



"A Change of Seasons"
1.02

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FADE IN:

EXT. NOVOGRAD CITY - NIGHT

Before us is a sprawling city. Steel skyscrapers ascend to the sky like monuments; beyond the horizon is a fading blue night sky. A plethora of colors and celebration fires glimmer in the streets between the reflective towers. The unmistakable sounds of music and glee echo around us.

EXT. NOVOGRAD CITY - STREET

We cut to a shot of the street, where people of diverse decent and all walks of life scour the streets for whatever brings a smile to their faces. We see vendors offering trinkets, others offering liquids, and others simply bringing attention to themselves as the throng of people move to rhythm. The celebration is grand, the mass of people an impressive entity.

Our focus shifts to an ally between two large brick buildings. The lights and sounds of the massive party dimmed only slightly by the minute seclusion of the alleyway.

We see a man standing menacingly over another man, who is on his back. The menacing man, in a fine suit and dress hat, is HAKARU. The other man on the ground, clad in brown beggar clothes is YUVAN. Hakaru is angry beyond recognition.

HAKARU

(in a calm, yet
startling voice)

I had given you plenty of time to come up with the money. Yet you've delayed to the point of...

YUVAN

(shaking)

I'm so sorry!

HAKARU

(in a shout)

Don't interrupt me again! You have stretched the limits of my patience to a mere thread. If it's going to be like this, maybe your family, or friends, should be your collateral.

YUVAN

NO!

Two men approach Yuvan and Hakaru from the street celebration. Police.

POLICE MAN

Hey! What's going on here?! Local ordinance has a zero tolerance policy on crime during the Solnar festival...

Hakaru steps forward to the Police.

Suddenly, both Police man back away.

POLICE MAN

Oh...

(nervous)

Mister Hakaru. I'm so sorry. I didn't know.

HAKARU

Now you do. Get out of here.

The two Police run off without a word.

Hakaru turns back to Yuvan... who had taken the Police man's interference to make a getaway. Hakaru frowns. Once again, Hakaru is confronted with another person. This other person, dressed just as nicely as Hakaru, is his brother. JUNJI, now smiling with a smoking cigar in his mouth.

Junji smiles in his red and black suit. Both these men are clearly related, with strong black hair and handsome features.

JUNJI

(through his cigar)

Hell of a night.

HAKARU

'Hell of a night'? It's like this every night for 30 days.

JUNJI

Come on, lighten up a little. Revel in the mindset of the uninitiated.

HAKARU

What the fuck is that supposes to get us?

JUNJI

Discovering things over and over again, Hakaru, adds some spice to the ordinary. Just pretend we don't forage these streets every night and look at it from a new comer's perspective.

Hakaru smirks and shakes his head. He leans in a bit to his brother.

HAKARU

Grow up.

Junji only offers a consultative smile and throws down the cigar. They both take to the side walk and begin to traverse the city as people move around them. Junji and Hakaru have to skirt around some of the various females only scantily clad. Hakaru eyes them with a wry grin.

HAKARU

(consulting a wrist watch)

We're due at the dock in five.
We're not here to partake in your
manufactured revelations.

JUNJI

Nor are we here to badger payers
who clearly have three days left
until their debt is due.

HAKARU

Early payment is a great sign of
good faith. I require all our
clients to pay early or... or else.

Junji shakes his head and changes topics.

JUNJI

Have we heard anything from the
Avalon since their last message?

HAKARU

No. I suspect they're keeping quiet
intentionally though. They have as
many enemies on this planet as friends.

JUNJI

'Friends'? Since when did we start
trusting those people?

HAKARU

I'd like to think we're a neutral
business party. It's better to be
neutral. Enemies muck things up;
friends fuck things up.

Junji does a quick motion to again avoid hitting a bystander dancing away to distant music.

Hakaru, on the other hand, just pushes into and past a celebrating man rudely.

JUNJI

I guess they couldn't have chosen a better time to do business. Not only a lot of buyers and sellers coming here but you got the entertainment quality ramped up.

HAKARU

Novograd is more known for this celebration than it is for trading. The Avalon chose their arrival time at just the right time, with all the people in this city right now it'll be hard for their enemies to find them. The Avalon and her crew are here either to make trouble or to hide from it.

JUNJI

What else is new?

The two turn quickly to the left and into the crowd. We lose sight of them both as we cut to...

EXT. NOVOGRAD CITY - PORT - NIGHT

Blinding light envelopes everything. We hear the loud hiss and whines of an engine, but we can't see beyond this pure white.

Quickly, the light moves away and we see we are looking directly up at the bottom a triangular shaped hull. The Avalon.

We see it has its landing pads extended. The ship touches down with little grace, as if just to get the landing over and done with. The green nacelles turn to black, the hissing dulls to a mild whisper and the lights switch off as the side-lining port light kick in. The port is well away from the city, the edge of a massive ocean is directly behind it, the city's edge no more than a mile on the other side.

We see the lower ramp pulls down with ease. Four figures emerge from the ship and walk onto the black landing pad. ZORIN, SIREN, ISAAC, and HATCH.

Zorin takes out a handheld computer and consults it for a moment. Him and Siren both have weapons strapped to their waists. Hatch is ever vigilant as he looks around like the newcomer he obviously is.

HATCH

(sniffing the air)

What's that smell?

ISAAC
(flatly)
The stench of seven days of
drinking, partying, and no
showering facilities.

Tom's face turns to realization. He sniffs his armpit tentatively.

HATCH
Oh yeah...

Hatch walks over to the side of the landing pad to look around some more. Our focus is shifted to the other three.

ZORIN
Junji and Hakaru were nice enough
to get us clearance to land here,
it would be best if we had
something relatively nice to offer
them.

SIREN
As a token of good faith?

ZORIN
Rarely do I feel the need to offer
one, but this case warrants it.
Besides, we need to get rid of some
of that stuff we jacked from the
Red ship a few months ago.

Zorin puts away his padd and looks around at the darkness beyond the landing pad.

ISAAC
It's not like them to be late.

SIREN
They're never late.

Zorin nods and steps forward.

ZORIN
They're right here.

From the bridge, like ghosts, Hakaru and Junji emerge from the shadows and into the lit landing area.

JUNJI
Zorin. I'm glad to see you're well.

ZORIN

Like hell you are. More glad to see a reliable business partner still available?

JUNJI

Not quite so romantic when you put it like that, but sentiments aside, it's still a relief to see you.

Hakaru takes off his hat and tucks it away behind his back, where it seems to vanish into nothingness. Unlike before, we now get a good view of his face. Further showcasing how similar the two brothers look. He takes a few steps toward the crew.

HAKARU

(to Siren, intrigued)

Siren... it truly is good to see you again. Last time you guys were here, I wasn't able to spend the time I wanted with you in particular. You were too busy getting in trouble with local ordinance. I was hoping we could have some time together this time...

SIREN

Don't try it Hakaru. Your wiles won't work on someone like me.

HAKARU

Oh, I forgot. You're stronger than that.

Siren looks at him, as though not sure if she should be insulted or not.

HAKARU

(to Isaac)

Isaac. I always relish seeing another Jushai Citizen.

ISAAC

Jushai Prime was laid to waste long ago Hakaru. I didn't know we're still bound by it.

JUNJI

Our home world might've died long ago, but we're still of one tribe.

Isaac smirks.

ISAAC

If you say so.

ZORIN

We were just talking. We think you two are owed something in return for extending the courtesy of this landing pad.

JUNJI

As I recall, you've run into some trouble as of late with the Cult.

SIREN

How'd you hear about that?

JUNJI

You know better than anyone not to reveal sources. As long as you don't bring that burden to us, we'll call it even.

Siren looks over to Zorin, Zorin exchanges the glance.

ZORIN

Agreed.

Hakaru looks over the shoulders of the three to see Hatch, a stranger to him, still wandering around.

HAKARU

(referring to Hatch)

I see you've picked up more than just merchandise.

ZORIN

Not intentionally. More than once I've tried to rid myself of him.

HAKARU

You interested in selling him? The Novograd Carnival Circuit is looking for meat for it's showcased animals.

Zorin tilts his head and again looks over to Siren.

ZORIN

Maybe some other time, if he gets to be to troublesome.

(changing subjects)

We had hoped to do business tonight. When can we meet with you?

HAKARU

We'll be available in three hours.
We have other business parties to
meet with first.

Hakaru turns and walks off into the darkness. Junji smiles
in sincerity.

JUNJI

He's been somber as of late. Our
father has passed recently.

SIREN

I'm sorry to hear that.

JUNJI

We're more than willing to work to
set you up with buyers. Just
remember that this planet is
celebrating the Solnar this month.
Middlemen like ourselves are busy.

ZORIN

Especially such reputable ones like
yourself. We understand.

Junji nods and walks off just like his brother. Without a
goodbye. This leaves the four alone on the landing pad once
again, the Avalon towering above them.

HATCH

They seem nice.

He gets an angry looks from Zorin.

HATCH

Well, nicer than some other people
I know you did business with.
Remember that guy on Tyvor? Freak o'
nature, he was.

SIREN

Yes, but these people are respectable.

ZORIN

Something's bothering them.

ISAAC

They did say their father just died.

ZORIN

(quickly)

No, there's more to it than that.
It has to do with us.

Hatch walks around to their front.

HATCH

You know, I never understood how you could know people so well after only speaking with them for a minute or two.

(a beat)

So, when are we gonna party? I want to show you this trick I can do with two women, a mug of beer, and a cat. You'll get a kick out of it, I swear.

Isaac scoffs and walks off back to Avalon.

ZORIN

You're not going anywhere. You're staying here.

Hatch is silent a moment.

HATCH

On the ship?

ZORIN

Yes.

HATCH

Why?

ZORIN

For one, you are still a stranger to this place. You'll only endanger yourself.

HATCH

I thought you wanted to get rid of me.

SIREN

If you're killed here, we'll be considered your owners and we'll be fined.

Hatch looks shocked.

All three walk back to the Avalon.

INT. THE AVALON - CARGO BAY

Hatch immediately rushes onto the ship and out of the Cargo bay like a child sent to their room. Zorin and Siren walk together.

ZORIN

I'd like to have a word with everyone onboard, with Adele in particular.

SIREN

You heard Junji, he has sources. He knew we were in hot water with the Cult, maybe he knows we have a Cult member on board. Former Cult.

ZORIN

That could be what's bothering him, but they wouldn't have given us access to land here if they knew we were bringing Cult with us. Adele was Cult, but she keeps to herself. She clearly won't cause any problems. I also don't want those two to know we have Azel and Shera on board. Like Isaac, they're from Jushai Prime and have an overbearing prejudice for them. I just want to tell them all to stay in their rooms until we depart. It'll cause less problems for us all.

SIREN

Shouldn't be a problem.

The two walk from the Cargo bay into the connecting corridor.

ZORIN

Shouldn't. But like all expectations, most are never met.

