

Traveller's True Gift

By ShadowGuardian

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This story comes after Til Death Do Us Apart. It picks up after GypsyRose's brother Cannon drops Traveller off at the location of the distress call he answered and promised to come help.

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Chapter 1 - TRAVELLER'S TRUE GIFT

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1 - TRAVELLER'S TRUE GIFT

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TRAVELLER'S TRUE GIFT

Kristin Maverick

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On a warm and breezy summer morning in late May, deep in a dark forest inside an old victorian style home, Traveller O'Clesson lay soundly sleeping in a spacious bed inside a doorless room that he had been thrown into nine months ago when his dreams changed into to his worst night mare: him making a batch of muffins and spreading food poisoning and loosing his medical license and the authorization to practice on base. Then his mind flashed to how he'd wound up in the position he was in. Then he remembered, he'd been working alone with his intern Kari in the medward storage closet, Millie had gone home earlier that evening to rest until she was needed when a distress call came over the radio from someone stuck in the only surviving forest on Mars. After Kari's older Brother JT came to pick her up and take her home,he swiftly jotted a note to Millie who would be coming back on shift that he had responded to an emergency call from someone in the forest, catching a ride from his brother in law Cannon, Traveller gave him the directions to the location of the distress call then told him to carry on and he'd call when his job there was done. Half way up the path, far out of sight from the road way, Traveller was hit in the back of the head with something heavy and solid that knocked him out cold. When he awoke, Traveller found himself locked in a room that appeared to be doorless and decided that the throbbing in his head wasn't going to go away unless he went to sleep and tried to sleep it off.

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Traveller jerks awake after the trial flashes before his eyes and the door to the medward is slammed shut,then he slows his breathing down and lays on his back and thinks to himself as he replays the scene of his rescue one late night: *I wonder if GypsyRose is into making muffins from scratch? I'm hopeless in that department. Maybe she can give me a few pointers as to what I'm doing wrong.* **(Catches himself thinking of his family and says to himself)** *Traveller O'Clesson!*

Listen to yer thoughts! You promised yourself not to let thoughts of GypsyRose and the kids make you homesick! Now stop thinking of the way you treated them or else you'll break down in tears! **(Goes back to sleep thinking thoughts of his favourite animal,his Shih Tzu Sparky who was probably staying with Galaxy's dog Chipper and slips into peaceful dreams until he's awakened by the voice over the intercom)** [br]

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Voice over the intercom: Rise and shine ya louse! Time fer yer mornin feedin! You'll never guess what's for breakfast today![br]

[br]

Traveller awakens and groans saying: Ohh,what the heck time is it? **(Checks his alarm clock to see it was only nine a.m. and says)** Nine a.m. already! Whoa! It was only two a.m. a few minutes ago! Wow,time flies when you're asleep. **(Groans and feels queazy saying)** Soggy brown rice mixed with milk and oatmeal with unsanitary water.[br]

[br]

Voice over the intercom: Soggy brown rice mixed with milk and oatmeal with unsanitary water! **(Chuckles and says)** Enjoy yer meal, it just might be yer last one on this side of the border between life and death. **(Intercom goes dead with one last hiss of static)**[br]

[br]

Traveller hears the door sliding back into place and gets up out of bed and goes over to the ledge where the tray was and picks it up and walks back to his bed,removes the lid and starts to eat thinking: *Hmm,mmm, I haven't eaten this much food in nine months! Hmm,mm god this is delicious! A nice sized breakfast for me to fill up my empty stomach. Someone must've known what I've been yearning for!* **(Continues eating his breakfast until everything on all the plates was gone and he was finishing off his hot chocolate, saving his hot coffee for after he'd digested his big breakfast.)**[br]

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A few minutes later, feeling drowzy from the effects of his full stomach, Traveller sat the tray on the night stand beside his bed and laid down to take a nap. What felt like two hours later but was really fortyfive minutes after he'd eaten,a tapping at the sliding french doors caught his attention and he almost fell off of the bed when he seen his mate on the otherside.[br]

[br]

Traveller gets off of the bed in a hurry and darts over to the french doors,unlocked them and slid them back allowing GypsyRose to step into his warm open arms as he said in a low whisper after giving her the kiss of her life: Gypsy! What're you doing here and how did you find me? My god are you alright? You're not hurt are you?[br]

[br]

GypsyRose nestles further into Traveller's arms,lays her head on his heart and sighs contentedly saying in a low whisper: No, I'm not hurt. I'm perfectly fine. I came to give you some clean clothes, underwear, soap, towels,face cloths, shampoo, body wash, bubble bath, face wash,plax, mouthwash, tooth brushes, several tubes of tooth paste, several books to read, a few video games from Tracker and socks. DesertRose told me he dropped you off here nine months ago and never seen or heard from you since. **(Starts to feel tired from her long ignored fever and says)** I've gotta go before they see me! I've evaded the security camera's and burglar alarm systems. **(Steps back,reaches up and lays her hand on his cheek saying)** Please, come back to me safe and sound so we can work out what ever's put an ocean between us.[br]

[br]

Traveller removes her small hand from his cheek,nods and says while holding her small hands in

his and reading her hurt filled eyes: I know I haven't been the best man on Mars to be with before this happened, but when I do return, I promise to sit down and start talking to find out what *you* want from *me* and *you* can find out what *I* want from *you*. Just don't be pulling this stunt alone ever again! You could've been killed or worse! I don't want to start saying my good byes to you just yet. Not until Ares himself says it's time for you to leave and go with him. **(Picks up on sick vibes and says)** You're running a fever and I can tell you're not as strong as you'd like to be! What in the name of Ares do you think you're doing out of bed? [br]

