

# Loucara: The Crash Landing

I sprinted down the hallway to mission control, where Luke was frantically running from control panel to control panel, trying to keep the ship aloft. "What's wrong?" I asked.

"I don't know. Ia said we had passed into the star system of the planet Loucara, then she started beeping and saying, Warning! Warning!" replied Luke.

I turned away from Luke and said to the ship, "Ia, voice command: manual override. Shut down the whole ship except the landing gears." I turned back to Luke. "We're in for a bumpy landing."

Seriously, I did *not* need to crash on an alien planet after just finishing a different mission. I was on my way back to Earth after stopping an alien invasion from the Zorg. We had done something to offend them and their King had declared war. Luke and I had to go and convince them to not invade. The village elder seemed to like us, so when Ari turned to him for help, he told the king to let us live. He even gave me a magical power ring that would give me power when I found my 'inner peace'.

Now, as I rushed around my living quarters, trying to find my weapons, inner peace seemed a long way away. I rushed to the door and opened it to find Luke waiting for me outside, carrying a suitcase. He frowned. "What are you bringing with you?" He asked.

"All I really need is the ring, Riptide and Pierce." Riptide was my sword and Pierce was my bow and arrows. We rushed to the control room and as I slid into the captain's chair, I said under my breath, 'Ia, turn the ship back on.' I pulled up hard on the twin throttles. The nose of the ship jerked up, but we were still coming into the

atmosphere too hot. If we didn't adjust our angle, the ship would vaporise. I pulled up on the throttles again. That seemed to do the trick. Our descent slowed to a mild OH MY GOD MY SHIP'S GONNA CRASH speed. Suddenly, we cleared the atmosphere and the planet Loucara came into view.

My jaw hit the control panel. Loucara was beautiful. The lush green landscape was startling in colour. There was a forest about 1 kilometre away and about 200 metres to my left, a school of fish were playing a deadly game of tips with a shark thing. The open fields were littered with what looked like trees. But I couldn't admire the scenery. Our ship was still hurtling towards the ground at an alarming rate. I realised that the ship was beyond saving. I yelled to Luke. "Strap yourself into that seat and press the yellow button!" Luke nodded. As I did that myself, I realized how much I was going to miss this ship. But still, I pressed the button and we were shot out of the ship and floated down to an alien planet.