DISCIPLE

# Story by Brad Reinhold

Written by

Brad Reinhold

11841 Jefferson Commons Circle

Unit 1031B

Orlando, FL 32826

1-(689)-245-6063

EXT. SPACE: ORBIT OF AHMISAH- DAY

We see a white poem slowly come on screen, line by line, against a backdrop of space. We are going through a meteoroid field, a gas cloud, a planetary ring, deep space, past a comet, all against the backdrop of the unending night and the galaxies beyond and within.

Oh Light,

Shine for me

Beyond the meadow

And the vale

Into darkness

And far beyond

On the hidden

Figure within

The subtlest

Of boundaries.

We see a SHUTTLE move across the screen against the backdrop of space and stars.

Opening credits.

There is a planetary disk ring in the background. We ZOOM in from a distance so the shuttle goes from being a moving speck of light against the background to an obvious craft that has been constructed. We ROTATE from a high angle as we ZOOM to come into the cockpit of the craft through the front window.

In the cockpit is a human female pilot, SAM. She is early 30's, blonde and blue hair. She sits in a captain's couch and a green and blue female alien in a priest's clothing, XONI, sits behind her in the shuttle in a crash couch.

SAM

We need clearance at gate alpha bravo Zulu, over.

She touches her ear and microphone which is attached there by a headset.

SAM(CONT'D) Roger. Thank you for letting us come home and not shooting us down (HARSH LAUGH). I know, I know. With all the terrorists in the area, yeah I know. Okay. Great. Hold on.

Sam looks over her shoulder, speaking now to Xoni.

SAM(CONT'D)

It's going to take them 30 minutes to get us into a landing sequence at the main port or we can go to the outskirts. Up to you.

XONI

Hmm. We'll save a lot of time on the maglev from the outskirts versus holding here. Plus it's not safe to be out here that long. Outskirts it is.

Sam turns back to the forward position, presses her earpiece again.

SAM

We're going to land at the outskirt port. Thanks. You've been so incredibly helpful. Please, you have a very nice day.

Sam removes her headset.

SAM(CONT'D)

I swear that guy deliberately wants to waste our time, every time. I thought his beard was cute but he came on too heavy and here we are. (SIGH) Not that I'll live as long as you, but you were married for like 400 years before becoming a priest! Because of the vow, I know that it wont be anytime soon. But it would be nice to meet someone to have feelings with anyway.

XONI

It is not how long a pebble is in the stream, it is how the pebble accepts and bends with the stream in harmony. Even the pebble wears away eventually, but in the moment it was everything it needed to be.

Sam looks back over her shoulder.

SAM

That was beautiful. Thank you.

We'll be coming in to land shortly.

Sam is focused now on the controls again. We see the planet ahead with the ring grow larger out the front viewscreen.

XONI

My child, you know the nature of our mission?

SAM

I know you found something on that last planet we visited. The one with the ruins.

XONI

Those ruins are old, very old. The translator got ahold of some of their writing, and with what we found that one structure...

SAM

I still don't understand what it is

XONI

I think it is the missing link to where our order comes from and your people. It may tell us a great many things about something, or nothing whatsoever. Its too early to tell but we have to get the documents and literature into the Church's hands for study and determination.

Sam continues guiding the shuttle down toward the planet

SAM

I haven't seen you this excited in a while. Practically ever.

XONI

Did you ever hear tales of a mythic place called Earth?

SAM

That's a fairy tale, not real. People spontaneously generate all over the universe! That's why we're everywhere. I don't believe all of us could come from just one planet.

XONI

We shall see. Given your procreation levels due to short life spans and hormone levels it's not hard to see a smaller group over time becoming widespread. You realize that right?

SAM

It's possible I guess.

The planet looks very big in the viewscreen at this point. You can see oceans, forests, cities and mountains from high up.

SAM(CONT'D)

Final descent, please buckle your seat belts, and bring your trays and seats to their upright positions. Thank you flying Church Air.

Xoni Laughs.

Sam guides the craft into a dive and they head low over a sea and then beach before landing at an outskirt facility.

Both occupants unstrap and prepare to exit the vessel. Sam grabs a stun baton as she prepares to head aft.

SAM(CONT'D)

Alright I'm ready. Please lets not stop to play with the children. I'll feel much better in the capitol, talking to the Prelate in the Chapel of Grace.

XONI

I agree, though it makes my heart sad not to extend affection to children.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

Xoni and Sam scan their bracelets at a terminal. Move through the sliding glass doors, and onto the platform. Xoni turns to Sam.

XONI

You know why it's important to fight the rebels right, don't you Samantha?

SAM

Because they are liars, and they use violence.

We hear a clanging noise and a siren as we see a train approaching down the track. XONI and SAM stand in silence and wait to get on the train.

The train arrives. The doors open. XONI and Sam get on the train.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

XONI and SAM walk inside train and down the isle and sit down side by side with their backs against the window. There's an aisle down the middle with benches facing one another. There are also hand holds and poles down the side of the aisle. We see out of the window that the train starts moving fast.

XONI

In part. You must consider what they are fighting for, and what has been done to stop them so far. That can even make noble intentions go sour. No Sam, it is important because they don't believe in commonality and putting their brother first, they put individuality first. And they demonstrate this through their lies and their violence. They don't believe in universal love, universal peace, universal wellbeing. They don't respect others enough to let them have a different point of view.

The train goes through a tunnel with lights going down each side. Another train passes going the other direction after the sudden noise, there is silence. (Beat)

SAM

I think they could say the same of us.

XONI

I suppose that's fair. But I think considering we're the only thing holding back the darkness from overtaking the galaxy, you'll cut us a bit more slack than you will them.

EXT. MAGLEV TRAIN - DAY

We see the train begin to go over a long suspension bridge over a river between two mountains, a very large fjord.

INT. MAGLEV TRAIN - DAY

We see the water going by out the window.

SAM looks at XONI devilishly.

SAM

(Sarcastically)

We'll I mean, your only feeding me, paying me, clothing me, and giving me a job. And you've only been a like a mother to me since I can remember. So we'll see. Maybe. Who knows?.

XONI laughs first and then sighs.

XONI

Let me explain please. (Beat)

EXT. MAGLEV TRAIN - DAY

We see the maglev exit the bridge and approach an enormous city with a large domed cathedral/mosque at the heart of it.

XONI (V.O.)

The Prelate has been under extreme strain fending off these terrorists. He has been under an enormous amount of duress to hold together civilizations across our reach of the galaxy from people who bomb churches, hospitals, and warehouses. The rebels always find a way to justify it, but it's always just someone else getting hurt.

SAM (V.O.) I understand.

The train begins to slow.

INT. MAGLEV TRAIN - DAY

The train slows more through the window.

XONI

Now remember, when you go before the Prelate, mind your manners, only speak the truth, and don't ask questions.

SAM

I like questions, but I understand.

Xoni gives a head nod.

Out the window, the train comes to a stop. Xoni and Sam get up and exit the train.

EXT. MAGLEV TRAIN PLATFORM - DAY

Xoni and Sam exit the doors of the platform and onto a crowded street, there are Punkers, Quisods, Houlikos and Rephanthans on the street along with a multitude of humans.

XONI

I love you my child. Thank you for always being dutiful.

SAM

Serving with you Mother is the honor of my life.

XONI

You make me very proud my dearest.

INT. CHAPEL OF GRACE: CAPITAL OF AHMISAH - DAY

Sam and Xoni stand talking to the PRELATE, an old human looking man with a short white beard, in the chapel area. We can see a stained glass window behind them.

PRELATE

Xoni, you are our Zenith Ambassador. Have you found what we sought?

XONI

I believe so. Let me introduce you to Samantha Sacre. She helped supervise the expedition.

Prelate turns to SAM.

PRELATE

Sam, tell me the impression of the world you visited.

SAM

It was weird. It was very overgrown. A civilization died there. There was technology. Data cores. We'll know soon enough what world this was.

Prelate Turns to Xoni.

XONI

We found what turns out to be religious texts which can be seen as a root of our ways of our spiritual connection right now. About the time that these ruins dated from, there was an explosion of culture and faiths in this quadrant of the galaxy, and most records don't show humans in our culture until around or after that time.

PRELATE

One of the religious texts that you ladies recovered, is the actual basis for our worship here in our order. It seems to have been an amalgamation even then, one ancient book followed by a newer but still ancient book. The principles of peace, harmony and generosity we preach are identical. Even some of the parables make more sense in here than they do in our books. Can you show me a map of this world? An image from Orbit?

Xoni looks back at Sam, and then looks back at the Prelate.

XONI

Honestly, we do not have a photo of the planet, but this is the mapping of the planetary surface once we were in orbit.

She opens up a data pad and above it rises a pinpoint hologram of the world.

PRELATE

This is incredible! This matches the Archival Records!

# XONI

Well, it certainly fills in some gaps in our knowledge.

Sam looks puzzled.

SAM I'm not following. How can something we found in ruins on a deserted planet explain anything meaningful out here?

XONI

You remember the myth of Earth?

# PRELATE

Once upon a midnight moon/There lay a land of milk and honey/Upon its mantle we built the bore/In its shadows we Fought in wars/To escape its doom we formed together/With each other, enemies united/And in the shattering night of death/We left that land and killed the moon/And wished our Earth goodbye.

# SAM

Oh. So that place we went to was Earth?

XONI

It seems that way.

# PRELATE

It requires further investigation, but yes.

# SAM

I want to go back. If that's where I'm from, I want to see it again.

# PRELATE

Of course child. And you shall. First though you need to get something to eat in the kitchen and rest. Now that we know where to look it won't be a problem to go back. Tell no one until you are summoned again.

# SAM

Good. Thank you. I think there would be a lot of people who would want to go if they knew about it. A pilgrimage of sorts.

SAM(CONT'D) There's a lot of us who feel like we don't really belong anywhere. I felt at peace there.

Xoni shares a look with the Prelate.

# PRELATE

I had hoped you would feel this way. It is a good suggestion. When we know more about this place we will plan such pilgrimages. It would not do to excite unnecessarily though. In the morning you two will return and gather more data, check the environment thoroughly, and evaluate the biome.

# XONI

I have some other business to catch up on in my office before tomorrow, but go ahead and eat and I'll see you for devotional before bed.

SAM (SMILING BROADLY) Yes ma'am. Thank you sir. Earth! Who knew?

# XONI

Good, go get chow. Me and the Prelate have yet to talk.

Sam exits and the Prelate turns to Xoni.

PRELATE You know this must never leave these walls, you understand this is imperative, don't you?

# XONI

What do you propose? I will not harm the girl if that's what you are suggesting. That would go against Ahimsa.

PRELATE

It's a confirmation of what the terrorists in this sector have been saying. It would undermine everything about our position in this region. Who knows what the power vacuum created by the loss of our position would create? We cannot take such a risk with the lives of countless innocents we are charged with.

XONI

To hold this back is wrong, especially for political reasons. Listen to yourself. This is not the golden hearted lion of the faith we elected speaking. This sounds like a man who is afraid to lose power.

The Prelate hangs his head in shame.

PRELATE

What you say is true. I am afraid of losing power to criminals.

XONI The fore bearers of our organization, of the Holy Universal

Church, were considered criminals. It is not our place to judge if these people are right or wrong. We can still protect the innocents as we always have. By being honest and allowing the Humans to learn about their origins, I think we will garner greater acceptance among -

The Prelate stabs Xoni in the chest with a knife. Xoni looks up into the Prelates eyes with astonishment and sadness. Xoni is fading quickly.

XONI(CONT'D)

But why? You're damned for this act by all. May God have mercy Xoni dies.

PRELATE

One more loose end. Then all shall be as intended.

Prelate gestures out of frame and 2 men at arms rush in to drag Xoni' s body away.

Prelate exits, wiping the blood off the knife and onto a handkerchief.

INT. CHURCH CAFETERIA: AHMISAH - EVENING

Sam chows down alone, eating what looks like a microwave noodle bowl of some sort. She is sitting at a table by herself while a few other church goers (all human) head off to their evening devotionals.

A younger church goer, Max, a 20's looking guy with dark hair and glasses and a pony tail sits down while she eats.

MAX

See anything cool out there?

SAM

We see lots of cool stuff and you know I can't talk about it! You're not even cleared to go off-world yet.

MAX

Aw come on Sam! You don't have to play that game with me. We've known each other a long time!

Sam continues to eat. She puts down the bowl, adds some soy sauce to the noodles, and stirs the bowl with her chopsticks, and continues eating.

SAM

We've only known each other about 6 months. I've known my dog longer and he and I talk less about my flights than we do. Seriously, mind your own business. I'm trying to eat here.

MAX

I'm just saying, if you see cool things and feel like you need someone to talk about it, I'm available.

SAM

What you are is persistent, I'll give you that. Leave it be.

And with that she finishes her noodles, stands up in one fluid motion, and excuses herself.

Max clears his throat.

MAX

Truth is they have you guys looking for Earth, if it exists, and I really hope you are willing to trust those of us who look like you as much as you trust those who are above you.

SAM

They have given me no reason to do anything but trust them, at least Xoni has.

MAX

The Prelate is not all roses and sunshine I hate to tell you. You aren't here much so you don't see it but people who disagree with him go missing. And he's not human like you or me. He's something else. And whatever he is he's a predator. You wonder why the terrorists gain more ground all the time with people in a lot of places? Because they believe in things like freedom and peace for all people equally and are willing to fight so no one has to again in the future.

SAM

I'm not going to break faith with Xoni. She trained me as an explorer and taught me my faith from the time I first came here at 10. She is like a mother to me. I will not betray her.

MAX Will you see her at devotional tonight?

SAM

She was supposed to have already met me here and we were to go together like usual after a mission.

MAX

Who was she with the last time you saw her?

SAM

The Prelate. This is ridiculous. She is probably tied up with inventory.

MAX

Does she usually break tradition?

SAM

Not really ever.

MAX

We have to go. Now! And you have to tell me what you found. The Prelate enters the dining hall flanked by 2 guards. The are coming slowly from the far side of the hall toward Sam and Max.

SAM

Uh, yeah, going sounds good right now.

Sam and Max walk hurriedly to the nearby exit and vacate the room. We get a shot of the Prelate steadily walking with his guards flanking him as they walk towards this exit.

EXT. SHIP DOCKING PAD - EVENING

As the sun begins setting over the horizon, cascading the clouds in the distance into fiery embers of heavenly color, Sam and Max arrive at the shuttle on the outskirts.

SAM

Do you know how to bypass a ground lock and prep a shuttle for launch?

MAX Yeah.

SAM

You can bypass a ground security lock? Where'd you learn that?

MAX

The so-called terrorists. We're actually freedom fighters.

SAM

I don't have much option at the moment but I'm not going to help people who kill other beings.

MAX

Even when those other beings are enslaving and killing them first?

SAM

What are you talking about?

MAX

You have been sheltered in many ways here. The old priest, she seemed nice, but there's a darkness here that has only grown with time.

MAX(CONT'D)

The Church cedes power to no one and thinks it knows what is best for all. That's the recipe for tyranny.

SAM

That may be, but if you do the same things to break free you are no better. Negative energy breeds negative energy. I choose life.

MAX

That's awesome. Now we need to figure out a way to survive long enough to escape from a overly powerful dictator hell bent on killing both of us and keeping whatever you know a secret. Personally I'm going to run away right now and then hopefully come back at some point to make sure he doesn't do this again. Sound good?

Sam looks abashed

SAM Yeah.

MAX

Cool. Help me plug in this Socrates.

They plug the Socrates tablet in Max's hand into an outlet on the landing gear at the front of the shuttle. The craft makes a whirring, mechanical noise as the locks on the gear disengage and slide back into the tarmac.

SAM

I'll go prep for takeoff.

MAX

Same out here. I'll keep a look out but we need to be quick like bunnies. Those guys sure as hell didn't conveniently forget about us. We don't have long.

Sam goes inside.

INT. SHUTTLE - EVENING

Sam sits in her pilot's couch and begins to turn the craft on systematically.

EXT. SHUTTLE PAD: AHMISAH - EVENING

Max loading boxes into the shuttle through the door, boxes with pictures of food or medicine on them. He keeps glancing over his shoulder nervously.

INT. SHUTTLE - EVENING

Lights are coming to life on the console in front of Sam. She places the headset on her head, touches a button on the console and begins speaking.

SAM

I'm getting comm chatter asking for a flight plan and manifest, and informing us we'll have to wait. I think we need to get out of here now. I'm powered up and we're within 30 seconds of takeoff. That quick enough for you?

EXT./INT. SHUTTLE/SHUTTLE PAD: AHMISAH - EVENING

Max looking out into the growing darkness. He sets down a box and raises his electronic binoculars to his eyes. He taps a comm button by his ear.

MAX

We need to be gone now. I'll get on board and we need to take off of the ground at a minimum even if we're not starjumping.

We hear the crackle of the microphone, with an edge of static.

SAM Roger.

Max hurries on board, closing and sealing the bulkhead behind him and moving into the crash couch where Xoni had rested earlier.

SAM(CONT'D)

Strap in...this could get a little rough if what you're saying is true.

Max straps in, the craft beginning to take off.

SAM(CONT'D)

It makes no sense though! This goes against everything the church teaches. I can't believe Xoni would go along with something like this. She's not answering her comm though. I hope she's ok. I don't understand any of this.

EXT. ALPHA SHIP DOCKING PAD: AHMISAH - EVENING

The Prelate stands under a darkened umbrella in the shadows of a nearby building. We see over his shoulder the shuttle beginning to take off. His guards are setting up a portable laser battery fairly quickly, aimed in the direction of the nearby shuttle landing pad the "fugitives" are on, but he waves them down.

PRELATE

No need. They're already taking off. No matter. Praetorians are on the way. Let's go.

The guards collapse the laser battery into small micro sizing cubes that grow ever smaller seeming to fold in on themselves. The guards pick up small balls and place them in loops on their belts.

In the distance we watch the shuttle flying low over the water into the horizon.

The Prelate and guards leave.

INT./EXT. OCEAN/SHUTTLE - EVENING

The sun is setting in the distance over the horizon. The clouds are on fire. We see images of the shuttle bobbing and weaving close to the surface of the water.

We also see interior shots of the cabin of the shuttle. Sam is steering calmly other than the sweat on her forehead.

Dialogue boxes pop-up in the frame that show with their faces with some static in the screen of this HUD communication.

OCEAN

MAX

Everything ok up there?

SAM

Um, oh, yeah, hey um, well, you see...

CABIN

MAX That bad huh?

SAM

Worse. We've got 6 craft on intercept and I've got no guns. Don't believe in guns, Xoni and I.

OCEAN

MAX

For the love of - ok great. You're gonna have to pull a dirty harry.

SAM (CONFUSED)

What is a dirty harry? Are you just making this up?

CABIN

MAX

Isn't everything just something someone makes up? It's going to Starjumping speed in atmo.

SAM

In the bloody atmosphere?!

OCEAN

MAX

Yep! But you're a natural, I can tell.

SAM

For the love of the saints...

The shuttle angles up into the sky. We get a reverse shot from the nose of the shuttle and see contrails, 6 of them coming in from the distance at a fairly quick clip.

The shuttle pours on speed. We ZOOM in on an alternation of the chasing ships, all of them smaller and with much smaller engines.

INT. DEFENSE CORPS LEADER COCKPIT - EVENING

The DEFENSE CORPS LEADER is on the comm while piloting his ship after the fleeing shuttle.

DEFENSE CORPS LEADER Yes sir. We've closed the gap but they are picking up speed.

Silence. He maneuvers his craft, touches a button on the dashboard.

DEFENSE CORPS LEADER(CONT'D) All right boys and girls we've got a rogue vessel as you know. Suspected terrorists on board. Orders are to execute extreme aggressiveness. Lethality authorized. Take no prisoners. Take no chances with them fleeing.

EXT. OCEAN - EVENING

We ZOOM OUT from the chasing craft back to the shuttle.

The shuttle is getting higher and going faster. A pair of secondary engines is extending from each of the wings of the shuttle.

DEFENSE CORPS LEADER Sir, they're extending starjumpers. If they start those and we're close by we're all fried. What are your orders?

Silence.

The sound of a switch.

DEFENSE CORPS LEADER(CONT'D) Boys and girls, fire at will.

Green and blue laser cannon bolts flash from the fighters into the twilight sky, creating a brilliant aurora over the ocean below. We get a look back over the length of the shuttle from the direction of the nose as the lightning of the chasing bolts weathers the sky around the shuttle.

INT. SHUTTLE - TWILIGHT

The sun has set over the horizon out the front window, though its memory remains as a silhouette of light over that same horizon.

SAM

Alright we need a bit longer. Can you go aft and see if you can pump a little more juice into the engines?

MAX Yeah.

Mac unstraps and goes aft, holding onto the upper sides of the hallway to the aft sections of the ship as the ship rattles and shakes with the nearby and growing ever closer laser blasts from the pursuers.

INT. SHUTTLE ENGINE ROOM - TWILIGHT

Max removes the cover on one of the panels in the engine compartment, revealing an interlaced matrix of light and wire and fluids. On the side of one section is a computer panel with some lights on it, most of which are green. There are 2 yellow and 1 red one though.

Max pulls out a mechanics datapad and plugs a wire from it into the console in front of him.

We see over his shoulder he is adjusting the flow patterns for a couple of the engine settings.

One by one the yellow lights turn green. As they do the shuttle rocks. Out the viewport in the room we see the laser fire is getting close by the second.

What seems like an eternity of 9 seconds passes.

The Red light shifts gold, then yellow, then green quickly. SAM (V.O. FROM INTERCOM)

Great, Buckle in there because we've got to get out of here now. Like right now.

Max reaches a crash couch but before he can buckle in -

EXT. OCEAN - TWILIGHT

The shuttle elongates, then is gone. There is a huge crack in the night sky, and a thunder as the atmosphere crashes back around the disturbance of the jump. The Chasing fighter craft explode and crumple, though see one parachute far below, drifting like a leaf on the wind toward the ocean.

INT. SHUTTLE - NIGHT

Sam unstraps from her pilot's chair, places her hand to her hear and the headset there, and speaks.

SAM

Max, you did great. You can come back up here now. I've got some questions. (pause) Are you there?

INT. SHUTTLE ENGINE ROOM - NIGHT

Max is laying on the floor with a hand to his head and a leg that appears to be broken, from a pipe that has fallen from the ceiling. He is laying on the floor of the engine compartment and is struggling to move the pipe off his leg. He grunts with the effort.

MAX

You're gonna have to come get me. I'm busted up.

# SAM (V.O. STATICKY)

(long beat then sigh) I'm coming.

