

Excerpt from *Voyager*, by Michael K. Zook

Setting: (In a galaxy unknown to man, a space craft with its passengers, a family of four, are on vacation. The father is piloting the craft, the mother is with the children. Suddenly an audio alarm goes off.)

Lennix

(Shouting.)

Everyone in your seat, strap up! We're going down!

Setting: (A Sioux Indian village in the Montana area. It is nighttime. The village is celebrating a religious holiday. The Sioux approach the aliens' crash site. There will be low ground fog. The craft hatch is slightly opened. The aliens remain in their seats, unconscious. As far as the Sioux are concerned, what is in front of them are their Gods.)

Wildhorse

They are here! The Gods are here! Come, they do not move.

Setting: (The battle scene. The Indians are in place in the trenches. As Custer charges the Indians that are camping, the Indians in the trenches hold their fire until all of Custer's men are in the trap. Then they fire a volley at a time, killing all of Custer's men in a matter of minutes, not killing Custer, but only wounding him.)

Custer

(Looking through his telescope, Custer sees a dozen or so Indians. Some of them being women and children.)

So, Lt., this is the big Indian build up! Lt., first we dispose of these Indians, then check out the area for more of the metal, or anything else. Then we'll head West to meet the kind General and inform him that the uprising at the Little Big Horn is no longer.

(Looking up to the sky.)

My God! It's a beautiful day to be a soldier, CHARGE!!

Setting: (With this, the Indians being used as the bait assemble, and somewhat terror stricken, are shooting arrows at the charging calvary. Custer smells victory, but stops when all of a sudden, he hears what sounds like a thunder of bullets showering him. As he turns his head around, he sees his men falling off their horses a dozen at a time. Custer then falls off his horse from the impact of a bullet, hitting him in the right shoulder. He is dazed, laying on the ground. He can't believe his eyes, all of his men are on the ground, dead, or dying. Then Custer sees the Indians coming out of the trenches.)

Custer

What manner of battle is this?

(The Indians surround Custer; Wildhorse and Lennix approach Custer and are now looking down at him.)

Wildhorse

Great servant, you have shown us much today. We have defeated Blond Hairs easily.

Custer

(Looking like he has seen a ghost.)

What kind of man are you?

Lennix

I guess I am no different than you.

(With that Lennix smashes a tommyhawk into Custer's head.)

Setting: (The battle scene: Captain Rockford and bear Claws put up a gallant effort in trying to stop the oncoming army. Suddenly both Rockford and Bear Claws hear the engines of the space craft; they both look up into the sky.)

Capt. Rockford

Good luck my friend.

Setting: (Back at Fort Levenworth: the changing of "Officer in charge of the guard." The two Captains are talking in the Officers' quarters.)

Capt. Hall

That's the low down on your mission here, any questions, Rockford?

Capt. Rockford

(Looking somewhat shocked at the whole story)

Not really, but Christ, why are we keeping all this shit secret?

Capt. Hall

My guess, they probably think the world would go nuts or something, who knows. All I care about now is getting the hell out of this shithole. Like I told you in the briefing, you don't talk to no one on the outside, not your wife, nobody. Shit, mother passed away three months ago, they wouldn't even let me to the funeral. It's a tough gig here. Hey, I remember I wanted to ask you a question, it's kind of personal.

Capt. Rockford

Sure, what is it?

Capt. Hall

Scuttlebutt I heard tells me you're a descendent of Gen. Custer, is that true?

Capt. Rockford

Yeah, it's true. I can't believe the government's been able to keep this a secret so long.

Capt. Hall

(Laughing)

Consider yourself lucky, before they would just shoot you. Remember one thing Rockford: you're the only one on this guard detail that knows that the prisoners are aliens. Anyone else finds out you shoot them, clear?

Capt. Rockford

Clear

Setting: (It's the next morning, news travels fast about Capt. Hall's suicide.)

Capt. Rockford

(At the aliens' cell, the Captain knocks.)

What's the problem?

Lennix

No doubt you've been told I killed Gen. Custer, correct?

Capt. Rockford

Yeah, so what?

Lennix

That doesn't bother you?

Capt. Rockford

Not really. Gen. Custer was a soldier. Soldiers sometimes die in battle.

Lennix

I heard the news about Capt. Hall. I liked him. He treated my family very well. Captain Hall didn't commit suicide. He was murdered like the rest.

Capt. Rockford

Like the rest? What are you saying?

Lennix

Captain Rockford, right now you're the only one on this guard detail who knows that we are aliens from another planet. Captain, for many years now, I'm sorry to say, your people murder the Captains in charge of us. The only people who know of our existence is the President of the United States, some of his staff, and of course the Secret Service.

Capt. Rockford

Why not? Maybe we could learn about life on other planets, what's wrong with that?

Lennix

Captain Rockford, I've been on Earth for over seventy years now. I have helped your people in many ways, and in most cases the information that I gave turns into war, to kill. I don't want them going into space to conquer other worlds. Captain, I'm growing old, my wife and children haven't been home for a long time, we need to get back to our lives, and to let your people live their own lives, without the help of us. Do you understand?

Setting: (Capt. Rockford suddenly awakes from this nightmare. Wide eyed, and pouring with sweat, he sits up in his bed and hears his wife say,)

Mrs. Rockford

Hurry up honey, you don't want to be late for your First Day of command at the Fort, do you?

The End