



Ke-Yana Drake
keyanad@gmail.com

Greetings, my name is Ke-Yana Drake. I am a 31 year old New Zealander who is also a world builder and writer.

Life is pretty hard for me because I live with a chronic illness called *spina bifida occulta*, which in lay-mans terms means that the vertebra from my waist down did not form properly in the womb. I have near constant sciatica and severe muscle pain in my back and legs. Because of the pain I can't walk more than about 25 metres before needing to rest again and standing for longer than a couple of minutes is excruciating. Some days the pain is so bad I can't get out of bed let alone have a shower, feed myself and maintain my little two-bedroom flat.

I constantly fight with my condition to keep my independence because if my situation worsens any more I'll have to move from my apartment into some form of rest home. "Lost her life to agony: age 31" - it's certainly not something I want on my gravestone.

What keeps me positive is that I dream of worlds and cultures, histories and epic conflicts where great people fight against all odds to survive and eventually win. These stories and worlds help me to keep away the heavy grey darkness of depression and hopelessness that would otherwise overwhelm my day to day life. My characters and worlds are my joy and my love, and sometimes the sole reason for my getting out of bed in the morning.

The scale of these universes I have created is huge. This is partially because I have been building them since I was twelve years old, but the other reason why they are so huge and detailed is because in my illness I have a lot of time to develop the details and plan the epic stories - details keep me entertained when I can do nothing else.

So, let me take this opportunity to share a glimmer of my huge universe with you. Below is a star map drawn and edited in MSPaint of one set of the colonised worlds I have created.