As they line into the corridor we...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. THE AVALON - SICKBAY

Sickbay, in all its glory, or lack thereof, greets us. Two people are present, Isaac and ADELE. Adele, in a simple white gown, sits on one of the beds in the room while Isaac tends to a small cut on her hand with a dermal mender. Isaac looks slightly angered.

ISAAC

I'll talk with who ever keeps stock in check. I'll make sure they do their job.

ADELE
Isaac, it's okay. The plate was
already broken when I picked it up.

ISAAC
(defensive)
It shattered in your hands. You
could've been seriously hurt.

ADELE
But I wasn't. I'm fine.

ISAAC
Still, I don't want to see a thing
happen to you while here on this
ship. I made it my sole
responsibility to keep you safe. I
told you why we rescued you from
that place...

Adele smiles.

ADELE
A hundred times, Isaac.
(recalling)
I'm the only one who's ever cared
about you and so on. But... it
looks to me like these people you
sail with care about you as much as
anyone else onboard. You're the
only one who can treat wounds and
you have the intimidating manner of
a lion, which really counts for
something these days.
(a beat)
Do you still think they don't
respect you?

Isaac pauses and looks at her newly recovered hand for a few
seconds. He then puts down his dermal mender and looks at her.

ISAAC
I don't know.

ADELE
We, I do. I spoke with Zorin, I
spoke with Siren... I even spoke
with Thomas and they all said
they're glad you're on board.

This comes as news to Isaac.

ISAAC

Hatch? That runt doesn't know his ass from a wall. Much less what I am compared to this time.

ADELE

Maybe your dilemma isn't how others see you, but how you see others and therefore yourself.

ISAAC

As much as I want to believe that, I don't really care. The only person I want to care about me is you. Because you know how I feel.

Adele looks down. She almost looks ashamed about something.

ADELE

Are you sure you want that Isaac?

These ominous words linger for a moment.

ISAAC

Yes, of course. Why wouldn't I?

Suddenly, a voice enters.

ZORIN(O.S.)

Is this a bad time?

Zorin stands there, grabbing both Isaac and Adele's attention.

ADELE

Of course not. I was about to retire anyway.

Isaac puts his hand on Adele's shoulder.

ISAAC

Goodnight angel.

Adele smiles, with a hint of discomfort, and gets off the bed. She passes Zorin as she walks out of sickbay.

Isaac stands exactly where he was... not moving. He notices Zorin's odd gaze.

ISAAC

The fuck is it?

Isaac now speaks in a voice devoid of care.

ZORIN

Angel? I've never heard you use that word before. I didn't know you knew that word existed.

ISAAC

I'm not a monster Zorin. You have something to say?

ZORIN

As a matter of fact, it's about your... angel.

ISAAC

She's not bothering anybody.

ZORIN

No she's not, and I'm very happy she isn't. She's even helping out around the ship.

Isaac looks at him in confusion.

ISAAC

What? She is?

ZORIN

She didn't want you to know, because she knew you wouldn't stand for it.

ISAAC

She could get hurt!

ZORIN

We could ALL get hurt. It's part of life. Fortunately, we have you in that situation.

(a beat)

Adele needs to lay low for the time being. In fact, I would like it if she didn't even leave her room until we depart Novograd. If someone on this planet takes to snooping around with sensor scans and find a Cultist...

ISAAC

Former Cultist.

ZORIN
 ... former cultist on board, they
 could blow our cover. They could
 tell Hakaru and Junji and we'd be
 out of business on this planet.

Isaac returns to cleaning and maintaining some of his
 medical supplies.

ISAAC
 I'll keep my mouth shut.

ZORIN
 Well, I hope you do. Especially
 regarding our two Xindi friends.

Isaac looks at Zorin.

ISAAC
 What about them?

ZORIN
 We all know you hate them, and we
 all know there are some very
 violent people on this planet
 especially that would jump at the
 chance to murder a pair of Xindi.
 When it comes to them, you have no
 compassion. We're walking on a very
 thin thread here. All it will take
 for them is to scan our ship and
 find those three on board.

(firmly)
 Don't say a thing about them being
 on board to ANYONE. Especially not
 Hakaru or Junji.

Isaac grins.

ISAAC
 Why not them? They'll pay us
 handsomely for their heads.

ZORIN
 (growling)
 Did you hear me Isaac?!

ISAAC
 I heard you.

Isaac maintains his smile as he goes back to his medical
 supplies.

Zorin, stewing slightly, exits.

The smile on Isaac's face doesn't disappear.

INT. THE AVALON - GALLEY

The galley, as usual, is almost completely devoid of activity. AZEL and SHERA sit at a table, both eating a hot soup. Neither are particularly animate, and are completely silent.

In walks Thomas Hatch. He smiles as he sees the two Xindi.

HATCH

Hey guys, what's up?

He walks over to a window inlet on the far right wall. He sees another bowl of soup and takes it.

Soup in hand, he goes and sits next to Azel and Shera.

HATCH

Mind if I sit?

The Xindi just look at each other. Hatch is perplexed by their silence.

HATCH

What's up guys? You don't want me here?

A beat. Shera wipes her mouth with a napkin.

SHERA

(nervous)

Tom, we don't talk when we eat.

HATCH

(realizing)

Oh... I see. Well, mind if I talk?
I've had a hell of a day today.
First Zorin doesn't let me off the
ship, then I have to scrub those
plasma conduits on the bottom deck.
Can you believe we still have to
scrub plasma conduits? I mean, even
in my time when we were more
advanced than now, no offense to
your time though, we still had to
scrub those damn things and
thousands of years in the future...

Azel and Shera share a very annoyed expression.

AZEL

Tom!

Tom shuts up quickly. A moment of silence...

HATCH

(not getting it)

So, we've been on this ship for a few months now. Mind if I ask what you guys were doing before I got you onboard?

Both seem to drop the endeavor to keep Hatch quiet.

AZEL

(to Shera)

Go ahead. I'll talk for a little while.

Azel pushes his bowl away as Shera keeps eating.

AZEL

(uncomfortable)

Um... we were pretty much just running. Stealing shuttles, hitching rides, waiting and hiding in dirt holes in the ground.

HATCH

That sucks.

AZEL

Yeah, it's a lot better now. Thanks, in part, to you.

Hatch slurps up soup.

HATCH

I'm sure you guys have some pretty exciting stories.

AZEL

They weren't exciting when they happened.

HATCH

Tell me one, I like to be entertained while eating.

Azel glimpses a look reluctance.

AZEL

(thinking)

Um... This one time, we were being chased by raiders 'cause we stole some of their food rations.

(MORE)

AZEL (CONT'D)

We hid in some caves, but we knew we were this close to getting nailed. But we stayed in those caves for days until we had eaten our way through all those rations. Finally, we knew we'd have to give ourselves up to those low-lives hanging outside the mouth of the cave.

HATCH

You fight 'em?

AZEL

No. Actually, we used some spreading knives we had to gut a couple of wild boars and put their skins on us, so we'd look like wildlife walking out of the cave.

Hatch's mouth drops, soup falls out.

HATCH

(shocked)

I'm not hungry anymore.

AZEL

Hey, you do what you gotta do to survive.

HATCH

Yeah, but did you have to tell me that while I'm eating?

Azel nods.

Tom looks at his soup.

HATCH

I think I'll... go back to those plasma ducts.

Hatch hops up and exits the room.

Shera puts her spoon down and smiles.

SHERA

Good job.

AZEL

Well, the whole 'we don't talk while eating' thing didn't work. Thought I should just tell him what he wanted to know.

CUT TO:

INT. THE AVALON - CORRIDOR

Outside the galley, Hatch walks briskly.

Siren suddenly turns a sharp corner and almost collides with Hatch. They both react and stop in front of each other.

HATCH

Damn, that happens a lot to me on this ship.

SIREN

An unwritten rule: always walk on the right side. People turn corners on the left side.

HATCH

Good advice, last time I walked on the left side on this ship I made a friend.

Siren isn't very interested in Hatch's humor. She tries to navigate around him.

HATCH

Oh, Siren.

SIREN

What?

She turns back to him.

HATCH

(uneasy)

Uh, I just... Just wanted to say thanks, I guess.

Siren is bewildered.

SIREN

'Thanks'?

HATCH

Well, I never really said it before. At least not in earnest. Even way back when I first arrived here and that Vellik guy tried to molest me you seemed to help me out a lot. But especially for Naomi. I guess I wouldn't have known her true self if it wasn't for yo...

SIREN

It wasn't that hard to see through Naomi.

HATCH

Well, when you have this shroud of love covering your eyes it's not as clear. Ever have that happen to you?

Siren pauses for a beat.

SIREN

Never.

HATCH

But like I said, I just wanted to thank you. You know... in ea...

SIREN

In earnest, I get it.

Hatch nods. A brief pause, and an uncomfortable silence.

HATCH

I had a friend named Ernest. I scared him stupid once...

Siren walks away.

EXT. NOVOGRAD CITY - STREET

We again see the rowdy streets of Novograd city. As before, the place is crammed with people from building to building as sounds of music and speech pervade and echo across the cityscape. Mobs of people slowly grind through the streets like fat through the gluttonous city's veins.

We focus on a particular bog of people, who are being pushed over from an unseen force.

Zorin and Isaac bust through the bog of people, Siren in tow. They all look very annoyed.

ISAAC
Damn krolkers, the street isn't a
place for a party.

SIREN
You say that now, but I recall you
used to love this celebration.

ISAAC
Yeah, and these people haven't had
to dig shrapnel out of people's
bodies. That kinda work dampens
your partying-in-the-street mood.

ZORIN
I'm still amazed by your ability to
look at everything from a war vet's
eyes.

ISAAC
It's not something you forget Zorin.

Zorin peeks at something in the distance.

ZORIN
There it is.

He points. Over in the distance, across the mass of people
and above all the other skyscrapers stands a singularly tall
building. A large, skinny building that forms an intricate
web-like design at the top. In the center of the web is a
shining, gold light.

ISAAC
That's were we're going?

ZORIN
They call it the sun snatcher.

SIREN
(correcting)
"Sun Catcher". That's literally
sunlight coming from the center.

ISAAC
Is that some kind of metaphor about
their status in this planets
society? A shimmering beacon of
hope above all its citizens,
bringing sunlight to even the dead
of night?

Zorin ponders.

ZORIN

I think they just like the way it looks.

SIREN

Let's get out of here, the smell is starting to get to me.

They start to navigate through the crowd again. Dancers and hobos alike seem to be reveling in the celebration.

A young woman, only a teenager, bumps into Isaac.

YOUNG WOMAN

Sorry sir.

Isaac looks mildly annoyed and keeps walking as the woman walks off.

Zorin and Siren are pulling away from Isaac a ways thanks to the woman's interruption, a dozen people between him and them. Suddenly, the faint sound of a man's voice over an intercom is heard.

Isaac keeps pushing past people. He rushes as quickly as possible to catch up to Zorin and Siren, even knocking down a vendor selling wands of some kind.