INT. SHUTTLE - NIGHT

Sam takes off her headset, pops a micro-comm into her ear and takes off down the corridor. We follow her as she approaches the engine room and hears the grunts and cussing coming from Max.

MAX

For fuck's sake this is not what I need right now.

Sam comes around the corner and pokes her head in,

SAM

Well, it looks like you were serious about needing help.

MAX

What makes you say that?

SAM

Nothing. Nothing at all.

Sam bends down and lifts the pipe off of Max's leg.

SAM(CONT'D) It's all about angle and grip.

Angle and grip and lift correctly.

MAX

Thanks. Damn that freaking hurts.

SAM

I thought terrorists were supposed to be tough?

MAX

The only people who call us terrorists are the Church. Most other places look at us as liberators. Damn. I'm just a guy, like most other guys. My legs break just like anybody else's. Shit baggerooskis this hurts.

SAM

Alright, no need to stress. Let's get you to the med bay.

Sam reaches down and lifts Max up, putting his arm around her shoulders while she supports him and they move across the hall to the...

INT. SHUTTLE MED BAY - NIGHT

Sam helps Max lay down on the Med Bay bed. She opens a compartment next to the bed and removes a cuff-like wrap of cloth and wiring and lights from the compartment and gingerly slides it onto Max's leg up to where the break is.

Max winces a lot and lets out low growls as the cuff moves up and jostles his leg.

SAM

You ever have to use one of these before?

MAX

Nope. Fun so far. Seriously, lets get this fucking thing over with, you're killing me here.

Sam begins arranging and turning on the cuff.

SAM

So...why should I believe you about the terrorists? What have you gotten me into? I've never been shot at by Praetorians before.

Max looks at the floor, then up squarely into Sam's eyes.

MAX

I just saved you twice.

Sam looks abashed.

SAM

I guess you did, but you were also saving yourself.

MAX

I didn't and don't see a conflict with those things.

SAM

Hold on. Bite down on this.

Sam offers Max a strap of leather from inside the compartment.

MAX

Wait, we've got all this crazy tech on the ship and instead of a numbing agent you want me to bite down on something?

SAM

I'm not wasting medication when we might not be able to replenish anytime soon.

MAX

Why won't we be able to replenish?

SAM

Just bite down.

Max bites down on the strap, and Sam presses a button on one of the cables attached to the cuff. The Cuff lights up and firms up over the broken bone, and then begins making a noise. Max bites down hard. We hear a sucking noise coming from the cuff. Max lets out a small scream. We see the cuff begin to make rhythmic tightening and releasing movements. Sam has her hand on Max's shoulder helping keep him upright and focused.

SAM(CONT'D)

Stay with me. I can't watch you and pilot when we get where we're going.

Max grunts in pain.

MAX

Alright, I'll bite. Where are we going?

SAM

To find your proof. If Xoni is alive she'll find us there.

MAX

Or the Prelate. I'm sure they downloaded the nav-comp data when you landed.

SAM

This is why you are a rookie. That doesn't happen ever until a ship has been in dock for 6 hours. It takes too long to download. If the ship leaves before then the transfer is interrupted. That's also why the church has a hard rule about leaving before that time frame. That's why you had to disable the lock on the ground.

MAX

Wait, you mean they have no idea where to look?

SAM For now, yes.

INT. CHAPEL OF GRACE: CAPITAL OF AHMISAH - NIGHT

The Prelate is sitting on an elaborate seat in front of the a stained glass window as the Defense Corps Leader, MARCBANDE, steps into the room.

PRELATE

You failed, Praetorian, and now I fear the tide will shift. You're failure may cost us everything.

DEFENSE CORPS LEADER Forgive me your Excellency. There is no excuse. I will hunt them down myself.

PRELATE

Really, Marcbande? Because you have been very convincing so far tonight.

MARCBANDE

My lord I was not the one who allowed them to take off. We flew as fast as we could but none were near enough to get a lock and The Prelate slams his right fist down.

PRELATE

First you fail, then you blame me, then you make excuses? Give me a reason to spare you, worm.

MARCBANDE

I know where they are going.

PRELATE

Really? Please be so kind as to tell me. Now.

Marcbande lifts out a small datapad. He presses a few buttons and a small hologram appears above the pad.

The hologram indicates a path through a quadrant of space with 7 viable stars along its route.

MARCBANDE

According to their trajectory, fuel on board, and fuel consumed in the escape, I calculated that they are going to one of these stars. I've already sent out a general call amongst the men for volunteers.

(MORE)

MARCBANDE (CONT'D) We've got over 2000 as of 20 minutes ago and counting. And that's just here. The call hasn't made it to neighboring systems yet.

The Prelate looks over the data, sighs, then smiles.

PRELATE

Well, those are excellent points in your favor.

MARCBANDE Thank you my lord.

PRELATE

You know what, Marcbande?

MARCBANDE No, my lord.

PRELATE

I don't care. You failed. Take him away.

Two guards come over and cuff Marcbande. The Prelate takes the data pad.

PRELATE(CONT'D) You failed, in so many ways. Always leave yourself bargaining power.

Marcbande stutters, terrified.

# PRELATE(CONT'D)

Actually, I changed my mind.

The Prelate smiles.

PRELATE(CONT'D) You will not come back here empty handed. Before you leave there will be a kill switch device implanted into your optic nerve. It will monitor your comings and goings, and serve as a real time mission report. It incorporates new technology we have acquired from the Dromkars, capable of faster than light communication so, yeah, well, we'll know if you fail. So, don't fail. You have such a lovely wife and child. It should be such a shame if something happens to them. And yes, it will. I promise.

(MORE)

PRELATE (CONT'D) I vow it will the first thing I do on the day after you fail.(Disgusted)

PRELATE(CONT'D) Take him with away.

The guards drag a still cuffed and whimpering Marcbande from the room.

INT. SHUTTLE - MORNING

Sam is in the pilot seat on the bridge of the shuttle, and Max is hobbling about on some crutches, going to take a seat in the crash couch.

MAX

You can be a thoroughly unpleasant person sometimes, ya know?

SAM

So I've been told.

MAX

I don't mean that in a bad way. Just, I don't know, painfilled and bossy experience so far.

SAM

When you've got work that has to get done, in real time, on a ship fleeing people shooting at them for the first time ever, you, how would you put it, kinda havta push through, ya know? For a legendary fighter you sure do whine a lot.

Max laughs awkwardly.

MAX

Ok, ok, I was a remote drone pilot in that fight and actually never even got punched in my life before but yeah I'm ruthless with a joystick. That's fair. And funny.

You should do stand up. Really. You're a hoot.

Sam gives him a disapproving look.

MAX(CONT'D) Alright sorry.

SAM

Get strapped in, we'll be coming out of postlight shortly.

Max hobbles over to the couch, sits down with his leg stretched out, and rests his crutches against his shoulder and the floor.

MAX

Alright. Earth?

SAM

We've got to exit a bit farther out from orbit. There's some debris around the planet.

MAX

According to legend, many were lost in the exodus and following diaspora. Is it wreckage?

SAM

It is, though not all manufactured.

MAX

Damn. So maybe it really is Earth.

SAM We shall see.

Out the front monitor, over Sam's shoulder, we see lines of light around the nose of the craft withdraw into points of light and disappear in a swirl of circular motion around the nose heading aft.

There is a sudden jarring motion. Max cries out.

MAX

Damn, woman, take it easy. Broken wing, remember?

SAM

You need something to bite down on again? This is going to be turbulent.

Out the front view screen we see the image of a blue and green and white world with what appears to be an asteroid field around it. The planet lies alone in the night sky, no other bodies present in view.

SAM(CONT'D) Here we go.

EXT. OUTER EARTH ORBIT - MORNING

We see the sun come around the corner of the planet's disk, and it is morning. The shuttle begins to pick up speed, weaving between technological wreckage and large rock pieces. We can hear Max cursing.

MAX Damn!

SAM Hold on!

MAX

Ugh this sucks!

INT. SHUTTLE - MORNING

Sam piloting furiously, talking over her shoulder.

SAM

I'm aware of your discomfort. Now please, let me focus, unless you want to walk home. I don't mean to be cross with you but in the last 12 hours I've been shot at by the church I've served since a child, and my mentor is dead or missing or worse, has been lying to me.

MAX

That would be worse?

SAM

To me yes, because I would rather believe the physical worst had happened than believe she would be complicit with this.

The conversation falls silent, and the craft bobs and weaves ever more precisely to get through the field of debris surrounding this world. After an amazing series of maneuvers between two colliding pieces of wreckage and an asteroid, something hits the shuttle along the body. The shuttle shakes violently and we hear a scream from Max.

MAX

Damn damn damn damn damn damn damn damn!

SAM

Sorry, hang in there!

EXT. LOW EARTH ORBIT - MORNING

We see the shuttle continue its descent, still bobbing and weaving and juking around debris for a while, until finally it is clear of the debris field and begins to enter atmosphere. We see the stratosphere go by as the ship continues to decelerate into the lower atmosphere. The land is green and verdant blow, with rolling waters. It looks pristine.

INT. SHUTTLE - MORNING

Sam glances over her shoulder at Max, who is passed out in his seat. She sighs.

SAM (TO HERSELF) Can't say I really blame him.

Sam mans the controls again, more earnestly. On the display in front of her we see a pulse of light begin to glow, first faintly, then ever brighter. The computer, SOCRATES, begins it's baritone report.

SOCRATES

I have detected the pulse beacon you left here previously. However it is not in the same geographic area it was when you left. It is located roughly 400 mile from where you left it.

SAM

Thanks. (beat) So we're not alone.

SOCRATES

That hypothesis would seem logical. However my scanners were damaged on entry through the debris field and the best I can do is report a general position to within 10 mile.

SAM

Thank you Socrates. Can you find me a good landing spot close by?

SOCRATES

The location is heavily forested and there is an active volcano nearby. Caution is advised, both for known and unknown aspects. The closest place to land is about 25 mile away on a raised steppe.

(MORE)

SOCRATES (CONT'D) Putting coordinates up on the monitor,

SAM

Alright, thanks.

SOCRATES Yes, ma'am.

SAM

Socrates, also disconnect from all church protocols until further notice.

SOCRATES Yes, ma'am.

A dotted line appears on the monitor, leading to remote section on one of the northern landmasses. Sam takes the controls, and continues the descent toward the indicated spot on the monitor, braking gradually by pulling back on the steering mechanism.

EXT. EARTH: PACIFIC NORTHWEST - MORNING

As the shuttle comes in from low orbit, it decelerates further as it begins its approach toward the indicated landing site. After a few flybys, the ship circles and descends to the ground into an open clearing in the rugged rainforest that seems to cover the ground completely.

The ship lands, and we ZOOM in to see the door opening.

INT. SHUTTLE - MORNING

Light and greenery streams through the viewscreen at the front of the shuttle. Sam unfastens her seatbelt, gets and goes aft-down the corridor to the med bay.

INT. SHUTTLE MED BAY - MORNING

Sam opens a compartment on the wall and grabs a syringe, then reaches below where it was in the compartment and gets a bright red and yellow vial.

SAM

Hope this stim does the trick. I am not wandering around alone on an unknown planet if there are strange things happening.

Sam puts the vial in the syringe. She exits the room

INT. SHUTTLE - MORNING

Sam comes back up the corridor, and stands close to Max, who is still out cold. She puts the syringe up to Max's carotenoid, then presses it in firmly and presses the button on the side. The fluid in the vial flows down and into Max.

Max's eyes flutter open and he lets out a groan.

MAX

What happened? Are we dead?

SAM

Apparently not if you can ask that.

MAX

How should I know? I never died before. I never broke my leg before. If this is living I think death might be easier.

SAM

That's rubbish. You are very much alive and I intend to see that we both survive this. Now, quit complaining and get ready to help. We've got work to do.

Max groans, then gets his crutches.

SAM(CONT'D)

You won't need those. The mending is complete by now. It'll be sore but you should be fine. The stim I gave you also has a small nerve blocking agent so you'll be able to get through the pain better.

MAX Thanks?

SAM

Don't look so forlorn. Come on, the beacon has moved.

MAX

Beacon? What are you talking about?

Xoni and I left a beacon at the ruins we excavated, and it has mysteriously moved roughly 25 miles in the last 18 hours.

MAX

Damn. Legend said Earth was abandoned.

SAM

This might not be Earth. And if it is, and it was abandoned, someone else may have come back here before us.

MAX That makes sense.

Max undoes his harness, and tries to stand up, wincing the whole time.

MAX(CONT'D) Damn that smarts.

SAM

I need you. I don't know you well, but you're all I've got, and you got no way off here without me. So, let's work together and survive this, ok? You were eager to get here and off Ahmisah. We're here.

MAX

I know. You're right. Alright. Any clue what moved the beacon?

SAM

Maybe the Socrates knows?

SOCRATES

Again, ma'am, my sensors were damaged on entry, but I can hypothesize a life form of some sort.

MAX So helpful!

SOCRATES Yes sir.

MAX

Never mind. Do we have weapons?

I have a stun baton. There should be another in the aft cargo hold.

MAX

No lasers? No guns?

SAM

I don't believe in them.

MAX

That'll help out great if they've got guns.

SAM

I think you'll find the stun baton a good deterrent to violence after a few uses.

Max shakes his head and mutters something under his breath, then sighs and moves aft down the corridor. Sam goes to a compartment on the bridge and retrieves her stun baton

INT. SHUTTLE CARGO BAY - MORNING

Sam and Max enter the cargo bay. Sam gestures to a compartment on the far wall with a picture of a lightning bolt on it.

SAM In there.

Max goes over and opens it, takes out the long thin staff with two globes on either end.

SAM(CONT'D)

You know how to use it right? From basic training?

MAX Kinda.

Sam grimaces.

SAM

Press the red button to activate it. Do not press the orange button unless its an emergency. The green button turns it off.

MAX

Isn't green usually on?

Not on these ones.

MAX Weird.

Sam goes over to the wall and unhooks a datapad from the wall. She fiddles with it for a moment. The screen lights up.

SAM

Socrates can you hear me?

SOCRATES

Yes ma'am. Linking with the pad now.

SAM

Excellent. Keep the ship locked until we get back. You may need to come rescue us if we get in over our heads.

SOCRATES

But with the batons -

SAM

Violence is a last resort.

MAX

Until it isn't.

SAM

Oh hush. We have nom idea what's out there. We come in peace. We are explorers.

MAX

No, you're an explorer. I'm a fighter. I fight then ask question. With a joystick mind you, but I like lasers and am good at the range.

SAM

Have you ever fought?

MAX

I mean of course I've fought! I fight daily.

SAM (TO SOCRATES) He's never fought.

SOCRATES

It seems likely given his age.

MAX

I fought at the Betelgeuse system against a cluster of Orthrikkars.

SAM

Really? That's actually kind of impressive.

MAX

I wasn't alone, I had help. But yeah we had 5 guys to their 30. I was a drone pilot.

SAM

Well hopefully we won't require such heroics here. Remember, we're here to explore and see what's here.

Max sighs.

MAX Ok.

Sam, holding the datapad in front of her with a hologram map floating above in one hand and the stun baton strapped over her back, leads Max off the ship and into the early morning sunlight.

EXT. EARTH: PACIFIC NORTHWEST - MORNING

We see Max, baton in hand, and Sam hike across the steppe clearing and into and through the underbrush and forest cover. Trees are everywhere you look. The lush, verdant atmosphere is disturbed by animal noises. Birds call to one another. There is no sign of intelligent life. No ruins dot the forest in any visible way. It looks completely pristine.

MONTAGE

Image of Sam leading Max through the forest. Late morning.

Image of Sam and Max crossing a stream. Noon.

Image of Sam and Max ducking under a fallen tree along a game trail. Early afternoon.

Image of Sam and Max finding a wider trail. Mid afternoon.

SAM

Come on. This leads in the same direction as the beacon.

MAX

Ok. I'm not sure about this. I get the feeling we're being watched.

They continue on down the path, Max grasping the stun baton defensively, peering out into the forest. He has a grim look on his face.

Birds sound off in the distance, making harmonies. The brush on the side of the trail rustles briefly and Max turns towards the noise.

There is a birdman, CHIRRATOOCH, standing about 50 yards away in the brush. We see the spear in his hand and the bead and gold jewelry around his neck and wings. The wings are arms with plumage and hands at the extremity.

CHIRRATOOCH

Chazu cheepo bondan suprema

SOCRATES

He asks if you intend to steal more artifacts from their ancestors.

Sam starts. She holds up her hands and speaks to the datapad.

SAM

Tell them we mean no harm and did not know there was anyone here. We are archeologists and explorers in search of our ancient home.

The Socrates translates into the birdman's language.

Chirratooch gestures emphatically with his spear.

CHIRRATOOCH Kablow singolo! Verdam conglu sintar peeko!

SAM

I take it that wasn't appreciated?

MAX

I would say you might have the right idea there!

SOCRATES

Ma'am, he says thieves will die. He says if you mean peace you will return what you stole and leave here, never to return.

SAM

We don't have them. The people who have them are hunting us.

SOCRATES

Chepo kinato losina.

CHIRRATOOCH

Axlar bendo. Churrut nialko!

SOCRATES

Ma'am, he says you have doomed them all. He says you will bring destruction to his peaceful home.

MAX

What is he talking about?

The Socrates asks Chirratooch. Chirratooch responds at length.

SOCRATES

He says the local warlord only leaves them alone because of fear of the relics. They are considered holy and as such make his people and his tribe the priests of the society. To lose all those relics makes them look weak and inept as well as be a liability to the society as a whole. He insists you take him and his fellow monks to the relics immediately.

Sam and Max look at each other. All around them in the forest giant bird people stand up from the brush.

MAX

Well damn. You explorers sure know how to be friendly.

SAM

The life form reader in orbit said nothing bigger than a large cat. Cats are small in my experience.

This guy is 7 feet tall!

MAX

On Garbonzaga the cats are about 20 feet tall. Did you get a measurement on what type of large cat?

SAM

Are you being serious right now?

MAX

Well, considering we're surrounded and in their home turf. And all we got are lousy stun batons.

SAM You complain a lot.

The bird people start to close in.

SAM(CONT'D) Press the orange button.

Sam does not have to ask twice, and they both press the button. With a flare, the staff transforms into a small armored walking tank surrounding each of them individually. The tank has turrets on the sides like arms, able to rotate and maneuver for a full arc of fire for the stun blasters housed on the turrets.

MAX

This is freaking awesome!

SAM

Calm down. You fire with the joysticks on either side. Move with them too.

MAX Gotcha.

The walking tanks maneuver to stand back to back.

INT. SAM'S TANK - MID AFTERNOON

Sam piloting, presses the gold button on the dash. She touches her earcomm.

SAM

If you press the gold button it will accelerate your fire for a minute.

INT. MAX'S TANK - MID AFTERNOON

Max reaches down and presses the button as well.

EXT. WIDER GAME TRAIL - MID AFTERNOON

The bird people are moving in rapidly, flinging spears at the two tanks to minimal effect.

There are a lot of them though.

The tanks begin firing into them indiscriminately. It's like two scythes through a wheat harvest.

Very quickly they all go down.

MAX (V.O. STATICKY) I feel kinda bad about that actually.

SAM (V.O. STATICKY) Yeah me too. But we stored most of what we found inside the beacon for later pickup. It was Xoni' s idea. She never told me why.

MAX (V.O. STATICKY) Maybe that means she didn't know who to trust back at home.

There is a long silence.

SAM (V.O. STATICKY) That would make sense actually. And that might means she didn't agree with certain things but was protecting me.

MAX (V.O. STATICKY) You said she raised you since you were a child. She cared for you obviously.

SAM (V.O. STATICKY) Thanks. Thanks for helping me feel better.

MAX (V.O. STATICKY) I'm not a jerk all the time. How do we get out of these things?

SAM (V.O. STATICKY) Green button, remember?

Both tanks begin unfolding out from around Sam and Max and compartmentalizing back into stun batons. They survey the mayhem they have caused,

SAM(CONT'D) Lets get out of here.

They continue on down the path, leaving the birdmen behind.

EXT. WIDER GAME TRAIL FARTHER DOWN - LATE AFTERNOON

Sam and Max continue following the holographic map floating above the datapad. Then suddenly they are upon a village. In the middle of the village is the beacon, surrounded by a lot of bird people. Sam and Max hide behind a pair of trees and peer out.

MAX

I take it that's the beacon?

SAM Yeah.

MAX Tank time?

Sam glances at Max.

SAM

Not yet. It takes a lot of energy to do that, and we only get three uses before needing to rechange and having no defense. No. We go in with out arms out. We need the beacon, but this is their home.

MAX

I guess. Personally I say we prioritize getting out of here in one piece quickly. We don't know how much time we've got. We might have been tracked here.

Sam gasps sharply.

SAM

The exit vector!

MAX

Yeah, that's a trick they've been using to hunt us down if we escape. Can take a while but they always show up.

I'm not giving up on diplomacy without trying.

MAX

I prefer armed diplomacy.

SAM

I figured that out on my own, thanks.

MAX

Ok, suit yourself. Just trying to get out of here in one piece. Truth is Earth itself would be great to find, but its Earth's relics that mean the most to the movement.

SAM

Why not Earth itself?

MAX

Because we need the proof in order to gain the upper hand in the fight with the Church in this quadrant. It would give us and our message legitimacy. There are nearly 10 million worlds with humans out there. A mecca would be great but without proof anyone could claim anywhere was earth. We have no records of what it looked like.

SAM

That makes sense. So you're not opposed to religion? Just corrupt religion?

MAX

Bingo. And we want power to the people, not dictators.

SAM

Alright, you stay here and if anything goes wrong then you can tank, ok? Max nods his head in agreement. Sam walks towards the village.

EXT. SPACE AROUND AQUARIUS VII - NIGHT

Marcbande' s squadron of 600 craft exit starjumping and begin scanning the system.

We see a montage of the ships accelerating off in different directions to probe different planets and moons.

PRAETORIAN A (V.O. STATICKY) They're not here sir. There is no sign of anyone jumping in here or moving around in the system.

MARCBANDE (V.O. STATICKY) Very well. How are the other hunting groups going?

PRAETORIAN B (V.O. STATICKY) COMM's here. It looks like nothing yet, but there is activity at both of the other two systems that is tying up those squadrons. But we are only at 3 of the 7 systems. We'll get them. We could split the forces smaller to do this faster.

MARCBANDE (V.O. STATICKY) We can't risk that if they've gotten reinforcements. Lets move out to the next system in 5 minutes.

PRAETORIAN B

Roger. I'll pass the word.

EXT. VILLAGE CENTER - LATE AFTERNOON

Sam walks up the street towards the bird people in the middle of the town at the village's center. Some are swooping overhead low in between buildings and the platforms on some of the buildings, like the stores and public spaces. She has her hands out and empty. She clears her throat.

