

## The Distress Call

It was a good thing that nobody witnessed the cataclysmic events that took place on Livitea IV, as they certainly would never have survived them. Livitea IV was a miniscule planet (a mere one million, two hundred thousand feet in diameter), orbiting on the far edge of the habitable zone of its bright orange sun. It had a single moon, which was even smaller than it was, measuring in at around five million feet across.

Livitea IV was a beautiful planet with deep blue oceans and a wide range of biomes: lush green forests, vast deserts, sprawling plains, gigantic mountains ranges, long and winding rivers, and icy caps on each pole. It should have been a perfect haven for life: it had the right climate, it was just about big enough, and its giant oceans could have been home to all kinds of creatures. But for whatever reason, life had never managed to prosper on the tiny little world. A few primitive plants formed scattered jungles and forests, but it was otherwise completely devoid of life: no fish, no birds, no insects, nothing... Which, after the events of its final day, was probably for the best.

Erika had landed a good twenty minutes ago and now the planet lay in complete ruins. The surface was disfigured beyond all recognition, cracked and paw-print laden... That is, all except for one final continent which was Erika's next destination.

The four-and-a-half-million foot tall Araltian teenager smirked with a huge grin as she started decimating what used to be part of the northern continent with her colossal paws. With every footstep her paws powered through the atmosphere with the greatest of ease; her claws glowing vibrantly upon re-entry, debris slipping down from between her toes raining down cataclysmically to the ground below. Her digits ploughed through the stratosphere, the static in the fur and the warm moist air surrounding them reacting harshly with the cold air of the upper troposphere causing rampant thunderstorms. Her toes continued their apocalyptic decent and smashed violently into the mountains and foothills and valleys, instantly atomising everything in their path. Showing no sign of stopping, Erika's toes continued compressing everything beneath them further and further down, far deeper than the deepest canyons, until they penetrated the planet's crust itself causing many-mile wide cracks to snake their way out from her toes, magma spewing violently from every newly formed chasm. Her claws followed, a good thirty or forty miles away, piercing the ground with ease; her main pad following thereafter, first flattening and then uprooting miles upon miles of land into the air, sending magma from the planet's core off in every direction.

And all of this was only one step.

The young teenager continued, happily skipping around the coastline of the entire continent, annihilating it in its entirety in a series of playful bouncy steps.

Her work done, the young girl just smiled as she began shaking large pieces of debris from her paw. Chunks of the planet, some large enough to be measured in miles, many with the remnants of entire mountains still on them, fell from between her toes to plummet to the ruined planet below. In a single movement, Erika leapt from the wreckage of the planet, using her bracelets to control her flight path into an orbit. Giving her handiwork a quick once over, she smiled looking down upon it all. She could see the large tramline-like tracks formed by her rocket-propelled-roller-boots, the enormous boot prints she made after she'd detached her wheels, and of course, the paw prints that scarred the majority of the planet. With a final grin, she decided it was time for the finale.

Making one last lap of the planet, the teenage Jolteon flew in a widening loop, her giant colourful pigtails mimicking her motion as she flew, orbiting past the outer Lagrangian points and hovering just above the orbit of the currently unscathed moon.

Of course, she could have left the moon unscathed, but it just wasn't her style.

"And now for the grand finale!" Erika cheered to her non-existent audience.

She laughed and rearranged herself so she was lined up with the moon and the planet below. Then, with the assistance of her bracelets, the young Jolteon started speeding headfirst towards the moon with all her might. Using her hands to soften the impact, before starting to use as much of her shoulders as possible, she crashed into the moon with an immense force. The moon's orbit was instantly diverted, but Erika just kept on pushing. Within a few mere seconds the moon started plummeting to the planet below, and after a few more seconds, it collided with its planet with an apocalyptic force. The two celestial bodies were both completely obliterated in a gigantic explosion which momentarily outshone the sun – magma and various chunks of the rock from the crust of both the ruined planet and the moon were splattered absolutely everywhere, a laughing Joeltion flying out of the other side of the explosion.

"Hah! That was AWESOME!" Erika exclaimed, brushing off the thousands of tons of debris and lava caught on her body in the process, glancing around, happy to see that nothing would remain of the planet.

"Okay! Where next?" Erika smiled, eager to find her next target. She didn't consider herself on-form until she'd destroyed at least three planets in one morning, and this was only the first.

After flying around for a short while she found herself another planet in the Zerentia system. With a huge beaming grin she flew towards it, planning out how best to destroy it.

Unfortunately her train of thought was rudely interrupted by an all too familiar sound.

\*Briiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiing\*

Erika sighed in annoyance, glancing over to her bracelet with the most unimpressed of scowls.

Her bracelets were multi-functional devices, allowing her not only to fly through space, but also allowing her to communicate with other Araltians from anywhere in the galaxy - a feature she often highly resented.

With much reluctance, Erika hit the glowing button on her bracelet.

“Moooooooooom, What do you want?” Erika answered, not doing much to hide the disappointment in her voice.

“It’s time for you to come home, missy! You have schoolwork due for tomorrow!”

“But Mooooooooom I do-”

“Come home now young’n, or you’ll be considering yourself grounded all next week!”

“Awwh but Mooom!”

“Now, Erika, I mean it.” Erika’s mother sternly confirmed, obviously not budging on her decision.

“.. oh, alright.” Erika replied with great despondence. “I’m on my way”.

Erika hung up with another button press, unceremoniously kicking a large chunk of the remains of Livitea IV that had floated nearby during the intercom call. The large chunk of planet was pulverised by the impact with her paw, the debris scattering away until the day it would end up being swallowed up by the planet’s star.

“Stupid Mother!” Erika spat, “she never lets me have my fun!”

Erika grumped, now agitated and annoyed as a completely good morning was now totally ruined. As she started heading home, little bits of the planet fell off from between her paws and toes on the way, leaving a tiny trail of destruction in her wake.

In a matter of seconds, the young girl had accelerated to several times of the speed of light in the direction of her home planet. But, even at her maximum velocity, it would still take her a good half an hour to arrive back home on Araltys.

