

Rachel Gaumata

Rich Heiress Looking for Her Missing Boyfriend

People often think that you're going to be a spoiled snotty brat, just because your father owns **The Gaumata Weapons Company**, the largest military contractor in occupied space. You hope to prove them wrong, given half a chance. Sure, your family owns three of the moons of Jupiter, but they're just the little moons no one cares about: Amalthea, Sinope and Elara. And sure, your family has vast fortunes and political influence, but your father always said that you needed to learn to work hard for yourself.

On the other hand, having a rich and politically connected family can be very useful sometimes. Like when your boyfriend is in the military, then you can convince General Gushtap to have him reassigned to someplace safe, like a scientific research station owned by your family's company.

Then, when that research outpost stops relaying messages back home, your daddy's political pull can get you a spot on the rescue mission. Oops.

So you made a huge, gigantic mistake. You were worried that your boyfriend, ManassahRayburn, would get in some sort of dangerous situation in the military quelling a riot on some asteroid belt colony or fighting the separatists on a moon of Saturn. Having him sent to an archaeological dig site sounded awfully safe in comparison. And he always said he was interested in xenology and archaeology and science and stuff. How were you supposed to know that the research station would go silent under mysterious circumstances?

It was a big mistake, so you're here to fix things personally. You're not officially anything on this mission: you have no real authority and no expertise that will be any use here. But anyone who knows what is good for them will be scared to mess with someone named Gaumata: your family is a force to be reckoned with in military and scientific circles.

You don't know exactly how you can fix things with Manassah, either, because you don't have any idea what the problem is. But hopefully you'll be able to prove yourself to Manassah enough that he forgives you for putting him out here (not that he knows or would approve of you pulling strings in his favor).

You first met Manassah when he was assigned to your family's security detail when your dad went to survey some Gaumata Astrogationholdings orbiting Saturn. You had never been to Saturn, so you went along as a sightseeing trip regardless of the rebellion going on nearby. You were most interested in seeing the sights of young men in uniform, though, and hooked up with friendly young Warrant Officer Rayburn.

Hester Zao is a management type from the family company. She doesn't officially report to you, but you bet you can order her around and get results, as she works for your family's company. The rest of the people on the mission are either scientists or military types. You don't know much about the military, and even less about science, so you haven't gotten to know any of them in the short time you're been together. You have so far dodged questions about what you are doing on this mission. Should you tell them the truth, or make up a story explaining why you are here?