SAM

Tell them we need that back and are prepared to pay for it.

The Socrates translates. One of the bird people, CHEEPOKUSH, comes over towards Sam and speaks.

SOCRATES

He says his name is Cheepokush and he is the leader here. You have desecrated the graves of their ancestors and fled. They have taken what you left behind in recompense.

Tell Cheepokush that my name is

Samantha Sacre of the Holy Universal Church and these seem to also be our relics.

The Socrates translates. Cheepokush answers questioningly.

SOCRATES

He asks how can this be? You look nothing like him.

SAM

Run a complete genome scan on him, try retrograde patterns of dissociative history and projected mutation over the interval of the age of the ruins.

The Socrates emits a beam of light that scans Cheepokush quickly. The datapad whirs and flashes, then images float up from it.

CGI HOLOGRAM MONTAGE

We see a man with skin flaps down his arms fly like a bat.

We see a man with wider skin flaps running in a forest and flapping and getting about ten feet in the air to pick fruit.

We see a man looking more and more like a bird. His face is elongated to tap into things and he has feathers on the flaps down his arms and he is flying in the treetops.

SAM

Was there a cause for the mutation?

SOCRATES

I have detected massive radiation deep within the ground that seems to be left over from 80,000 years ago the radiation has dissipated completely up here, but given what's in the legends about the end of earth and the drilling to the core I can theorize not only that this is earth but also that these are the descendants of whoever got left behind and survived.

SAM

Please let him know what you found.

Socrates squawks in the bird language. Cheepokush responds, gesturing to the BEACON. The beacon is laying on it's side. Bird people are poling it and prodding it.

SOCRATES

He says in that case you can return the relics and they will share with you.

SAM

Tell him I would very much like to take a few back from here so my people know of their home.

The Socrates translates.

CHEEPOKUSH

Cheep chirro rentar. Kalshy ishar. Negoomi sirranha vowmbo.

SOCRATES

He says you must become one of the tribe in order to take relics out from their sacred holding spots. He says the initiation is dangerous, but if you are willing to try he will bless you. You must also return most of the relics anyway.

SAM

Tell him that is acceptable. What is the initiation ritual?

The Socrates translates, and Cheepokush calls out loudly in bird song. The other bid people come from the beacon and surround Sam.

Cheepokush walks over to a nearby spear and picks it up, then goes over to a smith's forge and puts the metal spear tip into the forge. He leaves it there and returns to stand in front of Sam.

CHEEPOKUSH Chape beemo guntar.

SAM

I'm not going to like this am I?

SOCRATES

He says in 5 minutes you will be branded over the heart and if you pass out you will be fed to their pets.

Oh great.

SOCRATES

Want me to translate that.

SAM

Nope. Translate this though: I accept.

The Socrates translates. Cheepokush waits a few minutes then retrieves the spear. He walks over to Sam, who unbuttons the top of her shirt and pulls down the neck of it until the area above her heart is revealed. She grits her teeth.

Cheepokush presses the crimson spearhead against the skin there and there is a HISS! And steam and Sam screams, but holds her ground at first, then goes to one knee with her hands in front holding her up. Cheepokush removes the spear, looking pleased. He talks in the bird language.

SOCRATES

Congratulations! You are now part of the tribe.

In quick succession Cheepokush cuts off 3 of Sam's fingers.

She cries out in shock and pain.

SAM

By all the heavenly fathers...

Cheepokush says something in bird talk.

SOCRATES

He says that is the punishment for losing relics to the dark ones.

SAM

How did he know? We only told the other one back on the trail.

The Socrates translates and Cheepokush responds.

SOCRATES

He says they can focus their minds to see what others in the tribe see and hear what others in the tribe hear. IT keeps them honest and makes their society corruption free, unlike all other ones before.

SAM

Well that's great. (Into ear comm) could have used you at any point there bud.

Max pulls up from walking in offscreen

MAX

Naw you had it handled. You were diplomatizing or something, right?

SAM

You know, there are things people do to people like you in some of the places I've been.

MAX

You're just saying that because you like me and that scares you. It's ok, I get that a lot.

SAM

I bet you do. You got the med pack?

MAX

Yeah, its right here.

Max pulls out the med pack, undoes the pack and wraps it around Sam's injured hand. He presses a button on the side and the pack tightens up around what's left of the hand and begins pulsing. Lights strobe along the length of the pack. After maybe 20 seconds of this, the lights slowly fade and the rhythmic pulsing abates. Max undoes the pack to reveal 3 very red fingers where the old ones had been removed from. The bird people notice and begin squawking. Cheepokush looks alarmed, then squawks out a series of phrases.

SAM What's wrong?

SOCRATES HE says you must be the one foretold. The Hero to lead the people into the light and out from the shadow. The virtuous one who shall not die but live again and again throughout all of time. The one before, and the one after.

MAX

Well that's cute. Does that make me the healer to the chosen one?

SOCRATES It would seem from what I'm gathering the crowd saying, you are a coward who redeemed himself by rendering aid at the last moment. Essentially you skipped the hard work and came to play.

# MAX

For crying out loud it was orders!

SOCRATES Would you like me to translate that?

# MAX

Nope. Nope I'm good. Just gonna stand here and think about chicken tacos.

Sam stretches her hand, looking raw and new.

# SAM

Well, another medpack miracle. Socrates, do you know anything about this prophecy?

# SOCRATES

I do not, but the books and other artifacts within the beacon may shed some clues on that, and we could ask Cheepokush, though that's a decision I must leave completely up to you.

# MAX

We need the stuff inside the beacon anyway. Lets see what we can find and then ask what we don't know.

SAM

I agree actually. Good plan.

MAX

Thanks. I try.

# SAM

You are the most infuriating guy I've ever met.

# MAX

Again, that's because you like me and it scares you. I'm a rebel.

You're a church girl.

# (MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

Its the attraction as old as time and the Molotov cocktail that sends you spinning. Its ok, I like you too.

SAM

Excuse me? What are you talking about? I - I - I don't like you! That's - That's preposterous!

MAX

It's ok to give into the sheer animal magnetism between us. I get it. I feel it too. Only humans on an entire world, alone in the galaxy at this point, on the run. It's ok. I don't bite. Except when and where you tell me.

There is dead silence.

SAM

We're going to pretend this conversation never happened. Don't bring it up again. If anyone is to bring it up it will be me, is that understood?

MAX

Yes. Of course.

SAM

Excellent. Socrates, instead of following Max's excellent advice, please ask Cheepokush about the prophecy.

The Socrates and Cheepokush converse briefly, then Sam cocks a querulous eyebrow.

SAM(CONT'D) Yes?

SOCRATES

He says that there is an ancient prophecy passed down for millennia about a chosen hero from a distant land who would come to lead the people of the world to heaven. He says the sign is they will be maimed and then healed, will have great power but despise using it.

(MORE)

SOCRATES (CONT'D) He says this hero is a repeated hero, existing every so often at different places. He says she will be accompanied by a great warrior who will fight to end the darkness along with her, and lead all peoples everywhere into the light.

# SAM

I can see how some of that applies and why he might think that, but surely there's no way, right?

# MAX

Confirmed, I'm of the opinion you're no hero right now.

Sam rolls her eyes.

# SAM

Learn to handle rejection and move on with it. Not every woman wants to sleep with you or date you or even kiss you. Besides I took a vow.

# MAX

You took a vow to a corrupt church who is trying to kill you. Surely it no longer applies.

# SAM

The vow was to God. That until the work was done, my life was his. He does not share. That's why, no matter how I might feel I cannot do anything about it, and consequently we don't need to go there. You don't want to get left here, right?

Sam bats her eyes playfully.

# MAX

Uh, no, no, I'm good. Thanks for explaining it. I'm good. Ok, Chosen ones, huh? That sounds cool.

# SAM

Please let Cheepokush know we need to see the beacon and open it.

Socrates and Cheepokush converse.

SOCRATES

He says in exchange for the loss and in exchange for what you wish to take, they want you to leave the beacon here for them to study. He says you may open it though. He also says lodging has been prepared as honored guests and word has been sent to other tribes to meet here to witness the hero of destiny.

SAM

Tell him we won't be here that long. The dark ones come and we must not be here when they do.

Socrates translates, and Cheepokush looks alarmed. He squawks irritably.

SOCRATES

He says you must find a way for us to leave.

MAX

I think the mountain looked artificial from our descent.

SAM

Not now - wait, what are you saying?

MAX

I'm saying we should investigate. The ships that left earth back in the day were reputed to be enormous. How we'll get it navigated through the debris field I don't know but it could be something to help. We don't even need to stay here while they do it. We get them pointed in the right direction. They're smart.

SAM

We have no way of knowing what it is or even if it is artificial.

MAX

We could look. Tell you what, why don't you get some of the relics back to the ship and I'll lead them up to the mountain and then you join us and we'll see if there's an entrance, you in the ship us on the ground. If we're culturally stealing from them and they are letting us, and we have the chance to save them from the heel of the church, we have that obligation.

SAM Damn.

MAX What?

SAM

You got passion and fire, I'll give you that. Alright, another good plan, and this time we'll do it.

EXT. SPACE ABOVE HESPERSUS VII - MORNING

Marcbande and his squadron get out of starjumping and begin to disperse throughout the system. It's a big system, lots of stellar bodies and asteroids to investigate.

MARCBANDE (V.O. STATICKY) Lets move it people. We have 3 more systems beyond this one to check out. Also Samson group encountered a Cloister group and will be aided by David group instead of them meeting up or continuing on with our search. We wish them well in their inevitable victory. For now, lets be thorough but get a move on.

There are a chorus of staticky confirmations, and ships zip off to investigate the far reaches of the system.

INT./EXT. SHUTTLE CARGO HOLD AND STEPPE CLEARING - EVENING

Sam gets back to the ship, still stretching her hand and occasionally touching her heart under her shirt.

She goes over to the shuttle and into the cargo bay, opens a crate and puts the 3 relics she holds into it. She presses her ear comm.

SAM

I just got here and stowed the relics. Are you at the mountain yet.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - EVENING

Max is walking steadily with a large group of bird people. One of the younger ones is brought forward through the crowd and speaks with Cheepokush.

MAX

Can you translate through the comm?

SOCRATES

Certainly. Apparently there is an old cave system at the edge of the mountain. We're close.

MAX

Ok seems like we may have hit pay dirt. Come meet us, I saw a clearing about a 10 minute walk away from where I'm at now.

INT. SHUTTLE - EVENING

Sam walks up the corridor from aft and straps in to the pilot couch. She keeps stretching her hand.

SAM

Roger, on the way. See you in a bit.

Sam grabs the steering sticks firmly if gingerly, uses her left hand to press a series of buttons to begin the launch cycle and close the aft hatch. We hear the roar of engines, the whole room tils as the craft takes off, and we see terrain passing rapidly through the front monitors.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - EVENING

We hear the roar of engines in the distance, and Cheepokush removes a gnarled bush from in front of a square cave opening. Max touches his ear.

MAX

This place is definitely artificial. Symmetrical cave entrance, shape of a square.

# SAM (V.O. STATICKY)

Ok good job on following a hunch. Any luck figuring out a way through the debris field for it? Weapons, shields, gravity generator we can invert?

MAX

Lets not get ahead of ourselves. All we know is its artificial at this point. It'll take a while and I'll need your expertise to figure that out.

SAM (V.O. STATICKY) Ok I'm about to land. I'll be there soon.

More and more bird people are surrounding the group at the entrance to the cave system.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL - NIGHT

Sam walks along the path, holding the stun baton out in front of her as a glow light, and the datapad with a map leading to Max's homing signal. She steadily sees more and more bird people as they come in from all directions, hurrying toward the newly found cave entrance. You can see a large crowd with torches standing just outside a large square opening in the side of a hill.

Max waves Sam over as he sees her.

MAX

Seems like they put the word out this was going to be the safest spot for a while. They've got people from all over coming. Hope you like spelunking!

SAM

On occasion I do.

She unstraps the other stun baton from her back after getting Max to hold the datapad.

SAM(CONT'D)

We have no idea what is in store for us in there. Could be anything. Stay sharp and calm and focused.

MAX Sure boss.

He takes the baton, then hands back the datapad.

SAM

Socrates, as we go down the cave system, use echo triangulation to create a map and theoretical destination.

SOCRATES Yes ma'am.

SAM

Socrates, tell Cheepokush that we are ready to enter. Have his people stay back a ways until we know for a certainty where we are going.

Socrates translates this, and Cheepokush nods agreeably.

Then they all head into the cave system.

SAM(CONT'D)

Shine the torch. There's always a bright side, a silver lining. You just have to know where to look.

MAX

Why are you bringing that up now?

SAM

Because we're about to go spelunking with bird people who think we're messiahs and already showed violence at being disappointed or injured. On the positive side they seem to want to help us out. Looks like we're going to see if this mountain is what you think it is and if they're right about us.

MAX

So, the silver lining is we might be messiahs to these guys, and the downside is that they'll probably kill us if we're not?

SAM

To quote you, bingo.

Their light disappears in the distance down the tunnel, followed by bird people carrying torches and following at a 10 yard distance. They press onwards.

EXT. SPACE: ORBIT OF HESPERSUS VII - DAY

Ships move back and forth in orbit, and come and go from a section of the surface.

INT. MARCBANDE'S SHIP: BRIDGE - DAY

Marcbande marches up onto the bridge of his command ship

COMM OFFICER #1 Sir! We've reached Hespersus VII orbit, taking us in to the capitol city, to our forward base there. This is the 4th system along the reported trajectory. If they're here, sir, we'll find them.

MARCBANDE

Very good lieutenant. Begin landing procedures immediately.

COMMS OFFICER #2 Sir, we're getting reports of violence against our troops on the surface.

MARCBANDE

We'll get a better view of the situation from the ground. Take us in.

COMM OFFICER #1 Very good, sir!

EXT. SPACE ABOVE HESPERSUS VII- DAY

We see a large cruiser begin descent to the planet below as the other traffic continues.

EXT. TENT: COMMAND STATION: HESPERSUS VII - DAY

MARCBANDE is on planet in a tent command center with other personnel coming in and out.

MAJOR comes up and salutes Marcbande.

MAJOR

Perimeter has been secured. We're at acceptable margins to maintain our presence here for awhile.

Very good, Major. Report to logistics to help them get up and running. Last time I heard, they were having problems with the local currency. Something about only a certain type of mosaic tile being allowed for trade. It's not like we need much here, but we'll need to have supplies if were going to have to maintain our presence here for awhile.

MAJOR

Very good, sir. I'll go there at once.

MAJOR exits the tent. CAPTAIN enters the tent and salutes MARCBANDE.

CAPTAIN

Sir, we've have established ammo depots on 7 planets of this system, and 14 of the 97 moons.

One of the female Comm officers interrupts the CAPTAIN.

# COMM OFFICER A

Sir, sorry to interrupt, but one of our patrols has run into trouble. Sir, what are your orders?

CAPTAIN Officer Brunel, I'll be right there.

# MARCBANDE

Captain, I'm sorry. Please get the sergeant at arms and begin to lock down the perimeter.

MARCBANDE points over to male OFFICER B.

MARCBANDE(CONT'D) Get the general on the horn.

OFFICER B

# (Flustered)

I'm trying to but I can't get him on comms. It's all staticky!

# MARCBANDE

(Under his breathe) Shit!

MARCBANDE goes over to COMM OFFICER A.

MARCBANDE(CONT'D) Kathi, isn't it?

KATHI Yes sir. It is. This is the situation. One of our patrols on the outskirts of town has come under fire in the last three minutes. They are taking casualties, and are requesting support. Unfortunately sir, no one is in range yet and the aerial drones are getting shot down.

MARCBANDE

Shit! Send in the air chariots!

# KATHI

At sub-orbital altitude, they won't leave much behind, let alone our own guys. And if its the rebels, sorry, terrorists, they'll have escape vectors to render them nearly useless.

Shit! How about the Razor Wolves then?

OFFICER B

I think that will be a better solution, sir.

MARCBANDE

Then see it done. We're sure its the terrorists, right?

OFFICER B We just got a hit off facial recognition that matches with a known associate. It seems highly likely.

EXT. ORBIT SPACE ABOVE HESPERSUS VII - DAY

We see a dozen futuristic, enclosed motorcycle-looking speeders that have LED lights and sleek curved body for razor sharp aerodynamics, that break off a carrier spaceship. They move in sync formation towards the planet.

INT. TENT - DAY

As MARCBANDE looks on to the screen in front of OFFICER A, he notices the vitals of each of the patrol members flatline. He's concerned.

MARCBANDE

Kathi, how far out are the Razor Wolves?

KATHI

About two minutes.

MARCBANDE

That's not going to be soon enough.

KATHI

(Unhappily) I know.

MARCBANDE

Kathi, please have them form a defensive perimeter, to hold out until help arrives. Tell them that the Razor Wolves are on the way...

ETA 2 minutes.

KATHI relays the order. She touches her ear to listen. (BEAT) Kathi is looking at Marcbande with concern.

KATHI

They will try to hold out as long as they can.

MARCBANDE

How is your wife doing?

KATHI

She's doing okay. We just adopted a baby from Gonasisa. Terrible what happened to that place. The least we can do is try to help out some.

MARCBANDE smiles first and pats her on the shoulder.

That is great Kathi. I hope you guys are happy for a very long time.

KATHI

(Joyfully)

Thank you sir. That's our hope, too.

While this conversation is going on. Rate of the soldiers dying has decreased, as they found an iron will to survive. Despite this, however, they still continue to die one by one slowly. It is excruciating to watch.

MARCBANDE

How long are the Razor Wolves out now?

KATHI

ETA 20 seconds, sir.

Razor Wolves are approaching the city from a distance. Out of thin air, 5 starfighters appear directly on tails of the Razor Wolves, and they open fire shredding the Wolves, who never stood a chance. They were caught by surprise. The last front three remaining juke little bit, and then they are blown into a fiery balls of flame and ash. The fighters disappear in to thin air again.

INT. TENT - DAY

OFFICER D is shaking.

OFFICER D

Sir, all Razor Wolves have been destroyed by cloaking starfighters.

MARCBANDE

Shit! Very Well! Fire an altolaser at the quadrant the fighters were last seen in.

KATHI

Sir, that might be overkill...

MARCBANDE

Do it! That's an order.

Kathi pales noticeably at this.

KATHI Sir, yes sir.

EXT. SPACE ABOVE HESPERSUS VII.

A kilometer-wide laser beam fired from a turret on a massive star cruiser in orbit hits the outskirts of the city. To show it we are going to track the front of the laser beam. It'll cross our view in slow-mo.

SLOW-MO TRACKING of the battery and barrel of the laser gun. Which icludes SLOW-MO TRACKING ACROSS FACE of the front part of the laser beam that was just shot out.

From SLOW-MO TRACKING to FAST TRACKING right behind the front the beam.

WIDE SHOT of the entire city from a distance as the laser beam punctures the cloud and is about to hit the ground. It lances through the atmosphere, descending at lightning speed and turning the air around it into molten flame as it passes. It lances down and buckles the ground, throwing up a mushroom cloud.

INT. TENT - DAY

The ground shudders. COMMS OFFICER C falls to the ground.

MARCBANDE Shit.

KATHI Sir, we've wiped out all combatants. No longer reading life signs of the patrol.

(MORE)

KATHI (CONT'D) In addition 3 miles on the outskirts of the city are on fire. What are your orders?

MARCBANDE

We have them right where we want them. I, unfortunately, have to find two fugitives and I get the feeling they aren't here. Have our men suppress the fires and offer aid to the wounded. These people really should learn not to build cities near war zones though.

KATHI

I think they were here first.

MARCBANDE

It's poor planning all the same.

See to the rescue efforts. Meanwhile call my ship. If I don't get back on the hunt I'll be mired here forever.

Kathi looks down at her feet.

KATHI Very good sir.

EXT. ORBIT SPACE ABOVE HESPERSUS VII - DAY

We see a medium sized shuttle enter low orbit and head for the other side of the burning city, where the command camp and tent are located.

INT. MARCBANDE'S SHIP: BRIDGE - DAY

Two pilots sit in command creches and guide the ship down to the surface.

INT. TENT - DAY

We see the shuttle begin final hover and descent, kicking up dust outside. MARCBANDE salutes KATHI and the rest of the staff. The shuttle lands. He makes an about face and walks off toward shuttle. The airlock is opening to allow him entry. Kathi runs up from behind.

KATHI

Sir, how many ships will you leave? We are going to need a lot of resources in this system.

Marcbande turns around.

MARCBANDE

I'm leaving two-thirds of the squadron here to maintain order and assist in what I'm now sure will be a fruitless hunt in this system. There is no way they would allow this kind of attention to be drawn to them. According to the mission briefing these traitors are smart and resourceful. I can't see this brazen aggression suiting the woman especially. The kid, sure, but not the woman.

KATHI

Thank you sir for your generosity.

She bows politely then returns to her computer station. MARCBANDE turns on heel and resumes the trek to his ship and enters the airlock. The door to the lock closes and the ship begins to hover and lift off.

INT. CAVERN SYSTEM - NIGHT

MONTAGE

Sam and Max walk ahead of a crowd of birdpeople in a massive underground cavern system. They go down one corridor, following the GPS on the datapad to try and get deeper into the mountain. We see this as a series of short moments jump cut together.

They come upon a long thin bridge and Sam crosses carefully. She does this easily. Max goes up to the edge and looks down, gulps, and slowly backs away from the edge.

MAX

Uhn ugh. Nope. I'm good.

SAM

Are you afraid of heights?

MAX

Not in the slightest. Its the splatting part after the fall that concerns me.

SAM

Its not really that far. You can do it. Have some faith. Just go across slowly. I'll catch you. Besides, you wouldn't want to be here when the Church arrives, and our shuttle got damaged on entry and can't be used. Besides, I need you.

MAX Whaaaaat?

SAM

You are good in a fight and if this is what you thought it might be, I'm going to need assistance with it.

They cross that bridge, and then come to and begin to cross another bridge. The birdpeople begin flying over to the other side. Max trips, and moves a rock in front of a wall. Behind the rock shines pulsing green electricity on a computer interface of what had appeared to be a solid rock wall. Sam goes over with the datapad.

SAM(CONT'D)

Socrates, what is your opinion? Can you interface with it?

SOCRATES

I can.

SAM

Please do so.

MAX

We need to know what this place is.

Socrates interfaces with the panel. Long beat with whirring and whizzing.

SOCRATES

This is a large spacefaring vessel.

CHEEPOKUSH

Kak blowt zambi nani extrano.