Giving up, Isaac's attention is brought forth to a man on a stage across the street. We see the man is the voice we were hearing. With passion, like an evangelist preaching or a civil-rights leader, this long haired, skinny man shouts into his mic, arms and body movements punctuating his remarks.

ORATER

(passionately)

And these people, time and time again, forsake the riches of the universe. The love and adulation that was once common place now forever gone. These people are the root of our problems, and they always have been. From the moment they came into being, to right now, they threaten the moral fibers of our very being.

Isaac takes notice more and more as the man speaks. He moves in closer.

ORATER

I'm not talking about Those Who Walk In The Light. I'm not referring to the Confederation, who are a conglomeration of many species. But I refer to the origin of it all. The sole proprietors of hatred and evil and injustice in the universe. I refer to the Xindi...

A slap on the shoulder gets Isaac's attention. Siren.

SIREN

That girl stole your wallet.

Siren holds up Isaac's wallet. He looks sheepish.

ISAAC

Sorry. I guess I'm losing it.

SIREN

Yeah, you'll lose a lot if you don't pay attention. Now let's go, Junji and Hakaru are expecting us.

They walk again.

Isaac's eyes difficulty peel away from the orator, the orator's very eyes meeting Isaac's for only a moment.

INT. SUN CATCHER - OFFICE

The office high within the Sun Catcher skyscraper is lavish beyond belief. It looks like a home to the richest of Royalty. It's oval-ish, much larger than any room on the Avalon, with exotic plants, pictures, and statues situated around the shining dark marble walls and ivory columns. In the center of the room sits a large fountain, in which three attractive bald girls relax in. At the end of the oval office sits two fancy desks, both on a rise with steps leading up. To say the least, it's gorgeous.

Hakaru enters the room from a south entrance, followed by three goons dragging in a familiar man: Yuvan. The man looks only slightly above homeless, but especially bad in comparison to his surroundings. Yuvan is clearly scared for his well-being. Hakaru is joined by his brother Junji.

HAKARU

(to Yuvan)

Now, we've been over this...

YUVAN

I know, I know! Three days in advance.

HAKARU

Yes, we've also been over not interrupting me. Now...

(he holds up a data pad)

This isn't full payment. You think you can just pay a quarter and get away with it?

YUVAN

(stuttering)

Y-you said you n-need-needed a sign of good faith.

Junji leans into Hakaru's ear.

JUNJI

(whispered)

He's right Hakaru, it's a sign. He has three days, give him a break.

Hakaru's expression isn't a happy one. He lends a very fake smile to Yuvan.

HAKARU

You have--two more days. Two days and I'll come calling again. To you and your family. If you are not ready by then...

Hakaru's very large goons seem to respond without signal as each pull out very sharp, very shiny, very dangerous looking hooked blades.

Yuvan almost collapses at this sight.

HAKARU

(holding up the data pad)

And this-- this is the sign of good faith. This bought you those two extra days. You still owe us full price.

Yuvan is on the verge of tears, a grown man ready to lay it all out. The black haired strong arms haul Yuvan out.

HAKARU

(to Junji)

Happy now?

JUNJI

Happier.

As Yuvan exits the office, Zorin, Siren, and Isaac enter in replacement.

All three see the emotionally distraught man being lugged out.
They approach the two middlemen.

ISAAC
(referring to Yuvan)
Who's that pussy?

HAKARU
A seller not so grateful for our
services. Business we'd rather not
have to deal with.

JUNJI
Though, we're glad to see some
clients with a bit more rep.

ZORIN
(looking at the office)
I see you've moved up in the world.

HAKARU
A parting gift our father left us.
This was his.

ZORIN
I see. If I may ask, how did he...

JUNJI
Clark's disease.

All three nod. Hakaru moves off to a bar off to the side.

Isaac takes notice of the three women in the fountain, all
smiling with passion at the guests.

JUNJI
Lovely women. They're...

SIREN
(interrupting)
Deltan. We can see.

Her voice has a hint of angst.

Isaac, however, helps himself and sits on the fountain edge.

ISAAC
(examining the women)
I'm thinkin' I might change my mind
about this place, Zorin.

HAKARU

(from across the room)
Fifty a night if you're interested
in one of them.

ZORIN

No, we're not here for pleasure.
We're only here to sell.

ISAAC

(protesting)
Come on, Zorin. We've been out of
the loop a while. Stuck on that
rusty 'ol ship for ages can get a
man's warp spheres loaded...

ZORIN

(loudly)
What would Adele say about it?

Isaac looks lost for words for a moment. He flashes a nervous smile at the women, at Zorin, and gets up from the fountain and away from the women.

Back to Junji.

JUNJI

You have money for our services?

ZORIN

We wouldn't be here if we didn't.

Junji waves them over to their desks. Isaac stays near the fountain, taking in the "scenery".

JUNJI

You have some recently acquired
Cult gear?

ZORIN

Some. As you know, we've been
tagged by the Reds and they'll be
very upset to know we have their stuff.

JUNJI

We have some Confederate buyers who
would love to get their hands on that.

SIREN

Confederate? Here?

JUNJI

They don't have a foot hold on this planet, no interest really. They do have buyers all over though.

ZORIN

We aren't interested in others' business, only our own.

Junji sits at his desk and Zorin and Siren sits across.

ZORIN

We are in somewhat of a hurry. If you can do your magic within a reasonable amount of time we're willing to pay...

Zorin pulls a data pad from his jacket.

ZORIN

Up front.

He sets it down in front of Junji, who looks very happy.

JUNJI

Well, it's not often we get an up front payment. This is a rare treat.

ZORIN

We're honest businessmen, we're here for one thing only.

Hakaru arrives with two drinks in hand.

HAKARU

We truly appreciate that. Coming from me, that means a lot.

He sets the drinks in front of Zorin and Siren.

As Hakaru brings his hands back from the drinks, his hand--very discretely--rubs and caresses Siren's cheek and hair. Neither Zorin nor Junji notice, but Siren's face goes pale at Hakaru's move. She peers back at the middleman who simply walks away without a word...

For a moment, everything is silent as Siren's perspectives dull. Now, we see everything through her eyes. Zorin and Junji continue to speak, but we hear nothing. Hakaru walks out of view behind a plant and Siren's view goes straight to the three women in the fountain.

Isaac has seemingly forgotten Zorin's remark to stay away from the Deltan women, he and the three Deltans look very happy as they converse, obvious sexual attraction entwined in their smiles; Siren's eyes seem to darken at this sight. She appears to loathe what she sees... Her hand suddenly goes to her chest, where her heart is, and feels something under her shirt. We can barely make out that she's wearing a necklace.

One of the Deltans looks Siren right in the eyes and smiles...

ZORIN
(loudly)
Siren?

She snaps out of her daze, as do we.

SIREN
(lost)
I'm sorry?

She sees both Junji and Zorin are glaring at her.

JUNJI
Do we have an agreement? We'll set up a trustee to buy your equipment, and have you off this planet by tomorrow. Money up front is the best sign one can give.

SIREN
(feigned interest)
Sounds like a plan.

JUNJI
Not with many other businessmen could you do this...

ZORIN
We know. Though, I find it surprising such influential men like yourselves could walk freely on crowded streets.

JUNJI
Well, any competitors out there willing to go against us wouldn't do so in public. And the lowliest of dealers wouldn't touch us due to...

His voice fades as we again focus on Siren, who seems greatly disturbed.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUN CATCHER - BALCONY

Junji leans against the balcony railing. He seems completely comfortable leaning against the stone fixture, below him is a good 90 stories. The height of the Sun Catcher is very evident, as only very few buildings--in the distance--can rival its height and beauty. Above him, the Sun Eye basks a warm, gold light on him and his surroundings. The air blows gently on him as he takes in the sounds of distant music.

ISAAC(O.S.)

Holy Gods...

Junji turns.

JUNJI

Don't like heights?

Isaac walks out from the office area cautiously.

ISAAC

I don't care... as long as I don't know how high I really am.

He reaches for something in his pocket, and pulls out a cigarette. He graciously offers it to Junji.

JUNJI

No thanks.

ISAAC

You smoke cigars all the time.

JUNJI

Cigars, yes. Something with some meat to it. Those are puny. But thank you anyway.

Isaac shrugs and puts it on his lips. The cigarette lights by itself.

ISAAC

It's cold up here.

JUNJI

It's not really. We're in the glow of the Sun Eye up there and it's a lot colder outside it's radiance.

A beat. Isaac notices a silver briefcase sitting next to Junji's foot.

JUNJI

Jushai Prime was very warm.

ISAAC

Yeah.

JUNJI

Were you born in the Capital City?

ISAAC

No. On the other side of the world actually. A city called Hygor.

JUNJI

But you were in the Last Stand?

Isaac leans up against the wall, staying clear of the balcony's ledge.

ISAAC

Yeah.

JUNJI

I can't imagine what it was like to fight in the Capital City, the last battle that ended the war. I look down at this city, the only other home I've ever known, and try to imagine what it would be like.

ISAAC

You shouldn't try.

Junji lightly pushes the silver briefcase at his feet.

JUNJI

I just think of those who murdered so many of our people. Ruthlessly, left them hanging over the streets, others torn limb from limb...

(a slight laugh)

My old man had a saying. "The sun set on that day. The seasons changed and we are now within a cold, dark winter. Not to worry too much though, like all seasons the spring will come soon enough."

Isaac scoffs.

ISAAC

You believe that?

JUNJI

Of course. That's why he built the Sun Catcher. People these days know we're deep in the cold, but we'll survive. The seasons will change.

ISAAC

What... you'll just sit back and let things change on their own? It's not that simple.

JUNJI

I know, I know. But to work with the grains of society, I've offered this.

Junji picks up the silver briefcase.

ISAAC

What's that?

JUNJI

A reward. Money. I offer 40,000 for the head of any Xindi.

Isaac's eyes widen to sheer absurdity.

ISAAC

(shocked)

40,000?!

JUNJI

To bring those who wronged us in the past to justice. To root out the source of injustice with the incentive of wealth.

(he laughs)

It works. We both know there are plenty of Xindi on this planet as we speak. It's just a matter of catching them.

Isaac can't seem to look away from the briefcase.

JUNJI

I offer it to anyone who may have information. I'm off to reward some sensor-runner 40,000.

Isaac nods.

Junji goes over and puts his hand on his fellow Jushaian's shoulder.

JUNJI

You could use 40,000. You, your friends, all of you wouldn't have to live on the run. You wouldn't have the worries. To live the rest of your natural lives on a pleasure planet.

ISAAC

What are you saying?

JUNJI

Nothing. Just an offer I give to everyone.

(a beat)

Think about it.

On that, he exits. Isaac's face is emotionless. He throws down his cigarette and steps it out.

INT. THE AVALON - ENGINEERING DECK

Within the Engineering deck of the Avalon, we hear sounds of loud ZAPS followed by sharp metal TWANGS.

We see Azel and Shera standing in front of, but a good distance away from, the warp sphere. It pulsates electrical energy heavily. The two Xindi have large smiles on their faces.

SHERA

Come on Ava, that wasn't even fair!

