Dear Daughter

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Dear Daughter

by Measured Words

ANNIE's origin.

Notes

Thanks to Soupspoon for the beta and general handholding! As always, you're the best!

See the end of the work for more <u>notes</u>

ANNIE looked in the mirror. ANNIE stared back. She looked so normal. Like any girl. Or no - like a specific girl - one she'd never met, but who'd donated her genetic material nonetheless.

"Angela," she said to the mirror. "Angela Sarfire. I'm you. I'm your clone."

But she wasn't Angela, of course. She was ANNIE. Artificial Nanoconstructed Neurally Independent Entity. But still. She could feel Angela inside her - it gave her something of a thrill. They shared the same cells, the same memories, though their lives had diverged, of course from the point at which Angela's genetic material had been harvested.

There was a knock at the door, and ANNIE smoothed down the lines of her jumpsuit nervously one last time.

"Your patron is here," came the clipped robotic voice of Dr. Rochel. "Please make your way to the reception lounge presently for the review."

ANNIE remembered how nervous she'd been - how nervous Angela had been, rather - when she'd gone for her crew profile interview, before she'd been assigned to a Fleet ship. ANNIE didn't know where she - Angela - had wound up after that, but the standard biosample she'd given had eventually been given to Nanodev, and out of all the potential candidates, somehow, her DNA had been sponsored to create ANNIE. And now, she was about to meet the man behind that sponsorship.

He was a tall man, with dark hair going grey at the temples - it made ANNIE wonder about aging, and how her nanoconstructed body would handle it. Would she get old? Or would she forever be the younger, prettier version of her original? Would Angela hate her for that? She tried to shake off the morbid thoughts, focusing again on her patron. He wore a Fleet uniform as well, his jacket hanging open roguishly to match his smile. The four braids on his cuffs denoted his rank, and ANNIE addressed him accordingly.

"Hello Captain."

"That's Captain Allonius." The captain was appraising her too, and shook his head. "You really do look just like her. Do you have a name yet?"

"They call me ANNIE. Artificial Nanoconstructed-"

"-Neurally Independent Entity. I know. Well we can't have you saying it like that all the time. Try it like this: Annie."

"Annie." The word sounded softer when she wasn't trying to say it like it was an acronym. It sounded more like a name. Having her own name took her a step further away from Angela, though, and that hurt. But Angela would never cry in front of a captain - she wasn't a space elf, afterall. She was an officer. And Annie could still be like her, even if she wasn't her.

"Nice to meet you, Captain Allonius." She tried a smile instead. "I'm Annie."

"What you are," the captain said, smiling back and clapping her on the shoulder, "Is the newest member of the crew of the Ghost Soup, Infidel Class Fleetship.

ANNIE - no, *Annie* -'s eye widened. "A crewmember? Me?" She stopped herself from adding that she was just a clone. Of course Captain Allonius knew that, if he'd sponsored her.

"That's right. We have a very important and dangerous mission, and we're going to need you." He paused, and looked her straight in the eye. He'd dropped all his roguishness, and she could tell how serious he was. "Angela is going to need you."

"A-Angela?" He couldn't mean it. She felt faint, excited and terrified at once.

"Angela Sarfire," he confirmed. "The one... but not the only. She's going to need your help, and she doesn't even know it yet. Do you think you can handle that?"

"Of course captain." She gave him a determined salute. It was only logical, after all. Helping Angela was practically like helping herself.

So, we get a few hints in canon that Allonius is the one who had Annie - or ANNIE - made. Like, when she is introduced on the show he is expecting her, and in the manga (I double checked my scans!) he refers to her by name before she is introduced. I do appreciate that in Purple they gave her a name for real, and I stand by my interpretation! Her name is always given in all-caps in the Manga half the time, and that's how she is listed in the credits for the live action show and on IMDB. I don't buy the theory that it was just for emphasis or to reinforce the idea that Annie is her name in Blue too. TPTB just don't mix their canons like that! And Annie is way more central in Purple too, where she is essential to Angela's whole arc as well as getting stories of her own. I know I made it an acronym in English, but they are always mixing English into their tech-talk, so I think it still works. But - digression, sorry! Allonius in Purple is a lot more of a puppeteer than in the other variants, and I can totally imagine him setting the whole thing up. If you have to ask 'why Angela', I think maybe you need to go and rewatch! She would have never been able to get through everything without Annie, even with the weird "sibling rivalry" they had.

As for Angela's DNA being on file for Allonius to sponsor, it is clear that all of the fleet characters hand DNA profiles, and that the medical team uses these. Remember when they had to regrow an arm for that guy from Shade Bisque? So it seems to me that they must be able to access the profiles from any fleet member.

Getting back to Angela and Annie, I like the implication in Purple that there is a concrete difference between the two, that results from the cloning technology they have available, so that Annie is always a little younger - she's the classic little sister, by turns envious of and idolizing Angela! She wants to help her sister/originator, but she's never able to give up wanting to be her, either. I like that the relationships with the boys are slightly more complicated in Purple too, probably because Luke was a little more mature. Or they just had better writers.

Anyway, I hope this scratches your purple itch!

[and credit and love to Persianpenname who was the one who actually came up with the idea that ANNIE is an acronym ^-^]

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