Barely a few minutes into the journey, Erika was already distracted, feeling a sharp vibration from her bracelet. Blinking with curiosity, she noticed the SOS light flashing away on her high-tech bracelet. While she knew what it meant, she had certainly never seen it light up before. In emergencies, planets could send out distress signals, and Araltian bracelets were designed to pick them up in case they could be of any assistance.

Mostly out of morbid curiosity, Erika started slowing down to a stop, before pressing the button on her bracelet to try and find out what the problem was. Shortly after poking the glowing button in, a crackled audio message started playing through her bracelets.

“Please! Can you help us?”

The voice sounded extremely desperate. Erika figured it was a male’s voice but the quality of the recording was so bad she couldn’t really tell for sure.

“Please, we beg with all our might! All powerful and omnipotent Goddess Evyn, please help us, we need your help! “

Erika quickly checked the date, and destination of the message; much to her great amusement, it had been sent to her directly and the message was brand new. She couldn’t help but laugh; Evyn? Goddess? Did a planet just mistake HER for their Goddess? She’d heard about Araltians being mistaken for Gods or Goddesses in the past, but it had certainly never happened to her before!

“Please! Beloved and all powerful Goddess Evyn, if you can hear us please help! We don’t have much time!”

The voice crackled through once more, before the transmission ended.

Erika just smirked to herself. She honestly found it hilarious that a planet could ever mistake a fourteen year old girl for their Goddess. At first she considered just shrugging it off and flying home to do her homework, but then she gave it a second thought...

It was so amusing that she had no choice! She was meant to go home right now... But a planet begging HER for help? This just sounded like way too much fun to pass up: an undiscovered planet in uncharted space, that thought she was their Goddess?

Beaming with the largest cheshire cat grin that this side of the galaxy had ever seen, Erika’s mind started to wander. Erika, the “little” “runt” of the class that was always being teased by her classmates for being so short, being thought of as an all powerful almighty Goddess? And now an entire planet would be building statues and worshipping her very being. She could even organise days where she could get the entire continents together to worship her paws! Heck, if they’re civilised enough she could make the entire world come to her paws and paint her claws for her! They could have holidays devoted specifically for worshipping her. The Jolteon’s grin just continued to grow and grow, thinking of seemingly endless amounts of fun she could have with this planet. And the best part? Nobody would ever know. It was deep in uncharted space, she could have this entire world literally at her paws, the entire population bending down to her every whim, and nobody would ever question it.

This was worth a week of being grounded!

Diverting her route completely, she arrived at the planet soon after, the world not being too far from her previous location.

She was originally planning on making a big entrance, maybe teasing the tiny planet with her huge paws, maybe even landing somewhere uninhabited on the planet and letting them feel the sheer power of their Goddess “Evyn” as she walked on their very world, letting them feel their entire world shake and tremble.... But as she approached the planet, she had an immediate change of heart. The trouble the tiny civilisation was enduring was immediately obvious to the teenager. Hovering over the planet, the heat from the sun was almost unbearable even to her Araltian form which had extremely good resistance to the harsh temperatures of space. The planet was clearly struggling to cope with the excessive heat: the oceans had dried, the atmosphere had mostly escaped and the whole planet was reduced to a scorched burning wasteland.

The young Jolteon poked around on her bracelet trying to confirm that this was the correct planet, it just didn't seem right. Erika was positive there was no way that anyone could possibly live on a world as burnt up as this. Maybe she'd got the wrong planet? Maybe someone was playing a practical joke on her? Probably Eleve, she'd do something like that, just to make her look stupid...But, thinking further, even Erika knew Eleve wouldn't do that; she just liked blaming Eleve for everything bad, now and then. Scratching her head, she confirmed the date, double checking to make sure it wasn't a distress signal from hundreds or even thousands of years ago. Erika looked down at her wrist with a confused furrow of her brows, trying to work out just what was going on.

It was then she received a direct hail from the very people who had requested her help: “Oh my dearest and beloved Goddess, we're so sorry!” The tiny voice coming through the bracelet speakers started, “we know you made this world so perfect and so beautiful, and we tried our best to keep it that way, we really did. But alas, we have failed you. Dearest beloved Goddess, we know we, the people of Naridyn, are completely unworthy to even stand in your presence, and to beg for divine intervention is outright sacrilege after what we have done to your beloved planet! But we have no choice except to beg on our knees for a second chance. We really hate to burden you, when we are so unworthy, but we've exhausted every opportunity. You are our only option for survival!”

The voice continued, “Our sun took an unexpected burst of growth several hundred years ago, and everything's started to become hotter and hotter, until the point where there was no way any living thing could survive on the planet below. It became completely inhospitable, scorched and burned by the very sun that brought us life. The oceans, the plants, the atmosphere, it's all gone!”

Erika scratched her head in confusion (brushing a strand of her long blue/pink hair out of her face in the process), curious as to how these people had even managed to survive this long, before the representative on the communications channel answered her unasked question.

“We Naridynians took to the skies, using our limited knowledge to live on spaceships on the dark side of the planet for the last few hundred years. The entirety of our remaining population- animals, livestock, food, and water supplies- are all on these ships, but even these are becoming fewer with each passing year. Goddess Evyn, please! Your very presence at this moment in time is a miracle, we’ve prayed for hundreds of years that you would save us, and now you’re here. Please, we beg of you now, help us!”

Before Erika could even say anything, a cloud of tiny particles started emerging from the dark side of the planet. Thousands upon thousands of tiny ships containing the entire population of the planet she loomed over started heading towards her.

All kinds of thoughts filled Erika’s head: what should she do? Should she tell them that she’s not their Goddess, and that she’s really just a teenager who still goes to school? Should she play along with it, and have fun? What could she even do about it? She wasn’t like August who could terraform planets. Heck she could barely grow a single plant without it dying, never mind resurrect an entire planet from the dead. Maybe she could collect them all in a petri dish and take them home? But then what if her mother found out, or if they accidentally fell victims to her paws while wandering around the cluttered room in the dark?

All those thoughts raced through her head and she quickly started wishing she’d just gone straight home. Looking down at the seemingly endless fleet of ships that were slowly drifting towards her, her mind raced, her eyes focused on the scorched ruined planet. Deciding she actually needed to say something, she eventually asked the planet’s representative,

“Look, is it okay if I land for a few minutes? There’s nothing important left on your planet, is there?”

