

Story Premise:

One hundred years after Humans crashed onto the planet they had planned to colonize they have arranged an alliance with the slightly nomadic natives of the planet, the Ykurlt, against the violent Rankar Kingdom. The Rankar are also members of the Ykurlt race, but they are more aggressive and wish to subjugate the newly arrived humans and their nomad allies.

Historical Background:

- Earth year 2100: The NASA Coalition launches its first colonial spacecraft carrying 900 soldiers chosen by lottery from the United States and her allies. Also onboard are the staples of modern technology, including reproductive sciences. The ship is entirely automated and the passengers are placed in stasis for the trip.
- Earth year 2150: the Stasis system fails, waking up all passengers at once as the craft enters the atmosphere of it's target planet. The landing on the surface is harder than it should have been, gouging a scar in the terrain from the sea to the forest.
- Earth year 2150: six months after the crash the craft has fully submerged. The colonists continue to set up and maintain their camp as the Ykurlt make their first appearance to the Humans
- Earth year 2175: Unsure if they were out numbered, the Humans broker an uneasy truce with the Ykurlt, a peaceful people who look like childhood

monsters. Unable to overcome the Human failing of arrogance, the Humans try to limit the Ykurlt to a smaller portion of the land- a Reservation.

- Earth year 2185: the Human's become aware that their weapons wont last long, and begin relearning the art of Blacksmithing. Scientists and Ykurlt Elders begin discussing creating Hybrids.

- Earth Year 2195: scientists discover that, under certain conditions, Ykurlt and Human DNA are compatible. Negotiations for a permanent treaty begin. The Rankar kingdom sends raiders for the first time, sparking a 100 year war.

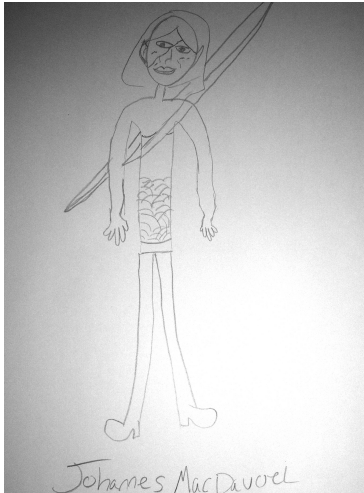
- Earth year 2215: The first Ykurlt-Human hybrid is born. Her name is Johannes

- Earth Year 2232: Johannes is sent to begin her training in both forms of warfare.

- Earth Year 2240: Johannes selected by Human leaders and Ykurlt elders to lead an invasion coalition of Human and Ykurlt warriors against the Rankar kingdom.

Main Characters:

Johannes MacDavoel:



Johannes, a female despite her father's deep desire for a son, has naturally flame blue hair and ice colored eyes. She stands at 6 feet; tall by Earth standards- but is short for the humanoid race her mother comes from. Her muscular structure is lean, but hard since her half-human body carries no fat by nature. Her body is lined with scars, most courtesy of her time in the military, but several deep ones on her back and one stretching from the left side of her forehead to the right side of her chin are much older. Testaments of her Father's attempt to "fix" her and make her more human. She craves an acceptance from both of her people that she never received as a child. Even after she was chosen to lead the campaign against the Rankar Kingdom, while still in training, she is looked down on as inferior by both races. To many of the Ykurlt Warriors, Johannes is still a child, weak, and short. She has to prove that she is worthy of leading them. The human warriors distrust her because she is not human. Her official

training began late, due to the prejudices of the warriors from both races, however unofficially her father had been teaching her how to be a warrior.

Joseph MacDowell:



Joseph is Johannes' best friend and the chosen Second in Command of the invasion. His father tasked him with teaching Johannes to be more human the day that the children met. They were five-year-olds. Joseph began his military training at the correct age, 10, and he would teach his friend everything he learned. His hair is black and his eyes green. He isn't very tall, only 5'9 by earth standards. His face is scarred from his father expressing his displeasure, and he has a deep gash on his chin that appears to have never closed, though it has. His chosen god is Apoldi, a god of loyalty and healing.

Supporting Characters:

Elija MacDowell:

Elija is Joseph's father. He is a General in charge of training at the Militia Center for the Humans. He cannot separate the Ykurlt from their aggressive brethren of the Rankar Kingdom. His son bears the brunt of his anger and his frustration that the Humans are not the dominant race on the planet. That he is the

one who nominated Johannes, a Ykurlt hybrid, to lead the attack is a testament to how well he thinks his son did teaching her to be human.

Yswar:

Yswar is an Elder of the Ykurlt. She is also Johannes second mother, the one responsible for raising the child in the ways and beliefs of the Ykurlt. A complete pacifist, Yswar argued against attacking the Rankar in the first place, but supported Johannes' appointment to the head of the attack once the other Elders outvoted her.