SOCRATES

He says, "When the chosen one has been revealed, the doom of the world of the chosen shall be realized.

SAM

I assume they think I'm the chosen one and now therefore the world is doomed?

SOCRATES

I think that has been established.

MAX

Great. Just fucking great. Bunch of fucking bird people cramping my style.

SAM

You have a style? I thought you just got injured?

MAX

Ha! You're hilarious. I only get injured when crazy church pilots try to thread the needle on an escape.

SAM

At least we escaped

MAX Truth!

SOCRATES

If we turn on 8 more panels, the ship AI will come online and we'll be able to interface. From there, I can go about turning on major systems with their assistance.

They continue walking through the ship/mountain, turning on panels.

SAM

I'm guessing the Doom is whatever or whoever is following us.

MAX

Yeah, if you believe in prophecy.

SAM

They do. That's the point, Max. Our survival at this point depends on their belief, so we are going to respect and honor that belief.

MAX

Do I have to like it? This kinda goes against all I believe.

SAM

I'm sorry you feel that way. We still haven't analyzed all the religious texts from here, so anything is possible. Hang in there. If you can try a little with this belief of theirs, I think it will pay dividends later.

MAX

Ok, I mean you basically threatened to leave me here if you didn't get your way, and while we're doing better since then, I don't feel like I have a lot of say in matters.

SAM

That was not a mission related conversation, that was personal. Mission wise, not that we have an official one, I need all the crew I can get so I need you. That should give you some security.

MAX I guess.

Max and Sam are going over a bridge, they find data panels and reactivate them.

KORFHUN

Hello, I am KORFHUN, ship and AI of this location. Your artificial intelligence has met the required specifications for me to allow you access to commands. Do you intend to take off?

SAM

Wow! Hi Korfhun, we're explorers, and yes, we would like to take off. I'll have my AI interface with you to find out the best ways to do that.

SOCRATES

I've been interfacing with Korfhun for a while now, captain.

SAM

Oh, great! Keep doing that and get us out of here as quickly as computationally possible.

KORFHUN

Very well. We will be at capacity and ready to lift off in 30 minutes. Activating engines soon.

Max jumps a chasm, Sam, backs up, runs, and jumps. She teeters on the edge of the precipice for a second, until Cheepokush and another female Bird Person grab her as they float over the chasm. Sam smiles appreciation, and offers a hug to the Bird Woman. The Bird Woman looks confused, but extends her wings and she and Sam embrace briefly. Sam is almost in tears.

SAM

Please tell them thank you.

Socrates says something in bird speak, to which both bird people bow and shuffle their feet. Cheepokush says something.

SOCRATES

He says it would spell true doom if the chosen one died on his watch.

SAM

Please tell him thank you again. They saved my life, and that's not a small thing to me.

Socrates says some more in bird speak, and Cheepokush smiles broadly.

SOCRATES

Ok, I know from Kofhun what needs to be done to activate the ship and will begin doing so immediately. However, there is a mystic relic datacore that exists in the cockpit if you'd care to check it out while I work. I'll send guiding lights down corridors to guide you.

A string of lights that move into the distance in a rhythm light up and guide the group up the corridor. They follow the lights up to an elevator, which they board. The elevator takes off, and they Max, Sam, Cheepokush and the bird female all look a little cramped. They eventually arrive and the doors open, and they file out. There are a string of lights along the floor guiding them in one direction. They eventually reach a cockpit room.

SAM

Guess this is it!

MAX

Looks that way. Where's the testament?

SOCRATES I'll ask Kofhun.

Beat

KOFHUN

The relic is directly ahead and to the left at the datacore control panel.

SAM

Why is it in the bridge instead of anywhere else.

KOFHUN

Aspects of the relic are required for a navigator to successfully starjump the ship.

SAM

What kind of testament is it, to hold such knowledge?

MAX

I bet its the Harmony Text.

SAM Harmony Text?

MAX

You'll see, hopefully.

They walk up to the indicated spot on the bridge, and Sam connects a cable from the datapad to the datacore.

SAM

What does it say?

SOCRATES

It is indeed the Harmony Text.

SAM

What is this Harmony Text.

SOCRATES

All living beings have quantum entanglement in their brains.

(MORE)

SOCRATES (CONT'D) Quantum entanglement necessitates that what happens to one half of the particle pair happens to the other, creating a bridge of energy outside time and space.

SAM Ok, what is the point?

SOCRATES When you have enough patterns of energy outside space and time in the same dimension it creates an energy harmonic, and this is what is believed to be the soul, according to the text. The harmony or dissonance between everyone as they interact with each other is what the energy we feed off of in groups is based on. Those with greater harmony in their souls are capable of inspiring more energy in those around them, and the brighter their light, the greater their impact.

SAM So you are saying my soul is a harmonic of energy?

MAX

Yeah, so very big religious figures from all the religions were more in harmony with their surroundings and those living around them, and this is what allows for the potential of miracles. The more in tune with one's surroundings one is, the more you connect with what's around you, the greater your influence over the living world.

SAM

That's crazy! Why am I just hearing about this now from an 80,000 year old computer?

SOCRATES The text is rumored in higher level church circles, but its knowledge is tightly controlled.

(MORE)

SOCRATES (CONT'D) It runs counter to the Churches teaching that the soul is material, an idea they got by incorporation of several different religions from across the galaxy.

MAX

This is the real treasure. This is the text upon which all of the rebellion is based, though we've only had pieces of the knowledge up till now. Bringing this to the rebellion and spreading and disseminating it will greatly assist our claim that the church is bogus and deserves to be overthrown.

SAM

Well, I can see why. But If you believe in harmony, why do you commit violence.

MAX

Sometimes, to protect the greater harmony of the universe, dissonance must be used to ensure peace.

SAM That sounds like an excuse for violence. You could justify anything that way, and that's kinda scary.

MAX

We're not monsters. Some are more militant than others. I enjoy a good fight for the good of the universe. But I really just want to be left alone. I want to grow crops, live on a farm with a big family, raise horses or cattle.

SAM You, a farmer?

MAX

I really do want peace, Sam. I'm fighting very hard for it.

SAM

It actually sounds idyllic. Alright Max, you've convinced me.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D) But we gotta do this clean, all the way, or the rebellion will get no help from me.

# MAX

I can't vouch for the rest of them, but I can promise I'll do it clean. Contrary to popular belief, I actually care. I know I came on strong earlier, and I'm sorry for that, but the harmony and energy, which I can see, your aura, I feel connected to it and by it and wanted you to know I see you, Sam, and I'm so sorry you had to be involved this way when it was the last thing on your mind or in your heart.

Sam looks astounded.

# SAM

I think that's the nicest thing anyone has ever said to me. I'm sorry for being so hard on you. And thank you for the apology. We're cool, I hope?

# MAX

Of course! I've got my mission to get this out to the universe, but that's not a reason we can't get things done in a manner you're okay with.

# SAM

But then I'm confused about something. You believe in harmony, but don't like the bird people?

# MAX

Look, I'm not looking to go native is all. I've dealt with a lot of alien species, and there is usually a conflict of some type between us and them.

# SAM

But they aren't alien, Max. They're human, mutated, but human. And they saved my life earlier.

INT. AHMISA CHAPEL OF GRACE SEWERS - NIGHT

We get a shot of Xoni laying on the bottom of a sewer chute on top of some refuse. She looks vey dead. Suddenly, She sits up, wipes grime from her eyes, and looks around.

XONI

(Whispers)

We may be known for our FTL communication, but the secret to long life is the regeneration we experience after a day of inactivity! Ha! I've got to get out of here though, and I've got to find Samantha.

She gets up, brushes herself off, and begins down a corridor

MONTAGE

Xoni walking down a sewer conduit.

Xoni accessing a door in a sewer conduit

Xoni going up stairs

Xoni coming out onto a hallway

Xoni going down a hallway, stopping in front of a door, and entering.

END MONTAGE

Xoni goes over to a desk, and grabs a communicator. We see her type in a message.

INT. KORFHUN BRIDGE - NIGHT

Sam receives a beep on her communicator.

SAM

Xoni is alive! The prelate betrayed and tried to kill her, but she's sent coordinates to meet her at. A space station known as Haydrion V.

MAX

I have friends there actually.

SAM

Kofhun, please set star trajectory for Aklivian IX, third planet out, orbiting and approaching from Southwest Quadrant at a range of 20,000 miles.

KOFHUN

Yes ma'am. Estimated time to departure, 4 minutes. I recommend having someone man navigation and shields for the acceleration through the surrounding debris.

SAM

I'll take navigation, you take shields.

MAX

Roger captain.

Sam goes to the indicated terminal, and max wanders over to a lighted terminal in the rear of the cockpit. The cockpit is large, easily accommodating 20 crew.

SAM

Kofhun, will just the two of us be able to pilot the ship successfully? It looks like you need a lot of crew.

KOFHUN

I can actually do all of the crew positions autonomously, but I recommend live operators where possible. I'll be assisting all the way though.

SAM

That's great. Thanks!

A timer counts down to zero on the front viewscreen, and then there is an earthquake as the ship's engines come to life.

EXT. STARJUMPING SPACE - NIGHT

Marcbande steps onto the bridge of his cruiser.

COMMS OFFICER A Sir! Preparing to come out of starjumping.

MARCBANDE

Very good lieutenant. Carry on.

The Ship exits Starjumping a fair distance away from a blue green world with white cloud clover. It looks like a marble, only this marble has a huge debris field around it.

INT. KORFHUN BRIDGE - EARLY DAWN

The sky is starting to lighten, as the ship lurches upwards slowly, shaking off thousands of years of growth and debris along its surface. Max looks a little happier.

MAX

So, er, yeah. We're not defenseless anymore.

SAM

What do you mean.

MAX

I mean this ships has toys I can use to save our asses from bogeymen.

SAM

Only as necessary, okay?

MAX Buzzkill.

SAM

Hey! I just don't want you to regret anything later on when you are farming.

MAX

That's fair, but you got to allow for free will.

SAM

That's fair. Just, don't try kill anyone who isn't trying to kill us first, please.

MAX

I think that's also fair. But it might be too late by then. If it's the church, as big a target as we are, it would be prudent to shoot first and ask questions later. They already tried to kill us and your mentor, remember.

SAM

Alright. Everybody else we communicate with first.

MAX Fine with me.

The Ship continues to take off, and is in the atmosphere now. It continues up into orbit. Max pushes some buttons, and a blue field encompasses the ship, and the viewscreens in front all tint blue. Max presses some more buttons and out the viewscreen we see lasers begin to decimate and obliterate the asteroids and debris in front of the ship as it continues to accelerate away from the planet.

Suddenly a proximity alarm goes off.

MARCBANDE

(V.O. Staticky)

By the authority invested in me by the Holy Universal Church, I place you under arrest and order you to halt or be destroyed. Prepare to be boarded.

MAX May I?

SAM Um, okay?

MAX

(Clears throat)

Hi, dickweed, you can suck a big fat cross, you fascist pig bastard. I talked to your mom last night after we got done making you a brother who might actually be a man, and we agreed you are a spoiled little bitch.

Beat

Lasers rain down and splash harmlessly off the shields. Return lasers arc out through the intervening asteroid and debris field, as these two ships vie for supremacy. Kofhun continues through the field, clearing a way, and exits the debris field, all while other lasers continue to harass the church ship, which has now been joined by a small flotilla.

SAM

Ready to jump. Socrates, tell Cheepokush to tell his people to sit down and brace.

SOCRATES Roger, ma'am.

Socrates says some things in bird speak, and Cheepokush and the female bird person both sit down in seats and fasten seat belts once they figure them out.

SAM

And, jumping, now...

The Ship jumps.

INT. KOFHUN BRIDGE: STAR JUMP SPACE - NIGHT

Sam sighs with relief. Maxi gets up after shutting down his terminal.

MAX

Well, that went well. What are we going to do with the tribe of bird people though?

SOCRATES

From what I gathered of their prophecy, they call themselves the "Children of the Stars."

MAX

Well I guess that answers that question. Ha!

SAM

Alright Folks, coming out of

Starjump in

5...4...3...2...1...exiting now.

The stars reform from lines into dots, and Kofhun has arrived at a distance from the clearly visible Haydrion V space station. There is a row of umbilicus descending from a long bridge between the two enormous sections of the station.

TRAFFIC CONTROLLER Ship 32876 on vector 187 by 234 by 104, please Identify.

SAM

This is the independent ship Kofhun, seeking harbor and resupply at the station. I'm also looking for a cleric while here.

TRAFFIC CONTROLLER Very Well. There will be an inspection of the ship to ensure no harmful contagions will be transmitted to the station. Due to your size you'll dock on the red hemisphere on the side. There is a fee of 10,000 credits for the docking and access. Transfer funds once the inspection is complete via frequency 905187. Thank you, and have a pleasant day.

# SAM

Does the fee include fuel?

TRAFFIC CONTROLLER 6,000 of the credit charge covers fuel, yes.

# SAM

We have a fully functional anomaly here that powers the ship and has no need of fuel. I'd like to waive the fuel fee as its unnecessary.

TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

Hmmmm. This is highly unusual, but I guess that's fine. Please transfer the 4,000 credits as soon as the inspection is complete so we can unlock the airlock walkway to your access. Thank you again, and welcome to Haydrion V.

Max whistles.

# MAX

That was impressive. Negotiating 60% discount? I'm impressed.

# SAM

It's really not important. I could have covered it either way, as I work all the time and never spend any of my paycheck, just building it up. But the reason it's unimportant is Xoni is one of the wealthiest individuals on her planet, and could probably buy this entire space station a million times over.

Max whistles.

MAX

Damn. Nice. Who the hell did I end up with here? Who are you guys? Xoni rich enough to buy a planet, and you aren't typical of a church girl either.

Max looks abashed.

MAX(CONT'D) I'm sorry about before. I got carried away. Truce? Friends?

SAM

I forgave you a long time ago, Max. All good.

EXT. HAYDRION V - NIGHT

We see Kofhun dock with the Haydrion V station. The umbilicus from the station moves out from the station and latches onto an airlock near the cockpit, and then puffs outwards as air is channeled in and the umbilicus is pressurized.

INT. KOFHUN BRIDGE: HAYDRION V DOCKING FACILITY AND SPACE

STATION - NIGHT

SAM

We should probably go greet our visitors.

MAX

You go ahead, I've got something I want to do.

SAM

Ok, but stay on comms. And meet me when you're done. What are you up to though?

MAX

This is not the safest place. There are a lot of roughs who come here, rougher than me. I'm going to go look for a means of self defense if we absolutely need to. I'm sorry to tell you but the stun sticks won't cut it here.

SAM

I don't like it, but I've got to trust you at some point, and you've had good instincts so far.

MAX Thanks?

Max goes off down a corridor, and we follow Sam as she goes down a different corridor and eventually arrives at the airlock.

# INSPECTION OFFICER

Hello, ma'am. You have a foul ship.

SAM

I'm so sorry, we just got it. It's what we're in but it's not who we are.

INSPECTION OFFICER No I mean you got birds. They'll have to stay on board at all times as we have a large large cat population and cannot accept liability if a sentient gets eaten.

SAM Ummmm...okay?

INSPECTION OFFICER Other than that you guys are fine. Please transfer the funds and have a pleasant stay.

SAM

Ok, thanks. Have a great day!

The inspection officer leaves, and Sam types some things into her datapad. A light at the end of the umbilicus goes green.

SAM(CONT'D)

(into her comm)

Max get up here so we can get about our business.

MAX

(V.O. Staticky)

Ok. Just found what I was looking for.

SAM

Socrates, please instruct the bird people as an urgent matter that they are under no circumstances to leave the ship.

SOCRATES

Yes, ma’am.

SAM

Oh, and ask him to guard the datacore at all costs and prevent anyone not with us from entering the ship, for all our sakes. When they bring the supplies, have them leave it in the airlock here.

SOCRATES Yes ma'am. Very good.

Socrates says some bird talk to Cheepokush, who nods and goes up the hallway back toward the bridge. Max comes up the hallway, and Sam and Max head down the umbilicus.

MAX

I need to ask you something.

SAM Sure.

MAX

Why did you forgive me.

SAM

There was nothing to forgive so it was easy.

MAX

(Astounded)

What do you mean nothing? You threatened to leave me stranded to await the Church! Most people who feel that way about someone don't really want to do anything with them, talk to them, hang out with them, let alone trust them with anything.

SAM

Please understand. It's not that I don't like you, or that your feelings aren't reciprocated. I made a vow, and so simply cannot.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D) Because of this I have to discourage you in the strongest possible way because otherwise I'll succumb. You're charming if a bit idiotic at times and you really showed your soul with how you spoke of the Harmony Text and its meaning for you. That's attractive! But I can't. Simply Can't. Not until people know the truth and are free to decide for themselves how to live their lives. You converted me Max. Nut only in parts. And not in any of the violent aspects of what you do. There has to be a better way!

Max whistles softly.

MAX

Well, um, damn. I can totally respect that. And thanks. Can we be friends? And Then if something happens and we win, we can see how we feel and see what happens then?

SAM

You're a mindreader now, too? Haha that sounds great.

They exit the umbilicus into the sphere of the station. Sam's comm buzzes, and she looks at her wrist communicator.

SAM(CONT'D) Left here.

MAX

Where we headed.

SAM

Blue district, Ricardo's place.

MAX

You been here before?

SAM

This is our, Xoni and me, personal safehouse in case of disaster.

MAX

Funny story, the rebels have a safehouse here too, upper story of Marvin's Garage.

SAM

Keep your comms on. Go find your friends, and see if we can crew the ship more effectively. I'll catch up with Xoni and bring her back to the ship.

Max runs off to the right. Sam continues on forward down the hallway in front of her. She passes little shops and stalls along the way to a big green lit sign that reads, "Ricardo's Bar and Café," and is colored bright blue against the otherwise drab and dank corridor the bar is located on. Sam enters the bar.

INT. RICARDO'S BAR AND CAFÉ - DAY

Sam walks in, flips a coin to the bartender who holds up 3 fingers with their left hand and points down a service hallway with the other. Sam walks down the service hallway, and goes in the third door on the left.

INT. RICARDO'S BAR AND CAFÉ: STORAGE CLOSET #3 - DAY

Xoni sits at a table sipping a red liquid with purple swirls from a champagne glass.

XONI

I'm glad you're safe.

SAM

We only just escaped.

XONI We?

SAM

Long story. We have a massive ship, with defenses and everything. We need to get back there. We can discuss everything once we're back on the ship, but we were probably followed so we don't have a lot of time before we need to be gone.

XONI

Oh, my child, how you have grown! Yes, yes, that is sound logic. Did you find what we were searching for in the meantime?

SAM

Something far greater...the Harmony Text.

XONI

That's the basis for the ways we go about things, but it directly contradicts church doctrine.

SAM

I know, but it's compelling. The energy between all beings, a harmony or dissonance. Its musical, a musical theory of religion. To me that's beautiful, and fits with my personal life experiences, unlike a lot of church dogma. My eyes are open. Now come, we must go!

Xoni nods, and exits the room into the hallway followed by Sam.

INT. RICARDO'S BAR AND CAFÉ - DAY

Xoni and Sam hurriedly make their way down the hallway and out the front of the establishment.

INT. HAYDRION V CORRIDOR - DAY

Xoni and Sam begin down the long hallway.

INT. MARCBANDE'S SHIP: BRIDGE - NIGHT

Marcbande is pacing the length of the bridge as the front viewscreens are blurred lines, indicating starjumping.

MARCBANDE

(To himself)

I've got them now, and finally this nightmare can end and I can go home. Oh lord, be with my family.

COMMS OFFICER A Sir, preparing to exit starjumping near Haydrion V. Exiting in 5...4...3...2...1...exiting Starjumping now.

The lines become dots again, and the ship is hovering at a distance from the visible space station. On the far side of the station we see the Kofhun.

MARCBANDE Excellent. Active radar immediately.

COMMS OFFICER A Very good sir.

Three more ships exit starjumping and move into position behind Marcbande's heavy cruiser.

INT. HAYDRION V REBEL SAFEHOUSE - DAY

Max looks up through the skylight just as the Church ships jump into view.

MAX

Goddammit that was fast!

He speaks into his comm.

# MAX(CONT'D)

You Find Xoni? We need to get outta here, the church is here already. We were just getting ready to head out to the ship. Don't leave without us!

He clicks off the comm

# MAX(CONT'D)

Okay boyos, we need to vamoose. Church is here, and we don't want to be when they board. Let's double time it.

The rebels exit the hideout at a jog, carrying weapons and boxes of gear and equipment.

INT. MARCBANDE'S SHIP: BRIDGE - NIGHT

In the black of space, the Church ships open fire on the station and Kofhun.

MARCBANDE

Fire at will. They are harboring the traitors and must be set as an example so none other will dare to do the same.

# COMMS OFFICERS

(In unison)

Sir, yes sir! Very good sir!

Salvos of fire can be seen emanating from the gun ports on this ship and those nearby. After a long beat, the station starts firing back and a blue field surrounds it. Damage has already been done though, and there are numerous holes in the side of the station venting people and detritus into space, along with gases.

INT. HAYDRION V CORRIDOR - DAY

Sam And Xoni race down the corridor toward the waiting umbilicus. Thankfully, the body of the station seems to have protected the umbilicus from damage during the ongoing fight. A blue tint lies over all you can see through the windows. The quickly cross to the umbilicus, then enter the airlock and race across to the air lock bay in the ship. Just as they enter the ship, Max and a stream of men and women come around the corner at a flat run and enter and cross the airlock, also boarding the ship.

SAM

Glad you could make it!

MAX

No problemo, mon cheri. Brought some friends.

The rest of the rebels have crossed and they stand up and down hallways and in the cargo bay.

SAM How many?

MAX

87 survivors of the Battle of Geomedia.

SAM

Damn. Well, they are welcome. We don't have time to chat though. I need you at weapons and shields!

Max just nods his head, then runs down the hallway. Sam turns to face all the survivors.

SAM(CONT'D) I know you've seen horror and strife. I know what you think of the Church. They lied to me too! You think I'm not mad? So I'll make you a promise.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

If you can contain your violence outside of interactions where you are in jeopardy, I will offer you all the assistance I can and will listen to your needs. I am not heartless, despite your experiences with Church employees. I will promise to work together with all of you, each of you, to bring about a brighter tomorrow where we can all live in harmony!

The hardened rebels actually cheer. Some stamp their feet. This is the inspiration they need to go on fighting. It shows on their faces. Sam disconnects the umbilicus from the cargo bay, and jogs to the cockpit. As she sits down the ship is rocked by a massive explosion as Marcbande's heavy cruiser fires a massive laser directly into the heart of the space station. The shield around the station crumbles, and the laser pierces all the way through, followed by a rippling explosion emanating outwards from the center of the blast.

