She smiled, and told him her name was Cecilia, and, to his utter shock and surprise, her Anunnaki Lineage and Rank.

As Anin received the correct genetic vibrational signature for her family, he fell to one knee in respect, and his body filled with Source Bliss. This happened automatically, it was a program built in to all Anunnaki when greeted by a Source carrier, a King, or Queen, of their people.

It took a few seconds for his logical mind to take over and tell him that this lowly, badly designed, genetically polluted humanoid, could not possibly be what she had communicated she was.

He stood up quickly, looked over at the Rumni and realized she had not yet seen the human female on the screen, the Rumni's eyes were still focused on the controls. At that moment, the reptilian looked up directly at the screen, her lizard tongue twitched in and out of her mouth and her vertical pupils became hair thin, a sign of extreme excitement.

She looked at him, released the controls and strode quickly toward him, breaking several cross-cultural taboos.

She put her hands together in the sign of universal peace, and said, "Shylar, First Ranking Ultra-Dimensional Biologist sends greetings to the Humanoid Male in front of me. Human female, of young age, is claimed by the Rumni. She is Rumni property. Stay away".

He searched his Rumni vocabulary for his rank and Genetic lineage, and responded to her in the same casual format she had introduced herself, "Anin, of the Anunnaki Empire, Accountant Stock Problem Analyst and Resolver Ambassador to the Solar System, 110th descendent of..." The reptilian rolled her eyes. Anin paused. She actually rolled her eyes at his greeting. He didn't know reptilians could roll their eyes, but apparently, they could. Anin decided to forfeit the rest of his introduction and see what

this creature wanted. He too could be rude to others. "...greeted you. What is the basis of your claim?"

"My search found her, and I was the first person here to see her."

His mind raced. Anin knew, beyond any doubt, that he could not let the human girl be claimed by this murderous race.

"I agree that you executed the search that found her, but I do not agree that it was you who saw her first. I was here when her life force signature first appeared, and also the first to see her three dimensional projected image. And I can also state that the technology used for the search is Anunnaki in design and ownership." The thought that the human child had greeted him first and only him, crossed his mind. But this information Anin had to keep very close to his chest.

The Rumni considered him for a split second, then, shockingly, projected her mind into his, and tried to command him to conform.

This would have worked if Anin had been three ranks lower, but his genetic coding did not allow for it to happen.

He logged the amount of protocols broken, and said, "I protest your attempted interference of my mind and free will."

She blinked, surprised at her inability to influence him, then stood to her full height, towering a full head above him, and projected a full force wave of fear and deadly threat toward him.

He felt the wave go through his energy field and oratory senses, his rank allowing him to bypass any physiological reactions this might have in an ordinary humanoid, and again stated his protest at her war provoking actions.

It was, indeed, a very serious matter.

He was about to place her in war advisement but realized that he had his headress by his side therefore, to be fair, her actions were a personal assault and not an interspecies one.

He quickly reached for his headress, which once in place took this out of a personal matter and into a governmental one. But before he could reach it, her hand shot out and again breaking all known protocols, she touched him. Glands in her hand released a paralyzing compound into his skin, and Anin found himself unable to move.

"Agree to my ownership of this human female, or I will terminate the person you are."

His garments were more than a communication system to let others know of position, lineage, specialization and rank. It was also one of the most sophisticated survival Artificial Intelligent pieces of equipment in the known universe.

Having detected the telepathic and vibrational attacks, it had already gone into high alert, and as the paralyzing compound worked its way through Anin's body, his robe released an antidote.

Feeling the release of his body from the compound's effect, Anin quickly reached his headgear and put it on.

She stood back in surprise and for the first time, he thought, she realized that Anin too held a high ranking office among his people, and that she was in deep trouble for her actions.

He merged his mind to the communications channel of the collective mind of his people and sent out a quick summary of what had just transpired between himself and the female Rumni.

A call went out to the Rumni hierarchy, demanding immediate punishment and banishment of the female named Shylar.

He received an apology from her superiors, telling of the female's genius status, Royal blood, and documented allowance for "strange, aggressive and antisocial behavior", which had been agreed upon by all present cohabiting species on the Solar System.

Anin sighed in frustration. They too had some loose cannons running around in the known universe, genetic mishaps that contained enormous skill in their lineage, but were completely unruly, unpredictable and non-conformist.