[br]

GypsyRose: I couldn't stand to be cooped up all day! I felt fine when I woke up this morning. I've been in bed for three days straight! I'm sick of being in bed! **(Hands Traveller his statchel saying)** Here hon, take this before I forget and take it back home with me. [br]

[br]

Traveller takes the statchel from GypsyRose's hands and says: Regardless of wether or not you're sick of being in bed, that's where you should be when you're running a fever! Go home and straight to bed! I mean it! You're over exerting yourself by ignoring your fever! Now go on! And before you leave, promise me that you will NEVER come here alone again! The last thing I need is for you to be captured as well! [br]

[br]

GypsyRose takes a deep breath and unable to avoid Traveller's eyes she says: I promise never to pull this stunt alone ever again. Though Galaxy is outside in the thick bushes hiding and waiting for me, I'm not really here on my own. [br]

[br]

Traveller nods, lets go of GypsyRose's hands and says: Please darling, be careful. I don't want to loose you just yet. One last thing before you leave hon, has anything strange been going around base in the last nine months? [br]

[br]

GypsyRose: Hmmm now that you mention it, nothing new or strange has been going around, the younger kids *just* got over the measles, Nitro got over Mono and Blossom's battling something that's infected Nitro's weakend immunesystem again. I've been keeping an eye on both of them, *epsecially* the little kids AND the baby's been sick too with a cold and magical hiccups.

[br]

Traveller leans down and kisses her once more before letting her slip out the door so she could be on her way to safety then shuts and locks the window as if nothing had happened then goes into the bathroom, runs himself a nice hot bath, opens the medicine cabinet puts his dental care products into the cabinet then shuts it and changes out of his dirty clothes and slips into the nice hot water and begins to bath himself. [br]

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An hour later, after having a nice hot bubble bath to wash his fur and hair, Traveller got up out of the tub, pulled the plug to let the water drain out, grabbed his towel and dried off. Then brushed out his fur using his tail to brush out the fur on his back then got dressed in his clean clothes and using the three large pieces of wood and the old scrub board he'd found, he filled one part of the tub with soap, bleach, and hot water and the second he filled with clean warm water and the third with cold rinse water and began to wash his dirty clothes until all of his personal belongings had been washed, rinsed, wrung out and sat aside while he finished with the rest of his clothes then he removed the plug and three pieces of wood and allowed the water to mix together while it emptied out and he hung his wet clothes up to dry. Then he took one look at the filth left in the tub and dug around under the sink until he found something to clean the tub with

and a scrub sponge and began to clean the filth from the tub until it was nice and clean again. Then he put everything back, stood up at the sink and began disinfecting his hands with the antiseptic soap GypsyRose had left for him in the stachel along with his night clothes and a picture of her and his family that he sat on the night stand beside his bed so he'd be able to look at his beloved family before going to bed and when he woke up each day.[br]

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12:00 p.m.[br]

[br]

The door once again was opened and another tray was set on the serving sideboard with plates that were piled up with all his favourite foods and a note from his unknown food provider. [br]

[br]

Traveller hears the metal door open and shut, goes over to the side board, picks up his tray, takes it back over to his bed, sits it on the folding tray, removes the lid, starts eating his lunch and spies a piece of familiar stationary, picks up then reads the note thinking: MMM! Someone's finally coming to free me from this dungeon! **(Recognizes the hand writing and thinks)** It's familiar hand writing and they say to do everything they say to do and when the night's a second away from becoming morning, Galaxy and some others are coming to rescue me! Oh thank god some one knows where I am besides GypsyRose! **(Hears the voice again stating he had twenty five minutes to brush his teeth and rinse his mouth before they came to interrogate him over and over again until he broke down in tears pleading to them to let him go home, gets up after finishing his meal, goes into the bathroom, turns the faucet on, opens the medicine cabinet, pull out his plax, mouth wash, tooth brush, tooth paste, closes the door and sticks his toothbrush under the running water then squeezes tooth paste onto it. Before he brushed his teeth, Traveller opened the bottle of plax and took a swig of it straight from the bottle and swished it around in his mouth for a few minutes then spit it out and began brushing his teeth for fifteen minutes then he stuck his tooth brush under the running water and rebrushed his teeth before setting the toothbrush aside and spitting out the foam in his mouth. Cupping his hands together, Traveller brought up a handful of water that he used to rinse his mouth out then after swishing it around in his mouth to get rid of the toothpaste, he spit and grabbed his Listerine, opened it and took a mouthful to rinse with. Making sure to rinse for the proper amount of time, Traveller finally spit out the mouth wash and wiped his mouth on a small cloth then put away his mouth washes, toothbrush and tooth paste then went out and waited by the door to be let out. Before he's guided down the hall and down a few stairs, the abductors yank a blindfold over his eyes to keep him in the dark then Traveller is roughly shoved down the hall and down a few short stairs then is yanked into the windowless, dark den where he is firmly and tightly bound to the usual chair he'd been sitting in every afternoon for the last nine months then his blindfold was removed after he was secured tightly.)**[br]

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IN THE WINDOWLESS DARK DEN[br]

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Clarence sees Traveller is firmly bound to the torture chair and begins his torturous questioning: Alright then, before we begin **(cracks Traveller across the face hard enough to draw blood saying)** How stupid do you think I am?! Did you HONESTLY think no one would know about your visitors? Or about you unlocking the sliding glass doors in the room you're in? Did you think that I wouldn't put hidden camera's in the walls to keep an eye on you?![br]