AVA

Hey guys, I'm playing by the rules and using whatever abilities I have.

Azel retrieves a metal disc, with a hole in the middle, from near the warp reactor.

AZEL

Maybe we should restrict those abilities?

AVA

That wouldn't be as much fun.

SHERA

Yeah, we'd actually have a chance to win this game.

AVA

Exactly. No fun. I like winning.

Azel stands next to Shera. He lines up the disc with the warp sphere and TOSSES it. The metal disc avoids several sparks of electrical energy and lands on one of energy spikes under the sphere. Azel raises his hands, Shera high-fives him.

AZEL
OH YEAH!!! Take that!

SHERA
Not so good now, are ya Miss Avalon?

AVA
Oh, come on. I was running a diagnostic.

Shera scoffs.

SHERA
Yeah right. Why would you run a diagnostic in the middle of a game of "Extreme Horseshoe"?

AVA
(serious)
Because something's wrong.

AZEL
(confused)
Huh? What?

AVA
Something's not right with the engines.

Shera and Azel stop their celebration.

AZEL
That's pretty vague there. What is it?

AVA
I don't know. Engines aren't working right. That's all I got.

SHERA
Is it because of our horseshoe game?
Is it flunking with the warp sphere?

AVA
No. It's something else.

Azel runs to a console. He sighs loudly.

AZEL
 (huff, undesirable)
 Okay, let's figure it out.

Shera hasn't moved from her spot in the middle of the room, as if the game of horseshoe might continue.

SHERA
 Yeah, you should probably do that. Zorin and 'em are loading up some of the Cult stuff we jacked. He'll want to take off as soon as they're done.

CUT TO:

INT. PARKING GARAGE

Before us is a grimy parking garage. Overhead lights, or those not busted or shorted out, cast a dirty yellow on everything. The stone and steel surrounding everything has a gritty tone. No vehicles are parked here, and we can see why people wouldn't.

Zorin, Siren, Isaac, and Junji stand in the center of a yellow light's radiance, Hakaru is obviously absent. Isaac leans against several large silver metal boxes while the others simply wander. Junji puts his hand to his ear, picking up a voice from an in-ear radio.

JUNJI
 Okay guys, don't throw a fit at this.

ISAAC
 At wha...?

Suddenly, five black-clad soldiers emerge from the darkness and point very large rifles at our crew.

ISAAC
 WHOA!

Everyone, save Junji, put their hands up in the air.

JUNJI
 I said don't freak out.

A man, obviously ancient, walks from the shadows and from the protection of his five soldiers. The man isn't tall, nor intimidating by any means. Though, he wears a smile of confidence in the strong arms around him.

ZORIN
 This is who we're dealing with?

JUNJI

He's got money, you got goods. It works, trust me.

The old man stops in front of our people and smiles.

OLD MAN

Listen to him. He knows a thing or two about this business.

(a beat)

Please, please. Rest your arms.

They all reluctantly lower their arms, but the soldiers continue to train their weapons.

A brief moment of tense silence fills the air.

ZORIN

We've been told that you'll pay well for these things.

OLD MAN

Informed correctly. Am I to understand you ripped these from a Cult ship yourself? Tell me, how did you manage such a task?

ZORIN

We would rather not go into the particulars of that. You can be assured though, the merchandise is top quality.

OLD MAN

That's already been assured by the men who set up this transaction. May I see?

Zorin nods and gestures for the man to help himself to the boxes.

The man proceeds, and Isaac stumbles away from the goods. He opens one crate and we see the items being sold: Uniforms. Red, silver, and very shiny. Some cloth, some metal, and others glass. Cult Acolyte uniforms. The old man smiles.

OLD MAN

Excellent.

He goes to Zorin and pulls something from his back pocket.

The man gives Zorin a single round disc.

OLD MAN

I apologize. I don't have change.

Zorin looks at the small disc and nods.

JUNJI

We'll break it into smaller units.

The old man smiles wider and walks away. His five soldiers lower their weapons and rush over to haul the crates.

Our crew and Junji walk off, without a word, and let the men collect the goods. Once out of earshot, Isaac speaks his mind.

ISAAC

I don't know if that went well or not.

ZORIN

It did Isaac. We have the "money" and we can leave this place tonight. No questions asked, no snags. Exactly as it should.

ISAAC

Yeah, well, for a minute I thought they were going to slit our throats or something. Did you see...

We see Siren isn't as far ahead as the others are, she's slugging behind.

Suddenly, a large arm grabs Siren's mouth and pulls her into a dark corridor!

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DARK CORRIDOR

The near pitch black corridor only allows us to see faint shadows of Siren and her unknown assailant, the spotty yellow lights just behind them silhouetting their forms.

Siren struggles, but she is unable to keep the attacker's hand off her mouth or arm. Her palms, the source of her tentacles, are bound together, preventing her from using them.

By the faint outline of the kidnapper, and the voice, we see it's the previously absent Hakaru. Siren struggles in his grip.

HAKARU

Yeah, I've always loved that about you Siren. A fighter. Since the moment I met you and probably till the day you die, you're a fighter.

Violently, Siren tries to kick Hakaru. Her muffled cries only intensify as Hakaru manages to avoid the kick and pin her legs down with his own.

HAKARU

But there has always been something underneath your skin. I think, deep down, you want someone to be stronger than yourself. You NEED someone. That's why you hang around with Zorin and his goons. Everything your life has made you has led you to be weak and powerless and you need something to make you stronger.

Hakaru moves his face closer to Siren's, slightly breathing on her face in a sensuality only he recognizes. Siren's angry cries start to become worried weeps.

HAKARU

Deep down though, you'll always be a slave.

Finally, Hakaru plants his lips and tongue on Siren's face in disgusting violation. He keeps his hands on her mouth and arms however, while putting all his lust to her body.

Siren musters ALL her strength to break free. Everything she has. Hakaru is strong enough to keep her down as he continues his violation, but Siren's left hand manages to get free.

Her tentacles unleash with unbridled fury and slaps Hakaru's head away from her own. He falls over, the impact of her slam apparent.

Without a thought, Siren bolts from the dark corridor and back to the garage area where she was taken. Her tired breath echoes as she runs.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

Just as Siren clears the corridor and enters the garage, a large man's hand PUNCHES Siren across her already anxious face. She collapses instantly.

Hakaru's accomplice steps into view, grimacing at the unseen and unconscious Siren on the ground. He then turns to see Hakaru join him.

They both eye Siren venomously. On this, we...

FADE OUT.

INT. DARK ROOM

Complete blackness.

We hear and see absolutely nothing for a tense beat. Until a doorway opens. The rectangular shape of the threshold allows enough light for us to see a single person dragging another person into the dark room. The person pulls the other in, then promptly exits. All business.

A bright flash appears. Only for a moment, then subsides to just a single cone of light emanating from the ceiling. The lamp overhead draws a circle of light around an unconscious Siren. Her hair a mess, her face bruised, and her clothes ripped, she's clearly been through hell. Awake or otherwise.

Her eyes flutter open at the sound of the lamp. She wastes no time sitting up. Her bones creak slightly, and she holds her bruised face carefully.

From Siren's eyes and her perspective, we see she rubs her face and looks at the blood on her fingers. She then looks up at the white light above her, and hears only the buzz of it and the silence beyond that.

Back in normal perspective, Siren gets to her feet.

SIREN

(loudly)

Where am I? What the hell is going on?!

She moves outside the cone of light and starts to explore her surroundings. We cannot see her explore, only occasionally glimpse her when she strays back into the light every once and a while.

SIREN

(same)

Hakaru! Junji! What the hell do you want from me?!

Silence. No one responds to her, as expected.

SIREN

What did we do? What did we do to provoke you?!

Nothing.

SIREN
 (infuriated)
 Gods damn it! What do you want?! I
 swear I'll...
 (lost for words,
 becoming saddened)
 I'll...

VOICE
 You'll what?

The loud voice booms from an unseen source. It's deep and obviously altered to keep identities hidden.

SIREN
 Hakaru?

VOICE
 Please, you can do better than that.
 (a beat)
 Would you please step into the
 light Siren?

She doesn't comply.

SIREN
 How do you know me?

VOICE
 The same way you know me.

SIREN
 Who are you?!

VOICE
 (a bit more angry)
 Step into the light, or you'll die
 never knowing. In case you didn't
 know, this room serves the sole
 purpose of torturing and
 slaughtering those who don't abide
 by my rule, and if you'd like for
 its true purpose to not be
 exploited, I suggest you step into
 the light... so I can see you.

With a heavy heart obviously in her chest, she does so. Her face is wrinkled with emotion, obviously fighting potential tears. It's not pleasant.

VOICE
 (calmer)
 Ah, there she is. A beautiful woman
 you are Siren.

SIREN
 (voice quivering)
 What do you want?

VOICE
 You've obviously been out a while.
 Exploring the vast, emptiness of
 space enough to come to the cold
 conclusion that all people these
 days desire something. Money, lives,
 land, joy, and even sorrow are all
 up for bids. Am I such a man? What
 do I want?

(a beat)
 Siren, what could you posses that
 would possibly interest me? What
 could you have that's ever been of
 worth to anyone?

As if a chord was struck with these ominous words, Siren now looks genuinely frightened.

She touches her chest and feels something. She reaches and pulls out her necklace, the familiar circular heirloom.

The voice over head booms a laugh.

SIREN
 (frightened)
 Oh... oh God, no.

Then, the door reopens. Siren doesn't rush the door, as she looks to overwhelmed by fear to do a thing. A man stands in the doorway. We cannot see him besides his figure.

MAN
 I'm ecstatic to see you kept the
 necklace. Through the cold vastness
 of black space, we're finally reunited.

Siren can do nothing but fall to the ground. She can do nothing but let tears freely flow at the sight of this single person.

INT. THE AVALON - THE BRIDGE

Azel zips in front of us. He darts from one end of the bridge to the other, obvious panic in his actions. Shera sits at her normal front console and works diligently. Also on the bridge is the quiet, bald Andorian Khrantic.

Azel turns to Khrantic.

AZEL
Have you uploaded the d-files yet?

Khrantic looks at the console in front of him. Not a particularly complex console.

KHRANTIC
(dumb struck)
Um-- I don' think I knu how to du that.

His voice is an unmistakably deep, yet completely unintelligent one.

AZEL
What?! You press the button!

KHRANTIC
Which 'un?

AZEL
(louder)
The big green one next to the memory regulator!

Khrantic looks under the console for this elusive green button.

A beep from the oblivious Andorian's console scares him.

AVA
I got it.

AZEL
Thank you Ava.

Just then, the aft door opens and Zorin marches in. With confidence he take his center seat.

ZORIN
We've been fortunate enough to get through this ordeal without quandary to be had, I'd like if we could depart as soon as possible.

Zorin looks over to Azel, who's eyes show an obvious concern. Letdown.

ZORIN
(sighing)
I take it that's not going to happen?