The response came quickly from a seemingly overjoyed representative. The planet had never heard the voice of their God before, so whatever she asked was almost certainly going to be fine.

“Of course, my Goddess! You may land wherever you want!, After all, it is the beautiful world that you created so many years ago, the entire world is yours! Just don’t land on th-”

It was too late.

Erika had heard that it was okay to land, and that was enough for her to switch off the bracelets that were keeping her suspended above the planet.

“...land... on our capital city...” the planetary representative finished, his voice slowing as he, along with the rest of the fleet, fixated their gaze as their “Goddess” descended onto the scorched ruins of their finest and largest city.

Even at slower speeds Erika’s paws descended like large powerful meteors towards the planet. Her coloured toe-claws shone powerfully as they pierced what little atmosphere the relentless star hadn’t already destroyed.

The city was once the absolute heart of the planet, the crowning jewel of the civilisation; something so meaningful to its inhabitants that, even though the planet was melting into a burning slag, the citizens still looked proudly upon. Even though it was now a heat scorched wasteland the buildings still stood tall and proud. The glass and plastics had long since melted away, but the stronger, more heat-resistant materials stood firm.

In the center of it all was their absolute greatest architectural wonder, and proudest achievement of them all, a gigantic statue standing a mile or two in height of their beloved Goddess - Evyn. It towered far above even the tallest buildings and was constructed from materials that gave the statue the greatest chance to survive on the charred planet. Even in the ruined city, it was still the most amazing sight to behold. The very image of their all powerful Goddess that the entire population had worshipped so devoutly for millennia, towering over every other building on the entire planet...

... At least until now.

Erika’s right paw descended with a cataclysmic impact landing directly on the city, the paw far wider than the entire city itself.

Mountains simply disintegrated under her mass. Buildings were vapourised, the statue of their Goddess Evyn was lost between two fuzzy yellow toes, and everything else was instantly atomised by her colossal paws’ sheer size and weight alone.

And if that wasn’t enough, the shock wave that followed was even worse. A dust cloud of scorched debris, miles in height, blasted from the point of impact pulverising everything in its path.

Earthquakes emanating from her two paws shook out violently and devastatingly, instantly leveling everything within five hundred miles and causing cataclysmic damage to the buildings beyond.

No matter where the structures had been built on the planet, they were tested to their limits. Giant skyscrapers, tiny homes, ancient wondrous monuments to Evyn; everything felt the

disastrous effects of Erika's "gentle" landing, and most of them merely toppled over and crumbled to dust.

...

The entire Naridynian population was reduced to staring blankly as they watched from their ships. They had just witnessed the obliteration of their planet's greatest tribute to their magnificent Goddess, as well as their most illustrious city, by their Goddess herself. The meeting with their Goddess had been prophesied for half a millenium, and even the greatest of prophets hadn't expected this.

For a few short seconds there was a deafening silence.

Erika's ears eventually caught up with what was said, and her brain processed the sudden awkward silence. Changing her glance, she slowly started to look down at her own paws to survey the damage.

Although no longer immediately obvious, Erika could see the signs of what might once have been a major city. The remnants of many minuscule paths (which she assumed would be major roads) snaked their way up towards where one of her mighty paws currently stood.

"Er... Oops!" was all she managed to say, still finding herself being met with dumbfounded silence.

"Uhm... " she tried to continue, instead deciding to take a step or two back.

The next few footsteps were no lighter than the landing, despite Erika's best attempts to tread lightly - a skill which she admittedly had very little practice with. Further quakes followed, destroying even more of the already damaged remnants of civilisation.

"I... Um..." Erika started, and then stopped again before the representative of the planet eventually rediscovered the ability to talk.

"Please do not fret, almighty and powerful Goddess. It is of no concern to us."

It was honestly a lie. It certainly wasn't what he, as the representative of the planet, had expected upon eventually meeting their almighty Evyn, and it had certainly shocked every single person who witnessed it to their very core. While shaken from the unexpected sight, he tried his best to continue.

“Dearest Goddess, we understand you are of limitless power and we would never question you, even if you deny us our very salvation, but it is of our greatest shame that our combined insignificant race must beg for your assistance.”

Erika exhaled deeply, sweeping a loose strand of her multicoloured hair out of face, trying to brush away the guilt of accidentally stepping on both their greatest statue and city. The Naridynian representative continued,

“For you see, Our-Beloved-and-All-Powerful-Goddess Evyn, it has been said in our scriptures and prophecies that we must ultimately leave this very planet. We understand that restoring the planet to its former glory would be an effortless task to someone of your limitless power, but we would rather trouble you in the least burdensome way.”

Erika smirked a little as she pictured herself trying to terraform a planet back into something habitable. Terraforming was NOT her strongest ability. The last time she tried to improve a planet, she was in one of the younger grades at school - armed with only a glue stick and a couple of felt tip pens. Unfortunately for the poor planet, her blue pen had long since dried up and the green had been thrown at her annoying classmates a few days prior, so she resorted to colouring it yellow and purple. Gluing paper stars and shapes to its lands did little to improve its habitability either, but she figured they looked nice at the time. She ended up taking the planet home with her, and it turned out to be one of the very first planets to wind up being crushed under her gargantuan paws. Even at a younger age, she still managed to reduce a planet to a smoldering magma stain on the carpet. It was shortly afterwards that her mother had her room tiled on fear of a fire hazard.

Her wandering mind was brought back to the present by the planet's representative.

“All Powerful Evyn, our greatest astronomers from times long ago set their gaze upon the stars. Our scriptures tell us of an uninhabited utopia of a world. A wonderful planet whose beauty is only second to this very world you created with your own hands. We were hoping that you would be able to take us there.

“We've watched, waiting for centuries with a yearning desire to be freed from the prison of these ships. We hear it is a beautiful planet with deep blue oceans and a wide range of biomes: lush green forests, vast deserts, sprawling plains, gigantic mountains ranges, long and winding rivers, and icy caps on each pole.”

Erika flinched, seemingly more silent than she'd ever been in her entire life as she let the planetary representative ramble. The description he was giving sounded dangerously familiar, and she was starting to worry again.

The Naridynian representative continued,

“It’s a beautiful planet in the Livitean system, the fourth planet from the wondrous star.”