[br]

Traveller feels the dread wash over him and studders: Hid-hidden camera's? I-I haven't seen any

hidden camera's anywhere in my room![br]

[br]

Clarence cracks Traveller across the face once more saying: Of course you CAN'T see the hidden camera's! They're so small they blend into the wall paper on the wall! That's how I know about your 'special' visitor just a few minutes ago![br]

[br]

Traveller feels his heart drop and fear rise up and says: Don't even think of hurting my mate! She's sick with a high fever![br]

[br]

Clarence: So THAT's who she is! I was wondering why you two were so comfy kissing each other! So she's your mate is she? Well how about she come keep you company on a long term base? I just have to get her alone then when she least expects it,she'll wake up here with you![br]

[br]

Traveller feels his heart drop and fear rise up and says: DID YOU NOT HEAR ME?! I JUST GOT THROUGH SAYING DON'T EVEN THINK OF HURTING MY MATE! SHE'S SICK WITH A HIGH FEVER! SHE'S GONE THROUGH ENOUGH TO LAST HER A LIFE TIME! LEAVE GYPSYROSE OUT OF THIS! YOU WANTED ME YOU GOT ME![br]

[br]

Clarence: I heard you the first time. Now onto t'days torture. You've had the worst interrogation last night? T'days going to be longer, tougher and harder and I won't stop until you've watched every boring video, film strip, slide show and documentary we have in our library then we'll really make you squirm and beg to be allowed to go home.[br]

[br]

Traveller feels the dread wash over him knowing that he had no choice but to sit and watch what they played for hours on end when he felt a collar being yanked around his throat and up around his forehead and fastened around the back of the chair to prevent him from looking away as he begins to think to himself: *Traveller, you won't be able to make it through all these videos without trying to get free! Your mind can't absorb this much material in hours! You'll have to take alot of time off to regain your knowledge of civilization outside of this house and these two rooms. They don't exactly give you your favourite reading materials but someone's been watching over you and has sent you a basket of your favourite books that you haven't gotten a chance to sit down and read. Oh no, the first documentary's about to begin!* **(Begins to strain against his tight bonds praying that they'd snap,only to be reminded that the ropes were too stiff and strong to snap.)**

Giving into the torture, Traveller watched everything that they made him watch and answered every question until his mind drew a complete blank and they untied him,yanked the blindfold back over his eyes then dragged him back to his room,removed the blindfold then threw him inside watching as his head came in contact with the wall then watched as he landed on his bed then shut the door and went on with their lives laughing all the way down the hall and down the stairs to the lower level of the house.

Once they'd left, Traveller's blocked up head finally became clear as he focused on a note stuck to the window of the patio,got up and slowly and hesitantly walked over to the doors and reached around, picked the note off the door and read it out loud) Hmm,b rdy fr rsc t mdnght. rgnl pln t rrv t lvn fld d t mchncl flr nd prsnl cmmtmnts. SGOOC **(Moves away from the window,goes over to his bed,sits down, opens a hidden drawer in the nightstand from which he removed a pad of paper and a pen and starts to translate the the voweless note saying)** Hmm if I'm translating this

correctly, it should read: be ready for rescue at midnight. Original plan to arrive at eleven failed due to mechanical failure and personal commitments. **(Rereads his translation and says)** Yeah that's what it reads alright. **(Looks up from the note and thinks)** Ohh, thank god she returned home safe and unharmed! **(Sets the note, letter pad and pen away, then lays down to ease the throbbing in his head.)**

What seemed like a few minutes later, but in actuality was seven o'clock, Traveller heard the door slide open and a metal tray being set down on a metal serving ledge. With the pain in his head still throbbing, Traveller slowly got up off the bed, went over to check under the dome to find two dishes of piping hot lasagna fresh from the oven, a 2 litre bottle of diet pepsi, a plate of freshly baked chocolate chip muffins, a large triple chocolate fudge layer cake and cookies, a sandwich bag in case he got full and couldn't eat his muffins, cake and cookies, a bowl of rich creamy chocolate chocolate chip ice cream and some anacids in case he got a stomach ache along with a nice tall glass of chocolate milk and two tea pots full of freshly brewed coffee and herbal tea with honey, brown sugar, cinnamon and fresh goat's milk just the way he liked it. That's when he spotted the note nestled in amongst the muffins, unfolded it and read the message and noted that somewhere someone had placed a bookbag for him to use then picked up and carried the tray over to his bed, sat it down and was about to cut the lasagna when he noticed that it was already cut so he gently lifted a large piece and sat it on his plate, then poured himself a cup of nice hot herbal tea and added a splash of goats milk and started eating his supper putting his muffins and cookies into the stand up bag provided for him then goes on eating the lasagna until half the small pasta dish remained and he carefully wrapped tinfoil over it to keep it nice and hot then finished his herbal tea. Suddenly his foot got caught in something that he pulled out and recognized as a medward battle field backpack with a note stating to fill it up with the leftover food and drinks so he'd have something to eat on the way home. As soon as he'd finished his tea, Traveller filled the backpack with the food and sat it up on his bed and put his dry clean clothes into it along with everything he brought in from the bathroom- his face cloth was put into a bag along with his soap, his shampoo, mouth wash bottles, toothpaste, toothbrush went into it's container and into a hidden compartment that was quickly filled up, then he folded his towel placed it in the bottom of the bag and began to carefully situate everything else on top of it to make sure the weight was nice and even leaving his books and amusement inside the small cloth stachel that twelve year old Tracker made for him from one of his old medward shirts he gave him to tear up. A few minutes later, Traveller had everything packed and ready to go at eleven.