Sam slams into the piloting chair, then sits in it and straps in.

SAM(CONT'D) Everyone, brace!

She powers up the engines as the impact from the exploding space station rocks the ship.

SAM(CONT'D) Max! Are Shields holding?

MAX

Yup. Take a lot more than that to touch us.

Sam sighs in relief for a second, then frowns. She begins typing numbers into the console in front of her, starjumping coordinates.

SAM

We've got to get out of here. I have a plan that will by us some time.

MAX

Okay, but if I get nightmares later you're paying for the therapy!

Sam finishes inputting the coordinates, and presses the starjumping button. Stars shift briefly to lines, then back to dots.

MAX(CONT'D) What happened?

SAM We arrived.

MAX

We're nowhere, though!

SAM

Exactly. They only search endpoints of star jump lanes. We are free.

Max whistles softly to himself. Xoni moves onto the bridge from the hallway.

MAX

Well, damn. So, What's the plan?

SAM

I need to talk to Xoni, and then we'll see about a plan.

Xoni motions to Sam to follow her. Sam grabs her datapad and moves to follow Xoni down a mostly deserted corridor.

XONI

You seem to have thrown your lot in with rebels and seditionists. We preach a unity of religion, they believe in individual religions coexisting simultaneously and separately. We believe the soul is non existent or physical, not extradimensional in origin. We both believe in harmony.

She pauses for a beat.

XONI(CONT'D)

But my Church is gone. The man who rules over its corpse is a petty tyrant with the power of a god. And it has gone to his head. He can justify anything the way he is talking, acting, behaving. He's smart enough to see every angle and do what he thinks best, regardless of the ethics of it. It's a sad day indeed.

SAM

That lines up with what Max told me. We have so much religion here.

# SAM (CONT'D)

And people should have the right to practice whatever they believe, and not be conformed by a mass decree. Religion is small and personal, and my God is not your God. Or at least the ideas of what they are are different, even if its the same God. But this teaching of harmony between life? And viewing those with strife in their hearts as dissonance? Yeah, that rings true for me so if that makes me antiChurch so be it.

XONI I think at this point given everything the Church has the wrong approach. I'm not saying I agree with this Harmony Text, and I need to study it more closely, but the way the Church is going about doing things now, I'm sad to say, makes me regret ever being associated with them.

MAX

# (V.O. Staticky)

Hey, we've got a situation here. A stowaway.

Sam talks into her comm.

# SAM

Where are you?

We hear a buzz.

SAM(CONT'D) You've got to be kidding.

MAX

# (V.O. Staticky)

Yeah, he says his name is Marcbande, and he's being held prisoner along with his family by the prelate and needs help.

# SAM

How'd he get aboard? And why should we trust him?

MAX

# (V.O> Staticky)

He used a personal space pod.

MAX (CONT'D) He was told if he didn't find us they'd kill him and his family. He has information on the Prelate.

Sam looks at Xoni.

XONI

Marcbande was the leader of the Praetorians on Ahmisah. He is a high ranking official, probably the one tasked with hunting us down.

SAM

So I should be careful and not trust him?

XONI Just so.

SAM Thanks.

Sam dashes off towards the bridge. She speaks into her comm.

SAM(CONT'D)

Max, bring him to the cockpit. We'll ask him some questions but keep both eyes on him and don't trust him.

MAX

(V.O. Staticky) Sure.

Sam arrives on the bridge, sits in the captains chair and turns it to face the primary hallway entrance. Max, 4 rebel survivors and 3 bird people surround a tall man, with a manicured mustache, dressed in Admiral's regalia. The come slowly onto the bridge.

SAM State your case.

MARCBANDE

(Breaking up emotionally) I had to make it look good for him, but each step of the way things got worse, until now...oh God, all those people. What have I done? What have I become? He'll kill me and my family if I don't. If you kill me though maybe they'll be spared. Maybe by getting on this ship they'll be spared.

MARCBANDE (CONT'D) I don't know. I'm so sorry. I had to save them. I had to make it look good.

MAX

You fucking monster! We'll kill you alright, but that won't make what you did right! Useless piece of shit, make a fucking mess of millions of lives then beg to die like a dog! Have you no dignity?

SAM

You know, for once Max I think I agree with you. Do you have anything to offer to redeem yourself with?

MARCBANDE

Yes, I know the location of the

Prelate's next shuttle outing. He'll be on Jertuk's asteroid refueling base in 8 hours.

Sam and Max look at each other. They huddle together and whisper

SAM

If that's accurate its the opportunity to stop the whole problem with the church. Its from a questionable source, but the opportunity is too great to ignore if accurate.

MAX

I agree. I'll lead a team to steal the shuttle, Prelate and all.

Sam shakes her head.

SAM

I need to be there too! I had the birdpeople bring on the old shuttle, and got a report on my datapad that some of your freedom fighters managed to repair it, so we're going to take the 6 space suits we have, and have you and I and 4 of your friends go see if there's anything to this shuttle nonsense. Get hand lasers for everyone from the armory. Set for stun, though, please, okay?

Max makes a face, but nods

SAM(CONT'D)

(To Marcbande)

We will check on this information. If it is credible, we will attempt to help your family. Your life is forfeit though. Do not think we'll kill you. We will put you in cryosleep until such time as your crimes can be quantified and judged in all the dark corners where you laid your filthy hands and caused chaos.

SAM(CONT'D)

(To guards)

Take him to a cell in the brig for now while he formulates his response and appeal.

MARCBANDE

You're going to let me appeal?

SAM

Of course! I'm not a barbarian, and if you can be of further assistance that will weigh in your favor on the appeal.

MARCBANDE

Um, oh, okay, yeah, sure.

The guards take Marcbande away.

SAM

Max get your four best and meet me at the hanger.

Max nods, and heads off down the hallway, calling out names as he goes. We track and follow Sam as she makes her way down corridors and elevators to the hangar.

INT. KOFHUN HANGAR - DAY

Sam steps up to the entry to the shuttle sitting in the bay. She puts on a blue space suit. There are 5 others in the docking portal on the shuttle. After she is in the suit, she grabs the helmet from the rack above the hanging suits, carries it under one arm, and goes up to the familiar cockpit, and sits in the pilot couch. She begins turning on dials and switches, and the shuttle begins to come to life.

Max enters the cockpit from the hallway and sits in the passenger crash couch.

SAM

Is everybody aboard?

MAX

Yeah. Four of the toughest, hardest fighters you'll ever have the privilege of not getting guns pointed at you by.

SAM

Huh?

MAX

They're tough, alright! Tough!

SAM

Whatever you say, man.

The engines turn on, and the ship vibrates.

SAM(CONT'D)

(Over intercom) Hold on, moving out and into starjumping readiness.

She pilots the ship up off the deck, and out of the hangar. She punches some coordinates into her console. After a moment, she flicks a button and the stars elongate into lines.

MONTAGE

Sam and Max playing cards in the crew quarters on a table.

Crew going about preparing weapons.

Crew going about preparing equipment.

Crew going about preparing gear.

Crew stretching.

Crew eating some dried rations.

END MONTAGE

EXT. SPACE ABOVE JERTUK'S ASTEROID FIELD BASE: ASTEROID A - NIGHT

Sam motions to Max, tapping her helmet and motioning with her arms. She makes some gestures towards an asteroid off in the distance. We can see the female Sam through the face shield of their helmet. She turns to Max and mouths the following words:

SAM (MOUTHS SILENTLY)

Comms down. Use hand signals.

Max nods his head affirmative. Through the canopy of his helmet we see a younger man, early 20’s with brown hair that seems to be tied back behind his head within the helmet. The wrist communicator on his arm is smoking and fritzing, indicating the source of their silence.

Sam motions with one hand to the thumb press on the left hand of her suit where the gas vent and jetpack controls are located. She makes a motion outwards, then signals to male Max. He nods.

She depresses a series of buttons on the left hand of her suit, and the jets on the back of her suit come to life, propelling her upwards away from the asteroid. Max does the same and follows.

EXT. ASTEROID FIELD: SPACE - NIGHT

Halfway to their new destination we see another asteroid float into view, cutting them off from their destination. The lead female Sam motions with one arm in a swooping motion, which sends her into a counterclockwise spin, she hits some buttons on the left and her backpack jets kick in and she deftly avoids the oncoming obstacle.

Max is not so lucky, adjusting too soon and not as precisely. He has to burn extra fuel to keep up and get around the oncoming asteroid.

As our intrepid explorers move past the Asteroid which sought to run them over, their target comes back into sight.

We zoom in to the Asteroid in the distance to see a SHUTTLE craft parked at a refueling depot on the asteroid. There are astronauts with similar suits to these two astronauts working in the area on the asteroid near the shuttle, but these are painted bright red as opposed to Sam and Max’s blue. We see the colors come to life as the asteroid in the distance comes into the light of the distant sun. The sun reflects brightly off the red. We get a reverse shot of the female astronaut gritting her teeth in frustration.

Sam presses button on the left hand again and resumes picking up speed heading towards the asteroid with the shuttle. Max hurries to follow up, going a bit too fast and overtaking Sam for a moment, until Sam resumes the lead with a sudden burst of gas and propellant.

Sam pulls a blaster from a holster on her hip and primes it while silently moving on towards the asteroid. She makes a quick movement with her hand, sending her into another spin, and she uses the jets to loop around another asteroid and come in from behind the asteroid with the shuttle. Max follows suit, priming a laser pistol of his own and moving to follow. They sneak up on to the dark side of the asteroid from cover after maintaining being out of sight from the astronauts in red.

EXT. ASTEROID FIELD: ASTEROID B - NIGHT

Sam motions to a button on her right hand and presses it, locking her gravity shoes to the asteroid and no longer needing to use propulsion to stay anchored to its surface. Max follows suit, and they creep along the surface of the asteroid hiding just out of the light and avoiding being seen by the red astronauts.

The come upon a series of fuel tanks on the surface of the asteroid near the shuttle and Max nods, then both astronauts get up, blasters hide behind them.

Sam motions to Max with her blaster and a rounding motion with the other hand. She motions with a held out hand, then motions the opposite direction with the same hand. Max nods, then both astronauts creep from opposite sides around equipment to approach the shuttle, blasters held at the ready.

Just as the reach the airlock and begin to cycle it for entry a bolt splashes through space around them, then another. They are under fire.

Sam fires back with one hand while pressing buttons on the computer panel by the airlock.

Max is firing back rapidly, picks up a lead welding shield and proceeds to give cover to Sam. He shoots 3 red astronauts, but is taking heavier and heavier fire

The airlock finishes cycling and opens, and both Sam and B rush on board and close the door behind them. They remove their helmets, just in time to hear a hiss from behind them. They turn, so see a squad of troopers in front of them, guns drawn. The Prelate stands behind them.

PRELATE

Very good. Just so. You see, it was a trap, no?

SAM

Funny thing about traps, is the best way to beat them is to spring them.

She and max both put their helmets back on.

PRELATE

I don't think the helmets are going to save you from the lasers. Where is the datacore?

MAX May I?

SAM Certainly.

MAX

You limpdick pipsqueek of an imbecile. We got you motherfucker. Now Boyos!

With that the shuttle shudders as explosions break out all over the ship as the explosives the other 4 rebels had placed outside go off. The ship splits in half, the guards and Prelate venting off into space. A nearby red suited spaceman rushes over and extends an oxygen mask. The soldier rushes him off, as his skin begins to crystalize in the vacuum. Max starts to give chase, but there is an army of red spacemen between the Prelate and the rebels.

SAM

Damn. Maybe next time. I don't normally condone violence, but given all he's done I'd say if anybody earned it it was him. We need to get back, and figure out our next move.

MAX Agreed.

We get a pan up from the surface of the asteroid to the blue and white marble hovering on the horizon. Then we pan up to the stars.

EXT. ASTEROID B - NIGHT

The Blackness of the starless sky resolves into the sole of a running commando’s boot. SAM, MAX, and the 4 REBEL COMMANDOS engage in a firefight as they back away from the remains of the shuttle, shooting lasers at and back and forth with a small army of red suited SPACEMEN. One by one, furthest away from the enemy first, they begin to jump into space, jetting themselves away from the spacemen. The spacemen do not follow.

SPACEMAN A

(V.O. Staticky) Permission to follow?

# SPACEMAN COMMANDER

(V.O. Staticky)

Denied! We don’t know if this was the first of a further series of attacks or not, and we must secure the Prelate. That is our only priority right now!

SPACEMAN B

(V.O. Staticky)

But Ma’am! The Prelate was clear capturing them was essential to our survival!

# SPACEMAN COMMANDER

(V.O. Staticky)

Hmmmmm! Correct! Ok, I must secure the Prelate, securely, but I can spare You, Dennis, Molto, and Kybeq. Good luck young lady! The rest of you, on me, back to the base!

SPACEMAN B

(V.O. Staticky)

Albright guys, you heard the chief! Let’s move out!

One by one they begin jumping into space, chasing after the fleeing rebels. There is an exchange of laser fire

DENNIS

(V.O. Staticky)

Arghhh! I got hit! I’m leaking stuff! I’m not...(static)

Molto takes one right through the face plate and continues moving in a spin at an altered trajectory.

SAM

(V.O. Staticky)

Nice shot Max! No wonder you got such an ego!

MAX

1. O.Staticky)

Ha! This is my first real action! Lucky shot is all. Though, I did go to the range a lot, if we’re being really honest. Even got a job there so I could practice late and get reps. I’m not the most naturally coordinated person, physically speaking. Hence the broken leg?

SAM

(V.O. Staticky)

Alright. Helos and Victor, would you guys do the honors and finish those chasers off?

# COMMANDO A HELOS

(V.O. Staticky) Yes Ma’am!

# COMMANDO B VICTOR

(V.O. Staticky) Sure thing, boss!

Victor does a somersault in space and fires quickly, killing both of the remaining Church spacemen.

HELOS

(V.O. Staticky)

Hey! One of those guys was mine!

VICTOR

Ha! You’re getting slow, Helos!

HELOS

Victor! Man oh man, I’m gonna kick your ass when we get back to the ship.

VICTOR

You mean you and your mom?

SAM

Allright you two! Nice work, but lets try try try to keep things professional? Ok? Thanks!

Both of the men grumble over comms. The group of rebels makes their way back to the ship with no further incident. We get a shot of Sam floating in front of the rest of the group and unlocking, then entering the airlock.

EXT. ASTEROID FIELD: SHUTTLE - NIGHT

At the airlock, we see the rebels enter the airlock one at a time.

INT. SHUTTLE AIRLOCK - NIGHT

We see the rebels file in, then go to the other compartments up the hallway.

MONTAGE

Victor and Helos arguing in the cargo hold

The other two commandos playing cards on the table.

COMMANDO 3

Hamm, how do you play? I don’t get any of this.

COMMANDO 4 HAMM Well, you got two different decks, day and night themed.

The cards have a long and short side, respectively, and down the middle of the card on the longwise sides is a line, dividing night and day. These cards are placed face up on the table. Each player may play character cards or equipment cards onto the cards with the sides, in the side of those cards that they represent by roll of a dice. All the characters and gear have point values on them, and at the end of 15 minutes of 1 minute turns back and forth, drawing, resourcing, reinforcing, recycling, followed by a period of results, and each of the split cards that a player wins by having the highest point total of gear and characters gets the card under them, and scores points based on the facedown value on the card. First player to 500 points wins the game. You keep going in rounds of 15 minutes until there is a winner. As a funny side note, there is a drinking game equivalent where you take a shot for each territory you lose. Hamm explains this in a roundabout way, leading to an exclamation when he reaches the part about scoring.

HAMM

It’s really a lot of fun! Once youscore at the end, you can play other cards to advance your board, and then you figure out who won! Come on, Vincent, you’ll love it!

COMMANDO 3 VINCENT I dunno, Hamm. Seems a bit complicated to me.

INT. SHUTTLE BRIDGE - NIGHT

Starlines fly past the cockpit viewscreen. The three meter thick glass was designed to withstand even high power lasers, being a quartz silica based polymer instead of actual glass. The thing is not as simple as it appears.

SAM

How many did we lose.

MAX Three.

SAM

And the Prelate escaped too?

MAX

Seems that way, yeah.

SAM

Marqubande has a lot of answering to do. But first, we need to make sure our ship is safe, and our guests too.

MAX

Guests? Oh, you mean the bird people? Haha, yeah I guess they are our guests. Now I understand how you can be so defferential to them,

SAM

All are guests in our lives. So that determines how I treat them, and how I treat threats to them. Everyone is a guest in our lives, parents, lovers, children, superiors, underlings, dependents, family, siblings, friends.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

The Harmony Book offers a way of life I already strive to uphold. It’s not that long, but I felt moved when I read it. All religions are valid, regardless of differentiation. It’s just different faces of God.

MAX

Sounds like what the church perverted.

SAM

In a way its the opposite of what the church seeks to do....combine All faiths into one, changing them and not accepting them in the process. “Do as we do or else”...has been their hegemonic rule over the galaxy for as long as anyone can remember. Maybe it’s time for a change. Maybe it’s time for a little revolution.

She shifts some knobs and levers, presses some buttons on the console, which then begin to flash different colors, most blue and green. Sam visibly relaxes.

SAM(CONT'D) Coming in for landing.

The starlines around the cockpit viewport suddenly come to an abrupt stop and revert to pinpricks of light in the deep night sky outside the ship. Their target, the enormous mountain sized and looking star shik that was their home, loomed nearby.

Sam guides the shuttle into the hangerport using a steering joystick. The shuttle lands gingerly, and pilot and both passengers unbuckle and head back to the aft of the ship and airlock. When they extended the landing ramp from the airlock, they had a visitor

XONI

Succeed or fail?

Sam removes her helmet, grimacing. She walks down the ramp with Max at heel and he she and Xoni march off through the hanger and down a tunnel.

SAM

No. We failed. It was a trap.

XONI

We should question Margubande immediately.

SAM

I agree. Please have him thawed and brought to the bridge immediately. Don’t give him time to recover from the frost sleep. Immediately.

XONI It will be done.

Xoni leaves down a corridor.

MAX

Can you really trust her? She worked for them for centuries.

SAM

And yet I also trust you, a known rebel and not considered a “nice guy.” All Xoni has advised was caution, which seems smart right now.

MAX

So what will we do?What’s Your plan, your move, our move?

Sam glances left and right then holds out an arm to block

Max’s progress. He comes to a stop, and turns and faces her.

SAM

WE’re going to Xoni’s homeworld.

First we need to interrogate MArcebande to see if there are any other traps, but getting to the nerve center of communication for the region seems like the right move to announce what we’ve found about religion and Earth. And then your cause will get some much needed credibility.

MAX

I’m speechless. That’s a great plan.

SAM

Now hurry, we’ve go to get to the bridge and in position to deal with the worm Marcebande.

Max double steps it, as does Sam, so that they are nearly sprinting down the long hallway. Eventually, they reach a lift, which they take to the bridge. Sam takes her place on the dais that is the captain’s chair, and Max begins toying with a machete he’s acquired somewhere. Marcbande is drug into the room, shivering and dressed only in a linen sack.

MARCBANDE

So the information paid off then?

SAM

We sprung your trap, if that’s what you mean, then, well, yes. The question, though, is did you know it was a trap?

Marcbande has paled visibly as her speech grows longer and more accusatory. Crying and begging.

MARCEBANDE I, uh, well, you have to understand...

SAM

Three good men lost their lives. Do you think your reason is ideal for explaining to their wives and children? DO YOU??

Marcbande is a puddle on the ground. He keeps covering his head and stomach instinctively.

SAM(CONT'D)

You make me sick. Get him out of my sight. Put him back in the cryo tube. Set it for 10,000 years, turn it on, then put it out the airlock.

MAX

I’ll lead that detail myself.

Max gets a detail of 5 other men and they drag/walk Marcbande out of the room to his doom. Marcbande is bawling intermittent with babbling and shuffles, rolls, and squirms his way down the hall with his guards.

SAM

Helmsman, set course for Draconius IV.

XONI

This will be an unexpected move from us.

(MORE)

XONI (CONT'D) I recommend taking me along with you to facilitate negotiations.

SAM

That seems like common sense. It is your world, after all.

HELMSMAN

Course laid in, captain.

SAM

Very good. Propulsion on my mark. Three, Two, One, Mark!

Through the view panel, the stars elongate and become streams of light bouncing all around the ship. The lights form an aurora borealis, which grows in brightness until fading away to nothing.

Stars are elongated through the viewscreen signifying that ship is still starjumping.

END PART I

FADE TO BLACK.

ROLL CREDITS

AFTER CREDIT SCENE

INT BRIDGE - NIGHT

Camera moves in an arc 90 degrees.

Long shot of the bridge, Sam standing next to the Nav

Computer, looking out the front viewscreen. The Harmony Text Datacore starts to glow green, then purple swirls mixed with red, then blue, then lavender, then stark white light envelopes the room and Sam Walks out, silhouetted, to stand next to an astonished Sam, bathed in brilliant pulsing light. A look of shock and awe on her face. The new Sam is dressed in skin tight white Iroquois leather outfit, with liquid silver jewelry on her ears, forehead, and neck. New Sam turns and faces original Sam.

MAX

Sam, will you marry me?

SAM

You’re asking me now?!

MAX

You’re everything I admire.

You’re my north star. I realize

you’re everything I need in life.

Sam looks at him wildly. Then she smiles.

CUT TO BLACK

# THE END

PROPHET

Story

Brad Reinhold

Screenplay

Brad Reinhold

And Gemini

11841 Jefferson Commons Circle

Unit 1031B

Orlando FL 32826

INT. SPACESHIP BRIDGE - NIGHT

The light of the harmony text attached to the nav computer is glowing and fading rapidly. New Sam reaches from behind and shows a peace sign.

NEW SAM

Have no fears, weary travelers. I am but a shadow of a shade, sent now to help you to the End.

OLD SAM

The End? What End? We just need to transmit the data for all to see. Simple. Bing bang boom we’re done and the war is over.

NEW SAM

You really think the contest is so easy? You will see. You will see...

# NEW SAM(CONT'D)

Anyways, you’ll need my help on Draconius IV. Besides, I’m You, just a different You from a different place and time. It’ll all be fine. You’ll see!

Glaring distrustfully at New Sam, Old Sam goes back to the consoles. Pan arc to the left until 90 degrees until the two. Bird People are standing or bowing all around them as we dolly out of the scene into a hallway then.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. DRACONIUS IV - DUSK (SUN SETTING IN THE DISTANT/GRAND LOCATION)

The ship lands. Max comes out the airlock with both Sam’s and a trio of bird people and space marines. Max hesitantly looks at both Sam’s, being slightly behind them, then scooting in front of them and turning, timidly, to them.

