

“Scevil is my boyfriend,” Julia said.

“Julia, we won’t be having it,” her mother argued. “You don’t know what you want.”

Julia gulped hard, trying to keep from breaking down.

“You’re not going to date one of their kind, it’s wrong, it’s disgusting, and it isn’t natural.” her father interrupted. He refused to look at Julia. “You’re not going to be with him, you two can be *friends* like you would be friends with *the dog*, but he is not your equal.”

“Dad, please,” Julia said. “I’m happy with him, and I feel safer and more comfortable with Scevil than anyone else-”

“It’s not worth it!” He shouted, “It is not worth giving up being normal for one of them. They’re less than human.”

“You can’t decide that for me,” Julia snapped. Beside them, Julia’s mother started crying.

“Look, now you’re making your mother cry,” her father said. “I knew we shouldn’t have moved to Saccora. I knew you would be corrupted by their kind!”

“I thought you were tolerant of them?”

“I said I *tolerated* them.”

“I knew I should have waited for you,” Julia cried into Scevil’s shoulder.

Scevil held her tight, “I probably would’ve made things worse. Your parents wouldn’t want me there.”

Julia had run to Scevil as soon as she could escape her house. It was a warm night. They sat outside in Scevil’s yard, Julia attempting to calm down as they watched the sunset. The moons were shining dimly in the sky.

“What if my dad makes us go back?” she continued.

“Our relationship isn’t worth his effort,” Scevil said. “Moving takes forever, not to mention it’s expensive.” Julia still frowned, she knew how stubborn her father was.

Julia’s fingers interlocked with Scevil’s. His skin had a strange texture, similar but still distinct from her own. She was always intrigued by that feeling. Staring at their laced fingers, her eyes welled with tears.

“I don’t want to be away from you,” Julia said, crumbling in Scevil’s arms.

“You won’t have to,” he whispered, brushing her hair back as she wept. Julia knew the way her parents acted with Scevil when she wasn’t around. They ignored his presence, belittled everything he said. They treated him like an animal. They knew what they were doing was wrong, but they were too stubborn to admit it to themselves. She despised their bigotry, but he loved Julia and knew she was not her parents.

Julia twisted her fingers through the teal grass, still leaning her head on Scevil’s chest. “I like it here on Saccora,” she spoke softly as she managed to control her tears. “I don’t want to go back to Earth.” They sat quietly in the night, comforted by each other as they watched the sky darken into a deep violet.