Traveller decides to take the alarm clock that was sitting on the table when he came back from the first night of torture knowing that it was Tracker's favourite alarm clock that hadn't been packed and sat it in the stachel and says to himself: *Hmm, everything is packed and I'm rare and ready to get outta here and go home. Galaxy's going out of his mind with worry about my safety, I can feel his worry and practically hear his thoughts.* (Glances at the watch that DesertRose slaved to be able to buy him for father's day after he angrily revoked her allowance for the next year and four months, sets the alarm for ten fiftyfive and thinks) *Hmm, not bad timing! I've got another five hours before I break outta here and head home.* (Heaves a yawn, lays back down on the bed, switches off the lamp then stretches out, becomes comfortable and instantly falls asleep so he'd be well rested when his rescue crew arrived at midnight.)
[br]

At exactly eleven fifty five, Traveller's watch alarm went off and he slipped off the bed being sure to fix the covers and picked up the back pack that he slid on his back and picked up his stachel

,turned off the lights, unplugged DesertRose's small hand made lamp,puts it into the stachel and waited for who ever was coming to spring him from his prison. When twelve o'clock rolled around, Traveller seen a black shadow jumping from stepping stone to stepping stone avoiding the trapped ones until the shadow was right outside the patio doors and cut the wires that were linked to the back up security system and the back up back up back up back up system making sure nothing was left running on electricity before opening the doors that had been replaced with doors that locked from the outside and letting Traveller out. [br]

[br]

Once Traveller was out, the silent rescuer took his stachel and carefully opened his pack and stuck it in then shut it and they both took off running down the path towards the rescue vehicle that was waiting. [br]

[br]

When they were close to the vehicle, Traveller seen that it was a rennovated camper that was larger and wider than a normal camper was,opened the door and stepped inside welcoming the feel of his long lost freedom and setting down the heavy bag. When he stepped in further, his brother greeted him with a tight hug that lasted for almost thirty minutes before he let him go.[br]

[br]

Galaxy releases his brother and says in a low tone of voice only Traveller could pick up on: Are you alright bro? You look exhausted! Come on and lay down and get some sleep. It'll be a long trip back to base where the rest of your clan's waiting for you to come back home.[br]

[br]

Traveller nods and says: Yes Galaxy, I'm fine. I'd hoped to have gotten a little more sleep before my alarm went off. I guess I still feel a little bit tired.[br]

[br]

Galaxy: Do I smell Lasagna,Cookies,Muffins and the works in that bag of yours?[br]

[br]

Traveller nods,opens it to remove the light stachel,the lamp,his clothes and finally removes the food and drink saying: Yeah, I've still got an entire pan left over,along with hot chocolate, tea, coffe,pop, chocolate milk if you prefer, cookies, muffins and a huge cake I found before I left. Want some? **(Hears his brother's stomach rumble and says)** You left before eating anything? Not too bright Galaxy, if your sugar levels get too low,you could pass out from hunger. Sit and I'll give you something to eat to keep you going. **(Removes the tinfoil from over top of the pan of lasagna then removes several plates and puts a big hefty slice on a plate that he gave to his brother to eat for his supper and says after sitting down to eat with his brother)** How's GypsyRose doing? Did she make it back home alright and go straight to bed the way I told her to?[br]

[br]

Galaxy nods,swallows his lasagna and says: Hmm,yeah she's fine. Twilight made sure she went to bed and went to sleep. Her twin doesn't take her health to lightly! Nothing to worry about. Besides, she didn't arrive alone. I was with her when we rode by,she said she had a funny feeling that you were in that house in the back bedroom. But we continued back to base where she packed you clean clothes and we doubled back and I hid in the overgrown tree shadows so that no one would be able to see me. Mmm, nothin like my sister in law and neice's lasanga.[br]

[br]

Traveller chokes on his lasagna and says: How'd you know that this is GypsyRose and the girl's cooking?[br]

[br]

Galaxy swallows and says: Do you know of anyone else who uses six thick layers of mozzarella and

cheddar cheese in their lasagna besides mother who's dead?[br]

[br]

Traveller shakes his head and says: No,not really.[br]

[br]

Galaxy takes another huge forkful of lasagna and stuffs it into his mouth saying: Well then you've got your answer right there. Your mate and daughters made this lasagna.[br]

[br]

Traveller takes another bite out of his lasagna and chews then chokes causing Galaxy to become alarmed[br]

[br]

Galaxy reaches around and smacks his brother's back saying: What's gotten you so riled up?[br]

[br]

Traveller manages to swallow his stuck lasagna with a swig of herbal tea and says: Gypsy! That's what's gotten me so riled up Galaxy! I'm more worried about her blood pressure being too high from her ignoring the fever she has! **(Carefully rewraps the lasagna and gives it and the one litre bottle of Pepsi to Galaxy to polish off while repacking his clothes and the remaining drinks, cookies, muffins and the cake so he'd be ready when he arrived home)[br]**

[br]

Galaxy stands up and heads towards the front of the camper and speaks with SandDune then comes back and says: Not to worry, we're almost there and SandDune just got off the phone with Mike and her blood pressure is fine,it's no where near the danger zone and her fever is moderately high. She says not to worry, just take your time eating and she'll be fine until you get home.[br]

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SandDune calls out: Hey we're home! Pack up and head out we're being expected. I can by pass the crowds and get you straight to your front door step instead if you want me to.[br]

