

STARGATE ATLANTIS Fan Fiction:
The Zelenka Galaxy by Elle Coe
PART ONE

If you're new to the Stargate Atlantis television show read the box below, otherwise skip down to the story.

A quick review for the newbies:

Stargate Atlantis follows the adventures of a human expedition, led by Dr. Elizabeth Weir, to the lost city of Atlantis in the Pegasus Galaxy. The Stargate has brought humanity into contact with other cultures, including new and powerful enemies: the Wraith, the Genii, and later the Asurans, all while trying to uncover the secrets the Ancients left behind.

Aside from being the ranking military officer at Atlantis, Lieutenant Colonel John Sheppard is a United States Air Force officer. He leads a recon/exploration team comprised of:

Dr. Rodney McKay, chief scientific adviser and an expert on astrophysics, naqahdah, Ancient technology and the Stargate system.

Teyla Emmagan, a warrior leader of the village, Athos, located near Atlantis. She is experienced in military strategy, martial arts, and Pegasus-galaxy diplomacy.

Ronan Dex, a skilled soldier against the Wraith. He was forced into becoming a Runner, with an implant which allowed the Wraith to stalk him. After the Atlantis team offered to have their Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Beckett, remove the tracking device, Ronan agreed to join their team.

Last but not least and the feature of my story - Dr. Radek Zelenka is from the Czech Republic, a brilliant scientist and engineer, who traveled with the international expedition to the lost Ancient city of Atlantis. He has become an expert on Ancient technology -- especially the Puddle Jumper ship's systems. The show blends different types of approaches to science-fiction, from action to comedy.

Story takes place in the middle of Season Two.

"Rodney," Sheppard said. "Let it go." He tried to keep a straight face as they waited for the Atlantis Stargate to complete its dialing sequence,

"He can't," Ronan added, easily pulling a large pack stuffed with extra supplies on his back. Teyla and Sheppard both had similar packs, though a bit lighter, while Rodney carried as much data gathering equipment as he could.

"I personally look forward to seeing what even the Ancients termed 'an unusual place'," Teyla said.

"Quite possibly a whole new galaxy," Rodney corrected, but without his usual enthusiasm at the prospect of a new discovery.

Ronan purposely leaned down so that Rodney could hear. "Yeah, it's even got a name now."

"Right!" Sheppard couldn't hold his laugh any longer. "The Zelenka Galaxy."

“That’s not its name!” Rodney snapped.

“You’re just mad that it was Zelenka who found the hidden data and gate address, and not you. And everyone’s named it after him.” Sheppard prodded.

“Any time I’ve discovered something, it’s not named after me. But *now* we have the Zelenka Galaxy?” Rodney continued to sputter a response when the swoosh of the Stargate interrupted. Once the noise died down, Sheppard waved a farewell to Elisabeth Weir standing on the upper step, and they started toward the now shimmering wormhole.

“Did you notice the color’s different?” Teyla asked.

“More of a purple than a blue,” Sheppard replied. “Still it looks normal. But hey we’re going to visit The Zelenka Galaxy so anything’s possible.”

Just as they were about to step through, he heard Rodney say “Well I’m still not calling it that!”

Out of the strange wormhole they tumbled, thrown abruptly not from a Stargate, but from what appeared to be a huge tree.

“Oh that was harsh!” Rodney wiped himself off and immediately began to scan himself.

“That’s a relief, I’m fine.” Silence. “Oh uh how’s everyone?” But Teyla’s gasp and Sheppard’s “Holy crap” brought his head up.

It was there before them and all around them rippling out like an ocean. A vast, complex sea of stars, and planets. Millions of galaxies swirling and sparkling against the rich black velvet of space. Rodney did a 360 spin.

Standing like a lone sentry in the middle of the otherwise empty stretch of rock, the Redwood, a giant of a tree by Earth’s standards, shrank in comparison to the view that surrounded them on all sides. He stood by the tree and did a quick scan of it.

“Must be some kind of organic gate. When we saw the telemetry and pictures they were somewhat dark, but the MALP showed this tree. Still I had no idea it was their gate. I’ve never seen anything even remotely like this. Maybe they were trying to hide or disguise it? But from what?” He went over to check the MALP. The initial feed had cut out unexpectedly but they’d received enough readings to know that the air was breathable and the area seemed safe. The data from the Ancients that Zelenka found hinted about this being another galaxy, but it hadn’t required any extra power to get here.

“Who’s they? Look at this place. It’s either empty or deserted,” Sheppard said.

Rodney turned around and again was struck by the massive space sea that surrounded them.