CUT TO:

INT. THE AVALON - THE BRIDGE - LATER

Gathered on the bridge is Zorin, CARLISE, Azel, Shera, and Isaac, the omnipresent Ava a given participant. They stand in front of the viewscreen, and clearly Siren is absent.

Azel points to the viewscreen, which now depicts the Avalon and a red line moving through the interior.

AZEL

This is a vital vein through Ava's infrastructure. Think of it like her spine, it takes information from the main computer to certain systems. This spine regulates engine and sensor systems.

ZORIN

Is it broken? Deactivated?

AZEL

It's online, but it's just not sending the data correctly. I could go on about the technical stuff involved in this problem, but to sum it up: we'll need to either replace this thing or find out what's jamming her.

CARLISE

I definitely support finding the cause of the problem, it'll take days to replace that.

Zorin looks at his crew.

ZORIN

What could be causing it?

AZEL

Who knows? Could be anything. I'm guessing it's something external, because we were fine before we landed here and most of the systems have been powered down since we're just parked here.

Zorin nods.

ZORIN

If this were any other planet, we'd probably be in major trouble. Consider ourselves lucky we have good relations with the people who run this place. If I can get...

Zorin's attention is knocked from his speech and he looks at this crew again, this time with confusion.

ZORIN

Where's Siren?

ISAAC

You heard what Hakaru said.

ZORIN

Yes, he said she went to get something she forgot at their office. But she would've been back by now.

ISAAC

(without a worry)

You know her though.

ZORIN

Yes, I do know her. She's rarely forgetful and and she's especially punctual. Ava?

AVA

Yes?

ZORIN

Is she onboard?

A moment of silence goes by...

AVA

I'm not sure. Because of the problem I can't get a full reading of the ship, but from what I can see she's not onboard.

ZORIN

Gods damn it. Ava, get me a comm line to Hakaru and Junj...

AVA

Can't Zorin. That's down.

Zorin looks angered.

ZORIN
 (flustered, to everyone)
 Search the ship.

CUT TO:

EXT. NOVOGRAD CITY - PORT - NIGHT

Outside the Avalon. From ground level we are looking up at the ship's bottom. We slowly turn around to the side of the port. We slowly make our way to the edge of the steel landing pad to see it drops off to a small walkway beneath the port.

We see two dark figures quickly race across our view on this walkway. Then another, but this figure holds a VERY large item on their back. Weapons.

INT. THE AVALON - THE BRIDGE

Zorin and Isaac are present on the bridge.

ISAAC
 So, what do we do?

ZORIN
 Obviously, we need to find out if she's here first.

ISAAC
 I know. I mean, what do we do if she isn't onboard?

Zorin contemplates his options.

ZORIN
 Do you think it was Hakaru or Junji?

ISAAC
 What? Kidnap? Why?

ZORIN
 I just want to hear your thoughts.

Isaac laughs.

ISAAC
 There's a first.

ZORIN
 Talk Isaac.

ISAAC

(resigned)

Shit Zorin, I don't know. She could be anywhere. Hell, she could be taking a stroll on the beach for all we know. Junji and his brother are the only people on this planet we trust, I don't see them taking her. Not unless we did something to upset 'em.

Zorin takes these words in. So does Isaac, as if he didn't realize what he said until now.

ZORIN

Computer? ... Ava?

AVA

Here.

ZORIN

Have you been able to determine if we've been scanned at all?

AVA

Negatory, Chief.

Isaac questions Zorin's request.

ISAAC

Do you think they might've scanned us and found the two Xindi on board? Or Adele?

ZORIN

If they did, then that might be cause for a kidnap. However, I would like to confirm this before acting on it. Keep your suspicions but don't free them yet.

The doors slide open. Azel and Shera walk in, slightly out of breath.

AZEL

Sorry Zorin. She's nowhere to be found.

SHERA

She's either really gone or playing a hell of a game of hide and seek.

The Hirogen nods.

ZORIN

That's it then. Let's go see our middlemen. Isaac, grab your gun.

ISAAC

Shit, we're not going to fight them are we?

ZORIN

Just a precaution. You get that, and I'll get Hatch.

ISAAC

HATCH?! What the fu...

ZORIN

(quickly)

Just do it Isaac!

Zorin promptly exits the bridge, leaving Isaac borderline mortified.

INT. SLAVE CELL HOUSING

The room we now see is a fairly large place. It's reminiscent of a large warehouse, complete with metal walls and steel rafters supporting the ceiling and the latticework of hanging lights. The place is murky, clearly not well kept. And from wall to wall are dozens and dozens of cages. Most are empty, but a good amount of these cages hold, not animals, but people. Women to be exact, and not a one looks as if they were enjoying their time here. It's a horrendous sight.

We see a single cage. It's empty and its door closed. Then a hand reaches in and unlocks it. It's opened and Siren is thrown in by a very large man. Siren wakes violently as her body hits the ground hard. The cage slams shut and she takes notice of her surroundings.

It's oddly quiet. There are no screams, no shouts, and no signs of pain or struggle. It's extremely eerie. Shadows fall on everything, the air looks polluted, and Siren looks weak sitting on the cracked concrete.

She looks over to the cell to her right. Another girl occupies it. Human and very young. She watches Siren out of the corner of her eye, her dark and matted hair covering her face. The girl is literally in rags. They could hardly be called clothes.

Siren slowly scoots over to the girl's cage.

SIREN

Are you...

The girl looks away. Siren halts before speaking again.

SIREN

(softly)

Do you know where we are?

No answer from the girl.

SIREN

Can you tell me, how long have you
been here?

Still nothing. Siren sighs and shows her slight discomfort with the silence.

SIREN

Listen, I...

(lost for words)

If I can just find out where I am I
might be able to do something.

The girl finally turns to Siren.

GIRL

(slightly angry)

Do what?

SIREN

I don't know. But it would be
something.

GIRL

You don't know what it's like.

SIREN

Please, help me.

The girl turns over and doesn't acknowledge Siren further.

Siren gives up and rolls back over to the center of the cell. She sits against the wall.

INT. THE AVALON - ADELE'S QUARTERS

We see Adele. She is laying on her bed in her spartan room. Typically, the only decorations are a few candles and a reading area with several books in the corner.

A knock is heard at the door. She gets up quickly.

ADELE

Yes?

Not surprisingly, Isaac Sarola comes in. He has a jacket on, and looks to be in a hurry.

ISAAC

How are you? Did I wake you?

ADELE

No, I was still awake.

ISAAC

Listen, Zorin and I are going out. Siren's missing.

ADELE

What's happened?

ISAAC

We don't know. We're going to talk to our middlemen again. It might be possible that they scanned the ship and they might know you're on this ship.

Adele isn't shocked.

ADELE

(not fathoming
Isaac's concern)

Me? What would they want with me?

ISAAC

You're Cult. They hate Cult.

ADELE

They don't know that I'm Cult though, if they just scanned us. I think you should be more concerned about Azel and Shera, their bio-signs are...

ISAAC

I don't care about them, I care about you.

Isaac reaches into his jacket and pulls out a fairly large pistol. Adele is shocked at this sight.

ADELE

Isaac.

ISAAC
Adele, please. For protection, just
in case.

ADELE
No, I can't.

ISAAC
If you don't, they might hurt you.

ADELE
Isaac, I don't believe in violence.
That's why I'm no longer a formal
member of my creed and it's what I
believe in. I won't touch it.

ISAAC
What'll happen if they get to you?

ADELE
I'll submit.

ISAAC
I can't let that happen to you!

ADELE
You can't do a thing about it.

ISAAC
But you can, if you just take the gun.

ADELE
(loudly)
Isaac. You can't do anything about
it. Give it to Azel and Shera or
put it back in your coat.
(a beat)
I'll be fine.

Isaac is very unsure of this conclusion. He puts the gun
back in his jacket and walks out. Adele is left alone on her
bed.

EXT. NOVOGRAD CITY - PORT - NIGHT

The night still beckons around us. The stars in the sky and
the city lights shine around and behind the grounded Avalon.

The ramp opens. As it descends, three people walk out with
haste. It's our rescue party.

ZORIN

I want you both to be very careful with this. Especially you Hatch.

HATCH

Don't worry about me. I've been it tough situations before.

ISAAC

We're not talking about your epic struggles to wake up before noon. If Hakaru and Junji have done something with Siren, people might die.

Hatch is baffled.

HATCH

Die?! I'm not a decoy am I? That's not why you asked me to come along, is it?!

Zorin and Isaac keep walking off the landing port without answering Hatch's question.

As they exit our view, a shadowy figure emerges. It's a man, clearly, and is soon joined by two other men. They all carry weapons.

Silently, they pull out their weapons, load and cock them, and walk towards the Avalon's landing ramp.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. SUN CATCHER - OFFICE

In the rich brother's home base, we find exactly what's expected. Junji sits at his desk, going over a paper report. Hakaru, on the other hand, is immersed within the center fountain with a single Deltan woman. He wears a large grin, as does she.

HAKARU

You are wonderful.

SLAVE GIRL

Not as wonderful as that other woman? What's her name... Siren?

HAKARU

She's just a memory now. She's a plaything that didn't want to play back. Disposed of her.

SLAVE GIRL
Maybe she didn't realize what she
could've had?

The alluring slave girl runs her hand down Hakaru's chest...
then further.

SLAVE GIRL
A man with power. A man with
dominance and... gifts.

Hakaru smiles and leans in for a kiss fueled by raw emotion.
It's a deep and lustful kiss as he keeps his eyes closed and
obviously takes in the sensations.

Hakaru opens his eyes. We see Siren is now beside him, not
the Deltan slave. Hakaru is confounded for only a moment.

SIREN
Anything wrong?

The moment passes.

HAKARU
Everything's perfect.

Once again, Hakaru lays into her. Siren, or who we see as
Siren, returns the passion. This goes on, as Hakaru's
fantasy deepens as he removes her already scant clothing.

Suddenly, we hear a gun cock.

Hakaru looks up to see Zorin towering over him, a large
weapon in his hand. We see the Deltan is back to who she
really is, and Junji is on the other side of the room still.

HAKARU
What in fuck's name are you doing
Zorin?

ZORIN
Confirming what I had suspected.

Hakaru gets off of the girl and gets out of the fountain,
wrapping a towel around him.

HAKARU
You could've knocked.

JUNJI
(slightly angered)
Zorin, why do you have a gun drawn?

Zorin is joined by Isaac, who also holds a gun, and Hatch, who does not have a gun. Hatch simply puffs his chest up and crosses his arms in defiance. An unconvincing performance.

ISAAC

You sons of a bitch. What did you do with Siren?

JUNJI

I think you people are jumping to conclusions...

Quickly, both Zorin and Isaac aim their weapons at the two brothers.

ZORIN

"She's a plaything that didn't want to play back. Disposed of her." We heard what you said Hakaru. Why did you do this?

Hakaru laughs in disbelief.

HAKARU

The same reasons any of us do anything Zorin. The same reason you sought our help, the same reason we even have any sort of relationship.

ISAAC

Money?

ZORIN

We all know you've had an infatuation with Siren.

