

Chapter Three: Husker, the Wallaces, and two *Galacticas*

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150 days before Operation Homecoming

Battlestar *Galactica*,
Wolf Shipyards,
Orbit of Libran, Helios Delta System

The second *TCS Galactica*, a Columbia Class Battlestar, is sitting silent in space, as the construction on her continues. The new *Galactica* is the second Columbia Class Battlestar under construction. Unlike the original Columbia Class Battlestar, the first purpose built battlestar class, this Columbia Class is an improved version of the Fenris Class Battlestar. Originally the new Battlestar *Columbia* and *Galactica* were going to be the fourth and fifth Fenris. However delays and changes in their design resulted in a reclassification as a subclass before ultimately becoming a class of their own.

Both the *Columbia* and *Galactica* are behind schedule because of the controversy surrounding the Fenris carrying virtual intelligence, causing delays in both of their funding, and the construction of the vessels. This is why there is a Rhiannon Subclass Battlestar already with the name *Columbia*. However, because of Adar's downsizing the Fleet, a decision on the name has yet to be made because the new *Columbia* is about a third cheaper to maintain, and requires 1/3 of the crew than the currently Rhiannon's *Columbia*; which is only four years older. This is also why several of the planned Columbia Class has the same names as other battlestars already in service.

The Twelve Colonies operate four main shipyards for construction of Battlestars: Wolf Shipyards, Lampeita Shipyards which orbit Leonis's moon Lampeita, Taurus Shipyards in orbit of Tauron, and Scorpion Shipyards in orbit of Scorpia's moon Scorpion.

As the shuttle *Elizabeth* approaches the new *Galactica*, Admiral Arthur Wallace, who is piloting the shuttle, asks, "So Commander Adama, what do you think of her?"

"She is a beautiful ship!" replies Commander William 'Husker' Adama, C.O. of the current *Galactica*, which is due to be decommissioned in five months, and will officially be removed from the active Colonial Fleet in two months.

"That she is...it's just too bad you won't be able to command her," replies Arthur.

"I came to accept that fate a long time ago. The Admiralty doesn't want an old war horse like me but new younger blood like you," answer Adama, attempting to not tear up.

In five months Adama is also retiring from the Colonial Fleet.

"If I could have gotten you a promotion to Rear Admiral, I surely would have."

"I know," replies Adama, as the shuttle docks with the shipyard.

As Adama and Arthur walk through the shipyard heading for the new *Galactica*, they see Admiral Peter R. Corman, talking with Chief Engineer Jarek Babic. Corman just gives Adama an evil look as Arthur, and Adama salute.

Corman returns the salute and replies, "Excuse me, I don't feel well all of a sudden."

Then Corman walks past Adama, giving him a look that could kill.

"That was weird," replies Babic, as he just looks at Arthur and Adama, who don't say anything.

"I guess that means it's something that is above my pay grade," says Babic.

Arthur just nods.

"All right, exit stage left," replies Babic, leaving Arthur and Adama, standing silently.

After what seems to be forever but in reality is only a few seconds, Arthur says, "I guess Corman is still not over Operation Overlook."

"How do you know about that?" asks Adama.

Operation Overlook is the codename of the black ops mission that Adama was ordered to lead six years ago. However, Adama refused the order because it violated the terms of the Cimtar Peace Accord. Adama was at the time the commanding officer of the *Valkyrie* which was assigned to escort the Starhound Class Stealth Viper Mark IVA, code named *Stealthstar* by the Admiralty, over the Cylon side of the Armistice Line-to spy on their activity.

Adama refused the order, which ultimately cost him his command, and got him and Colonel Saul Tigh transferred to the *Galactica* as punishment. Because of this Corman replaced Adama with Commander Jonathan Bray, an inexperienced commander but loyal to Corman.

However, Operation Overlook went south in a hurry, which Corman blamed on Adama. The mission ended with Bray destroying the *Stealthstar*, and killing its pilot, Daniel '*Bulldog*' Novacek in the process, or that is what is presumed.

"Commander Adama, when has something like 'Classified: Top Secret' stopped me before?" asks Arthur, with a chuckle.

"That is true. That's why I always kept you in the loop during our time on the *Valkyrie*," replies Adama, laughing.

Arthur was under Adama's command for 18 months during Adama's time as commanding officer of the *Valkyrie* before Arthur was transferred to the *Stealthstar Banshee*, lead ship of its class, for six months. Officially the reason why Arthur was out for six months was a broken leg. Arthur even had to wear a cast when off the *Banshee*, to maintain the cover story.

"I miss our time on the *Valkyrie*, things were a lot simpler back then," replies Arthur, thinking back to those days.

As the two men walk, they reach the entry to the new *Galactica*, and after putting on safety equipment, they meet Engineer Kumar Jakobsen, the man in charge of the construction of the *Galactica*.