James MacDavoel

James did not wait to see if his child was male or female before he named her. He was raised to believe that humans are the superior race, but that the Ykurlt should be respected. Unfortunately, upon visiting his young daughter in the Ykurlt village, James was unable to reconcile his upbringing with how Johannes was being raised and he took the child from her home, early. Once safely in the Human village, James began trying to "humanize" his child, often resorting to violence. The trend ended the day he scarred her face when Johannes was 10.

Locations:

Life Forest:

Life Forest is sacred to the Ykurlt. It is a dense forest of coniferous trees that are tall, ancient and extremely dense. The trees are old enough that the bark and the cones are extremely hard. The trunks and soil are the same color, almost black due to the lack of sunlight to lighten them. The cones are sharp and the spines are a deep green. The animals of the forest are predatory, and are the targets of Ykurlt training. The young warrior has to survive the predators without spilling its blood. There is no above ground

water in the forest. There is a large clearing in the exact center of Life forest where the trees have formed a natural, perfect circle. This is the only place in the forest that has water, a large pool in the center of the clearing that is fed by an underground river from the mountains.

Blood Forest & Za Forest:

Blood forest and the Za forest are not as dense as Life forest and has three fresh water streams that runs through them. They are actually only one forest with two purposes. The Ykurlt took trees from the forest to form a line, creating two forests. Its trees are also coniferous, but their sap is a deep red and the bark is very soft. Another location for a rite of passage, the ykurlt use Blood forest to teach and test gorilla style warfare. The branches have bright green needles and deep brown bark. There are no animals native to this forest, and its secondary use is as a cleansing location. The Ykurlt use the bark as clothing and the Humans use it as insulation for their dwellings.

Seat of Ancients:

The Seat of Ancients is a mix of town hall, temple, and marketplace for the Ykurlt. The building is the largest and is constructed from felled trees from each forest. It resembles the Keep of a medieval castle. The “Throne” room holds the council of Elders. This is where the major decisions for the people as a whole are made, and where Johannes was presented. The anteroom for the throne room holds shrine to the Ancestors, all Ykurlt children are brought to the shrine for a blessing of longevity. The rest of the building holds the various religions that the Ykurlt hold to.

Additional World Information:

The Ykurlt use herbs for healing as well as eating. They are vegans that only eat living protean if the individual is pregnant. The native land animals are inedible to both Ykurlt and Humans, causing those who are inclined for whatever reason to eat flesh to keep to the seas for their meat.

The Ykurlt are technologically behind the humans. Their weapons are reminiscent of Earth's stoneage. They use short bows, long bows, arrows, and something that resembles a tomahawk. The humans, on the other hand, came from earth with 5000 extra years of technology over the Ykurlt. Unfortunately the crash destroyed much of their weapons technology and their building machines. The only technology to survive 100% intact was the reproductive technology. By virtue of being the first thing the survivors of the crash could reach. Their weapons are medieval design: Swords and crossbows.

Story Synopsis:

Johannes MacDowell is the elected leader of the Human/Ykurlt joint taskforce. And the future Queen of a new and joint society, provided she survives the job given to her by her Elders. Destroy the Rankar, and eliminate the threat to peaceful coexistence. The first successful Hybrid between the Humans and the Ykurlt, Johannes faces not only an external enemy, but the hatred and fear of both her peoples. The Ykurlt consider her weak, and she has to prove that she is better than they are before they will follow her. through non-mortal combat, after all causing death does not equal strength.

The humans have a harder time accepting her. She is new, and she is not human, so she is distrusted by all those older than her, and a curiosity to those younger. Fortunately those she grew up alongside, for the most part, accept her as a peer and, for some, as a commander.

The Rankar Kingdom started out as Ykurlt who tired of their nomadic existence. For 500 years they peacefully coexisted with their Ykurlt brothers. They had minimal interaction, separated by a mountain range. That changed when the Humans crashed, coinciding with a new King ascending to the Rankar throne. This king took the crash as a sign that the planet had to be brought to heel. He raised an army and 50 years after the crash, launched raids against the Ykurlt and the Humans.

Story Excerpt:

“Johannes!” Joseph called as he ran up to his best friend, “Guess what!”

“What?” Johannes was amused, Joseph was naturally excitable, but not usually to the point where he was gasping for air like he was.

“Father just returned from the Council meeting with the Elders of the Ykurlt and the Militia Commanders!”

“So?” Johannes tried to connect the dots in her mind. Joseph looked so expectantly at her that she knew she was missing something vital. Joseph rolled his eyes at his tall friend. 10 years living in the human camp should have taught the Hybrid to at least play along. Instead she merely stared at him, waiting for the rest of the story.

“SO...” He said, “You have been chosen for special training. Accelerated training to defeat Rankar for good. And I have been picked to help you! I am the Human second!” He danced in a circle as Johannes laughed over the top of her book and leaned against her favorite tree.

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