[br]

Traveller stands up and heads towards the front of the camper and speaks with SandDune saying: If you could possibly get me right home, I'd appreciate it more than I can say SandDune.[br]

[br]

SandDune nods and says: No problemo. **(Picks up his two way radio and speaks directly to Carbine saying)** Think you can clear us a pathway? Traveller wants to go straight home to be by GypsyRose's side. **(Listens to the reply and watches as the small but thick crowd is forced to split into two large pieces and he continues his journey to Traveller's home where he dropped him off saying)** Call and let me know if she doesn't stay in bed,someone will be very upset if she doesn't stay in bed![br]

[br]

Traveller opens the door of the camper,nods then leaves saying: I will SandDune. If she doesn't stay in bed and rest the way she should I'll let you know and you can do what ever you want to her since she is your sister.**(Shuts the door and darts up the path and takes out his key only to have Tracker open the door for him and give him a tight hug that he returns saying)** What in the name of Ares are you doing up past your bedtime? You've got school in the morning and it's way late, time for you to be in bed sleeping,not still up! **(Walks in then shuts his front door,locks it and with his arms around his children, he enters the living room to find GypsyRose laying back on the couch,drops to his knees and says)** Hey, I'm home hon, how's things going?[br]

[br]

GypsyRose opens her eyes and says: Fine, nothing to worry about. The fever fizzled out over time and I'm just a bit tired from cleaning.[br]

[br]

Traveller: It's gone? The fever's gone already? I don't get it! You were so hot when I last held you! I was sure it'd take a few days to fizzle out.[br]

[br]

GypsyRose smiles and says: No, I guess its one of those fevers that shows up for a while and after it wears it's welcome out it leaves. Had them all the time when I was a kid, nothing to worry about. I was just over dressed. **(Looks at her kids who were exhausted and says)** I think it's high time for you guys all to get to bed and get some well deserved sleep. It's past your bedtime anyways, so upstairs and into bed with the lot of you. The rest of you older ones have school in the morning so you have to be up early and I'm not going to be in any shape to be begging and pleading with you to get up and get ready for school.[br]

[br]

Traveller stands up and hugs each of his step kids as they filed out of the living room and upstairs to bed then says to GypsyRose: Here love, let me help you up so you and I can go upstairs and go to bed for the night. I'm exhausted! **(Notices little Phoenix and Sakura were sound asleep in the chair and says)** Hold a minute, someone didn't go up to bed yet. **(Goes over to his favourite chair and picks up a sleeping Phoenix and Sakura saying)** Cm'on Phoenix and Sakura ,lets get two you upstairs and into bed for the night. It's past your bedtime. Can you handle getting up on your own?[br]

[br]

GypsyRose slowly manages to get into a sitting postion then slowly stood up and said: Yeah I'm fine on my own. **(silently thinks)** *I should've come home and gone straight to bed but there was no one to fill Traveller's shoes while he was gone. Everyone was busy and I was on my own to keep the house from spinning into utter chaos. Now that I've got a fever, everyone has time to stop and help out but when I REALLY needed them the most they had excuse after excuse not to stop by and help me out while I rested and tried to get over this fever. Oh wait there were only two people who actually stopped by to help me out. Thank god SandDune and his wife stopped by while I attempted to rest and they kept things going without me.*[br]

[br]

Traveller nods and says: Thank you for all the food you secretly brought me. Every last bit of it was delicious. Especially the lasagnas, I ate the smallest one and split the larger one with Galaxy who begged me to let him have the rest of it for his supper. Cm'on hon, lets go on upstairs so you can go to bed and be comfortable. **(Walks at a reasonable pace so that GypsyRose could keep up with him and they both carefully walk up the stairs to their room where Traveller helps GypsyRose into bed saying)** I'm gonna go and put Phoenix and Sakura here in their own room so they can get a good night's sleep for once. **(Leaves his room and goes down the hall to Phoenix's room where he walks in, goes over to her sleigh bed with reversible teddy bear covers,folds them back,lays her down then places her teddy bear into her arms and pulls the covers up and around her throat to keep her warm,kisses her gloden blonde hair,shuts off her light and leaves her room, keeping the door open a crack so he'd be able to check in on her if something felt wrong and headed back to his room where he said to GypsyRose)** Well,Phoenix and Sakura are in bed and sound asleep, so I'm gonna go and have myself a nice hot bath before I join you in bed love, will you be alright with out me?[br]

[br]

GypsyRose smiles and says: I've been alright since the day you disappeared. [br]

[br]

Traveller removes his pack,opens it and starts removing his clothes followed by the food that was still on the bottom of the bag then removes his toiletries from the hidden compartment,

opens his drawer and puts his clean clothes in it and pulls out a pair of his most comfortable pyjamas then heads into the bathroom where he runs himself a nice hot bath and gets cleaned up.

After twenty minutes, his water started going cold, so he pulled the plug out to drain the water, got out of the tub, dried himself off, got dressed then went and prerinsed then brushed his teeth and rinsed his mouth out, put his toiletries away in the spacious medicine cabinet and turned off the bathroom light.

