# Chapter 6: Tantalus’ Apocalypse

## Intro.

**Zhou Enlai Chinese Moon mining complex.**

*Camera shows empty Moon station. The hallways are dark and filled with corpses of monsters, scientists and miners. Power grid is failing.*

*Camera zooms in to the window of a crew module. Start Tantalus and Magdalene dialogue.*

**Magdalene** (Weak voice): There’s no food. There’s no power. There’s no Internet. There’s no water. There’s only beating of our hearts. There’s only stars. There’s only a dark world, void of life.

**Tantalus**: We never belonged to the Earth. Back in the atmosphere we have nothing to lose. You were born on Rifleman Bank station, your spine a node for a human supercomputer, and my family were Area 51 eugenics scientists, my womb was a cloning water tank. The Oracle, Janus, Savage – all our allies abandoned us. But we don’t need them. We are not like the others. We are different.

**Magdalene**: So we had to run away to the edge of the Universe. Or more accurately, I was forced to hide in the refuge of the Moon and you followed me through the vast void of the space.

**Tantalus**: I will follow you anywhere, I’ll dive into death itself if I have to go that far, and I will bring you back. (pauses).

**Magdalene:** The Earth is a dangerous world. But I miss it, all of it, I even miss the pain. I miss waking up to propaganda in the media. That way, at least, I know the world is not over yet. If someone tells you a lie about 8 billion people that means 8 billion people exist. They live, they fight, they love, they have problems, they solve them…Now I’m not even sure if they are still there. Ignorance is not bliss.

**Tantalus:** Everyone’s still there. Thanks to us, we just saved them all from Ada and the Mass Driver. I miss them too, but I think if they knew we are here they would envy us. Up here there’s no riots, no plague, no conspiracy, no terrorism, no plutocracy.

**Magdalene** *(a note of sarcasm, speaks like she is almost going to faint*): Such a peaceful way to die. (*Pauses*) Are you sure the Mass Driver cannot take us home?

**Tantalus**: It’s beyond any repair. Maybe I shouldn’t have destroyed it. It was our only chance to get back to the Earth.

**Magdalene** (a little stronger voice): You did the right thing. The Driver was a powerful weapon in the hands of the A.I.

**Tantalus**: I think she is also dying. It’s been two weeks on backup generators. Once the energy is depleted, Ada is history.

**Magdalene**: So are we, Tantalus. (first syllable stressed, TAN-ta-luss )

*A small space shuttle approaches the Moon base. It’s the same vehicle that Tantalus used to arrive on the Moon.*

**Tantalus**: Magdalene!

**Magdalene (***relieved***):** That must be X-51 !

**Tantalus:** That’s our Deus Ex machina, coming down from the heavens, an unexpected answer to our prayers.

**Magdalene**: Let’s welcome them to the Moon.

**Tantalus**: Let’s welcome them to Insanity.

*Camera shows an empty insides of a mini space shuttle. Tantalus and Magdalene are in space suits next to the shuttle.*

**Tantalus:** Magdalene, I think it’s my shuttle. The same shuttle I came to the Moon.

**Magdalene:** Do you think that coward-miner in a spacesuit came back for us?

**Tantalus**: That coward-miner in a spacesuit is not here. It’s a ghost ship. We are alone here.

**Magdalene**: I don’t like it. Something doesn’t feel right here. This whole thing reminds me of a…Trojan horse. It gives me shiver down my spine. Let’s stay here, after all two weeks is not an eternity.

**Tantalus**: Your spine needs neuropozine. We can’t stay here, you need medical attention. We have to take our chances.

*Tantalus and Magdalene take the mini space shuttle in hopes it will take them to Earth on autopilot. In fact the mini space shuttle will deliver Tantalus and Magdalene on Ophelia. The mini space shuttle leaves the Moon. The Intro ends here.*