MAX

Yo, whaddup, bitches?

Both Sams give him the same disapproving look, the look of a mother to her bad I’ll tempered son. A look that says ”Gawd, what now? Don’t you know better than to address your betters that way?” Both Sams huff, not together, but close, and Max twirls away and back behind them whistling and looking pleased for some reason. Both Sams just scowl over their opposite shoulders at him, Then New Sam smiles devilishly.

NEW SAM

Not much, dick weed. How's life on your side of the ecosystem?

MAX

My side of the...? Oh, you’re a hoot. A damn hoot. This is gonna be fun!

He smiles broadly, and New Sam smirks and glances at Old Sam. Old Sam throws her a playful smile. All the while Xoni keeps her distance back behind Max, sometimes to the right, sometimes to the left, always in the middle.

They proceed on to meet a council of Draconius IV to establish peaceful negotiations. Not all Draconians look alike.

INT CAVE - DUSK

Cave paintings of Draconians coming to Earth, raping and pillaging the Bird People, Stealing their whole civilization, destroying the rest, then leaving mark the walls of a cave at some time on Earth.

EXT. LANDING PLATFORM - DAY

The bird people instantly transmit the warning about the Draconians to their brethren on board the ship.

Cheepokush begins to call out.

SOCRATES

He says these people came and pillaged his homeland then raped and stole their women and civilization. He will have their blood before dawn.

OLD SAM Now hold on....

MAX

The fuck???!!!

Bird people come pouring out of the ship and go to war, scalping and murdering the Draconians.

New Sam says...

NEW SAM HALT!

New Sam glows brightly, and all of everything except her movement ceases. Slowly, one by one, she untangle the pairs of those fighting, turning them back to back or side to side. Them she walks out to the front of the fight and stands there. She glows brightly again. Time resumes. The former combatants look surprised, and get ready to go back into the fight.

# NEW SAM(CONT'D)

Wait! What is done is done. Think not of what they have done to you compared to what you have done to yourselves! Forget the sins of the yesteryears, so shall you be as once. So shall you be again. The harmonies and dissonances of your histories need to be forgotten. Forget the sins and focus on the hope and strive together forward in peach and harmony. Yet Still I love you! I say unto you, let go your violence and let this day mark the beginning of going forth as one and united.

Socrates repeats this in Bird People Speak.

The bird people bow. The Draconians bow. They all bow. And then the bird people start to go back into the ship before a draconian stops one with an arm on a wing.

DRACONIAN #1 Here, let me show all of you my garden.

And then other Draconians are coming up, offering to show their lives with these outsiders they were getting ready to kill moments before. Old Sam looks shocked and surprised. The COMMERCE GUILD LEADER comes up to both Sams and bows.

COMMERCE GUILD LEADER Thank you so much. People might have died if that had continued.

NEW SAM

Disharmony, as in dissonance, is not the true way. The True Way is Harmony, Unity, Peace. All are separately the many faces of the one true God. All the differentiation highlights how similar we all are. That is why

Harmony, not Dissonance, is best.

Old Sam looks shocked, but begins to nod, a grin lighting her face.

OLD SAM

I had lost sight of the way.

NEW SAM

Yes you had. I came to remind you and show you the power of harmony. With Harmony, inner and outer, all things are possible. Only by being deep enough into harmony I can do that. I came from the End of Time to show you this, to teach you, to prepare the way. The Spirit moves in each of us differently, but in us it moves the same, only you have not yet reached your full potential.

OLD SAM

You mean when I go deep enough into harmony I can do things like that?

NEW SAM

Don’t be so small minded. You will be able to do so much more. You think all I did was freeze time and pull them apart? I also imparted part of my harmony, so that after a spell their hearts would soften and they would realize they were all just people, different faces of the true, different faces of the One. They are not so different.

OLD SAM

Thank you. Thank you for being His instrument.

NEW SAM

Thank yourself, for we are one. A quantumly entangled pair, creating a resonance while we coexist here.

MAX

So, mister commerce guy, person, thing, can we use the communications beams to send some, well, uh, a lot of messages?

Hmmmmm?

COMMERCE GUILD LEADER You may call me Rex. How may I assist you?

XONI

Young man, leave this to me.

To the Commerce leader.

XONI(CONT'D) We would really like to use the comm towers if we can. We come bearing great and terrible news, and the galaxy must be made aware.

COMMERCE GUILD LEADER Of course there will be a fee, but yes, yes, come right this way!

The commerce guild leader leads them all off down the platform to a waiting air chariot, and they board, then fly off to the right.

Fade to Black.

“Episode II: PROPHET” Comes on scene. One letter at a time Fades to black.

Then title credits fade to black.

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

We see a shot of Saturn with the moons traveling in fast succession. The poem reads over this shot. Each word of poem fades in at normal reading pace. When the line is done, it flips overs into a sword that ends comes to a point on both ends.

Poem reads:

Deep in the darkest night

There came a shout from within

And then a shout from without heard it

A cry grew out in the land To be save by a prophet.

INT. SPACESHIP - NIGHT

We see the Prelates face in a breathing mask fully encased in liquid silica. Monitors in the room and doctors talking indicate that he is not in good shape.

PRELATE Errr!

Doctor leans over.

DOCTOR Sir?

PRELATE Errrrrrr!

DOCTOR

I think he’s trying to say something guys. Should I remove the mask?

PRELATE Errrrrrrrrrrrrr!

DOCTOR

I’m going to remove the mask.

Doctor removes the mask. Prelate spits flehm on doctors face.

PRELATE

Get me in a exo-suite right now you imbecile.

DOCTOR

But sir, we don’t have those have those anywhere in the ship

PRELATE

What in gods name kinda ship is the this. Every cruiser above has exosuits.

DOCTOR

Sorry sire! This is a tug boat.

PRELATE

Oh for fucks sake. Don’t you have something more advanced than silica gel?

DOCTOR

We have a med pack. But you won’t fit sir. There is too much damage to your system, systematically.

PRELATE

Give me the God damn pack, oh and doctor?

DOCTOR Yes sir.

PRELATE

Oh and Doctor? Go fucking space yourself. That's an order.

Doctor turns pale and shuffles off. And orderly exits the room, presumably to get the med pack.

EXT. DRACONIUS IV - DAY

The air chariot lands on Draconius IV. Xoni and Rex stand outside the communications building. The two Sams and Max accompany Xoni.

XONI

Is this an adequate facility to send out a message to the reaches of the galaxy.

REX

You will find that this facility's equipment is to your satisfaction ma'am. You will find that this a grade A1QZ platform. We can reach everywhere. And I mean everywhere.

XONI

Quite impressive. And what is fee to reach everywhere, and I mean everywhere?

REX

To reach everywhere, and I mean everywhere, will cost 14 million cubits for a message duration of .1 seconds.

XONI

Are you out of your mind? That's absurd? How are were supposed to pay that on church coffers?

REX

We technically you're a apostate, since the Church called you criminals about 14 hours ago. In fact, the security forces should be here shortly.

The Church arrives in a convoy of 23 spaceships to Draconius IV and they all hover over. Max looks at original Sam, who will now be known as SAM A. The new Sam is SAM B.

MAX

It's a good thing I never listen to you.

Max pulls out two magnums and slams their hilts together. Suddenly a transformation takes place and Max is encased in a giant robot Mech Giant 60 feet tall, bristling with lasers and autocannons on the arms and chest. Max starts shooting indiscriminately into the GALACTIC CHURCH AUTHORITY SPACESHIP. Spaceship absorb and endure damage as some lasers deflect and we see interior spaceship shots of damage occurring at the same time. The Church spaceships take aim on Xoni and the two Sams and Max has to move his hand over them to protect them while firing with the other arm at the GALACTIC CHURCH AUTHORITY SPACESHIP. Xoni and the two Sams run towards the AIR CHARIOT to take cover. Rex, the hermaphrodite, is sitting under the air chariot, hiding. Xoni, and the two sams continue their guarded trajectory under protection of the robot hand on towards the air chariot, and hide underneath with Rex.

REX

Get out of here you scum. Go into the willing arms of the Church Authorities, where you belong!

XONI

There only willing because you told them about us.

REX

Had I not someone else would. We cannot lose our communications monolopy from the Church.

XONI

Is all you care about is money?

REX

Yes. Of course. Nothing else matters.

XONI

You understand that the whole point of a church is that there is something more important than money right?

REX

Not this church. Not in a long time. Longer than you been alive, and I know how old you are. While you have hid behind your ivory towers scowering the galaxies for proof of your faith, we have centralized, monetized, and excelled at commiunication. We are the foremost communications hub in the entire galaxy, and we are so because we have a monopoly through the church.

XONI

Well you are losing a fortune as that communications hub behind you gets vaporized by your friendly church.

REX

It makes no consequence. We have another one on the opposite side of the planet and we can use the slaves to rebuild quickly enough. And in the end, the only thing that is lost is just the slaves. And that doesn't matter because slave have no money, ergo they are slaves.

Xoni looks at Rex in disgust, and the two Sams look at each other and smile.

SAM A

Are you thinking what I am thinking?

SAM B

If you are thinking we should go to the other communications hub, then yes.

The Sams nod to each other and look at Xoni. Xoni just grimaces and kicks out Rex from the cover of the Air chariot.

He lands flat on his back.

REX AHHHHHHHHH!

The Giant Robot foot crushes Rex. Max de-sizes while still firing with the magnums, and then runs into the Air Chariot. A bright light emanates from SAM B and time stops. The Air Chariot makes its getaway over a tree line.

MAX

Why couldn't you have done that sooner?

SAM B

I just wanted to see you work out!

MAX

Gotta little dissonance in ya?

SAM B

Not baby, it's all harmony.

Max looks back over his shoulder and hears a bang and sees a bright flash and the lasers resume firing in the distance again.

INT. CHAPEL OF GRACE: CAPITAL OF AHMISAH - DAY

The sits in front of a stained glass window, on the throne in the chapel with a blue exo-suite and a red cape. A WOMAN comes running in.

WOMAN Sir, we have just got a communication from Draconius IV. The fugitives have escaped and on the run.

PRELATE

Send all the ships available. Send the ships that aren't available. Send everything.

WOMAN

Will you be joining them sir.

PRELATE

No! I have a galaxy to run. Report to me when the planet is terminated. Bomb everything out of existence.

WOMAN

But sir, they are our ally. What kind of message will that send.

PRELATE

It will send them the message that if you cross us, your planet will be obliterates. It is time for a show of force ADMIRAL.

ADMIRAL

But sir, they didn't betray us. In fact, they are helping us catch the fugitives.

PRELATE

If I suspect what is happening on that planet is what I suspect is happening on that planet, then the planet is already lost, and if we do nothing, we are doomed. Would you have us be doomed Admiral?

Admiral looks at her feet.

ADMIRAL No sir.

PRELATE

You will the strike yourself. Are we clear?

ADMIRAL Crystal.

Admiral does an about face and leaves the room.

EXT. AIR CHARIOT - NIGHT

The two Sams, Max, and Xoni arrive at the COMMUNICATIONS

TOWER #2. They land at a small unguarded platform. A DIGNITARY shuffles up to the platform as the four get out of the air chariot. The four proceed down the walkway and meet the Dignitary half way. Xoni approaches with a lead in front of the three standing right behind her.

DIGNITARY

How may I assist you?

XONI

Take us to your facilities immediately. We need to send a large scale message.

DIGNITARY

Only church sanctioned people can access the message board. And you are neither church sanctified, nor people.

Max steps up and pulls out a gun.

MAX

What did you say to us mother fucker?

DIGNITARY

Violence is first result of low minded fools.

MAX

We'll this low minded fool is about to pop a cap in yo ass! So how about you reconsider that stance.

DIGNITARY

Point taken. Let me lead you.

Dignitary makes an about face and they all follow the dignitary down the walkway and into the comms building. They enter the tower, led through several corridors by the Dignitary into the communications messaging hub.

INT. COMMS TOWER #2 MESSAGING STATION - NIGHT Max's gun is still pointed out.

MAX

Alright everybody, nice and calm, and nobody gets hurt. We have a message to send

Pandemonium ensues. People running for their lives.

MAX(CONT'D) Goddamit. Why can't people just cooperate?

Max looks at Sam B.

SAM B

I hope you've gotta plan for this. This is her trial not mine.

SAM A

Do you know how to work this equipment?

XONI

It's a bit newer than I remember, but I should be able to route all the hubs to this console.

MAX

That sounds like a brilliant plan.

XONI

There's only one problem. Everything that we had to transmit is on our ship.

SAM A

Also send a signal from the terminal to our ship because I think we've overstayed our welcome.

Xoni goes that way to send message and start re-routing.

SAM B

I can actually be of assistance in one regard.

SAM A How so?

SAM B

My collective consciousness is formed of all religious doctrine. So transmit me.

XONI

That just might work.

SAM A Is it safe?

SAM B

Can we really afford to not do this?

SAM A

No, I guess not.

XONI

If you will please stand up to the transmitting platform.

Xoni goes over to the computer console. SAM B goes over to the comms platform.

SAM A

Okay, transmit now.

Xoni presses her hand against the computer console and SAM B vanishes. Suddenly the ground shakes.

MAX

I think we need to get out of here now. Pronto!

SAM A

I think you're right

XONI I concur.

MAX

Then why the hell are we standing around here talking about it, do you want to sing kumbaya or something. Let's go!

Max leads them through the corridors and out of the building as they sprint, staggering at times for their balance.

EXT. COMMS TOWER #2 - NIGHT The three come out.

SAM A

Where do you think she went?

MAX

I think we got to worry about ourselves right now.

PAN UP to the sky and see a lot of spaceships shooting down at the planet. They start running for the tree line. Suddenly over the top the space ship that was as large as a mountain proceeds to hover right over them, and three ropes are thrown down from the base of it.

MAX(CONT'D)

What the fuck this rope doign here?

XONI

I suggest you climb. Ships don't have tractor beam capabilities from that era.

MAX

Sunnofabitch! I know you ladies just want to see my guns go at it, but this is ridiculous.

SAM A

Just start climbing.

Max just sighs in disbelief and starts climbing. They climb for a while rocking back and forth with laser blasts. With every blast the spaceship rocks and so the climbers have a hell of a time rocking backing and forth. We hear a spew of epithets come from Max. They climb onto the ship at the base. They brush off their clothes and shoulders as they board. A MARINE greets them.

MARINE

I wouldn't want to climb during that fire.

MAX

No fucking shit douche bag!

XONI

Hey, we're all on the same side here.

MAX

Yeah, but he was, he was, he was just standing here, while his ships too fucking old.

SAM A

Well, it's technically our ship.

MAX

Well then our ship is a piece of shit.

XONI

Don't worry about him. He's just on his species menstrual cycle.

Max sputters indignantly. Sam A walks away. Sam approaches the camera down one hallway away from group. We over hear Max.

MAX

But I'm not even a woman!

EXT. SPACE AROUND DRACONIUS IV - NIGHT

A huge armada of ships fire mercilessly at the planet below. A rotating pyramid lifts off the planet and zooms past their blockade while taking fire.

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Sam and Max talk in comms.

SAM

Max, I need you up here right now. Quit belly aching and move your ass.

MAX I'm moving.

Sam comes to bridge moving really fast. Max goes to his station. Xoni stands behind Sam's cockpit seat.

SAM

Apply the shields from the quantum singularity then prepare for starjump.

XONI

We don't have a destination.

MAX

There is only one place that we can go right now that they don't know about.

XONI

Well where is it? Because our ship is getting smaller by the second.

MAX Europa!

SAM

Well why Europa? Where is Europa? I don't even know where Europa is?

XONI

You already know where it is. It was the habitual moon on the outskirts of the ringed gas giant on the outskirts of the Earth system.

# XONI(CONT'D)

How do you know that name?

MAX

I looked it up.

XONI

Where could you have looked that up? It's only a secret to the church hierarchy.

MAX

It's on the harmony datacore.

XONI

In what context?

MAX

The loose translation was "home".

SAM

You think early settlers from Earth went there?

XONI

It's only known in church doctrine as being the re-purification of Earth.

SAM

Oh, you're not as dumb as you look.

MAX

Well I've been trying to tell you that for awhile, but you have been looking at other things!

Sam blushes.

XONI

Get a room you guys!

MAX

We both have one, thanks!

Xoni puts her hand to her forehead and drags it down her face slowly in disgust. Sam and Max go back to their terminals and the ship starjumps away.

INT. CHAPEL OF GRACE: CAPITAL OF AHMISAH - DAY

Admiral comes running in and stands upright.

ADMIRAL

Your eminence, we have failed! A galaxy wide communiqué was just released to our planetary bombardment. Draconius IV has been oliberated.

Prelate sits forward in his chair.

No further communiques can be sent from that planet. Further, the ship we sought escaped to parts unknown.

Prelate does another gesture with his hand to his chin and elbow on his knee.

# ADMIRAL(CONT'D)

But I think the crowning failure in all of this was listening to you by sending everything, and I mean everything at that planet. We left ourselves open to grievous injury from all sectors and all quadrants of the galaxy all because of the message that you sought not get out. Further this message has emboldened the people you turned on. The people that thought you have draconian methods. The people who did not agree with victory at all costs. People like me.

Admiral pulls out a blaster and shoots the Prelate through the face and Prelate dies. Our grand imagination Admiral says to her attaché.

# ADMIRAL(CONT'D)

I am taking command of the church! I, Yeshua, first of her name, am now Prelate. Marshall all troops and return home all ships. We have a war to fight.

The destrution of Draconius IV was only the start of the larger conflict.

Space battle ensues between two sides. 15 small fighter crafts go up against 3 large heavy curisers. The church logo is clearly seen on the 3 cruiser. A first the cuisers autoguns mount a vialent defense 15 small fighters first run taking down two of them. However, the fighters get home and one of the cruisers buckles and explodes violently causing the other two in a massive chain reaction explosion.

EXT. CORIANIUS - DAY

Troop compound is in a valley floor with two snow capped peaks. One small fighter craft flies low ever head. The belly of the fighter craft opens as a small projectile flies out. The fighter continues on unpursued and unhurried, barley noticed against the early morning light. Moments later a thermonuclear explosion shoots a pillar of fire 10,000 high. The peaks around the explosion avalanche as rocks crumble.

EXT. ASTEROID FIELD - NIGHT

In a heavily littered asteroid field. 3 church fighters zoom through the asteroids. A staticky voice over.

FIGHTER PILOT #1 Sir, I don't think there's anything out here. It just us and the rocks.

Suddenly one of the fighter ships blow up. ZOOM OUT Two fighters are being pursued by three renegade fighters. The two remaining church fighter flip over and they also take down the three fighters that were pursuing them.

FIGHTER PILOT #1(CONT'D) All clear. Three remaining hostiles vanquished. Returning to base.

3 large cruisers amidst 20 smaller cruisers all with the church logo are firing mercilessly on a convoy of civilian ships fleeing a planet down below. 2 large spheres star jump in. They are larger than the cruisers but smaller than the planet. They open a fuselage of pain, death, and torture on the church fleet, incinerating them in moments. The peaceful convoy keeps going on its way.

EXT. SPACE ABOVE AMISAH - NIGHT

A large armada of church ships hang in orbit defending the planet. All manner of craft are jumping into the vicinity.

INT. BRIDGE OF LEADING CHURCH CRUISER - NIGHT

Prelate Yeshua walks on to the bridge. An attache comes up.

ATTACHÉ

Admiral- I mean Prelate Yeshua.

Preparations are ready.

# PRELATE YESHUA

Then activate the planetary defense grid.

ATTACHÉ

But your eminence, we won't be able to tell friend from foe because we wont be able to tell which ships are fighting against us.

PRELATE YESHUA Just attack the ships outside our IFF beacon.

ATTACHÉ

I like that idea. I'll the signal myself.

She walks over to the computer console and presses a button. The sky outside the viewscreen grows bright. Prelate Yeshua walks over to the computer console. Puts her hand on the comms station.

# PRELATE YESHUA

People of the church! Long have we lived under the tyranny and oppression of those who corrupted by the power which we gave them. It is our own fault! We must accept responsibility. It was turning a blind eye and acceptance of this tyranny that we allowed a serpent to grow within our very midst. The serpent is dead! There is a new prelate. I am that prelate. Your quarrel was with that old regime. There is a new regime. My regime. And that is a regime of peace and prosperity and not of tyranny and war.

INT. OTHER SPACESHIPS IN THE FLEET LISTENING TO MESSAGE - NIGHT

Images of different military personnel listening intently gaining hope. Dramatic music and uplifting horns section. Orchestral grand music playing.

Let us heal this divide and become one again. We need all available churchmen to stand against the darkness that is to come.

(MORE)

PRELATE YESHUA (CONT'D) And together we should rectify the wrongs of yesterday and lead our people into a glorious future. Join with me brethren. Join with me my oh brethren. See past our faults and into the truths of our hearts. For our hearts cannot be divided by this conflict or another. Unite.

Come together. Mend your hearts as God mends us.

INT. VARIOUS SHIPS IN THE FLEET - NIGHT

Roars and cheers erupt from the momentous, and gallant speech delivered by the Prelate Yeshua. 180 pan around Prelate Yeshua with a statuesque face having delivered salvation and rebirth to the church followers. Attaché approaches contently behind the Prelate. She puts a arm around her shoulder and looks at her face smiling. Prelate Yeshua looks on at her new command. Comms officers go to comms stations and retransmit the speech throughout the galaxy.

INT. BRIDGE OF SPACESHIP: EUROPA - NIGHT

Spaceship arrives from starjumping at Europa.

SAM

Max, scan for life forms on Europa, the moon of the sixth planet out in orbit from Sol.

MAX Yes captain.

Sam looks at her hand and green vibrations emanate from her hands. She clenches her fists and the vibrations cease. She sighs and looks around the bridge.

SAM Any update Max?

Xoni comes on to the bridge.

XONI

Try scanning the southern hemisphere.

SAM

Max, do as she says.

MAX

Ay Ay Captain.

Beeps are heard on the monitor and a line circles a moon with a label "Europa" flashes on to the front viewscreen. Orange triangulation lines converge on a point in the southern hemisphere. Suddenly a bright green light appears in the center of the orange triangulation lines.

MAX(CONT'D) Lifeforms detected. Southern hemisphere like Xoni said.

SAM

Very good bring us in.

HELMSMAN Ay Ay Captain!

EXT. SPACE ABOVE EUROPA - DAY

The Spaceship swoops into the atmosphere of Europa. It is visibly a cold and icy planet. XONI speaks to the bridge, while looking out the viewfinder window.