Erika jumped back into the conversation quickly and nervously, echoes of the planet she just wiped out of existence moments ago flooding her mind.

“What! Livitea? No! No, you don’t want to go there!”

“...But my Goddess, we do? It’s written in anci-..”

“No! Nuh, it sucks! You wouldn’t like it! Believe me, it’s erm...” Erika’s mind flicked around for an excuse.

“We are sorry, most beloved Goddess, but it’s been set in our hearts for half a millennium. For many generations we have all longed to go to Livitea IV. We were even thinking of naming it after you, our almighty Goddess.”

Erika palms sweated and her face blushed as she tried to find the perfect lie.

“Please, dearest Naridynians, you must believe me!” Erika expressed, trying out her best concerned Goddess impersonation. “Livitea is a false hope, the planet might seem nice from a distance, but it’s waters and skies are completely toxic and will kill you all instantly.”

Concerned that the speck-like civilisation flying in space around her might have some form of terraforming capabilities, she continued her lies.

“It’s filled with giant monsters that breath this toxic atmosphere and prey on creatures far larger than yourselves. Going there would be absolute suicide, as your Goddess-” Erika flinched, for a moment, realising that she had just called herself a Goddess. “As your Goddess, I cannot allow it.”

Panic started to spread through the civilisation; had their entire prophecy been a lie? Had they been mislead? It had always been the plan for their Goddess to descend from the heavens, and transport them and their greatest treasure, the multi mile high statue of their beloved Goddess, to their salvation land. But their statue had been pulverised and their Goddess was now saying that the promised land was inhospitable?

Erika glanced down to the tiny specks of dust which surrounded her, the vast grand ships that were each filled with hundreds of thousands of tiny people. Reluctantly, she decided it was time to give the game away. It was a difficult decision to make, as the fun thoughts that had filled her head- like having the entire population literally at her feet were- enough to make her want to visit on a daily basis.

Brushing one of her large pigtails back, she glanced down upon her surrounding audience as she tried to get their attention. A task that, at her size, was remarkably straight forward..

“Okay, I think it’s time to ask a few questions here”, Erika stated, completely losing the fake Goddess tone in her voice. “This Goddess Evyn of yours. Do I look like her?”

As the voice communication from the representative was reestablished, Erika could hear an amplitude of background noise from concerned powerful people at the embassy she was communicating with.

“My... Goddess, we would... We would never doubt you!” the representative answered, before continuing, “a presence of your stature is unmistakable, regardless of your physical appearance!”

“Uh huh...So as your “Beloved Goddess,” I have to ask; how did I - Evyn, look in your holy books and er...” Erika continued with a rather embarrassed glance at her giant paws, “statues?”.

The representative seemed hesitant to answer.

“I er... Um... My Goddess... Um -”

With an impatient, sing-song tone in her voice. Erika replied, “Answer me~”

Given no other option, the Naridynian representative answered her.

“Beloved Evyn, we really mean no disrespect and if we offend you by our blasphemy we only request that you end our puny existence.” With a worried lump in his throat he continued, still believing he was talking to God herself. “We’ve sent an image transmission, which we hope you will be able to receive...”

Erika stifled a grin as she felt her bracelet vibrate, indicating that it was receiving communication from the speck-like civilisation.

Brandishing a greenish-blue claw on her fingertip, she tapped a few glowing buttons on her bracelet and the image was displayed on her screen.

Erika chuckled sheepishly, as she saw a photo of the statue and the city she’d just accidentally pulverised beneath her toes.

“That is how we imagined you, our all-powerful Goddess, to look, Almighty Evyn.” replied the representative diffidently.

It looked as though they had been expecting someone far more feline in appearance than Erika. The statue of Evyn looked like a cat Goddess, with the purest white fur, and long striking black

hair. Evyn appeared taller than Erika, closer to August's age, and built with similar proportions. She wore long white robes enlaced with beautiful emblems shining in pure gold against the powerful sun. Erika had to admit, the statue was an absolute work of beauty, and she did feel rather guilty for accidentally crushing it under her foot.

"I see!" Erika chimed. "... And uh.. Sorry for crushing that earlier. You guys should have made it a bit bigger, I might have noticed it then."

The Naridynian representative tried not to gasp too loudly at the thought. The amount of man-hours, endless work, engineering research, money and devotion that went into making a statue a few miles in height was already extremely high. Making it big enough for someone of her size to see it would be an impossibility to them. What he hadn't realised that Erika was only just trying to make light of her mistake earlier. She had a habit of making silly jokes when nervous or embarrassed.

"Okay! So um! Looking at what you think Evyn looks like and looking at me; did ANY of you think that perhaps, JUST perhaps, I'm not your beloved Evyn?"

The noise from the Naridynian council embassy was intensifying. Erika could hear disgruntled gasps and loud discussion coming from everyone in the room through the communication channel.

"...But that would be blasphemous, my Goddess." The representative eventually replied.

Erika just laughed.

Deciding it was for the best, Erika sat down on their already damaged planet, figuring she'd already damaged the important parts that they cared about; whatever she sat on was going to offend them less than what she had already crushed.

"You've been floating around for FIVE HUNDRED YEARS praying and waiting for your 'Goddess' to show up, but she never does.

"Then you assume that the first girl you see flying through space is her? You guys are SO silly!"

The noise from the Naridynian council embassy was getting unbearably loud as people fell into turmoil.

"B-...B-...But Goddess Evyn-"

"Call me Erika," Erika interrupted.

The scene aboard the millions of starships were becoming remarkably dramatic. People from every walk of life were all watching in awe, disbelief, confusion and unrest. If this gigantic Godlike girl was not their God, Then who was she?

“Goddess... Erika?” the planetary representative finally asked. He was hoping that the name Evyn was now a translation error and that Erika was still their creator and beloved Goddess.

Kicking out her legs in front of her to get comfortable, not even giving the slightest thought to the hundreds of smaller towns she flattened in the process, she started trying to get everyone’s attention once again.

“Okay look!

“I am not your God.

“Heck, I ain’t even a Goddess!.

“I did not create your world and if you want something more impressive than a bunch of rocks taped together you should probably be thankful I didn’t!

