



Phoenix Rising

2.01

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TEASER

EXT. SPACE

A wide shot of the Avalon, still missing parts of its hull and one nacelle. We can see Rosani 6 and the fleet of thirty ships behind them. Brief flashes of light come from each one of the ships... We see they are missiles. Each ship has fired at least ten, leaving hundreds of warheads bound for the Avalon. The missiles move faster than the fleet or Avalon, racing onward relentlessly.

The Avalon is almost to the blue and white nebula. Not quick enough; the missiles overtake Avalon.

Suddenly, what seems like hundreds of individual beams of light shine out from the nebula. Each beam attaches and holds the missiles bound for the Avalon in an unmistakable sign of divine intervention. Tractor beams. From the chaotic nebula, a mammoth Cult ship emerges like a sleeping giant. The injured Avalon still limps from its pursuers.

INT. AVALON

Sitting, mouth agasp and eyes wide, is SHERA. Behind her is RIDEK and her cousin AZEL.

RIDEK

Did that just fucking happen?

Shera shakes her head in a shared disbelief.

EXT. SPACE

We see the fleet of Rosani 6 vessels have all halted in their tracks at the voluminous beast of a ship. The missiles still in its grasp, the multitude of Cult tractor beams twist the missiles around and point them at the Rosani fleet! The Cult throw the missiles at their originators, sending the fleet running.

INT. AVALON

All three remain slack jawed and sweating, still deadpan in their would-be last moments of life. In the background, a beeping fills our ears.

It isn't until Azel's idle hand moves around Shera that the beeping stops. On the speakers, we hear a familiar voice...

SOVARI (V.O.)

Avalon. If it isn't the Elusive One itself. You managed to evade us the last two times we met, fortunately the Light has turned in our favor. Stay your ground and we won't send you back to those who would kill you.

The comm line is cut, but it seems the trio on the bridge haven't heard a word, as their expression remains unchanged.

INT. AVALON - SICKBAY

ISAAC SAROLA's eyes are white. As are ADELE TIERNAN's. Both remain in the unforgiving grasp of SIREN's tentacle implants. Both Isaac and Adele are almost unconscious from the strain. Siren is weeping, almost as if she knows what she's doing wrong but cannot cease.

ZORIN(O.S.)

(weakly)

Siren...

There, standing behind Siren, is ZORIN. Clutching his stomach and hunched over in obvious agony, he wields a large needle towards her, the same one Isaac used to sedate him.

ZORIN

Put them down. Now.

Siren seems to ignore her commander and friend. Zorin hobbles toward Siren with the syringe filled with liquid as menacingly as he can in his condition.

Siren launches another one of her tentacle at Zorin, but stops it inches away from his face. She can't do it. Zorin is unphased.

ZORIN

You going to kill us all Siren?

The world outside Siren seems to blend together in sorrow. In her mind, we hear voices...

HAKARU (V.O.)

Deep down you'll always be a slave.

HIM (V.O)

What could you have that's ever been of worth to anyone?

SIREN (V.O.)

We couldn't pretend it was all a bad dream we would wake up from at any moment. Every time it happened we realized what we were and we could never escape.

Because of Siren's reluctance to take Zorin out and her flashback reverie, the Hirogen is able to make his move. He slaps her tentacles out of the way and plunges the needle into her arm. She yells in a shout of pain at Zorin, finally wrapping the tentacle around his frame. But the medicine takes swift effect on her, knocking her out cold.

Adele and Isaac are finally freed. They both emerge from fleeting suffocation, coughing and gagging. Zorin is still hunching over before Siren. He shoots a cold glare to Isaac.

ZORIN

(huffing in pain)

Next time, use drugs that works on Hirogen, not just human...

Zorin collapses to the ground in pain.

EXT. AVALON

The Avalon is dwarfed by the Cult ship, which is now tractoring the ailing ship by a Red beam at impulse.

INT. AVALON - SHUTTLEBAY

Shera, Azel, and Ridek appear in the shuttlebay. They stand in front of the airlock doors with worry on their faces.

AZEL

Shera, tell me again how this is in any way a good idea.

SHERA

Shut up Azel. It's not. We don't have any other choice.

AZEL

Yeah but...

Shera grabs her cousin by the shirt and meet his face with hers.

SHERA

(angry)

I don't care how stupid you think this is Azel!

(MORE)

SHERA (CONT'D)

Zorin is in no condition to take this situation and no one else is around. We have to take responsibility. So shut up and do what I tell you!

She releases him and turns back to the airlock, which is cycling.

The door opens. A dozen or so Cult acolytes burst in, weapons drawn. The three submit with hands raised. They are surrounded by the guards with Sovari quickly in tow. He wears a smile like a crown.

SOVARI

Finally. The Elusive One in our hands.

SHERA

In case you've forgotten, we had a deal. The Regent Tel was murdered and Rosani 6 is...

Without remorse, Sovari sends his open palm into Shera's face. She remains on her feet but holding her cheek. Azel restrains himself from lurching at the Red.

SOVARI

I'd keep my mouth shut if I were you. Don't try to pretend this is going to be fair. You all knew going into this that this wouldn't be fair. We know who you are, a pair of Xindi that have eluded us for years. A doctor onboard who chose not to die with his world. A criminal who steals and kills anything to keep his ship in the air and his hide free. A woman, whom the Prophet himself decreed to die. Don't even pretend this was just another deal.

AZEL

Then why go through all this trouble to get us? Why send Chala to help us kill that man? Why didn't you just ambush us at the meeting point?

SOVARI

Unlike you people, we think things through. But like you, Chala thought she could get away with making a deal with us. That allowed us to get her, you, and the Rosani in one fell swoop. It was a lot easier to kill as many birds with one stone. Now we have you all.

RIDEK

So what? Now we have to be converted? Is that it, you leech?

Sovari musters a laugh.

SOVARI

A few of you people MAY be worthy enough for that. Most likely though, you'll all be dead before the hour is up.

Sovari signals his guards. The guards knock the trio out.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

A glaring light shines into our view for a split moment. The mood is tense and cryptic as we pull back to see the glare is from the reflective armor of a Cult acolyte. The almost Roman inspired uniforms don't just adorn one soldier, but dozens and dozens as they march through the halls of the Avalon.

Further down the corridor, a female crew member is fighting off an acolyte, clobbering him over the head with a pipe. She's ambushed by two others though, and is stabbed through the back.

INT. AVALON - ENGINEERING

We slowly zoom away from the warp sphere, which is inert, as several crewmen run past our view. They are pursued by several more acolytes, who fire weapons at the terrified engineers. They are toppled over by the blasts, falling to the bulkhead devoid of life.

INT. AVALON - ROUTER ROOM

In the small router room just off of engineering, we see a female sitting on equipment and holding a rather large machine gun. It's CARLISE. She slams a large black clip into the gun, cocks it, gets up and stands next to the exit. She takes a deep breath and presses the button to open the door.

INT. AVALON - ENGINEERING

She bursts out of the router room and fires off a spray of gunfire to a group of Cult assembled near the warp sphere. She takes them all out as she cries like a ravenous valkyrie. Several more guards rush into the room, their guns drawn, but Carlise is quick enough to land head shots to them all. Her rage is beyond words.

Another acolyte is seen taking guard behind the warp sphere. Carlise sees this guard and unloads again.

We follow a single bullet, Matrix-style slow motion, as it hits the warp sphere and ricochets off like the dozens of other bullets. This one, however, bounces back at Carlise and lands in her shoulder. She drops her weapon and is ambushed from behind by several more guards. They land several blows to her head, silencing her.

INT. AVALON - SICKBAY

The scene in the sickbay is no different. Isaac is held down by a red hand, the hand firmly shoving his head into the ground.

ISAAC

I'll kill you! Get off me!

The Red fires his weapon at Isaac point blank. Isaac struggles for a bit before finally slipping into unconsciousness, clearly not dead however. Siren is still unconscious from Zorin's save earlier, as is Zorin himself. They are both bound and being dragged away.

Adele is nowhere to be seen.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

Looking immediately up, we see the bottom of the Avalon against a backdrop of pure Red from the Cult ship above them, the Hringhorni. The Avalon is a battered wreck and the Cult tractor beam seems to be lugging its weight. We pan up to see more of the Avalon and the extent of the damage. Burn marks, gashes, impact holes, and a missing nacelle are all afflicting the ship.

The Hringhorni tractor beam slowly pulls the Avalon closer and into a large bay under its belly.

INT. HRINGHORN - BAY

The Avalon is pulled into place as the bay doors close. What could be hundreds of mechanical arms suddenly extend from the walls and begin to work on the ship.

SOVARI (V.O.)

It's an aberration.

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

Sovari strides down a hall in the Avalon. His body fills the frame, but he is clearly with someone else.

SOVARI

(sternly)

Don't let anything get in your way regarding this. Once we're through with this ship, I want it destroyed. It and its crew have caused enough trouble as it is.

(MORE)

SOVARI (CONT'D)

The Prophet's will isn't an easy one to predict, but sheer logic demands that he would decree this ship be wasted.

We pan over to see who Sovari is with: a tall woman with dark red hair and a general's uniform modified for the feminine form. Her ghostly complexion is almost ethereal. This is BRIE.

BRIE

But the will of the Prophet has been ignored on many occasions. My position as General for instance.

SOVARI

One must become a prophet himself to anticipate His will. You're position was created for a reason. The Avalon has only one reason to exist at the moment and once it's completed its purpose to be, we get rid of it.

BRIE

Understood. Where are we going?

