



Act I  
Scene 1

# Evergreen

*Author: Rory Tarnow-Mordi*

The hulking, partially white-rusted metal mass of the Freighter touches down on the gateway sphere of Tavirac. Silent agents clad in official blue garb and the frightening spiked masks of the Tavir Clergy glide on board, scouring the ship for illicit weapons and cargo. Their limbless bodies hover above the ground, occasionally swooping down to inspect the floor for hidden compartments.

You, Tif, and Wentworth lean against the wall near the airlock. The gateway sphere isn't pressurised, and there's no point stepping outside anyway – the Clergy agents are extremely efficient. Of course, Wentworth fenced all of your illegal goods back on Ronder.

One of the agents approaches you, ascending just enough to surpass your height. "I must inspect the wall behind you, Captain." It floats patiently, and one of the blue mask spikes almost brushes your cheek. You don't flinch.

"Of course." You nod at the pair beside you, and in one beautifully synchronised move, the three of you cross the corridor and lean against the wall opposite.

After another couple of minutes, all of the Tavir agents depart through the airlock. The last one pauses beside you. "Please review the search summary before passing through the gateway sphere." You nod, and thank them politely. No need to offend the Clergy.

A faint horn rings out through the thin atmosphere outside. Tif moves toward the cockpit, ready to pilot the Freighter through the aperture soon to appear in the sphere. Wentworth turns to you, datascreen in hand. "I don't remember these summaries being so dense." You take a look...



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## Specimen 1

*Strong similarities between juvenile and adult specimens - the main distinguishing feature for the fully grown specimen is its upper bough reaches the same height as its trunk.*

## Specimen 2

*Starkly different from specimen 1, this specimen metamorphoses completely between seedling and adult. It almost doubles in height, acquires a secondary root, and its hoop-shaped bough becomes more rigid and is lifted into its centre.*

## Specimen 3

*This interesting specimen raises the level of its canopy with respect to its trunk as it grows without significantly gaining height - the most mature of these have branches only at the very top of their trunk.*

## Specimen 4

*Apart from growing in size vertically and becoming less supple, this specimen sprouts a secondary trunk from its secondary root, which reaches the same height as the primary.*

## Specimen 5

*The seedling of this specimen is most noted for the brilliant blossom that it delicately suspends above its stem. As it ages this blossom is lost, and it becomes a particularly plain, but rather tall, reed.*

## Specimens 6a/b

*The recurve shape is characteristic in these vines, partly because it is shared between the juveniles and adults of the species. The fully grown specimen is significantly larger, perhaps twice the size of the juvenile.*