“I am a teenager, a normal, everyday teenager - you guys just seem to have confused me for someone else!

“But here’s how I see it!

“You guys ’ave been stuck on this burned up rock for all time, being cooked within an inch of your lives, aimlessly praying to a Goddess that hasn’t come to your aid - and If I’m being brutally honest, religion is kinda a stupid waste of time like that! Don’tcha think you could have used that time better? Like, I dunno... Inventing FTL-drives for your lil’ spaceships? That way you could have just flown to your beloved Livitea IV yourself hundreds of years ago, instead of being fried alive!”

To have someone insult their religion, disrespect their Goddess and claim that religion in general was stupid was blasphemy of the highest degree. The entire council was cast into turmoil as they bickered and argued amongst themselves, a few members having to be removed from the room after suggesting that all ships should immediately open fire on the impostor - a view that was quickly dismissed by the rational thinkers that realised that Goddess or not, Erika could still crush their entire civilisation just by casually leaning back and waving one of her colossal paws in their general direction.

“Look, I’m sorry.” Erika apologised, a wave of guilt passing over her for being so blunt.

“I’m just not your beloved Evyn, and I don’t want to pretend otherwise.

"In fact, I'm probably one of the worst people in the universe at this kind of stuff." Erika admitted, thinking about, but in no way mentioning her planet wrecking hobbies.

"The good news though; is that I know someone who can help you out, big style! My older sis' August is super-great at this stuff - she's brilliant at terraforming I bet she cou- um... Oh.... Darnit..."

Erika stopped mid-sentence.

"Uhm... Nevermind!"

She'd just thought of handing this entire problem to August. She figured with August's ever impressive terraforming skills, she could turn their entire planet into a flourishing utopia within a few months... But if she went back now, she would have to tell August or even worse, her mother that she'd destroyed the planet this entire race had been fantasising about living on for half a millenium.

Erika weighed up the options in her head. She could tell August, and she would fix this entire civilisation's home planet - but then she'd have to tell everyone about her 'little' unexplored corner of the galaxy that she loved tearing up so much - and even worse she would wind up grounded for weeks on end for destroying so many planets in the area. Sure it would save the home planet and the lives of an entire civilisation - but she really didn't want to be grounded.

Erika sighed, realising she had to do this alone.

"Okay... Uhhh... Plan B!" Erika quipped with a forced unconvincing grin.

The people onboard the ships were left completely bewildered. Deciding they had nothing to offer, they figured their best course of action was to merely remain silent and watch as the colossal teenager who was still sprawled out on their ruined planet tried to come up with an appropriate course of action.

"Okay!" Erika started, seemingly having made up her mind.

"One thing I wasn't teasing y'all about was Livitia. You really don't want to go there! ... But I do know another planet you little guys could hang out on! It's a little place called Zerentia III.

"I was going to use it for my er... Next... 'personal project,' but I'd rather you guys use it for your new home.

"...I'd just have to work out how to take you all there without accidentally smooshing or inhaling all your little ships!"

Naridynian hearts perked at the sudden glimmer of hope that had arisen from the sudden turn of events, while simultaneously wincing at the prospect of winding up being accidentally inhaled.

The planet's representative eventually reopened the communication link.

"Miss.. Erika? May we call that you that?" He asked, still obviously confused as to how to address the seemingly infinitely large teenager. "If you would be prepared to bestow such a gift on our civilisation, we would be forever indebted to your boundless acts of kindness."

Erika laughed, "We'll worry about that later. The planet's only about fifteen minutes away for me, but I would probably have to fly slower if I've got you guys in tow. Uh...I should ask..."

"If you guys all manoeuvred so you were all orbiting me, would you be able to maintain that orbit at faster than light speeds?"

The Naridynian responded, seemingly more open in conversation than ever before, "Miss Erika, our ships were built over many generations, so they're all wildly different in capabilities. Some of the recent ships would manage just fine, but others would be torn apart or end up crashing into your body, or being flung into the depths of space. We cannot take that risk."

Erika's mind wandered slightly, imagining the view the hundreds of thousands of people on each ship would be getting as they crashed into her body. Preferably her paws... If they were going to go anyway... Falling victim to her civilisation dwarfing paws would be the bes-

Erika shook her head, trying to snap out of it. She needed to focus, she was doing them a favour here. This wasn't her VR game, these were real people - as microscopic as they were.

Fortunately for Erika, the planetary representative spoke up once again "May I propose a solution Miss Erika?

"Would it be too much to ask that the majority of our ships be allowed to land on your limitless body? Preferably somewhere with less fur. I fear that our navigation systems would fail when traversing the strands. Our scanners suggest that your fur can be up to forty kilometers in length, which would be suicide for us to even attempt it."

Erika sat up, looking down at her own body, brushing the thick fur on her arm, imagining how her fur would appear like endless forests of wild flowing strands to the tiny civilisation. She checked her hands, then looked down towards her clothing, and considered her bracelets, before miraculously coming up with the perfect answer.

“I’ve got an idea!” Erika expressed with the greatest of conviction, her face beaming, unable to hide her excitement from her plan.

She leaned back on one hand, and folded one leg over the other so that the underside of her powerful accidentally-city-crushing paw was visible to the billions of onlookers. Her pads appeared endless to the observing fleet, and her differently coloured claws glistened in the overpowering sunlight. Tiny, mile-wide debris from the city she accidentally crushed rained down like sand from between her toes as she showed them off.

“Okay,” Erika started, “This might sound like a REALLY silly idea, but how about I float up there and all you guys land on the underside of my paws? You guys are tiny enough that there should be more than enough room for you all down there. And you can use my main pads and all my toes if you need more space!”

“ ... ”

The representative was completely flabbergasted. It was the silliest of solutions, but everything seemed to add up. Her pawpads were smooth enough to land, but rough enough for the ships to find a nice deep bunker to seek refuge from the speed Erika would be travelling through space... Glancing around at his fellow compatriots, each in turn gave a nod, before he responded back to Erika.

“Miss Erika, You may be humble enough to declare yourself less than a Goddess, but your knowledge, power and beauty prove otherwise. We will be forever indebted to your glory if you allow this plan to go ahead.”

Erika blushed hard, partially from the copious amounts of praise, but mostly from the thoughts of an entire planet’s populous landing on her vast pawpads.