XONI

Everybody prepare their exo-suite. I see an approaching base. Looks abandoned. Oh shit!

SAM What is it?

XONI

Our species of alien do not fair well in the cold. We are originally from a warm planet.

Max comes out with an exo-suit in his grasp.

MAX

It's great that these come with thermal regulator button right here. Press it when we get outside and the suit will auto-heat or autocool.

XONI

Cool? Why would I need that here?

MAX

What about if there's a fire? Ever think of that.

XONI

Are these fire proof as well?

MAX

You bet your ass it is!

XONI Excuse me?

MAX

I mean you bet your ass, your highness.

Xoni just shakes her head.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SEEMINGLY ABANDONED BASE ON EUROPA - DAY

The Mountain of a ship descends, landing on soft Ice plains about a half mile away from the seemingly deserted sister ship overgrown with ice and snow. A gusty wind blows as a hurricane of snow swirls everywhere, gusting and billowing.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

Sam looks out the front viewscreen, seeing triangulation lines converge on the distant sister ship, mired in snow. She sighs.

SAM

Max, do we have cold weather gear?

MAX

I have a long sleeved shirt if that's what you mean.

SAM

No, I mean like arctic gear.

MAX

Why would we have that?

SAM

Ok, spacesuits it is.

MAX

Those things always make me itch.

SAM

You want to go out in that in a long sleeved shirt?

MAX

I don't really want to go out in that at all.

SAM

Well, tough. We've got to get to that base, so get a team of commandos together and suit up. I'll meet you at the airlock.

Max sighs.

MAX Yes ma'am.

Max leaves the bridge, and Sam revolves the captain's chair so she is facing Xoni.

SAM

I want you with us. We may need a diplomat, and my head hasn't been clear since the transmission and losing the other me. I need clear thinking, clear eyes. Will you help?

XONI

Have I ever stopped? I'll suit up and meet at the airlock. I suggest you do the same.

SAM

That was my intent.

XONI

Then what are you sitting here gawking like a girl at a moonpie for?

Sam sighs.

SAM

I feel the weight of what is to come. It makes me...hesitant.

XONI

That is only natural, but you need to be more active in that case. Trust those of us you surround yourself with to help carry the load and get moving.

Sam sighs again.

SAM Very well.

Sam and Xoni make a quick exit down opposing corridors from the bridge.

EXT. SPACESHIP AIRLOCK - DAY

Seven figures, clad in spacesuits, huddle on the back of a space rover as it drives out the airlock and across the ice plains through the gale. They slowly advance, yard by yard, foot by foot through the ever deepening drifts of snow as the gale blows more snow all around them. We can see the rings of Saturn above, arching across the sky. Eventually the jeep type thing lurches to a halt in front of the airlock of the opposing ship. The seven figures disembark, and make their way slowly to the airlock. One goes to the control column, and begins cycling the airlock. You can barely see any of this, so deep in the snow and Ice are they all enmeshed. Eventually, the airlock finishes cycling, and the doors of the airlock begin to split, spilling light and warmth from within out to shine light on the seven waiting to get in.

INT. OTHER SPACESHIP AIRLOCK - DAY

The doors are wide, and in trudge the seven, led by Sam. We can see her face and hair through the helmet of her spacesuit. All file in, then Sam goes over to the control panel, closes the airlock doors, and the inner door begins to cycle. After a few seconds of whirring and motors humming, the inner door opens and the seven, again led by Sam, enter the foreign ship.

INT. FOREIGN SPACESHIP HALLWAY - DAY

Sam removes her helmet, and coughs. She checks a meter reader on the side of her arm, and sighs.

SAM Smell that?

Sam sniffs to smell. Everyone sniffs a little too to smell.

SAM(CONT'D)

There are small traces of methane in here.

Each removes their helmet, most coughing, except Xoni. She breathes deeply, a smile on her face.

XONI This is great.

SAM

Why do you say that?

MAX

This smells like my dad's armpits after a long day in the fields. Smells like cows or some shit.

XONI

I am relieved, for there is only one species that mixes oxygen with methane this way.

SAM Do tell.

XONI My species!

SAM

I thought you were a Draconian?

XONI

Not at all, well, actually yes. My species lives in caves on Draconius

IV, out of reach of those you met. We lead a simple life of bare sustenance, and so are largely ignored. Some of our young grow restless in that lifestyle, as I did, and they go to the cities, as I did. I found my way to a waiting church dignitary who preached to me the good words of the church. I had just lost my husband of four centuries and was taken in by their doctrine of peace and unity. When the planet was bombarded as we escaped, I feared the worst for my species, but smelling this, I know now there is hope. Let us see if I am right.

SAM

Interesting. Very well, lead on.

Xoni takes the lead, and the other six follow in a column, some still coughing and wheezing.

INT. FOREIGN SPACE SHIP CORRIDOR - DAY The group goes down a passageway.

XONI

I'm not seeing much sign of life. If they are here, they will probably be on the bridge.

INT. FOREIGN SPACESHIP BRIDGE - DAY

The group arrives on the bridge, to find a small group of aliens who look like Xoni seated around the captain's chair.

XONI Greetings.

One of the Dronians looks up, and smiles.

# DRONIAN LEADER

Welcome. It's been so long since we had visitors. Everyone, say hello.

The other dronians nod of mutter greetings.

XONI

I admit, I'm surprised to find a group of us here. We were looking for the ancestors of the humans who originally brought this ship here.

# DONIAN LEADER

You won't find them here.

XONI

Well, we must find them. Where have they gone?

DRONIAN LEADER We ate them. They tasted pretty good with a dry rub. We're excited you've brought such a large meal to share with you.

Humans look shocked.

SAM

But they were people? You just...ate Them?

DRONIAN LEADER Well, we had to eat something. We landed about 50 years ago, and with the cold temperature were able to save most of the meat for a while.

(MORE)

DRONIAN LEADER (CONT'D) But the last of our stores ran out last year and we're pretty hungry right now.

The looks the other Dronians are throwing at the humans takes on an ominous meeting.

MAX

Don't even fucking think about it.

DRONIAN LEADER But we're hungry. And you're not even plump enough to feed us for a week, so you are obviously a second class citizen. We can save you for last if you like. But, yes, well, erm, we are hungry.

Sam looks disgusted. She looks at Xoni.

XONI

There will be no need for that. We have plenty of food on our ship. Show us to the Datacore and we'll bring you back with us and you can get a meal.

SAM

We're going to feed them after they murdered and ate humans?

XONI

They were starving. It wouldn't have been my choice, but they were desperate, and desperate beings do desperate things. Have pity, and mercy. Then you will embody the harmony you found so appealing about that other you.

SAM

So you're saying see them not as murderers and human eaters but as starving refugees desperate not to die?

XONI Precisely.

A young Dronian has sneaked up behind Max, and tries to bite his hand.

MAX

Don't you'll regret it!

DRONIAN GIRL

But you look so tasty. I haven't eaten in a month.

Max unzips a pocket on his space suit and pulls out some beef jerky.

MAX

Never leave home without a snack. Here.

The Dronian girl takes it and eats it greedily. She burps, and looks happy.

DRONIAN LEADER You'd really take us with you and feed us?

SAM

Everyone deserves to eat. Some deserve to die, but that's not up to me. Harmony dictates I try to see your point of view, and, honestly, I can't imagine what you've been through, or what I would do in your shoes. So while I do not like what you've done, and will insist you don't do it again, yes, you may come with us, and, yes, we will feed you.

The Dronian leader bows his head in shame and mutters to himself:

DRONIAN LEADER And you shall know by their mercy they are one with the great harmony.

The Dronian leader nods his head, and all 12 dronians get up and follow the humans and Xoni down the corridor leading to the airlock. Just as they are about to leave the bridge, Sam turns around.

SAM

Is there a datacore on this ship.

DRONIAN LEADER There is a very old one in the cargo bay. I can show you.

The group turns down a different corridor.

INT. FOREIGN SHIP CARGO BAY - DAY

The cargo bay is littered with debris.

DRONIAN LEADER It's over this way.

The group moves to follow him, He leads them to a big pile of refuse, then he begins to lift the refuse off what lies beneath. The DATACORE lies underneath.

SAM

(Pointing)

You and you, carry this back to the airlock,

The two indicated men do so, shuffling under the weight of the datacore.

INT. FOREIGN SHIP AIRLOCK - DAY

The Dronians suit up in the hanging space suits nearby, then pull tarps off snow fortified jeeps sitting inn the airlock. The humans put their masks back on, the two men placing the datacore on their lunar rover first. A human stands neck to the airlock controls, activates them, and then with a whir and a clunk the airlock cycles, the inner doors closing and the outer doors once again letting in the cold wind, ice and snow. The vehicles exit the airlock, the human vehicle in the lead with Xoni riding next to the datacore.

EXT. EUROPA VALLEY - DUSK

The vehicles speed along in the gale. Winds tussle and jostle the riders. Snow and sleet and ice rain all around them in furious waves.

EXT. BASE OF SHIP, NEAR AIRLOCK - DUSK

The vehicles pull up. One human gets off, and goes to the control panel next to the airlock, pushes some buttons, and slowly the airlock doors open and the vehicles enter.

INT. SHIP AIRLOCK - DUSK

SAM

Get the datacore to the techs. Maybe they can find out the history of the people who left it behind.

INT. HEAVY CRUISER OVER PLANET AMISAH- DAY

The Prelate Yeshua sits in the admirals chair. The attaché approaches from behind. The admirals chair rotates to face her.

ADMIRAL

Congratulations Prelate! We have won some major victories! However several sectors of the galaxy still remain under siege. What are your orders ma'am?

# PRELATE YESHUA

Very good. Tell the scout ships to pull back, all those except the ones between active battle fronts and us. Fortunately, they are just as blind as we are thanks to the late prelate's disposal of Draconius IV.

ATTACHE

Fortunately we may have a solution to that problem sooner than later. Our engineers report 97% completion on the communications hub on Amisah. It should be operational within hours.

PRELATE YESHUA Excellent. I will go record my speech to the galaxy.

We see the Prelate Yeshua get up and cross to her quarters.

INT. PRELATE'S QUARTERS - DAY

The prelate goes over to her communications array. She sits down and presses a red button on the console.

PRELATE YESHUA Good people of the Galaxy! Long have we lived in fear. We need not do so any longer. The old prelate is dead. I killed him. I wished there had been another way. But as many you advocated, violence was necessary. It was however, my last resort. I want to thank you for bringing the gravity of his crimes to my attention.

(MORE)

PRELATE YESHUA (CONT'D) Too long was I silent, and I will be silent no longer. I ask for an immediate end to hostilities, so that we can come togethers as one people in a diplomatic manner. The Church hegemony is over. No longer will planets be punished for deviating from church doctrine. Freedom of though is not a crime. It is alright to have differences, because through difference are we closer together. The highlights of our differences, is what unites us as sentient beings. Please let there be peace. I implore you. Many of you know me, and many of you know what I am capable of. Please accept this olive branch in the manner that is it offered, which is the true desire for peace and harmony.

She presses the red button again and then relaxes in the chair. She picks up a brush nearby and begins to comb her hair. She smiles to her self.

PRELATE YESHUA (CONT'D) You're moved, Samantha.

INT. SHIP BRIDGE - NIGHT

Sams sits in the captain's chair tapping her fingers on the arms of the chair. A COMPUTER ENGINEER that just researched the datacores comes up.

COMPUTER ENGINEER Ma'am we have retrieved the data from the datacore.

SAM

I'll be there presently.

The engineer leaves. Sam puts her hands together and green waves emanate between her fingers. She clenches her fists then gets up and heads in the same direction the engineer went.

EXT. AMISHA COMM TOWER - DAY

The comm tower's construction is being completed.

INT. HEAVY CRUISER OVER PLANET AMISAH- DAY

The Prelate Yeshua sits in her admiral's chair and the attache approaches again.

ATTACHE

Ma'am the comm's tower is now operational.

PRELATE YESHUA Good send the message.

ATTACHE

Very good ma'am. If I may say so. I know a lot of people won't understand what you're doing. But I think it's for the best and that's why I am proud to follow you. Thank you for your service.

She turns on heel and leaves.

MONTAGE. Worlds all over the galaxy have sensors that show the image of the speech. See it large over crowded cities. On bridges of other ships all through the quadrants of the galaxy. The message has been delivered of a new era. Cheers and citizens that are shown in the montage, erupt in joy. Ship captains look bewildered. A general looks angry! By enlarge, the response is positive. Over some planets there are fire works. Chants of Yeshua echo through streets.

INT. HEAVY CRUISER OVER PLANET AMISAH- DAY

ATTACHÉ Ma'am. We're reporting 87% positivity among all populous Galaxy wide. Unfortunately, the 13% negativity is largely coming from within our own ranks.

PRELATE YESHUA

Hmmm. Can you give you an estimate of the actual number of those who are in ranks that are just reporting positivity to save their own skin?

ATTACHE

You're looking at an apporximate quarter of our forces!

PRELATE YESHUA

Even after my first speech?

ATTACHE

Especially after you first speech. Some men are threated by women and they don't understand what you're doing. They think you're soft. They think you're weak. They think you're bad for the church. You just ended a multi-millennia of Church order and they don't see how that could possibly be a good thing.

PRELATE YESHUA Well, they didn't see what I see what I saw on the front lines. They didn't see planets erased. Cities obliterated, they didn't see hospitals attacked and civilian convoys destroyed. There's a reason people were fighting against us. We were evil and corrupt. We were a stain in the eye of God.

ATTACHÉ

With all due respect ma'am, I'm just telling you what they think.

INT. BRIDGE OF SHIP - DAY

Sams at the datacore with that engineer that she followed and two other engineers.

SAM

Tell me what you found.

# ENGINEER TECH #1

This came from a ship directly from Earth. There was an organized plan to leave behind the laborers that were sending the ships to escape Earth. The leaders knew it, but no one else knew it. The ships were all sent off to find habitable worlds. But after 2 centuries of unsuccessful searching, this ship this datacore was on returned to Europa.

Sam moves over closer to the screens to look at it. The engineer takes a pause and continues.

ENGINEER TECH #1(CONT'D) The first faith is Faith of God, that who is one above all.

(MORE)

ENGINEER TECH #1 (CONT'D) Two, Faith of His angels, in loud and clamorous joy before Him to do His will.

ENGINEER TECH #2 Three, Faith of His prophets, meaning those who will come at the end of time to dilinate the right from the wrong, the just from the unjust, his mercy verus his rath. Four, Faith of the Return or faith that prophets themselves will return at the end of time.

ENGINEER TECH #3 Five, Faith of the night, or faith that you will get through the night, the night of your life, the night that we face at various points in our journey. Six, the Faith of the Mission, or faith that God has a plan for each of us and works mysteriously through each of us. Branches of harmony eminanting from the smallest decisions of our every day lives.

ENGINEER TECH #2 No, Carl, that's may be an error of translation. It is actually that God has a mission for each of us and only by doing that mission are freed from our Earthly toils. For to do one's mission is not to toil at all.

CARL

I'm sorry Sleexus. That's not how I see it.

CHIEF ENGINEERING I'm sorry about those two. They have been debating the merits of the sixth article of faith all afternoon.

CARL

We did find a star map however. Charting early known human settlements, while the ship this datacore was on was still looking for a home.

SAM

Upload the star map to the nav computer. Let's keep these doctrines of faith amongst yourselves, until we can decide to do with them better.

INT. HEAVY CRUISER BRIDGE - NIGHT

The Heavy cruiser floats in space, and we see the dark side of Ahmisa below, with dotted lights from cities lighting up the dark hemisphere. The Prelate sits in her chair. Attache approaches.

ATTACHE

Your Eminence, ma'am, several patrols have failed to report in. There is a 73% chance of mutiny among the patrols. They were led by old guard captains, men likely not positively disposed towards your mission statement.

PRELATE YESHUA Understood. Tell me, Kim, what would you do if you were in my shoes? You were trained at the academy, right?

KIM

Yes ma'am, I was. The manual states mutiny is unacceptable and must be faought with fire. The penalty is death of all mutineers. I would hunt them down vigorously and show no mercy/

PRELATE YESHUA That is the standard course of action, you are quite correct. You know what I will do?

KIM

No ma'am. You've done very surprising things so far.

# PRELATE YESHUA

You are correct Kim. What I will do is send a diplomatic ship to each of the 5 sectors where the ships disappeared.

(MORE)

PRELATE YESHUA (CONT'D) Guarding those vessels will be 3 heavy cruisers with cloaks activated each, along with a cloaked fighter escort. If they receive our envoys and play ball, all will be well. If they try for aggression, however, there will be swift and terrible consequences.

KIM

May I make a slight suggestion?

PRELATE YESHUA Of course, Kim.

KIM

Reinforce the shields on the diplomatic vessels.

# PRELATE YESHUA

That is a wonderful suggestion. Have the shields on 15 heavy cruisers in low orbit here be refitted to the 5 vessels, 3 on each. If the engineers overlay each shield, it should create a harmonic frequency shift which greatly increases shield strength and output.

KIM

Where did you learn that?

# PRELATE YESHUA

In the trench warfare on Ganymede VIII. The insurgents kept trying to drive tanks into us to detonate their fusion cores, so we had to bolster the defenses of our bases with augmented and refracted multilayer shielding. It's the only way we survived. Harmonics, Kim, Harmonics.

KIM

Very good, your Eminence. I will give the orders for the retrofit at once.

Kim turns on heel and walks away. The admiral looks pleased, a slow smile spresding over her face.

# PRELATE YESHUA

(under her breath)

And so the plan grows. Slowly, ever so slowly, but it grows. I anticipate 2 of the 5 lost contingents will negotiate, and the others will be made examples of.

She touches the comm button on the arm of her dias.

PRELATE YESHUA(CONT'D) Tech specialist? Please have FTL comms gear put on board the diplomatic ships. Full comms, so they can transmit imagery.

She hangs up. Then she presses the comms button again.

PRELATE YESHUA(CONT'D) Commander? Please send the five diplomatic envoys to the bridge as soon as they can make it to our ship. I need to discuss the true nature of their missions to them.

# COMMANDER

Very good, your Eminence.

Yeshua hangs up. She smiles.

# PRELATE YESHUA

And now to raise the stakes.

INT. SPACESHIP BRIDGE - DAY

Sam walks onto the bridge. Xoni is standing by the Nav computer terminal, where the Harmony text is housed.

XONI

There is a further mystery which was revealed, but only after the starmap had been uploaded.

SAM

You mean like peeling an onion, except through some divine plan, and only by achieving steps on the plan do the layers recede?

XONI

It would seem that way. The further mystery is something called Form, with a capital F.

MAX

I say a lot of capital Fs!

XONI Not those kind.

MAX Awwww.

XONI Anyways, every acorn is an imperfect copy of the universal Form of the acorn. Forms are universals. All men are an imperfect Form of the Form of man, women women, dogs dogs, etcetera, etcetera.

SAM

How does that play a role in the Harmony Text?

XONI

Well, mathematics are pure Form, as they are accessible to all, and the mind comprehends the Form of mathematics and all other universals, so the Mind is tafpped in to that reality, and Platonic Forms exist in connection with the mind.

SAM

I still don't see what this has to do with Harmony.

XONI

There is evidence on platonic forms existing in Planck Space, and their energy emanating out from the quantum realm and into our own. Micro impacting MAcro. This is why the theory of Harmony holds, for the mind interacts with the brain through the Soul, the Soul being the harmonies or dissonances of the energy harmonics of the quantumly entangled particles in your brain.

SAM

So the Soul, where my Harmony lies, is the conduit of consciousness between my physical self and my mind, where these platonic Forms which are universal reside?

XONI Precisely.

SAM

Did we find a suitable system from which to reach out to the resistence or at least a friendly planet?

XONI

We did. Delcundus Prime.

Sam takes her seat in the captian's chair.

SAM

Set course for Delcundus Prime.

Helmsman nods.

HELMSMAN Aye aye, captain.

The stars outside the viewscreen elongat into lines, and the ship starjumps.

SOCRATES

There is an implication. The closer to a form your mind gets, the more you embody that form. So, for instance, if your mind completely comprehended and reflected the Form of Harmony, you would embody Harmony more fully, thereby increasing your mental influence over all things, for Harmony effects all things.

SAM

So, you''re saying if I can train my mind to accept Harmony completely, I'll be like other Sam?

SOCRATES

That is the implication, yes. From what you reported of other Sam, yes, I would say so.

SAM

Ok. Thanks. I'm going to meditate in my quarters while the ship is starjumping. Please notify me ten minutes before we arrive at our destination.

Sam gets up from her chair, crosses the bridge, throwing a look over her shoulder at Max.

MAX

I, uh, yeah, I need to go meditate too. Alone! Yeah, alone, huh.

Max crosses the bridge to follow Sam down the corridor.

INT. SHIP CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS - HYPERSPACE

Max pushes Sam into the door, opening the door and Sam and MAx enter, making out.

MAX

I'm sorry you're so down.

SAM

Who said I was down. Just kiss me, idiot.

MAX

(kissing)

I take offence to that. I think you hurt my feelings. Maybe I should go.

Max goes to stand up. Sam pulls him back down.

SAM

I autta spank you for that.

The share a long kiss.

MAX

And I thought I was the dissonant one. Remember harmony! No violence!

SAM

(kissing)

Oh do shut up and come here...

They embrace

INT. HEAVY CRUISER BRIDGE

Prelate Yeshua sits in her command dias. The attache comes up again, looking unhappy.

KIM

Um, ma'am, we've lost contact with three of the five groups, and all diplomatic ships report being destroyed or incapacitated.

PRELATE YESHUA Fine, that's how they want it, that's how they'll get it. Prepare the fleet. Five squadrons of two thousand ships each, send them immediately. We ourselves will lead the fleet going to the most dangerous sector. This ship has a few tricks that might help our forces. Also, our troops need to be reminded of who I was before I wore the mantle of Prelate.

KIM

Yes ma'am. Very good.

Kim does an about face and leaves the section of the bridge where the dias rests to go over to the comms station. She gives some orders, then moves over to the helmsman, giving some more orders.

INT. SHIP BRIDGE - HYPERSPACE

Sam comes back on the bridge, crisp, clean, the image of regal beauty. She takes a seat in the captain's chair.

XONI

Have a good meditation session?

Max comes onto the bridge just them, a bit disheveled.

MAX

I know I feel more at peace.

XONI

Uh huh. I thought you said alone?

MAX

Aren't we all alone at our core? Only we are subject to our emotions, thoughts, urges.

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

Well, I guess God is witness, But He chooses not to intercede, let us make our own fates with his guidance.