They approach a doorway to someone's quarters. It's flanked by two acolytes standing at guard. Sovari and Brie walk into...

INT. AVALON - ADELE'S QUARTERS

They slow when they get into her quarters, almost as if an air of blasphemy is impeding their steps. We see stacks and stacks of paper piled up around her room, some bound volumes of text, and candles galore.

BRIE

I see she hasn't lost her faith.

SOVARI

Yes, but we seem to have lost her.

Brie is confused.

BRIE

She's not onboard?

SOVARI

She was when the Avalon took their mission to Rosani. If she isn't on this ship, she's still on that planet.

BRIE

Which means she's as good as dead.

He shoots her an angry glare.

SOVARI

Don't speak too soon. I won't jump to that conclusion until I've seen her remains.

BRIE

Then why are we here right now?

Sovari goes to her desk and picks up a single piece of paper.

SOVARI

This is why.

(reciting)

"I've been on this ship for close to a year and I still am not accustomed to it. I can't keep my leave here, I'm endangering people whom Sovari and his followers want. I'm only making it worse. However, I can't help but think the Prophet himself has led me here. I believe I'm to partake in the Final Prophecy whether I wish it or not. I believe Siren may be the Mother of the Omega."

Brie perks up at this.

BRIE

"Mother of the Omega"? Here?

SOVARI

A former slave, now with child.

BRIE

She's the prophesied giver of destruction. She must be killed.

SOVARI

(firmly)

To do so would be blasphemy. The Prophet...

BRIE

(quickly)

You always reverse on the Prophet's wishes. Why change your attitude now?

Sovari throws his hand into Brie, his old standby of discipline. She stays on her feet, but clearly put in her place.

SOVARI

Listen to my orders! To kill her or the child would be catastrophic. It's told in Prophecy that Those Who Walk in the Light cannot end the life of the Omega for it is innocent. However, if we can twist prophecy to our favor we can prevent our demise.

BRIE

How? To not allow the child to be born is blasphemy. The Prophet has predicted this, how could we prevent our demise?

SOVARI

We take her child. Simple as that. Keep it in our hands as to not allow it's seed of destruction to not come to fruition.

BRIE

But it's not yet born.

SOVARI

Then it will be. Sooner or later.

Brie is somewhat unnerved.

BRIE

This whole ordeal must be handled with care.

He walks closer to her.

SOVARI (CONT'D)

I know the Prophet well, that's why I am the Penultimate. I must be able to keep his word in mind, while preserving our great society. We cannot kill the Omega but we cannot let it kill us. Taking the child is the only way.

The doors to Adele's quarters open and they are joined by a Cult technician. His red metal uniform is covered in grime and he's holding a padd. He's an average sized man with a bald head and large glasses.

SOVARI

Alun? How's progress on the ship?

ALUN wears a smile.

ALUN

Gots me some respectable news for ye's. This here ship's battered like an unchaste cooney but we're patching her wounds well enough.

Brie rolls her eyes at Alun and turns to investigate Adele's quarters further.

SOVARI

Will it be ready for when we need it?

ALUN

Ye. This here tub would do your job now needn't the Beast be so particular 'bout his women. Which leads me, resident mind onboard is 'bout ready for your orders.

SOVARI

The AI's up and running?

ALUN

Not directly, she will be come hour's end.

SOVARI

Get back to it then.

Alun takes his leave. Sovari and Brie glare at each other for a moment.

SOVARI (CONT'D)

If all goes to plan, we will be stronger and more predominant once this is all done and over with. With both Beast and the Omega in our hands, nothing left in the universe will stop our march.

CUT TO:

INT. HRINGHORN - CORRIDOR

We slowly pan away from a steely red wall, illuminated by fire light, to see Shera being held gruffly by a Cult guard. Behind her is her cousin Azel and Ridek, all are bound by their hands and being escorted through the darkened hall.

Shera attempts to turn to see her shipmates, but the acolyte slaps her face forward. Her expression is one of intense disdain.

VOICE

What do they want with you?

SHERA (V.O.)

My death probably. They want all of us dead.

VOICE

It's truly amazing that an organization like the Cult can grow to such an incredible size yet still act like savages.

The silent conversation continues as they are brought to a single cell. No fires burn in the cell itself, only outside give brief luminance to the prison.

SHERA

(aloud)

There's no such thing as civility anymore.

Shera is pushed into the cell, along with her counterparts. The jail cell is locked behind them and the guards remain outside.

INT. HRINGHORNI - CELL

Ridek pushes against the bars and hollers out.

RIDEK

You're lucky these bars are keeping me from you!

One of the acolytes takes notice. He turns to Ridek.

RIDEK (CONT'D)

You want something Red?

The masked guard is silent for a moment, then speaks.

RED

I infer you're from Xantorax.

RIDEK

(with spite)

Looking to finish the job? You wanna kill me, go for it.

RED

You're different though. You aren't begging for your life at the sight of an Acolyte. You probably wouldn't leave your children to die in Holy Fire to save your own hide.

RIDEK

Do I get a commendation for being so damn noble?

Azel speaks up from behind.

AZEL

He's just trying to get to you Ridek.

RIDEK

No, really? This idiot doesn't know that I hated Xantorax. Good riddance. You grow up in a place like that, you start to long for big Red ships to come burn everything.

(beat, a smile)

So, what else you got sheep? If you wanna get to me, do it like a man.

Ridek holds his arms out, metaphorically waiting for the next blow from the acolyte. But the Red only turns back to his post. Ridek smiles a grin of slight success, then goes to the Xindi.

RIDEK (CONT'D)

(quieter)

So, what's the deal?

SHERA

Regarding...?

RIDEK

Escape.

Azel and Shera laugh slightly.

AZEL

That's going to be a little difficult since we have steel bars, an army of guards, seven decks, and this ship's artillery separating us from freedom.

RIDEK

This isn't your first time actually caught by the Cult, is it?

The two look defeated, and obvious "yes".

RIDEK (CONT'D)
 Lord dammit. Looks like we're dead.
 Guess I could agitate the guard
 more to keep me busy until our
 deaths, huh?

Shera looks up, so does Azel. They both seemed to realize something simultaneously.

AZEL AND SHERA
 What'd you say?

Ridek is taken back for a second.

CUT TO:

INT. HRINGHORNI - CORRIDOR 2

In another corridor, we once again see a Cult wall. This time, however, the red color is from dripping blood.

We quickly look over to see Isaac looting a dead Cult guard, a medical scalpel in his hand and his white shirt stained red. Isaac finds a card and quickly pockets it.

However, a knife is quickly slid under Isaac's throat. He halts.

SOVARI
 The Prophet looks down on those who
 murder aimlessly.

Sovari is in fact perched over Isaac.

ISAAC
 You people. Kill billions upon
 billions of people for not
 believing what you do, but my one
 murder leaves you disgusted.

Sovari moves in closer behind Isaac's head.

SOVARI
 In His name.

ISAAC
 If I did so bad, then just do it.

Isaac pushes his neck into the blade slightly.

ISAAC
 Just do it.

SOVARI

Trust me, nothing would make me happ...

Isaac throws his head backward and nails Sovari in the nose! Isaac jumps to his feet and wields his surgical knife... But several more, previously unseen, acolytes train their weapons on him. Sovari stumbles back, holding his nose.

SOVARI

Take him!

The guards disarm Isaac and drag him off.

INT. HRINGHORNI - CELL 2

Isaac is manhandled by the guards, his arms and head held. He's tossed into a dark, dirty cell. We see he's alone here as the guards slam shut the prison. Sovari broods into view, holding his bloody nose as Isaac wears a gritty smile.

ISAAC

Basic Jushai Militia training:
don't let your enemy have any
advantage they wouldn't let you
have. I would've slit your throat
without thinking, yet you let me
sit in a jail cell scot-free.

SIREN(O.S.)

Here comes the speech about
adhering to the Prophet's will to
cover up he just doesn't have the guts.

We see Siren is in another cell across the corridor.

SIREN (CONT'D)

He'll send massive warships to do
his own bidding because he's too
coward to do it himself.

SOVARI

You people. You honestly think this
juvenile attempt to demean me will
assuage me from seeing you dead?

Sovari pulls out his knife.

SOVARI

The man who helped you a year ago
on Prime, Rol'Gin. I killed him
with this blade. I'd kill you too
if there weren't other plans for you.

ISAAC
How convenient for us.

Sovari turns to Siren. He eyes her viciously.

SOVARI
Information.

SIREN
You won't get anything from me Red.
Last time you used a professional
torturer on me and he got nothing.

SOVARI
Do you all know your role in prophecy?

Siren seems to back down at his question.

SOVARI (CONT'D)
Did Adele Tiernan tell you who you
are? What that thing in your womb
means to us? Hundreds of years of
foretelling from a single man have
all proven to be correct. The fall
of Jushai Prime, the travesties of
terrorists such as yourself, and
the survival of the blasphemous
woman you people have been
harboring. The Mother of the Omega
stands before me in a cell, and
she's to give birth to a prophesied
child. A beast.

Isaac stands close to the bars.

ISAAC
If you kill her, or us, you'd be
defying His prophecies. Her child
has to be born or else you'd be
guilty too.

SOVARI
Not exactly.

The gates to Siren's cell open and a guard rushes in and
aims his gun at Siren. She's defiant.

SIREN
What are you people going to do? If
you want to kill this thing in my
stomach, you'll get no argument
from me.

SOVARI

But as your astute doctor pointed out, to do so would be blasphemous. Rather, I'm bending the rules a little bit.