Deciding not to waste any time at all, Erika stood up on the scorched planet, before leaping out of its weak gravitational pull.

“Alright then everyone!” Erika laughed posing in space, her gigantic toes splaying out in front of the microscopic cloud of spaceships. “Hop onboard!”

To the average Naridynian, the number of ships seemed truly endless; their population was measured in billions, and the number of ships were measured in the tens of millions. Fortunately, as vast as their numbers were, Erika’s paws were larger still; her toe pads exceeding fifty miles in diameter, and her main paw pad was even larger still. The Naridynians got the pleasure of witnessing their entire fleet - each and every ship in one place, all gravitating towards Erika’s paws. Many of them believed that Evyn had been a giantess among their people. Many people believed that she had a holy place, where she dwelled when not working.

However, everyone agreed that Erika's paws were far larger than even Evyn's unearthly home. They truly were the largest thing they could possibly imagine sprawled out in front of them.

The tiny ships all made their descent in large groups, spreading themselves out amongst the endless landscape that was Erika's paws. From far away her paws seemed smooth, but as each group of ships glided closer and closer, they soon discovered the paws were a vast and varied landscape, filled with valleys and mountain ranges, smoother plains and rugged edges.

As each ship flew in to land, they were blessed with a completely unique, breathtaking view depending on where on Erika they landed.

One such ship had the pleasure of landing on Erika's left paw's main pad, the area of her paws which had the most mountainous landscape of all of her pads; her rougher skin forming a wild and unpredictable terrain in the foreground with large valleys and mountains shaping a wondrous landscape. Casting a gaze miles beyond those was a large, wild, unpredictable forest of seemingly endless many-mile-long strands of yellow fluffy fur that completely dominated the horizon. Each strand gently flowed back and forth with Erika's subtle movements despite her best efforts to stay as motionless as possible, a skill she would openly admit to being useless at.

If this particular ship were on a planet the view would have ceased there, but on Erika's paw, it instead continued far beyond that; large powerful toes curled up beyond the horizon, her claws shimmering with sheer unadulterated power from Erika's absolute size alone. Beyond those a beautiful glimmer of her mind-blowingly large painted claws- piercing the harsh glow from the sun itself- added a sharp tint of vibrant pinks or purples to an otherwise yellow and black landscape. In fact, many of the ship captains and navigators used Erika's claw colours as a navigation tool, finding it much easier to communicate location with one another when describing the colour of the claw that overpowered the view. In some of the darker areas of her toes, miniscule taillights from their larger fellow Naridynian vessels could be seen drifting in unison towards Erika's endless digits, hundreds of miles away.

The view from this particular ship didn't even stop there. Far beyond the realms of the paw they were on was the view of Erika's right anklet and other foot. The screen of her colossal anklet's blue glow was powerful enough to even outshine their sun, filled with Araltian text, each character miles in height. It also had glowing buttons that filled the sky with a multitude of colours that even her claws couldn't offer. Beyond that, her other paw continued onwards, with half of their entire population landing in exactly the same way hundreds and hundreds of miles away.

... And this was just one view.

Every single ship that landed was greeted by a unique yet powerful view of Erika. Each of them had heard Erika claim that not only was she not their Goddess, but she was not anyone's Goddess - but given the views that they were all presented with, the sheer scale, and the

promise of being able to start up a new life somewhere else? It made it extremely difficult for many to think of her otherwise.

Some of the Naridynian had already taken to prayer or meditation upon landing on the vast and powerful paws. Some individuals were unsure as to who they were really praying to. Was it their beloved Evyn, or to Erika herself who was answering their prayers at the moment? Some were even questioning the very border between Evyn and Erika itself - concluding that perhaps, they were actually the same girl. Maybe Erika was a reincarnation?

Most members of the civilisation were feeling positive, happy in the thought that Erika would be true to her words and their journey would be safe. Others merely hoped they would make it to their destination in one piece. It was probably for the best that none of them really knew of Erika's planet-wrecking habits which had eradicated Livitia only a few hours ago.

The process was by no means fast, due to the sheer number of ships that needed to land, but Erika did her absolute best to keep as still as possible, fearful that the slightest movement could destroy countless ships and kill millions of their people in the process. Eventually, after a long time in waiting, Erika was hailed by one of the only ships still in the air.

"Miss Erika?" The familiar voice of the Naridynian representative echoed through her comms unit.

Erika flinched, the voice of the infinitesimally tiny Naridynian representative startling her, after waiting for so long in silence. Losing her concentration, her body jerked a tiny amount, her paws tensing, and her toes unfurling slightly. To an onlooker of Erika's height, she would have barely moved at all; but to the Naridynians scattered throughout the landscapes that form her pawpads, it was an unexpected roller-coaster-like movement which rattled every single person greatly.

"Oh, my apologies, dearest and beloved Miss Erika. I didn't mean to st-"

"Hah, it's alright!" Erika smirked. "How's it going?"

"Our entire civilisation - the whole population of our planet- have safely landed on your paws. Please be gentle, Miss."

Erika's mind began to wander, her face lighting up with the widest of grins.

Under her paws at this very moment was an entire planet's population. If she so desired, they could be at her every whim and they would be completely powerless to stop her. She could take them anywhere, perhaps back to Araltys and force them to do anything and everything she wanted - an entire planet's civilisation forced into worshipping her gigantic paws. She could be their very Goddess, and nobody would ever need to know. She could let them all live in a little petri dish at the end of her bed, which she could tease with her paws every single day. She

could make them all paint her claws tips, letting an entire civilisation do a job that she could do in a few minutes, just for the pleasure of it. Erika beamed, lost within a myriad of playful thoughts. The entire civilisation was there, every single one of them was under her her paws. She WAS their Godde-

Erika jumped snapping back into reality, after she caught her wandering mind.

“Oh, um sorry, I kinda got sidetracked there!” Erika tried to continue quickly, attempting to divert her attention away from her dangerous idle thoughts.

“Right uhm... Is everyone ready to go?” Noticing a couple of tiny specks of dust floating in front of her face, Erika realised whom- or rather, *where* she should be talking to.

“Miss Erika, everyone is on your paws except for our greatest fleet of flagships. With your most gratuitous permission, we would beseech to remain in in your orbit.”

