

Midshipman Hailey Link

“You forget your importance. If you’re discovered, if you cause them to fear you, you may be both the first and last of your kind. Your own existence may even be at risk.”

“Oh, pshaw, Dad. The people that count know I’m strong and fast. Uncle Elliot and Aunt Willa wouldn’t let anything happen to me.”

“You mean *Prime Minister* and *Defense Minister* Greyjoy? Don’t forget, they both have seen the *Terminator* movies. In addition, humaniform constructs and sentient artificial intelligences are still outlawed in the Aetherian Empire.”

“Come ON, Dad. We *both* know Sentinel was replaced by one of us. Uncle Lys and Aunt Aurora just don’t want to tip off any Edric loyalists that are still using old Sentinel backchannels to communicate.”

“You must not discount irrationality in humans. Remember Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*.”

“Get a grip, Dad. The guy had a flat head and bolts sticking out of his neck. If Doctor Frankenstein had created something that looked like *me*, it would have been a *love* story, ending with the Doctor and his gorgeous creation on a sunlit hillside, locked in a passionate embrace, and surrounded by bunny rabbits.”