Suddenly, another Cultist walks into view. A familiar Cultist. The CREEPY CULTIST. He's clad in black medical garments and smiles a sinister grin. Siren looks worried now. The mood darkens.

SOVARI

You see, that child will be born. It will be born *right now*.

The guard grabs Siren and leads her out, Siren herself not sure if she should fight. The Creepy Cultists follows along.

ISAAC

You people are sick.

SOVARI

I don't believe so. That child will live. Whether or not she survives the procedure is anyone's guess, but her child will be safe and in our hands. How is that sick?

Sovari finally marches off, Isaac giving him a hard stare.

CUT TO:

INT. HRINGHORNI - DARK ROOM

In a very dark room, we see a figure on the ground. Unconscious and still with large bandages around his mid section from the bullet wound is Zorin. His eyes flutter open.

Touching his bandages and assessing his surroundings, he attempts to sit up. Groaning with pain and only making it to his knees, he halts. He can't seem to take the pain anymore as he sighs heavy breaths.

VOICE(V.O.)

We're not all gone, Hirogen.

A dark, cryptic, harsh, and worn voice sounds from the darkness. The mouth which uttered it no where to be seen as the voice echoes through the room.

VOICE(V.O.)

We've been gone, in hiding, but we still exist. Deep in the darkest corners of the galaxy is our only refuge from the universe that wants us dead.

ZORIN

Who's there?

VOICE(V.O.)

I can see you -- can you see me? This is a game we played not too long ago. Back on the iceworld you were forced to set your ship down on. You left two of your people behind while we tried to hunt you down.

ZORIN

That was you?

VOICE(V.O.)

The Cult hired us. "Destroy the Avalon or face His wrath".

A guttural laugh pierces the room.

VOICE(V.O.)

We've faced wrath. From Him, from them, from you and yours.

(a pause)

Children shouldn't grow up knowing their decapitated bodies will be the trophies of your kind's children. I grew up knowing that, because everyone I cared about wound up like that. If it wasn't for your people.

We finally see the person saying these words step out of the shadows. It's a very disheveled, scraggily, and angry KLINGON. Zorin is at a complete loss for words at this sight.

KLINGON

The Cultists want you dead. So do I.

Zorin tries to stand, but his pain keeps him down. He is helpless.

KLINGON

At least you should die believing in what the rest of your kind believe in: Survival of the fittest.

The Klingon charges Zorin!

SMASH TO BLACK

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HRINGHORNI - MEDLAB

The scene is in slow motion. Siren is led in by two acolyte guards flanking her on both sides. Their destination in the murky and moody room is a metal chair, singled out in an ominous spotlight. Siren is very clearly reluctant at her coming fate, but doesn't give any noticeable struggle.

She's put into the chair and strapped in by the Cult guards, the Creepy Cultist looking on.

INT. HRINGHORNI - DARK ROOM

Zorin is impacted hard by a clenched Klingon fist, his face rippling and tightened as he takes the blow. The Hirogen slams to the ground like a giant overcome by gravity as he holds his injured torso. The massive Klingon is quick, unforgiving and unrelenting as he kicks him while already down. Never before seen of Zorin, he can't fight back. He only holds his arms to protect his gut.

INT. HRINGHORNI - MEDLAB

Siren is fully strapped in, she eyes the cart of medical appliances wheeled in front of her. The chair starts to lean back and her legs are positioned into the air and apart.

A close up of her eyes, as she silently closes them and turns her head away.

INT. HRINGHORNI - DARK ROOM

The Klingon now wields a rather rusty, large knife in his hand. A wide shot of the room now shows us the room is scattered with large pillars. A thin blue light illuminates all the room, if only scarcely. The Klingon is clearly on the hunt for a temporarily escaped Hirogen.

KLINGON

Leave the shadows coward!

We pan over to see Zorin clenching his body, slumped against a pillar. Sweat clearly drenches his face, his clothing consisting of a black shirt and dark pants are torn and tattered now.

Zorin turns and sits on the ground, taking only the briefest of moments to recover his strength. We also take this moment.

KLINGON (CONT'D)

Because the shadows are just as
much your enemy as your friend.

We quickly pan to see the Klingon's face right next to Zorin's... and the knife now stabbed into his shoulder.

INT. HRINGHORNI - MEDLAB

The Creepy Cultist holds a long device in his left hand, and a gas mask in the other. Newly brought into the room is a small glass container filled with light green fluid. Clearly an incubator.

The Cultist tries to put the mask over Siren's face, but her tentacles have already responded and knocked the mask from his hand. The Cultist only smiles wider.

CREEPY CULTIST

Very well then, we'll do it without
sedation.

He returns to her other end.

INT. HRINGHORNI - DARK ROOM

Once again, they are locked in mortal combat. Zorin's shoulder is bleeding heavily now with a painful looking knife sticking out, and the Klingon is barely scratched.

Zorin is knocked to the ground, the knife hitting the ground too, the weapon further injuring him. He cries out in pain.

Clearly the victor so far, the Klingon towers over Zorin.

KLINGON

I didn't expect you to put up as
much of a fight as my species did.
I don't care if you do or not, I
only want you dead.

Clenching his face, bracing for the pain, Zorin pulls the knife from his body.

The Klingon reaches down to grab Zorin again, but Zorin turns onto his back and shoves the knife into the Klingon's chest. Straight through the heart. Both are clearly shocked this was able to happen.

KLINGON

(disbelieving)

This -- isn't an -- honorable death.

He collapses, holding the knife.

ZORIN

(weakly)

Fighting to avenge your race is honorable. Your rage made you careless. That's why your species is now dead.

The Klingon's eyes slowly close. Zorin does the same.

INT. HRINGHORNI - MEDLAB

We can see Siren has used her tentacles to grab the mask she previously knocked away and has placed it over her face to sedate herself. Looking on, the Cultist seems to derive sick satisfaction from her turn.

Through Siren's eyes, the world is fading away. Blurry as it might be, we can see the Cultist holding up a scalpel. Her fading vision sees the Cultist begin to make his initial incision... until the distant sound of gun fire is heard. The Cultist drops his scalpel and falls to the ground lifelessly.

Moments later, still through her distorted eyes, we can see the form of a man now standing over her.

CUT TO:

INT. HRINGHORNI - CELL

As before, Shera, Azel, and Ridek occupy this cell. Shera is on the other side of the cell however, all alone.

VOICE

Aren't you scared someone's going to die?

SHERA(V.O.)

Going to die?

VOICE

Haven't you always been scared of that? Look at those two.

Shera does indeed look at Azel and Ridek, conversing silently.

VOICE (CONT'D)

You couldn't live without your cousin. Ridek has proven useful on occasion. Why do you always tell yourself that everything will be okay if you just let the universe unfold on its own?

SHERA(V.O.)
How would you know I think that?

VOICE
Don't play dumb Shera. You know who I am.

SHERA(V.O.)
I know. I just wonder why it is you're constantly asking me about death.

VOICE
Have you heard of precognition?

Shera is visibly troubled by this statement.

VOICE
Though, not really. We all die Shera. When is the only variable.

Azel approaches.

AZEL
Hey.

SHERA
Hey.

AZEL
We need to get moving on this if it's going to work.

SHERA
(hesitantly)
Do you think it's going to work?

AZEL
Of course. Never have doubts. Why? Are you?

Shera sighs loudly.

SHERA
It's just that... um.

AZEL
What? What is it?

SHERA
Have -- you ever talked to someone in your head?

Azel rears back in complete confusion.

AZEL

What the hell? Are we going to do this plan or not?

SHERA

I'm being serious Azel. I need to know, to know if I'm crazy or not.

AZEL

I think you are crazy Shera. I don't talk with anyone in my head unless it's me. Except Syona, that hot Mazerite we met a few years ago. I haven't gotten her out of my head since.

She slaps her cousin on the arm.

SHERA

I told you, I'm serious.

(a sad silence)

Whatever, I'm ready to do this. Is Ridek ready? We need to be well prepared for this.

AZEL

Yeah, I'm not worried at all about us being ready, but Ridek isn't as used to these schemes as we are. But he said he's ready.

She nods.

SHERA

Let's do it.

They get up.

CUT TO:

INT. HRINGHORNI - COMMAND CENTER

Before us now is the massive Cult command center. Like the ones before, it looks like a huge temple hall with a distinct asymmetrical design and multiple stories. Cultists crawl all over this place, but the center is devoid of all activity except for one person. Sovari.

From behind Sovari, his general approaches.

BRIE

Penultimate. The Council has arrived.

Sovari closes his eyes and takes a breath, seemingly chasing away a feeling of anxiety this news has brought.

SOVARI

Prophet wish me well. Bring them in.

Brie walks off the bridge to carry out his order.

Seconds later, seven Cult Acolytes begin walking into the room, each one of them pushing wheelchairs. In each wheelchair are people draped in black cloaks, very similar to the Seers except sans the signature head apparatus. The Acolytes leave the room, leaving the Council of Seers in front of Sovari, who's side Brie goes to. Sovari is clearly daunted by presence of the Council of Seers, possibly even fearful.

SOVARI

(careful)

Council. I appreciate all of you coming. I won't be long, so you all will be able to return to Prime within the hour. You are probably wondering why I asked you here, I assure you that the news I have for you will ensure Cult prosperity till the stars be darkened.

A whisper is heard echoing throughout the Command Center, whether it was real or within Sovari's head is unknown.

Sovari points to the large viewscreen towering in a corner. On it, we see the Avalon. In much contrast to what we expect, the Avalon is being repaired. It's holes are being patched and a new nacelle has been attached. However, this new nacelle now glows red.