Erika nodded. “That’ll be fine! Just be careful! I’m not taking the blame If I accidentally inhale you!” Erika continued, “Alright, Let’s get going! Don’t forget to wave goodbye to your old home planet!”

Erika jerked into motion, her movements initially extremely turbulent and sudden for her passengers until her bracelets took control, forcing her body into a smooth and gentle acceleration. She picked up speed accelerating faster and faster until the scorched planet of Naridyn vanished from sight.

Emotions ran wild throughout the entire civilisation. The farthest any Naridynian had ever managed to travel in the entire history of their race was to their moon and back, and this was considered an amazing feat of Naridynian science and engineering. Yet here was this girl, this ‘ordinary teenager’ as she described herself, taking every single living being from the planet far beyond the realms of which in mere seconds - It was truly spectacular. It was also rather emotional for a lot of those travelling on her paw, witnessing their entire home planet vanish to a mere speck before their eyes. Everything they had ever done, everything they had ever achieved, their entire history, it was all on that very planet... and now it was gone.

Erika continued speeding up, leaving them little-to-no time to feel homesick, and it was only a few moments before the Araltian teenager had exceeded the speed of light itself; a speed which she, along with the rest of her species, would consider painfully slow for interstellar space travel, despite it being far beyond the capabilities of any Naridynian technology. Erika sped up, faster and faster and faster and faster still, the tiny flagships safely maintaining their orbit a few hundred miles around Erika’s muzzle.

The views from the ships scattered around her paws were phenomenal - stars started racing past at such a rate that that they seemed to stretch longer with the incredible speeds, as if they

were in front and behind at the same time. Which, in a way, they were - light just couldn't keep up with Erika.

The young Araltian was blasting her way through the system of Theta Corinthi, which marked the halfway point in their journey, when every single ship on her paws suddenly felt a violent and powerful vibration in Erika's body seemingly emanating from her large and powerful anklets. Panic ensued throughout her paws; thousands of people shouting about earthquakes while trying to hide for cover as things started falling from shelves and bookcases on their ships. Other, more level headed individuals assumed it was some kind of interstellar turbulence, but they would be quickly proven incorrect too.

The answer to the cause of the violent vibrations came in the form of a deafening sound shortly after the vibrations started.

\*Briiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiing\*

Erika sighed, stabbing the "Answer Call" button on her wrist.

"Mooooooooooooom I'm busy! I'll phone you back later!"

"You will do no such thing, Missy! Get back home now! You were due back an hour ago! You're already grounded for a week; if you don't come back immediately it'll be even longer!"

There was a resounding silence that befell everyone on her paws and the escorted flagships. Many of the billions of people she was helping out had started to consider her their Goddess, perhaps one sent from Evyn if not a reincarnation of Evyn herself...

... And here she was being told off by her mother for staying out late.

The thoughts of their 'Goddess...' Their 'savior,' their... Whatever she was, being 'grounded,' completely overwhelmed the entire populous. Most suspected she was just being humble when she was describing herself as an "ordinary teenager," yet here she was, millions of feet tall, larger than anything anyone could possibly imagine - and she was still being grounded by her mother.

Erika needed an excuse, and she didn't really have long to think of one.

"Moom! I'm doing homework with Eleve, we've got a group project, we really need to finish it off!"

"Hmm..." Evie scowled. Erika certainly couldn't see her mother, but she could picture her unimpressed expression from the tone in the voice..

Erika's mother certainly wasn't born yesterday - and she'd put up with Erika's attempts to escape coming home, hundreds if not thousands of times before.

"You'd better be Missy or you'll be gr-"

"Oh Mom I gotta go, Bye!"

Erika hung up quickly, scrunching her face, concerned about the consequences she'd be facing when she arrived back home. She knew she was going to be in all kinds of trouble, but she had little choice - She couldn't go home to Araltys with an entire planet's population on her paws.

"I'm... really sorry about that," Erika apologised with a frown.

The Naridynians were still rendered speechless by the phone call. To think that this impossibly large teramacro, this newfound Goddess of theirs that was doing them such a favour, would be disciplined by such menial punishments as 'being grounded' was incomprehensibly baffling to the billions of people.

"Yeah, Mom can be like that... I really wish you guys didn't have to hear that." Erika pouted, "anyway," she stated, trying to stay vigilant, "let's get you guys to your new home! I'll deal with Mom later when I get back home!"

Thousands and thousands of questions filled Naridynian heads: Home? Does this incomprehensibly large teenager live in a house with family? Is there an entire planet of giants as big as her? Just how big was Erika in the grand scheme of things? Suddenly, the billions of people scattered all over Erika's paws felt very, very small.

Trying to brighten the mood some, Erika started spicing up her flight path, showing off her flying skills to the tiny little people. Orbiting close to great big beautiful stars, loop-the-looping around planets, dodging asteroids and otherwise showing off. She realised that while she got to travel through space like this several times per day, this was the first and probably last time that all the Naridynians would get to experience it. Before long, she was having fun again.

Erika was certainly an expert at brushing off her burdens with fun - almost a little too good at times. In this instance though, it helped her enjoy the rest of the journey so much that it seemed to take no time at all.

"Alright guys, we're here!"

Erika slowed down, as she soared into the solar system, slowing and slowing as she passed the orbits of the outer planets and she homed in on the very next world that she was originally going to destroy before her earlier interruption.

The planet came into sight, a view which brought the billions of the Naridynians to mass celebrations and tears of joy. Growing on the horizon as they approached it was a beautiful planet, with vast oceans and copious amounts of land for their population.

“There you go guys! Hopefully this planet will be a better home than your last one!” Erika positioned herself and her paws in such a way to allow the millions upon millions of space ships to vacate her pawpads into the orbit of their new home.

“Dearest Miss Erika!”, the Naridynian representative expressed exuberantly over the communication channel, the sound of jubilation from everyone else on board easily audible in the background. “Miss Erika, we are all forever indebted to your glory. Thank you so much for your selfless acts! You have saved our entire planet! If there was anything we could ever do to repay you, please never hesitate to ask!”

Erika blushed, this time so hard it showed through her yellow fur. She’d destroyed so many planets in her life, but she’d never actually saved a planet’s civilisation before...