A beauty so captivating that without even noticing, they found themselves on the edge of this rock island. At their feet the cliff seemed to melt away fading into the luxurious diamond studded depths. Ronan stared intently out, turning every few minutes to gaze in another direction seemingly mesmerized. Teyla too, stood transfixed and Rodney could see why. Never yet in all his strange travels had he seen such a place.

A deep stillness permeated the atmosphere and a sort of peaceful cadence settled upon them. “It’s strange,” Rodney’s voice broke into the quiet. “We’re above it all and yet it looks like I could just-“

“Step out,” And Ronan did just that.

“Ronan no!” Teyla cried. “You’ll fall.”

Sheppard tried to grab his arm and instead found himself pitched forward and launched over the cliff too. An invisible force gently buoyed him up. Next thing he knew, he was standing on a rippling black sea of space. He glanced at Ronan who was walking about seeming to enjoy the lighter feel.

He took several cautious steps and with each step under his feet swirled out new colors against the black, some intense blazing white then deep rich iridescent pinks, purples and blues, each step brought a new rainbow.

“No way. This is too cool.” When he looked up, Ronan was a mere speck in the distance. “Ronan!” He barked into the radio. “Slow down.”

He thought he saw Ronan acknowledge with a wave and stop, but by that time he was almost two football fields away. How did he get so far? They’d just stepped off the cliff. Sheppard berated himself on his pre-occupation. They needed to stick together. When he glanced back to the island, he stopped in shock. It wasn’t there.

Radek tossed and turned in his bunk on board the *Daedalus*, one of Earth’s Deep Space Battlecruisers. He wished it was Rodney who had been assigned to do these mundane research tests from orbit above Atlantis.

When trying to sleep in Atlantis, the night brought its own unique sounds. Often Radek found himself tossing and turning trying to block them out. He’d learned growing up in a large family living in the Czech Republic, that it was best to find ways to block out the noise at night. He couldn’t sleep without some kind of white noise. That’s why he’d made his own white noise device. He then created the noises from CD’s Becket had of nature. Dr. Becket liked to use them in the infirmary to help soothe and promote healing, especially since there wasn’t much else available by way of creating a relaxing atmosphere for his patients. And after much editing, Radek had compiled a perfect track of trickling brooks and gently bubbling streams. What he wouldn’t give for that right now.

The *Daedalus*’ sleeping quarters were extremely compact, and in the small room he shared with Jim Tyler, one of the ships crew, sound became magnified. Jim’s snoring had become such that no amount of imagining peaceful streams would help. He got out of the bunk bed and crept into the hall hoping that the swoosh of the door would not disturb Jim.

“Dr. Zelenka you are up early, or should I say late?” Her musical voice stopped him in his tracks.

Radek turned to see Miko Kusanagi, another scientist assigned from Atlantis, smiling at him. His hands went to his hair, quickly trying to smooth it. Hair was usually the least of the things he bothered about.

“Good morning Miko and please I am fine and no trouble with you calling me Radek. I – I could not sleep.”

“Do you always sleep so prepared?” Miko grinned, pushing her thick glasses up.

Radek felt his already red face flush even more. With every day in Atlantis being filled with non-stop activity, he found it best to never wear anything but daytime clothes to sleep. He knew he usually looked, well, rumpled. Funny, he never even thought about it unless he was around Miko.

“It is a good way to be prepared. Yes.” He joined her as they walked toward the mess.

“I agree and I’ll tell you a secret.” She leaned in close to whisper, her straight black hair brushing his shoulder, “I do the same thing. With all the craziness that goes on around here, I find I just don’t bother changing until the next morning. But you have to promise not to tell.” Miko grinned even wider and gave him a friendly wink.

They were entering the mess area. Tables and chairs filled the center while all sorts of food stations were set up along the walls. The far end opened into the galley. On the other end of the large room was a lounge area set up with a few couches, and recreational items.

Miko greeted several of the night shift personnel getting coffee from the beverage station. Radek had always felt that she had a special way of putting people at ease. He never felt the odd man out with her the way he did with some of the others in Atlantis.

"You want some?" She held up a cup.

"No . . . no uh I mean, why don't you let me get you some of that?" Radek reached for the cup only to realize too late that the cup was full. Hot coffee splashed over her fingers.

"Oh my goodness please forgive me!" He quickly grabbed a napkin. Miko set the cup down. Radek began to dab at her fingers muttering to himself in Czech.

"Dr. Zelenka it's ok. We are tired." Her voice was soothing. She was actually smiling.

"I tell you this. I just wanted to get you the coffee not have you wear it. I am so sorry."