HAKARU

Yeah, well. When a new friend of ours mentioned that Siren was an old friend of his, HE offered a great deal of money for her.

Isaac and Zorin are shocked. Hatch still attempts to look strong behind the two gun welding men.

ISAAC

(shocked)

I don't believe this. You fucking traitors!

HAKARU

Oh, nicely played Isaac. Don't put on this show! You brought the trouble here, despite our warnings and we acted within our bounds.

ZORIN

Siren was not trouble. She was a member of my crew and a trusted...

JUNJI

(interrupting)

Not Siren. You brought them here. Isaac, how could you live on the same bucket as them?

A pause as Zorin figures it out. Isaac is still at these accusations.

ZORIN

Azel and Shera? You knew about them?

Junji utters a disheartened laugh.

JUNJI

You call us traitors Isaac, trying to bring the real enemy to justice and those who harbor them. You're not a Jushai-born man, Isaac. You're the traitor. Not just to us, but to your crew. After all, you told us...

Isaac's face contorts with anger... He fires!

Junji falls to the ground as Hakaru dives behind the fountain, dodging several gun shots.

Just then, a good half-dozen suited guards enter the room. Poised for action, they load their large rifles and take aim. Tom Hatch sees this a SCREAMS like a banshee, paralyzed with fear.

Isaac grabs Hatch's jacket and pulls him down behind the fountain, along with Zorin. A spray of bullets rips the stone to rubble. Zorin and Isaac reach their weapons over the ledge and fire back. The sounds of bullets whizzing by and concrete shattering fills the air.

Isaac pulls out a seconds gun, the one he tried to give to Adele, and hands it to Hatch.

ISAAC
 (shouting)
 Take this and fire!

HATCH
 (scared)
 Isaac, I don't know!

A bullet shoots by Hatch's head, literally grazing his head. He whines loudly.

HATCH
 OH MY GOD! This isn't happening.

ISAAC
 Take the fuckin' gun and start shooting right now or you WILL be a decoy.

He takes it and Isaac returns to firing.

We see the armed guards taking cover behind the doors and entrance way. Zorin JUMPS to his feet when a lull in the fire appears. He rushes over and behind Junji's desk, tipping it over for protection. Isaac runs behind a partition between the office and bar area. Hatch remains where he is.

ZORIN
 Where'd they go?

Hakaru and Junji are gone, nowhere to be found.

ISAAC
 Cowards ran away and sent their thugs after us.

Several suited men run in, firing away. Hatch peeks over the fountain at these men and cowers back down.

Zorin pops up from behind the desk and kills these few guards and runs toward Hatch. The large Hirogen grabs Tom by the arm and drags him like a rag doll to where Isaac is. They are now all behind the partition.

ISAAC
 What the hell do we do now?

ZORIN
 Easy. We kill all their goons and make it out alive.

ISAAC
 Nice plan.

More gun fires.

Zorin looks around. He sees something on the other side of the office.

ZORIN
Isaac, you'll have to put your fear
of heights aside for a moment.

ISAAC
What!?

Zorin points. On the other side is an exit out the window to a fire ladder. Hatch is shocked.

HATCH
A FIRE LADDER? The 45th century and
you still use fire ladders?

ZORIN
Simple technology never fails.
Let's go.

All three run across the floor toward the window.

CUT TO:

EXT. NOVOGRAD CITY - STREET - LATER

In a hurry, our three crewmen walk briskly down a street relatively clear of the immense partying we've come to expect. Hatch is pale, clearly struck with shock.

ISAAC
(to Hatch)
Quit acting like you've never been
in a fire fight.

HATCH
Not in such close quarters! Back in
that Cult place, I was behind all
you guys, I've never shot anyone...

ZORIN
Shut up, both of you. We have to
figure out what to do.

They keep walking, avoiding the couple of dozen people in this bare street.

ISAAC

"Figure out what to do"? There's no figuring to be done. We find Junji and Hakaru and make those fuckers pay for what they did.

HATCH

Hey guys....

ZORIN

(ignoring Hatch)

We can't just go in guns blazing.

ISAAC

Why the hell not Zorin? We do it all the time and I don't see anything different in this situation.

HATCH

HEY!! What were they talking about?! What did they do with Siren?

ISAAC

They sold her off as a slave Hatch. What the fuck did you think?

HATCH

Hakaru said an old friend of Siren's wanted her back.

Zorin stops in the streets. He turns to Hatch with an ever-present anger.

ZORIN

Siren used to be a full time slave. She was taken from her home in the Meyallus Star System when she was just five years old and sold to an insidious man.

(pause)

I freed her from her life on that slave ship.

Hatch seems to regret asking.

HATCH

(genuinely shocked)

Five years old? Why?

ZORIN

She's a Deltan, they make the best pleasure slaves.

Once again, he's dumbstruck.

HATCH

DELTAN? She's got hair! Pretty hair at that.

ZORIN

Her captives didn't care about her people, in case it wasn't obvious. She's by no means a normal Deltan. Those implants in her hands her meant for sexual purposes.

HATCH

We have to do something.

Zorin nods.

ZORIN

I know.

ISAAC

Hey Zorin. If Junji knew we had Xindi on board, don't you think he would've done something about it?

Zorin turns from Hatch and looks at Isaac... He pulls out his gun.

ZORIN

We're going to find out.

CUT TO:

INT. SLAVE CELL HOUSING

Still locked away, Siren remains silent and still. She looks out from her cell at the dark walkway in front of it, seeing not a soul. It's excruciatingly quiet.

Annoyed, Siren goes back to see the girl in the cell next to hers.

SIREN

Hey. You still there?

The girl looks up at Siren.

GIRL

Why are you still trying to talk to me? I don't want to.

SIREN

Are you Deltan too?

GIRL
We all are. He doesn't like
anything else.

Siren pauses.

SIREN
He doesn't have a name, does he?

The girl doesn't know how to make out this statement.

SIREN
Your captor. He never gave you his
name. You only call him "He".

GIRL
So what?

SIREN
I did the same thing.

Finally, the girl looks interested in talking...

SIREN
Fifteen years. He had me for
fifteen years until I was freed.
And you know what? I didn't talk
with anyone new either. How could I?
They hadn't been what I was through,
how could we even speak on the same
level when they never knew what
torture I'd gone through? It
changes who you are, and no one
else would understand it. You have
to be thinking the same thing.

GIRL
(nervous)
Yes.

A silent beat.

SIREN
What's your name?

GIRL
What's yours?

SIREN
I don't remember. It's been a long
time since someone called me by my
real name. But He called me Siren,
and I still go by that.

Suddenly, we see a man is standing in front of Siren's cell. We can only see his legs as the rest of his body is above the cell door.

MAN

I'm exuberant to know I'm not one easily forgotten.

Siren hunkers back to her original spot.

MAN

Siren...

(he laughs)

I've missed you. You were, quite easily, my number one slave. Even as the leaves decay, I still think of you.

SIREN

(strongly)

What do you want?

MAN

(disappointed)

Oh, I thought we answered this already. There's only one thing I want from you Siren. You see, I have clients waiting as we speak. I had promised them each something special. I'm in the business of making people happy.

SIREN

Fuck you, you son of a bitch. All you are is a weak old man who enjoys watching defenseless women suffer.

MAN

You have really grown up Siren. Matured.

The man bends down in front of the cage. We finally see his face. He's human, with stark white hair and wrinkled skin. He's old, and ugly.

MAN

It's time you come back home.

The man gets back up and leaves as two large men open the cage door. Siren does not give in without a fight. As they come at her, she unleashes her tentacles on one of the men, unleashing her fury. The man is killed, blood sent across the cell.

But before she can attack the other man, he punches her in the face.

BLACK.

CUT TO:

INT. THE AVALON - CORRIDOR

A flurry of gun fire. Our view is facing towards a submachine gun's barrel point-blank. We pull back to see a man dressed in dark brown clothing firing through the Avalon's corridors.

Three Avalon crew members are fleeing the man with the gun. The armed assailant runs after them.

INT. THE AVALON - CORRIDOR 2

Within another corridor, several more armed men run through the halls. One man wears a combat helmet, the other doesn't. As the two men run through the halls, they keep their large weapons in front of them.

From around the corner, Carlise is found standing alone. The two men point their guns at her.

CARLISE

Holy Johnson! What's this all about.

The helmet wearing man slams up against Carlise, pinning her to the wall.

HELMET

Where are they?! The Xindi! Tell me where they are!

CARLISE

No Xindi on this vessel!

HELMET

DON'T EVEN THINK OF LYING! WE WILL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF!

Carlise is intimidated, clearly, and relents.

CARLISE

Oh god. They're on this deck. But I have to warn you about something.

HELMET

What?!

CARLISE
 I can't be sure, but I think
 there's a wrench sneaking up behind
 you.

Confused, Helmet turns around and we see RIDEK knock out
 both men with a large wrench. They fall to the ground.

CARLISE
 God damn, they smell.

CUT TO:

INT. THE AVALON - GALLEY

Azel flips a table over. Shera is with him, she also flips a
 table over, the contents on them going flying. They both
 crouch down behind them.

SHERA
 What do you got?

Azel holds up a thin cylinder.

AZEL
 A laser scalpel I was using to cut
 through fused relays.

SHERA
 That's not going to work very well.
 They'd have to be right up on you.

Shera looks around. Her eyes brighten as she see something.

She holds up a butter knife and smiles, as if successful.
 Azel isn't sure as his eyes navigate between the laser
 scalpel and the butter knife, as if true conflict laces his
 decision. Azel drops the laser and takes the butter knife.

AZEL
 Hell, it got us on the Avalon. It
 can get these guys out...

Suddenly the door opens!

The two Xindi duck further down and look through a small
 hole in the table to see the approaching assailant's feet.
 The stranger rushes over to the table and looks over at the
 two... It's Zorin!

AZEL
 Zorin! Where have you been?

ZORIN

Out. What in the name of Hell is going on in my ship?!

The two Xindi get up.

AZEL

They were causing the problems with Avalon. They shut down a bunch of systems right after you left and raided us.

SHERA

They have a lot of the upper decks cut off.

ZORIN

Is everyone okay?

AZEL

I don't know. Ava's offline and we can't comm anyone. They have control of this ship.

ZORIN

What do they want?

BAM!

A gun is shot into the ceiling and grabs everyone's attention to the galley door. The familiar figure of the Orator from the streets is standing in the threshold with two armed men.

ORATER

I want them!

There is only silence.

ORATER

Just give me those two and there will be no bloodshed.

ZORIN

I think we're past that now. You boarded my ship, armed to the teeth, and attacked my crew. I won't tolerate it. Get off my ship before there is real bloodshed.

ORATER

You won't scare us away so easily, not with those murderers cowering behind you.

Azel pops out from behind Zorin.

AZEL
(defiant)
Who's cowering?

Zorin pushes Azel back behind him.

ZORIN
Is Junji paying you for this?

ORATER
Junji is providing a donation to
our cause. The reward is their
execution.

Zorin nods.