... But she had to admit it felt extremely rewarding.

Erika just ended up chuckling in response. She figured there were a lot of things that they could help her with... Starting with her maths homework! But that could all wait, for now she was content with just letting them all settle into their new home.

En masse, the millions of tiny ships flew into orbit vacating the paws. The thought of being able to breathe real air once again, to live on a planet with real skies, clouds, oceans, valleys, mountains... The very concept of it all was so overwhelming to them.

Erika shared a few moments conversing with her new, incomprehensibly small friends, until she got the all-clear. Every single ship had left her paws, which meant she was now free to leave the Naridynians to their own devices.

“Right then, I think that’s about it!” Erika smiled.

“Er... Wait... Lady Erika... Um... We have a request, and if it’s something you’re not comfortable with we fully underst-”

“Hah don’t worry about it, just ask! It’s what I’m here for.”

The Naridynian representative blushed while asking, but he’d been asked by the other members of the council if they could ask too, as it was of great importance to them. “Miss Erika, You have been of so much assistance and help to us. We were wondering, is there some way you could

mark our very planet, something that we can remember you by, even in many generations to come?”

Erika was startled by the request. “You... want me to sign your planet?” She asked, half joking... But it was exactly what they wanted.

“Yes, Lady Erika. Something that will ensure that your presence, our eternal debt to you will never ever be forgotten. You have done more for us in a single day, than our beloved Evyn has done in half a millenium. It is only right that we hold you in such high regards.”

Erika smiled, before an idea filled her head. “Well! How about I make a pawprint on your planet?”

“That would be perfect!” The Naridynian laughed realising how ideal the gesture would be. “You may have had accidentally destroyed the ruins of our last home with your paws, but then with those same paws, you have brought us new life and salvation. It is the most fitting gesture we can possibly think of.”

Erika beamed, and did exactly as they suggested. Slowly lowering her paw down towards the unscathed planet, she let it descend, once again like a meteor. The billions of onlookers watched in glee from space, many recording the moment on cameras to be kept forever. Her claws glowed as they pierced the atmosphere and her paws powered through the beautiful clouds with surprising beauty and grace. The collision was loud and destructive, but far less so than she was usually accustomed to. It was one of the first times she’d landed on a planet like this without the intention to destroy it. Hopping back off again, she moved her hands to the oceans, scooping up large volumes of the water to fill the paw print into a giant pawprint-shaped lake. The edges of the impression were now uprooted mountains that would soon become the holy lands of the planet.

As she flew back into orbit, the billions of people immediately started noticing another miracle, something none of them could ever have predicted. Right in the middle of her pawprint, standing proud and on high in the newly formed mountains between the lakes formed by her two central toes and her main pad, stood a great statue, miles high.

Somehow the statue of Evyn, their proudest-ever architectural and religious feat, had made it’s way onto the planet - presumably it wasn’t destroyed by Erika’s initial footsteps on Naridyn, but merely caught up in the fur between her toes instead.

The Naridynians everywhere cheered and celebrated the glory of the figure of their own Goddess, their own proudest achievement standing triumphantly in the centre of a one hundred and fifty mile wide pawprint.

“Blessed are you my beloved Goddess Evyn.” the Naridynian stated, clearly overjoyed by the stroke of fortune “and even more blessed are you Goddess Erika.”

“You may, or may not be a Goddess, Miss Erika, but your actions today have done more for us than any God or Goddess ever has, or likely ever will do ever again. So like it or not, you are a Goddess to us.”

Erika blushed once again. “You guys!” was all she managed to say, before blushing too hard to hard to say anymore.

Smiling, she decided it was time to leave the Naridynians to explore their new planet. “Okay, I’m going to go, but I will promise to visit you guys soon enough!”

“You will be missed Lady Erika, but thank you so very much. And once again if there is anything we could ever do to repay, we would gladly oblige,” the Naridynian stated one last time.

This time, Erika pondered a little while wondering if it was a bit cheeky to ask, but to decided to check anyway.

“Could I er... Have your old planet?”

“Of course you may, Lady Erika. It is of no use to us anymore. Our sun would destroy it completely in a few years.”

Erika beamed, “Awesome!”

Smiling, she knew what planet she’d be destroying next time she was in this part of the galaxy - and this one was filled with tiny cities and remnants of civilisation. It would be extremely fun to smash to pieces.

“Alright then! Thank you so much, and I hope you like your little planet. Till next time! Bye!”

... And with that she was gone.

Erika returned to Araltys to find her mother waiting furiously at the door for her.

“Sorry Mooom,” Erika pouted.

Evie was furious. Erika had been obviously lying about her whereabouts all day; she was so late for dinner that it had gone completely to waste, and her homework was still piled up on her desk un-started. She’d contacted Eleve’s mother and she had confirmed that Erika wasn’t over there.

“So Little Missy!” Evie started, furious at her daughter, “Where have you been today, and what excuse are you going to come up with this time?”

“I was destroying planets, and I got sidetracked. Sorry Mom. I’ll go to my room and do my homework.”

“Likely story! I bet you wer-... Erm. Wait... What?” Evie scratched her head in confusion as Erika walked by into her room. Whenever she asked where her daughter was, she always got a lie... but this sounded like the most truthful thing she’d ever heard.

“I... Er...”

Her poor mother was left speechless, as Erika snaked towards her room.

“... I don’t think I’ve ever heard you tell the truth to that question before in your entire life, Missy... so for telling the truth, I’m going to let you off lightly. You’re only grounded for a week!”

Erika smiled, before sneaking away into the safety of her room and crashing out on her messy bed, curling into her space-themed duvet covers with a huge smile.

Her mother didn’t need to know that the planet smashing story was also lie. Nor did August, or her classmates, or her teachers, or even her friends; to them she was still a tiny little girl - insignificant in stature and achievement. She knew she’d still be teased about being short. She knew that nothing she could do would change that. But what she also knew was that to one little planet in the vast universe, she was the biggest, most powerful, most significant girl that has ever, and will ever exist, and this made her feel all warm and fuzzy inside. So it didn’t matter that she was grounded for a week. Erika was proud of herself, and even if only for tonight, she felt larger than her entire world.