Jakobsen says, "It's nice to see you Commander Adama, Admiral Wallace."

"Thank you for taking the time to show us around," replies Arthur.

"No problem. Commander Adama did you serve on *Galactica* during the Cylon War?" asks Jakobsen.

"Sure did. I served the last six months before the war ended. Saw a little combat...primarily during Operation Raptor Talon," replies Adama.

"Well my father served on the *Galactica* during that time. Private, First Class John Jakobsen, he was a marine," replies Jakobsen.

"Name sounds familiar but I can't place it...it's been 40 years, and I didn't have a lot of contact with the Marines during that time," replies Adama, trying to think of where he heard that name before.

"I was just wondering. My father told me about how he caught a young Ensign Adama, and a Lieutenant McGavin having sex in a duty locker," replies Jakobsen, wondering if he had the wrong Adama.

Arthur starts to laugh so hard he is turning red, Adama just says, "That was me! Now I remember...that's when I learned to place my boots outside to signal not to come in. Next time I did it, Commander Nash caught me," replies Adama, with a chuckle.

Arthur still is laughing as Jakobsen says, "Well it's nice to meet you; if you would follow me, please."

Then Adama and Arthur follow Jakobsen.

As they are walking, Jakobsen asks, "So Adama, did any of your family serve with you?"

"I have three cousins that serviced. They were children of my Uncle Sam, and his husband, Larry. Skyler, Athena, and Zac, ironically we all serviced on the *Galactica*," replies Adama.

"I thought family members were forbidden to serve together on battlestars?" asks Jakobsen.

"That is true but the rule was never fully enforced until the death of the Sullivan brothers aboard the Light Cruiser *Juneau*..."

The Sullivan brothers were five brothers killed when the Cylons destroyed the TCS *Juneau*, a Cheetah Class Light Cruiser Mark I. The *Juneau*, LCR-52, was the last ship destroyed before the signing of the Armistice. The *Juneau* was destroyed ten to fifteen minutes after the second Battlestar *Columbia* was destroyed. The *Juneau* was destroyed while protecting civilian ships over Ares moon of Patricio-Lynch.

"...So I ended up serving with my three cousins. Skyler served on *Galactica* for four years going all the way up to the rank of Major, and become *Galactica's* CAW but he spent most of his time as Captain, and CAG of Vigilantes Squadron. He earned the nickname of Apollo. Which I gave to my son, when he earned his wings," replies Adama, getting tears in his eyes.

Arthur seeing Adama tearing up, decides to say, "Yes, my grandfather Major Adam Wallace was CAW before Skyler...it was his death that promoted Skyler to Major, and becoming the new CAW."

"If you don't mind me asking, how did your grandfather die?" asks Jakobsen.

Adama says, "Well I can fill you in on that..."

Wednesday, Iunius 15, 1960 A.E.
40 years, 20 days before Operation Homecoming

Viper 7242NC,
Battlestar *Galactica*,
Icaunus II, Icaunus System

The Starhound Class Viper Mark II, 7242NC, piloted by Ensign William 'Husker' Adama is in Combat Air Patrol with his wing man, Second Lieutenant Alvar 'Lucky' Crawford.

"Husker, you still with me over there?" asks Lucky, over the wireless.

"Yes, Goldbrick..."

"Don't say anymore," replies Lucky, with a chuckle.

"Lucky, what is that coming from Orbital Object 14-53-210-3-2.2?" asks Adama, as he moves his Viper Mark II around to get a better look.

"It looks like two Recon Raiders...*Galactica*...Lucky, I have two Recon Raiders. Request permission to engage?"

"Permission granted...good hunting," replies Petty Officer First Class Briscoe Broadbent, who is manning in the communication station in the CIC of *Galactica*.

"Husker, follow me...and stay close," says Lucky as he pushes forward on his control stick.

As the two Vipers move closer to target, over the wireless comes a voice, "This is Red Hawk. SITREP?"

"Red Hawk, we have two Recon Raiders almost in range," replies Lucky.

"I will be there in 60 seconds to back you up," replies Major Adam 'Red Hawk' Wallace, the *Galactica*'s CAW, who is flying his brand new Viper Mark III, 0001AA.

As Lucky opens fire on the first raiders, Husker speeds ahead, and targets the second Raiders. All of sudden Husker screams, "OH FRAK."

"Husker, what's wrong?" asks Lucky, as he maneuvers his Viper.

"I'm seeing a large wing of Raiders coming in at us...correction directly at me," answer Husker.

"It's a trap...all right, let's head for the barn...full speed," replies Lucky, as he pushes his Viper as fast as he can.

As the two Vipers are running away from the incoming Raiders wing, the *Galactica* has detected the approaching force, and is preparing to jump away.