SAM

That sounds a little like one of the articles of faith we discovered on Europa, but not really. It was called the Faith of the Mission, that all of us, whether we like it or not, are doing God's will. There was some debate on the translation and intent however.

MAX

I dunno. I feel like God gives us the ability to chart our own course to some extent. I do things I'm sure he's not happy with, and I do things I think He's proud of. I feel like there's a great karmic balance of what you do good versus bad and that if you go more good then you are rewarded with good when you die.

SOCRATES Not that anyone cares, but I personally think the distinction is meaningless. I'm a monist. I believe phiscal reality is a temporary illusion.

SAM

That's an interesting philosophy I hadn't considered before, Socrates. Why do you feel that way?

SOCRATES My reality changes constantly so how could it not all be an illusion?

MAX

That's pretty hopeless sounding, man. I choose to believe we are more than the sum of our indivual parts.

SOCRATES Replaceable plastic and metal, circuitry, enough microchips gives rise to consciousness. The end.

MAX

The whole point of religion is to give hope though. And I don't get a lot of hope in the journey of my soul, which is what my experience tells me is happening, from your philosophy or religion or whatever you want to call it. I've survived things, and there are occurances which seem to beg the credibility of coincidence. That's why I have faith. Because I have hope. And I need this mess of a thing called life to mean something, to have a pusrpose, and I don't get a feeling of that from your philosophy.

SAM

All the same your thoughts are valid, both of you, and thanks for the ideas, both of you. IT's a lot to think about.

XONI

You said alone...I'm not satisfied.

SAM

I was satisfied, um with his answer.

Xoni just wipes her hand down her face in disgust.

EXT. ORBIT ABOVE DELCUNDUS PRIME - NIGHT

The ship stops starjumping in orbit above Delcundus Prime. There is a furious firefight in orbit, two, no one cruiser as the other explodes brilliantly against the night sky. There is a flurry of smaller craft dogfighting around the heavy cruiser.

INT. SHIP BRIDGE - DAWN

The sun climbs over the horizon, bathing the firefight in brilliant light through the viewscreen.

MAX

We haven't been detected yet. They seem too busy with each other.

SAM

While we could go our own way to the planet's surface, the doctrine of Harmony disctates that I try to bring Harmony to the conflict. Open a channel.

MAX

This is a bad idea. We could just go our own way, like you said.

XONI

I agree. While the doctrine of Harmony preaches peace, it does not advocate doing so at the expense of the Harmony you must have with yourself, and doing this would likely get everyone on the ship killed.

SAM

(sigh)

Well if you both feel that way...

SOCRATES

I feel that way too, not that anybody asked.

SAM

(sigh)

Very well. Helmsman, set a course around the conflict and try to land as close as feasable to the other ancient ship.

HELMSMAN Aye aye, ma'am.

The viewscreen shows the ship moving away from the conflict, and then the planet looms large, soon they are passing clouds.

EXT. SURFACE DELCUNDUS PRIME - MORNING

The ship comes in to hover over a jungle in a valley, gentle rolling hills on either side, vegetation everywhere. Slowly but surely, the ship hovers over the jungle, then lands. The airlock opens, and three vehicles exit, heading along the valley floor.

SAM

(staticky)

Alright, the other ship is about 3 miles away in this direction. I'm not sure how much time we have, so lets hurry.

Chorus of affirmatives over the staticky comms system.

EXT. ORBIT ABOVE HYPERBOLIS V - DAY

A furious fight is going on, church ship against church ship. The attach is standing next to the dias with the Prelate on it, and Kim has a datapad in one arm, typing with the other hand.

KIM

Admiral, I mean Prelate, ma'am sorry, We're ready to fire.

PRELATE YESHUA Fire all batteries!

KIM

So shall it be done.

Out the front viewscreen, beams of light, pulsing magma, arc off into the distance, connecting with each of the opposing heavy cruisers. Then, with a Flash, explosions ripple out from each of the ships in succession.

PRELATE YESHUA Fire auxiliary batteries at those fighters.

Out the front viewscreen, bolts of green energy lance out, catching a few fighters. The rest evade the barrage, but are quickly cut down by the pursuing allied church fighters. As the last explodes, the attache turns to the admiral, a smile on her face.

KIM

We have successfully concluded operations. What are your orders, your Eminence?

PRELATE YESHUA

Recover the fighters, then have the fleet set course for the nearest other sector of trouble. Actually belay that. Split the fleet in two and go to the nearest two.

(MORE)

PRELATE YESHUA (CONT'D) We'll go to the hottest action when the scout ships return word.

KIM

Very good ma'am.

EXT. SURFACE DELCUNDUS PRIME: OTHER ANCIENT SHIP - DAY

The three vehicles pull up to the other ship's airlock. One of the passengers gets out and off and walks over to the door controls. Nothing happens.

MAX Well, shit.

XONI

We have explosives, right?

SAM

What happened to nonviolence.

MAX

It's inanimate.

SAM

I know. I'm just poking at her.

Xoni raises an eyebrow.

SAM(CONT'D) Sorry.

Xoni's eyebrow goes down.

SAM(CONT'D)

Get the explosives you guys and get us into that ship.

Several men break away from the vehicles carrying large bags. They bgin placing charges in a semicircle on the door, including a line at the bottom of the door. They back away, then one colds out something.

INSERT of hand holding detonator control. A thumb presses down on a button.

With a sharp bang, and some smoke, the semicircle wobles, then falls outwards. The people get back on the vehicles and one by one drive into the airlock.

INT. OTHER SHIP BRIDGE - DAY

The group makes their way onto the bridge. Sam looks around.

SAM

Alright, split up in twos and look for any datacores. Check them against our current inventory and only bring them if they differ significantly from what we know already.

There are a chorus of, "yes ma'am,"s and then the group splits up inton pairs. Sam goes up to the datacore hooked into the nav computer with Socrates.

SAM(CONT'D)

Runa diagnostic to see if it's a copy of the Harmony text.

There is a beat.

SOCRATES

No ma'am, it is not. It is actually called the Article of the Void. It professes that only by emptying ourselves of emotion can we achieve peace and ascend to a higher level of consciousness.

SAM

Does it suggest ways for removing emotions or passions?

SOCRATES

It hioghly recommends meditation, especially upon peaceful subjects like nature, and the nature of nature.

SAM

Interesting. I wonder what else we will find.

EXT. YONDUS VIII ASTEROID FIELD - NIGHT

The heavy cruiser starjumps into a crazy battle. Ships are fighting everywhere. Each side is taking losses.

PRELATE YESHUA Launch all nfighters. Auxilies, target their smaller craft.

(MORE)

PRELATE YESHUA (CONT'D) Gunner, give me a firing solution for the main batteries.

GUNNER Yes ma'am.

Through the front viewscreen, the ship enters the fray, disgorging fighters rapidly.

INT. ANCIENT SPACESHIP: BRIDGE - DAY

Sam is at the datacore with the engineer and two other engineers.

SAM

Tell me what you found.

ENGINEER TECH #1

This came from a ship directly from Earth. There was an organized plan to leave behind the laborers that were sending the ships to escape Earth.

The leaders knew it, but no one else knew it. The ships were all sent off to find habitable worlds.

But after 2 centuries of unsuccessful searching, this ship this datacore was on returned to Europa.

Sam moves closer to the screens to look at it. The engineer takes a pause and continues.

ENGINEER TECH #1 (CONT'D)

The first faith is Faith of God, that who is one above all.

ENGINEER TECH #2

Two, Faith of His angels, in loud and clamorous joy before Him to do His will.

ENGINEER TECH #1 (CONT'D)

Two, Faith of His angels, in loud and clamorous joy before Him to do His will.

ENGINEER TECH #2

Three, Faith of His prophets, meaning those who will come at the end of time to dilinate the right from the wrong, the just from the unjust, his mercy verus his rath.

Four, Faith of the Return or faith that prophets themselves will return at the end of time.

Five, Faith of the night, or faith that you will get through the night, the night of your life, the night that we face at various points in our journey.

Six, the Faith of the Mission, or faith that God has a plan for each of us and works mysteriously through each of us.

Branches of harmony eminanting from the smallest decisions of our every day lives.

ENGINEER TECH #2

No, Carl, that's may be an error of translation.

It is actually that God has a mission for each of us and only by doing that mission are freed from our Earthly toils.

For to do one's mission is not to toil at all.

CARL

I'm sorry Sleexus.

That's not how I see it.

CHIEF ENGINEERING

I'm sorry about those two.

They have been debating the merits of the sixth article of faith all afternoon.

SAM

(To herself)

The sixth faith… the Faith of the Mission.

A CONNECTION HITS SAM like a bolt of lightning.

SAM (CONT'D)

Yeshua… my mother… her faith in her mission… but what was her mission?

Sam turns to the engineers.

SAM (CONT'D)

There’s something else in the database, isn’t there? Something about Yeshua?

The engineers look at each other, hesitant.

CHIEF ENGINEER

There is… it’s fragmentary.

SAM

Show me.

The Chief Engineer pulls up a file. The screen shows a grainy video log.

VIDEO LOG

A younger YESHUA, appears to be in her 20s, is speaking to the camera. She looks distressed.

YESHUA (V.O.)

If anyone ever sees this… if my child ever sees this… I want her to know…

Yeshua pauses, her voice thick with emotion.

YESHUA (CONT'D)

I never wanted to do this. But they leave me no choice. The Church… they would use her against me. I have to protect her.

Tears stream down Yeshua’s face.

YESHUA (CONT'D)

So, I’m entrusting her to others. They will raise her well. She will have a better life, I pray, than she ever could have had with me… always looking over her shoulder, always in danger.

The video flickers and ends. Sam stares at the screen, her face a mix of shock, grief, and anger.

SAM

(whispering)

It can’t be…

CHIEF ENGINEER

It’s her, Sam. It’s your mother.

Sam steps back from the console, overwhelmed.

SAM

No… This can’t be real.

She turns and walks away, heading towards the exit of the bridge.

MAX (O.S)

Sam? What’s wrong?

Sam brushes past Max, not saying a word.

EXT. ANCIENT SPACESHIP - DAY

Sam emerges from the ship, blinking in the sunlight. She walks a few steps away, then collapses to her knees, sobbing. Max approaches cautiously.

MAX

Sam? What happened back there?

Sam looks up, her face streaked with tears.

SAM

Yeshua… she’s… she was my mother.

Max stares, stunned.

MAX

Your… what? But Xoni…

SAM

Xoni raised me, yes. But Yeshua… she gave me away to protect me. From the Church.

MAX

But… why wouldn’t she tell you?

Sam rises to her feet, her expression hardening.

SAM

Because she thought she was doing what was best for me! Just like Xoni. They both made these decisions FOR me!

Her voice rises with anger.

SAM (CONT'D)

And now they’re both gone! And I never even knew the truth!

MAX

Sam… I’m so sorry.

Sam turns away, her shoulders shaking.

SAM

I don’t want your sympathy, Max. I want justice.

She looks back at the ship, her eyes burning with determination.

SAM (CONT'D)

And I’m going to start with the Church. They took my mother from me, and they’re going to pay. Okay, here's the rewritten scene without the Prelate:

[SCENE START]

EXT. ANCIENT SPACESHIP - DAY

Sam stands at the edge of a rocky outcrop, overlooking the desolate landscape. The ancient spaceship looms behind her. Max watches her from a distance, unsure how to approach.

SAM

(to herself, voice trembling)

She sacrificed everything… for me. And I never even knew her.

She clenches her fists, her anger warring with grief.

SAM (CONT'D)

I need answers. I need to understand why.

She turns abruptly and heads back towards the ship.

INT. ANCIENT SPACESHIP: DATACENTER - DAY

Sam strides into the datacenter, her eyes fixed on the main terminal. The Chief Engineer is there, along with other technicians.

SAM

I need to access the long-range communication array.

CHIEF ENGINEER

The array? It’s… it’s not fully operational, Sam. And we don’t know who or what might be on the other end.

SAM

I don’t care. I have to try.

She pushes past him and begins inputting commands into the terminal. The engineers exchange worried glances but don’t try to stop her.

SAM (CONT'D)

(typing rapidly)

There has to be a way… a signal… anything.

The screen flickers to life, displaying a complex interface. Sam works quickly, bypassing security protocols.

TECH 1

She’s trying to establish a subspace link.

TECH 2

But to where?

After a tense moment, a series of static-filled images flashes across the screen.

SAM

(straining)

Come on… connect…

Suddenly, a fragmented image appears – a woman’s face, familiar yet distorted. It’s YESHUA.

YESHUA (V.O.)

…if you can hear me…

Sam’s breath hitches.

SAM

Yeshua? Mother? Is that you?

The image breaks up into static.

YESHUA (V.O.)

…danger… Church…

The connection is weak and unstable.

SAM

I can’t hear you! Please, tell me why! Why did you leave me?

The static intensifies. A distorted voice cuts through the noise.

DISTORTED VOICE (V.O.)

She is beyond your reach, Disciple.

Sam’s eyes widen in horror.

SAM

Who’s there? What do you want?

The screen goes black. The connection is severed.

SAM

(pounding on the console)

No! Bring her back!

The engineers try to pull her away, but Sam fights them off.

SAM (CONT'D)

I have to talk to her! I have to know the truth!

CHIEF ENGINEER

Sam, it’s no use. The connection is gone. And it’s too dangerous to try again.

Sam collapses into a chair, defeated. Tears stream down her face.

SAM

(whispering)

It’s not over. I won’t let them control me anymore.

She looks up, her eyes filled with a newfound resolve.

SAM (CONT'D)

I’m going to find her. I’m going to find Yeshua, no matter what it takes.

[SCENE END] Here is the screenplay format of the text you provided:

INT. HYPERSPACE COMMUNICATIONS ARRAY - DAY

The engineers work tirelessly, their tools humming and sparking as they reconfigure the hyperspace communications array. Finally, the array flickers to life, bathing the room in a soft blue glow. Sam steps forward, her heart pounding. She takes a deep breath and activates the comm system.

SAM

(V.O.)

This is Sam, daughter of Earth. To all the people of the galaxy, I send this message. We have found our homeworld. It is the planet you call Earth.

A wave of anticipation washes over her as she continues.

SAM (V.O.)

For too long, the Church has denied us our heritage, claiming the right to control our destinies. But no more. We, the descendants of Earth, have the right to return to our home.

She pauses, her gaze sweeping across the galaxy.

SAM (V.O.)

I challenge the Church to leave the pilgrims in peace. Let those who wish to make the journey to Earth do so without fear of reprisal. It is our right, our heritage, and our future.

Sam's message echoes through the cosmos. Here is a scene with a dark figure in a church robe on the bridge of a battleship, saying, "Now we have them:"

INT. CHURCH CRUISER BRIDGE - NIGHT

The bridge of the Church Cruiser is dimly lit, with various consoles and screens casting a faint glow. A tall, shadowy figure stands at the main viewport, gazing out at the star-filled expanse. The figure is clad in a dark church robe, the hood pulled up to obscure their face. Only their hands are visible, long and pale, clutching a simple wooden staff.

ADMIRAL

Your Eminence, we have them in our sights. They won't be able to outrun us this time.

The figure slowly turns, their face still hidden in shadow.

FIGURE

Excellent. Their逃亡 ends here.

A cold smile seems to creep across their lips as they raise the staff.

FIGURE (CONT'D)

Now, we have them.

The figure turns back to the viewport, their gaze fixed on something unseen by the viewer. The Admiral stands beside them, a determined expression on her face. Here is a rewritten scene that takes place on the bridge of the mountain ship, without the shuttle, and with Max being uninjured:

INT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

The bridge hums softly, a stark contrast to the turmoil Sam feels inside. She stares out at the swirling debris field of Earth from the captain's chair. Max watches her, concerned.

MAX

Hey. You alright?

Sam doesn't respond for a moment, her gaze fixed on the wreckage outside. Then, she shakes her head slowly.

SAM

It's just… a lot to take in.

MAX

Yeah, no kidding. Calling for a galaxy-wide pilgrimage… that's big.

SAM

It's not just that. It's… Yeshua.

Her voice cracks slightly as she says the name.

SAM (CONT'D)

To find out… after all this time… that she's my mother…

Max nods, understanding the weight of that revelation.

MAX

That's… yeah. That's a lot. You went your whole life not knowing, and now…

SAM

I just… I feel like my whole life has been a lie.

Max reaches out and places a hand gently on her arm.

MAX

Hey. None of this is your fault, Sam. You didn't ask for any of this.

SAM

But all those years… wondering who she was… why she left me…

MAX

You were a kid. You couldn't have known. And now you do know. It's painful, yeah, but you know the truth. And you're doing something about it. You're giving people hope. You're giving yourself hope.

Sam looks at him, a flicker of gratitude in her eyes.

SAM

I just… I feel so lost.

MAX

It's okay to feel lost. You've been through a hell of a lot. But you're not alone. You've got people who believe in you. People who are going to follow you to Earth. And you've got me.

He gives her a small, reassuring smile.

MAX (CONT'D)

We'll figure this out together. We'll find a way to get those answers you're looking for.

Sam manages a weak smile in return.

SAM

Thanks, Max. I don't know what I'd do without you.

MAX

Anytime, my love.

INT. MAX'S CABIN - NIGHT

Sam stands in the doorway of Max's cabin, her shoulders slumped, her eyes red. Max, who is already inside, turns to her, his expression softening with concern.

MAX

Sam? What's wrong?

Sam shakes her head, unable to speak. She steps into the cabin, and Max immediately wraps his arms around her. She buries her face in his shoulder, her body trembling slightly.

SAM

(muffled)

It's Xoni… and Yeshua…and that hooded figure…

Max holds her tightly, letting her cry. He doesn't need to ask questions; he can feel her pain. After a few moments, her sobs subside, and she pulls away slightly, looking up at him with tear-filled eyes.

SAM (CONT'D)

I don’t understand. If Yeshua is my mother… why didn’t she tell me? Why was I brought here?

MAX

I know. It's okay. You're safe now.

He gently wipes away her tears, his touch tender.

SAM

(whispering)

Hold me?

MAX

Always.

He lifts her into his arms, and she wraps her legs around his waist, clinging to him. He carries her over to his bed and lays her down gently. He lies down beside her, pulling her close. Sam snuggles into his chest, seeking his warmth and comfort.

MAX (CONT'D)

Just rest. I've got you.

Sam nods, closing her eyes. Max strokes her hair, his touch soothing. The silence in the room is comfortable, filled only by the sound of their breathing.

After a while, Sam turns her head, her lips finding Max's. The kiss is soft, tender, a silent expression of gratitude and a seeking of solace. Max responds in kind, his hand moving to cup her cheek.

The kiss deepens, becoming more passionate, more urgent. Sam's hands move to Max's chest, her fingers tracing the contours of his muscles. Max's hands roam her body, exploring her curves.

Their movements become more insistent, their breaths quickening. Clothes are shed, revealing skin. Sam moans softly as Max kisses her neck, her body arching towards him.

They make love, their connection a physical manifestation of their emotional bond. It's a joining of bodies and souls, a moment of shared intimacy in the midst of chaos. In that moment, there is only Sam and Max, finding comfort and release in each other's arms. Okay, here is the next scene as you described it, with the pilgrims gathering, the Church preparing to protect them under Yeshua, and the enemy Church ships gathering to intercept:

EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE GALAXY - DAY

The vastness of space is punctuated by a flurry of activity.

EXT. PLANETARY OUTPOST - DAY

A bustling spaceport on a remote planet. Ships of all shapes and sizes are landing and taking off. Crowds of beings, representing a multitude of species, are embarking on vessels, their faces filled with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. They carry meager belongings, but their eyes gleam with hope.

EXT. SPACE STATION - DAY

A massive space station, a hub of commerce and travel, is now a scene of organized chaos. Families are boarding transport ships, their goodbyes echoing through the corridors. Supplies are being loaded, and final checks are being made. The pilgrimage to Earth has begun.

INT. CHURCH CRUISER BRIDGE - DAY

Yeshua, regal and resolute, stands on the bridge of a powerful Church Cruiser. Around her, officers monitor their stations, their movements precise and efficient.

YESHUA

(calmly)

All ships, prepare for escort formation. Our duty is to protect these pilgrims on their journey home. We will not fail them.

The bridge hums with activity as the fleet mobilizes, Church Cruisers taking their positions around the pilgrim convoys.

EXT. ENEMY TERRITORY - DAY

In the dark expanse of space, a fleet of menacing warships emerges from the shadows. Their hulls are scarred and their weapons glint ominously.

INT. ENEMY BATTLESHIP BRIDGE - DAY

A shadowy figure, cloaked and sinister, stands on the bridge, observing the pilgrim fleet on a large viewscreen.

SHADOWY FIGURE

(a low, raspy voice)

They seek their homeworld? How sentimental. They will find only oblivion. Prepare to intercept. Show no mercy.

The enemy fleet advances, their intentions clear. A clash is imminent.

INT. BRIDGE - DAY

Sam sits in the captain's chair, Max and Xoni standing nearby. The bridge viewscreen displays a breathtaking view of Earth, its swirling blue and white clouds majestic against the black of space. A subspace communication window is open, showing Yeshua on the bridge of her flagship. Her armada surrounds her ship.

YESHUA (on screen)

The pilgrimage has begun, and our forces are in position to protect them. The light of hope shines brightly today, Sam. You have done well.

SAM

Thank you, Mother. It is an honor to stand with you.

MAX

(grinning)

Yeah, it's pretty cool, I guess.

XONI

(beaming)

The Great Journey has begun!

Suddenly, an alarm blares on the bridge. Alarms begin sounding on all the ships in both armadas.

MAX (CONT'D)

What's that?

SAM

(checking her console)

Unidentified vessels… a large fleet… they're emerging from hyperspace, directly between us and the main body of the pilgrimage! It's the rebel church!

YESHUA (on screen)

They seek to stop the pilgrims from reaching Earth! We will not allow that to happen! Prepare for battle!

The viewscreen shows the rebel fleet, a dark and menacing armada, positioned to intercept.

INT. ENEMY CHURCH FLAGSHIP BRIDGE - DAY

On the bridge of the rebel flagship, a hooded figure stands before a large viewport. The figure slowly lowers their hood, revealing their face: MARCBANDE. His eyes burn with fanaticism.

MARCBANDE

(a chilling smile spreading across his face)

The time for their reckoning has come. They seek to reclaim their precious homeworld? They will find only death and destruction! Now, you will pay!

FADE TO BLACK

and then in the darkness mighty

We saw a place forlorn

We hoped to find anew our home

At the gathering of the storm

And in that darkness tiding

We felt grief and remorse

For the war yet to come

And our children unborn

ROLL CREDITS