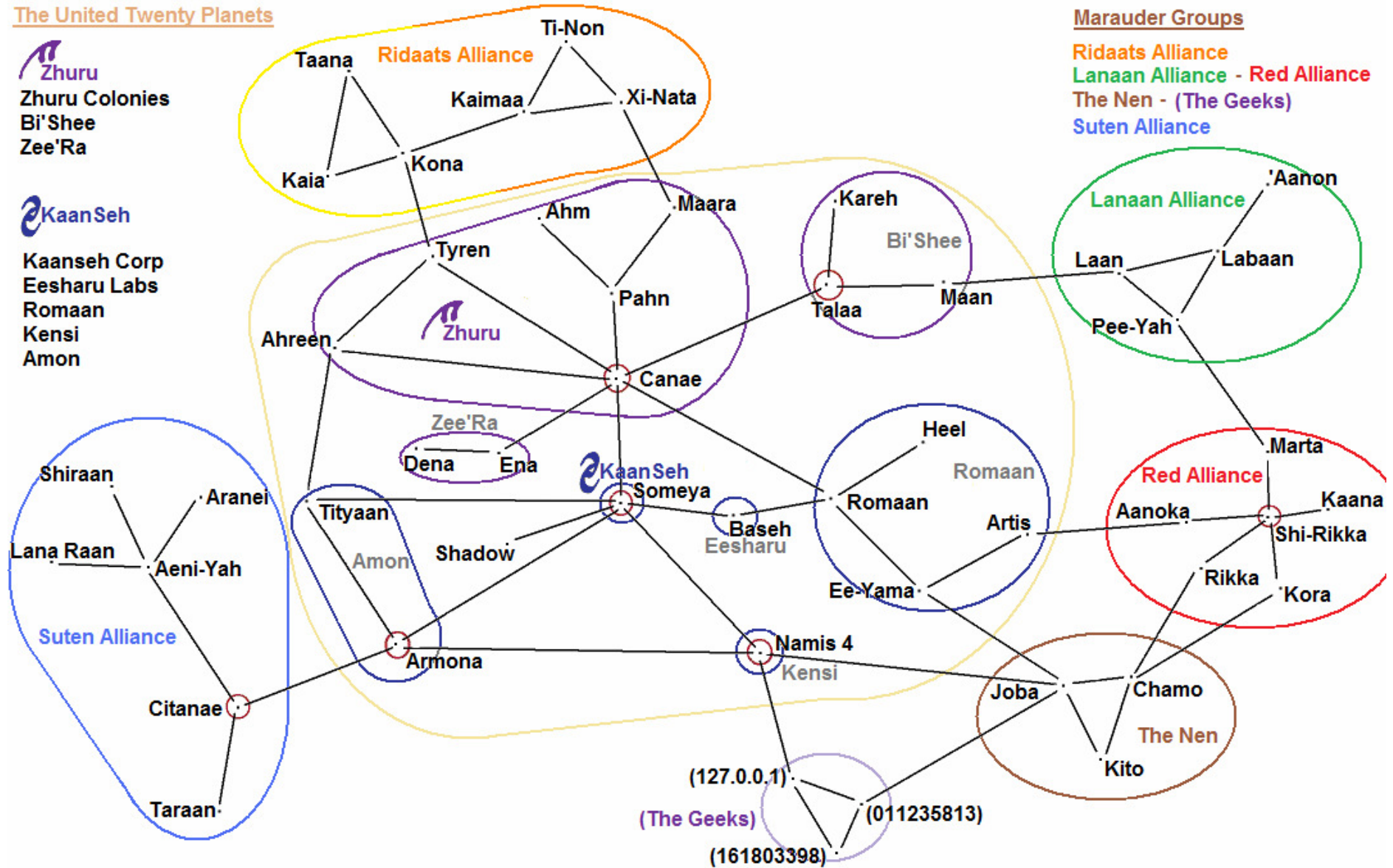
The United Twenty Planets

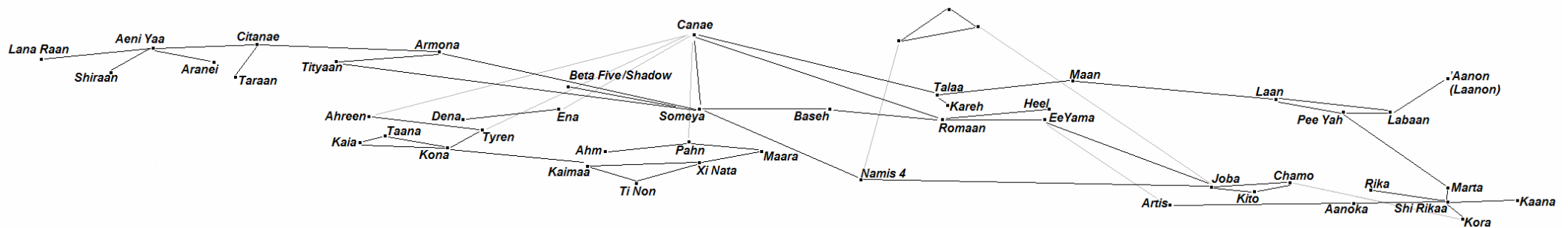
 **Zhuru**
Zhuru Colonies
Bi'Shee
Zee'Ra

 **KaanSeh**
Kaanseh Corp
Eesharu Labs
Romaan
Kensi
Amon

Marauder Groups

Ridaats Alliance
Lanaan Alliance - Red Alliance
The Nen - (The Geeks)
Suten Alliance





(Simple side view star map of U20P, Marauders and Shadow)