Cross Cultural Mediators from both races took control of the interaction and decided that all facts would have to be cross checked before ownership of the human girl could be established or any actions taken regarding the alleged assault.

He knew this meant the Observation Bay cameras, genetic records and a full memory scan of both parties would be downloaded and analyzed by both species.

As the communication arrived to all concerned, two armed Rumni arrived at their location. They were much larger than the female, and highly skilled in armed combat, as Anin witnessed during the scuffle that followed when the female was removed from the room against her will.

His heart racing and a metallic taste in his mouth, the side effect of the poison and antidote, made him aware of the extreme danger he had just been in, and as his robes worked to physically and emotionally stabilize him, Anin remembered Cecilia.

The bay's timekeeping device showed he still had two hours left of his personal use time. Anin took off his headdress, made his way to the bay controls, sat down, closed his eyes and breathed deeply. His thoughts needed to stabilize, and a personal course of action needed to be decided upon.

The perceived communication from the human girl, and his reaction, were heretic. The mere thought of what she had said, and his reaction to it, was an abomination. As he scanned her claimed genetic lineage in his races memory banks, Anin found it to belong to an ancient Throne Bearing line, direct descendants of the Gods. This particular lineage had been declared lost. And the present King and Queen were but distant surviving cousins in comparison. The purity and light from the signature was unmatched in present records. If this human pursued her claim, she would, by all rights, become Queen to all Anunnaki. She could potentially become the absolute ruler of his species!

The words formed in his mind before he could stop them:

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Anin felt his body shiver. His heresy could be declared punishable by death. He wondered if a claim of genius insanity could be logged before it was too late, it might save his life. He was, after all, a highly skilled genius in his own lineage. Unfortunately, Anin was also very, very sane.

“The Return” belonged to a religious belief among his people. It stated that the Original Source would one day return to them. The Queen of the Anunnaki throughout time and space, would come and release them from their linear time-space shackles. She would open up the portal to higher dimensional physical experiences and colonization.

She would heal the sick, cure the poor, and expand his species' skills, capacities, awareness and power.

What genetic lineage she would come in through was a highly contested topic. As were other claims of what she would bring to the Anunnaki. This formed a truly rich and varied, within reason, cultural and religious spectrum across the known Galaxies.

In one of those cultural religious variations of Her Return, it did state She might arrive in a low level, enslaved, genetically polluted, humanoid species. Recently, many heretics had been spreading word of this prophecy among his people. They were crazy, militant, righteous maniacs who forced his government to make this particular branch of heresy, punishable by death. Yes, he would be executed for even thinking this was true.

But every time Anin tried to logic his seeing and memory away, her eyes seemed to pierce his, and Source Bliss would return.

He had to see her again. A way to get in touch with her had to be found. She must also be removed from the planet and away from the reptilians. The child needed protection, and she needed it now.

No. What Anin had to do was to get psychologically evaluated, maybe his sanity was not what the genetic engineers had told his family it would be during his petri dish conception. If insanity could be proven, the financial compensation to his lineage would be tremendous.

Turning his mind back to the present moment, Anin connected with the bay control system, then switched the recording apparatus off and removed the evidence of his spontaneous response to the girl from all devices and databases. But instead of deleting it completely, he placed it in a mobile storage device designed for top secret communication transport. After checking that the dangerous footage and recordings were deleted, he focused the lens back to the child. She sat on the ground cross-legged now. It felt like she was connected not just to himself but to the entire universe. This time, she did not look up toward him but simply sat, eyes closed and smiling.

Anin swiped one of the holographic dials, added a genetic filter to the formula and scanned the planet again. If the girl was who she claimed to be, her next stage would be to find and activate her Guards. If he could find them first, there might be a way to get the girl into protective custody before the reptilians found her. There was no doubt in his mind that that Rumi female had already sent an extraction team to Earth.

Due to a very regrettable decision several thousand years earlier, the Anunnaki superior genes now run in the blood of millions of humans. It was a disgusting fact, but one that might come in very handy in this situation. Anin searched for the signature of the Guardian lineage attached to this particular Royal Family. All high ranking families had Guardian lineages who were programmed and designed, at a genetic level, to protect and serve them. Anin hoped against hope that the Queen Returned had Guards on the planet.

He found one.

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