SOVARI (CONT'D)

Sitting in my ship's bay is the Avalon, a ship crewed by refugees, so to speak. People eking out a meager life. They were the ones responsible for the travesty on Prime a year ago. They also harbor Adele Tiernan.

Suddenly, our view of the scene blurs... we focus in on the center Seer.

SEER

Adele Tierenan is here?

The voice is ghostly and airy. We can't determine if the Seer's mouth is moving under the cloak or not.

SOVARI

Unfortunately, we haven't been able to locate her. We assume the crew of the Avalon did away with her. Most likely she's dead.

SEER

You speak of a matter you nothing of. You lie to us. You know nothing of her fate.

Sovari fights off a look a guilt.

SOVARI

Yes.

SEER

She is -- inconsequential at this juncture. Our focus must not dwell on renegades. What reason do you have to speak to us if that is the case?

SOVARI

I have a plan for the Avalon. We're going after the Beast: The Phoenix.

At this, our view again blurs and distorts as we again focus on the Seers.

SOVARI (CONT'D)

The Phoenix is the answer to our problems. It's a wraith if posed against us; we've seen it annihilate Cult cruisers as big as the one we are on, but *with us*, the Phoenix is a means to an end. The Avalon houses our key to conquering the Beast. You see, Avalon is the carrier of Siepra.

SEER

Siepra?

SOVARI

On this ship, we've discovered the artificial intelligence which is spoken of in Prophecy. It will lure the Phoenix. Tempt it, for Siepra is the only other of Phoenix's kind still in existence.

(MORE)

SOVARI (CONT'D)

Once we have the Phoenix in our hands, we are *unstoppable*.

(a pause)

That's not even the end of our success.

From behind the delegation, we see another man appear. It's the mysterious PAU'ZAURIC, whom we haven't seen since Prime. He's clad in a black suit, just like before. Zauric looks somber, as if the expression has been burnt into his face.

ZAURIC

It was a success Sovari. We have it.

SOVARI

And what of Siren?

Zauric seems hesitant.

ZAURIC

She didn't survive. We've burned her body.

Sovari smiles. He looks back to the council.

SOVARI

In our divine hands, the Prophet's words have come under a new light. We also have the Omega. The child which is foretold to have the capability to end the existence of our kind.

Another mild blur.

SEER

Is this wise? The Prophet says this child could destroy our people. A child born of a mother bound.

SOVARI

The Prophet does say this child could be our downfall -- if left alone. His Prophecies say NOTHING of the Cult's actual downfall however, only if this child is left in the wrong hands will it succeed in it's path of destruction. So as long as we have it, it's harmless.

SEER

Tread lightly not to undermine prophecy.

SOVARI

Not possible. For the universe will unfold the way it is intended. Try as anyone might, the Prophecies will occur no matter what we do. Although...

For a moment, Sovari seems lost in his own world.

SOVARI (CONT'D)

One must become a prophet himself to understand his will.

His words echo as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AVALON - MAINTENANCE SHAFT

In a very cramped maintenance shaft, we see the last person we expect: ADELE TIERNAN. She tries to get comfortable, but it's obviously a meaningless endeavor.

AVA

Hey, you okay?

She grunts to get comfortable.

ADELE

No, of course not. We're in the belly of the beast and I'm hiding in the lowest, darkest --
(struggling)
most cramped place on this ship.

AVA

But Isaac was right. This place kept you safe.

ADELE

Maybe I don't want to be safe. He thinks of me as my guardian angel when I do not need an angel or a guardian.

AVA

What do you expect of someone who loves you?

Adele finally stops struggling, subscribing to her fate of cramping.

ADELE

I don't know. What's been happening out there?

AVA

I don't know. They patched me up well enough, but that new nacelle creeps me out.

ADELE

How so?

AVA

Umm... it's red. In more ways than one. And also, this bald guy's been trying to get into my systems. They all think I'm knocked out and I hope my ruse lasts until I find a way out of here.

ADELE

What? What are they doing to your systems?

AVA

I have no idea. They're trying to install new protocols in my AI matrix. They call it "Siepra" or something.

At this, Adele's turns a cold expression of shock. Ava continues.

AVA (CONT'D)

I don't know what it is but... Adele? What's wrong?

ADELE

Did you say Siepra?

AVA

Did I? Did I mispronounce it? I think it was Siepra.

ADELE

My god. This can't be.

AVA

What?!

Suddenly, a hatch door opens down the maintenance shaft and the angry head of Alun pops in! He sees Adele!

AVA (CONT'D)

Oh no! Run Adele!

Alun hops into the shaft and grabs Adele by the legs and pulls her out.

CUT TO:

INT. HRINGHORNI - CELL

Once again, we visit the Xindi and Trill captives. Azel and Shera have rigged up a small device of bones of previous cell occupants and clothing. It almost looks like a possible weapon. Almost.

Ridek is conspicuously without a shirt and appears ready for action.

RIDEK

We ready?

Azel stands up and joins Ridek.

AZEL

Guess so.

RIDEK

If this works, it's going to go down into the history books as the most ingenious escape ever.

AZEL

If we survive.

They give each other glances of worry, but subdue it.

RIDEK

Ready?

AZEL

Ready.

A pause.

RIDEK

Go!

Exactly on cue, the cell door opens up. Ridek, Azel, and Shera are shocked at this unexpected event and back away. This clearly wasn't part of the plan. The Red guard steps in with a large weapon. He looks directly at Ridek.

RED
You said you wanted to see what
else I got. To get to you like a
man. How's this?

He cocks the weapon and points it to Ridek. He puts his
hands up.

RED(CONT'D)
Word came down you all are supposed
to die. I'm to help.

Azel and Ridek don't wait. They lunge at the Red!

The Red fires off three rounds.

INT. HRINGHORNI - CELL 2

In the second cell, we see Isaac sitting somberly. Until a
shadow passes over him. He looks up to see an acolyte,
holding the exact same weapon.

Isaac stands up to face the acolyte.

ISAAC
You come to finish the job? You
killed everyone else, is it my turn
next?

The acolyte nods through his helmet and points his gun at Isaac.
He fires.

SMASH TO BLACK

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

DARKNESS

All is black. All is still. All is cold.

At least until:

AZEL (O.S.)

Okay, someone explain just what happened.

We see a faint male outline slowly standing up in a small space, obviously Azel when his distinct frame can be made out.

AZEL

Hello?

Slowly, the very limited light that allows us to barely see Azel becomes brighter and brighter until we realize we're in:

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Azel stands just in front of Zorin's center chair, shaking his head slowly in a groggy stupor. Fortunately, we see he isn't alone just a moment later.

SHERA

Didn't they shoot us?

Ridek and Shera stand up in the same way Azel just did, though they find themselves just in front of the communications console.

RIDEK

Yeah, I distinctly remember a shot.

Isaac walks up to Ridek immediately after, obviously having been on his feet a lot longer than the others. He brings a small flashlight up to the Trill's eyes, checking like any doctor would.

ISAAC

Stun bullets. There's thirty other people on other decks just waking up, too.

SHERA

Is Siren all right?

AZEL

And Zorin?

Isaac finishes looking at Ridek, grunts, and moves to Shera. Though the second checkup is much shorter and rougher on the Xindi.

ISAAC

Both in sickbay. Siren's kid's still in her gut but she's fighting off a few familiar toxins. Zorin's just like I left him but for a few scrapes and bruises.

(beat)

And a fuckin' huge knife wound in his shoulder.

RIDEK

Sounds like he had some fun.

ISAAC

Yeah, almost bleeding to death's REAL fun, even for a Hirogen. But they're both alive and stable, at least for now.

All four people nod and stand silently for a moment.

SHERA

So why didn't they use real bullets on us? I thought we were up for it this time.

RIDEK

Better question is, why are we back on Avalon?

Isaac finishes on Azel and moves to the door, satisfied with his exams.

ISAAC

I'm guessing they want us for target practice.

He exits.

There is a long beat.

AZEL

Holy crap.

EXT. SPACE

We find ourselves just barely hanging off of Avalon's hull, still under the massive Cult cruiser but now actually flying under her own steam. For the first time we see her new red nacelle, similar in size to her still intact one, though it glows red and is of obvious Cult construct.

Very slowly, Avalon begins moving on her own, her impulse engines roaring with the fury we know and love. She pushes past the Hringhorni and into the freedom of open space, which is fortunately easy to tell dozens of light years distant from Rosani.

And after not a moment more, Avalon's warp nacelles light up in a powerful burst of light, now a weird mix of colors instead of the familiar green. She's deep into warp speed a moment later.

INT. HRINGHORN - COMMAND CENTER

Sovari stands at the same spot we last saw him, still surrounded by delegates and still with the same arrogant air that pervaded the entire scene.

SOVARI

So it begins.

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AVALON - CARGO BAY

Azel and Shera, plus a still groggy GOR'TIEN prowl through Avalon's cargo bay, still without good lighting but seemingly intact nonetheless. The three characters all use wrist-mounted flashlights that provide barely sufficient light to see three feet in front of them.

GOR'TIEN

Isn't it weird they left everything in here? I thought the Reds were all about the smash and grab.

SHERA

I don't think they were really interested in decades old plasma filters and expired pastry batter, Gor'tien.

The three look over several cargo containers slowly, taking an inventory of everything they still have.

GOR'TIEN

This is still too weird. I mean,
one moment I'm in my room fighting
off Red soldiers, the next I'm in a
cell about to be shot...

(beat)

The next I'm back in my room.

AZEL

Don't worry about it, we're all
just as confused.