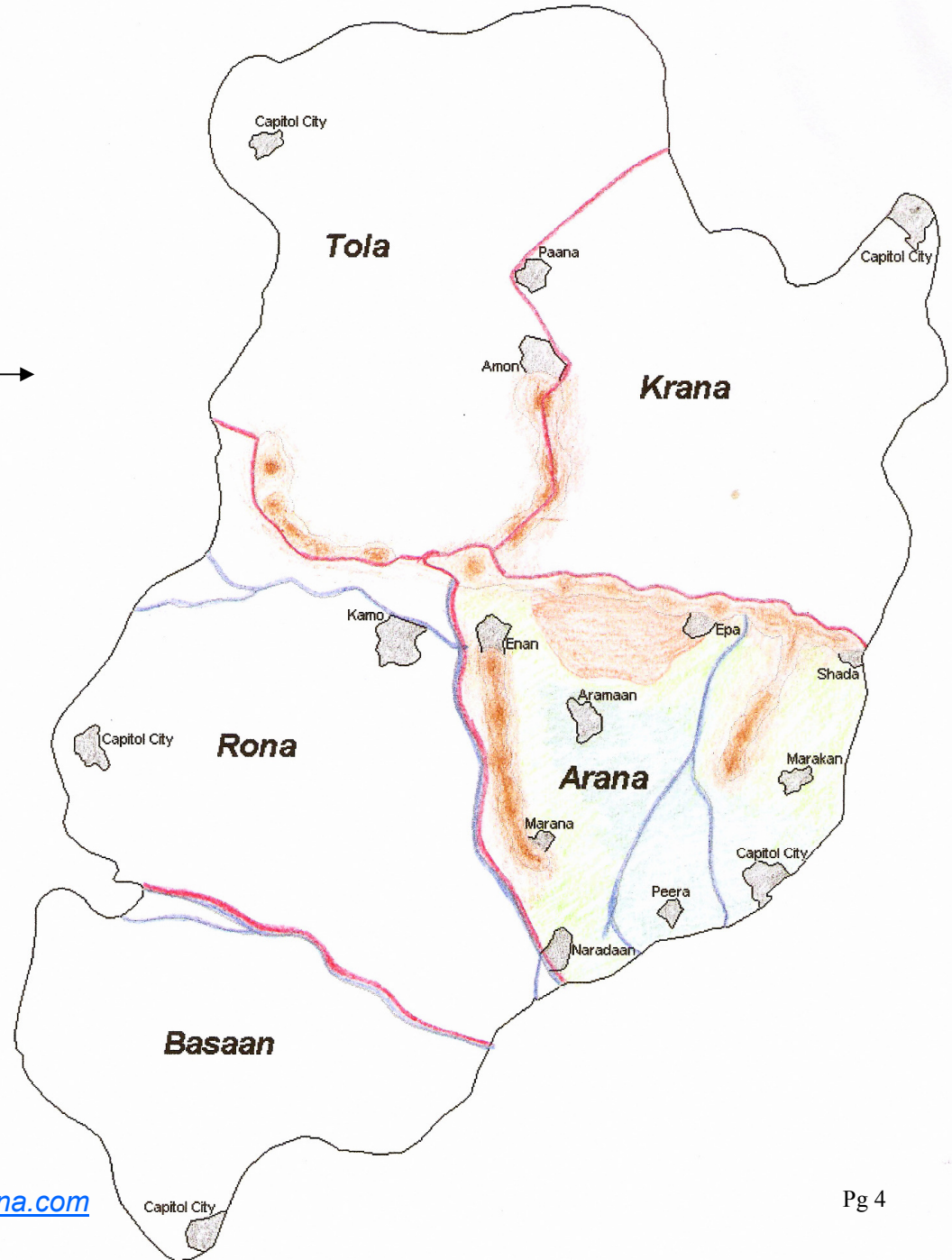
The above star map shows the completion of seven thousand years of colonisation from the home world, Canae, into the surrounding star systems. The twenty central planets have an alliance called the United twenty Planets or the U20P, within this are eight powerful political groups that rule over the twenty planets under an agreed charter. These eight groups are politically split down the middle between the two most powerful groups: the Zhuru group who are more traditional and resistant to change and the Kaanseh group who are dynamic and open to alliances with the other outer groups; known as the Marauders.

The Marauders are those colonised planets that do not follow the U20P charter and are therefore not recognised by the central planets as colonies (or citizens). They form separate and generally self-sufficient groups of planets for their continued survival. In the fringes between the U20P and the Marauders are criminals and outcasts, who have created a large contingent of space pirates in the overlap and a fairly prolific black market trading system between the Marauders and the central U20P planets. In total on this map there are 48 known colonised planets. Each planet has its own unique culture and history from the eldest planets, Canae, Pahn and Someya out to the fringes of the young Marauder planets.

There is one planet on the star map that is not known by the U20P or the Marauders. Its name is "Shadow" (found by going down from Canae to Someya and then left). The inhabitants of Shadow are not, on the whole, aware that they are surrounded in star systems teeming with sentient life. In fact, generally they believe themselves to be alone in the universe. On Shadow is a large inhabited continent where Five Great Nations reside. Below is a rough map of this continent.

The Five Nations have lived for three thousand years in relative peace. Their technology levels are modest compared to their stellar neighbours and quite closely equivalent to ours here on Earth at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

On the east coast of the Five Nation continent is a country called Arana. In the year 2904 (Year of the Founder), an Aranan scientist discovered that approximately ten percent of the population possessed the genetic markers for certain psychic abilities. These abilities were classed into four groups: Telepath Psi, Empath Psi, Time Psi and Psi PK, (and added later Talented). In 2913, the government of Arana passed a series of laws effectively forcing everyone with Psi abilities or genes for these abilities to live and work for the government under an organisation called the Agency. Unfortunately, some of these laws that were passed made it so that if you did not conform you were branded a Traitor and executed. Many people resisted the law change and many people died. But one group, living in Capitol City, survives for a hundred years until a time when a new Leader comes with the hope to destroy the Agency.



People sometimes ask me why am I, Ke-Yana Drake, so damn determined to win against my disability and to get my stories published? Where do I find the passion to keep going even in the face of certain failure and agony?

The answer is: the joy of writing and creating.

My passion for my story and my characters drives me forward to succeed and make an impact in the world. There is much I can not do physically and may never be able to do again but I can write. Writing gives me joy, hope and passion and even when it's all I can do I will do it to the best of my ability and with all my passion and focus.

Creating these worlds and characters is my lifeline to joy and a pathway to making a real life for myself out of nothing.