

*dateStamp25010505; GalactiComm pakcast, The Star Report, Stellar News Service (SNS)*

As the commercial fades to black and the vid unit goes quiet, a blast of music erupts from the device as the “No story is too deep” logo for the Star Report flashes up on the screen. Toyohara Tataka looks up to the camera and his award winning smile lights up the screen. Not a hair out of place but his custom made suit has been replaced with khaki pants and a SNS polo shirt.

“Hello, my friends,” he starts, “Today we have a very special edition of the Star Report. We are running this pakcast live from the Hawdon family compound in Saga City. A rare event as anyone in the media would know. As you all know, we have spent the past week here covering the aftermath of the pirate attack on this world and GalatiComm itself. Thank you to Tanya Aster for sitting in the Report chair while we have been away.”

The camera angle shifts to a face only close-up of Tataka, but in the background, what should be a lush garden is a series of trampled plants and broken statuary. Toyohara continues, “It is early morning here in Saga City and we just finished breakfast with a very special person, the President of the Hawdon Business Group and Chief Administrator of the planet Cadorius in the Endrake star system, Avis Hawdon.”

The camera angle widens to include Avis sitting across a small table, sitting down a small glass of what looks like orange juice. Avis is wearing a yellow flowing dress that comes up over her chest and wraps around the back of her neck; leaving her arms and shoulders bare in the cool morning sunshine. In the background, the stone façade of the building is pitted with scorch marks and is gouged in many places. Several of the small window panes of the French style doors are covered with wood inserts.

“Welcome to the Star Report Ms. Hawdon. And thank you for allowing us the time with you not just this morning but the entire week we have been here,” Toyohara says.

“It is my pleasure to be here. Welcome to Saga City and to my home,” Avis responds with a smile.

“Needless to say, it has been a very hectic time for you the past few weeks, even the past year or so one might say. While I am not the first, please allow me the opportunity to extend the condolences of myself and our viewers to you on the loss of your father. Speaking from personal experience, losing someone so close, especially unexpectedly, is a hard thing to bear,” Toyohara begins.

Avis gets a pensive look on her face then she smiles as she answers looking to both the reporter and the camera, “Thank you all for your concern. It has not been easy, but with so many here in need, I have not had the time to dwell on these issues. But it is not our way, father taught me that dwelling on the past is a sure fire way to fail. I cannot fail those that have sacrificed so much, so we move forward, looking to the future. I am successful only when those that work for Hawdon or the public services on this world are successful. So I strive daily to ensure that they have everything they need to do just that. That is the best testament I can give to my father and what he believed in. I hope he would be pleased.”

<Over the next couple of minutes, Toyohara leads Avis on a series of easily answered questions that describe the events of the attack on Saga City and what has happened since. She gets a little teary eyed when it comes to describing the attacks on her and her father, but otherwise, she is totally upbeat. While she is answering, the show producers cut in a series of short video clips of the footage shot by the SNS vid crew with Toyohara. The clips range from overhead imagery of the damage of the City, to the tour of the tent city in Clay Hills, to visits to various hospitals and treatment centers, to emergency services personnel working to repair buildings to make them habitable again, to the Militia staging area near the starport where the Militia and police forces work to ensure that all of the pirates have been dealt with.>

“It would seem that you and your people have the situation here fully under control,” Toyohara finishes.

“Well, I do not want to sound overconfident, but the people have a good grip on the situation, but there are times when things crop up. They have do amazing work with less than the optimum amount of resources,” she replies.

“But the past few months are not the only source of issues in your life. The past year has been chocked full of drama; starting with the attempted kidnapping during the Interstellar Olympics on Bancredo Bay. Both you and

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your father were very tight lipped about that event. Given the situation now, can you expand any on those events?" he asks.

Avis nods sagely, pondering her response before continuing, "Yes, I can. It turns out that those who tried to kidnap me worked for Leviticus Babel; the same pirate that attacked here on Saga City. Our estimate is that his initial plan was to kidnap me and try to force my father to do something. But when that plan was disrupted, he made alternate plans to accomplish his goals. <She gestures around herself> And this is the result."