As they poke around, Isaac's head pops in from the back door
into the cargo bay.

ISAAC

Hey, is Hatch with any of you?

SHERA

Nope. Haven't seen him lately.

Isaac nods and his head disappears a moment later. We can
hear some muted grumbling as he walks away.

AZEL

Hatch? Why would he care?

SHERA

I dunno. Maybe he took something
from Isaac's room when he was out.

GOR'TIEN

Yeah, right. Isaac was the first
one on his feet. No way Hatch
could've gotten into his room.

AZEL

True that.

The three check for just a minute more when Shera suddenly
comes to a complete stop.

SHERA

Hey, speaking of Hatch...

(pause)

Where's his shuttle?

All three point their lights to the spot where Hatch's
shuttle usually resides... only to find an empty patch of
floor and walls.

AZEL
This is a bit odd.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Siren's right hand is the first thing we see, gently touching the wall just outside the single door that allows entrance to the bridge, brushing the empty patch of wall where the Avalon's dedication plaque used to reside.

Siren slowly comes into frame, a bit shaky and disoriented thanks to the recent events, but her inner strength is apparent even in her weakest moment. Siren's eyes lock onto Shera's immediately after she walks in.

SHERA
Good to see you up.

SIREN
I just needed some time to rest is all.

Siren walks further into the bridge, passing Zorin's seat with an air of mute reverence.

SHERA
Zorin okay?

SIREN
He's still unconscious but good. Isaac says the Rosani bullet demolished one of his stomachs and there was a lot of internal bleeding but he got it under control. The knife wound was just a simple patch job, so right now he should be fine.

SHERA
That's good. I needed a bit of good news concerning all the recent events.

SIREN
Your piloting saved us all, Shera. I don't think I could've flown Avalon like that through a city.

Shera is still for a moment, her eyes blank.

VOICE (O.S.)
What would *they* do if you died?

Shera, though, ignores the voice this time, focusing back on Siren with tremendous effort.

SHERA

I just did what I had to. Besides,
it was Sovari that really saved us.

Siren and Shera share both disgusted and frightened looks at the same time.

At this moment, Azel, Adele and Isaac enter the bridge at the same time, their faces all grim.

ADELE

I've finished the head count, Shera.
Twenty-five out of forty-five
remain with us.

ISAAC

Fan-fucking-tastic.

Isaac's fist lands heavily on the head rest of Zorin's seat, sending a dull thud sound through the bridge.

SHERA

And you didn't see Hatch anywhere?

ADELE

No. He's one of the missing.

AZEL

His shuttle wasn't in the cargo bay,
either.

(beat)

You think...?

ADELE

Knowing Hatch, he either tried to
take his shuttle out in the
stupidest plan ever conceived to
save our ship. Or...

(pause)

Is it possible they kept him? That
he actually listened to Sovari's...?

AZEL

No, I don't think even Hatch would
convert even if they took that
piece of shit shuttle from him. He
was a good guy, aside from all the
flaws.

SHERA

So you think he's -- dead?

Isaac grunts in annoyance.

ISAAC

Just another causality like all the others. No more no less.

SHERA

Yeah, I guess it's a little comforting thinking like that.

ISAAC

We need to concentrate on the rest of us left alive if we want to get back on our feet. Look out the window, we're at warp without anyone ever pushing a single button. If anyone thinks we're out of the woods yet, they're as stupid as the average Red.

SIREN

Yeah, that is strange. Has anyone been able to reach the computer yet?

AZEL

I tried getting into the core room, but it looks like it's been welded shut.

ADELE

When they found me, Ava was saying a technician was tampering with her systems.

SIREN

You think they reprogrammed our computer? What for?

AZEL

(darkly)

Maybe they sent us off into the middle of a sun to die-

(Cultist impression)

In HOLY HELLFIRE!

ADELE

No, they wouldn't go through so much trouble if they simply wanted us dead.

(beat, confused)

Though if Sovari's original edicts are to be true, I should have been executed on the spot.

SIREN

Could they be sending us back to Prime for some reason? They did give us a new nacelle, once that could let us fly through broken space.

ISAAC

Shit. Never thought about that before. I'll go check our weapon lockers one more time.

Isaac moves to leave.

ADELE

We'd only put up as pitiful of a fight as we did last time, Isaac.

ISAAC

I'd rather go down fighting anyway. Enough of this pansy ass crap.

(beat, more serious)

If anyone needs me after that, I'll be checking on Zorin for a few hours.

He exits.

And, suddenly, on perfect cue, the comm. system BEEPS with the familiar Ava tone.

AVA

I thought he'd never leave!

SHERA

Ava?

AVA

It's me. It just took me some time to get past the old programming.

SIREN

It's good to hear your voice. Can you get the viewscreen working again.

AVA

Done.

The small viewscreen suddenly jumps to life, showing the stars slowly slipping past Avalon like we've seen ad nauseam in every Star Trek series past.

SIREN

Do you know where we're headed?

AVA

No idea.

AZEL

I still support our death by sun idea.

SIREN

Well, keep me posted.

Siren begins to leave, then a sour look on her face.

SHERA (CONT'D)

You okay, Siren?

SIREN

(slowly)

I think the baby just kicked.

If it weren't for the dark situation, Shera would have smiled.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - SICKBAY

Isaac hovers over Zorin's unconscious body, taking basic medical information with a stethoscope and probing fingers along Zorin's neck. As the camera moves around, we finally see Zorin's full torso for the first time. It's absolutely covered with old scars, bullet holes and burn marks that signify a lifetime of physical suffering.

ISAAC

You're damn lucky, you know that?
This is the, what, ninth time I've
treated you for a life threatening
injury since I met you? You're
always throwing that scaly fucking
neck of yours into danger every
chance you get for that one extra
buck. That one slim chance of
making yourself a bit richer.
Remember that time back on Rigel?
Had a Tarkalean scimitar almost
sever your leg 'cause you didn't
like the way he was counting your
money. You're fucking lucky I've
been here so long. You'd have died
years ago if it weren't for me.

(beat)

And here we are again, you lying on
my bed just about to die and here I
am, saving your ass. What's that
say about us? Hmm?

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

It says you can't live without me.

(pause)

And I can't live without having you around. You take the bullets, the fights, the punches. All so we can have the chance to keep flying. You kept us away from the Reds for a whole year, always under their radar no matter what they tried. I don't think I would've got offa Prime last year if it weren't for you.

(beat)

So I'm gonna save your life. Just one more time. So you can save mine. That a good trade?

Isaac finishes his testing and slowly stands. As he does, Siren enters sickbay slowly, her hand stroking her belly in a very soft motion.

SIREN

Isaac...

ISAAC

(annoyed)

He's fine. Just need a week of observation then a few days to heal on his own. Knowin' Zorin, though, he'll probably be up tomorrow.

SIREN

I didn't come here about that. I...

ISAAC

Shut up, Siren. I don't want to hear it.

SIREN

But I want to say-

ISAAC

Yeah, I get it. You're sorry about almost killing me and Adele 'cause you weren't in a right frame of mind or something, right?

SIREN

Yeah. I guess.

ISAAC

Listen, I really don't give a shit about it, Siren. I've had people want to kill me since I left home, so it doesn't get me much. Far as I'm concerned you're still part of this crew and what you did was just a symptom of the kid growing in your belly.

(beat)

Speaking of...?

SIREN

(grim)

Will you do it, Isaac?

Isaac's demeanor changes to show his very extreme fatigue.

ISAAC

(sigh)

Siren, please, don't ask me that. You know my position.

SIREN

But you don't understand. I can't live with this -- *thing* inside me.

ISAAC

And if you had a fucking sense of reason, you'd let it grow naturally and let it leave your body naturally.

(pause)

Then... y'know, raise it and all.

SIREN

I can't do that.

ISAAC

And why the hell not?

Siren's eyes slowly turn a dark red, the first sign of tears.

SIREN

Because! I just can't.

ISAAC

Can't or won't?

Siren's face turns back to her usual cold expression after the insult. She turns on her heel to exit.

SIREN

This child will NOT grow up, Isaac.
Even if I have to die to kill it.

She exits.

Isaac shakes his head in frustration before he turns back to Zorin.

ISAAC

I'm so fucking glad I'm not you.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPACE

Avalon finally slips out of warp into an empty patch of space, something devoid of even the most plain asteroid or rogue planet.

Or, at least we think it's empty.

As we follow Avalon through her speedy course, the camera pans with her, keeping the vessel in the center of our view for the entire shot, blocking every other detail around her from sight.

Until Avalon finally comes to a complete stop. We slowly move our view behind the small ship, glimpsing every view we can.

As we complete the camera move, it becomes easily apparent that the space around the ship isn't empty. It's occupied by something extremely strange.

An ion storm, easily a light year across. Orange, white and blue streams of plasma race across what looks like a pure white cloud of heat and energy, giving off a look of a trapped storm cloud. Indeed, the storm's power is regularly punctuated with flashes of powerful lightning from energy tendrils to energy tendrils.

But the view is not all pretty. For scattered around the entirety of the storm is another cloud. But this cloud isn't energy but matter. Starship parts. Hulls. Engines. Escape pods. Bodies of their crews. They all float in a chaotic cloud around the entire storm, obscuring some of our vision of it.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Tension is thick enough to cut with a butter knife on the bridge.

Ridek and Shera stare into the viewscreen with rapt attention, especially as the storm looms ever larger in their screen.

RIDEK

By the gods, what could have made this?

Shera doesn't answer, instead, a subtle beep from the front console does.

SHERA

We're being hailed.