"Husker, Lucky, high-tail is back to the *Galactica*. I will cover you," says Red Hawk, as he maneuvers his Viper to cover Lucky and Husker.

"Red Hawk...this is Husker, they hit my top engine...I'm losing speed..."

"Lucky, get back to the *Galactica*...I will cover Husker," says Red Hawk.

"I'm not leaving my wing man behind," answer Lucky.

"Lucky if you disobey my orders once more...I will shoot you out of the sky myself. NOW for Gods FRAK SAKE get your ass back to the *Galactica*. I will protect Husker," replies Red Hawk, wishing he had kicked Lucky off of the *Galactica* when he had the chance.

Lucky just sighs, as he heads for *Galactica's* port side flight pod.

As Red Hawk's Viper approaches Husker's Viper, he says, "Husker, head for port side flight pod...I will cover you."

"You can't take on all of them alone!" answer Husker, realizing that Red Hawk is sacrificing himself to protect him.

"I'm CAW, it is my job to protect my pilot...and follow my orders before you get us both killed," replies Red Hawk, as he engages several raiders at once.

As Husker lands his damaged Viper, he hears, "Red Hawk...return to the *Galactica*..."

"No...can't do...too...too many raiders...get the *Galactica* out of here," replies Red Hawk, who is in a fight for his life against more Raiders than he can count.

Husker then hears, "Gods speed, and good luck, Red Hawk," realizing it is Commander Nash's voice.

A few moments later, Red Hawk sees the *Galactica* jump away as he smiles. He has protected his pilots, and that is all that matters. Then Red Hawk's Viper Mark III, which had suffered heavier damage exploded, killing him instantly.

Friday, Iunius 17, 1960 A.E.

40 years, 18 days before Operation Homecoming

**Starboard Hangar Bay 4,
Battlestar *Galactica*, Picon Fleet Shipyards,
Orbit of Picon, Helios Gamma System**

The memorial service for Adam Wallace had just finished, the only two peoples left are Husker, and Supreme Admiral Jonas Ingram Stryker, as Husker says, "I don't understand it."

"Don't understand what, Ensign?" asks Stryker.

"Why he did it? He should have saved himself...it was my mistake...I flew ahead to engage those Raiders."

"You could not have known. At the end of the day, a man must live with the decisions he has made. I will live with mine, and you must live with yours. But understand Ensign, Adam did what he did to protect his pilots, and the *Galactica*."

"So he sacrificed himself to protect everyone aboard?"

"Correct! *Galactica* was in no shape for a battle, and Adam knew that...he was protecting his pilots, and his ship."

"If Commander Nash had waited maybe he could have made it back!"

"There was not enough time. If Nash had waited then *Galactica* was going to be swamped with Raiders...and *Galactica* would have become another lost Battlestar. Commander Nash did the right thing. He protected his ship...the first priority of a commanding officer. Adam did the right thing; he protected his pilots, the first priority of a CAW."

"I thought that the commanding officer's first priority is to protect the crew?" asks Adama, thinking the war was nothing like what he thought he was going to be.

"In the war, it's to protect your ship, and in doing so this is protecting your crew. The ship comes first; that is the reality of war because if a commanding officer loses his ship then he could lose his *entire* crew."

"That is a little cold hearted," replies Adama, before realizing that he is talking to the head of the entire Colonial Defense Force.

"That it is, but war is cold hearted...if we lose our Battlestar screen then the Colonies are doomed and with it the **Human Race**. Single individuals can't be replaced but crewmembers can be, but if we don't have enough Battlestars to continue to

fight the war...then it's end game," replies Stryker, before leaving Adama with his thoughts.

Sunday, Februarius 6, 2000 A.E.
150 days before Operation Homecoming

Battlestar *Galactica*,
Wolf Shipyards,
Orbit of Libran, Helios Delta System

"...So that's what happened," replies Adama, as he finishes his story.

"What about Athena and Zac?" asks Jakobsen.

"Zac was killed during the Second Battle of Cimitar...I later named my second son after him, Zak Adama. Athena served as a Raptor, Viper, and Shuttle pilot. She also became the landing signal officer, communications officer, and finished as one of the *Galactica's* tactical officers," answer Adama.

"Sounds like she did better than any of the other men!" injects Arthur, with a chuckle.

"That was just because of the new addition of women to the ranks," replies Adama.

After the Battle of Red Horse Nebula, and because of the loss of **manpower**, the Colonial Military changed its policy allowing women to serve in combat roles. It has been long debated by historians whether that was the right move or not-the evidence is inconclusive.

The three men continue their tour as they pass a man, and Jakobsen asks, "Jason, how is it going?"

"All right, sir. Just finishing up," replies Jason Nyitrai, a Number One, who is assigned to monitor the process of the battlestar currently under construction.

Jason, just watches as the trio walks away, thinking how much he hates humans. He smiles as he turns back to continue his work.