Miko shook her head. "Listen, it's no big deal. I'm fine and dry. I'll accept your offer of bringing the coffee. Let's drink it in the lab ok? I wanted to run over some simulations with you anyway."

"I will bring them. And again Miko I am so sorry for that!" Radek turned to throw away the soaked napkins all the while telling himself what a klutzy fool he was. Of course he told this to himself in Czech so no one would know the true extent of his humiliation. Then he felt a touch on his arm. Miko had come back.

"It's really ok. I like a little fun with my coffee. Please don't be so hard on yourself. It's ok Radek," She soothed and walked away.

Radek watched her go, amazed at her perception. And then it hit him. She had called him Radek for the first time. He grabbed another cup and smiled to himself. He couldn't wait to start work in the lab today.

"Major Sheppard come in." Teyla's voice crackled over the radio.

"Teyla I've lost visual. Where are you?" He searched the horizons but they stretched so far and all around him.

"I am still on the island. Rodney is also walking out there. I'm not sure why you can't see us but I can see you from here."

"Ok then I'm just going to turn around and start back." With one large step the island was back in view. He could see Rodney off to the other side of the island.

"It's like being in zero gravity with all the control of gravity. This is the scientific discovery of all time!" Rodney's voice drew him back. Both Rodney and Teyla had joined them now on the rippling space sea. Sheppard walked over to where Rodney stood gazing down.

"Don't you see? It's not just planets and stars we're seeing. Those are galaxies." Rodney gestured toward several particularly dense swirling clusters streaked with deep pinks and purples.

"What is this place?" Teyla uttered what they'd all been thinking.

"Sheppard come look at this." Even through the radio's static Ronan sounded worried.

He waved them all to follow as he gingerly moved toward where he last left Ronan. If he moved too fast, he'd learned it would take him much farther than a few football fields. With measured practice, they seemingly floated over the vast distance spanning multiple galaxies within seconds, to arrive where Ronan stood staring intently down into the murky depths.

"That felt so strange," Teyla murmured. She gently flexed her feet and watched the colorful ripples sparkle out over the space sea.

"You got that right." John gave a quick check around them before coming to stand beside the others.

"Um, just what is it we're supposed to see exactly?" Rodney tried to make out what Ronan was looking at, but it looked like more of the same swirling clusters.

He turned around to look behind them, still amazed and very worried that the Tree Island that held their only means of escape was so completely out of sight. *This place is obviously flat, no curves. It's not just around a bend to be out of sight.* He thought. *So, to not see it at all and yet have gotten out here so quickly. We might be thousands of miles away from the island and not even know it.* His mind tried to do the math, to comprehend the implications. *One step could equal-*

"Look there. Don't you see it?" Ronan knelt down and pointed.

Rodney swung around. Teyla and John bent to see and gasped.

"Is that-?" Teyla squinted her eyes shut then opened them again. The small silver speck in the midst of a swirling purple cluster become larger, clearer, Teyla blinked to rest her eyes for a moment. With renewed concentration, the silver speck became even crisper the more she focused, finally rising, as it once did, to the surface of the black sea. "Atlantis!"

"No way." John couldn't believe it anymore than Teyla. But there emerging from the mass of stars and space it arose in miniature form in front of him. "It's like looking at a perfect model of Atlantis. And it's not just Atlantis; see the detail around it too?"

"This is impossible." Rodney's voice squeaked out in a stunned whisper. He too could see the unfolding model of the city and its surrounding sea and land.

John tried to touch it. His hand passed through it and felt like a filmy cold mist, but the image remained. Then he noticed Ronan. "You ok?"

Ronan didn't respond. He kept staring at the watery model almost as if in a trance.

"Ronan?" John poked him.

Eyes a bit glazed, Ronan snapped back and stared at John. "Did you see it? I think we should go now and warn them."

Rodney scoffed. "Although this is amazing, truly. I don't think we need to rush just yet. We need to find out how this works."

"Or why it's here." Teyla added.

Frustrated, Ronan grabbed McKay and pushed him close to the miniature city floating on the surface. "You still don't get it do you?"

Teyla studied Ronan, surprised by his anger. She met John's gaze. He shrugged and knelt back down beside the city.

"Ronan all we see is the city on the surface here. I don't see anything else." Teyla tried to calm him.

"Watch it and think about Atlantis. All I did was wish I could see it better." Ronan said.

John nodded his head and turned toward the model. Rodney waved his hands in dismissal.

"Ok so we saw it. Now you're saying what? We need to wish to see it better? Are you kidding-?"

That's when the force, which had been holding them up, gave way.

Continued in The Zelenka Galaxy Part Two