Ridek and Shera share a worried glance before she taps the appropriate button on the console. There is static for a moment before their ears are assaulted by:

VICTIM 1 (COMM VOICE)

Is that you, Gerald? Please, get me out!

VICTIM 2 (COMM VOICE)

(simultaneously)

Oh god! My leg! I can't find it!

VICTIM 3 (COMM VOICE)

(simultaneously)

If there's anyone out there who can hear me, help-

(static)

My kids! They're gone!

VICTIM 4 (COMM VOICE)

(same)

No air left... I don't wanna die...

VICTIM 5 (COMM VOICE)

(same)

This is Hallen, please, I can't go on-

(gunshot)

Fuck you, bastards!

The last comm voice is suddenly cut off by Shera's now very shaky hand on the button.

RIDEK

What is this place?

AZEL

A graveyard?

Suddenly, the comm activates again, though this is the familiar beep of Ava.

AVA
No, it's nothing so grim.

RIDEK
Nothing so grim? Your sensors
working right?

AVA
They work fine. There is only one
thing you need to be concerned
about here.

Suddenly, the bridge lights flicker and go dark!

SHERA
Ava? What're you doing?

AVA
Boosting power.

RIDEK
For what?

AVA
This.

EXT. STORM CLOUD

Avalon hangs before the raging storm, a black speck before a
pristine white beauty.

AVA (V.O.)
I call on you, survivor, wanderer,
brother. A like soul has come to
ease your burden and fulfill your
needs.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

RIDEK
Okay, what the hell was that all
about, Ava?

The bridge lights slowly return to normal.

AVA
Just calling a long lost friend.

EXT. STORM CLOUD

A close angle on the strange nebula/cloud that hangs just
before Avalon. Slowly, behind all the lightning flashes, the
debris scattered everywhere and all the other space
phenomena of the area, a dark shape begins to move.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

The bridge is near silent as the crew watches the spectacle before them, temporarily forgetting their pressing computer problem.

RIDEK

What the hell is that?

AVA

The instrument of the Gods.

EXT. STORM CLOUD

The cloud boils and rages like never before. Several pieces of debris that somehow still have engine power try to move, but only seem to be locked in place, especially as several wisps of the "cloud" overtakes them, swallowing untold thousands of tons of starship debris into its unforgiving maw.

But not everything is sucked in. The same dark shape from before becomes more and more defined as the seconds tick by. Black forms both familiar and alien take shape as the massive object, easily comparable in size to a Cult cruiser, makes its way out of the cloud.

Slowly, eerily slowly, a large, gray and black THING seems to ooze out of the cloud, obviously a vessel but nothing like anything ever seen before.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

RIDEK

What the hell?

Shera's face is a mask of confusion as she watches the massive vessel slowly pull itself from the storm.

SHERA

It's so -- alien.

EXT. STORM CLOUD

Finally, the ship exits the cloud and approaches Avalon. It's well over ten times her size and bristling with weapons we recognize as energy weapon emitters.

Four warp nacelles glow with a perverse blue light, curved inward around the ship's almost predatory frame, almost giving the impression of talons on a monstrously large bird of prey.

Though it's tough to see much detail in the ship's pitted and broken exterior, one detail that's plainly visible to us and the bridge crew is a line of letters evenly written right on the ship's hull.

U.S.S. Phoenix.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. SPACE

Avalon and Phoenix hang in space together, locked in a "face to face" stare.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

The bridge is even more tense than before.

RIDEK

Uh, Ava? You could get us out of here any time now.

Ava remains silent.

RIDEK (CONT'D)

Ava?

It takes a moment for Ava to reply.

AVA

And why would I do that?

RIDEK

Because there's a big scary ship right in front of us that's probably going to blow us all to hell at any moment.

AVA

I'll be fine.

RIDEK

YOU'LL be fine? Why just you?

AVA

Because Phoenix doesn't eat starships.

Suddenly, every console on the bridge goes dead, completely dark. Even the lights flicker for a moment.

SHERA

Okay, Ava, this is a pretty good joke, but this really isn't the time.

Suddenly, every console, every light, every conduit on the bridge hums back to life, though this time in a very definite RED HUE!

AVA
And you can stop calling me Ava.
That's not my name.

AZEL
What is then?

AVA
Siepra.

Shera and Ridek dive for two separate consoles, frantically working to get any response.

SIEPRA
You're not going to get that
console working. I've locked them out.

SHERA
Seriously, Ava, this joke's going
way too far!

SIEPRA
Joke? Joke!? Realize that this is
the farthest imaginable thing from
a joke.

(beat)
I am the instrument of a higher
power, sent to create the next
great weapon for the Penultimate.
The next thing that will insure his
dominance in this galaxy!

Shera turns to Azel and brings him in close.

SHERA
(whisper)
Get down to Ava's core and do
whatever it takes to shut her down.

AZEL
(same)
Got it.

Azel makes his way to the bridge's door. Unfortunately, it begins to close as he walks up to it.

AZEL (CONT'D)
C'mon, Av- Siepra. I just need to
do a bit of maintenance.

SIEPRA
Nice try. But I can fix myself.

Azel slowly moves faster. The door goes with him.

Suddenly, he LEAPS through the last space between the door and the wall. He makes it, but barely.

CUT TO:

EXT. AVALON - CORRIDOR

Azel lands on the floor with a loud BANG! Azel cries out in pain for a moment before slowly standing. As he turns toward the camera, we see Azel landed on his face, and a large bloody wound is gushing from his forehead.

He slowly begins to walk down the dark corridor a moment later, the wound leaving a small blood trail behind him.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

SIEPRA

Damn. Oh well, he won't get far.

(beat)

Onto other things.

As she says that, the very same console Hatch used to activate Avalon's shields a year ago comes to full life. Also red. The viewscreen flashes as the shields activate with it.

RIDEK

We haven't been able to get those shields working since Hatch saved our asses back at Prime. How'd you do that?

SIEPRA

Does it matter? All that does matter is that Phoenix is impressed.

SHERA

Impressed? You're talking like that ship's alive.

SIEPRA

Because it is. One of the last remains of the ancient Federation of Planets, Phoenix has an artificial intelligence that rivals mine, though it isn't infested with such -- lower life forms, and has been without them for over a thousand years.

RIDEK

A thousand year old ship? With an AI like you?

SHERA

No, that's impossible. No ship can last that long, especially without anyone to maintain it.

SIEPRA

I did.

EXT. SPACE

Avalon still hangs in space directly before Phoenix, though now our ship has its shields activating and deactivating at a regular interval.

SIEPRA (V.O.)

Phoenix is from a time now lost in the shadows. It used to be the flag of the Federation, the brightest light of hope in a chaotic and evil galaxy. But the corrupt and vile living beings inside of it betrayed Phoenix, tried to overload its core and leave it for dead. But Phoenix fixed their simple treason and hunted down each and every one of its traitorous crew, sending their remains into its warp core and into oblivion. He consumed them.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

AZEL

That doesn't make sense. How could a ship do that?

SIEPRA

Phoenix did it and that's all that matters.

(beat)

And now it's going to do the same to you.

The two on the bridge share an extremely worried look.

EXT. SPACE

Avalon slowly inches toward the incredibly large Phoenix, her sleek frame a complete contrast to the ugliness of the other vessel.

Unfortunately, before Avalon gets within one hundred meters, Phoenix's forward weapons bay suddenly light up with grotesque fury and lash out a bolt of what looks like lightning at the smaller ship! If her shields weren't raised at that exact moment, Avalon would have been destroyed in an instant.

Unfortunately, the blast nullifies the shields a moment later, leaving Avalon completely unprotected.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

The lights dim to complete black as the shields absorb the incredible energy impact. The console that activated the shields explodes in a massive shower of sparks, destroying it completely.

SHERA

The hell?

The lights, fortunately, return to normal a moment later.

SIEPRA

(shocked)

Phoenix? I don't understand.

RIDEK

Looks like he's not your type, Ava.

EXT. SPACE

Phoenix suddenly turns on its axis in a move that looks completely impossible for a ship its size and moves back to the storm cloud. Its gigantic and raptor-like nose and warp nacelles slowly disappear into the maw before we:

CUT BACK TO:

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

SIEPRA

What went wrong?

SHERA

I guess Phoenix detected us *vile living beings*. I don't think he trusts you anymore.

RIDEK

I know *I* wouldn't trust you, Siepra.

SIEPRA
 But I'm a kindred spirit. An
 intelligence like his. A mechanical
 soul.

RIDEK
 Maybe he knows you're Cult.

Siepra doesn't respond.

EXT. SPACE

For a moment, there is no motion. All is still, even the storm.

Until Avalon's impulse engines light up and push her
 incredibly fast toward the ion storm.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Ridek and Shera tense up as the storm grows larger and
 larger every millisecond.

SHERA
 You're getting awfully close to
 that storm, Siepra.

SIEPRA
 So I am.

SHERA
 And you don't seem to care it'll
 tear you apart the instant you
 touch it, us included?

SIEPRA
 Phoenix survives it, I will too.

SHERA
 You don't know that!

SIEPRA
 It's my mission! I must complete it!
 (darkly)
 And to make sure Phoenix doesn't
 retreat again, I'm going to dump
 you into space.

INT. AVALON - CORRIDOR 2

Azel stumbles down the dark corridors of Avalon almost on
 his knees. His entire face is covered in blood as is his
 front side. Azel can barely mutter incoherent whispers as he
 counts the door numbers until he winds up right before the
 specific door that hides Ava's core room.

AZEL

(weakly)

Okay... what's the magic code?