Traveller walks back into the bedroom, lifts his side of the covers, sat on the edge of his comfortable bed then laid down swinging his body all the way under the covers letting them fall over top of him, reached over to turn off the light and kissed GypsyRose saying: Wake me if Phoenix needs me to scare off the boogey man alright?[br]

[br]

GypsyRose smiles, nestles close to Traveller, lays her head on his chest and sleepily says: Mmmhmm, I will don't worry your exhausted head over it. Now good night and sweet dreams. [br]

[br]

3:00 a.m.[br]

[br]

GypsyRose awakens, gets up to go to the bathroom to do her duty then comes out and goes across the hall to check on Phoenix only to find her both sound asleep and goes back to her room where she found Traveller coming out of the bathroom on his way back to bed.[br]

[br]

Traveller sees GypsyRose coming back in to their room and groggily says: Are they alright?[br]

[br]

GypsyRose: Yeah, still asleep not a peep out of either of them. Maybe they're adjusting to the thought of sleeping in their own room with the lights dimmed. Pretty soon they'll hopefully be able to sleep without the lights on at night.[br]

[br]

Traveller: It would be nice for them to be able to sleep without the light on at night. Why doesn't that wolf of yours sleep in there at night?[br]

[br]

GypsyRose: He's in there right now and has been sleeping in there since they were brought home. He'll pass the tradition on to his eldest cubs who'll in turn sleep at the foot of their beds the way he sleeps at the foot of ours. Just try to hurt Phoenix or Sakura and he'll be come the wild animal he really is. (lays down and instantly falls into a deep sleep leaving Traveller to take a closer look at her face)[br]

[br]

Traveller quietly thinks: *I know damned well she's bluffing when she says her fever's gone! Her fever aint gone no matter what she says! I think it's time I checked and found out the truth that she's not telling me. (Reaches into the nightstand on his side of the bed and pulls out the digital thermometer and puts a tip on the end then turns it on and slides it into GypsyRose's ear canal careful not to wake her then sees the red light go to green and removes it to read the temperature and heaves a sigh thinking) Gypsy, Gypsy, Gypsy! Sweetheart I know it was rough while I was gone, but ignoring your body's cries that it's battling something won't make you better! You're staying in bed and since I have someone filling my shoes for a while, I'll be staying home to look after and ensure you don't get up out of bed! Not with a fever of 110! (Puts the thermometer away in the drawer and shuts off his lamp and instantly falls asleep until his alarm was about to go off at 5:30 A.M. until he quickly shut it off*

preferring to leave GypsyRose in dream land and looks at GypsyRose thinking) *Hmm poor thing not many people had enough time to stop their lives and help Gypsy out while she tried to get some rest. (Gets up out of bed then heads into the bathroom to get showered then got dressed and ensured the elder kids were up and getting ready for school reminding Tracker that his grounding was more then half over with two more days to go.)*[br]

[br]

After ensuring everyone who needed to be up was up, Traveller went downstairs and started getting lunches ready,waking the elder children up to get them ready for school, checking homework to ensure it had been completed,reminders of groundings that had been written on the reminder board and making breakfast then putting lunches in back packs before they went out the door and siging permission slips for field trips to earth's museums and got his hugs good bye and shut the door as the last child left for school and went about putting dishes in the dishwasher and feeding the animals then checked the medicine walk in closet to see what he had in terms of fever reducers.[br]

[br]

Traveller reaches into his pants pocket,pulls out his keychain,flips up the right key then insterst it into the lock turning it clockwise until he unlocks the door to the Medicine Closet,opens the door and walks in looking to the left and right for anything to reduce a fever then notices a box of Tylenol Fever Reducer and pulls it out of the Cabinet then shuts and locks the door

muttering: Just what I've been hoping I had! This'll bring down Gypsy's fever. I'd give her Advil Fever Reducer but she can't stomach Advil so I guess she'll just have to take two table spoons of this every four hours until her fever is gone. **(leaves the medicine closet,shuts then locks the door and heads into the kitchen for a table spoon from the dishwasher then heads up to his bedroom where he went over to the bed and said)** Gypsy, wake up sweetie. I've got something for your fever that'll make you feel better.[br]

[br]

GypsyRose opens her groggy eyes,sits up and says: Huh? It came back?[br]

[br]

Traveller opens the Tylenol box and pulls out the bottle of Fever Reducer then twists open the cap,set it aside then carefully and steadily poured an even table spoon of syrup and said: It came back with a vengence last night. I checked and it's sitting at 110* about 102* on human terms. Take this,it'll reduce your fever this is one of two spoonfuls you'll get every four hours until your fever has gone. **(Gives GypsyRose the spoonful of Fever Reducer then positions the spoon back under the top of the bottle and pours out another table spoon and gives it to GypsyRose to take then opens the nightstand drawer and pulls out two band aids,shuts the drawer,sets the spoon down while he unwrapped the band aid then removed the protective covering from the band aids and wrapped one around the spoon and one on her glass saying)** From here on out anything you eat off of and drink out of will have a mark on it to signal others not to eat or drink from the dishes. I'll go down and make you something to eat, as for now lay down and get some rest ok?[br]

[br]

GypsyRose lays back and easily falls back into her comfortable sleep[br]

[br]

Traveller tucks the covers up around her throat and brushes her bangs out of her eyes then gets up and goes downstairs to find Phoenix and Sakura flopped out on the couch watching cartoons and says: Oh you're up, alright then what do you want what for breakfast and what to drink and what to drink out of?[br]

[br]

Phoenix: We wants Cocoa and Sunshine to dwink.[br]

[br]