ZORIN
You'll revel in the execution of
innocent people?

ORATER
Sins of the father. I could lecture
you all day about our motivations.
We're not bigots, Hirogen. We're
orphans, searching for the cure to
the...

Without a seconds warning, two metal wrenches and the butt
of a gun pound down on the three intruders' heads. They all
collapse to show Carlise, Ridek, and Isaac behind them.

ZORIN
Thank you. I wasn't up for hearing
a sermon.

CARLISE
Zorin, what the hell is going on?
Are they after the Xindi?

ZORIN
It would seem that way. How many
are on board?

Ridek holds up his wrench.

RIDEK
A whole lot less thanks to this baby.

CARLISE
We guess around a dozen in the
upper decks, including the bridge.

Azel speaks up.

AZEL

Got an idea here. Can't we just gas 'em?

SHERA

We can't, you dolt. There's something outside the ship that's blocking Ava from ordering stuff like that.

ZORIN

Can you find whatever damper is out there and shut it down?

SHERA

Even better, we'll blow it to pieces.

ZORIN

I don't care how, just do it.

All six race out and down the corridor.

EXT. NOVOGRAD CITY - PORT - NIGHT

Back outside the Avalon, we see the landing ramp has been raised. Outside the ship are four guards with their weapons drawn. All four wear evil grins, as if hard work is coming to fruition.

Quickly, the Avalon landing ramp lowers down causing the interior light to flood out and onto the four men. These men look up into the ship to see nothing and no one. It has their attention fully.

From behind them, a beeping device drop from atop the Avalon. It EXPLODES and sends blinding light everywhere. The four men drop unconscious.

We see Shera is on Avalon's hull, peeking out of an independent airlock on the side of the ship.

INT. THE AVALON - ENGINEERING DECK

On the engineering deck, Zorin, Azel, Carlise, and Ridek congregate around the warp core. All four still hold weapons.

AZEL

So, is this a typical thing?

ZORIN

What?

AZEL
Bad guys boarding your ship. Does
it happen often?

ZORIN
It's happened before.

AZEL
What did you do those times?

ZORIN
Different things. My crew is
reliable enough to know how to
fight off intruders like these people.

AZEL
Well, I guess it's only decent to
say thanks. Thanks for fighting for us.

Zorin doesn't respond, like he's never been thanked before.

AZEL
(changing subjects)
I wonder how Shera's doing?

At that moment, a loud explosion is heard from outside the
ship. Then, several downed systems appear to come back to life.

AZEL
I guess her pyro instinct took over.

Azel and Carlise go over the systems.

CARLISE
Hey Ava, you alive?

AVA
(somewhat groggy)
Huh? What?

Carlise hesitates.

CARLISE
I said 'Are you okay?'

AVA
Oh... yeah. I was just takin' a nap.

AZEL
Well, rise and shine. We need you
to gas some people.

AVA
I love waking up to those words.

CUT TO:

INT. STERILE ROOM

The sterile room is just that, devoid of any thing except four walls. It's well lit, and ominous in its sheer simplicity.

The door opens. Siren is escorted in along with Him. The door is shut behind them both.

HIM
Things will go a lot smoother, a lot quicker, if you do as I say Siren.

SIREN
You know I can kill, don't you? And you know I will.

HIM
I don't think you will. You're simply trying to course me into thinking you could. I know that you have neither the will nor the means.

SIREN
What do you mean?

HIM
When you were knocked out, we disabled your ability to use them.

Siren takes off the glove that usually covers her deformed hand.

SIREN
How?

HIM
A simple shot. Enough about this, do as I say. Stand against that wall.

He motions to the wall behind her. She walks to it and puts her back against it. Quickly, two latches seemingly morph out from the wall and binds her hands to the surface.

SIREN
What the hell?

HIM
You've been away from us a long time. We have to make sure you're still able to pleasure my clients.

Siren is disgusted, she looks away as the door opens again. In walks a doctor holding an instrument. He wears a vest with several more tools tucked away. He goes over to Siren and gets on one knee in front of her implanted hand. Siren still looks away.

The doctor puts the instrument into Siren's hand and forcibly pulls several tentacles out... He is relentless, as the brutal act seems to bear no medical purpose to the common person.

A close up onto Siren's face. She is fighting, with all of her strength, to not give into the pain. Her eyes are squeezed shut. Tears start to form behind.

DOCTOR

She hasn't been keeping these well maintained. I take it some of them have naturally fallen out. Several are dying.

HIM

We can't have that.

DOCTOR

Not at all.

The doctor reaches into his vest and pulls out the crudest of instruments: scissors.

We slowly go back up to Siren's face as the doctor begins his obvious amputation. Not a second passes by before Siren's face again locks into anguish. Finally, she gives in. She whimpers aloud... Then a cry of agony.

The doctor finishes his work and gets to his feet.

DOCTOR

All done. Other than that, she looks fine.

HIM

You are excused.

The doctor leaves. Siren remains poised against the wall, suffering.

HIM

Get over it Siren. You're not hurt. It just feels like it. Are you ready to get to work?

Siren is unwilling to give in.

SIREN
 (huffing through the pain)
 Fuck you.

HIM
 Thought you'd remain defiant. My
 newer girls break before that
 operation even starts. Luckily
 though, I have a client who likes
 his women tough.

Siren looks petrified. The binds from the wall release and Siren collapses slightly, though she remains on her feet.

He takes to the door, opens it, and waits a moment before leaving.

HIM
 However, I strongly recommend you
 become complacent over time. He
 might get violent.

He finally leaves... but is quickly replaced by another man. An alien, a very strong looking and intimidating Naussican. The burly alien grins and approaches Siren.

NAUSSICAN
 (guttural)
 You are fine looking woman. How do
 you want to go about this lady?

Siren looks weak for a moment... then strikes the Naussican in the face! She gets around him and runs to the door. She tries to pull it open, but it won't budge.

The alien man GRABS Siren from behind and throws her to the ground like a plaything. She struggles with all her power, kicking and flailing.

NAUSSICAN
 Just the way I like it.

The man grabs her shirt and yanks it off in a single, fluid motion.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR

Outside the room, HE stands alone with his arms folded.

From behind us, Hakaru joins him.

HAKARU
How is she?

HIM
She's...
(a though)
Working.

HAKARU
My payment?

HE smiles and reaches into his trouser pocket. He pulls out a singular disc, not unlike what we've seen before. He hands it to Hakaru.

HIM
More than enough?

Hakaru smiles.

HAKARU
Perfect. I do hope though, that I might take advantage of your offer?

HIM
If you'd like some time with her, I can arrange it. Half off since you brought her back.

Hakaru smiles.

HAKARU
This is a rather lucrative business, is it not?

HIM
I wouldn't be the man I am today without the slave industry.

Hakaru thinks for a few seconds, then smiles.

HAKARU
If I were to get you more, would I be paid appropriately?

HIM
I'd like more variety in my selection. Bring me more women, you'll receive more of those.

Hakaru grins again. On this we...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. WOOD HOUSE

We see soft blue light coming through planks of wood. She pan by a whole wall of this before zooming back out to see it's an actual structure made from wood. It's not well kept, and there is only the few moon beams shining through the wood to give glow to everything else. We can see a few people on the ground, apparently asleep. We look over to a door.

The door is BASHED open and several armed henchmen run into the wood house!

The people lying asleep on the ground are jolted awake by their entrance. Three of the people are women, and older lady and two teenage girls. The two others include a young boy not even in his teens and the other is Yuvan.

Hakaru enters behind his five henchmen. He stands tall in the doorway and looks at the wood house.

HAKARU

Pathetic! You told me you moved out of this place Yuvan!

Yuvan can't believe Hakaru's violent entrance.

YUVAN

(scared)

I couldn't help it! I had to sell our previous apartment to pay your fees...

HAKARU

And you you have our fees?

YUVAN

No... not in whole.

Hakaru looks completely dissatisfied.

HAKARU

Shame.

YUVAN

What are you going to...

HAKARU

(to his henchmen)

Take them.

On his orders, the henchmen lumber to the females of the group and grab them.

YUVAN
NO!!! NO, you can't!

A guard punches Yuvan across the face, silencing him. The women cry out for help as the men take them with little resistance. The young boy sits in appalled silence as his mother and sisters are dragged out of the wood hut. Hakaru looks down on the boy.

HAKARU
Let this be a lesson to you.
(a beat)
Tell your father, when he wakes,
that this is his punishment for
taking advantage of our services.

The boy just sits. We see Hakaru's shadow turn and leave the house.

INT. THE AVALON - BRIDGE

On the bridge, the crew is gathered. They all man stations, and are trying to figure out their mess as quickly as humanly possible.

ZORIN
How we doing?

AVA
Carlise and her team just got the last of the gassed bandits off the ship. As for me, I think my systems are returning to normal.

ZORIN
You think?

AVA
Yeah. I can't fly yet, I need to get my systems warmed up for that.

ZORIN
(sarcastically)
By all means, take your time.

ISAAC
Zorin, what do we do now?

ZORIN
We have to find Siren.

ISAAC
I know that, but how? We have no idea where she was taken, Junji and Hakaru are gone, and there could be more people like those who raided our ship on the way. We can't dick around any more.

Azel talks from across the bridge.

AZEL
Hey guys. We got something.

ZORIN
'Something' is a very broad term Azel.

AZEL
Yeah, I know. Sensors are picking up... people. Three life people approaching the ship.

Zorin gets up from his seat.

ZORIN
Put them up on screen.

The view screen activates to show three figures walking up to the ship. It's Junji and two guards.

ISAAC
Brave bastard.

ZORIN
Didn't you shoot him?

ISAAC
In the shoulder.

All three men on the screen stop and just stand there.

AZEL
What are they doing?

ZORIN
Waiting. They want us to meet them out there.

AVA
Hey, is that a good idea? I could blast 'em for you.

ISAAC
I agree, just take them out.

ZORIN
 (loudly)
 No! We need him.

ISAAC
 What the hell for?

ZORIN
 He'll tell us were Siren is.

Isaac scoffs.

ISAAC
 In exchange for what? The Xindi?
 (a moment's consideration)
 Well, I'm all for it.

Zorin nods and gets to his feet.

EXT. NOVOGRAD CITY - PORT

Back out on the port, the Avalon's ramp lowers. Junji and his wounded shoulder, along with his guards, still stand motionless.

Zorin walks out onto the port.

JUNJI
 Zorin, I'm not looking for a fight.

ZORIN
 Funny, that's what those men you sent said too. Before we knocked them all out.

JUNJI
 I didn't sponsor those men. I offered money if they returned with those Xindi you have.

ZORIN
 And now that they've failed, you want them?

JUNJI
 I can offer you 80,000 for them

The Avalon's commander is a statue. Junji laughs.

JUNJI
 I will get them Zorin. Whether you like it or not. You see...

Junji holds up a device.

JUNJI

Those men also planted a large explosive device on your ship.

ZORIN

You'll kill our Xindi if you do that.

JUNJI

Just what I want. Either give them to me, or you all die.