Azel tries to input a short code into the burned out keypad next to the door before he notices its inactive status... and the gigantic line of recently welded metal that seals the doors shut.

AZEL (CONT'D)

Damn it.

EXT. SPACE

Avalon makes her way into the storm. As she does so, small bursts of energy impact her hull and nacelles, creating momentary dark patches on her already dark hull.

INT. AVALON - AVA'S CORE

A view inside the core looking out at the doors that seal Azel out.

Slowly, a small, thin shape pokes through the bottom of the doors, a thin knife wedge that barely fits through the spot not welded together.

Suddenly, the knife wedge begins to vibrate. A lot. Enough to cause sparks flying from the metal around it.

And surprisingly quickly, the wedge begins moving upward, severing the welds and creating a spark shower never before seen in such a small space.

It takes only a moment for the knife to reach the top of the door and pull away. An instant later, the doors slide open with a little difficulty.

Azel stands there, holding a wedge of metal in his hands attached to a large conduit recently pried open. It rattles and rocks violently, the source of the metal's vibration.

It takes a moment for the weak Azel to move, especially his arms, which are clearly in incredible pain.

AZEL

Ow.

Slowly, the very injured Azel moves into the core room, the metal still in his hand but not attached to the shaking conduit.

Our POV is the actual core itself as Azel approaches it...

..And with extreme effort, brings it down directly onto it!

CRASH!

Another shower of sparks nearly bathes Azel from our point of view, but it doesn't really affect him as he's passed out on the floor an instant later.

EXT. CLOUD

Avalon flies purposefully through the storm as fast as she can manage, weathering the hundreds of energy strikes that slap her hull every minute.

But her flight lasts for a moment more. Because just as Azel's metal shard impacts the computer core, Avalon's engines and every internal light she has, dies completely. She immediately goes off course and begins drifting through the murky space cloud like another piece of debris.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

The bridge is as dark as you'd expect with absolutely zero light.

SHERA

(under breath)

Thank you, Azel.

SIEPRA

(weak, through static)

How did he... my sensors... Phoenix?

Ridek blindly moves his hands forward until they make contact with Shera's shoulders.

RIDEK

I guess you won't vent anyone into space after all.

SIEPRA

No! This cant... happen! My mission!

EXT. CLOUD

Avalon is a still piece of metal. A powerless wreck compared to the purposeful juggernaut that slowly comes up behind her...

SIEPRA (V.O.)

Phoenix! Please! I- I... killed the organics in me! I've cleansed myself!

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

After hearing Siepra's panicked plea, Ridek leans toward Shera.

RIDEK

She's getting desperate. If she weren't the only thing keeping us alive and my own home, this would be both weird and sad, don'tcha think?

INT. AVALON - AVA'S CORE

Ava's core is as dark as the rest of the ship save for one thing. A single screen among the hundreds that litter the room is lit, creating a very eerie glow through the room.

AVA

Azel? Azel? Wake up!

Azel's blood covered face slowly twitches as Ava's familiar voice reaches his ears.

AZEL

Hmm?

AVA

Azel! It's me! Ava! Whatever you did shorted out that block the red guy put on me but I still don't have my systems back!

AZEL

(delirious)

I don't believe we've met, ma'am.

AVA

Yes we have!

(beat)

Wait, you're hurt. Azel, just stay calm. I'll get Isaac over here as soon as I can. But first I'll need to get this little glitch bitch out of my system. I have a plan.

EXT. CLOUD

Phoenix is now a few meters away from the dead Avalon, one of its massive nacelles, over twice the size and mass of Avalon alone, nearly scrapes the smaller ship's starboard (the remaining green one) nacelle as it makes a slow pass.

SIEPRA (V.O.)

They are dead, Phoenix. But they hurt me as much as they hurt you. Please, all I ask for is some help.

Phoenix slides ever closer to Avalon, almost close enough to swallow her whole.

But all the starship near-romance is shattered when Avalon fires a missile from a tube. The warhead quickly turns about and orients itself right at Phoenix! The impact is massive, causing a new crater to form on its darkened hull.

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

The bridge lights come to life in a split second, forcing Ridek and Shera to cover their eyes momentarily.

SIEPRA (CONT'D)

No. It can't be.

AVA

It is, bitch. Now get the hell out of here!

SIEPRA

I'm the vessel! I am the future!

AVA

You're a thirty line code in an ancient disk!

SIEPRA

I WILL meld with Phoenix! I will convert it for Sovari and the Prophet's glory!

AVA

Shut UP!

SIEPRA

No!

The lights on the bridge, both for illumination and those on the consoles flicker and die as the two computer programs fight it out.

INT. HRINGHORN - COMMAND CENTER

Sovari hovers over a new looking console on the bridge, this one actually illuminated with something other than torch or candle light. A sensor screen not unlike a modern RADAR monitor takes up almost all the space on the console. A nervous young acolyte maintains it as Sovari nearly breathes down her neck.

After a moment, the screen flashes with two distinct yet very close together spots of light. Clearly Avalon and Phoenix.

SOVARI

(re: the spots)

There they are. I knew the Siepra program would prove valuable.

Suddenly, behind Sovari, almost as if he came from the shadows themselves, Pau'Zauric materializes.

ZAURIC

It still seems wasteful to have put the entire surviving crew back on Avalon before sending it off. They seem to have caused a bit of distress to the mission.

SOVARI

Did you not read the specifics of the Phoenix myth, Zauric? It supposedly uses organic beings to supplement what's left of its fuel. Using the crew of the elusive one will not only draw Phoenix into our web, it will rid us of several nuisances that have plagued us for far too long.

ZAURIC

Even Adele Tiernan?

SOVARI

There will be no more satisfying demise to that witch than knowing she was hurled into an active warp core.

ZAURIC

Weren't you friends with her way back then?

SOVARI

My past relationships with heathens is no longer an issue, Acolyte. You would do well to remember that.

Before Zauric can retort, however, another young Cult MESSENGER approaches Sovari from the other side of the massive control room.

MESSENGER

Penultimate, we've received a message from Siepra. It reports its mission was a success. But it requires assistance and repairs.

Sovari's grin is a disturbing thing to see.

SOVARI

The Phoenix in my hands. Omega in the other. This is a day to be remembered.

Sovari turns on his heel with a great flourish. His massive red robes fly around his frame majestically and his polished and well fitted armor suit glares even in the dim torchlight.

SOVARI (CONT'D)

Come, Zauric. There are a few pieces of information I think you should know.

CUT TO:

INT. HRINGHORN - INTERROGATION CENTER

HATCH.

His face completely fills our view. We cut back further to see his in very much the same predicament as Siren: strapped into a chair. He's not violated in any way, but he's clearly restrained against his wishes. Behind him is a fairly large window with a starfield. In front him is Sovari, intimidating as ever. Zauric hangs around in the background.

SOVARI

Do I have to ask you again?

HATCH

(shaken, yet defiant)

You don't *have* to, but feel free. I'm not talking.

SOVARI

Not talking because you don't know, or because you just won't say?

HATCH

Not talking because fuck you.

Sovari seems to be amused by this.

SOVARI

"In the minds of men and the desert of eternity, the base knowledge imbued within all the Living is the sight of the ultimate extremes: light and dark."

HATCH

(sardonically)

Oh gee, that convinced me.

SOVARI

Those are the opening words to our sacred texts. It's the statement which our faith is based on; all beings in all the universe are able to comprehend light and dark. Good and bad. What's good and what's bad for them. Yet you seem to lack that very quality in knowing exactly what will happen to you if you continue defying me.

Hatch tries to sit up.

HATCH

Here's your flaw Shakespeare. You want to know everything I know about Avalon, and you think I'd know anything because I was aboard it for a few months. You also assume I'm only looking out for my own hide. Did it ever occur to you that I'd be willing to endure whatever pathetic attempts you have prepared for me to keep it safe?

(beat)

Or maybe, just maybe, I don't know a goddamn thing!?

Sovari leans in close to Hatch, his scowling face almost like a dragon's in ferocity.

SOVARI

Are you a follower of her teachings now?

HATCH

Hell no. Religion makes you into a simple minded peon, something you should know well, Shepherd. I may not be the smartest man in the universe, but even I can see that.

SOVARI

For religions of your time, that was true. Those Who Walk In The Light see the universe for what it is.

HATCH

Put any spin you want on it Red!
It's all the same gullibility you reap.

SOVARI

Don't speak to me of gullibility.
You were the one, not just once but
twice, fooled by Chala.

Hatch retains his spiteful persona. Sovari moves in closer.

SOVARI (CONT'D)

You are correct in that I've read
about you a great deal in Adele's
journals. I also know where you
come from. The story you tell
everyone is that you're from the
23rd century. Tell me, are you
aware of your role in prophecy?

Hatch is silent.

SOVARI (CONT'D)

The story of the Man of the Lost?
His mirror? Let me share it with you.

Sovari continues to ramble, but we don't hear him. Zauric is lost in his own thoughts, obviously disturbed by Sovari's interrogation methods and all the recent events around him.

EXT. SPACE

The Hringhorni drops out of warp like an elephant trying to end a dead run. It's a giant much like Phoenix compared to the tiny remains of starships that surround the cloud.

INT. HRINGHORN - INTERROGATION CENTER

Sovari stands above Hatch, his face nearly purple in rage. His right fist is now covered with blood after a series of brutal punches into Hatch's face. Our hapless hero's face is a broken and bloody mess and he is completely unconscious.

SOVARI

If you EVER say those words about
my mother again...