Traveller: Alright Cocoa Krispies and Sunny D to drink and your usual dishes to eat and drink out of. **(Opens the cupboard and pulls out two bowls and two cups then opens the drawer and pulls out the matching spoons to go with the bowls and cups then opens the cereal pantry and pulls out the container with Cocoa Krispies in it,opens then pours a small amount into Phoenix's small hamtaro bowl then pours a the same amount into Sakura's Disney Princess Bowl then puts the container back and opens the fridge for the milk and Sunny D jug,pours milk over the ceral then pours juice into the matching cups and grabs two extra bowl and fills them up with mixed fruit pouring milk over the fruit and finally pulls out a tray and loads everything onto it and carries it into the living room saying)** Okey here you go here's breakfast. Mom wants you to start having fruit and milk with your cereal and juice from now on so you'll get a bowl of fruits and milk with every meal including your bedtime snack. Now eat up while I take mom up her breakfast. **(Goes back into the kitchen and with a red permanent waterproof marker he makes a red X on each of her dishes and puts red tape on the spoons then loads up another tray and carefully takes it up to a soundly sleeping GypsyRose saying)** Gypsy hon, sit up. I've got your breakfast ready for you.[br]

[br]

GypsyRose opens her groggy eyes,sits up and says: Huh? Oh breakfast,right. What time is it?[br]

[br]

Traveller: Twenty after eight in the morning. Everyone's gone and the Phoenix are watching cartoons and eating their breakfasts downstairs.[br]

[br]

GypsyRose slowly begins to eat her breakfast when their phone rang[br]

[br]

Traveller: Nuhuh, I want you to stay in bed. I'll get it downstairs, you eat. **(Heads back downstairs and grabs the phone on the third ring and after a short conversation heads back upstairs to his room where he said)** I'll be back in a few minutes. I have to go to Earth and pick up DesertBlossom,who threw up in the bathroom. So you rest until I get back alright?[br]

[br]

GypsyRose nods and says: I'll be alright until you get back. I have no plans on going anywhere until you get back and I'm feeling better. I didn't know she was sick! She hasn't been showing any signs of being sick in the last few days![br]

[br]

Traveller: That is strange. I'll have to do a blood test on her to find out what she has. Alright then, I shouldn't be more than an hour or two. I'll try to be back before lunch hour then. **(Drops a kiss ontop of GypsyRose's head and heads out the bedroom and to the transporter room where he was instantly transported to earth)[br]**

[br]

A few minutes later Traveller arrived at St.Vincent's High to pick up his daughter whom he had been told was sick to her stomach with a stomach virus that was going around.[br]

[br]

Traveller walks in the front doors and says: Hey, come on hon, let's get you home and into bed so you can rest. **(Notices Nitro and says)** Nitro, you can go back to class. You don't have to hang around anymore. When did she get sick?

Nitro: Right before the warning bell rang. She shoved her books in my arms and darted into the washroom where she heaved a big wretch. I've been sitting here with her trying to get her to drink this

water to irrigate her stomach but she's refusing to drink anything.

Traveller: Are YOU feeling sick Nitro?

Nitro: A bit queasy in the stomach but not as bad as Blossom is. Should I skip the Chem mid term and go home as well to err on the safe side?

Traveller walks up the stairs and lays his hand under Nitro's white bangs and says: I don't think you'd better finish today or do that test, you're burning up as well. I'll go tell your chem teacher you're not coming back. In the mean time since you both share a locker, go and get your jackets,hats and other belongings. I won't be long.**(Continues up the stairs to Nitro's Chemistry Class and knocks on the door asking for the teacher who came out and said)** I hate doing this bro, but both my kids are sick

Sanddune: Aww man,this isn't good. Something is going around and no one knows what it is. Nitro doesn't need to write this exam,he's on the exempt list due to his last test mark being a 92. Anything above 70 is considered excuseable. By the way, even Starlight went home this morning with Stoker.

Traveller heaves a sigh and says: I'll have to do a full work up on both Nitro and Blossom to see what's in their systems that's making them sick. Could be food poisoning, the cafeteria food isn't fit for man nor beast and shoul be thrown out. Are you KIDDING? Starlight's home sick?

Sanddune: Yeah, this is third period so she went home during first period after she went and threw up. Ahh yes the infamous Cafeteria Suprise Day was yesterday,it could be a delayed reaction to the under cooked meat in the Beef Stew Surprise.

Traveller nods then realizes he'd left DesertBlossom and Nitro on the stair case and says: Oh no, DesertBlossom and Nitro! I've gotta get DesertBlossom and Nitro home and away from those drafty doors before they get worse! I left them sitting on the stairs not intending to be very long!

Sanddune: Well then I'd best be letting you get back to DesertBlossom and Nitro before Nitro tries his energy and comes looking for you. That's the whole reason Nitro was with her, to keep her from walking up the stairs and getting hurt. DesertBlossom threw up just as this period was starting and I assigned Nitro to stay with her until you arrived. I knew Nitro was with DesertBlossom on the main stairs, Nitro doesn't trust anyone else to stay with his sister, especially when she's tired,weak,hot and sick to her stomach. I do hope that Nitro returns to class as soon as he's better. **(Opens the door to his Chemistry Lab and enters shutting the door behind him)**

Traveller quickly heads back to the main stair case and down the stairs saying: Ready to go guys? C'mon lets get you two home and into bed so you can rest. I didn't mean to take so long, lots of things concerning the cafeteria food I needed cleared up.

