

Faith in Love Brings Hope

AC 195

He watched the rise and fall of her chest as she labored to breathe, timing his own breath to hers. Willing himself unconsciously to breathe for her. He could pinpoint the exact moment he had realized how much he loved her, how much she meant to him. How empty he would feel if she were taken from him. It had scared him and had shaken him to the core. How in one breath his whole perception of the world around him changed. How his very existence hinged on the young woman clinging to life in the bed before him. He smoothed her blue black hair from her brow and placed a tender kiss to her temple. "I know you can't hear me. But, I gotta say it. Come back to me Hilde. I love you." He said barely above a whisper. "How I wish I could have told you that sooner. I'm so sorry for calling you a stupid fool." He added as he finger combed her soft hair, laying his cheek against her forehead.

"Duo, you need to go get some rest." Sally said as she entered the infirmary where Hilde lay motionless. Duo's red rimmed eyes looked despairingly to Sally. "I'm not moving. Unless all Hell breaks loose or she wakes up. Whichever comes first." Duo said turning back to keep vigil. "Well when Hell does break loose, you need to be ready to face it. You'll do her no justice if you get hurt. When rest will keep you alive." Sally said physically moving Duo out of his chair. "I'll sedate you if I have too. I promise, if she wakes up, I'll come get you." Sally said shoving Duo toward Quatre who had appeared in the doorway. "Lock him in his room if you have to." Sally said and Quatre nodded. "I don't think that will be necessary Miss Sally. Come on Duo." Quatre said taking Duo's arm pulling him away from the infirmary. Duo slumped and allowed himself to be lead to his room.

Quatre pushed him onto his bed "You look exhausted Duo. Please try and sleep." Quatre said worried about his friend. "If it's any consolation, Heero and I decoded that disk she brought us. He's taken it with him, he said it was going to come in mighty handy." Quatre said a sympathetic smile on his lips. "She's quite the saboteur. She brought back more data than I know what to do with." Quatre said pulling off Duo's boots and tossing them aside. He then pushed Duo back into the bed and pulled a woolen blanket over his exhausted friend. "Quatre, I.." Duo began, bursting into grievous tears. Quatre sat down beside Duo and let his friend shed his tears upon his shoulder. Quatre kept silent until Duo regained his composure. "I'm sorry Quatre. I don't know what came over me." Duo said pulling his mask back on. Quatre just handed Duo a tissue. "Yes you do. Tell me Duo. Don't bottle it up inside. You Love that girl, don't you?" Quatre asked and Duo nodded resting his head in his hands.

"I didn't even know I did. Until, I saw her, aw man, her blood was everywhere." Duo said shuddering remembering the state she was in when the vid link had been established. "I yelled at her Quatre! The last words she heard from me and I yelled at her." Duo said crying once more. Quatre patted his back. "She's not dead Duo. Don't give up hope. If you Love her have faith." Quatre said and Duo looked at him and the pain in his violet nearly sent Quatre to his knees had he not been seated. "I don't know how, I lost faith a long time ago. Everything I love dies, it's life's cruel joke on me. I bring death wherever I go, I should've known." Duo said and Quatre clutched his shirt by his heart, he could feel the depth of Duo's pain. "Oh Duo, don't say that. She's going to be all right. But you've got to believe. Let your Love give you hope if nothing else." Quatre said almost in tears himself. "I swore I'd never love again. I guess it's true what they say. You can't choose who you love. Love Chooses you. Damn it." Duo said flopping down into his pillow. Quatre pulled the blanket over Duo once again. "Well, fate handed you another chance Duo. Don't let your past spoil your future." Quatre said as he turned out the lights and walked out into the hall.

Trowa was standing there, and he smiled subtly at Quatre. "That was beautifully put little one." Trowa said tucking a golden lock behind Quatre's ear. "Thank you." Quatre said blushing slightly. "Fate handed us another chance too." Trowa said pulling Quatre into his arms. "Yes, and I won't let go this time." Quatre said and Trowa met his aqua marine pools for eyes. "You never let go the first time little one. You brought me back. You may have lost your way for a moment in time, but you never let me go." Trowa said taking Quatre's hand as they walked Peacemillion's corridors. "I almost lost you. By my own hands." Quatre said his voice shaking. Trowa just squeezed his hand reassuringly. "Enough of that little. It's over, that wasn't you, that was Zero. My Quatre was always there inside. I'm glad to have you back. It was worth my pain to restore you. Now let's never mention it again. It's over." Trowa said and Quatre nodded, laying his head on Trowa's shoulder. Wufei passing them in the hall, said nothing. The world was crazy enough, he was at least grateful they fought well. It was none of his concern what his fellow pilots did outside of their Gundam's. So long as he could trust them in battle was all he cared about. Sometimes, Wufei could be very wise, despite his lack in tact and social graces.

~ One Week Later ~

Hilde lay in her cot on MO2, wounded soldiers all around her. Weak and tired, she tried her best to come to terms with her current state. The War was over, she knew that much. But little else, having been in a comatose state during the last days. She had awakened here on the resource satellite. Peacemillion had evacuated her and the civilian mechanics to MO2 just before it rammed itself into Libra. What happened after that she knew not. All the stories the soldiers told seemed conflicting and hearsay. No one seemed to know about the Gundam Pilots or their whereabouts.

Hilde sighed and turned her eyes to the window and began counting stars. "They are beautiful, but nothing compared to you." A familiar voice sounded softly by her ear. "Duo! You're Alive!" She cried her arms finding their way around his neck. His arms encircling her firmly, grappling her slight frame to his chest. "I had someone to come back to." He whispered, many eyes turning to view what was going on in the corner. "Hey, that's the Pilot of 02!" Someone said in awe. "A Gundam Pilot? He's a Gundam pilot?" Another voice asked in response. Murmuring and questions spreading like wildfire around the crowded infirmary. Duo rolled his eyes and sat up turning around. "Do you guys mind? I am trying to visit with my girl!" Duo said turning back to a blushing Hilde. "You're not mad at me?" She asked and Duo shook his head. "I can't stay mad at you. I love you." He said leaning closer. "You ready to come home?" He asked and Hilde sighed and melted into his arms. "Yes." She sighed and Duo leaned over and Kissed her. The first kiss of many to be shared. "I love you Duo Maxwell." She breathed as he released her lips from his. "I love you too. Hilde Maxwell." He said and Hilde grinned. "The last name is not Maxwell." She said and Duo grinned devilishly. "Not yet. But it will be." He said matter of factly. Hilde just blushed and smiled. Duo knew the answer to his proposal from the look in her eyes. She would indeed one day be his bride. Her love had restored his faith and had given him back the will to hope for a brighter future. A Future he would greet, head on, hand in hand, with her.
