

The Pampshifter: Chapter 2

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Lowering his head, Donnie felt a tad ashamed of what he was about to do. "Stay the course, Meg. Someone else will come along," he said, too tired and having worked too many hours in a row to be bothered to stop for some band of idiots who likely ran out of fuel between star systems. Plus, there was the fact that a late arrival would cost them their bonus to think about.

"Understood, maintaining course back to Earth. ETA is approximately two weeks, three days, and fourteen hours," she said, sharing in Donnie's guilt as she did her best to ignore the alert system on her console. Unfortunately, each time her computer screen beeped, it filled her heart with a little bit more dread as she imagined the horror of being abandoned in space like that.

It took an agonizing six minutes for the ship to fly out of range of the signal. And once the alarm finally ceased, it did little to ease their morally wounded souls. Donnie may have made the best choice for his and Meg's bottom line but they both knew deep down that something serious could be going on. "I'm...gonna go make some coffee. You want any Meg," said Donnie, trying to keep active to take his mind off things.

"I'm good, thanks," said Meg, having already emptied her double espresso into the seat of her pants. Watching as Donnie exited the cockpit, she waited until he was out of sight to jump into action. She'd worked with Donnie long enough to know that a coffee break actually meant a coffee, bathroom, and cigarette break. That gave her the time she needed to change out of her mucky diaper without detection. If she had to listen to Donnie calling her a mush tush one more time, she was gonna lose it, making it ideal to change whenever he wasn't around.

Floating over to the private lavatory, Meg grabbed onto the changing table and pulled herself onto it before attaching a seat belt across her waist. Nothing was worse than attempting to change while your body kept running away from the changing table. However, before she could peel up the first tape, a massive serving of karma reared its ugly head.

THUNK!

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

Suddenly, lights began to flash as an angry siren echoed throughout the ship. "WARNING: DAMAGE SUSTAINED TO THE LOADING BAY AND DOCKING AREA. IMMEDIATE ACTION IS REQUIRED." said Mother, the ship's on-board computer system, "ENGAGING ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY."

"Wait, Mother, don't-" shouted Meg, failing to stop Mother from switching on the ship's artificial gravity system. As the weight in her body returned to her, she was sent crashing down onto the changing table, splattering her rear against the pile of soupy mud in her pampers.

Sprinting into the cockpit, Donnie screamed, "Meg! Where the fuck are you?!" as he quickly jumped onto his console to assess what was happening. "Mother, what happened?"

"DAMAGE HAS BEEN SUSTAINED TO THE LOADING BAY. ALL DOORS HAVE BEEN SURROUNDING THE AFFECTED AREA HAVE BEEN SEALED."

Tossing his cowboy hat onto his console, Donnie leaned forward and pressed his palms into his eyes. 'Ugh! Why can it never be fucking easy?' he said to himself before looking back up at the ceiling as he spoke to Mother again, "Mother, will the ship make it to Earth with the damage sustained?"

"NEGATIVE. DAMAGE TO OXYGEN LINES WILL CAUSE OXYGEN DEPLETION IN APPROXIMATELY...14 HOURS."

"Fuuuuuuck," said Donnie, shaking his head at his own rotten luck. He scoffed, realizing in hindsight that it would've probably been less time-consuming to alter their course and respond to the emergency signal, "Well, unless we're looking to suffocate, I guess we have no choice. Mother, wake all crew members and lower oxygen to 70%. We're gonna be stuck here for a while."

"UNDERSTOOD, LT. DEVERS. WAKING ALL CREW MEMBERS FROM HYPER SLEEP."

Shaking her head solemnly, Meg was not excited about the earful they were about to get. "You know Ellis is gonna be pissed when he gets up here," she said, slouching down in her chair as she mentally prepped herself to be chewed out by her superior.

"Yup," said Donnie before sniffing the air suspiciously, "Meg, did you shit yourself?"

TO BE CONTINUED...