

SB-2623: Stellaris | AV-0107: Boneskrill | AV-0117: Unrequited | SB-2704: Hunter
Mentor: SB-1183: Tourmaline - Blessing of the Moon & Celestial Feline
Trial of Flight
Word total: 1160

What a lovely night for flying. The crisp, autumn air felt light and airy, still a little warm, but there was a nice, cool breeze that wafted in from the mountainous horizon. The moon hung high in the sky, half obscured by the planetary orbit. Stars twinkled, taking center stage in the cloudless sky, their glowing dance enchanting and alluring. Below on the ground, leaves floated around the sandy shores of the Isle. The smell of salty sea air permeated and lulled dragon and man alike to their shores. Bioluminescent crustaceans skittered to and fro, dodging the occasional gull that looked for a quick and easy meal.

Tourmaline snickered, her celestial feline nuzzling against her forehead as the small creature purred and murped. The emperor returned the gesture, nuzzling affectionately. Today was a rare occasion - she had taught many younglings, but this clutch was special. Two of the three were older, much older, but in an eldritch manner. The other two were significantly younger, but close enough in age to Tourmaline's own younglings. She had met two of them prior to today's teaching. Boneskrill was one she held in a higher regard, being a distant relative of her mate, Bhaal. Stellaris was of her own village, so she was familiar with the young lad.

Speaking of the young lad - Stellaris came bumbling in, his dark blue markings blending in with the night sky, his glowing, constellation markings giving him away. He beamed as he ran up to her, his winged arms wide as he screeched a joyful hello. Tourmaline nodded and pressed her forehead to his own in an affectionate gesture.

"Hello, little one," she called aloud.

Coming up behind was a stalker that looked... so odd, but in a good way. He was a bright pink and purple creature with an array of black markings and bandings. He seemed like a bull in a glass shop - stumbling and bumbling about as if he were freshly hatched. Tourmaline hoped he was a better flyer than a walker.

"You must be Hunter," Tourmaline stated with a soft smile, "welcome."

Hunter nodded and bounced up and down energetically. He immediately bonded to Stellaris, which warmed Tourmaline's heart. She watched the two run around and play in the sand and the shallow waters of the sea before a loud boom and thud crashed behind her. Blinking, she flung her head around and grinned wildly. Without a pause, she bounced over to the sapiere who landed and unloaded the two stalkers that clung to his back as if their lives depended on it.

"Bhaal!" Tourmaline called aloud, her head pressing against his as he bowed it down to her height.

“As promised, my darling, I’ve brought these two. They’ve promised to behave, their lives have been threatened.” Bhaal stated with amusement in his tone. He exchanged a few pleasantries with his mate before he assured her he’d see her later, and leapt into the skies and over the horizon.

The final two had arrived. Tourmaline’s celestial feline blinked and floated over towards the pink stalker, who in Tourmaline’s opinion, was beautiful. He had a skeletal spine mutation, as well as an exposed ribcage with pink flowers that seemed to fall in petals around him. He caught Tourmaline staring and offered her a soft smile, which she reciprocated.

Boneskrill bounced up to Tourmaline and nudged against her side. His native tongue were clicks and grinding sounds, but the creature had an immense magical affinity and as he spoke, words filtered into the minds of those around him, translating his words. It came in handy, especially for today. Tourmaline nudged him back and laughed softly.

“Alright guys! Gather here – You too, Hunter, Stellaris, come on.” Tourmaline sat down and the four followed.

“We’re here today for a flying lesson. Some of you may already know and are not fully confident yet - others may be trying fresh, but it’s okay! We all learn in our own ways, and on our own time. The most we can do is try, right? Right. So the plan is we’re going to work on technique and then we’re going to put that to execution and by the end of the night, you’ll fly home on your own – or in pairs if you live close enough to each other. Sounds good? Great, let’s go!”

Tourmaline spent nearly an hour teaching the group - Boneskrill and Req took to it far quicker than the other two. The pink stalker had listened closely and as soon as her back was turned, the creature leapt off the ground and was hovering over the ground, his wings flapping and his pink petals dropping from his exposed ribcage. Boneskrill had a similar encounter, flying coming very naturally to him.

Stellaris required a little more coaxing, his confidence taking quite a few hits as he fell to the ground a few times. Tourmaline encouraged and cheered and eventually, he jumped in the air, flapped his wings and didn’t fall back down. He grinned wildly and laughed before landing on his feet and bouncing up and down with excitement.

Hunter... well, he was a little slower to learn. Tourmaline found even the smallest thing distracted the colorful stalker. A sparkle in the ocean? A crab wandering too close? A leaf crunching behind her? Yes, all of those were examples of what distracted this poor dragon within this past hour. Tourmaline had spent nearly 45 minutes of trying to get the dragon to listen and pay attention, and soon enough the dragon jumped in the air, flapped his wings, and fell back to the ground with a huff. After a few more attempts, he finally was able to keep the wind under his wings and was finally able to fly comfortably, albeit clumsy. She didn’t quite trust him

to go to a higher altitude, or over any water or mountain ranges, but he was good enough to hover a few feet off the ground.

“You guys did really well today!! Now, it’ll take some time to fully get comfortable. Don’t push yourself too hard, you’ll risk injuring yourself, and don’t go too high, if you falter, it may have dire consequences. Keep working on your technique and don’t get too distracted. You guys will be soaring in no time!” Tourmaline voiced with enthusiasm.

Hunter bounced off first, not taking to the skies, but running towards the water to look at some crabs and some fish that had voyaged too close to the shore. Boneskrill and Req looked at each other before nodding at Tourmaline in an affectionate manner and taking to the skies with little, if any, effort. Pride swelled in Tourmaline’s heart. A nudge to her side caught her attention.

“Miss Tourmaline, do you mind if I fly home with you?” Stellaris squeaked quietly as he rocked from foot to foot.

Nodding softly, Tourmaline agreed and her celestial feline nuzzled its head against the young ravager. “Let’s go home, sweetheart.”

Boneskrill, Req & Hunter

CE: Blessing of the Moon + 2 Celestial Feline + 10 Added Dragon + 2 Added Dragon #2 + 2 Background + 4 Trial of Ouroboros Completed + 10 Trials + 2 1160 words + 11 Total = 44	EE: Entry rolls gain points + 0 Trials + 10 Extra Dragon (1) + 2 Extra Dragon (2) + 2 Extra Dragon (3) + 2 Extra Dragon (4) + 2 150 Extra Words (1) + 1 Complex Background + 5 Blessing of the Moon + 2 Total = 26
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Stellaris

CE: Blessing of the Moon + 2 Celestial Feline + 10 Added Dragon + 2 Added Dragon #2 + 2 Background + 4 Personal bonus + 1 Trial of Ouroboros Completed + 10 Trials + 2 1160 words + 11 Total = 44	EE: Entry rolls gain points + 0 Trials + 10 Extra Dragon (1) + 2 Extra Dragon (2) + 2 Extra Dragon (3) + 2 Extra Dragon (4) + 2 150 Extra Words (1) + 1 Complex Background + 5 Blessing of the Moon + 2 Total = 26
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Tourmaline:

CE: Blessing of the Moon + 2 Celestial Feline + 10 Added Dragon + 2 Added Dragon #2 + 2 Background + 4 Personal bonus + 1 Trials + 2 1160 words + 11 Total = 34	EE: Entry rolls gain points + 0 Trials + 10 Extra Dragon (1) + 2 Extra Dragon (2) + 2 Extra Dragon (3) + 2 Extra Dragon (4) + 2 150 Extra Words (1) + 1 Complex Background + 5 Blessing of the Moon + 2 Total = 26
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