"I see that you have not had this place repaired fully yet? Why not given the fact that you knew that we would eventually be here today?" he asks.

"Two reasons, first of all I did not want to divert the actual resources needed to fix cosmetic issues such as these from those really in need. <Her features take on a harder edge and her tone gets harsher.> Second, I wanted you to show the people in known space what exactly Babel and his ilk did here. For whatever his motives, that man coordinated an attack that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people, including my father, and wounded thousands more. Then after that are the millions of credits in damage to physical property and equipment. Finally is the damage to the faith that people everywhere place in GalatiComm, the Hawdon Business Group's primary business. He managed to do something no one else had ever done before, forced a complete shutdown of the entire system and throwing everyone into a near panic."

"Aside from repairs, what steps has HBG taken to ensure the stability of GalatiComm in the future?" Toyohara asks.

Avis composes herself, the smile returning, "I am truly sorry, but I am not at liberty to say what specific things we have put into place for security reasons. I hope you understand. But in general, we did an internal review of what happened and have a series of actions underway to prevent this type of thing from happening again."

"We understand," Toyohara says, flashing his own award winning smile, "What about you personally? We had reported over the past year problems you had been having with relationships and substance abuse."

Avis' smile gets bigger and she blushes slightly before she answers, "You refer to the sensationalized reports about Alamo and his buddy; my supposedly abusive relationships; and my supposed drinking problems. Shame on you sir for spreading such gossip, but I forgive you <said with a wink>. But to answer your questions, please allow me to be totally honest. After the kidnapping attempt I did experience depression that I tried to self medicate with alcohol, lots of it. But intervention by several friends prevented me from going off the deep end. It is not a solution and I recommend anyone experiencing the same thing to get professional help. And poor Alamo, he is a total sweetheart, not to mention totally hot <said while fanning herself with her hand>. We are very close, but not involved. We talk often via comm. I have known him since I was a little girl and I assure you personally, he is not interested in men in the least. At least not the way people like you implied. And I do not tolerate abuse of any form in a relationship, so there is no truth to that either."

"Thank you Madame President for allowing us to visit with you this fine day," Toyohara says as he wraps up the interview.

"The pleasure was all mine. Thank you," she replies.

The camera angle changes back to Toyohara alone. "We are going to cut to a commercial break. But when we return, the Star Report will begin running a montage of short reports from the various SNS reporters present on this world showing the devastation and how people are overcoming it."

The screen goes blank as the commercial cycle begins.

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After the technician reports that the link has been cut, Avis stands up and a technician removes the microphone from her dress. She shakes Toyohara's hand and thanks him again before leaving the balcony. A minute later, Toyohara is free of his wires and he departs the balcony as well.

The production crew begins tearing down the cameras and lighting equipment as Katie Morgan moves over to the balcony and sits on the rail. A minute later, the producer walks over and sits down beside her.

"See, that wasn't so bad was it? TT went easy on her," the producer says with a sly smile.

Katie simply stares at the man, the temperature around her drops by a few degrees. "Easy on her George? I doubt 'TT' knows how to do a hard interview," Katie says with sarcasm dripping from each word, "His 'best' work is done from a distance when the person under attack is nowhere near to respond. If he had gone after her, she would have eaten him for breakfast instead of muffins and orange juice."

George makes a mockery of cringing, "Such harsh words... Oh my... You need to loosen up some my dear. I found this great Thai place nearby."

Katie rolls her eyes, "With you, I do not think so. If I had my way, I would not have even let you on the planet."

George gives her a very big smile, "But you aren't, she is and she did. Very well my dear, your loss." He grabs her hand and kisses the back of it. "See you around," he says as he waves his arms at the crew, "Come. Come. We've poked at the big bad momma bear long enough. Time to go.. Ta Ta." George and his crew leave the balcony escorted by the house security staff leaving Katie alone on the balcony.

"Momma bear?" she says to no one while she wipes her hand on her pant leg. "What planet do these guys come from?" she says as she leaves the balcony to find something to sanitize her hand with.