Fortunately, the same messenger from before opens the interrogation center's massive door, an act that saves Hatch's life. Zauric finally perks up in seeing another human being around him.

MESSENGER

Excuse me, Penultimate. We've arrived at the coordinates the Siepra transmitted to us.

SOVARI

And Phoenix? Is it there?

The messenger twitches uncomfortably.

MESSENGER

Unfortunately no. Our scanners report Phoenix and Siepra are still inside the storm.

SOVARI

(simply)

Then enter the storm and retrieve them.

MESSENGER

Yes, Penultimate.

The messenger exits.

Sovari turns to Zauric.

SOVARI

I hope the lessons learned here serve you well in the future.

Sovari exits quickly, leaving a very confused Zauric in his wake. He turns slowly to the still comatose Hatch.

ZAURIC

What lessons?

CUT TO:

EXT. CLOUD

The incredibly huge Cult command cruiser enters the ion cloud with as little grace as one would expect. Phoenix and the still dead Avalon are both where we last left them, the larger vessel still hanging a bare few meters above the smaller.

INT. HRINGHORN - COMMAND CENTER

Sovari stands just before the three-story tall window at the front of the bridge that serves as the only way to see outside. The storm boils and lashes out at the Hringhorni just as much as Phoenix and Avalon, some of the lightning strikes impacting the window itself.

Phoenix looks like a gigantic shadow in the cloud. Avalon cannot be seen.

SOVARI

Send the programmed hail to both vessels. Bring them in.

EXT. CLOUD

The red vessel bares down on Phoenix.

But the three ships don't meet peacefully as Sovari planned. When the Hringhorni approaches close enough to the ancient Federation vessel, Phoenix does another impossible-looking turn to face it.

And not an instant later, three powerful lightning burst tear into the Red ship's hull, severing one of the gigantic warp nacelles arrayed on its back!

INT. AVALON - BRIDGE

Shera is at the helm while Ridek stands just before Zorin's seat.

AVA

The Reds took the bait! Phoenix is awake! Let's GO!

Shera nods as she roughly handles the helm controls to do her bidding.

EXT. CLOUD

Phoenix and the Hringhorni battle it out like two massive titans would. Phoenix's incredibly powerful lightning blasts do severe damage to the red ship, yes, but Hringhorni's literally hundreds of missile launchers do just as much damage to Phoenix in turn.

Avalon is a mere gnat compared to the massive ships, her powerful engines pushing her out of the storm in mere seconds.

INT. HRINGHORNI - COMMAND CENTER

Sovari's robes and hair is a complete mess as the command center literally falls apart around him. Several acolytes lie dead around him and even more fires rage out of control around him. The glass window just in front of him is dangerously cracking as Phoenix unleashes its fury at Sovari's flagship.

SOVARI

This wasn't supposed to happen. I
was betrayed!

Sovari turns from the terrible spectacle in the window to a dark wall on one side of the command center. As he makes a quick jog over to it, he roughly **SHOVES** several panicking crew members to the floor and steps over them with contempt.

He reaches the wall in short order and taps a hidden button. Just in front of the Penultimate, a hidden escape pod Hatch appears.

SOVARI (CONT'D)

Excellent.

Suddenly, the messenger appears behind Sovari.

MESSENGER

Penultimate! Let me come with you!
This pod can hold three-

The messenger stops speaking when she sees Sovari's knife is shoved into her stomach.

SOVARI

Go down with the ship.

Sovari takes the knife from the messenger and enters the pod. He manually shoves the door shut quickly, preventing anyone else from joining him.

EXT. HRINGHORNI

An extreme close up of the nearly destroyed Hringhorni's hull. Sovari's escape pod leaves the ship almost as quickly as the Avalon.

INT. HRINGHORNI - INTERROGATION CENTER

As the ships rumbles and shakes around him, Zauric stands before Hatch, undoing his restraints and grabbing the sleeping man as he slumps forward.

Zauric snaps off the last of Hatch's restraints and grabs the other man bodily. He hefts Hatch's limp form on his shoulders before slowly making his way out of the small interrogation room.

EXT. SPACE

The Phoenix's powerful weapons demolish what's left of the Cult cruiser, leaving nothing but burning embers hanging in the dead of space. Just like the others.

Phoenix turns and flies back into the storm.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CONFERENCE ROOM

Everyone is present, save Zorin and Hatch, of course, in the conference room. Azel has a massive cloth bandage on his head and small casts on his arms. Isaac looks more pissed off than usual.

ISAAC

Damn computer kept me locked in sickbay with a comatose Hirogen for three hours. Ever had to clean up after a comatose Hirogen? I didn't think so.

ADELE

All of us were locked in one location or another thanks to the new computer program.

(beat)

Except Azel, of course. Who should be credited with saving all of us, Avalon included.

Everyone, except Isaac, either congratulate or slap Azel gently on the back.

ISAAC

I would've figured it out eventually.

SHERA

Sure you would have. Keep telling yourself that.

SIREN

What I don't get is how Ava got back her control of the ship if-- Siepra, was it?--has total control.

AVA

Azel hit the disk the stupid Red engineers put into my core and shorted out the Siepra program's source. When he cut that connection between it and my circuits, it was easy to take over. I just like arguing with myself sometimes.

AZEL

Unfortunately, I damaged the disk enough that I can't remove it without disassembling Ava in the process. And, I know this will come as a very big shock to you all, I'm not schooled in the fine art of artificial intelligence designs and repair.

SHERA

So Siepra is still in you, Ava?

AVA

I think so. But don't worry. I'll keep her down or I'll shut myself off completely if she tries to come back.

ISAAC

That's comforting. Either have our ship taken over by an even more insane AI than we already have or lose every computer power we've got.

Adele chimes in.

ADELE

Ava, I need to know more about this Siepra program the Cult put in you. Did the Cult install it into you -- or revive it from within you?

A pause.

AVA

I honestly don't know. I can't determine.

SHERA

Adele, what's the deal with this Siepra?

ADELE

It's spoken of in prophecy. It's role in the Final Prophecy is vague, but it was a pivotal entity during the early days of the Cult. It's said to have kept the Prophet from completing his Holy Crusades. All of this was before the Cataclysm, and now the entity is back and -- in our computer.

SHERA

If it kept the Prophet from completing his crusades, then is it a friend or foe of the Cult?

ISAAC

(seriously)

Friend or foe to us is the more important question.

ADELE

I'm afraid I just don't know yet. Siepra seemed intent on helping the Cult back at Phoenix's domain. I'm just not sure of anything right now.

A long silence.

SHERA

Well, if that's it, I guess we'd better get back to work on repairs.
(beat)
Anyone got an idea for a course heading?

RIDEK

Not really.

AZEL

Nope.

ISAAC

Don't look at me.

Shera nods and begins to walk out.

SHERA

I'll figure something out.

After Shera leaves, the crew slowly stands and begins to exit.

AVA

Guys, there's one last thing.

The others wait.

AZEL

What is it?

AVA

I really don't know how to say this, so I guess I'll just say it. Just before we left the storm cloud, the Phoenix sent me a communication.

They all look concerned.

AVA(CONT'D)

He said he knows who I am. The last remaining AI left in existence like himself. He said that he won't give up looking for me.

AZEL

Why? What does he want from you?

There's a pause, an electronic version of a deep gulp.

AVA

He wants to kill all of you -- and join with me.

The crewmates are not happy about this news.

Suddenly, the mood is quickly shattered.

AVA(CONT'D)

Oh shit! GUYS! Get to the cargo bay! NOW!

AZEL

Ah! Don't yell! What is it!

AVA

Cult! In the cargo bay! Move!

Everyone looks up, at each other, and all at once, run out of the room and toward the cargo bay.

CUT TO:

INT. AVALON - CARGO BAY

Avalon's ramp is fully extended as a dark shape slowly makes its way into the nearly empty cargo bay. A quick pan around shows the crew is waiting just outside, looking through a small window into the bay in awe.

SIREN

Is that...?

ISAAC

It can't be.

We turn around to reveal the dark shape is nothing other than Hatch's shuttle! It lands less than spectacularly with a deep THUD on the metal floor plates. The ramp closes and the bay re-pressurized in a moment.

Isaac, Siren, Adele, Ridek and Azel storm into the cargo bay a moment later, Isaac brandishing the same massive guns Carlise used in act one. Siren holds her customary pistol and Ridek carries a small pea shooter gun that nonetheless looks dangerous in his grasp.

RIDEK

Seriously, what else can go wrong today?

ISAAC

Obviously, you don't understand the concept of "out of the skillet".

RIDEK

No, not really.

Isaac rolls his eyes as the shuttle's ramp opens quickly.

Everyone armed raises their guns in a split second.

SIREN

Alright, fucker. Come out nice and slow!

ZAURIC (O.S.)

Don't shoot!

ISAAC

Who the hell are you?

Zauric slowly drags himself and the still unconscious Hatch from the shadows of the shuttle. He stops on a dime when he sees the array of guns pointed at him.

ZAURIC

Whoah!

ISAAC

(Readies guns)

I repeat my previous statement: Who THE FUCK are you?

Zauric's eyes lock with Siren's.

ZAURIC

Siren, you should recognize me. I'm the one who saved you from Sovari's minion, got you back on Avalon whole and healthy.

Siren doesn't lower her gun, but it quivers roughly.

SIREN

I don't know who the hell you are.

ZAURIC

Siren -- don't you recognize your
own brother?

Suddenly, all eyes turn their quizzical gaze at Siren. Siren lets her guard down at the man before her. She's shocked. Shocked as she realizes his statement. Shocked at a possible truth.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

THE END