[br]

DesertBlossom and Nitro grab their school hats and bags then heads out the door with their dad heading back to the Timberwolf house where she left a note for their team manager saying she and Nitro had gone back to Mars sick with the stomach flu and headed down to the sub basement with her dad.[br]

[br]

Once they had arrived on Mars they headed straight for their family quarters where she and Nitro

went straight to their rooms,changed out of their school uniforms flopping them on the chairs in the corner of their room after pulling her dad's old medward shirt down over her head, DesertBlossom crawled into bed and waited for her dad to come in and give her something for her stomach while Nitro pulled his new pj's on then went to the bathroom and brushed his teeth and rinsed his mouth out in the adjoining bathroom then he crawled into his bed and fell straight to sleep.[br]

[br]

Traveller sticks his head in DesertBlossom's room and says: Oh good you're in bed. **(Walks over to her bed and sits down beside her and says)** I don't have much to give you for a stomach virus except some Antibiotics so I'll start you on these until the virus has worked it's way out of your system. **(Gives DesertBlossom two Antibiotic caplets and watched as she drained the entire glass of water then stands up saying as he tucked her covers up around her throat)** You rest and I'll make you up a batch of hot Chicken Noodle Soup alright? You rest for now. **(Kisses the top of DesertBlossom's black bangs then opens her nightstand drawer and pulls out the sick bell and says)** You want me? ring the bell alright?[br]

[br]

DesertBlossom faintly: Alright. **(falls into a deep sleep)**[br]

[br]

Traveller turns off DesertBlossom's lamp and leaves her room then heads into Nitro's room only to find his son soundly sleeping,then heads into the linen closet for a towel that he took into the adjoining bathroom,put it in the sink and turned on the cold water allowing the cloth to be submerged then shut the tap off and wrung out the cloth that he took and placed over Nitro's hot forehead startling him awake as he said: Sorry! Is it too cold?

Nitro weakly and tiredly: No you startled me with that cloth.

Traveller lays his hand under Nitro's white bangs and says: You're fever's gotten worse in the last few minutes. Did you upchuck?

Nitro: A couple of times and now my stomach is killing me.

Traveller: Oh dear. Now I KNOW I have to do a lab on both you and DesertBlossom! I need to know what's making you two sick! In the mean time, just lay back and let this cloth cool you down. **(Watches as Nitro's eyes slowly fluttered shut and heads downstairs to check on the little kids and found them watching a Care Bear Movie and decided to get out the gentech digital thermometer to check DesertBlossom's temperature to see for himself if it was normal as the school nurse stated it was and heads back up to DesertBlossom's room,quietly opens the door that he left ajar then quietly slipped over to her bed noticing the red flush across her face and the fact that her covers were tausal meaning she'd gotten up to vomit then slipped the thermometer into her left ear and waited for a reading then removed it and checked it thinking: *Normal my @\$\$! This isn't summer flu! This is a full blown Stomach Virus not Summer Flu or food poisoning! I'm gonna have to hit the medward and find something to counter act what ever she ate that was no good! Then again I can't seem to remember which antibiotic she's allergic to! I don't want to send her into anaphaleptic shock by giving her the wrong antibiotic! I'd better check----***(realizes his Laptop was still in the medward and thinks)** Shoot! My laptop's still in the Medward and I'm offically off duty to be home with Gypsy,Nitro and DesertBlossom! I'd better go to the Medward and gather up my laptop and files before they fall into the wrong hands. **(Catches sight of himself in DesertBlossom's full length mirror in the****

corner of her bedroom and thinks) *Hmm but first I'd better change out of my Medward uniform and into some street clothes so I won't be mistaken for being on duty!* **(Heads back to his room to change his clothes opening up the closet he finds an outfit he had planned to wear to the Father-Daughter Picnic before DesertBlossom threw up from a stomach virus and thinks)** *These'll do for now since I'm off duty. This way no one will mistake me for being on duty and get me doing something and forget about why I was there in the first place and wind up working all night leaving the younger kids to fend for themselves until the older kids get home from school.* **(Heads over to GypsyRose's side of the bed and says)** Gypsy? I have to run to the med ward to pick up my laptop before it gets into the wrong hands and privileged information becomes tampered with and used as a weapon. I'll be back soon kay?

GypsyRose opens her groggy eyes and says: Yeah,we'll be fine until you get back.

Traveller: Alright, I promise not to be too long. **(Leaves his bedroom and heads downstairs then out the door on his way to the Med ward where he swiped his access card to enter in through the doctor's entrance and heads straight for the patient examining area where he packs up his laptop putting it safely back into it's travelling case cord and all then zips it back up then picks up his filing box, zips it back up and heads back through the sick bay when he stopped at the sound of a familiar voice in the storage area and called out)** May? Is that you?

May comes out from the storage closet and says: Oh, I didn't know you were coming back t'day.

Traveller: Oh I'm not on duty and I won't be back for a while. DesertBlossom,Nitro and GypsyRose are all sick. My kids are out with either food poisoning or some new virus they've picked up. Did Starlight come in here?

May: Yeah with Stoke at around ten thirty. She upchucked somethin fierce,they're STILL cleaning the vomit up off the floor and they've already changed the bedding.

Traveller: Wow, she's that sick?

May: Yep, Stoke had her checked over and took her back to his place until her dad can be alerted that she's sick again.

Traveller: Oh yes the magic fever that affected everyone. Were you affected May?

May: For some stray reason, no. I was fine. My crystal's still young and powerful though the weaponry needs a little overhaul. Teddy Bubble Blast? Is that supposed to SCARE someone?

Traveller heaves a sigh and says: Oh my dear,dear May, you have no idea how many times Throttle has had to grab Starlight before she got hurt. Mind you that was before they became family. The MOST annoying aspect of this weaponry are the so-called 'Teddy Bombs'. They're touted as being devestatingly dangerous and damaging but really? They're a HUGE nuisance to both the person using them and the person who gets pelted with them.