Zorin is silent. He folds his arms.

ZORIN

I'm not stupid Junji...

A long beat. Junji still holds his finger over the button.

ZORIN

If you're willing to take all of our lives for them... Fine. I'm not stupid enough to not realize the numbers. Two people to save the life of the whole crew.

JUNJI

That's good thinking.

Zorin turns back to Avalon...

We see Azel and Shera are being pulled out by Isaac! The two Xindi struggle in the man's arms.

Junji wears a smile. Isaac brings the Xindi to Zorin.

AZEL

(to Zorin)

I can't believe this! You can't do this!

ZORIN

I'm sorry, but she's my friend. You can be replaced.

AZEL

You coward!!

Azel struggles in Isaac's hands, who starts pulling them over to Junji. The two guards meet Isaac and take Azel and Shera...

Junji laughs and puts away the controller.

JUNJI
 (to Zorin)
 You and your crew are free to go.
 Pleasure doing business with you.

ZORIN
 Where's Siren?

JUNJI
 I don't know. I'm sorry.

ZORIN
 I think you do.

Suddenly, two very precise bullets FIRE from the Avalon and shoot the two henchmen in the head! Azel and Shera react like animals and grab Junji from both sides, training previously concealed weapons at his head!

Zorin approaches him.

JUNJI
 You don't want to do this Zorin.

ZORIN
 I think we do. I don't care how much power you have on this planet. You'll tell us what we want to know, and we'll be long away from this sector of space before you can do a thing about it.

Zorin unveils another pistol. Junji now has three weapons aimed at him.

ZORIN
 Tell us, or we'll take the matter into a more violent direction.

CUT TO:

INT. SLAVE CELL HOUSING

Siren's face. She's asleep, or unconscious, on the ground. We have no indication as to what has happened to her since we last saw her.

The sound of metal clanking wakes her. Taking a moment to get her bearings, she sits. The girl next to her has been returned to her cell. She looks a lot worse than before. Siren waits a moment before going to speak with her again.

SIREN
 Are you okay?

GIRL
What do you think?

SIREN
Will you tell me your name? The
name He gave you?

The girl is very nervous, clearly.

GIRL
Hearo. I don't know what it means.

SIREN
How long have you been here?

HEARO
Look, I told you my name. Why are
you still trying to talk to me?

SIREN
It's just... I learned that if you
want to rise above the shit we're
all put through, you have to reach
out. I know it's hard...

Hearo is clearly uninterested in what Siren has to say.

SIREN
You've been here for a very long
time, haven't you?

HEARO
Forever.

CLANK.

Siren looks to see HIM standing at her door again. He's bent
down, like looking into a dog's cage.

HIM
Making friends Siren?

She moves back.

HIM
Hakaru is coming. He wants to spend
some time with you. Now, I know how
you are Siren, you'll try to kill
him first chance you get. So, we'll
have to drug you.

Siren looks away, disheartened at this development.

Another set of legs appear beside HIM. He doesn't look at the person, clearly it's the doctor again.

HIM
We'll let the doctor take care of you, and you'll meet with Hakaru.

A gun is pressed against His head. The smug expression previously on his face disappears.

He looks up to see Zorin!

ZORIN
We'll hold off on that.

Behind Zorin is Isaac holding Junji at gunpoint.

HE stands and puts his hands up in the air.

HIM
What's this all about. Junji?

Isaac presses the gun harder against Junji's head.

ISAAC
Don't talk.

ZORIN
They might be good at setting up deals, but are horrible at keeping secrets under pressure. I'd prefer grace under pressure over managerial skills any day. Open the cage.

HIM
I have men who will kill you before you leave this room.

ZORIN
Funny that they'll wait until you're dead and we get our girl back before shooting us. Great guards you got there.
(serious)
We're not stupid, we took them out. Open the gate or we'll ghost you and blow the lock off.

HAKARU
(out of no where)
I don't think so!

Hakaru is behind Isaac, pointing his gun at Sarola's head. Three people holding three guns at three other people.

HAKARU

Let's all put the guns down.

ISAAC

You first, dickhole.

HAKARU

Isaac, why must you make things so difficult?

Hakaru rams the butt end of the gun against Isaac's head to knock him out. Unfortunately, it doesn't work. Isaac stays on his feet and unaffected by the blow. He takes advantage and grabs Hakaru's weapon! He flips it in his hands and Isaac now trains two guns on both brothers!

ISAAC

Because, you assume I'll listen to you. Anyone of you move, I'll shoot.

Zorin hasn't moved an inch.

ZORIN

I won't say it again. Open. The. Gate.

HE finally gives in. He pulls out a card and puts it in the door.

Suddenly, Siren's hand reaches through the bars, grabs HIS shirt, and pulls him against the bars! Her tentacles come flying out and right into HIS head. HE loses all life in his body, and slumps.

A moment of still silence as this action leaves everyone shocked, save Zorin. Siren finishes unlocking the door and gets out.

ZORIN

Are you okay?

SIREN

I am now.

Isaac moves closer to the two, keeping Junji and Hakaru in front of his guns.

ISAAC

Glad you're okay Siren.

Siren wipes her face.

SIREN

Thanks for getting me out.

Zorin puts his gun into her hands.

ZORIN

If you want.

Zorin motions to the two brothers.

ZORIN

They betrayed all of us, not just you. If you want your revenge, go ahead. A lot of people will thank you.

She looks torn, not sure if she wants to take the gun and fire or not. She raises it at the two as Isaac lowers his.

The two brothers look pitiful in Siren's aim.

SIREN

No. It would be better than they deserve. Let's just get the hell out of here.

Zorin takes the gun back.

ZORIN

Okay. Let's go.

Siren grabs the card key out of her cell door and walks with Zorin toward the exit. Isaac stays behind, keeping his two guns on the brothers.

ISAAC

Well, I guess if Siren won't do it. I will.

He takes only one of the guns and FIRES! The two brothers flinch violently as the gun simply clicks. No more bullets.

ISAAC

Hmm, damn.

He checks his other gun.

ISAAC

This one's loaded.

Isaac smiles as he walks backward. He doesn't shoot the two as he leaves.

At the exit of the Cell Housing, Zorin and Siren stop at the door. Siren is intent on a console next to the door. She puts the card key into the panel and pushes a button. With this command, ALL the cells open with loud clanks.

Siren, Isaac, and Zorin exit the room. Junji and Hakaru run away in the other direction.

Nothing happens for the longest time. The dozens of cells don't come flooding out with the slave girls. Nothing. Not even a cricket chirp. Until we see Hearo's cage. She peeks her head out to experience freedom for a moment. She then grabs the cage door and shuts it again, remaining a prisoner. Systematically, we see all the other slave girls, previously unseen and unheard, close their cell doors.

Silence.

EXT. NOVOGRAD CITY - PORT

We see the Avalon back on the port. However, it's engines are now lit up. The green hue of the nacelles a healthy glow. In the distance, and over the ocean, we see the sun starting to rise.

Avalon raises from the port, and takes to the sky. We watch it leave.

INT. THE AVALON - ZORIN'S QUARTERS

Zorin is alone in his quarters. He stands, looking out the window as the planet of Novograd slowly disappears.

A knock from the door.

ZORIN

Come in.

Isaac enters.

ISAAC

Zorin.

ZORIN

What've you got?

ISAAC

Siren looks good. She's obviously under a lot of grief, and it might take some time for her to get over it.

(a beat)

She's not talking about what happened to her.

ZORIN

She doesn't have to.

ISAAC
 Yeah. Yeah, I know. It's just...
 (clearing his throat)
 You wanted something else?

ZORIN
 Yeah. I was just going to say that
 I'm glad you were so helpful in
 getting Junji and Hakaru and
 bringing them to justice.

ISAAC
 (a laugh)
 Justice? People like us don't
 believe in justice.

ZORIN
 Whatever we call it, thank you.

ISAAC
 They took Siren. Couldn't let them
 get away with it.

Isaac walks back to the door, ready to leave.

ZORIN
 Did you tell them about Azel and Shera?

He stops in the doorway.

ISAAC
 What?

ZORIN
 Did you tell those two Azel and
 Shera were on our ship?

ISAAC
 The fuck do you mean? Of course not.
 They scanned us or something.

Zorin seems to gauge Isaac's expressions. He nods.

ZORIN
 Okay. That's all I needed.

Isaac scoffs, not believing that question was asked. He leaves.

INT. THE AVALON - ISAAC'S QUARTERS

Isaac enters his quarters. His quarters are just like everyone else's. Bare. He does have a bed set in the corner and a single desk on the opposite wall holding a computer terminal. He's obviously beat, tired.

He takes off his shirt and throws it across the room. He yawns.

He notices something. He rushes over and grabs something next to his desk. He takes the mystery object and rushes to his bed. Bending over, he slides a silver briefcase under his bed...

CUT TO:

INT. THE AVALON - SIREN'S QUARTERS

Within another room, Siren's is the darkest. Nothing but the stars outside.

There is a knock at the door.

SIREN

What?

The door slips open. Out of all people, it's Tom.

HATCH

Siren. Can I come in?

SIREN

(pissy)

Goddamn, what is it Hatch?

HATCH

Um... I'll come back if it's... or never.

Siren sighs.

SIREN

No. I'm sorry. What is it?

She sits up in her bed. Hatch carefully inches his way into the room.

HATCH

I just wanted to see if you were okay.

SIREN

I'm fine. I just need time by myself.

HATCH

I see. I, uh--I could never know what it is you went through. I can't even imagine. I feel like a dick just talking about this since I have no bearing on what you went through. But...

He looks at Siren, and looks like he has some real emotion behind his thoughts.

HATCH

I'm really glad we didn't lose you. I don't want to get mushy here, but it means a lot when I say that. You haven't been the *niciest* person to me since I've been on board, but you've really helped me along whether you know it or not. I don't think I was ready to lose you so soon.

Siren is silent.

HATCH

Sorry. Sorry, I'll go now.

He does just that. Not a word else is uttered as Siren sits alone in the darkness.

She starts to weep in her solitude.

INT. SUN CATCHER - OFFICE

The brother's office looks like a war zone. The fountain, the walls, the plants... all lie in shreds and ruins. The lights are out completely, and only the soft blue light from the distant, rising sun basks the room.

Junji and Hakaru stumble through the torn wreckage of their office.

HAKARU

A lot of damage.

JUNJI

We can fix it. We have the money.

HAKARU

Yeah. We might be able to move in on HIS business.

JUNJI

You want to get into slavery?

HAKARU

What? Too much for you?

JUNJI

I don't know.

HAKARU
Take dad's advice, Junji. Change
with the seasons.

Junji nods. They both return to tending their shattered office.
We hear a gun cock. A familiar event.
Hakaru and Junji look over to see someone holding a gun at them.

HAKARU
Motherfucker.

It's Yuvan.
Yuvan pulls the trigger and kills both Hakaru and Junji.
On the last gunshot, we...

SMASH TO BLACK.

End of Act Four.

THE END